

CHOSEN 1251

Chapter 1251

Sure, we lived for ourselves, but we still craved the recognition and blessings of others. So, we couldn't miss any of the significant rituals in life

Life didn't give you second chances and missing out was a crying shame. However, on such an important day, when they just wanted to share their happiness with others, how could Damon bear to let Chloe become the laughingstock or object of pity?

It was such a sad thing for a woman's happiness to be pitied.

"What if Damon really can't make it? Are we just going to sit here and do nothing?" said Yulia.

Presley's sudden decision must have been well-thought-out. She wouldn't believe otherwise.

Even if Damon could rush back to P City, Presley wouldn't let him show up that easily. Tonight, these two women who were supposed to get engaged to Damon might not even get to see him. His absence was exactly what Wendy and Presley were hoping for.

And for Chloe, this could be the difference between heaven and hell...

"What should we do? Should we stop her from attending, or just find someone to stand in for Damon, as Seth just suggested?" Kane said. Though he initially disagreed with Seth's idea, he now thought it might be a good choice.

He said this because there were simply no other options.

"No way!" Noah shook his head and said in a low voice, "That would only solve the problem temporarily. We can't let the person who gets engaged to her today be different from her fiancé a few days later. That would cause even more trouble."

Yulia nodded in agreement. "Yes, that would have negative effects on both of them. Besides, if we really do that, Presley will look down on Chloe even more..." Now that they both had the certificate, Presley didn't even care. He would have more reasons to break Damon and Chloe apart after being public with someone else. Silence fell upon them at this point. If they would let someone else stand in, it would be exactly what Presley would want to see.

"That old geezer is ruthless!" Kane gritted his teeth. "I'm going to tell Chloe to call off the engagement party tonight!"

"It won't work."

A gentle voice came from not far away. Everyone turned to look.

A slim woman in a black dress, simple and not complicated, knee-length, with lantern sleeves, a V-neck design, and loose hair that was slightly curled because of the banquet. Her hands were in the pockets of her dress, as she slowly walked towards them.

The simplest dress, the darkest color, without any recognizable brand. But on her, it had a special charm.

The V-neck and skin exposed below the skirt, under the black dress, were delicate and shiny. Her bright eyes and white teeth, along with her light eyebrows, were captivating at first glance. She stood in the crowd, while Danielle unconsciously took a small step back, her face pale.

Cicely looked around calmly. "If Chloe wanted to cancel the engagement, she would have done it already. Getting Chloe to call off the engagement is exactly what Presley wants, isn't it?" She laughed coldly after finishing her sentence. "The old man's methods are much stronger than others. He's determined not to give Chloe any way out. In fact, as long as Damon shows up, all problems will be solved. Instead of sitting here wasting time, better figure out a way to get Damon here."

The crowd fell silent.

"Isn't that just stating the obvious?" Kane suddenly burst out. "If we could easily get Damon here, would we still be here?"

Cicely gave a slight smile, her attitude clearly showing she didn't care.

"Well, you guys can keep thinking then. Let me help you rule out some impossible solutions...

"One, Chloe won't cancel the engagement.

Two, we can't stop her from attending.

Three, no one can stand in for the groom.

Four, we can't persuade Presley to change his mind.

Five, we can't persuade the lady of the Alonso family to change her mind.

Six..."

Cicely chuckled. "We can't publicly announce that Chloe's fiancé is Damon."

Upon hearing this, everyone's eyes lit up, with Angie even clapping her hands excitedly. "Yeah, they can release news, so can we. Just announce that Chloe's fiancé is really..."

"But if Damon doesn't show up, and Presley steps in... Not only will Chloe be embarrassed, but she'll also have to face humiliation from Presley and even more people." Cicely's voice rose slightly, interrupting Angie's words, then calmly finished her sentence, leaving everyone silent.

This seemingly carefree woman was considering everything thoroughly, even more so than they were.

"Maybe you guys have better ideas. Take your time..."

After saying this, Cicely turned to leave, but Danielle's harsh voice came from behind, sounding somewhat flustered. "Where are you going?"

Cicely's steps slowly stopped. She paused for a few seconds with her back to Danielle, then slowly turned around, looking directly at Danielle. After a while, she suddenly laughed lightly, her eyes filled with mockery. "Danielle, since when do I need to tell you where I'm going and what I'm doing?"

Danielle frowned, looking in the direction Cicely was headed. She felt a bit uneasy. That was the direction Seth had just left.

Cicely looked at Danielle's reaction, then at the group in front of her, which was often together but was missing one man. She gave a slight smile, understanding. Danielle always maintained a reserved and dignified image. She cared a lot about her dignity and tried her best not to show her jealousy and pettiness. Every time she saw Danielle like this, Cicely would feel her anger spiraling out of control and growing.

Danielle wanted to present an image of being dignified, elegant, and generous, but Cicely wanted to expose her pretense.

guess Danielle isn't a boring person," She suddenly said, her beautiful eyes sweeping over everyone present, stopping on Kane, asking, "Did Seth just leave for this way?"

Kane just clenched his lips.."

This woman dragged him into her mess again. He didn't say a word, but Cicely suddenly turned around and blurted out, "Well then, I better not leave from here, so Danielle won't think Seth and I are off to find a quiet corner to be together."

Chapter 1252

Everyone was at a loss for words, not knowing how to respond to this woman who didn't seem to care about others' feelings. You..." Danielle was so pissed off that she couldn't utter a word.

Cicely simply chuckled, her laughter filled with a myriad of emotions, like understanding, serenity, and a touch of mockery.

“But given today’s circumstances... Chloe is my boss, Damon is Seth’s brother, and we might not have the mind for anything else.”

So, if it weren’t for today, they would be up for other stuff? This thought made Danielle feel miserable, and she couldn’t say a word even when Cicely gracefully turned and left.

Angie and Phoebe, oblivious to the complicated relationship among these people, felt awkward for Danielle for a moment, then redirected the conversation. “We only have half an hour left!”

The private jet they booked could only land at the airport. Damon had just gotten off the plane and hadn’t even left the airport before he was surrounded. These were the Harper family’s bodyguards, and Damon recognized them instantly.

“What do you guys want?” Damon frowned, his icy voice causing the bodyguards to turn pale and shiver in fear.

“We...

“Damon, back so soon?” A thick male voice echoed from a distance, and Robin’s figure appeared in sight.

Damon’s heart sank. “What’s this about?”

Robin smiled faintly, but it was a smile filled with reluctance. “This is Presley’s doing.

“Presley’s doing what?”

“Heh.” Robin let out a light laugh. “He’s against your marriage with Ms. Chloe.”

“Do you think his objection matters?”

"That's why I'm here." Robin sighed with resignation. "Damon, Wendy is a lady of the Alonso family. Marrying her is the right choice. Why can't you understand what everyone else does? What can Chloe bring you? She's nothing but a burden."

Damon glanced at his watch, his expression so gloomy it could drip water. He looked at the thirty or so bodyguards behind Robin, then turned his eyes to Robin himself.

"Didn't see you so enthusiastic about pairing me up with the Alonso family before."

Robin's smile faltered slightly. "...But I didn't object, did I? Everyone thought you and Wendy would end up together. Who would have thought you'd suddenly choose another woman?" Robin seemed to have found an acceptable excuse, and the smile returned to his face.

But Damon just stared at Robin quietly, his expression calm but his eyes dark. This made Robin, who was over twenty years old. After a while, Damon spoke in a calm tone, "Robin, what are you afraid of?"

Robin's heartbeat quickened, and his eyes squinted slightly. "What have I got to be scared of?"

Damon looked at him coldly. "Then get out of the way."

"You're injured." Robin changed the subject, his gaze falling on Damon's shoulder. "Guys! Get Damon to the hospital, now!"

Several bodyguards immediately stepped forward. "Damon, let's take you to the hospital first."

"Get out of my way!"

Damon stood in the bright hall, his figure like a sturdy statue. The pressure he exuded made the bodyguards tremble slightly.

his senior, feel a chill.

“Damon’s badly hurt! I told you to get him to the hospital! Can you take responsibility if anything happens?!” Robin suddenly yelled, his voice resonating powerfully, intimidating everyone in the room. Everyone knew he was usually easygoing, and this sudden outburst, in contrast, was extremely effective.

The bodyguards got even more anxious. Damon’s injury was a fact, and Robin had already ordered them to take him to the hospital. How could they take responsibility for anything that might happen?!

Immediately, someone stepped forward, intending to forcibly take Damon away. Suddenly, footsteps echoed from outside, and a group of people in black uniforms instantly surrounded them.

“Who are you?!” Robin’s smile vanished in an instant.

“Why are you so concerned about someone else’s pain?”

A cold voice rang out, the sound of dress shoes hitting the floor approached, and a tall figure appeared in the crowd. “Robin, long time no see.” Robin’s face turned even colder when he saw who it was. “Indeed, it’s been a while.”

Seth slightly tugged at the corner of his mouth, his eyes gleaming with a teasing light. “Since we’ve run into each other, we might as well catch up.” Robin didn’t respond, but when he looked up, he saw that Damon was about to leave. As Damon passed by Seth, his deep voice echoed. “You’re late!” Seth simply tugged at the corner of his mouth again, offering no response.

“Damon!” Robin yelled in a stern tone, attempting to stop Damon, but Seth just stood there quietly, a hint of mockery on his face.

He didn’t move, but his men immediately stepped forward to block Robin. In the spacious hall, Seth’s men and the Harper family’s bodyguards stood ready, weapons in hand, prepared to strike at any moment. Their vigilant eyes seemed to suggest that any slight movement from the other side would trigger a brawl.

The only ones who remained unmoved were Damon, and Nate, who was pushing a wheelchair behind him. The woman in the wheelchair was wearing a hat that obscured her face, her head slightly lowered. One could only see half of her side profile, making it impossible to identify her.

Seth's gaze casually swept over the woman, his eyes flitting about, but he made no sound, just offering a slight smile. "I'm sorry, but Damon has some more important matters to attend to."

Robin was seething with rage, but after a while, he let out a cold chuckle.

"It's already too late. Even if he rushes over now, everything's already set in stone."

Seth also offered a slight smile. "Seems like you don't really understand what kind of person Damon really is."

Emerald Palace.

Wendy was getting showered with compliments by group after group of people. From the grin plastered all over her face, you could tell she was totally digging being the center of attention.

Chapter 1253

The manager of the hotel hurried over, and with an air of respect asked Wendy, "Ms Alonso, do you need to book any other banquet halls?"

That's when it hit everyone.

"Right! Isn't this the venue for Ms. Chloe's engagement party?!"

The manager gave an awkward nod. "Yes, the engagement ceremony is about to start. You see..."

The news online was creating quite a buzz.

The lady of the Alonso family, the CEO of the Harper Group...

The mere introduction of their backgrounds online was enough to blow people's minds, not to mention what happened if these two families merged. Just thinking about it was enough to give you a thrill.

For this hotel to have hosted the engagement party of these two was a marketing opportunity of a lifetime.

"Ms. Alonso, where's your banquet hall?"

"Will Damon be rushing back?"

Wendy's grin grew wider. "If he can't make it back, it can't be helped. As for the banquet hall..."

"As for the banquet hall, we'll take this one."

Grace's sudden announcement left everyone in stunned silence. People gave each other puzzled looks, not knowing what to make of it.

The hotel manager was the first to panic. "I'm sorry, Ms. Alonso, but that might not be possible. Ms. Chloe booked this place long ago, and her engagement ceremony is about to begin."

A hint of mischief sparkled in Wendy's eyes, but she put on a sorry expression. "Didn't she cancel her engagement today? I'm sorry, I misunderstood, I thought..."

"What?! Why would Ms. Chloe cancel her engagement?"

Like they were on the brink of finding out some juicy scoop, people couldn't help but ask. "Why would Ms. Chloe cancel her engagement? Is she breaking off the engagement?"

“Ms. Alonso, how did you know Ms. Chloe was cancelling her engagement ceremony?”

So, you must know who Ms. Chloe’s fiancé is, right?”

Wendy simply shook her head. “I’m sorry, I don’t know. I might have gotten it wrong... If Ms. Chloe hasn’t canceled her engagement, I’ll just book another banquet

hall...”

Canceled the wedding... Her casual remark set the whole banquet hall buzzing again.

Almost immediately, headlines like “Ms. Chloe is canceling her engagement! Tonight’s star of the show at Emerald Palace will be Ms. Alonso!” started popping up

online.

“Cancel the wedding?! What’s going on? Hmph... I knew it, she was bound to stir up trouble sooner or later!”

A sharp voice rang out, and everyone turned to see Carolina, who had seemingly appeared out of nowhere. Jonah and Nick were also there.

Everyone took a few steps back, not knowing how to deal with Carolina. She was unreformed, increasingly outrageous, greedy as hell, and shameless. For an elder to stoop so low, it was really embarrassing.

Ever since Nick found out at his father’s birthday party that the woman he had loved for over 20 years was not his biological daughter and that his wife had cheated on him without him ever suspecting, he had not made any public appearances. Now that he was here, the embarrassment on his face was unmistakable.

And then there was Nick's father... In the Summers family, Jonah was probably the only one who was more pitiable than despicable.

was curious to see what kind of man could make her not want to be the viscountess of Y Country. Now she's been dumped!"

Everyone remained silent, eyebrows knitted, not understanding how she could be so certain that Chloe had been dumped. Was this old woman losing her marbles?

Perhaps sensing the odd glances around her, Carolina pursed her lips and lowered her voice. "Does anyone know where she is? If the engagement has been canceled, as her grandmother, I can't just sit by. I need to see her."

The manager, unsure whether the banquet would still continue, took the chance to say, "She's in the backstage dressing room."

Carolina smirked slightly, glanced back, and waved her hand.

Everyone was taken aback, following her gaze, only to see a huge crowd pouring in through the banquet hall entrance, bustling and in sync. They quickly rushed in and formed two lines, leaving a pathway in between. Then, two figures slowly appeared at the entrance.

A man, and a woman.

The woman was young and beautiful, with a high chin and an air of arrogance. The man was tall and dressed in British formal wear, gentlemanly and elegant. He was Rhys, the one Ms. Chloe had kicked out of the company a few days ago.

With this grand entrance, what was he up to? It looked like they were planning to crash the wedding today.

When Jonah saw them, he staggered in anger. "Carolina, you..."

"I'm doing this for her good!" Carolina interrupted Jonah. "She's been dumped and made a laughingstock. Rhys still wants to marry her despite everything. That's proof of his love! What are you blabbering about?!"

After saying her piece, she didn't give Jonah a chance to retort, but turned to Rhys with an air of arrogance, coldly saying, "Come with me to the backstage, you can take care of Chloe!"

"Carolina!" Jonah blocked her path, his eyes filled with rage. "He's already married! What are you doing, putting Chloe in this position?!"

"So what, if she marries Rhys, she'll live a noble life..."

Rhys cut in calmly, "Jonah, I'm deeply in love with Chloe, I don't understand why you keep rejecting me."

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Jonah didn't bother sugarcoating his words and just said it straight, "Because Chloe doesn't fancy you! She already rejected you loud and clear. What's the point of you pestering her non-stop?"

"You old man, you really have no respect for others!" Off to the side, Becky, who was used to being pampered and having people fussing over her as a princess, had never thought someone would dare disrespect their royal family like this. Her temper flared up like a lit fuse!

"Who do you think your granddaughter is? No lineage, no background, and she thinks she can marry into the Y Country's royal family? Does she even qualify for that? She doesn't like my cousin? Huh, does she even have the right to do so? The poor should stick with the poor, and the useless should pair with the useless! Someone as lowly as her should be stuck with a lousy man! Acting all high and mighty in front of me, what a joke!!"

Rhys, standing nearby, grimaced at her words. The useless should pair with the useless...

Seeing this, Carolina quickly prompted Rhys, "Rhys, aren't you going to go see Chloe?"

“Of course!”

He had barely taken a few steps with the crowd when their path was blocked by a few people. Kane and the others stood in front of Carolina and Rhys. “What are you trying to do? What plans do you have with Chloe?”

Rhys frowned, looking at Kane, and asked, “And you

are?”

Chapter 1254

Just as Kane was about to speak, a voice echoed throughout the banquet hall.

“Excuse me, folks. Due to Ms. Chloe’s sudden cancellation of her wedding feast today, the venue is taken over by the Harper family to celebrate the engagement of my grandson, Damon, and the lady from the Alonso family.”

As soon as this was said, all eyes were focused on the stage. Hearing Presley’s words, Wendy felt both nervous and excited. The moment she had been waiting for was finally here!

Once her identity was publicly announced, and this night was over, the life she had always dreamed of would be waiting for her

“Is that...Presley?”

“Yep, it’s his grandson’s engagement party. Of course, he’d be here.”

“But...did Ms. Chloe’s engagement party really get called off? What the hell happened?*

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“Yeah, I was looking forward to it for so long. Thought today I’d finally find out who Ms. Chloe’s fiancé is, but the wedding was canceled. Such a bummer.” “But crashing the Harper Group CEO’s engagement party isn’t too shabby.”

Presley looked at the crowd below, smiling amiably. “I’m sure you all know that the Harper family and the Alonso family have always been close. Damon and Wendy being together is just a natural thing. Seeing them finally end up together is a sight I relish. Tonight’s engagement was a last-minute decision, but since you’re all here, we can’t let you go home disappointed. Please, enjoy yourselves!”

“God! This old man really has guts!” Kane, in a fury, turned around and stomped towards the stage! What the hell was going on?!

Angie stomped her foot in frustration. “What on earth is Grandpa doing?! He’s stirring up a mess here, will Damon even accept this?

Hans chuckled coldly. “Damon might not accept it, but Chloe definitely got screwed over tonight. This kind of thing is irreparable. Even if you strike back, the damage has been done, it’s just a lose-lose situation.”

Presley standing on the stage, easily spotted the raging Kane storming towards him. He squinted his eyes and made a quick gesture to the side; immediately, two men quickly stepped in front of Kane to stop him.

“Mr. Ziems, your seat is at the back.”

“Get lost!” Kane shoved one of them away!

This commotion drew the attention of a few people nearby. Presley frowned, wanting to have Kane forcibly removed, but Kane shouted, “Who said Damon is getting engaged to that woman?!”

Everyone was confused. “What’s going on?”

Seeing the buzz in the crowd, Presley said emotionlessly, "I just received the news that Damon might not be able to attend the engagement party tonight due to some last-minute issues. Thankfully, we didn't plan to make a big deal out of this engagement..."

Kane had the demeanor of a spoiled young aristocrat, but he had a deep respect for the elderly, especially for Damon's grandfather. However, today he was truly infuriated by this old man!

"Do you think we're fools?! If you knew he couldn't attend, why did you announce the engagement?!"

Not only Presley but Wendy and Grace also started to get nervous. This was indeed something they wanted to keep under wraps, why announce the engagement all of a sudden?

Of course, it had to be a last-minute announcement. Otherwise, if Damon found out, he would only rush home more urgently. And Chloe, they had to admit, was clever. If they had announced it in advance, they couldn't guarantee that Chloe wouldn't have an opposing plan. So they had to announce it at the last minute, catching her off guard, preventing her from having the time and energy to do anything to stop them.

Presley was very careful about this; even Wendy only found out at the last minute. However, when this issue was raised, naturally people would have doubts.

"Yes, Ms. Alonso did say Damon might not be able to attend. If he can't attend, then why not cancel the engagement?"

Wendy started to feel nervous. "Well...we already set the engagement date a while ago, we can't just change it easily. I..."

Her stuttering and inability to find a convincing reason made her extremely anxious, almost to the point of crying. But because of her seemingly helpless and almost crying state, she appeared to others as a pitiful woman.

"So that's why!"

Before she could finish, people around her seemed to really understand her feelings and started nodding in agreement.

“Ms. Alonso is really unfortunate. After all, this is one of the most important days in a person’s life, and her fiancé isn’t here. That’s hard on anyone!”

“It’s not just hard, there are only a few important days in a woman’s life, which should be the most beautiful memories, but now it’s turned into this.”

“Ms. Alonso, don’t be too upset, we understand...”

The lady of the Alonso family, the future lady of the Harper family, either of these titles was enough to earn people’s respect, especially now, when these two identities were combined.

Wendy didn’t expect people to play along with her. She was stunned for a moment, then put on a face of grief and sadness, bit her lip, and shook her head stubbornly, but tears fell immediately.

“I understand Mr. Harper wants to come to his own engagement party, but he must be held back by something. I believe he’s suffering more than me...”

“Ah, Ms. Alonso is really understanding...”

Wendy smirked. No wonder women liked to play weak and play kind. It turned out these people really liked this. She sneered inside, so these things were actually so simple.

“Wendy.”

Just as she was feeling smug, a soft voice suddenly came. When she saw Phoebe pulling Angie standing next to her, Wendy’s eyebrows knitted slightly.

Grace decided to confront Phoebe, her expression as cold as ice. “Why are you here? Who told you to come? Why didn’t you tell me you’re coming to P City?”

Angie, who was standing nearby, saw this woman who had always been cold towards Phoebe and retorted angrily, “Isn’t Wendy getting engaged today? What’s wrong with Phoebe coming to her own sister’s engagement party? Or are you saying, you don’t consider Phoebe a part of the Alonso family?”

Grace’s expression changed instantly. A myriad of emotions crossed her face before she managed to squeeze out a gentle smile.

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“This was a last-minute decision, right? I didn’t plan to make it such a big deal...”

“Even if it was a spur of the moment thing, you should’ve still informed your family, right? What the hell is the Alonso family up to? Or did you purposely not tell Phoebe because you don’t consider her part of the family? Speaking of which, where are all the other Alonso family members?”

When one friend was down, the other one had to step up! Phoebe was always gentle and humble, never fighting for anything, but Angie would always stand up for her, protecting her from being bullied.

And Angie’s words had managed to make the usually calm Grace nervous.

“How could the other members of the Alonso family not attend the engagement party? They should be resting backstage, right?”

“Even if they’re resting backstage, isn’t Ms. Phoebe supposed to be here anyway? Why did she just get so worked up?”

Grace looked uncomfortable, unable to find an answer to this question. The other members of the Alonso family indeed hadn’t come. But if they hadn’t come, how would people view the engagement party? But if they had, she wouldn’t be so surprised by Phoebe’s sudden appearance. Her earlier

nervousness was due to worrying that Phoebe might blurt out something she shouldn't, which made her cautious. But now...

Without everthinking it, Phoebe turned to Wendy and whispered, "Wendy, isn't what you're doing a bit over the line? You knew, today..."

"Phoebe Wendy, seeing that things were going south, immediately interrupted her. Then she put on a face of helplessness. "I've already been through so much, do you want to make it worse for me? It's

fine if I feel embarrassed, but what about the Alonso family? How would we explain this to our father?"

Phoebe's expression subtly changed. Since she was little, she'd always craved her father's attention and love, but his mind was always on her sister. She consoled herself, understanding that as the lady of the Alonso family, the future leader, it was natural for her father to pay more attention to her sister.

Even though she was sensible and considerate, she still longed for the love of a father who had disappointed her time and time again. And she didn't want to bring shame upon the Alonso family

But...

"Is it really alright to suddenly announce an engagement? Moreover, this is someone else's venue, even the guests are someone else's. Don't you think this is too much?" Hearing this, Wendy felt extremely uncomfortable. After all, no one would want to rely on someone else's popularity to elevate their own wedding. But then she thought about it and felt extremely smug.

Weren't these all the things Chloe wanted but couldn't have? Chloe's fiancé now belonged to her. Her engagement venue now belonged to Wendy. The guests Chloe invited to bless her, now were blessing her.

Thinking about all this, she felt that everything she had been through, everything she had endured, and all the difficulties she was about to face, were all worth it, and she wouldn't regret a thing.

“Phoebe, Ms. Chloe’s cancellation of the engagement was never made public, and we thought everyone knew. We originally just planned to have a small gathering at home, but Grandpa Presley thought it was unfair to me. When he found out that this wedding feast was canceled and the guests hadn’t left yet, he decided to temporarily use this banquet hall...”

What she meant was that she thought these people already knew and stayed because they wanted to attend her and Damon’s engagement party.

She also explained that Grandpa Presley was thinking about her and decided to hold a grand banquet. Even though it might’ve been a bit inappropriate to exploit Chloe’s popularity, she believed this was a great favor Grandpa Presley was doing for the people present, those who wanted to make connections with the Alonso family and the Harper family

A few people nearby also felt that attending such an engagement party was a great thing. Someone started a debate, unable to hold back. “It’s an honor for us to attend the engagement party of the lady of the Alonso family and the CEO. There’s nothing to argue about.”

“Right, we came here today to attend an engagement party. We didn’t attend Ms. Chloe’s, so attending this one is even more meaningful for us.”

Grace immediately smiled and said, “Now that everyone knows, on behalf of the Alonso family, I’d like to sincerely invite you all to attend the engagement party of the lady of the Alonso family and the grandson of the Harper family.”

“Great, great! It’s an honor!” Most people were very happy and nodded in agreement.

Some people even showed great enthusiasm, saying, “But what about Ms. Chloe? She made an announcement at the beginning, but why did she cancel it without any notice? How could such a big misunderstanding occur?”

Grace laughed. “I’m not sure about that...”

“Who said today’s engagement party was cancelled?!”

As Grace spoke, her face was full of smiles. However, as soon as she finished speaking, a harsh voice rang out. The clear voice echoed in the venue.

Everyone turned their heads and saw Elizabeth standing in front of the door leading to the backstage rest area. Her expression was so cold it sent chills down people's

spines

A few sharp-eyed people recognized her. "Isn't that Elizabeth?"

"Elizabeth? The CEO mother?"

"Who else could be

"What did she mean by what she just said?"

"What engagement party hasn't been cancelled? Isn't this the CEO's engagement party? I didn't hear anything about it being cancelled?"

"Hmm?"

"What's going on?"

Grace and Wendy's faces suddenly turned tense. Hadn't Grandpa said he wouldn't let her show up? Why did she suddenly appear?

Elizabeth's foot was still aching! The wound on her arm hurt so much she wanted to cry. When had she ever suffered such pain since being with Royce, apart from

childbirth?

Only she knew how much anger she had pent up in her heart. To pull off this surprise engagement party. Presley actually had her locked in a lounge and even had guards posted on her. Would she have

been here if she hadn't kicked the door open and threatened the bodyguards with a knife after cutting her own arm?

Royce hadn't shown up yet, so she was certain that Presley must have had him holed up somewhere too!

Presley's face darkened even more when she saw her. "How did you get out?"

Elizabeth, gritting her teeth against the pain, shot Presley a cold look. "You're asking me how I got out to attend my own son's engagement party?"

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Things had gotten to this point, and the sharp ones in the room started to realize that something was off.

Presley was gripping his cane tightly! "Can you stop making a fuss?"

"A fuss?" Elizabeth scoffed without a hint of a smile on her face. "You swapped my son's fiancée for another woman at the last minute. Who's causing the fuss here?" The moment those words left her mouth, the entire banquet hall fell into a hushed silence.

Not even the sound of breathing could be heard.

A few seconds passed, and the room erupted into a flurry of whispers!

"What on earth is going on? I'm totally lost."

“So when Elizabeth said earlier that the engagement party wasn’t canceled, she meant...”

“No way...

People began to murmur, finding their suspicions hard to believe. They were all from P City, and these two were practically the city’s top dogs, how could this be... Impossible, impossible, impossible! How could this be possible?!

Grace and Wendy didn’t even have time to react before Elizabeth dropped this bombshell. Their faces went pale in an instant. Especially Wendy, her face went as white as a sheet!

Her chest was heaving rapidly from anxiety. Confronted with all the eyes on her, her gaze flickered, torn between evasion, and figuring out how to deal with this sudden twist. Grace also gritted her teeth,

looking up at Presley standing on the stage. His face was as dark as a storm cloud, he stared at Elizabeth for a moment, but then suddenly changed his tone, speaking into the microphone in a nonchalant voice, “Thank you all for staying to attend my grandson’s engagement party with Miss Alonso. Wendy come up here.” He blatantly disregarded Elizabeth’s words.

In a state of extreme panic, Wendy vaguely heard Presley’s voice, but she still looked dazed. What would she do if things went south tonight?

“Wendy, Wendy!”

Grace suddenly nudged her, pulling her back to reality. She looked at Grace, her eyes filled with confusion and anxiety. “Mom...”

Seeing her like this, Grace couldn’t help but feel anxious for her. This kid couldn’t handle any pressure at all.

So, she leaned in and whispered to her,

“Don’t worry, Presley’s got your back! Hurry up, he’s asking for you! Remember, you’re Miss Alonso. You’re better than anyone else!”

Wendy was taken aback, she looked up at the stage, and surely, Presley was looking at her. Thinking of the voice she’d heard earlier, the panic in her heart subsided a little.

She took a deep breath, lifted her chin, put on a beautiful confident smile, picked up her dress, and slowly walked toward the stage.

She was wearing a white dress, simple and conservative, showing off her petite and exquisite figure. She was graceful and confident as she moved, her smile perfectly conveying the superiority of being a lady of the Alonso family.

Presley nodded in satisfaction, and the smile that had vanished due to Elizabeth’s appearance once again surfaced on his face./

Wendy had carefully chosen a white dress tinged with beige for the day, the details subtly displaying the low-key nature of the sudden engagement announcement, as well as the elegance befitting a young lady of a noble family.

“I’m not just saying this, Miss Alonso is really quite something.”

“Mmm, the dress is simple yet conservative. The color is also very fitting.”

“She’s got a great aura, and there’s nothing to pick when it comes to her looks or figure.”

“Yeah, she’s stunning!”

Hearing these whispers as she walked, Wendy felt a little less nervous. As it turned out, she was doing the right thing. She slowly walked onto the stage, stood across from the old man, gave him a soft smile, and gently called out, “Grandpa.”

The old man nodded, gesturing for Wendy to stand beside him. "Wendy, grew up with my grandson and their relationship has always been stable. Announcing their engagement today is to give a clear explanation to the public and other shareholders in our company as well as all our employees who have been paying attention to our family. Thank you all for staying to witness tonight!"

With Presley's words, Wendy finally let out a sigh of relief. As long as the old man was firmly supportive, and as long as tonight passed, everything would be fine. She didn't believe that Damon would give up the entire family for Chloe!

The audience burst into applause that lasted for a while.

Elizabeth gritted her teeth, she was surrounded by the old man's men and couldn't make it to the stage to argue with him! "You've gone too far! You dare to lay your hands on

me!"

"Sorry, we're just following orders." The bodyguards holding Elizabeth back looked helpless. The most difficult thing for them was dealing with family feuds. Whoever they offended, they were in the wrong.

The applause in the banquet hall gradually faded, and once again, whispers started to fill the room.

"Who's that?"

"Feels like he's got a strong aura."

"But he seems a bit scary."

Elizabeth looked up, her eyes lighting up.

But... He was indeed a bit scary.

From the stage entrance to the backstage area, Royce strode forward, his steps steady and rhythmic as he made his way to the center of the stage. Dressed in a crisp black suit, he exuded an icy aura. His handsome and mature face was as cold as ice, and his deep eyes were filled with a hint of frost and anger.

He stopped in the center of the stage, his icy gaze meeting the old man's mid-air.

"You" The old man wanted to say something, but in the end, he didn't.

How did he get here? Of course, by escaping the siege! Only then could he appear here.

"Royce..."

Wendy looked at the suddenly appearing Royce, feeling a bit uneasy. But she still softly and obediently greeted him.

"Mmm." Royce turned his gaze to Wendy, responding faintly.

This response made Elizabeth extremely displeased, but it brought joy to Wendy and Grace. That's because Royce's attitude towards her was quite friendly. This showed that Royce and Presley were on the same team as her!

So, with her marriage to Royce, the only one in the whole family opposed to the engagement was Elizabeth. As a woman, she naturally couldn't call the shots at the critical moment. Then Wendy didn't have to worry about anything anymore!

"Royce, thank you..."

Royce sternly said, "I'm your uncle now, and I can only be your uncle in the future."

The smile on Wendy's face froze in an instant. At the same time, everyone's heart, at the scene was in their throat.

These two engagement parties tonight, no matter how you looked at them, were just weird.

Chapter 1257

Tonight's twin engagement parties were a total trainwreck.

"Royce!" Presley scolded sternly from the side.

But Royce didn't respond to him, instead directing his attention towards the crowd. His voice was calm and indifferent. "Let's get one thing straight. The engagement ceremony in this hall, there's only supposed to be one tonight. If Miss Alonso wants to throw her own engagement party, she'll have to find another place! They can't just muscle in on someone else's party like this. If word gets out, they're gonna look like intruders."

This description made Elizabeth burst into laughter. "Intruders? That's exactly what they are!" Her words were practically grinding through her teeth by the end. Grace's face suddenly turned sour. "What's that supposed to mean?!" She couldn't help but confront Elizabeth, her voice on the edge of hysteria.

Elizabeth cast her a sidelong glance and sneered, "What, want me to spell it out for you?"

"You..." On the stage, Wendy was at a loss for words, her face a mix of anxiety and humiliation.

"Royce, how could you treat me like this, I truly love him..."

"The ceremony's about to start, this isn't your place right now, so beat it!" Royce coldly cut off Wendy's attempt to soften him with weakness and emotion. His final words were an undeniable command.

Wendy's words were stuck in her throat, then she turned to Presley with a hurt look.

“Royce, you’re absolutely despicable!” Presley was fuming, as his dignity completely disregarded by his own son in front of everyone.

“If you don’t want to leave, then stay. But it’s on you, don’t blame me for not considering your dignity.”

Wendy had no idea what Royce meant by this. Presley was even more incensed, huffing and puffing with rage. “Do you have absolutely no respect for your father?” Royce acted as if he hadn’t heard, checking his watch briefly before scanning the crowd. Then his expression became solemn. He withdrew his gaze and said lightly, “The engagement ceremony begins now. The engaged couple, please come to the stage.”

Wendy was shocked. Come to the stage together?! Could it be that Damon was back?!

Everyone was surprised as well. So Ms. Chloe really didn’t call off the engagement! And they could finally see the mysterious fiancé/today?!

No, they might be finding out today whether Ms. Chloe’s fiancé was the CEO of Harper Group or not!

Royce subtly lifted his eyes to the door leading to the backstage lounge. Everyone turned their heads in that direction. Elizabeth closed her eyes briefly. She could read Royce’s subtle gesture. Her heart sank to a new low.

Just as Royce finished speaking, Alyssa walked out slowly with Chloe’s hand in hers and Hannah pushing a wheelchair behind them! Just the three of them, no one else. Everyone stared at them in surprise, not knowing what to do. Weren’t the engaged couple supposed to come up together?

Presley saw Damon’s figure was missing and chuckled coldly. Wendy also sighed in relief.

Halfway there, Chloe suddenly stopped, bent down with a faint smile on her face, and said to Alyssa, “Grandma, you can leave me here.”

Alyssa felt like her heart was being ripped apart, but she held onto Chloe's hand tightly. "I'll take you there."

Chloe smiled lightly and said, "It's okay, I can do it."

Whatever she had to face, she would face it! Nothing could scare her.

"Chloe..." Alyssa was still reluctant to let go.

The road from here to the stage may only have been a few steps away, but it felt like walking barefoot on sharp blades.

How could Damon do this at this time... Alyssa's eyes welled up with tears. As a senior, she felt sorry for everything Chloe had gone through, past and present!

As a woman, she felt sorry for what Chloe had to endure now. She thought Damon would never make her cry again, but she didn't expect Damon to leave her alone at the engagement ceremony.

Her beautiful and kind child...

Seeing Alyssa like this, Chloe smiled gently and said, "Don't worry, Grandma. It's just holding an engagement ceremony—alone. It doesn't mean that Damon and my engagement is invalid if I'm alone here."

"Yes!" Alyssa nodded vigorously. Despite not having shed a tear for decades, the tears rolled down her cheeks.

She felt sorry for Chloe's strength even in this situation.

She was not strong. How could she be strong?!

It was not just “holding an engagement ceremony alone.” This was a fatal hurt, an irreparable regret!

Chloe blinked her eyes and slowly straightened up. Finally, she gently lifted her dress and slowly walked towards the stage.

Her long dress swayed, wrapping her tall and slender figure. Her hair was tied up high, revealing a graceful neck. The platinum tassel earrings swayed lightly as she moved, occasionally reflecting a dazzling light. With light makeup and a touch of crimson on her lips, there was a calm and cold look in her eyes.

She walked with her head slightly raised, down the middle of the path that the crowd had parted for her.

Calm, indifferent, arrogant, and confident. A cold and proud beauty that fascinated everyone, yet no one could compare.

The hall was filled with guests, and everyone was watching her.

“Why is she alone?”

“How can an engagement ceremony only have one person?”

“Did she really get dumped and this is her last stand?”

“What’s the point of holding it then?”

“Why not just cancel it now? If she insists on it now, won’t it be even harder to explain later?”

“Why does she make things so hard for herself?”

"I agree, even if the guy didn't dump her, leaving her alone here on such an important day shows that he doesn't really care about her, right?"

"You just told Ms. Alonso that it's normal for men to be busy."

"Yeah, they've been buddies since they were in diapers, they've been through thick and thin together, so they don't care much for formalities. Didn't you see how they announced their engagement at the eleventh hour? They're super low-key, not like Ms. Chloe who's been broadcasting her engagement left, right, and center."

Even though she kept telling herself not to give a hoot about what others said, those scattered comments still hit her already weary heart hard, leaving marks of varying depths.

Chapter 1258

Even though she tried to convince herself not to care about those around her, those scattered words still left scars of varying depths in her already struggling heart. Chloe slightly clenched the hem of her dress, suppressing the bitterness in her heart. Her long eyelashes quivered slightly as she continued to move forward.

Whenever she passed by and her silhouette drifted through, the crowd's murmuring would decrease a tad.

"Ms. Chloe is truly beautiful."

"Yeah, she's so stunning that people are too intimidated to approach her."

Not until Chloe stepped onto the stage and stood in the center, her frosty yet dazzling aura instantly overshadowed Wendy from the Alonso family.

A wave of awe and praise totally sidelined Wendy!

At this point, people realized that what Royce had said earlier, about making a fool of oneself, was indeed true.

“Although she’s the lady from the Alonso family, compared to Ms. Chloe, she seems pretty insignificant.”

“Exactly, when you compare, Ms. Chloe’s aura is unignorable.”

“Yeah, no wonder she attracted the viscount from Y Country...”

Standing aside, Wendy felt extremely embarrassed.

Presley and Wendy both were glaring at her. Chloe could feel the hateful gazes behind her and knew that all eyes were on her at that moment. However, she calmly picked up the microphone, let her gaze fall on the crowd below, and slowly said,

“Tonight is my engagement ceremony. Although you were initially my guests, I heard some of you are here for Ms. Alonso’s engagement ceremony...”

Her frosty voice clearly echoed throughout the banquet hall. She paused, her eyes slowly sweeping over the crowd below, and said coldly. “Please leave.”

Those who had just flattered Wendy were awkward. Some even felt insulted and couldn’t help but say, “We came out of genuine goodwill to congratulate you, isn’t this a bit too much?”

“We came to support you. It’s not up to you who we attend the engagement party for.”

Chloe gave a faint smile. “Of course. As long as you’re not here for my engagement party, that’s fine.”

“Who cares...”

“Ungrateful!”

“Even the fiancé doesn’t show up at the engagement party, huh...”

“Let’s go. Compared to watching this joke of an engagement party, the engagement party of Miss Alonso and the CEO of the Harper Group is more worthwhile.”

Although the grumbling voices below the stage were intentionally low, they still reached the stage. Chloe stood silently in the center of the stage, one hand holding the microphone, the other lightly holding the hem of her dress.

One second, two seconds, three seconds, four seconds, five seconds...

She stood at the forefront of the stage, emotionless. The hand clutching her dress was cold and slightly trembling.

She waited quietly... As if she was waiting for even one more second for her Damon to show up the next second.

Waiting, anticipating...

The palm of her hand grew colder, and her lips couldn’t help but tremble. Seeing Chloe standing alone on stage, feeling abandoned by the world, Ned in the corner couldn’t help but speak up. “Sir...”

Stanley stared gloomily at the resilient woman on stage and said coldly, “Let her wait! I want to see how long she can hold out?”

In another corner, someone else was also itching for action.

At this moment, Presley standing behind Chloe, coldly said, “Why be so stubborn? You should know, even if he could return, I wouldn’t let him appear here.”

The crowd below the stage that had been quiet for a while also gradually lost patience, saying one by one, "Why isn't she speaking?"

"Isn't this an engagement ceremony? Isn't it starting?"

Chloe's eyelashes trembled slightly, and the joints of her hand holding her dress were taut.

With things having progressed to this point, Wendy felt a sigh of relief, but she was unwilling to let Chloe continue to delay. With a slight curl of her lips, she slowly approached Chloe and said loudly, "Ms. Chloe, just cancel your engagement today. To keep dragging on like this is meaningless, it's just a waste of time."

"Ms. Chloe, if it's really impossible to continue, just cancel the engagement party..."

"Yes, give the venue to Ms. Alonso..."

"Right..."

Chloe seemed not to have heard, ignoring the entire banquet hall's commotion. But she still held the microphone firmly, her steady, cold gaze barely concealing her trembling

Seeing her like this, Wendy's mouth turned up slightly. At this point, Chloe holding an engagement party by herself only proved that Damon would not appear at this engagement party. Considering how much Damon had doted on Chloe in the past, if he could really make it, how could he let her hold an engagement party alone? She was certain that Damon would not come back tonight.

Today, Chloe was finally hit with a setback. In that case, why not make her even more embarrassed?

Raising an eyebrow, she stepped closer to Chloe and said softly, "Ms. Chloe, since this is your engagement party, where is your fiancé?"

Hearing this, Chloe turned her head to look at her, suppressing her unease, and looked at her coldly.
“What do you want to say?”

“Nothing, I’m just curious. As Damon’s fiancé, I naturally heard that you’ve chosen Damon as your fiancé. Oh, also known as... the CEO of the Harper Group?”

As she spoke, she also ran her fingers through her hair, smiling confidently. This comment caused an uproar in the entire audience, even Presley behind her furrowed his brows. Was she trying to stir the pot?

“As expected...”

“I knew it, there must be a connection.”

“Well, that’s awkward. Who is the CEO’s fiancé after all?”

“Isn’t it obvious? Think about it, of course, it’s the missy from the Alonso family!”

Someone suddenly spoke loudly, full of confidence.

“That’s right, the Alonso family and the Harper family are both prestigious families. Wendy and Damon have been good friends since they were young. It’s only natural for them to be together.”

“Even though Ms. Chloe holds some sway in P City, she ain’t got nothing on the daughter of the Alonso family when it comes to family background. The gap between them is just too damn wide.”

Sitting in the audience, Carolina felt super embarrassed. “Why the hell did you pick the fiancé of Miss Alonso? Rhys is a good guy, why didn’t you choose him instead of snatching someone else’s man? Who taught you to behave like this? Are you used to stealing other people’s men? You should know damn well that with the Harper family’s status and the CEO’s position, there’s no way he’d be interested in you!”

She stormed onto the stage in a rage. "Stop making a fool of yourself and get off the stage!"

She intended to drag Chloe off the stage, but all of a sudden, a figure stepped in front of her, grabbed her arm, and without a shred of mercy, tossed her back into the audience!

Chapter 1259

She had every intention to storm the stage and yank Chloe down, but out of the blue, a figure appeared, snagging her arm and rudely shoved her off the stage.

"Ahh!" Carolina fell from the stage with a thud, followed by Carolina's piercing scream.

Everyone present was dumbfounded, unable to believe what they had just witnessed. No matter what, she was an old lady, such a fall must've broken something, right?

But the people on stage were even more shocked than those below. Wendy turned pale as a ghost, standing unsteadily, retreating involuntarily.

"Nate!?"

Wasn't he supposed to have left with Damon? How did he pop up out of nowhere?

Could it be...

Presley was also furrowing his brows. "Nate, why are you back?!"

Chloe was even more surprised, looking up at Nate, frozen, her eyes trembling slightly. She swayed a little, and hurriedly walked to Nate's side, grabbing onto his sleeve tightly. She looked up at him, her lips trembling as she asked, "Nate, is Damon back?"

Nate looked a bit off, his handsome face covered in sweat. He gave Chloe a smile. "I'm sorry, ma'am, he might..."

Before he could finish, an exclamation came from below the stage. All the voices combined, instantly pushing the atmosphere of the banquet hall to its peak.

Chloe was taken aback, turning her head to look down at the stage. Her gaze swept across the hall, finally landing on the entrance of the side hall of the banquet hall. A tall figure was walking towards them.

A flicker in her eyes, her body suddenly weakened, barely able to stand. Her steps faltered, slowly turning around, staring intently at the man walking towards the stage. He was dressed in a pristine white suit, a crystal boutonniere on his chest gleaming, a picture of grace as if he stepped out of a painting.

Chloe smiled, her eyelashes trembling slightly. Seeing the man, she felt hurt, but also very grateful that he appeared in time!

Damon's gaze was fixed on Chloe, never shifting. As he got closer, his steps became more hurried and chaotic.

The crowd parted naturally, making way for him. He was getting closer to the stage, his steps quickening.

Chloe's gaze followed him, her eyes reddening. Damon kept his lips tightly closed; even though he tried to control his expression, seeing Chloe's swollen eyes, his gaze couldn't help but tremble.

He strode up the steps, and quickly reached her side. Almost halfway there, he had already stretched out his long, strong arms towards Chloe, finally pulling Chloe into his

arms.

"I'm sorry, I'm late." He held her tightly as if he wanted to melt her into his body, as if only in this way, he could calm his anxious heart, trying to prevent the woman in front of him from being too upset.

Being held tightly by the man's strong arms, her body ached a little. The unique fresh scent of the man filled her nose, enveloping her completely. The coldness of his body made Chloe feel warm, finally putting down all her toughness and indifference.

"You're finally back." She whispered, obviously relieved, but her voice couldn't help but tremble.

Damon lightly held her head, carefully avoiding her beautifully styled hair for tonight, and held her tightly once more. "I'm sorry, Chloe, I'm sorry." He kept kissing her hair, his voice full of guilt, his trembling deep voice echoed in the silent banquet hall.

He had such a gentle and careful voice; he cared for her so much.

Chloe felt wronged, now being held by the man, her tightly strung heart finally relaxed. Having received the man's tenderness, her sense of grievance intensified. "I've been waiting for you for a long time."

She felt hurt; she was complaining. That feeling of expecting every second, but disappointing every second, was really painful.

"Every second, every second." Chloe whispered, each word trembling uncontrollably, tears streaming down uncontrollably.

He felt the woman in his arms crying, crying with such a sense of grievance, the voice trembling, the body shaking. Damon felt his heart was about to break. He let go of her, staring at the uncontrollable tears on the woman's face, and hurriedly stretched out his hand to wipe them, but they never seemed to stop..

"I'm sorry." He said softly, bending down to kiss the tears on her face.

The tears still flowed incessantly. He knew that he made her suffer so much. Finally, he kissed her eyes, kissing carefully yet urgently.

"I'm sorry." He dared not ask her to forgive him; "forgive," the word, he himself found hard to utter. He held her tightly again, circling her waist, using almost all his strength. Chloe was still sobbing, and reached out to hold the man's waist, burying her face in his broad chest. Damon stroked her head over and over again, occasionally placing gentle kisses on the top of her head. He was holding onto a treasure that he thought he had lost.

The stage below was silent. Everyone couldn't believe the two people hugging each other on stage.

Those around Elizabeth like Angie, watching this scene, couldn't help but shed tears of joy. But more than that, it was pity for Chloe. She held on alone for so long, and finally, she managed to wait for Damon.

Slowly, people began to react.

"My god, Ms. Chloe is crying."

They were indeed seeing for the first time that Chloe, who was always strong and capable, could actually cry.

She hid in the man's arms, crying. It made people think that she was also a delicate, vulnerable woman who needed to be taken care of.

But-

"So, Ms. Chloe's fiancé is actually the CEO of the Harper Group?"

Chapter 1260

"So, Ms. Chloe's fiancé is really the CEO of the Harper Group?"

"And what about the daughter of the Alonso family?"

At this question, all eyes were drawn to Wendy, who was standing nearby with a terrible look on her face. She took two frightened steps back, tripped over her own feet, and only avoided falling on this high-profile stage by grabbing the microphone stand.

“Grandpa...” She thought of Presley in the chaos.

“Calling him won’t help!”

A voice full of authority suddenly rang out! It was then that everyone noticed Hannah pushing Alyssa slowly onto the stage. Alyssa’s face was cold and stern, without a trace of weakness.

Wendy was in a panic, but she instinctively called out, “Grandma...”

“Shut up!” Alyssa looked at her coldly. “I don’t have a granddaughter like you! And I can’t accept you calling me that!”

“The Alonso family is also a family with hundreds of years of history! You have been in the Alonso family for so many years, even being trained as a lady of the house! Yet, after twenty years, they have raised such a shameless descendant!”

Wendy’s body swayed, almost dizzy from Alyssa’s cold and ruthless words, and she nearly passed out.

Presley furrowed his brows and looked down at the person who had walked up to him. “What the hell are you doing?!”

“You shut up too!” Alyssa didn’t even glance at Presley, her voice deep and emotionless.

“What do you know?!” Presley said sternly, obviously resolutely.

“I know you’re an old fool who’s blind and heartless!” Alyssa didn’t want to argue with this old man in this situation, but she had been holding back her anger all night. She had been controlling herself,

enduring it, but in the end, she couldn't help it! She said coldly, and at the same time, she reached out to grab—the—microphone stand and hit Presley with it.

"Madam!" Hannah quickly stopped her, "Tonight is Damon and Miss Chloe's engagement party!"

Alyssa's movement stopped, and she held the microphone stand tightly, putting it back in place.

The stage was filled with low rumblings. This old lady was tough, she actually called Presley an old fool.

Seeing the situation going downhill, Grace quickly walked onto the stage. She pulled Wendy aside and began to vent her anger at Alyssa. "Alyssa, what do you mean by this? What do you mean by 'shameless'? Wendy and Damon's engagement was set by Presley, how can Wendy be the shameless one? Even if our two families have a relationship, you can't be too harsh in your words, can you?!"

Alyssa sneered, "Ask anyone in the Alonso family, including all the employees of the Harper family, who doesn't know that Damon likes Chloe?! Your daughter's horse-riding skills are inferior, she started the fight, and got injured in the end, but insists on staying in the Harper family, isn't this her doing? She has been openly and secretly hostile to Chloe, if she doesn't know Chloe is Damon's fiancée, why would she behave in such a despicable way?! She clearly knows everything but still wants to publicly announce that baseless engagement with Damon. If this behavior is not shameless, what is?!"

"You..." Grace didn't expect Alyssa to speak so mercilessly, she was almost suffocating with anger.

In the heat of the moment, she suddenly calmed down, suppressing her anger. "Alyssa, Wendy and Damon's marriage was decided by Presley. Your grandson is a top catch, and we don't deny Wendy's feelings for him. But if you say Wendy is clinging to him, that's a bit too much!"

"Wendy is the future head of the Alonso family, and the Alonso family will ultimately be hers! If she marries into the Harper family, what she can bring to the Harper family is beyond your imagination..."

"You always emphasize 'Miss Alonso, 'the future head of the Alonso family these identities, how many times do you have to say them to be satisfied?!" Elizabeth suddenly spoke up from below the stage, "Are these two identities really something to be proud of? Does the Harper family need money so much that they have to marry into the Alonso family? Will we go bankrupt without the Alonso family?"

Grace gritted her teeth. "But when it comes to qualifications, who can compare with the Alonso family? Can she?"

Grace suddenly pointed at Chloe and laughed coldly, her face full of contempt. "As the lady of the Alonso family, the future head of the Alonso family, what's not to be proud of these identities? If we're talking about marriage, who can compare with Wendy? What does Ms. Chloe have? What can she bring to you?! She has no family background, no connections, and her family members are all vulnerable!

"She's vulgar, barbaric, and malicious! Well, that's to be expected. What can you expect from a child without a mother's education?!"

Damon's eyes suddenly turned sharp. "Nate!"

"Slap-"

Before Damon could finish speaking, Nate had already slapped Grace.

Everyone below the stage gasped in surprise! Grace was caught off guard, knocked off to the side. Thankfully, Wendy was there to yank her back before she could hit the deck.

Grace was taken aback. She didn't expect to get a public dressing down like this, and immediately glared at Nate.

"You dare to hit me?!"

Nate pursed his lips, staring at Grace coldly. "A piece of advice for you – watch your mouth."

"I'm only speaking the truth!" Grace's sanity was entirely scattered by that slap. "This ill-mannered kid, no class at all! Even if Damon does fancy her, there's no way I believe she could truly become a part of the Harper family!"

From the start, Chloe had kept her lips sealed. At crucial moments, Nate also doled out some roasting to Grace. If it were about patience, she could show it too. But when her mother was mentioned, Chloe's face instantly froze over. She stood up from Damon's embrace, and walked towards Grace, hand raised, ready to smack Grace's mouth.

"If we're talking about being ill-mannered, based on your comments today, I'm afraid no one could outdo you." A calm and composed voice slowly echoed, although gentle, it was clear and forceful, reaching everyone's ears.

Chloe's raised hand paused mid-air. She was stunned, slowly turning towards the doorway.