A Cue for Love chapter 666

Chapter 666 A Mother Of Four

"And what did she say to that, Lady Diane?" Natalie prompted.

"She said that her heart belongs to another." Diane cleared her throat and admitted, "I even begged her to give Yohan a fair chance! I can't believe I had the wrong person. This is so embarrassing!"

Natalie mulled over Diane's words, deep in thought.

If Yara said that her heart belongs to another, she must mean Samuel. Yara has never rejected any advances from other men, but she has also never wavered when it comes to her feelings for Samuel.

"Natalie..."

"Yes?"

"What about you? Surely, you're not in a relationship too, are you? Can you give Yohan a chance?" Diane implored. "I'm not saying this just because he's my son, but I'm sure you can feel the sincerity of Yohan's feelings for you."

Natalie shook her head gently.

"I'm afraid I can't."

"Why not?" Diane was crestfallen.

"I'm with someone else, and he's the love of my life." Natalie took a dainty sip of her champagne. "Moreover, perhaps you and Sir Nikolai do not know this, but I have already given birth when I was only nineteen. I'm now a mother of four," Natalie revealed, her eyes twinkling with unconcealed love for her family.

She paused intentionally to emphasize the weight of her statement. Her eyes bore into Diane's as she continued, "I assume that even if Yohan insists on pursuing me, you and Sir Nikolai will not approve of this marriage. Am I right?"

Natalie spoke with tenderness, but each word she uttered was a blow to Diane.

"Y-You're a mother of four?"

"Yes!" Natalie's lips curved upward at the thought of her children. "They are fraternal quadruplets! They're intelligent for their age and absolutely adorable. I'll bring them over to meet you and Sir Nikolai when we get the chance!" she boasted like the proud mother she was.

"Fraternal quadruplets!" Diane exclaimed.

That's such a blessing! Too bad that Natalie's children aren't Yohan's. If they were, Nikolai and I would have four lovely grandchildren.

The thought of it alone made Diane green with envy.

Shaking her head, Diane marveled, "Indeed, the best women get snatched up quickly! It's a shame that Yohan wasn't fortunate enough to meet you earlier. If not, he would definitely make you his wife!"

"Lady Diane, our fates are in the hands of the universe. Yohan had to miss me to meet his soulmate in the future," Natalie pointed out sagely.

"Oh, you. Not only are you skilled in medicine, but your emotional intelligence is remarkable as well, I see."

Diane lamented that Natalie was just a passerby in Yohan's life. A wonderful woman like her by Yohan's side would put a mother's heart at ease.

The two women continued their merry conversation in the lounge.

Meanwhile, the Shine Charity Gala event hall was a cacophony of discussions.

"Ms. Yara, what did Lady Diane say to you? Both of you seemed to be enjoying the conversation just moments ago. What happened? Why is she talking to Natalie of Dream Corporation now?"

"Who exactly is Natalie Nichols? Why would royalty like Lady Diane invite her to the private lounge?"

"How long have they been in there?"

"More than twenty minutes!"

"And they still haven't left? They must be having a great chat. Either they clicked instantly, or they already knew each other from before. Who would have known that Natalie had such great connections?"

Yara's moment in the spotlight barely lasted mere minutes before she faded into the background once again, forever living in Natalie's shadow.

Frustrated, Yara tuned out the animated chatter around her and downed drink after drink.

I don't understand! Natalie and I are identical twins! Furthermore, Natalie's face was marred from the fire five years ago, and her cosmetic surgery was an absolute disaster. How am I not better than her?

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Chapter 667 Not The Only One Jealous

Yara dwelled on the matter as she knocked back more alcohol.

I'm the best-dressed person at this charity event, yet I still lost to Natalie, who's just in a plain business suit! Everyone's talking about her, while I'm just an accessory that no one cares about! How unfair!

Flushed scarlet with indignance, Yara sent a text message to Martin.

I want you to make sure that everything goes to plan tonight!

Soon, she received a message that read: Of course.

A malicious smirk crept up Yara's face as she quashed the churning hatred and jealousy within her.

Diane and Natalie talked about Nikolai's health and some Irethiel politics before finally returning to the main event.

The crowd swiveled to look at them when they made their entrance, and Natalie naturally became the center of attention for being with Diane.

Yara was not the only one jealous of Natalie's popularity, it seemed, as the princess of the Lancaster family, Jacqueline Lancaster, was seen gripping her wine glass so tightly that her knuckles turned white.

"She's hideous! Who is she?" Jacqueline scowled in distaste.

"Jacqueline, she probably has an influential background. It's best that you don't make such rude comments," Cassidy cautioned. "Plus, look at her interaction with Lady Diane. She's not even trying to get close to Lady Diane! On the contrary, it seems like Lady Diane genuinely likes her and wants to keep her around."

Cassidy was the illegitimate child of the Dawson family and also Jacqueline's friend.

Jacqueline, on the other hand, was the youngest daughter of the Lancaster family.

Both ladies had grown up in prominent families and had learned to read the room as a result. However, their personalities were on two ends of the spectrum.

"Cassie, with so many eyes on her, it's only natural that she won't go overboard! But how would you know what she did in the lounge when no one was watching them?"

Jacqueline lifted her chin haughtily, her eyes filled with contempt for Natalie.

"You must be naive to think that she harbors no ulterior motives! She would never pass up on the chance to butter up to someone as important as Lady Diane, especially since Lady Diane rarely comes to Chanaea," she remarked decisively.

"But even if that were the case, it has nothing to do with us..." Cassidy countered.

"That's true, but I loathe despicable women like her!" Losing control of her emotions, Jacqueline ranted, "All the prominent families who are attending this charity dinner poured in money to support this event. What right does that woman have to steal all the attention? I'll make sure that she makes a fool of herself tonight!"

Cassidy felt uneasy about Jacqueline's decision, but she had no way of convincing her friend otherwise. She stood rooted to the spot, her face twisted into a grimace.

Noticing Cassidy's reluctance, Jacqueline scoffed, "You're useless! You're so cowardly that it's no wonder your dad's wife and your sister walk all over you! You only know how to stick to the rules. If that's the case, what difference do you have from the peasants?"

Jacqueline's words were an arrow to Cassidy's heart.

However, Cassidy recalled all the times Jacqueline had helped her when she and her mother were bullied by her father's legitimate wife and daughter, so she quietly endured the insults.

Jacqueline glanced at Cassidy's conflicted expression and waved her off. "Don't worry. I know that you're a wimp, so I don't expect you to help me. All you have to do is enjoy the show."

It was not that Cassidy was afraid of the consequences, but rather, she found no point in it.

That night, Diane had prepared a talent show of sorts to spice up the charity dinner.

This show was what separated the Shine event from other charity galas, which mostly consisted of auctions and award ceremonies. The way the talent show worked was that organizers would randomly pick three distinguished guests to perform in front of the audience without prior notice. It did not matter if the performance was stellar or horrible, as the purpose of the show was to liven up the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the talent show had the opposite effect. There had been many iconic performances in the past Shine charity dinners, which added pressure to the current attendees.

Many guests, especially women, had spent countless hours mastering a skill before attending the Shine event in hopes of impressing the crowd if they were selected for the show.

When Diane mentioned this show to Natalie, she winked cheekily and said, "To be honest, I'm rather excited to see your performance."

"There are two to three hundred guests present tonight. It's hard to say if I'll get picked," Natalie replied tactfully.

"That's true," Diane agreed with a nod. "It's a one-in-a-hundred chance. The odds are not great. Being the founder of this event, I wish now that I had the power to choose the guest for the talent show."

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Chapter 668 The Chosen Three

"Well, Lady Diane, I'm afraid it's too late to change anything now," Natalie said.

Diane sighed. "You're right."

Although there was no concrete evidence, she was of the view that Natalie knew more than just medicine.

Natalie smiled but did not utter any word.

She understood that Diane was a principled person. The latter would not temper with the results of the lucky draw just to get her to perform in the talent show. Besides, there was a huge crowd, and the odds of getting chosen were highly unlikely.

However, the fact that Diane was playing a fair game didn't mean that the others would do the same.

At the moment, a man dressed in a green vest had accepted a cheque from Jacquelin backstage.

"Ms. Lancaster, this is really a lot for what you've entrusted me to do," said the man. However, it was clearly not genuine as he continued to count the banknotes happily.

"Money is not the issue. What matters to me is that you finish the job." Jacqueline crossed her arms and instructed, "I hope everything will go according to plan."

"Yes, of course. I understand. I'll make sure to do it perfectly."

"Good." With that, Jacqueline strode off gracefully in her dress.

When she returned to the event hall, Cassidy asked curiously, "Jacqueline, where did you go?"

"I'm preparing for what's coming. Ther's going to be an interesting show later..." said Jacqueline. "I've bribed the staff backstage to ensure that Natalie will be chosen. When that happens, we'll be able to witness Natalie making a fool out of herself on stage!"

"You..."

"I can't stand her being in the limelight." Jacqueline pursed her lips. "She may be better at pleasing Lady Diane, but I don't think that she's better than me when it comes to a talent show."

"But..."

"No buts! I've been training for years and you know it!"

Cassidy did not know what else she could say.

Jacqueline had been known to be an arrogant person. However, it also could not be denied that she was a talented singer. Even Sabrina, the international singer, had regarded Jacqueline highly and offered to take Jacqueline in as her student. Because of this, Jacqueline was given the title of "Nightingale," and not many people could surpass her talent in singing.

If Natalie were to compete with Jacqueline in a talent show, it would be impossible for the former to win.

Moments later, it was time for the talent show.

Diane went up to the stage and pressed the button to initiate the lucky draw. The screen started showing the randomizing process which eventually settled down to the last three numbers printed on the guests' invitation card.

"007, 088, and 143," Diane enunciated with great enthusiasm. "Can we have our honored guests come up to the stage please?"

The crowd started scanning through the venue to identify the chosen guests.

As Jacqueline already knew beforehand that she would be chosen, she stood up from her seat almost immediately upon the announcement.

Yara looked at her own invitation and realized that she was No. 143. Hence, she put down her glass of champagne and gradually stood up as well.

However, it took a long time for No. 7 to stand up.

Diane frowned. "Can I trouble our crew members to please check who is guest No. 7?"

At that moment, Natalie sighed and stood up unwillingly.

"It's me."

She had thought that she wouldn't be so lucky, or rather unlucky in her case, to be chosen. But much to her dismay, she was chosen among the two hundred guests that were present. In fact, even Yara was chosen as well. She couldn't help but feel baffled by her luck.

Diane, however, was beyond delighted to find out that guest No. 7 was Natalie. She beamed. "What a coincidence that every chosen guest is a lady! We'll give them some time to prepare, and let us look forward to their wonderful performances!"

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Chapter 669 Snobbish Provocation

Yara was displeased to know that Natalie was chosen.

On the flipside, Jacqueline was exuding confidence as she anticipated her victory. She smirked at Cassidy. "Cassie, all you have to do is give me an applause later..."

Cassidy nodded in agreement.

The sequence of their performances was in accordance with their ascending numbers. Yara would be the first to perform followed by Jacqueline and Natalie.

Before the Shine Charity Gala, Yara had been practicing the piano.

She started playing the song "Ambush" gracefully, stirring up ripples of emotions among the audience. Everyone was immersed in the melodic tune, indulging in the serenity it brought to them.

Natalie swirled her glass of champagne as she stared at Yara.

Oh, my dear sister...

If you had the right mentality, you would have achieved much more in life.

Sadly, there's no "if" in life. One may have the greatest talent or the most beautiful look, but the person will never succeed without the right attitude and mentality.

After the song ended, the audience applauded boisterously.

Outsiders may have perceived Yara's performance to be flawless, but experts could easily identify the lack of skills and emotions in her play.

Seeing Yara who bowed to the audience and left the stage, Jacqueline smiled triumphantly.

While Yara may have performed at an above-average standard, it was far from perfect.

Jacquelin believed that she would outperform Natalie significantly with her beautiful voice and that the latter would inevitably be overshadowed by her.

After walking up the stage, she made a gesture toward the control room.

Immediately, the most difficult part of the song, "Phantom" was played. Following the melody, Jacqueline started singing with her pure, innocent voice. She managed to reproduce the intricacies of the song perfectly, be it the pitch or the tune.

Immediately, the ambiance turned into the elitist society of the sixteenth century. Everyone could relate to the hardship and loneliness endured by the main character in the song.

"She must be a professional. It's so good!" Diane could not resist complimenting Jacqueline.

Natalie nodded. "Indeed. She's really good."

After conversing with Diane, Natalie looked up and noticed Jacqueline's provocative and scornful stare.

She knitted her eyebrows. Am I reading too much into this?

Jacqueline rounded up her performance by showing off her impressive mastery of singing techniques, drastically increasing the difficulty of the song. Expectedly, the audience went wild with cheers.

A round of applause filled the air as she concluded her performance.

Someone from the audience yelled, "Bravo!"

Jacqueline bowed to the audience with a triumphant smile on her face.

She was especially pleased when she saw Diane giving her a standing ovation. At that moment, she felt that all her efforts were worth it as she managed to snatch some attention away from Natalie.

Meanwhile, the socialites around Yara started adding fuel to the fire.

"Yara, she's outshining you with her performance!"

"That's right! What a shame!"

"Well, no one could have matched her splendid performance."

"No wonder you didn't look so good when you saw that Jacqueline was chosen. Anyone would have looked like a fool in comparison to Jacqueline. If even you ended completely losing to her, I have no doubt that Natalie will be utterly humiliated on stage later."

Yara ignored their snarky comments, and simply pursed her lips in a contemptuous manner.

While it was not a pleasant experience having to face Jacqueline, Natalie was the main reason behind her frustration.

If there was one thing that Yara was certain about, it was the fact that Natalie would not end up humiliating herself on stage later.

Before long, it was Natalie's turn to perform.

Jacqueline and Natalie bumped into each other in the waiting area.

"Ms. Nichols, if you don't have any talents, I'd suggest you pick some modern or children's song to sing on stage. I doubt it matters what kind of performance you'll throw since Lady Diane seems to favor you anyway." Jacqueline blinked innocently while uttering the scornful statement.

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Chapter 670 Silence

"I'll be the judge of that. There's no need for you to worry about me, Ms. Lancaster." Natalie narrowed her eyes, staring at Jacqueline icily.

"Oh, I'm not worried about you. I'm merely taking pity on you." Jacqueline shrugged and sighed. "It's unfortunate that I was the person who performed before you. It must be really stressful, right?"

Natalie pursed her lips in response and stared at Jacqueline, annoyed.

"Why are you staring at me like this? You look like you're going to eat me alive. Or perhaps, are you having cold feet and thinking about quitting? If I were you, I'll think of an excuse to leave and avoid embarrassing myself."

Natalie glanced at Jacqueline's mocking gaze. "Are you done? If you are, I'll be leaving for the stage now."

"Tsk. How stubborn..." Jacqueline raised the corner of her lips and chuckled. "You should thank me for giving you the opportunity to perform today."

Hearing that, Natalie froze.

So, it was Jacqueline who engineered this! I knew this was not a coincidence!

She must have planned this so that I would embarrass myself in front of everyone.

We could have left each other alone. But since she chose to pick a fight with me, I shall play along then!

"Thank you." Natalie smirked, her gaze cold.

Jacqueline was dumbfounded. She did not expect that Natalie would actually thank her. Is she out of her mind? She's about to make a fool out of herself on stage. Is she acting like this because she's giving up?

"You..." Jacqueline gritted her teeth.

She glared at Natalie's departing figure as fury boiled within her.

How dare she speak to me like this! I would love to see what's so special about her!

Natalie walked to the middle of the stage, and almost instantly, she could feel the crowd's gazes settling on her.

She recalled that in the past, Yara would always be sick and she had to impersonate her sister to participate in numerous competitions, winning many trophies in the process.

It had been six years since Natalie stood before an audience.

She was joining that night's event on behalf of Yandel.

As such, she came unprepared, without any song, instrument, or attire.

Skipping the introduction, Natalie stood before the microphone, cleared her voice, and started singing.

The song she chose was the "Melody of Water."

The full moon is rare as I stood under the tree.

Hoping for your attention.

If I could hold your hand, no time is too short.

So long as we are together, loyal and in love.

The tenderness is all that mattered.

All worries are gone.

It all feels like a dream.

As I stood by myself, I lift my head and stare blankly in the open, enduring the pain alone.

Still hoping that you will come to me.

You frowned, puzzled by what is going on.

Turns out, you are clueless about my feelings.

Perhaps we missed out on so much in our last lifetime.

And now it's too late.

In the end, we can only meet in our dreams...

Without any background music, Natalie's bare, unfiltered voice resonated throughout the event hall.

Her voice was clear and modulated, without any technicalities. She sang in a local accent and her voice managed to touch the hearts of many. Closing their eyes, the audience could imagine the lyrics coming to life.

Hundreds of years ago, a woman loved a man deeply.

However, she could not get married to him. Devastated, she could only hide under a tree as she witnessed the love of her life getting married to another woman.

She was enduring the pain alone as her feelings were not reciprocated.

The song that Jacqueline sang was way too technical, and such complexity eclipsed her ability to express her emotions singing the song. In contrast, Natalie's singing was just perfect. It was not too technical and everyone could enjoy the rich emotions that she sought to exude.

As the rippling emotions of the girl who had a tragic love story coursed through them, many female guests started tearing up.

The song finally ended.

Silence ensued in the event hall.