Healing 1051

Chapter 1051 He Does On His Own

After taking the photos, Nathalie and Veronica didn't bother Billy and Raul anymore. Nathalie held Veronica's hand as she continued to chatter away like a motor-mouth.

"Oh my god, Billy is just too good to be true. How can he be so perfect? I could love him for another hundred years!" Veronica exclaimed.

Niamh never chased after celebrities because of her mother's influence. In fact, she had a physical aversion towards them.

So she understood how Veronica felt.

After hearing what Veronica said, Niamh replied, "If you love him for a hundred years, you'll be 120."

Veronica stopped in her tracks and looked at Niamh. "I've realized that you're really annoying. Do you know what exaggeration means?" She said with frustration evident in her voice.

Nathalie was about to burst out laughing; it was the first time she had seen Veronica this angry.

"Why didn't you ask for his contact if you like him so much?" Nathalie asked teasingly.

"My liking for him is just like any other fan's liking for their idol," explained Veronica. "There are certain rules we must follow when it comes to idols – don't get too close physically but stay close through their works. As fans, we need self-awareness. Asking for his contact would make things impure. If I got his number today, then tomorrow I'd want more. Maybe a message from him or even hope that we could date or get married someday! Human desires are endless! As fans who want happiness from chasing stars, we need to put ourselves in our place and not do anything excessive that would cause pain or trouble our idols."

Niamh nodded understandingly and added, "You're very rational about this, but there are plenty of irrational fans out there. What do they want?"

Veronica said, "I don't know. People are just different. Some you can admire from afar, while others you want to get closer to. Some know what they're doing is wrong but still do it anyway. I can't control everyone and I have some fans that I really dislike, but I can't make them disappear. What I can do is focus on my own responsibilities and support my idol in the way that's appropriate for me so that everyone is happy."

Nathalie replied, "Have you ever thought about the fact that you might end up in the same industry as him? Networking is important in this field and adding him on social media could be useful someday."

Veronica shook her head and said, "I never planned on becoming a celebrity. Coming to this school was just a way for me to experience student life. Walking his path, eating what he eats and seeing what he sees has been enough for me. As for the future, it's clear to me that I won't enter this industry or become his colleague so there's no need to cross any boundaries. Besides even if we were colleagues as male and female artists, we would need to maintain distance between each other or else public opinion would destroy us."

Niamh interjected with a practical question, "While your point makes sense, Veronica, have you considered having another identity? You could be his networking opportunity. Have you thought about whether he needs someone like you?"

This was a very realistic issue especially living in society where networking plays an important role not only in entertainment but also other industries.

Nathalie added," Niamh has a point. The world may seem big but it's actually quite small sometimes. No one knows who will need whom eventually."

Veronica said, "If that's the case, it's something for later. All I know is that right now I'm not the network connection he needs. Who knows what will happen in the future? But I can't promise something I don't have the desire or ability to fulfill. The most important thing is that Billy isn't like that. He knows exactly what he wants and every step he takes is according to his own will. If we ever become involved in that way, it'll be because he needs me at that time. But right now, I can say with certainty that Billy doesn't care about those things."

Chapter 1052 Can You Work with Him?

Nathalie and Niamh didn't say anything else.

They all knew that Veronica was really very rational.

Even this kind of rationality was not the kind of one that was widely known among fans.

However, of course, this was without taking into account Veronica's silly expression while laughing.

Veronica couldn't stop smiling as she stared at the photo of her and Billy on her phone.

Her hands kept stroking Billy's face on the screen, and she said, "My Billy, how come he looks so beautiful? You see, he has no makeup today, but his skin is glowing. No pores at all. I am so envious. As if touching his face, it must be very silky..."

Both Nathalie and Niamh were speechless about it.

Although this kind of Veronica was the most common in the dormitory, every time Billy posted new photos, she can talk for a long time.

As a result, when Veronica saw Billy in person today, she became timid and nervous.

Nathalie said, "I don't understand. You didn't even dare to see him. How did you find out about all of this?"

Veronica said, "This is the talent of being a fan. With my peripheral vision, I can see Billy clearly and even count how many eyelashes he has."

Nathalie felt speechless again.

Forget it. It was still the familiar Veronica.

The encounter with Billy just passed by like that.

Veronica was still being a nympho every day. Because Billy had new news every day, Veronica had new pictures to admire every day.

As a result, who would have thought that after a week, it actually became a hot search topic.

Nathalie was very confused when she received Miles' phone call.

Since she started going to school, Miles hadn't called her on his work phone.

Suddenly receiving a call, Nathalie had no idea what had happened.

As soon as Nathalie answered the phone, she heard Miles ask, "Nathalie, are you in love?"

Nathalie nearly choked on a mouthful of spit.

Holding her phone for a while, Nathalie asked, "Uncle Miles, don't you know whether I'm in love or not?"

Although she was in school, the security guards of the Hayden family were still secretly protecting her, reporting back every detail of who she had met and what she had eaten.

Miles said, "I know you haven't been in a relationship, but now you're trending, Billy. Do you know?"

Nathalie thought that was both speechless and outrageous!

This was Nathalie's initial reaction.

The second reaction was, "I messed up", and she wondered how angry Billy will be over there.

Nathalie opened her tablet, clicked on Twitter, and saw a trending topic with the word "explosion" in bold letters.

She said, "This is not something I did, and it's also not possible that Billy did it. Uncle Miles, can you help me investigate who is causing trouble and clarify this matter as soon as possible to clear Billy's name?"

Miles fell silent upon hearing this and it took him a while before he asked, "Nathalie, you don't like that guy, do you?"

Nathalie was even more speechless now.

She couldn't help but roll her eyes and said, "Uncle Miles, the day I met Billy was the first time. My roommate is a fan of his and told me a lot about him. I think he's pretty good, a decent young man with good morals. He's on the rise in his career, and I can't ruin that for him. There aren't many clean and pure young people like him in the entertainment industry."

Miles was also very speechless. If he didn't know that Nathalie was not lying, he would really think that Nathalie liked Billy.

Nathalie didn't hear Miles speaking, and was really anxious, "Uncle Miles, I beg you, this is not just helping me, this is saving me. I really don't want to harm a good young man."

Miles finally spoke, "If he's really as good as you say he is, then he should understand what's going on and not blame you for it."

Nathalie said, "If he doesn't blame me, it only indicate he's a good person, but I have to be honest. He got scolded and I got the benefit. Uncle Miles, you can't be like this as a person."

"Okay, okay. Look at how anxious you are. If your dad finds out, he will definitely want to meet that boy," Miles said.

Nathalie was really at a loss now.

She said, "I'll go home in a bit and talk to my dad. With so much energy, why doesn't he have another baby with my mom for us?"

Miles laughed and said, "If your dad hears what you said, he will definitely take your skin off."

Nathalie no longer talked nonsense with Miles. Time was of the essence, and she didn't want to involve Billy.

However, before hanging up the phone, Nathalie said, "Uncle Miles, can you check it out? My roommate likes him very much, and I also think that Billy my roommate says is really good. Since he's such a good artist, can you work with him?"

Chapter 1053 How Can She Continue to Speak Further?

After hanging up the phone, Nathalie reopened the trending topics. The photo was obviously taken secretly at school, and she did want to know who did it. The online comments were divided into two factions: some believed that Nathalie was trying to gain attention by stirring up rumors with a popular male celebrity, while felt sorry for Billy and thought he was being used by a scheming woman.

The second faction believed that Billy wasn't a good person himself and had been involved in shady things since entering the entertainment industry. They thought he was using Nathalie for publicity, but only his delusional fans couldn't see through his facade.

Nathalie had never cared about these kinds of comments before, but now she was truly angry. She didn't mind what they said about her, but Billy didn't deserve to be dragged into this mess.

She had a feeling that whoever started this trend did it on purpose to target her specifically. She couldn't let Billy suffer because of her own problems.

So she took out her phone and called Emanuel Knight. He was River and Averi's eldest son who now managed their business empire. If anyone could investigate this matter thoroughly, it would be him.

However, Nathalie felt intimidated by Emanuel's cold demeanor and piercing gaze that could send shivers down anyone's spine. Despite being known for her own bossy personality from childhood until now, even she felt wary around him.

But with danger looming ahead of her, she had no choice but to lower herself and make the call anyway.

After three rings, someone picked up on the other end of the line much faster than expected – leaving Nathalie surprised yet again at how efficient they were!

On the other end of the phone, Emanuel's voice came through, freezing Nathalie to the bone with a simple "hello."

Just that one word made Nathalie involuntarily swallow her saliva.

"Emanuel, it's Nathalie," she obediently called out.

"I know," Emanuel replied.

Nathalie was speechless about herself.

Well duh, she hadn't changed her phone number or anything.

Emanuel wasn't someone who saved just anyone's phone number, but he was someone who could remember anyone's phone number.

After discovering this skill of his, Nathalie was speechless. How could there be such a freakish person?

Regaining her thoughts, Nathalie said, "Emanuel, I need your help with something."

"Speak," Emanuel said.

Nathalie was at loss for words.

What should she do? She really wanted to cry right now.

She felt like Emanuel was being a bit too much.

With such a cold attitude from him, how could she continue talking?

Chapter 1054 No Use to Him

Although Nathalie had become timid, she still believed that it was important to do things properly.

Taking a deep breath, Nathalie said, "Emanuel, I searched for a hot topic and I want you to help me find out who took the photo."

Emanuel remained silent while Nathalie was also drumming her thoughts in her mind.

She didn't know why, even though they were on the phone, Nathalie could still sense that Emanuel was angry.

However, Nathalie can't figure out why he got angry.

She dared not urge Emanuel to give her a definite answer on whether or not he will help her investigate.

The air seemed to have condensed, and Nathalie felt like she could die at any moment.

Just as Nathalie was about to say something, she heard Emanuel ask, "Is he your boyfriend?"

Nathalie immediately denied, "No no no, I just met him once. He was wrongly implicated because of me."

Emanuel had lost his voice again, and this feeling was making Nathalie extremely uncomfortable.

Nathalie really didn't understand what was going on with Emanuel?

Just when Nathalie was about to ask a question tentatively, Emanuel spoke again and said, "It's your roommate who moved out, and I've asked someone to arrest her."

Nathalie was confused and shocked at the same time.

She said, "Damn it! Where is she?"

"I'll have someone come pick you up," said Emanuel.

Nathalie said, "Wait for me to come over. Don't touch her yet!"

After hanging up the phone, Nathalie was so angry that she stormed out of the dormitory.

Veronica and Niamh were not here at the moment, both of them saw the trending topic and were on their way back.

After Nathalie rushed out of the dormitory and got into the car sent by Emanuel, she finally saw the group chat of their dormitory.

Veronica was crying her eyes out and kept apologizing to Nathalie.

If it weren't for her obsession with being a fan, Nathalie would never have helped her find Billy to take a photo together.

She directly hurt the two people she cared about the most.

After reading the messages in the group, Nathalie directly sent a voice message, "Don't cry. I'm going to avenge you. Don't worry. I will definitely take her skin off."

Veronica and Niamh quickly sent messages asking what was going on.

Nathalie cannot say for sure right now, so she just asked them to wait. Anyway, there will be results soon.

The car pulled up in front of a villa, and Nathalie got out of the car, feeling extremely angry.

Coming to such a great environment, was she worthy of it?

Nathalie rushed into the gate and didn't see the woman, but saw Emanuel sitting on a sofa.

Instantly, Nathalie's arrogance dissipated and her steps changed from running to small steps as she approached Emanuel.

Approaching Emanuel, Nathalie smiled awkwardly and said, "Emanuel, what are you doing here?"

Emanuel lifted his eyelids and looked at Nathalie coldly. "Don't want to see me?"

Nathalie really wanted to say that she didn't really want to see him.

But she was too scared. How could she say such things to Emanuel?

Nathalie put on a particularly bright smile and said, "Emanuel, what are you talking about? I've missed you."

Emanuel's eyes darkened when he heard this. There were unknown waves surging in his eyes.

However, his voice remained extremely cold. "I'm not Ridge or Brandon."

In other words, those words had no effect on him.

Chapter 1055 You Missed Me

Nathalie was really annoyed. She just wanted to know what Emanuel's deal was – did he not want to see her or something? She pouted and said, "I tell you the truth and you don't believe me, so forget it." Nathalie wasn't a pushover. When she was happy, she could be very charming, but when things didn't go her way, she had a temper and wouldn't bother trying to please anyone.

She realized that there was nothing she could do about Emanuel. He never seemed happy no matter what she did. So Nathalie decided not to waste any more of her energy on him. When Emanuel saw how upset Nathalie was getting, he looked remorseful.

He didn't mean it that way at all but ended up making things worse for himself by being too clever by half. The air grew quiet again as Nathalie became unhappy and stopped talking altogether.

After a long silence, Emanuel asked her, "What are you going to do?"

Nathalie paused for a moment before saying, "Make her apologize on Twitter! If she wants attention so badly, then let's give it to her once and for all!"

During training camp, this girl came crawling up to Nathalie begging for forgiveness after badmouthing Veronica and Niamh behind their backs while also spreading rumors about Nathalie herself. She played both sides against each other without any remorse whatsoever even after being exposed for who she truly was.

Nathalie couldn't stand people like that so she just ignored her completely until now when she was trying once again cause trouble.

It was clear that this girl had an ulterior motive. She wanted that Nathalie as a roommate or best friend would make the perfect image in entertainment industry circles, whether true or false. That was why Nathalie refused outright from the beginning. Only someone foolish would think she could manipulate someone like Nathalie who had always been independent since childhood.

Emanuel said, "You don't have to meet with her if you don't want. We can spare your eyes from seeing such filth."

This made Nathalie feel better because if it weren't for innocent people involved in this mess, then she wouldn't have bothered dealing with this girl at all!

But still Nathalie wondered where exactly did Emanuel take care of everything? So without hesitation, Nathalie asked him directly.

Emanuel replied, "The factory in the western suburbs."

Nathalie remained silent, suspecting that this was typical of the Knight family.

However, her suspicion only grew stronger the next moment.

"Why did you bring me here?" Nathalie asked Emanuel in confusion.

"I wanted to see you," Emanuel said simply.

Nathalie was stunned and couldn't believe what she had just heard. She stared at Emanuel for a long time and confirmed that he was serious about his expression. Nathalie felt like a genius because she could tell from his wooden face that there were changes in his expression. However, this realization left her even more confused. Why did Emanuel seem so abnormal today?

She tentatively asked him, "Are you saying that you missed me?"

Chapter 1056 We Really Can't Bully Honest People

"Mhmm," came a soft sound. If Nathalie hadn't been staring at Emanuel, she wouldn't have been sure if she had actually heard his voice.

However, this only made Nathalie more confused.

She just felt strange, very strange.

Nathalie said, "So when I said I missed you earlier, you still responded like that."

She was already feeling defeated.

How could there be someone that Nathalie couldn't win over? This was outrageous!

Emanuel replied, "You're like that with everyone. I don't know if what you say is true or false."

Nathalie remained silent.

So it was her fault now?

"I believe that I've never lied to you before. Why do you have such a bias against me?" Nathalie finally spoke up again.

Emanuel didn't say anything but just gazed deeply into Nathalie's face.

It made her uncomfortable and she turned away but could still feel his gaze on her back. It seemed like even stronger emotions were emanating from Emanuel's eyes than before and landing on the back of Nathalie's head.

Nathalie didn't know how to describe this eerie feeling she had right now. But at this moment, all she wanted to say was for him not to look at her like that anymore because it really made her uncomfortable.

There were some things she shouldn't think too much about; the more she thought about them, the harder they became to deal with. Like right now for instance.

Nathalie could sense something special in Emanuel's gaze but refused to believe it as nonsense.

However telling herself so did not change anything as deep down inside herself, there was an awareness of something different happening between them which made facing Emanuel even harder.

Just then Emanuel asked, "You really haven't dated him?"

This question almost drove Nathalie crazy!

She glared at Emanuel and retorted, "I told you before! If we were dating, then I would've announced it on Twitter!"

As soon as these words left her mouth though, Nathalie caught sight of a flash of anger in Emanuel's eyes.

Nathalie involuntarily shrunk her neck and said, "Why do you care so much? It's not strange for me to be in a relationship now, is it?"

Emanuel didn't speak, but stared straight at Nathalie.

Nathalie was getting numb from Emanuel's gaze on her face. She surrendered and said, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Can you please stop looking so serious? I shouldn't have spoken out of turn. There is absolutely no relationship between him and me. If there will be any future connection between us, it might only be for business purposes or maybe he'll come work for Uncle Miles in the future. As far as our personal relationship goes, there isn't one."

Emanuel asked, "Are you telling me all this because you're afraid that I'll go after him?"

Nathalie was completely defeated by Emanuel.

She raised both hands up in surrender.

"Emanuel," Nathalie said pleadingly, "I beg of you! There really isn't anything going on between him and me. If there's something that bothers you about this situation, just tell me directly instead of taking it out on him. He really is innocent here! We can't bully honest people like that."

Emanuel lightly responded with a "hmm" which meant he agreed to what she had said.

Nathalie breathed a sigh of relief. Even if her father went after Billy, she wasn't scared anymore because the guy standing right before her was truly terrifying.

However, Nathalie still couldn't understand why Emanuel cared so much about this matter.

Chapter 1057 You're Unreliable Too

In fact, Nathalie couldn't possibly not understand. She had the answer in her heart, but she couldn't say it or ask about it. At least not now.

Turning her head, Nathalie suddenly felt a little lost. She could sense something, but she didn't understand why.

The air seemed to freeze again and for a moment Nathalie didn't know what to do. Should she leave? But that would be like getting rid of him as soon as he had done his job. She wasn't that kind of person.

But sitting here with Emanuel and not saying anything was really getting on her nerves.

Just then, Emanuel spoke up. "Ridge is going to propose," he said.

"What?" Nathalie turned to look at Emanuel in disbelief. Today had already been too much for her; if things kept going this way, she might just lose it completely.

Ridge and Mia had been together since middle school. Both of them were outstanding students and even their teachers couldn't do anything about it.

Ben wanted nothing more than to beat Ridge up every day, but Tilly was all for their relationship so there wasn't much he could do except sulk in silence. Of course, that frustration eventually found its release on Tilly herself – as evidenced by the two more children they later had together.

Everyone knew how Ridge and Mia got together because they'd all seen it happen with their own eyes – but proposing so soon after graduation?

The key question was: Why did Emanuel know about this when Nathalie – Ridge's own sister – didn't?

Nathalie was really angry now! She immediately took out her phone and called Ridge, but before anyone answered, Emanuel snatched the phone away from her and hung up.

Nathalie glared at him incredulously, "What are you doing?"

"Ridge doesn't want me telling you," replied Emanuel calmly.

Nathalie was speechless... and then hurt! Why? How come? What made him think he couldn't tell her?

Emanuel didn't seem to care how deeply his words cut into Nathalie's heart as he continued speaking, "Ridge said you and Rosemary knew about this proposal – along with Mia."

Nathalie was speechless.

Well if that was what he said, then there wasn't much arguing against it...

But still...did she have no dignity left at all?

Nathalie looked at Emanuel and asked, "So you're saying my sister doesn't know either?"

"I'm not sure," Emanuel replied. "It's hard to say if the twin telepathy kicked in for her."

Nathalie couldn't help but laugh at Emanuel's response. Even though Ridge and Rosemary were twins, as they grew older, their connection seemed to fade away. Of course, the main reason was that Rosemary always caused trouble for Mia and didn't want Ridge to succeed in winning her over.

As Ridge put it, if it weren't for Rosemary getting in the way, he would have been with Mia since elementary school. But that was only when things were going smoothly.

If something happened though, they both had each other's backs.

Thinking about Rosemary and Emanuel's words earlier made Nathalie consider calling her sister but she ultimately decided against it.

Dismissing the thought from her mind, Nathalie turned back to Emanuel and said teasingly, "You're really unreliable! My brother didn't want you telling me anything yet here we are."

Chapter 1058 But He was Powerless

Emanuel looked at Nathalie for a long moment before saying, "I won't keep anything from you."

Nathalie felt a sudden unease in her heart, but she tried to ignore it. She couldn't help the fluttering feeling that came with it.

"Really?" Nathalie asked. "You don't have anything else to hide from me?"

As soon as the words left her mouth, Nathalie regretted them. What was she doing? Wasn't she just digging herself into a hole?

Sure enough, Emanuel replied with a simple "yes."

Nathalie had no choice but to say, "If you tell me now, I'll try not to be mad."

"I'm not sure if you want to hear it," Emanuel said.

Inwardly, Nathalie pleaded with him not to say anything. But outwardly she said, "I'm curious. You know I am."

"I like you," Emanuel finally admitted.

Nathalie was speechless and wanted nothing more than to slap herself for starting this conversation in the first place.

What should she do now? She had suspected his feelings all along but didn't know how to respond.

She bit down on her lip hard enough that it hurt and hoped it would calm her down. But then Emanuel's hand gripped her chin and forced her mouth open.

"Don't bite your lip," he said softly.

Their eyes met and Nathalie couldn't help noticing the loneliness in his gaze. Her heart skipped a beat as an unfamiliar feeling washed over her body and soul.

She didn't know what this emotion was or what actions were appropriate anymore.

She suddenly felt a little aggrieved.

Finally, Nathalie found her voice and said to Emanuel, "You say you like me, but you've never given me a nice attitude."

She shouldn't have said that. The more she spoke, the more aggrieved she became.

Tears streamed down Nathalie's face.

Emanuel furrowed his brow and looked bewildered.

He really didn't know how to comfort Nathalie.

When he liked her, she was already a national sweetheart and a famous star in the eyes of many people.

At that time, Emanuel didn't even know if his feelings were just idolizing or true love.

It took him five or six years to figure out that he had liked her since childhood.

But when it came to this aspect of life, he was quite slow. He didn't even know how to get along with his own sister let alone someone he liked as much as Nathalie.

Especially since Emanuel hardly had any chance to spend time with Nathalie. He had no idea how to face her, which led him helplessly watching as Nathalie became increasingly afraid of him.

Chapter 1059 Give Me Some Time to Think it Over

Emanuel's fingers were still pinching Nathalie's chin. She was in pain, but she wasn't sure if it was from biting her own lip or from Emanuel's grip on her chin. Either way, it hurt a lot and she felt very upset.

Tears streamed down Nathalie's face as she cried. Despite the pain and sadness, she looked beautiful when crying. Her tears fell like pearls, one after another without any snot or messiness.

Many directors loved to cast Nathalie in crying scenes because of how stunningly beautiful she looked while doing so. There was even a Twitter poll for the most desired female celebrity to see cry and Nathalie had millions more votes than second place.

As each tear fell down her face, it felt like they were hitting Emanuel's heart directly. His gaze grew dimmer as he struggled with conflicting emotions – wanting to continue touching her but also feeling guilty for causing her distress.

Finally, Emanuel withdrew his hand and turned away from Nathalie saying, "I'm sorry for making things difficult for you."

Nathalie heard his apology but only cried harder at the thought of him leaving her alone. She grabbed onto his arm and wiped away tears with his sleeve while continuing to cry uncontrollably.

Despite not having any snot or messiness on her face, Nathalie couldn't seem to stop crying no matter how much she tried wiping away the tears with Emanuel's sleeve.

Emanuel felt terrible about what he had done to make Nathalie cry so much, yet he couldn't help but want to look into her eyes while watching every tear fall down those beautiful cheeks of hers.

He even entertained dangerous thoughts that maybe he wanted Nathalie crying because of him rather than anything else going on in their lives at that moment.

Thankfully though, Emanuel remained rational enough not act upon those thoughts nor did he move his hand away from hers.

Finally tired of crying, Nathalie switched positions and rubbed against Emanuel's sleeve.

To this end, Emanuel's entire sleeve was wet by her.

He was wearing a black shirt, but there were no traces of it.

Nathalie still raised her chin and said, "It's what you deserve, for letting you bully me."

Emanuel didn't speak, because he didn't know how to coax Nathalie.

Nathalie didn't speak either; she was thinking about a question: Emanuel liked her, what about her? She never thought about it.

She only had a crush on a boy in kindergarten, giving him her beloved cake. However, that despicable guy smashed it on the ground and she never liked boys again. It seemed like her subconscious told her that boys were not good and would disappoint girls' feelings.

Now, Emanuel opened up his emotions to Nathalie. She didn't know how to face it. However, Nathalie couldn't say nothing either. After pondering for a moment, she turned around and looked at Emanuel saying, "Your feelings came too suddenly for me. I haven't thought about it or realized my own feelings towards you yet. Also, I don't have any intention of dating right now since I'm in the entertainment industry which isn't suitable for dating openly without being criticized by others."

"I can't tell people that I'm going to school when actually going out on dates with someone because they will criticize me endlessly," she continued.

"So please give me some time to think about this carefully and when I figure things out, I'll let you know."

Chapter 1060 To Help Him Perform a Show

Nathalie said she would think about it, and for Emanuel, that was already enough to make him happy.

For years, when Emanuel realized his feelings for Nathalie were love, he spent every day building himself up mentally. He knew he might be rejected and that they could never be together.

Now, Nathalie's response wasn't a yes, but it made Emanuel feel like his world had become colorful again.

Emanuel didn't want to pressure Nathalie or use emotional blackmail on her. He said, "Take your time. I'm not in a hurry."

Nathalie tilted her head mischievously at him and said, "If you say so, I might think you don't like me anymore."

Emanuel was speechless and angry with himself for being so clumsy with words. He should have told Nathalie directly that he loved her more than she could ever imagine after all these years.

But his mouth seemed sealed shut; the words wouldn't come out no matter how hard he tried.

Although they hadn't interacted much over the years and Nathalie had grown increasingly wary of him, Emanuel's personality was well-known to her.

She knew what kind of person he was: someone who didn't speak flowery language or sweet-talk people into liking them. So when Emanuel finally confessed his feelings today, it probably took all of his strength.

Nathalie decided to be magnanimous about it. She told him, "I won't keep you waiting too long. I'll tell you within a week."

Emanuel's heart felt as if it had been squeezed tight. He didn't want Nathalie to decide too quickly. A week felt like an execution sentence hanging over his head. His lips moved, but no words came out in the end.

Nathalie frowned, and even though she wanted to say something, she swallowed back those words. Because she knew Emanuel well enough.

He wouldn't show any reaction if she did. But he would become even more indifferent towards her. Nathalie shuddered just thinking about such an outcome.

Changing the subject, Nathalie said, "For now, let's just consider ourselves allies. Can you tell me when my brother is planning to propose?"

Emanuel said, "When it's Aunt Aimee's birthday."

"Isn't that next week?" Nathalie widened her eyes.

Emanuel said, "Just pretend you don't know."

Nathalie had already bounced up from the sofa, completely unable to calm down.

She felt very angry now that her older brother didn't tell her about such a thing.

Nathalie was once again puzzled as to why Ridge would tell Emanuel about this.

Curiosity led her to ask the question.

At the mention of this, Emanuel's face darkened.

Obviously, he didn't want to mention it at all.

Nathalie became even more curious and approached Emanuel, sitting down next to him and staring eagerly into his eyes. She said, "Come on, tell me! Please?"

As she spoke, Nathalie grabbed Emanuel's sleeve and kept shaking it.

Emanuel couldn't resist her coquetry, and even though he didn't want to mention it, he truthfully said, "All guys know that they need help performing in a show."