

Healing 1061

Chapter 1061 Emanuel is Adorable

Nathalie was speechless.

Realizing she didn't mishear, Nathalie couldn't help but burst out laughing.

She laughed loudly and unreservedly.

Nathalie laughed until tears streamed down her face.

She collapsed onto the couch, pounding the cushions, but still unable to stop laughing.

Emanuel's originally dark expression was eventually replaced with resignation.

His gaze fell on Nathalie's waist.

Today, she wore a short-sleeved top that already exposed her midriff and high-waisted shorts. Normally when standing or sitting, her waist wouldn't be visible at all.

However, now she was lying on the couch which caused her shirt to move up completely exposing her waist.

Even though it was covered by pants' waistband, that curve still made Emanuel's heart palpitate.

He wanted to look away but found it too difficult; he simply couldn't do it.

Emanuel knew that Nathalie had been very overweight as a child for some time. No one would have thought that Nathalie back then would grow up into what she looked like now. Emanuel's thoughts once again ran wild beyond his control as he indulged in his fantasies about Nathalie's past and present appearance.

Finally, after enough laughter had passed through her system, Nathalie sat up straight and looked at Emanuel with red eyes filled with misty tears from laughter.

These children were naturally trained as elites since childhood.

Not saying how talented they were, but at least each person had their own strengths.

But as they grew older, unless they truly loved something, it would be hard for them to cultivate themselves properly. Nathalie being in the entertainment industry needed to show off talent from time-to-time especially someone like Emanuel who could fight twenty people alone yet struggled when performing shows. Nathalie said, "Why do I feel like you love my brother more? You perform whenever he asks you."

Emanuel felt helpless but answered truthfully, "I want him owe me a favor. If there is an opportunity in future, I hope he won't make things difficult for me."

Nathalie instantly understood what Emanuel meant by this statement. Let Ridge owe him a favor so if there was any chance of getting together with her, Ridge will become his big brother-in-law. Nathalie muttered softly, "You are thinking too far ahead."

Emanuel replied, "Actually, I'm thinking even further than that." He even imagined having lots of descendants around him someday!

If it weren't for the bad luck, he could even choose the cemetery where he and Nathalie would be buried together right now.

Although Emanuel didn't say anything, Nathalie thought of it so clearly and knew it.

She looked at Emanuel speechlessly and couldn't help but quip, "I don't even know if you like me or hate me now."

Emanuel said firmly, "I like you. I'm sure of that."

Nathalie said, "Okay then. Is that not enough?"

Emanuel didn't speak but his eyes were fixed on Nathalie.

Now that he had expressed his feelings openly, Emanuel became bolder.

He used to be too afraid to show his emotions which made Nathalie think he was mean all the time.

In fact, he wasn't mean at all.

Nathalie could understand now why she used to think Emanuel was always mean to her before. He was just hiding his true feelings from her all along.

For some reason though, Nathalie found it kind of cute how Emanuel acted this way.

Chapter 1062 You Like Him Too, Right?

The trending topic had two outcomes. On one hand, Emanuel gave that girl a good talking to and she posted an apology video on Twitter, explaining the whole situation. On the other hand, Miles and Billy's company teamed up to turn this trending topic into a positive direction and gave Nathalie and Billy some publicity.

At this point in time, Billy was scheduled to attend a late-night show. Originally, his company didn't want too much attention drawn to him as it wasn't appropriate for him to be in the limelight.

However, due to the trending topic incident, they ended up promoting Billy's appearance on the show.

It should be noted that in recent years the entertainment industry had undergone major changes. Only those who had real talent and had been tested with positive images can make it onto such shows.

Billy was among these people but he was also the youngest of them all. Being able to appear on such a show at his age proved how outstanding he was as an emerging male actor.

Nathalie returned from Emanuel's place back to school where Veronica immediately ran towards her crying out loud with joy, "Nathalie! Nathalie! Nathalie! I am so happy! Who would've thought my idol would turn out like this?!"

Veronica had been crying all afternoon at first because she blamed herself for causing trouble but later because of negative comments from netizens about both Nathalie and Billy whom she adored so much that any criticism towards them hurt her deeply.

Now she cried tears of joy because her idol turned out better than expected.

Niamh said, "You better comfort her quickly or else she'll go blind from crying."

Veronica replied, "Even if I go blind, it will still be worth it because my little idol is simply amazing."

On her way back to school, Nathalie already knew what happened online so naturally felt relieved that nothing bad happened regarding Billy.

As for those who said that he benefited from this incident – well Nathalie didn't think so.

Billy was outstanding even before all of this happened; hence why he passed inspection with flying colours.

Moreover being able appear on TV shows was something he achieved through his own hard work which made him even more admirable in Nathalie's eyes.

She said, "I have something important I want you guys hear about. Do you continue celebrating your beloved 'Billy' or do you wanna hear some gossip?"

Veronica blinked twice looking suspiciously at Nathalie asking, "What are you trying to say?"

Even Niamh looked at Nathalie seriously.

Nathalie said, "Someone confessed to me, but I haven't decided whether to accept it or not."

Both Veronica and Niamh were confused.

Veronica said directly, "Since you've already said that, the answer is already obvious."

"You wouldn't say that if you didn't accept it," Niamh said.

Nathalie was speechless about what they said.

Being said so, it seemed that this was really the case.

Nathalie said, "The main thing is this person. I really didn't expect that he would like me."

"Are you a childhood sweetheart?" Niamh asked.

Nathalie nodded.

She didn't hide from Veronica and Niamh who were around her.

Therefore, the two of them can easily think of who it was.

Niamh nodded in agreement with Veronica. "Yeah, it's not like this is the first time someone has confessed to you. You've turned down plenty of guys before, even ones from our school. But this guy is different, isn't he? You actually have feelings for him?"

Chapter 1063 Really Want to Be Friends with Her for a Long Time

Nathalie really didn't know how to answer this question.

Did she like him?

It should be, right?

However, this was not something that can be thought through carefully. Otherwise, she may not even be able to accept when exactly she started to have feelings for Emanuel.

“What are you thinking now? Do you want to accept it or not?” Veronica asked.

As expected, gossip was always the most effective way to divert people’s attention. Veronica had completely forgotten about her idol and was now staring at Nathalie’s response with shining eyes.

Nathalie said, “I haven’t decided yet. Let me tell you when I come back home.”

“By the way, you’re going home tomorrow,” Veronica hugged Nathalie and said, “I’ll miss you.”

“You want me to bring you some delicious food, don’t you?” Nathalie said.

Niamh said, “I testify that if she didn’t want to go star chasing, she really wanted to go home with you this time.”

Upon hearing this, Nathalie looked at Veronica suspiciously and asked, “Did you get the tickets?”

Veronica smiled and said, “At times like this, financial capability can solve all problems.”

Nathalie didn’t know what to say.

She and Niamh were both rich people. Otherwise they would have killed Veronica when she said that.

Nathalie looked at Niamh and asked, “So how are you going to get home? Do you want to come with me?”

“My mom is coming over,” Niamh said.

Nathalie and Veronica fell silent.

On this matter, neither of them had any solution.

After all, Niamh’s biological mother was involved. Veronica and Nathalie cannot intervene until Niamh had decided how to handle their relationship.

Nathalie said, “I’ll have a bodyguard follow you. Don’t worry, even if your mother asks you to meet some strange people, I won’t let anything happen to you.”

Niamh’s eyes instantly turned red, and she reached out to hug Nathalie, saying, “Thank you, Nathalie. Thank you so much.”

This was not the first time, Niamh’s mother seized every opportunity to come to the school and take Niamh to meet some directors or producers.

However, the directors and producers she could work with were not all legitimate ones. Many of them were just using their titles as a cover for their ulterior motives.

Fortunately, Nathalie happened to be passing by the first time and rescued Niamh. Otherwise she wouldn’t have made it.

However, Niamh still held onto this fantasy, a fantasy about family and her mother.

Nathalie and Veronica knew that she had a vulnerable spot in her heart, so they didn't say those kinds of things to her anymore.

However, both of them did not give up on Niamh and secretly protected her in various ways.

Nathalie said, "Why don't you try acting in a film? You might like it. I can arrange it for you, which is much more reliable than these."

Niamh shook her head, because she really didn't like it.

And she cannot, under any circumstances, make Nathalie give her resources.

Ever since Niamh's mother found out that she and Nathalie were roommates, she had forced her to suck up to Nathalie and take advantage of her countless times.

Niamh really liked Nathalie as a person and genuinely wanted to be friends with her for a long time.

Therefore, she will never fulfill her mother's wishes no matter what.

Chapter 1064 I'm Finding Loopholes in Your Words

Nathalie returned home the next afternoon.

The next day was Aimee's birthday, and this time Patrick insisted on throwing a grand birthday banquet.

Aimee had become more and more fond of Patrick over the years, and she wouldn't say no to anything he suggested.

So, long before the actual event, Aimee cleared her schedule and completely handed over her time to Patrick.

Nathalie returned home and Aimee was trying on a dress.

It was personally selected by Patrick and perfectly fit Aimee's body.

Nathalie walked over and reached out to hug Aimee, but Patrick pulled her aside. "Don't wrinkle your mother's dress. It will affect her beauty," he said.

Nathalie was speechless. "Dad, don't you think you're going too far? The way you said it makes it seem like my mom's beauty is only enhanced by her dress."

Patrick heard this, and immediately gave Nathalie a sharp glance.

This damn girl, she was causing trouble as soon as she came back.

Nathalie gave a slight snort and turned to Aimee, saying, "Mom, don't you think Dad is being too much? He's making the dress more important than you."

Aimee raised her beautiful eyes and looked at Nathalie in silence. She said, "After all these years, when will you stop trying to drive a wedge between your father and me? Why haven't you given up yet?"

Nathalie was at loss for words.

Well, why was she going back here? Was she the third wheel?

When it came to displaying their affection, Nathalie thought of Ridge.

Nathalie suddenly felt that she wasn't the most unfortunate one after all.

Her dad was busy preparing a birthday feast for her mom here, but little did he know that her beloved brother was planning to steal the show and grab all the attention.

Nathalie was very eager.

She can already imagine that her father's expression at that time will be very exciting.

Thinking of this, Nathalie couldn't help but laugh.

Patrick and Aimee looked at Nathalie in unison, and directly scared her.

Nathalie immediately restrained her smile and said, "Why are you looking at me? I'm not as pretty as my mother."

Patrick sneered and said, "This is exactly what I like about you – your self-awareness."

Nathalie was speechless.

She now fully understood why Ridge had never gotten along with their father since he was young.

Only her mother thought Patrick was sweet.

Nathalie stood up and said, "I don't want to see you display your affection here anymore. Where's my sister? I'm going to find her."

"Looks like they're on a date. Don't go over and be a third wheel," Patrick said.

She couldn't help but feel like everything had changed since she started college.

"Jealous much?" Patrick teased. "Everyone older and younger than you is in a relationship, and here you are, single as a pringle."

Nathalie rolled her eyes at Patrick's comment. "I don't believe it. Jace and Jessica are dating too? They're the youngest ones here – one's in elementary school and the other's in kindergarten. I refuse to believe they're not single."

Patrick chuckled. "Compared to them, you're doing pretty well for yourself."

Nathalie smirked back at him. "I'm just catching you on your words."

"Don't underestimate kindergarteners," Patrick retorted with a grin. "They have more experience than you think."

Nathalie felt her blood pressure rising from Patrick's teasing, but then she remembered someone who was also single.

"I'm not alone," Nathalie said confidently. "Emanuel is also single like me."

Chapter 1065 Seize the Opportunity Before I Turn Fifty

When Emanuel was mentioned, Nathalie couldn't help feeling a little proud. Patrick's words were full of loopholes because even if everyone else was in a relationship, as long as she hadn't agreed to be with Emanuel, he would still be single. So Patrick couldn't really get to her.

However, Patrick said, "Other people have someone they like too. Can you say the same?"

Nathalie was speechless again.

Well, he was really her own father.

Nathalie's eyes rolled around and then she said, "Do you know who he likes?"

Patrick really didn't know.

But Patrick was such a smart person that when he saw Nathalie's reaction, he naturally thought...

Patrick's gaze changed and stared at Nathalie for a long time before finally saying, "Are you dating Emanuel?"

This was impossible because everything Nathalie did was being watched by someone. If she were in a relationship, how could he not know?

Nathalie stuck out her tongue at Patrick and said, "You want to know? I'm not telling you."

After speaking, Nathalie ran out quickly.

Patrick felt a heartache.

What kind of children had he raised? Why were they all so unreasonable?

Aimee looked at him like this and laughed without reservation.

"Is it uncomfortable for you not to provoke her?" Aimee asked.

"I just wanted to tease her since she hasn't come back for so long," replied Patrick.

Besides yesterday's hot search incident scared him quite badly too. Although Billy seemed like an excellent guy after checking him out online, still... he wasn't ready yet for his youngest daughter to date anyone yet!

"Mikayla and Beata got married when they were the same age as her," Aimee reminded him gently.

"How much longer do you plan on controlling her?"

"I should have listened to you back then and had another child," sighed Patrick regretfully

At that time Aimee really wanted another son, but, because of what happened during Nathalie's birth which left him traumatized outside the delivery room, he didn't want Aimee going through any more pain again, which caused them some arguments but ultimately decided against it anyway

Aimee said, "Even if we had another child back then, they'd be at the age to start dating now."

Children always grew up and they'll have people they cared about.

As parents, the most important thing was to learn acceptance early on.

Patrick said, "I'm just amazed at how time flies."

It felt like meeting Aimee was just yesterday but now their three children were all at the age where they wanted to settle down and started families of their own.

Aimee suggested, "If you're feeling this way, why don't we try for another child?"

Although it may be a bit inconvenient at their age, both of them were in good health and having another child wouldn't be an issue.

Patrick didn't answer right away. He was really thinking about this question seriously.

Aimee moved closer to Patrick and said, "What do you think? Let's do it while I'm not yet fifty."

Chapter 1066 Be Careful, Dad Will Fix You

Aimee's 50th birthday was actually tomorrow.

At this moment, Patrick was moved by Aimee's words.

But how could he bear it?

When he was in his twenties and thirties, he couldn't bear it. When he was in his forties, he still couldn't bear it. Although his body was very healthy at the age of fifty, the risks that his body had to bear were huge.

Patrick would never let Aimee be in any danger.

He reached out and hugged Aimee into his arms and said, "No, this is good for now. We can look forward to grandchildren."

Aimee smiled slightly and hugged Patrick's waist with her hand.

In fact, she didn't have the courage to have another child either.

She was just an ordinary person who would also be fragile when faced with life and death issues.

She dared not imagine that if she had another child, neither she nor Patrick would see that child grow up into an adult.

To avoid such regrets, Aimee wouldn't want to take such a risk.

Aimee said, "Actually, for me these years, the most important thing is you being by my side."

It was because she had known Patrick for so long that Aimee felt particularly happy.

This kind of happiness she had never experienced before.

Patrick tightly held Aimee in his arms, kissed her forehead, and said, "Aimee, I love you very much."

Over the years, Patrick didn't know how many times he had said "I love you", but now he increasingly felt that the "I love you" spoken now seemed to carry more meaning than before.

Aimee raised her head and kissed Patrick's lips. She had the same feelings for him, warm, passionate, and devoted her whole heart and mind to him with only him in her heart and soul. Aimee said, "I love you too."

Outside the door, Nathalie, Rosemary, and Ridge stood with their arms folded at the door. Nathalie asked, "When can we go in?"

Rosemary suggested, "To avoid being killed by dad, maybe we should go out for dinner first."

Ridge added, "I already had a place to eat, but you two insisted on calling me back here."

Rosemary looked at Nathalie, "Can't you find a boyfriend too? If you really can't find one, a girlfriend will do. We don't mind. Can you stop disturbing us while we're dating?"

Nathalie rolled her eyes obviously about to explode from anger.

She had her hands on her hips and looked at her older brother and sister, saying unkindly, "Listen. Are you two speaking human language? Is this how you treat your younger sister who is studying outside? Is it easy for me to come back once? All you know is to talk about love, love, love. Dad and mom are already annoying enough with their affectionate behavior. Do I still have a place for me in this family?"

Ridge said, "Who made you a single person?"

Rosemary said, "I've only just started dating your brother-in-law and you already can't see the potential in him. I don't know what to say about you."

Ridge said, "Please, just come back the same day. Trust me, our parents don't need us to accompany them."

Rosemary said, "I agree. Dad wants us to move out now."

Nathalie said, "Okay, you two wait for me. I'll bring my boyfriend back tomorrow and scare the living daylights out of you."

Upon hearing the words, Ridge's eyes became unsettled.

He immediately said, "Tomorrow is Mom's birthday. If you make trouble, be careful that Dad will fix you."

Chapter 1067 Are You Hiding Something from Me?

Ridge's words almost made Nathalie laugh.

She said, "I will not make trouble. I just fulfill the wishes of all of you."

The real troublemaker was not her.

Ridge was really flustered.

He kept this matter so deep that even Rosemary didn't know, just to avoid being discovered by Patrick and Aimee.

However, now what Nathalie said made Ridge not feel alright.

He stared at Nathalie closely for a long time, but he didn't see anything, so he could only temporarily suppress the speculation in his heart.

He can only hope that he was wrong.

Otherwise, as far as Nathalie's temper was concerned, everyone must have known about it.

Nathalie just wanted to torture Ridge on purpose.

Originally, if he didn't provoke her, she would really pretend that she didn't know anything, and let Ridge carry out tomorrow's marriage proposal perfectly.

Now, Ridge treated her so unkindly, so he shouldn't blame her for being unreasonable.

She just wanted to see if Ridge could sleep tonight.

Thinking that Ridge might propose marriage tomorrow with two dark circles under his eyes, Nathalie felt relieved.

No one's life was so perfect. As a good sister, how could Nathalie not do something?

After finishing things invisibly, Nathalie peeked inside again. Seeing that Patrick and Aimee finally separated, Nathalie strode in.

Ridge and Rosemary followed suit.

Although Patrick asked why they all came back and why they didn't go on a date, he was still happy in his heart.

Maybe it was because he was getting older, and the feeling that his children were by his side made Patrick cherish it even more.

Although, each of these three children gave him a headache.

The family had a delicious dinner together and chatted for several hours. When it was past ten o'clock, Patrick urged the three children to go to bed.

Nathalie loved to provoke Patrick. She stood up obediently, and she had to complain, "Dad, are you getting old now? Going to bed so early. You can't move?"

Patrick picked up a pillow at hand and threw it at Nathalie, "I think you need to be taught a lesson."

Nathalie stuck out her tongue and ran up the stairs first.

Rosemary followed closely, and Ridge was about to go upstairs when Patrick stopped him. ,

Ridge's heart skipped a beat. Had his plan been discovered at this time?

If it was, he was about to hit a wall. Fortunately, Patrick just said, "Take care of your sister tomorrow."

Ridge asked, "What's wrong with Nathalie?"

Patrick replied, "I have a bad feeling that this girl is going to cause trouble for me."

Ridge rubbed his nose in frustration and surprisingly didn't argue with Patrick.

Normally he would ask when Patrick started believing in superstitions like feelings.

But Ridge also knew that at times like this, the more he said, the more mistakes he would make. If he were exposed now, it would be over for him.

However, Ridge completely forgot that his father was an old fox. The more cautious he was, the more likely he was to reveal something.

Patrick stared at Ridge for a long time and asked, "Ridge, are you hiding something from me?"

Chapter 1068 Did Someone Miss Something?

Ridge was startled and immediately said, "No, how could that be possible?"

Patrick squinted his eyes and said in a dangerous tone, "Ridge, you should know that my favorite person is your mother."

The implication was that if there was anything being concealed from him, it was better to confess now and have a chance for leniency.

However, if Ridge still insisted on being stubborn after he had already said these words, then when the truth was revealed, he shouldn't blame him for not considering their father-son relationship.

Ridge said, "Dad, are you too anxious? Don't worry, Mom will definitely be very happy tomorrow."

Patrick didn't ask any further upon hearing this.

However, Patrick still gave Ridge a dangerous look.

Ridge couldn't sleep all night after this.

He really regretted it now. Why did he have to arrange things this way instead of doing something better?

Now it was all right. When it went well tomorrow, he will still have to be skinned by Patrick.

It didn't matter.

As long as he can make his wish come true, it was fine to take his life away.

Patrick returned to the room, still wearing a serious expression on his face.

Aimee asked, "What did you talk to Ridge about? Did he make you angry again?"

Patrick said, "I always feel like something is going to happen, but I don't know if it's Ridge or Nathalie."

Aimee said, "Whatever happens, even if they cause trouble, it won't be anything bad. I think you're just too anxious."

This statement was in line with what Ridge said.

However, when Ridge said this, Patrick really wanted to punch him.

When Aimee said this, Patrick immediately hugged her and said, "Babe, then comfort me."

Aimee put her arms around Patrick's back, rubbing against his back one by one.

Aimee said, "Alright, don't think too much. It's already late. Don't you want to sleep? Or do you want to do something else?"

Upon hearing this, Patrick lowered his gaze and looked at Aimee.

Even at the age of fifty, their passion remained undiminished.

Now that Aimee had brought it up, there was no reason for Patrick to not cooperate.

"Right here, okay?" Patrick asked.

Aimee was not as outgoing as before now, mainly because she can't handle Patrick's provocations anymore.

Aimee said, "Then let's do it all at once."

"Okay." Patrick began to move, and soon the atmosphere in the room changed.

Although Patrick couldn't predict what would happen, he was willing to accept anything as long as it didn't upset Aimee. With his worries set aside, Patrick threw himself into the moment. But after it was over, he felt somewhat unfulfilled. Unfortunately, Aimee didn't want to do it again. If this were a normal day, that would be one thing – but with tomorrow's big plans looming over him, Patrick couldn't afford to oversleep and embarrass himself. Luckily for him though, Aimee wasn't clingy tonight and they fell asleep in each other's arms.

Meanwhile on Ridge's side of things, anxiety kept him up all night long. He even considered asking everyone involved in tomorrow's event if they had forgotten anything important or if something had been overlooked. However, Ridge ultimately decided against doing so because even if there was an issue at hand, there wasn't much anyone could do about it now except accept the consequences and move forward accordingly.

Chapter 1069 Just Want to Change Our Identity

Patrick had planned Aimee's birthday party at a mansion, and he personally designed every detail, from the decorations to the food. The entire process went smoothly according to Patrick's plan, and Aimee was happy throughout the event. However, as time passed, Patrick began to feel uneasy.

Finally, he realized what was wrong. Ridge suddenly announced that he wanted to give Aimee a gift after all of Patrick's planned activities were finished. This was not part of Patrick's plan.

Patrick looked at Ridge and his suspicion grew stronger. He knew Ridge was up to something.

On stage, Ridge gave a heartfelt speech for Aimee that almost made her cry. This made Patrick even more upset because he didn't want Aimee crying on her birthday.

Ridge then turned his attention towards Mia who was sitting in the audience crying. Everyone's attention shifted towards Mia when Ridge said her name.

Tilly looked at Ridge with bright eyes as if she knew what was happening while Ben glared at Patrick thinking they were in cahoots with each other.

It finally dawned on Patrick what had been bothering him all along – this proposal wasn't part of his plan but it seemed like everyone else thought it was!

As Ridge got down on one knee and proposed to Mia in front of everyone, all eyes turned back towards them leaving poor old Patrick feeling helpless and unable to do anything about it without looking like a party pooper!

Aimee held Patrick's hand and said, "If I had known this was the case, I would have helped Ridge."

Patrick was about to have a heart attack from anger.

If Aimee went to help Ridge, Patrick could be sure that Ben would really come with a knife to hold him accountable.

Ridge wasn't much of a talker. He had always been the cold type since birth.

After taking over the company in recent years, he was forced to say a lot more words than before.

But today was the first time he stood on stage and spoke so much.

At this moment, Ridge looked at Mia and his eyes turned red first.

Ridge said, "Mia, I know that many times I've been too domineering. I never asked for your opinion when making you my girlfriend all these years. You've always tolerated me. Today, once again without asking for your opinion, I want to change our status."

Chapter 1070 She Already Said Yes

Ridge was actually very nervous. He never knew that he could sometimes stumble over his words. Of course, Ridge didn't realize that he was talking like a chatterbox right now, blabbering on and on about things that didn't really matter.

Despite this, Mia was crying uncontrollably.

This broke Ben's heart.

Ben even wanted to pull Ridge aside and talk some sense into him. But how could he do that? He couldn't risk upsetting his daughter. She seemed so soft-spoken and gentle, easily swayed by Ridge's charm. They had been together for years without any clear direction or commitment.

But Ben knew better than to say anything negative about Ridge. If he did, the first person who would turn against him would be his own daughter – the one person whose opinion mattered most to him.

He had always hoped to keep Mia around for a few more years before she settled down with anyone – unlike Beata and Mikayla who got married as soon as they turned 18.

But just because Mia hadn't gotten married yet didn't mean Ben wasn't worried about her future with Ridge.

Right now, as Ridge poured out his heart in front of everyone present at the gathering – their parents, uncles and aunts, cousins... everyone important in their lives – there wasn't much Ben could do but accept it all gracefully.

Ridge took out a box from his pocket and knelt down in front of Mia while she tried to pull him up by holding onto his hand tightly.

Ridge opened the box slowly while looking at Mia intently before saying, "Mia... today is special because everyone we love is here with us today- our parents, uncles and aunties , brothers and sisters- all those people who are important in our lives are here today... and I want you to know how much I love you."

As soon as those last words left Ridge's mouth, "Will you marry me?" tears welled up in both their eyes; twenty long years of waiting finally came true for them both.

For twenty long years since childhood when they were still figuring out what love meant, they had only each other on their minds; building dreams together of having a family someday which now seemed within reach.

And so it happened- two hearts beating as one finally came together under one roof surrounded by family members cheering them on; ready to start building their own little home filled with love, happiness and laughter!

When he reached the legal age for marriage, he wanted to propose to Mia. However, at that time, he still felt that his wings needed to be more fully developed.

Now, he had achieved it. He can cast aside everything and confidently tell everyone that he can take care of Mia and give her happiness.

So even though Ridge knew that choosing to propose on this occasion today might really get him killed by his father, he chose to do so without hesitation.

Today was the day when all important people were present. He couldn't think of a more perfect day than today.

Mia nodded vigorously and said, "I do."

"I do" had always been "I do". Ever since Ridge kissed her on the stairs in middle school, she had already agreed.

Ridge was truly excited and tears fell from his eyes instantly. He quickly wiped away the tears and took out the ring before putting it on Mia's finger.

Ridge devoutly kissed Mia's hand before standing up. Regardless of how many elders were present or how many younger siblings or children were around them, Ridge grabbed the back of Mia's head and kissed her passionately.