

The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never

Chapter: 516

Tinsley beamed, saying, "Hannah, your capabilities have never been in question for me. If not for that stupid decision your mom.

Before she could continue, Tinsley shook her head.

"There's no point dredging up the past. Hannah, I realize managing Edwin is no small task, and I apologize for the burden."

Hannah gave a subdued smile.

"Don't worry, Grandma. Edwin is a good kid. He just needs some guidance."

"Alright, off you go, you two."

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When they went downstairs, Edwin immediately got to his feet and obediently followed Hannah. It was the first time he addressed her with such respect.

"Hannah."

Hannah glanced back and said, "Don't think this will make me give you allowance."

Edwin flushed slightly.

"Uh... I wasn't after money. I just wanted to apologize. I was wrong before. I promise to focus on my studies and not repeat my past mistakes."

Hannah stared Edwin, who still bore the marks of two slaps, then relented.

"Promises are easy. Let's revisit this when you're actually back in school."

Seated some distance away, Bainbridge looked uneasy. When he tried to catch Hannah's eye, she avoided his gaze and led Edwin straight out of the villa.

After she left, Bainbridge began to complain to Jalen, "Why does she have to be so confrontational, leading people to misunderstand her?"

Jalen's expression remained frosty.

"It's hardly the first time you've misjudged her. You've never given her the benefit of the doubt.

What's the use of explaining if you're not going to believe her?"

Jalen patted Bainbridge on the back and continued, "You're too biased against her."

Still puzzled, Bainbridge said, "Everyone seems to be on her side.

Has she put a spell on you all?"

Jalen sighed and said, "If you're not willing to trust her, then anything we say is futile."

In front of the White family's mansion, Hannah was giving Edwin a ride back to his school.

"I've got something else to ask... Not sure if you'd be willing to help," Edwin muttered, a bit awkward.

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2. While driving, Hannah responded nonchalantly, "If you're asking for your cards and cash back, forget it."

3. "It's not about the money!" Edwin insisted.

4. "I messed up last time.

5. From now on, I'll follow your advice and quit messing around with those guys."

6. "Good, keep that in mind. So what did you want to ask?"

7. Hesitantly, Edwin posed his question.

8. "There's a senior prom at my school. Would you be my date?"

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10. "What?"

11. Hannah was caught off guard by Edwin's unexpected request.

12. "Don't you have someone at school you could ask?"

13. "That's beside the point! Just tell me, yes or no?"

14. Seeing it was just a dance, Hannah conceded, "Alright, let me know when it is."

15. "Great!" Edwin's face lit up with a sort of happiness, as if he truly considered her like a cousin.

16. "Make sure you dress nicely."

17. Hannah looked at him with a puzzled expression.
18. "Sure, I won't let you down."
19. Meanwhile, Bryson had just reached Valmere. He arrived at the Mitchell estate rather late into the night.
20. As soon as Grace spotted Bryson, she lunged into his arms, exclaiming, "Bryson!"
21. "I'm back," he said simply.
22. The entire Mitchell clan was present, but Bryson barely gave them a glance. Grasping Grace's hand, he started to walk away.
23. Franco said in an icy tone, "Bryson, what's the meaning of this?"
24. Leaving without even saying hello to grandpa? Your behavior is getting out of hand. We looked after Grace while you were away in Hoijery. Even if you are the future head of the Mitchell family, you can't act so high and mighty! You've been acting recklessly lately!
25. You allowed a marriage alliance to fall apart. What are you doing?
26. Uniting with a noble family through marriage is important for the Mitchell family's standing in Valmere."

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28. Bryson's mood took a sudden icy turn. He turned around and cast his gaze upon the occupants in the living room.
29. "It's better to hand over the Mitchell Group to others, then."
30. Tyshawn shouted, "What nonsense is this? Marriage alliances have always been our strategy for stabilizing the company. We're doing it for the Mitchell family's sake!"
31. "If you think marrying into nobility is the way to go, fine. But harm my sister, and the Mitchell Group will face the consequences,"
32. Bryson warned.
33. Braeden murmured gloomily, "The Mitchell Group isn't just our family's property. Grandfather must be disappointed to hear you say that."
34. "Don't forget, if you try to exploit her, you'd better measure your own worth first," Bryson cautioned before taking Grace away from the villa. Once they were in the car, Grace fell silent for a moment.
35. Finally, after letting out a few more sobs, Grace shifted her thoughts to Hannah.
36. "Bryson, how is Hannah doing in Hoijery?" she inquired gently.

37. "She's well. Once I wrap up your school matters, we can visit her for a bit," Bryson assured her.

38. Grace's eyes sparkled.

39. "Fantastic! Then I can spend every day with Hannah."

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41. "Maybe not every day. She's got her own commitments. She might only take you out occasionally," he clarified.

42. Grace shrugged.

43. "That's fine. As long as I can be with Hannah, I'm happy."

44. "There's something else. Ruby has returned recently..." Grace said cautiously, studying Bryson's face.

45. "She's been trying to get in touch with you, calling me frequently. I told her you were in Hoijery, tied up with work, and would let her know when you're back."

46. Bryson's face remained impassive.

47. "We've been apart for too long."

48. "There's no point in reconnecting. We wouldn't even know what to say to each other."

49. "I'm not feeling sorry for her," Grace declared, lifting her hand as though taking an oath.

50. "I've been concerned about Hannah all this while, but Ruby has her own challenges. Her move abroad forced her to leave you; it was a family decision."

51. Grace's face creased with emotion.

52. "Her family's back now, building their business here. She wants to make amends, Bryson."

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54. After a drawn-out silence in the car, Bryson said deliberately, "Moving abroad wasn't the breaking point for us. We came from different family backgrounds, yes, but nobody made her leave me. She could have stayed in touch, but she chose to vanish the moment she left."

55. Stopping the car at a red light, Bryson turned to Grace, his voice steady.

56. "It's not about the hurdles, Grace. It's about whether you're willing to overcome them. You're still young. There's a lot you don't get."

57. Thoughts of Hannah crossing his mind, Bryson offered a smile.

58. "She doesn't need my forgiveness; I've never truly resented her."

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60. Confused, Grace looked at her brother, as if seeing the real him for the first time.

61. "Understood." She nodded resolutely.

62. "I'll pass this on to Ruby."

63. Word quickly spread that Bryson was back in Valmere. Brayden, seizing the opportunity, called him up.

64. "Dinner tonight, you in?"

65. "No, I'm here to take Grace to Hoijery. Work's keeping me busy for the next couple of days."

66. "Come on, you can make time for dinner, can't you? It's been ages, and it'll just be Lydia and me," Brayden uttered with a hint of nonchalance.

67. Massaging the bridge of his nose, Bryson agreed, "Alright, send me the details later."

68. "Will do!"

69. After hanging up, Brayden found Lydia tugging at his sleeve.

70. "So, he's coming?"

71. "Yes, yes, he is. What's your interest in Bryson anyway?" Brayden scrutinized Lydia up and down, teasing, "You got a crush on him or something?"

72. "Bah!"

73. Lydia playfully tugged on Brayden's ear, declaring, "I've got to keep tabs on my best friend's guy, got it? He can't meet Melina!"

74. Brayden looked at her, then said, "Just so you know, the Glyn family isn't the only one eyeing Bryson."

75. "What?" Lydia, narrowing her eyes, pinched Brayden's side and pressed, "spill it. What else are you hiding?"

76. Feeling cornered, Brayden sighed, "Okay, okay. I was planning to tell you anyway. Remember the Green family from like five years ago?"

77. After a thoughtful pause, Lydia nodded.

78. "Yeah, I remember them."

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80. Didn't they go bankrupt and move abroad?

81. "Exactly, but they're back now, and it looks Like they're planning a comeback."

82. Curiosity somewhat lacking, Lydia picked up her glass and questioned, "And what's this got to do with Bryson?"

83. "He and the Green family's daughter used to date."

84. "What!"

85. Lydia spat out her water in surprise, eyes wide as she looked at Brayden.

86. "Are you serious?"

87. Quick to dodge the spray, Brayden continued, "Yes, it was years ago, right after Bryson graduated. It wasn't well-known.

88. "So, let me get this straight. She wants to rekindle things with Bryson?"

89. Brayden nodded, confirming, "Seems like it She's been asking about him, I think she still wants to reconnect."

90. In that instant, Lydia seized Brayden's collar, demanding, "And what did you tell her?"

91. "Whoa, easy!" Brayden caught Lydia's hand, reassuring her.

92. A N G E L A ' s L I B R A R Y

93. "I told her Bryson was taken and that she should leave him be. She hasn't contacted me since."

94. Relieved, Lydia released her grip and told Brayden, "Well done. But know this. If you ever let her meet Bryson, we're through. Got it Witnessing his girlfriend's intense reaction, Brayden quipped, "You're not siding against me just to defend Hannah, are you?"

95. "It depends on how you act. Betray my friend, and I'll be your first enemy," she shot back.

96. That evening, they'd arranged to meet at a restaurant. Bryson arrived with Grace.

97. Upon spotting Lydia, Grace and she embraced warmly.

98. "So, you're off to Hojery as well? Fantastic! Let's travel together and surprise Hannah!"

99. Beaming, Grace took Lydia's arm.

100. "Absolutely, I've even got a present for her!"

101. The women conversed animatedly while Brayden and Bryson discussed Valmere's business landscape and the matrimonial schemes of the Mitchell family.

102. "The Mitchell family are insatiable. Even in their current prime position in Valmere, they're not content. They even want Grace to marry into another family!"

103. Annoyed, Brayden added, "Good thing I found out in time and thwarted that arrangement. Anger would have been pointless otherwise."

104. Glasses clinking, Bryson said with icy resolve, "They're spoiled by their success. If they dare repeat it, I'll show no mercy."

105.