## Chapter 1143 As Though I Am Useless

After ending the video call, Samuel went downstairs to see the table full of pastries. The kids were delighted at the sight of the pastries. They just finished dinner but were gobbling up the pastries excitedly.

Emma was busy wiping the crumbles off the kids' lips. After finishing her share, Sophia didn't forget to offer Emma one. "Mrs. Bunton, you should eat, too!"

The pastries were pretty expensive, so Emma thought she wasn't in the place to enjoy them. She froze, not knowing whether she should accept the pastry from Sophia. Seeing her reaction, Sophia blinked in confusion and asked adorably, "Mrs. Bunton, why aren't you eating? The pastries Mommy bought are delicious. Try it!"

As Emma didn't take the pastry, the other children grew anxious. "Mrs. Bunton, try it!" "Join us, Mrs. Bunton."

"It's really yummy, Mrs. Bunton." Emma grew tearful at how caring they were. She accepted the pastry from Sophia and placed it in her mouth, chewing on it slowly. "Oh, this is the best pastry I've ever had!"

Hearing that, Sophia arched a brow smugly. "I told you so, Mrs. Bunton. It's really yummy!" When Xavian spotted Samuel coming down the stairs, he immediately called out, "Daddy, come here, quick! Mommy bought yummy pastries for us!"

Samuel came over to Xavian but didn't take the pastry the latter offered. Instead, he parted his lips and asked, "Where is your mommy?" The pastries might look scrumptious, but they weren't as appealing as Natalie.

"Mr. Bowers, Ms. Nichols is in the kitchen," Emma informed. "Kitchen?"

Afraid that Samuel might misunderstand, Emma hastily said, "Mr. Bowers, I wanted to cook for her, but she refused to let me enter the kitchen. She said she can cook a bowl of noodles herself."

"Okay. I'll go take a look." Inside the kitchen, Natalie had just placed the noodles in the pot and was stirring them with a fork silently. She had no idea Samuel was standing at the door leading to the kitchen.

Samuel leaned against the doorframe lazily. The tenderness and affection he had for her were evident on his handsome face. "What are you doing?" He broke the silence.

Caught off guard, Natalie stirred the noodles more violently, causing one drop of boiling water to splash onto the back of her hand. At once, she took a sharp intake of breath in pain.

Hearing that, Samuel hurried over to her and took her hand. He then blew on it instinctively. Natalie lowered her head to see Samuel holding her hand as he blew on the red spot at the back of her hand.

"Come here!" That obviously wasn't enough. Samuel dragged her over to the sink. He turned the tap open and placed her hand under the running water. The water flowed on the back of her hand, and Samuel was standing behind her.

"Why are you so careless?" Samuel asked in his deep voice. "If you want to eat noodles, just let me know. I can cook them for you. Just sit down and wait for me to serve you."

Despite getting chided, Natalie was touched by his gesture. Nevertheless, she couldn't help but complain, "I can cook the noodles myself. You don't have to do that for me. Why are you acting as though I'm useless?"

"You're not useless." Samuel stiffened. "Who dares to say you're useless?"

Why do I feel more useless after hearing that?

After washing the spot Natalie scalded herself, Samuel said, "Go and wait outside. I'll be done soon."

As Samuel insisted on cooking noodles for her, Natalie didn't press on and returned to the dining room to wait for him.

The kids were no longer in the dining room. They had returned to their rooms after finishing the pastries.

When Samuel finished cooking the noodles and came out, Natalie was the only one left in the dining room.

## Chapter 1144 The Truth Is Not Always Pretty

The hot pasta and Emma's homecooked food were simple but the best meal for the end of a tiring day. Natalie picked up her fork and started digging into her pasta. At the same time, she cried out, "The pasta made by my hubby is certainly worlds apart from the pasta you can get outside. It's delicious!"

Her eyes were bright as if all the stars in the sky had fallen into them when she voiced the compliment. Her lips were curled, and her eyes were crescents from the smile. Samuel was enamored.

"Why are you staring at me?" Natalie asked when she noticed Samuel's burning gaze. "Is there something on my face?" "Mhm," Samuel hummed with a solemn look.

"Where?" As Natalie said that, she rubbed her face. She found nothing, so she furrowed her brows. "What? Why can't I find it?" Natalie mumbled. "Samuel, help me take a look at it. Why can't I find it?"

"Come over." Without hesitation, Natalie leaned her face over, blinking. She did not doubt the man's words at all. However, in the next second, the man's thin lips pressed against her soft ones, stopping her from breathing. "Mm... Mm..."

Natalie thought that Samuel was going to help wipe her face for her; she never thought he was going to turn into a beast at the dining table by grabbing and kissing her. Although they were at home, they were not the only ones there.

The five children could come down at any time, and that was the same for Emma. If any of them caught sight of her getting kissed in a frenzied manner by Samuel, she would experience another moment of absolute embarrassment.

Thus, once Samuel loosened his grip on her a little, she shot him a glare. "B\*stard, we're still at home! Aren't you scared of the kids seeing us like this?"

"If you're quieter, it'll be less likely that they'll come in and see us like this."

"You—" Natalie gritted out as she looked at the man with wild eyes. All of a sudden, she felt like the man was coming up with more nonsense logic after returning from the highland. Furthermore, his desires had become more intense.

Samuel had held back more or less in the past, but now, it seemed like he had given up on that and decided to do anything he wanted. The two of them then kissed again for a long while.

Only after satisfying his craving did Samuel finally let Natalie go. As Natalie slowly ate her now room-temperature pasta, she angrily thought, Was he calculating the time earlier? He didn't kiss for too long or too short, and now, the pasta is at room temperature.

Once Natalie was done with her pasta, and just as she was about to stand up and clear away the table before returning to the room, Samuel abruptly grabbed her wrist, forcing her to halt in her tracks.

"Hm?"

"Why did you burn your hand?"

Natalie stiffened for a second before answering, "You scared me."

"You're a pretty alert person," Samuel uttered, "and I'm not a man-eating monster. You must have been preoccupied with something else while cooking to have been startled by my voice."

Natalie was taken aback momentarily, but she soon realized there was nothing for her to be surprised about.

The man adored her, so how could he not know what kind of person she was?

She could easily hide the thoughts in her mind from the five children and Emma, but she could never do the same with Samuel.

"I really can't hide anything from you, can I, Samuel?" Natalie sighed. "I think I'm going to be finding out the truth behind my birth circumstances soon. I look forward to it, but before everything is revealed to me, I can't stop my mind from running wild. I'm worried that the truth I've been seeking all this time will only bring me endless pain because I know not all truths are pretty."

## Chapter 1145 To Truly Love Someone

To Natalie, the secret was like Pandora's box. The box was so attractive that she could not help but be tempted to open it so that she could see what was inside. Yet, at the same time, a voice in her mind told her that many things would become far more complicated once that box was opened. As Natalie's heart raced, she looked at Samuel and smile bitterly. "Samuel, I seem... particularly indecisive, aren't I?"

Before Samuel could say anything to that, Natalie continued, "To be honest, I should just stay away from it if I'm truly scared. But at the same time, I want to know the truth. I'm stuck in the middle of two choices, and it feels horrible. I'm afraid of knowing, and I'm afraid of not knowing. I feel like a headless chicken running around and around in circles..."

The frustration Natalie felt was audible in her voice. She had always been a decisive woman, and yet, she kept wondering if she should proceed to learn the truth about her birth circumstances.

When she heard nothing from Samuel and realized that the man was only staring at her, she blurted out, "Am I pointlessly wishy-washy? Then, you—"

"I'm just feeling happy to learn that you've changed," Samuel told her as he cupped her face and lifted her chin. "You used to take on everything by yourself regardless of whether the matter is good or bad. Now, you're telling me the thoughts you have in your mind, and you're letting me share your sorrows and joys."

The moment those words left Samuel's lips, Natalie's heart skipped a beat. Indeed, ever since she had been set up by Yara and nearly died, she had become used to enduring everything in silence alone.

That did not mean she did not trust the people around her, however, simply that she could not fully trust them. Fragility like this moment was something she would have never revealed in the past. "I..."

"It's normal for you to be hesitant," Samuel said to Natalie in a low voice as he caressed her cheek. "Although you've found new clues about your birth circumstances, the future is still unknown to you. Nevertheless, regardless of what your history is and who your father is, you'll always be my wife, and you'll always be the mother of our five kids. That is something that will never change."

Every word that came out of Samuel's mouth was exactly what Natalie needed to hear. She parted her lips, only to realize that her words seemed to have grown spines and were stuck in her throat.

All she could do was stare at those determined eyes of his and see the love and gentleness in them. Samuel's words had melted her heart. "Okay."

Natalie nodded vigorously as happiness re-entered her bright eyes. Samuel pulled her into his arms. He had been watching her change into someone more emotional, and now, she knew how to fully love a person.

It was wonderful. Life continued mundanely.

Ever since the hair sample was secretly sent to the organization, Cynthia had been waiting for the result.

Soon, per her order, Demi took the result of the test from the lab.

When Cynthia saw Demi returning, she anxiously urged, "Where's the report? Give it to me!"

Upon hearing Cynthia's anxious yell, Demi sped up and passed her the report.

"You're dismissed."

Once Demi was gone, Cynthia became the only one left in the room.

Her hands holding the report began to tremble uncontrollably.

It took her a deep breath before she could stop the tremble in her hands. After steeling herself, she opened the folder.

The report stated—Probability of Paternity: 99.99%.

It was a result Cynthia expected, but she still could not stop herself from inhaling sharply upon seeing the words.

I knew it. I knew it! Natalie Nichols is really his biological daughter!

"This is fate!" Cynthia gripped the report so hard she crumpled the paper.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Everything is part of God's plan..."

# Chapter 1146 More And More Confusing

Life went on without any problems arising. Time passed in the blink of an eye, and soon, half a month was gone. It seemed peaceful, but no one knew what was lurking under the still waters.

Dream Corporation and the Leitz family signed an order for a bulk purchase of rough stones. Helma reported the matter to Geert. After raking his gaze across the contract, Geert praised, "Helma, you've done well."

However, there was no smile on Helma's face as she uttered, "This is just my duty." Ever since Geert had slapped Helma, the feelings of familial love she had for Geert had dissipated.

If Helma used to be the beloved princess, then now, she was a princess who had taken off her crown, as well as her elegance and pride. No one could figure out what was going on in her mind anymore.

Helma once believed in her family, but that was no longer the case—she now trusted no one but herself. "Helma, are you still angry with me?"

"I don't have a good memory," she said in a flat tone. "When did that happen again?" Geert was initially stunned by her response, but he soon laughed. "Helma, you've grown mature."

"Is that so?" Helma answered nonchalantly. "I don't think I've matured enough vet." As if a kind father, Geert patted Helma's shoulder.

"Take your time."

Despite his words, Helma curled her lips slightly as feelings of disgust rose in her chest.

"Helma, I know that you still despise Natalie..." Geert started, his hand still on Helma's shoulder. "But Natalie has a unique identity, and you can't lay a finger on her unless you have a good reason to do so. Do you hear me?"

Helma sneered inwardly.

A unique identity? Are you sure Natalie hasn't cast a spell over you?

Those words of Geert were words that Helma Leitz could not believe in anymore. To her, the supposed uniqueness of Natalie was just a cover for Geert's perversion.

Although she disliked it, Helma was not going to be foolish enough to confront Geert head-on anymore.

Therefore, despite her beliefs, she said, "I understand."

"Wonderful, my good girl."

After leaving Geert's study, Helma made a call.

"I've already built the connection with Dream per your instructions. As for the next step..."

"Be at ease," Mistem uttered. "King will fulfill the promise he has made to you. That shipment will soon be transported to Yaleview from the border, and when they find out that there is something wrong with that shipment, Natalie's reputation will be ruined."

Helma beamed when she heard the promise.

She felt that she was finally harvesting the fruits of the hardship she had to endure all this while.

In the meantime, a shipment was getting transported to Yaleview's port.

People of various forces all had eyes on the shipment.

"There's something wrong with the Leitz family's shipment," Joseph reported to Bastien.

Bastien, who had mostly recovered by then, quietly sipped on his tea as he listened to Joseph's report. When he registered what Joseph had told him, a rare hint of emotion flickered in his eyes.

Joseph knew that Bastien was worried about Natalie.

However, he did not receive any further instructions after reporting the matter to Bastien, so he was stuck standing there awkwardly.

Bastien did not speak, so Joseph dared not take any action about it.

Eons seemed to go by before Joseph finally heard Bastien say, "Forget it. We won't do anything about this. If she doesn't go through any hardships, she might never see the love I have for her."

Joseph was a little surprised by his decision.

He worked closely with Bastien, and he thought he knew Bastien well. Yet, lately, he seemed to be unable to read Bastien's mind as well anymore.