

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

### Chapter 271

Michelle was thinking that it was fine if she didn't get help from her teammate because she could still advance on her own, but when they were picking the materials in the flower room, the girl started going against her.

"I think... this flower isn't great."

Michelle was done getting what she needed, but when she turned around, she saw her teammate pushing what she took away.

"We can only pick fifteen items. You took too many..." The girl sounded timid but stubborn. "I haven't gotten what I need."

Michelle scoffed. "Just use what I took, okay? What you took doesn't fit my ideas, so I won't be able to

use them."

"No..." Hearing Michelle raise her voice, she sounded scared, but she still insisted. "This is a team competition and I'm part of the team."

They argued for some time and Michelle ended up not convincing the girl. They both took what they needed and picked the material for two different styles.

"Poor Michelle. Her teammate is dragging her down. How is she supposed to design with all those?"

"I don't think her teammate did anything wrong. It's a team competition, so why does Michelle get to dictate what they choose?"

"Alright, stop arguing. Celine and Hesper are going in."

Hesper walked into the room with Celine and the smell of flowers flowed toward them.

Hesper was surprised to see so many types of flowers that bloomed in summer during late autumn. It felt

as though she traveled through time and was immediately inspired.

She described her idea to Celine, who agreed with it. They looked for what they needed in the greenhouse, quickly found everything, then left.

“That’s such a huge contrast... From that, I think that Hesper and Celine are already doing better than Michelle.”

“Why aren’t we hearing from Michelle’s fans anymore? Didn’t they keep hurling insults before?”

They had three days to come up with a design, from designing to sewing. Both teammates had to work together and make something they both loved. Three days wasn’t a long time. Comparing this to the preliminaries, it was like going from cycling to driving a car.

Hesper had the idea, so when she got back, she made a draft while Celine categorized the materials. The fresh-cut flowers were kept in a vase. It was a method that she just learned.

They had a productive afternoon and their design took shape.

“You’ll be in charge of the details after this.” Hesper remembered that this was a team project. Even though Celine let her be the leader, Hesper couldn’t take all the credit, so she gave her a lot of space to improve it.

Celine was a little surprised because there weren’t a lot of chances to show their talent. She didn’t expect Hesper would use this method to give each of them a chance to shine, so her eyes were filled with joy. Thank you.”

In comparison, the atmosphere in the other rooms wasn’t as positive. There weren’t a lot of chances to shine, so whatever friendship they built disappeared. No one would want to be the one forgotten by the

viewers.

The same could be said for Michelle’s team. The obedient roommate suddenly turned into a competitor who was trying to outdo her. Michelle thought that it was annoying but kept her smile for the cameras.

Chapter 272

Five days flew past.

Hesper and Celine made a gown that was inspired by the irises. The flowers were still beautiful with careful preservation. Hesper used silver thread to sew them onto the dress, which made it look beautiful and refreshing.

“That’s so beautiful.” Celine was amazed when the flowers that she took care of for the past five days were used in the finished work.

Maybe because Hesper came up with the idea, she felt that this design that they rushed through and worked on overnight looked better than the past work she had done..

Since it had to be worn on the runway, the size was made according to the size of the model Lane Holdings provided. Once the model showed up, Hesper let her try it on and altered the dress to fit better. The model was from Yoshland and had a pair of beautiful blue eyes that matched the iris.

They didn't have an interpreter, but Hesper traveled for work a lot and was fluent in their language, so she was able to communicate with the model and their progress went even smoother.

Celine was envious of Hesper for being fluent in a foreign language, but there was more trust between them because they were able to converse. It was a benefit no matter how she looked at it.

"I'd love to wear your designs again in the future!"

Hesper chuckled because her work was appreciated. "We would be honored."

They were the undisputed winners of the team competition. However, Michelle's design didn't fit the theme very well and the judges gave her a bad comment because they thought she shouldn't have done it that way. Teamwork was very important.

That being said, her design was one of the more complete ones and they managed to move to the next

stage.

Michelle immediately sent Juniper a message the moment she got her phone.

Michelle: Did you know Hesper Rivera? Why didn't you tell me?

Juniper quickly replied.

Juniper: Calm down. I was surprised when you mentioned her too, but I'm not on good terms with her, so we'll just feel miserable if we talked about her, no?

Juniper: Never mind, I'm going to tell you. Hesper stole my fiance with dirty tactics in the past, so I hate her.

Michelle would never have imagined something like that would happen between the two of them in the past, but she remembered a man picking Hesper up at the university in a luxury car. The man wasn't the fiance' who showed up during the reunion.

She was shocked, but she managed to capture everything and all the photos were on her phone.

Was that man Juniper's fiance? He looked rich!

Michelle: I'm sorry for not trusting you because of what she said.

Juniper: It's fine. That's how she is. She loves to keep a poker face when she steals someone's man...

Juniper's expression turned hideous as she typed angrily on her phone, but suddenly, a hand came from

behind her and took her phone away.

Mom?"

Juniper turned around and saw Arlana standing behind her frowning while holding her phone.

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"Mom, give me my phone." Juniper frowned too as she held out her hand. "I'm not a child anymore. Are you going to take my phone away? You're not respecting me."

Ariana stared at her, then shook her head. "If I respect you now, I'll just be ruining you."

"Juni, I hope you don't fall further. Hesper Isn't someone you should be offending. You're planning something behind her back and think that you're doing something, but other than feeling happy for ruining her, you won't achieve anything else."

Ariana was a little disappointed. "Carter came to get you and I've thrown him out. I've never begged you before, but I'm doing that now. Break up with Carter."

Juniper didn't understand. "Why should I? I love him. Why do you want to interfere? Are you my mother or Hesper's? Why do you care about her more?"

Juniper went all out because she felt that Ariana did her wrong.

"I won't break up with him. Hesper will pay for taking what was mine. I'll find a way even if you won't give me your support."

Juniper snatched her phone. "I won't be coming back. Don't wait up for me."

She then slammed the door behind her, leaving Ariana sitting on the couch, crying in silence.

Hesper got home after the competition and got a phone call from an unknown number before she stepped into her home.

"Hello?"

The caller didn't speak. Hesper didn't know who the caller was, and what they wanted. She was going to hang up because there was nothing coming from the other side, but then person spoke.

“Ms. Rivera? I’m Juniper’s mother.”

Hesper frowned and opened the door as she held the phone between her ear and shoulder. “How can I help you?”

Ariana helped the Duvals in the past, Hesper knew that. She remembered Ariana as a cold but classy woman, but she didn’t like her because she was Juniper’s mother.

“Um... can we meet this weekend?”

The weekend.

Hesper agreed even though she had no idea why she wanted to see her.

The Wight’s place was emptier than the Duval’s. Hesper was led to Ariana’s room. She walked over to her and saw that Ariana was holding a photo of her and Juniper.

Juniper was still in school and was smiling next to Ariana. She looked beautiful.

“Maybe telling you about Juni would be unfair to you.” Ariana placed the photo down but kept her eyes on it. “Look, that was how she was when she was a child.”

Juniper looked like she was in high school in the picture, so she was no longer a child. It was even possible that it was taken just a few years ago.

However, Juniper was not close to being domineering. She was at most a little arrogant and anyone would be able to tell that she grew up in a rich family and that she was well-pampered and cared for.

People change. Ariana sighed. “But I can’t believe that this is what Juni has turned into now.”

Hesper couldn’t tell who she was in the past. She might be a nice person, but the Juniper now caused so much harm to her and still kept testing her.

Chapter 274

“I’m sorry, I’ve said too much.”

Ariana looked back at Hesper. “I invited you here to apologize on behalf of Juni. As a bystander, I know that what she did to you caused you a lot of pain.”

“There’s no need. No one else should apologize for what she did.” Hesper never had much interaction with Ariana in the past, but when someone older apologized to her, Hesper felt uneasy. “What Juniper did won’t be forgiven because of a simple sentence. You’re her mother, and I’m a mother too. I can understand how you feel, but I won’t forgive her. People need to pay for what they did. We’re all adults after all, don’t you agree?”

Ariana knew that begging Hesper wouldn't work after hearing what she said, but she knew that if Juniper continued doing what she was doing, she would one day make a mistake so big she wouldn't be able to turn back.

"Ms. Rivera... can we come up with an agreement?"

Hesper was trying to excuse herself, but when she heard that, she decided to listen.  
"Go on."

Ariana sighed, then spoke.

Juniper headed for Carter's place after leaving home.

Carter was still angry after being kicked out of her home, but Juniper immediately went to see him, so he calmed down.

"My mom doesn't know me at all. She asked me to break up with you and I shut her down."

Juniper looked at his expression and could tell that he was calmer, so she was glad. Even if the whole world hated her, at least Carter the playboy was still interested in her.

Maybe what she did in the past was terrible, but even though Carter was nowhere close to Rickard, he was nice to her. He would give her whatever he wanted, even if she asked for the stars.

"My mom was just worried that Hesper would take action against me because that's just how she is. Hesper even has the Lanes supporting her, and Rickard seemed to be bewitched by her." Juniper looked down and sounded like she was sobbing. "As long as Hesper is still alive, I won't be able to convince my mom to accept you."

She was trying to hint at him to get rid of Hesper. Carter saw that she was pretending to sob, so he rubbed his temples.

Juniper started feeling anxious when he didn't say anything.

"Carter, don't forget that when I agreed to be with you, you promised me something!" Juniper grabbed his arm. "You need to help me kill Hesper and cause the Duvals to file for bankruptcy. Wouldn't you be happy with the collapse of the Duval Group? Why are you hesitating?"

Carter held her hand and smiled. "It isn't something that can happen overnight. Give me more time."

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Juniper pulled her hand out, but since she was not as strong as him, she just let it be.

“Don’t worry, it’ll happen.” Carter’s voice trailed away. His eyes filled with realization as he lowered his head and kissed Juniper.

I’ve agreed to your request, but you need to hold your side of the agreement too. Do what you promised.” Hesper pressed her lips together. “I hope what you told me is all true.”

“You’re a good person.” Ariana felt sorry. “I apologize again. None of this would have happened if I did my part as a mother.”

Hesper shook her head. “Alright, none of that matters anymore. I need to excuse myself because I have

work to do.”

Chapter 275

Alright.

After saying goodbye, Hesper went to her office and finished her work. On the way up, she bumped into Matthew, who was on the way down with some staff.

“Matt?”

She walked in when the elevator doors opened but didn’t expect to bump into him.

Matthew nodded and when the other staff saw them standing together, so they left to continue work.

The two bosses were usually friendly, but when it came to working, they never let their relationship get in the way. They were pretty scary when they were serious.

Matthew looked at her and knew that what she went out for probably went well, so he didn’t ask questions.

“Have you eaten? I just finished with work and am now heading out for some food.”

Hesper nodded. “Not yet. Let’s go.”

The people who were observing the two bosses watched as they walked out of the building and gave a sigh of relief, then started chatting in their groups.

Employee A: I think Mr. and Ms. Lane do have a good relationship. It doesn’t seem like they are at each other’s throats for inheritance.

Employee B: I wish I could see Ms. Lane’s beauty every day.

Employee C: Hah, it’s obvious that you’ve never been yelled at by her. Are you new?

Employee B: She looks pretty gentle. Does she yell?

Employee D: She would eat you up.

Employee A, B, and C: ?

Isaac smiled cunningly as he went undercover among the staff. Renee walked over and saw him smiling, so she frowned. "What are you looking at? Why are you smiling here instead of going for lunch?"

Hearing her voice, Isaac sat up straight and put his phone away.

Renee was different from him. She was always very serious like an old scholar. If she knew that they had group chats, it would be the end for the staff who were joking in there, and he would have no entertainment left.

"Nothing. I heard that Ms. Lane was here?"

Renee looked at him suspiciously when he put his phone away but didn't question him. She nodded and said, "Mr. Lane sent a message to say that they went out for lunch together. We can take our time with work and go have lunch too."

Isaac nodded and went out.

"...What's wrong with him." Renee watched as he sashayed away, then turned around to check some documents.

Her sickness delayed a lot of work, so now that she was back, she wished she could clone herself to get the work done.

## Chapter 276

Hesper was quite familiar with the places around the office because they would order food delivery when they had to work overtime. She knew which shop Matthew would enjoy, so she brought him there.

"Our stats are higher than the Duvals for this season, but I don't really understand why they're doing what they're doing."

Matthew was the one managing the company recently. Hesper looked at the numbers and didn't really understand the Duvals' plan, so she looked at Matthew intently.

"These few days... We should eat well."

Matthew flicked her forehead. "There's nothing in there other than work."

"Ouch." Hesper rubbed her forehead. "I'm working hard for the company yet you flicked my head. You're paying for lunch."

Matthew chuckled as Hesper looked up, and they both started laughing.

“Where did you go this morning? You looked concerned when you got home yesterday. Is it about Rickard?”

Hesper thought about it, then said, “Somewhat, but not really. Juniper’s mother wanted to see me and asked to work with me.”

“Work with you?”

Matthew thought that the name Juniper sounded familiar, then he frowned. “How?”

“She wants to help me. She’ll tell me as much as possible about whatever Juniper plans in the future.” Hesper raised her brows. “But the catch is that if Juniper does something terrible and I get to decide her fate, I’ll have to spare her life. I accepted.”

Matthew nodded. “Can you trust her?”

Hesper looked down and shook her head. “I’ve never talked to her before this. Maybe first impressions aren’t that accurate, but the impression I got from her was that she was a gentle and elegant woman. More importantly, I believe that no mother would want their child to make mistakes that would ruin their life. I’m hoping that she’s a good mother.”

Before Matthew could speak, their food was served. “Try this. Every time I tried it, I would think about how it’s something you would probably love.”

“Finish it, then go back to work.”

Matthew was speechless.

Seeing resentment in his eyes, Hesper gave a sneaky smile. “Go on.”

It was soon the weekend. Hesper would need to go back to the competition on Monday, so she reserved half a day to see Renfrew.

She would be very busy the next week, but Renfrew would probably still look forward to meeting her on Sunday. Hesper wouldn’t want to let him down.

It was winter now. Genecity was colder than the past years and it might even snow.

Hesper saw snow at Emperion before. It was much heavier than the light snow of Genecity’s that would disappear when it touched the ground.

It would snow heavily and the heaviest snowfall could cover the roof. The heavy snow would look like confetti falling.

It snowed the next day.

Renfrew was wrapped up warmly with a scarf as he stood in front of the car waiting Hesper saw him when she got to their rendezvous point. He started waving at her as soon as he saw her.

“Mommy!”

Chapter 277

Hesper quickened her steps to hold his hand. “Are you cold?”

“Not at all!” Renfrew shook his head and was a little excited. “It’s my first time seeing snow. Even though it’s a bit chilly, it looks so pretty!”

Hesper never paid attention to Genecity in the past few years. She did a quick calculation and realized that it really didn’t snow in the past few years, so it made sense that he hadn’t seen snow before.

Rickard just parked the car and saw Hesper holding Renfrew’s hand, hopping around trying to catch the snowflakes.

“This is a hexagon!” Renfrew shouted. Hesper looked over and saw him holding a hexagon-shaped snowflake. It was pretty and clear.

Unfortunately, the snowflake melted in the next second because of their hot breath.

“Oh no, it melted.”

Hesper patted his head. “There’ll be more.”

Rickard walked over. Hesper didn’t have a hat on and her hair was covered in snow. He walked over and

brushed it off.

“Daddy!”

Hesper turned around and saw Rickard with his arm raised. They were standing really close to each other and it felt intimate, but that was just an illusion.

Hesper took a step back.

“Let’s go. Where are we headed today?”

Rickard held Renfrew’s other hand. “The Ferris wheel downtown.”

After getting three tickets, Hesper saw a stand selling roasted sweet potatoes and went over there to get

three.

When she was done, the snow seemed to have gotten heavier and the sky was turning dark. The neon lights on the street lit up and it looked like a movie scene with the falling snow.

“Ren!”

Renfrew looked up at the falling snow as Hesper jogged over. He looked very happy. “You bought food!” Hesper pinched his nose. “Sharp eyes. I got roasted sweet potatoes. Your uncle used to get them for me all the time when I was at Emperion.”

Rickard stood there and watched Hesper hand the sweet potato to Renfrew. She then turned around and handed another one to him.

“For me?”

Rickard hesitated, then took it. Hesper nodded then walked to the queue with Renfrew.

A lot of couples loved the Ferris wheel, and since it was the first snowfall, couples wouldn't miss the chance to make memories.

“Why here?”

Hesper got into the cabin with Renfrew. Even though it was the biggest Ferris wheel there, the cabin

wasn't huge. Rickard was tall, so when he got in, the space became claustrophobic.

Rickard shook his head, so Hesper didn't press.

The wheel moved slowly so they had time to see almost half of Genecity's view. Renfrew looked outside

with curiosity. He had never seen the city from this angle before. It was spectacular,

Hesper looked outside and zoned out. This location had that effect on her.

## Chapter 278

It happened in winter many years ago. A show from Hollena became the talk of the town and everyone was crazy about it. Part of the plot was about the first snowfall that made couples yearn to experience it together.

Rickard and Juniper had been together for half a year at that point and Juniper kept saying that she wished to get on the Ferris wheel during the first snowfall so they could share their first kiss at the top. and they would end up together forever

Genecity's weather was unpredictable. It didn't snow for a few years. When Hesper heard that, from summer to winter, she hoped that it wouldn't snow in Genecity that year.

Alas, it snowed.

Rickard never s\*ipped school, but that day, he s\*ipped class and went to the Ferris wheel downtown with Zikmund and Juniper to fulfill the promise he made during the summer.

Hesper didn't know what she had been thinking. She had known that it was only a matter of time, but she

still s\*ipped school with them and went to the Ferris wheel alone.

It was a cold day and she sat on the bench of the garden for a long time until the lights of the wheel were

switched off.

Hesper had leaned back and looked up at the falling snow. She reminded herself that she needed to stop having feelings for Rickard from that day onward.

However, one second later, an umbrella had showed up above her, and just like in the shows, Rickard held it above her head and looked down at her.

"Time to go home, Hesper."

It was a similar scene.

Hesper realized that they were almost at the top of the Ferris wheel and forced herself not to think about what happened, but her eyes still welled up.

She had wanted to give up on him for the hundredth time, but every time, she was too greedy, until that day when she sat there with hatred.

The young man who held the umbrella in her memories was dead to her. He was no longer Rickard.

"Hesper."

She turned around and saw Rickard holding a piece of paper and a pen. Renfrew was still enjoying the view. Hesper frowned and took the agreement from him.

She glanced at it and it seemed to be another lucrative business plan. She signed and when she looked up, they were at the top of the wheel.

"Hesper, happy first snowfall."

Renfrew heard that and turned around, then wished his mother too. "Happy first snowfall!"

Hesper didn't know how to react to that, so she just patted Renfrew, then saw her reflection in the glass and realized that her eyes were red.

"...Happy first snowfall."

After getting out of the cabin, Renfrew suddenly looked weird.

Hesper looked at Renfrew's unnaturally red face. She didn't notice it under the light, but now his face

seemed to be swollen.

"What's going on?"

Hesper started panicking. Rickard squatted down and took a good look at Renfrew's face, then frowned. "It looks like an allergic reaction."

Chapter 279

"Allergic reaction?" Hesper was still panicking. "There's nothing that he could be allergic to like sweet potatoes?"

Hesper hugged Renfrew. Rickard asked her to calm down and turned to go get the car.

Fortunately, there was a hospital not too far away and the traffic was alright. The three soon got to the hospital's emergency room. The doctor quickly checked on him.

As expected, he did have an allergic reaction, but they were still trying to find out what he was allergic to.

"I'm a terrible mother..."

Renfrew was getting treated in the room. Hesper and Rickard couldn't go in yet, so they had to wait outside on the benches.

Hesper blamed herself because how could she not know about his allergies? It was fortunate that he didn't have a terrible reaction to it, but had it been severe, it could have been too late by the time they got to the hospital, and maybe... She was just glad that none of that happened.

"It's not your fault. I didn't notice that something was wrong either." Rickard hesitated and finally held Hesper's hand. "I took him for an allergy test before and sweet potatoes weren't on the list. He hasn't had sweet potatoes for a long time, so it's possible that he developed the allergy later on. We couldn't have predicted that, could we?"

Even though it was true, Hesper still felt terrible. When the test results came out and confirmed that he was allergic to sweet potatoes, she blamed herself even more.

“Luckily, he was brought here in time. He’s fine now and the reaction has subsided,” the doctor said, coming out. “You can go in now. Can the father come to get the medication for him with me please?”

“Alright.” Rickard let go of Hesper’s hand and quietly said, “I’ll be back soon.”

“Okay...” Hesper walked into the room and saw how frail Renfrew looked as he lay in bed. It was so drastically different from how he was in the afternoon when he was hopping around catching snow. Her heart ached.

“Ren...”

Renfrew was doing much better. He turned his head when he heard her voice and called her mommy quietly.

Hesper walked over and held onto his hand that didn’t have the IV drip in. She felt terrible. “I’m sorry, I should have paid more attention. I’m sorry for giving you something you’re allergic to.”

“No, the sweet potato... was very sweet.”

Renfrew shook his head and smiled. “I’ll remember its taste. Even though I can’t eat it in the future. anymore, I’ll still remember how sweet it was. I’m glad.”

After coming back, Rickard saw Hesper holding Renfrew’s hand, but they were both fast asleep.

He placed the medication on the table and took out the agreement that Hesper signed on the Ferris wheel. He was hoping that she wouldn’t pay too much attention to the details.

In clause nineteen, it wrote that Ms. Rivera would have to agree to one condition set by Mr. Duval, and that clause could not be changed.

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When they were at the peak of the wheel, all he could think about was that he wanted to be with her for the rest of his life.

The third round of the competition happened when it was coldest.

Situated not too far away, the town where the competition was held had snow too. Hesper could feel the chill the moment she stepped out of the vehicle.

The greenhouse was saved. The flowers still bloomed beautifully inside. Just a layer of glass away, the weather outside looked as if it was going to start snowing again soon.

## Chapter 280

When Hesper got there, Celine was already there. When she saw the dark circles under Hesper's eyes, she was shocked.

"You didn't sleep last night?"

Because of how concerned she sounded, Hesper couldn't just brush her off.

Hesper slept at the hospital because she was worried about Renfrew. She would wake up every time he moved, worried that something might happen again, so she looked very tired after waking up.

After hesitating, she nodded. "Something happened yesterday, but it's fine now."

The third stage of the competition was when things got heated. Everyone was in their best state because no one wanted to be the one eliminated. Celine was worried seeing how tired she was.

"I'm fine." Hesper patted her shoulder. "We're going to be competitors from today onward, Ms. Campbell."

It was true. From the third stage onward, it would be individual competitions.

Celine chuckled. Even though that was true, she wasn't nervous because she knew that Hesper wouldn't do anything to harm her. Maybe it was because she had seen how bad things could get during the Duval competition, so she was ready.

She was happy to be able to advance.

“Hesper seems to be doing terribly today... I’m disappointed. Why didn’t she manage her life but instead let things happen before the competition?”

“Everyone has their own life. No one expects accidents to happen...”

“Isn’t the competition the most important thing? She’s not some big shot that needs to support everyone. I don’t think she’s going to make it to the end.”

“Oh, are you an oracle?”

Michelle was shocked to see Hesper.

She thought that Hesper would be very serious during the third stage because it was based on individual work. This was the time to shine in front of the judges.

Hesper knew what Michelle was thinking just by looking at her.

Even though she didn’t rest well, she still managed to finish a design by herself effortlessly. Michelle was going to be disappointed.

“Alright, everyone is here. Let’s take a look at the theme.”

The host stood on stage. Hesper and Celine were at the back of the group and couldn’t really see the words on the sign until the host read it out.

“Mother.”

The host was a little shocked, then said over the chatter, “I guess this is a tough one. Everyone knows that our designers had amazing performance when it came to luxury items, so how would everyone interpret this theme?”

“Let’s get started.”

No one expected “Mother” to be the theme.

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When Hesper first heard it, she was surprised because the first thing she thought of was that she was an orphan. She never had a mother figure in the Duval or Lane household.

However, she herself was a mother.