

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

Chapter 291

We'll see what Hesper thinks."

Arthur Lane waved his hand. "It doesn't matter if she changes her name. She would still be part of the family. Rivera is what she grew up with, so she shouldn't forget where she came from even after becoming part of our family. That's good."

Hesper gave a sigh of relief after hearing that. She turned around and wined at Arthur.

Matthew was done with work and went home not long after they started chatting.

The relatives didn't dare to do anything to Hesper when Matthew wasn't around and were even more cautious when he got there.

If Arthur was protective of Hesper, Matthew downright spoiled her. No one would dare touch his baby sister, or they would be in big trouble.

"There's nothing in your mind other than work."

Matthew was immediately chided by Arthur when he got home. He was used to it, so he didn't even look up when he heard that. "You dropped your cane, Grandpa."

Hesper looked at them gleefully, then picked the cane up. Being stuck in the middle, she felt a little helpless. "You two keep arguing every time you meet. It's Grandpa's birthday tomorrow, Matt. Can't you just let him win this time?"

"I don't need him to do that." Arthur was annoyed. Matthew walked over and gave her a 'he started it' look, then sat next to her.

Hesper didn't know what to do, so she just sat there as if she was transparent.

It was Arthur's birthday the next day, so Hesper and Matthew stayed in their own rooms in the family home. They didn't stay there usually because the office was far away. Only those who had nothing better to do like Helen and Theodore would stay here.

"I wonder if Shawn will show up for Grandpa's birthday tomorrow."

Theodore never officially got married or had any children. If it wasn't because of Shawn, that illegitimate child of his, Hesper would think that he just wanted to be a bachelor forever.

Matthew suddenly remembered that he sent someone to investigate Shawn Lane, so he said, "Even though Shawn is illegitimate, his mother wasn't a nobody. She was a famous singer named Yolanda Chisholm."

"Yolanda Chisholm?" Hesper raised her brows. "She really was famous. I don't pay a lot of attention to the entertainment industry, but I still know that she was one of the top signers."

However, families that were like the Lanes looked down on people in the entertainment industry. They were conservative and would call them 'performers'. They still looked down on people based on their jobs in this era.

"Great-grandpa was very much against their relationship, but after Yolanda passed because of a sickness, Uncle Theo never got married," Matthew explained. "This was a taboo in the family, so we never mentioned it before this."

Hesper nodded.

"I guess Uncle Theo really loved the only son that he had with his lover. Shawn." Hesper thought about it, then continued. "Uncle Theo looked pretty friendly. I guess it was a coincidence."

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Chapter 292

It was Arthur’s birthday the next day. Hesper didn’t work overnight and just gave Renfrew a call before she went to sleep and explained why she didn’t go visit him.

Even though she asked Rickard to explain to Renfrew, to not disappoint him, she still wanted to explain to him personally.

Renfrew knew that he wouldn't be seeing his mother that day but was still happy when she called. He kept repeating that he missed his mommy, and that made Hesper's heart melt. She sat next to the window and smiled.

"I'll visit you when I'm back, even if it's a weekday."

"Yay! I'll be waiting for you!"

Hesper smiled and nodded but realized that Renfrew wouldn't see that. When she wanted to speak again all she heard was the steady breathing of her child.

After some ruffling, Rickard's voice came from the phone. "He fell asleep"

"Alright," Hesper replied. Rickard didn't hang up, so Hesper didn't either. They sat there in silence for a moment, then Rickard spoke.

"You went back to Emperion for Grandpa Arthur's birthday?"

It was a big celebration because Arthur was turning seventy. Everyone knew about it if it wasn't because of his insistence on having the party at home, many would have fought for a chance to host his party.

Maybe because it was too quiet in the room, as the snow silently fell outside the window but Rickard's voice seemed to be next to her. Hesper said yes, then they went back to sitting there silently.

"It's getting late, so you should rest. Good night." Rickard's voice was so gentle as if he was afraid that he would scare her. Hesper didn't speak, then when she wanted to talk, all she heard was the dead tone of the phone.

"...Good night."

Even though Arthur requested to keep the party small and to just invite family and close friends since it was a big milestone, the family still had a lot prepared. Hesper woke up early, but when she walked out of her room, the home looked different.

Matthew was used to waking up early too, so they seemed to have washed up at the same time. When they left their room at the same time, they both paused, then without a word, started laughing.

"I was wondering why this place wasn't decorated when I got home yesterday. I guess it was just a little anxious." Hesper smiled and said, "After waking up, I realized that I have more work to do, and I'm hungry I'm going to see if there's any food in the kitchen."

"Sure, I'm hungry too."

It would be unusual to not have food at this house. The helpers woke up early to prepare the food, but Hesper didn't want to take too much, so she just took two small slices of cake.

"Take this for now." She handed a slice to Matthew. The freshly baked cake was still hot, so she pinched her earlobes and realized that Matthew was looking at her when she looked up

"...What?"

Matthew looked uncomfortable. She looked down to check if her buttons were done wrongly, or maybe

there was a stain... Was there something on her face?

Chapter 293

Matthew snapped back when he noticed that Hesper was looking around, then looked at the cake and shook his head. "Nothing."

"Hmm?" Hesper knew that something was wrong, but he tried to cover it up. She remembered that Matthew told her she looked a lot like Rachel Lane, and it dawned on her.

"Are you thinking about Rachel?"

Matthew didn't hide it and nodded. He kept his eyes on the cake but they weren't in focus. "Whenever we have a party at home, everyone wouldn't have time to take care of me and Rachel. She would always sneak into the kitchen and bring cakes out."

"The cakes were usually hot, and she would pinch her earlobes like how you did and look at me with a cheeky smile."

There were so many memories. Matthew would smile sadly because he had to remember his sister based on his memories... and he was glad that they were all good ones.

Hesper covered her mouth. "You don't have any updates on her yet? You've been looking for her for years. Do you think she just forgot about her past? As you said, it was so long ago and she was really young when she went missing."

"Maybe..."

Matthew shook her head. "I shouldn't have brought this up. If you're still hungry, we can get them to cook something. Even if there's a party that night, we can't let you starve."

"I know." Hesper took a big bite of the cake. "Don't worry, I won't starve myself."

The friends and relatives that arrived the day before were the closer ones. The guests that arrived on the day itself came in groups. Hesper hid upstairs and didn't feel like going down.

Hesper met all the guests before this.

Some were talkative, some were nosy, and some just loved to cause drama. Hesper hated all that and

always wondered if they just had too much time on their hands.

Hesper just poked her head out from upstairs but someone saw her.

"Is that Hesper upstairs?"

"Help!"

Hesper turned and wanted to escape, but the random relative's voice managed to draw everyone's attention to her, so there was no way she could get away.

Matthew was chatting with Uncle Simon, the fourth uncle who rarely went home. When he heard the voice, he looked up and saw Hesper trying to run away and couldn't help but smile.

"The girl really is a lot like Rachel."

Simon's eyes were on Hesper. He saw Hesper smiling and nodding at him, so he nodded back and looked back to Matthew. "I didn't know why you took her in, but I guess I could see now."

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Matthew didn't speak then Simon continued. "Don't worry, I won't tell anyone about her. When you came to me for a fake DNA test, you probably knew that I'm good at keeping secrets."

"Yes."

Simon was always overseas and rarely returned. Hesper never met the legendary Uncle Simon. All she knew was that he was a good-looking man. Theodore, who was younger, already looked like an old man, yet when Simon stood next to Matthew, they looked the same age.

Chapter 294

Unable to hide upstairs, Hesper had to go down.

Arthur couldn't hide his smile when he watched her walk down. Hesper looked around at the same moment and glared at him while still looking like a well-behaved person.

"Hello everyone! Happy birthday Grandpa"

Arthur smiled and walked over to her. Hesper took a seat next to him and smiled at everyone.

The first person who noticed Hesper kept praising her, but she couldn't remember who she was.

When she turned around, Arthur seemed to be enjoying it, so she just politely let her continue singing her praises.

.Hesper had no idea that she was so highly regarded.

Arthur waved his hand after having enough fun with the situation. "Alright, alright, this girl is just alright. Don't praise her too much, or it'll get to her head!"

Hesper turned around and beamed at him, but he winked back at her.

"Oh by the way, I think it's time for Hesper to get married. I remember that she has an arranged marriage with that Tucker boy, right?"

Hesper sighed when she heard that. She had to face this sooner or later, but bringing that up at this time was just bad timing.

Arthur was looking forward to the wedding. When they were young, his eldest son and Nathaniel's dad. met each other while they were in the army. Since they had a similar background and saw eye to eye on a lot of things, they became best friends very quickly, and that was how the marriage arrangement came about.

He knew that child was best friends with Matthew... just like their fathers.

When he remembered his eldest son who passed away at a young age, he felt sorrowful, but when he looked at Hesper, he felt better.

"It's still up to Hesper. Her work in Genecity just started, so there's no need to rush into a marriage." Hesper was relieved that Arthur had her back.

While they were talking, Nathaniel arrived.

"Nate?"

Nathaniel walked in and saw Matthew and Simon standing there. He nodded at Simon. "It's been a while, Uncle Simon."

Simon smiled and nodded back. "It really has been a while. The last time I met you, you were still studying overseas."

"Yes." Nathaniel scanned the crowd, but Simon teased. "Looking for your fiancée? We were just talking about her."

Nathaniel didn't understand, then he heard them asking about their marriage.

Hesper sat in the middle of the crowd and was in a red fluffy dress. Her ears were read under the light. I'm not planning to get married yet. Grandpa is right; I'm focusing on work right now..."

Hesper's voice wasn't too loud or too soft, but they heard her.

Chapter II

Matthew knew Hesper didn't have feelings for Nathaniel. Seeing how they interacted, Nathaniel seemed

to know too.

He didn't have an opinion about that. Having a marriage arrangement was ridiculous. Even though both their parents were no longer around, the agreement still stood. If the parents just wanted their children to be happy, there was no reason to have that agreement.

Especially when the agreement was made on Hesper's behalf.

Chapter 295

She had the right to turn it down.

She was almost done talking, so she made up an excuse to escape. When she left, she saw Nathaniel and Matthew standing together, so she waved to them then turned and left.

Hesper couldn't be sure she would be able to maintain her smile if she kept getting asked about her marriage.

Everyone split after Hesper walked away and Arthur saw Nathaniel there. That was when Matthew and Simon went over.

"Happy birthday, Uncle."

Simon wasn't interested in blending in with the crowd, so he only walked over with the present for Arthur when that happened. It was a tea set, nothing too lavish. Arthur didn't really like the tea set he had before this, so this gift was just perfect.

He didn't say if he was happy or unhappy about the gift but instead just placed it on the table and asked, "Are you going to stay here for a while, or are you leaving soon?"

"I came back for your birthday," Simon said. "You know that I don't have much going on here, and I have something to get to when I get back."

"You're just not doing proper work!" Arthur tapped his cane on the floor and cleared his throat. "If your dad knew that this is how you're living life, he would climb out of his grave to give you a knock on your head."

Simon didn't know what to do. "My psychologist clinic overseas is well known now. Even though it's nowhere near as successful as Lane Holdings, I'm still doing quite well."

"Say that again? What about..." Arthur paused, then sighed. "Go away, you're hurting my eyes. I don't want to speak to you anymore."

Matthew stood there with no expression, which made Arthur angrier. Before he could put his thoughts into words, Matthew spoke. "Nathaniel is here. I'm sure you want to speak to him."

Nathaniel tilted his head and looked at Matthew who nodded. "I know you have something to say

to Grandpa."

Simon smiled as Nathaniel accepted his fate and nodded. "Matthew, you... alright. I do have something to talk to you about. I think Matt is at an age to get married."

Simon started laughing. Arthur looked at the three men and frowned then waved his hand. "You three just can't be compared to Hesper. Go away, I don't want to be angry."

The three men nodded and left.

All the guests had arrived and the night slowly crept in.

Hesper was looking at the newest designs on her computer when Matthew knocked on her door. She suddenly realized that it was late, so she closed her laptop and checked her makeup in the mirror.

Great, it was still on..

She opened the door and saw Matthew and Nathaniel standing in front of her door. "Grandpa didn't talk about marriage after I left, did he?"

"No," Nathaniel smirked. "Don't worry, today isn't the best time to bring this up. We'll get another chance. I'll do what I promised."

Hesper nodded and looked relieved. "Thanks."

Matthew looked at them suspiciously. "What are you hiding from me?"

Chapter 296

What Nathaniel mentioned was their agreement to cancel the marriage agreement.

There was no reason to hide this from Matthew, but seeing how curious he looked, Hesper became playful and winked at Nathaniel. "What could we hide from you? Right, Nate?"

"Yeah."

Matthew didn't believe them one bit but just shook his head.

"I don't want to know. You're just teasing me."

The party was in full swing. Hesper had a set of chess made from jade. It wasn't something unique, but since Arthur loved to play chess, he would usually use top-quality chess pieces. It wasn't something that was rare, but Hesper had to get it custom-made for his birthday.

Hesper put a lot of effort into the present. Even though it wasn't the most expensive gift there, it was the one that he loved the most.

Arthur loved it so much that he asked Theodore to play a game with him after the party.

Hesper knew her gift was definitely not the most expensive, but Arthur's love for her gave the gift a different meaning, and the recognition made her eyes well up.

Sometimes she would think it would be so nice if she really was a Lane, but then she would realize that what she had was more than she deserved, so she shouldn't wish for more.

However, Hesper looked over when Theodore was mentioned. There was a familiar yet unfamiliar man standing next to him, and that was Shawn Lane.

Hesper admired him for bringing his illegitimate son home. However, he wasn't exactly illegitimate. Yolanda just never had the chance to marry into the family when she was alive.

Shawn saw her and paused then nodded as a greeting to her.

Did he know her? Hesper paused but Shawn looked away. Hesper looked in his direction with a confused expression and only looked away after a long time.

If Shawn knew her, he wouldn't be the one spreading the rumor.

But why didn't Shawn go see her during the competition? Hesper wouldn't know that his person existed if it wasn't by chance.

Before she could think about it any further, the gifting session was over.

There weren't any outsiders during the party, so everyone talked to each other casually. Hesper listened to an hour of family gossip before she finally couldn't take it anymore. She saw Matthew leaving, so she followed along.

The air outside was better than inside. Hesper socialized with people a lot, but she didn't feel comfortable during the party because she had to keep smiling.

Matthew and Hesper stood on the balcony and snow fell.

Hesper stretched out her hand to catch some, but the beautiful snowflakes would melt in her

2/2

hands quickly. It was like the happiness that she was currently experiencing. It would one day disappear.

"It's cold outside. Put on a coat."

Matthew lit up a cigarette. Hesper rarely saw him smoking. When the cigarette between his fingers turned red in the dark night, Hesper shook her head. "I don't want to go back in there."

They stood there quietly until Matthew finished smoking.

"Alright. Let's go back."

Matthew snubbed the bud and turned around but realized that Hesper was looking at him with

clear eyes.

Chapter 297

"Matt, if Rachel returns, I'll leave immediately."

"...Don't say that." Matthew frowned. "I said this before. You're my sister, no matter what. Even if she comes back, you'll still be my sister."

Hesper shook her head and smiled, but it looked broken in the cold wind.

"When she comes back, I'll return her brother to her."

The time she had at Emperion was short. Hesper returned to Genecity, but this time, Matthew didn't come along.

There was a lot of work to do in Emperion, especially since she had to take part in the competition. The hype that it brought benefited Lane Holdings, so Matthew was busy.

The fourth stage of the competition was around the new year. The most important project in Genecity was the design competition. Hesper didn't get involved in it, so there was nothing much to do at home.

That morning, she went to room 345 earlier with a bag of flour.

The live-streaming room was still very quiet at that hour. Even Hesper wouldn't show up so early usually, but a lot of viewers who had nothing else to do started watching the stream and saw Hesper.

"Oh, she's so early today. I thought I was the only one who would be watching so early because I'm on holiday."

"Me too..."

After watching her open up the container of flour, they thought that she was going to make some ravioli because it would be a nice thing to have during the new year countdown.

"I feel like I'm watching a cooking show, but this is supposed to be a designer?"

"Ever since I found out that she's married, when I watch her cook, she suddenly looks like she has

the halo of a mother."

Hesper didn't make too much. After getting the flour ready, she let it sit as she went to read the news. When the flour rose, she got ready to make them into raviolis.

Hesper didn't know most of the people mentioned in the entertainment news. She was usually busy and didn't have a lot of time, and since Lane Holdings were rarely involved in the industry and the endorsement deals were made by those lower down the command chain, she had no idea who these celebrities were.

She read through the news blindly and noticed a post about her.

The title was 'Hesper Rivera, a sugar baby.'

Hesper was confused about what was happening.

When Hesper clicked on it, a lot of viewers started reading the same article and the readership rose so quickly that it went straight to the first spot for entertainment news.

The post talked about how she left school, went through her divorce, went back to university, and joined the competition. There was nothing wrong with everything said.

But then the further it went, the more ludicrous it became. It included a few photos of Isaac picking her up from the university!

Someone managed to find out that Isaac was in the senior management team at Lane Holdings. The reason Hesper managed to do so well during the competition was because the 'senior manager' leaked the themes to her!

Hesper read and didn't know how to react. When she left the page and went to read another article, her smile froze.

Why was this the top trending topic?

1/2

Chapter 298

Hesper was just reading the news out of curiosity, but now she was worried because the fake news had become the top trending post.

Who could have been so creative? Isaac was just an assistant and was nowhere close to being on the senior management team. Her relationship with Isaac was... What was going on!

Hesper wanted to contact Renee to remove the post, but the phone the production team gave her couldn't be used for communications. All she could do was watch as things happened.

Renee would definitely try to remove the post... right?

Even though she knew that Renee would take care of it, she was still worried. That post had been shared many times and it would affect the views about the competition. Covering it up would only do so much.

Should she expose her true identity? That would just make the story that she had an insider more believable.

"I'm here for the tea. Someone said that Hesper was a sugar baby, but no one believed them?" "Hesper seems anxious. Did she see the news?"

"The truth will eventually come out. I used to like her a lot, but I guess I can't feel sorry for her."

"I don't believe that she would do that... Could there be a misunderstanding? I believe in my beautiful lady!"

The chatroom turned into an argument, but Hesper didn't know that. All she wanted to do was get in touch with the outside world. The best way to do that would be to reach out to a crew member, but that would mean that she would break the balance.

After the flour rose, Hesper still made the ravioli and dropped them in the water to boil.

Celine was not there yet. Hesper watched as the ravioli bobbed around and covered the lid. She zoned out for a second, then someone rang the doorbell.

At this hour?

Hesper checked her watch. Celine knew the password to the room, so who would be there so early in the morning?

The ravioli was still boiling when Hesper turned to get the door and saw someone unexpected.

“Shawn?”

Not only was Hesper curious, everyone in the live-streaming room was even more curious. The room that was previously silent suddenly became full and it was filled with people who wanted some juicy stories. Among those was a group who were interested in Shawn.

“Did he just get there? He went straight to 345 to see Hesper as soon as he got to the hotel.”

“Do they know each other? I don't remember seeing them interact. Do I have amnesia?”

“No, I love this guy. They never interacted.”

2/2

“I think Shawn left too hurriedly and probably came back to tell Hesper when he read about her. They seem to know each other quite well.”

Shawn went into the room and smelled the food. He didn't know what to say. “It's a mess outside, yet you're here making ravioli?”

Hesper beamed at him, wondering about just when she had become close to Shawn. He then pulled her over and whispered, “Matt is going to tell everyone who you are. This is the best solution. It's not up for discussion.”

Even though she expected that to happen, Hesper still sighed. “Can't we talk about it?”
“What do you think?”

Chapter 299

Shawn slapped his forehead. "Don't worry, this won't affect your competition. I'm sure you know the PR team of Lane Holdings. They'll be able to turn anything around. Don't worry."

"There's nothing to turn around!"

Their whispers weren't captured by the live stream, so everyone watching was anxiously waiting to know what they were saying. No one was able to hear anything.

"I don't know why, but I have a feeling that this will change. Even though something seems to be off about Hesper, she doesn't look guilty."

"Yes... I think so too, but everyone in the chat seems to be trying to tear her down, so I didn't want to oppose."

"Hesper must have grown up in a good environment. If there really was something fishy going on, I'll admit that I've misjudged her."

"No way someone is still on her side. Why would people like a divorced sugar baby?"

"Hold on, stop arguing. Shouldn't we check Lane Holdings's announcement?"

Matthew quickly took action. During the age of information, anything could change in the blink of an eye, so managing things quickly would contain disaster.

Most importantly, Matthew just couldn't stand seeing people slander her.

Lane Holdings:

Have you watched the interview with Ms. Lane? (Shock) click the link and enjoy one minute of the beautiful Ms. Lane! @hesperL

The official account of Lane Holdings had always been cold. They would never use a playful tone even when they were announcing endorsement deals. They were so formal people thought that a robot made all their posts.

After seeing the shocked emoji, a lot of people felt that they were mocked as if they were saying how could they not know who Ms. Lane was.

The video was Hesper during an interview in Genecity. After Juniper introduced 'Ms. Lane', the background music sped up and Hesper's picture was shown like it was a video for publicity.

Matthew posted a lawyer's letter on his account, saying that anyone who slandered his sister, Hesper Rivera, would be getting the letter and they would take things to court.

Within an hour, the problem was resolved.

Isaac was worried too. He woke up and read the news that he and Hesper were having a fling.

That was a terrible accusation!

“It’s so funny. It took less than an hour for the netizens to shut up.”

“Lane Holdings is so efficient they managed to bring the big guns out.”

“To the person saying that they were efficient, if your sister was wrongly accused, wouldn’t you punish the person who spread the rumor?”

“I didn’t know that Hesper was such an important person. I’m shocked. She’s beautiful and capable. Plus, she was born into a good family. When is it my turn?”

None of the online comments said anything bad about her. She was no longer just a designer. She was Ms. Lane of Lane Holdings, the beloved daughter of the family. No one would dare test her.

In the meantime, Michelle hid in her car and read the news on her phone.

How could Hesper be Ms. Lane? When she was in school, she...

Hesper had always kept a low profile, so Michelle never would have thought that she was from an affluent family, and she would definitely not guess that Hesper was a Lane!

She was glad she hid her identity when she sold the photos.

Chapter 300

She didn’t want things to link back to her.

However, she was never as glad as when she made the decision previously. She hated how dumb she used to be. If she knew that Hesper was a Lane, she definitely wouldn’t have offended someone like her.

Michelle regretted it.

If she was nice to Hesper like Jessie, she would have all the resources and network she wanted. Hesper now had a bad impression of her. Would it affect her career in the future?

Michelle grabbed her hair in the car, but since the time to be at the venue was approaching, she had to get out of the car even if she didn’t want to face Hesper.

She tossed her phone into her car. After she left, her phone screen lit up.

Lucy: I just saw the news and remembered that the person at the reunion was really Hesper's fiancé! They just reunited with Ms. Lane three years ago, but Nathaniel Tucker was always meant to be the fiancé.

As Hesper's identity was revealed, the fourth stage of the competition took a turn for the unusual. Everyone was so interested in the news they forgot to show their best works

They were lucky that Roberto wasn't there, and everyone calmed down.

The people who weren't affected were Shawn, Celine who became very excited when she saw ravioli, and her.

Michelle's mind was a mess. Her rank dropped to somewhere in the middle. On the other hand, Shawn got third place because he managed to show his talent. His ranking finally improved.

"Michelle must be so regretful now. The person that she was bullying suddenly turned out to be Ms. Lane."

"Who would have thought? But I've seen Michelle walking past room 345 multiple times and thought that she was there to get some information.

Hesper didn't pay much attention to the arguments and stares.

Maybe since her family background was normal or maybe it was because Matthew's announcement was too serious, but everyone seemed to be unusually kind.

After Hesper got back to the office, the first thing she did was finish her work.

Without Matthew's help, her job became tedious. She sighed. Ever since she went back to Genecity, Matthew hadn't called her or texted.

It was definitely not because of what she said the other night.

However, that was all Hesper could think of. The more Rachel's identity got under the spotlight, the more uneasy she became. She owed too much to this identity, and that was the biggest

reason she refused to make her identity known.

After handing out the documents to the respective teams, Hesper leaned back into her chair and massaged the bridge of her nose then sighed.

Her phone suddenly rang and it was an unknown number. Hesper answered it.

"Hello?"

There was a long silence followed by some white noise and confused people. It sounded like a broken radio.

Hesper waited patiently, but no one spoke.

A familiar feeling crept into her mind. Hesper frowned and tried to get information from them.

“Are you the man who tried to kill me?”