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Chapter 331 When the first sunray woke Natalie up the next morning, she wondered why she still felt heavy-headed after one night of rest.

She guessed it must be because she had a low tolerance for alcohol. Despite knowing she could not hold her liquor, she still went overboard.

She grunted in discomfort and turned aside. When she opened her eyes, she saw Samuel, dressed casually in his grey pajama. The fabric hung loosely from his shoulder, showing his muscular and defined chest. He was watching her when she woke up, lying on his side with his head rested on his hand.

Natalie was stunned when she saw him.

The way he was looking at her was as if he was considering how he should savor his dessert after a scrumptious meal.

Natalie found herself at a loss for words.

She looked away, but Samuel grabbed her chin and turned her face toward him.

"Why can't you look me in the eyes?" he asked.

"It's not that I can't," she said, gazing at him. "I'm just not used to it."

"Well, get used to it then."

Natalie was thinking about how she should answer him when Samuel pulled his sleeping gown backward, showing more of his torso.

What is he doing? Natalie's gaze trailed down from his shoulder to his chest, and then his abs. She could tell from his build that he worked out a lot. While she was wondering why he was showing her this, Samuel took her hand and placed it on his chest. The heat from his body radiated on her cold palm the moment they touched. Things suddenly became tense between the two of them, but Samuel was still able to command the situation. It turned out that he could be patient if he wanted to. He guided her hand along his body slowly. "Now, go down a little "S-Stop," Natalie stuttered, her cheeks suddenly turning red and hot. "I don't want—" "But I want to. A teasing smirk broke out on his lips when he saw signs of embarrassment on her face. His grip tightened as he led her downward, stopping at the deep grooves of his Apollo's belt.

"W-What are you doing?" she stammered frantically. He did not move an inch. Natalie could feel his robust and strong muscles underneath her skin. It was obvious that he had the perfect body shape all men coveted. Natalie held her breath. She dared not think about what would come next. She knew he had run his lips over every inch of her body, yet he did not push for the last act. She could tell that he had restrained himself with all his might, but still, Natalie felt nervous thinking about what would happen if they stayed this way. Her heart fluttered in messy beats, but she was not the only one who was nervous. In fact, Samuel was even edgier as the tension intensified. He knew that he wanted her badly, but he reminded himself that she was still having a hangover. He reckoned that she would be too weak for any intense sports. Samuel curbed his impulses and did not bring things further.

Taking a deep breath, he pulled her hand away and straightened his gown. "I made some soup for you. It should help with your hangover. Do you want to have some?" Natalie nodded. She sat up and rested against a pillow on the bed as he passed her a thermos. She opened it and started taking small sips. The warm drink made her feel energized and well again. When she was finally done, Samuel bent over to wipe away the stain on her lips. "So, didn't you say you were going to give me an explanation yesterday?" "Well, I came to know Christopher when I was trying to win the bid for the dragonblood fruit at the auction. He was the one who directed me to the Todds at Livingsfill," she recounted. "So in a sense, I owe him one. That's why I agreed to celebrate his birthday with him. I wanted to return this favor." She stopped and looked at him earnestly. She added, "I really didn't know what he thought about me before that. I swear I don't have any feelings for him." Indeed, Natalie was not someone who would fall for a man easily, but when she did, she would never change her mind. Now that she explained herself, Samuel was confident that she was telling the truth. However, there were still things that he was apprehensive about. "Nat, you need to stay away from him," he said severely. "It's fine if his feelings for you are genuine, but I'm just afraid that he's using you as bait against me. He knows how much you mean to me. So I'm sure he's thinking of using you as a pawn."

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Am I..." Natalie probed unsurely, "this important to you?"

"Yes." Samuel caressed her face tenderly. "In fact, many people out there are aware that you are my weak spot, and I foresee more people will know about it in the future," he explained. "Those people who can't compete with me on ground level will turn to you. This means you might be in danger because of me," he added.
It would be good for Samuel if he did not have someone he loved dearly, but now that Natalie had taken a significant part in his heart, she would be his Achilles heel.
Samuel's enemies would readily turn to her and do harm to her just to get back at him.
"Are you afraid?" he asked.
Natalie shook her head before circling her arms around his waist. "There's no point in letting fear get to me. Besides, I doubt you would let me go even if I said I was."
"That's true indeed."
Samuel nodded lightly and pulled her against him tightly as if he wanted to become one with her.
"It's my birthday next month," he reminded her.
"What do you want for your birthday?"

Natalie felt excited. She told herself that she had to give him a birthday surprise that he would remember for the rest of his life. "I want you for my birthday." He inhaled deeply, enjoying her scent. "I don't need or want anything else." "You want a person for your birthday?" "Exactly," he reiterated. "How can someone sound so confident when saying something so absurd?" "Well, I'm simply asking for a birthday present. It's only natural that I'm going to sound determined." He chuckled. "By the way, I'm always confident." He looked at her and felt a yearning for her again. He tilted her chin and kissed her passionately without leaving any corner of her mouth untouched. She tasted so sweet and soft that the more he kissed her, the more he wanted her. When they finally broke apart, the two panted heavily, gasping for air. Natalie stood up quickly and went on to have breakfast to run away from him. After having breakfast, the two went their separate ways. Samuel went on to Centurion Corporation while Natalie headed over to Dream.

In the past, Natalie would only go to the company once or twice a month, but now that the company had to expand its business, and that it was in a full-fledged competition with Dexmed Pharmaceutical, she dived right into work and even stayed at her office for days. Over in the office, Natalie sat on the padded armchair while Yandel made himself comfortable on a plastic chair. The six-foot-tall man sat at one corner of the office table as he worked away. Natalie felt bad looking at him. "Yandel, why don't we change seats?" "It's fine," Yandel said, rubbing his butt. "You can have that chair, Boss. I prefer the plastic one. It's better for my posture." Natalie looked at him, wondering if she should insist. "All right, then." She was well aware that there was no way a plastic chair would be more comfortable than a sofa chair. Her heart warmed knowing that Yandel was showing her a gesture of kindness. Seeing Yandel working with Natalie in the same office, Ross eventually came over to work with them at the same table as well.

Natalie glanced left and right at the two men. She felt grateful for them for showing her moral support. Their unwavering loyalty gave her more motivation to work hard in order to lead the team and the company to greater heights. Regardless, lethargy kicked in after the three worked for some time. Natalie stood up to have a stretch and went out of the office. Her appearance made many other female employees jealous because she got to work with Yandel and Ross in close proximity. They actually had no idea who Natalie really was. In fact, Yandel, his secretary, and Ross were the only ones who knew about it. When Jasmine saw Natalie, she clenched her fists in anger and jealousy. Jasmine Olson was a young lady in her 20s. She graduated from Dellmoor University with a double Master's degree in finance and computer science. Not only was she highly educated, but she was also attractive and elegant. She had worked for the CEO for about half a year and had since grown fond of Yandel. However, the latter did not seem to take notice of her sentiment. He would not even look at her except for when they were talking about work. At first, she wondered why Yandel was so cold to her, but after observing him for some time, she realized that this was how he treated other people as well, so she thought she still had a chance. But everything changed when Natalie came into the equation. She would stay in the office with Yandel for more than ten hours, and everyone who went into the CEO's office to report on their work all came back saying that the CEO seemed to be very attentive to this woman. In fact, it was as if everything he did revolve around her. Jasmine fumed with rage thinking about what Yandel and Natalie would do behind closed doors. The thought of them being lovey-dovey toward each other made her go crazy. Now that there were only Natalie and her in the

corridor, Jasmine went over to confront her. "What are you doing with Mr. Moss every time you're in his office? Don't you think it's inappropriate for you to stay inside for that long? Do you even know what people are talking about you guys? I don't care about your image at all, but you need to think of Mr. Moss and the company at least."

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Chapter 333 Natalie was still stretching when she heard a woman speak. She turned and saw a young woman dressed in a white sweater and a brown skirt.

Under a closer look, the woman's features looked exquisite and her make-up was on point too. She was the kind of woman whom everyone would pay attention to, but the conspicuous jealousy on her face made her expression look distasteful. It ruined her beauty.

Seeing that Natalie did not take her seriously, Jasmine became incensed. "Mr. Moss and Dream have had a good track record over the past years. There has been no scandal at all, so I hope you know your place and stop trying to get Mr. Moss' attention by being clingy. Even if you're able to make it to his bed, you're not a worthy candidate for him."

Natalie was appalled. Never had she ever thought about Yandel in such a manner, but Jasmine simply approached her and assumed the worst of her.

What? Yandel and I together? What's wrong with her?

Natalie did not find it funny at all. On the contrary, she felt offended for no good reason.

She cocked her head and narrowed her eyes at Jasmine. "Just what kind of a woman do you take me for? We are not the only two people who are in the office. Ross is in there as well, or do you think we are having a threesome?" Natalie's crude remarks shocked Jasmine, and her face paled. It was not that she did think about the possibility of the three of them doing something scandalous, but to have Natalie say it all out so blatantly without even feeling ashamed was too much for her. "Mind your language, would you? How shameless could you be?" "Ah, so it's not dirty for you to think about it, but it is for me to say it out loud?" Natalie scoffed. "You sounded as if you have the well-being of the company at

heart. Now that I think about it, I believe Dream is fortunate to have a thoughtful employee like you, but I think it's too hypocritical of you to try to ward me off from Yandel using the company as an excuse." Jasmine was aghast when Natalie exposed her true motivation. "Fine! I admit that I like Mr. Moss, but is there anything wrong with that?" she shouted back, clenching her fists. "I'm better than you by a hundred times, and yet he never looked at me. He's totally different around you. How is that even possible? Do you even know how hard I worked just to get into this company and work for him? I put up with so many difficulties just to reach where I am today."

Jasmine knew she should not be saying this, but she liked Yandel so much that when she saw him together with another woman, she just could not hold back the fury boiling in her heart. "So," Natalie concluded, "does that mean that you would admit your defeat and accept the reality if I were prettier than you?" Jasmine felt threatened. Natalie continued, "It seems like all you care about is someone's looks, status, and education. If this is how classist and judgmental you are, I don't think you're fit to work at Dream or even love Yandel. I want your resignation letter on the office table right now. It seems to me that your values do not align with the company's. This place is not suitable for you." Jasmine knew she was in the wrong and that she was being too rash, but she was not willing to leave just like that.

"Who do you think you are? Why must I do as you say?" she challenged. "You will do as she said. And I will see to it that everything she said is done." To Jasmine's surprise, Yandel appeared from behind her. He directed his cold stare at Jasmine as he spoke. "Mr. Moss!" she cried out in disbelief. "I-I," she stuttered, biting her lips, "I don't mean it. I was beside myself and said something silly. It's not like I made a grave mistake." "You offended the wrong person. It would have been better if the person you challenged was me." Yandel spoke slowly before pointing at Natalie. "You shouldn't have said that to her." Unlike his usual self when he was with Natalie, Yandel was strict and severe with his warning. "You should be grateful that she's asking you to resign on your own because if I were her, I would have fired you right away."

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Chapter 334 Jasmine could not understand what was going on.

She had worked diligently and committed herself to Dream Corporation over the years, she could not believe that she was about to lose her job because of a woman, what was more, the man she liked dismissed her because of said woman.

"Why?" she questioned, sobbing. "I didn't do anything wrong. Why must you do this to me?"

"Why?" Yandel repeated her question, his tone dripping with sarcasm. He looked at the tearful lady from the corner of his eyes. "Our company doesn't need people who don't even know their mistakes."

He then took out his phone and sent an audio message to his secretary.

"Calvin, there is a woman who is crying in the corridor. I need you to come over and process her resignation now."

With that, he turned toward Natalie without even looking at Jasmine.

The frown on his forehead dissipated and a smile emerged. "I've already ordered some bagels and beef soup from Acapella. I don't think you should be having milk tea. Some pear juice will be better for you. I'm going to get Calvin to get you some."

Natalie simply smiled silently. She was already used to Yandel taking care of her.

Their interaction exasperated Jasmine. Yandel had always been serious and rigid whenever he was working. He was not a man of many words, but he talked a lot when he was with Natalie. He was sensitive to her needs and saw to it that she had the best. Jasmine did not know what spell Natalie had Yandel under, but she knew that she was no match for Natalie. In the end, she could only watch them leave for the office without being able to utter a word. After Natalie and Yandel closed the door behind them, Natalie sighed. "Actually, you don't have to be that harsh toward her. She will be scarred for life. I think asking her to hand in her resignation letter will do." "We both know what she said was unacceptable, so there is no point in trying to be nice," Yandel replied. "Now that I know she has such unkind thoughts about her superiors, I will not let her stay in this company. Besides, I will never allow someone to talk to you like that. You might be okay with it, but I'm not." True that Natalie nodded, sipping from her glass of pear juice. Her remarks were an affront to Yandel. She overstepped his bottom line, so there was no way Yandel would go easy on her. Well, too bad for her. She should know that not everyone is high-profile like her. She would never have imagined that someone ordinary could turn out to be someone who could completely upend her life. "Speaking of, are you really not going to care about Amelia anymore?" she asked, blinking her eyes. "She's almost eighteen already. Are you really willing to let a girl you brought up hang around with other men?" Yandel's face became gloomy when he heard her name. "Stop making fun of me. She is not someone I can afford to date." "So you're just going to give up?" Natalie challenged. "You know I'm totally capable of making sure that she won't see

anyone for three years. You can work on yourself for three years and then marry her after that." "Boss!"

"What?" Natalie joked. "Do you want me to introduce her to Jerome then?" Yandel fell into silence. "Please do." Amelia was his most precious treasure. Although she was like a taboo to Yandel, Natalie still did not expect him to be so stubborn even after her entreat. She wanted to persuade him again, but on second thought, she decided to let the poor man off the hook. They continued working and were busy until about nine in the evening. Yandel drove Natalie home, while the latter sat in the back of the car, dozing off. Screech! A piercing noise suddenly jerked her awake. Yandel went all out on his brake and the wheels let out a harsh sound. Fortunately, Natalie had her seatbelt on. She would have hit her head against the headrest if she had not. "What happened, Yandel?"

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Chapter 335 Yandel punched the steering wheel, exclaiming, "Just some woman walking her dog, and the dog ran in front of the car. Gosh, people these days are so non-civic minded."

"Are you okay?" Natalie asked, leaning forward.

"I'm fine, don't worry," he answered, glaring at the woman in front of their car.

Despite Yandel's compelling glare, the woman refused to walk away with her dog. Yandel was on the verge of losing his temper.

"What is wrong with her? It's raining, but she's not even using an umbrella." Yandel was about to get out of the car to teach the woman, who was out with her unleashed dog, a good lesson when Natalie stopped him.

"Wait."

"Hm?"

"Remember to be gentle," she reminded with a cheeky smile. "You'll know who she is when you see her."

A sly smile curved on Natalie's lips.

Yandel could instantly tell that things were not as straightforward as they seemed. "Who is she? Do you know her?" "Well," Natalie answered with a smile, rubbing her chin, let's just say she's my sister from another mother." Yandel was caught off guard. He did not expect the woman to be Natalie's sibling. He had no idea what Natalie was trying to do, but he did as he was told. After he got out of the car, he went over and talk to the woman patiently. "Miss, are you okay?" Melissa looked up in rage. She was furious because she thought the Maybach driver was being unreasonable. She thought he must be an ugly man since he did not even seem to care about animals. However, she was amazed the moment she set her eyes on Yandel. Her jaw dropped when she saw the man who was dressed in a dark grey trench coat. He was six feet tall and had a strapping figure. Not only was he handsome, but he also gave off a vibe of nobility and refinement. Wow. He reminds me of Samuel. She had never seen someone as attractive as him.

When Yandel realized the girl was drooling over him, he almost rolled his eyes. But knowing that Natalie was still waiting for him in the car, he continued to behave gentlemanly. "Excuse me, miss?" It took a while before Melissa snapped back to reality. "Oh! I'm fine. So is my dog," she replied hastily, shying away from his gaze. "I'm sorry, Luna just ran into the road." Yandel had no patience for wishy-washy people. He was put off the moment he heard Melissa whining, but he reminded himself to be polite for Natalie's sake. "I'm Yandel Moss," he said, taking out his name card from his pocket and passing it to her. "Feel free to give me a call if you find that you're hurt after going home."

Melissa took it and marveled at the black card with gold prints on it. Yandel Moss, CEO of Dream Corporation. No wonder I can tell he's different. He's already the CEO of a company at such a young age. "I'll see you around, then." Yandel put a quick end to their unpleasant encounter and went right back to his Maybach. He hit the pedal and sped off. Meanwhile, Melissa was still lost in her own world. She held her white dog in her arms without taking her eyes off Yandel's name card. Her heart beat rapidly as she thought about him. "Did you hear his name, Luna? Yandel Moss. It's such a nice name. What do you think about him? Why did he give me his name card the first time we met? Do you think he fell for me at first sight?" Melissa caressed her dog as she showered it with questions. "Remember how Mom always talks about Natalie marrying a successful man like Samuel? Well, I can marry a CEO too! I will own Dream Corporation one day." The white poodle had no idea what the young woman was saying, but it wagged its tail excitedly and barked. "Do you really think so, Luna?" A wide smile spread on Melissa's face.

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Chapter 336 Back in the Maybach, Natalie was having a good time teasing Yandel.

"I saw everything back there. I bet she's head over heels for you. She ce won't be able to sleep tonight. She might even put your name card unde her pillow."	_

Yandel frowned. His heart was in a mess. This was not what he wanted.

"Boss, you know I'm willing to do anything for you, but this is just too much. How could you sacrifice me and ask me to seduce her?"

"You must use everything within your capacity to your advantage. I'm sure she will contact you sooner or later. She might even text you tonight. I bet she will add you on WhatsApp."

Despite all her teasing, Yandel knew Natalie had a plan, but still, thinking about Melissa's reaction made him cringe.

"So what should I do if she reaches out to me?" he asked.

"Just be passive. Don't initiate anything, but don't turn her down either. You're not responsible for anything."

"So in essence, you want me to be a jerk."

"Bingo," Natalie exclaimed. "She's Thomas' second favorite after Yara. She might be able to be of help to us in the future." Natalie stopped and thought about the past. "My mum misjudged Thomas. He turned out to be the very person who snatched Dexmed Pharmaceutical from Granddad, but I'm sure he had help from someone on the outside. Dream's rise is a threat to Dexmed Pharmaceutical, but it's still not enough to shake its core. As long as the person who supported him last time is still standing by him, Dellmoor and Chanaea will still be his turfs. There is a lot more going on underneath the superficial competition between Dexmed Pharmaceutical and Dream. This is also why although Dream has carved out a niche for itself as a leading company in Dellmoor, it has yet to challenge

Dexmed Pharmaceutical directly." Dexmed Pharmaceutical was not the formidable enemy Natalie was worried about. It was the person who had been aiding Thomas all this while that she targeted. "I see." Yandel finally understood the gravity of the issue The rest of the journey to the Bowers residence was spent in silence. Yandel was curious about why things seemed to be progressing swiftly between Natalie and Samuel, but he respected Natalie too much to pry into her private life. It appeared to him that Natalie was in a serious relationship with Samuel. When they arrived at the Bowers residence, Natalie got off immediately, hoping to get some rest. However, before she could even go back to her room, she saw a familiar figure on the couch in the living area.

Samuel sat directly under the chandelier, allowing sprinkles of light to fall generously on his dark green sleeping gown. He was in his element reading from a book in his hands. Natalie sucked in a breath of air at the sight. Anyone would fall for a man like this. Come to think of it, I should probably sign him up as one of the celebrities under Dream Entertainment. I will be able to profit so much from him. Natalie changed into her pair of indoor sandals and walked quietly toward Samuel. "I'm back," she said, throwing her arms wide open. Instead of standing up and hugging her, Samuel looked up and tugged her arm, pulling her down and right into his embrace. When Natalie came back to her senses again, she was already sitting on his lap, straddling him as he held her tight in his arms. "You finally remember me?" he whispered in her ears. "Is your job more interesting than me?" It sounded to Natalie as if he was complaining. "Well, I can't tell which is more interesting, but you're definitely more understanding than my job. I know you won't get angry just because I'm busy with work." Samuel chuckled. Natalie never failed to surprise him. She was shrewd at work and witty in real life. She grew on him the longer they were together. In fact, he found himself increasingly attracted to her charm. "Are you hungry?" he asked. "A little." she said with a nod. "Let me go see if there's any pre-packed food I can heat up." "Those are no good," he said, letting her go before standing up. "I'll make you something."

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Chapter 337 Since Samuel had already asked the other housekeepers to leave, he rolled up his sleeves and got ready to cook. He did not even ask Gavin to help.

He slipped a bright yellow apron on and started preparing food in the kitchen, while Natalie watched him from the kitchen entrance.

Samuel was a man at the helm at his company. He was widely respected at work for being a firm and decisive leader. Natalie appreciated his willingness to make food for her on his own.

It was not easy making gazpacho. He had to get all the ingredients and spices ready before putting them into the food processor.

His hands moved adroitly as he cut up the tomatoes, garlic, and onions.

Soon enough, the smell of delicious broth spread through the kitchen.

Natalie had never expected she would meet someone who love her so dearly. She had always thought that her life would be a long journey of strife.

Her heart was full as she watched Samuel move around in the kitchen.

After a while, Samuel came over with a bowl of soup in his hands.

"Here. Try some."

"Thanks." Natalie nodded and picked up the spoon. The texture of the soup was fine and delicate, while the bread crumbs were crunchy. The base had a delicious and refreshing taste. These spoonfuls of goodness were enough to drive the fatigue that she felt from work away. "It's tasty!" "I'm glad you like it," Samuel replied. Natalie smiled as she put a piece of bread chunk in her mouth. She passed the spoon to Samuel, beckoning him to have some too, but he did not take the spoon from her. "This is faster." Before she could say anything, Samuel had already bent over and bit the other end of the bread chunk in her mouth. He was so close to her that their nose tips touched as both of them chewed the food. Their eyes met Natalie knew he was trying to mess with her.

It was true that she was enjoying the food, but Samuel seemed more like he was enjoying her. Natalie's eyes widened when he suddenly came forward. He could very well eat from the bowl, but he choose not to. "Does it taste better with my saliva?" she asked, staring at him. "Yes." He nodded and smiled. Natalie did not want to incite anything. After all, she knew this bowl of gazpacho would be left cold if they were to start anything now. As such, she quickly looked away and finished off her food. Samuel sat on the chair opposite her and rested his head on his fist as he gazed at her. She gets shy every time I tease her. Little did Natalie know that the more she shied away from him, the more exciting things became for him. He felt an unquenchable impulse to corner her into a tight spot every time she behaved like this.

Samuel was not a man of passions, but he simply could not seem to keep his hands off her whenever she was around. After she finished, he stuck up his hand to wipe away the stains of food on her lips. Natalie evaded his gaze as her cheeks turn red. She didn't know exactly how to react to receiving so much attention from him.NO Samuel smiled and planted a kiss between her brows. "You don't have to be so nervous," he said with a low laugh. "It's not my birthday yet." Natalie looked into his eyes and bit her lip. She would never say yes Over on the other side of the town, Melissa was on cloud mine as she went home with her dog. A sweet smile was carved on her face as she recalled what happened between her and Yandel. "Dad, Mom, I'm back!" she reported in excitement when she saw Thomas and Yvonne, but to her surprise, her parents did not seem to be in a good mood. They were talking about work. Since Melissa could not make sense of what they were discussing, she sat on the couch and played with her dog as she thought about what happened earlier on. She even imagine that she would one day become Yandel's wife. "Dream Pharmaceutical slashed their product price by ten percent. They are obviously challenging us," Thomas seethed as he puffed his cigar. "Who do you think you are, Yandel Moss? Do you know who you're dealing with?"

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Chapter 338 Just As You Said

"Don't get so worked up." Yvonne coaxed her husband.

Although she was already a middle-aged woman, she still looked young and beautiful thanks to her meticulous skincare routine, but despite all this, she was still no match for Jennie.

Jennie was both talented and dashing. She was known throughout Dellmoor for her beauty, but Yvonne outdid Jennie with her evil scheme. She won Thomas' heart and eventually forced Jennie away. Everything ended badly when Jennie had to leave with her newborn baby girl for the village not long after she gave birth.

"I thought we already poached a few people from Dream?" Yvonne asked, patting Thomas' chest. "Dream is facing some problems, this is why they have to lower their price."

Thomas blew a mouthful of smoke. "Well, those people are not even that good. They are making a lot of demands."
"What they want is nothing compared to what we have. Everybody knows we are the juggernaut in the pharmaceutical industry. Dexmed Pharmaceutical has you at the helm. That Yandel guy is not your rival."
Thomas felt better listening to her praises.
"You know just what I want to hear," he teased.
"Hey, Melissa's still here."
Melissa had been listening to his parents' conversation the moment she heard Yandel's name. She was listening so attentively that she did not even realize that the poodle had already broken free from her.
"Dad, Mom, Mr. Moss is not as bad as you guys said he is!" she retorted.
"What do you know? Are you going to wait till Dexmed Pharmaceutical goes down to realize how cunning he is? You only know about your luxury bags," Thomas berated.

"He—"
"What did he do?"
Melissa initially wanted to tell Thomas that she had fallen for Yandel, but when she saw her father's face, she swallowed her words.
"It's nothing," she said, faking a yawn. "I'm tired. I'll go rest first."
"Go on then."
Melissa dashed upstairs without knowing that Yvonne knew she was hiding something.
Thomas might not have realized that, but the girl's mother definitely saw through her. She conjectured that something must have happened between Yandel and her daughter.
After Melissa went to her room, she closed the door behind her and threw herself on her bed.
She took out the name card, looking at it closely.
Yandel is not as bad as Dad said. He's handsome, gentle, and rich. To Melissa, he was just as good as Samuel.
She had given him her heart and there was no taking it back.

He introduced himself and even gave me his name card.
I should give him something in return too.
I have to do something. I need to contact him because if I don't, there is no point in him liking me. It's not like he can find me in this big city.
With that thought in her head, Melissa took out her phone and made a call.
The call was taking a long time to get through.
Just as Melissa was about to give up, someone picked up.
"Yes?"
Melissa's heart skipped a beat when he heard Yandel's voice.
"Hi," she said nervously, "it's me. You gave me your name card earlier on. I just arrived home. I believe I haven't told you my name."
"You're quite right."
"Melissa," she said immediately. She did not tell him her family name because she was afraid he would not like the fact that she was one of the Nichols.

"That's a nice name," Yandel said slowly. "It's a suitable name for someone like you."
"Are you on WhatsApp? Can I add you?"
Yandel was at a loss for words.
Everything happened just as Boss said.
This girl really acts on her feelings. I wasn't expecting her to call this soon.
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When Melissa heard a long pause from the other end of the phone call, she suddenly realized she was being too pushy.
"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to sound overly eager."
"Oh, it's fine," Yandel quickly replied. "You can find me on WhatsApp using this phone number."
"Really?" Melissa leaped in thrill. So it's not just me! He likes me too!

"Yeah. I'll be waiting."
Yandel suddenly got goosebumps, but it was not like he had a choice. He was commissioned to do this, so he could only continue the awkward conversation.
He could not help but wonder how two siblings could be so different.
Meanwhile, Melissa was so engrossed in her happiness that she had no idea what Yandel was thinking.
After they ended the call, Melissa immediately added him on WhatsApp. When she saw that Yandel read her message immediately, she felt all fuzzy within.
"I'm sure he likes me. I will date him once he professes his love to me. Wait, should I play hard-to-get?"
Melissa let her thoughts run wild. She did not sense her mother walking into her room.

"Melissa, who are you talking about? Is it Yandel Moss of Dream Corporation?" Yvonne heard everything she said.
Melissa jumped the moment she heard someone's voice. "Mom! What are you doing here?"
"Answer me."
"Yes" she said softly. "Mom, I know what I felt. I'm sure he has feelings for me too."
Yvonne was way more experienced and careful than Melissa.
"Tell me what happened."
Melissa told her everything from the start. A smile gradually curved on Yvonne's lips as she listened to her daughter, but she was not aware that Melissa was recounting the whole encounter through rose-tinted glasses.
There were elements of exaggeration, and Melissa's own feelings clouded her judgment.
"It seems like he really likes you."
"I know right, Mom. I take after you, so there is no way he won't fall for me," she said confidently. "But I feel like Dad doesn't like him."

Yvonne laughed. "It will be great if you can marry him. Then, you will have both Dexmed Pharmaceutical and Dream. You will get the best of both worlds. I can't wait for that to happen. Don't worry. I will persuade your dad."
Melissa nodded in all seriousness.
Yvonne stroked her daughter's cheeks fondly. She was genuinely happy for her.
Over the past twenty years, she had been doing everything she could to drive a wedge between Yara and Jennie, but she did not manage to completely sway Yara to her side. Although Yara respected her, she was still not Yvonne's own child, so they were not very close.
Yvonne figured that she should place her bets on Melissa instead.
So, it was a night of celebration for the mother and daughter.
A few days elapsed in normalcy. One evening, Ross was sending Natalie home after work when he saw from the rearview mirror that a motorbike was tailing them.
"I think someone is following us," he said.
Natalie looked sideways as if she was thinking about something.
"More like someone has been following us," she corrected. "I think it started the day before yesterday."

Ross became worried. "Do you think Yandel and I should look into it?"

"It's okay. I don't think the person behind them is anyone significant judging from how bad of a work they're doing," Natalie said with a laugh. "In fact, I think I know who sent them."

Ross felt relieved when he saw that Natalie was confident of her judgment. She had always been wise and sensible.

The sky was getting dark. The light from the lamp posts illuminated Natalie's face. She looked out the window and her face hardened.

I reckoned only Yara could do this.

No. I'm sure that it's her.

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Chapter 340 Uncanny Deaths

As time went on and the people kept following them, Ross began to feel unsettled despite how Natalie assured him that it was no big deal.

"Are you really just gonna let them be?

"Yeah," Natalie said, retracting her gaze. "I'll take a nap, Ross. I'm a little tired."

She rested her face on her hand and closed her eyes, dismissing the people behind their car.

Ross looked at her sleeping soundly from the rearview mirror. He found it funny that she could still be at peace in this situation.
This was the first time he met someone who was able to hold her calm like this.
In hindsight, Ross had grown to respect Natalie more after working for her for so long. She was the one who extended hope to him, pulled him out from his aimless life, and gave him a job at Dream Pharmaceutical. If it were not for her, he would still be drinking and smoking, closing himself up in his room like a useless person.
Because of this, he was grateful and protective of Natalie. He would readily put up a fight if anyone crossed Natalie.
After Natalie knew that Yara had been keeping tabs on her, she stopped going to Dream. She communicated her work either through phone or email.
Dream was an ambitious and promising company, but it still did not have a long history. Since it did not have a legacy to fall back on, the company still lacks the substance to face its competitors head-on.

The Nichols were not Natalie's real enemies. That family was already on the decline. Rather, Natalie was trying to get to the person who caused her grandfather and her mother's deaths. Their departures were too sudden. Thomas and Yvonne were merely that person's puppets, and Natalie would not have known about it if she had not come across the letter when she was going through her mother's stuff.

In the letter, her mother expressed her regret of falling in love with the wrong person. She warned Natalie to be low profile with her medical knowledge and asked her to live a quiet life in the village.

Because of this letter, Natalie realized that their deaths were uncanny.

She sorted out everything after her mother's passing and went to Dellmoor to look for the Nichols family, but to her dismay, the family did not welcome her at all.

She did not have a good time with her family, and Dream was all she had. As such, she did not want to reveal herself too early.

Since she did not go to Dream Corporation, she spent her time doing some research on dissection at the Major Crimes Unit.

Effie was beyond to see Natalie. She followed her around, refusing to leave her alone. She was with her at the cafeteria and was even reluctant to part ways with her after work.

"What do you feel like having, Boss?" she asked Natalie, flashing her a big smile. "I want to have a meal with you."

"You know what," Natalie said, "your grandpa keeps asking me to introduce someone to you."

"Oh, don't bother," Effie replied with her lips downturned. "He has nothing better to do. He keeps insisting on setting me up with someone else. Of course, I wouldn't be that reluctant if those men were as good as you."
Natalie smiled, shaking her head.
"Do you love me that much?"
"Of course!" Effie said without even thinking. "you should find yourself a man who admires you as much as I do."
"All right. I'll tell Mr. Jones to look for someone just like me."
"Thanks!"
The two chatted as they headed to a shopping mall for dinner.
Effie worked in the Forensic Department after she graduated. Given the nature of her work, she was not very street smart. As such, she did not realize that a man was following them. Natalie, on the other hand, noticed the man a long time ago. She felt he was getting a little too close, but she did not react.
After dinner, she wiped her mouth and told Effie she was going to the restroom.
When she was leaving, she saw the man following her. When he was about three meters away from her, she slowed down intentionally. Her body was tense as she got ready to fight.