

A Cue For Love Chapter 1086

Chapter 1086 What Happened To Your Face

Billy never imagined Natalie would give him an order like that. "What about you, Mrs. Bowers? Don't you need someone by your side?" His eyebrows furrowed. "Are you going to do things by yourself?"

"That's right," Natalie replied. "What about your safety?" "I'll be fine as long as the smokescreen is done perfectly." There was confidence in her voice. "But—" He opened his mouth, but was unsure of what to say.

Before Samuel left, Billy was ordered to take good care of Natalie. The latter had no idea what he should tell his employer if Natalie got hurt when he was playing along with the substitute.

"No buts." Natalie cut him off. "This is my decision, Billy, and you are my subordinate. So, you will do as I say." Staring at her determined look, Billy knew there was no point in trying to persuade her. Hence, he agreed, "Yes, Mrs. Bowers."

After he left, she opened the safe Yandel specifically made for her and removed the box containing the jade key. Pulling out the jade key again, she held it in her hand and fiddled with it.

The jade key was milky white in color, but it had good transparency. When illuminated by sunlight, pink luster could be seen emanating from the key. The carving was abnormally exquisite while the key's teeth profile was fine and complex.

It was just a key, yet it was made in such a magnificent manner. It would be natural for anyone to wonder what was being protected by a lock that could only be opened by a unique key like that.

In the past, Natalie had thought about that before. However, it was likely that whatever secret hiding behind the key was more valuable than she ever imagined if even Zophie and Blaze wanted it. She started searching for raw materials in the safe while thanking Yandel in her mind.

Raw jades never really interested her, but Yandel loved to find unprocessed gems for her. Not only that, Yandel would periodically renew the materials kept inside the safe. The relatively bad ones would be replaced by better ones.

Because the quality of the jades was great, Natalie was able to locate a white jade that was extremely superior in quality fairly quickly.

Even though the quality still wasn't as great as the jade key, it was pretty close. Unless someone were to inspect it closely, they wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

She proceeded to put the jade key and the white jade into the box.

Then, she spent some time putting on a disguise and the hyper-realistic mask she had prepared beforehand. When she was ready, she carried her computer bag and left Dream.

Meanwhile, after Anna tucked her child into bed, she massaged her shoulder as she descended the stairs, preparing to welcome Natalie. She received a call from Natalie saying that her arrival would be in ten minutes.

Soon after she arrived downstairs, she heard her doorbell ring. Swiftly, Anna approached the entrance and opened the door. She then uttered subconsciously, "Natalie, you—" Before she could finish her sentence, she cut herself off and swallowed the rest of her words.

That was because the woman standing in front of her with a computer bag had ordinary features with lots of freckles on her face.

While she wasn't ugly, she still looked very different from the Natalie that Anna was familiar with. "Who are you? Why are you here?" Anna stared at the woman warily.

"Don't you recognize me, Anna?" With a smile, the woman stared at Anna with clear eyes. It was a face unfamiliar to Anna.

However, she recognized the eyes. She felt as though she had seen those eyes before. There's no one else but Natalie who would call my name in that tone. Then, a lightbulb flashed above her head as she said, "Natalie? How can it be you? Why did your face become like that?"

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Chapter 1087 The Only Way

As Natalie held onto the bag tightly, she smiled. "Can you let me enter your house first, Anna? We can talk about the details inside." "Sure! Come in!" Anna stepped backward and took out a pair of cotton slippers for her to wear.

Upon wearing it, Natalie stepped into the house before Anna closed the door. Both women went into the living room. Anna proceeded to pour a hot cup of coffee for Natalie and put it on the coffee table.

"Can you tell me what's going on with your face now, Natalie?" Staring at her friend with disbelief, Anna frowned. "Is this plastic surgery? Why did you make yourself look like that?"

"This isn't plastic surgery." Natalie raised her hand and rubbed her jawline for a moment before pulling the hyper-realistic mask off, thus revealing her true appearance.

"What is this?" When Anna saw that, she gasped in utter shock.

"It's a hyper-realistic mask." Upon placing the mask on the table, Natalie smiled. "I have more important things to discuss with you right now. Once I'm free in the future, I'll take my time explaining to you the process of making one."

"Oh, okay." Anna glanced at the mask before nodding, still in a daze. With a serious tone, Natalie spoke. "I'm visiting you today because I have something I need you to do for me, Anna..."

In the past, Anna was deceived by Caleb and treated as a stake for a bet. Because of that, she almost fell into an abyss she would never climb out of. It was all thanks to Natalie that she was able to start a new life with her daughter and say goodbye to her dark past.

"There's no need for you to be so polite, Natalie. Just tell me what you need me to do."

Natalie uttered one word at a time, "I want to meet your father, Varre, right now, Anna. I need to ask him to help me replicate a jade key in two days. This replica is very important because it's the only way that can solve my problem."

The moment Anna heard that name, her smile froze. Even the look in her eyes darkened as her face paled. Then she bit her lip.

"Anna..."

Anna stopped biting her lip and held her friend's hand. "Must you find him for help? I know how to carve ordinary jade, too. Show me the original, and maybe I can replicate it in two days as well."

Hearing that, Natalie opened her bag, pulled out the box, and handed the jade key to Anna. "This is the jade key." Upon receiving the jade key, Anna started examining it closely.

The jade wasn't the issue when compared to its carving. The difficulty of making a key like that was nightmarish. Not only were the key's teeth intricate, but the phoenix at the key's head was also incredibly difficult to carve. Only a skilled craftsman could pull off something like that.

While Anna was confident she could handle the teeth, the phoenix was likely beyond her capabilities. At the very least, it would be extremely challenging with no room for mistakes.

It was then Anna finally understood why Natalie wanted Varre to replicate the key. Even she herself couldn't complete the task in two days.

The only person in the world who could do it was her father.

"Natalie, I..." She wasn't sure what to say to Natalie. "Two days is too short. Can you give me a week? I think I can pull it off if the deadline isn't that tight."

"I believe you, Anna, but I really only have two days." There was bitterness in Natalie's voice as she explained with difficulty, "I need your father to replicate this key so I can save my child."

"Child?" Natalie proceeded to tell her friend about Zophie kidnapping Yumi.

"I have no other choice. In order to make sure Yumi is safe, this is the best way to do it. I've considered all my options, and this is the one with the highest probability of succeeding.

Varre has disappeared for more than ten years now. No one knows where he is, but you're his daughter. If anyone knows his whereabouts, it's you." Closing her eyes, she took in a deep breath and continued, "It's not enough to just find him.

I can't guarantee I can make him help me. However, if you ask him for help on my behalf, there's no way he'll reject your request! I know I'm forcing you to help me, but this is the only way left for me."

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Chapter 1088 Endure

Anna was in a tough spot. Seeing the hesitation on Anna's face, Natalie didn't push her friend and simply waited for a response. After a long consideration, Anna's hands clenched tightly before she raised her head to look at Natalie. "You've helped me a lot, Natalie.

If I didn't meet you at Fullmoon that night, I would've been ruined by that b*stard Caleb. I wouldn't have been able to protect my daughter. For so long, I've been waiting for a chance to repay my debt to you. Now that I've finally gotten the opportunity to do so, of course I'll do my best!"

Natalie could sense there was something more going on between Anna and her father. However, she was an outsider, so she wasn't going to question her friend about it. Still, she was touched by the fact that Anna was willing to help her out. "Thank you, Anna."

With a faint smile, Anna shook her head and muttered, "That's what friends are for, right? No need to be so polite. Actually, back in Fullmoon, when I was chasing after Caleb, even though it was painful, I never once abandoned the idea of winning him back. I was so stupid.

All I could see was that man while completely forgetting about my daughter. If you hadn't helped me see his true ugly self and forced me to end my relationship with him, I think I would've been stubborn until the very end. I probably wouldn't have been able to protect my

child. While it was merely a kind gesture on your part, that completely changed my and my daughter's fate. So, no matter what, I must help you with this!"

Those were the words she had wanted to tell Natalie for a long time. At the moment, Natalie only had a working relationship with Anna. From Anna's perspective, however, Natalie was her savior, the person she was the most grateful to in her life.

Natalie had basically changed the course of her life that night. If Anna was driving on the wrong track before, Natalie was the one who corrected it. "Sleep at my place tonight, Natalie. Tomorrow morning at five, we'll set off to find my father," Anna informed.

"Okay." Meanwhile, Zophie grabbed a bottle of clean water and two buns before approaching Yumi. "Eat." The woman spoke petulantly before crouching down in annoyance. "You better eat."

The girl was frightened by Zophie's awful tone. Even though her body was restrained, she still couldn't help but scoot backward a little and curl up in fear. She's so scary! In reality, Yumi was afraid.

However, when she recalled Natalie's reminder and promise on the phone, most of the fear in her heart dissipated. The frightened look in her eyes was replaced by a more resolute one.

While Zophie studied the girl in detail, she noticed Yumi's confused gaze had gradually regained focus.

"Witchcraft!" she cursed. I have no idea what Natalie told her, but she seems much more stable compared to when she was initially captured. Even the light in her eyes is getting brighter. What kind of person is Natalie? Not only was she able to blow up Blaze's research base in Chanaea, but she also managed to adopt this special child! She's even willing to offer that invaluable treasure to get this child back. Although... So what if she's incredible?

Lifting her hand, Zophie grabbed Yumi's cheek and stuffed the buns into the girl's mouth. "Eat this right now! I better not see you spitting it out!"

Yumi's mouth was filled with the buns.

After being left in the open for too long, the buns were no longer soft. Additionally, she was being force-fed the buns, so she was having a really difficult time swallowing them. Her cheeks swelled as her face turned red.

Despite that, she didn't resist and slowly chewed the buns. I promised Mommy I'll wait for her! I'm going to eat until I'm full and try to stay in top shape so I won't drag Mommy down when she comes to rescue me! This pain is nothing! I can endure this! Mommy said she'll rescue me! I know she won't go back on her promise!

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Chapter 1089 Laughing Stock

Zophie thought Yumi would be as stubborn as before. However, she did not expect that no matter how harsh she was, the latter did not shed a tear. Instead, the girl merely chewed and swallowed the bun that Zophie fed her.

The woman's thrill of taking revenge quickly evaporated. Getting tired, Zophie stopped feeding her. "Just look at you. Starving and pathetic."

Yumi said nothing and merely continued eating the bun. "Like 'mother,' like daughter. Just as I thought, any child raised by Natalie is absolutely revolting." Yumi swallowed the last mouthful of food and glared at Zophie. "Don't talk about my mommy like that!"

Zophie was momentarily stunned. Then, her red lips parted as she snapped, "I can't believe you're still defending that woman! Why are you taking it so personally when she's not even your biological mother?"

Yumi had no wish to say too much to Zophie. However, perhaps because defending Natalie had become second nature, she could not help blurting out, "You can bully me. However, I won't allow you to say such things about my mommy! She's the best mommy in the world and is as important to me as my biological mother!"

This is ridiculous! Cursing inwardly, Zophie flung the remainder of the bun she was holding onto the ground. The more she behaves like this, the more frustrated I get.

"This is what I get for feeding you," she spat out. Then, she slowly stood up and warned in an icy voice, "You'd better pray that that 'best mommy in the world' of yours keeps her word and hands over the jade key in two days. Otherwise, I'll end your life."

With that, she left the dim room. Zophie went along the secret passage, then up the stairs to her room. After turning on her computer, she checked Natalie's itinerary.

Her red lips curled into a smile when she saw that Natalie had booked an early morning flight from Loang to Chanaea.

As expected, she left the jade key in Chanaea. According to Blaze's instructions, I should report the whereabouts of the jade key and Natalie to King. But... I don't feel like doing that. All King cares about is that key. He couldn't care less that Gale died. If I want to avenge Gale's death, I'll have to rely on myself, not Blaze. Of course, if I get the jade key, I'll give it to King to make up for taking matters into my own hands.

"Gale, in less than two days, I'll make that woman pay for all the wrong she did to you. As members of the same organization, we didn't have anyone we loved or the right to be loved. However, you were the only one who gave me hope and cared about me. Everyone else in this world may forget you, but I won't. Wait for me. Wait for me!"

At five o'clock the following morning, Anna entrusted her daughter to the nanny before leading Natalie out the door.

As a master craftsman skilled at carving, rumors about Varre still circulated, although his whereabouts were a mystery. If Natalie had not inadvertently stumbled upon the fact that Varre and Anna were father and daughter, she would not have been able to trace him.

Even though the person Anna was going to look for was her father, she looked grim. There was no sign of the joy of returning home on her face.

On the bus, Natalie gazed at Anna's lips, which looked as though they were about to bleed from Anna biting them. The former could not help but ask, "Anna, you and Mr. Appleby—"

"Natalie, why must people have fathers?" Anna suddenly asked. Natalie was silent. "Even when a woman has a career, she still has to care for her family and children. Regardless of whether a man has a career, he can abandon his family and children. When he doesn't want them, he can walk away without hesitation."

And when he changes his mind, he can return at any time and seek forgiveness with a few sweet words." Anna had a confused look in her eyes, and her voice was faint.

Natalie was bereft of words. All she could do was continue listening to Anna talk about the thoughts that were troubling her.

"All men are the same. Caleb was like that, and so was my father. If men deserve forgiveness because they changed their minds and chose to return, wouldn't the suffering the wife and children went through turn into a laughing stock?" Tears rolled down Anna's cheeks as she spoke.

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Chapter 1090 He Has Been Waiting For You

A look of realization flashed across Natalie's eyes. It turns out she repeated the same mistake. That sc*mbag, Caleb, was like that. Even her biological father, the famous Varre Appleby, was no different.

With tears in her eyes, Anna said, "This matter has always troubled me. I vowed to find someone who was nothing like my father. However, I never expected I'd still end up treading the same path..."

Natalie raised her hand to wipe away the tears on Anna's face. "I'm sorry, Anna. I've made things difficult for you by asking you to accompany me and forcing you to face the demons that scarred you in the past."

Anna looked at Natalie and said earnestly, "You don't have to apologize because you haven't done anything wrong. Saving Yumi's life is much more important. I'm the one who trapped myself inside a cage and refused to step out of it. Don't worry. I'll pull myself together and do my best to persuade him to carve that jade key so you can bring Yumi back safely."

Natalie nodded gratefully.

It's not easy for her to take that step for me. If I get a chance in the future, I'll have to treat her better. Way, way better!

The bus continued swaying gently as it continued on its way to a remote area halfway up a mountain.

Once the bus reached the station, the two women alighted from the vehicle.

“This is where Mr. Appleby is staying now?” Natalie asked.

Anna nodded. “Mm-hmm. Follow me. I’ll take you to him.”

After getting off the bus, the pair had to walk for around forty minutes before reaching an old monastery.

“He lives here?” Natalie was so shocked that the question just slipped out.

No wonder everyone looking for him couldn’t find him. I didn’t expect him to be living in seclusion and at such a remote monastery at that! Who would’ve expected the master craftsman who loved carving would become a monk?

Anna bit her lip and gave no reply. Instead, she stepped forward and knocked using the iron ring affixed to the wooden door.

Clang! Clang!

The sound rang out crisp and clear. Soon, a monk wearing robes came out.

He greeted them and enquired politely, “Are you here to offer your tithes?”

“No, that’s not why we’re here. We’re here to look for... Father Benedict,” Anna said, her voice hoarse.

As soon as the monk heard who she wanted to meet, his expression shifted. “Father Benedict is...”

Anna furrowed her brows and asked, “What’s the matter? Didn’t he join this monastery over twenty years ago? Do you mean to tell me he’s no longer here and has gone elsewhere?”

Natalie tensed upon hearing Anna’s questions.

Two days isn't a lot of time. If he has gone someplace far away and we have to spend more time on the road, there'll be no time left to create a duplicate of the jade key.

The monk shook his head. "Oh, that's not what I meant. He's here. It's just that he's not feeling too well, so it's inconvenient for him to meet visitors."

"He's not feeling too well?"

"That's right."

Anna asked worriedly, "Why is he unwell?"

The monk was startled by how agitated she was. He answered hesitantly, "You're not a member of this monastery, so I can't divulge such information."

"Well, what if I told you I'm his daughter? Will you tell me then?" Anna demanded, revealing her identity.

The monk's eyes reddened as soon as he heard that. He murmured, "Are you really his daughter? I'm so glad you're here. He has been waiting for you. However, he dared not contact you and forbade me to get in touch."

Anna's heart lurched, and dread surged through her.

"What do you mean he's waiting for me? I don't understand what you're saying. What on earth happened to him?" Her voice was no longer as steady as before. Instead, it quavered slightly with emotion.

The monk wiped the tears from his eyes, then moved aside slightly to let them through. "Come with me. I'll take you to him. You'll roughly understand when you see him."