CHOSEN 1221

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It was standard acupuncture, there was no bleeding involved. The usual two needles in the back of the neck were normal, but the ones in Wendy's fingers, that was just Chloe messing around without a care

Grace caught on to this too She saw the blood seeping from Wendy's fingers and asked angrily, "Why the hell is she bleeding?"

Jane replied. "Ms. Alonso is seriously ill and needs to be bled for treatment."

That explanation seemed pretty legit

"But that's just one hand. The back of the fingers needs to be done too, then there's the other hand...

No more.." Wendy was at the end of her rope. When she heard she still had fifteen more needles to go, she almost passed out from fear. But she couldn't pass out It she did, who knew how many more needles were waiting for her.

"You can't quit halfway Just hang in there a bit longer..."

Jane looked serious, "Hurry up and continue. If you wait too long, bacteria will invade the body! You know how harmful bacteria can be to women, right?"

They certainly knew how harmful bacteria could be to women. Although seeing Wendy in pain was heartbreaking, Grace still sat by the bed and held down Wendy's shoulders.

"Mum..."

*Just bear with it... If a woman's body is infected with bacteria, it can affect fertility

Wendy's face was pale and covered in sweat. After hearing Grace's words, she regretted everything. If she had known it would be like this, why would she have faked fainting? Now, with the needles halfway in and the doctor's convincing explanation, she didn't even have a reason to argue.

Affect fertility? How could it affect her fertility? She did all this just to marry Damon. If she ended up childless, her position in the Harper family wouldn't be secure.

Wendy's obedience made Chloe smirked again and she continued needle insertion. This time her movements were much slower than before. It was like she was purposely tormenting Wendy, slowly rotating the thickest and longest needle before suddenly stabbing it all the way in.

Wendy screamed non–stop.
'Sorry, I missed the spot"
'It hurts!!!"
'Don't move. You'll displace the needle…"
'No!"
'Stop moving!"

Fifteen needles in and Wendy let out more than twenty screams. In between was Chloe's "mistake." Once all the needles were in, Chloe let out a deep breath and stood up from the chair. Wendy was in so much pain that she couldn't move and lay limp on the bed. Even breathing hurt.

The pillow had long been bitten through, she was wearing Chloe's pajamas and they were soaked through. The wounds on her body from Damon's abuse yesterday were already oozing pus. Now, covered in sweat, the pain was unbearable.

Chloe stood quietly to one side, her gaze falling on Wendy lying on the bed. Wendy was wearing Chloe's pajamas, pricked with twenty silver needles and was bleeding. She smiled slightly, revealing her cold cruelty. Wendy wanted to make her uncomfortable? Wendy could wear her pajamas. But since she wore them without permission, she would have to pay the price.

Presley, seeing things finally ending, let out a sigh of relief. But then, glancing at Chloe and seeing her smile, his eyes immediately sharpened.

This woman....

Not just Presley, but Grace also belatedly realized what was really going on. She saw the gloating expression on Chloe's face. Looking at Wendy lying on the bed, weak to the point of fainting, she instantly understood everything. It was like a bomb had gone off in her mind. This woman was deliberately torturing Wendy.

She actually dared to bully Wendy right in front of her?!

She immediately stood up and walked over to Chloe, looking up at Chloe who was much taller than her. Her eyes were filled with anger.

"Chloe, you've got some nerve!" She ground her teeth and said in a deliberately lowered voice.

Chloe's smile widened, her eyes almost squinting with amusement.

"Thank you for the compliment."

Grace was so mad she ground her teeth.

"How's it going?" Damon's voice came from the doorway at this moment.

Grace's eyes flickered, hiding her angry expression. She was extremely angry inside, feeling greatly humiliated by Chloe's mockery. She had spent so much effort to become a member of the Alonso family, and now a young woman was bullying her daughter in front of her.

No wonder Wendy was so afraid of this woman. It seemed there was a reason for it. And now, even though she knew it was deliberate, she was powerless.

"What could she say? Could she expose Chloe's intentions?

If she exposed Chloe, Wendy's act of fainting would also be revealed. In front of Presley, and Damon, who Wendy cared about the most, how could they know about

this?

Today was a loss; she and Wendy could only swallow their anger.

"Don't get too cocky! Who do you think you are, hurting a member of the Alonso family? I'll make you pay for this!"

Chloe's smile grew wider, "Thanks for the praise, it's my duty, no need to thank me."

"You..." Grace was furious but managed to hold back her anger in the nick of time. It took a while before she managed to squeeze out an ugly smile. "Thank you

anyway..."

This "thank you" was said through gritted teeth. The person being mocked had to thank the moder, it was laughable just thinking about it

Chloe raised an eyebrow and gave hits a sweet smile. Then, she turned to Presley who was looking at her seriously, and said to Jane, Dr. Jane, Ms Alonso has just been needed, shouldn't she avoid catching a co?"

Jane looked at her and gave a helpless smile. This woman really was cunning "Yes, remember to remove the needles later and make sure she doesn't catch a cold" Chloe nodded and ordered the servant nearby, "Go get another blanket for Ms. Alonso from the guest room and turn up the air conditioning a bit. Make sure she doesn't feel cold"

"Alright The servant immediately got moving

Damon, standing at the door, couldn't help but laugh when he heard her.

Chapter 1222

Wendy shrieked loudly again when Chloe was pulling out the needle.

After the needle was out, Chloe eamestly said again, "Since you can't catch a cold, you should stay here for another night and leave tomorrow."

She continued, "After all, if you guys get sick, I'm the one who has to take the blame."

Wendy was naturally happy for her to do this. Grace could not ignore Wendy's health either.

After saying this, Chloe took out the needles, handed them over to Jane, and then walked over to Damon.

"I never expected you to have medical skills."

Chloe blinked her eyes, leaned forward towards Damon, and whispered, "Actually, I don't."

Damon's eyes were filled with helplessness and indulgence, he reached out his hand to wrap around her waist, pulling her closer. "Sly little fox."

This was a conversation that only the two of them could hear. Damon's voice reminded Chloe of times when he would whisper sweet nothings during their intimate
moments.
Chloe's eyes flickered a few times, she lightly bit her lip. "She really made a lot of trouble, and if I didn't cooperate, wouldn't her plan be wasted?"
The two disregarded the people around them and walked out of the room. Chloe lowered her head and rubbed the hand that had been holding Wendy's, recalling Grace's words; her eyes were filled with
deep thought.
"Damon" she suddenly said.
"What?"
Chloe was silent for a while and didn't say anything until they reached the staircase. Damon stopped walking and looked down at her. "What's wrong?"
Chloe looked up and smiled at him, "You're not angry anymore, right?"
Damon looked at her, "I'm not angry."
"You're lying. You were clearly angry just now."
"I'm not angry now."
Chloe smiled. "How can you let me bully your friend who grew up with you?"

Damon smiled. "You can bully her as you like."
Chloe paused for a few seconds, then suddenly started laughing
"If she hears this, she'll definitely be pissed."
"As long as you're happy, that's all that matters."
Marina hesitated for a long time before tentatively speaking to Elizabeth. She hoped they could stay. She described the loneliness Presley felt living alone in the mansion in a way that could not help but elicit sympathy.
They knew Marina meant no harm. Elizabeth softened, and so did Chloe. In fact, they felt a little guilty.
Presley had done some unforgivable things, even heartbreaking things. But they had their own thoughts Just because someone had wronged them, they didn't necessarily have to retaliate. Besides, he was Presley, not someone they should hate,
Everyone had their own stand. For instance, Presley was an elder of the Harper family. And they were the wives of the men of the Harper family.
Elizabeth knew of Presley's behavior from a young age. Presley's outrageous behavior caused Royce to stay away for over two decades. This was where Elizabeth felt she owed Presley.
Regardless of who was right or wrong in Chloe and Wendy's disputes, the originally peaceful relationship between the two families was now at a deadlock, which Chloe was responsible for. Damon had even openly confronted Presley because of Chloe, almost to the point of cutting familial ties. This was where Chloe felt she owed Presley.
Although there were many conflicts, none of them were unsolvable. And the current problem was just

the Alonso family.

In the end, Elizabeth decided to stay, and Chloe agreed. Marina happily went to prepare dinner.

At the dinner table, Presley was there, and of course, so was Grace. Despite objections, Wendy insisted on dining at the table with her fingers tightly wrapped and unable to bend. Her motive was clear, she wanted to see Damon.

Later, Robin also came. Robin knew nothing and tried his best keep the atmosphere lively throughout.

Rose was a guest, and although Presley didn't show any expression throughout, he would occasionally say a word or two to Rose. This behavior was, in a way, a show of respect towards Chloe.

Rose was Chloe's good friend; he at least didn't let Chloe lose her dignity and status in the Harper family.

"Everyone needs to get up early tomorrow and accompany Rose to her prenatal checkup. Chloe and Yulia, you two will soon become mothers. Also, Chloe's engagement is coming up, and we should go to the beauty salon again. Especially Chloe, you need a full-body beauty treatment."

Elizabeth arranged tomorrow's schedule. Her last sentence, both her expression and tone contained a bit of ambiguity, making Chloe blush. Wasn't this the same as cleaning her up and sending her directly to Damon's bed?

How could she spend so much time with these married women? What words were off–limits in their eyes?

Wendy was eating very slowly at the side. Each of Elizabeth's statements repeatedly stabbed her heart. Becoming a mother, the date of engagement, full-body beauty treatment...

These were all things she rejected, things she was insanely jealous of.

The engagement ceremony was coming...

Towards the end of the meal, Elizabeth put down her knife and fork. "Wendy."

Suddenly being called, Wendy was somewhat surprised. No one expected Elizabeth to suddenly focus on Wendy, and they all looked up at her.

"Mrs. Harper..." Wendy's voice was weak, her face pale. Everyone knew that she had indeed suffered a lot in the past few days, even though there was still a bit of pretense in her frail appearance.

"The engagement ceremony is coming soon. It's a joyous day, I see you're so weak, your wounds probably won't heal in a few days, so you better not show up on the engagement day. Don't let your bad luck and bloody scent affect the happy event."

Wendy's heart suddenly turned cold, her face froze for a moment, then became even worse than before.

"Mrs. Harper..." she almost pleaded.

Did she have bad luck? Weren't all these wounds on her body caused by Chloe?

Even though she didn't really look forward to the engagement day, it'd still be nice to see Damon on that day, she thought, despite the fact that she couldn't stop the engagement from happening. But now she couldn't even show up at the engagement party....

Many people bought into this kind of talk, preferring to believe that happy events should not be tainted by bad luck, or that tragedy would result from negligence. Even if someone didn't believe this, no one wouldn't dare to refute it. Now that Elizabeth used this as an excuse, she had no room for rebuttal.

Chapter 1223

"Alright, it's decided then. Rest up at home." Elizabeth didn't want to prolong the conversation and made a conclusion.

Wendy looked helplessly at Presley, who was sitting at the head of the table. "Grandpa Presley..."

But before Presley could say anything, Elizabeth jumped in. "You should go pay respects to our ancestors at the cemetery with Damon and Chloe."

These words effectively shut Presley up. Assuming he wanted to argue for Wendy, that would mean he didn't care about this. But if he didn't care about it, how would he explain to their ancestors if anything unexpected happened at the engagement ceremony?

Presley closed his mouth tightly and gave a deep nod of agreement. The hope on Wendy's face was completely shattered. Under the table, Grace discreetly kicked her. When Wendy glanced at her, Grace signaled her to keep eating. After a moment of hesitation, she picked up her fork and knife again.

The next day.

Elizabeth took Rose and the others to the hospital for a prenatal checkup.

Since she had made

appointment in advance, they were able to start the checkup immediately upon arrival. The baby was healthy, as was Rose.

Rose was in high spirits. When they left the hospital, she even received praise from the doctor. "Mood is incredibly important when you're pregnant. In recent years, there's been an increase in not only

postpartum depression, but also prenatal depression. Many expectant moms don't catch it early enough and end up losing their babies! So I'm pleased to see you're in such a good state. Keep it up

"I used to hope that my daughter would get married and have kids by a certain age, but I've come to realize in the past few years that women shouldn't just get married to complete a task. Most of the moms who lost their babies were... And where's your husband? Why didn't you bring him along for the

checkup? It's best if the two of you come together... And let the baby's dad also watch as the baby grows... Watch your diet and exercise properly..."

The doctor who conducted the

mindful of, so it didn't come off

was clearly of an older age and loved chatting with people. But she was talking about things pregnant women needed to be nagging.

Many people having a prenatal checkup were having a baby for the first time and didn't have any experience, so more advice from the doctor was always welcome. "Thanks, we'll keep that in mind!"

Chloe cut the doctor off. Even though the doctor meant well, she didn't want her to continue talking. Rose's smile stiffened a bit.

Chloe had started paying attention to Rose ever since the doctor mentioned prenatal depression. From that moment on, there were subtle changes in Rose's complexion. By the time the doctor mentioned having her husband accompany her for checkups and watch their child grow, Rose's face and lips started to tremble slightly, and Chloe couldn't help but feel for her.

She knew Rose too well. She was strong enough that n

one in the world could harm her. But in her love life, anyone could easily hurt her. She married the man she loved, but he couldn't accompany her for checkups or watch their child grow.

This was a regret that could never be made up for. It was deeply saddening.

Yulia didn't know what had happened, but she could sense something was off with Rose and Chloe.

While shopping, Elizabeth was busy picking toys for Anya. But Chloe pulled Rose aside, her face unusually serious. "Can you stay here a bit longer?"

She couldn't imagine how Rose managed to keep up her spirits in that cold marital bedroom. How did she force herself to be carefree and create a lonely yet happy atmosphere?

Rose walked silently in front, watching Elizabeth spoil Anya, with a hint of a vague smile on her lips. She took out her phone, started recording a video, capturing Anya's happy moments and the entire toy store in the background.

Most of the toys captured in the video were the ones boys would like, such as toy cars, remote control airplanes, Transformers, etc.

"Out of all these toys, which one do you think is the best?" After saying this, she stopped recording. She sent out the video.

Elizabeth bought too many toys for Anya, and Yulia had to return some of them in the end.

After spending over half an hour in the toy store, Rose's phone didn't ring. Then they went to a maternity and infant store. Elizabeth immediately found a salesperson and bought a bunch of stuff.

Rose took a seat when she got tired, and before she knew it, it was already noon. When they were seated in the restaurant, Rose looked at the blank conversation box with Morrison on her phone. Apart from the video she had just sent out, there was nothing else. She didn't receive any response.

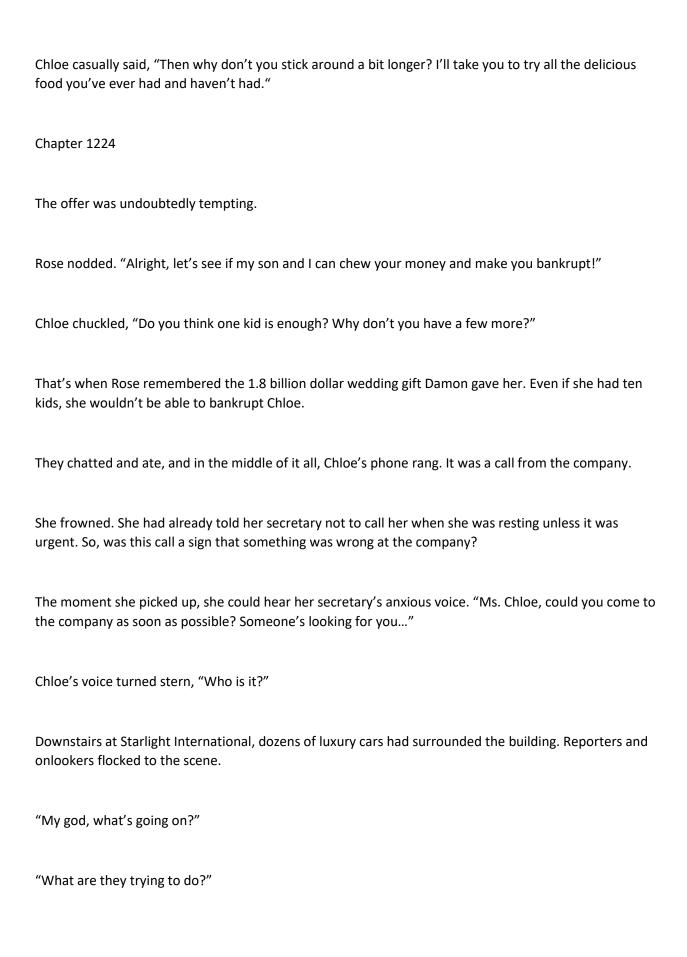
She glanced at the time. It was already 12:30 p.m., and their lunch was a bit late.

Was his lunch also late? Was he so busy with work that he didn't even have time to reply with a word? Even a single word would do.

She took a deep breath, turning her head to Chloe. "Your future son—in—law is hungry, order him something quick!"

Chloe looked at her, but Rose leaned against her shoulder, her eyes fixated on the menu. "I want this, this, and this..."

Her voice sounded carefree and happy, as if eating was the happiest thing in the world for her. "This one's not bad either, and this one, and this one"
She ordered quite a few dishes, enough to feed five people. The waiter at the side felt something was off. While jotting down the orders, he kept glancing at Chloe. "Are you sure you want all these?"
Chloe turned to Rose, asking, "Do you want anything else?"
The waiter was stunned. Did she still want to order more? Almost every dish on their menu had been ordered.
"No, that's all." Chloe nodded at the waiter, confirming, "Just these."
"Alright."
Chloe tried her best to satisfy Rose's demands. If Morrison wasn't spoiling Rose, then she would do it! She could totally do it!
But when she saw the table filled with dishes, Chloe's eyelids couldn't help but twitch.
1/2
Seemed like Spoiling a woman also required skill! There was too much food!
Chloe had to make sure Rose didn't overeat.
"The food in P City is the best!"



"I heard it's Rhys, is he here to propose to Ms. Chloe at her company?"
"Propose at her company? Is he kidding?"
"Carolina already accepted that two hundred million dollar wedding gift! She's burned through all that money, she can't possibly repay it, can she?"
"So is he forcefully proposing to Ms. Chloe?"
"What else could it be? Two hundred million, that's enough to marry a hundred brides for anyone else!"
"Did you forget about the 1.8 billion dollar wedding gift Ms. Chloe' fiancé gave her? What's Rhys' gift compared to that?"
"Does he have the nerve to bring up a wedding gift?"
"But two hundred million isn't a small amount. Isn't that the reason Ms. Chloe' grandma sold her off?"
"Is Y Country that rich? He just casually threw two hundred million?"
"It's not Y Country, it's Rhys' family that's rich. His close relations with the royal family make doing business easy. It's a piece of cake to expand to other countries and make money. Plustheir business isn't just running companies, you think they only have legal transactions?"
"For Rhys, two hundred million is nothing, I heard he loves to gamble! In the four major gambling cities in the world, he's known as a notorious gambler. The money he's lost is way more than two hundred million!"
"Won't Ms. Chloe be miserable if she marries him?"

"Would Ms. Chloe marry him?"
"He's clearly forcing her into marriage!"
"Let's see how Ms. Chloe handles this."
"What can she do? He's a foreign noble. If Ms. Chloe isn't careful and escalates the situation turning it into a diplomatic conflict, it'd be trouble"
When Chloe got to the company and saw the bustling crowd at the entrance, her face darkened. As soor as the reporters saw Chloe, they swarmed around her like bees to a flower. Before she got out of the car though, Damon's bodyguards had already formed a protective circle around her.
No matter how wild the reporters were, they couldn't breach the strong protective barrier. Chloe walked into the company with an icy expression, and the secretary immediately came up to her.
"Ms. Chloe."
"Where is he?"
Chloe's cold voice made the secretary shudder.
"He's in the guest room."
They went into the elevator, and the secretary pressed the button immediately. Chloe's face was stern, her lips tightly closed, and her eyebrows furrowed. The secretary was both scared and shocked to see Ms. Chloe like this.
She felt sorry for Ms. Chloe! Ms. Chloe was sold by her own grandmother, and now she was dealing with a man forcefully proposing to her. How unlucky.

After they got out of the elevator, the secretary almost had to jog to keep up with Chloe's pace. Seeing her fierce momentum, the secretary could guess that Chloe's next move was to kick open the door of the guest room. But in the last second, Chloe abruptly stopped her foot from kicking the door.

The secretary quickly stopped beside her. "Ms. Chloe."

Chloe suddenly took two steps back, turned to the secretary. "How many people are in the room?"

The secretary immediately answered, "Eight bodyguards! And Rhys."

Chloe's face turned even more stern. She was silent for a few seconds, then said, "That's a lot of people."

fter saying that, she turned around and left. The secretary blinked in confusion, not able to comprehend what just happened.

Did the fierce Ms. Chloe just walk away like that? Since when was Ms. Chloe afraid of anyone?

She backed down so quickly? That couldn't be right!

Chloe silently returned to her office, then rummaged through her drawer for a long time. Finally, she found a box.

A while later, the secretary waiting outside was called in.

When the secretary entered the guest room again, Rhys was leisurely sitting on the couch, his long legs crossed, looking fearless.

As soon as he saw the secretary, he immediately asked, "I heard Ms. Chloe is already here, where is she?"

The secretary served him freshly brewed coffee, then stood straight, looked at the burly bodyguards in the room, and said with a smile, "Actually, Ms. Chloe was here just now, but when she heard there

were eight sturdy bodyguards inside, she left."

Rhys paused, seemed to have thought, and suddenly laughed. "She's such a cute woman. She's so brave yet she's scared of my bodyguards? Don't worry, I won't hurt her! She's my future partner, without my permission, who dares to hurt her?"

The secretary felt quite uncomfortable standing there, but she still said, "Ms. Chloe is a lady after all, and you're showing some serious arrogance today, especially with all these bodyguards. No wonder she's feeling jittery. Maybe you can have them wait outside?"

"Good thinking." Rhys agreed with the secretary's suggestion and dismissed the bodyguards with a wave of his hand.

The secretary quickly added, "Then you just chill and enjoy your coffee, I'll go fetch Ms. Chloe now."

Rhys simply smiled and nodded, taking a sip of his coffee. The secretary raised an eyebrow and exited the room. Before long, Chloe reappeared at the doorway of the reception room.

Chapter 1225

Not long after, Chloe showed up again at the door of the meeting room. She was followed by the bodyguards Damon had arranged for her.

Seeing Chloe's bodyguards, Rhys' bodyguards immediately went on high alert. They were against Chloe's bodyguards following her into the room.

"I'm good, you guys wait here."

Chloe said coldly, and the lead bodyguard stopped outside the door as she instructed. She pushed open the door and walked into the room.

Rhys was by the window, sipping his coffee, looking at the view downstairs. Upon hearing the sound, he turned around instantly. Seeing Chloe, his eyes lit up. "Darling..."

"Who are you?" Chloe closed the door, stood at the entrance, and asked calmly.

Rhys smiled and walked over to the table, putting down his coffee cup.

"I've introduced myself already, I'm Rhys, the viscount of Y Country, and you will be my future wife."

Chloe smiled slightly, silent for a few seconds. "You say you're a viscount, what proof do you have?"

Rhys walked towards her with a smile, his eyes fixed on Chloe's face, full of aggression. His eyes always easily gave away his desire. "Just come back to my country with me. I can easily prove my identity."

"What if you're not a viscount? If I go back with you, won't I be fooled?"

"Darling, there's no need for me to lie, you should be able to find information about me online.

"No, I don't trust the internet, it's a world full of lies."

Chloe watched as Rhys gradually approached her, and she suddenly stood up and walked in.

"Darling, some things on the internet are true."

"Is that so? You already have a wife and countless lovers, and you're a gambler, are all these true?"

Rhys shrugged, "You're the one I love the most. And you don't need to worry about me losing big. I can guarantee you a high standard of living."

As he spoke, Rhys handed Chloe the box in his hand. "This is a gift I've prepared for you. You looked so beautiful riding a horse at the West Valley riding club. Of course, you're beautiful when you're angry too."

Chloe raised an eyebrow, accepted the box, opened the packaging, and inside was a whip. The handle of the whip was studded with red gems, elegantly shaped She didn't know much about whips, but from the looks of it, it seemed to be a fine one.

Chloe picked up the whip. "I don't ride horses often. And...I don't often hit people."

"With me, you'll have plenty of chances to ride... Darling, I really like the way you ride, you have no idea how much I wanted to kiss you, to have you..."

Rhys' voice became more and more suggestive, the desire in his eyes almost bursting out, he extended his arms to embrace Chloe. But Chloe was constantly backing away. "I hope you can give me more respect. I don't like you, and besides, I already have a lover."

"That won't stop me from liking you, loving you, possessing you. Darling, maybe you don't know me very well, I think we need to communicate more deeply."

With her back against the cabinet behind her, Rhys was getting closer and closer to her, only one step closer, his hand was already reaching for Chloe's waist.

"Are you satisfied with your lover? I've heard that some men can be generally small in a certain area of the body, and it's hard for women to be satisfied..."

Chloe's eyebrows knitted tightly! Her face was chillingly cold.

"Maybe we're the most compatible pair in the world, and I can give you pleasure you might never experience in your lifetime..."

Chloe smacked away the hand that was about to touch her waist. She grabbed Rhys' hand that had just touched her waist, turned around him, and twisted his

hand behind his back!

Rhys screamed in pain. "What are you doing?!!"

Chloe, with a stone—cold face, twisted Rhys' arm again, and another scream echoed in the room! As Rhys screamed, Chloe kicked his knee, and Rhys fell to his knees. Then she yanked him back, dragging him to the floor, her foot on his chest. She crouched down, her eyes slightly narrowed as she stared at the man in front of her, her voice icy.

"Small size?"

As she said this, she put more force into the foot on his chest. Rhys grunted, looking up at Chloe's foot on his body The way she looked down at him, her adept movements just now, and her current posture, all looked incredibly cool in his eyes. That cold charm was irresistible to him. He'd never met a woman like Chloe, so multifaceted, yet each aspect so unique and perfect.

Even though he was under her foot now, he still felt that perhaps this was a special kind of pleasure. He smirked, staring shamelessly at Chloe's face, "I'm just stating the facts!"

Chloe's eyes were dark, her lips tightly closed, her eyes filled with cold light. She wasn't sure about those stats, but the mere thought of Damon being questioned like this, made her anger uncontrollable.

She hadn't even thought about how awkward this question was. All she knew was that her husband, that almost perfect man, had his dignity violated. This was unforgivable!

"You really have no shame, even asking for a beating!"

Being stepped on, Rhys found it hard to breathe. "Can you really do this? I'm the viscount of Y Country, you shouldn't treat me like this..."

A cold smile appeared on the corner of Chloe's mouth as she slowly stood up.
Seeing this, Rhys thought she finally had some reservations about his identity. He was about to try to stand up, but Chloe lifted the whip in her hand and lashed it at his body.
Rhys clutched his arm that was hit, gritting his teeth in pain. Chloe gently stroked the red gems on the whip handle, looking at him coldly.
"You're really bold, daring to impersonate the viscount of Y Country in my country!"
Rhys was stunned, "I'm for real. Chapter 1226
"How dare you talk back, huh?" Chloe swung her whip again
* really"
Rhys soon realized this woman didn't even let him explain. As soon as he tried to, her whip would land even harder.
Hs ones of pain echoed through the room, yet the eight bodyguards outside the door didn't react at all.
"Is anyone there! Anyone!!"
Not a single soul came to his rescue!
"You fraud! You dare to deceive people! You dare to cheat a woman!"
"Scumbag

"You dare to say he's small down there!"
Rhys was in excruciating pain. He struggled towards the door, but as he opened it, his back was whipped again. Rhys screamed, expecting his bodyguards to rush in to protect him as soon as he opened the door. However, he found all his bodyguards lying on the ground, replaced by unfamiliar men in black suits.
"They"
"They've all passed out!" the lead bodyguard said with a straight face.
"How could this happen?" Rhys looked at the unconscious men on the floor. Shouldn't they be groaning in pain? Did they lose consciousness just like that without winning?
They were drugged. The lead bodyguard said again, waving a white handkerchief in his hand.
The other bodyguards also waved their handkerchiefs. Mrs. Harper had just given them sleeping drugs. Although they said they could win, Mrs. Harper thought it would be too much of a hassle! On behalf of all the Harper family's bodyguards, he thanked the considerate Mrs. Harper.
Rhys, who always maintained a gentleman's demeanor, suddenly screamed in pain again. Chloe whipped him again, then kicked his butt.
"Get out!"
"How dare"
How dare you impersonate a viscount from another country, shameless! Get lost!"
Chloe swung the whip again.

Rhys couldn't bear the pain, so he ran towards the elevator, clutching his head. The company's employees were shocked at the sight of this, unable to believe that Ms. Chloe dared to hit even a viscount from Y Country.

The bodyguards watched as Chloe chased Rhys with her whip like she was herding sheep, swallowing hard. She saved them the trouble but didn't mind the hassle herself. Impressive.

However, they vaguely heard what was being said in the meeting room, especially when the door was opened, Mrs. Harper's words "You dare to say he's small down there!' confirmed their suspicions.

It seemed... Mr. Harper really... wasn't small down there. At least Mrs. Harper was satisfied.

Downstairs, the journalists were still standing their ground, not leaving. A crowd stood at the entrance of Starlight International, waiting.

"What's happening with their discussion?"

"No matter what they discuss, it seems pointless, right? Who would be willing to give up two billion dollars? Unless Ms. Chloe hersel dollars debt to help Carolina pay back."

takes on the two billion

"Is that possible?! How could Ms. Chloe cover up these losses herself? If she knew that the two billion dollars debt would fall on her in the end, she wouldn't have set the fire in the first place, would she?"

"What else can she do? I can't imagine how she would reject Rhys' proposal!"

"Yeah... This is really a headache. I wonder how Ms. Chloe will solve this problem?!"

"Look, they're coming out!"

"They're out! They're out!!"
A loud voice shouted from the crowd of reporters, and all the journalists flocked to the entrance.
'Get lost!"
A cold rebuke immediately stunned the reporters, their eyes wide open. They watched in disbelief as a woman with a whip chased a man out, and at the doorway, she kicked the man down the steps.
As the man tried to struggle up from the ground, something hit him and he fell back down. Then came seven muffled thuds. Turning their heads, the reporters saw the bodyguards who had just followed him in, mercilessly thrown out. And the thing that had hit him was undoubtedly one of his bodyguards.
Pushing the unconscious man off him, he stood up, glaring at Chloe. "Bitch! You dare to treat me like this!"
"You can ask around, I've got nothing to fear! You come here pretending to be a viscount of another country to deceive me, of course I'll hit you!"
Rhys was furious!
"I'm not pretending!"
"All I know is you're a gambler! Go away! Or I'll hurt you!"
"You wouldn't dare!"
"Do you want to see for yourself?!" She spoke, swinging her whip towards him again! Although Rhys tried to dodge, he couldn't avoid Chloe's whip and was hit once

again, screaming in pain.
"Are you leaving or not?!" Chloe's expression was cold, and she raised her whip again!
"Stop!!"
Rhys clutched his head and shouted, and Chloe's raised whip stopped mid—air. Seeing the whip not coming down, Rhys slowly opened his tightly shut eyes and saw Chloe, but she swung her whip again.
He quickly retreated a few steps, randomly opened the door of a car, and got in.
"Just wait your grandmother has sold you to me! You must return to my country with me!"
Chloe's eyes turned cold, and she walked a few steps towards him!
Rhys quickly hid in the car. But he was a step too slow, and the almost closed door was pulled open by Chloe!
"What else do you want to do?!" Rhys tried to remain calm as he looked at Chloe, but deep down, he couldn't let go of this woman. This situation only fueled his desire to conquer her more.
Chloe threw the whip in her hand at him. "Make sure to take your bodyguards with you!"
After saying this, she slammed the car door shut.

The eight unconscious bodyguards were helped into the car, and then dozens of luxury cars slowly started up and gradually left Starlight International.

After the cars leaving, the entrance of Starlight International seemed empty despite the many reporters and pedestrians present. Dead silence. Reporters were still gobsmacked. They couldn't wrap their heads around it. What in the world was this shocking turn of events? What kind of negotiation led to such an outcome? The viscount from Y country got booted out when he came to propose. Suddenly, someone burst out laughing, and the crowd followed suit. Chapter 1227 "How did he get thrown out?" "What's up with those bodyguards? Why didn't they move a muscle?" "Did you see Rhys' panicked face?" "He's scared shitless, but is he still going to marry Ms. Chloe? Man, he's got guts!" "But... Ms. Chloe is really tough. Normal guys wouldn't dare to marry her..." "I think she should find a woman to spend her life with! Men might not be able to handle her. She should find a woman, I believe she would dote on her wife. Any woman who mames her would definitely be happy..." Then, there was much more discussion on the internet

#Ms. Chloe, please marry me#

#Ms. Chloe, I want to marry you#

Those participating in these topics were not just women, but also many men. The discussion was as heated as celebrity gossip.

By the time everyone had reacted, Chloe had already returned to the company. Since she was there, she might as well have checked if there were any other matters

to handle.

Katie was busy launching new products. Miles was preparing for the International Beauty Expo makeup competition. Crysti went home and obediently accepted a scolding from her elders, then was taken care of and became the princess of the Watson family again. Knowing the bullying and suppression his daughter had suffered in the entertainment industry, Malo instructed his nephew Claud to take good care of Crysti.

Claud immediately spent a lot of money to buy Crysti two scripts. Both scripts were top-notch!

Chloe was of course very pleased, and all of the Starlight International staff were very happy. Crysti became the richest person in Starlight International, she had scripts, and naturally, she would consider Starlight International artists when casting other roles.

The artists saw a bright future, and Cicely felt like she was earning her salary easily. However, her frequent appearances gradually awakened long forgotten memories for the people of P City, in which she was the arrogant lady of the Ellis family, who used to be renowned in P City.

Now she and Danielle were in the same industry, and the hostility, or covert gazes she attracted, were a bit much. Fortunately, the artist she was responsible for was Crysti, Crysti had Claud supporting her, which implied that Claud was also supporting Cicely.

Crysti's future was bright, and her salary naturally kept increasing. She could easily get her salary, avoid what could be avoided, and deal with what couldn't be avoided..

Anyway, Crysti had Claud. Chloe gave her this support, and she was very happy. When Chloe arrived at Cicely's office, Cicely was sitting on the sofa eating cherries. The bright red cherries were very beautiful and appetizing.

"Are you living too comfortably?"

Chloe sat across from Cicely, picked up a purple—red cherry and put it in her mouth. She looked at Cicely across from her, who had a clean and bright face. Every time she saw her, Chloe could understand why Wendy was indifferent to her.

Family background was obviously very important, just like the woman in front of her. She used to be the lady of the Ellis family, who was famous in P City. She grew up spoiled, with many suitors.

And now, she had been to prison and experienced difficulties that most women would never experience in their lifetime. Even though she had lost her princess status, she still maintained her elegant and unique temperament. This was the elegance she had developed since childhood. Even in hardship, even without being a rich lady, she was still her true self, irreplaceable.

During the years when Cicely disappeared, there were no girls as noble and elegant as her in P City.

"All thanks to your favor." Cicely directly praised Chloe.

"When did you learn to flatter people so well?"

Cicely smiled. "Just so you'd feel bad about firing me."

Faced with such a straightforward Cicely, Chloe had to admit, that she was a bit lost. She really was carefree.

"I didn't realize you were so assertive at school. You dared to hit the viscount of Y Country?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow, picked up another cherry, putting it in her mouth. "The Harper family isn'	ť
something he can easily offend just because he's a viscount."	

Cicely laughed lightly. "Go show off somewhere else."

Chloe had no intention of saying more. She stood up, walked to the desk, and looked at Crysti's schedule.

"Have you been to the hospital to see your grandfather?"

Cicely fell silent.

"Even if you don't go, he can still see how much you care about him. Whether you have weaknesses or not, he can see them. If he wants to pester you, it will be hard for you to get rid of him."

Cicely remained silent, but her face was a bit pale. Chloe could vaguely guess that Cicely might have other things on her mind, but no matter what she said, she probably couldn't get this woman to reveal her secrets.

Even if she did, it wouldn't help.

In her opinion, the relationship between Cicely and Seth was a stalemate. They could neither back down nor move forward.

She couldn't mediate their disputes. No one could interfere with their feelings. And no one could interfere with the relationship between Cicely and Seth.

Chloe hitting Rhys caused quite a stir. Many people saw it with their own eyes, and the speed of the internet was really unpredictable.

When Damon finished the meeting and came out, the internet was already buzzing. Nate was with Damon throughout the meeting. When they left the meeting room, Damon walked in front, Nate followed him, and the executives behind gradually formed a group. "Did you see that, the follow-up to the burning of two hundred million dollars is here." Nate, usually poker-faced, had his eyes go wide and his ears twitch, slowing down his steps upon hearing this. "She just tossed him out like that? Ms. Chloe has got some balls." She tossed him out? What the hell happened? Unable to contain his curiosity, Nate just stopped, looking at the two people talking behind him, and asked, "What went down?" Even though Nate was asking, his eyes had already landed on their phones. "Rhys went to meet Ms. Chloe at Starlight International today, and she just threw him out." Threw...out? Really? Nate was puzzled as he pulled out his phone from his pocket. He opened the browser and saw that the trending topics were all about Chloe! Nate bit his lip lightly, moved aside for the executives coming from behind. leaning against the wall, staring at his phone for a long time. Then he finally got it. It was true.

So, she really kicked that guy to the curb. Nate was in awe of Mrs. Harper. He caught up with Damon and followed him into the private elevator.

Chapter 1228

Once the elevator doors closed, Nate turned to Damon and said quietly, "Mr. Harper, Mrs. Harper"
Damon, with his icy demeanor, slightly shifted his gaze and looked at him sideways Nate paused. "Mrs. Harper is trending again."
Damon's deep eyes flickered slightly, and he remained silent for two seconds before saying flatly, "Is she pregnant?"
Nate was taken aback. What was going on?
"Why does Mrs. Harper trending mean she's pregnant?" He mustered the courage to ask, thinking he had to build a better relationship with Mr. Harper, and increase their rapport. He felt like he was understanding him less and less.
Damon glanced at him, and Nate tensed up, realizing that his approach was wrong.
"Otherwise, what could it be? Didn't she accompany Rose to her prenatal checkup today?"
What did her friend's checkup have to do with her being pregnant?
"So, she suddenly felt unwell, had a checkup, and found out she's pregnant?" Nate chuckled awkwardly, when did Mr. Harper's imagination become so vivid? He even imagined the whole process.
"No. This time it's about the burning of two hundred million dollars."
"What?"
"Mrs. Harper smacked Rhys!"

Damon didn't speak. He was silent for a few seconds, the elevator reached the top floor, the doors opened, and Damon walked out without a word, heading straight for his office. The first thing he did when he got to his office was to check the trending topics on his computer. Indeed, Rhys was really hit! In front of all those reporters, he was literally thrown out of the company by Chloe. The scene was truly spectacular. The entire office was silent. Damon looked at it for a long time, finally lifting his head, his face looked terrible! Nate was a bit confused, what was with this chilly atmosphere? Rhys caused a scene at Starlight International, targeting his wife! Wasn't she supposed to beat him up? Shouldn't he be happy? Why did he look so upset today? "Remove all those topics." Damon suddenly said coldly. Topics? Nate looked down at his phone, only then noticing those topics. "Ms. Chloe, many me", "Ms. Chloe, I want to many you"... He got it "Yes! I'll do it right away. "Do you know what exactly happened?" Nate paused, "Sorry, I just found out about this too."



lm in!"
ʻl'm in too
Some people even called Starlight International directly to confess to Chloe. This gave Chloe a headache Causing such a big stir, she would definitely be scolded when she got home.
Did they know how costly it was to pacify a man?
The news spread not only domestically but even reached Y Country. Princess Ava was so pissed off at Rhys. He made such a big scandal and even involved Chloe! Over the years, she was afraid of Chloe coming back, and she used many methods but couldn't get rid of her!
1/2
And now Rhys wanted to marry her. And the worst part was, he proposed forcefully. This idiot who only knew how to make trouble and not solve problems!
Ava was grinding her teeth in anger. It was so irritating!
The royal election was coming up, and her nephew's scandal was definitely going to affect her reputation. In her fury, she immediately called Rhys.
Just then, Becky came in from outside, with a bag in hand. She was wearing designer clothes, her hair curled, her face smooth and a little round. Her light brown eyes looked lively; she was obviously a pampered princess.
Her makeup was not over the top. As a royal, her image and manners were extremely proper.
She tossed her bag onto the big couch in the living room. She sat down on the couch looking downcast. "Mom! What the hell is going on with my cousin? I was almost laughed to death at the party



Ava plopped down on the couch and muttered, "I heard it through the grapevine, too, I don't have a clue who the lucky lady is."

"No way, how could Mr. Harper suddenly announce an engagement? I don't buy it!"

Becky's voice involuntarily pierced the air, her eyes darting about as she declared, "I'm heading to Z Country! I need to see this for myself! I just can't believe it!"

Mr. Harper was a big shot in Y Country, a guy with a lot of clout. Even in front of Queen Julia, he was one of the most respected guests.

While others might've been clueless, as a member of the royal family, she knew the score about Damon. His reputation, here, was something no one dared to mess with.

Chapter 1229

Such a noble man, how could he possibly be with other women.

"Can you stop being a pain in my ass?"

Ava rubbed her temples None of the people around her were making her happy. Becky grabbed Ava's arm and coded, "Mom, I'm just going to take a look, I promise! won't cause any trouble! I can even help you watch over my cousin..."

"Enough, cut it out!"

Ava, looking irritated, shook off Becky's hand and walked away. Becky stomped her foot in frustration, then with a glint in her eyes, pulled out her phone and booked the next flight to P City.

Presley rarely surfed the internet, so he was completely oblivious to Chloe's online news today.

Elizabeth, Rose, and Yulia hadn't even reached home, and they had already seen the news about Chloe. The video and photos of her hitting Rhys were going viral Yulia and Rose couldn't help but laugh out loud at the sight of Chloe suddenly kicking Rhys down the steps at the entrance of Starlight International. They kept replaying the scene, laughing every time they watched it.

"It's hilarious! Chloe normally uses her brain to solve problems, so what on earth did Rhys do to make her hit him like that?" Rose laughed so hard she could hardly breathe.

In all these years, apart from dealing with the Summers family, Rose had never seen Chloe actually hit anyone. Especially in front of so many journalists.

Rhys was utterly humiliated!

However, Rose stroked her chin, "I'm really curious, what did Rhys say? What made Chloe so mad?"

Yulia was also curious, "We don't know, we'll ask her when we get back."

"Don't mention this when we get back, okay? Otherwise, Presley will get mad!"

As the Harper family's mansion came into view, Elizabeth's expression became serious. They both nodded, and Elizabeth made a "shush" gesture to Anya. As soon as the car stopped, Elizabeth carried Anya out of the car.

But as soon as they entered the living room, they heard the TV broadcasting the news of Chloe and Rhys that they had just seen. Sitting on the sofa were Presley, Robin, Grace, and Wendy.

"Ms. Chloe is so brave! She dares to hit the viscount!" Grace said mockingly, causing Presley to change his expression.

"As long as it's someone who deserves to be hit, why wouldn't she dare to?" Elizabeth's calm voice came from behind.

Grace's face stiffened. "You're back?" "Who turned on the TV?" Elizabeth ignored Grace and asked Addie coldly. Addie lowered her head and said, "Mr. Presley wanted to watch TV, so I turned it on. Elizabeth sneered, "And it happened to show this?" Addie remained calm. "I'm old, I'm not very good at operating it!" "Are you saying that because you're old, you're not able to do your job as a servant properly? Shouldn't you resign for the sake of Presley's health?" Addie turned pale. "I can still take care of Mr. Presley..." "But I don't trust you!" She walked away as if the matter had been settled, leaving Addie in a state of panic. "Are you trying to gradually strip me of my power in this house?" Presley spoke softly, his voice full of

"Are you trying to gradually strip me of my power in this house?" Presley spoke softly, his voice full of authority. Addie was delighted and moved to stand beside Presley. This clearly meant that she was Presley's servant, and naturally, she had Presley's support. Elizabeth had no authority to arrange Addie's tasks.

"You are the master of the Harper family, and all the power is in your hands. Even if I wanted to gradually strip you of your power, I wouldn't be able to do it by the time I die. My life is good, I just want to see my grandchildren now, and I have no interest in taking anything from the Harper family."

Presley was silent for a moment. "...If you have no interest in taking anything from the Harper family, what about Royce? Since you are a member of the Harper family, don't pretend to be so innocent."

Elizabeth's eyes were cold. "Presley, I am only looking forward to the birth of my grandchildren now and don't want to argue with you too much. If I have no right to handle the affairs of this house, especially the trivial matters, then I won't handle them. You can manage them if you want. But please don't manage me, or my son and his wifer

"Then what should I manage?"

"Whatever Elizabeth's voice was full of determination. She didn't understand why Presley had changed his attitude in just a few hours. She glanced at Grace and Wendy, and her heart filled with anger. As the mistress of the Harper family, she felt so wronged! Presley didn't give her any respect in front of these people. "Aren't you leaving?"

Grace laughed, "Don't like us much?"

Elizabeth forced a smile. "Whether I like you or not is not important. What's important is whether Presley likes you. So what's going on? Has Presley made a decision? Is he planning to drive us all out of the Harper family?"

Robin suddenly said, "You're being too extreme. We're all family, why do you have to say such drastic things?"

"Who and who are family?" Elizabeth turned her gaze to Robin. "Who do you think I should be family with? I'm beginning to think that the people of the Alonso family are really shameless! How shameless can they be to keep clinging on to someone else's home?"

Wendy's face instantly crumpled. "Mrs. Harper, don't say that... we... came specifically to keep Grandpa Presley company.

Elizabeth, Rose, and Yulia were all left speechless, puzzled, and even a little nauseated. So she was saying she was leaving, but just spending the night somewhere

else and coming back the next day? Indeed, if a person had no shame, they would find countless ways to be shameless.

Chloe arrived at the office, and before she knew it, she had been busy for quite a while. By the time she returned home, it was already dark outside. But to her surprise, the two people who were supposed to leave were still there.

Her eyebrows twitched slightly, her gaze swept over Elizabeth who was sitting silently with a cold face, and she let out a soft laugh.

'The superstar's back." Grace said with a smile.

'Ms. Chloe." Wendy also obediently called out.

Chapter 1230

Chloe switched her shoes, then addressed everyone, "So, you guys are here to visit Grandpa Presley, huh? You planning to stay for dinner?"

Chloe's politeness caught Grace and Wendy off guard. But Rose and Yulia, standing nearby, winked at her. Elizabeth whispered to her, "How'd you know they left and came back?"

"Because they're shameless!" Chloe whispered back, her voice only audible to the two of them. "They want to flaunt their Alonso family superiority but can't stand the thought of the Harper family's future mistress being someone else. Their actions reveal their ugliness inside. This mother and daughter duo are not noble or graceful. Even though they are a part of the Alonso family, their thoughts and actions don't live up to the name.... That's why they act so shameless. Whenever you think of shameless behavior, they come to mind."

Elizabeth snorted, mocking them.

"They were never good people to begin with."

"What?"
Elizabeth coldly glanced at Grace and Wendy, then remained silent.
"Didn't Damon come back with you?"
*No."
Elizabeth gave her a meaningful look and said, "In a way, you really are good at stirring up trouble. You whipped Wendy in West Valley, burned down the Summers family home, lost two hundred million
dollars, stuck a needle in Wendy yesterday, and hit Rhys today you've been busy these past four days"
"What can I say sorry."
Chloe gave an awkward laugh! Now that she thought about it, she really was good at making a mess.
"But" Elizabeth paused, then suddenly asked loudly, "Why on earth did you hit Rhys?
Upon hearing this question, everyone in the living room turned to look at Chloe. Including Presley, Robin, Grace, and Wendy.
Elizabeth asked this on purpose. Because she believed that even though Chloe seemed to have caused trouble again, there must've been a reason.
She knew Chloe too well. And this question was something everyone was curious about. The whole nation was curious!

Chloe didn't expect Elizabeth to suddenly ask this question. It was clear that she was asking her to explain to Presley. But now that she was married to Damon, did she still need to welcome Rhys, who had made a fuss about proposing to her at the company?

Did this matter even need an explanation?

"Indeed, Ms. Chloe, why did you let things escalate to this point? Was there some misunderstanding? Rhys is Princess Ava's nephew, and I'm related to Princess Ava! If there's a misunderstanding, I could explain it to Princess Ava for you."

Elizabeth's face fell. No wonder Presley's attitude had changed so suddenly, so someone had been flaunting in front of him.

But what was their relationship? Grace's father had died a long time ago, and she had never heard that her father had siblings of such high status. Suddenly, a relative appeared. Grace sure knew how to pick powerful people; she could use any relationship.

"There's no misunderstanding," Chloe said flatly. "I've never met this so—called viscount, and I don't know him. I don't think a nobleman from Y country would force a woman to marry him! Today, he made a big fuss and came to my company to take me away, making a spectacle of himself. That's not something a real noble would do. So, I think he's a fraud, tarnishing the reputation of the Y country's nobility. Is he really a viscount? Is he really your relative, Princess Ava's nephew?"

Grace's face changed and she closed her mouth. He forced a woman to marry him? Made a spectacle of himself?

A fraud? This kind of person was a noble from the Y country? Princess Ava's nephew?

How could she admit to such a thing? If she admitted it, wouldn't she be tarnishing the reputation of the Y country's nobility and Princess Ava? She was not a fool!

"He did all this because he likes you. And how could he possibly be a fraud? What fraud would be willing to spend th

hundred million dollars to marry you?"

Chloe laughed. "You think two hundred million dollars is a lot? How much is Starlight International and the other properties my mother left me worth? Isn't this just bait for him? If he's not a fraud, what is he? And just because he likes me, do I have to marry him? It's just like Ms. Alonso wanting to marry Damon, but Damon has no plans to marry her."

She laughed innocently, but her words were infuriating.

"You..." Wendy was so humiliated she was about to explode, but Grace held her back.

"Ms. Chloe, don't be too absolute with your words, in case things change in the future, it will only make you look more ridiculous."

Chloe just smiled and said nothing. "I'm not afraid to face the consequences of my words. You don't need to worry about that."

If you didn't take other things into account, these words from a woman were indeed very powerful and responsible

Presley actually admired this kind of person quite a lot, that was if she stopped causing so much trouble for him. This woman really impressed him.

"So you hit Rhys because he made a scene at your company?" Rose, who had been silent, suddenly asked.

After all, this was the Harper family, there were some things she wasn't in a position to speak about. A slight misstep could give Presley a reason to find fault, which could make him even more dissatisfied with Chloe. And with Elizabeth and Chloe there, she didn't have a chance to speak. But about the whole Chloe publicly beating up Rhys in broad daylight thing, she figured it must've been something Rhys said that ticked Chloe off during their conversation?

Based on her knowledge of Chloe, that seemed pretty much spot on..

Chloe turned to look at her. The grin on Rose's face had a dangerous edge to it, like she was waiting for a showdown. "Did he do anything inappropriate to you?"
Rose really was a true friend.
The moment she said that Chloe caught on to Rose's excited vibe. She was definitely gearing up to give Rhys another piece of her mind.
"Did he actually touch you?" Seeing Chloe's silence, Rose's voice instinctively heightened.
Presley was also frowning at her. If that really was the case, then that guy deserved a severe punishment!
Chloe said, "He at least he didn't actually touch me*
"So he did have some shady thoughts about you."
Rose squinted her eyes, and Chloe knew she was probably scheming some kind of revenge for her.
What shady thoughts?" A deep voice suddenly echoed from the doorway.