A Cue for Love chapter 656

Chapter 656 I Will Not Do It Again

"No. Of course not. We're coming," Clayton and Franklin chorused.

Pressing her lips into a line, Natalie continued, "Then come out with me."

The kids bit their lips and exchanged a glance before finally following Natalie out of the room.

Xavian and Sophia glanced at each other, worried that Natalie would find out about Clayton's injury. Despite their worries, however, they couldn't do anything about it. They hoped Clayton could face everything Natalie threw at him.

Clayton and Franklin followed Natalie to the study quietly.

She took a seat with her legs crossed and looked at the boys.

"Do any of you have anything to tell me?" Natalie wanted them to confess and owe up to it instead of forcing their confession.

"No," they both answered.

She frowned at their denial. It was within her expectation that they would deny it.

She didn't know why they still wouldn't confess when they had already guessed that she had found out about it. It seemed that they were still holding on to a tiny sliver of hope that she hadn't found out as long as she didn't bring it up with them.

Natalie got up from her chair and stepped in front of them.

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"I'm not someone that likes to interrogate. I know the two of you are young and have your secrets, but you're my sons. You can't hide something as serious as an injury from me," she said with a grave tone as she met their gazes.

"Hiding your injuries from me won't relieve any of my worries. It'll just make them worse. I don't like nor care for white lies, especially when it comes to your health and safety."

They are my flesh and blood. I don't mind getting hurt if it can spare them from the pain.

Franklin and Clayton exchanged a glance as a pang of guilt hit them at her words.

In the end, Franklin conceded after catching the sincerity in his mother's eyes. "Mommy, it was Clayton. His arm got burned. Since the truth is out now, can you look at his injury and treat it with more suitable medicine?"

"You—" Clayton didn't think that Franklin would let the cat out of the bag so easily.

"Clayton, Mommy is right." Franklin lowered his head and said, "Hiding your injury got us all worried. The injury on your arm is quite severe. I know Sophia has treated it, but she's inexperienced. You need help from a professional."

"Clayton..."

"Mommy, I..." Clayton hung his head with guilt, not daring to meet Natalie's gaze.

"Franklin, I have something to speak with Clayton privately, so I need you to leave the room. Don't worry. I'll treat him later," Natalie instructed.

"Okay." Franklin nodded as he whirled around to leave the study.

Soon, only Natalie and Clayton remained in the study.

"Remove your coat and roll up your sleeve."

Clayton knew there was no point in hiding his injury any longer, so he obediently complied and rolled up his sleeve, revealing the full extent of his injury.

His previous fair, smooth arm was now covered with burn scars and spots.

Natalie's heart clenched at the sight.

"Clayton, you're all grown up now, is that it? How could you hide such a serious injury from me?" Natalie scolded with reddened eyes.

Clayton merely stayed quiet.

After a long silence, he finally lifted his head slowly and looked at Natalie guiltily.

"Mommy, I'm sorry. It's my fault." Tears filled his eyes. "My injuries were not that bad, but the scars were too ugly and scary. I didn't want you to get upset, so I thought I'd hide it from you till it got better. I figured you won't feel so upset when you see it then."

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Chapter 657 Parenting

Natalie was furious when she found out the kids had purposely hid it from her.

Now that she saw the teary-eyed Clayton, she couldn't get even one word out of her mouth to admonish him.

Instead, her heart clenched even tighter at the sight of him, apologizing so cautiously.

Noticing Natalie's silence, Clayton tugged on her sleeve hesitantly. "Mommy, I know I'm wrong. I won't do it again." Realizing what he said, he immediately added, "I promise you there's no next time."

Natalie couldn't hold on to her anger any longer with Clayton sobbing.

"Did Sophia treat your wound?" she asked instead.

"Yeah." Clayton nodded his head. "She was worried that my injuries wouldn't heal, so she treated them for me. It's not her fault, but mine. If you want to punish me, then so be it. I hope you won't punish any of them."

"You silly boy. You're still trying to protect your sister at a time like this, huh?"

"1—"

"Do you think you can hide it that long without them covering for you?" Natalie undid the bandage on his arm and examined the injury. "I'm not that petty. I'll let it slide this time with no punishment, but if I catch you doing something like this again, I'll give all of you the cold shoulder treatment."

Clayton laughed upon hearing Natalie's words.

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"Okay. Our Mommy is the best mom in this whole wide world!"

"Stop trying to butter me up." Natalie cast a side glance at him and said, "Your injury must have hurt and itched the whole time. It must have been tough for you to act like nothing happened in front of me."

A small smile tugged on her lips when Natalie noticed that Sophia did a good job at treating the wound.

This girl is much more talented than I thought.

It has only been a few months since I started her lessons. I can't believe she has learned so much in such a short time and did so well.

After treating Clayton's wound, Natalie asked how he got hurt.

"Clayton, I want you to be truthful with me. Is the injury on your arm related to Marcus' incident?" she asked.

Clayton knew that his mother was intelligent and would see through his lies, so he nodded honestly. "I was with him at the abandoned warehouse when the explosion happened."

"What?" Natalie exclaimed. Dread tightened her gut at the close call.

"He saved me in the end, pushing me out of the warehouse at the last minute before the whole thing exploded and got swallowed by the fire." Clayton balled his hands into fists at the horrific memory.

"Clayton, I need you to tell me everything from the start."

"Okay. This is how it started..."

He began recounting everything that happened that day to Natalie.

After hearing it firsthand from Clayton, Natalie had a clearer understanding of the entire incident. I'm sure Yara's involved with Marcus' death. It was too much of a coincidence, after all. I mean, how likely is it for Marcus to die from an explosion shortly after arriving at Dellmoor?

But, something's weird. Clayton claimed he saw Marcus curled up on the ground when he entered the warehouse. That Marcus' lips were purple, and his veins were bulging. Those were symptoms of being poisoned, not from a heart attack.

Yara had no medical knowledge, and I doubt Dexmed Pharmaceutical would develop this kind of poison. If Marcus was poisoned in such a short period, then Yara might not be the culprit.

The more Natalie mulled about it, the more her head hurt.

"Mommy, are you okay?"

"I'm fine, just thinking about something." Natalie rebandaged the injury on Clayton's arm. "Make sure your wound stays clear of water, so be careful when you shower. You can get Sophia to help you with changing the bandage next time. It doesn't have to be me."

"Okay."

Clayton halted in his tracks at the door. He couldn't help looking over his shoulder and glancing at Natalie after much reluctance.

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Chapter 658 Poor Thing

"Mommy, even though Mr. Landis wasn't Xavien's and my father, he saved me in the end." Determination shone in Clayton's eyes. "I'm not strong enough to find the perpetrator. So Mommy, can I ask for a favor to help avenge Mr. Landis?"

Natalie had always taught Clayton and Xavian to be grateful and repay those who had helped them.

As such, she wasn't the least bit surprised when she heard Clayton's request.

"I'll help you," Natalie agreed with a firm nod.

Clayton's lips tilted into a smile as he thanked Natalie.

"Thank you, Mommy."

Franklin, Sophia, and Xavian released a relieved sigh when they saw Clayton leaving the study with a smile.

Natalie watched the kids waiting for Clayton outside the room with a gentle gaze. She was glad that the kids' were united during hardships.

After having dinner together, she spent some time with them.

Even though they were each doing their own stuff, they were comfortable with each other's presence.

The kids began to tire out from reading, so they obediently lined up to the bathroom to wash up before getting into bed.

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Natalie tucked each of them into their beds and gave each of their heads a gentle peck before turning on the night lamp and leaving the room.

When she got back to her room, she saw Samuel had already washed up and was sitting on the bed in his black robe.

"You were with the kids the whole time?" Samuel lifted his gaze from the document in his hand and focused it on Natalie's face as he spoke.

"Yeah." Natalie nodded with a smile. "Maybe it was because I missed Franklin and Sophia growing up when they were younger, so I wanted to be by their side now. I want to be there for them from now on."

She had just reached Samuel's side when he tugged on her wrist and pulled her onto the bed.

"Samuel, what are you-"

"Shouldn't you spend time with me now that the kids are asleep?" Samuel's dark gaze locked onto hers. "We've lost five years together. Shouldn't you spare some time for me too?"

"I didn't even know you and hadn't even liked you then. So you can't actually say that we've lost five years," Natalie said, blinking her eyes innocently.

"I'm sure I will still fall for you all the same if I have met you then." Samuel pressed a kiss to her hand. "You have to come up with some way to repay me for the five years we lost. Especially the nights."

Samuel stressed the word "night."

Natalie could feel her face heat up at the innuendo.

This guy just can't keep it in his pants.

Every time she heard rumors about him being celibate, she had wanted to correct them. After all, he was the total opposite when he was in bed. He wouldn't stop until she was screaming and begging for mercy.

Seeing the blush on her face, Samuel stopped teasing her and pulled her against his chest.

"Didn't you ever feel the connection that you could be Franklin's and Sophia's biological mother when you were with them?" he asked.

"I did feel some indescribable connection when I was with them." Natalie muttered, "I just... didn't dare to think about it deeper. I was scared that it was all my imagination. If my hopes fell short, wouldn't it be pitiful?"

Natalie's voice turned airier as she spoke.

Samuel didn't expect Natalie to be upset at his random question.

He tightened his arms around her and said, "I'm sorry, Nat."

A Cue for Love chapter 659

Chapter 659 Not Up To The Mind To Decide

Samuel had always assumed that Natalie had not detected anything because she was slow to realize. However, it was suddenly apparent to him that the woman had been rejecting that possibility subconsciously in order to avoid disappointment.

"Sorry..." he said in a deep voice.

"What are you apologizing for?" Natalie blinked away the tears in her eyes and smiled. "Nothing worth having comes easy. Now that I have Xavian, Clayton, Franklin, Sophia, and... you, I'm already extremely contented!"

Even though she was beaming from ear to ear when she said that, Samuel could not help but feel a sharp ache in his heart as he looked at her.

He could feel his heart breaking for Natalie.

Suddenly, he hated himself for being so stupid, and not realizing earlier that Yara was not the woman from six years back. If he had discovered it back then, he could have reunited with Natalie earlier, and she wouldn't have gone through so many hardships.

"It will be the kids' birthdays in a few days' time. It's the first time we will be having a birthday celebration with everyone present!" Natalie cupped Samuel's face in her hand and smiled widely. "Did you know... such a scenario is something I've never dared to imagine in the past. From now onward, we have to spend all of their birthdays together!"

"Sure..."

Although Natalie was smiling happily, Samuel could not bring himself to feel happy at all.

He tightened his embrace around the woman, hugging her with all his might to the point that Natalie felt slightly suffocated.

Nonetheless, she did not move. She stayed in his arms obediently and savored his affection quietly.

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If she had not met Samuel, she would probably still be that strong woman who always had her guard up.

Natalie was relieved that things had turned out the way they did.

The couple started kissing passionately again. Romance lingered in the air while sounds of heavy breathing filled the room.

The next day, Samuel set off for a business trip to Loang while Natalie worked from home.

When it was almost evening, Natalie received a call from Yandel.

"Boss, can you attend this evening's Shine Charity Gala on my behalf?" he asked anxiously.

"Huh?" Natalie was slightly taken aback as it was always Yandel who represented Dream at such charity events.

"You should know that an event like Shine Charity Gala would help to strengthen Dream's presence in the industry. If no one from Dream turns up, or if we send an ordinary employee to represent us, the media or public might interpret it the wrong way," Yandel explained. "I have something... urgent to deal with tonight, so... I don't think I'll be able to go..."

Although Natalie did not like attending such events that required her to be in the public eye, it wasn't something she hated to the core.

"Did something happen?" Natalie was more concerned about Yandel, wondering if he had encountered any trouble.

She was met with silence from the other end of the line.

Half a minute later, Yandel finally spoke. "Amelia is sick. She is running a high fever and has been drifting in and out of sleep. She keeps holding my hand and refuses to let me leave... Boss, I..."

Natalie understood Yandel's inner struggle and interrupted him. "I understand. I'll go instead. You should stay and take care of Amelia. She's unfamiliar with Chanaea and doesn't know anyone else here. If you leave her alone, she'll be no different from stray cats on the streets."

"I know."

"Remember to send me the relevant details."

After hanging up, Natalie glanced at her phone and shook her head, feeling amused.

It did not seem possible that a sick woman who was not fully conscious would be able to restrain a strong grown man. It was clear to her that it was not Amelia who was holding Yandel back, but Yandel himself.

Even though the man had decided that he should not love Amelia and that they were not a good match for each other, when it came to love, it wasn't up to the mind to decide.

A Cue for Love chapter 660

Chapter 660 Small World Indeed

A moment later, Natalie received a text from Yandel with the details of the event.

Before leaving the Bowers residence, Natalie put on her hyper-realistic mask that was full of freckles once again. She drove out of the garage in a Porsche Panamera and headed toward the venue where the Shine Charity Gala was held after dressing up and doing her styling.

Shine Charity Gala was the most prestigious charity event of the year.

When Natalie arrived, both sides of the red carpet were already packed with reporters who were armed with cameras, snapping photos of socialites and celebrities who were walking the red carpet.

Porsche Panamera was considered entry-level among luxury cars.

Besides, Natalie did not even have a chauffeur.

When she walked out of the driver's seat in an all-white suit, the reporters were stunned and had confused expressions on their faces.

To them, it did not make sense for a guest attending such a prestigious event to drive her own car.

It also seemed ridiculous for a woman to be dressed in a suit, especially at such an event where women would be competing to flaunt their beauty.

More importantly...

The woman's face was simply too ordinary. In fact, she looked so plain that it did not seem fitting for her picture to be published on news websites or social media sites.

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If not for the fact that she was holding an invitation card and that some people had recognized her as the chairwoman of Dream Corporation, those reporters would have thought that she was merely a socialite's assistant.

Natalie was not interested in being photographed at all.

She greeted the media politely without flattery. In addition, her smart-looking suit and simple makeup gave her the vibe of a dominating queen.

The reporters who were taking pictures of Natalie found themselves being mesmerized by the woman's charisma and could not stop clicking their cameras.

Natalie could feel herself being blinded by the flash of the cameras.

When the event crew reminded her that she could enter the event hall, she immediately quickened her steps across the red carpet.

As Natalie's name was not originally included in the guest list, the event host was not prepared and did not know what to say to her. Reading the situation well, Natalie took over the golden marker in a graceful manner and signed her name on the gator board.

Immediately after Natalie penned her autograph, she noticed a flurry of excitement behind her with astonished gasps from the crowd.

"Yara is here!"

"She used to be a celebrity, but she has retired from the industry in order to take over her father's pharmaceutical business!"

"She has both brains and beauty, not to mention her powerful family background. She also seems to be free of scandals. I bet she's what every woman wish they could be!"

"She's definitely the most gorgeous lady around tonight. Take more pictures of her! That's our cover girl!"

Natalie narrowed her eyes when she saw Yara, who was dressed in an evening gown trimmed with gold sequins, waving to the media on the red carpet.

Yara had changed her dressing style that night, going for a sexy and elegant look, which was a departure from her previous sweet and adorable style.

The gold sequins on the dress perfectly outlined Yara's curvaceous figure, which was probably the envy of all women. She was also wearing exquisite makeup, complete with a winged eyeliner. Her long hair was tied up into a bun on top of her head that was secured using a hairpin in the shape of an olive branch. The woman looked absolutely breathtaking.

A cold glint appeared in Natalie's eyes as she fixed her gaze on Yara, who was exceptionally gorgeous that evening.

It was the first time she had seen her sister after knowing the truth about Franklin and Sophia's birth.

Indeed, it was a small world for the enemies to run into each other.

When Natalie returned the golden marker, she saw Yara walking toward her after the woman was done with her photoshoot with the media.

Yara froze when she met Natalie's gaze, but her shock only lasted for a moment. A split second later, an alluring smile appeared on her sweet face once more.

Clenching her fists, Natalie remained expressionless as she turned around and entered the main event hall.

The banquet hall was luxuriously decorated with crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, casting a warm glow on the guests present.

Judging from the lavish interior of the hall, one could easily deduce that the attendees of the event were either wealthy or influential. Everyone was smiling, holding champagne glasses in their hands.

Natalie picked up a glass of champagne from the waitress' tray while walking slowly into the hall. However, she could not help but feel out of place.