

The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free - Chapter: 611

However, that evening, as Hannah was about to ascend the stairs in the White family mansion, she was intercepted by Christy.

“Jalen, Bainbridge and Edwin aren’t around today, and I sent the staff off. I prepared dinner. Would you like to join me?” Christy, usually so distant, inquired.

Hannah glanced at the dining table where several dishes were spread out.

“Not right now, I’m not hungry,” Hannah said, turning to leave.

Christy quickly moved to grasp Hannah’s arm.

“Actually, there’s something else I’d like to discuss with you. For my sake, let’s dine together, shall we?”

Intrigued by Christy’s newfound sincerity, Hannah agreed. She took a seat in the dining room and asked, “What’s on your mind?”

Christy graciously served Hannah and offered a warm smile.

“Please, try the food I’ve prepared.”

Glancing at the meal before her, Hannah took a bite with her fork.

“Speak your mind. You didn’t need to go to the trouble of cooking just for me.”

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“Okay, listen.”

Letting out a resigned sigh, Christy met Hannah’s gaze.

“Actually, this is about Johanna. I hope you won’t make a big deal out of it with her. She’s quite a bit younger than us and sometimes lacks

maturity. She acted on impulse during your argument, but she regretted it afterward.”

Understanding that Christy was advocating for Johanna, Hannah set her fork down gently.

“I have no intention of making a big deal with her.”

Maintaining a composed demeanor, Hannah continued, “If I wanted to cause a scene with her, the blackmailer wouldn’t find himself behind bars so soon.”

Visibly startled, Christy looked at Hannah, unease written all over her face.

“Yes, I understand you wouldn’t make an issue out of it with such a young girl.”

“A young girl only two years younger than me?”

Raising an eyebrow, Hannah shook her head.

“I’m done eating. I have work to do upstairs.”

“Um...”

Christy attempted to speak but held her tongue, simply watching as Hannah went upstairs.

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After some thought, Christy climbed the stairs carrying a bowl of steaming porridge and knocked on the door of Byrum’s study.

Byrum, engrossed in a book, glanced up to see Christy. Removing his glasses, he asked in a serious tone, “What brings you here?”

“Byrum, you haven’t eaten much today. I thought I’d bring you some oatmeal.”

“Okay.”

Pinching the bridge of his nose, Byrum waved Christy away.

“You may leave.”

“Alright.” Christy’s gaze shifted to a medicine bottle on Byrum’s desk. After a pause, she set the bowl down, turned, and exited the room.

Next, Christy paid a visit to Johanna’s room and informed the latter that she refused to carry on their plan.

Upon hearing Christy’s decision, Johanna’s eyes widened.

“You’re such a fool, Christy! If we don’t push her out now, and she solidifies her place in the White family, what standing will we have? By then, it won’t just be me who’s ousted. You and Jalen will also be cast aside by this detestable woman!”

Recalling Hannah’s earlier comments, Christy nervously twiddled her fingers and said, “She’s not as bad as you make her out to be.”

Johanna settled into her seat and gave Christy a nudge.

“Consider this. She’s on her best behavior only because Grandpa is around. What do you think will happen if she gains full control of the White family? She’ll kick us to the curb, won’t she?”

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Christy felt torn and unsure.

Seeing Christy’s indecisive look, Johanna reassured her softly.

“Don’t worry, Christy. We’re in this together. If I keep quiet, who’s going to find out you were involved?”

Confused and uncertain, Christy finally agreed, “Alright, I’ll go along with it, but we can’t endanger Byrum.”

“My dear cousin-in-law, I’m not stupid. Why would I ever risk Grandpa’s life?”

Knock! Knock! Knock!

As Hannah pondered her own scheme, she was interrupted by a knock at the door. She glanced at her computer screen and called out, “Come in.”

Edwin stepped in, cradling a cup of hot milk.

“Hannah, you look exhausted. Here, have some milk.”

Hannah looked at Edwin before turning back to face her screen.

“So, what’s the real reason for this visit?”

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Confused, Edwin huffed, “Is there a problem with me stopping by when I’m not busy? You weren’t grateful when I stopped Johanna from slapping you a few days back, were you?”

Hannah chuckled.

She then gave Edwin a more serious look.

“Alright, my savior, you brought me milk. Anything else on your mind?”

When it was his turn to speak, Edwin hesitated, “Um, remember that time I got drugged and you saved me? Remember Jenny?”

At the mention of Jenny, Hannah promptly shut down her computer.

“What happened? Is she causing you problems again?”

“No.”

Edwin shook his head, although his face betrayed a weird expression.

“She hasn’t been harassing me or anything. But lately, I feel like I’m being watched. Both outside and inside the house. It’s unnerving!”

Such an instinct couldn't be baseless.

Furrowing her brow, Hannah made a quick decision.

“Stick with me for the next few days. Come to work and leave with me. Meanwhile, I'll have someone install pinhole cameras around the White family villa and in your bedroom, just to be safe.”

Maybe Hannah felt uneasy due to Jenny's previous actions. The following morning, she decided to bring Edwin into the company.

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Seated in Hannah's office, Edwin seemed disengaged as he reviewed the list of available positions at White Group, his legs swinging aimlessly.

When Hannah finally finished outlining the upcoming collaborative project, she looked over to see Edwin, sitting on her couch, looking thoroughly bewildered.

“What's the matter? Don't you find any of these roles appealing?”

Sensing that Hannah had finally given him her attention that morning, Edwin replied with a half-smile, “None of these seem like a good fit for me.”

ALL morning, Edwin found Hannah swamped with work.

He listened to Hannah delegate responsibilities and talk through project details, thoroughly confused by the technical language.

Even though his field of study was finance, Edwin had often slacked off during his academic years, barely managing to graduate.

He had once looked down on Hannah's skills, but now he felt utterly clueless in her professional setting.

“You know, you were right to call me an idiot. I don't think I could handle any of these jobs, not even at an entry level.”

Upon hearing Edwin's disheartened tone, Hannah grinned.

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"Well, it's good that you're becoming aware of your own limitations."

"Hey, no need to make fun of me," Edwin retorted.

"I guess I'll need to find a job that actually suits me."

"Stop moping," Hannah responded.

"I do have a role that could work for you, but it'll take a little time to set up."

She went on, "Layne Cartwright is a big name in the IT sector, and our group could really benefit from a partnership in that area. How would you like to collaborate with him?"

At this, Edwin's eyes sparkled and he sprang from the couch.

"Seriously? You're considering a partnership with Mr. Cartwright? Are you sure about this?"

"I've saved his number. I just need to find the right moment to discuss possible collaboration."

Closing the distance between them, Edwin exclaimed, "Hannah, you're my savior!"

Gently pushing him away with a grin, Hannah quipped, "Oh, why don't you go enjoy yourself elsewhere?"

Hannah then sent a text to Layne.

"Mr. Cartwright, do you have any hidden pinhole cameras that are difficult to detect?"

Shortly after, she received a reply.

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“We’ve recently developed some new micro-cameras in our R&D department. I’ll have them sent over today and show you how to operate them.”

Hannah was surprised when her casual question led Layne to instruct his team to deliver the cameras directly to her office.

She responded, “There’s no need to inconvenience yourself, Mr. Cartwright. I can buy them at your retail outlet.”

“It’s no inconvenience. These are our latest prototypes, not yet available to the public. Since you brought up a potential partnership”

Miss Moore, it seemed like a perfect chance to delve deeper into that during our next meeting.”

Just after Hannah discussed the prospect of collaboration with Edwin, Layne extended an offer.

Hannah pondered briefly before responding, “I appreciate the gesture, Mr. Cartwright. I’ll certainly give it some thought.”

Promptly that afternoon, a package arrived at Hannah’s office, courtesy of Layne’s efficient team.

The pinhole cameras were as small as a fingertip and uniformly black, making them difficult to spot.

Layne had also included an instruction manual, and Hannah discovered that these cameras were simpler to operate than standard surveillance gear.

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The package contained five pinhole cameras in total. After her workday, Hannah passed the box to Edwin.

“Install one in the living room and one in each hallway tonight, after everyone’s gone to bed.

Put one outside your room and another inside. Do it under the cover of darkness so you’re not spotted.”

Edwin nodded, assuring her, “I’ve got it covered.”

After the cameras had been in place for a couple of days, everything seemed to be running smoothly.

Both Hannah and Edwin could access the live footage on their phones.

That Saturday, Edwin chose to stay home rather than accompany Hannah to work, and the sensation of being watched crept over him again.

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As Hannah was lunching with Bryson, her phone was bombarded with notifications from Edwin.

Ding Dong!

Ding Dong!

Ding Dong!

Multiple messages flashed across her screen. A puzzled Hannah glanced at her phone.

“Is something amiss? Is it work-related?” Bryson inquired, eyeing her phone.

“I don’t believe so.”

Hannah glanced at her phone and her face tightened as she read Edwin’s texts.

Sensing Hannah’s unease, Bryson inquired, “Is everything alright?”

“Earlier, Edwin thought he was being watched, so he set up cameras around the house. He texted me saying he’s uneasy again, but he’s checked the footage and didn’t see anything unusual.”

As she spoke, new messages and pictures from Edwin popped up on her phone.

The images displayed nothing out of the ordinary, but it was clear that Edwin was nearing a breaking point.

“Mind if I take a look?” Bryson suddenly interjected.

Hannah handed her phone to him without hesitation.

“The cameras didn’t catch anything. Everything appears normal in both the Living room and the hallway.”

After scrutinizing the video footage, Bryson proposed, “How about we review the camera records from the past couple of days?”

Prompted by Bryson’s suggestion, Hannah sat next to him and started scrolling through the archived footage.

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Although they couldn’t identify anyone stalking Edwin, their expressions grew increasingly solemn.

Finally, Bryson paused the video and observed, “Something seems off with her face. Zoom in on what she’s holding.”

At his words, Hannah quickly enlarged the image on the screen, her eyes widening in disbelief.

Christy was clutching her grandfather’s medication!

“Where could she have gotten this unique foreign medicine? Where was she before this?”

Hannah stared at the screen, her face somber.

“She was in my grandfather’s study.”

The pair watched as Christy entered the living room, looked around to make sure she was alone, and then tossed the medicine bottle into the kitchen trash, covering it with other items.

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In that moment, Hannah felt as though her ears were ringing, overwhelmed by the loud pounding of her own heart.

“Hannah.

“

Bryson grasped her icy hands and promptly saved the footage.

“Would you like me to go with you to confront the White family?”

“There’s no need,” Hannah said, her eyes icy as they fixed on the person in the video.

“I can’t drag you into this. I have to resolve this issue myself.”

But just as she was about to respond to Edwin’s latest text, an urgent call from him came through. Hannah picked up, saying, “Don’t worry for the moment, I’ll be home tonight...”

Before she could complete her sentence, Edwin cut her off, his voice filled with urgency, “Hannah, get back here now! Grandpa just collapsed in his study! I’ve called an ambulance! Come back! Hurry!”

When Hannah hurried into the White family’s home, medical personnel from both their personal doctor’s team and a hospital’s emergency unit filled the living room.

“Mr. Byrum White is stable now.”

After a collective effort from the healthcare team, they had assessed and cared for Byrum. Thankfully, his condition wasn’t severe.

“Grandpa, I’m so glad you’re all right! You scared me half to death!”

Johanna flung herself near Byrum, tears streaming down her face, as she lamented, “I was petrified!”

“What’s the situation with Grandpa?” Hannah approached the couch.

Hearing Hannah’s voice, Johanna erupted, pointing accusingly, “You switched Grandpa’s medication! You bitch tried to kill him! I won’t let you get away with this

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“What are you accusing me of?” Hannah’s gaze was icy.

Bainbridge also regarded Hannah skeptically.

“Quit the act. You’re the one who brought home all of Grandpa’s medication. They were swapped for vitamins! Who else could it be?”

Despite his confusion, Jalen interjected to prevent further arguments, “Grandpa’s still not fully recovered. Could we please stop fighting right now?”

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“I’m not the one who wants to argue! It’s this bitch who tried to kill Grandpa! How can we let her stay in this house?”

Johanna persisted, “The doctors confirmed that Grandpa worsened because he was given vitamins instead of his real meds! How can you deny your involvement, Hannah?”

Edwin stepped in front of Hannah, countering, “What are you even saying? Quit the baseless accusations! Hannah would never harm Grandpa!”

“Why are you still defending her? She’s the one who brought the medication from the hospital and gave it to Grandpa! Who else could be responsible? A ghost?”

Noticing that Hannah didn't object, Christy sighed softly, saying, "I suspect there's been a mix-up. Hannah doesn't strike me as the type to do such a thing."

Hannah scrutinized Christy's expression.

Feeling the weight of Hannah's stare, Christy quickly averted her eyes, no longer daring to look directly at her.

"It's not a mix-up. It has to be her!" Bainbridge scoffed, addressing Hannah.

"I genuinely believed you were different. But it appears you were just biding your time to harm Grandpa! I was skeptical about what Johanna had said before, but now you've proven you're truly malicious. Grandpa welcomed you into this home, and this is how you thank him?"

Hannah found the whole spectacle before her dreadfully dull.

"I have no desire to engage with a fool like you. Speaking any more with you would surely drop my IQ."

Bainbridge's eyes widened, caught off guard by Hannah's retort.

"Hannah Moore!"

Turning to the butler beside her, Hannah instructed, "Please escort the medical staff out first, then clear the living room of any uninvolved parties."

"Understood." Acting on Hannah's command, the butler promptly removed all the house staff from the living room.

The room fell into silence.

Johanna locked eyes with Hannah, coldly stating, "You dismissed them because you're afraid they'll discover your misdeeds and ruin your reputation, aren't you?"

“Shut up!” Byrum’s condition had stabilized somewhat. He drew a long breath, supported by Tinsley, and managed to sit up.

“I trust Hannah,” he declared in a voice weaker than usual but still resolute.

“If she wished me harm, she has countless ways to do so without switching my medication.”

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“Grandpa!” Johanna pressed close to Byrum, her eyes filled with concern.

“How can you be so certain about her intentions? You can’t just blindly trust her!”

Joining the conversation, Christy questioned, “Hannah, while I believe there might be a misunderstanding, I did see you go into Byrum’s study late two nights ago. What were you up to?”

Suddenly, all eyes shifted to Hannah.

Quick to clarify, Christy added, “I’m not casting suspicion on you.

I’m just curious why you’d be in Byrum’s study at such a late hour.”

Before Hannah could offer an explanation, Bainbridge burst out, “Hannah! You went to Grandpa’s study in the dead of night to tamper with his meds, didn’t you? You never thought you’d get caught, did you?”

Tilting her head, Hannah eyed Bainbridge and questioned, “You actually have a college degree? You can’t seriously believe I would tamper with Grandpa’s medication in his study?”

With an icy glare, Hannah scoffed and continued, “I could switch the pills during my return trip. Do you really think I’d make it obvious?

Or are you assuming I’m as dim-witted as you and would bring the pills home for swapping? If you had a hint of intelligence, you’d see this is all an attempt to frame me.”

Puzzled by her rebuke, Bainbridge stared, mouth agape, struggling for words.

Johanna, visibly unnerved, blurted out, “Stop evading the point!

Christy saw you go into Grandpa’s study. Why are we even debating this?”

Calmly, Hannah turned to Christy.

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“Are you certain you saw me in Grandpa’s study at such a late hour?”

Suddenly in the spotlight, Christy hesitated, nervously fidgeting with her fingers, but pushed on.

“I did... I can’t lie about it.”

With a smug look, Johanna turned to Hannah.

“So, what else do you want to say now?”

Unfazed, Hannah smiled, “I’m not interested in playing this pointless game of ‘he said, she said.’ I have some evidence to present.”

“Haha,” Johanna sneered.

“Evidence? What could you possibly have? Are you fabricating something?”

Hannah looked at Christy, her smile subtle yet knowing.

“Regrettably, Edwin faced some issues recently, leading me to install surveillance cameras around the house. I didn’t inform you all yet, but since Grandpa’s medication is now in question and you’re claiming I snuck into his study, why don’t we review the footage from the last two days?”

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Christy gasped, nearly shrieking, “You did what?!”

Jalen frowned, turning to Christy.

“What’s wrong with you?”

Christy’s heart felt like it was pounding through her chest.

“I, uh.

Maintaining her composed grin, Hannah faced Christy and said, “Why the sudden panic? You were pretty confident you saw me entering Grandpa’s study late at night, weren’t you?”

“Um... I... I...”

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Panic washed over Christy’s face. She hadn’t foreseen Hannah setting up cameras in the home.

Speechless, she stumbled for words.

Jalen, sensing her discomfort, gave her shoulder a gentle shake.

“What’s going on?”

Hannah’s eyes narrowed as she smirked at Christy.

“She’s unnerved because she’s been dishonest!”

Sensing the conversation was veering off course, Johanna quickly interjected, “Let’s not get sidetracked! There’s no surveillance here.

You’re just changing the subject!”

Seizing an opportunity, Christy retorted, “You think I’m lying just because I mentioned seeing you in Byrum’s study? Are you holding it against me? Well, I...”

But before she could finish, Hannah was already cueing up the video.

“Fine, let’s watch it then. Butler, can you link my phone to the TV?”

A bigger screen will make it easier for everyone.”

As the footage played on the television, Christy’s thoughts unraveled into a haze of disbelief.

The video was strikingly vivid, even in the dark.

It unmistakably captured Christy sneaking into Byrum’s study, swiping a bottle of pills, and then tossing it in the kitchen garbage.

The room fell silent as the video paused.

All eyes were on Christy.

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She couldn’t meet their stares. Retreating a couple of steps, she shook her head.

“No... I didn’t!”

Johanna felt her heart lurch initially, but relief swiftly followed.

After all, she hadn’t tampered with the medication. If things came to light, she’d let Christy take the fall.

“Are we really condemning Christy based on some dubious video?”

Johanna narrowed her eyes and persisted, “We’re in a high-tech era, Hannah. Fabricating a video is easy. What a coincidence that you installed hidden cameras just days before all this! I don’t buy it!”

Christy latched onto Johanna’s words as if they were a lifeline.

A N G E L A ‘ s L I B R A R Y

“Exactly! Hannah, you’re setting me up! Why would I harm Byrum?”

Hannah sighed, exasperated.

She turned to Edwin, saying, “The cameras were installed for Edwin, so he has the original footage. I could manipulate the video on my phone, but not on his, right? Would you like to compare? Or should we have this footage verified?”

Edwin quickly pulled up the video on his phone, comparing it to Hannah’s.

His grip tightened around his device, and he stared at Christy, aghast.

“Christy! How could you? This is murder! Do you realize that?”

Hearing the word ‘murder’, Christy crumpled to the floor.

“It’s...

It’s not me... I didn’t...”

Witnessing her in such a state, Jalen grasped the situation instantly.

He shook his head, sighing, “How could you betray us like this? What could Grandpa possibly have done to deserve this from you? Christy, I think we should divorce.”

His words landed like a sledgehammer on Christy’s heart. She clung to the hem of his pants, staring up at him, disbelieving.

“Jalen, we’ve been together for years! You know who I am! I never intended to harm Byrum!”

Jalen’s eyes met hers, disappointment shadowing his face.

“You switched out Grandpa’s medication, causing his relapse. Christy, do you feel no guilt at all?”

“Tom Christy’s gaze darted to Johanna, grasping at her like a lifeline.

“Johanna, back me up! Tell Jalen it wasn’t my idea! You told me that having Hannah around would jeopardize Jalen’s position. You’re the one who instructed me to swap Byrum’s pills! You promised he’d be okay!”