

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 625

"Thank you, Joyce. That will be all for now." Natalie dismissed her. "Ms. Cohen, please have a drink," she added as she pushed one of the mugs toward Lina.

"Why are you still calling me Ms. Cohen? I've already addressed you by your first name, haven't I? Doesn't this suggest an inequality in our perceptions of one another?" Lina said pleasantly as she took a sip of her coffee.

Natalie returned her smile. "You're right. I guess I shall address you as Lina."

"That's a good start." Lina set down the coffee as she extracted a pouch from her purse.

At the sight of the bulge of several jewelry boxes pressed against the pouch, Natalie knew that pleasantries were over and it was time to talk business. She sat up a little straighter.

"As you might have already guessed, the contents of this pouch are the gift of the king to his princess," Lina said as she took the boxes out one at a time.

There were five in total. It seemed like Lina wanted five designs for each box, which translates to five formal dresses.

"May I see them?" Natalie pointed at one of the boxes.

"Of course!" Lina answered graciously. She faced Natalie so that she may see the box being opened. With a dramatic flourish, the massive ruby appeared before Natalie's eyes.

"It's beautiful." Natalie's eyes widened in awe.

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"It is, isn't it? You know, your expression was exactly the same as mine when I first saw it. I thought that such an unadulterated gemstone was such a rare occurrence in the market. And we haven't even taken into account its size too, Lina said as she handed a set of gloves over to Natalie.

Natalie knew what that meant. She was being offered a chance at handling the gemstone.

She hastened to put on the pair of rubber gloves offered to her. Then, with trembling hands, she picked up the ruby and held it at eye level.

It caught the light from above and glimmered strangely. Natalie saw countless sparkles being reflected off of its many facets. It really was a lovely sight to behold.

"It's so beautiful," Natalie murmured again as she replaced the ruby in its box.

Lina took another sip of coffee. "This particular stone came from the ocean. It was rumored to be discovered at the site of an underwater volcano. The purity of the color is easily a nine; an indication of superb quality in rubies. It is second only to Blazing Heart."

"Blazing Heart?" Natalie exclaimed, looking rather shaken at the mention of the name.

"What is it?" Lina asked at once.

"Nothing," Natalie smiled apologetically. "I was just surprised to hear the name, that's all."

"It is said that Blazing Heart is the largest and brightest ruby ever discovered to date," Lina continued, paying no more attention to Natalie's outburst. "After it had been crafted into jewelry by a master designer, it had immediately been bought by a mysterious buyer and its current whereabouts are unknown now. I would like to see it with my own eyes."

She heaved a wistful sigh.

"If the Blazing Heart that you mentioned is the only one of its kind, then it is currently in my possession." A smile played on Natalie's lips as she observed the effect of her words.

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Lina was stunned for a long time before she spoke. "What did you say?" She asked in a quavering voice as she pointed a shaking finger at Natalie with her mouth opening and closing in disbelief. "Blazing Heart is in your possession?"

"That's right," Natalie confirmed with a satisfied nod. "The businessman that you had mentioned is my husband. It was a gift to me."

Lina stood up at once.

Natalie flinched at Lina's sudden movement, but Lina leaped toward her unexpectedly and hugged her. "My dear Natalie!"

The corner of Natalie's mouth twitched. "What're you doing?"

"Natalie, will you let me have a look at Blazing Heart, please?" Lina begged as she looked up expectantly.

Natalie attempted to suppress her laughter as this was the last thing she expected.

"All right, all right." Natalie patted her on the back in an effort to free herself from her embrace. "I'll bring it with me the next time I come."

Lina stood back up and resumed her seat, looking satisfied as she accomplished her goal. They continued their examination of the gems.

Natalie had her eye on more than one gemstone. Every one of them was a fine specimen, dazzling in an array of colors.

After careful browsing and having taken photos to her satisfaction, Natalie shut the box and returned it to Lina. "All right, I've shot some reference photos for my perusal when I design the dresses. Now let's talk about the types of designs you have in mind. That would help me design in a compatible theme."

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Lina replaced the boxes carefully into the pouch and took out a photograph. "This is a picture of the little princess and the information on her measurements. Do have a look."

"Excellent!" Natalie exclaimed. "I was going to ask you for it."

Lina stretched. "The princess has a classic babyface. She does not have a large stature typical of her countrywomen, that is why I think that these gemstones will not be compatible with her, with the exception of the pink diamond."

Natalie was in agreement with Lina's opinion.

The two fell silent at the realization that they had ran into a difficulty early on in their collaboration. They burst out laughing simultaneously.

After brainstorming for a while, the women still had no inspiration.

Natalie took another sip of coffee. "How about this. We will each come up with a couple of drafts, and we'll get together again to decide which one is the most suitable one for the princess. Sounds like a plan?"

"I'm afraid that that's all we could do for now." Lina stood up. "Let's do that then. I'll come to you with my designs soon."

"Excellent," Natalie said enthusiastically as she escorted Lina out.

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Natalie returned to the sight of Joyce emerging from the office looking glum. "What is it?" she asked curiously.

"The police station called," Joyce answered as she scratched the back of her head in frustration. "The woman hasn't been caught."

"She's still at large?" Natalie grew stern.

"That's right. I have provided them with the security footage from the mall, but they've insisted on doing things according to the procedure. We could have deduced her escape route based on the footage we have, but the cops still managed to let her slip away. How infuriating."

Joyce rubbed her head in consternation and continued. "As long as she hasn't been caught, she will be looking for more ways to sabotage us in the future."

Natalie did not doubt that possibility.

That woman's motive was to ruin the reputation of Natalie's company and sever the trust build with its stakeholders as a means to destroy her company from within.

Due to the discovery of the plot by Joyce early on, her plan had been foiled. As the mission was left unaccomplished, she would most certainly make another attempt in the future.

"Don't let it bother you, Joyce. Since the police had failed us, what we can do is to hire a private detective and ferret this woman out as soon as we can," Natalie said with a reassuring pat on Joyce's shoulder.

Joyce nodded helplessly. "It's the only thing we can do, I'm afraid," she said gloomily. "Oh, by the way. what did the jewelry designer want from you?"

"It's a collaboration," Natalie answered as she told Joyce about the meeting she had.

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Joyce's eyes sparkled excitedly. "What an incredible opportunity to design the wedding dress of the crown princess."

"It is, isn't it?" Natalie gushed. She then turned to head back into her office to begin working on the drafts.

Joyce called out to her suddenly. "Natalie, wait a moment."

"What is it?" Natalie looked back curiously.

"There's something I forgot to tell you." Joyce's expression turned serious.

Natalie noticed the change in her tone. "What is it?" She responded in kind.

"I had received a letter this morning in response to your challenge," Joyce explained as she strode over to a colleague's desk.

Natalie followed her with a frown on her face.

The colleague stood up at once and offered her computer to Joyce.

Joyce sat down and logged into the company's email system. She then opened up an email sent from a foreign IP address. "Take a look at this, Nat."

Natalie stepped forward and bent down to squint at the screen.

Natalie, it read. Wait for my return to the country. Do you dare accept my challenge for the title of the most promising designer in the country?

That was the general consensus of the stakeholders within the industry, that Natalie was the most talented and promising designer the nation had ever seen.

Natalie's masterpieces, Project Rebirth and Radiance were renowned for the boldness of their design. On top of that, Natalie had won several high-profile competitions. It all spoke volumes on her prodigious talent.

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As a result, many veteran designers within the country had already conceded privately to themselves that she was the most promising designer of her generation. She was the most probable candidate to replace the legendary Mr. Moore to become the next top designer in the country.

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