

The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free - Chapter: 576

Though it was just seven twenty, a sizable crowd had already gathered around the seaside grandstand.

Rather than joining those at the grandstand, Hannah and her friends chose to stand on the beach, like most of the tourists, to view the fireworks.

By seven-thirty, the sky abruptly came to life!

Bang! Bang! Bang!!

The echoes of fireworks persisted, as radiant and vivid pyrotechnics soared and exploded in a coordinated dance above the sea.

“It’s absolutely stunning! I love it!”

Grace was particularly captivated by the firework display, watching it intently.

Certain fireworks even morphed into shapes and words, eliciting collective gasps of awe from the crowd.

Engulfed in the spectacle, the atmosphere was punctuated by Laughter and cheers. A grin graced Hannah’s face.

“Taking a leisurely walk like this isn’t so bad,” Bryson noted.

In response, Hannah glanced at him.

“The times when I’m busy with work don’t really compare to how relaxed I feel now.”

“Hannah!! Look up! See the panda?”

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Lifting her gaze, Hannah spotted a vibrant firework pattern of a panda munching on bamboo. The display was indeed inventive.

Just as everyone was engrossed in the spectacle, a scream cut through their joyful murmurs.

“Abhh!”

“What was that?”

Screams of terror multiplied, until someone in the crowd yelled, “A body! There’s a body floating in the sea! Oh my god!”

Instantly, the crowd that had been enjoying the fireworks scattered in all directions.

Hannah turned her gaze to the sea just as the sky was ablaze with fireworks. Her eyes widened at the sight of a lifeless body bobbing with the incoming tide.

“Somebody’s dead! This is bad!”

“A person has lost their life! How did this happen?”

“Run, everyone! Move quickly!”

Panic surged through the crowd. People sprinted away, fearful of what was drifting ashore.

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Lydia quickly seized Grace’s hand, urging her to turn away and shield her eyes from the grim scene.

Hannah instructed Lydia without missing a beat, “Get Grace out of here and keep her safe!”

“Will do. You and Bryson watch yourselves!”

The resort staff, who had been in charge of the fireworks, also dropped everything and raced toward the commotion.

The hotel manager arrived, panting and visibly shaken. Upon seeing the body, he went pale.

“What the hell is happening?”

Hannah responded, unflinchingly, “Contact the authorities. No one leaves or enters until they arrive. And keep everyone away from the body until then.”

Regaining his composure, the manager nodded and quickly ordered someone to call the police.

Law enforcement arrived promptly, bringing along forensic experts.

The body was recovered from the water and examined right there on the beach.

Hannah and Bryson were momentarily set aside for questioning by the police.

After they had recounted their version of events and found their statements aligned with the hotel staff, they were allowed to return to the hotel.

On seeing them, Lydia breathed a sigh of relief.

“Are you two alright?”

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“We’re only back temporarily. They’ll continue questioning everyone here, likely until the morning.”

Hannah looked at Bryson and said, “It appears I wasn’t mistaken last night. There were both a living person and a corpse in the water.”

Bryson’s brow knitted together.

“If someone went into the ocean for a rescue, they wouldn’t have just abandoned the body there.”

A surge of dread washed over Hannah. This could not be happening.

Their beach resort had just opened its doors. A murder case could ruin everything.

Reading her apprehension, Bryson softly gripped her hand and reassured her.

“It’s alright. Reach out to the White Group’s public relations team and have them prepare for what’s coming.”

Grasping his intent, Hannah nodded.

“If this does turn out to be a murder, I won’t conceal the truth. My conscience won’t allow it.”

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Suddenly, a knock resounded at the door.

Bryson strode over and swung it open, revealing two uniformed officers.

“Is Miss Moore present?”

Hannah approached Bryson and replied, “That would be me. Do you need a statement from me?”

The officers glanced at Hannah and confirmed, “Indeed, we’d like to discuss something privately with you. Would you mind joining us at the restaurant below?”

“Very well,” she agreed.

Hannah descended the stairs alone, escorted by the officers. Two officers were already there, waiting.

“Before we proceed, there’s something you need to see,” said one of the officers, handing her a faded parking receipt.

“Does this belong to you?”

Examining the receipt, Hannah affirmed, “Yes, we received this when we parked here.”

“The receipt was found on the body. This gives us reason to believe you may be connected to the man’s death.”

Hannah was taken aback, unprepared for this turn of events.

“Are you certain he was murdered?”

Instead of answering directly, the other officer slid a photograph across the table.

“Recognize this man?”

A N G E L A ‘s L I B R A R Y

Hannah inspected the unfamiliar face and shook her head.

“I’ve never laid eyes on him.”

“Does this picture look familiar?”

The second officer presented another photograph.

Hannah recognized this one. Pulling out her phone, she displayed a matching photo.

“I received this image from an unknown number.”

After a meticulous comparison, the officer handed her phone back.

“This photograph was recovered from a camera found around the deceased man’s neck.”

“still, I have no idea who he is,” Hannah asserted, her tone detached.

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“I’ve never seen him around. I don’t even know how he got a photo of my boyfriend. I only got the picture that night, and it came without any text.”

“We regret the inconvenience, Miss Moore, but we’re dealing with a homicide. Please surrender your phone for the investigation and remain here until we’ve uncovered the truth,” said the officer.

“I understand.” Hannah nodded.

Upon returning to her room, everyone gathered around her.

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“What’s the conclusion? Did he drown while swimming?”

Bryson cast a concerned glance at Hannah.

“Why don’t you give her some space? Head back to your room for now.”

Feeling reassured by Bryson’s presence, Lydia agreed, “Alright, I’ll head back with Grace.”

Once the room fell silent, Bryson took a seat next to Hannah.

“What’s the matter? Any issues with the officers?”

“They found my parking lot receipt in his pocket, and…” Hannah hesitated, then met Bryson’s eyes.

“They also discovered a camera and a photo of you. The deceased was the one who secretly snapped that picture of you.”

Bryson quickly grasped the implication.

“So, they’re suspecting you?”

“He had the photo meant to blackmail you, and my parking receipt.

Right now, I'm their prime suspect. It's hard for them not to be."

After a moment's hesitation, Bryson picked up his phone, spoke briefly into it, and hung up.

"I'll have my team work with the police on this. If someone's trying to frame you, they won't get away with it."

Simultaneously, a knock resounded on Ruby's door.

Her heart pounding, Ruby took a moment to collect herself before opening the door. Eliana stood outside.

Upon seeing Eliana, Ruby grew agitated.

"What are you doing here?"

"Why not use this moment to make a move on Mr. Mitchell?" Eliana suggested.

"Is that all you can think of?"

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Adrenaline surged through Ruby. Her thoughts scattered. She wanted nothing more than to leave.

Eliana sensed Ruby's distress.

"Why are we here? Have you forgotten?"

Now's the time to win him over."

"You're insufferable. I can't stand you anymore!" In a burst of emotion, Ruby yelled at Eliana.

"This is all your fault! That's why I can't leave! Get out!"

Caught off guard, Eliana grew anxious.

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"What does this have to do with me? How could I know someone would die? I'm trying to help you, Ruby!"

Just as their argument escalated, police officers appeared at their door.

“We apologize for the interruption, ladies. Please cooperate with our investigation.”

Upon seeing the officers, both women immediately subdued their emotions and followed them downstairs.

The officers began their routine questioning.

However, Eliana’s reaction to a photograph of the deceased aroused their suspicion.

“Do you recognize this man?”

Almost reflexively, Eliana responded, “I’ve never seen him before.”

Ruby, sitting beside Eliana, clenched her fists and shuddered subtly.

“Take a closer look. Are you sure you don’t know him?”

“I haven’t met the guy!”

Noticing the odd reactions, the officers exchanged glances before pressing on with their questioning.

“You need to be honest with us about whether you know this man.

Hiding the truth will result in you accompanying us to the station.”

“My goodness!”

Eliana’s expression shifted dramatically. Should Declan discover this, her reputation would be tarnished.

Feeling cornered, Eliana decided to come clean before Declan found out.