

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

### Chapter 341

"You look really beautiful in real life, the most beautiful woman I've ever seen in my life, just slightly lesser than me." Riley put his thumb and forefinger together to show a small gap. His hand was finally free from Myriade's tight grasp, but he still looked at her in pain.

Myriade pretended that she didn't see him and stood behind Renfrew.

"..." Hesper was a little surprised at suddenly receiving compliments. Riley was a little too friendly and Hesper had never met anyone like him. She said, "If Myriade doesn't want to leave with you, I won't let you take her away."

Riley wasn't planning on bringing Myriade with him, so he waved his hand. "Whatever, if she wants to stay here, then stay. She won't be able to come back though."

Renfrew was confused.

Remembering something, Riley continued, "Myriade has a supplementary card and the credit limit is pretty high. I think it's enough for you to take care of her until she's seventeen or eighteen."

The love Big T had for everyone else combined wasn't even close to how much he loved Myriade. Even if Myriade was kidnapped, Riley believed that Big T would increase the card's limit even if it was declined the next day.

It sounded like Myriade was rich!

Myriade had had enough of Riley, so she tugged at Hesper's blouse and said, "Let's go, Aunty Hesper. Ignore him."

Riley snorted, but Myriade glared at him while Hesper wasn't looking.

Riley was a weird person, so Hesper knew that she should bring the kids as far away from this place as possible. Riley looked like a normal pretty girl who seemed younger than her.

However, Hesper had a bad feeling about her.

It could be her sixth sense, but Hesper decided to follow her gut and left with the children.

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Benji reported Zoya and Hesper's outing to Rickard as he rubbed his temples while sitting on the

couch.

"Did you find out more about Riley Simms?"

"Yes." Benji nodded. "That person is different from Zoya. He's active overseas and used to be a famous psychiatrist. He became a guest speaker in a few institutions later on."

"However, he lives as a woman even though he's a man. That's suspicious, so I've sent someone to find out more about him, but it'll take some time."

Rickard nodded. "Good job."

Benji put the file away. He looked at how tired Rickard appeared and knew that he was very stressed out lately.

Since Hesper was putting pressure on him, coupled with the partnership between Roberto and Lane Holdings, Duval Group was in an awkward position.

Back when Rickard took over, the company didn't have the huge influence and status it currently had. He was the one who brought it to new heights.

Benji, who had worked alongside him, knew how much he went through. He knew how strong Rickard used to be.

Although he knew that his boss did Hesper wrong, love was about acceptance, so there was no point in putting anyone in a tough spot.

Maybe because he was just a bystander, but he hoped that Rickard would be able to get out of it sooner rather than later.

"Continue keeping an eye on Hesper. If there's any movement from Daybreak, get Myriade out of there immediately. Don't hurt Ren and Hesper."

"Yes, sir."

## Chapter 342

After their mission in Halwanest was completed, Riley didn't have any feelings toward Halwanest like Myrlade.

The only thing he cared about in this world was Trez, but Trez was no longer there, so he would

leave too.

“I’ve met Hesper Rivera and I had to admit that she’s beautiful.” Riley looked at Trez, who was laying in bed with his eyes closed, then sighed. “How nice it’d be if you didn’t hate her. I might have the chance to ask her what brand of skin care products she uses.”

After finding out that Myriade’s bag was filled with low-quality candy, Hesper kept trying to find a way to throw all of it away.

She knew that the cheap candy would have too much coloring... Myriade seemed to be from a well-off family, so why did she love candy like that?

The girl even considered them as precious gifts.

-Hesper looked at the bottle by her bed. Myriade gave her a lot of them and Hesper guessed that she would be running out soon. She hoped that Myriade would soon give all the candy to her so she could buy better ones for her.

However, Hesper was too naive, because Myriade soon bought a new batch online.

Hesper decided to speak to her about it.

Renfrew sat next to his mother, and they looked so much alike sitting with their arms crossed across from Myriade.

Myriade was hesitant. Was her cover blown? She had been very careful around Hesper and didn’t even contact Big T or Riley.

Right when her mind was racing, a hand touched her head.

Myriade hated it when people touched her head because it would mess up her hair, but she felt happy when Hesper did it.

“I have a question for you.”

Myriade nodded. “Go ahead.”

Seeing how well-behaved she was, Hesper smiled, but when she remembered that they were going to have a serious conversation, she let it drop from her face.

“Who bought all that candy in your bag for you?”

Myriade was surprised because she didn’t expect this very serious-looking conversation to be about candy.

Even though the candies were nice...

“Riley, the person you met before.”

Remembering how nonchalant Riley was, Hesper didn't find it weird, so she sighed and said, "The candy is very cheap. Didn't you notice that when you bought it for yourself? It has a lot of unhealthy ingredients and it gives you cavities."

Myriade didn't have a good concept of prices, so money was just a number to her. She could get however much she wanted from her account.

However, when Hesper said that, she noticed a problem-Riley had tricked her.

At that moment, Riley sneezed loudly and almost dropped the medication for 013. 013, who was tied up in bed, chuckled when he saw this.

### Chapter 343

"There's no point glaring at me. Big T says you can't leave."

Riley turned around sadly and handed the medication to 013, then changed his expression and leaned in close, his beautiful eyes a little unfocused. "Let me feed you. Be a good boy... You'll feel better only if you take your meds."

Although it was fun to spend time with the children at home, it was time for the final round.

Hesper was the favorite, and her every move was recorded by loyal fans. The viewership for the final live broadcast was at an all-time high.

Since it was the finals, to keep things under wraps, they locked down the filming location. The viewers didn't even know the theme of the round and would only be able to see the final work.

Renfrew and Myriade were ready to watch the show. Meanwhile, with the help of Yanis, Ernest and Wendy were sitting eagerly to watch the show.

It went from rowdy to silent.

Hesper and Celine looked at each other and smiled. Shawn was behind them. Michelle, on the other hand, had withdrawn from the competition and apologized to Professor Jenkins for what she said.

Everyone could tell that she wasn't sincere in her apology. She had to do it because she angered Hesper.

That was the truth. The texts that Michelle angrily sent to Juniper weren't replied to and she didn't pick up her calls either. Michelle hadn't known that Juniper was just using her, and now that she was no longer of use to her, Juniper had blocked her.

The upper class was out of reach for Michelle. She offended Hesper for Juniper, but now she couldn't even find Juniper.

Juniper didn't make the final payment for the custom-made dress she ordered. Michelle stayed up many nights to finish the dress because she had hoped that Juniper wearing it outside would be free publicity for her.

She hadn't skimped out on the quality of the material either, but now, everything was ruined...

Unaware of Michelle's predicament, Hesper sat under the lights and looked at the brightly lit up catwalk stage.

She didn't feel any anxiousness in the previous rounds and just treated them like normal designs. It wasn't until that moment that she realized that she was a step closer to fulfilling her dreams.

Renfrew poured a glass of milk for Myriade then got comfortable on the couch next to her. "Do you think Mommy will win?"

Even though she didn't know what Hesper's designs were like, she blindly nodded.

"I'm sure she can."

The live show soon started. All the models walked out without an introduction. Everyone could only guess whose design each of them was wearing.

"I don't know what the other designers' works look like, but I can tell which one is Hesper's."

"Yelena has always been Hesper's model. I'm sure they're really close. I even saw Yelena buying food for Hesper."

"I'm going to say this first. Yelena's outfit is beautiful, but since it's the finals, everyone's design is so good. It's really hard to tell who's going to win."

"There must be some suspense. I think Lane Holdings is really good at creating that. Even though Hesper is participating, they haven't given her special treatment. I could watch a hundred of these fair competitions."

## Chapter 344

Winning wasn't really important now that it was the finals.

Hesper and Celine held hands. The results would be decided by a hundred professional designers. through voting, and everything would be kept secret. Other than the designers and models, no one knew which dress was designed by whom.

This was the fairest way that Hesper could come up with. There were four designers in the finals, including her. Shawn and her were linked to Lane Holdings, Celine was her

friend, and there was a newbie designer who went through a lot of hard work to get where they were.

Even though Hesper wanted to win and get a chance to learn from Roberto, she didn't want to use her influence to win. The theme of the finals was 'Love'.

Hesper hadn't lived a long life, but she felt that she had a lot of experience when it came to love and hate. She knew that love could not be forced. This theme was the best thing she had come up with.

As for the results...

Hesper looked up. The lights were like millions of stars shining into her eyes.

Everyone was moved by the ocean in her eyes at that moment.

Roberto sat in the judges' panel and looked at her. His initial impression of her was just Nathaniel's future wife', but after the journey, he realized that she was someone with unique ideas. She had a lot of room for improvement, but she had the talent for it.

The other designers might not be able to tell which design belonged to Hesper, but he knew her style, so he was able to link each design to the designer.

Hesper would win.

The votes were soon tallied. Hesper was nervous a while ago, but now that she saw the host holding onto the results, she felt calm.

Renfrew and Myriade held hands and waited. Ernest put on his reading glasses and waited eagerly for the results.

Hesper looked down the stage and saw a familiar silhouette. She was stunned when she saw Rickard standing in the corner. Their eyes met.

He was back?

"The winner of this competition is... Hesper Rivera!"

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Rickard nodded and Hesper drew her eyes back. Her eyes turned red.

She never thought about this, but no matter how well she did, she was never good enough for

Rickard. No matter how much she did, Rickard would never be proud of her.

She once threw all her love and pride out the window for Rickard.

“Congratulations, Ms. Rivera.”

2/2

The prize was handed out by Roberto. Even though she had met him before, it was just from afar. Standing this close to him, even next to him, was something she would never even dream about. “You did very well. Even though I first knew you because of Mr. Tucker, in the past two months, you’ve changed my mind.” Roberto took over the mic. His blue eyes were warm. “Will you be my protégé? I want to see you go far in the industry.”

Hesper paused, then nodded. “I do! I’ve always admired your work and becoming your protégé is a dream.”

Roberto looked at her speechless then nodded. His expression was complicated, but it finally turned into sorrow. “You remind me of my wife when she was younger. She was from Halwanest and was a designer too.”

Hesper’s eyes grew wide. She never knew that Roberto was married and that his wife was Halwanese!

Looking at his expression, Hesper thought that something sad might have happened, but since they were on stage, she didn’t pry.

Chapter 345

Celine was the runner-up. Even though she wasn’t the winner, that still surprised her. She lost in the Duval competition and was ready to give up on her design dream.

Her mother had a large medical bill. She couldn’t spend time taking care of her, so when her situation turned dire, she might need to hire a hospice to take care of her... All that required a lot

of money.

When she was feeling lost, she saw the Lane competition.

Celine promised herself that if she didn’t make a name for herself this time, she would give up on her dreams and accept reality.

She was glad she won something.

“Congratulations, Hesper.” Celine looked at her. She knew that if not for her, she wouldn’t have gotten as much attention.

If it wasn't because of how fair Lane Holdings was, she would not have been where she was now.

Hesper saw that Celine was going to cry, so she went over and hugged her.

"We have a long way to go, but we're friends now, aren't we?" Hesper rested her chin on Celine's shoulder. "Don't forget that I'm here to help you if you need it. Even though I can't promise you anything else, I know that I have money."

Celine chuckled.

Everyone's eyes were filled with stars that night.

"Thank you, my little rich friend." My lucky star too.

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Lighting up a cigarette in the night breeze, Rickard had taken a day off. He came over alone and didn't wait till the after-party. He went there just to see the moment Hesper was crowned the

winner.

When Hesper followed him around in the past, he never noticed how outstanding she was.

The light of the cigarette burned in the night. Rickard just held it, and after a long pause, someone took it away from him from behind.

"...Hesper?"

Hesper put it out and tossed it into the trash can. The makeup she put on for the finals made her look gentle and beautiful under the moonlight. "You came all the way here to smoke?"

Rickard didn't know what to say. Hesper looked down as her hair whipped around in the wind.

"Don't you have an after-party to get to?" Rickard's voice sounded stiff because he never said

anything caring to anyone before. It sounded more like questioning rather than concern. However, Hesper was used to him being like that, so she looked up with gentle eyes.

"That isn't important."

Rickard tried to move her hair out of her face. His determined eyes shone under the moonlight as if he was bewitched. "Hesper, congratulations on your dream coming true."

Dream coming true.....

There was a lump in Hesper's throat. She nodded, took a step back to break the awkwardness, then said, "Now that you're back, why don't you take Ren back?"

Chapter 346

Hesper mentioned Renfrew to test Rickard.

Hesper felt that something was off when he sent Renfrew to her, but she couldn't put a finger on it. Now that he was back, why hadn't he taken Renfrew back?

He knew that Renfrew was her only weakness.

Whether it was because of their companies' situations or if Rickard really fell for her and wanted to use Renfrew to get to her, none of that should have happened.

Why did he leave Renfrew with her? Did he really just want them to be together, or was there an ulterior motive?

Hesper was too sensitive. Rickard knew that if he couldn't give a good reason, she would send Renfrew back to him. Myriade would then leave and go back to Daybreak.

All his trails would be lost then.

"Because..." Rickard frowned. Hesper looked at him and knew that he was hiding something from her. "Because my mom wants to find me a new wife."

"What?" Hesper didn't know how to react because she wasn't expecting him to give that as a reason. She blinked. "What does this have anything to do with Ren? He's not your illegitimate son. Your future wife can't accept him?"

"..." Rickard just came up with an excuse at the moment, but seeing how Hesper was just inquisitive instead of being jealous, he felt sad.

However, he said what he said, so now he had to try and cover-up.

Rickard cleared his throat and said, "Ren is still so young. I'm worried that he'll feel sad if some stranger came over and said things to him."

"Oh..." Hesper had thought that it was a terrible excuse, but now it sounded more acceptable.

Knowing Julie and what she would want in a daughter-in-law, she might just choose another Juniper- a conniving woman who sounded sweet. If Renfrew was only going to be bullied-again, he was better off staying with her.

“Mm-hmm.” Rickard nodded. “So, Ren will be staying with you for now. I’ll bring him home when I’m ready.”

Hesper nodded while still in thought, then she suddenly came to a realization. “Wait, you’re going to get married?”

Rickard was confused.

“... Um... I’ll delay it for as long as I can.” Rickard sighed, then continued. “I won’t remarry because it’s unfair to Ren and to you too.”

He said that with an expression that was far too sincere, so Hesper had to look away.

“You can just marry anyone as long as Ren is okay with it. What does any of it have to do with me?”

Hesper didn’t care. If Rickard remarried, she’d just find a different way to take revenge.

She was going to take Renfrew away sooner or later, so his remarriage wouldn’t affect Renfrew too much anyway.

“Hesper, the after-party is starting. Why are you-”

Celine’s voice came from behind them. Hesper checked her watch and noticed that it was time for the after-party. She came out to test Rickard, but now, it was time to go back.

Celine had never seen Rickard before nor did she know who he was. She only saw that the two of them looked awkward standing together. She didn’t know if she should say anything.

## Chapter 347

“I’m coming.” Hesper turned to hold Celine’s hand and nodded at Rickard. “I’ll take good care of Ren. If you want to see him, I won’t request anything.”

“...” She had to hint at something before she left.

Rickard felt helpless as he watched the two ladies walk away.

Celine was curious, but hearing what Hesper said to him, she could tell that they weren’t just friends.

After spending time with Hesper, Celine knew that she wasn't a petty person, so she asked, "Who was that? It looked awkward between you."

The spotlight was on Hesper during the party. Roberto announced that she was going to take her as his student, which meant that she was going to have a bright future in the industry.

Hesper had lost interest in fame. After staying with the Duvals for a year and then three years with the Lanes, she learned not to judge.

People would usually bow down to those that were powerful and avoid those who had fallen from grace. If she didn't have status, she wouldn't be treated well.

Learning more from Roberto was what she looked forward to.

Shawn was the fourth place winner, but he was still outstanding since he managed to outdo so many other people.

He was quiet during the after-party. Hesper would catch glimpses of him in a corner. She wondered what was going through his mind.

She looked over again and her eyes met his.

In that moment, bizarre scenes flashed across Hesper's mind, but it lasted for a second. Her head ached for a bit, then everything just disappeared like the wind and she couldn't remember what she saw.

Hesper frowned.

What was that? She never met Shawn before the competition.

When she looked up again, he was no longer in the corner. Hesper grabbed Celine who walked past. She was next to him a moment ago.

"Did you see where Shawn went?"

Celine was surprised that Hesper suddenly asked her that, but since she was a Lane and so was Shawn, it didn't seem weird.

"He said he didn't feel well, so he left. I thought you knew."

"Oh..." Hesper looked down, going into deep thought.

The previous time Shawn met her, she thought that something was off. He seemed to know her very well, as if they knew each other, but she had no memory of him.

This unsettling feeling agitated her, but since Shawn was the only child of Theodore, and Shawn was the only thing the person he loved most left for him, Shawn had a heavy weight in Theodore's heart.

Hesper didn't know Theodore that well. Other than Helen Lane and Wilfred Lane who kept

stepping on her toes, she didn't know any of the Lanes well.

"I guess I have to do something the next time I go back to Emperion."

## Chapter 348

The competition finally came to a close and work at Genecity started to slow down. Hesper canceled her leave and went back to class.

Professor Jenkins was very happy. He didn't feel as elated even when Michelle apologized to him, but Hesper getting first place and becoming the favorite of Roberto made him feel that he was right and she didn't ruin his reputation.

"You don't know how my dad talked to everyone about you. I don't think he ever did that to me before."

Jessie pouted. "But listen, he's going to put on his poker face and say that you did well and tell you. not to be too proud because there's still a long way to go..."

Hesper always knew that Jessie was very good at imitating. She knew that when he spoke he would have his hands behind his back, so she chuckled.

"Why do I feel a few years younger whenever I'm with you? The last time I talked to someone about my dad behind his back feels like a hundred years ago." Jessie giggled. "I was watching the annoying people in the group talk behind my back and couldn't stand it."

They walked to the office and Jessie waved. "Go ahead. My dad has a bone to pick with me recently, so I'm not going to go in."

"Have a bone to pick?" Hesper raised her brows. "What did you do?"

Jessie looked annoyed. "Because I messed up my blind date. I'm only twenty-five. There's no need to keep trying to marry me off. My parents are more anxious than I am and keep setting me up for a bunch of blind dates. My pictures might be posted in the park asking for a date."

Hesper didn't think that was a thing, but seeing how miserable Jessie was, she found it funny.

"Why are parents introducing people to their children recently?" Hesper chuckled.

Jessie asked, "Who else was forced to go on blind dates? Do all these parents have too much. time on their hands?"

What Jessie said pulled Hesper back and she fell silent.

She suddenly thought about Rickard. If he really got married, whatever she had in mind would go.

to waste.

She wasn't Juniper, who would try to seduce someone's husband.

"Hesper?" Jessie shook her arm. "What's on your mind?"

Hesper turned her face and shook her head. "Nothing. I just suddenly remembered something. I'm. heading in. Let's have lunch later. I'm buying."

"No way. You're the winner of a competition, so I'm paying. It's a celebration."

"Alright." Hesper nodded and walked into the office.

Jessie watched her walk in and closed the door, then scratched her head.

"Why do I feel like she's hiding something?"

2.7

Meanwhile, on the other side of the ocean.

Julian walked into the lab and switched on the sterilization lamp. He heard footsteps.

"Who's there?"

Riley leaned against a wall not too far away and waved at him. "It's me."

Julian let his guard down but still took a few steps back and frowned. "This place has to remain. sterile, so please don't just walk in. You can see me elsewhere."

"Alright." Riley raised his hands and took a few steps back. "I just want to know the progress of your research."

Chapter 349

"You know that we all have a limited amount of patience. I helped you contact Hesper and passed messages, but I didn't do it so you could keep delaying."

Julian's expression was cold. "It's not easy to develop medication for a mental illness like that. What your leader wants to develop is similar to what you want. If you can't get

the ingredients, all I can do is add them to my order list, little by little. Do you think that's easy?"

Riley nodded, as he understood. "That's true. Big T knows."

"If you want me to develop a medication, you need to have patience. As for the messages to Hesper... I have no way of knowing whether they were even delivered.

"Oh, don't accuse me." Riley looked hurt. He suddenly remembered something funny and raised

his brows. "That reminds me, I saw her son a few days ago. They look really happy. I wonder if she knows that you, her knight, worry about her even though you're the one in danger."

Julian's hand froze.

"She doesn't need to know."

"Oh, that's so touching." Riley giggled. "Well, I should leave you to it. I hope you can give me what I need soon because my patience is very limited."

Myriade stared at her phone.

Big T: Come home when you're done having fun.

There had been no news from him. It was impossible that he didn't know, so she thought that he accepted it. Why did he text her now?

"Ms. Myriade! Mommy asked what you feel like having tonight," Renfrew said, running over with his phone.

Myriade quickly put hers away. "What?"

"...Mommy asked what you feel like having." Renfrew looked at her and thought that she had a lot on her mind, so he stood there and didn't come closer.

Myriade didn't feel like eating after getting the message, so she shook her head. "Anything is fine. I love all kinds of food."

Renfrew was sure that she was thinking about something he wasn't in the know about. Was she going to leave?

Myriade stayed by his side for so long and he was happy about that. However, if he were the one who had to leave home for so long, he would feel homesick, so he knew that she would leave, sooner or later....

Even though Myriade said that she wasn't hungry, Renfrew told his mom Myriade's favorite food. and put her phone away. He then started overthinking.

After replying to Big T, Myriade sat on the bed and looked at her bunny plushie, then realized that Renfrew was acting weird.

He probably noticed that she wasn't happy.

Myriade sighed and opened the door to go get Renfrew. She looked around the living room and study but couldn't find him, so she started packing. Where did he go?

"Ren?"

Myriade called out and suddenly heard sobbing in a tight area between the couch and the wall. Myriade followed the sound and realized that Renfrew was curled up into a ball in a corner.

"Ms. Myriade, are you leaving soon?"

Chapter 350

Renfrew's face was covered in tears and he looked pitiful. Myriade felt helpless and pulled him out of the corner like she was pulling a carrot out of the ground.

"Why are you crying? Boys should cry. That's so shameful." Myriade sounded annoyed but she gently wiped his tears away. "I didn't feel sad before this, but I'm going to if you keep crying "

Renfrew paused when he heard that and he even forgot to cry.

"So you're really leaving?"

Myriade looked down and nodded. "My... brother wants me to go back. I'd ignore anyone else, but my brother treats me very well and he's my only family, so I have to listen to him."

Even though sometimes Big T would do illegal things, he did save her life and brought her up since she was a baby. He was the only family Myriade had.

Renfrew pressed his lips together and sniffled, then nodded.

"You have your family, I shouldn't be so selfish. Go home."

Seeing how understanding he was, Myriade thought about her reply a while ago

Myriade: I want to stay here for one more week as a farewell to Hesper and Renfrew I won't tell them anything they don't need to know, and I'll accept any punishment when I return

After saying that, Myriade started covering up her trail. Even Big T wouldn't be able to contact her in the next week. This was the first time she went against him.

She just wanted to spend quality time with Renfrew before her farewell.

Late winter. The season was harsh on everyone, especially people who were sick

Alfred walked in from the greenhouse. The butler who was mostly overseas went through higher- tiered education and training. His every move reflected that of a gentleman.

Placing a hot cup of tea down, the man worriedly looked at Ehren. He had enough clothing and seemed to have put some thought into his outfit. He had even styled his hair, so it was evident that he thought what was going to happen next was very important

“Are you waiting for someone, sir?”

Ehren was patient toward the butler who had been by his side for years. He opened his mouth, but a cold wind blew in and he started coughing.

The butler patted his back to help him ease his breathing.

Ehren coughed for a while then waved his hand. The butler handed the cup of tea to him.

“I'm waiting for someone very important.”

The young man's eyes reflected the white snow. He had a white coat on and nothing in hand to pass time with.

If you paid attention, you would notice that his eyes were blank. This ethereally beautiful man sat in his wheelchair. His eyes could not see.

Alfred rarely saw him with that expression. Due to his education and the family environment he was brought up in, the young man almost never yearned for anything as eagerly as a normal child, but today, he saw an unusual stubbornness.

He could see that Ehren was really looking forward to this guest.

But from morning to afternoon, there were a few times the butler wanted to ask if the guest was going to show up.