

The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never

Online Free - Chapter: 541

Annoyed, Hannah smacked Edwin on the head.

“Stop assuming that anyone who talks to me is instantly charmed, okay? Meeting someone doesn’t automatically mean they’re interested in me!”

Edwin shielded his head with his hands and mumbled, “You’re so remarkable that any guy would be a fool not to be captivated by you.”

“Please!” Hannah shot him a sharp look.

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“I’m not one for flattery.”

When the evening feast concluded, Edwin’s classmates proposed extending the festivities at another venue, insisting that Edwin join them.

Edwin, his enthusiasm dimmed, wished only to return home with Hannah.

However, his classmates rallied around him, insisting that the gathering wouldn’t be complete without him.

Jenny Garza, the young girl who was interested in Edwin, chimed in, “Why don’t we invite your cousin too?”

The crowd collectively voiced their approval, urging Hannah to come along.

Although hesitant, Hannah didn’t want to spoil the mood and gave a reluctant nod under the watchful gaze of Edwin’s classmates.

The group erupted in cheers, and Jenny gave Hannah a guileless grin.

“Great, then Edwin and you can hop in my car, and we’ll all head out together.”

“Sounds good.”

Upon hearing Hannah’s agreement, Jenny’s smile widened.

“Perfect, I’ll tell the driver to ready the car.”

As the crowd dispersed, Edwin turned to Hannah.

“You’re not a fan of social events like this, are you? If you want, we can step away.”

"It's fine. Everyone's expecting you. It would kill the vibe if you don't show up."

Hannah glanced at her wristwatch.

"I can stay for an hour or two and then head out."

Seeing Hannah's willingness, Edwin felt a sense of relief.

"Alright, if you're uncomfortable at any point, just let me know and we can leave."

"Will do."

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Both climbed into Jenny's car, which sped through the nighttime streets toward the city center. Jenny turned around to engage Hannah in conversation.

"We hadn't heard of you before. Edwin never mentioned you."

With a polite smile, Hannah replied, "I've only recently returned to Hoijery."

"Ah, I see. Well, don't hold back tonight. Enjoy yourself. Dreamy Rendezvous is our business. You've got nothing to worry about."

Hannah felt a twinge of confusion, unsure what Jenny meant by "nothing to worry about."

But before she could seek clarification, the car pulled up in front of an opulent club.

"We're here! Time to get out!" Jenny, beaming, was the first to exit the car.

Upon arrival, other students' cars were already parked there.

A N G E L A ' s L I B R A R Y

It was then that Hannah noticed that it wasn't just Edwin's classmates who had come; students from various other classes were present as well.

"So it's not just your classmates?" Hannah queried Edwin.

Overhearing her, Jenny approached and grabbed her arm.

"We invited a bunch of people, but don't stress. Our class has its own private room, so it won't get too crowded."

Hannah found Jenny's assurance comforting, genuinely believing the room wouldn't be overly packed.

Even though the private room spanned 30@ square meters and was fully furnished, with twenty to thirty people inside, it wasn't cramped, just too loud.

Seated quietly to the side, Hannah checked her phone. It was nearing nine; she intended to leave in an hour.

A short distance away, Edwin had been coaxed into downing quite a bit of alcohol. When he returned, his steps were faltering.

"Hannah..."

She steadied him and helped him sit.

"How many did you have?"

"Uh, maybe 5 drinks?" Edwin squinted, seemingly unsure.

"Or maybe it was 7."

Hannah sighed, slightly exasperated.

"Never mind. Let's get you home."

Just as she was about to help Edwin up, Jenny appeared, a wine glass in hand.

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“Hannah, how about a drink for the two of us?”

“I’ll pass. I need to drive him home.”

Noticing Edwin’s tipsy state, Jenny grinned.

“He’s not that drunk. We cut him off after we saw he’d had enough. Come, have a drink. I invited you to enjoy yourself.”

Jenny’s words left Hannah feeling a bit uneasy, but she hesitantly accepted the glass.

After a short period of socializing, Hannah retreated from the crowd and slumped onto a sofa, feeling lightheaded.

Drinking this much used to be a non-issue for her, but tonight, after just four or five glasses, she felt off.

Before she could fully comprehend the situation, she leaned back and dozed off.

Unbeknownst to her, two figures hovered nearby as she slept.

“Are we sure about this? She’s from the White family. What if we’re found out, or worse, she contacts the police?”

Jenny wore an expression of casual disdain.

“Who cares if she tries to involve the police? All the police around here are on our side.

A N G E L A ‘ s L I B R A R Y

Besides, she has no proof.”

The person beside her appeared somewhat anxious.

“We shouldn’t mess with the White family. Also, she might...”

Jenny interrupted, “Enough with the useless chatter! She’s unconscious. She won’t know it was us. Take her there, now!”

“Alright.”

In the enveloping darkness, Hannah felt her body being lifted. She strained to open her eyes, but it felt as though they were being held shut by an invisible force.

Surrounding her was a cacophony of sounds. She sensed the outside world but was paralyzed, unable to move.

Suddenly, a moan pierced through her ears, jolting her back to awareness.

What was going on?

Her eyes flew open, revealing the shocking scene before her.

It was a room full of naked men and women engaged in sex.

Struggling to rise, Hannah found her body unresponsive and frail.

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Other men and women, still clothed, embraced and kissed fervently around her.

Nausea washed over Hannah, but just then, she felt a hand touch her shoulder from behind. Without a second thought, she grasped it tightly.

The man behind her let out a lewd remark. In response, Hannah tightened her grip and drove her elbow into him, knocking him unconscious.

“Bang!”

Glancing down, Hannah noticed her clothes remained unaltered. She pushed herself up, leaning on a nearby table for support.

Navigating cautiously past the crowd of reckless individuals, she found the back door and made her escape. Once outside, she took deep, ragged breaths, finally realizing where she was.

“Ah! Oh!”

The door across from her was open as well, emitting anguished moans.

Hannah cast a quick look inside and immediately knew it was a mirror image of the chaos she had just witnessed.

Many of the faces were unfamiliar, people she'd seen earlier at the graduation celebration.

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“What in the world is happening?”

As she leaned against the wall to steady herself, Hannah pieced together the evening's events. Hadn't she been at a graduation party?

ALL of a sudden, Edwin crossed her mind!

Frantically, she reached into her pocket. Her phone was thankfully still there. She dialed Edwin's number.

But the call barely rang once before it was deliberately disconnected.

“Damn it!” Sensing that something was off, she immediately called Clive.

“Hey, boss is around today. You coming?” Clive answered, his voice dripping with lethargy.

“I'm in a bind at Dreamy Rendezvous.”

Clive's tone shifted instantly.

“What happened? Why are you at Dreamy Rendezvous? I’m coming to get you.”

“I woke up to find a crowd of people engaging in some indescribable activity, and I can’t find my younger cousin. This place is like a maze. If I start searching room by room, it might be too late.”

Thinking on his feet, Clive offered a solution.

“Find a hiding spot for now. I’ll let my boss know and get some people over. We’ll find your cousin in no time. Send me his picture, will you? It’ll help us find him.”

“Got it.”

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As she ended the call, Hannah heard footsteps approaching. Swiftly, she ducked into a nearby storage room, shutting the door with the faintest click.

After forwarding Edwin’s picture to Clive, she stayed hidden, ears straining for any sound from the corridor.

“Miss Garza reported the woman seems to have escaped. The club’s entrance is sealed. We need to find her, and fast!”

“Yes, sir!” Jenny’s men replied.

Concealed in the storage closet, Hannah remained utterly silent. The intruders ignored the closet, choosing to search other rooms instead.

Silence soon enveloped the area. Just as Hannah thought it safe to emerge, her phone buzzed!

Footsteps returned.

“She’s here!”

Seeing it was a call from Edwin's phone aimed at pinpointing her location, Hannah acted swiftly.

Before they could close in, she burst out of the closet door and sprinted in the opposite direction.

"There she is! Go and get her right now!"

As she heard the closing footsteps behind her, Hannah wheeled around and delivered a solid punch to the man's chest.

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"Ah! Fuck you!"

Witnessing his comrade fall, the second man lunged at Hannah. But she took his coat and turned around.

Struggling to escape his own coat, the man found himself entangled by Hannah's maneuver!

Yanking the coat's hem, she slammed his head into the wall. Swiftly releasing him, she bolted.

Once inside the elevator, Hannah ascended to the top floor. When the doors slid open, the corridor ahead lay shrouded in darkness, seemingly stretching on forever.

Just as the elevator began to close, she darted out, sidestepping into the corridor.

Phone in hand, she activated the flashlight and cautiously proceeded.

The corridor was eerily empty.

Downstairs, a bodyguard called Jenny.

"Miss Garza, she's made it to the seventh floor."

"What?! How could you let her get that far?"

“Shall we dispatch someone to find her?”

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Jenny's voice, tinged with irritation, echoed through the phone.

“Do you have a death wish, going up there? If she's seeking her own end, let her. Just monitor the elevator. The moment she comes down, seize her.”

“Affirmative!”

Stumbling forward, Hannah finally reached a door. She pondered whether to go in and descend the stairs.

On impulse, she pushed the door open and found a man in his early twenties sitting inside.

Seeing him in a wheelchair, Hannah hesitated, unsure if she should pull her hand back from the doorknob.

“My apologies, wrong room,” she stammered.

As she began to shut the door, the man paused his movie and turned his gaze to her.

“Are you being pursued?” he asked.

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Confused, Hannah simply nodded.

Pointing to her arm, the man, Merlin Garza, observed, “You're scraped.”

Jolted by his comment, Hannah looked down to find a red mark on her arm.

“I'm okay, thanks.”

“If you're being hunted by those folks, my room is a sanctuary. They won't dare step in here,” Merlin assured her.

About to exit, Hannah paused at Merlin's words and walked into his room instead.

She knew she couldn't take on the crowd downstairs alone. She reasoned she could handle this man if it came to that.

“Have a seat,” Merlin said, returning to his movie.

Opting to stand, Hannah lingered near the door.

“Don't worry. If they don't clear out, I'll escort you downstairs.”

They won't mess with me."

Still uncertain about Merlin's intentions but sensing no malice, Hannah expressed her gratitude.

"Thank you."

Meanwhile, Clive's men had reached the ground floor, where they were confronted by Dreamy Rendezvous' security.

"We're here to settle a score with your boss. Step aside or else,"

C 547

Clive warned, grinning.

Unfazed, the security guard retorted, "Miss Garza has instructed that only Garza family may enter. Make trouble and we'll call the police."

"Go ahead, call them. My friends are being held against their will.

We're coming in," Clive sneered.

As his men surged forward, the security team moved to block them but were easily overwhelmed by the sheer numbers.

Within moments, the mob flooded in, Clive leading them, demanding, "Bring out the person in this picture, now!"

Pandemonium erupted throughout Dreamy Rendezvous. Scrambling, guests threw on their clothes.

"Boss, found him," one of Clive's men announced, hauling a handcuffed Edwin from the third floor. He appeared unconscious but otherwise unharmed.

With a mere gesture, Clive ordered his men to escort Edwin out. He then attempted to contact Hannah.

On the seventh floor...

Hannah's phone broke the silence. Answering, she recognized Clive's voice.

"I've located your cousin. Where are you?"

"I'll be heading downstairs shortly."

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Rising to leave after ending the call, Hannah hesitated.

“Thank you for everything today.”

Merlin halted the movie and wheeled himself towards the exit.

“I’ll escort you to the elevator. Wouldn’t want anyone outside to harm you.”

Hannah, taken aback by such kindness, expressed her gratitude with a nod.

Below, tension filled the air as Jenny and Clive squared off.

“Who gave you the right to take him? Return him now!”

“Miss Garza, what’s the nature of your gathering? Is it even lawful?

Why lure them here?”

Clive’s smile didn’t quite reach his eyes.

“I protect the cousins.

C 548

Harm Miss Moore, and you’ll answer to Mr. Vargas.”

Jenny’s eyes sharpened, clearly not anticipating Hannah’s ties to Franklyn.

“Really, Clive? You’re confronting the Garza family over a woman?”

“Heh,” Clive scoffed.

“Do you truly believe you represent the entire Garza family? Hand over Miss Moore or I’ll ensure chaos reigns here tonight.”

Jenny, recalling her men positioned strategically, sneered, “Even if I don’t, what can you possibly do?”

Amidst their standoff, Hannah and Merlin descended through the elevator.

The bodyguards nearby exchanged glances, poised for the door’s opening.

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Ding!

With a chime, the doors slid apart.

The guards, initially ready to pounce, found themselves immobilized by what they saw.

Hannah stared the momentarily fierce-looking men, then shifted her gaze to Merlin, sensing there was more to him than met the eye.

Wearing a grin, Merlin inquired, "Why the crowd by the elevator's entrance?"

The guards' expressions shifted noticeably at the sight of Merlin, as they hastily retreated.

"Mr... Mr. Garza."

Unfazed, Merlin grinned.

"I'm stepping out with a friend. Make way, please."

The men outside didn't dare obstruct him. They parted to let him through. Turning to Hannah, Merlin said, "After you."

"Thank you," Hannah replied.

Without delay, Hannah walked ahead, with Merlin trailing behind in his wheelchair.

"Clive!"

Hearing Hannah's call, Clive immediately turned and his face brightened.

"Miss Moore, over here!"

Jenny was flabbergasted. How could the goons at the door fail to detain Hannah?

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When she turned around to order her men to encircle Hannah, she noticed her older brother right behind her.

Jenny went ashen.

"Merlin..."

Maintaining his serene smile, Merlin escorted Hannah to the exit.

"My sister is young and impulsive. Please accept my apologies on her behalf."

As Merlin's gaze met hers, Jenny's legs wobbled. She looked at Hannah and said, "Hannah, it was just a joke. I meant no harm..."

Clive cut her off with disdain, "Joke? Is that why you ordered a gang to apprehend her? Is that why you declared she couldn't leave tonight?"

Hannah had no interest in stirring up drama, especially since she was unfamiliar with Merlin's backstory. She didn't want to escalate the situation.

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"Clive, take Edwin and head home."

"Our boss awaits you at Quin Bar. Will you join him later?" Clive inquired, nodding his head.

"Let's discuss that later. I need to drop Edwin off first," Hannah answered.

"Fine. I'll escort you."

"Alright."

As the crowd dispersed from Dreamy Rendezvous, Jenny remained visibly shaken.

Merlin lifted his gaze and regarded Jenny with indifference.

"You seem quite adept, yet you couldn't keep tabs on her when you brought her here, allowing her to escape to my location."

The room was empty. Jenny sank to her knees, clutching the hem of Merlin's pants.

"I never thought she'd actually go upstairs."

"Twenty lashes from Jeff's whip, and don't stop until you bleed,"

Merlin ordered.

Jenny quivered at the sinister tone of his voice, but dared not object.

"Understood."

Struggling to stand, Jenny made to leave. Just then, Merlin queried, "Who was the woman who dashed upstairs earlier?"

"Um..." Jenny turned back to find Merlin eying her with a mischievous gaze. Startled, she blurted out, "She's the heir to the White Group."

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"Ah." Maneuvering his wheelchair toward the elevator, Merlin muttered, "Interesting."

Meanwhile, Edwin, still unconscious, was transported back, and Hannah returned to Quin Bar with Clive.

As Franklyn spotted Hannah, he dismissed everyone else, leaving only Clive.

“I wanted to watch your race before, but business kept me away. I’ve just returned to Hoijery.”

“Managing the business comes first. No need to go out of your way for me,” Hannah responded.

Franklyn said, “Why did you treat those clueless youths so kindly at Quin Bar? You could’ve just thrown them out.”

Shaking her head, Hannah answered calmly, “If I’d done that, wouldn’t it raise questions about my authority at Quin Bar? For now, my identity should remain a secret. You’re the face of Quin Bar and that’s how it should stay.”

Though it appeared Franklyn had built Quin Bar from the ground up in Hoijery, Hannah was the real mastermind.

She was the one making the decisions that kept the business running.

“Don’t worry. Your identity will stay under wraps as long as you’re away,” Franklyn assured her.

“Okay.”

Shifting the topic, Franklyn cautioned, “The Garza family could be trouble. We should steer clear of Jenny for now.”

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“I’m here solely to help my grandfather, and I’d prefer to keep a low profile,” Hannah clarified, showing no intention of interfering with Jenny.

“Just leave them be.”

“Very well, Miss Moore. But how did you cross paths with the Garza family in the first place?” Franklyn questioned.

“I’m not sure...” Hannah touched her forehead, her sentence half-complete when a memory of Edwin’s evasiveness flashed in her mind.

“Edwin may know something! I’ll confront him about it tomorrow morning.”

Glancing at her wristwatch, she announced, “It’s getting late. I should head home.”

“Alright, I’ll have Clive take you back.”

The next morning, Hannah came to the ancestral home of the White family.

Johanna descended the stairs for breakfast and noticed Hannah engrossed in her Laptop in the living room. Rolling her eyes, Johanna plopped into a chair.

“What’s the big show? Grandma already handed everything to you.

What’s left to flaunt?”

Across the room, Hannah remained silent, acting as if Johanna’s words had fallen on deaf ears.