

A Cue for Love chapter 1046

Chapter 1046 Father Wants To Get Us A Stepmother

After Natalie's departure, Geert returned to his study. The young lady looks exactly like the woman in the painting. Judging from her age, I think she must be the woman's daughter. I can use her to find her mother's whereabouts.

Geert couldn't help but grow excited when he realized how useful Natalie was. To me, it's just a painting of a woman. However, the woman in the painting is extremely important to the man. The Leitz family and I stand to lose nothing. I must help him find the woman!

Heidi and Helma noticed how overjoyed he was. Helma wrung her hands nervously. I'm already upset that Heidi suddenly moved into the house. I can't accept Natalie if Father takes a liking to her when she is around my age!

Heidi took one look at Helma's frown as the corner of her mouth quirked up. "Helma, did you see Father's stare?"

Without waiting for Helma's reply, she continued, "Father is usually reserved and polite, but he couldn't keep his eyes off Ms. Nichols. Do you think Father is thinking of getting us a stepmother?"

Anger crossed Helma's face. "Heidi, what are you talking about?"

"Helma, calm down! You know I'm not talking nonsense. I don't think we should blame Father. It's all Ms. Nichols' fault." Unlike Helma, Heidi didn't give a hoot about Geert's private life.

She said that on purpose so Helma would grow to despise Natalie. The more Helma hated Natalie, the better.

Heidi rested her chin on her palm and kept feeding the flames. "Helma, Father might not have a royal title, but he is treated like one in the royal family. If he's a womanizer, we won't be his only offspring. Besides, if my mother hadn't saved him when he was exiled, she wouldn't have given birth to me. Didn't you notice how dazed he was? I've never seen him

act that way. Ms. Nichols must be a vixen full of tricks as she managed to make Father fall for her easily.”

“Heidi!” Helma stopped her hastily.

“Did I say anything wrong, Helma?” Heidi sighed and shook her head. “Forget it. If you don’t like hearing this, I won’t mention it anymore. I’m full; I’m going to head upstairs now.”

Heidi stood up and sauntered away. Her words left a deep impression on Helma. Natalie is a vixen. After leaving the Leitz residence, Natalie headed to a shopping mall instead of going home.

It would be Yumi’s birthday soon.

Yumi wasn’t her biological child, but she had already adopted her and she treated her the same way she treated the other kids.

Natalie strolled around a shop and decided to buy a music box.

There was a purple bunny in the middle of the crystal ball inside the music box.

When the handle was turned, the crystal ball in the music box would turn. Snowflakes would fall on the little bunny as a Loang song about snow was played.

Yumi might be adopted in Chanaea, but she was a Loang national by blood.

Thinking that Yumi would love this music box, Natalie decided to buy it.

“Hello, please wrap this up for me.” Something occurred to Natalie, and she added, “I need a card to write my wishes, too.”

“Sure.”

Soon, Natalie took the wrapped present with her card and left the shopping mall.

She had barely taken a few steps when she heard two gunshots ringing in the air. Bang! Bang!

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Chapter 1047 One For Two

The mall dissolved into chaos after the two loud gunshots. A middle-aged man covered in blood ran toward the outside as he screamed, "Run! There's a robbery! Run, or you're going to die!"

The defenseless people began fleeing upon hearing that. Natalie's first response was to leave the place as well, but she saw a boy about eleven or twelve stumbling toward the outside, having been shot in the stomach earlier.

She went to him and said, "Don't move. You've been shot, but I don't think it hit the vitals, so it's not life-threatening."

However, the boy shoved her hand away and uttered determinedly, "I want to save my mommy and my sister. They've been taken by those bad guys. They're going to die if I don't get the cops to save them!"

The boy was not crying, but he sounded as though he was on the verge of tears.

"You've bled a lot. If you don't stop bleeding soon, you're going to die before you even find the cops." Natalie grabbed the boy's arm and carried him to a remote corner.

"Let go of me! Let go of me right now!"

Natalie ignored the boy's struggles as she studied his wound again. Once she was certain that it was not a fatal shot, she took out her menstrual pad and pressed it against his wound.

"You'll still have to get the bullet out through surgery, but things are not going well here. Stay right here, and once the situation is less chaotic, stand up and get help from someone. Got it?"

The boy knew that Natalie was doing it for his sake, but he could not stay calm when he thought about how his mother and his sister had been taken away by the criminals.

"I can't! My mommy and sister aren't safe yet. I have to save them!"

Natalie held him down by his shoulders and said to him solemnly, "Stay here. I'll go save your mommy and sister."

"Really?" the boy asked with uncertainty.

"Yes." Natalie nodded. "I'm more experienced in life than you, and I'm not hurt. I'll look for those bad guys and think of a way to rescue your mommy and sister from them."

The boy glanced at his stomach injury and muttered, "Thank you. Thank you..."

Natalie ruffled his hair before running in the opposite direction the people were fleeing in.

Most of the people were gone by then.

Natalie scanned the area before spotting a robber holding a pregnant woman hostage with a sharp knife pressed to her neck.

The pregnant woman was pale from fright, but she was still shielding her stomach with her hands protectively—she was still trying to protect the new life in her as much as she could.

It was then Natalie realized that the boy shared similar features to the pregnant woman.

Mommy? Sister? It seems that the mommy and sister he's talking about is this pregnant woman in front of me.

The kidnapper with sunglasses kept the pregnant woman still with his arm as he threatened, "It's best for you to do as we say. We don't want to kill you. But if you keep moving around and end up dying..."

The pregnant woman did not dare to move. She was even breathing with caution, fearing that the sharp knife would slit her throat.

Nevertheless, pregnant women were no ordinary people. Any massive fluctuations in their mood would affect them and the babies in them. If things continued, even if the robber did nothing to the pregnant woman, the pregnant woman might have a miscarriage and end up dying with her baby.

The promise she made to the boy rang in her head. It seemed that the only option she had at that moment was to give herself up in exchange for the pregnant woman's and her baby's lives.

I'll find a way to escape after swapping places with the boy's mother.

Once she made up her mind, Natalie walked to the robber and gave him a small smile. "I need to talk to you. I'll swap places with her. Is that okay?"

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Chapter 1048 Swap Places

Natalie knew that her plan was a little foolish, but it was an urgent situation, and there was nothing else she could think of. Hence, she had no choice but to steel herself and try it out.

Barnaby Lenock was holding a pregnant woman hostage when a young woman abruptly barged into his line of sight and requested to swap places with the pregnant woman.

"Strange words from you!" Barnaby tightened his grip on his knife. "What makes you think you can swap places with her?"

"Don't you only want a hostage as a bargaining chip?" Natalie asked Barnaby. "A pregnant woman can't move around easily. Also, look at her. She's going to pass out before you can even kill her. Since all you want is a hostage, won't I do as well?"

Every word Natalie uttered challenged Barnaby's determination.

He had only wanted to hold a random woman hostage. Yet little did he expect to end up grabbing a pregnant woman instead.

Barnaby scanned Natalie from head to toe and asked dubiously, "You're not a spy from the special forces, are you?"

"Which part of me looks like that?" Natalie chuckled. "Can you not make things more complicated than they actually are? I don't have any weapons on me. I just don't want to see two lives ending, so I'm volunteering to take her place."

Just as Barnaby was hesitating, the sounds of steady footsteps came closer to them.

Barnaby's ears perked up, and immediately he became alert.

Natalie knew that the people who had come to arrest him had arrived, so it was the best time for her to pressure him into letting her swap places with the pregnant woman.

It was an opportunity she could not let slip away.

"Time's ticking. Why don't you consider my suggestion?" Natalie asked, a sly smile growing on her lips.

When Barnaby saw her smiling despite the situation, he snapped his brows together.

Everyone around him had been frightened out of their wits the moment the shooting began, afraid that the chaos would affect them. Yet, the young woman in front of him had been calm the entire time. It was as if everything was within her control.

She had spoken with such confidence that made her seem as though she was in full control of the situation.

Seeing that the man was still hesitating, she pointed behind him and cried out, "Watch out! There's someone behind you!"

Barnaby turned around. Spotting the look Natalie gave her, the pregnant woman took the chance to bite down hard on the man's arm.

Barnaby did not see that coming. As he loosened his grip on the pregnant woman, the thought of murdering her formed in his head.

How dare you try to escape?

Just as Barnaby was about to slash his knife at the pregnant woman, Natalie walked over to him and offered him her neck.

Barnaby was shocked again. "You—"

"I told you I was going to be your hostage," Natalie uttered coldly. "Let the pregnant woman go."

Barnaby used to be a mercenary.

He had encountered many talented individuals on battlefields and the black market but had never thought that he would be stunned by the young woman's demeanor. Nevertheless, he wanted to leave the place safely, so he had to have a hostage. Without hesitation, he pressed the knife against Natalie's neck.

Meanwhile, the pregnant woman ran a little before soldiers caught and supported her.

The pregnant woman even cast a tearful look at Natalie after getting rescued.

Natalie gave the pregnant woman a reassuring smile.

As a mother, she could understand what the pregnant woman felt. Agreeing to the swap was not a selfish decision for the pregnant woman—she had to protect the baby in her.

The pregnant woman was soon led away by soldiers.

Barnaby, on the other hand, was retreating with Natalie as his hostage.

Natalie was very cooperative. She wanted to make sure that she got out of the situation alive.

She had already carried out the promise she made to the boy, so the imminent fight between the robber and the law enforcement officers was no longer any of her business. All she could do was ensure her own safety.

However, Natalie could not help but freeze when she saw the person leading the operation.

Jerome?

Similarly, when Jerome realized that the hostage was Natalie, he froze.

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Chapter 1049 Cautious

Why... Why is she here? Just as he was about to call out to her, he was stopped by the look she gave him. They could not let anyone know that they knew each other.

If the robber were to find out that Natalie knew Jerome—and knew him well, in fact—she might no longer be a simple hostage, and the lawbreaker would become increasingly wary of her.

Jerome could understand Natalie's intention. Still, he found it impossible to stay calm as she was held hostage at knifepoint.

"Your acquaintances have been caught, and you're the only one left," Jerome warned as he kept a close eye on Barnaby. "I'd advise you to surrender as quickly as you can and let the hostage go so that your sentence will be lighter."

However, Barnaby felt as if he had heard the world's greatest joke when he heard Jerome's words.

"A lighter sentence? How funny!" Barnaby pressed the knife harder against Natalie's neck. "I want to leave safely, and you have to give me enough money too. Otherwise, I'll drag this woman to hell with me."

A typical threat, but it only worked because Natalie's life was in his hands.

"I want a helicopter, and I want a hundred million in virtual currency downloaded into a wristwatch!" Barnaby glanced at the young woman in his arms. "I don't have much patience. You'll have to prepare everything I've requested in half an hour's time. I'll be waiting on the rooftop for the helicopter."

A hundred million? This guy is greedy! Our higher-ups didn't say that blood cannot be spilled. Moreover, this mission isn't particularly hard. We just need to use tear gas to blind our opponent and take him down. If the hostage is hurt, so be it. Same idea for if she ends up dead. All we need to do is to give the correct compensation later on.

Just as Jerome's adjutant was about to make a move, Jerome stopped him.

"Major General Sutton, what are you..."

"I won't let anything happen to her," Jerome uttered in a low, determined voice. "You heard what he said. We have to prepare everything he wants in half an hour. My command is the law. If you're worried that the money will be flushed down the drain, the Sutton family will bear the responsibility for it, then."

The adjutant was about to say something else, but he could not utter a word after seeing Jerome's determined gaze.

"Yes, Sir. I'll see to it right now."

Barnaby and Natalie were standing a distance away from the soldiers, so Barnaby did not catch any of Jerome's conversation with his adjutant; he just assumed that Jerome wished to save the hostage's life.

However, complicated feelings were plaguing Natalie's mind.

She was certain that Jerome and his adjutant just had a disagreement about the course of action.

Jerome only agreed to Barnaby's ridiculous demands because he wanted to protect her.

Natalie did not know what words she could use to describe her current situation.

Jerome, who wanted to save her, was being too cautious.

Right then, Barnaby began towing Natalie up the stairs. "Move!"

Natalie had no choice but to pretend to go along with his words as she waited for the right opportunity to escape from him.

Jerome was afraid that Barnaby would hurt Natalie, so he did not follow Barnaby too closely.

Not long after, they reached the rooftop.

Barnaby was focused on waiting for the helicopter and the money, and he never once loosened his grip on the knife in his hand.

Natalie asked tentatively, "What crimes have you committed? Robbery?"

"Shut up," Barnaby snapped, breathing hard.

"Can't I just ask a question? I've been held hostage by you for a while now." Natalie had only asked that because she wanted to convince the man to surrender.

She was no saint. She knew well that while Jerome had sent his men to prepare the helicopter and the money, he had also sent his men to get the best sniper in the troop over.

The sniper would be able to make a good shot even if they were a hundred meters away.

This man thought that holding either me or that pregnant woman hostage would guarantee his safe escape. He never realized that he became a sitting duck. At most, it'll be difficult to capture him. Still, that's nothing a little time won't fix—he'll surely be caught.

As Barnaby watched the helicopter fly toward him, he became even more assured that he would be able to leave safely, and that made him lower his guard.

"Why would I take on a job as dangerous as this if not for the fact that I had no other options?" Barnaby sighed. "My wife has a brain tumor, and the success rate of the craniotomy is only three percent. I have to get the best doctor in the world to raise that success rate up to seventy percent. Isn't the best doctor the most expensive doctor? I need a lot of money so that my wife survives this."

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Chapter 1050 Help Me

Barnaby's words moved Natalie. Who wanted to be born poor and powerless, after all? If not for unfortunate circumstances, who would risk their life and fall from grace?

Yet, doing this was not the best and only option. There was no way Barnaby would get out of the place alive, and his sick wife would never see her husband nor receive the money needed for her treatment. "Turn yourself in," Natalie told him quietly. "You can't run."

However, Barnaby did not agree with Natalie's words. Frustrated, he hissed, "I'm impressed by your kindness and calmness, but that doesn't mean that I have to listen to everything you say. Don't worry. Once I get the money and leave safely via the helicopter, I'll let you go alive."

"Things aren't as simple as you think they are." "Which part of me seems simple to you?"

"Time is running out, so I can't explain everything to you," Natalie said grimly. "Surrender. That's the only way out of this for you and your wife. I'm a doctor, and I know some excellent neurosurgeons—I can save your wife."

Hearing that, the man studied Natalie and snorted. "You? You're only in your early twenties. I don't think you've even graduated from medical school. You, a doctor who knows excellent neurosurgeons? Stop trying to pull my leg. I won't believe anything you say."

Natalie did not know what she could do to make the man cease his prejudice and believe her; she could only repeat what she had said earlier.

"Time is running out. Please listen to me."

"Shut up!" Barnaby pressed the knife harder against Natalie's neck. "You're not the negotiator those people hired, right? I'll tell you now that I won't believe anything you say. I have to save my wife. Once I save her, I'll pay back for all the lives I've taken."

"I'm not."

"The helicopter's here!" Delight danced across Barnaby's eyes as he watched the helicopter descend on the rooftop. "Save your breath. I've told you that you'll be fine as long as you go along with my plan."

Natalie began surveying the tall buildings around them. Perhaps a sniper rifle was trained on Barnaby's head in a spot she could not see.

"I really can help you out," Natalie insisted with a frown, not wanting to give up just like that.

"If you really can..." Barnaby started. "If I die here, look for my wife. Please treat her. As long as she stays alive, it doesn't matter if I live or die."

Just then, the helicopter landed. Jerome walked toward Barnaby with a watch his adjutant passed to him. "Let her go. I'll give you the watch."

Jerome had already formed a flawless rescue plan, but he did not wish to risk the life of the woman he was in love with. Barnaby said warily, "Throw it over to me. I'll let her go once I get it and board the helicopter."

Almost without hesitation, Jerome threw the watch with a hundred million in virtual currency at Barnaby's feet.

The moment Barnaby leaned over to pick up the watch, he would be shot.

Natalie closed her eyes.

Indeed, the sound of the bullet burying itself into a man's head rang in her ears when she closed her eyes.

The knife was instantly gone from her neck, and Natalie finally had the chance to take a deep breath. When she turned, she saw Barnaby, whose forehead was coated with blood and gray matter.

Evidently, Barnaby did not expect a sniper to be around.

Yet, it came as no surprise to Natalie that the army had assigned the sniper to the scene.

Barnaby kneeled on the ground and said with difficulty, "Are you really... a doctor?"

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"Yes." Natalie regarded him with mixed emotions. "I'm genuinely a doctor, and I'm certain I'll be able to increase the success rate for your wife's surgery."

"Help... me..."

The man's sunglasses then slipped down his nose bridge, revealing his eyeless left socket.

The grim reaper was coming for him.

"Help... Help me... Help me..." Barnaby kept repeating under his breath.