

Chapter 35 A Pass In Glophia

The manager of Solo Mio Restaurant approached Norah with a welcoming demeanor, offering his greetings with respect.

The crowd in the hall was momentarily taken aback.

Derek observed Norah, his face clouded with curiosity, pondering how she had come to be on such good terms with the manager of Solo Mio Restaurant. Could it be that she formed a bond with the Solo Mio Restaurant owner after the recent race?

Rhoda and Coen appeared confused. They understood the Solo Mio Restaurant owner was a prominent figure, enforcing strict reservation policies that no one dared to break. Given Madeline's account of Norah's status as an illegitimate child to the Wilson family, how had she managed such a connection with the Solo Mio Restaurant's owner?

"Listen up, folks! Our boss has made it clear that Miss Wilson doesn't need a reservation to dine here. She's welcome anytime!" The manager, smiling kindly, gently said to the receptionists, "Remember, any oversight with Miss Wilson, and you'll no longer be needed here."

The receptionists nodded, stealing intrigued looks at Norah.

Madeline, stepping away from Derek, asked with a voice tinged with tears, "Miss Wilson, are you acquainted with the Solo Mio Restaurant owner?"

Under Norah's steady gaze, Madeline hesitated, then added, "I've heard that only those close to the owner can bypass the reservation requirement here."

Norah stayed quiet. The manager, beaming with pride, announced, "Miss Wilson is a VIP guest here, as per the owner's instructions to ensure she's always well taken care of. Please, Miss Wilson, this way."

Norah, with a slight smile and glancing at the four faces showing various degrees of displeasure, felt a surge of gratification. "I appreciate it."

As Norah passed Derek, she murmured, "This Sunday."

Derek's puzzled look only made her smile more freely, her laughter echoing vibrantly.

The manager escorted Norah to an exclusive chamber upstairs, dedicating himself to her service to ensure she experienced unparalleled hospitality.

Derek couldn't shake the image of Norah's graceful presence from his thoughts. He recalled the woman's once tender actions contrasted with her current aloofness. Was it truly that simple for her to let go of her feelings for him? No, that wouldn't be possible. Norah must still harbor feelings for him.

Madeline asked softly, "Derek, how is it that Miss Wilson is considered a VIP by the Solo Mio Restaurant owner? She must have influential connections we're unaware of."

Derek let out a sigh and said, "She's chosen her path. It's none of my business."

He tenderly dried the tears on Madeline's cheeks, comforting her, "Madeline, please stop crying. It pains me to see you this way."

With a tear-stained smile, Madeline responded, "Alright, I understand. Go and settle the bill."

She nudged Derek gently, urging him toward the cashier.

Curiosity getting the better of her, Rhoda moved closer to

Madeline, asking, "Madeline, I've never heard of this Norah having any significant standing in Glophia. How did she come to know the owner of Solo Mio Restaurant?"

"I've explained this already. She's the type to lure in men. Maybe she's got some shady link with the owner of Solo Mio Restaurant and is after Derek. She met Derek alone this morning. Luckily, I got wind of it and timely intervened," Madeline said with bitterness.

Making Derek meet Norah was Madeline's idea. If not, Derek would have kept Norah waiting for the finalization of the divorce, and her schemes couldn't proceed.

Whenever Madeline spotted Norah, jealousy inevitably bubbled up inside her. Despite Norah's allegedly uncertain parentage, her beauty and poise overshadowed Madeline, the Powell family heiress. Norah's presence around Derek fueled Madeline's insecurity.

Rhoda leaned in and whispered to Madeline, "You must employ whatever strategies necessary to secure Derek's affection. Remember, wealth is paramount. Men can't be trusted."

Rhoda's gaze briefly lay on Coen, aware of his indiscretions yet choosing a veneer of tranquility for the sake of their children.

Madeline's eyes hardened with determination, saying, "I'm aware."

Meanwhile, Norah savored her meal in the chamber, appreciating the culinary excellence. She acknowledged that Sean's generosity was indeed remarkable.

Back when she was about to exit the restaurant and unexpectedly bumped into Derek, she suddenly recalled the card Sean had given her.

Sean had assured her, "Utilize this card at any Scott Group establishment for utmost service."

In other words, a pass in Glophia. Should any complications arise, she was to contact Phillip, who would promptly address them. Sean's concern for her was genuine.

Norah savored the flavors of the steak, admiring the exquisite taste.

Solo Mio Restaurant certainly merited its acclaim in Glophia. Its cuisine was exceptional!

After leisurely finishing her meal, Norah approached the cashier to pay.

The receptionist smiled and said, "Miss Wilson, all your expenses are on our boss' account."

Norah responded calmly, securing her purse, "Extend my thanks to your boss."

Norah knew these privileges came from Sean who recognized her for her role in delivering medical treatment to his sister and grandpa.

Derek had mentioned looking into Norah's background. Returning from work, he found Madeline intently reviewing some papers in the living room.

"What's that you're reading?" After loosening his tie, Derek sat beside Madeline, drawing her close in her nightgown and breathing in her scent.

Madeline playfully pushed him away. "Cut it out. I'm looking into Norah's background."

"That was fast." Derek looked up, examining a document detailing Norah's connection with the Wilson family.

The report highlighted Norah's sudden emergence in the Wilson family two years ago, noting an absence of information about her before her arrival and leaving a gap in her history before coming to the Wilson family.

Out of the blue, Madeline lifted the paper she held and passed it to Derek. "Derek, check this out. After leaving the Carter residence, Norah's been staying at Dreamview Villas! Dreamview Villas is a place not just anyone can access."

The document included photos of Norah entering Dreamview Villas, dated within the last week.

Derek's expression grew serious. Dreamview Villas was a well-regarded location in Glophia. It was rumored that only a handful of families resided at Dreamview Villas, all holding significant power and influence. How was it possible for Norah, known as the Wilson family's illegitimate daughter, to reside there?

"Isn't the Scott family at Dreamview Villas too? Could Norah have moved in with the Scott family?" Madeline speculated, her eyes widening in shock, saying, "That can't be right!"

"Why not?" Derek countered. "At the racetrack, Sean's protective stance toward Norah was unmistakable. Plus, the Solo Mio Restaurant manager's deference to Norah suggests a connection with Sean. I can't dismiss the possibility."

"Considering how Norah seemed to pursue you, I thought she had feelings for you! Derek, you're not still hung up on Norah, are you?"

Derek quickly refuted, "No way! My feelings have always been for you!"

His declaration seemed as much a reassurance to himself as to Madeline.

"That's reassuring."

Chapter 36 Starting Work

Norah found herself waiting until Sunday without a word from Derek. She felt a mix of frustration and confusion over Derek's reluctance on the finalization of the divorce. She couldn't fathom the sudden shift in his attitude toward the divorce. This was the sole concern weighing on her mind lately, occupying her thoughts each day.

Norah dialed Calan, ready to officially take legal action against Derek and proceed with the divorce.

Norah was prepared to stick it out to the end if Derek decided to make a scene.

On Monday, Norah officially started her new role at Silver Boulder Private Hospital in the Cardiac Surgery Department.

Gil escorted Norah personally to the registration desk at the Cardiac Surgery Department.

As they stepped into the Cardiac Surgery Department, the hustle and bustle immediately caught their attention.

Doctors and nurses were moving around quickly, attending to their tasks.

As Gil and Norah navigated the busy corridors, Gil said, "Norah, as you can see, it's a hectic place. You're new here, so there'll be a lot to pick up. Jamison expects a high level of expertise."

Gil believed Norah's talent could benefit many patients and was eager to learn from her. Yet, as a newbie in the Cardiac Surgery Department, immediate surgical duties might be delayed within two months.

He admired Norah's capabilities, recognizing her as a standout

in the medical field, far surpassing his own skills. While Gil boasted a prestigious reputation at Silver Boulder Private Hospital, he humbly recognized the considerable skill gap between himself and Norah.

Norah had mastered medical skills to a high degree, proficient in various methods. At times, she could tackle challenging cases with innovative approaches.

Norah was indeed an exceptional talent in the medical field.

Gil expressed his regret through those words.

With her hands in her pockets, Norah assured Gil, "Whether it's a full house or not, be it the Neurosurgery Department or Cardiac Surgery Department, I've got it covered."

Gil sighed, saying, "Understanding young people is becoming quite the challenge for me. Anyway, meet Director Herrera of the Cardiac Surgery Department. Jamison, I've brought her here."

Gil swung open the office door and gestured toward the individual inside.

Jamison Herrera, a gentle and friendly elderly man, didn't seem bothered by the door being nudged open. Rising from his chair, he said, "Gil, you nearly broke my door with that shove. Your escorting this young lady here suggests she's quite important to you."

Jamison, standing at a modest 5'6, appeared friendly and competent. While speaking, he glanced at Norah, who stood behind Gil.

Norah sported a white coat branded with "Norah, Cardiac Surgery Department" on the left side.

Her appearance was breathtaking, leaving an indelible impression on all who saw her. Jamison couldn't recall ever having someone so strikingly beautiful in the hospital staff. Norah stood there quietly, resembling a piece of exquisite art.

Jamison, not one to place importance on looks, found himself momentarily taken aback by Norah's beauty.

"Norah, are you sure about joining the Cardiac Surgery Department?"

Norah's specific request to be part of the Cardiac Surgery Department was something Jamison needed time to digest.

Jamison had known about this news during the meeting last week, but he hadn't anticipated her striking appearance. The sight of such a beautiful woman in the demanding field of the Cardiac Surgery Department sparked his curiosity.

Norah confirmed with conviction, "Yes, I'm sure."

Norah was confident that Gilda and Chayce could manage the Wilson family's affairs for her, her heart set on practicing medicine.

Gil, observing the exchange, chimed in, "Jamison, you're gaining a real asset in your team. Look after her. And if Norah's schedule allows, I might ask her to join me in surgeries in my department! Alright, I'll go back now."

Gil gave Norah's shoulder a friendly pat and reassured her, "If you need anything, just come find me."

These words weren't just for Norah. They were also meant for Jamison to show him how much she was valued.

Jamison briefly acknowledged Gil's departure, "Okay, hurry up and leave."

Gil grumpily tapped his nose and exited Jamison's office, hands tucked behind him.

Jamison then addressed Norah directly, "Norah."

"Yes. What's on your mind?" Norah asked.

"In this department, we uphold stringent professional standards. Regardless of your previous engagements, I expect diligent study and no slacking off here," Jamison said earnestly.

Norah responded, "I didn't come here to slack off."

Jamison waved his hand. "Actions speak louder than words. No need for assurances now. Come, let me show you around the department."

With that, he took the lead. Norah followed him.

Two doctors were seen, a man and a woman, deeply focused on their studies, enveloped in silence.

"Everyone, take a break from your work," Jamison announced, clapping to draw attention. "I'd like to introduce Dr. Wilson, the newest addition to our team. Please, let's welcome her warmly."

Jamison initiated the applause, which was soon echoed by the two doctors, casting intrigued glances at Norah.

They found themselves curious about why someone as young and attractive as Norah had chosen to work in the Cardiac Surgery Department and whether she possessed the surgical skills required.

"Hello, everyone. My name is Norah," Norah said, offering a modest nod as her introduction.

Jamison kept his words to a minimum before leaving.

One of the doctors, a good-looking man, rose to welcome Norah and gestured toward a desk across from his. "Dr. Wilson, this desk is for you."

Norah expressed her gratitude with a slight blink, "Thank you."

This doctor, appearing to be in his late twenties with sharp features, exuded a mix of timidity and kindness.

It was his first encounter with a colleague of Norah's allure. He rubbed his head awkwardly, saying, "Don't mention it. We're now colleagues. My name's Baylor Padilla. If you need anything or have questions, just let me know."

"Sure." After expressing her gratitude, Norah quickly organized her new workspace and turned on the computer.

Given it was her initial day, she began by acquainting herself with the Cardiac Surgery Department's guidelines, standard operating procedures, and patient profiles at Silver Boulder Private Hospital.

Thanks to her remarkable memory, Norah quickly absorbed the information.

The Cardiac Surgery Department was bustling, with many patients awaiting surgery and the wards nearly at capacity.

When lunchtime arrived, a fellow doctor approached Norah's desk and said, "Dr. Wilson, are you familiar with where the cafeteria is? I can show you the way."

Norah, already well-acquainted with Silver Boulder Private Hospital, appreciated the gesture but technically didn't require guidance. Nevertheless, she accepted the friendly offer from the female doctor and said, "That sounds great, thank you."

As they headed to the cafeteria, the doctor introduced herself, "I'm Jolie Austin. I've been at Silver Boulder Private Hospital for three years. What about you? Where were you before this?"

"This is actually my first position," Norah revealed.

Previously, Norah had only completed an internship at Silver Boulder Private Hospital.

Jolie was visibly impressed and replied, "That's incredible. To start your career in the Cardiac Surgery Department here is quite an achievement."

Given Silver Boulder Private Hospital's reputation for high recruitment standards, Jolie felt proud to have joined it after three years at a major hospital, viewing her own path as noteworthy.

Jolie realized that Norah's direct entry into such a prestigious department without prior work experience marked her as exceptionally talented.

Indeed, the Cardiac Surgery Department not only offered high salaries but also demanded specialized expertise from its doctors.

Chapter 37 Fashion Design Competition

Norah gave a smile but remained silent. Silence was best at this moment.

Norah could only remember Baylor and Jolie on her first working day. That afternoon, Jolie and Norah headed out with medical files to make rounds. After that, Jolie showed Norah around for a while.

"These are the patients under my care. Once you're more familiar with the policies and procedures here, Jamison will likely assign some to you."

Noticing Norah without much to do, Baylor suggested, "Dr. Wilson, you might want to look over additional case files. Jamison will evaluate our performance at the end of the month, and anyone falling short might face serious repercussions."

Baylor left the nature of the repercussions to the imagination.

Norah had a good impression of Jamison, seeing him as a committed and diligent doctor who always encouraged the team to stay focused and enhance their skills, even during a hectic schedule. He had no tolerance for laziness or neglect among the doctors!

In Norah's observation, the prospects at Silver Boulder Private Hospital's Cardiac Surgery Department seemed promising. And undoubtedly, it was a busy place.

Jolie shared, "The Cardiac Surgery Department has eight doctors. Two are away on exchange programs, three are busy with outpatient consultations, and one is currently in surgery and hasn't finished yet. Dr. Padilla and I are responsible for making

rounds today."

This made Norah realize just how bustling the Cardiac Surgery Department was. They were in charge of everything, whether outpatient or inpatient care.

Norah nodded and said, "I had assumed fewer doctors were working here."

"The department is filled with highly skilled doctors. Take Baylor, for example. He may come across as soft-spoken, but his surgical skills are remarkable! Yet, when it comes to surgery, the Supernatural Doctor is in a league of her own. Her success rate in operations is a staggering 100%! It's unbelievable," Jolie said.

Jolie glanced around and leaned in to whisper to Norah, "Whenever Jamison holds a meeting, he can't stop praising Supernatural Doctor. But it's been a couple of years since I've heard anything about Supernatural Doctor. I'm not sure if she's retired. I'd love to learn from her. Her skills are just out of this world."

Norah responded with a laugh, "Stories have a way of getting blown out of proportion. She might not be as miraculous as everyone says."

Jolie quickly objected, "That's not true at all! In my eyes, Supernatural Doctor is nothing short of extraordinary! She's my role model, and Jamison admires her greatly, too! He's always talking about her. Not only is Supernatural Doctor a master surgeon, but her unique healing techniques are also something. She's got talents that go beyond the operating table!"

Strength often drew admiration, and the Supernatural Doctor had quite the legendary status, known far and wide. Jolie was just like everyone else in this regard, harboring a profound respect for Supernatural Doctor.

Norah didn't push the conversation any further and was just about to show her agreement with what Jolie was saying when the sound of Jamison's uninterested voice cut in. "Have you

finished your tasks? Is there time for a chat?"

Jolie stopped talking at once and turned around, responding solemnly, "Jamison, Dr. Wilson and I were not just chatting. I was briefing her on the department's policies."

Norah stayed calm, her face untroubled, making it seem like Jolie's explanation was accurate.

Jamison gave a dismissive scoff. "If you're looking for something to do, come help me sort out the patient files and draft case reports."

He made a point to look directly at Norah before he walked away.

Norah understood that Jamison had approached them on purpose with his remarks, but she wasn't bothered. After all, focusing on the job was exactly what she was there to do.

On top of that, Jamison was keeping a close eye on her, just like a vigilant hawk, poised to spot any slip-ups and give a heads-up.

Once she started working at the hospital, Norah was tagging along with Jamison more often during rounds in the Cardiac Surgery Department. The outpatient duties were divided among six other doctors on rotation, leaving Norah no room to join.

Jolie had mentioned that the schedule for cardiac consultations was quite packed.

Norah ended up doing a variety of tasks in the Cardiac Surgery Department. In an unexpected turn, she even helped Gil with surgery in the Neurosurgery Department, leaving the neurosurgeons puzzled as to why a doctor with her abilities wasn't with them instead of the Cardiac Surgery Department.

Gil simply offered a smile in response, not explaining.

At the Carter family's villa.

Kathy was relaxing on the couch while Madeline was at the

dressing table, applying her makeup.

"Madeline, my brother mentioned he met your parents recently. How did that go?" Kathy asked.

Kathy had been grounded at home since their last outing to the racetrack, undergoing what Sharon considered necessary discipline. It was only recently that she had been allowed out again.

Derek once mentioned meeting Madeline's parents over a meal, and Kathy took note of it.

While shaping her eyebrows, Madeline answered, "It went well. Derek brought up the idea of our parents meeting to set a date for the wedding."

"That's good to know. Rest assured, Madeline. Once I return home, I'll surely put in a good word for you with my mom. She doesn't quite get you and that was the reason she disliked you. Don't let it get you down. My mom's just looking out for my brother," Kathy replied, patting her chest.

Yet, Kathy's mood darkened as she remembered what happened to Derek two years ago. Soon, she comforted herself that those issues were between her brother and Madeline. As Derek's sister, her main concern was his happiness.

Given how seemingly well Madeline treated Derek now, Kathy doubted the past problems would happen again.

Madeline paused in her makeup routine and said, "I've said it. I'm willing to put up with any treatment from Sharon as long as I can be with Derek."

Holding the eyebrow pencil more firmly, Madeline added warmly, "Kathy, you're so sweet. Your words do make me feel better."

Kathy offered Madeline a bright smile and said, "After all, who else deserves my kindness if not you, Madeline? Speaking of which, I've heard that Norah has sent my brother with legal

papers. What's causing the delay with their divorce?"

"Derek is looking into Norah's past. What you might not know is that after parting ways with the Carter family, she's been living at Dreamview Villas. Her identity as a racecar driver under the code name Selene was unexpected enough. Derek thinks Norah has been keeping things from him, so he's decided to dig deeper before moving forward with the divorce," Madeline explained flatly.

At the mention of "Dreamview Villas", Kathy widened her eyes. "The Dreamview Villas in Glophia? Holy shit! How is Norah managing to stay there? Is it possible she's got a connection with someone influential?"

Madeline set aside her makeup tool and offered a noncommittal shrug. "Who can say? Yet, I sense that Norah is looking for a new backer."

Leaning closer, Kathy lowered her voice, saying, "Madeline, do you think it's possible Norah's getting involved with a member of the Scott family?"

"Could be."

"It's audacious of Norah, right? Does she even grasp the prestige of the Scott family head? She appears relentless in her pursuit to scale the social ladder. Just wait. She's bound to be harshly abandoned by Mr. Scott. The day she gets kicked out from Dreamview Villas will be a spectacle. I can't wait to see!"

Just then, Derek entered the room. "What's this conversation about?"

He cast a disapproving glance at Kathy and said, "Kathy, try not to mess up Madeline's makeup. We don't want to be stuck at home."


Kathy playfully stuck out her tongue and said, "I was merely asking about Madeline's insight on the Grace Cup. You're aware, Derek, that Madeline has an exquisite eye for fashion. As

someone just starting in design, I'm eager to learn everything she knows."



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