

A Spoonful of Sugar: Don't Beg for Love By Oopsie Daisy

Chapter 391

The reason Arthur believed in them was due to some preconceived notions, but everything that happened that night was absurd in Hesper's point of view. She did not believe a single word of what Simon and Theodore said.

"But the paternity test result can't be fake, and Aunt Helen wouldn't stand on your side for no

reason. Obviously, the things that happened tonight took her by surprise as well," Matthew said, " She must have done the paternity test a long time ago. It's only after the truth was revealed tonight that she hesitated about whether it was more beneficial for her to disclose the result or

not."

Hesper was stunned for a moment before saying, "So... I'm really one of the Lanes? I'm really Grandpa Arthur's granddaughter and your biological cousin sister?"

Matthew nodded, his eyes finally showing a hint of warmth. "Hesper, we hit the jackpot in this gamble tonight."

The tears that Hesper had been holding back the whole night finally rolled down her cheeks. She threw herself into Matthew's arms. "I must be the luckiest person in the world, Matt..."

In the past, she had no family, no lover, and no friends. It was Matthew who held her hand and brought her out of despair. He was the one who gave her an identity and a new life.

Right now, this person turned out to be her cousin brother with whom she shared a blood

relationship.

The Lane Manor was in chaos. Rachael was found and Hesper went from being a legal heir of the Lanes to an illegitimate daughter. That being said, Arthur adored her very much, so her identity did

not matter.

Very soon, Rickard received the news. Benji could not help but sigh. "I didn't expect Ms. Lane's life. was so full of twists and turns. But luckily, it all ended well for her."

However, Rickard fell into pensive silence when he received the news. After a short while of hesitation, he said, "I feel like there's something off about this. There may be more to the matter."

Benji did not see anything wrong, but both he and Rickard had two different reactions toward the

news.

"If Ms. Lane becomes an illegitimate daughter, wouldn't it be somewhat improper for her to manage the Lane Holdings?"

"Yeah..." Rickard agreed.

Although Hesper was still a member of the Lanes, being an illegitimate daughter was an awkward identity that couldn't be brought to the table. Not only that, but people would not accept it if they allowed an illegitimate daughter to manage the Lane Holdings.

"So doesn't this mean that everything that Ms. Lane worked so hard on before has gone down the drain?" Benji said. It was, undoubtedly, good news since the Lane Holdings had targeted them

some extent due to Hesper's relationship with them.

Now that Hesper was no longer managing the company, it meant that Lane Holdings and the Duval Group might be able to coexist peacefully.

Rickard frowned and fell silent.

The truth was that Hesper was rather competitive, and he knew what she had been planning to do the entire time. She wanted to bring the Duval Group down, but her biggest reason was not even to seek revenge against him. She just wanted to do more for the Lane Holdings and to bring

Renfrew home.

Meanwhile, as expected, Hesper was temporarily suspended from her position.

Although the result that day had left Wilfred dissatisfied, Hesper no longer posed a threat to him, and he could still put on a show by pretending to be friendly. After some time had passed, he brought many gifts to Hesper and said he wanted to apologize for what had happened before.

"You see, we're still relatives. How can we speak ill of each other?" Wilfred said as he instructed his men to put the things down.

After that, he turned around and smiled at Hesper. "Honestly, since you're a girl, it's better for to enjoy your life at home rather than running around outside every day."

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Chapter 392

Hesper knew what he was trying to say. He wanted her to stay at home and stop thinking about going back to the company. As long as Hesper did according to his wishes, Wilfred was willing to keep an amicable relationship with her.

Hesper gave a cold smirk.

Even though she no longer had the power to manage the company, it did not mean that she had to yield to Wilfred. On the contrary, she did not have to care about Wilfred's thoughts anymore. In the past, the reason she did not have a fall out with Wilfred was that she did not want to put Arthur in a difficult position. Besides, taking care of a company was more difficult than she imagined, so she had to maintain a good relationship with everyone.

However, things were different now.

"Everyone here in this room knows what you're thinking, so you can drop the act now, Uncle Will," Hesper said, offering Wilfred a smile. She pushed the things on the table back to Wilfred and continued. "You can take these back. I don't think I can accept these gifts."

When Matthew heard the noise, he came out of the study and frowned. Looking at Wilfred, his -frown deepened. "What are you doing here, Uncle Will?"

"I'm your uncle, so why can't I come here?" Wilfred did not expect Matthew to be home at this time; his face sank. "Speaking of which, you aren't siblings. If you continue to stay together, it might affect our family's reputation..."

"Uncle Will," Matthew interrupted, his voice turning cold and his expression sinking as well. "You should watch your words."

Hesper did not expect Wilfred to say something like that. She scoffed angrily. "You know what they say, 'what you think is what you see'. You have a dirty mind, so everything you see is dirty. If you aren't here to visit me, then you're unwelcome here."

Just when Wilfred wanted to say something, Matthew had already opened the door and was standing on either side of the door with Hesper.

"Alright. I still have something else to do at the company, so I'll be leaving first." Wilfred was reluctant to go, so he decided to provoke Hesper by emphasizing the word

“company. Before this, Hesper had made so much effort to elevate all of the projects of the Lane Holdings, but now they had all become someone else’s.

Hesper’s face was devoid of emotion. This company belonged to the Lanes, and she had known that it was not hers from the moment she took over. Therefore, she did not have any issue returning it to them that day.

She just couldn’t stand the sight of the smug smile on Wilfred’s face.

“Don’t worry. Grandpa Arthur knows Wilfred very well, so he’ll give those projects to someone other than him,” Matthew said as he patted Hesper’s shoulder. “Even if he ends up getting those projects, I have my own ways of forcing him to give them up.”

Hesper had a lot of confidence in Matthew’s ability, so she nodded. “Thank you, Matt.”

Matthew shook his head and sighed. “Honestly, I don’t know what’s wrong with Grandpa. You

were the one who got those projects. You pulled so many all-nighters and put so much effort into them. How could he hand them over to others so easily?”

Even if Hesper was just one of their employers, they could not take these projects away from her.

“I think Grandpa Arthur still has some doubts in his heart. Although he’s old, I’m sure he knows what he’s doing.”

Hesper had actually figured out a lot of things in the past few days. There were too many

problems that had been overlooked by her in the past three years, and now, since she was free, she finally had the time to think about them.

Matthew fell silent for a moment before he asked, “What are you going to do now?”

Chapter 393

Hesper could not return to the company, so this meant that her previous plan to compete for custody of Renfrew by making the Duval Group bankrupt was completely impossible to achieve. Hesper had been thinking about this issue for days. In fact, she had already considered it in the past. After all, Rachael would return sooner or later, and Hesper had long anticipated that day.

“I should probably finish my studies first. The Lanes are in chaos right now, and I don’t want to cause trouble for everyone.”

“I’ll talk to Grandpa and try to get you back to the company, Matthew said while shaking his head. “You’re very capable. Even if you’re not one of the legitimate born Lanes,

you're a valuable asset to the Lane Holdings, not to mention that you have the family's blood flowing in you..."

Hesper knew that these were completely different concepts, but she understood that Matthew wanted to give her a chance. If he really cared about bloodlines, he would not have brought her back to the Lane Manor as a substitute for Rachael.

"I hope so... But we shouldn't bother Grandpa Arthur for the time being. I'll figure out a way to handle Renfrew's situation myself," Hesper replied, forcing a smile on her face. "After all, I'm his mother, and sooner or later, I'll bring him back to my side."

Matthew knew that Hesper was fobbing him off, but he knew that Hesper did it for his sake. She did not want him to get involved in this mess, so he did not expose her.

Hesper was a very tough woman, so it was within Matthew's expectation that she would not want his help.

Fortunately, Hesper still needed to finish her studies in Genecity, so she still had a lot of time to deal with these matters.

"I'm going back to my room now. My mentor sent me a few documents just now, and I need to go and take a look," Hesper said while shaking her phone. "I haven't been doing so much design work recently, and my mentor will get angry if I don't reply to him."

"Okay." Matthew breathed a sigh of relief. After Hesper closed the door, he frowned.

He could not get close to Wilfred right now, and Theodore had been keeping Arthur company the whole time. It bereft Theodore the chance to talk to the two of them, so he could not figure out what was going on. Right now, he just hoped that Hesper could stay by his side longer.

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Hesper opened up the document that Roberto sent her. It was an application for admission to a university in Fredonia.

[Hesper: "Mr. Sanchez?"]

Roberto responded rapidly.

[Roberto: "There are several exchange student spots available at Genecity University and our school. I know you haven't completed your studies yet, but this is a rare opportunity. Although Genecity University's overall ranking is not lower than Fredonia University, no institution can

Honestly, Hesper felt very sorry for Xavier. After all, he had helped her a lot, but their professor- student relationship seemed too short. She had just returned to school for one semester, and now she had to leave again.

“Come in. Why are you standing there?” Jessie said while grabbing Hesper’s arm. She took a pair of slippers from the shoe cabinet next to her. “You’ve come at the right time. My mom has cooked a lot of delicious food today.”

The air was filled with the aroma of the food. When Mrs. Jenkins came out of the kitchen and saw Hesper, she wiped her hands on her apron and walked over with a smile on her face.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve seen you, Hesper. I still remember that Jess always brought you home for dinner.”

At the same time, Xavier came out of the room. When he saw Hesper, he frowned slightly and sighed.

When she saw his expression, Hesper realized that Xavier must’ve already known that she was leaving. She lowered her head shamefacedly. “I’m sorry, Professor Jenkins. I have to leave because of personal reasons.”

“Why are you apologizing? Xavier asked with a frown on his face. “Going to Fredonia University is such a good opportunity, and you’re still hesitating? If this opportunity fell on Jessie, I’d have dragged her to the church to thank G o d. If she dared to hesitate, I would have kicked her out of

this door.”

ere to Fredonia University in the field of design.]

Aging from the fact that Roberto could send such a lengthy text message to her in such a short amount of time, Hesper knew that he must have prepared the text message a long time ago.

If it were a few days ago, Hesper would have immediately rejected the opportunity, but now she hesitated.

She was currently in a very awkward position in Lane Holdings. No matter what the truth was, things could not go back to how they used to be. Besides, the real Rachael had reunited with the Lanes, and Hesper was confident that she definitely did not want her-an imposter-to continue to appear in front of her family.

Everyone was selfish, including Hesper herself.

[Hesper: “Mr. Sanchez, I know this is a wonderful opportunity, but I still need some time to consider it.]

Chapter 394

At first, Roberto thought Hesper would turn him down. After all, Hesper had rejected him firmly

once.

However, this was indeed a wonderful opportunity. That was why he still sent the application form to Hesper, despite knowing that the chances were slim. To his surprise, Hesper said she would consider it.

[Hesper: Something came up, and going abroad is a big deal. So, I need some time to consider. Please give me one more day.]

[Roberto: Sure. Take your time. I'll reserve the slot for you.]

After she had finished talking to Roberto, Hesper started to go through the things she needed to prepare for studying abroad. With the recommendation from Roberto and her result from the Lane Group's competition, she believed that applying for the university should not be a problem.

Regarding the necessary documents for going abroad, Hesper had been traveling between different countries for work, and her visa for Fredonia was still valid, so she could go there anytime.

As for Renfrew and Matthew...

Renfrew was staying with Rickard, who would not allow Julie and Sophia to do anything to him. Besides, she was confident that Renfrew was fully capable of protecting himself even when she was not by his side.

As for Matthew...

Hesper was aware that leaving Emperion meant she would also lose Matthew's protection. In fact, she had been living under Matthew's protection for the past four years, and she long came to regard him as her brother.

However, when she gave it a second thought, that was all the more reason for her to leave. She did not want to cause Matthew any more trouble.

Even though she was still the "illegitimate daughter" of the Lanes, both she and Matthew knew that once someone with ill-intention found out the truth from that year, it would bring trouble to Matthew as well.

It was better to leave under the pretext of pursuing her studies.

After weighing the pros and cons, Hesper decided to go back to Genecity first and inform Professor Jenkins about the opportunity.

It was winter break, so there were not many people in Genecity University. Hesper first went to

inquire about the procedures for transferring her studies before paying Xavier a visit.

When Jessie opened the door and saw Hesper, she turned her head around.

“Mom, Dad, Hesper is here!”

Chapter 395

Hesper was stunned.

Jessie fell silent for a moment before turning to face Hesper and said in a serious voice, “Well, that’s possible.”

It was only then Mrs. Jenkins knew Hesper had something important to tell them today. She grabbed Xavier with one hand and Hesper with the other while leading them into the living hall. “Sit down and tell me everything. There is no need to rush things. It’s New Year, after all.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Jenkins,” Hesper said with a nod.

“You don’t have to thank me. Xavier is your professor, and people always say that once a professor, always a father, so I can also be considered as half of your mother,” Mrs. Jenkins said, patting Hesper’s hand.

“I made a lot of your favorite food tonight. You know what? Something weird happened today. Xavier and Jess don’t like fish, but when I was at the market today, I saw a fish that was very fresh, so I bought it. You like to eat fish, don’t you?”

Looking at Mrs. Jenkins’s smiling eyes, a surge of bitterness flooded her heart. Indeed, she liked to eat fish, but she did not expect Mrs. Jenkins to remember it after so many years.

“Well, that meant it was time for you to come and have a meal at my house,” Mrs. Jenkins said. After that, she turned her head around and glanced at Xavier, signaling him not to be too harsh on Hesper. “I’ll go set up the table. Xavier, talk nicely.”

“Alright... Xavier replied with a frown sitting on his forehead.

“Why do you all look like something bad just happened?” Jessie chimed in while chuckling. “I was lying here doing nothing, yet I was scolded. Did I say anything? No! Anyway, I think I know what your guys are talking about. You’re going abroad for an exchange, right?”

Pressing her lips thin, Hesper nodded.

“Isn’t that a good thing? Fredonia University is so much better than Genecity University. Besides, you still have Mr. Sanchez to take care of you there. I don’t see why you have to hesitate... Is it because of Renfrew?”

Hesper shook her head. There were too many things involved, and she had weighed the pros and cons. She felt that it was right for her to leave now, but there was a voice inside of her mind telling her that she should not.

Stretching her arm forward, Jessie tapped Hesper's forehead. "You just like to overthink stuff. I don't understand. We're of the same age, but why do you have so much to consider all the time?"

"That's because you're an idiot," Xavier interrupted, snorting coldly.

"Since I'm an idiot, then I should probably stop talking," Jessie said. "I'm going into the kitchen to help my mom now. You guys have fun."

Jessie stood up and began to walk away. "Sigh, the world really has changed... Other people's kids are always better than their own kids..."

Bye!

Hesper was tickled pink by the conversation between Jessie and Xavier, and the tension in the air had dissipated a little bit. Even though Xavier had a stern face, he was not as angry anymore.

Hesper knew that Mrs. Jenkins and Jessie went away because they wanted to give them some space to talk alone. Xavier patted Hesper's shoulder.

"Kid, I know it hasn't been easy for you, but opportunity waits for no one," Xavier said gently. "I think you're very talented. If you let go of this opportunity, you'll be wasting the talent that heaven has bestowed upon you."

"Hey! Dinner is ready!" Jessie's voice rang out.

She was holding plates of dishes with both her hands, and Mrs. Jenkins was frowning behind her.

Chapter 396

*Jeez, when can you stop being such an unreliable girl?" Mdm, Jenkins placed the dish on the table and smacked Jessie's arm. "Whoever marries you in the future must be the most unlucky man in the world."

"Why do you always say that I can't get married? Do you know how hurtful it is..."

They chatted happily throughout the meal, and Hesper finally made up her mind. Xavier was right. An opportunity like this was not something that one would come by every day, and she might not be so lucky the next time.

Since she had decided to become a designer, she should respect the path.

“You don’t have to worry about the procedures. I’ll contact them and make sure you can go to Fredonia without any issue,” Xavier said. He had a few cups of wine, so his face was red.

“Thank you so much, Professor Jenkins.” Hesper nodded.

After they had finished their meal, Jessie pulled Hesper into her room. Hesper had not told Matthew that she had come back that day, and she had not talked to him about going abroad either, so she could not return to her apartment.

“I’m so happy that you can stay with me for one night. We can relive the feeling of being in the dormitory a few years ago...”

Hesper watched as Jessie made the bed for her. After that, she patted the space next to her and said, “Don’t be shy! If my family had a third room to take you in, I wouldn’t have let you sleep with me tonight; after all, I don’t have good sleeping manners. I would have wanted to leave a good impression before you depart from the country.”

Both of them fell silent when Jessie mentioned going abroad. Hesper had considered a lot of things before making up her mind, but Jessie was not one of them. Speaking of which, Jessie could be considered as her best friend in the whole world.

“It’s not like we can’t keep in touch after you leave. But make sure you don’t ghost me this time. Otherwise, I won’t talk to you when you come back,” Jessie said seriously.

Hesper nodded. “I’m sorry. I promise I won’t this time.”

“Relax, you don’t have to be so serious about it. When you left back then, I was really sad. I thought you found me too noisy and were worried that my presence was causing you trouble.”

This was something that Hesper did not expect. Everything happened too suddenly at that time. Even she herself did not know how to react to it, so she did not tell Jessie about it.

Both of them lay side by side on the bed. Hesper closed her eyes and said, "What happened that year... wasn't that simple."

Hesper calmly recounted what happened after she dropped out of university and left. She had not told anyone about these things before, but now that she was talking about it, it did not seem as difficult as she had imagined. It all came out through her lips even smoother than she thought it

would.

didn't know so much had happened. I actually think it's a shame, because Rickard looks like someone who's dependable. I never expected him to treat you like that," Jessie said as she threw

few punches into the air. "How dare he continue to show up in front of you? Does he want to emulate those on TV and try to win back his ex? If I were you, I wouldn't forgive him for the rest of my life."

Hesper fell silent for a moment, and then muttered. "Yeah, If only you were me."

Hearing Hesper's words, Jessie turned around to look at her and pulled her face toward her." What's wrong with you, Ms. Rivera? Please don't tell me that you've already forgiven him."

Well, she would not use the word forgive. It was just that there were too many burdens weighing on her shoulders at the moment. She was already very exhausted handling other matters, so she did not have time to think about Rickard now..

Hesper cared about love in the past. However, when she turned her head around and looked at it now, she felt that love was the least valuable thing in the world.

"I just remember that I used to love Rickard a lot, but now... I suppose I don't love him so much anymore," Hesper said.

Jessie wanted to say something else, but Hesper had already closed her eyes and her breathing had steadied.

Chapter 397

Jessie let out a sigh. She pulled the blanket up and studied Hesper's serene sleeping face

In fact, she knew that Hesper must have gone through a lot more than she told her. After all, there was no way Hesper could sum up everything that happened in the last five years in a few sentences. She was certain what she had endured was far more brutal than she described. She just did not know what motivated Hesper to keep moving forward after suffering the pain of losing her loved one and the agony of getting separated from her son

It sounded an exhausting

Perhaps it was her personality, but Jessie was fully aware that she would never put all her thoughts and feelings into one man

She valued her freedom, and love was a burden

Hesper was used to waking up early. Hence, even though she did not have anything to do, she woke up early

Jessie was still sleeping soundly next to her. Honestly, she did not turn and toss around last night as she claimed

Hesper took a look at the time. It was only six o'clock in the morning. She got up quietly from the bed and sat down at the computer desk beside her. She logged onto her account, just as she expected, Matthew had sent her many messages

She had blocked Matthew's phone number and had not logged onto any social media accounts, only telling him that she had to take care of some things. Matthew had no way to contact her and

sent her countless messages throughout the day

Hesper knew it was a childish action, but she was worried that she might be swayed and not be able to make up her mind when she heard Matthew's voice.

She had to seize the opportunity to study at Fredonia University. She had made up her mind and she would not regret it

[Hesper Matt, I've decided to go study abroad. I didn't make the decision on a whim. I've considered it carefully.]

It was still early in the morning, so Hesper did not expect Matthew to respond immediately. However, almost instantly, messages appeared from the other side. It was as if Matthew had been waiting for her.

[Matthew: Okay. Anything for my little sister.]

[Matthew: Just don't disappear without a trace. I'll be very worried.]

Hesper looked at the messages that Matthew sent her in a daze. While she found it hard to believe that these words came from Matthew, she felt deeply sorry for him.

'Could it be that he'd been looking for me since I left?'

Hesper: I'm sorry, Matt. I just wanted to think things over for myself. After all, this is not a simple decision

(Hesper: I won't do that to you.)

There was no message from the other side for a long time. The chat box kept showing that Matthew was typing. Hesper waited patiently, and after a while, Matthew's message finally came.

[Matthew: Is it because of the Lanes?]

(Hesper: When I received the news, I did make the decision because of the Lanes at first, but after coming back to Genecity and talking to Professor Jenkins, I also feel that I should not give up this opportunity.)

[Hesper: My dream has always been to become a designer. Maybe there's still a long way ahead of me before becoming a real designer, but I'm willing to give up some things for this dream.]

Hesper pursed her lips and sent a cute Emoji to him.

[Hesper: Besides, I don't have to worry about the company right now. Isn't it just the right time to complete my studies?]

Chapter 398

With Xavier and Roberto's help, Hesper finished her exchange student procedure very quickly.

The weather in Genecity had gotten a lot colder on the day Hesper left the country. Matthew purposely came to see her off at the airport. After all, they might not be able to see each other for a long time.

“Make sure you take care of yourself over there. I’ll come see you at Fredonia when I’m free. Focus on your studies and your work.” Matthew had been reminding her, and Hesper shook her head helplessly.

“You look like a father who is reluctant to let his daughter get married, you know? I’m just going to study abroad, not disappearing forever,” Hesper said with a sigh.

“Well...” Matthew paused for a second before continuing. “I haven’t fully accepted the fact that you’re leaving. What about Rickard and Renfrew? Are you giving them up?”

“Hmm... Renfrew is the only heir that the Duvals have, so nothing will happen to him. Besides, I’m sure you know best what Renfrew is capable of. If someone bullies him, he’ll definitely tell me. As for Rickard...” Hesper fell into a pensive silence for a moment. Then, she said, “I’m confident that it’s not difficult to keep him in check right now. After all, everything has been going according to my plan, hasn’t it? As long as I stay clear-headed... Nothing will go wrong.”

“You’re still as stubborn as always.” Matthew sighed, shaking his head. He took a deep breath and said, “Alright. Let’s not dwell on it.”

Hesper’s plane arrived on time. She was not attached to Genecity. Looking back at the familiar airport, she had a feeling that she would not come back there for several years to come.

“Goodbye, Renfrew.

“Goodbye, Rickard.”

Rickard stood outside the airport, watching as Matthew and Hesper walked into the terminal. Benji stood behind him in silence, observing his surroundings calmly.

Rickard became even more quiet after knowing that Hesper was leaving.

In fact, Benji was pretty impressed with Hesper. A few years ago, no one could have imagined that she would come this far. She had managed to make a comeback in Genecity, obtaining a status that no one could offend, and then gracefully shed her identity as the descendant of the Lanes to pursue her own dreams.

Had Benji not been Rickard's assistant, he probably would have fallen for a woman like her.

"Are you not going to ask her to stay?" Benji asked.

"Why should I?" Rickard shook his head.

It sounded a bit cold-hearted, but Benji could read between the sentences, so he did not make any

comment.

o part, I had

I had a very narrow definition of what it meant to like someone. When I was with

Just wanted her to stand obediently behind me, so I didn't want to explain too much to Rickard saki, raising his eyes alightly. His narrow, sharp gaze seemed to pierce through everything.

"But now, when I look at Hesper, I hope she can soar higher and higher into the sky like a bird. No matter how far she goes, she doesn't belong to me and has no obligation to stay by my side."

Benji was taken aback, so he did not speak again.

Initially, he thought Rickard's love for Hesper was temporary. He thought he liked her because she gave him a whole different feeling. After all, there might not be any other woman with such strong vitality as Hesper in this world.

Even if he made some decisions that seemed incredible in a short period of time, Rickard's rationality always prevailed.

However, things were different now. As the person closest to Rickard, Benji was the one who could sense the changes in Rickard. He used to be someone who regarded himself superior to the rest of the people. Yet, he was willing to lower his head and light up fireworks at midnight for the woman he held dear.

Chapter 399

“Alright. We’ve already seen her. Let’s head back, Rickard said. When he turned around, his eyes registered a familiar figure at the corner.

However, the figure soon disappeared from his sight. Rickard furrowed his eyebrows, but the

figure was already gone out of sight and he didn’t even know the exact direction to chase after them.

Rickard had a feeling that he knew that person, but he could not tell who he was. Therefore, he had no other choice but to give up.

Since she had already checked in her luggage, Hesper boarded the plane smoothly without any issue.

The ticket was booked by the university. Hesper was not the manager of Lane Holdings anymore, so she did not see the need for first-class seats. She followed the university’s arrangement and sat in economy class.

As it was still a holiday season, there were not many passengers on the plane, and Hesper’s seat happened to be by the window. Although there was not much difference on the plane, she felt it was a good start.

“Ms. Rivera, it’s good to see you doing well.”

A chuckle came from behind, and Hesper instantly became alert. She wanted to turn her head around, but the person behind her did not give her the chance. He grabbed her by the neck, and although he was not holding her firmly, Hesper had already experienced the strength of these hands, so she would not challenge him.

“Don’t turn around. You’ll only make things difficult for me if you see my face.” 013 chuckled. “It’s so difficult to see you, my Ms. Rivera.”

“Really? It doesn’t seem that difficult to me,” Hesper said, squeezing out the words from her throat. “Why did you follow me onto the plane? You’re not going to do anything stupid here, you?”

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“Ah, of course, I’m not going to do that, my Ms. Rivera. That would leave my boss in a tight spot. After all, this is an international flight. 013 sighed. “It’s a shame, but I’ve been looking forward to having words with you for a long time.”

Hesper sneered coldly. “So, are you saying that I should feel honored?”

A flight attendant passed by them, and 013 released his hand on Hesper's neck. However, Hesper was not naive enough to turn around at that moment and see his face, as it might provoke him.

"We've met many times before. If you want to chat with me, we might as well talk more."

Hesper tried to calm down. She was very well aware that she was no match for 013. Besides, she was intrigued by the things 013 said just now. He said that it would leave his boss in a tight spot if he were going to do something here. This meant that it was not a difficult matter to solve.

It's a long Right, so we can talk about a lot of things,"

013 smiled in a somewhat suggestive way, but Hesper knew that he was just teasing her and had no real interest in her.

First, tell me your name."

don't have a name, but everyone calls me Trez. I'm the youngest child in the organization and everybody loves me."

Hesper frowned.

"You're the youngest? What about Zoya?" she asked.

"Zoya? Oh, you mean that little traitor?" 013 was stunned for a moment before continuing. "I'm still the youngest if you include her. Anyway, is there any need to delve into this question?"

The flight announcement came and Hesper closed her eyes.

"This flight is about to take off. On behalf of all the crew, I wish you a safe journey."

Chapter 400

013's answer did not dispel the doubts in Hesper's mind. Instead, it made her even more confused. After waiting for a flight attendant to pass by, Hesper whispered, 'Second question. Why do you want to kill me? Don't tell me it's because of Juniper. She doesn't have any relationship with you anymore, right?'

"Well... 013 chuckled softly in Hesper's ear. "You're smarter than Juniper. She's such an idiot. As her partner, I warned her not to do anything without planning, but she was too foolish and wouldn't listen."

The ear-popping sensation during takeoff made people feel slightly uncomfortable.

“As for why I have to kill you... Well, that’s a good question. I guess it’s because I’m jealous of you, and in a way. I was born because of you.”

Hesper frowned.

She certainly did not think it was some sort of supernatural event, but what 013 said was strange. As Hesper pondered, a flash of insight struck her, and she had the answer in her mind.

“You’re the second personality?”

Myriade walked toward the gate of the base with a cold face, while Riley followed behind her. Just when she was about to step out of the gate, Riley reached out and grabbed her by her collar.

Riley was a lot taller than Myriade, and she knew that she was just a child who sat in front of the computer all year round. She had not undergone any special training, so she was no match for someone like Riley who had been on missions outside for years.

“If something happens to Hesper, Trez will be the first one to die. Why did you let him go do whatever he wants? Are you out of your mind?” Zoya shouted exasperatingly. “He’s gone too far this time. How dare he do that on the plane? Don’t you know how long it took for Big T to handle the last incident? This will ruin his plan.”

Riley clicked his tongue and blinked his eyes innocently. “Really? It seems to me that Big T is actually enjoying it.”

“Madness... All of you are crazy,” Myriade said as she tried to break herself free from Riley’s clutches. “Let go of me. I won’t go out, okay? I’ll go back and sit down. I want to see what will become of you and Trez.”

“Suit yourself.” Riley pinched Myriade’s face. “But you can’t go anywhere now, Mimi. I’d already forgotten about you, and if you hadn’t showed up and reminded me, I would’ve forgotten that you could still communicate with Big T if you have any devices.”

Myriade was taken aback.

“Don’t even think about it,” Riley said, smiling from ear to ear. “I won’t let you touch any electronic devices, Mimi.”

“You’ll regret it,” Myriade said.

“Bravo, you’re far smarter than I imagined, Ms. Rivera. But I have to admit that I’m a coward who lacks love. I had been engaging him in meaningless fights when I was looking everywhere for you. It sickens me by just thinking about it.” 013 paused for a moment before continuing. “Do you not want to know some other stuff, Ms. Rivera? For example, I know a lot about your background. Are you not curious about your origin?”

“Of course, I’m not.” Hesper sneered. “I grew up without my parents, so my background doesn’t really matter to me. However, judging from what you just said, I can say that all the information I have learned so far is fake, right? I’m not one of the Lanes, nor am I Theodore and Yolanda’s illegitimate daughter.”

“Bingo. Theodore and Simon were so funny when they told those lies. But they had no intention of lying to anyone. They just wanted to give you a suitable identity.”

Although Hesper had already made some guesses, her heart still sank when her speculations. were confirmed.

‘I should’ve guessed it earlier. There’s no way I could be so lucky.’ She mocked herself inwardly.

The young man clicked his tongue and continued. “If I were you, I would cut all my ties with the Lanes. Think about how much profit you’ve gained from them. When the day comes where your identity is exposed, you may end up in prison.