

A Spoonful of Sugar: Don't Beg for Love

Chapter 46

Madam Duval was ruthless and did not show her any respect.

Ignoring her words, Hesper took a glance at everyone present and went upstairs without uttering a single word.

When she came to the baby's room, she immediately locked the door, took out the voice recording pen she had prepared before entering the villa, and held it tightly in the palm of her hand.

After being treated unfairly so many times, Hesper had learned to prepare herself for such situations at all times. She deliberately provoked them only because she was waiting for them to blurt out

the truth.

Although the mother and daughter did not mention any actual

evidence during the whole conversation, their tone and attitude were already enough to prove just how miserable her life was in this

household.

"Baby, mommy will definitely obtain concrete evidence to prove them wrong."

Hesper hugged the child tightly in her embrace, left the room, and made another copy of the recording on another recording pen, leaving one of the pens in Rickard's study.

However, the news that Juniper had fallen ill reached Rickard's ear before he found out about the recording pen.

"Dick, this is bad. Hesper humiliated Juni earlier in the evening, causing Juni to run back home in the heavy rain without leaving a message behind. Because of that, she fell ill on her way back and fainted on the side of the road. Thank God one of our servants found her and brought her back here." 2

Sophia's voice echoed in the living room. Hesper did not hear what the person on the other end of the phone call said, but judging from the speed at which Sophia hung up the call, Rickard must have

promised her to come home immediately.

She glanced at Sophia coldly, and the two exchanged gazes; a war between the two seemed imminent.

“Hesper Rivera, just you wait. Dick won’t let you off so easily this time.” When they crossed paths at the stairwell, Sophia threatened her and continued to go upstairs to take care of Juniper.

Soon, Rickard’s car appeared and stopped in the yard.

“Where’s Juniper? How is she doing?” Before the man entered the villa, everyone in the building could already hear his voice.

Rickard hurried into the living room with a gloomy and cold aura.

Sophia had been waiting for his arrival for a long time. As soon as she saw him, her eyes turned bloodshot, and she called out, “Dick, Juni is...”

Judging solely from the expression that she was giving off, anyone’ who did not know the details of Juniper’s condition might think that she was so sick that she was about to die.

Rickard was taken aback, and his brows were creased. “What happened to her?”

“It’d be better for you to go to her room and see for yourself...”

Sophia cried and shook her head vigorously. Rickard could not figure out what she was trying to say, so he rushed toward the guest room with her.

Hesper glanced coldly at the brother and sister and followed them to the guest room without saying a word.

She wanted to know just what kind of play those women would put forward this time around.

In the guest room.

Juniper’s cheeks looked flushed, her cheeks and forehead were covered with beads of sweat, and although her eyes were tightly closed, her whole body could not help but tremble as if she was being mentally haunted by a nightmare. She kept on murmuring, “No, I didn’t...”

Rickard leaned closer to listen, but did not hear anything. He then turned to ask Sophia, “What is she talking about? What didn’t she do?”

Sophia immediately dramatized the details, pinched her sleeves, and continued to explain aggrievedly, “This is all Hesper’s fault. She was afraid that you’d do something to her to vent your anger after she came back from the hospital, so she deliberately slandered all of us. She even claimed that Juni is the one who planned the whole

incident. to frame her. She also said that Juni has chosen to stay here because she wants to seduce you and added that she's even more shameless than a whore."

"I don't think anyone who gets slandered like this could bear such grievances, let alone Juni. So she ran out of the house despite the heavy rain and fell and fainted. According to the doctor's diagnosis, Juni might be severely depressed. That's why she's still in a coma."

"Hesper Rivera..." Rickard gnashed his teeth and uttered Hesper's name repetitively. He then swept his keen gaze across the room and saw Hesper standing behind the crowd.

He strode over and dragged her out of the crowd, confronting her. Tell me, is it true?"

Hesper responded calmly and answered quickly, "No.

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But her calmness infuriated Rickard. He clenched his hands tightly, so much so that his knuckles gave off cracking noises. "Juniper has fallen ill because of you, and you still have the guts to deny everything?"

Hesper laughed out loud abruptly. "You're the one who's asking me if

I did it. I'm telling you that I didn't, but still, you choose not to believe me. Must I be the person who's caused her to fall sick? Do you really think that I have such great capabilities that I can lay a finger on the regal Ms. Wight?"

A hint of hesitation flashed across Rickard's face, but at that moment, two women entered the room, supporting Madam Duval.

"You slut, how dare you lie in front of so many witnesses! So many servants in the villa saw with their own eyes how you talked back to me and humiliated Sophia and Juniper!"

With snot and tears dribbling down all orifices on her face, she cried- as she complained to Rickard, "Dick, she also said that even though she slept with another man, she's still your legitimate wife and the hostess of this household, so she can do whatever she wants here! She even chased Juniper out and prohibited her from coming here again."

"...Hesper Rivera, how dare you?" Rickard was furious.

'How dare she say so?! After betraying our marriage, she's still shameless enough to go around the house humiliating my family members?'

The man stood up in a split second, and the merciless aura

emanating from his body made everyone present tremble as if they had just seen a devil.

Even Hesper was a little frightened at that moment.

She took two steps backward subconsciously. “What do you plan to do to me?”

“Smack—“The only response that she got was a slap that the man standing in front of her wielded at her with all his might.

Rickard was exasperated. “Hesper Rivera, have I been showing you too much leniency over all your time here? So much so that it’s caused you to act so recklessly around my family! From now on, you’re to kneel in the yard until the moment Juniper wakes up!”

The force of the slap pushed Hesper to the side.

She fell onto the cold floor, and the only thing that she could see at that moment was Madam Duval and her daughter’s insolent expressions as they witnessed the whole incident go down and the servants’ mocking gazes. All those expressions just showed her that she, Hesper Rivera, was just a piece of garbage that anyone in this villa could kick around as they liked!

She was infuriated.

She had never been this enraged.

Hesper bit her lips tightly, and her sharp nails dug into in her palms, to the extent that she was about to pierce her flesh with her own nails. She roared with bloodshot eyes, “Why would I do such a thing? I’m a human being, not some piece of garbage. What makes you think that you can do whatever you want to me? I’ve brought divorce up more than once, and you’re the one who refuses to divorce me! You’re the one who’s trapping me in this cage and making me suffer all kinds of bullying from your family members, and now you actually want to punish me?!”

Seeing that she was still talking about the divorce at such a moment, all of Rickard’s sanity was engulfed by pure, wrath. He sneered. “Okay,

you want a divorce so badly, don’t you? Today, I’ll help you make this dream of yours come true!”

He pushed everyone out of his way, strode to his study and, from below stacks of documents that were laying on the desktop, pulled out the divorce agreement that he had prepared a long time ago.

However, because of his rage and overwhelming strength, he accidentally dropped the recording pen that was laying on all the documents. The recording pen fell to the ground and rolled along the side of the wall.

At that moment, Rickard was not in the mood to care about a tiny item that fell off his desk, so he walked out of the study without looking back.

“Open your eyes and look at this carefully. This is the divorce agreement that you think about all the time! Who do you think you are? Do you really think I won’t divorce you?”

“Swoosh—” The man lifted his hand and the divorce agreement scattered from his hands, smacking directly onto Hesper’s face.

A sharp edge of one of the sheets of paper cut her pale and delicate skin, and a single, tiny droplet of blood seeped out of the slit immediately.

Hesper remained motionless as she stared at the papers slicing through the air and falling to the ground.

‘He... He actually handed me the divorce agreement that I’ve been asking him for all this time.’

Hesper felt that she should be laughing with joy at that moment, but she could not for some reason. Because no matter what she had said in the past, the man just would not let her go, but now he was doing so willingly only because of another woman.

‘Just... How much more ironic can this be?’

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In the crowded guest room, Hesper knelt on the floor and picked up the divorce agreements sheet by sheet and compiled them.

‘This is my ticket out of the Duvals. It’s also a turning point in my life where I get the fresh start that I deserve, so no matter how humiliating this is, I can’t let it slip through my fingers.’

“Thank you for the agreement. I’ll sign it and hand it back to you later.”

Hesper then stood up and turned around, ready to leave without saying a word.

Rickard was fuming. “Who gave you permission to leave!” There was not even a trace of warmth in the reprimanding tone. “I’ve made it very clear that you’re to kneel in the yard to apologize!”

“Rickard Duval, you’d better not push your luck.”

“Is that a no?” He gave off a malevolent smirk. “If you don’t want to kneel, that’s fine by me. However, if that’s your choice, you’ll be deprived of your rights to visit your son from today onward!”

Hesper gritted her teeth in anger. "Aside from threatening me, what else could you do?! Rickard Duval, are you even a man?"

Rickard's expression looked cold and stern. He did not care what she had to say; all he wanted was to force her into submission.

'If she's willing to admit her mistake and apologize now, and stop bringing divorce up all the time, I can consider taking my words back at any moment.'

However-

"Alright, I'll kneel! But Rickard Duval, you'd better keep your promise!"

Hesper exited the room and knelt in the middle of the yard under all the watchful eyes of the Duvals and everyone who was working in the villa.

Nobody knew when it started, but the rain started to get heavier and heavier as soon as she started kneeling out in the open. It managed to completely drench her clothes in under a minute.

When Madam Duval and Sophia saw this scene, they could not help but reveal mocking smirks through the corners of their lips.

'At this point, it's impossible for Hesper and Dick to reconcile their relationship. Plus, the divorce agreement has already been signed, so she'll soon be driven out of the Duvals and no longer be part of the family.'

Seeing that her long-standing wish was finally going to be actualized, Sophia was so exhilarated that she could hardly conceal her emotions.

Rickard glanced coldly at her at that moment, causing her to panic instantly. She could not retract her smirk in time, so her expression became very awkward-looking.

Fortunately, Rickard was not in the mood to care about her at all and left the room angrily.

In the courtyard.

'This is not the first time I've been asked to kneel as a form of punishment. That bastard has used my baby to threaten me multiple times in the past.'

'I've had enough of being slandered and bullied by the family members without any evidence. The quality of my life here at the Duvals' is, without a doubt, worse than being in hell.'

'Perhaps our marriage was a mistake from the very beginning. I shouldn't have kept my hopes up high that Rickard would fall for me someday.'

Her heart was cold, but the tears streaming down her cheeks were warm.

Under the heavy downpour, Hesper could only weep silently.

She wept for herself and also for those countless days and nights when she got no concern from anyone living in the Duvals' residence.

"Mr. Duval, do you really want Mrs. Duval to continue to kneel like that out there?"

In the study, Benji stood behind Rickard with a worried look. Located directly in front of them was a huge French window, through which one could clearly see Hesper kneeling in the rain.

Benji continued to persuade him. "The young lady is very weak. If she were to continue to kneel in the rain, she might not be able to bear it. Maybe you can consider allowing her to get up and come back in?"

"Benji, since when did you become so soft-hearted?"

Rickard's gaze looked unforgiving. He walked up to the wine cabinet and poured himself a large glass full of red wine. Raising his head, he drank it in a gulp while letting off a hint of ruthlessness through the corners of his eyes.

"I want to let her in too, but do you think she looks like someone who knows she's at fault in this matter? She's the one who got drugged and slept with some random man, but she still has the courage to humiliate Sophia and Juniper. Who does she think she is, and who gave her permission to betray me and our marriage?"

Benji did not follow him to the hospital earlier, so he did not know the details regarding the matter, but he heard the result from the others during the showdown in the guest room. Hence, he hesitated for a bit, and his tone sounded rather cautious.

"Mr. Duval, is there any misunderstanding here? The young mistress really doesn't seem like someone who would cheat on you. You should know her feelings for you over the years better than anyone else."

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For a short moment, Rickard pinched the wine glass tightly.

'Hesper's feelings for me? That was a long time ago, and judging from what she's been doing recently, I can no longer believe in her.'

"If you feel so sorry for her, you can go down there and kneel with her!" Rickard said coldly, shutting Benji's mouth immediately.

The two continued to stare at Hesper silently. She remained in a straight posture from the beginning to the end as if it was the only thing she could do to protect her dignity.

A long time went by, and the sky slowly darkened.

Hesper was tottering in the rain when a pair of spotless leather shoes. appeared in front of her all of a sudden.

Hesper slowly lifted her gaze, and the first thing that entered her vision was Rickard. He was standing in the rain with a black umbrella, staring at her indifferently.

"Do you know what you've done wrongly?"

Hesper opened her mouth, felt a burning sensation on her lips as if they were being torn apart from each other, and said with difficulty, "I

I've done nothing wrong."

The man's expression dimmed instantly.

Benji persuaded her anxiously. "Mrs. Duval, please just give in to Mr. Duval! It's raining cats and dogs now. Your body won't be able to take this any longer. If you were to fall sick later on, you're the one who would suffer!"

Hesper turned a deaf ear. After kneeling in the rain for so long, her mind was already a haze, causing her to not be able to think quickly.

However, the only thing that she still knew at the moment was that the Duvals were the ones who did her wrong!

Seeing that she was so unrepentant, Rickard finally lost his patience." Okay, since you wish to continue kneeling here, then I'll grant you your wish! No one is allowed to help her up or let her in without my order!"

Hesper gave off an extremely sarcastic smirk.

Soon, the yard was quiet again. The only sound that Hesper could hear was the sound of raindrops crashing against the roof and ground.

Everyone else hid from the rain in the villa as they watched Hesper, the former young lady of the Duvals, kneeling in the courtyard in such a state of embarrassment.

Finally, Hesper could not hold on any longer. Just when she was on the verge of blacking out, a phone call brought her back.

“Ms. Rivera.” Matthew greeted her while he was on his way to the airport.

Having recalled Hesper’s request before leaving the country, he had been to the precinct and was giving her a call. “I’ve done what you asked me to do, so all the best with the rest.”

“Okay... Thank...” Hesper opened her mouth with extreme difficulty but in the next second, her body tilted to the front and she fell straight onto the ground.

Hearing a loud thud, Matthew paused for a split second, pondered, and asked, “Ms. Rivera? Are you okay?”

Hesper’s cheeks lacerated against the ground, and her hands and knees were all flushed and swollen. Half of her face was laying

against the wet ground; this was her first time getting so close to the ground.

Hesper gave off a wry scoff. “Mr. Lane, I might have to trouble you again...”

Hesper could no longer get up after losing balance and falling to the ground. Benji could not help but tell Rickard about the situation that Hesper was in.

Just as he finally decided to go out and take a look at her, a limited edition Rolls-Royce suddenly rushed into the courtyard and stopped in front of everyone.

Matthew came down from the car with an umbrella. He took a few steady steps toward Hesper and finally stopped in front of the person who was laying on the ground in the rain.

“Ms. Rivera?”

“Yes, it’s me.” She let off a feeble smile. Her face looked as pale as death as if she was about to die at any time now.

Matthew frowned. “How did you get yourself into such a situation?”

“I’m really sorry to have troubled you again.”

Every part of her body was in excruciating pain. Her head hurt so much that she felt like it was already on the brink of exploding.

Hesper did not want to die here, so during the call from earlier, she asked him to take her away from this hell on Earth.

At first, Matthew only came over to take a look out of curiosity, but he did not expect the situation to be this grave.

He picked her up bridal style. "Stop talking already. I'll take you with me."

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Seeing Hesper being picked up and carried by another man with his own eyes, Rickard's gaze turned gloomy.

"Stop right there." He dashed forward so quickly that Benji, who was holding the umbrella for him, could not even react in time and keep up with his pace.

Before anyone else present could react, Rickard had already rushed into the rain and stood in front of Matthew, blocking their way.

'He's the man who made things difficult for Hesper in the hospital earlier today.'

Matthew remembered Rickard; he had never had a good impression of men who liked to bully women.

"Step aside," he said as his black windbreaker rattled in the cold wind.

"Over my dead body!"

The atmosphere between the two men was tense. Rickard grinned ferociously. "Do you know who I am? The woman that you're holding in your arms is my rightful wife! And you're asking me to step aside?"

A hint of astonishment flashed across Matthew's eyes. He then lowered his head and stared at Hesper.

'Judging solely from how they've been interacting with each other, it's almost impossible to tell that the two of them are husband and wife.'

Hesper leaned weakly in Matthew's arm and said apologetically, "I'll explain it to you later. Please take me away from this place now."

"Hesper Rivera!" Exasperated, Rickard instantly grabbed her arm and pulled her towards him. "Is there any sense of shame left in you? You're still one of the Duvals and I'm still your husband! And you're

telling me that you're planning to leave this place with another man?"

"That's enough-

Hesper had never felt this fatigued before. The freezing rain had drenched her inside out, and the bone-piercing cold and lethargy seemed to emanate from the core of every single cell within her.

She stared at Rickard and uttered one word after another. "I... I've signed the divorce agreement; it's in the nursery room. If you don't believe me, you can get someone to go and check it out. So no matter where I want to go or who I want to go with, you no longer have the right to interfere."

Rickard's body swayed and almost lost balance.

'I remember it now. I saw her entering the nursery room before she came out here and started kneeling. I originally thought she was worried about the baby, but I never expected her to secretly sign the agreement in the room!

'Pfft, she really doesn't want to waste any more time here, not even a second more.'

"Alright, with that being said, can you step aside already?" Matthew's tone sounded extremely cold, not because he wanted to go against Rickard, but because he could feel Hesper's body getting colder and colder.

'If her condition continues to deteriorate, this woman might freeze to death.'

Rickard was still as stubborn as he usually was and refused to give in. He continued to block their way indifferently and ordered Benji to go inside and grab the agreement.

After a long time, he proceeded to say, "Even though the agreement has been signed, we haven't undergone the official divorce procedures yet. So legally speaking, we're still husband and wife.

Thus, you're not allowed to leave this villa without my permission!"

Hesper's gaze dimmed. "Rickard, why do you insist on keeping me here? What's the point?"

She took a glance at the villa coldly; she really wanted to vent all the anger that had been accumulating within her for a long time.

"The feelings that we once had for each other are long gone, and since day one, I've never cared about the privileges that I can get as Mrs. Duval. I've also accepted and carried out all the punishments that you imposed on me. Now all I ask of you is to please not show up in my life ever again! Can you do that?!"

Madam Duval and Sophia, who arrived at the scene at that moment, pointed at Hesper angrily and shouted, "Dick, since she wants to leave, just let her go! She's left her signature on the divorce agreement and handed it back to you, so she's no longer one of us!"

“What’s more, she’s now cuddling with another man right in front of you, so who knows just how many men she’s been with behind your back!”

Juniper held onto his sleeve tightly, comforting him and coughing at the same time. “Rickard, just let her go. It’s time for you to let yourself go too. This marriage between you two was a mistake from the very beginning. Plus, you’ve never loved her, have you? So now that she wants to leave you, we can take this opportunity to start over. Back then, didn’t you say that you’ll always love me?”

A trace of struggle flashed across Rickard’s expression.

Hesper took one last glance at him, turned her head around, and laid back in Matthew’s arms. “Let’s go.”

Hearing that, Matthew strode away immediately.

When they were passing by, Rickard stretched his hand out but, in the end, put it down.

In the heavy rain, Hesper lifted her head and took a glance at the man who was still frozen in place, not knowing what was going through.

his mind.

However, Juniper suddenly lost consciousness and fell onto Rickard. He supported her and disappeared from the yard immediately.

“Don’t cry anymore,” a man’s voice came from above.

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