

A Cue for Love chapter 536

Chapter 536 Will She Lose Badly

Kenneth was delighted because all four of his great-grandchildren were cute and outstanding.

“Get some candies, ice-creams, and cakes for the kids...” The butler quickly ran into the kitchen upon listening to Kenneth’s order.

Apparently, Kenneth was very fond of them.

However, Natalie couldn’t agree with Kenneth’s overindulgence toward the children and argued determinedly, “Old Mr. Bowers, since Franklin and Sophia are still young, they might become obese from eating too much sweets. Besides, the food isn’t good for their health, and they might get tooth decay.”

Kenneth refused to heed her advice and said overbearingly, “It’s okay. I’ll be happy as long as they’re happy. I don’t care how you usually teach them. However, since they’re here, I must pamper them and let them eat anything they want.”

Oh dear...

Natalie wanted to continue arguing with Kenneth; nonetheless, she held her tongue when she saw his flushed face.

Once Kenneth turned around to get the chessboard ready, Natalie pointed at the children, signaling them not to eat so much.

The smart children instantly understood what Natalie meant.

After a while, the sweets and cakes were served, and the chessboard had been put in place.

Among all the kids, only Xavian knew how to play Go.

While eating walnut cookies, Sophia murmured, "Isn't Great-grandpa very good at playing Go? Will Mommy face humiliating defeat?"

Franklin disagreed with it while eating fried cakes. "Don't worry! I can make a mess out of the chessboard before Mommy loses. In that case, Great-grandpa can't win and say unpleasant words to her!"

Clayton roughly knew that Natalie was a good Go player; nevertheless, Xavian was even more confident about her capability.

"Xavian, can you tell them which rank Mommy is at now?"

Xavian lowered his voice and replied, "You don't have to worry about Mommy. We can eat the cakes and watch them play. Besides, it will be too soon to tell the winner and the loser!"

Hence, the kids enjoyed eating the cakes and sweets while watching the game quietly.

By rule, a player had to guess whether the pieces on the other player's hand were in odd or even numbers. If the player made the right guess, he could start the game.

When Natalie wanted to grab a few pieces to let Kenneth guess the number, he waved his hand and said, "No need for that. I'll let you play with black pieces. You may start the game."

Deep down, Natalie knew that Kenneth said so because he belittled her.

Remaining reticent, Natalie merely flashed him a faint smile and replied, "Since Old Mr. Bowers has said so, allow me to pick the black pieces."

"Sure. Go ahead."

After giving it some thought, Natalie put down a black piece on the chessboard, thus making the first move.

Kenneth followed up with a white piece once Natalie completed her move.

As time went by, there were more black and white pieces on the board.

While Natalie's interval to put down black pieces was roughly the same, Kenneth needed a longer time to think about every next move.

Besides, Kenneth frowned deeper as time dragged on. He initially thought it would be a simple game but eventually realized many hidden traps. The seemingly casual moves that Natalie made earlier became increasingly crucial as the game went on.

Refusing to admit defeat, Kenneth tried his best to resist and break Natalie's tactics.

As Kenneth was deep in thought, Natalie didn't disturb him but merely had her tea and ate some cakes.

Kenneth wanted to turn the tide when the game would come to an end soon. However, due to his impatience, he lost even more pieces.

Kenneth didn't like to drink and smoke but was particularly obsessed with playing chess.

Although Kenneth underestimated Natalie and didn't start the game well, he didn't expect that he would lose so badly.

Since Kenneth always proclaimed himself as the master of Go, he felt that he would soon lose his dignity.

In the meantime, the butler could tell that Kenneth was frustrated. Hence, when he poured some tea for Kenneth, he deliberately swept the pieces away from the chessboard.

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Chapter 537 Shameless Kenneth

"Oh no!" Jefford exclaimed. "I've accidentally upset the board! There's no way to know who's in the lead now!"

Kenneth folded his palms on the handle of his cane and said nothing.

Natalie's gaze darted between Kenneth and his butler and saw through their charade at once.

The wordless exchange between the adults went unnoticed by the children.

"You did that on purpose, Jefford!" Franklin yelled. "I saw you flip the board!"

"I saw it too! I saw it too!" Sophia cried, losing interest in the sweet cakes before her. "How could you do something this despicable, Jefford?"

The old butler blushed at being reprimanded by young children.

Clayton looked all serious. "Great-grandpa, did you have Jefford flip the board to avoid having to admit that you lost?"

Kenneth scowled. "He was the one who did it! What are you implicating?"

Xavian pursed his lips in disapproval. "If the board had not been flipped, Mommy would have been in the lead by six points."

As Xavian's proclamation rang out in the stunned silence, Kenneth found his mouth wide open with shock.

The boy is just an observer of the game he's not a part of! How did he manage to keep track of the game so closely?

"It doesn't really matter if the board had been upset," Xavian continued with a shrug. "I remembered every move both of you made from the beginning. If you don't believe me, I can recreate the board right before it fell."

Kenneth tugged at his mustache in awe. "Do you really remember the whole game, Xavian?"

"I wouldn't be claiming that otherwise." The boy solemnly dusted the crumbs off his fingers as he spoke. "I can even do it right now if you like. Mommy used to beat her master too and

he would flip the board over just like that. It was always me picking up after them and resetting the board.”

Kenneth gazed at Natalie in utter disbelief.

I can't believe Malcolm used to lose to her! Even if I came to the match fully prepared instead of underestimating her, I might not even be able to win. What a spectacular display of skill. Every step seemed disconnected and casual until the intricacy and patience of her plan become fully revealed when I find all my pieces trapped!

Kenneth was a firm believer in ascertaining one's true character from the board.

His fondness of the game was well known, the vast number of acquaintances who had sat across from him over the years offered him the opportunity to hone his judge of character on his opponents. To his pleasant surprise, he realized that there was much more to the girl than he had initially assumed. Ever patient, she did not attempt to fawn all over him like he was accustomed to. Every move she made was calm and calculated.

Before he realized it, Kenneth discovered a newfound respect for Natalie.

“There's no need for that.” Kenneth rubbed his temples. “You are right. Your mother was six points ahead of me. I concede that I have been bested by her.”

Natalie smiled graciously. “You were lenient with me, Grandpa.”

Meanwhile, Samuel had just returned from work to an empty home.

“Gavin!” He summoned the butler. “Where are Natalie and the kids?”

The butler hesitated. He had been under the impression that Natalie and the children would have returned from paying Kenneth a visit long before Samuel did. To his chagrin, there was still no sign of them at eight in the evening when Samuel returned and started asking him about their whereabouts.

“It was the children, sir. They insisted on seeing your grandfather.”

“What happened next?” Samuel asked sharply.

“Ms. Natalie personally drove them to his house.” Gavin's voice softened fearfully.

"Why did she have to drive?" Samuel's cast a cold gaze at the butler. "Where was our chauffeur?"

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Chapter 538 How Dare You Make Her Kneel

"Yes, it should have been the chauffeur's job to send them there," Gavin agreed, shifting guiltily on the spot. "The children begged me to go along with their charade of convincing Ms. Natalie that our chauffeur is on leave. They were insistent that Ms. Natalie be the one to drive them there."

"That's preposterous!" Samuel's glare grew colder by the minute.

"I've turned a blind eye to you spoiling them, Gavin. After all, they're only five years old. I expected you to know better than them. How could you lend a hand in sending Natalie straight to the jaws of my grandfather?" Samuel tugged his tie in a rare instance of rage toward Gavin

Samuel's quiet fury seemed to have imparted upon Gavin the seriousness of his action.

"Forgive me, Mr. Bowers. I-"

"I'm going over there right now," Samuel cut across curtly.

Without another word, he turned and marched back to his car and headed for his family home.

Kenneth's prejudice toward Natalie has been long in the making. Though the revelation of certain truths might serve to bury the hatchet between them, it would more importantly stand in the way of Natalie's plot and prevent her from avenging her grandfather and her mother. The best course of action would be to allow the truth to be unveiled when the timing

was right. With the number of things remaining uncertain as they are, Natalie's trip to Kenneth would only lead to her being bullied in my absence. There will only be two losers if both sides refuse to back down.

When Samuel pulled up to the gates of his family home, the guard rubbed his eyes in disbelief when he recognized the registration plate.

Did I miss any memo? What are all of Mr. Bowers' descendants doing here today?

In a fluster, the guard opened the gates and threw himself aside just in time as Samuel accelerated and screeched to a halt directly outside the house.

The first thing Samuel saw when he strode through the entrance was greeted by a dejected-looking Jefford.

He intended to spare Kenneth some dignity, that was why he decided to flip over the board for Kenneth to save him from the humiliation of losing. He did not expect to have been so clumsy in his attempt that he ended up embarrassing both himself and his master.

Kenneth ignored his butler's pleas as the latter was surrounded by the four children.

Jefford stood begging for mercy for a long time before they let him go.

Jefford's advanced age made his schoolboy guilt look comical when he emerged from the dining area, followed by four young and smug faces.

Jefford's morose expression stretched Samuel's nerves to the limits as he imagined the worst.

"Mr. Samuel!" Jefford was stunned to see his master's grandson. "What brings you here?"

"Why can't I be here?" Samuel demanded, under the impression that the butler had been dispatched to intercept him. "Is my name not Bowers, Jefford?"

"That's not what I meant, sir!" cried the butler, horrified.

"It'd better not be. Where are Natalie and the children?" he asked abruptly, not intending to waste another second with Jefford.

Jefford flinched at Samuel's impatience as if the latter had just brandished a whip at him.

"They're in the living room, sir..."

"That will be all." Without another word, Samuel strode in with his jaw clenched with determination.

His eyes were met with the scene of Natalie being on her knees before his grandfather as the latter sat rigidly upright.

Even if he's my grandfather, he doesn't have the right to force my woman to kneel. I don't care who he thinks he is, I don't give a d*mn about hierarchy!

Samuel's temper flared up. He walked up to Natalie and pulled her to her feet.

"Samuel?" she cried, startled.

Though Kenneth was pleased to see his grandson, he was disheartened to see the scowl on his grandson's face. "You may not like her, Grandpa," said Samuel coldly. "But I do. She does not need to beg for your approval. Even if you were the one to raise me, you still have no right to have her kneel for no reason!"

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Chapter 539 It Is True

"Samuel, you are-"

Natalie could feel Samuel's anger through the tight grip with which her wrist was being held.

"You don't have to cast your dignity aside just to please him." Samuel gazed at Natalie with tenderness. "I'm sorry for my late arrival. You must have suffered a lot."

Samuel took the blame upon himself for not being there sooner to have prevented his grandfather from abusing her.

Natalie tried to pull her wrist out of his grip to no avail.

"It isn't like that, Samuel!" Natalie looked up to meet his eyes.

"Don't defend him, Natalie."

Samuel's gaze remained cold as he vividly recalled Kenneth whipping Natalie with a cane. It was from that moment that he had lost hope in his grandfather.

Natalie was amused and exasperated at Samuel's stubbornness.

"I'm not defending your grandfather!"

"I don't believe you."

"It's true!"

Samuel gazed sullenly at Natalie, who did not know how else to convince him.

The children leaped to their feet at once.

"Daddy, you've misunderstood Great-grandpa!"

"He's much nicer to Mommy today!"

"He did not force Mommy to kneel before him!"

"There was no quarreling today. All of us had a good time!"

Samuel was well aware that the children would much rather suffer in silence themselves than see their mother in pain. It was also improbable that they would lie for their great-grandfather. It was only from that revelation did Samuel become aware of the possibility of being mistaken.

"Natalie, what were you..." Samuel let her wrist fall limply from his grip as his voice trailed off questioningly.

Natalie opened her palm to show Samuel a fistful of pieces. "I was on my knees to pick up the pieces," she explained. "The board fell over earlier and sent the pieces scattering to the floor. As Grandpa and Jeffords are elderly, I didn't want them to exert themselves."

Samuel took a closer look and saw the pieces in their hands just like what she described.

Kenneth stood up from his wicker armchair and sighed heavily. "Am I really such an unreasonable monster, Samuel?"

"Aren't you?" Samuel replied tartly. "Wasn't it you who have had her whipped?"

Samuel held grudges, especially when it came to Natalie.

If Kenneth was not his grandfather, Samuel might have done everything in his power to sabotage the old man.

It was only familial ties that had held Samuel's hand in retaliating against his grandfather.

Natalie was taken aback at Samuel's retort. She did not remember being subjected to abuse to that extent.

Even the pain of the incident had been forgotten as the memory became lost in the haze of time had it not been for Samuel's reminder.

Samuel had held on to the grudge long enough to remember every single detail, which was why he was nervous about what his grandfather had in store for Natalie and the children.

She knew better than anybody else how busy I am! Why does she still make me worry about her? She knows that I'll always be there for her despite my busy schedule.

Kenneth choked at his grandson's question. Though it had been undeniably him who had laid a hand on the girl, he still felt guilty all the same even if Samuel had not brought it up.

Though it was well within Jefford's duty to pick up the pieces, Natalie lent a hand by rallying her children to pick up the pieces from the ground together. Even Yara is incapable of such kindness.

Unlike Yara, Kenneth did not detect even a trace of malice or ambition in Natalie's words and gestures.

"It was me." After conceding defeat and admitting that he had misjudged Natalie, Kenneth found it difficult to put aside his ego any further. "Are you going to take it out on your grandfather, Samuel?"

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Chapter 540 Did He Bully You

Samuel took Natalie's hand in his and glared at Kenneth. "Now that you've seen Natalie and the kids, I believe there's nothing else to say or do," he said bluntly, "so we should get going."

"How dare you!" Kenneth looked outraged.

Samuel knew he could not deal with his grandfather the same way he was accustomed to dealing with people who displeased him. Therefore, the only way he could assert his dominance was by being firm with his grandfather that Natalie was his woman and that was an irrefutable fact. He would defend her from everything to the best of his ability, whether he had Kenneth's support or not.

Samuel turned to leave while holding her hand but Natalie did not budge.

"Nat?" Samuel asked with a frown.

"I appreciate your concern for me, Samuel." Natalie glanced at Kenneth before continuing. "Your grandfather treated me with respect tonight. Even the kids hardly get to see their great-grandfather. Let's stay a little longer. I need to catch my breath after getting up."

"Are you really..."

"Yes." Natalie was amused yet touched by Samuel's anxiousness. "Ask the kids if you don't believe me."

The four kids nodded in unison.

Franklin raised his hand as if taking an oath. "Great-grandpa did not misbehave today. I can vouch for him."

"Me too!" Sophia piped up.

"I believe you." The knot in Samuel's brow loosened with the overwhelming reassurances.

Kenneth watched in admiration at how loyal the children and Samuel were to leap to Natalie's defense.

Before, he was under the impression that Natalie was a manipulative woman.

Their most recent encounter had changed his mind. Kenneth began to realize that she deserved everything she had because she was loyal to them in return.

As the excitement simmered down, the three adults and four children sat huddled around the fireplace that wintry night.

Having been left unsatisfied with the outcome of the earlier game of Go, Kenneth coerced Natalie into another with Samuel and the children spectated the game attentively from the side.

Amidst the sound of wood crackling merrily in the fireplace and the delicate waft of tea intermingled with the rich buttery scent of scones, the children were lost in the thrill of the game.

Samuel, on the other hand, had his mind far removed from the game as he watched Natalie who was moving the white pieces with his eyes reflecting the dancing flames to startling effect.

With the graceful direction of her lanky arm, every piece moved and fell into place calmly. With the aggression of Kenneth's black pieces at her heels, Natalie nimbly sidestepped every attempt to force her against the corners of the board.

Just when Samuel thought that he had understood Natalie's steps, she surprised him yet again.

As he admired her, he could not resist wondering how many more tricks she had up her sleeve that he had yet to know about.

When would I finally be able to know her as well as she knows me?

The second game took longer than the first as Kenneth tread with extreme caution, not daring to underestimate his young adversary again.

Despite his precautions, Natalie once again led the scoreboard with a majority of her pieces intact by the end of the second game.

Undeterred, Kenneth demanded the third match before Jefford was forced to intervene.

"It's half-past ten, Mr. Bowers," he reported. "Bedtime for you, sir. Doctor's orders."

Kenneth shot him a fierce glare. "Stay out of it."

Jefford grimaced. "Yes, sir."

Natalie carefully sorted the pieces by color before placing them back into the box and making sure that the lid was secure before taking her leave.

Samuel glanced at the four children who were beginning to nod off. "The kids are tired. I'll have Billy come over and take them home."

Kenneth did not wish to force Samuel to stay when he clearly was not keen on doing that. This brat needs time to get over this grudge. I'll only make things worse if I speak up.

A little later, Billy arrived outside the mansion and assisted Samuel and Natalie in carrying the sleeping children to the car.

Kenneth lapsed into a thoughtful silence with his eyes fixed on the neatly packed chess set.