

A Cue for Love chapter 980

Chapter 980 Cutting Queues

After Jerome and Natalie parked the car, they led the five children to the escape room.

The two adults and the five children caught the attention of many passersby.

Jerome and Natalie were dressed in casual clothes, but the two of them were too good-looking for passersby to ignore. In fact, their looks were comparable to that of famous celebrities, and the sight of them walking down the street seemed as if they were posing for a poster.

The five children were dressed in a similarly casual style as Natalie, wearing white shirts. However, the cartoon ducks in the middle of the shirts did not have the same expressions. To sum it up, all five children were downright adorable.

The passersby could not help but take out their phones and begin taking photos of them.

“Are they a family? Wow! They’re so good-looking!”

“The guy’s so handsome, and the woman’s so pretty. Even their children are so cute! I’m jealous!”

“This is unbelievable! How could they be so gorgeous even in unedited photos?”

Naturally, Natalie did not dwell on their words, but Jerome could not stop the smile from forming on his face.

As Jerome imagined spending the rest of his life with Natalie and the kids, not only did he not dislike it, but he even looked forward to it. He did not mind that Natalie had children with Marcus. In fact, he felt bad for her and cherished her more because of that experience she had.

Meanwhile, the five children’s hearts were sinking.

Even though it seemed great to ship Natalie and Jerome together, they did not forget the fact that they had a father.

Not long after, the seven of them walked into the themed escape room.

The one who welcomed them was a female university student. When she saw the two adults and five children, she knitted her brows and told them, “Sorry, but the escape rooms other than ‘Elk Grove Girls’ School’ have been all reserved. Moreover, ‘Elk Grove Girls’ School’ has a horror theme, and it’s restricted to people above the age of eighteen. The children are too young, so we can’t let them play it.”

Natalie furrowed her brows a little. “Is there no way around this?”

“There are already four people who have registered for ‘Elk Grove Girls’ School,’ so two more adults can join, and the two of you would be perfect,” the university student continued. “As for the children, you could let us take care of them. We have a board game room. There are many young parents who come here to play, so after they’ve entered the escape room, we’ll take care of the children and play board games with them.”

Natalie then crouched down and asked the children about it.

“What do you think?”

The five children exchanged glances with each other. Although they were there to third-wheel Natalie and Jerome, they did not intend to stop their mother from enjoying herself.

Since the shop assistant had said that there were another four people in the escape room, that meant Natalie and Jerome would not be spending time alone with each other.

Thus, there was no need for them to follow Natalie everywhere anymore.

Franklin took in a deep breath and said, “Mommy, since you’re already here, you might as well go in with Mr. Sutton. The few of us will go and play board games.”

Xavian chimed in, “Mommy, you don’t need to worry about us. You can go ahead and enjoy the escape room. We’ll enjoy our game too.”

The other three nodded in agreement.

At that, Natalie smiled. “That’ll be it, then. Stay here and play board games with this young lady. Mommy and Mr. Sutton will be going in for the game.”

“Okay!” the children chorused sweetly.

The five children were then brought into the board game room while Natalie and Jerome were each given a set of school uniforms by the staff.

Only the black eye masks they received were identical. Natalie’s school uniform was a white shirt paired with a blue pleated skirt and a matching blue tie. On the other hand, Jerome had black school pants, a white shirt, and a blue tie.

“What is this?” Jerome turned to the side and asked the staff member.

“This is what the players wear before entering the escape room,” the young woman explained patiently. “‘Elk Grove Girls’ School’ is a school-themed room, so putting on the school uniforms helps with the immersion. Also, this eye mask is to be put on before entering. This escape room is the scariest one we have so far, and we have staff members as characters inside. If you encounter unfamiliar people inside, you’ll need to complete the sub-quest given by them. If you complete it, you’ll get a surprise!”

It was Natalie and Jerome’s first time playing in an escape room, so they heeded her words solemnly.

After hearing the details of the story setting, Natalie and Jerome went into the dressing room to change.

Right then, Samuel walked in with a darkened expression.

“Mister, sorry, but all of the escape rooms are booked for the day. If you’d like to—”

Samuel did not know when Natalie was coming back out of the dressing room, so he coldly said, “A hundred thousand. Is that enough for me to cut the queue?”

A Cue for Love chapter 981

Chapter 981 Adrenaline Rush

Once Natalie and Jerome were done changing, they came out of the dressing room.

When they saw each other in school uniforms, they could not help but recall the time when they were studying in the countryside. However, the village was not that wealthy back then, and the school uniforms they had were not as nice as the ones they were wearing now.

"I never thought I'd be able to see you in a school uniform again," Jerome teased.

"Same," Natalie said before chuckling.

"If you're scared inside, you can put your hand on my shoulder. I'll protect you," Jerome told her as he patted his shoulder.

Natalie retorted, "Don't be so quick to say that. Who knows who'll be protecting who by then?"

The two continued to tease each other for a while. Once the other players were done changing, they all put on the eye masks.

Soon, the door to the escape room opened.

After the staff members whirled them around three times, they were guided into the escape room.

Once the door closed, the people finally took off their masks, only to find that the inside of the room was pitch black.

Perhaps it was because the escape room was cold to begin with, or because of the air conditioning inside, the temperature in the room was much lower compared to outside.

"How are we supposed to play this? It's pitch black in here!" cried out one of the young women. "Ugh, why didn't they give us a torchlight when it's completely dark in here? How are we supposed to solve the puzzles if we can't even see anything?"

"That's right!" said one of the young men. "Are we going to do this without looking at anything?"

Unlike them, Natalie and Jerome were still feeling fine. After all, they were only up against the darkness and the cold—nothing scary had popped up yet.

Just as the people were running around in the room anxiously looking for the exit, someone touched something, and one of the mirrors in the room abruptly lit up.

In the mirror was a girl in the same school uniform as them. Her hair was messily cascading down her shoulders, and she was bleeding from almost all of her orifices.

The sudden turn of events made the other players scream.

"Ah! Mommy, save me!"

"Oh sh*t!"

Everyone was rather startled by the scene before them.

On the other hand, Natalie was more wistful than shocked. She thought that the escape room was just a themed room, but to her surprise, the technology they had installed in the room seemed rather high-end. The sounds and the visual effects were excellent, and so was the bloody effect.

As the image appeared, the sounds of a girl crying came out from the mirror. It was simultaneously eerie and sorrowful.

"I have a grudge... Please help me... Help me find the truth..."

The other young women were already crying from fear.

However, when Jerome sneaked a glance at Natalie, he realized that she was staring at the uniformed girl, seemingly fearless.

Amusement entered his mind, but at the same time, he was a little disappointed. After all, he wished he could protect her.

All of a sudden, the entire room started shaking while sticky and wet stuff dropped from the ceiling.

At the same time, the crying from the mirror sounded again, along with the screaming of the other people.

Natalie took one up from her shoulder and rubbed it between her fingers before smelling it. As it turned out, it was just silicone gloves stained with red dye.

Nevertheless, having random things suddenly rain down on the players would still give them a good fright.

Initially, Natalie did not have much anticipation for the escape room. Yet, the start of the game already piqued her interest as the thrill of the adrenaline rush was quite addicting.

Even though they were just gloves with red dye, the people were in an enclosed and dark environment. Naturally, they panicked.

Just then, after the shaking of the room, doors to two tunnels opened simultaneously.

A strange noise sounded out from a corner, and everyone began fleeing toward the two tunnels.

Natalie subconsciously went with the majority. In the chaos, a hand grabbed hers.

She thought it was Jerome's, so she did not dwell much on that as she followed the person into the left tunnel.

At the same time, Jerome held the hand of a young woman whom he thought was Natalie and pulled her toward the path on the right.

A Cue for Love chapter 982

Chapter 982 Courage Test

Not long after they ran into the escape room on the right, the room lit up.

It was decorated to resemble a classroom. On the walls near the ceiling was a neat row of pictures of female students, who were all smiling.

However, the photos were all in white and black, and it was as if they were the memorial photos of the students.

The inside of the room was still creepy, but the white artificial light helped to alleviate the players' fear and allowed them to breathe a sigh of relief.

"Thank you," said the young woman whose hand Jerome was holding.

Jerome instantly realized that it was not Natalie's voice, and a shocked look flashed past his eyes.

On the other hand, a shy blush crept onto the young woman's face, and she held Jerome's hand in return. "I was so scared earlier. I'm glad that you were holding my hand just now—"

Jerome swiftly let go of her hand and icily interrupted her, "Sorry. I thought you were someone else."

With that said, he spun around to look for Natalie, but his efforts were to no avail.

Jerome frowned.

It must have been too dark earlier, so the two of us went into separate rooms.

Jerome wanted to head back the way he came from, but he found out that the door had closed behind them when they entered.

Frustration rose in his chest, and he clenched his fist and punched the wall.

In truth, he was not interested in escape rooms at all.

All he wanted was more time with Natalie.

The only thing he could do at that moment was to find the clues and quickly reunite with Natalie.

In the meantime, the left room was still shrouded in darkness. Moreover, sounds of crows cawing and wind blowing came from one of the speakers in the room.

Even though Natalie could not see her surroundings that well, she could sense that there were four to five people who had entered the room.

"Why is it so dark? How are we going to play this when it's so dark?"

"This is terrifying! I don't want to play this anymore! Can I go out now?"

"You've already paid for this. Won't you be losing out if you leave now? Don't be scared! Everything's fake!"

Frankly, Natalie was not afraid of the special effects at all. She knew well that, no matter how real they seemed, they were still fake.

As a matter of fact, the dim lighting and the uncanny atmosphere sharpened her senses.

Natalie could sense that the hand holding hers seemed familiar, but she also knew that the hand did not belong to Jerome.

Thoughts that she usually did not have flashed past her mind at that moment.

She was going to find out whether or not her guess was right.

"Jerome, I'm so scared..."

Despite the sly glint in her eyes, Natalie's voice was as shaky as that of someone who had been frightened out of her wits.

"Could you hug me?"

A storm began brewing in the eyes of the man holding her while conflicting feelings began seeping into the man's chest.

He only risked getting exposed because he did not wish for Natalie to have any physical contact with Jerome.

Samuel was praying that she would not recognize him, but when he heard her calling Jerome's name and seeking his consolation, he could feel the jealousy in him threatening to escape from his chest.

Everything was going according to plan, but he could not even feel a tinge of happiness.

As Natalie remained standing in her spot, she could feel the man tightening his grasp on her hand. He was using much force, almost as if he would only stop after crushing her hand.

Instead of crying out in pain, Natalie sighed inwardly.

So you still don't want to admit to it? You still want to keep this going?

"Jerome... do you not want to?" Natalie lowered her eyes, sounding upset.

When Natalie noticed that the man was still forcibly holding himself back, she curled her lips.

Still keeping up with the act?

In the next second, Natalie hugged the man beside her and pressed her face against his muscular chest. At the same time, she wrapped her soft arms around his waist.

The moment she hugged the man, she could feel his entire body stiffen.

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Chapter 983 Deliberate

The moment Samuel sensed her soft body in his arms, he could feel all the blood in his body boiling.

The darkness of the room only made his other senses even keener.

Although he could not see the look Natalie had at that moment, his brain was already providing him with all kinds of fantasies, just with the feeling of the woman in his arms. In fact, his blood was already singing for more.

Samuel dared not move.

If he did, he was sure that he would be the one suffering, not Natalie.

The people around them were either screaming or searching for clues on the ground; no one noticed the two in the corner.

Natalie felt as if she was hugging a statue that was heating up, for the man in her arms was hot and stiff. If she could not hear his racing heartbeat, she would have doubted her guess.

He's still trying to fool me at this point? How much of an idiot am I to him? How easily does he think it is to trick me? Why must I be the one to suffer while he hides in the shadows like this?

Not wanting to admit defeat just like that, Natalie continued to whisper to him, "What's going on, Jerome? I asked you to hug me, so why aren't you hugging me?"

The moment Samuel heard her whines, the jealousy in him destroyed his cage of rationality. He raised his arms and hugged her tightly.

How can a game like this frighten her? Is she.. responding to Jerome's courtship?

Samuel thought that everything was within his control, for he had assumed he knew Natalie well enough. Yet, he was losing all of his calmness in the dark escape room.

His eyes narrowed as the flames of jealousy burned in them. However, he was holding Natalie tighter and tighter as if he was trying to knead her into his body to become one with her.

Glee emerged in Natalie's eyes.

The man was keeping silent in the dark to conceal his identity.

However, Jerome would never be that domineering toward her. There was no one else in the world who would bully her and lord over her like Samuel would.

However, Natalie still felt that Samuel was not passionate enough.

Since he's trying to approach me by pretending to be Jerome but doesn't want to reveal himself to me, I'll let him pay the price for that.

"Jerome, you're holding me too tightly! I can't breathe! Jerome, you're always training in the army, and you really have a good figure. Jerome, even if I have to stay here, there's nothing for me to fear with you around. Jerome! Jerome!"

Her tender cries for Jerome were burning their way into Samuel's heart. It felt as if Samuel was being roasted over the fire, and his defenses were melting away, leaving bitterness behind.

Although he was the one who wanted to set Natalie up, he could not calm himself down at how fast she was falling for another man.

"Jerome, why aren't you speaking?" Natalie asked as she lifted her head, deliberately making things worse for the man.

Perhaps it was because she could not see his face clearly in the dark, but it seemed like Samuel did not have any reaction other than a quickened heartbeat.

"Jerome, you..."

Right as Natalie was about to say something else and parted her red lips, the man kissed her.

It was no easy feat to plant a kiss accurately onto a pair of lips in the dark, but it was not challenging for Samuel at all.

He was far too familiar with her body. As such, he did not even need to guess where her lips were based on their height difference or her scent—it was simply instincts.

Samuel's kiss was a punishing one without a trace of tenderness.

He did not know if he hated the way she had fallen for someone else or that he could not be himself. At that moment, he was like a ferocious wolf devouring a rabbit as he ravished her lips.

Chapter 984 The Moment In The Escape Room

It was a rough kiss laced with desire.

Perhaps it was better to describe the kiss as more of a bite.

Natalie widened her eyes and moaned, "It hurts!" At the same time, she drew her brows together.

Fortunately, the room had the occasional shrieks of the crows and other strange sound effects, so no one else noticed the moan.

Although others did not hear it, there was no way Samuel did not. Nevertheless, he did not plan to let Natalie go.

He could not vent his jealousy anywhere else, and the maniacal possessiveness he had over Natalie was flaring again. In fact, an extreme thought formed in his head.

It hurts? I can make you hurt even more!

The man's rough invasion was out of Natalie's expectations. Instinctively, she pushed him away, but only after a second of struggling, his hand grabbed hers and pinned them above her head.

"Why are you—"

The last bit of hope in him—that Natalie would not recognize him—made him stay silent. Still, he kissed her even more vigorously. The heated moment between them was as if the two of them were the only ones in the room.

The other players in the room were panicking as they rushed to solve the puzzles.

They had no idea that in the very same room they were in, a man was cornering a woman and kissing her fervently.

As the room was too dark, and the others were not very smart, they remained in the room for over thirty minutes without triggering the next mechanism. On the other hand, the room on the right was speeding through the puzzles. To reunite with Natalie again, Jerome had focused all of his attention on finding the clues. Thus, he was extremely swift in solving the puzzles, and his speed dumbfounded the other players.

At Jerome's rapid actions, the hair-raising classroom no longer seemed scary.

Once Jerome solved the puzzle regarding the character's suicide and the key clue, a rumbling sound reverberated in the room again. Then, the tunnel that connected the two rooms slowly opened.

Stunned by the abrupt sounds of people screaming and the door opening, Natalie subconsciously flinched.

Samuel panted quietly and narrowed his eyes.

Before entering the room, Samuel had already figured out all of the mechanisms and secret spots in the room. Thus, he knew that the players in the other room had to have solved everything to have opened the door.

In other words, it was time for him to stop kissing her.

However, he could not slow his heartbeat down as quickly as he stopped his actions.

"You kissed me..." Natalie reminded in a quiet voice by the man's ear as she tiptoed.

Indeed, it was a fact that Samuel had kissed her, but he was unsure whether he should admit to it or not.

If he were to come clean to Natalie, he would no longer be able to hide the fact that he had an untreatable poison in him.

Samuel was fine with sharing his joys with her but not his misery, for he loved her to the moon and back. As such, he would rather beat around the bush and keep their relationship an intimate but ambiguous one. He would keep it that way until the day he was too weak to approach her anymore. He would then submit to fate and depart from the world she was in.

While Samuel was steeling himself for his inevitable end, Natalie was smiling, for she knew it had been him along.

Just as Natalie was waiting for the lights to come back to the room and to catch Samuel red-handed, the man suddenly took a few steps back.

Natalie's heart lurched as a foreboding sense washed over her.

Is he faking his ignorance, or is he really unaware? He can't be thinking that I took him for Jerome and let him kiss me for almost half an hour, right?

However, the man did not answer her, and Natalie could not figure out the answer herself either.

Samuel strode away from her. Before the secret door that linked the two rooms opened completely, he went into the tunnel where the actors were hiding and left the room.

Natalie reached her hands out into the darkness to hold the man again.

She tried multiple times to grab him, yet she could reach nothing but air.