

## **Billion Rich 221**

### Chapter 221

“Annie, how can you be so rude and not use your chopsticks properly when you’re eating with Grandpa? That’s not very polite!” Aubree scolded Annie with a sullen face.

“That’s enough it’s just a pair of chopsticks. Do you really need to yell at the kid?”

Rory naturally blamed Aubree, loving his little granddaughter as he does.

Aubree tightly clenched her hands beneath the table. In the end, even breathing seemed wrong in front of this old bastard!

“Grandpa, Dad, Mom... I’ve finished eating.”

Annie’s cheeks were burning with embarrassment, so she lowered her head and bit her lips as she hastily departed the dining table.

Joseph gazed after his little sister as she ran away, his eyes deep in thought..

Skyler’s heart was overflowing with pride at that moment.

Annie, you are acting foolishly and without regard for your surroundings, and there is no need for you to be embarrassed.

It’s a pity that you are so self-righteous and provoked my man. Therefore, I must give you a real lesson and let you see clearly who is the apple of my parents’ eye and who is the woman who can match Young Master Anderson!

“How can it be, Brother Anderson?”

Rory blinked and suddenly asked in puzzlement, “Does Brother Anderson not have a fondness for my Raya?”

Jake, Aubree, and Skyler’s faces all took on a green hue.

It seemed as though millions of crows were soaring above them.

Joseph was just sipping his tea when his grandfather’s words caused his chest to swell with rage. He coughed harshly and nearly choked.

Clenching his teacup, the man’s handsome face darkened like a crow.

“Grandfather,” Skyler said, her anger swelling in her chest and her face reddening, “how could Young Master Anderson possibly be fond of Chloe?!”

“He doesn’t like Raya? Even though your grandpa is eighty years old, I have very keen hearing and sharp vision. Last time, when I celebrated my birthday, I noticed how Brother Anderson was paying close attention to my Raya at the birthday feast.”

“He clung so closely to Raya that his eyes couldn’t wait to become one with her. When they eventually formed a family, he would likely be a devoted partner, who would even love his ex-wife after divorce.”

As he spoke, Rory’s shrewd eyes glanced at the glum Joseph. “I noticed that it was a one-sided love, so I initially wanted to set up Raya and Brother Anderson. Anderson family’s pedigree and Raya were also a good fit.”

“Most importantly, Brother Anderson is kind to Raya. He knows when to be stern and when to be affectionate. He knows how to show her love and care. If Raya and Brother Anderson were to succeed, then they would certainly live more comfortably than before.”

How can Vincent and Chloe achieve comfort and happiness together?!

Joseph almost crushed the teacup he was holding.

His grandfather said nothing, yet he felt every word was a scolding.

Vincent was constantly surrounded by wild bees and butterflies, and when Vincent turned sixteen, he vanished. This scoundrel, who couldn't even see his own belt, had the audacity to use him and Chloe as a couple? And he even boasted of having sharp ears and bright eyes?!

That makes no sense!

"Grandfather, am I your granddaughter, or is Chloe your granddaughter?"

Skyler was so enraged that she was on the verge of tears. "It's me who likes Young Master Anderson now, not Chloe! Shouldn't you be putting in effort for me? Why did you give such an amazing man to her?!"

"Do you think Brother Anderson likes you?" Rory asked seriously.

I..." Skyler's pupils contracted and she was momentarily at a loss for words.

"At the birthday banquet that day, your grandfather saw everything clearly. You two didn't exchange a single word the entire evening, aren't you? Brother Anderson didn't even glance in your direction, did he?"

Skyler clenched her teeth, feeling a mix of shame and anger.

What her grandfather said was the truth, and she could not deny it.

"Our daughter doesn't have to enter into a business marriage, but she can't be so stubborn as to remain aloof. It's not wise to force a situation, and she might even suffer in the end."

“Furthermore, your temperaments are incompatible. Brother Anderson has a fiery disposition. If you wed him, you’d be in for a tumultuous union – arguments would be frequent.” Rory shook his head, clearly not enthused about this union.

“Grandpa!” Skyler’s eyes were red and tears were welling up.

“Dad, how can you let Skyler, a girl, respond to this? All females have attractive faces.””

Jake tried to help his daughter. “It’s not that Vincent is unconcerned about Skyler. He made a special trip to our house that day to speak with Skyler, and Aubree and I were both there to witness it.”

Skyler recalled Vincent’s words from that day, causing her heart to sink and her eyes to roll.

No matter how much Vincent hated her, she didn’t care.

Once she married him with the full backing of her family and became the young mistress of the Anderson family, he would be sure to be captivated by her charm and fall in love with her!

“Oh? Is that so?” Rory rubbed his chin.

“Of course, Dad.”

Aubree also added her two cents, saying, “Young Master Anderson is so honorable. When did he ever take the initiative to visit a young lady? He came to find Skyler, which shows that she’s on his mind. Times have changed.”

“Furthermore, Dad, even though you have noble intentions to pair Miss Thorp and Young Master Anderson, to my knowledge, Miss Thorp has a new beau now.”

Joseph raised his eyes, coldly gazing at Aubree.

His thin lips were tightly shut and his Adam's apple bobbed rapidly, as if he was struggling to contain his feelings.

Rory was astounded and inquired, "Raya has a beau? Who is it?"

"It's Director Xavier's youngest son, the fourth young master of Xavy Group, Jerome," Aubree hastily replied.

She had gotten this information from Grace previously.

Hearing Skyler say that Chloe and Jerome had been in contact all along, she knew she had to sever her ties with the old man, regardless of whether he was genuine or not.

"Chloe and Jerome are not an item."

Joseph, no longer able to bear it, slammed his teacup down, his handsome face now clouded with gloom.

"I heard that the two of them had more than one rendezvous in secret. They visited the rose garden to take in the beauty of the blooms and attended a concert..."

"I stated they don't have it. That means they don't."

Joseph's dark eyes were filled with rage as he icily glared at Aubree, "I hope that before Aunt Bell can comprehend the situation, she won't babble and fabricate friendships out of thin air."

"Chloe is a girl, and she is now part of the Thorp family, who are the general managers of KS Hotel. If you spread rumours like this, it will damage her reputation."

Aubree, speechless, her lips twitching in anger at her stepson, was rendered mute.

“Joseph! What do you mean by this attitude you have when speaking to your elders?”

Before Jake could finish speaking, Joseph had already risen with a frosty atmosphere surrounding him. “I’m finished eating. Everyone, savor your meal.”

Rory watched Joseph’s retreating back, narrowing his eyes meaningfully as his grandson left in a huff.

Joseph, frustrated, tugged at his tie and stepped into the garden for a breath of fresh air.

Ever since his grandfather had expressed his desire to matchmake Vincent and Chloe, Vincent’s heart had been filled with a mixture of excitement and unease, as if he was sitting on pins and needles.

When Aubree declared Jerome was already by Chloe’s side, he felt the air around him become thin, and if he stayed seated, he would be suffocated.

Joseph frowned deeply, reaching into his bosom for a pack of cigarette. ”

The more he pondered, the more his anger and agitation grew. He grab

and placing one between his lips.

his phone and dialed Vincent.

“Joseph, you finally remembered to get in touch with me!”

Vincent’s voice was still languid, with a hint of resentment like a scorned spouse, “Since I was poisoned, you haven’t said you’d come to visit me. Damn... Do you have a pup outside?”

“I’ve got something to share with you.”

Joseph took a deep breath and declared, "Mr. Sawle and his wife are planning to let you wed Skyler."

"F\*ck! XXXX!"

Vincent leapt to the other side of the line and exclaimed, "No, your family is putting on a show in court. Is it really necessary to involve me? What's wrong with having no boyfriend yet?!"

Joseph narrowed his eyes. "Do you really care who you marry? Didn't you say that any marriage is the same? It's just a formality."

"I said it, but..."

"So why don't you tie the knot with Skyler? She's quite fond of you, and you won't miss out if you wed Sawle Group

"No... brother, don't you know who Skyler is? I won't do anything if you mess with her. But how can you expect me to tolerate you throwing me into the muck?!"

"She's a cow pony," Joseph said, taking a deep breath and puffing out white mist, "and you're the King of Hades. If you're wicked, there'll be wickedness. She won't be able to deceive you."

Vincent, cannot.

Jerome, even more so!

His heart shrinking, he clenched his teeth unwillingly.

He felt like a horsetail whisk, waving around Chloe to drive away all the mosquitoes and flies around her.

Chapter 222

Skyler had obtained an imitation Alexa Jewelry necklace from Zoey, and it had a miraculous effect!

Bracing herself and filled with apprehension, she had privately given it to Ada Wang, fearing that she would die on the spot if discovered.

Even if she was discovered, she had already thought of a way out; and if she was deceived by an acquaintance, she still had some knowledge of the jewelry to cover it up, so it was fine,

In the end, it was unclear whether it was due to Alexa's disciple's exceptional craftsmanship, but Ada Wang was completely unaware that the necklace was fake. She was so pleased with it that she immediately put it on and refused to take it off!

Finally, Ada Wang and Skyler put their signatures on the contract.

With Aubree's tireless assistance, Skyler was able to break into the core and was subsequently promoted by Jake to a director, thus allowing her to attend the Group's upper management meetings!

That night, Aubree and his mother sat on the balcony, toasting with the celebratory wine in anticipation.

"Daughter, once Ada Wang's wedding is done, your father will officially give you the hotel. You should take the first step forward confidently. You'll surely make it to the board of directors and kick that scoundrel Joseph out with Mom!"

"My child, I can't rely on your sister." Aubree said, embracing her daughter, her eyes glimmering with a growing optimism, "I'm relying on you for the rest of my life."

"Mom, don't fret! When I succeed, I will slowly but surely take away Joseph's influence. Then, the entire Sawle Group will be

ours!"



Skyler's eyes sparkled extravagantly as she and Aubree clinked glasses at the heart.

The housekeeper's voice called out from outside the door, inquiring if anyone was inside.

"Ma'am, Third Miss, someone has just arrived to deliver you a letter."

The two women glanced at each other and exited the balcony.

"Who sent it?" Skyler queried.

"He's the General Manager Secretary of KS WORLD Hotel; his last name is Stewart.

KS? Chloe sent it over?!

"Gotcha. You go ahead and get to it." Aubree accepted the offer and shut the door. Opening the letter, she discovered two invitations to the charity jewelry auction. Aubree pursed her bright red lips, her expression a little glum and inscrutable.

"Mom, that girl Chloe has been quiet for so long, but she suddenly posted something out of the blue tonight... Is something wrong?" Skyler asked worriedly.

"What's got you so worried? Now that Ada Wang has inked the deal with you, it's a done deal. Even if Chloe wants to meddle, she can't do a thing!"

Coincidentally, at that very moment, the TV was airing the evening news, with one of the headlines being about the charity jewelry auction!

"Mom! The host of this event is actually 'MINT'!"

Skyler gestured towards the TV and exclaimed, “This is an internationally renowned fashion/magazine. Celebrities are vying for the title of this magazine! Chloe is the organizer of the MINT event. Don’t you think she’s being a bit too daring?!”

present at the event!”

“The report also stated that Ada Wang and numerous other celebrity wher

Originally, she thought that after losing Ada Wang, KS WORLD’s popularity and topic had plummeted to the depths. She never-anticipated that Chloe would actually win ‘MINT’ – she truly remarkable!

Clenching her fists in envy, jealousy, and hatred, Skyler

sharp pierced her palm.

nails almo

“Hmph, no matter how grand it is, it’s futile. A defeat is a defeat. She’s only doing this to preserve her pride!”

Aubree rubbed her back teeth and said, “Since she sent us an invitation, wouldn’t it be really impolite if we don’t go? If we do

then let’s go.

.How can I, Aubree, be afraid of a little girl like her

go,

“It appears that we have our sights set on her. Let’s not let her do anything else to Ada Wang and spoil our good intentions!”

Chloe had a pleasant conversation with the editor of the MINT Fashion Magazine over the phone, speaking in English and laughing freely.

She changed into a tight sports suit, ready to go to the backyard and row a single rubber dinghy, when Oscar arrived.

“Big brother!”

Chloe ran downstairs, excitement coursing through her, and leapt into Oscar’s arms.

The tall and stalwart man opened his arms and embraced her tightly. She was dressed so snugly that her curves were perfectly outlined, her protruding areas were accentuated, and her graceful curves were pressed against him. It was an indescribable charm that melted his soul, graceful and sexy.

“It’s already so late, Oscar,” she said, her brow furrowing. “Are you going to work out?”

“Yes, big brother,” Chloe said, tilting her head back and raising her little face with a smile, “I’m in a good mood and I’m heading to the backyard to row a rubber boat!”

“What are you going to do when it’s so dark? What if you fall into the river? You don’t have very good swimming abilities.”

“Also, don’t you realize that it’s almost freezing out there? You’re not wearing much, what if you get sick?”

He turned to look at Jordan, “It’s just you and the Young Mistress here usually. Why don’t you keep an eye on her?”

“My sincerest apologies, President Thorp,” Jordan said, bowing hastily. “I have not fulfilled my obligation.”

“Okay, big brother. Don’t hold Jordan responsible. He reminded me, but he couldn’t make me do it.”

The siblings sat down on the sofa hand in hand. Chloe nestled her little head on her big brother’s shoulder. “Big bro, the editor of MINT just phoned me to sort out the timetable. Thanks, big bro, for hooking me up with such a top-notch

resource!”

“I’m really fond of MINT. I’ve been following this magazine since I was a kid. It’s been a great source of inspiration for my fashion design!”

Alice, the chief editor of MINTS, was a veritable devil in the fashion industry. A slight frown from her while watching a show was a disaster for any brand, highlighting her immense importance in the industry.

But such a big shot had personally phoned Chloe!

Only God knew that, at that moment, the great anticipation had caused the young woman’s palms to become sweaty with excitement!

“Chloe, it’s great that you’re fond of it.”

Oscar gazed at her affectionately and caressed her petite nose. “I’m worried that you’ll be disheartened due to the incident of Ada Wang being swindled by Sawle Group, and I’m aware that you’re a laid-back person, so I’ve got something for you to do.”

“When you’re occupied, you won’t be distressed.”

“Tsk, why am I so delicate? I’ve been eating a lot lately and getting plenty of rest. I’m not letting it bother me.” Chloe pouted her cherry lips, her voice gentle and pleasant.

Jordan bit his lower lip, suppressing his heartbeat as he fixedly stared at Chloe’s tender pink cheeks.

Only when in Oscar's presence did the young miss show her coquettish side of a little girl, her cuteness being too much to bear.

Whenever he had the opportunity, he was content.

"You still claim you're okay? Those dark circles under your eyes are so pronounced," Oscar sighed softly, his rough fingertips tenderly caressing her delicate eyes.

"Oh, that's not because of this... Oh right, big brother, how do you know Alice? Your bond is really strong. She actually let me do such a big event without any worries?"

Chloe's beautiful eyes sparkled with surprise, "You must be aware that the MINT's charity event has never been hosted by Medo!"

"I'm not acquainted with Alice," Oscar said coolly.

"Ah? Then why..."

"She had a fondness for me for about a decade."

Chloe and Jordan was shocked. "What?!"

Oscar said nonchalantly, "I've already turned her down multiple times, yet she's still persistent. All I can do is ignore her and

let her be."

Alice, the fashionable female Devil, was nearing her 50th year this year!

Although her big brother was 30 years old, he still acted like an old cow munching on tender grass! Wasn't that exciting?!

"Sadly, so sadly..." Chloe sighed.

"Indeed, having a fifty-year-old pursuer is quite stressful," Jordan nodded in agreement.

"What? I mean Alice! She's really pitiful!"

Chloe gazed at the air, her admiration for her idol only growing stronger. "Age was not an issue; the problem is that she chose the wrong person!"

"The female demon had become enamored with a handsome man, yet he was unaware of her affections. She should have been thankful that big brother had not reverted her to her original form. Nevertheless, she could not help but love him!"

Oscar was rendered speechless.

Jordan was flabbergasted as well.

Chapter 223

In no time at all, KS WORLD was ready to host a charity jewelry auction.

Due to the charitable nature of this event, the KS party and MINT magazine didn't do much promotion in the beginning, yet they still gained traction with Medo's media.

Famous stars fought fiercely to be on the cover influence.

JT, the internationally renowned fashion magazine, a testament to its

On the same day, the stars gathered, making the outside of the wine shop a lively scene.

The security department dispatched all its members to maintain order, and the stars were cooperative in greeting the fans before quickly entering the venue to prevent any chaos from leading to a stampede.

Once a well-appointed Lincoln Limousine pulled up, the crowd erupted into noise once more.

The bodyguards opened the door, and out stepped Aubree and Skyler, both dressed in stunning evening gowns.

The other women who had come to take part in the event all entered through the back door or VIP passage, while the mother and daughter pair remained unable to alter their fate. They seemed to need the flashing lights to keep them going, as if they would cease to progress if they were not illuminated every few days.

“Hey! Look! Isn’t that Grace’s aunt?”

Aubree’s ears were pierced by someone’s loud shout that echoed through the mountains and rivers, causing her face to turn green instantly.

It took her many years to shed her moniker of “the cross-dressing female star” and “the mistress” and become the enviable wife of the chairman of the board.

As a result of that notorious bitch, Grace, she has now given birth to a new code name – “Grace’s Aunt”!

Although she was indeed Grace’s aunt, no matter how she viewed it now, it seemed as if everyone was reprimanding her!

“Wow!” someone exclaimed. “It really is her!”

“Did the prosecution summon her because of her involvement in bribery and corruption?”

“Yes, yes, yes! She was eventually freed. Phew, the magnate Medo, the heavens are gloomy!”

“I mean, is she feigning ignorance of the Internet? How can she still have the audacity to come out and play? Why is Jake not bothered by this woman?”

“When I saw her now, I recalled the moment she bragged about her niece at Grace’s birthday celebration. In the end, Grace’s composure crumbled in the next instant. Is she really not playing around with Grace?!”

“At that moment, her face was expressionless. I couldn’t help but chuckle!”

Aubree’s face went from red to black as her legs became so stiff that they refused to obey her. Without Skyler’s support, she wouldn’t have been able to walk.

She had originally assumed that, after such a lengthy period, people had already forgotten about that issue

Only now did she comprehend that humiliation was ingrained in her very being. The self-esteem she had so painstakingly nurtured for many years had been completely destroyed by that harlot, Grace!

Amid a chorus of jeers, Aubree and Skyler rushed into the hotel’s main entrance.

“Mom, it would be best if you kept a low profile in the future. Try to avoid being seen in public.”

Skyler pouted gloomily, “Look at you, you made me a laughingstock when you showed up. It’s really mortifying...”

“Skyler! You disrespectful daughter, do you really think your own mother is shameful?”

Aubree pinched her arm angrily, causing her to break out in a cold sweat. “Your mother, she had a big belly when she brought you to the Sawle family’s doorstep. I didn’t even feel embarrassed when I was disrespected and rolled my eyes at. Now, you actually don’t like me?”



“If I hadn’t been so reckless and thrown away my life to bother your father, would you have become the daughter of Sawle Group? How could you have such a lavish life now? You really are an ungrateful wretch! Even if I had given birth to you, it would have been better to calm down!”

Skyler, covering her bruised arm, was so harshly scolded by Aubree that she wished to flee.

Ever since she was a child, her mother had a firm hold on her father’s heart and had often helped her pave the way and scheme, yet she still felt like an uncouth woman who was hard to be graceful.

It was impossible to compare her to Zoey’s mother, the Thorp family’s Second Madame, and Helena, who all came from prestigious families; people had no choice in the matter of their parents, making it an impossible decision to make.

Tonight’s event consisted of two parts: a cocktail party followed by an auction.

As far as the eye could see at the cocktail party, the faces known to the public shone brightly, as if half of the entertainment industry had come to show their support!

As the general manager of the hotel and the person in charge of the charity event, Chloe was naturally visited on the spot by media reporters.

Facing the camera and microphone, she was generous and natural, answering with effortless ease.

“President Thorp, Ada Wang has already selected Sawle Group hotel as the venue for her wedding. At this crucial moment, are you hosting a charity event in MINT magazine, thus competing with Sawle Group?” the reporter inquired.

“I get that everyone has this notion. After all, it’s always been us and the Sawle Group in contention.”

Chloe smiled faintly, “But this event was selected by MINT magazine. It was all a coincidence and I didn’t do it on purpose.”

“Has the news already reported that Ms. Ada Wang chose KS WORLD Hotel as the wedding venue? What made her change her mind and opt for Sawle Group Hotel instead? Did something happen in between?”

Chloe replied, “This pertains to the contract, which is the hotel’s internal business matter, so I’m unable to comment.”

The reporter persisted, asking, “Was Ada Wang’s canceled collaboration with you and her subsequent transfer to Sawle Group due to her wedding being exposed?”

Chloe’s eyes turned cold and dark, revealing nothing.

Someone must have planted this reporter as that reporter asked too many questions!

Zoey, in the corner, sipped her champagne and watched with a dark smile as Chloe was swarmed by reporters.

She was the one who had planted that low-cost journalist.

It was still a good thing to further disgust Chloe and subject her to more criticism, even if it wouldn’t have any earth-shattering effects.

At the same time, Aubree and Skyler came over.

Skyler, now the holder of the winning ticket, was no longer afraid of Chloe, but rather exuded arrogance.

“You’re spot on,” Chloe’s smile slowly dissipated as her face grew serious, “it is because of this question.”

Everyone was in an uproar!

Zoey couldn't help but frown as she never expected Chloe to not only not make an excuse to be evasive, but instead answer the question honestly.

What strategy is she refusing to employ?

"Everyone, let's not complicate things for President Thorp. She's already quite occupied with the issue of her hotel

breaching the agreement."

Skyler raised her chin slightly and smiled arrogantly, "President Thorp, don't be disheartened. Keep up the great effort next

time."

"This time, if you can't manage the situation properly, Sawle Group will set an example. We won't repeat the same mistake. We will certainly meet our customers' requirements and make sure to keep it confidential."

Chapter 224

Skyler's remarks drew the attention of those around her.

The amount of information was staggering!

At first, all the blame was placed on KS WORLD, with Ada Wang being the one whose rights and interests had been infringed upon in the incident.

Chloe had yet to address the chaos in her hotel, and was keen to execute MINT's activities, likely to deceive people and demonstrate that her hotel was not impacted by Ada Wang's contract termination and still had the capacity to host a large-scale event.

Thirdly, Chloe has been held accountable as the general manager for KS WORLD Hotel's failure to meet the guests' needs, lack of confidentiality, and security breach.

Turning around, Ada Wang chose Sawle Group, indicating that Sawle Group Hotel was superior and more dependable than KS WORLD in every respect.

The reporters, one by one, raised sharp questions to Chloe who was standing in the middle, talking about it.

Chloe had foreseen that a disaster would occur today.

Skyler fanned the flames in order to leverage public opinion to mount an attack against her and the hotel.

Glancing at the mother-daughter duo, their delicate makeup failed to conceal the villainous smirk on their faces.

What a clown, utterly ridiculous!

Ada Wang and Alice, two female bosses in the fashion and entertainment industries, arrived at the venue together at this time.

They happened to witness Chloe being ridiculed by Skyler and surrounded by reporters.

Alice, wearing sunglasses and looking so cool that she had no friends, glanced at the emotionless Chloe and nudged Ada beside her. "I reckon you shouldn't throw in the towel on your partnership with Miss Thorp."

"Ada Wang inquired, arching an eyebrow.

"Her big brother is an extraordinary man. It's no exaggeration to say that Mr. Oscar is the most handsome man I've ever seen in my life."

“He is my ideal partner, declared Alice, who was hiding behind her sunglasses.

“Her big brother is your ‘ideal partner’. What does that have to do with me not working with Chloe?” asked Ada Wang, perplexed.

“For the sake of my virtual sister-in-law,” Alice implored in a gentle tone, “couldn’t you give Miss Thorp another chance?”

Ada Wang was speechless, wondering if this was a moral kidnapping.

On the second floor, unnoticed by anyone.

Joseph stood tall and straight by the railing, his dark eyes darkening as he silently observed the events unfolding below. His gaze, burning with intensity, returned to Chloe’s face, which remained composed and serene. His lips/curved in a thoughtful smile.

He was aware that she would not succumb easily.

The Thorp family was unafraid of battle, and the more they fought, the more spirited they grew.

“Mr. Sawle, Young Madam is under siege. Those reporters who don’t know the facts will surely write falsehoods to sully Young Madam’s reputation!”

“Do you want to come up with a plan to assist Young Madam?” Max gazed downstairs with great concern.

“No.”

Joseph’s expression became cold again, “Even if Chloe is indeed framed, I can’t bring myself to speak up for her. I’m a part of the Sawle Group. If I try to force my way out, it will only make the situation worse.”

“I reckon she’s ready. I can’t go out and mess up her plan.”

Max nodded in understanding. After all, Young Madam was not one to abide by the rules. It was best not to disturb her flow. Most critically, Chloe had seen Mr. Sawle’s reputation crumble. If she were to appear now, it would only deepen her disdain

for him.

“Max,” Joseph said in a low, intimidating voice, “I’m entrusting these two things to you.”

“Please say it!”

“First, that audacious reporter just now. I want you to look into this individual in the domestic news industry from now on.”

“Yes!”

“Secondly, contact Sawle Group’s public opinion team and request that they keep an eye on public opinion on the web. If there are any unfavorable remarks about Chloe and KS WORLD Hotel, make sure to remove them promptly.”

“Yes!”

Max spun on his heel and deployed the orders given by Mr. Sawle.

Joseph stood alone in the same spot, gazing at Chloe’s determined and obstinate little face, his eyes gradually softening.

“It’s just a trifling thing, no need to express gratitude.”

Beat the gongs and drums on the stage and stir up some trouble.

I will back you up for matters below the surface.

The commotion downstairs persisted.

“Miss Thorp, we at Sawle Group are regretful that your collaboration with Miss Ada did not come to fruition this time.”

Aubree saw that the spearhead was pointed at Chloe. At this point, it would be too much to say if she didn't step in and intervene. “In terms of management, you're new and inexperienced. It's understandable that you'll make some mistakes in your decisions. But it'll get better over time.”

“Who hasn't made mistakes when they were young? The key is to recognize those mistakes and make changes.”

“Yes, this time it is indeed my fault that allowed the person who plotted against me to succeed.”

Chloe's beautiful eyes narrowed. From her smile, there was no strange emotion visible. “I'll be more careful in the future. This time, I'll make sure I pay my tuition.”

Aubree inwardly sneered.

“Does President Thorp mean...,” a reporter asked in surprise, “that you were framed?”

“Everyone, the charity auction is about to begin. Let's head over to the venue,” Chloe said, not directly responding, and glided to the other location.

She didn't so much as glance at Aubree and Skyler.

This deprived the mother and daughter of the satisfaction of vanquishing their foe and the elation of triumph.

“This little brat,” Aubree sneered, her eyes filled with malice as she stared at Chloe’s back. “Does she think that by speaking in a deliberately confusing way, the situation will change? She’s really being capricious!”

“Hmph, did you catch that just now? She was too apathetic to argue. She has already put on a display of self-deprecation!” Skyler excitedly hugged her mother’s arm. “Once the event is done, I’ll reach out to a few press outlets to write up two chapters and help Chloe ‘publicize. Let everyone see how inept she is as a hotel manager!”

“Madam Sawle, Sister Skyler!”

Zoey, renowned for her hidden talents, felt the moment was right and, with her skirt held high, she glided towards them. “Hey hey hey, Zoey!”

“I was searching for you everywhere, and I thought you weren’t here!” Aubree eagerly moved forward to clasp her hand. “Mom, I have something to tell you.”

“For Ada Wang to be able to successfully sign a contract with us this time, it must be all thanks to Zoey!” Skyler smiled gratefully at her.

“Sister Skyler, it was nothing,” Zoey smiled shyly. “It’s not worth mentioning.”

“Well done, my child. I won’t forget your kind intentions.”

Aubree smiled knowingly and caressed the back of Zoey’s hand. “If ever you need a hand, just let me know. I’ll do all I can to help you out.”



The guests entered the venue in succession, getting ready to take part in the auction.

Chloe, retreating from the media's glare, sought solace in the corridor.

"Young Mistress!" Jordan hastened to her side, his eyes filled with concern. "Are you okay?"

"They're just a few pesky reporters. What can they do? How big of a splash can they make?"

"You shouldn't be here with me right now. You should go to the place and look after them," Chloe said, her brow furrowing.

"But... I'm concerned about you."

Jordan's voice was so anxious that it was hoarse. "Those reporters came ready to cause trouble! They're trying to make you look bad by pointing out our mistakes!"

"Isn't this to be expected? You're organizing a charity event. Don't tell me reporters are coming to give you accolades?"

Chloe crossed her arms in front of her chest, her expression calm. "Furthermore, there's nothing wrong with what they asked, is there? It was my own oversight in management that gave me the opportunity to be pecked by some beautiful poultry. That can't be blamed on anyone else."

It was a stunningly beautiful poultry.

Jordan's mind conjured up an image of Aubree and her daughter.

"Nevertheless, I don't concur with one thing. Those reporters were dispatched here by someone, yet they didn't ruin me. They arrived to assist me."

Chloe leaned against the wall, her fingertips lightly grazing her arm, and said, "Let Skyler take pride in herself."

"What I excel at is making her soar high and then suffer a devastating loss when her adversary believes they have the world at their fingertips. Hehe, intriguing!"

Jordan looked at the Young Lady's eyes darkening gradually and shivered, realizing she was as ruthless as President Thorp.

This rose was beautiful yet poisonous, with its thorns.

Jordan, the general manager's secretary, had to hastily arrange the meeting arrangements, so he scurried back like a wisp of

smoke.

Chloe had worked tirelessly all day for the event, having only water for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

She collapsed onto the sofa, ravenous, kicking off her high heels to reveal her white feet.

Curling up pitifully, her stomach twitched with hunger.

"I'm famished... I'm absolutely famished..."

Chloe weakly moaned and her eyes slowly shut.

Suddenly, she caught a whiff of the mellow scent of chocolate and frantically sniffed the air.

She thought she was hungry and had an illusion, her small, hooked nose twitching like a cute puppy's as she sniffed the air.

“What’s that smell? Are you not eating?”

A deep and magnetic voice sounded, its tone low and cold, like a chunk of ice.

Chloe’s heart trembled as she abruptly opened her eyes.

Her startled, contracted eyes locked with Joseph’s gloomy, star-filled gaze.

Needless to say, these beautiful eyes of hers had an indescribable lethality, no matter when or where.

Chloe was reclining on the sofa, her gaze fixed on Joseph who knelt before her, a chocolate cup cake in his hand.

Her hands clenched involuntarily, covering her hollow stomach.

Joseph had never bowed to her in the three years they had been married.

That time when Chloe was in love with him and rushed to him like a moth to a flame, she was the crying, wronged, and lowly person.

Her thoughts drifting up and down, her eyes quietly reddening and her breathing becoming chaotic, she was overwhelmed.

Joseph kept his kneeling position. After a long pause with no response from her, he slightly furrowed his brows and asked, “Didn’t you say you were hungry? Why aren’t you eating?”

“This is your favorite, chocolate flavor. Don’t worry, it’s not toxic.”

“I won’t eat it.”.

Chloe's throat was blocked by an inexplicable emotion of sadness and wrongedness.

"I heard from Aunt Gill that your tummy has never been very robust. It can be uncomfortable if you don't eat for too long." "I emphatically declared, 'I will not eat it!'"

Pa!

Chloe, with red eyes, suddenly waved her hand and the cake in Joseph's hand flew away!

"Chloe! You!"

The cake plummeted to the ground far away, shattering into pieces.

Joseph's eyes were wide open, and a fire of disappointment rushed through his heart. It was like a basin of ice water had been poured over him, the coldness spreading through his veins and chilling him to the bone.

Not only was his heart smashed, but the cake too.

"Chloe, what's the matter? Can't you tell if it's good or bad?!"

Chloe slowly sat up. She no longer felt hungry; instead, she was overwhelmed with a range of emotions and resentment. "I loathe you. I despise you even more for being so caring towards me."

"Joseph, do you realize that the way you're treating me now is no different from reprimanding me?"

"What precisely are you referring to?" Joseph's eyebrows rose like swords and he felt she was being unreasonable..

“I told you, keep your distance. I don’t need you to be nice to me. I don’t need you in my life.”

Chloe, despite the agony in her stomach, rose to her feet. Her visage, usually so radiant, was now pallid. “Has Grace abandoned you? Is there no place for you to go?”

“I’m not a dumping ground for second-rate stuff. Don’t come here expecting me to settle for less. You may be looking to cut corners, but I’m not willing to compromise!”

Joseph clenched his fists, his great grievance and shame causing his eyes to redden.

Seeing her hunger and discomfort, he wanted to give her a cake to fill her stomach. Yet, why did she so harshly stab him in the heart by demonizing him?

Chloe slipped on her high heels, stood tall, and strode forward swiftly.

Joseph picked up the cake and, upon seeing her heartless back, almost couldn’t breathe.

Chloe no longer smiled at him like a flower as she did before.

The pain in her heart cast a shadow over their failed marriage.

She was like a soldier who had narrowly escaped the battlefield, leaving her with trauma; thus, if he treated her well, she was full of resistance and suspicion.

Joseph’s trembling thin lips betrayed the pain in his heart, yet he still crushed the cake in his palm.

A person of good character and a strong relationship.

It appeared that he had destroyed them all.

At the location.

With some time still left before the auction, Alice and Ada Wang, both renowned figures in the fashion and entertainment industries, were the center of attention of everyone present. The media had been swarming around them for interviews.

Aubree chatted with other wealthy women while Skyler and Zoey pursued their own agendas.

Skyler was ready to take a photo with Ada Wang and accept another wave of reporters, eager to publicize the cooperation and demonstrate her capability.

Zoey wanted to take a photo with Alice to improve her fashion sense, which would be beneficial for her to mix in the fashion industry in the future.

“Miss Ada! I didn’t anticipate you donning this necklace today to take part in the event. It appears that you really appreciate it!”

Skyler noticed that Ada Wang was wearin

the necklace she had given Ada that evening, prompting her to approach Ada.

The reporters swarmed around the two of them, their flashes going off in rapid succession.

“Absolutely, I’m quite fond of it. After all, this is Miss Alexa’s handiwork.”

Although Ada Wang disliked Third Miss Sawle’s shallow character, she still had to be polite to Skyler since Sawle Group was

organizing her wedding, and Skyler had given her a necklace.

She embraced Skyler, taking a generous photo together.

Upon seeing the superstar so close to her and having eased the attitude toward her, Skyler was overjoyed!

“Ms. Ada Wang! Are you planning to auction off an item to benefit the charity auction tonight, or are you intending to contribute an item to liven up the event?” the reporter inquired.

“Tonight,” Ada Wang smiled, “I plan to donate a piece of jewelry to aid the charity event.”

“Oh? I’m curious to know what kind of treasure it is. Do you mind sharing the details?”

“Let’s keep you guessing for now. When the time is right, everyone will be aware.”

Meanwhile, Zoey was also seeking a chance to get near Alice.

After waiting with great difficulty for Alice to finish the interview, she mustered her courage and swiftly greeted her.

“Miss Alice! Hold on a sec!”

Upon hearing the call, Alice halted abruptly. Her cold eyes, hidden behind her sunglasses, met Zoey’s beaming face.

She naturally did not recognize Zoey, and upon seeing her wearing the latest autumn and winter design, she noticed that it did not suit her skin color or style. She concluded that Zoey had ordinary taste, buying expensive items without considering whether they were right for her, and thus had no desire to communicate with her.

“Miss Alice, I’ve been a fan of your editor’s MINT magazine since I was a kid. I’m a loyal follower of MINT!” Zoey’s cheeks were rosy with bashfulness as she attempted to make Alice happy.

“From a youthful age?” Alice half-heartedly curved her lower lip. “Heh, am I that ancient?”

“No way, you’re not even close to being old!”

Zoey was so embarrassed that her forehead was damp with perspiration. She quickly clarified, “What I’m trying to say is that I truly admire you! I’m very fond of you!”

“Can I speak with you...?”

Before she could finish speaking, she saw Alice move and hastily brush past her!

Alice didn’t so much as glance at her!

“M-Ms. Alice!”

Zoey, her skirt in hand, spun around in an instant. Her eyes widened and her complexion paled in the blink of an eye.

“President Thorp, I’ve been eagerly anticipating your arrival!”

Alice’s lips curled up impatiently as she walked towards Chloe

It was like they had been good friends for ages!

Chapter 226

The celebrities and reporters surrounding Chloe once again gazed at her in astonishment!

“Miss Alice, my apologies. I wasn’t aware that you were expecting me.”



Chloe was somewhat taken aback by the unexpected kindness, her usually tranquil and composed demeanor replaced by a slight blush.

“It’s all good. You put in a lot of effort tonight,” Alice said with a pleasant grin, her sunglasses still on.

Then, she embraced Chloe with her arm and beamed at the reporters. “Let’s get a few snaps, folks!”

Chloe’s beautiful eyes widened in surprise.

Everyone, for crying out loud!

Alice, the fashion devil, who was always arrogant yet had a good personality, was surprisingly enthusiastic to take photos with others.

President Thorp is not just simple; her charm radiates, drawing countless heroes to bow in admiration!

Skyler and Zoey, lying on the dragon and phoenix, had their expressions collapse.

Especially Zoey, who was left hanging in the same place, felt a wave of shame rising from the soles of her feet, making her head spin and her blood vessels crack.

Why? Why indeed?

Chloe smeared honey on her body, causing the big shots to turn into crazy bees and butterflies, one by one rushing to her.

She didn’t comprehend!

Chloe and Alice embraced, taking a photo together. Despite her attempt to contain her emotions, her heart was so elated it felt like a kettle that had been heated for eight hundred years.

The face she had lost before was now more or less recovered a bit.

After taking the group photo, Chloe and Alice went to a secluded spot to converse.

“Ms. Alice, thank you so much for your help.”

Chloe’s tone was very earnest. “As you can see, I did have a bit of a rough time tonight. You took a picture with me ’cause you had my back and stood up for me.”

“Miss Thorp...”

“I’m aware; I’m the contractor of this event. We’re in the same boat. You assisted me in making this event beautiful.”

“No matter what, I’m really thankful to you,” Chloe said, smiling.

“No, Miss Thorp, I’m here to help you. It doesn’t matter if you’re working with me or not.”

Alice looked at her with the benevolence of an elder. “It’s all thanks to your brother, Oscar. He asked me to look after and do whatever I can to help you out with this event.”

Chloe’s beautiful eyes flashed in shock, secretly.

you

Big brother was always worried about her, constantly fearing she would be bullied. So, even if he couldn’t be there himself, he would always make sure she was prepared for the rain and had everything she needed.

However, Alice's feelings for her big brother were not straightforward!

Big brother, you know she has a crush on you, yet you still took advantage of her... You're not being very kind!

"Miss Thorp, I'm aware that Ada has terminated the partnership with you. This situation has a considerable effect on you."

Alice removed her sunglasses with a solemn look. "Ada and I have been acquainted for a long time, and we have a strong bond. I'll discuss the nuptials with her. I wish I could be of more assistance to you."

"No, no, no!"

"No, no, you've done enough for me! I'd feel guilty if you helped me out again!" Chloe waved her hand.

"Are you scared to owe me a favour, lass?"

"Don't be scared. I did all this for you of my own free will. I never expected you to repay me." Alice raised her hand and gave Chloe's shoulder a comforting pat.

"I really like Oscar and I think he should have told you about it. right?"

Chloe pursed her lips and nodded emphatically.

"You are Oscar's most beloved sister and his most treasured relative. I also hold dear the one he holds dear. I have had an affection for him for a decade and never asked for anything in return. As long as he continues to give me the strength to love him, I will be content."

When Oscar was mentioned, Alice's eyes lit up with a passionate love.

Chloe was momentarily rendered speechless, wanting desperately to know what her elder brother had done to inspire such loyalty in the woman.

Truly, a deity of love!

Outside the venue.

Joseph smoked three cigarettes in succession in the smoking area, yet his heart remained heavy with depression.

Feeling the auction was about to start, he sadly trudged to the venue with a heavy heart.

Joseph stood tall and straight, a lonely figure emanating from the left side of the corridor.

Heading down the corridor, a handsome man was approaching him.

They halted at the entrance of the venue.

Their eyes met, as if light stones were colliding, the confrontation was formless yet a dark tide was surging.

Joseph's cold gaze pressed against his dark eyes, his brows furrowed and his face frosted with an unreadable expression as he stared at Jerome.

"Mr. Sawle, what a surprise. Are you here to donate to the charity too?" Fourth Young Master Xavier adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses.

"I'm not as affectionate as you," Joseph said, his eyes expressionless as he slowly raised his thin lips. "I just want to do my part for her."

Apart from Chloe, there would be no other “her” he was referring to.

Jerome’s smile froze, his eyes ending in a secret clench of his fingers.

The charity auction tonight finally concluded as the main event.

One could participate in this auction either by donating items or by taking part in the auction itself.

The profits would be donated to charity funds established by the country, with the entire process being open and transparent, with no hidden operations.

It was already the fifteenth year of MINT’s charity event, and everyone was speculating if KS WORLD would be the one to garner the most donations and break the record.

Joseph and Jerome both caused a commotion as they entered the venue.

Tonight was Chloe’s place, so they all thought of her and didn’t want to steal the spotlight; thus, they sat in the last row, keeping a low profile and acting as a supportive backdrop.

Chloe was unaware that Jerome had arrived, so she and Alice sat in the front, chatting animatedly and occasionally nibbling on their ears.

Zoey, several meters away, was so enraged that her eyes were on the brink of reddening!

The auction began

The emcee, lifting the red cloth from the glass display cabinet, revealed the first item.

This item is from the personal collection of the wife of the chairman of Xavy Group. It is a rare five-square-shaped emerald diamond necklace!

Everyone exclaimed in admiration!

This first auction item was so significant that it gave Chloe the necessary recognition for her charity event.

Chloe, secretly shocked, couldn't help but turn her head hurriedly to look for Jerome.

She soon spotted the delicate and handsome face in the corner.

Jerome, upon catching her surprised gaze, smiled and waved his hand in greetin

Chloe lifted her red lips in a wave to him.

Little did she know, as the two of them interacted in the air, Joseph witnessed the entire process.

The man stared, unblinking, at Chloe's beautiful face, his throat burning like charcoal, and his hand deforming the number tag he held.

Chapter 227

The sight of the ancestral mother's green diamond necklace elicited a frenzy of excitement from the entire audience!

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that this necklace was of the highest quality, from the diamond's purity to the precision of the cutting process. Its valuation was already in the seven digits!

Xavy Group's generosity was truly remarkable in donating such a precious piece of jewelry for the charity auction!

At this moment, a dazzling light illuminated Jerome's handsome figure.

Everyone's curious gazes followed, and upon seeing the man's exquisite face, resembling a jade crown, they all sighed in admiration!

Jerome's pair of auspicious phoenix eyes, that concealed the wind and moon, were fixedly gazing in Chloe's direction, as if she were the only one in his line of sight.

He only wished to be in her company, unaccompanied.

"This man is truly handsome! His face is flawless, like a white jade sculpture. Who is he?!"

"He must be Xavy Group's young master; otherwise, how could he have crafted such a costly piece of jewelry?"

"Xavy Group's young master? Why haven't I seen him before?"

"To back up Miss Thorp like this, it's unlikely that... they have that kind of connection, isn't it?"

"So what if it's that relationship? Miss Thorp is a first-rate beauty. With Young Master Xavier, it's a match made in heaven, a perfect pairing, right?"

The incessant chatter was like a mosquito's buzz in Joseph's ears.

What good horse is worthy of a saddle... What nonsensical analogy is that?!

Jerome's white, beardless face and sinister gaze brought to mind Zhao Gao and Wei Zhongxian, both treacherous ministers.

“Ancestral mother’s green diamond necklace, with a starting price of 275 thousand dollars – let the bidding begin!”

Once the auctioneer had finished speaking, the guests all raised their cards.

“410 thousand dollars!”

“550 thousand dollars!”..

“615 thousand dollars!”

“700 thousand dollars!”

The heat was palpable and the competition was intense!

Before the event began, Chloe had been feeling very uneasy in her stomach.

Seeing the first item soar to 700 thousand dollars in an instant, the gratifying result made her feel as if her waist and back were no longer sore!

All diseases were cured by money.

On the contrary, Aubree and her daughter were livid and immediately stormed off.

They had come to see Chloe make a fool of herself, but they hadn’t anticipated the auction’s success. The public opinion attack they had orchestrated seemed to have no effect; it was so dull!



“Mom!” Skyler said hatefully, staring at Chloe who was joking with Alice. “Jerome came to support that little bitch on behalf of Xavy Group and donated such luxurious jewelry. He really spent a lot of money on her!”

Aubree sneered, “What? Are you green with envy?”

“How could I not be jealous!”

Skyler squeezed her dress. “Ever since I was a kid, apart from my dad, no other guy has ever been so caring and generous to

me.”

“Not only did Chloe’s brother pamper her, but even Young Master Anderson and Young Master Xavier became her flower guardians. Recently, even Joseph’s attitude towards her was no longer as frosty as before.”

“Tdon’t get why she’s so popular. Why do those guys always fawn over her? With her constantly putting me down, I wake up every morning feeling like every day is bleak!”

She dreamed of living a life like Chloe’s, with endless peach blossoms outside and her brothers at home, always ready to spoil her at her beck and call!

But what did she have?

She had only a silly, smoking, and unfortunate little sister!

“Stop wearing that self-pitying expression. You are Aubree’s daughter, so why do you always look at others with envy and undermine your own reputation? You really can’t handle a confrontation!” Aubree was so mad that she pinched her daughter’s thigh.

Skyler’s cry of pain elicited frowns from those around him.

“Vincent is already my future son-in-law. It’s a sure thing that you will wed him. Nobody would want to mess up my good luck, unless he’s had enough of life!”

“Don’t take it to heart,” Aubree said, glaring at Chloe and sneering.

“It would be advantageous for Chloe to engage in that worthless activity. Not only would it prevent Joseph from having any thoughts about her, but it would also preserve our good deeds. It’s like killing two birds with one stone!”

“But, Mom, he’s the rightful young master of the Xavier family, and his mom is Director Xavier’s lawful wife. If Chloe’s really with him, it’d be like giving a tiger wings, wouldn’t it?” Skyler said, looking flabbergasted.

“It’s not like giving a tiger wings, it’s more like committing suicide!”.

Aubree crossed her hands.”This Jerome is the son that Director Xavier loathes the most. His mother is also held in contempt. Both mother and son have been sent away by him for the entire year. He has the title of Young Master of the Xavier family, but in reality, he is destitute.”

“He has no stake in Xavy Group, nor any standing within it. It would be best if Chloe found a partner who was more than just a second-generation nobody.”

She curled her lips in mockery, full of wicked thoughts, “I really want the two of them to be ‘doné for... This way, Chloe won’t be able to escape this problem forever.”

At the present time, the ancestral mother green necklace’s price has been raised to 820 thousand dollars.

Everyone ceased bidding.

Chloe was ecstatic; she was delighted with the start.

“950 thousand dollars.”

A magnetic and steady voice echoed from behind.

Chloe took a deep breath, and her smile faded away.

Everyone was surprised.

Joseph raised the sign in his hand confidently, his expression cold.

“It’s Mr. Sawle from Sawle Group!”

“Gosh! When did this god appear? He’s so hard to find!”

“A person who is unassuming yet lives extravagantly!”

Joseph’s hand held the sign firmly, and Ming Lie gazed intently at Chloe, unable to take his eyes away.

In the end, she didn’t even glance back!

The Thorp family’s glance was not to be had for the 950 thousand dollars.

It seemed that this money had to keep getting smashed!

“Nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars – buying this necklace is a huge expense. Even if you have the money, you can’t just throw it away like this.” Alice shook her head in disapproval.

“If there are fewer instances of such injustice,” Chloe’s red lips twitched as she silently cursed Joseph, “the children in the poor mountainous areas will have more hope.”

“Congratulations, Mr. Sawle of the Sawle Group! Thank you for your generous support of charity!”

The auctioneer having made the final decision, the audience applauded.

When the camera shifted to Joseph, he lifted his thin lips and gave a perfunctory smile in response.

Jerome, not far off, pushed his glasses up with his fingertips, his eyes cold.

The auction proceeded without a hitch.

All the jewelry donated at the venue had been bought at a high price,

even Aubree had symbolically bid for it.

What made Chloe extremely unhappy was that whenever Joseph encountered jewelry that couldn’t be sold at a high price,

he would deliberately raise the price back.

In just one hour, he had purchased three pieces of jewelry, spending more than four million dollars.

Chloe’s face was icy cold, and she was desperate to get the dog man out of the venue!

Joseph bought another piece of jewelry, not too valuable, and the people around him started talking about it.

“Is this item worth \$550,000? Does Mr. Sawle lack the discernment to recognize a valuable find?”

“He’s good-looking and wealthy. If he’s a bit foolish, then that’s just the way it is. Nobody’s perfect!”

“Idiot my ass! Didn’t y’all see? The jewels Mr. Sawle bought are all bogus. Even if he was sightless, he couldn’t have missed all the valuable stuff, right? Looks like he got ‘em on purpose!” Someone was sharp enough to spot this issue.

Everyone was shocked. “Indeed! So what you’re saying is…”

“Mr. Sawle purchased these inexpensive items to give Miss Thorp a boost and aid her auction in generating worth. Here’s a thousand gold coins for a lovely lady!”

Zoey watched her long-awaited second brother doing all he could to appease Chloe, and her rage was so intense that her eyes reddened and her fury blazed!

She couldn’t get what she wanted, so when Joseph sent it to her, she ignored him, resulting in an extreme contrast that left her feeling humiliated beyond anything she had ever experienced.

Everyone nodded vigorously, “That makes sense!”

Joseph, his thin lips curling up, vaguely heard the conversation.

It appeared that there were still those who comprehended.

Unfortunately, Chloe never once glanced back at him from start to finish.

The man’s lips curled up at the corners slightly.

“Heh,” Jerome scoffed, letting out a cold laugh. “Boring,” he added, clearly disdainful of Joseph’s actions.

What was the point of throwing money? Did he think that Chloe was a mere, inexpensive fan?

“I’d like to present the next item to all of you!”

The auctioneer’s voice was high and bright, and with a sudden swish, the red cloth covering the glass display cabinet was opened.

What came into view was an exquisite white diamond necklace with extraordinary cutting skills, in the shape of a water droplet, encrusted with hundreds of thin blue diamonds. It was truly amazing!

“This jewelry was kindly donated by Ms. Ada Wang. It was a stunning necklace crafted by renowned international jewelry designer, Ms. Alexa! We are truly grateful for Ms. Ada Wang’s generosity!”

At the sight of the necklace on the stage, Skyler’s expression changed instantly and she sat up straight!

Zoey’s expression stiffened, her fingers intertwining and turning red as she watched.

Chapter 228

They had never anticipated that Ada Wang would donate the necklace right there in front of everyone!

How could this work?

Skyler spun around and locked eyes with Zoey. From several meters apart, they silently communicated, unable to utter a single word.

Alexa’s work brought the atmosphere of the scene to its peak,

The experts and fans in the jewelry industry all leaned forward, necks craning like long-necked deer, eager to catch a glimpse of the brilliance of the legendary designer’s work.

Joseph and Jerome had long admired the name Alexa, and their silent eyes were now moistened with emotion.

The two men, gripping the sign tightly in their hands, were ready to go.

“Skyler, why are you standing? Hurry and take a seat. Can’t you see everyone’s eyes on you?” Aubree tugged her arm, knowing she wouldn’t be getting back on stage.”

“Mom, something’s happened!” Skyler sat down, her voice quavering.

“Something happen? What was it?”

“This necklace that Ada Wang donated... I gave it to her.”

“You gave

it to her?! Where did you obtain Alexa’s work from?””

3

Aubree was taken aback, but then she became livid. “You gave her such a valuable necklace! That old woman is a complete waste of a precious gift. She misinterpreted your generosity as ill-will! Is this an insult to you?!”

“You as well, you didn’t return the jewellery that Alexa crafted for your mum, but instead gave it to that actress. I really brought you up for nothing!”

“Mom,” Skyler said, her forehead beading with sweat and her voice barely above a whisper, “that necklace... it’s not real”

“What did you say? Fake?!” Aubree’s heart quivered.

“It was Zoey who assisted me in locating Alexa’s apprentice to fabricate a counterfeit necklace....

“Ada Wang still-hasn’t signed a contract with me. In a state of desperation, I could only think of this plan. I copied Chloe and used Alexa’s jewellery network to win her over...”

“That necklace is really nice. It’s one of Alexa’s less popular pieces, so Ada Wang didn’t take notice of it. I knew that secrets can’t stay hidden forever, but I thought that even if I got caught later, the contract was already signed. Even if Ada Wang wanted to go back on her word, it would be too late.”

“But I never anticipated that she would actually donate this necklace to the auction! If this gets out... then our Sawle Group’s reputation will be ruined!”

“Your stupidity knows no bounds!”

“Even if you don’t want to part with it, you can’t keep it! If you’re discovered, the entire Sawle family will perish with you – are you aware of that?”

“This isn’t my idea... It was Zoey who gave it to me. You can’t put the blame on me!” Skyler pursed her lips in frustration. She felt unjustly accused.

“Zoey is exploiting you like a weapon. Don’t you realize it?!”

Aubree was so enraged that she stomped her feet in secret, and her eyes were red. “If this matter goes undetected, you’ll have to battle for the power to handle Chloe.”

“If you discover that the necklace was given by the Sawle Group in your name, what does that have to do with Zoey? She’ll leave you to deal with the consequences, and you won’t even have a shoulder to cry on if you do!”

Skyler was enlightened enough to hate herself for having been used by Zoey.



“Mom! What should we do now?”

“Let’s tackle the ever-evolving situation.”

Aubree inhaled deeply and soothed herself. “Alexa’s jewelry has been handed down through many nations. Who’d suspect it was counterfeit? If Ada Wang didn’t spot it, no one else would

Skyler’s expression softened, yet she remained anxious thave a

a chance!”

the counterfeit would be exposed.

“I’d like to share a few thoughts about this piece of jewellery,” Ada Wang

said, rising to her feet and beaming at the crowd.

“I obtained this piece of work from Alexa, and I owe Miss Skyler of Group my gratitude. She presented me with this

Chloe leisurely pulled out her mobile phone and sent a message to Jordan, who was backstage.

In the next instant, a brilliant light shone on Skyler’s rigid face.

The big screen on the stage gave her a close-up, magnifying every subtle expression of hers.

Skyler was pushed to the brink, leaving her with no option but to inwardly curse and give a hollow laugh.

“I really admire Alexa’s work, but I think it would be more beneficial to keep it to herself. It’s admirable that she’s willing to give it away to help those in need.”

“This is also the principle that Lady Alexa has been adhering to in designing jewelry all these years. As her fan, I hope to follow her in this way.”

“I hope Miss Skyler won’t be displeased with my behaviour. It’s not that I don’t appreciate it, but I’m so fond of it that I wish it could be even more valuable.”

At this point, Skyler naturally didn’t dare to utter the word “no”.

She wished fervently for the lights above her head to be switched off, so that her embarrassed face would no longer be visible on the big screen, and it would be ideal if she could disappear as well!

“Alexa’s work is rare and of great importance, so Miss Ada decided to put it up for auction without a reserve price!”

The auction started, yet everyone was hesitant.

“Four million dollars.”

Jerome smiled as he slowly raised his card, and a clear voice suddenly sounded.

Four million dollars?!

This was the highest price of any item thus far!

Was the starting price of 4 million going to reach a hundred million?

Although Alexa’s work was worth the price, it also caused many eager people to shrink back.

“Seven million,” Joseph raised his paddle with a stoic expression, still detached and apathetic.

Yet, the dark flame in his eyes revealed his unbridled fighting spirit and ambition.

Everyone was shocked to hear that Mr. Sawle’s family had a money printing machine that was running 24 hours a day.

This jump was three million.

A few people still wanted to take a shot, but by now they had abandoned all hope.

“9 million,” Jerome raised his paddle again without even a hint of a frown.

He also threw down the gauntlet to Joseph by adding another 3 million.

“12 million,” Mr. Sawle said.

“14 million,” Fourth Young Master Xavier said.

The entire audience, completely in an uproar, exclaimed in disbelief!

It’s been confirmed: Young Master Xavier’s family has a money-printing machine.

Chloe crossed her arms in front of her chest, her long and beautiful eyelashes fluttering, her red lips tightly pressed together in a straight line.

Seeing the bidding price soar like a red-hot stock, not a trace of a smile crossed her face.

“Miss Thorp, it’s plain as day that these two aren’t bidding – they’re bickering!” Even Alice could tell!

“That’s correct. They believe I’m at the highway entrance. They’re all here to hike up the cost!”

Chloe frowned, wishing she could send someone to seize the two men’s numbers.

Aubree, on the contrary, was utterly stunned.

“Mom, didn’t you say that Young Master Xavier is a pauper? But he just requested ten million! How can he appear to be without money?” Skyler asked, astonished.

Aubree was speechless.

Did she err this time? Was Jerome playing the game of masquerading as a pig to devour a tiger?

“Seventeen million,” Joseph said emotionlessly, raising the bid once more.

He had always had a knot in his heart over Alexa, so tonight he was determined to let out his anger and bid for it.

“20 million!”

A melodious voice, clear as pearls dropping onto a jade plate, resounded.

Chloe’s cold, beautiful eyes had reached their limit, and she raised the sign in response.

Chapter 229

Joseph and Jerome’s hearts quivered, and they simultaneously glanced at Chloe.

Both of them had their hearts set on Chloe, and they instantly noticed her anger.

Thus, the two of them joined forces and exited the auction.

Why get angry over such a small thing? Let it go..

“Well done, Miss Thorp! This necklace is all yours!”

Without waiting for the others to react, the auctioneer, keenly judging the situation, decided to let Chloe win this item.

After two seconds of silence, the venue erupted into warm applause.

Chloe’s face remained composed, her eyes like a still pool, devoid of any joy.

“Mom! Chloe bought the counterfeit one! Did she realize it was a fake?!” Skyler was so agitated that her voice quivered, and her heart was pounding like a rabbit.

“Hush! Are you trying to yell so loud that the entire world can hear you?!”

Aubree gave Skyler’s elbow a sharp pinch, and there was a hint of resentment in her gaze. “Chloe must not have realized the jewelry was counterfeit. She probably didn’t anticipate there’d be a fake one at her auction.”

“This twenty million dollars of hers can be seen as aiding you in doing good deeds!”

“If she discovers us when we return...” Skyler was still anxious.

“Once the auction item is out here, it’ll have nothing to do with you! Who knows if she’ll be replaced or slandered by someone when she takes it home?” Aubree snorted coldly.

Skyler admired her mother’s ability to invert black and white without reason the most, wishing she could share her mother’s brain, yet secretly hating why she couldn’t.

Upon seeing that Chloe had sold the jewelry Ada had borrowed for the highest price in the audience, Ada Wang couldn’t help but break into a satisfied smile.

She felt that Chloe still harbored some fantasies of being able to collaborate with her, which was the only reason she could think of for her to do this.

Sighing, so young and vigorous!

Chloe’s eyes darkened as she, young and vigorous, took out her phone to send a message to Jordan

She adjusted her posture calmly and composedly, as if awaiting an entertaining show.

“The following piece of jewellery is from...”

When the red cloth was lifted, the auctioneer’s speech abruptly ceased.

He glanced at the waterdrops and diamonds in the display cabinet, then quickly glanced at the schedule in his hand.

There was a bug, and the goods were incorrect!

When the dazzling spotlights shone on the glass cabinet, everyone was taken aback in surprise!

“Am I seeing things? Isn’t this necklace... the one that Ada Wang just donated?!”

“That’s correct! That’s the one! It’s identical!”

“That’s impossible! Every piece of jewelry that Alexa designed is one-of-a-kind and unparalleled in this world. How could there be two of them that are identical? And now, they are both up for auction?!”

“So... could it be that one of them is not genuine?”

The discussions were bubbling like boiling water as everyone’s eyes were drawn to the necklace in the display cabinet.

Ada Wang, her face stunned, leaned forward, gazing at the necklace as if she had been struck by lightning out of the blue.

Aubree and her mother were both frightened and numb, their hands tightly clenched as cold sweat trickled down Skyler’s

back.

Ada Wang was given a fake necklace by her.

The only possibility was that the necklace on the stage, whose donor was unknown, must be genuine!

“Miss Thorp, before you conducted the auction, didn’t you inspect the items up for sale? How could you have made such a blunder?” Alice wasn’t trying to accuse Chloe; she was just concerned for her.

“Am I the one who doesn’t abide by the rules? Isn’t it Ms. Ada?” Chloe’s lips curved into an intriguing smile.

Alice was astonished. “Could this necklace be...?!”

Amidst everyone's shock and confusion, Chloe rose gracefully and glided to the stage.

Joseph narrowed his eyes and gazed at Chloe, her smile radiant and her eyes twinkling.

The heart that had lain dormant beneath the tight suit was now beating strangely, and every inch of skin seemed to be

ablaze.

"Everyone, as the organizer of the MINT charity event, the cause of the unfortunate black dragon incident has caused us all a great deal of distress. As the person responsible for the hotel, I cannot absolve myself of blame. I am here to offer my sincere apologies to all of you."

As Chloe spoke, she bowed deeply to the guests.

The scene quieted gradually.

"Secondly," Chloe pursed her lips lightly, "I want to let everyone know that this 'god water droplet' was a personal gift from me."

Everyone was shocked and, upon seeing Ada Wang, they all turned to look at her.

Ada Wang was completely stunned, her gaze fixed on Skyler as everyone around her looked on.

Skyler could only gaze in Zoey's direction, but she was nowhere to be seen!

Sensing something amiss, Zoey had already seized the opportunity of the chaos to flee!

Chloe glanced down at the seemingly endless cycle of death, her red lips curving involuntarily. "Miss Ada, I had no idea you'd be donating this necklace tonight, so this is all just a coincidence. No need for any other misunderstandings."



“Pre-President Thorp,” Ada Wang asked with a stiff expression, her confident aura instantly diminished, “why do you also have a ‘God Water Droplet’?”

Chloe stifled her grin and arched her brows. “Ms. Ada, the issue at hand isn’t why I have this necklace, but rather your necklace it’s a fake.”

Everyone was shocked to hear it was fake.

The whole audience was in great shock.

Aubree managed to remain calm, whereas Skyler had already been scared by Chloe’s words.

“This necklace of mine, which was given to me by the third young miss of the Sawle Group... How could it be fake?!” Ada Wang still found it hard to believe.

If this necklace were fake, then wouldn’t she be so foolish as to have so generously donated it just now that she’d be spitting blood?!

“Miss Thorp! What authority do you have to declare that the necklace my daughter presented to Miss Ada is counterfeit? You should have it evaluated by an expert first! Otherwise, wouldn’t you be defaming us?!”

Aubree, sensing that a big mess was imminent if the situation continued, hastily jumped out and took preemptive action, temporarily controlling it so she could question them.

“If I venture to assert that this is counterfeit, it implies that I have a means to confirm it. It is certainly not an alarmist discourse.” Chloe spoke with poise and composure, her voice neither rushed nor sluggish.

Her beautiful eyes flashed with a dark light, bewitchingly.

Joseph sat upright, not even blinking, as he tightened his grip on Chloe's little face, his thin lips curling up in a menacing

smile.

With a sly expression like a little fox, she would often do bad things when she smiled like this.

In the past, no

matter how he viewed this expression, it would make him angry; yet now, he finds it rather endearing and aesthetically pleasing.

"Miss Thorp! Do you have any proof to suggest that Miss Sawle's is not genuine?"

"Ms. Ada is an experienced jewelry collector. If it's a forgery, how could she not recognize it?"

"Yes, Miss Thorp! You must be held accountable for such baseless statements! The necklaces of both of you are identical.

You should seek out an expert to evaluate them before coming to a conclusion!"

Chloe's expression remained unchanged as she confronted the audience from the stage.

The thick door of the venue was suddenly pushed open.

Everyone instinctively turned to look behind them.

Stepping on sharp high heels, the exotic beauty with blonde hair and blue eyes made her entrance, her steady aura

surprising everyone.

Joseph couldn't help but turn around and, upon doing so, his pupils instantly contracted.

It was actually Sliva?

Why is Sliva here now?

"It's Miss Sliva!" Someone exclaimed in awe. "It's the person in charge of Alexa's studio!"

"Sliva actually came here?! She's Alexa's go-to person. Is there anyone more qualified to evaluate Alexa's jewelry than her?!"

Under everyone's gaze, Sliva kept her eyes averted and walked directly to Chloe.

Chloe smiled at her, then walked off the stage.

"You're here."

She warmly and naturally greeted Sliva, taking the others by surprise.

Sliva stopped before her, taking Chloe's hand in her, and tenderly kissed the back of it. This was Puplen's highest form of reverence and respect.

"Sorry, Miss Alexa, I apologize for being late."

Chapter 230

Everyone was silent, and then suddenly they erupted into deafening exclamations!

Chloe was Alexa all along!

Joseph's mind buzzed, and then for a few seconds, it went blank. It was as if even the soul under his leather bag was trembling and stirring, before being smashed into pieces and suspended in outer space. He felt as light as a feather, unable to exert any strength from head to toe.

Chloe was Alexa.

She was the beautiful legend of the jewelry industry, worshipped by tens of thousands.

Therefore, during this time, she had been observing him act foolishly. Knowing that he had exhausted his mental resources to try and win Alexa over, only to be rejected, she must have been delighted and secretly pleased!

Joseph panted heavily, his thin lips trembling and his peach blossom eyes red beyond words, unsure if he was angrier or more shocked.

"Chloe... You deceived me once more... You truly deceived me again!"

She was obviously gifted, yet she concealed it from him seamlessly.

In the three years of marriage, she had lost all her former vibrancy and was now just an anonymous little girl beside him, pouring tea and water, washing her hands and cooking soup....

Why did she humiliate herself in such a manner? Was she making fun of his lack of knowledge?

Joseph clenched his teeth so hard that his teeth were sore, and his heart ached. Unable to contain his pain, he raised his hand to cover his heart.

Is playing with me like this fun for you, Chloe?

You've never been truthful with me, so why are you hoping I'll fall in love with you?

"Alexa?! The Thorp family is actually Alexa?! This is truly astonishing news!"

"It can't be phony, can it?!"

"The diamond necklace may be a counterfeit, but people can be insincere? Sliva is here, so it's a confirmation! It can't be a -sham!"

No longer caring about their former pretentious dignity, these people whipped out their mobile phones and went wild taking photos of Chloe!

Alexa was so real and enthusiastic, if they did not taken a few more photos to show off, they would have come here for nothing tonight!

Jerome, pushing up his glasses, quietly gazed at Chloe, who was surrounded by stars, a hint of love and playfulness in his

eyes.

No one but Chloe could provide him with such a vivid stimulation.

Only Chloe made him feel that the existence of love was not so boring and ridiculous.

The chaos began to unfold.

To draw nearer to God, everyone increasingly embraced Chloe more closely.

Jerome furrowed his brows, a premonition of danger looming if he continued.

He rose and went to assist her.

Without warning, a cold gust of wind blew past him suddenly.

Jerome's gaze shot up and he saw Joseph striding over, pushing through the throng and wedging his tall, upright frame into the crowd

Clenching his fingers, his eyes sharp like claws, he wished he could tear Joseph apart.

Chloe was startled to see Joseph seemingly descend from the sky and stand in front of her, forming a human wall to block her path.

"What are you up to?" She asked grumpily.

"There are too many people here; I'm afraid you're in danger," Joseph said, turning away from her.

"Heh, Jordan is lagging behind us. Furthermore, our KS WORLD's security is top-notch. This kind of minor incident is totally under control. There's no need for you to put on an act of being a good person here."

Chloe snorted coldly, unable to bear the sight of his hypocritical, heroic face.

"Chloe, you deceived me once more."

Joseph slowly shifted his gaze. His dark eyes were intimidating. In a hushed tone, he spoke with a quivering voice, "Don't you have anything to tell me about your deceit?"

Chloe smiled, her eyes full of contempt. "Must be so bitter to be fooled by me, huh? Don't worry, you'll get used to it in time."

Joseph took a deep breath, coughing afterward.

She made him angry.

Once Jordan dispatched a team of bodyguards to the scene, the unrest caused by Alexa began to dissipate.

“My word... You are Alexa... How is that possible...?”

Ada Wang, step by step, approached Chloe, covering her mouth in excitement, her eyes brimming with tears and her speech incoherent.

“I didn’t intend to conceal my identity. It’s just that my reputation is of no consequence to me. I simply enjoy designing jewelry and don’t wish to join any particular group or draw too much attention.”

“I’m aware of how much you care for me. It’s an honor to have your love and the love of everyone else.”  
Chloe’s demeanor towards Ada Wang was as kind as ever.

This aura, this demeanor!

“I apologize... Chloe... No, Miss Alexa. Please excuse my earlier impoliteness.”

Ada Wang felt so regretful that her throat was bitter, remembering the cold words she had said to Chloe and the neglect of her attitude; she wished she could dig out her eyes to atone for her sins!

If this were not blind, what else could it be?

“I’m Alexa, and I’m also the General Manager of KS WORLD. My other role can’t make up for the hotel’s failure to keep things confidential, so I haven’t blamed you, and you don’t need to blame yourself.”

Chloe was like a demonic reflection right now.

Aubree and her daughter were on the brink of unveiling their true forms, be they demons or ghosts.

“God Water Droplet is Alexa’s exclusive collection. It has never been made available to the public. No one else in the world has it, apart from Alexa.”

Sliva’s piercing gaze was fixed on Skyler. “It’s clear that the item Miss Skyler gave to Miss Ada is a fake.”

“To have the audacity to copy our Alexa’s work is a behavior that will severely damage our reputation and infringe upon our creative rights. Every piece of work that Alexa has produced is highly protected.”

“What repercussions and penalties will you face? Miss Sawle, you are not oblivious. You should be aware of it in your core, correct?”