

Chapter 38 On Duty

Derek's expression became more gentle, saying, "Isn't there still plenty of time before the Grace Cup? Madeline's not going anywhere. What's the rush to ask her today?"

Kathy said those words to change the subject, clearly not interested in seeking advice from Madeline regarding the Grace Cup. She jumped up and pushed Derek toward the door. "Understood. Derek, make it quick and get going. Madeline needs to get dressed."

Once the door was shut, Madeline asked, "So, are you actually going to join the Grace Cup?"

Kathy confirmed with a nod, "Yes, I studied fashion design at university. I'm eager to enter competitions to build my name. I need your support, Madeline."

Madeline appeared unsure and said, "But I've also entered the Grace Cup's fashion design contest. If I assist you, it might detract from my own work."

She looked down, her gaze carrying a hint of mystery and uncertainty. She hadn't signed up for the contest until Kathy brought it up, prompting a spur-of-the-moment decision to participate.

She felt she had wasted too much time during her two years abroad. Now back in Glophia and preparing to marry Derek, Madeline knew she had to be mindful of her public image.

"I've heard Noelle will be judging the Grace Cup this year. I'm really looking forward to meeting her in the final round," Kathy shared her aspirations.

As a student majoring in fashion design, Kathy looked up to

several world-famous designers, with Noelle at the top of her list. "Noelle's designs are simply exquisite. I own one of her high-fashion pieces I hardly ever wear, just to keep it special!"

Madeline offered a sympathetic smile and said, "Then you should give it your all in the contest. I decided to compete, and assisting you could be challenging for me."

Kathy responded with a slight sulk, "Fine, it's okay. You should just concentrate on your preparations, Madeline."

"Dr. Wilson, today you're on duty to the outpatient clinic," Jolie announced, handing Norah the schedule. "You're on duty today and tomorrow."

This new week was Norah's first chance to work directly with patients at the outpatient clinic.

Jolie gave Norah an encouraging pat on the back. "You're relatively new to our Cardiac Surgery Department, so being at the outpatient clinic mostly means you'll be waiting. If you get bored, feel free to tackle other tasks around the office. Just make sure it doesn't disrupt the patient consultations."

In a low voice, Jolie added, "Just be mindful. I get the sense that Jamison keeps a particularly close eye on you. He could drop by to check on you without warning."

Jolie understood Jamison's heightened interest in Norah. He probably suspected Norah might have leveraged connections to secure her hospital position without genuine medical expertise. Since Norah's arrival, there had been rumors.

Rumors circulated that Norah might be a high-ranking official's relative who embellished her credentials or belonged to a distinguished family seeking to broaden her horizons...

Despite the swirling rumors, Jolie preferred to rely on her own judgment when forming opinions about others. Norah was friendly toward her colleagues and Jolie reciprocated with warmth.

"Thanks a bunch."

"Don't mention it."

As Jolie departed, Norah attached her pen to her uniform pocket and headed toward the outpatient clinic.

Derek was still delaying the finalization of the divorce. Calan had done the delivery of the court summons for Norah.

Norah guessed Derek had received it and pondered over his next move. Deep down, she knew involving Juliana could simplify matters. But Norah hesitated to burden Juliana, considering the latter's advanced age.

Taking a seat in the outpatient office of the Cardiac Surgery Department, Norah found herself alone. The screen showed other doctors with patients queued up, but her name had no one waiting.

This didn't bother Norah. She understood that as a newcomer, patients would naturally gravitate toward more experienced physicians.

After being there all morning, Norah finally got a patient.

Her first patient of the morning was a young university student seeking relief from menstrual discomfort. The clinic was busy, and the patient ended up in the Cardiac Surgery Department by chance, mentioning occasional rapid heartbeats at night.

Norah quickly applied pressure to specific acupuncture points, alleviating the patient's discomfort in no time.

"Amazing! Are all doctors of the Cardiac Surgery Department this remarkable? The pain is gone!" the patient exclaimed.

Norah said while delivering treatment, "You've been dealing with irregular periods for some time, haven't you? What took you so long to seek medical help?"

"I've been here before, but the relief from medication was only temporary. I never thought I'd find such effective relief here. Your technique worked wonders!"

The patient was visibly impressed and chatted with Norah throughout the treatment.

After the session, Norah prescribed two medications for the patient. "I've given you two medications to help stabilize your system. They should alleviate your discomfort moving forward. And about your rapid heartbeat, try not to stay up too late, especially when you're in pain. Maintain a consistent routine."

By the time lunch rolled around, no other patients had shown up.

Norah reflected on the importance of reputation, realizing it played a significant role no matter the setting.

The hours at the clinic were set, and Norah knew she'd be done for the day once the clock hit closing time.

Glancing up, Norah noticed Jamison at the doorway, quietly watching her. She offered him a serene smile before Jamison walked off.

Given Norah's confidential background, Jamison paid extra attention to her. Norah's duties at the hospital were heavier than those of other doctors, but clinic days like this one allowed her a bit of downtime. Especially today, with hardly any patients, she could get off work on time.

Heading out of the hospital, Norah spotted a stylish green G-Class Mercedes. The window lowered, and Joanna greeted Norah with a wave full of excitement, "Norah, over here!"

After Norah got in and buckled up, Joanna started the car.

"Norah, I've been away just a few weeks for intensive training. When did you end up at Silver Boulder Private Hospital? Last I knew, you were managing two companies. Won't you return to your role as chairwoman?" Joanna asked, casually holding the

steering wheel and looking over.

"My current focus is on heart disease research. Gil extended an invite, so I decided to join the hospital," Norah explained, briefly looking up from her phone where she was answering work-related emails.

"Got it. Norah, you know I've got your back no matter what. If there's ever anything you need, just let me know!" Joanna declared with conviction.

Joanna had recently committed to an intensive training program in a secluded facility to sharpen her shooting skills and combat abilities. Norah was well-informed about it through Joanna, who mentioned it was organized by Bryson.