

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

Chapter 141

“But...”

Hesper really did not want to step into the Duvals residence again, because there were too many bad memories that she could not get off her mind

Just being too close to it would put her in a bad mood.

But Renfrew was looking forward to it so much that a sense of longing was overflowing out of his eyes, so all the thoughts of rejecting him turned into Hesper's maternal love for her son in the end.

“Okay, let's go together. I'll then take you to the aquarium after the banquet.”

“Yes, perfect!”

The little boy turned around happily and secretly informed Rickard of the good news.

Before going to bed that night, Hesper said, “Ren, do you have any friends that you want to invite to your party? You can invite them over too; the more the merrier.”

“Friends...?” Renfrew immediately thought of Myriade. “There's one, but I'm not sure if it'd be convenient for her to come.”

“Huh?” Hesper felt a little strange but did not think too much about it. She then smiled and said, “Then you should ask her to come.”

“Okay.” The little kid responded.

He then returned to his room and immediately contacted Myriade with his watch.

The call rang for a long time but no one answered. Renfrew could not help but feel a little anxious. “Please answer the call...”

Just when he was about to give up, the call finally went through.

“What's with the non-stop calls? Are you dying already?”

Hearing her voice, Renfrew instantly realized that something was wrong. “Ms. Myriade, did something happen to you? Why does your voice sound so weak?”

Myriade's expression stiffened.

‘I didn't expect this kid to be this sharp. I tried my best to conceal it, but he still heard it.’

“I’m fine, it’s just a little cold.”

Renfrew frowned.

‘I’ve had first-hand experiences on just how strong Ms. Myriade has been all this while. So how could a little cold make her sound so under the weather?’

Myriade could not disclose more, so she changed the subject immediately. “You’re anxiously looking for me out of the blue. What’s the matter?”

“Oh yeah. My birthday is only a few days away and I want to invite you to the party. But you...”

I see, but I may not be able to make it there. I’ll send you a gift though.”

Knowing that she was not feeling well, Renfrew did not force the issue. “Then you should grab more rest, Ms. Myriade, so that you can come over and play during my next birthday.”

After hanging up the phone, Myriade stared into the darkness above her bed in a daze.

‘He’s going to get a birthday celebration. How great does that sound? I’ve survived through so many years now and I haven’t even celebrated my birthday before this, not even one.

‘And perhaps I’ll have perished by his next birthday. But what does that matter? No one cares anyway.’

Soon, Renfrew’s birthday party arrived.

Early in the morning, Hesper dressed him up in a miniature tuxedo with a bow, making him look like a prince.

Coupled with Renfrew’s outstanding appearance, he attracted everyone’s attention as soon as he appeared at the celebration.

“The older the young master of the Duvals gets, the better-looking he becomes. He’s growing into a mini version of his father now.”

“Yes, if my son turns to be as good-looking as him, I’ll truly consider giving birth to a few more of

them.”

“Keep dreaming, how many more do you plan to have? Dude, take a look at the gene that your family possesses first before blabbering about this

While everyone was joking, someone recognized Hesper among the crowd.

“Isn’t this the former Mrs. Duval? Why is she here?”

“Could it be that the parents are planning to get back together? I heard that Mr. Duval is very fond of her. Mr. Duval hasn’t had anyone by his side these few years, and she’s attending such a party in the Duvals’ residence so aboveboard, so perhaps..

Hesper frowned and was about to explain when a warm voice sounded from the side.

“I’ve been waiting for you for a long time.”

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Rickard was dressed in a formal suit and his hair was meticulously styled, emitting the aura of the president of a global enterprise.

Hesper frowned subconsciously.

‘Our clothes... They’re not only of the same color but also look very similar in style.’

Sure enough, someone standing next to them joked, “Mr. Duval, you’re so romantic. You actually wore a couple’s outfit with President Lane?”

“You’ve misunderstood,” Rickard explained in a low voice indifferently, but his expression looked extremely relaxed.

Any observant person naturally knew that he did not mind the comment deep down, so one of the attendees continued to praise the family again. “Mr. Duval, there’s no need for you to be this modest. I mean, just look at the three of you, just how well-suited you look when you’re standing together as a family. You two are simply a match made in heaven.”

“That’s right, looking at all the couples in the whole of Genecity, I’m afraid you won’t be able to find a couple who are more handsome than you.”

The group of people went on chatting, calling Rickard and Hesper the most unique couple in the whole world, and completely forgot just how unimpressed they were when Hesper became the young lady of the Duvals back then.

The attendees were still the same group of people, but the relationship between the two of them. had long since changed.

Hesper forced a smile and interrupted them. “I’m sorry, you’ve really misunderstood. I’m only here to attend Renfrew’s birthday party. As for our attire, it’s just a coincidence. And about our relationship... Mr. Duval and I filed for a divorce years ago, didn’t we?”

“Er...” The other attendees did not expect her to speak up so directly, so the smiles on their faces stiffened in an instant, and the atmosphere in the hall turned awkward.

Hesper looked calm. "Why not you continue with the conversation while I bring Renfrew to meet his great-grandfather?"

"Alright..." The others agreed to Hesper's suggestion, but Rickard left the group of people to go after Hesper.

When they arrived at a corner of the house where there was no one, he grabbed her by the wrist. "Are you angry?"

Not wanting to quarrel in front of the child, Hesper stared straight at him and said coldly, "No, I'm not. And let go of me. I'm going to see Grandfather."

Rickard did not let go. "But I feel like you're angry."

Hesper took a deep breath and flung her arm to break free from his grasp. "Rickard Duval,

whether I'm angry or not has nothing to do with you. You get me?"

After saying so, she took Renfrew, turned around, and left.

Looking at her tense expression, Renfrew was a little confused. "Mommy, are you upset?"

Hesper looked down at him and asked directly, "What's with your daddy's attire? Don't tell me it's a coincidence."

"About that..."

Although Renfrew was smart, he was never good at lying, and before he could come up with an excuse, Hesper had already reprimanded him in a low voice, "I want the truth."

The little rascal had never seen her be so strict before, so he panicked immediately, and quickly grabbed her hand with his little hands. "Mommy, please don't be mad, but I... I took a picture of the dress that you're going to wear and sent it to Daddy earlier today."

Hesper had already guessed it. Otherwise, how could there be such a coincidence?

However, thinking that her son only wanted to see them get along well, Hesper could not bear to blame him. "It's okay, I'm not mad at you. You should go and greet your great-grandpa first. I'll come to you later."

Renfrew nodded obediently.

Hesper immediately contacted Isaac to bring her something to change into. And when she reappeared at the party, the black dress that she wore to the party had been changed into a champagne suspender dress. Her hair was slightly rolled up to reveal a

smooth and slender neck, and she was giving off a gentle and intellectual aura. She even changed her makeup a little and that added a little bit of charm to her overall look.

Rickard's gaze was so fixed on her that it was on the brink of getting glued onto her, and a strange emotion flickered in his dimmed eyes.

"Tsk tsk tsk, your ex-wife has changed a lot," a mocking voice sounded in his ears, and Rickard recognized who it was without having to turn his head.

It was the young master of the Gunthers, Zikmund Gunther.

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"Have you ever seen how you stare at her? Are you telling me that you want her back now that she's become a woman that all men seek?"

Rickard glanced at him quietly but did not utter a single word.

Zikmund had always been easily triggered by how Rickard kept everything to only himself, and deliberately joked, "If you're not going to answer my questions, then I'll take it as if you don't care about her anymore. And if that's the case, she's too gorgeous to be attending such a banquet alone. Why don't I go and talk to her?"

He was about to leave, but a warning came from behind him as expected.

"You can approach her if you have a death wish."

"I know that you only look firm and heartless on the outside." Zikmund stood up with a smile." However, let me remind you that Hesper isn't who she used to be. Her status alone is enough to attract the attention of many young and successful men in the city. If you don't take more initiative, I'm afraid she'll be married to someone else before you even realize it."

The two of them glanced in Hesper's direction together and saw that several men had surrounded her without anyone noticing. As they were chatting with her, their eyes were all fixed on her body.

There were even a few who already looked eagerly attentive as they did not even plan to hide their

true intention at all.

As for Hesper, it was effortless for her to interact with those men throughout the whole process; it looked as if she could already handle such situations with ease.

Rickard picked up his wine glass, took a sip, and was about to walk up to her, but Hesper was abruptly jerked out of his sight by someone else. When he tried looking for her again, she had already disappeared from the crowd.

“Hesper, you actually have the guts to come here?!” Sophia glared at her angrily. She was so exasperated that her expression was distorted.

After the incident at the hotel, she got rebuked by Ernest and had even more restrictions; the list was so long that she was on the verge of losing her mind.

Hesper gazed at her amusedly. “Why wouldn’t I have the guts to come here? Besides, why can’t I attend my son’s birthday party?”

“But you know that my mother and I don’t welcome you here. Don’t you know that you disgust us?”

“Oh, then you should get one or two sick bags on standby.” Hesper gave off an indifferent smirk. Anyway, I’m not the one who suffers, so why would take so many factors into consideration?”

“You, you won’t get the upper hand all the time. My mother will definitely deal with you when she sees you!”

“Then you should direct her here. We’ll decide on who will have the upper hand as soon as she comes up to me.”

Hesper was not in the mood to catch up with her, but before leaving her, she did not forget to

tease her deliberately. “By the way, what’s the thing that you promised to do whenever we meet the other day in the hotel room?”

Sophia’s face turned pale, recalling all the apologies that she would have to say to Hesper. She was speechless for a while.

Hesper put pressure on her with a glare. “What’s wrong? Are you planning to go back on your word?”

All the photos were in her possession, so Sophia would need to have the guts of a whale to do so.

Sophia gritted her teeth. “I... I’m sorry. Happy now?”

“You’re sorry is more than enough. There’s no need for you to worry if I’m happy with it or not.”

She then lifted her chin languidly and looked down at her triumphantly. “That’s about it for today. Don’t come up to me again if there’s nothing else that you have to say.”

Looking at her as she left the scene, Sophia clenched her fists unwillingly.

'Who wants to be controlled by others all the time? I must find a way to get all the photos back.'

As soon as Hesper came out of the villa, she saw Ernest and Renfrew chatting and laughing by the fountain, and that warm sight instantly healed her.

"Grandfather."

"Hesper, you're here." Ernest waved at her amiably "Are you satisfied with today's arrangement?"

"It's pretty good, but as long as Renfrew likes it."

Hesper smiled. She was not someone who cared too much about such things, but the party was indeed very grand. One whole room was piled up with birthday presents alone, and all kinds of celebrities and socialites could be seen attending this event.

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It had to be said that although there were two existences that worried Hesper in the Duvals, she had nothing bad to say about how Rickard and Ernest treated her son. These were the things that she could not provide Renfrew with in the past.

Soon, it was time to cut the birthday cake.

Just as Hesper walked over with Renfrew, she heard someone saying, "It happens that both of Renfrew's parents are here today. Why don't they come forward and cut the cake with our birthday boy?"

Hesper's smile stiffened, and before she could refuse, Renfrew was already staring at her expectantly and blinking his big eyes. "Mommy, is that okay?"

'Of course not. What's the matter with these people wanting to push Rickard and me closer to

each other?"

But it was Renfrew's birthday, and she could not bear to shatter his expectation, so she glanced at Rickard, hoping that the man would be more self-conscious.

However, the corners of Rickard's lips curled upward as he gave off a faint smile. It looked as if he agreed with the crowd's chants. "Let's go together. Let's not keep the guests waiting."

Hesper took a glance around her. Many children were already waiting around the 8-foot-high cake, and Renfrew squeezed her palm again. "Mommy, please."

“...All right.” Hesper stepped forward helplessly, originally wanting to only put on a show, but the man standing next to her grabbed her hand all of a sudden.

Hesper turned her head to the side in shock, only to hear Rickard’s melodious and deep voice

ringing in her ears.

“Don’t be nervous. We’re only here to cut the cake.

‘I’m not nervous at all, but you could’ve just cut the cake. What’s with holding my hand?’

She immediately withdrew her hand calmly, instantly taking the initiative to distance herself from him, and said to Renfrew, “Ren, since the cake has been cut, why don’t you share it with the children?”

“Okay!” The little fella was very excited. He walked up to his mother enthusiastically and distributed cakes to everyone under Hesper’s guidance.

Rickard knew that she left him behind on purpose, but he did not feel annoyed and defeated. He then walked up to Zikmund and stretched out his hand. “Give it to me.”

“Huh? What are you talking about?”

Zikmund wanted to play dumb but Rickard warned him with an indifferent gaze. “You just secretly took a picture of me and her.”

“You actually saw that? Okay, you win.” He could not help but admit it. “I’ll send the photo to you through WhatsApp.”

“Good.” Rickard nodded solemnly, and his cell phone vibrated not long after.

In the photo, he and Hesper were holding hands, looking extremely intimate.

Seeing the photo, a faint hint of happiness could be seen escaping through the corners of his lips and eyes.

Zikmund shook his head speechlessly, “If you had known that it’d come to this, why didn’t you act differently?”

Rickard’s gaze dimmed instantly..

‘If I could go back in time and relive the whole thing, I would definitely try to trust her more and not let her feel so aggrieved. However, I can’t go back in time. All I can do now is grasp onto the

present.’

Julie, who was standing at the side, saw that Hesper was being treated like a hostess of the house. She was so enraged that she felt shortness of breath and a sense of tightness in her chest. But Ernest had told her not to cause any more trouble before this; otherwise, she would not be

allowed to take another step into this house.

She snorted coldly, turned around, and went upstairs to rest.

'What I don't see won't hurt my feelings.'

By the time the banquet was finally over, it was already in the evening, so the plan to visit the aquarium naturally fell through.

Knowing that, Hesper said to Renfrew, "It's getting too late already. Shall we go to the aquarium

tomorrow?"

Renfrew nodded obediently. "Okay."

Rickard, who had just entered through the door, heard this, froze for a split second, and then walked in with a calm expression.

"Renfrew, are you going back with Mommy today?"

After hesitating for a bit, Renfrew said, "Mommy, I want to stay here today."

Hesper raised her eyebrows in awe, and Renfrew quickly explained, "I want to stay here to open all the presents. There are so many of them that are left unopened."

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Hesper agreed to the request. "Fine by me. Then I'll come over and pick you up tomorrow."

"No, I'll drop him off there," Rickard opened his mouth and suggested it all of a sudden.

Hesper did not notice anything wrong, so she nodded and left after grabbing her handbag.

Renfrew quickly came to the room where the presents were stored, jumped in, and started searching.

'Ms. Myriade said that she'd send me a present. I wonder what she'll give me?'

If he had not been too curious, he would never have left his mommy alone.

“What are you looking for?”

Rickard’s voice came from behind, and Renfrew shook his head immediately. “No, I’m just taking a look. I’ve received so many presents this year, I wonder if there’s anything that I like.”

“Oh really?” Rickard remained skeptical.

‘Judging from how he’s acting, he’s clearly looking for something.’

But since the little rascal did not want to disclose his reasoning, Rickard did not ask any more questions, and reminded him, “Go to bed earlier. Don’t forget that you have a date with your mommy tomorrow.”

The next day, when Rickard appeared by the car fully dressed, Renfrew finally noticed something unusual. “Daddy, are you... Are you coming with us?”

Rickard replied indifferently, “There are so many people in the aquarium. I could protect both of you if I tag along.”

Renfrew was speechless. “...Do you really think I’m as gullible as a three-year-old? You want to come along only because of mommy, don’t you?”

“Aren’t you indeed three years old?” Rickard gave him a condescending look.

Renfrew was so infuriated that he could feel his gum vibrating. However, he was a little depressed and had no intention of talking back to him at all, as he had searched for a long time last night but did not find Myriade’s gift.

At this moment, Rickard mentioned out of the blue, “When we see your mommy later, if she won’t let me tag along, just tell her that this is what you want.”

“...Daddy, you’re so annoying.”

When they got to Hesper’s apartment, as expected, Hesper took Renfrew to her side and was about to leave as soon as they met.

“Wait, I’m going too.”

“Just what do you think you can do at the aquarium?” The corners of Hesper’s lips twitched.

‘The second I saw what he was wearing today, I already knew that he came prepared.’

Rickard repeated what he had just explained to Renfrew earlier. “There are a lot of people at the aquarium, so it’s safer if I were to come along.”

“Thank you, but you’re not needed.” Hesper heartlessly rejected him.

Rickard frowned and responded hastily, "But Renfrew is the one who asked me to go with you."

Renfrew was dumbfounded as he felt an arrow of betrayal pierce through his heart.

'While other kids sell their father out to save themselves from a beating, how is it the other way around when it comes to me?'

But as soon as he encountered Hesper's suspicious gaze, Renfrew could only bite the bullet and nod. "Yes, Mommy, why don't you let Daddy come with us? He can help us with the bags."

Rickard took over the conversation instantly. "Renfrew said that he's never been to the aquarium with both his parents, so I deliberately set work and tasks aside to come with him. Can you let go of your prejudice against me and focus on fulfilling his wish first? Will this work for you?"

Now that he was using Renfrew as the reason why he wanted to tag along, it would be inappropriate for her to reject him over and over again.

Hesper put on a long face. "Okay, you can come, but you're to keep a distance of nine feet away from us. You're not allowed to get any nearer than nine feet."

"...Alright." Rickard had always been an adaptable man; he resolutely agreed to the terms.

When the three of them arrived at the aquarium, Renfrew was quickly attracted by all the marine life, and Hesper patiently explained all the creatures to him all the way.

While they were there, Renfrew bought a lot of dolphin and penguin merchandise, all of which were held by Rickard. The mother and son walked in the front, leading the way, while the father walked behind them, but their super attractive appearance created an undoubtedly beautiful

scenery.

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In the beginning, Renfrew was still thinking about Rickard who was following them from behind, but as the journey went on, he enjoyed himself so much that he gradually forgot about his poor daddy who was not far behind and only cared about dragging his mommy around.

Rickard rarely had the opportunity to carry out an activity without any business purpose, and he had also never experienced carrying things and visiting an aquarium amidst so many people.

Looking at Hesper and Renfrew who were holding hands, talking, and laughing in front of him, Rickard gradually felt a little relaxed deep down. This feeling might be unfamiliar to him, but it was a little addicting at the same time too.

If only he could stop time....

Rickard took his phone out and secretly took a picture of Hesper holding Renfrew as the little rascal was staring at the jellyfish. In the photo, Hesper lowered her head and let off a faint smile, and her eyes, which were always filled with defense when she was looking at him, now looked harmless and clear; they were as beautiful as the calm ocean.

They were indeed gorgeous.

Hesper knew that Rickard was following them from behind, so she turned her head and subconsciously searched for him in the crowd, but the only thing that she saw was Rickard looking down at his cell phone.

“He must be busy with his work again.”

It was not surprising to her. After all, Rickard had always been like this; work had always been more important than everything else. However, Hesper could feel a strange sensation deep within her chest, as if her heart was being choked.

‘He’s obviously the one who shamelessly insisted on tagging along, but all he’s done so far is stare at his phone absent-mindedly.’

“Uh... Excuse me...”

Rickard was staring at Hesper’s side profile in the photo when a young female voice interrupted him.

“Go girl, don’t be shy!”

Rickard turned his head and saw a few young ladies pushing another lady toward him. The cheeks of the woman who was being pushed forward were as red as tomatoes, and when she exchanged gazes with Rickard, even the tips of her ears flushed.

“Uh... Can I have your contact number!” The girl lifted her cell phone, which had the number pad opened on the screen, and she only dared to look at him nervously with one eye closed.

As soon as she got closer to Rickard and had a closer look at him, the man looked even more charming. The regality that exuded from his core was incomparable.

Under Rickard’s unwavering gaze, the girl was so nervous that she was about to escape from the scene. But at this moment, Rickard responded, “I’m already married.”

“How is that possible? We’ve been observing you for a long time, and there hasn’t been anyone around you.”

Another woman exclaimed boldly, “Dude, at least give her a chance!”

Rickard did not say much. He took a few strides forward, walked up to Hesper’s side, and wrapped his arms around her shoulders.

Hesper had heard the commotion that was taking place over there ever since the whole conversation started but she deliberately restrained herself from looking directly over, but she never thought that Rickard would come over and pull her into his arms.

“What’s wrong with you?” Hesper whispered to Rickard’s ear.

However, Renfrew, who had his eyes fixed on the jellyfish, still noticed Rickard’s sudden appearance. “Daddy?”

Renfrew’s voice was soft, but at such a close distance, it was more than enough to be heard by the ladies who caught up to Rickard.

Unexpectedly, although Rickard looked young, he was indeed married and even had a cute child. The woman who was encouraged to step forward and ask for his contact number blushed, pulled her friends away, and left the scene in embarrassment.

“Rickard Duval, do I look like a wall that you can hide behind?” Hesper broke free from Rickard’s arm, took a glance at Renfrew, who had just shifted his gaze back onto the jellyfish tank, and said coldly, “What kind of tricks are you trying to play now, Rickard Duval? We’re already divorced.” “But we’re still a genuine family.

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At this moment, Rickard’s tone seemed to be mixed with emotions that Hesper could not

comprehend, and Hesper did not want to understand it either, so she scolded him in a low voice, “That’s just pure sophistry.”

Rickard lowered his gaze, met Hesper’s keen eyes, remained silent for a moment, and said, “Give me a chance.”

“What?”

Rickard’s question came so suddenly that Hesper thought that she had heard it wrongly and froze for a moment. But after giving it a good thought, she still could not understand what Rickard was trying to say, and then saw the seriousness in Rickard’s profound gaze.

“Hesper, give me another chance to make it up to you.” Rickard did not beat around the bush this time around.

Hesper did not expect him to say such a thing at all, so she was astonished for quite some time.

In fact, the man that was standing in front of her at this moment was already making her feel very strange. In her impression, her ex-husband had never been such a vivid person. He was more like a machine, and all he saw through those calm eyes were profits and opportunities.

Suppressing the messy emotions that were surging in her chest, Hesper lowered her head and

sneered. “There’s no need for that.”

Hesper could not care less about her messy past, so much so that she actually hated her past self

for the weakness that she showed back then.

She did not need Rickard’s compensation, just like how he did not need her a few years ago.

On the other side of the city, Juniper locked herself in the room, and her eyes were fixed on the photo displayed on her cell phone’s screen.

‘It’s Rickard.’

Anyone with a certain status and background would definitely recognize the man at first glance even if he was standing in the crowd.

In the photo, Rickard was hugging Hesper in his arms. No one knew who captured the photo and uploaded it onto their Instagram feed, but it was then sent to Juniper through direct message by a random person.

Even though they were in the middle of a crowd, they still looked like a match made in heaven

when the two of them stood next to each other.

“Hesper. Rivera!” Juniper was about to lose her mind because of jealousy, but she was at her mercy, so she could not do anything to her!

Angrily, she swept everything off the table, panting heavily, and threw her phone aside.

Footsteps could be heard coming from outside the door; it was Ariana who had heard the

commotion.

Looking at her heartbroken daughter, Ariana walked up to her in distress, and then patted her on the back. "Juni, don't worry, I've already found a doctor, and he claims that he can cure the poison in your body."

"Is that true?!" Hearing what Ariana said, Juniper sat up straight in an instant. "Can he really get rid of the poison?"

Seeing her daughter's unstable appearance, Ariana felt even more tormented. She nodded and asserted, "Don't worry, after taking a look at you, this doctor is sure that you can be cured. There won't be any mistakes."

After getting an affirmative answer, Juniper laughed, and the complacency in her eyes was on the brink of overflowing. "Finally, I don't have to live under that b\*tch's control anymore, and I don't have to treat her like a goddess anymore!"

Thinking of the humiliation that she had been receiving all this while, Juniper gritted her teeth and clenched her fists.

"Let me see..."

Juniper turned her head and looked at herself in the mirror.

Ever since she got poisoned by Hesper, she had never dared to look in the mirror, but since she would soon regain her previous look, she felt infinitely exhilarated deep down.

"Hesper Rivera... What should I give you in return for all the anguish that you've put me through all

this while?"

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At this time, Juniper, who was still immersed in her personal fantasy of revenge, did not know that the so-called "doctor" who was once again giving her hope was still Hesper.

"Ms. Lane, why would you give her the genuine antidote this time around?"

Isaac contacted the Wights according to Hesper's instructions and sold the genuine antidote to Julie at a high price, but he was still rather bewildered.

'In the information that I have, the two things that Juniper Wight cares about the most in her life. are her looks and her reputation. All we need to do now is just let her face degenerate gradually and get uglier and uglier, so she won't be able to appear in front of the young lady and affect her mood ever again.'

Hesper had a dinner party to attend tonight, so she was choosing a necklace to wear to the party. while listening to Isaac's report.

The owner of Drogon Enterprise had introduced her to a marvelous designer before this, and the dress that Hesper was about to wear tonight was made by her. The white mermaid dress fit her graceful body. The only body part that was exposed on the front was her well-defined collarbones, and it had a deep V-shaped design on the back, which showcased her fair and beautiful shoulder blades, accentuating her petite and exquisite figure.

She looked just like a beautiful and enchanting mermaid in it.

"Turning her ugly is an easy way out for her."

Hesper took off the pearl necklace and picked a special-shaped shell that had a rose-shaped ruby embedded in it out of the jewelry box.

She then stood up, turned her head, and looked at Isaac, who had a trace of surprise flashing across his eyes. "Although Juniper is a proud woman more than anything else, her reputation has never been her priority when it comes to getting what she wants the most."

Hesper had never thought that Juniper was an arrogant woman. After all, no proud person would ever pester someone else's husband endlessly, and she wouldn't have stayed by Rickard's side for so many years without demanding an official title or status.

At the end of the day, she was just a woman who loved to compare herself with others. She had never loved anyone, and the only person that she loved was herself.

"Making her look ugly won't crush her. It will only make her lower her dignity step by step, which is rather meaningless."

Hesper stared at herself in the mirror.

'What a beautiful and elegant woman. This woman is someone that I didn't even dare to think about becoming three years ago— Back then, I was only an orphan who no one cared about. I was also Rickard's dispensable wife who was nothing more than an inferior existence in the Duvals's residence.'

The expression that Juniper had on her face when she arrived in the crimson sports car was

engraved in her mind, so perhaps she would feel ashamed when the time came.

Isaac seemed to have understood the whole scenario partially, but he knew for sure that Hesper had suffered a lot.

She had to work very hard and claw her way to her current position step by step.

That was why he admired his young lady from the bottom of his heart.

On the other side of the city, Juniper took the antidote, and the acne on her face disappeared almost overnight; her complexion returned to normal gradually.

She did not expect the effect of the medicine to take place so quickly. However, after learning her lesson earlier on, Juniper had learned to be a little more cautious. She stayed at home for a few more days, making sure that her skin condition would not relapse this time around before she could breathe a sigh of relief.

“Hah, Hesper Rivera, I bet this is way out of your plan too, isn’t it?”

Juniper caressed her smooth and tender skin. Thinking that Hesper might still be celebrating complacently about the fact that she had managed to disfigure her, she felt even merrier.

“I just refuse to believe that I won’t be able to win Rickard’s heart back now that I’ve regained my looks.”

Thinking of how intimate Hesper and Rickard were, flames of revenge ignited from the bottom of Juniper’s eyes. She grabbed her cell phone and called Rickard.

“Rickard, it’s me.”

## Chapter 149

Rickard received a call from Juniper out of the blue.

Remembering what she had done to Hesper back then, he could not figure out what she wanted, so he remained silent, wanting to hear what she had to say.

Sensing Rickard’s silence, Juniper did not care and continued. “After being homebound for some time, I’ve already realized my mistakes. I heard that Sophia encountered an accident some time ago, and I’ve always had a close relationship with her. So can I go to your place to visit her?”

“You don’t have to tell me about such agendas of yours.” Rickard’s voice was tinged with slight indifference. “Didn’t you two discuss plenty of things in private quite frequently in the past? So why learn how to behave now?”

“...”

Before Juniper could speak, Rickard hung up the phone, not giving her an opportunity to explain herself.

Rickard’s attitude sounded even more indifferent than ever before, and Juniper knew how much Hesper played in this without even having to think about it.

'I think Rickard really likes Hesper now!'

Realizing this, Juniper gritted her molars so vigorously that they were about to crush each other.

'Rickard must not be allowed to fall in love with Hesper! Her current identity is already different from before. If Rickard were to fall in love with her and look into all the incidents that happened back then, that might be it for me!'

Juniper took her phone out, hesitated for a while, and finally visited a website that had been

bookmarked for a long time, though she had never visited it before.

Memory: I need someone to kill a person in Genecity. DM me for the details.

Hesper's work in Genecity had gradually been implemented, phase after phase. She had also participated in many banquets organized by the upper class recently. Probably because everyone knew about her embarrassing relationship with Rickard, those people who wanted to curry favor with the Lanes were wise enough to not invite Rickard.

Overall, all the banquets could be considered pleasant.

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Some of the Lanes were still waiting to see Hesper embarrass herself. After all, finding a foothold and securing a market for the branch office in Genecity were not easy tasks. But Hesper managed to accomplish them so quickly that it was unbelievable.

When Wilfred made the suggestion back then, he originally wanted to only make things difficult. for Hesper, but he never thought that such a young woman would do a good job.

With this, Arthur now valued Hesper even more, and all of Genecity's projects had already been assigned to Hesper.

"Alright..." Hesper rubbed the bridge of her nose tiredly. Several hours of continuous work and video conferencing had overloaded her body. "Do you guys still have anything else to say? If not, we'll dismiss the room here."

Naturally, Wilfred would not let go of this opportunity, and said, "I have something to say."

Hesper was not surprised. This uncle of the Lanes had not shown her any mercy ever since she became part of the family, so she knew he must be up to something.

"Do speak up."

Wilfred knew that Hesper would surely let him talk, so he stood up in front of everyone and asked, "Everyone should know about the earthquake that took place in Salt City yesterday, right?"

Salt City was a small county located not far away from Genecity. Hesper did read the news about the earthquake, but she could not think of what Wilfred was going to say in just a second.

"Lane Holdings has just settled down here in Genecity, so the people of Genecity and the surrounding counties still don't have much faith in us. So, if our company can lend the local government a helping hand this time around, then our reputation in this area will definitely rise rapidly."

## Chapter 150

"President Lane, don't you think so too?"

Wilfred's tone sounded somewhat aggressive, but Hesper's expression remained calm, and she politely responded, "Uncle Wilfred, there's no need for you to address me with honorifics. At the end of the day, you're still my uncle."

Seeing that Hesper did not fall into the trap, Wilfred frowned, and then continued, "I think this contribution is very necessary, Hesper..."

"I know." Hesper had already guessed what Wilfred was going to say and preemptively said, "You want me to personally bring supplies to the city in order to set an example, correct?"

Standing behind Hesper, Isaac glanced at Wilfred who was on the video call after hearing his suggestion, and his expression looked extremely hostile.

'This city just experienced an earthquake yesterday. Going there now to boost the company's CSR number is undoubtedly a huge risk. Ms. Lane is the young lady of the Lanes, so her presence at the scene can naturally earn the company a lot of favorability, but such benefits are simply too insignificant compared to the risks.

Everyone below looked at Hesper, thinking that it was impossible for Hesper to agree to this proposal.

...After all, she was just a delicate and noble young lady.

"Alright, I'll go there myself." Hesper did not leave too much time for people to react and started giving the order immediately. "Get the list of supplies and means of transportation ready. I want to arrive in Salt City with the supplies by tomorrow noon at the latest."

When Rickard received the news, Hesper was already in the car.

“Is she crazy? Does she know just how dangerous Salt City is now? And does she know how many people would kill just to get out of that place now, yet she’s going to travel there?”

Rickard called Hesper over and over again, but no one answered.

Looking at Rickard’s anxious look on the side, Benji knew that his boss had already fallen for Hesper without knowing it. “The telecommunicating signal in Salt City might not be very good now, Mr. Duval, so Ms. Lane might not be able to receive your calls.”

Hearing this, Rickard hung up the phone irritably, and then called Duval Group’s headquarters.

“Prepare medical equipment and first aid supplies, and send all of them to Salt City.”

W

J

“If you were to run into Lane Holdings’ convoy, look after each other.”

Seeing that Rickard had made all the arrangements, Benji said again, “Mr. Duval, you asked me to keep an eye on Ms. Wight earlier on, and I found out that Ms. Wight has been very quiet recently. She hasn’t gone anywhere special and has only invited Ms. Duval out to go shopping occasionally. Our men have been monitoring her throughout the whole process and haven’t heard her making

any remarks against Ms. Lane.”

This really surprised Rickard, but it would be best if Juniper could really learn to behave.

‘If she and Sophia were to dare to lay a finger on Hesper again, I might not be able to protect her anymore!’

On the way to Salt City, Hesper had received all the calls that came from Rickard, but she did not pick up any of them and muted her phone instead.

“There’s debris blocking the road ahead, and our men have already gone down to clean it up,” Isaac said while getting into the car swiftly.

Seeing Hesper’s frowning expression, he could not help but say, “This trip is going to be very risky. Aftershocks might even happen at any time. So why would you agree to come with the convoy?”

Hesper was indeed a little tired; she kept thinking about why Rickard called and she could only breathe a sigh of relief at this moment.

“If I were to reject the proposal, the prestige that I’ve been establishing these days would crumble in an instant. Those people in the company will only remember that I’m someone who’s afraid of dying and has no guts to come to Salt City,” Hesper explained, then sneered. “My uncle is indeed quite smart.”

Isaac nodded and sighed. “Ms. Lane, it seems that your life in Genecity is just full of challenges and grievances.”

Hearing this, Hesper smiled and shook her head. How can this be considered a grievance? If I want to repay Matthew’s kindness and gain more through my own efforts, this is the only path that I must step onto.”

‘I, Hesper Rivera, don’t want to be a canary that stares into the bright sky from its cage. I’m not going to be a pet bird that stays by a man’s side and treats him as if he’s my whole life anymore.’