

# The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never

## Online Free - Chapter: 551

Frustrated, Johanna took a sip of her drink just as Christy made her way downstairs.

“Christy, breakfast is ready.”

Christy was taken aback by Hannah’s presence.

“What’s she doing here?”

“Your guess is as good as mine. She showed up at the crack of dawn, probably putting on an act or something.”

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Given recent events, Christy’s perspective on Hannah had changed.

After a moment’s hesitation, she inquired, “Miss Moore, would you like to join us for breakfast?”

Hannah paused her review of a business proposal to reply courteously, “No thank you, I’ve got work to handle this morning.”

“Ha ha.”

Johanna let out a derisive laugh.

“Acting all high and mighty, isn’t she?”

Christy lowered her voice to caution Johanna, “Watch what you say.

She’s basically holding up the company now. Maybe we were wrong about her.”

“Christy! Why are you defending her now?”

Infuriated, Johanna stood up, declaring, “I’ve lost my appetite.

Enjoy your meal,” before storming off.

An hour later, Edwin finally surfaced, rubbing his sleepy eyes as he made his way downstairs.

Jalen, who was collaborating with Hannah on company matters in the living room, looked up to chide Edwin, “Hurry and eat. Fresh out of college and you’re already keeping lazy hours.”

“Jalen, my head’s pounding. Had way too much to drink last night...”

Upon noticing Hannah, Edwin was puzzled.

“Hannah? What brings you here?”

Without lifting her gaze from her laptop, Hannah responded, “Eat first. We need to have a private chat later.”

A sense of unease abruptly washed over Edwin.

He quickly reviewed his recent actions, finding nothing amiss, and exhaled, saying, “OK.”

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Following breakfast, Hannah invited Edwin to join her in the upstairs study.

“What’s going on?”

When Hannah shut the door, Edwin’s suspicions grew.

“How did I get home last night? I can’t recall anything.”

Angela’s Library

Seated now, Hannah locked eyes with Edwin.

“Is there something you’re not telling me? This is your last chance to be honest.”

“I swear, I’ve got nothing to hide! I’ve been focused on my studies lately, you know that!” Edwin protested, his voice rising.

“Listen, I’ve changed. Why would I go out and create problems? Trust me!

Who’ve you been talking to? Don’t listen to rumors! I’ve been honest. I’ve been studying at school recently!”

Hannah studied Edwin’s earnest face. He didn’t appear to be lying.

“I trust you, which is why I’m asking. What’s the deal between you and Jenny?”

Edwin’s eyes widened in surprise.

“Jenny? Why bring her up? I told you before, she’s been chasing after me, but I have no interest in her!”

Convinced he was sincere, Hannah sighed and said, “Please, sit back down.”

Seeing her expression, Edwin grew anxious.

“What’s the matter? You keep mentioning Jenny. Did she say something to you last night?”

Realizing she couldn’t always protect Edwin, Hannah decided to tell him the truth.

“Jenny drugged both of us yesterday. I didn’t drink much, so I woke up early. She had you taken to a room. If I hadn’t found out in time, either you or she would be the one calling me today.”

Chilled to the bone, Edwin stammered, “What... What’s wrong with Jenny? Why would she do that to me? This is insane!”

“You need to ask yourself,” Hannah said.

“Have you done anything to provoke her at school?”

Edwin felt wronged.

“I’ve done nothing wrong, yet she won’t leave me alone. I’ve told her repeatedly that we’re not meant to be.”

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His gaze dropped as he ran his fingers through his hair, his eyes tinged with redness.

“How did you hold up last night?”

“It’s not about me. I’m concerned she’ll keep going after you,”

Hannah replied, shaking her head.

Frustration surged within Edwin, compelling him to pace around the room.

“Look, I’ve graduated now. I’ll steer clear of her if I see her. And sorry for dragging you into this mess yesterday.”

Relieved, Hannah said, “It’s good you didn’t antagonize her further.

Stay indoors for a while. You can go out later.”

“I’ll lay low for the next few days. I’ll take your advice,” Edwin assured, fully intending to heed Hannah’s words.

“Alright.” Standing up, Hannah moved toward the door.

Edwin was quick to follow.

“Let me walk you out, Hannah.”

Once they reached the building's ground floor, they encountered Jalen waiting by the entrance. Glancing at his watch, he suggested, "It's about time. Shall we head to the office together?"

"Sure."

Just as Hannah and Jalen arrived at the company's 12th floor, an executive assistant hurriedly approached them.

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"Mr. White, Miss Moore, you need to intervene in the office right away. They are about to fight!"

At the assistant's urgent words, Hannah and Jalen exchanged a glance before swiftly entering the office.

The office was abuzz with chatter and spectators, all eager to witness the unfolding drama.

"Get out of here! Don't you all have work to do?"

Jalen's voice sliced through the noise, causing the crowd to disperse and clear a path.

Only then did Hannah realize that Cleopatra had barred Duncan and Mya from entering her office.

"What's going on here?"

Seeing Hannah, Duncan spoke in a sarcastic tone.

"I regret to inform you, Miss Moore, that a confidential document from our company was traced back to your computer's IP address. We need to examine your machine, and she's obstructing us."

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Cleopatra's face flushed with indignation.

"You're setting her up!

Miss Moore wasn't even in the office when this supposedly happened!"

Mya shot back, "Well, you were here! Who's to say you didn't use her computer? And now you're blocking us. Sounds suspicious, doesn't it?"

"Enough," Hannah said icily.

"Take the computer to the tech department for an inspection. Any issues, consult me."

"Since the boss approved, leave this place!"

Duncan swiftly sidestepped Cleopatra, went inside and retrieved the computer. As he emerged, he murmured, "Get this computer to the tech team. Make sure they scrutinize it thoroughly. No clue should go unnoticed!"

After relocating the computer, Duncan surveyed the office before addressing Hannah.

"Given that the computer is under examination, Miss Moore, you won't be able to work today. You may return after the investigation is concluded in a couple of days."

"The environmental protection project is pressing us for time. We're working extra hours. What have you been up to?" Jalen inquired, clearly displeased.

Duncan was unfazed by Jalen's attitude.

"We've been managing other assignments lately. Miss Moore relies solely on Cleopatra. We haven't documented the project yet. Plus, the leaked secrets aren't confined to Miss Moore's computer. I'm concerned the project might be put on hold. I knew she couldn't handle it. Cleopatra must've betrayed us, exploiting our boss's trust to leak information to the enemy!"

## Angela's Library

Tears threatened to spill from Cleopatra's eyes as she said, "I'm innocent! I didn't compromise any information!"

Mya seized the opportunity to slander her.

"You were the only one who left the office at 1 last night. With no one around and no cameras, who knows what you were up to?"

She then turned to Jalen and added, "Mr. White, you might not know that she was pretty useless before Miss Moore arrived. But once she did, Cleopatra cozied right up to her. That misjudgment gave her the opportunity to act!"

Hannah lifted an eyebrow and smiled, "Who told you there are no cameras in the office?"

Mya's smugness evaporated instantly. She glanced around and shot back, "Cameras in our office? You're talking nonsense!"

Hannah simply gestured towards her own office.

"I've got cameras installed in there."

"I usually take certain precautions for my own safety, so my workspace has two security cameras installed," Hannah said.

Arching an eyebrow, she queried, "Shouldn't we consult the surveillance footage to find out who stole the files from my computer that evening?"

A hush fell over the room. Hannah instructed Cleopatra, "Head to the security department and retrieve the footage."

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"Okay!" Just as Cleopatra was about to dash off, Duncan halted her.

“Why go through all that trouble? She was the only one who didn’t clock out yesterday. The record speaks for itself. Do you intend to cover for her, Miss Moore?”

Mya chimed in, “Exactly, something’s off if we still have to scrutinize what seems so obvious.”

“Only a thorough investigation ensures fairness to everyone,” Hannah responded. She then turned to Jalen.

“What do you think?”

Jalen, appearing quite serious, commanded his secretary, “Retrieve last night’s surveillance footage.”

“As you wish, Mr. White.”

The secretary returned promptly, a USB flash drive in hand. Duncan’s and Mya’s expressions shifted noticeably.

The secretary plugged the flash drive into a computer. The monitor displayed someone entering Hannah’s office after 10 PM, shrouded in darkness.

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The intruder booted up the computer and copied files. Upon exiting, her features were caught clearly by the infrared high-definition camera.

“She’s trying to run away! Quick, grab her!”

An employee behind Mya stopped her attempted flight.

ALL eyes turned her way. Her legs gave out, and she crumpled to the floor.

“I didn’t intend to copy the files. It’s... it’s...”



She glanced at Duncan's menacing face, fear silencing her. She finally hung her head and admitted, "I despise Miss Moore and wanted to get back at her."

"Company secrets are at stake here! How could you jeopardize that over a petty grudge?" Jalen thundered.

"I simply wanted the satisfaction of revenge! Please, don't involve the authorities!"

Without missing a beat, Hannah declared, "You've compromised the company's confidential information, causing us damage. We have no choice but to pursue legal action. You are fired."

Though the culprit had been found out, Jalen felt uneasy.

He walked into Hannah's office, pacing back and forth.

"Is there a fix for this? If our environmental project falls through, these machines are basically junk."

Firing up her computer, Hannah skimmed through some documents before looking up.

"Relax. Our business strategy is safe. I was just pretending when I was with them."

"What?" Halting in his tracks, Jalen stared at her.

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"So, what they copied from the computer was...?"

Grinning, Hannah replied, "My computer has a built-in virus. Unless they bypass my last software layer, they'll end up downloading a Trojan horse. Insert that flash drive into any computer, and it'll get infected."

Jalen was taken aback by Hannah's cunning.

“Will that really work?”

“They’re the ones who stole the flash drive. Even if they try to incriminate me, they’ll end up damaging their own files. It’s killing two birds with one stone.”

After clearing her desk, Hannah stood.

“I won’t be in the office for a few days. Please take care of the company.”

“What about the business proposal?”

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“Cleopatra will handle it. All you need to do is sign the paperwork.”

“So, where are you headed? When will you be back?” Jalen inquired, nodding.

Glancing at a text from Bryson, Hannah turned and said, “I’ve got plans. I’ll return shortly.”

That evening, Hannah made her way to the airport to greet them.

Upon seeing her, Lydia and Grace dropped their bags and enveloped her in a hug.

“Hannah! I’ve missed you! You’ve been away from Valmere for ages...

You’re coming back, right?”

Patting her head, Hannah assured her, “Don’t be silly. I’m just here to sort a few things out. I’ll return soon. Let’s not linger. I’ve reserved a table at a local restaurant so you can try Hoijery’s specialties.”

Lydia was thrilled.

“Awesome! It’s been ages since I’ve been to Hoijery. It feels different now.”

Engrossed in their discussion, Hannah looked up just in time to see Bryson approaching her, clad in a windbreaker. A knowing smile crossed their faces.

Hannah moved closer, gracefully linked arms with him.

“Is the situation with Grace settled?”

“My brother gave them a stern warning,” Grace replied.

The she pouted.

“The Mitchell family aren’t backing down. If not for our grandparents, they wouldn’t have let me go.”

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Aware of her role in joining families through matrimony, Hannah’s eyes darkened.

“Stick around in Hoijery for a bit longer. When you return with me, let’s see who dares to lay a finger on you.”

Grinning, Grace clung to Hannah’s arm.

“I always knew you cared about me the most. To be honest, my brother doesn’t deserve you!”

Bryson threw Grace a helpless glance.

“Don’t downplay me to boost Hannah’s ego.”

“Humph!” Grace stuck her tongue out at Bryson and tightened her grip on Hannah’s arm.

As the four of them chatted and laughed, they reached the restaurant.

Lydia turned to Hannah and sighed, “The Phillips family is going through a lot. If I weren’t with Brayden, I’d be caught up in it, too.”

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Feeling uneasy, Hannah asked, “Both the Mitchell and Phillips families are facing issues. Is something big happening in Valmere?”

Lydia dropped a bombshell.

“There’s more you don’t know. The Edwards family is facing financial difficulties. They’re looking to refinance.”

Hannah turned to Bryson, who was seated beside her.

“Is Valmere going through a crisis? What’s going on?”

Bryson shrugged it off.

“It’s not a crisis, just some poor business decisions. The Mitchell Group is mostly unaffected. Most troubled industries are linked to Muvrand. They might have their gangs, but they’re not a threat to me, at least not for now.”

Noticing Hannah’s concern, Bryson tenderly rubbed her hand.

“Just focus on your work in Hodjery.”

Grace nudged Lydia’s shoulder, and they both giggled softly.

“What are you two gossiping about?”

Hannah glared at them from across the table.

“With those sly looks, you must be plotting something.”

Lydia arched an eyebrow at Hannah.

“You’re mistaken. We were just discussing when you and Mr. Mitchell might announce your engagement.”

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“I got a multimedia message at the restaurant today,” Hannah began, retrieving the already-deleted photo on her phone.

“It was sent to me.”

Upon seeing the photo, Bryson’s brows furrowed instantly.

“Yes, she did hug me, but I pushed her away immediately.”

“I believe you.” Hannah quickly reassured him.

“That’s why I deleted the photo. But earlier, I heard cries for help coming from your room...

That’s why I felt compelled to check.”

Bryson appeared taken aback.

“You heard that too? I thought my ears were playing tricks on me. Ruby approached me today, wanting to speak privately in my room. I refused her entry, but she hugged me outside, and that’s when the photo was taken.”

Clearly exasperated, Bryson removed his gold-rimmed glasses, pinched the bridge of his nose, and confessed, “I thought you were her when you knocked tonight, which is why I initially didn’t answer the door.”

So that was what happened.

Everything fell into place, except for the mysterious voice.

Hannah rose and walked toward the glass window in Bryson’s room.

Suddenly, she spotted two dark figures in the ocean.

“Bryson! Do you see that? Are there people out there in the ocean?

Are they calling for help?”

Without a second’s delay, Bryson rushed to the window and joined Hannah. His eyes too caught sight of the two moving black dots in the water.

“Could they be swimming?” Bryson scrutinized the scene.

“We are at a resort. Night swimming wouldn’t be unusual.”

As Hannah watched the Light shimmer on the water’s surface, a sinking feeling overwhelmed her.

“It looks like one person is floating, being pulled back by another!”

“Are you certain of what you’re seeing?”

Bryson quickly put on his glasses and peered out the window. While the soft glow of the moon bathed the sea, it didn’t appear as vivid to him as it did to Hannah.

Noting that Hannah remained silent, consumed by her anxious gaze toward the ocean, Bryson grasped her hand.

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Cradling the warm glass of milk, Bryson met Hannah’s loving gaze and nodded.

“Understood.

“

He set the milk down, took Hannah’s hand, and drew her into a warm embrace.

The scent of mint emanating from Bryson calmed her nerves. Hannah nestled into the man beside her and offered, “If a problem really exists, we’ll tackle it together.”

“It’s nothing major. It’s just that not seeing you for a short while feels like an eternity.”

A N G E L A ‘ s L I B R A R Y

Nestled against Bryson, Hannah let out a chuckle.

“Are you always this overly romantic?”

In response, Bryson simply grinned and held Hannah tighter.

Once he finished his milk, Bryson rose to his feet and headed to the kitchen to rinse the glass.

Meanwhile, his phone on the table buzzed persistently.

As Hannah was about to call out to Bryson, her eyes caught several incoming messages on WhatsApp.

[I’ve been missing you so much, Bryson.]

[I realize it’s inappropriate to message you like this now, but I genuinely miss you.]

[I know we faced numerous obstacles in the past, but I can’t help but miss you. I don’t intend to ruin what you have with her. I’m sorry.]

[I just needed you to know, I’m still in love with you.]

The messages caught her attention, reminding her of Lydia’s warning about Ruby being cunning.

Yet, reading those messages didn’t incite anger or anxiety in Hannah.

Choosing to overlook the text exchanges, she rose to her feet as Bryson returned.

“We’re off to the resort tomorrow. Don’t stay up too late. I’m heading up to bed.”

“Alright, sounds good. I’ll go to sleep once I finish up with this paperwork.”

Bryson watched as Hannah ascended the staircase. Returning to his laptop, he discovered the messages from Ruby.

With a frown, he shut the chat window and proceeded to block Ruby on his phone.

In Valmere, Ruby awaited a message from Bryson but her phone remained silent, leaving her visibly distressed.

## **The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free - Chapter: 560**

She dialed some numbers and said, “Hello? You promised you’d assist me. Now, I’m in Valmere and Bryson has taken off to Hoijery. He’s even blocked me on WhatsApp. What’s our next move?”

“Don’t worry. I’ve located them in Hoijery. We’ll fly out there together tomorrow. Trust me, I know how men think. How could he resist his first love? You said he adored you more than anyone, didn’t you?”

Clutching her phone, Ruby replied, “You better not be wrong, otherwise all my hard work will have been for nothing!”

“Don’t stress. If we need to use the same trick twice, so be it.”

The following morning, Bryson was behind the wheel, while Hannah, Grace, and Lydia chatted and laughed in the backseat.

They reached the Red Sea Resort, an under-the-radar development by the White Group.

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Surrounded by trees, the serene environment boasted a unique seaside spot tinted pink by seaweed, attracting quite a few visitors despite its unofficial opening.

“You didn’t bring us here just for fun, did you? You’re here on business to inspect the resort, aren’t you, Hannah?” Lydia inquired, sidling up to her friend.

“You’re out for a good time. Why not make the most of it?”

Casting her a knowing look, Hannah answered, “You read me like a book. Even if the resort is yet to formally open and has seen its share of ups and downs, I want to evaluate it firsthand.”

As they hurried into the hotel, the manager greeted them “Miss Moore, your rooms are all set. Let me assist you with check-in.”

The moment they entered the hotel lobby, a surprised voice echoed from a nearby sitting area.

“Bryson? What brings you here?”

Adorned in a white dress, Ruby stood and approached them, a polite grin on her face.

“Vacationing as well, are you?”

Lydia stepped forward, confronting her.

“Are you stalking us? Did you snoop around our itinerary?”

Feigning innocence, Ruby said, “I’m here with a friend, I swear. I’m not following you.”

Just then, Eliana, arm in arm with Declan, walked over to Hannah, beaming.

“Well, look who it is! I never thought I’d run into you here, Hannah. Are you on vacation?”

Lydia was surprised to encounter Eliana at this location.

Swiftly positioning herself in front of Hannah, Lydia exclaimed, “Do you have eyes? Of course we’re here for a vacation!”

After a lengthy period apart, Declan was astonished upon seeing Hannah again. He believed she had grown even more attractive, Leaving him with mixed feelings.

Catching Declan’s surprised look, Eliana patted his shoulder and suggested, “We do know each other, after all. What are the odds we’d meet here? How about sharing a meal later?”