

Upon hearing that, Joyce pursed her lips. "And when will that be? What if you guys forget about it?"

"That won't happen." Natalie smiled before her eyes landed on the file in her friend's hand. "What's that?"

"Oh. It's the textile mill's inventory count. Since it's almost the end of the year, I thought I'll let you check whether there are any omissions or any unauthorized tampering by the employees." As Joyce spoke, she handed the file to Natalie.

After taking the file over, Natalie scanned through it before placing it down. "Got it. I'll get to it later. For now, please help me buy everyone the wedding favors."

"On it," replied Joyce as she turned to leave.

However, she had only taken a few steps when Natalie suddenly called out, "Joyce."

She turned her head in confusion. "Yes?"

Natalie hesitated for a minute before shaking her head. "It's nothing. You can carry on."

"That was weird," Joyce mumbled under her breath before exiting the office.

When she was out of view, a sigh escaped from Natalie's mouth.

She actually wanted to ask Joyce what she would do if she learned that Stanley could have something to do with, and was protecting the person who had burned down the warehouse and kidnapped her.

Would she believe me? Or would she choose to stand on Stanley's side?

However, she decided against voicing out her question because she knew that it would put Joyce in a tough spot.

I'll just let it be.

With that thought in mind, Natalie took the file from earlier and began reading them more thoroughly.

At noon, the news of Thompson Group's chairman getting married was quickly spread all over the internet, shocking the world.

The reason being Shane had not posted anything in ages, yet the moment he did, it was of two marriage certificates. This made people realize that he was not playing around.

In a short period, the news had become a trending topic.

Initially, Natalie had no clue about this, but Joyce had informed her.

"I didn't expect that Mr. Shane would publicize this matter," uttered Joyce as she looked through the comments.

"Yeah, that makes the two of us." Natalie nodded.

Hearing that, Joyce shifted her attention to Natalie. "You didn't foresee he'd do this even though you're his wife?" she questioned, to which the other woman only shrugged as a response.

I thought he only took that picture to keep it as a memory. He never posts anything, anyway, so how could I have known that he'd post this?

"But why didn't he reveal your identity? Now everyone's wondering who his wife is." Joyce showed Natalie her phone.

The latter threw it a glance before replying, "I asked him not to."

"Why?" questioned Joyce, feeling somewhat puzzled.

"Why else?" Natalie rolled her eyes. "I don't want to deal with reporters every day."

Joyce was tongue-tied after hearing that and she nodded before exclaiming, "I guess that's reasonable. Reporters are annoying as hell. They definitely won't let you go if they find out that you're his wife, especially since there were rumors about you and him before."

"Exactly," Natalie agreed. "That's why I wanna hide it for now. Maybe I'll make it known after the wedding ceremony."

When Joyce was about to reply to her, Natalie's phone rang out of the blue, interrupting her. Apologizing, Natalie took out her phone. Her expression was indecipherable when she saw

the name on the screen, which did not go unnoticed by Joyce.

"Who is it?" Curious, Joyce leaned over to peek at Natalie's phone.

Seeing that it was Stanley, her expression turned gloomy. "Why aren't you answering?" she asked, forcing a smile.

Natalie bit on her lip. "What about-"

As if knowing what her friend was trying to say, Joyce waved her hand with a smile. "What about what? Just answer the call, Nat. He probably wants to talk about the news of you getting married."

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Natalie had no choice but to do what Joyce had said.

When she accepted the call, she put it in speaker mode so that Joyce could also hear the conversation. Then, she placed the device on the table.

"Hey, Stanley," she greeted.

"Nat, I saw Mr. Shane's post," informed the man. "You guys got married?"

"Yeah."

"Oh, so it's true. I thought I've guessed incorrectly." Stanley let out a smile that did not quite reach his eyes before adjusting his glasses. "Well, congratulations."

Not knowing Stanley's actual reaction, Natalie smiled as well before thanking him.

"See? I told you he was only going to ask about this." Joyce mouthed.

Natalie ignored her as she asked Stanley about his condition.

Right when he was about to reply, a woman's shy voice echoed from his end of the phone.

"I'm back, Dr. Quinn."

Upon hearing the voice, Joyce's body shuddered and she jolted up from her seat.

Even Natalie could make out who the voice belonged to. It was Annie Hill of the Hill family.

So she managed to find where Stanley is and has even made a move on him.

"Joyce..." Natalie glanced at her friend in concern.

Joyce did not reply. Instead, she kept on looking down to cover her face so Natalie could not see her expression.

Sighing, Natalie turned her attention back to the phone. "Stanley, why is Annie with you?"

Hearing her question, Stanley threw a glance at Annie, who was pouring soup out of a thermal flask. "She's just making sure that I'm fine," he replied. "Okay, I'm hanging up now. Let talk another time."

With that, he hung up.

Natalie originally intended to ask some more questions, but she had no chance to do so, seeing how the man had ended the call.

"Nat," called Joyce, clenching her fists. "I heard you mentioned Annie. Do you know who that woman is?"

Not knowing how to explain, Natalie's lips twitched a little. After contemplating for some time, she decided to answer the other woman as she nodded. "Yeah, but we're not that close. I met her when Stanley brought me to a wedding last time. She's one of Hill's family's daughters."

"Oh, so it's her!" A lightbulb seemed to go off in Joyce's head. "I heard about her before. But I've never met her, I can tell that she likes Stanley!" she exclaimed in certainty.

Joyce was sure that Annie fancied Stanley because she had noticed the affection in Annie's tone earlier.

Although jumping from the seat might have been too strong of a reaction, but then again, no woman could act calm when their love rivals were around.

"Yeah, that's true. I found out about that when I first met her." Natalie nodded.

"Then why didn't you tell me?" Joyce looked at her friend in dissatisfaction.

"I didn't see the need to." Natalie frowned before continuing, "Since you're not his girlfriend." Her bluntness rendered Joyce speechless. The latter then let out a bitter chuckle. "You're right. I'm not his girlfriend. I don't have the right to care about this stuff."

Seeing her pained expression, Natalie's heart ached for her friend. "Joyce," she uttered while placing her hand on top of Joyce's, trying to comfort her.

The latter shook her head. "I'm fine. Just a bit sad," she assured, covering her face.

Getting out of her seat, Natalie walked over to her and hugged her from behind. "Don't worry. He won't fall for her."

"Yeah, I know. Cause he already fell for you." Joyce turned her head to stare at Natalie.

The corners of Natalie's mouth twitched. "It doesn't matter who he likes now. I'm still hoping that he'll end up with you," she expressed earnestly.

Joyce was a bit moved by her words and she straightened her back.

But soon, sadness overwhelmed her once again as she lowered her head. "Me... with him? Is that even possible?"