

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

Chapter 211

There was a foreign yet familiar feeling.

Hesper turned around. 013 was still looking at her. He hadn't expected Hesper to suddenly turn around, so their eyes immediately met.

013 looked down and tugged on the mask he was wearing, then left the place through the back door.

Hesper was stunned for a moment, then remembered the black mole under his eyes. He was the man. who pushed her in Salt City! Chapter 221

Seeing that Juniper was fine, Ariana could finally breathe a sigh of relief,

For some reason, she had a premonition that day that once Juniper went to the auction, something bad would happen. Now it seemed that nothing had happened, so perhaps it was only her personal groundless

worry.

"Mom, I've already made up my mind. From now onward, I'll stop running after Rickard aimlessly," Juniper laid on Ariana's thigh. "Instead, I want him to know that I'll still live a good life without him. My life will be even better than before. I'll someday make him regret not choosing me over Hesper."

Ariana could not help but feel that Juniper's words meant something else, but her concussion had not fully recovered yet, and the doctor also told her to grab more rest, so Juniper only said this much in front of her before she left.

After leaving her house for a while, a friend request notification suddenly popped up on her phone's screen. Juniper then got into Carter's car, took a closer look at the applicant's delicate and charming profile picture, turned to her side, and glanced at Carter

"Why did someone just send me a friend request out of the blue? Did you point someone in my direction again?"

Juniper's coquettish look made Carter's heart warm.

"Didn't you say you like the designs that the fashion designer from Duval Group, Michelle Sullivan, came up with the last time you saw them?" Carter chuckled. I thought

of a way to introduce the both of you to each other, but I didn't expect her party to act this quickly."

"I just know that you're the best. You remember all these little things!" Juniper was on cloud nine as she tapped on the screen to approve the friend request.

In fact, she did not like Michelle's design to that extent as she did not know much about fashion at all. She liked everything as long as they looked good, and she would buy them as long as they were of a designer brand.

Recently, Michelle had been in the limelight. Many socialites wanted to ask her for a custom-made piece of clothing, but they did not have the connection and, thus, could not get through to her. Not to mention, that the price of her work had been raised to an outrageous level.

Juniper wanted to be taken advantage of the exorbitant price tag too, but the \$25,000 bracelet had already emptied her savings account.

She only brought this up to Carter once before this, and she had almost forgotten about it. She did not expect that she would get Michelle's contact just like that!

"Thank you, baby!"

Before this, she was hesitant to address him so coquettishly. Frankly speaking, deep down, she still did not think that Carter was worth her time, but because of what happened that night... She was forced to accept him.

When Carter heard his new nickname, his heart immediately fell into the abyss of love. "This is nothing. I'll give you whatever you want in the future."

As Michelle and Juniper talked about the measurements and personal preferences, Michelle suddenly realized that Juniper's family seemed to be rich.

Michelle originally thought she was only some random sugar baby that Carter had taken a liking to, so she

did not take this project to heart. However, she came across Juniper's bracelet on Twitter one day. Michelle: That bracelet that you shared on your Twitter looks so pretty, where did you get it?

After purchasing such an expensive bracelet, Juniper had always been afraid that no one else would know that the bracelet actually cost her \$25,000. So now that Michelle had taken the initiative to ask, there was no way that she would respond modestly. She immediately took out the bracelet and showed it

off.

Michelle took a glimpse at the bracelet in the video. Although she had not had the opportunity to see many luxury items before this, she knew that the fineness and purity of the gemstones found on the bracelet were not enough to back the cost of the bracelet.

Juniper: It's not the most luxurious accessory that money can buy. I only bought it at a charity gala a few days ago, thinking that it's a great omen. After all, it once belonged to the royal family of Yoshland, and I think it looks rather elegant and pretty, so I went for it.

This woman can be slightly more subtle when it comes to showing off her worthless bracelet.'

Michelle curled her lips on the other end of the phone, but through this, she could also see that Juniper was indeed rich.

Isaac and Renee were with her, so even if she knew that the assassin was there, she couldn't do anything about it. That person obviously noticed her gaze and that's why he left.

Hesper sat there for a while, thinking, then slowly got up.

A lot of eyes were on her, and when she stood up, they all looked toward her. However, Hesper didn't have time to care about that.

Before the assassin showed up, she could still lie to herself about having more time and that the man might have been arrested, but now, it seemed that the person had been observing her and was ready to pounce when she wasn't careful!

"What's going on?"

Zikmund and Rickard looked at each other, as Hesper wasn't acting normal. At least it didn't look like she wanted to leave.

Did something happen when they weren't paying attention?

Rickard got up and Zikmund followed along. Half the people there had their eyes on Hesper when she left, now the other half were looking at Rickard. The auctioneer was introducing the final item on stage but could only smile sadly in his heart.

The two heavy-weights had left, which meant that the auction was unofficially over.

Hesper ran after 013 and noticed that her heart was racing.

Logic told her that running after the man alone was very risky, but she didn't want him to get away.

Her instinct told her that this wouldn't be the last time she saw him.

Since she was a little late when she started running, all the rooms before her looked identical. Hesper took a deep breath because she was probably going to go back empty-handed.

She tried to remember those dark eyes but her focus kept going back to the mole.

Twiggy was right, that mole was easy to recognize.

"Hesper!"

Rickard came running and immediately grabbed her hand. "What is it? What happened?"

Zikrund caught up quickly and was panting very hard as he said, "What... What happened? Why are we running?"

"...Let go of me."

Hesper struggled but didn't manage to get out of his grip, so she looked at Rickard. "Please respect boundaries, Mr. Duval."

Hearing that, Rickard looked at Hesper from head to toe to confirm that she was fine and then let go.

"I'm sorry, you suddenly left. I thought-"

"What's the point of pretending?" Hesper cut him off and took one step back to put some distance between them. "There's nothing more to say between us and you don't have to explain. Bye."

Chapter 212

Hesper turned and left, not giving Rickard a chance to stop her, but he was sure that there must be a reason she suddenly ran out. He asked Zikmund to go back while he quietly followed her.

Hesper saw the person who attacked her and knew that it wasn't safe, so she called Isaac as she walked to ask him to come get her.

The wind was very cold at this time of the year and Hesper was only wearing a thin gown. The wind would definitely get to her if she stood outside even just for a while. Fortunately, Isaac was worried that something would happen, so he was waiting at a gas station nearby and was able to get there very soon.

After watching Hesper safely leave with Isaac, Rickard was still not completely relieved and drove after them, but kept his distance.

After they all left, 013 finally came out from a corner. He had never left but instead changed into a waiter's uniform and hid among the crowd, watching her.

"So sensitive." 013 lowered his head. "I guess I need to be a lot more cautious."

After Zikmund went back, he had a feeling that something could have happened, but since Hesper and Rickard both left, there was no reason for him to stay.

When he got back, the auction already ended. Juniper was the highest bidder for the most valuable item there, so she was showing off. Zikmund was utterly disgusted by her behavior because he would never expect her to be so cruel. He used to think that Hesper wasn't good enough for Rickard and that only a girl like Juniper was good enough.

Juniper put in a lot of effort for the day, so she naturally stayed. Since Hesper and Rickard were no longer there, all eyes were on her.

"Ms. Wight, you're someone all the socialites should look up to. It's good to finally meet you."

The man kept getting closer to Juniper. She realized that the man kept looking at her body and definitely had some inappropriate thoughts, so she took a few steps back.

The man didn't seem to notice how awkward she was feeling and continued walking forward. When he got closer, he saw that Juniper had a small face and her skin was supple and fair. It was much better than the C-list celebrities.

"Sir, please control yourself."

Juniper frowned and wanted the man to get further away from her, but he shook his head. "Don't you know who I am? I'm the deputy director of Apple Station. I remember that you have a program with us."

"..." Juniper wouldn't have imagined that this man was someone important. He was right, her most popular program was shown on Apple Station.

"I'm not going to do anything. I just want to have a drink with you. Are you not going to humor me?"

Juniper hesitated, then nodded. "If you told me earlier, wouldn't have rejected you. My show would need your full support. Cheers..."

"Sure." The man nodded and just drank, nothing else.

"Are you sure you just want to have a drink?"

Juniper looked at the man who remained unmoving and suddenly felt upset. The man looked at her, surprised, then shook his head, finished his drink, and left.

After walking out of the venue, the man took out his recording device and looked around for Rickard. However, he was nowhere to be seen.

“Where did he go? I almost had to lose my dignity to get this recording.”

The man sighed and gave Rickard a call, but no one picked up. He thought about it, then put the recording away. He would just speak to Rickard the next time they met.

Chapter 213

When he first followed Rickard’s instructions and tried to find a way to get the recording, he felt guilty because what was said would be enough to destroy a woman’s future.

However, Juniper actually seemed to ask for something more.

Young women had their minds filled with filthy thoughts. Did she really think that she would get help just by having a few drinks and letting people hold her hand? The world was a lot more complicated than that!

Rickard did forget what he was supposed to do that night and instead started investigating the reason. Hesper left early.

Benji, who was awakened in the middle of the night by his boss, maintained his professionalism and stood in front of Rickard after ten minutes, even though he was ready to go to bed a minute before that.

“Hesper seemed to be looking for someone just now. I can’t figure out who she was looking for or hiding from.”

Rickard couldn’t be sure, but since Hesper didn’t like to bother anyone, she would have gone home by herself after the party. However, she had asked Isaac to fetch her instead.

That meant that there was some sort of danger and Hesper was being cautious.

Benji didn’t have to guess to know that this was about Ms. Lane, so he pushed his glasses higher onto his

nose. “Do you want me to ask Isaac?”

Even though Isaac was a good fighter, there was something missing from his brain, so it was easier to get information out of him. Rickard paused and didn’t speak for a long time, but Benji understood.

Find a chance to try to get information from Isaac.

“I’m thinking it might be related to what happened in Salty City because that was the only accident Ms. Lane was involved in since her arrival at Genecity. I heard they were looking for a man with a mole under his eye.”

Benji analyzed the situation, then hesitantly pointed at Rickard’s phone. “Sir, your phone vibrated.”

Rickard suddenly remembered that he had set up a trap for Juniper but didn’t expect the plan to go so well. He didn’t manage to see what happened there and even pushed it to the back of his mind.

Derek: I’ve gotten the recording you asked for.

Derek: Mr. Duval?

Rickard replied to the message and got the recording, then tossed his phone aside.

In comparison, Hesper’s safety was more important. As for the plan for Juniper... it was fine to move it. aside.

“On top of that, Mrs. Wight was admitted to the hospital today. Mr. Duval Sr. is really worried and keeps saying that he wants to go visit her.” Benji read the message and sighed, then told Rickard about how Mrs. Wight was injured.

Why didn’t they realize that Juniper was a cruel woman?

She was willing to hurt her own mother to get some attention, and instead of taking care of her, she attended an auction.

They were too oblivious!

Chapter 214

After Hesper arrived home, she told everything that happened to Isaac and Renee.

“I thought he wouldn’t try again after failing the first time.” Isaac was a simple man. He thought that the man gave up after so long.

“Keep an eye on Juniper. I think this has something to do with her.”

Hesper rubbed her temples when she thought about Juniper.

Renee said, “Juniper pushed her mother when she left home today, giving Mrs. Wights a concussion. She has been admitted to the hospital.”

“Hah...” Hesper chuckled because she wasn’t surprised. Juniper was someone who would do that; she knew better than anyone else. “Let the media talk about this. I can’t be bothered about her recently, but I also can’t stand seeing her prancing around.”

“Alright.”

After what happened that night, Hesper was tired. She didn't know why but she remembered her phone call with Seth Tucker. The man said that they'd met before and would meet again.

What did that mean?

Hesper fell asleep. Meanwhile, Juniper picked up her clothes in her room, not knowing how she ended up

like this.

“Juni...”

The familiar yet unfamiliar voice came from behind her. She remembered what happened in that room a while ago and was disgusted.

After the man who said he was the deputy director of Apple Station left, Juniper felt unwell, so she wanted to leave but was surrounded by a group of men.

She made a splash that night. Juniper had always been in the limelight in Genecity, but she was protected by Rickard in the past. Even if she said something that offended someone or attracted people's attention because she was too flashy, people wouldn't do anything to her out of respect for Rickard.

It was different now. Rickard had severed ties with her during the auction.

Juniper tried to run away. Mrs. Wight wasn't there, so no one could help her!

However, how could she outrun a group of people? She was soon caught, and as looked at Carter Wilson, the leader of the group, she knew that it was going to be the end of her. Ever since their schooling days, Carter had always wanted to pursue her, but it ended when she entered a relationship with Rickard.

However, every time they met, Juniper could feel his eyes on her and she never felt safe.

Carter stepped forward, and as he watched her anxiously put on her clothes, he chuckled and grabbed her. “My dear Juni... After being with Rickard for so long, I didn't expect...”

He chuckled drily. “I'm going to treat you right so we won't get tired of each other so soon.”

Juniper was so upset that her body shook. “Rickard isn't going to let you get away with this!”

Carter laughed out loud after hearing that and touched her face. "Ms. Wight, do you think you still have the same status as before? Everyone could tell that Ms. Lane and Mr. Duval have a thing going on and they might even get remarried. As for you... you're just someone that he grew tired of."

That was a stab in Juniper's heart. She started fighting back but got a slap in return.

"You best get used to the new reality. You'll be fine with me. What am I lacking?"

The Wilsons were one of the most powerful families in Genecity. Even though they were slightly lesser than the Duvals, they weren't too far behind. However, Carter always lived under Rickard's shadow and never had his chance to shine.

Chapter 215

Having already been slapped by him once, Juniper knew that Carter wasn't a gentleman. Only Rickard would respect her....

Realizing that, she suddenly lost her energy and felt guilty, but soon, it turned into anger.

Why did Hesper have to show up? If she didn't, none of this would have happened. She would have married Rickard and had a beautiful child with him.

She wouldn't be the one standing there being humiliated!

"Do you get it now?"

Carter's voice was at her ear. Juniper lowered her head, then looked up after a long pause into Carter's eyes. "If you really like me, could you agree to a few conditions? If you can fulfill them, I'll marry you."

The next day, Hesper went to the Duvals.

"Hesper?" Wendy didn't know that Hesper would be visiting when she came to get the door. "Why didn't you call? How long were you going to stand here if I didn't see you?"

Hesper was hesitant. She knew that Duval Group was founded and built by Ernest and she had been taking down the business as Lane Holding's rep.

"You young people will need to settle it." Wendy seemed to know what was on Hesper's mind, so she consoled her. "Even though Mr. Duval Sr. built the company, after handing it over to Rickard, he doesn't care about it as much anymore. He said that he wouldn't get involved in this, so you can just do what has to be done."

Even if Ernest said that, Hesper still felt guilty.

It wasn't as much about whether Ernest minded. He was still using all kinds of ways to take over the company, so she was unquiet. The business world was just like a battlefield. The person with better tactics would be the victor.

She still felt guilty because Ernest really treated her well.

"Alright, come in." Wendy turned around and saw that Hesper was holding a bag, so she took it from her. What's this? Did you come all the way to drop this off?"

Hesper came here to drop the medication, so there was no reason to hide it. She nodded.

"I asked my friend from overseas to send it over. He said that this could help with Grandpa Ernest's sickness. It's definitely more effective than the other medication and has minimal side effects."

The box was just a normal box without special designs. Hesper was worried that Wendy wouldn't believe her, but Wendy smiled after she heard that.

"That's great. He's getting more stable now but we're still worried."

Wendy took Hesper past the corridor and to Ernest's room.

"He'll be delighted knowing that you still think of him." Wendy patted Hesper's hand. "I'll go speak to the doctor and see when he can start taking this medication. You guys talk."

Chapter 216

She spent the entire afternoon with Ernest.

Hesper didn't bring up the medication and Ernest didn't talk about the battle between the two companies. They just chatted like a normal pair of grandpa and granddaughter, and the afternoon passed.

Before coming over, Hesper had a lot of worries, but now, she was more confident.

"Grandpa, I came here to take Renfrew with me." But after thinking about it, she lowered her head and told the truth. "I don't believe that Julie and Sophia treat Renfrew nice. I can't leave him, and he can't be away from me. Maybe you'll think that I'm selfish, but I'm his mother, so I think I have the right to take care of him." That was something that Hesper spent a lot of time mauling over. If Sophia and Julie were willing to throw the baby down the stairs, they would do anything to Renfrew now too.

Renfrew was the only family Hesper had, so she didn't want her child to suffer.

She would give him a hundred fold love to replace the father that he wouldn't have, but even though Rickard treated Renfrew well, Hesper really didn't want Renfrew to be away from her.

She wasn't willing to leave that to chance.

"I know, I know you love Ren too, but Rickard's still young and could have a new family and more children. But I... I can't. He can..."

She was messing up her sentences, but before Ernest could speak, the door behind them opened.

"Hesper." It was Rickard's voice. Ernest didn't speak but Hesper lowered her head and didn't turn around when she heard him. Her eyes were warm.

Rickard was there to see Ernest but unexpectedly heard what she said.

Did she bring Ren back the other day just so she could focus on tearing him down, then bring him to court. to fight for custody?

That was her plan all along?

"Hesper, I won't remarry or have more children. Renfrew will be my only child." Rickard knelt on the floor and turned Hesper's face toward him, forcing her to look into his eyes. "I will not let you take him

away."

"Dick..." Ernest wanted to cut Rickard off, but Hesper scoffed.

"You're finally done pretending, Rickard?" Hesper's eyes were icy cold. "I thought you would keep the regretful and loving facade. You're finally done with it?"

"Hesper, don't force my hand."

Hesper smirked, then looked at Rickard with sad eyes "How am I forcing you? Did I keep bugging you and forcing you to treat me right? Or did I cry in front of you and ask for you to make amends?"

Ernest looked at the two people who wouldn't back down and sighed.

"Enough, just talk things out. Do you have to force each other into a corner?"

Chapter 217

Rickard lowered his head and pressed his forehead to Hesper's cheek. "Hesper, what can I do to prove myself? I was so wrong in the past, but you can't judge me now based on what I did three years ago. I stand before you now. Can't you see?"

Rickard's warm breath blew on Hesper's neck. She let him finish with no expression, then moved away

from his arms.

“There’s no need to keep acting, Rickard. How many times do I have to say this? The old Hesper died. I want to take Renfrew away so that the people who hurt me will fall into some nameless abyss. This includes you, Rickard Duval.”

The two left Ernest’s home dismayed. By the time Wendly found out that Rickard was there, they were

gone.

“Sir..”

Ernest seemed to have aged a few years in that short time. He waved his hand. “There’s no point in us getting involved in the life of the young people. They need to figure things out themselves. Love is a lifelong dilemma...”

To the outside world, Duval Group and Lane Holdings were in a tough battle and seemed to have dragged the smaller companies into it. It felt as though something terrible was going to happen at Genecity, and Zikmund felt it the most.

His best friend seemed to really be triggered.

“What? She really plans to fight for Renfrew’s custody?”

Rickard had been exasperated for the past two days, and when he brought it up again, the veins on his forehead started to pulse.

“I thought that it was weird she would willingly send Renfrew back. I guess it’s obvious now why she did

that.”

Zikmund wanted to commend Hesper because the Duvals never talked things through with her and took. Renfrew because they had the power to do so.

If it wasn’t because Hesper was as good as she was, she probably would never get to see her son ever

again.

However, Zikmund still had to support Rickard because he was his best friend.

“I don’t think she will stop until she gets her way, and she has the monetary support from the Lanes. It isn’t going to be easy for you.”

Rickard wasn't worried yet, but he was worried about Hesper. Even though they seemed to be on terrible terms, he could still tell that she didn't mean everything that she said.

Even if she didn't, the Duvals really did treat her terribly. Other than taking Renfrew away and cutting him off, he would be alright with anything else.

"I heard that there's going to be a plot of land up for auction in a few days. It's a good location." Zikmund changed the subject. "My dad has been eyeing it for a while already and thinks that he can get it. Is the Duval Group not going to do anything?"

Rickard didn't comment on that but instead turned the attention to him. "Well, now that you mentioned it, our peers have mostly made a name for themselves, but you're still running after your dad and grandpa.

Aren't you ashamed?"

Zikmund was so used to living life on the wild side, it would be torture if he had to start taking over the

company.

"We were talking about you. Why did it switch to me?" Zikmund pouted. "Fine, I have nothing more to say to you. I think Hesper is going to get her revenge. I'm rooting for her."

Rickard had to get back to work and had no time to bicker with him. Zikmund could tell that he was distressed, so he patted his shoulder and said, "Speak to me if you need help. Even though I don't think I can do much to help, I'll do whatever I can. There's something that you definitely don't know. Hesper's favorite designer Roberto Sanchez will be coming here for a transfer program."

Chapter 218

Roberto's name card lay in Hesper's desk drawer in her office, untouched.

Even though it was rarely given out and Nathaniel tried very hard to get it, Hesper knew that she wasn't good enough to attract Roberto. Nathaniel was the only reason she was able to get the name card.

After realizing that, Hesper no longer wanted to get in contact with Roberto. Even though she liked his work, contacting him that way would only make him think that she wasn't resilient enough and would only rely on her family's influence.

That wasn't how she planned to meet him.

She still appreciated Nathaniel's effort.

Since she turned down the chance to join the competition held by the Duvals and the competition was in full swing, Xavier was annoyed to see Hesper and no one dared to talk to him.

Jessie quietly pulled Hesper aside. "Do you know why my dad is so angry?"

Hesper shook her head. It wasn't because she didn't take the chance? From how Jessie asked, it seemed

that there was more to it.

Jessie sighed after seeing how clueless Hesper was. "I know you never cared about this... Do you remember Michelle Sullivan? The one who always fought for first place in class with you before."

Hesper shook her head and looked at Jessie, who was looking tired. She tried to remember who this Michelle' was, but other than focusing on her studies and chasing after Rickard, only Jessie managed to push her way into her world.

She didn't have a lot of memories of anyone else.

Jessie looked at her and knew that she wouldn't recall, so she sighed and shook her head. "Alright, I'll tell you then. Didn't the place that my dad get for you go to waste? She went around telling everyone that my dad was biased and would rather waste the spot than give it to her."

Hesper didn't know what happened and she understood.

"However, the truth is, she wasn't good enough to even qualify, so even if the spot wasn't for you, it wouldn't be for her either." Jessie pouted. "I heard that she made a name for herself in the past few years. and joined the competition held by the Duval Group and Genecity, so she's shading my father in front of the press."

Hesper frowned when she heard that. "Professor Jenkins is her teacher. How could she do that?"

"Do you think everyone respects their teacher?" Jessie tapped Hesper's nose. "Honestly, it's not easy being an educator. Even though my dad is very angry, he was still nice to you. He never brought this up, did he?"

-Hesper nodded as guilt grew in her heart.

If it wasn't for of her, Xavier wouldn't be dragged into all of this.

As for Michelle Sullivan...

Hesper put her designs into a binder and tried to search for information about Michelle. All that came out was news about her secretly criticizing Xavier, and there were a lot of commenters who were talking badly about him.

“...I’ve noted this, so don’t worry. I won’t let people drag Professor Jenkin’s name through the mud.”

Jessie was alert. “You’re not going to ambush her, are you?” Hesper was speechless.

!

Chapter 219

“Haha, I’m just joking.” Jessie patted Hesper’s shoulder. “I’m telling you this to vindicate my dad. I just want you to be careful not to make my dad angry anymore.”

Hesper didn’t explain herself and just nodded.

After leaving, Hesper tried to get more information about how the Duval competition was going on.

She had an out-of-sight, out-of-mind attitude about it, so she didn’t pay attention to the competition. However, the competition was a lot more interesting than the previous years because some celebrities joined in and it became more entertaining, so the public was more interested in it.

It was obvious that Rickard put effort into it.

Hesper looked at some of the work through the night and could see that it was commercialized and had a lesser focus on authority like the previous years, so it was good that she didn’t take part.

Michelle did stand out in the competition, but everything revolved around how she ‘had looks and money’. As for her designs, Hesper could see that it was catered to the public and did not show her personality. She was able to get high scores because she was the most popular contestant.

In comparison, a contestant who had gotten an average score had more personality in their work, but because the person didn’t talk a lot and was boring, they were on the verge of getting eliminated.

Hesper frowned, especially when Michelle was given a chance to take the materials from that contestant but didn’t even end up using what she took. Michelle pretended that she forgot about those materials during the interview.

Hesper just thought that Michelle was a disrespectful person at first, but it was obvious that she was a jealous person too.

People wouldn't be able to tell, but those who were from the industry could see who produced better work.

Her phone suddenly vibrated and Hesper moved her laptop out of the way, then picked up her phone from the carpet. She saw that Jessie added her to a group called 'Friendship Forever'.

Three puppies: Is this really Hesper? Jessie, I thought you lost contact with her.

Lulu: I heard that someone saw Hesper in Emperion and she was with two men so that person didn't go and say hi to her.

Michelle: When was that? I thought Hesper got married. I miss her!

Hesper slowly read all the messages and Jessie tagged her at the bottom, saying that they were going to hold a reunion and that was why she was added.

Hesper: Alright. Hello everyone, I'm Hesper.

A bunch of messages suddenly flooded in after her message was sent. Hesper didn't have time to read all of them and was curious. Did she have so many classmates? From what she remembered, only a few spoke to her.

Three Puppies: Did you really get married? What are you doing now?"

Jessie: Hesper is doing very well. You'll find out in a few days.

Hesper was no longer the quiet person she was, but she was overwhelmed by the sudden care people

were showing her.

Some of the people seem to be targeting her and mocking her for not finishing school.

Chapter 220

Three Puppies: The reunion will be on Wednesday and I've pinned the location here. Don't forget to join. Our celebrity Ms. Sullivan will be buying, so don't be shy

Michelle: Throwing me under the bus!

Hesper read a little longer and realized that everyone seemed to be worshipping Michelle. She raised her brows and left the group.

Jessie immediately called.

“Hesper, I’m sorry.” Jessie sounded guilty but Hesper was fine with it. Then Jessie said, “I’m so annoyed! Do you know how badly they were talking behind your back? They said someone saw you with two men in Emperion and said you looked promiscuous.”

“If I didn’t know that you and Rickard... They’re just crazy! Don’t they know that their words could ruin someone’s reputation?”

Hesper said it was fine but knew that they weren’t lying. They were just exaggerating.

She often went out with two men in Emperion. It was either with Isaac and Matthew or Nathaniel, or Matthew just had to give her another bodyguard.

But being promiscuous... was a lie.

“Alright, it’s fine. This has nothing to do with me anyway, but I’ll keep what they said in mind.” Hesper sounded calm, and that relieved Jessie. “You don’t need to worry about me. They can say whatever they want. It won’t affect my life. I don’t live my life according to what others think.”

Jessie hesitated then said, “I never got the chance to ask, but you and... Rickard, after you broke up, where did you go? You’re studying now and caring for Renfrew. It must be... tiring.”

Hesper didn’t realize that Jessie was worried about that and was touched.

“Don’t worry, I have enough money. Don’t be shocked when you find out.”

Hesper wasn’t trying to hide anything, but flashing her money at school would affect her life and the learning experience of others.

Since Lane Holdings was in steep competition, she didn’t want to add any more drama to it.

“So mysterious. Alright then, if you don’t want to tell me I won’t ask.”

After hanging up, Hesper checked her schedule. She had a dinner appointment on Wednesday, but shutting the old classmates up was more important.

After postponing the dinner appointment, she checked the time and it was already two in the morning.

It was closer to Wednesday.

Ever since Juniper started her relationship with Carter, she had all the money that she couldn't have before. She couldn't help but compare her current situation to when she was with Rickard.

Even though everyone was nice to her out of respect for Rickard, she didn't have anything under her name, or she wouldn't have had to resort to tactics to get what she wanted in the past.

She suddenly realized that being with Carter was beneficial to her.

Mrs. Wight was much better after staying in the hospital for a few days and was discharged. Juniper was still feeling guilty because her mother loved her. Even though they had some disagreements, she

shouldn't have pushed her mother.

Chapter 221

Seeing that Juniper was fine, Ariana could finally breathe a sigh of relief,

For some reason, she had a premonition that day that once Juniper went to the auction, something bad would happen. Now it seemed that nothing had happened, so perhaps it was only her personal groundless

worry.

"Mom, I've already made up my mind. From now onward, I'll stop running after Rickard aimlessly," Juniper laid on Ariana's thigh. "Instead, I want him to know that I'll still live a good life without him. My life will be even better than before. I'll someday make him regret not choosing me over Hesper."

Ariana could not help but feel that Juniper's words meant something else, but her concussion had not fully recovered yet, and the doctor also told her to grab more rest, so Juniper only said this much in front of her before she left.

After leaving her house for a while, a friend request notification suddenly popped up on her phone's screen. Juniper then got into Carter's car, took a closer look at the applicant's delicate and charming profile picture, turned to her side, and glanced at Carter

"Why did someone just send me a friend request out of the blue? Did you point someone in my direction again?"

Juniper's coquettish look made Carter's heart warm.

"Didn't you say you like the designs that the fashion designer from Duval Group, Michelle Sullivan, came up with the last time you saw them?" Carter chuckled. I thought of a way to introduce the both of you to each other, but I didn't expect her party to act this quickly."

"I just know that you're the best. You remember all these little things!" Juniper was on cloud nine as she tapped on the screen to approve the friend request.

In fact, she did not like Michelle's design to that extent as she did not know much about fashion at all. She liked everything as long as they looked good, and she would buy them as long as they were of a designer brand.

Recently, Michelle had been in the limelight. Many socialites wanted to ask her for a custom-made piece of clothing, but they did not have the connection and, thus, could not get through to her. Not to mention, that the price of her work had been raised to an outrageous level.

Juniper wanted to be taken advantage of the exorbitant price tag too, but the \$25,000 bracelet had already emptied her savings account.

She only brought this up to Carter once before this, and she had almost forgotten about it. She did not expect that she would get Michelle's contact just like that!

"Thank you, baby!"

Before this, she was hesitant to address him so coquettishly. Frankly speaking, deep down, she still did not think that Carter was worth her time, but because of what happened that night... She was forced to accept him.

When Carter heard his new nickname, his heart immediately fell into the abyss of love. "This is nothing. I'll give you whatever you want in the future."

As Michelle and Juniper talked about the measurements and personal preferences, Michelle suddenly realized that Juniper's family seemed to be rich.

Michelle originally thought she was only some random sugar baby that Carter had taken a liking to, so she

did not take this project to heart. However, she came across Juniper's bracelet on Twitter one day. Michelle: That bracelet that you shared on your Twitter looks so pretty, where did you get it?

After purchasing such an expensive bracelet, Juniper had always been afraid that no one else would know that the bracelet actually cost her \$25,000. So now that Michelle had taken the initiative to ask, there was no way that she would respond modestly. She immediately took out the bracelet and showed it

off.

Michelle took a glimpse at the bracelet in the video. Although she had not had the opportunity to see many luxury items before this, she knew that the fineness and purity of the gemstones found on the bracelet were not enough to back the cost of the bracelet.

Juniper: It's not the most luxurious accessory that money can buy. I only bought it at a charity gala a few days ago, thinking that it's a great omen. After all, it once belonged to the royal family of Yoshland, and I think it looks rather elegant and pretty, so I went for it.

This woman can be slightly more subtle when it comes to showing off her worthless bracelet.'

Michelle curled her lips on the other end of the phone, but through this, she could also see that Juniper was indeed rich.

Chapter 222

Michelle: I still have tasks to attend to. I can see that you're a woman of great taste. I'll definitely provide you with a fabulous design.

Michelle: Do keep in touch, Ms. Wight!

Michelle's compliment appeased Juniper's vanity perfectly, and just as Juniper ended the chat with Michelle, they arrived at the restaurant.

Carter got out of the car and opened the door for her. "Here we are. We're going to get some Japanese food today."

Holding the hem of her dress, Juniper enjoyed the treatment she had never enjoyed before in her entire life and got out of the car like a spoiled princess with a coquettish smile.

On the other side of the city, Hesper had just finished her work and was about to attend the class reunion.

Renee was worried about the fact that Hesper was going there by herself in the late evening and insisted on sending Hesper there.

Hesper did not agree at first. After all, Renee was a lady too. But she could not win the argument and could only ask Isaac to come with the both of them.

“Based on what you just said, this isn’t just a reunion but also a trap at the same time.”

At first, Renee and Isaac felt that the class reunion that came out of nowhere was a little strange. They had never heard that Hesper had any classmates who were close to her before this, apart from Ms. Jenkins who would come over often.

It turned out that it was a reunion that had been thrown to embarrass Hesper.

“Don’t worry, none of them will be able to take advantage of me.” Hesper leaned back in her seat.

‘I’m attending this reunion only because I don’t want these people to disturb me ever again, or worse, aim their frustrations against me at Jessie and Professor Jenkins.’

These people were just fresh graduates, and most of them had yet to step into society. On the other hand, Hesper had already been playing with the big boys in the business circle for years, so watching these people trying to make a fool out of her felt like watching kindergarten kids play house.

Naturally, Renee was not worried about Hesper. As long as Hesper did not plan to take it easy on her classmates, she shouldn’t be worried about those idiots.

“Alright, before I call you here to pick me up, look for some interesting place to go to nearby. Don’t just sit down at some random corner and wait for time to pass.”

Hesper stared helplessly at Renee and Isaac.

‘These two fellas seem to have no desires at all, and they don’t do anything except follow me around and protect me.’

Renee and Isaac nodded tacitly. However, as soon as Hesper disappeared from sight, the two of them immediately nestled back into the car and began to deal with their respective work separately.

The restaurant that her classmates reserved was located in a rather famous hotel in Genecity, but Hesper had not been there often. In fact, she would not even come to this kind of place when she invited other directors or presidents out for a talk about work,

It was way too extravagant.

welcome, miss, do you have a private room reservation?" The hostess greeted Hesper the moment she

came in.

Hesper nodded in return. "It's a private room that's reserved by Ms. Sullivan. This is the room number."

"Okay, please come with me."

Hesper followed the waiter all the way to the door of the private room. The waitress then bent down and opened the door. Hesper was not used to such a level of service, so she nodded and asked the waitress to leave first.

"Hesper!"

Jessie did not have many good friends in class, so she waited in extreme boredom for Hesper to come. Thus, she was the first to see Hesper come in and immediately waved at her.

Hesper nodded slightly and then walked up to her.

Hesper did not arrive too early. At first glance, it was estimated that there were already about thirty people in the private room. There were only fifty students in the course back then, so excluding those who could not come due to work or personal matters, it was estimated that almost everyone had arrived.

"Is this Hesper?!" After enjoying only a split second of silence and peace, a group of people recognized Hesper and started making noise.

Hesper frowned slightly, then turned her head, gazed at the crowd, and sighed inwardly.

Chapter 223

Lucy stared at Hesper, who looked completely different from the young lady that she remembered, and could not even believe her own eyes,

When Jessie claimed that Hesper looked gorgeous in the group chat before this, she snorted secretly. The Hesper Rivera that she knew from back then looked just like a bumpkin from the countryside who did not know how to dress up, and all she knew how to do was study.

But the woman standing in front of her was well-dressed, her makeup looked delicate, and even the necklace that she had on looked low-key but expensive.

Lucy had some relatives who were living in Emperion, and she had been exposed to some luxury designer clothing and accessories since she was a child, so it was only natural for her to be able to see that

Hesper's attire did not look anywhere near cheap.

'How could Hesper have changed so much?!

"I told you, Hesper is a belle. And all of you actually thought that I was exaggerating before this! You people should apologize to me and Hesper!"

Seeing Jessie's smug expression, Hesper could not help but chuckle. She then pulled Jessie back. "Okay, we haven't seen each other in a long time, so even I don't recognize some of them at first glance."

"Why hasn't the host of this reunion arrived yet?"

Seeing that the limelight was all on Hesper, the people who were closer to Michelle took the opportunity to shift the center of attention back onto Michelle.

"Michelle is a very hectic person right now. Maybe something delayed her schedule while she's on her way here. I'll give her a call." Lucy stood up and wanted to report the situation to Michelle in advance, but the door was pushed open in the next second.

"How is everyone so punctual?" Before everyone could see anyone, a bright and cheerful female voice slashed through the hubbub in the private room. "Am I late? I'm so sorry, a client contacted me just before."

Hesper raised her head and saw Michelle entering the room coquettishly with a small handbag.

The Michelle that Hesper saw in the video looked more glamorous and delicate than in real life. And Hesper could not help but raise her eyebrows when she saw the designer bag in Michelle's hand, which was produced by Lane Holdings' subsidiary fashion company.

'This is a product of the enterprise that's currently at Duval Group's throat, and she actually has the guts to carry this bag during such a sensitive period?'

Lucy also realized the same thing, but the other attendees probably did not know about the owner of the designer brand's company, so she stepped forward and pulled Michelle over. "We were all waiting for you. You're really busy, huh?"

Michelle chuckled twice, her clear and captivating laughter quickly attracting everyone's attention. "It can't be helped. Customers are always right, aren't they?"

Hesper and Jessie stood in the corner, and they looked a little out of tune with the people standing at the front of the private room.

Naturally, Michelle did not want to make Hesper's life too easy, so she looked around the room but did not see the nerd that, in her impression, had always had her head bowed, so she asked, "Why don't I see Hesper? Isn't she here yet?"

The whole room went silent for a second, and Hesper smiled and walked up to Michelle from the corner.

"My God, Ms. Sullivan, you're so busy that you're starting to forget things. I thought you said that you missed me while we were chatting in the group, so why aren't you able to recognize me when I'm literally standing right in front of you?" Hesper smirked while saying so, making it difficult for others to see whether she was really complaining or just mocking Michelle. And that was why everyone else did not speak for quite some time.

Staring at Hesper, who looked completely different from what she had imagined, Michelle was speechless for a moment.

"...Wow... Hesper, you've changed so much that I didn't even recognize you for a second."

Hesper nodded thoughtfully, then chose the seat nearest to her and sat down as if she did not care at all.

It's true that it's been a long time. But I'm to blame too as I've never thought about contacting any of you throughout all these years."

Chapter 224

When everyone heard Hesper's words, they immediately explained that everyone had been rather

occupied in the past year, so they had not been in contact with each other too, which meant it was not Hesper's fault.

Jessie stared at everyone in astonishment.

'Is this actually the Hesper that I know?! A few days ago, when I talked to her about coming to this reunion organized by Michelle, she acted as if she wasn't very familiar with her and that she didn't want to talk to her, so why is she suddenly so eloquent today?!

Michelle did not expect to be mocked by Hesper as soon as they met. She felt a little resentful, but she could not think of anything to ridicule her for, so she could only ask everyone to sit down.

"Speaking of which, except for Michelle, is anyone still pursuing a career in design?"

The class representative, Milan Cheshire, was the owner of the nickname 'Three Puppies' in the group chat box. He looked around and said shamefully, "After we graduated, I started developing games with my buddies. I'm now the art director of the team, but it's nowhere near my original dream job."

The same went for a few others, who were doing art-related work but were no longer engaged in fashion design.

"Not many people can be as capable as Michelle, can they? The Duval Group's fashion design competition is so popular now and Michelle appeared as the champion of that competition. Michelle will surely be able to pursue a career in design in the future. How great is that?"

Michelle grinned to the extent where her eyes squinted. She looked very down to earth and unpretentious, and quickly integrated with the men. "How can you people be so sure? Everyone in this room has given me the chance to shine. If all of you were to participate in the competition too, I might not be able to fight my way through and emerge as the champion!"

"Don't be humble, you were always the top student in our course back then!"

Hesper was staring at the mandarin fish on the plate while giving it a taste.

'It's undeniable that this restaurant is very competent at preparing fish. It seems that I can order a few dishes from this place occasionally and take them back home for dinner. There's a reason why they're so prominent in the city...

Michelle's gaze naturally landed on Hesper after talking so much about herself, and she took the initiative to talk to Hesper.

"If you guys must insist that I was the course's top student back then, that seems a little unfair to Hesper." Michelle sat very near to Hesper, so she walked up to her with a flask of red wine to pour her some. "I still remember that Hesper often beat me in exams before she left halfway through the course."

Hesper rejected the red wine. She still had work tomorrow, so it was her habit not to consume any alcohol the night before.

"What are you doing now, Hesper? We haven't seen in such a long time, so I wonder how you are doing now?"

Hesper took a glance around the room, and everyone's expression looked somewhat inquisitive.

"Me? I'm running my own little business right now."

After hearing Hesper's response, Michelle's expression finally loosened. "That's a pity. Professor Jenkins

always praised you in class and claimed that you're the most talented person he's ever seen. If he were to know that you've given up on designing, he'd be devastated."

After listening to Michelle's scornful words, Jessie could not help but say coldly, "Hesper has gone back to college and resumed school. My father is still very satisfied with her performance."

"You went back to college?" Michelle was a little surprised. "But aren't you married? And if you were to go back to school, what would happen to your business?"

Hesper lifted her gaze when she heard the questions. "What does it have to do with you?"

One could bring anything else up except for her marriage, as it would pique her in an instant. In addition to that, everyone who had lovers had brought their significant other to the banquet, and Hesper was the only one who came by herself. That alone should explain a little about her current marital status.

I

Michelle brought it up on purpose, which was just her asking others to make a fool out of her.

Michelle really wanted to embarrass Hesper by poking at her sore spots, but she did not expect that Hesper would retaliate against her so directly. She instantly froze in place as if she had suffered a great grievance. "I didn't mean to offend..."

Hesper put down her silverware and looked at Michelle with a half-smile.

"I don't mean to offend you either. But I'm curious, what does how I'm doing have anything to do with you? Or could it be that... Would you send me some and if I were to tell you that I'm not doing too well?"

15

Chapter 225

As soon as Hesper said these words, Jessie was the first to burst into laughter. The others who were just watching the drama for fun and did not know that Michelle and Hesper had never once sat well together also started laughing.

Michelle felt a little embarrassed. "I only want to know more about you."

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door of the private room, and Michelle turned around quickly, trying to get herself out of this mortifying situation. "Is there someone else who's coming? I'll open the door!"

Hesper lowered her head and continued to enjoy the fish, but she then heard a familiar voice. "Excuse me, is Hesper Rivera here?"

Hesper, at a loss for words, was frozen in her seat. She raised her head in doubt and saw Nathaniel enter the private room. Her gaze was full of doubts and confusion. "Why are you here?"

Nathaniel walked in with a slight smirk on the corners of his lips. "I just arrived in Genecity today, and I'm working nearby. I happened to see your car downstairs when I was passing by, and Renee told me that you were here, so I came to take a look and say hi."

Nathaniel's sudden appearance hushed the whole private room. Even people who did not know much about any designer brands at all could see that Nathaniel's outfit was worth a lot of money!

Some people won just by exuding their temperament.

Michelle came back in behind the man. She was stunned by Nathaniel's looks at first glance, and her cheeks were still a little flushed at the moment. "Are you... Hesper's friend?"

Hesper glared at Michelle speechlessly. While Jessie, who was sitting right beside her, was desperately jerking the hem of her clothes.

Jessie's action reminded Hesper of the occasion that they were in, and Hesper could only give Michelle a more friendly stare.

Nathaniel took a look at Hesper, took off his suit, and placed it on Hesper's lap.

Hesper was bewildered by Nathaniel's action and gazed at him as a bad feeling surged from the bottom

of her heart.

"I'm Hesper's fiancé." Sure enough, Nathaniel smiled and bent down. "Before I came here, Matthew told me to tell you that he would come to visit you in a few days. He also asked you to take good care of yourself and emphasized your preference of running around wearing skirts or dresses even though we're now in fall."

"Nathaniel..." Before Hesper could warn him, Nathaniel and Jessie had exchanged places, and he sat down right next to Hesper.

The people present did not know that there would be such an interlude, especially Michelle, whose facial expression looked extremely stiff.

“I didn’t expect Hesper to have such a handsome fiancé. Hesper, I thought you were single, as you’ve never introduced him to us before this.”

Seeing that Michelle was putting on a fake smile even though she was exasperated deep down, Hesper felt a little happier.

Nathaniel then fetched a piece of mandarin fish and placed it on Hesper’s plate. “This restaurant is famous for its fish. You’ll surely love it.”

Jessie covered her mouth and nodded.

I did see that Hesper was only eating the fish just now, but I didn’t expect this attractive man who came out of nowhere all of a sudden to really know what Hesper likes to eat!

The two of them ate together, completely ignoring Michelle’s words. Michelle could not help but feel humiliated this time around.

“My family lives in Emperion, and Hesper came back to Genecity recently because of some work-related matters, so this class reunion caught us slightly off guard,” Nathaniel explained with a smile. “Next time, if we have a chance to organize another class reunion, I’ll definitely do a better job and treat everyone to a meal.”

Chapter 226

After the interlude, the meal got carried to the end by Nathaniel’s exquisite social skills. The moment Hesper saw Nathaniel, she knew that she would not have to talk anymore tonight.

That was Nathaniel in a nutshell. He might seem to be a soft pushover on the surface, but his ability to look after a family as huge as the Tuckers was absolutely inseparable from his exceptional observation skills and eloquence.

The group of people went out, and Jessie could not help but stare at Nathaniel, fangirling over the way he carried himself throughout the whole meal.

“Why did you come here out of the blue? And don’t you feel tired after bluffing to so many people?” Hesper returned the suit jacket to Nathaniel. “Let me guess, Renee and Isaac must’ve told you something.”

“Bingo.” The corners of Nathaniel’s lips curled slightly upward. “But it’s true that I passed by your car downstairs and Matthew did give that reminder, so you should keep this coat for now. You can return it to me when we see each other next time.”

“I’m in good health. I’m confident that I won’t get sick. But... Alright, alright.”

“No no no, that’s not alright!” Jessie jumped out from the side and wrapped her arms around Hesper’s. ” Don’t you think that you have a lot of explaining to do?! This, this man, what about him? Is he really your

fiancé?”

Everything that happened tonight was like a dream to Jessie, and every scene during the meal actually went in directions that Jessie did not expect.

“Is she your friend? She seems... very lively.”

Hesper covered her forehead, stood still, and introduced the two of them to each other, “This is Jessie, my best friend in college and the daughter of my mentor. And this is Nathaniel, my friend.”

“He’s just a friend?” Jessie was a little disappointed. She genuinely felt that Hesper and Nathaniel seemed to make a good match and that Hesper had found herself a new man to rely on these past few

years.

Hesper was a little helpless. “Stop worrying about me already. Why can’t I choose to live my life alone?”

Nathaniel stood on the side. He did not admit nor deny anything that came out of Jessie’s mouth, and as soon as the two of them stopped talking, he said, “I’ve attended my business affair in Genecity, and I’m heading back to Emperion tonight. I’m delighted to have been able to sit down and have a meal with your today. It has been quite some time since I last felt so relaxed.”

In fact, Hesper felt very relaxed whenever she was with Nathaniel too. She just did not have to think about too many things when he was around.

“That fast? Why don’t you stay in Genecity for a while longer?”

Nathaniel shook his head. “I want to too, but sadly, time waits for no one. I’ll take my leave now.”

On the other side of the city, Michelle and Lucy went back home in the same car, and their expressions looked rather distorted from anger.

“What happened to Hesper these last few years? Why has she changed so much?”

Michelle originally wanted to embarrass Hesper during the meal, but Hesper actually stole all the limelight from her in the end.

All I got in return throughout the whole dinner party tonight was everyone's disregard!
All the money that I've spent has been wasted!

But Lucy had fallen into deep thought even since Nathaniel appeared. "I just can't get Nathaniel's looks. out of my head. I feel that he looks extremely familiar, and I think I've seen him somewhere..."

Speaking of Nathaniel, a hint of jealousy flashed across Michelle's eyes.

The moment she first saw Nathaniel, she thought she had met her true love. She really did not expect him to be Hesper's fiancé.

'Why her?! She got good grades in the past, so she was the professor's favorite. And now she looks good, and her fiancé looks perfect and gentle! Why does Hesper always get all the good stuff in life for herself?! Even God shows favoritism!'

Chapter 227

"Rumors had it that Hesper quit school to have a baby, right? So what's up with the fiancé?"

Lucy did not listen to what Michelle said and was still thinking about where she had seen Nathaniel. That man gave her a very strange feeling. She thought about all the young masters of the local big families, but she still could not figure out Nathaniel's identity.

"Lulu, Lulu?" Michelle called Lucy several times in a row after seeing that she was in a daze.

Lucy came back to her senses and gave off a rather embarrassed smile. "I'm sorry, but there's something that I have to look into. I'll get off here now."

Before Michelle could say anything, Lucy asked the driver to stop, and then got out of the car by herself.

Seeing Lucy leave, Michelle rolled her eyes.

'If it wasn't for her rich family, I wouldn't even bother to be around her. Every time she sees me, she just has to persuade me into doing this and not doing that. She really regards herself as someone of great significance!'

Her phone rang at that moment. Michelle took a few deep breaths, took her phone out, and saw that it was Juniper who took the initiative to send her a message. She was saying that she had discovered a bottle of wine tonight and thought it suited ladies very much, so she wanted to share it with her.

Michelle did not understand a thing about wine at all, but she could tell by looking at the packaging that the bottle of wine was definitely not cheap.

Michelle: Thank you very much, Juni!

Juniper instantly replied to Michelle's appreciation with a cute emoji almost, and Michelle's expression brightened slightly.

'This woman looks a lot richer than Lucy, and she knows that she should get along with me. Not to

mention that she's much more mature too!"

Putting her grudge against Hesper aside, Michelle decided to get along with Juniper first.

'She'll definitely bring me a lot of benefits in the future!

After sending Jessie home, Hesper sat in the rear seat of the car and curled her body up in fatigue.

'Although the fish is delicious, such unnecessary social events are simply a huge waste of energy. Speaking of which, I don't have that much time to waste on those adults who are still mentally immature. It seems that it'd be better for me to keep a low profile in the future.'

Thinking of this, Hesper gradually closed her eyes under the streetlights that were passing by the car

window.

"...Mr. Duval seems to have his eye fixed on a piece of land recently, and the details of the piece of land haven't been found out yet."

Renee's voice woke Hesper up. She straightened her posture, only to realize that they were about to get home.

"Ms. Lane?"

Hesper rubbed her temples, and when Renee called her name, she looked at her subconsciously, but it felt like her cheeks were on fire.

Renee turned around from the front passenger seat and was shocked when she saw Hesper's

appearance. "Ms. Lane, are you okay? Why are your cheeks so flushed?"

"I don't know..." Hesper raised her hand, touched her forehead, and felt a little warm. "I might be having a fever. It'll be fine as soon as I take some medicine after going home."

Looking at Hesper's flushed cheeks, Renee stretched out her hand directly. The moment she touched Hesper's forehead, she frowned. "You're having a fever. This is way too warm. Let's go to the hospital!" Isaac heard that and was about to turn the car around and drive to the hospital, but Hesper grabbed his shoulders in the next second.

"There's no need for that. Just bring me home."

Hesper gradually became sober and could feel that she had a high fever.

'I literally just told Nathaniel that I'd never fall sick, and here I am, falling ill straight after bragging about my health.'

The weather was indeed very cold at this time, but she could not wear so many layers of clothes when she came out to socialize. Hence, it was not surprising that she would get sick every now and then.

Chapter 228

Going to the hospital was troublesome and it would take a lot of time. Hesper still had a lot of things to do, so she must not waste time on a trip to the hospital.

Isaac looked at Hesper's flushed cheeks from the side and felt that it was not a big deal to do it her way.

'Renee always listens to Hesper. And since Hesper said she doesn't want to go to the hospital, Renee would definitely do as told and bring her home...'

"No, I don't agree." Renee's expression turned a little cold. "The flu always gets very serious during the change of seasons, so you can't just go home and take medicine. I'll find a family doctor for you. If the fever still doesn't subside by midnight, we're going to the hospital."

"Renee..."

Hesper felt helpless, but when Renee stood firm, she would become a woman that not everybody could easily persuade. Apart from that, Hesper clearly knew that Renee and Isaac were only doing so for her own good, so it would be a little too disrespectful if she were to say something unpleasant in return.

Renee turned around to call the doctor, while Isaac helped Hesper out of the car and pressed for the elevator.

Before arriving in Genecity, Matthew had already arranged a house for Hesper in Genecity, but in order to stay closer to the company and take care of Renfrew, Hesper rented the apartment that she currently lived in.

This was also the reason why Jessie still had not realized that Hesper was rich after coming over several times.

The family doctor arrived very quickly, and Hesper was diagnosed with a fever caused by the recent epidemics. Hesper had many old problems hidden away in her body due to the inhumane postnatal care that the Duvals provided her with, so her health had always been worse than peers of the same age group.

The doctor set up an IV drip. Hesper started to feel a little drowsy. However, because the draft was still unfinished, Hesper asked Renee to move a small table into her bedroom so that she could draw while letting the IV drip do its job.

“Ms. Lane, don’t you think that this is a little too harsh for your body?” As soon as Isaac sent the doctor out, Renee sat down beside Hesper and watched as she drew a vivid and beautiful picture of an evening

dress little by little.

“Is this too harsh?” Hesper was astounded for a moment, but then smiled and shook her head. “Why would I think so? I wasted a lot of time in the past. Now thinking about it, I feel ashamed of my own life.

So why would I think that life’s harsh now?”

Before this, Hesper was worried that something would come up all of a sudden and delay the completion of the drawing, so the draft had almost been completed before this. As soon as she was done with the IV drip, the design drawing was basically completed too.

Renee took Hesper’s body temperature and realized that although she still had a mild fever, there was nothing serious about it now.

“Okay, I told you, I’m fine.”

Hesper looked at Renee’s dark circles, then asked her to go to the guest room to find herself an unused blanket and to spend the night there.

The first day passed by smoothly. Hesper thought that it was only the flu and that it would recover very

soon, but she did not expect this minor illness to become even more serious.

101.3 degrees...”

Renee wanted to take Hesper’s temperature again as soon as she woke up. This time around, Hesper did not say a word and just let her take it obediently while staying under the quilt. She did not even open

her

eyes at all.

“Ms. Lane?”

After Renee called her name several times, Hesper still did not respond. Renee frowned and quickly called Isaac, asking him to come pick Hesper up and send her to the hospital.

It was already in the evening when Hesper woke up.

Because of the continuous high fever, she had not been able to wake up, and Renee was so anxious that she almost called Matthew over. She did not do so in the end only because she thought of Hesper’s order, asking her not to trouble Matthew all the time. Hence, she chose to wait for hours in anxiety. With a severe headache, Hesper looked around the somewhat familiar ward and sighed on the bed.

Chapter 229

“Ms. Lane, you’re awake!” Renee was surprised when she came into the ward with warm water.

“What time is it?” Hesper asked with a hoarse voice.

Renee opened the curtains, and the bright gold sunlight instantly poured into the entire ward.

“It’s past four already. You’ve been asleep for a long time.”

Hesper did not expect that she would be unconscious for such a long time, and her dry throat barely felt better after taking a sip of the warm water that Renee handed over to her.

“When you were out cold, Mr. Duval already took over the land.” Renee lowered her head and said, “I don’t know if they obtained some news and were able to push the bidding time for the land forward while you were unconscious.”

When Renee brought this piece of land up before, Hesper felt that Rickard should have a plan for it. Otherwise, he would not have revealed all the news so early on.

“There’s more. The doctor explained that you don’t only have a normal flu but that you ate something by mistake. The IV that you got last night can only suppress the fever, but it can’t cure the disease.”

Speaking of this, Renee paused for a split second then continued, “We don’t have a doctor that we can trust in Genecity, so I only found one through my local connection. Previous clients all claim that the doctor is a reliable one, but when I looked into his background again earlier today, I found out that this person has gone off the grid.”

Hesper put down the glass in her hands and her eyes dimmed. “I see what you’re trying to say. You think that someone deliberately wants me to fall sick at this time.”

Before the two could finish speaking, there was a sudden knock on the door.

Renee looked toward the door vigilantly. "Who is it?"

The person outside the door remained silent for a short while. Then Rickard's voice came through the

door. "It's me."

When Renee heard Rickard's voice, she immediately rolled her eyes. Hesper stopped guessing, returned to her senses, and became a little confused for a split second.

'Why would Rickard come over at this time?'

"Open the door," Hesper ordered, sitting upright.

As soon as the door was opened, Rickard strode into the ward.

+

"Mr. Duval, why are you here?" Renee could not help but sneer and mock him.

Rickard saw Hesper's pale face and secretly clenched his fists.

=

"As soon as I realized that you didn't attend the bidding session, I guessed that something must've happened to you, causing your schedule to be delayed, but why would you get sick all of a sudden?" Rickard took two steps closer but was then stopped by Renee, so he could only look at Hesper from a few feet away.

"Why would Ms. Lane fall sick? Do you really not know about the reason behind Ms. Lane's condition, Mr. Duval?"

Hesper did not say anything and looked away in exhaustion, while Rickard stared in confusion at Renee, who was extremely hostile to him. "How should I know? What do you mean by this?"

"What do I mean? You should understand this best, shouldn't you, Mr. Duval?"

Hesper sat in the radiance of the evening sun, and the golden orange sunlight shone on her neck, her shoulders, and down to the tip of her hair. She looked as delicate and beautiful as ever, but she refused to even take a glance at Rickard no matter what.

The man who had always placed his self-esteem first finally could not help but take a step forward, wanting to turn Hesper's face and make her look at him. However, as soon as he thought of how things went the last time they met, he could only hold her hand with extreme forbearance.

“Hesper, can you just make things clear for me?”

Chapter 230

On the other end of the region, Juniper, who had been living her life to the fullest for a while, was trying on the accessories and bags that she had just bought from the boutiques in front of the mirror. Carter was willing to splurge money on her, so she had been going into shops and buying everything that she wanted. All of the gifts would be sent directly to the Wight Manor.

Ariana walked into the room, saw her daughter who looked very different from before, and felt even more uneasy deep down.

“Juni, why have you been buying so many things recently? I know you don’t have much money in your accounts, so how did you get your hands on all these things?”

‘The first thing she does is question me...’

Juniper was a little impatient, put down the items in her hand, and grabbed Ariana’s hand. “Didn’t you tell me to give up on Rickard? I listened to your advice. I’ve accepted Carter’s pursuit and I’m now his girlfriend. These things are all presents from him.”

Everybody in Genecity knew Carter’s name. He was a well-known imp in the circle, and he was also known for spending his family’s money recklessly just because he could.

When Ariana brought him up to Juniper way back then, she told her that the Wilsons would surely go down in flames someday in the future because of Carter.

However, Juniper was now telling her mother that she had escaped a pit, only to fall into a bigger trap.

“You must be out of your mind!”

Ariana was so infuriated that she could not catch her breath, but Juniper did not want to talk to her anymore, so after a few words of comfort, she instantly helped her out of the door. “Mom, I’m already an adult, so I know what I’m doing. You should really stop interfering in my life.”

Ariana stared at the closed door in front of her and closed her eyes in pain.

'My cowardice and soft heart will destroy Juniper someday.'

On the other side of the door, Juniper's phone beeped as soon as she shut Ariana out. She took a peek at the screen, and her expression changed. She immediately put down the things in her hands, turned on the phone, and saw that the killer from the dark web was contacting her again..

013: Even though I reminded you, you still jumped into another trap..

013: How can you be so wrong in all things?

Juniper frowned.

'What does this person mean? Is he saying that Carter is a trap?

Memory: Stop acting so mysterious all day long and stop telling me things that I can't understand. By the way, I don't want to kill Hesper Rivera now. I've come up with my own way to deal with her, so don't contact me anymore.

Juniper sent the message nervously, and the other party finally replied after some time.

013: This is now beyond your control, Ms. Wight.

013: I strongly advise you to play along with me. Otherwise, I might get rid of some troublesome people first before I get to Hesper.

That was considered a threat.

Juniper had never regretted contacting someone on the dark web as much as she did now. The other party knew everything about her, while she did not even know anything about him!

If only she had known...

013: Alright, Ms. Wight, don't overthink things. All you need to remember is that the people around you won't be able to help you now, and later, you'll find out that what I said to you today was really for your own good.

Juniper frowned and immediately asked 013 what he meant, but the other party's profile picture had already been dimmed, and no more new messages came in.

Sitting in the middle of a pile of goods, Juniper looked at the brilliant and luxurious things around her in a daze and was a little bewildered for a while.

'Why would so many people badmouth Carter right after I made the choice to give up on Rickard? Do I only ever choose to get together with the wrong people? Ridiculous.'

-