The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free -

Chapter: 51

"Man, we've been trying to get you out forever, and you finally show up. Is it because you're hiding your stunning new bride from us?"

Laughter and teasing aimed at Declan filled the air.

Eliana blushed a little, tucking a loose curl behind her ear as she grasped Declan's arm.

"Declan's been swamped with work lately."

"Wow, Declan, you lucked out with such an understanding wife!"

Sitting close by, Sadie beamed with pride.

"Of course he did!

Eliana's way ahead of Hannah in education and social standing, not to mention how gorgeous she is! Hannah, who didn't even finish college and has a criminal past, can't compare to Eliana."

Feeling the tension as Sadie disparaged Hannah, Declan's brow knitted subtly.

Noticing his discomfort, Eliana interjected softly, "Sadie, that's not fair. Hannah has been a great help to Declan for many years. I owe her my thanks."

"You sure about that?" Sadie's face twisted further in disdain at Eliana's words.

"What else could she possibly do besides keep house?

She's been living off our family for years. If anything, she should be thanking us!"

"Is that so?" One of Declan's friends, sitting next to him, scratched his head in confusion.

"I recall Hannah being quite the support for Declan back in the day."

Declan's frown deepened.

"What are you talking about?"

"Remember that time when Eliana left the country and you were a mess?"

Taken aback, Declan could vaguely recall his emotional turmoil when Eliana left, though the details were hazy.

"During that time, you were estranged from your family because of your issues with Eliana. You were even on the brink of losing your executive position."

The fog slowly lifted from Declan's mind.

"I remember now," he said, his voice deepening.

"Back then, it was Hannah who knelt before your grandmother for three days straight, pleading on your behalf. Only after Hannah had secured major contracts for your company did your grandma let you stay on.

You didn't know this?"

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Declan was taken aback. The revelation made his heart race.

Thinking of Hannah's dejected face, a wave of regret washed over him.

"How did this get out?"

His friend looked uneasy, ruffling his own hair.

"It became a pretty big deal. Everyone in our circle knew. I assumed you knew too."

Now aware of Hannah's sacrifices, Declan's earlier discomfort began to fade.

Filled with a sense of gratitude, Declan thought back to the injustices Hannah had endured, forcing her to leave their shared home.

He grabbed his phone, located Hannah's contact information, and called her.

From the other end came a sterile, automated female voice.

"Hello, the person you're trying to reach is unavailable. Please try again later."

It dawned on Declan that Hannah had actually blocked him.

His face took on a sour expression.

"She didn't pick up, did she? She must be dodging your calls to avoid the divorce!" Fueling the fire, Sadie added, "She's being so manipulative, dragging this out on purpose."

"Sadie, Miss Moore might have other motivations. She didn't intend to hold up Declan," Eliana said.

"Eliana, you're too generous. She's just stalling to dodge the divorce. Declan, you should move forward and finalize it. Don't let her continue to meddle in your life."

Upon hearing Sadie's words about Hannah not wanting a divorce, a wave of inexplicable happiness washed over Declan.

Eliana caught the subtle change in his expression and felt uneasy.

The divorce papers between Declan and Hannah were still up in the air, and the future remained uncertain.

"Forget about her, Declan! The Mitchell Group is hosting a charity event soon. Did you get the invite?" a friend interjected.

"Yeah."

"Then you should bring Eliana. She'll definitely make you shine!" another friend chimed in.

"Besides, Eliana will be part of your family soon, it's just a matter of when!"

Sadie's eyes sparked as she rushed to tug on Declan's arm.

"Take me, Declan! The Mitchell charity event sounds like a blast!"

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"The Mitchell Group?" Eliana seemed intrigued.

"I've just returned and haven't been to any of these events yet. But never mind." Eliana cast her eyes down and smiled softly, "If Sadie wants to go, let her accompany you. It'll make things easier for you."

Declan wished to bring both, but the invitation specified only one family member could attend. He was torn.

A friend casually remarked, "Given Declan's influence, taking both his girlfriend and sister should be no problem."

The Edwards family still wielded considerable influence in Valmere.

Though not at the level of the Mitchell family, Declan still commanded some respect from them.

After pondering briefly, Declan's expression lightened, "Let's all go together. It's just one extra person. We can clear it with the host."

"Declan, you're the best!"

Hannah had thought Bryson's mention of sending her an invitation was just chit-chat.

She didn't expect Bryson to actually show up, Grace in tow, to deliver the invite.

Two foreign individuals followed them, each carrying a large box.

Lydia stood next to Hannah, puzzled by the extravagant display.

"What's all this?"

"These are foreign designers. Bryson believes their dress design is ideal for Hannah, so he invited them here." Grace eagerly walked up to Hannah, her eyes bright with anticipation.

"Hannah, go try on the dress. I'm looking forward to seeing how you look!"

Unable to resist Grace's enthusiastic plea, Hannah finally gave a nod of consent.

When Hannah stepped out of her room in the dress, conversation in the living room abruptly ceased.

Self-aware, Hannah glanced at the occupants of the couch.

"Does it look odd?"

Bryson's eyes momentarily sparkled with evident approval, though his tone stayed even.

"No, you look amazing."

"Hannah, you're absolutely stunning in that dress! It's perfect for you!" Grace's eyes radiated pure admiration.

The dress was a rich shade of blue, adorned with tiny sequins at the hem and featuring a waist cinched by a pink diamond.

Thanks to the dress's design, Hannah's already slim waist looked even more refined.

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Both foreign designers showered her with compliments.

"Wow! This is definitely your dress! Perfection!"

"Hannah, even the designers agree it's made for you!" Lydia interjected.

"You look really great!"

Bryson promptly reserved the dress for her and ushered the designers out.

A touch flustered, Hannah said, "Mr. Mitchell, you didn't have to go to such lengths. Besides, I think I shouldn't take the invites when so many people out there are yearning for them."

"Don't you remember, Hannah? The gem you've been eyeing is only available at Mr. Mitchell's charity event," Lydia said, but was quickly cut off by Hannah.

"Lydia!"

Realizing her blunder, Lydia instantly fell silent.

"It's just a gem. It's not a big deal." Hannah reassured Bryson.

"Don't worry, Mr. Mitchell. I have other means to attend if I choose to."

Grace turned her gaze, her eyes shimmering like constellations, and playfully nudged Bryson.

"You two really are on the same wavelength, huh?"

Before Hannah could decode Grace's implication, Bryson had already risen and approached her.

Reaching into his pocket, he unveiled a small box.

When he opened it, it revealed Hannah's long-desired ruby.

Hannah's eyes widened in surprise.

With a gentle smile, Bryson proposed, "Would this gem serve as an appropriate invitation for Miss Moore to attend my party?"

Lydia inhaled dramatically.

"Well, what do we have here? Mr. Mitchell, how'd you guess this is exactly what Hannah would want?"

"I don't know that. I just had a feeling this gem would suit her,"

Bryson answered.

"This is far too valuable, Mr. Mitchell. You should take it back,"

Hannah chimed in, not meeting Bryson's eyes.

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"The gem's value is subjective. It depends on whether you appreciate it or not," Bryson responded, his eyes lowered, telling Hannah sincerely, "To me, it's just a rock."

Then he added, "Think of it as my consultation fee."

At that point, it would have seemed disingenuous for Hannah to reject the gift again.

Accepting the gem, Hannah assured, "Mr. Mitchell, I won't be late for the charity event."

On the day of the charity event, Hannah was prompt for her styling appointment. As her look neared completion, Lydia was still a no-show.

Hannah decided to ring her up.

"I'm on my way, darling! Got a little delayed. Head to the party without me."

Hannah massaged her forehead, responding in exasperation, "Lydia, could you be a bit more punctual? You're always late. Fine, I'll wait at the entrance."

That day, to complement her dress, Hannah's hair was elegantly pinned up and embellished with a traditional green hairpin, leaving everyone captivated by her ethereal, traditional charm.

Arriving at the venue in a special car, Hannah refrained from entering immediately, choosing instead to wait for Lydia on the sidelines.

"Who's that stunning woman over there? Is she a celebrity? She's glowing!"

"Looks like they've invited some stars today, but she's new to me.

Celebrities are just on another level!"

Despite her discretion, Hannah's look drew a continual crowd of admirers.

Just then, a message from Bryson buzzed on Hannah's WhatsApp.

Being the event's organizer, Bryson was tied up but had requested Hannah notify him upon her arrival for someone to guide her in.

Hannah looked down and texted back, "Just got here. Waiting for a friend. I'm fine, don't worry."

At that moment, Declan, Sadie, and Eliana appeared, all dressed up in glamorous attire.

As they ascended the hotel steps, Eliana casually looped her arm through Declan's.

Yet, the crowd's murmur redirected their gaze toward Hannah at the entrance.

Her slender, alluring neck, adorned with a sapphire necklace, radiated an unmatched elegance.

Declan was somewhat taken aback, having never seen Hannah look so spectacular. His heart fluttered.

Noticing Hannah, Sadie blurted out, "Oh my God! What's she doing here?

Look at her dress! She's probably wondering how to get inside. Seems like she doesn't even have an invitation."