

A Cue for Love Chapter 1095

Chapter 1095 Inexplicable

Meanwhile, Varre had locked himself inside the meditation room of the monastery to carve the jade key.

Nereus arranged for Natalie and Anna to occupy a long-uninhabited room inside the monastery.

Nereus was a shy teenager, around seventeen or eighteen years old. He even flushed self-consciously when Natalie and Anna sized him up. However, his eyes drifted toward Anna from time to time.

Natalie perceptively sensed he had something to say to Anna, and she also had a good guess about the message he wanted to convey.

Although Natalie couldn't tell Anna about the jade key's secret, she reckoned the latter should still be informed of Varre's illness.

Hence, Natalie excused herself, leaving Anna and Nereus alone inside the courtyard.

Nereus hesitated for a long while before ultimately bracing himself and speaking, seemingly having figured out what to say. "I shall not address you as a fellow worshipper since you're not an ordinary follower of our religion who comes here to pay your respect. May I call you Anna as the other lady does?"

Anna nodded.

"Anna, Master's disease..."

"Nereus, I don't want to hear this." Anna knitted her brows and retorted coldly, "I don't care about him."

However, Nereus turned a deaf ear to her refusal and stubbornly continued, "Anna, Master mentioned he did something unforgivable to you and your mother, so he deserved your hatred. Still, he doesn't have much time left and may pass away anytime."

A monk should make peace with the natural progression of life.

Varre had accepted his fate, but Nereus was still young.

He had yet to attain enlightenment and see through all earthly matters.

Varre had repeatedly reminded Nereus not to reveal his sickness, but Nereus couldn't stop himself from telling Anna the truth.

"When Master discovered he had contracted liver cancer, the disease had progressed to late-stage. The doctor said treating his condition would require a lot of money, and the treatment wouldn't cure him. Although the liver cancer brought him a lot of pain, Master had never complained. He did shout your nickname during the few episodes when he passed out after vomiting blood."

He paused briefly before adding, "Annie... That's right. He called out your name. Sensing his agony, I wanted to find you so you could meet him one last time. I know he wants to see you too, but he stopped me from trying to locate you. Can you please tell a white lie and say that you've already forgiven him?"

Waves of emotions churned within Anna as she listened to Nereus' account.

She loathed Varre, and her detestation toward him did not decrease even with time.

Having said that, when she heard about Varre's imminent death, Anna realized she didn't feel the pleasure of getting her revenge. Instead, hints of sorrow and discomfort rose within her chest.

"Anna, can you please fulfill Master's final wish?" Nereus asked while boring his reddened eyes into her.

"No."

Despite the chaos in her heart, her eyes glinted with unusual coldness.

"Nereus, you don't know what I've been through, so you're still able to utter these words to persuade me. I'm only here because I need him to help my friend."

Nereus parted his lips but hesitated to speak. He caught himself as he met Anna's icy gaze.

"I'm tired."

She spun on her heels and returned to her room.

However, right after she turned around with her back facing Nereus, her indifferent facial expression and harsh look in her eyes melted away.

End-stage liver cancer? So what if he dies? What does that have to do with me?

She could only grit her teeth as pandemonium reigned in her chest.

Late at night, Anna draped outerwear around her shoulders and got up while Natalie was sound asleep.

In fact, Natalie was still awake, but when she sensed Anna's movement, she pretended to be in a deep sleep.

When Anna saw Natalie's eyes were shut, she put on her shoes and left the room.

The monastery wasn't expansive, so Anna arrived at Varre's meditation room in no time.

She could see him working on the carving with complete focus under the orange-yellow lights through the wooden window.

He was indeed living up to his promise to her of trying his best to replicate the jade key.

Anna convinced herself that she went there in the middle of the night to check on Varre's progress, but after making sure he was working on the piece of jade, she showed no inclination to leave.

Anna didn't know how to describe her current feelings or what her purpose was, standing there like a fool.

Suddenly, a series of violent coughs sounded from inside the meditation room.

Khaff! Khaff! Khaff!

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Chapter 1096 Relapse

Anna slowed down and walked to the bedside. Then, she saw him coughing up fresh blood. The glaring red blood stained his monk robes.

It was apparent he was in a terrible condition. His brows were tightly furrowed because of the pain in his body. Nevertheless, he grasped the file in his hands while continuously smoothing and shaping the jade.

He was concentrated on carving the piece of jade and paid no attention to the blood he coughed up.

Only until a few drops of blood dripped onto the phoenix engraving on the jade key's bow did he think of wiping off the blood with a piece of brownish-yellow handkerchief.

Anna did not make a sound and merely took in the scene in silence as heart-wrenching pain filled her heart.

He deserves this after all the sins he committed. So what if he's coughing up blood? His agony is nothing compared to my mother's torment during her death.

Intense hatred washed over her, but Anna wasn't delighted. On the contrary, she could only feel a suffocating sensation as if she was losing something significant to her.

She bit her lip forcefully until it bled. Nonetheless, she didn't utter a word before she left.

Father?

The term merely sounded distant to her and, at the same time, reminded her of too much anguish.

After returning to her room, Anna became caught up in the throes of a nightmare.

"No. Don't treat my mom like that! Don't die, Mom. Don't die, please? Mom, it hurts so bad..."

She thrashed and clawed at her blanket while muttering in her sleep. Her eyes were tightly shut, and beads of sweat covered her face and body and almost drenched her hair.

Awakened by Anna's hysterical wails, Natalie hurriedly ran to the latter's side.

"Anna, Anna. Wake up..."

Natalie grasped Anna's hand and attempted to rouse her up. Unfortunately, Anna seemed deeply immersed in the nightmare and couldn't come around from the bad dream.

"Mom. Mom, don't leave me."

Natalie sensed something was off about Anna. She hastily applied pressure on the latter's wrist to check her pulse.

Sh*t! I think this trip has provoked Anna to be reminded of her tormenting experience. The trauma stimulated her to recollect the incident she resisted the most in her mind. Her body should be fine, but the mental impact is causing her body to react in a similarly aggressive manner. If this drags on, Anna may bite off her tongue and end her life because she can't endure this devastating suffering.

Natalie swiftly opened her needle pouch, took out the crystal needle, and immediately pricked an acupoint on Anna's head.

Anna turned a little calmer after she was jabbed.

At that sight, Natalie quickly manipulated the needle, inserting the crystal needle into the nerves connecting to Anna's brain, and tried to ease the latter's pain via medical treatment.

Natalie was drained after getting all of that done.

Still, she didn't dare to let her guard down and remained by Anna's side.

This is the most I can do to help her alleviate her physical pain. She'll have to overcome her mental torment on her own.

"Anna, it's fine now. All those things happened in the past." Eyes gleaming with an agonized look, Natalie clasped Anna's petite hand. "Anna, you have Kyle and me now. You're not alone. Even if you're suffering, someone will always keep you company. I promise you! I'll help you locate the person who caused your mother's death and seek revenge for all the torture you've been through."

Anna stopped struggling as much. Natalie didn't know how much Anna had heard about the things she said.

And just like that, Natalie kept watch on Anna for the whole night.

Only at the break of dawn was Natalie finally overwhelmed by drowsiness. Sitting beside Anna in exhaustion, she yawned, and her eyelids drooped.

When Anna woke up, she saw Natalie nod off beside her and noticed the dark circles under the latter's eyes.

Instantaneously, she fathomed she must've had an episode of relapse. Natalie pulled an all-nighter and stayed by my side the whole time.

Not only that, but Anna also perceived the red scratch marks on Natalie's arms. I suppose that's my doing too.

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Chapter 1097 The Truth Behind The Secret 1

Last night was a blur to Anna, but she had a vague recollection of what had happened.

She remembered it could have been Natalie gripping her hand the entire time, radiating comfort in a haze of pain.

Thank you, Anna said silently to Natalie as she draped a jacket over her sleeping body. She let Natalie sleep in a little longer, knowing she must have stayed up all night.

It was almost lunchtime in the monastery when Natalie woke up.

Nereus brought vegetarian meals for her and Anna, and a while after they were finished, he led them to the meditation room where Varre was.

Anna entered the room and glanced at the small table, realizing the pool of blood that Varre vomited had been cleaned of its traces.

Her eyes strayed to Varre, who appeared more gaunt and pale to the naked eye than the day before. His dull gaze was instantly drawn to her as they stepped into the room.

The look was brimming with layers of emotions, so much so that they were about to spill over, but he forcefully caught himself in time.

Natalie knew about the secret, and needless to say, she understood the significance of the glance.

Anna did, too, but she feigned ignorance and deliberately trained her gaze elsewhere.

“I finished carving the jade key you wanted.” Varre presented his creation with quivering hands. “I am afraid my replication is only 99% accurate. Alas, I can’t make something totally identical to the original. I can only hope that this jade key will be of help to you both.”

Natalie took a step forward and accepted the jade key with both hands, taking in the lifelike phoenix carving on the ridges and the head.

She could not have been able to tell the difference between the original and copy if she did not study the genuine jade key in detail beforehand.

Varre had not lifted a burin in twenty years, yet he still possessed such artistic talent and skill as was expected from the craftsman once held in high regard by the royal family in Loang.

“Thank you,” Natalie said solemnly to him.

“It’s destiny.” He clasped his hands together and gave a slight bow. “Please take your leave now that this situation has been addressed.”

“Let’s go, Natalie.” Anna scowled and tugged on Natalie’s hand to leave the meditation room.

But Natalie dug her heels in. “He’s running out of time, Anna.”

“How long more?”

“Huh?” Natalie was startled.

Natalie was only stating her observation aloud, which was the truth as well, but she was not expecting an answer from Anna.

“How much time does he have left, Natalie?” Anna reiterated her question, her eyes widening.

“Three to five days, at most.” Natalie hesitated before adding, “These days are your last chance to see him in this life. You will not have another opportunity if you miss it.”

“Oh,” Anna replied unfeelingly, but drops of tears leaked from the corners of her eyes.

Good riddance!

Her heart wrenched at the thought of the old man focused on carving under the bright light last night while trying to keep blood from sputtering out of his mouth.

Yes, she hated him, but the compassion beneath the resentment filled her with hesitation.

Natalie turned and looked at her.

She promised Varre to keep it a secret, but some secrets were not meant to be kept hidden. How could Anna live with her decision if she left now, and the secret was out?

“I have something to tell you, Anna...”

“What is it?”

“Your mother’s death is connected to the jade key.”

Tears pooled in Anna’s eyes, and her pupils constricted, incredulity flashing in her eyes.

A Cue for Love Chapter 1098

Chapter 1098 The Truth Behind The Secret 2

Anna seized Natalie’s wrist and demanded, “What do you know about that? My mother died because he was obsessed with carving and messed with the wrong people.” My earliest memories are of him burying himself in carving, never caring about how Mom and I felt. Everyone else had a loving father, but not me. Mom was the only one by my side when I was burning up with a forty-degree fever. All that man did was turn his back on us!

“It is not like that.” Natalie shook her head, resolution hardening her eyes.

“He enjoys carving, but he loves you and your mother more. His time is almost up, yet he bore the agony in his liver and ceaselessly worked for more than ten hours to replicate the jade key at your request.”

Anna blinked back tears and looked up with a derisive smile. “He owes me that, Natalie! He only did it to assuage his guilt.”

“Anna, what if Mr. Varre’s so-called ‘obsession’ is because he was forced to do it?” Natalie finally blurted it out after giving it a thought.

“T-That’s not possible...” Anna released her arm and staggered a few steps back. “I wanted to beg him to take me to the amusement park when I was younger, so I went into his workspace and touched the jade in curiosity. He caned me until I was bruised all over. Never in my life will I forget the hatred in his eyes.”

“That jade was so important to him because it was related to you and your mother’s lives.” Natalie continued with a frown, “Someone threatened Mr. Varre with your and your mother’s lives to carve this jade key, but they had a different request. I gave Mr. Varre the real jade key to replicate, but he wanted to follow the old fragmentary records and completely duplicate the jade key. He had never seen it before, and the records only chronicled eyewitness accounts, so determining its authenticity was difficult. When Mr. Varre didn’t finish the carving in time, the person who had been threatening him for several years burned your mother alive in front of you.”

Anna did not think there was more to what had happened, and the tears she tried to hold back came spilling out.

“Is that true? If it was, why didn’t he tell me?”

“He wanted to protect you.” Natalie approached Anna and stopped in front of her, wiping her tears. “That man wanted your mother’s life, and Mr. Varre knew all of you were not his match, so he shouldered your hate and went along with it.”

Anna was sobbing uncontrollably.

He was the person she hated the most, but now she realized she had made a mistake.

Her heart ached as the image of him enduring the pain during the night as he concentrated on carving kept replaying in her head.

She snapped out of it and pleaded with Natalie, “I know your medical skills are excellent, Natalie, so would you please help him? Can you think of a way to save him?”

“It is too late.” Natalie sighed. “I could have extended his life by three to five years if it had been sooner, but his cancer had spread all over his body by the time we arrived, and he is living on borrowed time.”

I would have tried every method if I had any, despite knowing the truth and the fact that you hated him.

“How... How could this happen?”

“Anna, you have helped me enough.” Natalie pulled her into a hug. “Stay here by his side since time is running out. To Mr. Varre, nothing compares to your forgiveness and company.”

Anna bawled her heart out as she nodded fervently.

I will! Yes, I will! I will cherish every last moment I have with my father.