

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 11 - 15

"It's an invitation to Mr. Alfred Moore's banquet next Wednesday. Don't forget to attend." Joyce tossed over her shoulder as she headed for the bathroom.

Natalie skimmed through the invitation card, her brain slow to process the information due to all the wine she drank. It took her a moment to remember who Alfred was. He was her benefactor and also a dear friend.

On the day of the banquet.

The banquet was being held at the Moore family's winery.

Most of the guests in attendance were some of J City's most influential, powerful, or rich people.

After settling her kids for the night, Natalie arrived at the winery on time.

That night, she chose to wear a dress of her own design. It was an inspiration from two different cultures, leading to a dress with a high turtle-neck and a body-hugging design at the top. The bottom was of the usual mermaid fit.

The cool tone of the navy blue dress only accentuated the fairness of her skin. She had pinned her silky, raven locks up into a loose bun, revealing the smooth column of her slender neck. With a smile curving her lips, she practically oozed elegance and charm.

The banquet hall was bustling with noise when she entered it. A substantial crowd was already there as the guests milled around and chatted with each other.

The moment she made her entrance, her appearance instantly drew the attention of the hall's occupants.

"Who is she? Why haven't I seen her before?"

"This is Mr. Moore's banquet. Anyone who can attend must be someone of importance."

“Hmm, she’s quite beautiful. Actually, I would say her figure and features are even better than some of the celebrities out there!”

The smile never left Natalie’s lips even as the crowd murmured and gossiped about her. Her entire demeanor was calm as she gracefully accepted the flute of champagne a waiter handed to her. Heading to a nearby long table, she took a sip of the beverage.

Ever since she cut off all ties with the Smith family, she had rarely appeared at such formal events. Needless to say, she was a little ill at ease.

Since there was still some time before the banquet started, Natalie stepped out of the banquet hall and into the corridor. She needed to get a breath of fresh air. Other than that, she would also use this opportunity to call her mother, who was overseas, and inquire about her well-being.

“Natalie?”

She was just about to open up her purse when a voice sounded from behind her.

Her hand froze in the midst of reaching for her phone. Turning around, she looked in the direction where the voice had come from.

To her surprise, the person standing on the other end of the corridor was none other than Jasmine.

Natalie frowned at the sight of her half-sister. What a small city this is! I haven’t even been back here for two weeks, and I’ve run into her twice!

Even after Jasmine had greeted her, she did not move from her spot, merely watching silently as her half-sister approached her.

Jasmine hurried toward Natalie and stopped in front of her. For some reason, her voice was low and panicked as she hissed, “What are you doing here?”

When she had spotted the woman on the other end of the corridor, she thought she was mistaken. Now, there was no denying that it really was Natalie.

“Clearly, I’m here to attend the banquet,” Natalie replied with a smile.

"How is that possible? Where did you even get the invitation?" Jasmine cried out in disbelief.

She was right to not believe her as this was not just any normal banquet. They were here in Moore Winery, one of J City's top banquet venues.

Thus, someone as "insignificant" and "lowly" as Natalie should not be here. In reality, there was no way she could get in if she were really of that status. But on the contrary, she was not.

"You don't have to concern yourself with that." It was then Natalie noticed the expressions playing across Jasmine's face. Other than visible surprise at seeing her there, Jasmine also looked afraid.

She distinctly recalled these same emotions were there the last time they met as well.

Is she scared of seeing me? Why?

Confusion and suspicion swirled in Natalie as she wondered.

Just then, Jasmine glanced toward the banquet hall anxiously. Satisfied that no one was paying attention to them, she quickly seized Natalie's wrist. "Get out of here, now! You shouldn't be here. You don't have the right to be at a place like this!"

As she said that, she tried to drag Natalie toward the front door.

The reason why Jasmine behaved that way was that Natalie looked absolutely gorgeous tonight. From her stunning dress to her tastefully done makeup, she outshone every other woman present.

Hence, if she appeared at the banquet, Shane would definitely be attracted to her.

If that happened, all of Jasmine's efforts in the past five years would be for naught. Her lies would be revealed!

No... I can't let this happen! I won't let Shane see her!

The more Jasmine thought about it, the more terrified she felt, and the more she was determined to let Natalie leave the place.

"I won't leave." Natalie suddenly wrenched her wrist out of Jasmine's grasp. Her ruby red lips twitched into a smirk as she grabbed Jasmine's wrist instead. With a hard tug, the other woman was dragged before her.

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 12

"I wanted to ask you as well. Why are you so scared that I'm here?" Although Natalie had her voice lowered, Jasmine was still intimidated by her.

"I'm not!" She quickly denied, "Don't be silly! Why should I be afraid of you?" She asserted herself though there was a trace of diffidence hidden in her voice. She had a feeling that Natalie was not her old self five years ago anymore, but she couldn't put her finger on her change.

From Jasmine's reaction, Natalie could tell that she was lying. However, she couldn't seem to understand why.

As the event was about to start, Natalie remembered that she still had something to attend to, so she loosened her grip on Jasmine and entered the banquet hall.

On the other hand, Jasmine stomped her feet in anger as her eyes followed Natalie's figure vanishing into the crowd.

Just then, Isabelle Moore approached her from behind and greeted, "Ms. Smith, why are you still here? The event is about to start."

"I'm here for some fresh air." As Jasmine turned to face Isabelle, the millions-worth diamond necklace on the latter's neck caught her attention. At that instant, an idea came to her mind.

The charity fundraising event began at half-past eight, and the host was directing the attendees to the parlor.

On the face of it, it seemed to be a simple charity fundraising event, but all of them knew that the Moore family was holding the banquet to look for its next potential project partner.

Everyone had prepared themselves for the upcoming fierce competition with other companies, except Natalie, who was standing alone in a corner as she was here only to pay a visit to her mentor's old friend – Alfred Moore, the patriarch of the Moore family.

It was halfway through the fundraising event, but the Moores were still nowhere to be seen.

With that, Natalie guessed only that one person who donated the most tonight would have the opportunity to meet the Moores.

It looks like I could only find another way to meet Alfred. Biting her lips, Natalie was deep in thought. She failed to notice that a server holding a silver tray was coming in her direction and bumped into him accidentally.

Fortunately, it didn't cause a commotion as the server's tray was empty, but Natalie dropped her purse when she was trying to protect the gift that she was holding.

The waiter bowed to her while apologizing, "Miss, I'm sorry!"

Since the server was only a teenager, Natalie decided to go easy on him. "It's fine." Then, having completely forgotten about her purse lying on the floor, she headed toward the washroom.

In the meantime, Jasmine was hiding in the shadows all the while. When Natalie's figure vanished from sight, making sure that no one was noticing, she immediately picked up the purse and stuffed a diamond necklace inside. After that, she placed the purse back to where it was and quickly left the scene.

When Natalie came out of the washroom, only did she realized that her purse was missing. Thinking that she must have dropped it when she bumped into the server just now, she returned to the place and found her purse lying on the floor.

Suddenly, the people crowded around her. She couldn't help furrowing her brows as she had a bad feeling about it.

Right then, Isabelle made her way through the crowd and confronted Natalie. "Give it back to me," she demanded.

"Give what?" Natalie was confused as she didn't even know who this lady was.

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 13

Isabelle glared at her. "You dare steal my necklace but didn't dare to admit it?" Her diamond necklace was gone after she came out of the washroom. She became suspicious of Natalie when she heard someone saying the latter had gone into the washroom after her.

It was unlikely that those from the circle of J City's high society would steal from her since they were acquainted with one another. Thus, she was more than certain of her suspicions upon seeing Natalie's face, which didn't seem to ring a bell with her.

Steal her necklace? Natalie was left scratching her head at the accusation. With a polite smile, she asked, "Miss, is there a misunderstanding?"

The smile on her face further roused Isabelle's anger.

Right then, someone from the crowd reminded, "Ms. Moore, don't waste your breath on her. You should check her purse instead."

Natalie instinctively hid her purse behind her when Isabelle tried to snatch it from her. As she raised her head, she suddenly caught sight of Jasmine standing behind the crowd, staring at her with a wicked smile on her face. At that instant, it hit her that Jasmine had tampered with her purse. She never expected that Jasmine would make use of the Moores to kick her out of the banquet.

"It's obvious she has a guilty conscience! That's why she's hiding her purse!" Someone from the crowd continued to stir the pot.

Isabelle was incited, so she raised her voice and yelled, "Give it to me!"

As a result of the commotion, the fundraising event was put on hold. In an instant, Natalie became the center of attention when everyone turned around to look at her.

However, before she even realized it, a socialite snatched her purse to please Isabelle. "Ms. Moore, isn't this your necklace?" The socialite exclaimed while holding the millions-worth diamond necklace she found in the purse.

Even though Natalie had a hunch that Jasmine had framed her, still, she was shocked they found the necklace in her purse.

At that moment, Isabelle took the necklace from the socialite's hand. Thinking she had caught Natalie red-handed, she put the heat on her to confess, "What else do you have to say now?"

To everyone's surprise, instead of begging for mercy, Natalie was composed as she straightened up and asked, "Would you believe me if I say I didn't steal it?"

Seeing Natalie in her composed manner, Isabelle was slightly bewildered, and she paused for a second. It was beyond her expectation for a thief being caught in the act to be devoid of shame and guilt.

"Who is this lady? I've never seen her before. I bet she is a thief who sneaks in to steal!" Hiding behind the crowd, Jasmine started to fan the flames.

"I don't remember seeing her before. Does anyone of you know who she is?"

"I have no idea."

"Me neither."

Everyone started voicing their suspicions following Jasmine's remarks.

Natalie knew she would end up in the Moores's bad books if she couldn't come up with a reasonable explanation. Not only that, but she was also afraid it might affect her mentor's relationship with Alfred.

However, since this private banquet hall was not equipped with a surveillance camera, it was not an easy feat for her to find evidence to clear her name.

Just as Natalie was racking her brain, a deep voice suddenly rang out. "What's the hustle?"

Everyone, including Natalie, turned around to find a man in his sapphire blue haute couture suit, which complemented his near-perfect physique. The man had a distinguished air with him.

Natalie was slightly taken aback when she caught sight of his familiar face. It's him?! Why is he here?

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 14

The crowd fell into silence at his presence.

Fixing his eyes on the helpless Natalie standing alone in the middle of the crowd, Shane pursed his lips while making his way toward her.

However, the crowd mistook that Shane was here for Jasmine since the latter was standing somewhere near Natalie. As the people made way for him, Jasmine held her head high, waiting anticipatngly for him to come up to her.

To everyone's surprise, he stopped in front of Natalie. "Ms. Smith, I never thought we would meet again." Last time, although she was gone by the time Silas returned to the hospital, the latter managed to learn her name from the nurse.

Everyone gasped when they saw Shane talking to Natalie. This lady knows Shane Thompson! And she has the surname 'Smith'!

Natalie, too, was surprised by the fact that Shane actually knew of her surname, but she projected a calm facade and returned his greeting. "Well, nice to meet you again. How is your..." She was going to ask about his injury but eventually swallowed her words when he gave her a meaningful glance, signaling her not to bring it up.

Evidently, he was pleased with her shrewdness. As a matter of fact, he noticed her being surrounded by the crowd on the second floor earlier, and though it was not his place to meddle in her affairs, he decided to help her out since he owed her a favor.

Shane then turned to face Isabelle, shielding Natalie from her anger with his broad shoulders. "Ms. Moore, you said she stole your necklace. Do you have any evidence to back your words?" He exuded an overbearing aura while staring at Isabelle with his penetrating gaze.

Everyone on the spot could be a witness since they saw the necklace being taken out of Natalie's purse. However, none of them dared to step forward to confront Shane.

To them, Shane Thompson was a big name in the city. As the only heir of the Thompson family and the CEO of Thompson Group, he started running the company at the age of eighteen. He was nicknamed "Lucifer" for being an astute businessman who wouldn't back down on the bargaining table. They knew they might find themselves in trouble if they ever trod on his toes.

As they were keeping their heads down, their drastic change in attitude made Natalie realize the man standing in front of her had a higher status than she thought. No wonder he left the hospital without a word. He doesn't even care about the petty amount of compensation!

At that moment, Natalie stepped forward and broke the silence. "I have evidence to prove my innocence." She had no chance to defend herself just now because everyone was targeting her. Now that Shane was backing her up, she could finally clear her name.

In an instant, her words caught everyone's attention. If it weren't for Shane's presence, she guessed they would probably mock her for waging a last-ditch struggle when all evidence clearly pointed at her.

Jasmine's heart skipped a beat upon hearing Natalie's word. My plan was perfect! I have sent the server away from the winery, so it is impossible that Natalie has evidence to clear her name. She must be lying! Looking at Natalie confidently, Jasmine convinced herself and tried to put her mind at ease.

On the contrary, she was now more worried about the fact that Natalie and Shane knew each other. She felt like she was about to faint any moment whenever she thought about it. However, to avoid arousing suspicion, she could only clench her teeth to get a hold of herself.

Meanwhile, Isabelle's suspicion was slightly dispelled by the confident look on Natalie's face. "How are you going to prove your innocence?" she relented.

With a faint smile, Natalie explained, "It's simple. Ms. Moore, I bet not many people have the chance to touch this valuable diamond necklace. We can check if there are my fingerprints on it." She cast a glance at Jasmine as she spoke. It is most probably a spontaneous idea to set me up. Jasmine must have left her fingerprints since she wouldn't have the time to prepare for gloves.

As expected, Jasmine's face turned pale. In fact, her eyes were full of horror upon hearing Natalie's words.

Feel the Way You Feel, My Love Chapter 15

“You mean we can just dust for fingerprints? That’s it?” Isabelle thought Natalie was trying to get herself off the hook. What if she wore gloves when she was stealing?

“Ms. Moore, you can also check the surveillance tape on the corridor to see if I have disposed of anything, like gloves,” Natalie added as though she could read Isabelle’s mind.

Even though her words had dispelled Isabelle’s suspicion, the latter was still hoping to find fault with her because she was jealous of Shane backing her up. Without wasting more time, she called the security guards over and gave an order, “Check the surveillance tape!” She was determined to find evidence to prove Natalie was the thief.

At this point, the dispute had spiraled out of control.

As they were waiting for the result, Shane was sitting on the couch with his legs crossed, savoring his wine. He shifted his gaze to Natalie, who was standing not far away, as he took another sip of his wine with relish.

As he took a closer look at her, he noticed she had an attractive and alluring face. Nonetheless, she had a pair of pure and innocent eyes which distinguished her from all the other calculating girls with a similar come-hither look.

He raised his brows while looking at her dealing with a difficult situation with ease. It looks like she can turn the tables even without my help.

Half an hour later, the head of security entered the room. He made his way toward Isabelle and whispered in her ears, “Miss, we can’t find anything.” They even searched in the bushes, but it was a fruitless search.

Isabelle’s eyes flickered when she heard the results.

After that, Natalie approached her. “Ms. Moore, did you manage to find anything?” she asked the obvious.

At this moment, everyone understood Natalie was innocent.

Biting her lips, Isabelle was still reluctant to give in. "We'll check for the fingerprints!"

Right then, an authoritative and resounding voice rang out. "Enough! Stop the nonsense!"

Everyone turned around to find that the Moores had arrived. The person taking the lead was none other than Alfred Moore, the much-respected patriarch of the Moore family.

Natalie had seen him once during the ceremony when she first established a student-mentor relationship with Mercede Mackenzie, her mentor. Alfred was still full of vigor though a few years had passed since she last saw him.

"Grandpa, I'm not playing around. She stole my necklace!" Isabelle rushed up to her grandpa, taking his arm as she pouted. Being Alfred's one and only granddaughter, she could get whatever she wanted from her doting grandfather whenever she voiced her dissatisfaction.

However, Alfred wouldn't let her have her way today. Pulling a long face, he shoved her hands off him and reprimanded, "Belle, look what you've done! You've ruined the banquet!"

Looking at her grandpa in disbelief, Isabelle refuted, "Grandpa, it's not me! It's all her fault!" She angrily pointed her finger at Natalie.

Alfred looked in the direction where Isabelle was pointing. He was surprised when he saw Natalie. The next moment, he gave a hearty smile. "Nat! Why didn't you tell me that you're here?"

Everyone was stupefied the moment they saw Alfred walking toward Natalie and even calling her by her nickname.

"My dear Alfred, Mercede asked me to give you a surprise." Natalie bowed slightly at him as a sign of respect.

"Haha! You really surprised me!" Alfred was happy to meet his old friend's student.

Soon after that, the crowd started to see Natalie in a new light. They couldn't help wondering about her identity when it turned out she knew both Shane and Alfred.

Anyway, the “stealing necklace” incident came to an end when both Natalie and Isabelle agreed not to pursue further in it. After all, they were aware that the whole episode was inglorious.

Meanwhile, Jasmine stood in the shadows with her teeth clenched. She was relieved that no one found out about her misdeed, but she would not thank Natalie for letting her off easily. Jealousy was eating her up at the sight of Natalie standing beside Shane.

Since Shane mistook her as the one who saved him five years ago, she could easily get everything she wanted from him. She was his future wife in the eyes of the outsiders, but little did they know, she was nothing to him.

That man never had intimacy with her. Apparently, he only used her as a shield against other women’s advances. I must find a way to get rid of Natalie and her two illegitimate children!