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Chapter 137 Priceless Treasure

Belle was stunned by Ross' icy glare.

However, she was still not willing to give up. "Didn't you tell me that Natalie seduced you and stole your research? She dumped you and then went for other guys after taking advantage of you!"

Everyone looked at Natalie before turning to look at Ross, whose eyes narrowed. "I have never said that."

"Ross, you lied to me!" Belle's ankle was bleeding more and more heavily, but she could care less about it at the moment. "That's what you told me!"

"I have no idea what you're talking about. I never told you anything about that." Ross paused for a moment. His words took a drastic turn as he continued, "Besides, many years ago, you were the one who seduced me and stole my research! So how dare you accuse her of it now?"

Even though the Green family had used some money to cover up the incident, rumors inevitably got out, giving people some idea of the grudge between Belle and Ross.

When this past incident was brought up once more, everyone now recognized that the man standing in front of them was Ross Trevor, the genius medical professor whose career was once ruined by Belle.

"I already gave you five million! How could you do this to me, Ross?"

In order to bring down Natalie, Belle had been bribing Ross to collect information about her.

Ross laughed as if he had heard the funniest joke in his life. "Belle, what you owe me is way more than just that five million."

Belle's ankle was still throbbing in pain. However, she was holding onto hope that she would be able to accomplish her plans.

But now...

Her reputation was completely ruined, while Natalie was still unharmed.

Suddenly, she collapsed onto the floor. With her hair disheveled, she looked like an uncultured shrew.

Max couldn't bear it anymore. He said tiredly, "I won't look into today's incident since your grandfather was a good friend of mine. However, I do not wish to see you ever again. Mr. Timbber, get this woman out of the manor now!"

The butler nodded.

Belle was still kicking and screaming as she was being lifted out by two buff guys.

"Natalie, you will face the consequences for this one day! You will have bad karma for sure!"

Natalie sipped on her wine casually. This is karma. Enjoy the dose of your own medicine.

Shawn looked at Natalie and asked, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. This kind of misunderstanding is nothing to me." Natalie smiled brightly, her eyes narrowing into slits as a result.

"All right."

At that moment, the figure of a gentleman stood motionless in one of the corners of the banquet hall. It was none other than Samuel.

Ever since he first entered the hall, his gaze was solely fixated on the woman in white.

He had just returned from Loang and had received a countless number of Xavian's messages as soon as he landed.

The first few messages were just texts. However, the last message was a photo of Natalie from behind.

Xavian had secretly taken the photo while she was distracted.

However, in the photo, Samuel could see how the dress accentuated Natalie's slender neck and delicate back.

The mermaid tail design of the lower skirt complemented her curves and made them stand out even more.

At that moment, Samuel's heart skipped a beat.

He felt as if his prey was being targeted by other predators.

He had asked Billy to check Natalie's whereabouts and then to get an invitation letter to Max's birthday banquet.

He didn't expect to witness Natalie's shining moment right when he entered the manor.

He was worried that she might get bullied by the other women at the banquet. However, it seemed that she had retaliated well and handled herself perfectly.

No wonder she's the woman that I fancy. No matter how many times I look at her, she still looks like a priceless treasure. I can never get tired of the sight of her.

He had really missed her while they were apart.

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Chapter 138 Samuel Could Not Possibly Be Here

Natalie had no idea that there was a person watching her from afar.

All she knew at that moment was that she felt great.

She took another glass of wine from the waiter.

Raising her wine glass, she turned toward Ross, who stood a distance away from her in the middle of the crowd.

Their eyes met across the crowded room.

Ross' lips curled upwards. His eyes were full of gratitude and respect toward Natalie.

They exchanged a smile before Ross downed his red wine in one go.

Natalie followed suit and finished the wine in her glass.

This was her promise to Ross when she first joined Dream Company. At this banquet on this day, she finally lived up to the promise she made to him back then.

Max was not in the mood to join the birthday celebration anymore after Belle's incident, so he retired early to rest in his bedroom.

Natalie, meanwhile, fell back into her habit of drinking again.

She was a little dizzy after drinking too much.

"Mr. Watsons... I'm heading to the restroom." Natalie rubbed the temples of her head.

"Okay."

The moment she pushed open the restroom door, Natalie saw Melissa fixing her makeup.

Her stare moved briefly over Melissa.

They hadn't seen each other for five years, and Natalie still did not find Melissa pretty.

She and Yara looked beautiful because they had inherited their mother, Jennie's beauty.

Yvonne was considered a rather good-looking woman. However, Melissa had inherited Thomas' looks. As a result, her facial features were anything but exquisite.

Natalie turned on the tap as Melissa approached her with a buttered-up smile on her face.

"Ms. Nichols, what a coincidence! Both of our last names are Nichols."

Natalie pursed her lips and replied, "Are you going to say that my name is the same as someone you know next?"

Melissa was stunned.

"How... How did you know?"

"Isn't this how people strike up a conversation? It's not that difficult to guess." Natalie turned off the faucet and shifted her gaze onto a speechless Melissa.

Melissa stared into Natalie's eyes.

She had a feeling that this pair of eyes looked familiar; they reminded her of that woman's eyes. However, the woman in her memory didn't have such an overwhelming aura.

However, she felt somewhat self-conscious as Natalie stared at her.

With her head lowered, she turned and hastily went into one of the toilet compartments.

Natalie dried her hands and let out a snort.

The sixteen-year-old little girl who used to bully her elder sister from the countryside is such a coward now.

Natalie spotted a broom in the corner of the restroom.

She bent over to pick up the broom. Then, she placed it against the compartment door so that it couldn't be opened from the inside out before leaving without an ounce of hesitation.

After Melissa finished using the restroom, she tried to push open the door, but to no avail. Thus, she could only shout for help.

"Is there anyone outside? I'm locked inside! Please help me! Can anyone hear me?"

Natalie's lips curled into a smile when she heard Melissa begging for help.

Tsk, tsk, tsk... Why is she being such a baby? How is she going to deal with the other hurdles in her life?

Because she had drunk too much wine, her mind was beginning to get cloudy. Her eyes were fogged over, and she smiled like a kitten that had eaten too much cream.

She had barely taken a few steps when her gaze met a man's.

He was standing in the shadows of the corridor as he stared at her with his darkened eyes.

Samuel!

Natalie rubbed her eyes. She could not believe what she was seeing.

She had scanned through the guest list of the birthday banquet earlier. There weren't any Bowers on the list, so it was impossible for Samuel to have been invited.

He... He can't possibly be here.

"I... I must have seen things wrongly... My alcohol tolerance isn't great, but I drank so much..." Natalie murmured to herself.

As she was making fun of herself, a sudden force pulled her into the shadows.

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Chapter 139 Turning Misunderstanding Into Truth

The alcohol made Natalie's body feel hot.

Her eyes were half-lidded as she looked at the man in front of her. Her hands shifted upward, and she pinched Samuel's face forcefully.

"It doesn't hurt... I must be really drunk. Everything I'm seeing is just a hallucination..."

Samuel found the sight funny, but he also felt exasperated at the same time.

It was his face she was pinching. Even if she put all her strength into the pinch, it was obvious that she would not feel any pain.

His handsome face reddened. However, there was not a single hint of anger in his eyes. If anything, he looked a little curious and amused,

"Should I help you confirm if this is a hallucination?"

"Whatever," she slurred out. "Everything that I see when I'm drunk is all not real, anyway."

Her reply was exactly what the man wanted to hear.

Without any hesitation, he pressed his lips to hers.

He hadn't seen her in a long time, and he had never once contacted her while they were apart.

Since he stopped taking the initiative to contact her, she hadn't been contacting him either.

Samuel thought that he had left some traces in her heart. However, she never once attempted to get in touch with him, as if she didn't care about him at all.

However, he had missed her big-time.

After finally returning to his home country, all he saw was her wearing a gown that another man had gifted her, attending that man's family banquet.

Have I been too patient? Did I make her think wrongly that she's allowed to develop feelings for someone else?

The kiss was filled with a sense of punishment.

He was punishing her, but he was also taking the opportunity to relieve his desire for her.

"Mmph..."

It was at this moment that Natalie instantly sobered up.

I have downed quite a few glasses of wine, but I'm not drunk. This is not a hallucination. The man who is kissing me is Samuel. Samuel... is here.

Natalie struggled to push away the domineering man in front of her.

However, he had a strong physique, and she couldn't get away from him. Instead, her resistance made him grow even wilder.

This is crazy! What's more, I'm at the Watsons family's banquet! Even though people might not find out, I will not be able to explain myself if I get caught!

"S-Samuel, calm down..."

Natalie tried to pull away from the kiss, her words muffled by his mouth.

"If... If we get caught... It'll be hard for us to explain ourselves..."

Samuel stared at her.

"Why do we need to explain anything?"

"Huh?"

"It's not a misunderstanding. It never was." Samuel flashed her a devilish grin. "And even if it is, I'll find a way to cover it up."

Has he gone mad?

While Natalie was still dazed from confusion, Samuel kissed her once more.

Suddenly, a woman's voice could be heard calling out in the distance.

"Melissa..." Yvonne fretted. "What happened to her? Why is she taking such a long time in the restroom?"

Alarms went off in Natalie's head.

What do I do now?

She didn't know how to deal with this kind of situation.

Do I have to let Yvonne see me kissing Samuel?

"Don't panic," the man told her in a low voice.

Natalie desperately gasped for air as he continued kissing her.

Hmph! Easy for you to say!

Samuel took off his trench coat and held it up, effectively hiding Natalie's face. Then, he used his tall figure to shield her tiny body, completely towering over her.

"Hug me tightly if you don't want to be seen."

When Natalie didn't reply, Samuel retorted, "Do you want her to see your face that badly?"

Of course, Natalie didn't want to be caught. Gritting her teeth, she wrapped her arms around Samuel's muscular waist.

Yvonne noticed Samuel as she walked forward and eventually neared them.

Samuel was about 185cm tall. He stood in her way and blocked her view at the same time.

Yvonne wanted to identify the mystery woman by looking at her dress. However, the woman's whole figure was hidden behind Samuel's body and his trench coat.

Yvonne's mind went blank.

Yara hadn't joined the birthday banquet today. Naturally, the woman could not possibly her.

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Chapter 140 Vie For You

Yvonne wasn't Yara's biological mother.

Ever since she found out that Yara had given birth to a pair of twins for Samuel, she had been trying to butter up to Yara and please her.

She was waiting for Yara to marry into the Bowers family so that Melissa could reap the benefits of the resulting relations as well.

In all these years, even though Samuel didn't marry Yara, he didn't have any rumored girlfriends.

She had always thought that Yara would one day become the lady of the Bowers family. However, she had now caught Samuel making out with another woman.

Yvonne didn't budge an inch. She narrowed her eyes and got closer in an attempt to find out the identity of the woman with Samuel.

"How much longer are you going to stare for?"

"Samuel!" Yvonne smiled placatingly at him. "I didn't know that you were attending the banquet today. If I had known, I would have..."

"Who said you could call me by my name?"

His chest was still heaving and burning with desire, and his entire body was flaring up.

However, his voice was cold and deep, and his every word was squeezed out through gritted teeth.

Chills ran down Yvonne's spine.

"Get lost!" Samuel barked, briefly stunning the older woman.

When she didn't respond, he repeated, "I said, get lost!"

This time, his voice sounded even colder and more admonishing.

It was only then that Yvonne regained her composure. She ran away with her tail between her legs, completely forgetting the fact that she was supposed to look for Melissa.

Natalie, who was pressed up against Samuel's chest, could still feel her ears buzzing.

Even though she was not the one he had been yelling at, she was still shocked by the force of his words.

"Wasn't that a bit too much?" Natalie removed the trench coat from the top of her head, revealing her delicate face.

"I'm not in a good mood."

What is he mad about? I'm the one who should be in a bad mood.

Samuel didn't let go of Natalie. Instead, he raised her chin, forcing her to look at him.

His eyes darkened, and his voice became hoarse as he said, "Every normal guy would want to commit murder if he gets disturbed during what's supposed to be an exciting moment..."

Natalie's chin was held in place, and her gaze landed on his fingers.

"I don't care," she replied. "I've been gone for too long. Shawn must be looking for me."

Samuel narrowed his eyes dangerously.

"That young man from the Watsons family?"

"He's much more mature than you." Natalie threw him a glare. "At least, he would not kiss or bite me before asking for my permission."

Samuel gripped her chin even more tightly with his fingers, causing her to wince slightly.

"Remember: your lips are only allowed to be kissed by me. No one else."

Natalie reflexively wanted to deny it. Even though she had been abstinent all these years, that night six years ago, he had kissed her on not just her lips, but also on every other part of her body...

Otherwise, Clayton and Xavian would not exist.

However, she felt overwhelmed when her eyes met Samuel's burning gaze, and she found herself unable to argue with him.

Suddenly, he lowered his head and started gnawing at her neck.

There was a sharp pain where his teeth met her skin. Immediately after, Samuel pulled his mouth away and let go of her.

"I will wait for you at the manor's entrance."

"You-"

Natalie slapped a hand to her neck, infuriated.

She didn't need a mirror to know that he had left a hickey on her neck.

"It's a stamp." Samuel raised his brows as he continued, "This is a stamp to prove that you belong to me. No one else is allowed to vie for you. And if you don't want to keep covering the hickey on your neck, I can just take you back home."

He took back his trench coat, looking blissfully content as he walked away.