

Mr. Edwards' Unraveled Life Chapter 517

Chapter

517

Norah is a mother. How could she possibly stand by and watch her child go into surgery?

She shook her head, her voice trembling. "I can't go into the operating room. I just... Kevin, I'm so scared."

"I get it," Kevin said softly, his tone steady but empathetic. "I understand how you feel. But Norah, Cooper's already been through so much. The odds of something going wrong are one in ten thousand—it's not going to happen to him. And come on, don't you trust your dad's skills?"

"Yeah, Norah," Jace chimed in, trying to lighten the mood. "And I'll be there too, assisting Pharaoh. I've got Cooper's back."

Seeing Norah and Kevin embrace made Jace uneasy, but his concern was for Norah, not himself. He was determined to see Cooper's surgery through.

Norah's eyes welled up with tears.

From the moment Cooper was poisoned until now, Jace had never left her side.

His loyalty had left a deep impression on her.

She let go of Kevin and said, "I need to talk to Jace."

"Alright, I'll go check on Cooper," Kevin replied, gently brushing his hand over Norah's head. He had wanted to kiss her, but with Jace there, he held back. He knew how Jace felt about Norah, and he didn't want to rub it in his face.

Kevin and Norah had their whole lives ahead of them. There would be plenty of time for intimacy later. But Jace was their friend, and Kevin didn't want to overstep.

Once Kevin was gone, Norah gave Jace a meaningful look.

Jace followed her without a word, walking quietly by her side.

After a moment of silence, Norah spoke softly, “Jace, thank you for always being there for me. You’re a good person, and I know how you feel. I don’t want to sound presumptuous, but I need to say this—I want you to be okay. You’ve got so much life ahead of you. You can’t just spend it alone, right?”

Jace hadn’t expected this. He thought Norah just wanted to talk, not try to set him up with someone.

The truth was, if he couldn’t be with the person he loved, he’d rather be alone. Being with someone he didn’t truly care about would only hurt them both.

But to ease Norah’s worries, he forced a gentle smile. “Of course I won’t be alone forever. I just haven’t found the right person yet. Don’t worry—when I do, you’ll be the first to know.”

Norah wasn’t convinced.

If Jace had really moved on, he wouldn’t have stayed by her side for so long.

Especially after Kevin’s death, when Jace had finally confessed his feelings. If it weren’t for her, he wouldn’t have opened a clinic in Country S.

“If you’re okay with it,” Norah said carefully, “once things settle down here, maybe I can help you meet someone? As your friend, I just want to see you happy.”

Jace’s throat tightened, and it felt like a sharp dagger was twisting in his chest. His heart was already bruised and bleeding.

He couldn’t bring himself to agree, but he also couldn’t admit that he still held onto hope for her. If he promised Norah, she’d actually go through with it.

“Norah,” he said slowly, his voice strained, “thank you for caring about me. I get where you’re coming from, but please respect my feelings too. I don’t like blind dates.”

Jace wasn’t angry—he genuinely disliked the idea.

But more than that, it hurt to see the person he loved most try to set him up with someone else. It was like being torn between ice and fire, a constant, agonizing tug-of-war.

“I’m sorry,” Norah said, her voice tinged with regret. “I just want you to be happy. I want you to...”

"I know," Jace interrupted softly, offering her a gentle smile. His dark eyes met hers, filled with sincerity and warmth.

"Norah," he said quietly, "can I hug you?"

This was the first time Jace had asked, and he knew it would be the last.

Once Cooper's bone marrow transplant was successful and he recovered, Pharaoh and Baimo would prepare a celebration for Norah. She wouldn't stay in the Yi Patriarch's estate—she'd return to the capital with Kevin.

Jace was in Country S now. If he closed the clinic and followed her to the capital, his feelings for her would only become more obvious.

He and Norah might not feel anything had changed between them, but others would notice.

Jace didn't care about his own reputation, but he couldn't let Norah suffer because of him.

Chapter 518

Norah didn't say a word, but she quickly reached out and hugged Jace.

Jace held her gently, barely daring to tighten his grip. "Norah, you and Kevin haven't even had your wedding yet. When the time comes, I'll give you a little extra money."

"Kevin has so many friends—he doesn't need me as his best man. But you, Karina, and your best friend, Gloria..."

"You're family to me."

With that one sentence, Norah acknowledged Jace's place in her life.

Jace was happy that Norah had found her happiness, but at the same time, an undeniable loneliness settled in his heart. This was as far as their journey together would go.

Cooper's surgery was scheduled for 9 a.m.

It was a clear day. Pharaoh and Jace accompanied him into the operating room.

Outside, Norah, Kevin, Baimo, Freyja, and the Clown waited anxiously.

Even Elder Ke showed up.

Norah still remembered Elder Ke—when Bianca had tried to harm her, he was the one who stepped in and saved her. Despite all the time she and Kevin had spent here, this was the first time Elder Ke had made an appearance.

His hair was now completely gray, and he leaned heavily on a cane—nothing like the man she had met five years ago. His steps were slow, his movements careful.

“Elder Ke? What are you doing here?” Norah asked, surprised.

Elder Ke’s hands trembled slightly as he pulled a small charm from his pocket. “Norah, my health hasn’t been great lately. I only just heard about what happened to you. When the child’s surgery is over, I want you to put this protection charm on him. I once had it blessed for peace and safety.”

“Thank you,” Norah said politely, accepting the charm.

Baimo leaned in and whispered, “Elder Ke used to work under my father. They were friends.”

Norah turned to Elder Ke. “Hello, Uncle.”

Elder Ke nodded but didn’t linger. After handing over the charm, he left.

Kevin, however, was cautious. He leaned in close to Norah and whispered, “I’ll have this checked before you use it.”

He wasn’t taking any chances.

Baimo overheard Kevin’s concern but remained silent. Right now, Norah and the child’s safety were the top priorities. It was best to be careful.

Kevin’s instincts proved right. The charm had a silver clasp that opened—and inside, he found a small pile of white powder.

His entire demeanor shifted.

Baimo immediately turned to the Clown. “Get the lab to analyze this powder.” Then, without wasting a moment, he ordered an investigation into Elder Ke.

Chapter

519

Until the examination results came in and Pharaoh finished the surgery, no one was allowed to touch Elder Ke.

Kevin held Norah’s hand tightly. “Don’t be afraid. I’ll always be by your side.”

Norah nodded. “I know.”

Even if Kevin hadn’t said it, she knew he’d never leave her.

Three hours later, the lab doors finally opened.

Pharaoh was the first to step out.

Jace followed, pushing Cooper on a hospital bed. Cooper's pale face contrasted sharply with the blue oxygen mask covering his mouth and nose.

"How is he?" Norah rushed over, her legs nearly giving out beneath her.

"The surgery was a success," Pharaoh said, his voice steady but weary. "Once the anesthesia wears off, he'll wake up. We'll need to monitor him for a while to make sure there are no complications, but everything looks good for now."

Norah couldn't hold back her tears of relief. "Thank you... thank you!"

Cooper would finally have a chance to live a normal life.

At that moment, Norah's entire focus was on Cooper.

But Baimo hadn't forgotten about Elder Ke. Just then, the Clown Master arrived with the test results. "Young Master Baimo, the analysis of the powder from the safe is complete. It's a life-saving medicine, meant for critical moments. It's not something taken regularly—it's used to calm the nerves and stabilize energy in emergencies."

So Elder Ke had meant no harm.

Baimo immediately ordered, "Then what are you waiting for? Clear the guards around Elder Ke!"

"Yes, sir." The Clown Master hurried off to carry out the order.

Pharaoh, overhearing the exchange, understood everything. Though Elder Ke had been one of his most loyal followers, when it came to Norah and her child...

Pharaoh sighed, leaning heavily against the wall. "Be careful. I'm exhausted. From now on, the Yi tribe is in your hands."

He let out a long breath, his shoulders sagging under the weight of his fatigue. For weeks, he'd thrown himself into the lab, working tirelessly to save Cooper. He'd barely slept, testing medicines and monitoring every detail. Now, he could finally rest.

But Baimo noticed the exhaustion in Pharaoh's eyes, his eyelids growing heavier by the second. Alarmed, Baimo called out, "Dad! Dad, stay with us. Norah's finally acknowledged you. She's agreed to a family recognition banquet. You can't give up now—not before that."

Pharaoh smiled faintly, a look of peace crossing his face.

Whether there was a banquet or not, whether he lived or died—none of it mattered anymore. All Pharaoh wanted was for Norah to be happy and for Cooper to be healthy.

But Pharaoh didn't respond...

...

Jace had just wheeled Cooper back to his room when the Clown Master approached him. "Doctor Jace, Young Master Baimo needs you."

The Yi tribe now fully recognized Jace's role and expertise. In fact, Baimo had even considered asking Jace to stay and serve as the tribe's national doctor, rather than returning to Country S. It was a position of honor, one that would allow him to serve the people and gain status.

Norah, sensing something was wrong, frowned at the Clown Master. "Is something wrong with my dad?"

She hadn't called Pharaoh "Dad" to his face yet, but when speaking to others, she referred to him that way.

The Clown Master hesitated, but Norah cut him off. "If you don't tell me, I'll go see for myself."

"Alright," the Clown Master relented. "Pharaoh's condition has worsened."

Kevin placed a reassuring hand on Norah's shoulder. "Go see your dad. I'll stay with Cooper."

Norah didn't say a word, but her hurried steps spoke volumes.

When she arrived, Pharaoh was lying on a hospital bed, and Jace was already examining him. Before Jace had arrived, Baimo had asked others to check on Pharaoh, but none of them could pinpoint the issue.

Pharaoh had overworked himself, and the experimental medicines he'd tested on his own body had taken a toll.

Jace, however, understood immediately. He couldn't help but admire Pharaoh's dedication. Pharaoh had gone to such lengths for Norah's child—it was clear how much he cared for her and how determined he was to make amends.

Jace began preparing a treatment plan.

Norah, her voice trembling, asked, "Jace, how is he?"

The word "Dad" seemed to have a magical effect. Pharaoh's eyes fluttered open, and he looked at Norah with tears streaming down his face. "Julie... did I just hear you call me 'Dad'?"

His voice was weak but filled with emotion.

“Yes,” Norah choked out. At this point, there was no reason to deny it.

Baimo shot Jace a meaningful look, and Jace quickly explained, “Pharaoh’s condition is due to exhaustion and the strain of testing medicines. He needs rest and proper care to recover.”

Norah couldn’t hold back her tears any longer. They poured down her face like a flood.

Pharaoh had done so much for her, and she had been so reluctant to forgive him.

Maybe, as Baimo had said, Pharaoh had been ruthless in the past, but he was a good father.

Over the last five years, the Yi tribe had changed—and so had Pharaoh.

“Dad...” Norah sobbed, burying her face in his chest.

Pharaoh held her tightly, his own tears falling. At that moment, all his sacrifices felt worth it. For Norah, he would have given anything—even his life.

In the days that followed, Norah took care of both Pharaoh and Cooper, preparing nutritious meals and ensuring they had everything they needed.

Pharaoh, who had spent so much time with Cooper during his illness, had grown close to the boy. Now that Norah had acknowledged him as her father, Cooper naturally began calling him “Grandpa.”

The two of them spent their days laughing and talking, and Pharaoh’s once-hardened expression softened into one of warmth and gentleness.

Cooper’s health improved steadily, and soon, his birthday arrived.

Pharaoh and Baimo had planned a grand celebration, combining it with Norah’s family recognition banquet. Every detail, from the seating arrangements to the decorations, had been meticulously planned by Pharaoh himself. He wanted the entire Yi tribe to celebrate this momentous occasion.

At the banquet, Pharaoh publicly acknowledged Norah as his daughter.

But not everyone was convinced. Some whispered doubts: “If the eldest daughter has been alive all this time, why is she only being recognized now? And what about Elder Calvin Donnelly? He brought her back, and yet he’s been branded a traitor. He’s done so much for the tribe!”

Others were more direct: “We don’t understand your logic. You’ve always dictated everything—the killings, the wars five years ago. Why should your family always be in power? Why not hold new elections? Let someone else have a chance to lead!”

The tension in the room was palpable, but Pharaoh remained calm. This was a new beginning, and he was ready to face whatever challenges came his way.

Chapter 520

More and more people voiced their opinions.

Pharaoh remained silent, his expression grim.

At that moment, Baimo stepped forward. “The Yi tribe has always followed a hereditary leadership. If you want to be the leader, you have to prove your worth.”

His sharp, cold gaze swept across the crowd.

“In such a short time, what major event could possibly justify a change in leadership?”

Someone in the crowd spoke up. “Then tell us—what exactly qualifies this eldest lady to lead?”

Another voice added, “The man standing next to her—wasn’t he a soldier from Craggaville? And if I’m not mistaken, Country S is also searching for him. He’s aligned with them again now!”

“If we allow someone like him to stay in the Yi tribe, won’t that bring disaster upon us?”

“No, we can’t let them stay!”

Baimo’s voice rang out, furious and unyielding. “I’m the leader now. I decide who stays, and I say they stay. If you have a problem with that, you’re free to leave.”

There were plenty of people in the Yi tribe.

If some chose to walk away, new leaders could always be cultivated.

But one thing was non-negotiable—no one would slander Norah. Her status in the Yi tribe was untouchable.

Just then, Pharaoh pulled Cooper onto the stage.

“Norah is my daughter, Julie. You accepted the impostor Calvin brought back before, yet now you refuse to acknowledge my real daughter? What kind of reasoning is that? As Baimo said—whoever we want to stay, stays. And if you don’t like it, stop making a fuss.

“Cooper is my grandson. Norah is my daughter. Kevin is my son-in-law. If any harm comes to them within the Yi tribe, I swear—I will personally see to it that the guilty party suffers a thousand cuts.”

His words were cold, deliberate. His presence commanded absolute authority.

He was making his stance clear—not just acknowledging Norah, but openly defending Kevin as well.

Pharaoh had once told Kevin he feared their relationship would only bring Norah pain. Given Kevin's past, there was always the possibility they would be forced apart.

But he hadn't expected Norah to be so steadfast in her choice.

Kevin had remained by her side through everything, and now...

Norah stepped forward. "You don't need to worry that the Yi tribe will fall into my or my husband's hands. I promise you now—our child will not be the future leader of this tribe.

"I appreciate everyone coming to celebrate my child's birthday. And I understand my father's intentions—he wanted to publicly acknowledge me today so that my identity would be protected, so I would no longer face rejection or harm."

She bowed deeply to the crowd.

Baimo wanted to say more, but Norah shot him a subtle glance, signaling him to hold back.

Those who had spoken against them—Baimo had them escorted out.

The people who remained stayed out of respect, coming only to celebrate Cooper's birthday. Cooper was happy to see so many faces, but deep down, he understood—they weren't truly welcoming him.

Norah made a decision. "We're leaving for the capital tomorrow."

Pharaoh had expected her to leave. But so soon?

Before he could say a word, Baimo stepped in. "The situation in Country S isn't settled yet. If you go back now, you could be walking into danger."

Norah smiled, shaking her head. "Kevin and I have already considered that, brother. You seem to be forgetting something—sometimes, the best way to catch a snake is to lure it out."

The more secure they seemed, the less likely their enemies were to make a move.

And that was exactly what she and Kevin were counting on.

Baimo saw the certainty in Norah's eyes. He knew there was no convincing her otherwise.

Still, there was one thing he could do—he could offer her his unwavering support.

“Norah,” he said, his voice low and firm, “you are always welcome here. If you ever decide you want to lead this tribe, the position is yours. And if you ever need anything, call me. I’ll be there.”

Money wasn’t an issue—Kevin had wealth, and Norah had her own savings.

As for power—the Edwards family still held great influence.

Even though Norah had once transferred her shares to Aunt Bonnie, Bonnie never actually took them. In reality, the assets were still in Norah’s name. Once she returned to the capital, she planned to restore everything to its rightful place.

And with Kevin’s business acumen, he could build another empire from the ground up.

Materially, they would never lack anything.

Baimo sighed heavily. “You...” He exhaled in resignation.

He couldn’t change Norah’s mind.

But there was one person he needed to warn. He turned to Kevin, his expression dark.

“I know everything about your past. My sister stayed by your side for seven years. Then she waited for you for another five. If you have no plans to stay in the Yi tribe, fine. But the moment you return to the capital, you’re getting married. If you ever make my sister suffer again, I will personally make sure you regret it.”

A dangerous glint flashed in his eyes.

And Baimo wasn’t bluffing. If Kevin ever betrayed Norah again, Baimo wouldn’t hesitate to take action—no matter the cost.

Kevin didn’t flinch. His gaze was steady, filled with unwavering devotion.

“There will be a wedding,” he promised.

He looked at Norah with deep affection.

He had wronged her in the past—he hadn’t recognized her true feelings early enough. And later, he had made her believe he was dead for five years.

For that, he could never forgive himself.

Baimo nodded. “Good. Then go back and start preparing. Let me know the date—I’ll come with my father to attend.”

“Okay,” Kevin and Norah replied in unison.

They would return to the capital the next day.

There wasn't much to pack—just a few essentials. But before they left, Pharaoh came to see them.

He handed Norah a bank card. "Take this. I'll deposit money into it every month. If you ever need anything, come to me. I will always be here to support you."

He couldn't stop Norah from leaving, but he still had unfinished business in the tribe. Once things were settled, he would come to the capital to see his daughter and grandson.

If he could adjust to life there, he would stay—so he could be closer to Norah.

And now, he had nothing else to do. He could help raise the child.

Norah shook her head, pushing the card back. "Money isn't an issue. I have my own savings. Once I'm back, I'll find a job. Kevin still has his company. We'll be fine."

Pharaoh pressed the card into her hands again, his expression firm.

"I know what you're thinking. But this time, you don't have to worry—I'll protect you.

"And if you're still uneasy, why not leave Cooper with me?"

They were about to step into danger, deliberately exposing themselves to their enemies.

No matter how prepared they were, bringing a child into such a situation was risky.

Maybe it would be safer for Cooper to stay behind...

Norah hesitated, pressing her lips together.

She knew Pharaoh was right. Cooper would be safe here.

But... if they left him behind...