

Happiness 216-225

The Promise of Happiness

Chapter 216

Mona was gasping for air as she could not breathe. "Calm down, Yara. Please calm down. Trust me. I had always had your best interest in mind..."

She tried to take another breath and continued, "I really didn't expect the accident to happen, and I thought they'd appoint you as their ambassador for sure..."

Mona was taken aback by how strong Yara had become after gulping down a few glasses of wine. She was so terrified of Yara that she started trembling.

"You have my best interest in mind?" Yara gave Mona a killer stare. "Do you know how hard I've worked to get to where I am today? Because of this accident, I've now become a laughing stock!"

"Please, Yara. Stop. I can't breathe. Please."

Yara ignored Mona's plea at first, but the moment her phone rang, she let go of her manager.

The ring tone that Yara had set for the Bowers was like a wake-up call, and upon hearing that, she instantly backed off.

Mona, who could now breathe, was relieved that the call saved her life. She almost thought she would die in Yara's hands.

Yara took a glance at her screen and realized the caller was Kenneth. She immediately picked up the call. "Hello..."

She was all choked up and sounded aggrieved and vulnerable. She was not as aggressive as how she behaved when she was strangling Mona earlier.

"How's your fever?" Kenneth was concerned about her. "You shouldn't have pushed yourself so hard when you're not feeling well."

"My manager was the one who made all the arrangements. I knew nothing when I was performing on stage." Words were stuck in Yara's throat as she was trying to explain to Kenneth.

She continued, "I only found out about the pre-recorded music when the string of the piano snapped. The mic that was attached to the instrument was not on at all. But still, it's my fault. Sorry to have disappointed you."

Kenneth was not pleased when he found out what Yara did from the news, but after listening to her explanation, he decided to believe her.

*I'm sure a girl like Yara, who was kind enough to assist me when I needed medical attention, would not resort to such a despicable act. Yara must have worked hard to put up a great performance, and it must be*

*e her manager who pulled the trick behind her back. If the accident didn't happen, she wouldn't have found out what her manager did as well.*

Kenneth let out a sigh and said, "Don't be silly. You're someone who rushed me to the hospital years ago and didn't even leave your contact details. I trust you with all my heart, of course."

"Thank you, Mr. Bowers."

"Rest well, Yara." Kenneth then paused for a moment. "You should take a break and stop working for a while. Do you remember I told you about opening a medical center for you? I thought about it, and I think it's about time to do it."

"Huh?" Yara was nonplussed.

"What's wrong?" :

"Nothing. Nothing. I was just a little surprised."

"We've talked about this before, and I think it's the right time to proceed," Kenneth said. "I hope my daughter-in-law could be a doctor instead of an entertainer."

*What? But I know nothing about medic!*

Yara was worried and unhappy about it, but she could not express her dismay. "Okay, : Mr. Bowers."

After Yara had ended the call, Mona could not help but start shivering again.

Yara, who aggressively strangled Mona earlier, turned into a different person when she was on the phone with Kenneth.

Mona would not have believed the sudden change in Yara's personality had she not witnessed it.

After putting down her phone, Yara took a sidelong glance at Mona. "I'll stop acting for a while. Find me a doctor. I need to polish up my medical knowledge."

"Excuse me?" Mona could not believe her ears.

"Find me a doctor who can teach me about medic." A hard glint flashed across Yara's eyes. "No one must know about it. If anyone finds out about it, you're dead."

The murderous stare from the evil beauty sent chills down Mona's spine. She could only respond with a vigorous nod.

## Chapter 217

Over at the Beckers residence, Hans decided to spend more quality time with Yana. With that, he transferred the ownership of Crown Entertainment to Natalie.

There was no way to cure Yana's disease unless they could get their hands on the dragonblood fruit. In the meantime, Yana could only rely on Natalie's treatment to relieve the symptoms.

Yana could not help but knit her brows when Natalie inserted needles through her skin.

After completing the treatment, Natalie asked, "How do you feel?"

"My body seems more relaxed ever since I started taking medicine and receiving your treatment regularly," Yana said with a grin. "I always tell Hans that you're more powerful than any divine healer. Only you could prevent the relapse of my cardiac problem."

"I'm glad that you're not in pain anymore," Natalie said.

As an observant person, Yana noticed the frown on Natalie's face when the latter was administering the treatment. "You're not very optimistic about my illness, aren't you?"

Natalie froze for a moment before responding with a nod.

Though Natalie managed to relieve Yana's medical condition with medicines and crystal needles, the effect was just temporary. If they could not find the cure in time, Yana might not pull through this ordeal.

Natalie thought Yana would have a hard time accepting the truth, but Yana responded calmly by holding Natalie's hands. "I resign to my fate. Both you and Hans have done enough for me. I have no regrets."

Yana smiled and continued, "I wouldn't have been able to sleep well had you not appeared in my life. Please don't feel bad for me. You don't owe me anything."

Natalie's heart sank when she heard what Yana said.

The more Yana wanted her to stop blaming herself, the more guilty Natalie felt. "Don't overthink, Yana. I'm sure you can recover. I've sent people to look for the medicine, and we should be able to find it soon."

11:50

Chapter 217

Natalie continued to speak in a steady voice. "I've not given up on you, so I hope you don't give up on yourself too."

"Okay." Yana nodded.

After the treatment had completed, her son, Zoe, ran up to Natalie. "Thank you for treating my Mommy."

He then bowed and said, "Daddy and Mommy said you're our benefactor."

The little child's remark had warmed Natalie's heart. "Don't worry. I'll try my best to help your Mommy recover."

"Thank you. I'll surely repay your kindness when I grow up."

"Okay."

Natalie was very touched by Yana and her son, but at the same time, she left their house with a heavy heart.

Now all she needed was the dragonblood fruit, but it was not easy to find.

Feeling loss, Natalie walked aimlessly on the street. The feeling of helplessness had weighed her down.

It reminded her of the time when her mother was gravely ill.

Natalie might possess the medical skills, but there was very little she could do to save her mother.

All of a sudden, the sky turned gray and started drizzling.

She only knew it was raining when her clothes got wet.

Since she did not carry an umbrella, she had no choice but to walk in the rain.

Suddenly, a black umbrella appeared from the top, preventing the droplets of rain from hitting her body.

Natalie was stunned for a moment. She lifted her head to look at the umbrella before turning her attention to the man who held the device.

*Christopher? What is this lunatic doing here?*

11:50

Chapter 217

“What are you doing here?” Natalie mumbled as she could not believe what she saw.

“You think you’re a divine healer who can walk in the rain without an umbrella and not catch a cold?” Christopher said while staring at her wet cheeks.

Chapter 218

Natalie shot a glance at Christopher before stepping out of the umbrella.

The rain slid down her hair and shoulders, but it was as if she could not feel it at all.

Christopher gritted his teeth and secretly cursed at her for being ungrateful. However, he could not help but chase after her and place the umbrella over her head again.

“Do you like being drenched in the rain so much?”

“What’s that got to do with you?” Without even looking back, Natalie strode forward. “I’ve already cured your illness, so we owe each other nothing. There’s no need to be involved in each other’s lives anymore.”

Christopher was used to scheming women playing tricks to get close to him.

Was U

It was his first time seeing a woman acting so aloof and wanting to cut off ties with him. In fact, it felt like she did not even care about him at all.

However, the more she did that, the greater his urge to be closer to her. He wanted her to pay attention to him.

“You’re still so young. Where did you pick up your medical skills from?” Christopher walked beside her under the umbrella.

“I’m not telling you.”

“Now that you’ve cured me, the snakeblood fruit which I got from the auction will be useless.” Feigning helpless, Christopher asked, “I wonder what’ll happen if I fed it to a dog.”

Even if Natalie could ignore Christopher, she could not ignore these precious herbs.

Although the snakeblood fruit’s medicinal effects were much inferior to that of the dragonblood fruit, it was still a very rare and useful herb.

As expected, Natalie immediately stopped in her tracks and stared at Christopher with widened eyes. “Are you crazy? Do you have a grudge against the snakeblood fruit?”

“I’m not a doctor, anyway. Now that my illness is cured, the snakeblood fruit is

11:51

Chapter 218

useless to me,” remarked Christopher casually. “Even if I give it to you, you wouldn’t want it.”

“Who said that I wouldn’t want it?”

“Do you want it?”

“I do!” Natalie did not know if that madman was joking or being sincere. While her heart ached for the herb, she exclaimed, “Although the snakeblood fruit cannot be compared to the dragonblood fruit, it can still save lives! If you feed it to the dogs, you’d be wasting such a precious herb.”

“I bought the snakeblood fruit for tens of billions. If I give it to you, don’t you have to give something up for exchange?”

**en**

Meeting Christopher’s gaze, Natalie could not help but ask, “What do you want in exchange?” However, suddenly remembering something, she quickly added, “You’ve been misled into paying that price during the auction. Actually, the snakeblood fruit doesn’t cost that much. Don’t try to scam me!”

“Well, I want you to have a meal with me.”

“Just one meal?” Natalie was still skeptical. *Can it be that easy?*

“Are you finding it too simple?” Christopher smirked and said, “Looks like you don’t really want it, after all. I should just feed it to the dogs!”

“No! I’ll agree.”

“Okay,” replied Christopher as an amused look flashed across his eyes.

CTOS

*It is just a meal anyway. Nothing wrong could arise from that. Besides, I could use the snakeblood fruit in Yana’s medicine. That would be beneficial for her recovery.*

Bearing the thought in mind, Natalie followed Christopher into the car.

When she got out of the car, she realized that he had brought her to a steak restaurant.

Christopher had reserved a private room. A waitress in a red dress led them to their seats and passed them a tablet.

Christopher wanted to order a steak with hot sauce, but Natalie stopped him.

11:51

Chapter 218

“You’ve just recovered, so you can’t eat something so spicy!” Natalie glared at him. “Order something mild. As you’ve just recovered from an illness which you’ve suffered since young, it’s better to take things slow.”

Natalie was reminding Christopher out of concern in her capacity as his doctor.

However, Christopher kept staring at Natalie intently. Delighted with her concern, he relented. “Fine, I’ll

Chapter 219

After Natalie ordered the steaks, she ordered some sides too.

Soon, the waitresses served the steaks and the dishes.

Watching

as Natalie cut the steak up into smaller pieces, Christopher felt a strange feeling rise within him.

“I’ve been suffering from a pulmonary disease since young. Hence, this is my first time eating steak,” exclaimed Christopher.

“Why are you acting all melodramatic now?” Natalie placed the cut steak onto Christopher’s plate. “Eating steaks isn’t like eating snakeblood fruits. It’s not a tough thing to do! You can eat many more steaks in the future.”

**as S**

When Christopher heard that, he felt like there was something tugging at his heartstrings.

## S

*How can this young lady resolve all of my worries so easily? It feels like all of my worries have disappeared with her by my side.*

“Why are you in a daze? Give it back to me if you don’t want to eat it.”

## ds

When Natalie saw that Christopher did not even touch the steak, she figured he was concerned about hygiene issues with Natalie cutting his steak. Just when she was about to take it back, Christopher stopped her.

“Who said that I’m not eating?” Christopher picked the steak up with the fork and stuffed it into his mouth. “I’m just waiting for it to cool down.”

“Mr. Collins, now that I’ve had a meal with you, you mustn’t break your promise about giving me the snakeblood fruit.”

“Of course.”

“Okay!”

Natalie munched on the steak happily, her mood improving significantly.

She managed to get a snakeblood fruit in exchange for a meal. With this, she had more time to search for the dragonblood fruit.

11:52

Chapter 219

*Oh, the dragonblood fruit! Where can I find you?*

The room was filled with the fragrance of the steak. While Natalie was engrossed with eating her steak, Christopher couldn’t keep his eyes off her. He thought that she was like a cute kitten—lively and mischievous, with a short temper. She would appear aloof unless there was something that could tempt her.

His feelings of affection increased as he watched her.

When they left the restaurant, the rain had already stopped with the street lamps lit **up**.

“Accompany me to pick a present for Grandma. After that, I’ll ask Nicholas to send the snakeblood fruit to the address of your choice,” said Christopher with a smirk as he shoved a hand into his pocket.

“Okay.”

Natalie followed Christopher to a high-end shopping mall in the central business district.

Christopher brought her to a luxurious jewelry shop, where all the sales associates were dressed elegantly.

His appearance caused the sales associate to stare at him dazedly. Just from his looks and demeanor alone, one could tell that he was extremely rich.

Yet, when they glanced at the woman beside him, they immediately noticed that she was wearing unbranded clothes. More importantly, her face was extremely average looking—completely different from Christopher’s dazzling looks.

“That woman is really ugly.”

“What methods did she use to hook up with this man?”

“Shush! Lower your volume! They might hear you!”

“Yeah! But what can we do? She’s like a toad courting a prince!”

When Natalie heard that, she almost rolled her eyes.

Although she admitted that her hyper-realistic mask was quite ugly, their words were simply ridiculous.

11:52

Chapter 219

*A toad courting a prince? I bet that they didn’t do well in literature class.*

Naturally, Christopher heard those comments too. Staring at Natalie’s face, he suddenly remembered the gorgeous face that lay underneath that hyper-realistic mask. A grin spread across his lips.

He grabbed Natalie’s arm and pulled her closer to him.

“What are you doing?”.

“I want you to stand closer to me,” said Christopher. “It’s best if you stay within my sight forever.”

Chapter 220

A man like Christopher was simply too unpredictable—his mood always swung between two extremes.

In one second, he could grab her neck and yearn to kill her. Yet, in the next second, he could give her a snakeblood fruit that cost hundreds of millions.

He was a complete madman. The best course of action was to stay as far away from him as possible. If she stayed in his sight forever, she would be digging her own grave.

Natalie laughed drily in response.

They walked to the counter.

After knowing that the gift was meant for an elder, the sales associate took out a few sets of jewelry for their review.

Having guessed Christopher's family background, the sales associate displayed jewelry that cost at least five million.

As Natalie was not knowledgeable in jewelry, she could only advise based on how appropriate they were. On the other hand, Christopher was well-versed with jade and precious jewels. He quickly eliminated a lot of the jewelry recommended to him.

*Since Christopher knows so much about jewelry, why did he ask someone like me who's completely oblivious about it to advise him?*

In the middle of choosing the jewelry, Christopher's phone rang. As the contents of their conversation were meant to be confidential, he went outside to take the call.

Natalie did not remain idle in the store either. She remembered that it was going to be her children's birthday soon.

As a mother, she was not a very romantic person.

Hence, she would make up for it with money. She wondered if she should give her children a slightly more expensive gift.

Perhaps, she could give each of them a gold chain!

Just when Natalie was about to go blind from all the dazzling gold, a furious voice

11:53

Chapter 220

sounded beside her.

"It's you!"

When Natalie turned around, she saw the girl whom she had seen briefly at the Collins residence.

Not wanting to be further involved with her, Natalie said, "I'm sorry. You've mistaken me for someone else."

"Mistaken you for someone else?" Jacyntha bit her lips. As if she had suffered a huge grievance, she hollered, "I would never mistake anyone else for such an ugly girl like you! You are the one who made Chris fall head over heels with you through your dirty methods. He even yelled at me for your sake!"

Natalie did not want to bother Jacyntha, but Jacyntha kept accusing her without even figuring out the facts.

*I'm not indebted to her in any way, so why should I be scolded by her?*

"Dirty methods?" Natalie scoffed coldly, "Tell me! What dirty methods have I used?"

Jacyntha accused Natalie of using dirty methods, but she was unable to specify what exactly did Natalie do.

“You...”

“If you think that dirty methods are effective on Christopher, you should just use them.” Natalie narrowed her eyes as a cold and stubborn expression appeared on her face.

Jacyntha was the Smith family’s precious heiress.

Since young, she had been calling Christopher by his nickname, Chris. Everyone in the Smith family and the Collins family saw her as Christopher’s fiancée, even though they were not officially engaged.

However, Christopher allowed Natalie to sleep in his mother’s room.

Jacyntha was never allowed into that room. When she tried to sneak into it secretly, Christopher caught her and scolded her harshly.

If Christopher allowed Natalie to do that, it meant that she was as important to him as his mother.

11:53

#### Chapter 220

Fury surged within Jacyntha when she thought about that.

“I—I’m not as shameless as you!”

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Raising her cup of unfinished coffee, she splashed it onto Natalie’s face.

Natalie dodged quickly. However, although she managed to hide her face in time, the coffee splashed all over her body.

This sudden change in events caused everyone in the jewelry shop to fall silent.

As the sales associates noticed that Jacyntha’s attire was much more luxurious than Natalie’s, they did not dare to offend her by helping Natalie.

Even though Natalie’s shirt had turned brown, with the coffee dripping down the corners, no one passed her a piece of tissue paper.

#### Chapter 221

When Jacyntha saw Natalie’s pathetic state, her fury subsided a little.

“You and Chris belong in two completely different worlds! If you have dignity, you should take the initiative and stay away from him. Don’t obstruct his path!”

Staring at the young woman in front of her, Natalie smirked. A cold glint flashed across her eyes.

She shot a cold glance at the motionless sales associates and demanded, “Pass me a bottle of water.”

Even though she was being bullied, she still exuded a charismatic and cold aura. Her eyes were crystal-clear and bright.

When the sales associate met her gaze, she felt an inexplicable sense of intimidation. Hence, she subconsciously passed a bottle of water and a piece of tissue to Natalie.

Instead of taking the tissue, she grabbed the bottle of water instead.

She twisted the cap open, placed the opening over Jacyntha's head, and emptied the bottle on her.

As the bottle of water had just been retrieved from the fridge, it was quite chilly. Not only did Jacyntha become drenched, but she also shivered from the cold.

At that moment, everyone, including Jacyntha, was stunned.

She watched helplessly as Natalie poured the entire bottle of water over her. Still immersed in shock, she did not move a single inch.

It took a while before Jacyntha finally returned to her senses.

Widening her eyes, she screamed, "W-Who do you think you are? How dare you splash water over me?"

Natalie capped the bottle slowly. Her eyelashes fluttered as she glanced at Jacyntha. "Your brain's heating up, so you need to cool down. Do you think that any woman who's by Christopher's side is your enemy? Can you please figure out the situation before targeting everyone?"

"Are you saying that,"

"I'm not trying to say anything," interrupted Natalie coldly. "If this happens again, things will end uglier than this."

"Y-You..."

Right then, Jacyntha was completely drenched, looking as pathetic as Natalie.

Ignoring her furious glare, Natalie strode out of the jewelry store.

She was just an innocent bystander who had been implicated for no reason.

Previously, she even assumed that the heavens were so kind to her that she got a snakeblood fruit for free.

As expected, the snakeblood fruit came at a price.

### III

When Natalie walked out, she bumped into Christopher.

He noticed the coffee stains on her clothes and the cold expression on her face. "What happened to you? Who bullied you?"

Shooting him a chilly glance, Natalie uttered, "Now that I've eaten and chosen a gift with you, don't forget to ask Nicholas to send the snakeblood fruit that you've promised me."

When Christopher saw how distant she was acting, he grabbed her wrist. "I'm asking you a question! Who bullied you?"

Natalie was still fuming mad about it. Now that Christopher kept interrogating her, she glared at him and yelled, "You..."

"What?"

"It's you!" Natalie smirked coldly. "Let go of me! Aren't you bullying me right now?"

Christopher released her subconsciously. Once the opportunity arose, Natalie spun around and left unhesitatingly.

When Christopher returned to the jewelry store, he saw Jacyntha bursting into tears.

"Chris..." When Jacyntha saw Christopher, she became even more upset. She pounced into his arms and complained through sobs, "That woman poured water all over me. I'm so cold now!"

"Were you the one who splashed coffee on her?"

Christopher's gaze was so sharp that Jacyntha felt a chill run down her spine. She could sense that he was extremely angry now.

"Jacyntha, I'm asking you this. Were you the one who splashed coffee on her?" Before she could reply, Christopher repeated his question.

She vented all her grievances onto him immediately. "So what if I was the one who splashed her with coffee? You're my fiancé, so who is she to stay by your side? Why can she enter your mother's room? Why do you treat her so specially?"

## Chapter 222

Christopher's gaze was filled with indifference when he gazed at Jacyntha.

"Jacyntha, since when did you become my fiancée? Why don't I know about it?"

Jacyntha was sobbing so much that she could hardly catch her breath. "Of course I am! The Smith family and the Collins

family think that we're a perfect match. There has never been any woman by your side other than me. With all that, can't I be considered your fiancée?"

Christopher closed his eyes and emphasized, "Jacyntha, you're not. You'll never be my wife—be it in the past, present, or future. I allow you to stay by my side because I treat you as my younger sister. I have no romantic feelings for you."

Jacyntha was merely upset at Natalie's words.

However, when she heard Christopher's words, she felt like a bomb had just exploded in her heart.

"You can't treat me like this, Chris!" Ignoring the sales associates staring at her, she burst into tears and wailed, "I like you so much that I'm dead set on marrying you! Do you think that I'm evil because I bullied that woman? Is that why you said all that? I can apologize to her and seek her forgiveness, but please don't say something like that!"

"Jacyntha, is it possible for you to stop liking me?"

"... I can't do it." Jacyntha's tears streamed down her cheeks.

"Similarly..." Christopher continued coldly, "I can't make myself fall in love with you. I've already got my eyes set on someone else, and that person isn't you."

Jacyntha bit her lips. Despite her devastation, she kept clutching Christopher's shirt.

However, Christopher pried her fingers away expressionlessly, not even sparing her a single word of consolation.

Watching as he left ruthlessly, Jacyntha burst into a crying fit.

*It's all that woman's fault! That freckled woman has stolen Christopher's heart! Ever since young, my biggest wish is to marry Chris. To me, he's my entire world. However, this woman just made me lose everything I have.*

Still crying, Jacyntha swore that if she could not secure Christopher for herself, Natalie would not either.

Since she could not bear to harm Christopher, she would make life a living hell for Natalie.

The wind was exceptionally cold that night.

## **IS EXC**

After being drenched in the rain and splashed by coffee, Natalie wrapped her arms around herself. She was tired and mentally exhausted.

Suddenly, her phone rang.

When she saw that it was a call from Xavian, she forced herself to become more energetic.

"Hello, Sweetheart!"

"Mommy, I'm in Mr. Morin's car now. Franklin and Sophia are here too!"

"What?" Natalie frowned. Although it was normal for Franklin and Sophia to be fetched back to the Bowers residence, it was absurd that they had brought Xavian away too.

"Mr. Bowers wants me to live with Franklin and Sophia for a while." After a slight pause, Xavian continued carefully, "Also, Mommy, I... I want to live with them for a while too."

When Natalie heard that, she felt like her heart had just been ripped into pieces. A sad feeling engulfed her.

Since Clayton was out filming a show, she only had Xavian with her.

Yet, Xavian was gone as well, having been snatched away by Samuel so easily.

**was**

“Are you unhappy, Mommy?”

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“No..” Natalie pursed her lips. “Okay, I understand.”

After ending the call, Natalie bit onto her lips. Tears started welling up in her eyes.

She did not know why, but she suddenly felt very aggrieved.

First, she could not cure Yana without the dragonblood fruit. After that, she was

splashed with coffee for no reason. Then, Xavian moved to the Bowers residence. With all these added up, she could not contain her emotions any longer.

Once she returned home, she did not turn on the lights.

Instead, she sat onto the ground in the dark.

At that moment, a man walked toward her slowly and stopped.

“Who is it?”

Natalie looked up tearfully.

*Click!* Samuel appeared before her eyes as the corridor lit up.

He had defined cheekbones, a chiseled jaw, deep-set eyes, and exuded elegance in a chic black dress shirt.

Natalie quickly picked herself up from the ground as she wasn't used to exposing her weakness to others.

“You!”

the dark

She felt as if she had been stripped bare in front of him.

“Samuel, what are you doing in my house? And why didn't you turn the lights on? Is it fun to watch me cry in the dark like that?”

Natalie didn't know why she poured her heart out to Samuel just like that.

Even though life wasn't easy in the last five years, she had never made herself vulnerable to anyone before.

Her mind was in a mess at the moment as she laid her feelings bare for him.

"Samuel, I hate you so much! I don't want to see anyone at the moment. Why do you have to be here?"

*F\*ck it! I don't give a d\*mn anymore.*

Natalie vented out her anger and frustration at him.

*He's probably going to want to eat me up alive for being so rude to him.*

Just as she thought Samuel was about to slam the door and leave, he suddenly pulled her in for a warm hug.

## Chapter 223

"Yes, it's horrible of me to see you in such a state, but I don't think it's fun at all. My heart is aching for you. You can tell me if you're sad and angry, or you can hit me, bite me, or even vent your anger out at me if you don't want to talk. Just don't hide yourself up in a corner and cry.." Samuel muttered.

Natalie's heart skipped a beat.

*But this has nothing to do with him. Is he not aware of it? Why is he still trying to comfort me*

"Samuel, can you differentiate right from wrong?" Natalie scowled.

"Differentiating right from wrong?" He squeezed her tight and took a deep whiff of her herbal scent. "You may be wrong in the eyes of the world, but you will always be right in mine. I don't care what others think of me, I only care about how you think of me."

Natalie went beet red upon his words.

She couldn't handle his sweet confession.

"Samuel, how many romance novels did you read to come up with that?"

"Nat, I'm speaking from the bottom of my heart." Samuel hugged her tight and stroked her hair. He said in a firm tone, "I know you have your goals. You yearn to become stronger, and I won't stop you from doing so. In fact, I will be supporting you from behind. You can come to me whenever you're hurt or tired. I will be a shoulder for you to lean on. I will have your back no matter what happens."

Natalie's eyes glistened with tears at that.

She had never felt so pampered in her life. The warmth she felt caused her defenses to crumble.

“Samuel, I want to have my revenge..” Natalie cried her heart out in Samuel’s arms as if she was a wounded beast. “They took away things that mattered to me most in my life. I have to get my revenge!”

*For me, my mother, and my granddad.*

It had been five years since she bottled up her anger and resentment.

This was the first time Samuel ever heard Natalie talk about her past hurts.

## Chapter 224

Just as Samuel thought Natalie would lay her emotions bare in front of him, she pulled away from his embrace.

“I’ve made a fool of myself today..” Natalie croaked.

IC

Samuel felt utterly defeated as her gaze turned cold and distant.

*Looks likethe pain and hatred in her heart are stronger than her love for me.*

Natalie was being too rational for her own good. In fact, she was even more rational than Samuel. She didn’t want this relationship to turn into a weakness of hers.

*Okay. I will respect her decision. The more distant she acts, the more I will pamper her. I will pamper her till she only has eyes for me.*

“Nat, everything I’ve said to you today is my promise toward you.” Samuel stared at her as he spoke in a ll seriousness. “You can do whatever you want, but you can only belong to me. No one else can lay a finger on you.”

Natalie looked him in the eye and was surprised to see the determination in them.

She was able to control her feelings around him this time around.

*But what about next time?Can I really hold back my feelings for him?*

The next day.

Natalie received a message from Christopher telling her to come down to Collins Corporation personally to collect the snakeblood fruit.

She arrived at Collins Corporation and registered herself at the reception.

“Hello, I’m looking for Christopher.”

The receptionist, who had on heavy makeup, couldn’t help but laugh. “Do you have an appointment?”

“No, but I have a message from him.” Natalie handed her phone over to the receptionist.

However, the receptionist didn’t even spare her phone a glance. “Tch, you call this

evidence? All you did was find someone to send this message to you and name that contact after our CEO. Do you really think I will believe you?" the receptionist said coldly.

Natalie frowned. "Your CEO really is the sender."

"Then why don't you give him a call?"

Natalie called the number without another word.

It went through but nobody picked up.

The receptionist gave Natalie a sidelong glance. *Hah! I knew it.*

"Can't get through? I knew it. You're a liar. How did you even know our CEO with that face of yours? Do you really think insignificant people like you can meet our CEO?"

Natalie smirked as her aura suddenly turned icy.

"I'll give you another chance. Can you please give your CEO a call? Tell them a Ms. Natalie is looking for him."

The receptionist was taken aback by her aura. However, she refused to take her seriously as she thought Natalie was probably just putting up a show. Hence, she continued speaking to her in a nonchalant attitude.

"Hello, do you not understand what I just said? You can't meet our CEO without an appointment. I'm going to get the guards to drag you out if you keep up with this!"

Natalie turned around and was about to take her leave.

Just then, Nicholas walked out from the VIP elevator.

He quickly walked over to Natalie the moment he saw her. "Ms. Natalie, you're here." he said respectfully.

Nicholas had a complete change of attitude toward Natalie after Christopher's recovery. They went from being at each other's throats to him treating her with the utmost respect as if she was the medicinal herb goddess.

The receptionist parted her lips in surprise when she saw how polite Nicholas was toward Natalie.

*This rooman...She's not really here to meet the CHO, is shop*

Before the receptionist could even register what was going on, Christopher entered the office building. He made his way toward Natalie the moment he laid eyes on her.

"Brat, you're making such a big fuss about these medicinal herbs, and yet, you don't give a d\*mn about me. Are these herbs more precious than me?" Christopher smiled from the bottom of his heart when he saw Natalie.

Uhh...

The receptionist was stunned.

*Did the devil CEO just smile? Is he directing his smile at the woman I just offended earlier?*

## Chapter 225

Natalie gave him a look and replied matter-of-factly, "Mr. Collins, these medicinal herbs have everything to do with me, but you don't."

Christopher knew Natalie's response was going to burn. Hence, he wasn't the least bit offended by it. On the contrary, his gaze never left her as he observed all the subtle expressions on her face.

"Let's move our conversation somewhere else, shall we? Let's go to my office instead."

Natalie gave the receptionist a meaningful glance. "Do I have the right to go up there without an appointment with Christopher?"

The receptionist, who was dressed to the nines, trembled in fear as Natalie fixed her with an icy stare.

Christopher's eyes glinted coldly. *How dare she try to make life difficult for my Natalie? Does she have a death wish?*

Before leaving for the CEO's office with Natalie, Christopher shot Nicholas a look. The latter immediately nodded his head in acknowledgment.

After Christopher and Natalie left, the receptionist's legs gave way. She fell to the ground and begged, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Collins... I didn't know she was a good friend of the CEO... I'm sorry, it's all my fault, can you please give me another chance? I won't do it again!"

Nicholas crouched down in front of her and replied coldly, "It's no use apologizing to me. You've offended the most important person to Mr. Christopher."

"M-Most important person?" The receptionist couldn't believe her ears. *How did that ugly woman steal the CEO's heart?*

"Since you've offended the most important person to Mr. Christopher. Hence, you, and everyone you've referred into this company, will pay the price."

Nicholas then whispered something to her in a low voice. The receptionist passed out after learning the consequences even though one could barely hear what Nicholas was saying.

Meanwhile, everyone else in the CEO office stared at Natalie with varying looks of curiosity and respect as she arrived at the top floor with Christopher in tow.

Natalie frowned. "You could have just passed the snakeblood fruit over to Nicholas. You don't really have to do all this since you're such a busy man."

*Anyone else would have been thrilled to be greeted personally by me, but she's keeping her distance instead.* Christopher smiled bitterly and replied, "I owe it to you to be able to have many more years after this. What is it to me if I were to spend the rest of my time with you?"

*This...*

Natalie wasn't the only one who heard it. In fact, every employee who had passed by the CEO's office heard it loud and clear. They were stunned.

*What a lunatic!*

Natalie felt justified calling Christopher a lunatic.

*All I did was cure him of his illness. Why does he have to make it sound so wrong? People will misunderstand.*

"Mr. Collins, can you please talk sense?" Natalie couldn't help but roll her eyes.

"I am talking sense. I mean every single word I just said."

"Whatever."

Natalie pursed her lips and followed Christopher into his office.

His office included the most modern furniture, the most sophisticated art, and the most luxurious decoration. It was tasteful, refined, and simple. However, the

atmosphere of the room felt a little tense mainly because of its dark interior design.

Christopher's secretary served Natalie a cup of coffee and two pieces of butter cookies.

The female secretary was dressed in a super short office skirt that showed off her beautiful curves and had her delicate features enhanced with clever cosmetics.

Natalie could feel the hostility emanating off of her as she met eyes with the female secretary. It was as if she wanted to eat Natalie up alive.

Natalie couldn't help but sigh. *Why are women still envious of me when I've already put on such an ugly hyper-realistic mask?*

"Please enjoy." The female secretary smiled sweetly at Christopher and left.

Christopher spoke up the moment she left. "You don't like my secretary."