

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

### Chapter 41

"If you haven't done anything to betray me, then what are you afraid of?" Rickard grabbed her by the wrist and subdued her firmly within his arms as cold and stern words escaped between his thin lips. "I'll never let anyone deceive me or hide something from me, so you have to go through the test whether you like it or not!"

"You bastard!" Hesper cursed at him exasperatedly, and the walls of the mental prison that had been used to contain and suppress the grievances within herself finally crumbled at that moment.

Her clear eyes welled up gradually and tears blurred her vision. Hesper could only hate herself for not finding out that he was such a person before this.

"Rickard Duval, this relationship between me and you cracked a long time ago, and we didn't file for a divorce only because of your family. If you dare treat me like this, I'll never forgive you!"

Hearing this, the level of Rickard's anger skyrocketed.

'She just seems to love to bring up the fact that our relationship is non-existent, doesn't she? Then I'll have her see how I make the things. that I want to happen a reality!'

Soon, the car stopped at the entrance of the hospital.

Rickard, who was surrounded by a subzero aura, got out of the car first.

"Get out here!"

"No! I haven't done anything, so what makes you think you have the right to insult me like this?!" Hesper curled in on herself in the car, and her aggrieved eyes were bloodshot.

'I'm obviously the victim here, and he's obviously the one who's been

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covering the matter up deliberately. None of this would have happened if it weren't for him.

'It's him, Rickard Duval. He's the one who's been turning a blind eye toward the matter over and over again. It's his intentional connivance that made things become what they are today.

'If I were to be dragged into this hospital and get my integrity verified through a bunch of tests, wouldn't it be a blatant announcement to the world that I, Hesper Rivera, almost got raped?

'Why, why should a victim testify for herself through such an insulting way?

'No, no one can make me do this, not even Rickard!'

"I'll make myself clear right here and now. I haven't done crap, so I don't need to prove myself to anyone! If you really can't trust me, then show me some evidence. As long as you can prove that I've indeed done something to betray you, I'll kill myself just to apologize to you!"

However, Rickard was not in the mood to listen to a word she said. All he could think of at that moment was the scene where she staggered after being drugged.

'She looked so defenseless, so delirious, and she was found with a stranger. Who can be completely sure that nothing really happened?'

Rickard said indifferently, "Since you keep saying that you're innocent, then go in there and prove it to me! Your resistance will only make others think that you're guilty."

He ordered someone to forcibly drag Hesper out of the car. There were quite a few passers-by at the entrance of the hospital, and he proceeded without any regard for her reputation.

Hesper was hauled out and fell to the ground, but the bodyguards were still tightly grasping onto her wrists. She lifted her head, her vision fogged by her tears. "Rickard Duval, do you really want to do

this your way?",

"Yes," the man replied without any hesitation.

Hesper's heart hurt so much that it was already numb at that moment.

She thought she would never feel sad ever again, but she did not realize until then that there was no such thing as the worst feeling, a something worse would always be there, waiting for its turn!

"If you really insist, once my innocence gets proven, I won't forgive you until the day I die. Even so, you still won't change your mind?"

Getting stared at by her teary eyes, Rickard hesitated for a split second.

However, Madam Duval's words kept echoing in his mind.

'I have to run the test in order to be at ease. What's more, it's just a test, and it'd also restore her innocence and stop the public from gossiping, so why not?'

"I don't care what you say. Just. Do. It."

—Hesper stopped struggling all of a sudden. She stared at him soullessly as tear beads gushed down her cheeks. "Okay, then I'll do whatever you want, Mr. Duval!"

## Chapter 42

The group of people entered the hospital, and the doctor who attended to them was the one from last night.

She was about to leave the department to look for some files, but when she saw Rickard dragging Hesper into the hospital as soon as she opened the door, she was taken aback for a short moment. "Mr. Duval, what's happening here?"

"She got drugged last night. Examine her for any possible injuries."

The doctor was a smart person, so she understood the subtext of the conversation as soon as she heard it.

She was there when Hesper was brought in last night, so she knew that Hesper was sober back then. But this was not the time to turn away from this situation, as she had been bribed by Madam Duval.

"Mr. Duval, I'll have to get some tools prepared for the physical examination. If you really want to do this, I'll go ahead and get it ready."

Rickard looked indifferent. "Okay, just do whatever is necessary."

"Okay, please give me a second."

The doctor grabbed her cell phone, hurried to a corner of the hospital where no one was around, called Madam Duval, and informed her

about what was happening.

"They actually went to the hospital?" Madam Duval paced back and forth in the villa. She never thought that Rickard would actually want Hesper to prove her innocence.

'But this is great too. This should be more than enough to make Dick give up on that b\*tch for good this time around!'

“Since I paid you to do something about the situation, you just need to act when an opportunity presents itself. As for what to tell my son, I don’t have to spoon-feed that to you, do I?”

“Don’t worry, Madam Duval, I know what to do.” The doctor nodded and then pretended to go and grab the tools required.

In the ward, Hesper sat on the side with a defeated expression. Whenever she glared at Rickard, it looked as if she was eager to see through him.

Her gaze finally managed to irritate the man, and he raised his voice.” Why are you looking at me like that? Are you thinking about going back on your words now?”

“No.” The corners of Hesper’s lips curled upward, giving off a mocking smirk. “Since I haven’t done anything wrong, what’s there to go back on? I just want to brand this expression of yours onto my brain to see how much it hurts when you get smacked in the face when the result of this test is out.”

Rickard’s expression dimmed, but he did not utter a single word.

The doctor returned at this moment, and as soon as Hesper saw the equipment in her hands, her pupils constricted subconsciously.

Before getting onto the bed for the examination, Hesper made her final request, “Rickard Duval, it’s fine by me if you want me to undergo this test, but I want you to promise me that you’ll sign the divorce agreement after this procedure is over!”

Rickard’s brows creased, however, the more frequently she brought this issue up, the more suspicious he became.

He nodded coldly. “Okay.”

“Swoosh—“The curtain was drawn in one smooth go.

The doctor told Hesper unconcernedly. “Take your clothes off and lie down.”

“All of them?”

“Otherwise, how do you expect me to run the test on you when you’re this densely dressed?”

Hesper’s face turned pale. She had never undergone such a procedure, and she did not know what would be examined

specifically, but because of the doctor's words and attitude, she felt somewhat resistant and nervous.

After struggling for a long time, she bit the bullet and did as

instructed, but just as she laid down, she felt an instant pain in her lower abdomen.

"Ahh, it hurts!" Hesper could not help but let out a soft cry.

The doctor sneered coldly. "What's with the shriek? You've already given birth to a child, so how are you still afraid of an examination?" Hesper did not say anything to refute.

The doctor's attitude felt a little strange to her, and she only wished to go through the embarrassing examination as soon as possible.

But as the examination went on, Hesper burst into tears of pain. She kept on telling herself that she was experiencing all this because of Rickard, so everything would be fine as long as she managed to

endure the procedure.

After a long time, the excruciating sensation finally disappeared. And as soon as Hesper got off the bed and stood up, Rickard strode in from the other side of the curtain.

"How is it?"

He took a glance at all the equipment present and heard Hesper's painful cries, so he dashed in immediately, fearing that something might have happened.

The doctor turned into a completely different person in an instant. She put on a smile, seeming to be extremely keen. "Mr. Duval, please give us a few minutes. The result will be out soon."

## Chapter 43

A minute later, Hesper's examination results emerged from the slit in front of the printer.

With just one glimpse, the doctor explained to Rickard with a strange expression, "Mr. Duval, we've found fluid residual in Mrs. Duval's vaginal cavity... And the test result shows that it's not blood nor ordinary vaginal discharge."

Rickard's expression turned gloomy instantly.

'If it's not blood nor her vaginal discharge, what else could it be?'

"How dare you..."

Rickard's bloodshot eyes were fixed on Hesper, infuriated.

After hearing so much argument from her before this, he had started to really think that she was innocent. However, it turned out to only be an excuse for fearing that her filthy doing would be revealed!

"Hesper Rivera, you whore!"

"This is impossible, there must be a misunderstanding!" Hesper trembled from head to toe.

She knew her own body inside out. She clearly remembered that the person who drugged her last night did not succeed, and she had never done anything to betray her marriage.

"Doctor, did you make a mistake during the examination?"

"Mrs. Duval, you'd better stop, or I'll sue you for defamation. I've been a doctor for more than two decades, and I always take my patient's conditions very seriously. I'm only giving you the truth based solely on the test results, so don't slander me!"

"I don't mean that, but I really didn't..." Hesper could not argue

anymore. At that moment, she had already forgotten about the humiliation that she was facing and only wanted to find out the truth.

"That's enough!" Rickard abruptly let out a hoarse roar and continued with extreme disgust beaming from the bottom of his eyes. "Hesper Rivera, this is it. Just how much longer are you planning to put on an act and resort to sophistry? If I had't insisted on bringing you here for an examination, would you hide it from me for the rest of your lifetime?"

"What have I and the Duvals done to deserve such a filthy wife like you?!" He scoffed to himself and exited the room.

"This shouldn't be the case, there must be a misunderstanding!" Hesper wanted to explain herself; she was not prepared to let others tarnish her innocence.

But as soon as she got close to Rickard, she was pushed to the ground by his bodyguards.

Rickard glared at her as if he was looking at an arch-enemy. "Don't you dare touch me. You're as filthy as any human can possibly be!"

Hesper's pride was hit so hard that she stumbled backward and bumped into a warm embrace.

“Are you alright?”

Having failed to meet up with his contact, Matthew was so annoyed that he got a headache, which was why he had come to the hospital to get his hands on some medicine for his condition. But what he did not expect to see was Hesper getting shoved by someone else.

“Who is he? Is he an accomplice of those people from last night?”

Upon hearing the question, Rickard’s eyes narrowed instantly. “How do you know what happened to her yesterday? Are you the one who saved her?”

Matthew still did not know what was happening yet. His expression looked calm and unconcerned. “It’s no big deal. I only lifted a finger.”

However, Rickard waved his hand, motioning his guards to surround the stranger. “So it’s indeed you. Since you’ve presented yourself to us, you can forget about leaving now!”

Matthew’s expression twitched, but before he could say anything, his assistant who was standing next to him responded to the bodyguards’ actions. “I must say, you people have some guts. But do you know who this man is? How dare you fence him in?”

Rickard took a cold glance at the man standing in the center of his men for a while; he did not know who he was, but he somehow looked rather familiar.

And within a few seconds, Matthew’s assistant had already notified and summoned their bodyguards who were standing by in the shadows. Soon, the two groups of men were getting ready to confront each other.

At this time, someone whispered something to Rickard right into his ear, and the way he looked at Matthew changed almost instantly.

“I see, you’re Matthew Lane, the infamous young master of the Lanes from Emperion.”

Matthew looked at him indifferently, and there seemed to be a hint of wrath flashing across his eyes. “So, do you still plan to get your men to make a move?”

Rickard pressed his tongue against his upper molars.

‘I’m not afraid of this bastard, but I don’t want to make a huge fuss out of this matter. Otherwise, if word of Hesper having an

extramarital affair with this man were to get out into the public, that’s the end of the Duvals’ reputation!’

Chapter 44

“Let’s go.” Rickard turned around indifferently and left with his bodyguards.

Matthew’s assistant signaled their men to back down too.

The oppressive feeling in the air was instantly relieved.

“Are you okay?” Matthew gazed at Hesper, he had never been a nosy person, but he had met her on three occasions in just two days, and it had managed to get more embarrassing with each encounter.

Such fate had piqued his curiosity.

“What’s the relationship between you and that man from just now?”

“Uh... It’s a long story.” Hesper gave off a wry smile and thanked him again earnestly. “I’m really sorry to have caused you more trouble.”

Seeing that she did not want to share anything, Matthew did not go further with his questions, and his indifferent expression remained unchanged. “It’s no big deal, so don’t worry about it.”

At this time, Hesper suddenly recalled the matter that took place at the precinct last night and hesitated before she said, “Sir, I know this request of mine may sound a little abrupt, but can I trouble you to make a journey to the precinct and testify for me if you’re free?”

She told him the ins-and-out of the whole story, but before Matthew could respond to her request, his assistant who was standing beside him frowned. “Just who do you think you are? Our young master is a busy man. What makes you think he’d have the time to help you with such trivial matters?”

Hesper’s face turned pale. She understood that her request was quite an imposition, but if she did not have any witnesses attesting to her story, the police would never investigate further.

‘If this is the case, the real culprit behind all these shenanigans will continue to be at large.’

“Shut up.” Matthew reprimanded his assistant in a deep voice, then turned and looked at Hesper. “Understood. I’ll make time to pay the precinct a visit later.”

“Really?” Hesper burst into tears of gratitude. “Thank you so much. I don’t even know what to say.”

She did not expect that this man, who seemed to have an extraordinary background, would be willing to trouble himself for her.

Hesper quickly took out her cell phone. "This is my number. I really don't know what can I do to repay you for all your help, so if you ever need anything in the future, I'll surely do whatever is in my power to help you out!"

"Sir..." The assistant wanted to stop Matthew from doing so.

'How can the young master give his phone number to someone else so casually?'

But Matthew exchanged contact information with Hesper as if he did not hear him at all.

After she left, the assistant could not bear it anymore. "Sir, why would you help her? You even exchanged phone numbers with her?"

'Everyone knows that the young master is an indifferent and ruthless man. He's never been a soft-hearted person, let alone showcased so much love all of a sudden.'

'But when it comes to that woman, exceptions just keep on appearing over and over again.'

Matthew looked at the figure that was leaving the hospital with a dimmed and complicated gaze.

"What would you know? If Rachael is still alive, she should be around that age. I'm helping that woman only because I want to do good on Rach's behalf. Hopefully, everyone she meets in her life will treat her kindly."

"I'm sorry, sir, I might be too petty to be able to understand your intentions."

As soon as the Lanes' missing daughter was mentioned, everything instantly made sense to Matthew's assistant, and he bowed his head guiltily.

Matthew continued indifferently, "Let's go already. Since our contact doesn't want to show up, go grab me some pills for my headache and we'll go back to Emperion."

"Yes, sir."

Back in the Duvals' residence.

When Hesper returned home, Rickard was not there, but Madam Duval, Sophia, and Juniper were sitting in the huge living room.

When the three of them saw her, they immediately started mocking her.

Chapter 45

"Stop right there! You just flushed the Duvals' reputation down the toilet, yet you're actually shameless enough to come back here?!"

A porcelain mug was thrown at Hesper's feet, and the expression on Madam Duval's face looked vicious and spiteful.

Sophia immediately seconded her mother's disapproval. "That's right. If I were to have committed such a shameful act, I would've jumped straight off a building and ended my disgraceful self long ago. Please enlighten me, just how did you muster the courage to bring yourself to the precinct and launch a police report? You even had the

confidence to come back and roam freely around your in-law's house as if nothing's happened?"

Hesper stared at the mother and daughter without making a single noise.

She knew very well deep down that those two men would not have made her a target out of the blue for no reason.

'Those bastards were most probably instigated by these two. And judging from the morally righteous tone that they're adopting while accusing me, they make it seem like they're 100 percent sure that they own the moral high ground here. But anyone who's not blind and knows them should know that they're just two whores who are putting on a show to stay out of this whole farce.'

"Are you done?" She glared coldly at the two of them, and her piercing gaze actually looked rather deterrent.

She then scoffed and continued, "You two and I, we know very well what the truth looks like behind all these righteous accusations of yours. Is your conscience really as crystal clear as you're making it out to be when you're putting up such an act? Aren't you two afraid

that you'll be sent straight down to hell when your times are up?"

Madam Duval had always been a religious person, so she had always taken karma and the afterlife very seriously.

Hearing this, her expression dimmed in an instant.

Wanting to defend her mother, Sophia stepped forward immediately to give her a slap her in order to teach her a lesson. "You, shut your trap! You can't even remember who you slept with and you actually have the guts to talk back to mother and me?!"

Hesper reacted instantaneously, grabbing her tightly by the wrist and stopping her from getting any closer. "You keep on claiming that I slept with some random man, but I know for sure that I didn't! As for you, what makes you think that you're in a position to rebuke me on this matter? You're just a woman who's been in and out of countless relationships and has been upholding a private life that's no less than chaotic. I bet

you've gone through several abortions in quite a few of the local hospitals, haven't you? So you might think you have the

moral high ground here, but do you really have the ground to criticize me?"

"Nonsense! What are you talking about?!" Sophia was shocked.

'Those are all my private affairs and I've made sure that all information related to these matters is very well hidden, so how did this b\*tch know about them?'

However, there was no way that she would admit her doings. She gnashed her teeth and raised her voice. "Do you still plan to pretend that nothing's happened? We already know about the results of your physical examination. The doctor already mentioned that they've found a foreign fluid sample of unknown origin in your body! Yeah, you hear me right, a fluid sample of unknown origin!"

Sophia deliberately placed a lot of emphasis on her tone while

uttering the last sentence, as if she was trying to imply something.

Hesper still could not figure out what had gone wrong with the test results, but looking at Sophia's arrogant expression, she could not help but feel that something seemed fishy.

"How do you know my test result?"

'It's obvious that Rickard hasn't come back home, and even if he had, he would never disclose the news to his family members. No one knows better than I do just how big that man's ego is.'

"I... Isn't it obvious that Dick is the one who told us about it?" A hint of trepidation flashed across Sophia's eyes.

However, Hesper was not someone who would be easily fooled. "Is that so? If that's the case, I'll give him a call and ask him about this now."

"Don't you dare call him!" Sophia panicked and forcibly snatched her cell phone from her palm.

Seeing that the mother and daughter still could not get the upper hand after all the attempts, Juniper taunted Hesper. "Why are you doing this? Everyone knows what you've done now, so even if you try to talk back to Madam Duval and Sophia, you're not fooling anyone. I think you should stop putting up a fight and admit your mistake. Maybe Madam Duval and Sophia will let this matter slide for the sake of your baby."

"Can you stop being such a b\*tch?" Hesper had tried to ignore her for as long as possible, but she could no longer bear it anymore.

“This is the Duvals’ place, not the Wights’. So you, the young lady of the Wights, just came back from abroad after such a long time, but instead of staying in your own home with your family, you’ve been staying here at the Duvals’ shamelessly all day, every day. Please don’t tell me that you and Sophia are such close friends. Or are you staying here because you wish to run into someone else more frequently?”

“You...”

“Am I wrong? I’m not done with you! Even if Rickard and I are going through a harsh period now, I’m still the rightful hostess of this villa. So, let me make this clear once and for all, you are not welcome here! So get out of here!” Hesper did not even give her a chance to speak at all.

Juniper did not expect that she would do this all of a sudden, so her cheeks flushed.

“So this is it, this is it. You’ve finally shown your true color!” Madam Duval, furious, pointed at Hesper’s face and yelled, “Just who do you think you are? How dare you address yourself as the hostess of this household? You’ll never be such a thing as long as I’m here, so get out!”