

Knowing My Ex-Wife After The Divorce Chapter 6

Natalie shot a glance at Tobias beside her. "What's going on with her?"

Tobias sighed, "Elle messed up. I owe you an apology; the news from last night was leaked by her."

Natalie was surprised he knew about it. But knowing Tobias, it made sense. He always had ways to find out things. By the look on his face, he was here to clean up after Elle and take the blame. He must really like Elle.

I'm not blaming her, Natalie said lightly. She wasn't that petty; it was just some rumors going around. The real issue was that Elle had Tobias backing her up-if it came down to a fight, i could get ugly.

"Elle's health isn't great. She can't handle too much stress, so I didn't acknowledge what happened last night. It's not that ! mind. Tobias explained.

"Uh-huh" Natalie pointed to the mark on her collarbone. Like I said, I got bit by a dog. It has nothing to do with Tobias s eyes darkened instantly. Before she knew it, he leaned down, aiming to kiss the mark you.

Natalie reacted quickly, blacking him with her hand. Her soft fingers brushed against his lips. She laughed lightly. "Ex- husband, don't forget I'm your past. If you don't want your precious little angel to have a heart attack, it's best not to get too close."

Tobias bit his lip and pulled back, looking at her with a hint of discomfort. "Since you're Dr. Liam, you don't care about that 200 million dollars?"

Natalie raised an eyebrow, surprised. "Mr. Reese, you used to be less chatty."

Tobias tightened his lips. 'Answer me."

Natalie shrugged. "Well, it's because we agreed from the start-I don't want more than what was promised."

His gaze darkened. "You could take it,"

"Not necessary. I know this is you acknowledging that I was a good wife before, and that's enough for me," she replied c**lly**ever need anything in the future, just ask.

"Okay. Natalie decided not to push it anymore. Tobias had a lot of influence in Jonton's high society. If he was offering help, there was no reason to turn it down.

Tobias s face softened a bit. "Also, Elle is not my first love."

As soon as he said that, they arrived at the hospital. Elle was waiting in her car nearby. The moment she stepped out, her eyes were filled with worry as she looked at Tobias. Tobias, my condition...

Natalie raised an eyebrow, thinking. It seems Tobias has told Elle something to explain why he rode in my car. Tsk, how considerate! I have never seen this side of him before. But he probably wouldn't admit he almost lost control in the car. What a player! And here he is, saying Elle isn't his "first love." I have never seen him treat anyone else like that'

Taking her role as a responsible doctor seriously, Natalie crossed her arms and said lightly. "You just need to find a compatible heart, and the person who has it must be willing to donate. Then you can go back to being a normal person."

Setting aside how hard it would be to find a match, no one would willingly give away their heart. They wouldn't survive without it, making the whole thing nearly impossible. Tobias's gaze darkened. It looked like he was hearing the same hard truth from other doctors too.

"Of course, there are other options. A friend of mine has been researching artificial hearts for the past few years. If we can set something up, we might try that for Elle, but the technology isn't quite there yet, Mr. Reese. You might want to wait."

Natalie added.

Once she said that, it hit Natalie like a ton of bricks. Tobias had told Elle that he needed to talk about her condition with Natalie in the car. But now with Natalie's words, it felt like they hadn't even talked about Elle's condition in the car at all. Elle might thought Natalie was saying this on purpose. The truth was, Tobias didn't take the initiative to ask. Natalie was just trying to help them both.

Elle's face went stiff for a moment. "You guys didn't talk about this in the car?"

Before Tobias could respond, Natalie quickly jumped in. "We talked about some details about your condition, but we didn't get into this." As for the specifics... well, she didn't want to prolong it. If Elle asked Tobias, he could figure that out himself. "I'll organize some data and have someone contact you later. Sensing things might get complicated, Natalie turned to leave.

Once she was gone, Elle looked up at the still-cool man beside her with a pout. "Tobias, do you still have feelings for her?"

Tobias glanced at her, his tone gentle but with a chill. "That doesn't concern you. Just focus on getting better."

Elle clenched her hands tightly. "Okay, I'll try not to worry you, and I promise I'll behave."

"Mm. Tobias nodded lightly.

Natalie decided not to handle things alone and called the director to step in. This way, she could give Tobias some face and avoid any unnecessary drama about their past. When it came to exes, she knew how to keep things cool.

Two months passed-long enough for feelings to settle but short enough for them to linger. Natalie hadn't seen Tobias during that time, but her body was starting to feel strange. "Ugh The breakfast she had earlier suddenly threatened to come back up.

"Dr. Liam, are you okay?" Some of the other doctors shot worried glances her way. "Are you pregnant? You don't look so good today."

Everyone looked shocked. Dr. Liam seemed so young and cold; no one expected her to be married already, let alone have a. Natalie shook her head and quickly grabbed a napkin to wipe her mouth. "I'm just having some stomach issues."

"Oh, is that all?" The others didn't pry further.

No one noticed when Natalie discreetly checked her pulse. It really did feel like early signs of pregnancy. She didn't want to believe it; after all, she usually knew her body well. It was possible she was actually pregnant.

In the ten years she lived with Tobias, everything had been good, and they always took precautions-except for that one night. Ugh, how unlucky could she be to end up pregnant with his child? If that was true, things between her and Tobias would only get more complicated, unless she could keep it from him. She hoped she could hide it.

But that afternoon, fate had other plans. Natalie ran into Tobias in the office. He was sitting on the couch, looking just as composed as he did two months ago. However, his gaze was sharper, more cautious as it fell on her. "Are you feeling unwell?" Tobias asked directly.

Natalie forced a small smile to ease the tension. "I'm just having bit of stomach trouble."

"Maybe you should get checked out

Look, I'm a doctor. I know my body well enough.

Tobias wasn't backing down. "Doctors can overlook things too.

Natalie realized there was no way to avoid this check-up.

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The gynecologist recognized Natalie as soon as she walked in. The doctor seemed surprised, but continued with the exam as Tobias had instructed.

Natalie was cooperative throughout the check-up. When it was over, Tobias went with the doctor to get the report. That was when Natalie spotted Elle in the waiting room, holding her own report.

Natalie squinted to see the three words on the paper: Pregnancy Check Report.] ‘Elle is pregnant too? Natalie wondered. A mix of feelings flooded her..

Elle had bounced back well after her surgery. Her face was still a bit pale, but there was more color now; she looked much better and seemed happy.

“What a surprise to see you here,” Natalie said casually.

Elle suddenly looked nervous and covered her belly with her hands. “Natalie, please, you have to let Tobias go.”

Natalie raised an eyebrow, glancing at Elle’s stomach. “Are you pregnant?”

Elle nodded shyly.

Natalie chuckled, her voice dripping with sarcasm. “Tobias sure is in a hurry, huh? With your condition, you really shouldn’t be pushing it.”

Elle bit her lip. Tm sorry, I know you and Tobias...

“Don’t worry, I don’t have feelings for him anymore. We’re divorced, and I won’t interfere, Natalie reassured her.

A look of relief crossed Elle’s face, but Natalie didn’t linger on it. Just then, Natalie felt a chill and didn’t need to turn around to recognize the footsteps behind her. When she did turn, she found herself staring into T**s deep-set eyes. She decided to take charge. “Hey, you’re back. What did the results say?”

“You’re healthy. You’re not pregnant, Tobias said, studying her closely, leaving Natalie unsure if he was disappointed or relieved.

She guessed maybe he felt relieved. “If that’s all, I’ll take off: Natalie didn’t want to stick around and turned to leave.

As soon as she was out the door, Tobias looked at Elle’s report. “What’s this?”

“I picked it up for a friend, Elle replied quickly.

“Okay,” he said, not asking more questions. “You really should stay still for a bit. Your health isn’t the best.”

Elle nodded but couldn’t help glance back where Natalie had just left. “If Natalie were pregnant, would you marry her

“No,” Tobias said firmly. “I won’t be with anyone from the Guzman family.”

Elle felt a wave of relief wash over her, but her caution didn’t fade. Natalie was someone who needed to be handled, once and for all.

—In a quiet corner, Natalie texted Finch, complimenting him on a job well done. Before she and Tobias went for the check-up.

she had asked Finch to change the report results.

“Boss, you’re really pregnant, right? And it’s with the Reese family?” Finch exclaimed, clearly surprised.

“Yeah, Natalie replied, lightly touching her stomach. Her icy gaze softened for a moment. She had always wanted a child, but she never thought it would be with Tobias. Now that it was happening, she accepted it. As long as she left the country.

Tobias wouldn’t have to know.

Thinking about this, she picked up her phone and dialed a number. “Athena, I’m ready to go with that plan you suggested about moving abroad. I can join that project.

Six years later, at the airport, a little girl in a pink dress dashed ahead, her cheerful voice ringing out. “Mommy, hurry up! Auntie Maddie has been waiting for us forever!” Her bright, sparkling eyes shone like amber, and her small face beamed with joy.

A woman followed closely behind, slowly taking off her sunglasses to show her delicate features. Her slightly droopy eyelids gave her a chill, relaxed look. “Okay, you little troublemaker, stop rushing me,” Natalie yawned, dragging two suitcases along as she walked at her own pace.

Not far away, a large crowd had gathered. Natalie frowned; she wanted to avoid the crowd. But her daughter ran right toward it, leaving Natalie no choice but to chase after her. Just then, she heard a familiar deep voice above the noise. “I’m not planning on getting married right now?”

Natalie stopped in her tracks and scanned the crowd. Sure enough, at the center was Tobias. As the head of the Reese family, he had taken the company to new heights over the years and became a media sensation.

Though she didn't keep up with the news, she had heard bits and pieces-that the Reese Group was doing well, that Tobias was happy with the woman he had loved for years, and that they had two kids together. The press kept pushing for a wedding announcement.

Today, it seemed like reporters were all over that topic.

As Tobias showed visible annoyance and frowned in silence, someone in the crowd shouted, "Mr. Reese, there are rumors that you have a secret ex-wife. Is it true that you're divorced?"

Natalie couldn't help but click her tongue in disbelief. After all this time, her status as the background ex-wife still held some weight.

She thought Tobias wouldn't reply, but to her surprise, he casually responded, "Yeah"

The voice was soft, but every reporter in the room heard it.

Of course, Natalie was in that group, completely shocked. She thought Tobias would just deny the claim.

Suddenly, a wave of panic swept through the crowd.

"Hey, watch it, kid!"

"Where did that child come from? Be careful, don't step on her!"

'Don't push me! Everyone, just hold on!"

Then there was a loud crash, mixed with a child's cry. Natalie recognized that sound right away. When she looked back at Tobias, she was stunned to see him bending down, arms wide, catching a little girl-if was her daughter, Yara Guzman. The father and daughter just bumped into each other like that.

"Waaa! Uncle, that was scary!" Yara's face was wet with tears, clearly shaken.

"Are you okay?" Tobias asked protectively, checking her over.

Yara shook her head. "I'm fine! It just surprised me. Now that you're holding me, I'm not scared at all!"

Tobias shot a cold glare at the crowd. "How did a kid get in here? Who's responsible if something happens?"

"Uh, well, we didn't really notice..."

“Sorry. Mr. Reese....

The reporters and bodyguards all looked down in embarrassment. They hadn't even seen her when Yara slipped in.

Natalie couldn't help but smirk. She knew exactly what her daughter was thinking. Seeing this handsome guy triggered Yara's instinct to make a sense again. But Yara did not know that Tobias was indeed her father.

Except for Natalie, no one noticed the playful spark in Yara's eyes. All they could see was **s gentle side as he held her.

“Mr. Reese is so nice, keeping the kid safe.”

“It's clear Mr. Reese really cares for kids; he must be a softie at heart.”

The crowd showered him with compliments, but Tobias didn't respond. Instead, he leaned closer to Yara. “Where is your family?” He wasn't big on kids, but there was something about this one... it felt like they were always meant to be this close.

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Yara blinked her big eyes, one hand covering her mouth, as she scanned the crowd. In a soft, innocent voice, she said, “My mommy's nearby. She walked too slow and we got separated.”

Natalie quickly turned and hid behind a nearby pillar. She couldn't let Tobias see her. Even if nothing serious happened, the moment he noticed the child's age, he would definitely dig deeper. Her return to the country wasn't about the Reese family; she planned to settle things and leave without interacting with him,

Yara looked lost, her eyes darting around, before she turned to Tobias with tears welling up. “Mr. Handsome, I think I lost my mommy!

“What's her name? Tobias asked, his brow furrowing with concern.

“Linda.”

That was an unfamiliar name. Tobias didn't think much of it. He instructed the nearby staff to help look for her mother.

“I'm a bit hungry. Can you take me to get something to eat, Uncle? Yara asked sweetly.

Tobias wasn't exactly known for being warm and fuzzy, but seeing the almost sad look on her face made him feel an urge to help. “Alright.” He picked her up and walked confidently away from the reporters, holding her close.

Natalie watched, trying to hide her smile. Thankfully, Natalie was called Linda when they were overseas, so Yara had only told Tobias her mother's name was Linda. Then Natalie sent a text to Yara, asking her to come back once she was done. Yara was smart; she knew what to do.

Maddie and Natalie had agreed to meet at a restaurant next to the airport. As Natalie was passing by, she was about to leave the restaurant when a scruffy little boy came running out of nowhere. He was quite a sight—his clothes looked decent but were torn in several spots, and he was covered in dirt.

Natalie initially thought about ignoring him, but he charged right at her. He took a final dramatic step and tripped forward.

Reacting almost instinctively, Natalie caught him just in time. Looking into his bright, lively eyes, she noticed he was small and soft, with a distinct scent of milk. He smelled clean enough, and something about his features struck her as oddly familiar.

A few restaurant employees burst through the door, shouting angrily, "Are you the kid's guardian? He grabbed something off a table and ran away! You need to pay up and apologize!"

Natalie felt her lip twitch as she opened her mouth to say she wasn't responsible when the boy suddenly threw his arms around her. "Mommy!"

The employees clearly wanted compensation.

Sighing, Natalie realized no one around was going to help, so she might as well deal with this little-troublemaker. "How much?"

"50 dollars. He scared away two of our customers," one employee replied.

To Natalie, that wasn't a big deal; she handed over the money without thinking twice. As the employee walked away with it, she couldn't shake the feeling she had just been scammed. Meanwhile, the kid still clung to her, leaving dirt all over her clothes. "Can you let go now?" she asked, gently squeezing his dusty cheek. It felt soft, and her tone relaxed a bit. "You can't do that anymore, okay?"

The boy just grunted, tightening his grip and continuing to call out, "Mommy!"

"I do have a kid, but it's not you. Where's your family? Let me help you find them," Natalie thought back to what Tobias had said to Yara earlier.

The boy shook his head stubbornly. "Wherever Mommy goes, I go."

Great, she thought. I might be dealing with a little fool here.

Just then, a woman in a bright red dress rushed over with a bag. "Natalie! I missed you so much! You're finally back in the country!"

It was her good friend, Maddie. Seeing her made Natalie feel a little better. "It's been a while."

"Six years! How come you haven't changed at all? Your skin looks amazing! What's your secret?" Maddie exclaimed, a mix of envy and admiration in her voice as she reached out to pinch Natalie's cheek. Just before she could touch her, Maddie felt someone step on her foot and yelped, realizing it was the little boy on the ground.

"Don't touch my mommy!" he shouted, glaring at Maddie..

"Yara? What happened to you? You look like a little tomboy! Maddie recognized Yara immediately from their video calls. Although they looked to be about the same age, the two had totally different vibes, "You can't be Yara, Maddie squinted and then pointed an accusing finger at Natalie. "Wow, look at you! I didn't know you had a son and didn't even tell me!"

Natalie shook her head in exasperation. "He's not my son..."

"Honestly, if he's calling you 'Mommy, how can you deny it?" Maddie looked incredulous. "Not even acknowledging your own kid? That's just too much!"

Natalie felt overwhelmed. She bent down to check the child's eyes and pulse, noticing that he looked perfectly healthy- definitely not disabled. She pondered, 'Is he just confused? But there are no signs of trauma."

"Mommy, I'm here!" Another little figure burst out of the airport It was Yara, Natalie's daughter. She bounced over happily and let out a playful howl.

Natalie ruffled Yara's hair, too tired to lecture her. But thinking about Tobias, she said to Yara in a serious tone, "Today's man is out of the option."

Yara blinked in confusion. "But why? That uncle is really nice to me! He even bought me my favorite candy!"

Just trust me on this one, Natalie said, trying to keep it simple,

Yara looked a bit doubtful but nodded happily. "Oh, and Mommy, I actually sneaked out just now! That uncle wanted to take me to the police station, but his kid was missing too! Everyone went searching, so I slipped out while they weren't looking Natalie just hummed in response, but Yara's story was interrupted when another little hand slapped her away.

"Don't touch my mommy! The boy fiercely shielded Natalie with his tiny body.

Yara pulled her hand back, cheeks flushed. She hadn't even noticed this little troublemaker before. "Who are you? She's my mommy!TM

"No, she's my mommy, the boy shot back coldly, glaring at Yara

Yara, Usually fearless, shrank back from the boy's fierce gaze. "Wah! Mommy, who is he? Are you going to leave Yara behind? I'll be good! Don't get other kids, okay?"

Maddie, catching on, looked confused. "What's going on? Why doesn't your daughter recognize this kid?"

Natalie sighed and turned to the little boy. "Listen, kid, I'm really not your mom, and trust me, this isn't helping anyone," she said firmly. Still, she couldn't stay mad at him forever. But she sure wasn't going to let him bully her daughter.

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The little boy looked up at Natalie, disappointment on his face. He silently pulled back his hand and stood behind her, seeming like he was the one getting bullied.

Natalie felt a mix of annoyance and sympathy but couldn't help finding the whole thing a bit funny. His pleading expression made her want to comfort him. She thought maybe she was losing her mind.

"Ryan, there you are! I finally found your" A sweet, soft voice came closer, signaling the arrival of a pale but graceful woman.

Just by her voice, Natalie knew who it was-Elle.

After six years, Elle looked more vibrant and taken care of, much different from the sickly heart patient she once was. It was clear she had been well cared for; otherwise, a heart patient would usually get worse over time.

Elle froze for a moment when she saw Natalie and Maddie, her eyes flickering before she rushed over to the boy. "Ryan, how did you end up here? Do you have any idea how worried I was?"

"You're not my mom. I don't care about you, the boy. Ryan Guzman scoffed, his little face as cold as ice.

Natalie paused. Now she understood why he seemed familiar. He was Elle and Tobias's kid! No wonder he was the same

as Yara

age

Elle gently coaxed the boy, "Be a good boy, Ryan. Nice kids don't worry everyone like this. Let's get back." She sounded just like a caring mom.

For some reason, Natalie felt a strange discomfort about the whole thing. There was no need to care so much about Elle's kid Ryan kept staring at Natalie, his scowl showing just how upset he was.

Seeing this, Yara quickly stepped in front of her mom, frowning, "You have a mom, so you can't take mine!"

"Humph!" Ryan stomped his foot in frustration before turning away, clearly unhappy with how things were going.

Natalie watched him walk off, deep in thought. Tobias's kid was even more of a handful than Yara! But the way he stubbornly refused to show Elle any respect was kind of cute.

"I'm really sorry for the trouble. Ryan has always been so mischievous," Elle said apologetically.

"Hurry up and go chase after him! If he disappears again, you'll really regret it," Natalie said with a hint of sarcasm.

Elle chuckled, a proud smile on her face. "Of course! He's my little miracle with Tobias."

"Looks like that miracle doesn't really recognize you," Natalie shot back.

Elle's face turned bright red from Natalie's sting. After a moment, she managed to say, "Well, he's still my kid with Tobias!"

"Oh.

Maddie scoffed, "Are you saying you're good at making babies? If so, why aren't you married into the Reese family yet?" Natalie clicked her tongue lightly. "Yeah, that's true. No wonder the little guy doesn't accept her. Maddie had a knack for hitting hard. Her comment about Elle having a kid but not marrying into the Reese family clearly upset Elle.

But Natalie was also curious; six years had gone by, and Tobias still hadn't married Elle. It had to be because Tobias's grandfather didn't approve. If Elle's heart condition wasn't under control, there was no way she could join the family.

Elle's expression changed in an instant. "Humph! No matter what. I'm still better than you!" She shot a glare at Natalie and Maddie before storming off in anger.

Natalie understood what she meant; it was about the whole divorce thing. To Elle, getting a divorce was probably a blessing. She did not want a man like Tobias, who

clearly had feelings for someone else. Natalie only felt a little upset that that suborn boy was Elle's son. Without that, she thought his temper could be kind of cute.

Even though Maddie had just gone after her, she seemed a bit down. "W

bad luck running into that mother and son combo. Who would've thought that kid was actually Tobias's? Talk about fate."

Natalie shrugged. "Yeah, that's some bad luck. But it looks like their relationship isn't great."

Maddie's interest sparked. "Honestly, it really isn't. You wouldn't believe it! Here in Jonton, people all know that Ryan and Elle don't get along at all. They say he looks down on everyone-even Tobias! And just a minute ago... Maddie paused, coughing lightly. "I almost thought that kid was yours. Who would've guessed that little troublemaker would call you "Mom?"

"It's probably to get under Elle's skin. Didn't you just say their relationship isn't great? He might've done it on purpose to call me "Mom," Natalie said casually, seeming unfazed by the whole thing.

Yara, hearing this, wrapped her chubby little arms around Natalie's leg and exclaimed, "No way! Mom is mine!"

Maddie ruffled the little girl's hair. "Wow, you really love your mom, huh? I think you're adorable!"

Natalie's lips curled into a slight grimace, thinking, Love for her mom? Guess who had just been all clingy with Tobias and forgotten her mom? Whatever, there are bigger things to worry about. She glanced at her watch and then said to Maddie, "I need to leave my daughter with you for now. I have stuff to take care of, and I'm running out of time." With that, she waved down a cab and quickly hopped in.

Maddie stood there, surprised at how easily her friend had just dropped off her daughter. She looked at the pile of luggage and the little girl. "Hey, wait, Natalie! You just met your daughter and you're leaving her with me? What if she starts crying?"

Yara blinked her big eyes and casually waved her hand, sucking on a lollipop. "Don't worry, Auntie! I'll be really good!" Seeing the sweet little girl, Maddie felt her mood lift. She patted Yara's head. "Alright then, little princess, let's go!"

Not long after they left, a sleek Lincoln pulled up. The man inside had a cold expression, and the little boy next to him looked just like him-a tiny version with the same icy vibe.

"Mr. Reese, we were planning to take that little girl to the police station, but then she just vanished," Jack reported. "Hmm. Tobias replied, sounding uninterested. Still, he had to

admit, the kid had a certain charm-definitely more appealing than his own son sitting next to him.

Jack hesitated but finally handed over a note, "This is what that little girl left for you."

Tobias opened it to find a phone number and some jumbled words: [Uncle, I really like you! If you miss me, just give me a call, okay?]

Before Tobias could say anything, Elle, sitting behind him, leaned in curiously. Tobias, what's this note about? What kid wrote in?"

"Nothing, just a little prank from a kid," he said dismissively.

"The kids these days are so mischievous," Elle said with a gentle smile.

Tobias held onto the note for a moment before tucking it into his pocket. He didn't plan on calling the kid, but the cute message was hard to forget.

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"Also, the Guzmans sent an invitation, Ms. Guzman's wedding banquet is today, and it's on our way later. Are you really not going to check it out? The whole family is already there," Jack said, flipping through the schedule.

The Guzman family and the Reese family had always had a good relationship, but things had turned sour since Tobias's divorce with Natalie. Still, out of respect for the elder, it was best to at least show up.

"I'm not going." Tobias replied coldly.

Elle's eyes flickered. "Jack, let's not talk about the Guzmans. Tobias doesn't want to hear it."

"Got it, I won't mention it again. I just wanted to remind you that Mr. Bobby Reese called earlier to say they're having a big celebration. Ms. Natalie Guzman is back too, so I thought I'd bring it up." Jack said, sensing the tension.

Elle clenched her hands when she heard Natalie's name.

Tobias stayed quiet, not reacting. Jack realized his attempts to convince him were useless. At least he let Tobias know what was happening.

Seeing Tobias so indifferent made Elle smile a bit. She moved a little closer to him. Tobias, do you have time later to take me shopping?"

Jack will tag along." he said, hinting that he wouldn't be joining them.

Elle gritted her teeth but kept her smile. "Okay, then thanks for your help, Jack."

"Of course, happy to help. Jack replied quickly.

Meanwhile, Ryan, sitting quietly by the window, looked out with a detached expression, completely ignoring everything happening around him.

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In the fancy Royal Hotel, everyone was buzzing with excitement for the big wedding between the Guzman and Shaw families. This event was the talk of the town, bringing in guests from all over Jonton, eager to see the glamorous celebration.

Backstage, the bride was finishing up her makeup, surrounded by a group of her close friends, who were gossiping about the wedding. "Yulisa, I'm so jealous! You're marrying Quinn! The Shaw family is just behind the Reese family in status!" one friend beamed.

"The Guzman family isn't too shabby either. Someone as amazing as Yulisa deserves a match from a family like that!" another friend added, her eyes sparkling with envy.

The air is thick with admiration and jealousy.

The Reese, Guzman, and Shaw families were the top elite in Jonton; being connected to any of them was a big deal. With the Guzman and Shaw families joining forces, they might even outshine the Reese family.

As the bride, Yulisa Guzman, finished applying her lipstick, she smiled gracefully. "Well, Tobias was great too, but he's with Elle now, so he just isn't good enough for me. The only one who truly deserves me is my husband."

"Absolutely!" her friends chimed in, their tone laced with false sweetness.

Some people were born into elite circles, destined to be envied by others. Take Yulisa Guzman, for example. As the eldest daughter of the Guzman family, she was loved by everyone-so much so that even Quinn Shaw, the perfect match everyone wanted, had to go above and beyond to win her over.

Yulisa finished getting ready and scanned the room. "Has anyone seen Natalie?"

At the mention of Natalie's name, one of the friends rolled her eyes. "Natalie? You mean that illegitimate child? I almost forgot her name

"Yulisa, it's your big day! Why even think about her another friend scoffed.

Yulisa's gaze sharpened, her lips curling into a smirk. "Of course, I want her to see the difference between a legitimate daughter of the family and someone like her. Dad even said she would show up."

It was pretty common for a main wife to push out the mistress, and people in high society often looked down on illegitimate kids. Hearing Yulisa's words, a girl jumped in, 'Don't worry, Yulisa. If we see her, we'll definitely teach her a lesson and make sure she has a 'great day.'" The last two words were stressed, and the meaning was obvious.

Yulisa felt a sense of relief. For some things, she didn't have to lift a finger-there were always people ready to take care of it for her. She sneered in her heart, 'What is Natalie, anyway? Just dirt beneath my feet!

Just then, a clear, melodic voice broke the tension. "Did someone say they were looking for me?"

Everyone turned to see Natalie, casually dressed in a simple shirt and jeans, standing at the door. She looked out of place among the elegantly dressed bridesmaids, but her relaxed vibe made her own kind of entrance.

Yulisa laughed, "What a coincidence! We were just talking about you. Why did you come dressed so casually? It's my wedding day!"

"And what's wrong with wearing casual clothes?" Natalie replied, unfazed.

Yulisa's friends jumped in with snarky comments. "This wedding is about the Guzman and Shaw families, you know. Even if you're having a tough time, you should've at least rented a nice dress! Who are you trying to impress by looking so frumpy?"

Another friend added, "Let's be real. She probably can't even afford a gift for the wedding: how would she buy a dress?"

"There's no way she can afford that. The wedding gift has to be at least a few million. Even if she sold herself, she still couldn't gather that much money,"

The group giggled lightly, their words wrapped in sweet tones but laced with malice.

Yulisa just smiled, her gaze steady on Natalie. "Don't worry, Natalie. Even if you're the illegitimate daughter, you're still my half-sister. Lucky for you, I had a few dresses prepared for you."

The girls around her were shocked. "Yulisa, you're so generous! You even got dresses for the illegitimate daughter!" one exclaimed.

“Of course! She’s still part of the Guzman family. We can’t let her show up looking shabby. You all should take her around and have some fun later, Yulisa replied, her tone firm.

This was a cue for her friends. They exchanged knowing glances, clearly catching Yulisa’s hint.

Natalie, however, showed no interest, wearing an indifferent expression as she ignored their chatter.

Yulisa clapped her hands, and a few people walked in carrying a variety of dresses. “Natalie, take a look and pick whichever one you like,” she said with a smile.

One girl stepped forward and grabbed a dress. It was black with a low neckline and a cut-out back-really revealing. The fabric looked nice, but it would definitely draw the wrong attention. “Wow, Yulisa, your taste is amazing! This dress is perfect. for Natalie!” she cooed..

Like mother, like daughter. Yulisa, you always go above and beyond,” another girl chimed in.

Looking at the row of dresses, they were all similar-definitely eye-catching in the wrong way. Natalie only glanced at them before quickly looking away. “I don’t need any of this.”

“Who do you think you are, refusing to wear this?” a girl sneered “Just because you’re the illegitimate daughter doesn’t mean you can do whatever you want!”

“Yulisa told you to wear it, so you better put it on!” another girl added, pushing her.

With that, the group closed in on Natalie, their faces full of disdain. One girl even grabbed the most revealing dress, ready to make Natalie try it on, while another reached for Natalie’s clothes to pull them away.

Yulisa watched with a sly smile. “Natalie, I’m just looking out for you. Nobody wants you to show up dressed so plain; it would tarnish Dad’s reputation,” she said sweetly. “So just change already