

A Cue for Love Chapter 1048-1052

A Cue for Love Chapter 1048 Swap Places

Natalie knew that her plan was a little foolish, but it was an urgent situation, and there was nothing else she could think of. Hence, she had no choice but to steel herself and try it out.

Barnaby Lenock was holding a pregnant woman hostage when a young woman abruptly barged into his line of sight and requested to swap places with the pregnant woman.

“Strange words from you!” Barnaby tightened his grip on his knife. “What makes you think you can swap places with her?”

“Don’t you only want a hostage as a bargaining chip?” Natalie asked Barnaby. “A pregnant woman can’t move around easily. Also, look at her. She’s going to pass out before you can even kill her. Since all you want is a hostage, won’t I do as well?”

Every word Natalie uttered challenged Barnaby’s determination.

He had only wanted to hold a random woman hostage. Yet little did he expect to end up grabbing a pregnant woman instead.

Barnaby scanned Natalie from head to toe and asked dubiously, “You’re not a spy from the special forces, are you?”

“Which part of me looks like that?” Natalie chuckled. “Can you not make things more complicated than they actually are? I don’t have any weapons on me. I just don’t want to see two lives ending, so I’m volunteering to take her place.”

Just as Barnaby was hesitating, the sounds of steady footsteps came closer to them.

Barnaby’s ears perked up, and immediately he became alert.

Natalie knew that the people who had come to arrest him had arrived, so it was the best time for her to pressure him into letting her swap places with the pregnant woman.

It was an opportunity she could not let slip away.

“Time’s ticking. Why don’t you consider my suggestion?” Natalie asked, a sly smile growing on her lips.

When Barnaby saw her smiling despite the situation, he snapped his brows together.

Everyone around him had been frightened out of their wits the moment the shooting began, afraid that the chaos would affect them. Yet, the young woman in front of him had been calm the entire time. It was as if everything was within her control.

She had spoken with such confidence that made her seem as though she was in full control of the situation.

Seeing that the man was still hesitating, she pointed behind him and cried out, “Watch out! There’s someone behind you!”

Barnaby turned around. Spotting the look Natalie gave her, the pregnant woman took the chance to bite down hard on the man's arm.

Barnaby did not see that coming. As he loosened his grip on the pregnant woman, the thought of murdering her formed in his head.

How dare you try to escape?

Just as Barnaby was about to slash his knife at the pregnant woman, Natalie walked over to him and offered him her neck.

Barnaby was shocked again. "You—"

"I told you I was going to be your hostage," Natalie uttered coldly. "Let the pregnant woman go."

Barnaby used to be a mercenary.

He had encountered many talented individuals on battlefields and the black market but had never thought that he would be stunned by the young woman's demeanor. Nevertheless, he wanted to leave the place safely, so he had to have a hostage. Without hesitation, he pressed the knife against Natalie's neck.

Meanwhile, the pregnant woman ran a little before soldiers caught and supported her.

The pregnant woman even cast a tearful look at Natalie after getting rescued.

Natalie gave the pregnant woman a reassuring smile.

As a mother, she could understand what the pregnant woman felt. Agreeing to the swap was not a selfish decision for the pregnant woman—she had to protect the baby in her.

The pregnant woman was soon led away by soldiers.

Barnaby, on the other hand, was retreating with Natalie as his hostage.

Natalie was very cooperative. She wanted to make sure that she got out of the situation alive.

She had already carried out the promise she made to the boy, so the imminent fight between the robber and the law enforcement officers was no longer any of her business. All she could do was ensure her own safety.

However, Natalie could not help but freeze when she saw the person leading the operation.

Jerome?

Similarly, when Jerome realized that the hostage was Natalie, he froze.

A Cue for Love Chapter 1049 Cautious

Why... Why is she here? Just as he was about to call out to her, he was stopped by the look she gave him. They could not let anyone know that they knew each other.

If the robber were to find out that Natalie knew Jerome—and knew him well, in fact—she might no longer be a simple hostage, and the lawbreaker would become increasingly wary of her.

Jerome could understand Natalie's intention. Still, he found it impossible to stay calm as she was held hostage at knifepoint.

"Your acquaintances have been caught, and you're the only one left," Jerome warned as he kept a close eye on Barnaby. "I'd advise you to surrender as quickly as you can and let the hostage go so that your sentence will be lighter."

However, Barnaby felt as if he had heard the world's greatest joke when he heard Jerome's words.

"A lighter sentence? How funny!" Barnaby pressed the knife harder against Natalie's neck. "I want to leave safely, and you have to give me enough money too. Otherwise, I'll drag this woman to hell with me."

A typical threat, but it only worked because Natalie's life was in his hands.

"I want a helicopter, and I want a hundred million in virtual currency downloaded into a wristwatch!" Barnaby glanced at the young woman in his arms. "I don't have much patience. You'll have to prepare everything I've requested in half an hour's time. I'll be waiting on the rooftop for the helicopter."

A hundred million? This guy is greedy! Our higher-ups didn't say that blood cannot be spilled. Moreover, this mission isn't particularly hard. We just need to use tear gas to blind our opponent and take him down. If the hostage is hurt, so be it. Same idea for if she ends up dead. All we need to do is to give the correct compensation later on.

Just as Jerome's adjutant was about to make a move, Jerome stopped him.

"Major General Sutton, what are you..."

“I won’t let anything happen to her,” Jerome uttered in a low, determined voice. “You heard what he said. We have to prepare everything he wants in half an hour. My command is the law. If you’re worried that the money will be flushed down the drain, the Sutton family will bear the responsibility for it, then.”

The adjutant was about to say something else, but he could not utter a word after seeing Jerome’s determined gaze.

“Yes, Sir. I’ll see to it right now.”

Barnaby and Natalie were standing a distance away from the soldiers, so Barnaby did not catch any of Jerome’s conversation with his adjutant; he just assumed that Jerome wished to save the hostage’s life.

However, complicated feelings were plaguing Natalie’s mind.

She was certain that Jerome and his adjutant just had a disagreement about the course of action.

Jerome only agreed to Barnaby’s ridiculous demands because he wanted to protect her.

Natalie did not know what words she could use to describe her current situation.

Jerome, who wanted to save her, was being too cautious.

Right then, Barnaby began towing Natalie up the stairs. “Move!”

Natalie had no choice but to pretend to go along with his words as she waited for the right opportunity to escape from him.

Jerome was afraid that Barnaby would hurt Natalie, so he did not follow Barnaby too closely.

Not long after, they reached the rooftop.

Barnaby was focused on waiting for the helicopter and the money, and he never once loosened his grip on the knife in his hand.

Natalie asked tentatively, “What crimes have you committed? Robbery?”

“Shut up,” Barnaby snapped, breathing hard.

“Can’t I just ask a question? I’ve been held hostage by you for a while now.” Natalie had only asked that because she wanted to convince the man to surrender.

She was no saint. She knew well that while Jerome had sent his men to prepare the helicopter and the money, he had also sent his men to get the best sniper in the troop over.

The sniper would be able to make a good shot even if they were a hundred meters away.

This man thought that holding either me or that pregnant woman hostage would guarantee his safe escape. He never realized that he became a sitting duck. At most, it’ll be difficult to capture him. Still, that’s nothing a little time won’t fix—he’ll surely be caught.

As Barnaby watched the helicopter fly toward him, he became even more assured that he would be able to leave safely, and that made him lower his guard.

“Why would I take on a job as dangerous as this if not for the fact that I had no other options?” Barnaby sighed. “My wife has a brain tumor, and the success rate of the craniotomy is only three percent. I have to get the best doctor in the world to raise that success rate up to seventy percent. Isn’t the best doctor the most expensive doctor? I need a lot of money so that my wife survives this.”

A Cue for Love Chapter 1050 Help Me

Barnaby's words moved Natalie. Who wanted to be born poor and powerless, after all? If not for unfortunate circumstances, who would risk their life and fall from grace?

Yet, doing this was not the best and only option. There was no way Barnaby would get out of the place alive, and his sick wife would never see her husband nor receive the money needed for her treatment. "Turn yourself in," Natalie told him quietly. "You can't run."

However, Barnaby did not agree with Natalie's words. Frustrated, he hissed, "I'm impressed by your kindness and calmness, but that doesn't mean that I have to listen to everything you say. Don't worry. Once I get the money and leave safely via the helicopter, I'll let you go alive."

"Things aren't as simple as you think they are." "Which part of me seems simple to you?"

"Time is running out, so I can't explain everything to you," Natalie said grimly. "Surrender. That's the only way out of this for you and your wife. I'm a doctor, and I know some excellent neurosurgeons—I can save your wife."

Hearing that, the man studied Natalie and snorted. "You? You're only in your early twenties. I don't think you've even graduated from medical school. You, a doctor who knows excellent neurosurgeons? Stop trying to pull my leg. I won't believe anything you say."

Natalie did not know what she could do to make the man cease his prejudice and believe her; she could only repeat what she had said earlier.

"Time is running out. Please listen to me."

"Shut up!" Barnaby pressed the knife harder against Natalie's neck. "You're not the negotiator those people hired, right? I'll tell you now that I won't believe anything you say. I have to save my wife. Once I save her, I'll pay back for all the lives I've taken."

“I’m not.”

“The helicopter’s here!” Delight danced across Barnaby’s eyes as he watched the helicopter descend on the rooftop. “Save your breath. I’ve told you that you’ll be fine as long as you go along with my plan.”

Natalie began surveying the tall buildings around them. Perhaps a sniper rifle was trained on Barnaby’s head in a spot she could not see.

“I really can help you out,” Natalie insisted with a frown, not wanting to give up just like that.

“If you really can...” Barnaby started. “If I die here, look for my wife. Please treat her. As long as she stays alive, it doesn’t matter if I live or die.”

Just then, the helicopter landed. Jerome walked toward Barnaby with a watch his adjutant passed to him. “Let her go. I’ll give you the watch.”

Jerome had already formed a flawless rescue plan, but he did not wish to risk the life of the woman he was in love with. Barnaby said warily, “Throw it over to me. I’ll let her go once I get it and board the helicopter.”

Almost without hesitation, Jerome threw the watch with a hundred million in virtual currency at Barnaby’s feet.

The moment Barnaby leaned over to pick up the watch, he would be shot.

Natalie closed her eyes.

Indeed, the sound of the bullet burying itself into a man's head rang in her ears when she closed her eyes.

The knife was instantly gone from her neck, and Natalie finally had the chance to take a deep breath. When she turned, she saw Barnaby, whose forehead was coated with blood and gray matter.

Evidently, Barnaby did not expect a sniper to be around.

Yet, it came as no surprise to Natalie that the army had assigned the sniper to the scene.

Barnaby kneeled on the ground and said with difficulty, "Are you really... a doctor?"

"Yes." Natalie regarded him with mixed emotions. "I'm genuinely a doctor, and I'm certain I'll be able to increase the success rate for your wife's surgery."

"Help... me..."

The man's sunglasses then slipped down his nose bridge, revealing his eyeless left socket.

The grim reaper was coming for him.

"Help... Help me... Help me..." Barnaby kept repeating under his breath.

A Cue for Love Chapter 1051 Not As Fragile As You Think

Barnaby continued murmuring those words until he finally closed his eyes and died. Jerome then walked over to Natalie and pulled her into his arms.

His adjutant and subordinates were still around, but he was hugging her as if they were the only two people around. "Natalie, are you okay?"

Natalie was still in a daze, but she noticed that Jerome was hugging her a little too tightly. "I'm fine, Jerome." Natalie pushed his chest and tried to move away from his hug. "I'm not as fragile as you think I am."

"Did you not know how dangerous that was earlier?" Jerome asked sternly. "My subordinates told me you offered to take the original hostage's place!"

Jerome rarely spoke with Natalie in such a vicious tone. In a way, that was his first time.

However, Natalie did not get angry with him for that. Instead, she answered calmly, "His original hostage was a pregnant woman who has shown initial signs of miscarriage. If she had remained as his hostage, she and her baby might have died. Moreover, I knew that you'd assign a sniper to the matter. As long as I go along with the guy's plan, I'll eventually be rescued."

Jerome stared at Natalie.

There was no trace of anxiety on her face at all.

Natalie then turned to the body on the ground and said wistfully, "Jerome, he's dead now. Can you give me his ashes? I want to pass them to his wife."

Jerome frowned. "Do you find me cruel for killing him?"

"No." Natalie shook her head. "You've only carried out your duty, and I'm only feeling a little remorseful. I thought I'd be able to change his mind, but it seemed that he was a stubborn man. I've done what was necessary, and so did you."

Jerome understood what Natalie meant, and he soon brought Natalie away from the scene.

Jerome's adjutant had wanted to offer to escort her away, but a look from Jerome stopped him.

After one week, Natalie and Jerome were together in a car again.

Natalie sat in the front passenger seat and watched as everything outside the car rushed past her.

Jerome glanced at her side profile and said self-deprecatingly, "I thought I was the one who knew you best in the world, but now I realize that I only know you well as a child. I'm suddenly regretting listening to my father and going to the army to train. If I had stayed by your side instead of going back to Loang, maybe you wouldn't have needed to suffer that much, and we would have—"

Jerome was about to continue, but Natalie cut him off, "Jerome, I've told you before that we're only like siblings. We used to spend every waking moment together, but I've never developed any romantic feelings for you."

They used to be glued to each other's sides, but that never made Natalie grow any romantic feelings for him. It would only be the same now.

Jerome could only chuckle bitterly at Natalie's words.

"My apologies. I was rude," Jerome said a beat later. "You clarified things with me the other time, but I didn't want to accept reality."

While the two talked, they arrived at Natalie's place.

Just as Jerome was about to say something else, Natalie apathetically bid him farewell and left.

There was nothing he wanted that she could give him, so she would rather not give him anything at all.

Before he gave up on her, she was not going to give him any ambiguous signs that might lead to a misunderstanding.

When Natalie reached the entrance of her house, Emma opened the door.

Upon seeing the blood splatter on Natalie's clothes, Emma asked nervously, "Ms. Nichols, are you all right?"

"It's not my blood. Don't worry." Natalie made a hushing gesture. "Softer, please. I'll get changed first. Otherwise, the kids will be even more worried if they see me like this."

Emma understood Natalie's concern, so she quickly nodded. "I understand, Ms. Nichols."

A Cue for Love Chapter 1052 The Same Moon

After showering, Natalie changed into clean nightwear and lay down on the bed. She then took an extra pillow and hugged it tightly before breathing in the scent of the pillow.

It had been almost a week since Samuel left. She missed him. She yearned for him even more after the startling episode on the rooftop earlier.

The man had risked his life to get the best treatment for his wife. In fact, he had been repeating his wish to save her even when he was on his deathbed.

Perhaps she would take the same path Barnaby had taken if that happened to her and Samuel. Mount Draghide was a remote place with barely any communication devices.

Natalie turned in the bed to look out the window at the bright moon. I wonder how Samuel's doing now. Meanwhile, on top of Mount Draghide, Malcolm sighed as he watched Samuel, who was biting on a wooden stick.

Although Jorden said he was rather confident in getting rid of the poison in Samuel, Malcolm could not help but feel that the process of ridding the poison was simply excruciating.

Per Jorden's words, the process would be akin to a rebirth—it was a trip to the grim reaper's house. Moreover, it had been six hours. In other words, Malcolm's dear disciple had been on the verge of death for six hours.

Malcolm could only watch Samuel helplessly as his heart ached, for any medicine he could give to alleviate the pain might interfere with the antidote Jorden had developed.

He left silently.

Samuel continued to stay in the dark room, but his eyes were fixed on the bright moon outside the window.

He silently told the moon about his longing for Natalie.

He had promised her to return safely no matter what.

Even if he had to go through the pain akin to getting skinned alive or melted alive, he was still going to endure it and get all the poison out of his system.

"Nat..." Samuel called out hoarsely.

Although the two were separate, their minds were preoccupied with thoughts of each other that night. Both passed through the long night with their yearnings for one another.

The next day, the news of the robbery spread like wildfire.

When Bastien saw the article, he furrowed his brows and asked Joseph, "What happened afterward?"

Joseph reported, "There were a total of five robbers. Three were shot dead at the scene, and two were brought back for interrogation to find out if there was someone else behind it. It's mostly to find out if King is involved."

"Was there a hostage?"

"Yes. Apparently, the first hostage was a pregnant woman, but a young woman negotiated with the robber and swapped places with the pregnant woman. She was then brought to the rooftop. But everything was smooth later on. Major General Sutton led a team of special forces from his troops and successfully rescued the hostage."

Bastien nodded and commented, "As expected of a descendant of General Sutton. The major-general is like his father. Still, this young woman who volunteered to swap places with the initial hostage is smart and brave. She deserves an award."

"Indeed," Joseph agreed with a nod.

"Joseph, make a call and ask about the young woman. I'd like to commend her with an award."

"Okay."

Joseph then made a call right there and then and asked some questions to the person on the other end of the line.

After ending the call, Joseph shook his head regretfully. "Prince Jonathan, that young woman did not leave her name behind, but someone took a photo of her back then."

"A photo?" Bastien's eyes lit up. "Get the photo from them. I'd like to see what the brave woman looks like."

"Understood."

Shortly after, Joseph retrieved the photo from the soldiers.

Joseph did not look closely at the photo before handing it to Bastien. "Prince Jonathan, this is the young woman's picture."

The robber's expression was a bloodthirsty one as he held the young woman hostage. Unlike him, she had a calm look despite her status as the hostage. Her hair was a little messy, but anyone who saw her would still say she was a beautiful woman.

The moment Bastien saw the photo, his heart skipped a beat.

"It's her?" he exclaimed.