The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free

Chapter: 221

Eliana, still clinging to Declan's arm, also softly shook her head.

"I haven't met her either."

"Very well. Let's involve the police then."

Bryson's words, seemingly casual but deeply consequential, hit Sadie like a freight train.

ALL she had done was spill red wine on the insufferable Hannah. Why the urgency to call the police?

Having experienced a stint in jail before, the mere mention of police rattled Sadie.

Before she could voice her concerns, however, the waitress preemptively made her plea.

"Don't involve the police, please! I can't afford a criminal record!

It was Miss Edwards who put me up to it. I was truly unaware! I just did what I was told!"

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Sadie's eyes grew large.

"Are you accusing me? I merely spilled wine on Hannah! Don't point fingers without proof!"

"You're the one who handed me ten thousand dollars, telling me to step aside when I see a man walking toward the dressing room!"

Tears flooded Sadie's face for the first time she'd been accused of something she didn't commit. She lunged, aiming to slap the waitress, and screamed, "I didn't do that! You're fabricating this!"

Security intervened, halting Sadie's advance.

She then shot a glare at Hannah, her eyes ablaze with malice.

"It's you, isn't it, Hannah? You're blaming your own wrongdoings on me!

You're still bitter about my brother divorcing you. You are not satisfied with me getting detained. Now you want to set me up at this banquet too? How low can you go!"

Hannah let out a soft laugh, her gaze icy as it met Sadie's.

"You're the one who spread vile rumors about me in school, inviting the police into your own mess. How is that my fault?"

At Hannah's signal, the butler displayed the security footage for all to see.

"You intentionally spilled that wine, sending me off to change. Then this waitress conveniently allows a stranger into the changing room and accuses you. Interesting, isn't it?"

The video footage unmistakably displayed Sadie purposefully ruining Hannah's dress.

A second video revealed Hannah having no conversation with the waitress on their way to the changing room, making it obvious that the man's intrusion was preplanned.

Even Declan, although hesitant, found doubt clouding his vision as he looked at Sadie.

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"So, did you or did you not plan for someone to harm Hannah?"

"I didn't! I swear! I absolutely didn't!!" Sadie exploded, her eyes widening in disbelief as she looked at her brother.

"Declan!! You don't believe me either? I promise, I didn't set up anything against her! I confess! I did spill the wine!"

Sadie's voice had a razor's edge, cutting through the room.

"But I never plotted against her, I swear!"

Leah, moved by her daughter's distress, stepped in for a warm hug.

"Declan, can you really doubt your own sister based on what that woman says? Hannah, you're a real piece of work. Even after your divorce from Declan, you're still stuck on him!"

Leah's tone shifted, becoming authoritative.

"Just because you're chummy with Mr. Mitchell doesn't give you the right to falsely accuse others. We won't admit to things we didn't do!" Bryson's gaze turned frosty, targeting Leah's face.

"Mrs. Edwards, do you honestly think I'd accuse you just because Hannah said so?"

Leah, quick to clarify, retorted, "I never implied that, Mr. Mitchell!

But we're concerned Hannah might be twisting the facts and implicating my daughter!"

"Why not involve the police, then?" Hannah offered a smug grin.

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"Sadie ruined my costly dress. She owes me and that's all. But if you're talking about intentional harm, that's a legal matter."

Sadie held her ground, defiantly retorting, "Go ahead, call the police! I'll pay for the dress!"

Eliana intervened.

"Sadie, maybe it's time to say sorry to Miss Moore.

It seems you were at fault."

"Why should I?!" Sadie felt utterly betrayed.

"I'm innocent. She's clearly setting me up!"

Eliana tried to soothe her.

"Sadie, we all heard what Miss Moore said about you at the banquet and that's what infuriated you. Even if you did mess up, no one's holding it against you. Miss Moore isn't petty."

Hannah shot Eliana an icy look but remained silent.

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Eliana looked back at Hannah and offered, "Miss Moore, Sadie's young and might've acted without thinking. I apologize for her, and I hope you can let it slide."

"I didn't do anything, why should I apologize?!" Sadie teetered on the edge of emotional collapse, pointing at Hannah.

"You did this intentionally! You wanted to humiliate me! You framed me on purpose!"

Ignoring Sadie, Hannah arched an eyebrow towards Eliana.

"So, you're admitting she actually did it?"

"Um... Eliana appeared distressed as she glanced at a tearful Sadie.

"I believe neither Sadie nor Miss Moore wanted this. Perhaps it's time for some leniency?"

"Miss Patel." Hannah, ever so poised, addressed Eliana directly.

"Your words are evasive. Are you admitting Sadie's guilt by offering an apology for her?"

Eliana let out a weary sigh and looked at Declan.

"To be honest, I'm not certain. Sadie can be quite impulsive. The least I can do now is extend an apology to you on her behalf."

Hannah was proving to be a tough cookie to break.

Confused and conflicted, Eliana leaned on Declan and subtly squeezed his arm.

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Declan couldn't just stand by. He looked at Hannah with a hint of disappointment.

"Hannah, why this hostility? An apology has been made.

What more do you seek?"

"I seek nothing." Hannah's tone became icy.

"Am I supposed to be grateful for your apologies? What if the tables were turned, and it was your sister locked in a room with a lecherous man? How would you feel then?"

Declan's eyes narrowed, a look of reproach aimed at Hannah.

"When did you turn so vindictive?"

Finally, Bryson, who had been quiet, chimed in, "Is this what you call. vindictiveness?"

His gaze was unreadable but cold, directed at Declan.

"If it were my sister who was harmed, do you think anyone from the Edwards family would walk away unscathed from the Mitchell property?"

His words were biting, snapping Declan back to reality.

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Declan pated, at a loss for words under Bryson's frosty stare.

"Enough. I've given you opportunities you've squandered. I'm calling the police," Hannah declared, reaching for her phone.

Frantic, Eliana turned around and grabbed Sadie's arm.

"Sadie, for the love of God, apologize to Miss Moore. Do you really want another police record to impact your education?"

Unyielding, Sadie shook off Eliana's grip.

"I fear no one. Let her call the police!"

Internally, Eliana cringed. If the police got involved, sweeping this under the rug would be quite challenging.

Hannah, observing from a distance, couldn't help but smile. What a spectacle this was.

Her attention shifted to the waitress.

"Here's another chance for you.

If you lie again, I assure you, you'll be answering to the authorities. Choose your next words wisely."

The waitress looked up, meeting Hannah's ice-cold eyes. The experience felt like plunging into a frozen abyss, compelling her to abandon any thought of deceit.

"It was ... it was that ... "

The waitress hesitated before turning around to point at Eliana.

Eliana discreetly glanced downward, motioning to her phone.

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With a jolt, the waitress turned back and lowered her head, exclaiming, "Ah, it's Miss Edwards!"

The instant the waitress turned, Hannah and Sadie caught sight of her finger aimed at Eliana.

Yet, her words contradicted her motion and that only meant one thing!

"Eliana Patel! I saw her single you out. You orchestrated Hannah's trouble but framed me, didn't you?"

Eliana's complexion drained of color, and she slumped into Declan's embrace.

"Sadie, why would I ever do such a thing? Are you misunderstanding the situation'

Turning around, Declan raised his tone slightly.

"Sadie, quit causing a spectacle. Why are you implicating Eliana?"

"Damn it!" Sadie jabbed a finger at Eliana, shouting, "I'm not blind!

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Didn't I see her pointing at you? Quit your lying! You also despise Hannah, I can tell! How can you keep your nefarious plans against Hannah a secret and lay the blame on me, Eliana? Have you no decency?"

Sadie's face twisted in a snarl, bordering on lunacy.

Shaking in Declan's hold, Eliana pleaded, "Sadie, calm down. Someone must be manipulating you, trying to pit us against each other. Let's not let it ruin our relationship."

"Indeed, Eliana's correct. You should hold your tongue before you embarrass yourself further."

Declan's endorsement only stoked the fires of Sadie's anger, driving her to a boiling point.

Throwing caution to the wind, Sadie lunged at Eliana.

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With a swift move, she seized Eliana's hair and wrenched her from Declan's grasp.

A sharp pain erupted in Eliana's skull; her hand lifted, but it was too late to fend off the attack.

A stinging slap echoed as it struck her cheek.

Her ears buzzed and her face burned with pain. She lost her balance and tumbled to the floor.

"Bitch! How dare you act so shamelessly! Think you can lead a reckless life and get away with it? I'll make sure you regret framing me! You deceitful bitch! I even thought of you as family, but you just used me as your pawn! Do you even remember who brought you into the Edwards family? It was me! Only because I referred to you as my future sister-in-law did my brother even consider marrying you! Who do you think you are? You and Hannah are both devious! But don't even dream that I'll be your scapegoat!"

By now, Sadie had lost all sense of reason. After landing a slap on Eliana, she straddled her.

Her hands descended like hammers, showing no restraint as she smacked Eliana's soft cheeks, each slap resounding through the room.

The chilling cries of pain, high-pitched screams, and spiteful curses filled the air, reverberating throughout the room.

Downstairs, the banquet attendees looked up, puzzled by the commotion.

Even the gentle music couldn't drown out the sporadic shouts and cries coming from above.

Brayden, glass of wine in hand, sensed the tension and gathered a small crowd of intrigued onlookers.

"It sounds like trouble upstairs. Should we intervene? It wouldn't bode well if a full-blown brawl erupts in the Mitchell household."

Eager for a spectacle, no one hesitated. Some began ascending the stairs, while others trailed behind.

Brayden led the way up the staircase, followed by a dozen or so individuals, all anxious to see what was going on.

Inside the room, Declan saw Sadie escalating the confrontation and wanted to step in, but he was unable to restrain his unhinged sister.

"That's enough! Quit hitting her! Stop it now!"

Eliana struggled beneath her assailant, her face contorted in a futile effort to maintain some semblance of dignity. She couldn't fight back, using her arms only to shield her face.

Sadie, her eyes filled with madness, forcefully pulled at Eliana's dress and incessantly gripped her waist, causing Eliana to wince in pain on the floor.