A Spoonful of Sugar: Don't Beg for Love By Oopsie Daisy

Chapter 331

"I really meant it!" Hesper said. "I promise that I won't marry anyone else."

"Then what about Daddy? Will you marry him?"

Hesper was tongue-tied. Perhaps in Renfrew's world, getting married was about two adults living under the same roof. However, more often than not, adults had to consider a lot of things

Besides, even if she did marry again, it would never be to Rickard.

Renfrew seemed to be able to understand what she was trying to say. He nodded understandingly and sighed. "Alright, I get it. I'll stop bothering you then, Mommy. You can get back to your work."

When Nathaniel walked over, Renfrew released Hesper's arm and ran away. Hesper locked at Nathaniel with an embarrassed expression on her face and said, 'Renfrew is still a kid. There are a lot of things he doesn't understand, so I hope you won't take it to heart."

Nathaniel shook his head and grinned, understanding lighting up in his beautiful eyes. Honestly, didn't get to hear your conversation, but I can more or less guess what you guys were talking about... Anyway, don't worry about it. I won't take it to heart."

"Thank you." Hesper heaved out a sigh of relief. Even though she knew that Nathaniel was just taking care of her feelings because he was that kind of person, she still felt relieved

"Is there something you want to see me about?" Nathaniel asked.

It was only then Hesper recalled what she came to Nathaniel for. She took a breath and asked To Seth your biological brother?"

"Why do you ask?"

Biting her lips, Hesper hemmed and hawed for a moment before continuing. This accident happened right after he called me. I don't know what happened, but he was asking me to meet him at his restaurant through the phone."

Nathaniel frowned a little, and Hesper moved on. "I thought it was strange too at that time After all, we had only met once, but I still decided to meet him at the appointed time

out of curiosity lost my consciousness as soon as I stepped into the restaurant. When I woke up again, the killer was standing next to me."

Nathaniel nodded. "This may be very important evidence, but Seth isn't in the country right now So it's unlikely that he'd ask you to meet with him. I'm sure you know the situation in my family. right? There aren't many descendants left in my generation. Seth is the son of one of my uncles and just like me... His parents died when he was young, so I took care of him growing up

"He isn't in the country?"

This was something out of Hesper's expectation. Initially, she was somewhat suspicious of Seth After all, she was pretty certain that it was that killer who called her twice.

Besides, judging from the fact that the killer refused to show his face, she was confident that she must have met the killer before with another identity. Not only that, but there was also a mole on the killer's face, and there were not many people who could match this condition.

"Are there any chances that he has already come back?"

Even though she knew it was not good for her to suspect someone else's brother like that, she believed that Nathaniel would not hold a grudge against her and would never suspect anyone out

of thin air.

Just as she expected, Nathaniel did not get angry. He just fell silent for a moment before pulling his phone out and making a video call.

Very soon, the call connected and Seth's voice rang out from the other side of the line. "Nate? What's the matter? Why did you suddenly call me at a time like this? I still have a class to attend later."

Hesper did not show herself in the videl call, but she was very familiar with Seth's voice. She turned her head over and saw that Seth was walking along a tree-lined street with books in his arms. There were students with golden hair and blue eyes passing him from time to time as well.

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It was afternoon there. Before Nathaniel could say anything, a girl's voice rang out as she called

out to Seth. Seth turned his head around and said something to her.

"Have you had a chance to come back to the country recently?" Nathaniel asked.

Seth was confused as he replied, his voice full of bewilderment, "Why would I go back? My schedule is packed here, and I'm sure that you know I'm graduating next year, right?"

Hesper entered the camera and looked at Seth beside Nataniel.

"Ms. Rivera?"

That was how the killer addressed her that night. However, their voices and tone were different, and there was no mole under Seth's eyes after Hesper studied him.

"I don't mean to offend you, Seth, but do you mind if I ask you a few questions?"

Seth was a little bit surprised. That being said, he took a look at his watch and nodded. "Alright. We can talk as I walk. I still have another eight minutes before my class starts. I think we should have enough time."

Hesper nodded. Without wasting their time, she asked, "Can you tell me the reason why you gave me your contact information without telling Nathaniel when I went to your restaurant with him last time?"

Seth and Nathaniel went silent. After a short while, Seth smiled bitterly. "Please don't get me wrong, Hesper. I gave you my contact information because I feel that you're fun to play with. I was just teasing you. I wasn't trying to get you away from Nathaniel."

Even though this was not what Hesper was trying to ask, it seemed to her that Seth was not the person that she was looking for.

"Alright, then. Can you tell me why when I called you through the phone number you gave me, someone else picked up? Not only that, but he said something to me that I didn't even understand."

Seth's face set sternly as he asked, "When did you call me?"

Hesper thought for a while, then looked up her phone's call log and gave Seth an exact time.

"I already left the country by then. I wouldn't be able to use the SIM card here, so I left it at home. There's no way I could have received your phone call."

By the time she hung up the video call, Hesper had already dispelled her suspicions about Seth. However, it also meant that she had lost her one clue as well.

Apparently, the killer was trying to mislead her into suspecting Seth. Seth was not in the country. and she was not very familiar with him. That was the reason she would suspect

him. If she had not confessed her suspicions to Nathaniel, she would still be kept in the dark for a long time to

come.

'If it isn't Seth, then who could it be? Why are they doing this to me? Why do they hate me so

much?

"Well, it seems like we've lost our only clue." Hesper sighed. She lifted her head to look at Nathaniel and continued disappointedly. "I wonder when I'll see that killer again."

"You won't see him again," Nathaniel said in a serious tone. "You should have faith in it"

Hesper chuckled. Although it sounded a bit optimistic and she was pretty certain that she would run into that killer again, she still nodded in a serious manner and said, "Okay. Let's hope that I won't see him again."

"Okay."

Matthew and Nathaniel returned to Emperion, while Hesper brought Renfrew back home.

Renfrew was rather delighted to be able to go home with his mommy peacefully as he walked out of the lift happily. Hesper was holding the snack she bought downstairs as she followed behind her son. Suddenly, Renfrew stopped.

"What's the matter?" Hesper asked. Just as she walked a step forward and stood beside Renfrew, she saw that there was a kid in front of her house.

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Juniper was lying on the bed, her eyes staring skyward at the sun that was hanging high in the sky. She had stayed up the entire night. Her eyes were red, looking like a demon that had crawled out of hell.

Benji had taken her phone away. There was nothing inside the room. Even though she was very familiar with the Duvals' residence, she could not go anywhere other than her own room nor could she do anything.

"Rickard, Hesper..." Juniper clenched her fists so tightly that her fingernails stabbed into her palm. However, she paid the pain no mind and muttered, "How dare you... This has nothing to do with me

How dare you lock me up in here..."

Suddenly, a series of footfalls erupted from outside. After a while, the door was opened and

someone came in.

"You can leave now."

It was not Benji.

Juniper was filled with so much hatred that it was driving her to the verge of insanity. Her eyes were bloodshot and filled with anger as she snarled, "I can leave now? Do you know who I am? Am I a dog at Rickard's beck and call? How dare he lock me up?"

The person did not know what Juniper did either. He just needed to carry out the order given to him by his superior.

After he returned Juniper's phone to her, he said, "Do you need me to take you home?"

"F*ck off!"

The man took a step back to make way for Juniper. She took a few deep breaths. When she lifted her head up, she saw Sophia walking toward her with a bucket of ice cream in her arms.

"Sophia?" Juniper went toward Sophia and grabbed her arm. "What are you doing here?"

Sophia was startled when she saw Juniper. Looking at Juniper's bloodshot eyes, she shrank back in fear. "You scared me, Juni. This is my home, so of course I'd be here."

"If you're here, why didn't you ask them to let me out?" Juniper hissed, raising her voice one whole octave while tightening her grip on Sophia's arm.

Sophia winced out in pain as she hastily pulled her arm out of Juniper's grip. "What are you doing? How would I know why my brother locked you up? What's the use of being angry with me? My brother is still my brother, so of course I have to listen to him!"

Upon hearing what Sophia said, Juniper raised up her hand in an attempt to give Sophia a slap across her face. Meanwhile, Julie heard the commotion and came over. When she saw that Juniper was going to slap Sophia, she quickly went forward and shoved Juniper away.

"It's you?!"

Juniper had been disgruntled about being locked up in a room without any reason, so she had not

eaten anything and had not slept the whole night. When Julle shoved her into the wall, she could feel a pang of pain shoot through her entire body as if an invisible sledgehammer was crushing her bones.

"What the hell do you think you are doing? How dare you try to slap my daughter?" Julie shouted as she turned around and slapped Juniper across her face, stunning her.

Julie had always treated Juniper gently, but now she looked at her with disgust. It was as if she was going to slap her again once she showed the slightest bit of intention to fight back.

"Julie McCall, are you out of your mind?!"

Julie McCall was Madam Duval's full name. Ever since she married into the Duvals, no one had the nerve to address her by her full name. Right now, Juniper was watching her with wide eyes. Julie could not believe Juniper had the guts to call her by her full name, so she slapped her again, causing Juniper's face to turn sideways.

"If you don't know how to respect those who are older than you, then I'll teach you on behalf of your mother!"

Sophie was enjoying her ice cream as she watched Juniper from the side. Looking at her disheveled hair and swollen face, she began to wonder why she thought Juniper was better than Hesper in the past.

Juniper looked at Julie as she flailed her arms and shouted madly. She then turned her head around and set her gaze on Sophie, who was watching the show from the back. Suddenly, she did not know why but she let out a laugh. She lifted her finger to point at them and laughed even louder.

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"How could I not see before what sort of people you guys are?" Juniper said, her voice laced thick. with mockery.

Sophie did not like the mockery in Juniper's voice.

"What sort of people we are?" she muttered. "We've always been like this from the very beginning. The reason we accepted you and treated you nicely is that my brother liked you.

"But it's clear to everyone that my brother likes Hesper now, isn't it? After all, she's one of the Lanes, with a high net worth. She even gave birth to a boy for us Duvals," Sophia continued with a pout. "In my opinion, she's a lot better than you.

In the past, Sophia had always looked up to Juniper and regarded her as her idol. Juniper also treated her like a sister, and she cared for her even more than she did for

Rickard. Yet, Sophie was mocking her and ridiculing her right now as if those memories had never happened before.

It was nothing but a show put up by this pair of mother and daughter. When the realization hit Juniper, she broke into a laugh.

"Hah, I pride myself on being smart, but it turns out that I'm not even close to being as clever as you two," Juniper said. She gazed over them menacingly and chuckled. "Do you think Hesper still has feelings for Rickard? Dream on! She'll only rack her brain to bring down the Duvals. She'll get all of Rickard's money and kick you all out of here! I look forward to the day. Don't you two forget. I wasn't the one who abused and cheated Hesper that night. I'll just wait here and see what happens to you two."

Juniper let out a boisterous laugh, so hard that tears were rolling down her cheeks. In the end, someone came over and carried her away.

Julie and Sophie looked at each other. Juniper was right. Sophie thought she could accept Hesper, but on second thought, Hesper must hate them.

Putting everything aside, they must not let Hesper bring down the Duvals.

Hesper felt a little bit of a headache looking at the girl who had stood in front of her house

"Where are your parents?"

Myriade sat obediently on the couch in the living room. She was still wearing the down jacket that Rickard bought her. When she heard Hesper's question, she blinked her eyes and replied, "I don't have parents."

Hesper studied the girl in front of her from head to toe. Her dress was exquisitely beautiful, and one could see that it was a masterpiece that was hand-crafted to perfection. Hesper was able to recognize the brand of the down jacket as well. It was definitely one of those jackets that one couldn't easily afford to buy, so she was pretty certain that this girl was lying to her when she said she did not have parents.

However, she chose not to expose her lies and went along with the girl. "Then where is your

house?"

Meanwhile, Renfrew looked at the girl who suddenly appeared in his house worriedly and chimed in, "Don't worry. My mother and I are good people. We can send you home!"

Myraide looked at Renfrew in front of her. He was much more vivid and real than any video or description. He had a round face, and his eyes were as black and bright as grapes. She could even see her own image through the reflection in his eyes.

'He's so adorable...'

"My home is... in a very faraway place," Myriade spoke up, sounding a bit awkward with her pronunciation as she did not speak the language there very often when she was abroad. She didn't care about it when she was talking to Rickard before, but now things were different.

Hesper's gaze was gentle... Just like her mother.

Myriade's braids had become a bit messy from the long journey, and Hesper noticed it. She reached out for her and said, "Your hair is messy. Do you want me to tie it up for you?"

Myriade's eyes went round as she replied obediently. "Yes, please..."

Renfrew frowned. He did not know why, but he felt that the voice of the girl in front of him sounded familiar. It was just that he could not remember where he had heard it before.

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Even though Myriade used a voice changer whenever she was talking to Renfrew, he was still able to feel some familiarity in her tone and intonation.

When Hesper was pregnant with Renfrew, she often thought that if she gave birth to a girl, she would design many beautiful dresses for her and tie her hair up to make her the most beautiful and lovely girl in the world.

Although Hesper had never tied a girl's hair before, she skillfully tied Myriade's hair into two perfect buns. Probably due to her mixed-race background, Myriade's hair was not completely black. Her hair glowed with a dark golden sheen, and she looked just as exquisite as a doll.

Although she didn't know why, Hesper had a strange fondness for the girl in front of her. "What's your name?" she asked.

When Myriade realized that Renfrew was looking at her as well, she hesitated. After a short while, she said, "I'm Zoya Taylor."

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On the other side, Benji felt a little bit of a headache.

"Is it safe to send a member of Daybreak to Ms. Lane and Young Master Renfrew's side?"

Initially, Benji thought Rickard would not say yes to Zoya's request since it was too dangerous. After all, "Daybreak" was an organization that neither Hesper nor Renfrew would ever come across. What's more, that girl was weird.

Turning his head and looking out of the window, Rickard said, "That girl should have quite a high access level in Daybreak. Besides, she's the one who taught Renfrew hacking skills."

Although Benji had suspected it before, he was still rather surprised when he learned about it. After all, he was already very astounded when he learned about the existence of a prodigy like. Renfrew.

"How old is that girl? She couldn't be older than fifteen, yet she could enter and leave the Duval Group's systems without any restriction.

"I have a bolder speculation, but I still need some more time to prove it," Rickard replied, "Do you still remember the "genius hacker' from Daybreak? How do you think Zoya compares to him, based on what she has shown so far?"

"Are you saying that person is Zoya?" Benji asked. He fell into thought for a brief moment before shaking his head, as it all seemed too absurd to him. "But Zoya was still a kid when Daybreak made a name for themselves. I don't think it's possible."

'Is that so?' Rickard shook his head inwardly. His guts were telling him that Zoya was that special

person.

Zoya promised that she would come back after seeing Renfrew. Even though she was far more. intelligent and capable than most people, she was still a kid.

If he kept Zoya in Halwanest, he was very certain that Daybreak would stop at nothing to look for her if his speculations were correct. After all, Daybreak could not afford to lose a great hacker like her. Otherwise, their movements around the world would be greatly restricted.

This way, he might be able to use the mysterious doctor as his bargaining chip.

Hesper made some food for Zoya, but Zoya just stared at the food. As if she knew what she was thinking, Hesper went back to the kitchen and got a fork and knife for her. It was only then that. Zoya started to eat.

Zoya had not eaten a decent meal in a long time. She ate quietly without being picky, devouring everything on the table.

Hesper looked at Zoya's bag and hesitated. She did not ask her to put down the bag at first. because she was worried that Zoya might think she was trying to steal it from her. But after seeing that she had become more relaxed, she opened her lips and said, "I noticed you've been carrying your bag all this time; it must be heavy. You can put it down if you want,"

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As if it had been ingrained into her soul, Zoya raised her head up and looked at Hesper vigilantly. However, she soon realized that she was at Renfrew's house, and the yellow light that fell on the back of her hand was warm.

Hesper was slightly startled by Zoya's gaze. She felt a chill down her spine as if she was being. stared at by a monster, but she soon regained her composure. It seemed to her that there might be something important to Zoya in her bag, so she said, "Don't worry. I won't take your things."

Zoya felt a little uneasy and shook her head after Hesper comforted her.

"No... It isn't about that..."

After that, she put her bag down carefully against the wall.

Seeing how careful Zoya was, Hesper knew that she did not trust them entirely. Besides, Zoya seemed to be more mature than people around her age, so Hesper suspected that she must have had a difficult life before.

Even though the clothes she wore were expensive, she said that she did not have any parents. Initially, Hesper thought Zoya had just run away from home because she got in a fight with her parents, but now she somehow felt pity for her.

"Can I take it?" Hesper asked as she pointed at the bag.

Zoya nodded and replied, "Yes... But it's a little bit heavy."

In order to better adapt to the new environment and avoid sudden situations, she considered more functionality when assembling her computer this time, so the components were also quite heavy.

Hesper thought at first that a small bag would not weigh much since Zoya had been carrying it on her back for so long despite her small stature. However, when she lifted it up, it was like lifting a weight.

"Well, it's indeed pretty heavy..."

Piqued by his curiosity, Renfrew also came forward. He nearly fell to the floor when he tried to pick up the bag.

After a while, Hesper finally picked Zoya's bag up and put it next to Renfrew's bag in the corner of the couch.

Zoya kept her head low as she ate her meal. When she was in the organization, only Riley would cook occasionally. Most of the time, they would order takeout or eat fast food.

The thing was that Riley had no talent in cooking. Zoya only took one look at the unidentified object in the dish and instinctively knew that she couldn't swallow it. In fact, even the psycho couldn't force himself to eat Riley's food.

However, Hesper was a great cook. The food she cooked was warm and easy to swallow.

Hesper was a little bit worried when she saw how much food Zoya had eaten. After all, Zoya

was

still young and it was already late. She might not be able to digest all of that food.

With that thought in mind, Hesper went into the room and searched for some digestive aids, leaving Renfrew and Zoya in the dining room.

After Zoya had finished the last bit of food on her plate, she began to examine Hesper and Renfrew's house cautiously.

As she turned her head, she met Renfrew's inquisitive gaze.

"Who are you?" Renfrew deliberately lowered his voice so that Hesper would not hear their conversation. Zoya did not expect such a question from Renfrew.

She wondered what had she done that sold her out, as she hadn't spoken much from the moment. she entered. That being said, it seemed to her that Renfrew did not know that she was Ms.

Myriade.

"You didn't close your bag properly, so I saw that there was a computer inside of your bag," Renfrew said, his face cold.

Ms. Myriade had told him before that he should not trust anyone who looked harmless since he himself had learned a lot of things despite his young age.

Zoya did not expect Renfrew to use the thing that she taught him against her, but she still felt very proud and pleased seeing how alert he was.

'It seems like he's pretty vigilant,' she thought inwardly.

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"Why don't you tell your mother?" Zoya asked, throwing Renfrew in for a loop.

The reason he did not tell Hesper anything about his suspicion was that he somehow felt a sense of familiarity from Zoya. It was as if he had heard her voice from somewhere before, but it was hidden in a corner of his memories and he hadn't discovered it yet.

Zoya originally did not intend to reveal her true identity to Renfrew, but since he was suspicious of her, she knew that there would inevitably be unnecessary conflicts if this continued.

"I'm Myriade," she said.

"Huh?"

When Hesper found the medication and returned to the dining room, she felt that something was off between Renfrew and Zoya. Both of them looked cute huddling together, but she could not tell what was wrong

Renfrew felt a little guilty for no reason, but when he saw Zoya calmly pull out a lollipop from her jacket pocket and hand it to him, he felt like he had overreacted.

'She's just Ms. Myriade! There's nothing to feel shy about!'

That being said, he had been wanting to see her for a long time. Thinking about how she came all the way to Halwanest just to see him, tears began to well up in his eyes.

Looking at the candy of poor quality in his hand, Renfrew could feel a lump forming in his throat. Zoya looked at him and sighed inwardly.

She felt that she might get busted sooner or later if Renfrew kept behaving this way.

Hesper also noticed what was wrong between Renfrew and Zoya. She did not know how but it seemed to her that both of them suddenly became very close to each other in the short moment she was gone from the room.

For some reasons, Renfrew often had trouble getting along with kids around his age, but it now seemed to her that Renfrew trusted Zoya a lot.

Although she did not know why they suddenly became so close to each other, she was pretty happy that Renfrew was able to become friends with Zoya. After all, Renfrew always stayed alone. He used to have no friends, so Zoya might be able to cheer him up a little bit after becoming his friend.

"It's getting late. If you don't want to tell me where you live, then..." Hesper cocked her head, her long hair cascading down gently. "You'll have to stay at our house."

"Okay!" Renfrew replied before Zoya could.

Zoya placed her hand on her forehead helplessly. Hesper nodded pleasingly and went to the guest bedroom to see if there was anything missing.

Previously, Nathaniel had put a lot of stuff in the guest room when he was staying there. The guest bedroom was even more luxurious than the outside, but it was a bit too packed as the

computer desk took up some space.

Hesper cleaned up the room a little bit before coming out to take Zoya to check out her new room. Renfrew had done Zoya's assignment there before, so she was familiar with the room. It was just that it seemed that there were more pink elements in the room than before, and she didn't know if it was her imagination.

Hesper was thinking that it was fortunate that she had bought some dolls before. Although Renfrew was a boy and wouldn't like them, she was certain that Zoya definitely would!

Zoya looked at the rabbit doll on the bedside and finally realized that these little things were secretly added to the room by Hesper. She did not like these cotton dolls at all, but for some reason, tears began forming in her eyes.

"You can stay here for as long as you want. If you need me to contact your family, you can tell me anytime."

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Zoya's original plan was to go back to the organization after meeting Renfrew. She only came out for a short period of time. No one would go look for her normally, so they might not even notice that she was gone.

However, after seeing Renfrew and his mother, she did not want to leave anymore.

So, she thought of staying here for a while longer.

'It shouldn't be a problem, right?' Zoya thought inwardly. She felt a little bit more at ease after comforting herself. Before that day, she had never left Skydawn, and the people there always told her that the world outside was beautiful but it was a dangerous place. If she had the chance, she wanted to go out and see it with her own eyes once.

And now, she had finally seen it.

It was a dreamless night.

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the time Zoya opened her eyes, it was already nine in the morning. She pulled the curtain open, allowing the beams of sunlight to enter the room and cast away the darkness. Basking under the sun, she still could not quite come around to her senses and remember that she was in Renfrew's house at the moment.

"Ms. Myriade?" Renfrew knocked on the door. It was only then that Zoya regained her senses.

'It's Renfrew!"

Zoya hastily got out of the bed and took a look at her phone. It was already half past nine. The flight she booked had already taken off, so she had to wait for another period of time even if she regretted it now.

When she realized that she could stay with Renfrew and Hesper for a longer time, she felt relieved and threw herself back on the bed. The bunny doll that Hesper intentionally left on her bed rolled to her side. She hesitated for a moment before reaching out for it and grabbing it into her arms.

It was soft; she liked it.

After she had finished making the bed and cleaning herself up, Zoya walked out of the room. The first thing that greeted her was the aroma of food from the kitchen.

"You should wash your hand and come eat," Renfrew said, poking his head out. "Mommy is cooking. We don't know what you like to eat, so we cooked a little bit for everything."

"I've already done washing up..." Zoya said with a nod. Renfrew went forward and grabbed her

hand.

Perhaps she had just washed her hand, for it was a little bit cold. Renfrew was happy to see her as he said, "Although we don't know what you like to eat, all the dishes Mommy is making today are my favorite!"

Hesper heard what Renfrew said and she chuckled. "What's there to be so proud of? They were

originally made for Zoya."

"I want to give everything the best to Ms... I mean, Zoya!"

Zoya looked at Renfrew. His hand was warm, and perhaps Hesper had been taking good care of him, as his hand was soft. Looking at her own reflection through Renfrew's eyes, Zoya lowered her head and looked at her toes.

There was no way she would empathize with a kid.

Zoya did not know what she liked and what she did not like. When she was staying in the organization, she just ate anything that was available.

Even though they had a lot of resources, she had very limited access to the world outside. For as long as she could remember, she had always stayed in the base. The silver lining was that she could take a glimpse of those things that she had never come across before through the internet.

Riley would occasionally bring back lollipops, which were the only thing Zoya could say she liked.

"Do you want to go home today, Zoya?"

Hesper thought Zoya was homesick since she was not paying attention while eating. After all, Zoya seemed pretty young to her, and she speculated that she had never left her home for such a long time before.

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Zoya shook her head hesitantly. "No... I don't want to go back today..."

"We should let her stay for a few more days!" Renfrew said as he shook Hesper's hand under the table.

Hesper was caught between tears and laughter. She rubbed Renfrew's head and said, "It's not up to me to decide. Zoya has her own family as well. This isn't her home, so she has to go back. sooner or later."

Renfrew understood what Hesper said, but he did not want Zoya to go back. He pouted his lips with disappointment, while Zoya lowered head and chuckled.

Even though there were a lot of things in Zoya's bag. Hesper was confident that there were no clothes in there. After she took off her down jacket yesterday, Hesper also noticed that the clothes that Zoya was wearing seemed inappropriate for the season. Besides, it was not hygienic to keep wearing the same outfit either.

When Renfrew learned that they were going out with Zoya, he went back to his room and began rummaging through his closet. In the end, it was Zoya who stopped him from wearing formal attire. Even though Renfrew looked very adorable in his small suit, it was not necessary at all.

Big T had given Zoya a supplementary card. He told her that he would deposit money into it every year, and Zoya had never spent it nor checked it before, so she didn't know how much money was in it. That being said, she knew that Big T must've given her a lot of money.

At the first store, Zoya wanted to pay the money herself since she had a lot of money to spend in her hands. In the circumstances where she could not pay, she could always hack some money out of the bank. However, after seeing how many clothes Hesper wanted to buy, she forwent the intention to pay for the bill.

"Isn't this dress pretty?" Hesper asked while holding a sundress in her hands. Apparently, she had already put her original goal of coming here to the back of her mind. Right now, she just wanted to buy more clothes for Zoya.

"I think-

"I think it looks great!" Renfrew chimed in before Zoya could even finish her sentence. Without waiting for Zoya to say anything, both Renfrew and Hesper told the salesperson to pack the dress.

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The salesperson rarely saw such generous customers who bought whatever they liked, regardless of whether it was suitable or in season. These guys were buying whatever looked good, and they had already bought more than ten items in this store alone.

The young girl following behind them donned a helpless expression on her face, and it gave people the wrong impression that she was the real adult out of the three.

The three of them were good looking, not to mention that one of them was a young woman and the other two were kids. Many people around were curious and wondered who Hesper was to the two children.

"She looks a lot like Hesper..." someone said.

Another young girl added, "I think she's Hesper, Hesper is from Genecity, right? So it's not surprising to see her here."

Zoya was the first one to notice the prying eyes around them. Hesper might have already noticed it, but she did not care about them. However, Zoya had a feeling that the people around them. were getting more and more excited.

After all, Hesper had just participated in a competition recently and had gained a lot of popularity, so there was a chance that they were her fans.

Just as she expected, when Hesper and Renfrew walked up to the counter to pay the bill, the salesperson at the front desk blushed and asked in a low voice, "Are you Hesper? I really like you..."

It was not strange that people would recognize her. This was because Hesper had a lot of confidence in herself. Besides, the Lane Holdings had been doing a good job promoting her.

It was just that if she said she really liked her...

Hesper turned her head around, and it was only then that she realized there were a lot of people standing around them.

Zoya noticed that she had been sighing more and more often ever since she came to Hesper and Renfrew. She wondered if she would get old faster if she sighed a lot.

Looking at the crowd that was getting larger and larger, Zoya shook her head. Suddenly, she saw a familiar figure through the corner of her eyes.

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Taking advantage of the chaotic situation, Zoya slipped away from Hesper and Renfrew to go after that figure.

"Oh my, it seems like our Mimi is pretty sharp-"

Someone grabbed Zoya's collar from behind as soon as she turned around a corner. "Let me have a good look at our cute little traitor... Oh, look at what she's got. A set of new clothes. It seems like Hesper really likes you very much."

Zoya kept a cold face. She knew she could not break herself free from Riley since he was much. taller than her, but it did not matter.

"What are you doing here? Besides, I'm sure you know who's the real traitor between us, right? Killing Hesper isn't one of Big T's goals either."

Riley put Zoya down and squatted in front of her. After that, he reached out and pinched Zoya's cheek while smiling at her. "Mimi... Do you know that you may get yourself killed if you poke your nose into other people's affairs?"

"Don't call me that name," Zoya said as she turned her head aside. "You should probably save those words for that psycho."

"Alright, alright, I'll listen to you," Riley replied as he let go of Zoya. Letting out a chuckle, he continued, "Trez isn't someone who'll give up until he has achieved his goal. It's very unlikely that Big T would blame us because of Hesper, but it's still a serious offense for you to leave the base without permission."

Zoya's heart skipped a beat, but she did not allow her emotion to escape to her face. "It's none of your business. You haven't answered my question yet. What are you doing here in Genecity?" There was a bad feeling stirring her heart from the moment she saw Riley. She looked at him. straight in the eyes and continued, "That psycho just attacked Hesper not long ago, and now you're here. What the hell are you guys thinking? Are you really going to go against Big T and attack Hesper again?"

"Please don't assume that about me," Riley replied innocently, "Although I support what Trez is doing, I'm not that kind of person who would go against Big T's order. I'm here for a mission this time."

Zoya frowned. Just when she was about to say something, someone called her name from behind.

"Zoya?"

In the next second, Hesper and Renfrew came over. Both of them saw that a stranger was holding Zoya's hand, and Zoya seemed a little bit distressed.

"Let go of Zoya!"

Renfrew ran over and grabbed Zoya's other hand. He looked warily at the woman in front of him. It was a pretty woman, but Zoya did not seem happy being around her.

Hesper walked over, looking at Zoya and the strange woman. Even though there was a possibility

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that they might know each other, Hesper still stood beside Zoya and asked, "May I know who you

are?

When Riley turned his gaze over to Hesper, Zoya looked at Riley and secretly squeezed the hand that Riley was holding so hard that he thought she was going to pinch a piece of flesh out of his palm.

However, he ignored Zoya's warning and smiled at Hesper. "I'm Myriade's family."

"Myriade?"

"Ah... That is Zoya's nickname," Riley blinked his eyes and replied. "It's a cute name, isn't it? Unfortunately, it doesn't fit her personality at all. She's the most unlovely kid I've ever seen.

"Riley," Zoya called out to him again. Renfrew could see that both of them were not getting along well, but he signaled Zoya as a sign to tell her to hold back.

Zoya was stumped for a moment and said, "Riley, I won't go back with you. If you have other work. to do, you should go back first."

Hesper noticed that the atmosphere was a bit off. The young woman in front of her blinked at her and said, "You must be Ms. Rivera, right? The name is Riley Simms.