

The Unshackled Queen: Never Say Never Online Free

Chapter 86

“I can’t be family with a mistress!”

“Allison, Declan’s had feelings for Eliana for ages. We’re practically family with her. Why can’t things be easier?” Leah wasn’t pleased hearing Allison defend Hannah.

“Remember, Eliana is set to be Declan’s wife…”

“I can’t stand by her. Let’s see who dares to support her!”

Allison’s intentions to back Hannah were clear.

Eliana, tears in her eyes, murmured, “If I’m not wanted here, I should leave.”

“Eliana!” Before she could step away, Declan intervened, “You have every right to be here with me.”

His gaze locked onto Allison’s.

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“Grandma, you know where my heart lies. I’ve chosen Eliana as my wife. I can’t imagine being with anyone else.”

A sudden thud echoed.

Allison tapped her walking stick against the floor tiles, amplifying the tension in the room.

“So, she’s your chosen one… What about the sacrifices Hannah made for you? Don’t you remember? That woman abandoned you, nearly shaming the Edwards family! It was Hannah who willingly stepped in and became a part of our family for your sake.”

Eliana’s eyes brimmed with tears as she clung to Declan.

“Allison, circumstances forced me to leave him back then. My return wasn’t for me, but for Declan’s happiness. If it meant he’d smile again, I’d willingly stay away forever,” she said, her voice shaking.

“But, Declan’s been miserable. I don’t want anything for myself. I just want his happiness.”

Crying, Eliana buried herself in Declan’s embrace.

Gently holding Eliana, Declan addressed Allison.

“I invited Hannah over to put the past behind us. The divorce papers are ready. We’ll finalize it today.”

Hannah, observing the pair’s evident love, felt no sorrow, only irony.

Their words dismissed all she’d done. Was her past naivety to blame?

Declan shot a look Hannah’s way.

“I’ve arranged a more generous settlement for you.”

Hannah reassured Allison with a touch before standing.

“Declan, my lawyer sent over the legally binding property agreement. It states an equal split post-marriage. If you missed it, I can resend.”

C 87

Declan had perused the document, yet he wasn’t prepared to share his wealth equally.

His brow furrowed, but he remained silent.

Leah’s anger surged.

“After years of marriage to my son, you’re already getting a hefty settlement post-divorce. Isn’t that enough?

How can you be so greedy? Have you lost your mind?”

Hannah had anticipated Leah’s outrage and dismissed her reaction.

Unfazed by Hannah’s claims, Declan replied, “I’ve been more than fair.

Push too much and you’ll regret it.”

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“Is that so?” Hannah grinned, remarking, “We’ll see about that.”

She stooped to retrieve her bag from the couch, softly advising Allison, “Stay safe, Allison. If anything feels off, let someone notify me. I’ll be right there.”

Allison, her gaze brimming with sympathy, held Hannah’s hand.

“Sweetie, if Declan doesn’t want you, know that I do! Regardless of your decision with him, you’ll forever be my granddaughter. As long as I’m alive, there will always be a place for you in the family home.”

Tears welled in Hannah's eyes. Allison's unwavering love was evident.

Nodding gently, she murmured, "Understood."

As she departed, she didn't even spare a glance towards Declan.

Once outside the family residence, Hannah inhaled deeply and hailed a taxi.

As she lingered near the home's roadside, Declan's voice reached her ears.

"Must it end this way?"

She turned to find Declan unsettlingly close. Silently, she stepped back.

Watching her, Declan's brow furrowed in confusion. She'd always sought him out before, but now their roles had reversed.

Annoyed, he loosened his tie and gripped Hannah's arm.

"What the hell are you doing?"

She jerked away, her disdain for him clear.

"Expect my Lawyer's communications about our divorce soon. In the meantime, leave me be!"

C 88

As she boarded the taxi, Declan watched, an unfamiliar unease stirring within him. His phone then interrupted his thoughts.

Irritably, he answered, "Yes?"

His lawyer's voice came through.

"Mr. Edwards, they've presented evidence against you. We need to meet at the office."

A short while into her ride, a message from Declan popped up on Hannah's phone. It detailed a meeting at Sunshine Coffee the next day to discuss their divorce terms.

After scanning the message, she turned off her phone without responding.

She yearned to finalize matters with Declan and sever ties.

As the sun rose on the second day, Hannah woke up early and made plans with her lawyer to meet at the cafe Declan had mentioned.

They arrived slightly ahead of schedule, finding the cafe empty.

As they settled near a window, about thirty minutes ticked by. Just as Hannah's patience thinned and she contemplated messaging Declan, Leah and Eliana walked in.

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There was no sign of Declan, but Eliana cheerfully greeted Hannah before joining Leah opposite them.

"Miss Moore, Declan's tied up with work today, so Leah and I are here in his place."

Hannah's response was frosty.

"We're leaving, Mr. Brown."

"Where do you think you're going?" Leah shot a stern look at Hannah.

"Do you intend to leave when you figure out you can't seduce my son here?"

Hannah retorted, "My divorce is with him, not you. What business do you have here? Can you sign the papers in his stead?"

Leah, unaccustomed to such defiance, and still seething from a previous public humiliation by Hannah, slammed the table, exclaiming, "Just so you know, I'm not as tolerant as Declan. Sign those papers and be done with the Edwards family!"

"Just so you know, I want nothing to do with the Edwards family,"

Hannah countered.

Simultaneously, the lawyer slid two copies of the paperwork across the table to the duo seated opposite.

"Review the papers. If all is well, I believe my client is ready to finalize the divorce with Mr. Edwards."

Eliana meticulously went through the divorce papers, then quietly set them down without uttering a word.

Upon examining the agreement, Leah's temper flared. She slammed the papers onto the table, her face a mask of rage.

C 89

"You intend to take half of my son's assets and stock? Think again.

The lawyer collected the papers with composure, remarking, "My client's claims are detailed in the paperwork. Should you have concerns, seeking legal counsel is an option."

"And who might you be? To address us so boldly?" Leah sneered at the lawyer with arrogance.

"You believe this paper grants you rights to my son's wealth? Do you assume the Edwards family can be so easily defeated? Are you aware of our standing in Valmere? My son could easily brush aside people like you."

Gently patting Leah's arm, Eliana tried to soothe her.

"Leah, let's stay calm. Perhaps Miss Moore isn't familiar with the Edwards family's reputation in Valmere. She's been mostly homebound, managing household affairs."

Leah's gaze grew even more scornful.

"To my son, you're nothing more than a housekeeper he's employed. Did you truly believe he ever cared for you? Declan never laid a hand on you after the wedding! Even letting someone as audacious as you revel in the Edwards family's wealth has been an act of charity."

Hannah retorted with a smirk, "If you ask me, it's your treasured son who struggles with sexual dysfunction."

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Hearing that, Leah seethed, "What did you just said? You bitch! How dare you insult my son?"

Languidly reclining in her chair, Hannah shot Leah an amused glance, teasing, "Struck a nerve, did I?"

"Miss Moore, a touch of respect might be in order. After all, she is your elder..."

Before Eliana could finish, Hannah raised her hand, cutting her off.

"She's your elder, not mine. I don't recognize such a demanding elder."

Upon realizing she couldn't sway Hannah, Leah shifted her focus to the lawyer, her voice threatening.

"Mark my words, if you dare help this woman, the Edwards family will ensure you never find peace in Valmere."

The lawyer, however, appeared unflustered. He replied with a gracious smile, "Mrs. Edwards, our primary duty as lawyers is to defend our clients' rights and interests. I'm aware of the Edwards family's influence in Valmere, but the law remains paramount to any individual's status."

His words clearly conveyed his unwavering support for Hannah.

Years of Leah's dominance in Valmere had made direct confrontations with her rare.

Yet, with her divorce from Declan, Hannah's demeanor had shifted. Her audacity reflected even in her choice of lawyer.

Leah's patience snapped. She pointed accusingly at Hannah.

"Thinking of splitting the property with my son? Dream on! I'll fight it as long as I breathe!"

Hannah responded calmly, "Then take it to court. We shouldn't waste time. Unlike you, every minute counts for me."

Signaling her lawyer, she prepared to depart.

C 90

Leah's temper flared, her eyes flashing with fury at Hannah's evident disdain. Her entire frame quivered with rage.

Noticing this, Eliana slid a coffee cup toward Leah, seemingly attempting to soothe her.

"Leah, calm down. Stress isn't good for you.

I care about your wellbeing."

But seeing the coffee only fueled Leah's fury. She grabbed the cup, intent on hurling it at Hannah.

Quick as a flash, Hannah seized Leah's wrist, causing the coffee to drench Leah instead.

Releasing Leah's wrist, Hannah's eyes locked onto the older woman's coffee-soaked form, and her voice was icy.

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"I might have been lenient before, out of respect, but it doesn't mean I'm a pushover. Lose control again and next time it won't just be coffee."

The coffee splashed across Leah's meticulously applied makeup, staining her expensive outfit and ruining the elegance of her look.

The liquid seeped into her attire, making her appear disheveled.

Caught off guard, Leah stood frozen, the coffee dripping through her hair, her anger momentarily forgotten.

Eliana's hair too was dampened by the stray splashes. But instead of worrying over her own mess, she hurriedly grabbed a tissue, attempting to clean Leah's stained face and outfit.

"Miss Moore, you..." Eliana began.

But Hannah, accompanied by the lawyer, had breezed past without a hint of acknowledgment.

Back to her senses, Leah shouted, "Hannah Moore! Stop! How dare you do this to me!"

Amidst sharp screams and angry voices, Hannah and the lawyer exited the cafe.

"Mr. Brown, I never anticipated this happening today. Thank you."

"It was my pleasure, Miss Moore."

With papers in hand, Gerry stated seriously, “Mr. Mitchell directed me to handle your issue thoroughly. The evidence is all here. If you choose to pursue a lawsuit, I’m confident we’ll win.”

“Thank you again, Mr. Brown.”

Afterwards, Hannah took a taxi back to school due to her afternoon classes.

After her lessons, as Hannah left the classroom, she activated her phone and noticed a missed call from an unfamiliar number.

Oddly enough, the same unknown number rang just as she powered on her device.

“Hello?”