

CHOSEN 1271

Chapter 1271

Ever since he got the news about Yasmine, he rushed to B Country overnight and then rescued her right after, dealing with obstacles one after another and even having a bullet in him until just now. So, it was no surprise that his body was inflamed and he was running a fever.

The door to Damon's ward room was quietly opened in the middle of the night, and the person with Damon immediately stood up.

"Chloe..." Nathan called softly, and Chloe quickly walked to the side of the bed.

Seeing Damon passed out on the bed, her eyes instantly reddened. Nathan quickly waved his hands at her, "Chloe, don't cry, please don't! If my brother knew I told you all this and made you cry, he'd kill me!"

Chloe held back her tears. "...I'll stay with him tonight."

Nathan seemed a bit troubled, "...well..."

"I'll leave before dawn, I won't put you in a difficult place." Chloe knew what Nathan was worried about.

Moreover, she wouldn't stay. Otherwise, wouldn't it mean all the patience he had endured along the way had been in vain? Was he just trying to keep her from knowing he was hurt?

Nathan finally nodded, "Well...he might need to be wiped down with alcohol if his fever gets worse. You've been working hard. Don't tire yourself out too

much."

"Okay."

Nathan tiptoed out of the room, and Chloe sat by the bed, reaching out to touch Damon's forehead.

His forehead was covered in sweat. Her fingers trembled slightly. She didn't know the details, but she knew it was all for her. From the fact that Damon didn't refuse when her mother asked her to leave with her at the engagement party, it was clear that her mother knew about his injury.

So they both tricked her, all just to keep her from knowing he was hurt.

After several days without sleep and being injured, Damon felt his originally hot body being covered by waves of coldness, the heat subsiding, and his slightly furrowed brows gradually relaxed...

The next day, the engagement party at the Emerald Palace the night before had the whole P City buzzing.

"Ms. Summers' fiancé is actually Mr. Harper of the Harper Group?!"

"Yasmine isn't dead! She's back!"

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"Yasmine is giving the Alonso family as a wedding gift to her daughter! How generous!"

"Ms. Grace was a stripper! Aristocratic secret exposed, revealing the past of the homewrecker who rose to power!"

One news story followed another, but there was no mention of Damon being injured and rushed to the emergency room, nor of Becky being beaten up.

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Most of the online comments were mocking Grace and Wendy, and although it was obvious that the Alonso family was trying to control the comments, they couldn't stop the netizens' attacks.

Cole flew overnight from Hong Kong to P City, and the first thing he did was slap Wendy. "Look at what you and your mother have done!"

As he said this, he threw the newspapers and magazines in his hand at Grace's face.

On them were pictures of her working at a strip club many years ago, the reason her child was born prematurely, and how she bribed the hospital to forge the birth dates on her two children's birth certificates.

In the papers, they speculated that his ex-wife's death on the night of childbirth was not due to a difficult delivery, but was deliberately murdered. Of course, there was no evidence, and it just stirred up public sentiment.

If things continue like this, it was inevitable that Grace would be investigated by the police.

Grace didn't expect Yasmine to have so much evidence. Now that it was all out, she didn't even have a chance to refute it.

"Cole, not everything in the reports is true, you know how the media likes to exaggerate. I'm a mother. I wouldn't gamble with my child's life."

"Then tell me, did Alicia's death have anything to do with you?" Cole sharply questioned Grace, his gazes like a knife.

A flash of panic crossed Grace's eyes, but it quickly disappeared. "I was in the delivery room at the time too. Didn't she die from a difficult delivery?"

Cole stared at Grace for a long time before he slowly said, "Grace, most people who think others are fools are the real fools themselves, you know?"

Grace didn't understand.

'Like this engagement party, even if the family supports you, do you think Damon would compromise on everything? Even if he didn't show up at the engagement party, do you really think he has to accept you?'

Wendy shook her head, 'As long as we're engaged, no matter what Chloe does, she'll be seen as the homewrecker in other people's eyes. And besides, as long as Damon and I have the chance to be together, I don't think I'm worse than Chloe. I thought everything would...'

"You thought? You thought Damon would be someone who would put the overall situation first? Who would put aside his own feelings for the sake of the family's honor? You thought just because you're the Alonso family's daughter, he would like you and would eventually fall in love with you? You thought...you thought everyone was as foolish as you thought, and in the end, who's the most embarrassed?!"

Wendy was stunned by Cole's shouting. Yes, that was what she thought.

Most importantly, she loved Damon more than anyone in this world, and she had the ability to give him everything he wanted and help him achieve all his goals. Was that wrong?

At least for now, Damon and Chloe's marriage is indefinitely postponed, that's enough." Thinking about this, Wendy was still satisfied. The Alonso family's wealth as a wedding gift for Chloe, what a pipe dream."

Seeing her unrepentant look, Cole was so angry that he ended up losing his temper. "Do you think I'm just talking nonsense? Do you even realize that it's because of your improper and disgraceful behavior that Alonso Corporation's stocks have already plummeted?"

Wendy's face suddenly turned pale as a ghost.

However, the news at the engagement party was already public knowledge, so it was only natural that the stocks of Alonso Corporation would be affected.

Yasmine switched off the TV, her expression calm.

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Bryson whispered respectfully at her side, "Yasmine, the Alonso family's wealth is massive, this little hiccup might not mean much to them." Yasmine gave a slight smile, speaking slowly, "No matter how small the hiccup is, as long as it exists, it's enough. Their hearts are always trembling, and they might falter at any moment. Maybe in all that shaking, they might capsize."

Chapter 1272

Looking at that inevitable calm and confidence on Yasmine's face, Bryson was a little bewildered. Six years later, Yasmine indeed hadn't changed a bit.

Ms. Chloe was more and more like Yasmine as well.

"So, what's next?"

Yasmine pondered for a moment and said, "First, give me the files of your company. Then...Chloe should also be making moves, and that chick from the Alonso family won't be quiet either..."

Bryson nodded, "So Yasmine, you mentioned yesterday that you're planning to go to Y Country...are you thinking..."

"If they behave, I wouldn't want to." Yasmine picked up where Bryson left off. "But I won't let them use what doesn't belong to them to pressure Chloe. If they live peacefully, everyone would be happy, wouldn't that be nice?"

But they just wouldn't behave. Talking about making them kneel and apologize? Seriously, that was really audacious...

Morning."

A lazy, husky voice came from the staircase. The two turned their heads to see Winston, dressed in casual clothes, lazily coming down the stairs.

Bryson's face was instantly filled with irritation and helplessness. "What time do you think it is? Still saying morning?!"

Winston, with one hand in his pocket, leaned on the sofa and glanced around the living room, "Well... Isn't Chloe not down yet?"

"You cheeky kid, that's Ms. Chloe..."

"It's okay, Bryson, you're always so stiff, names are meant to be called, let the youngsters be," Yasmine laughed.

"But really, why hasn't Chloe gotten up yet? Nevermind, she might be tired from beating people up at the engagement party yesterday. Let's have breakfast first."

However, it wasn't until close to noon that Chloe rubbed her sleepy eyes and came downstairs from upstairs. Yasmine was in the living room looking at the company documents Bryson had prepared. Seeing Chloe like this, she couldn't help but frown. "Do you normally look this unkempt? Or do you feel like giving up on life now that Damon is not here?"

Chloe, still in a daze, heard the voice and paused for a second. When her eyes landed on Yasmine, she was stunned for another two seconds before she finally came to her senses. She looked down at the cotton pajamas she was wearing. "What's unkempt about me?"

Mothers from other families would manage to hold back for a couple of days after their child came home before they started nitpicking. Why couldn't she even last 24 hours?

"So you're giving up on life?"

“Not at all.”

Yasmine lowered her eyes and continued looking at the documents in her hands, “Go eat.”

“Okay...” Chloe sighed, now there was one more person to nag her.

In the hospital, Damon’s eyelids just fluttered when a wailing voice sounded next to him.

“Damon, Damon, you’re awake.”

Damon furrowed his brows, even if he wasn’t awake, he’d have woken him up!

Slowly opening his eyes, he saw a crowd surrounding his bed, staring at him, his face instantly darkened.

“Get out!” A low growl, successfully pulled at his wound, followed by a muffled groan.

“Damon, don’t get agitated. Everyone is here to see you out of kindness...Damon, how do you feel? You shouldn’t be having a fever anymore, right?”

Damon was getting annoyed by Nathan’s nagging, but then he of the fever Nathan mentioned. His eyes scanned the hospital room; except for a few friends, there was no one else.

“Who was in my room last night?”

Nathan quickly said, “Me, me! Your brother, it was me.”

Damon’s eyes suddenly turned to him, “You? Was it you all along?”

Nathan looked a little guilty, “Ah...um...yes, it was me.”

Damon's already furrowed brows deepened even more. He looked down at the loose hospital gown on his body, his face darkened. But after a while, he let it go.

Yes, indeed. Since he chose to hide it then he shouldn't have expectations. Otherwise, if she knew he was hurt, given her temperament, she would probably cry like she did yesterday.

He sat up on the bed, knowing that he was injured, but no one in the room tried to stop him.

"Be careful with your wound." Nathan simply reminded him.

They understood. No one can stop Damon from doing what he wanted to do.

Kane shook his head and muttered to himself, "That's why many times I just can't understand. Damon is so determined. Why does Wendy, who claims to have grown up with him, keep hassling him and not giving up, despite him repeatedly rejecting her?"

Keep hassling...

Seth, who was standing to the side, lowered his eyes, his expression unreadable. After a long silence, he said slowly, "Maybe she thinks that no one else can give him as much affection as she can."

Kane blinked, turned his head and looked at Seth as if he was seeing a ghost, "What? What did you say?!"

Seth glanced at him coldly, "You have a hearing problem?"

Kane was speechless.

"How's Nate?" Damon's voice rang out.

“He got one more bullet than you still unconscious, should wake up by this afternoon at the latest.” Nathan dutifully conveyed the information, then added, “Speaking of which, I heard from the doctor that the place where you got shot is different from where Nate got shot? Were you running a hundred-meter race with a sack on your back? Do you know your wound is torn so badly?”

Damon looked at him coldly, “Shut up or get out.”

Nathan obediently closed his mouth.

“Where’s Chloe staying?”

No one responded, all eyes in the room were on Nathan.

Not getting a response, Damon looked up. Nathan was tightly pursing his lips, his big eyes staring at him. Damon’s forehead veins started to pulse, “I told you to stop nagging, not to stop talking!” The voice was very dominant.

Nathan quickly said, “She’s at the Peck family’s villa in Stargaze Bay.”

“The Peck family?”

“Yes, the servant who has always been with Chloe’s mother.”

“Okay.”

Nathan sighed, “Damon, what about Chloe?”

“She probably has a lot to chat about with her mom.”

Everyone got the hint. Seemed like Damon really wasn’t planning on seeing Chloe any time soon.

Elizabeth brought some homemade food over, and everyone took the chance to step out of the ward room. Nathan watched longingly as Elizabeth set a plate of simple yet hearty food in front of his brother, his own stomach empty.

He immediately pulled a face, "Mom, where's mine?"

Elizabeth shot him a look, "You think this is up your alley? Go home, your wife is fattening you up like a pig!"

Nathan blinked, "Yulia is cooking for me at home?"

"If she cook for you, can it be called a meal? That's called pig slop."

Nathan was left speechless.

Chapter 1273

Considering Yulia might be cooking at home, he began to get antsy. "I gotta bounce."

"Turn on the TV. Before leaving, Damon didn't forget to instruct him.

"You're the sick one. You're top priority." Nathan reluctantly turned on the TV and then hastily left the room.

Elizabeth fixed up everything, then took a seat next to the sickbed. She threw a glance at the TV screen, where Damon was tinkering with the stock market on the remote.

She instantly got the gist. "The Alonso family's stocks are indeed a bit shaky, but it's not enough to shake them. The arrogance of Grace and Wendy revealed the true face of the Alonsos; you can't underestimate them."

Damon clammed up. Of course he knew this. Otherwise, his grandpa wouldn't have been so wary of the Alonsos.

Presley wasn't completely against Chloe at first, but then he found out Wendy wouldn't back down, so he had a change of heart.

Damon frowned at the TV for a while, then said, "I'll gradually sever all cooperation with the Alonso family."

Elizabeth instantly shook her head, "No way, you gotta know, the bonds between the Harpers and the Alonsos run deep. They're intertwined after all these years. If you do this, even if it hurts the Alonsos, the Harpers will get hit too. Without other choices, we can't make such a decision, that will hurt both sides."

Damon's brow twitched, then he turned back to the news on TV. The news mainly reported on last night's engagement party. The behavior of Grace and Wendy caught the public's attention, and the secrets of the Alonso family also became a hot topic, especially the cause of death during childbirth of Alicia from the Alonsos years ago, sparking all kinds of speculation.

Some said that at the time Alicia was pregnant, Grace had already moved into the Alonso family.

That was normal for a wealthy family like the Alonsos. In a place like Hong Kong, a man having multiple wives wasn't a big deal.

But what was not normal was for such a wealthy family, the monthly prenatal checkups should be top-notch, and any issues like breech position or umbilical cord wrapping around the neck that could lead to difficult childbirth should be detected, why did Alicia have a difficult birth back then, and the mother even died? And Grace, how did she suddenly give premature birth? And why did it happen to be on the same day Alicia gave birth? There must be something fishy going on here.

At the engagement party last night, it was said Viscount Rhys came to crash the party, and he brought someone with him, who claimed to be Princess Becky from the Y Country's royal family. She said Grace was her aunt, and even demanded Ms. Summers and her mother to kneel and apologize to Grace and Wendy. They got a good scolding from Ms. Summers instead.

[Oh my! Things are getting complicated, Princess Becky is the daughter of Princess Ava from the Y Country. If Grace and Princess Ava are sisters, then it's very likely all of this has to do with Princess Ava.]

[Back then, the head of the Alonso family had to urgently go to the Y Country, Alicia died from difficult childbirth, and Grace gave premature birth. The whole hospital was bought off. They fabricated a birth certificate. This couldn't be done by Grace alone, right? If Princess Ava was involved, then it makes sense.]

[Oh Lord... the rich are terrifying! One misstep and you don't even know how you died.]

Even though these were mostly bystanders, but these were the most logical guesses. Gotta say, these people online could totally be detectives.

This was also mentioned by Chloe's mom at the party yesterday. Damon frowned, suddenly falling silent again. It seemed that Chloe's mom wasn't just talking about taking the Alonso family, she was also quick to act.

From the moment she spoke those words yesterday, she had already started taking action. Both the comments online today and the fluctuations in the Alonso family's stocks were all within her expectations.

He was initially worried the Alonso family would strike first at them, but who would've thought that she had been planning from the start to gradually shake the foundations of the Alonso family.

Meanwhile, in a villa in the Y Country, Ava sat on the couch, pale as a ghost.

Yasmine was back? That woman Yasmine... she was actually... not dead?! After all these years and all the time and effort she had put in, how was she still alive? She slammed the tablet in her hand to the floor in anger.

Barbara sat on the couch, nonchalantly leaning against the armrest, unfazed by Ava's outburst, her lips slightly tightened, clearly not in a good mood.

“Grandmama has been wanting to abdicate. I know she did say we all have a chance, but you’re not her biological daughter, and we were never at an advantage. Now with this news out, you also have to shoulder the suspicion of being the culprit... why did you have to meddle with Grace’s affairs?”

“What do you know?! What’s the status of the Alonso family? What’s their relationship with the Harper family? How much do you think a person like me, who’s merely a foster daughter, can be taken seriously here?”

Relying on the Alonso family was the obvious choice. She just didn’t expect Grace to be so stupid. And her daughter too.

Ava was so infuriated that her hands trembled. She picked up her phone, and the sound of her fingers sliding across the screen was enough to make anyone’s skin crawl.

She let the phone ring for what felt like ages, but Rhys just didn’t pick up. Next she tried calling Becky, but it was Becky’s servant who picked up. “Princess Ava?”

“Where’s Becky?!”

“Princess Becky, she... she was attacked yesterday and has been locking herself in her room since...”

Ava froze, “Becky was attacked? Who would dare to do such a thing?”

There were no news about Becky’s attack on the internet. Ava guessed the media in their home country had considered the implications. The news about the princess of Country Y being attacked in their home country could lead to a diplomatic row, which would be a real headache.

Ava naturally knew the reason behind it.

“She was... attacked by Ms. Summers Chloe Summers.”

Ava felt as if she'd been punched in the gut. Why did it have to be a conflict with that woman?!

"Why?"

"Ms. Grace and Ms. Alonso were treated badly. Ms. Becky stood up for them, demanding an apology from Ms. Summers and her mother... Chloe refused, and when Ms Becky persisted, a conflict ensued.."

All this was for Grace and Wendy! Ava swayed violently, nearly toppling over. "You tell her to come back right now!"

"Alright, I inform Princess Becky immediately."

"And Viscount Rhys too!"

"Okay, IT pass on the message."

After the call, Ava tossed her phone onto the sofa, clutching her head, pacing anxiously in her living room. Back when Yasmine jumped off the cliff, she had told her that as long as she didn't cross the line, they could live their own lives.

She could remain as Princess Ava, and they could continue with their own lives. She had held onto a glimmer of hope, thinking that when Yasmine returned, perhaps she'd stick to that principle. Even if she wanted to come back and recognize her kin, that would be after the new king's ascension. Once either she or Barbara ascended the throne, what could they do if the mother and daughter returned?!

But with only a few months left, that idiot Becky had to go and stir the pot.

In the midst of her growing rage, her phone rang again. She answered immediately, her tone icy, "What now?"

"Ava, there's something I thought I should tell you."

“Spit it out!”

Yesterday, Ms. Summers’ mother asked Princess Becky to pass a message to you. She will be paying you a visit in a few days to explain who they really are. I thought you should know in case Becky forgets.”

Ava’s eyes widened, her face going pale in an instant.

“What did you say?!”

Chapter 1274

“... I want to tell you that Ms. Summers’ mom wants to see you...” The servant reiterated what he had just said in a crisp and clear manner.

Ava clenched her teeth tightly, her delicate face slightly contorted. After hanging up the phone, she closed her eyes deeply. She was even more infuriated by the trouble that Rhys and Becky had caused her this time.

Especially Becky, had she gone mad, not knowing the right time and place? Look at what happened with Grace and Wendy in the past. Yet, she chose to support them at such a crucial moment. And so openly? Did she want to appear noble by doing so?

She was so angry that her whole body was trembling, and she wished she could crush the phone in her hand.

Becky, the idiot!

But now that Yasmine wanted to see her, what should she do?

“Mom, what are you scared of right now?”

Barbara had no idea what Yasmine was hiding, but wasn't it time to consider how to distance herself from Grace and Wendy? But the way she looked now, it was obvious that she was scared of something.

Ava seemed to have been pricked by something. She came back to her senses abruptly, her face somewhat uneasy, moved to sit on the couch with her back to Barbara, and pinched her brow.

"Scared of what? Becky has become the victim of a grievous injustice abroad, and now she's locked herself in her room and won't come out, I'm worried she'll do something stupid."

"Becky would do something stupid?" Barbara laughed as if she had heard a joke, "Don't worry, I bet she's now locking herself in her room thinking about how to fight back."

After saying this, she picked up her bag and left.

The news from P City had long reached Y Country. This was a critical moment, she couldn't back down.

After listening to Barbara's words, Ava's headache worsened. This was exactly what she had been most worried about. If Becky provoked that mother and daughter pair again, she would really go crazy!

Back in her room, she thought over and over again and finally picked up the phone.

"Hello?"

"Yasmine is back. Did you know that?!"

"How could I not know?" The man on the other end was full of annoyance, "I need to settle the score with her for making me upset and flustered."

Ava pursed her lips, "Anyway, her coming back this time is very disadvantageous to me, you should know what to do."

“Alright, even if you could let her go, I wouldn’t.”

Just as Barbara said, Becky locked herself in her room, pondering over how to get justice from Chloe. But now she had no idea where to find Chloe. She only knew that Chloe’s Starlight International had

caused a major failure for their brand RM at a fashion show not long ago. Thinking of this, her disgust and hatred for Chloe grew even deeper.

She and Chloe were clearly born to be enemies.

Wendy’s original injury had not recovered. She had insisted on attending the engagement banquet last night, and as a result, she was treated in such a way again. Her plan with Presley to forcedly get engaged with Damon was exposed, and now the online public opinion was in chaos. Damon’s few positive impressions of her had been shattered.

In addition to her father’s anger towards them, which was temporarily shelved due to the current turmoil in the company, it seemed like they might not have any good days ahead.

Even if her father wasn’t dealing with them now, once things stabilized, it would be the time for him to start dealing with them.

All the things came together at once, made Wendy’s condition worsen. The high fever recurred and she had to lie in bed.

“Mom, did you really undergo an induced labor to give birth to me back then? How did Alicia die? Does it have anything to do with you? I am not the first child of the Alonso family, but Phoebe is, right?”

At this moment, Wendy was filled with anguish. Her eyes were fixed on the ceiling, and she felt utterly drained. She had once taken pride in her identity, but she hadn’t anticipated that it would come at such a dirty cost.

“No, you are the first child of the Alonso family. Alicia is dead, so what? Why does her death have to be linked to me?! Is it that whoever has a conflict with me, anything that happens to them is related to me?!” Grace vehemently denied. She didn’t want to mention anything about that year.

God knew how panicky she was inside. For her, all the things that happened in those years were a stain on her life.

She had worked so hard to hide, to cover up, and finally, she had become the illustrious lady of the Alonso family. Those things, it would be best if they all turned into ashes and disappeared forever. But that woman who just came back had found out her secrets.

Wendy’s gaze from the ceiling slowly moved to Grace. “So have you figured out how to make dad trust you?” Now the important thing was whether Father believed it or not.

After listening, Grace was silent for a while, then suddenly laughed, “You don’t have to worry about this.”

Wendy’s stiff heart softened a little as she took in Grace’s confident and unruffled demeanor.

“What do you mean?”

Grace smiled and said, “Do you think there were no rumors about me online back then? How could the people of the Alonso family not have doubted me, but in the end, they didn’t delve into this matter, and I eventually replaced Alicia and became the lady of the Alonso family...”

Wendy hesitated for a moment, and her eyes suddenly lit up, “You mean Princess Ava?”

Grace nodded, “In fact, over these years, Princess Ava has provided a lot of convenience and benefits to the Alonso family. That is to say, as long as Princess Ava is your aunt for a day, our status in the Alonso family will never be shaken. And those rumors on the Internet, your father will surely help to solve them. Because this matter concerns the reputation of the Alonso family, he has to take care of it. The Alonso family is actually your support, so you can rest assured to recover from your illness. Don’t read those things on the Internet, and don’t get affected by those things. When the storm calms down,

you will still be the first child of the Alonso family, the future head of the family. These identities won't change, and the previous rumors will naturally be debunked."

Wendy finally breathed a sigh of relief. Right now, the most important thing was to get over the current hurdles.

Hearing her mom's words, she felt a whole lot of comfort. Exactly, what she needed now was to focus on recovering from her injuries, wait for the storm to settle, wait for the public's attention to shift away from these scandals, and once she had fully healed, she could settle the old scores with Chloe.

If Chloe thought she can treat the Alonso family as her own property, she'd rather take her down first.

Every time she thought of Chloe, Wendy was filled with deep hatred. All the shame and pain were caused by her.

She was gonna make Chloe pay twice as much!

Her hatred was so deep in her eyes that even Grace couldn't help but shiver. But it was precisely because of desires that anger arose, along with a sense of injustice, which continually motivated oneself to strive.

There was nothing wrong with fighting for what you want.

It was just a pity...

Chapter 1275

"Even though scandals can be buried, but in front of Damon...Wendy, you might as well throw in the towel.

Wendy's eyes were filled with hatred, and she shivered at the mention of Damon's name.

Giving him up, how could she possibly do that?

Yes, scandals can be hidden, but the things of the past didn't leave any good impressions in front of Damon.

Although unwilling to accept it, at this moment, she had no idea how to wake Damon up, how to make him see clearly in this world who truly loved him.

Why was this smart man so blind when it came to this matter?

"So... is there really no chance to turn things around?" Wendy asked, asking Grace, and asking herself.

Grace remained silent for a moment, then shook her head. On this matter, they had no solution at the moment.

The moment of his timely appearance last night, when he embraced the lonely woman on stage in front of everyone, she knew then that she would be the night's biggest laughing stock.

She had appeared from the very beginning as his fiancée, and they had known each other since childhood. They had received countless flatteries and compliments from others, and she had even used this situation to push Chloe into the spotlight, subjecting her to ridicule from everyone. But in the end, the biggest joke of the night turned out to be herself.

The humiliation, every time she thought about it, it spread throughout her body, making her feel ashamed and angry.

How could Damon possibly look at her again?

Grace wanted to comfort her, but seeing her like this, she felt words would be useless, so she kept quiet. She was immersed in her own sadness when the phone rang. Grace picked it up, glanced at the caller ID...

“It’s Ms. Becky.”

Wendy collected her thoughts and took the phone. “Hello...”

“It’s Becky! Wendy, I want Chloe to kneel down and apologize to me!”

The piercing voice came through the phone; even without the speaker on, everyone in the room could clearly hear her sharp voice.

Wendy held the phone a little further away, but she was actually quite pleased about Becky’s outburst. It seemed she wasn’t the only one who hated Chloe.

“Becky... this...” she was caught off guard, what could she say?

“I don’t care! Wendy, I can’t swallow this insult. I want to see Chloe’s downfall. I want her to kneel before me and apologize! I hate her. I hate her!”

Wendy was silent for a moment, “I don’t like her either. But, she’s quite cunning... It might be a bit difficult to make her submit...”

“What’s so difficult? Who does she think she is? In the end, doesn’t she only have some value in Starlight International? I want you to make her Starlight International collapse! I want to see how she

struts around in front of me then!”

Wendy frowned, “...you want me to use Infinity Media to compete with Starlight International?”

“What else? What other reason could I have to fight her? I’m a princess of the Y Country, can I take action against her directly? If this gets out, the impact will be very bad. Not to mention, it would damage our royal dignity.”

PES P3 92 na =

She was worried about the impact? Her scandal was still the top news on major websites. She was avoiding the media right now, yet she wanted Infinity Media to directly compete with Starlight International. Was she crazy? Looking for trouble?!

Suppressing the anger in her heart, Wendy calmly said, “Becky, calm down, Chloe will be dealt with sooner or later, it’s just that I’m at the center of the public attention right now, and my health isn’t great. Once this blows over, and my health recovers, it’s not too late to deal with her then.”

“I can’t wait! What about the Alonsos? Aren’t you the future head of the Alonso family? Put some pressure on her Starlight International, invest heavily, and make it so that all her artists don’t have any endorsements to take on. Block them all, all of them! And her artists, dig them ALL out for me! Make her Starlight International completely hollow!”

Block all endorsements and make Starlight International completely hollow?

Wendy’s eyes sharpened, this was actually a good idea. “I got it! I’ll start making arrangements, but things can’t be rushed. Becky, don’t worry.”

...Fine, I’ll wait.”

After lunch, Chloe was pushing Yasmine for a walk in the park outside the villa. She asked Yasmine what had happened back then, and when she had thoughts of jumping into the sea, if she had been absolutely sure she would survive?

Yasmine was silent.

Chloe seemed to understand this silence. “Before you made that decision, did you think about me?”

Yasmine didn’t deny, “I did.”

“Since you thought about me, why did you leave me alone?”

Yasmine was silent again, but when Chloe thought she wouldn't answer, Yasmine spoke slowly, “Because at that time, I had to leave.” Otherwise, their lives would never have a peaceful day.

Chloe stopped, her hands clenched tightly on the wheelchair. She watched Yasmine bending down, playing with the blooming flowers at her feet.

She stared at the flower, her face expressionless. “Why?”

Yasmine continued to fiddle with the flower, her voice flat, “Chloe, do you like your life now?”

It was Chloe's turn to be silent.

“Whether it's past or present, whether life is poor or wealthy, whether your past was painful or joyful, whether you're surrounded by folks you can't stand or people you like... all of these people and things are a legit part of your reality. Those who deceived you, the ones who trusted you, those who despised you, and those who loved you... they're all as real as it gets... Sure, you've got a lot of past stuff you'd rather not think about, but you still dig your life now, don't you?”

Chloe pursed her lips, not answering straight up. Indeed, no matter how rough it had been in the past, she stuck it out. She cleared her name, shut up those who laughed at her with her own capabilities, and she sought justice for her own grievances. She made those who betrayed her pay the price and left those who bullied her speechless.

She had a ton of enemies and faced countless traps, but she smashed through each one, building her own empire. All of these experiences made her feel proud, filled with a sense of achievement. Why on earth would she hate a life like that?

Even more so, on this life path she chose, a man named Damon barged into her world with an uncompromising attitude.

Even for him alone, she had no reason to be dissatisfied with such a life.

“As long as you like it, that’s the reason I have to do it.” Yasmine said again in a nonchalant tone.

heavy feeling rose in Chloe’s heart, “You should know very well, to me, you...”

“I won’t be able to be with you for a lifetime. I know this might be hard for you to accept at first, and you might encounter many unexpected things. But Chloe, I also want to add more meaning to my life. As long as you can live on peacefully, you still have the chance to find happiness.”

The first half of her life was troubled by relationships. In the second half, she only hoped to devote all her feelings to her daughter. As long as one could live on peacefully, there was still a chance to find happiness...

Tears welled up in Chloe’s eyes. “I don’t want you to sacrifice so much for me...”

Her voice trembled as she choked back tears. “Even so, I don’t want...”

You can’t deprive me of my right to be a mother. Actually, I can tell you these things, or I can choose not to. But someday, you’ll become a mother too. And once you do, you’ll understand.”

At this point, Yasmine suddenly turned her head, grabbed Chloe’s hand, and pulled her in front. Looking up at Chloe with tear-filled eyes, she smiled and

said:

“So, have you and that boy from the Harper family been together for a long time? How is it, do you have kids yet?”

Before Chloe could react, she blushed at Yasmine's words. 'Have you been together for a long time? Do you have kids yet?' Was this subtle or straightforward?

"...Not yet."

Yasmine frowned. "Not yet? How long have you been together? How many times? Not successful once? Is there a problem? Have you checked?" With every question Yasmine asked, Chloe's face flushed more and more. In the end, she wished she could hide somewhere. How did the topic suddenly shift to this?

Perhaps noticing Chloe's embarrassment, Yasmine paused for a moment, then changed the subject. "Of course it's better if you don't have any. Presley is just being stubborn, and you don't necessarily have to marry into the Harper family."

Chloe pursed her lips, but the one she wanted to marry was Damon.

"Don't worry, give me some time, I'll help you find other good men, definitely not less than that boy from the Harper family."

"...No need."

Chloe originally thought her mother was just talking casually. But a few days later, she realized that her mother was serious about her words.

She initially thought that the following days in P City would be very lively and turbulent. But it turned out to be surprisingly calm. Everything that happened at the engagement party made a big fuss, and the aftermath was still not over. However, the heat had faded and can no longer cause any major commotion.

All quiet.

But this kind of calmness was like a tight string that nobody knew when it will suddenly snap when people were unprepared. The current calm situation can only be described as both sides brewing and waiting for an opportunity.

Three days later, at ten o'clock in the morning, Chloe yawned as she came downstairs. In the living room, Bryson, Winston, and Yasmine were discussing something.

When Yasmine saw Chloe lazily coming down the stairs, she said coldly, "Do you always get up this late? Who was handling the company's affairs before? Is it appropriate for you to be a president like this? You've been at home these days either reading or watching TV, lazy as hell, who spoiled you into this bad habit?"

From her tone, it sounded like a real mom talking. Winston raised an eyebrow, "Maybe she was spoiled by her boyfriend."

Bryson immediately glared at him.

Yasmine sighed, "Indeed, love makes people lazy."

Chloe scratched her head, apparently becoming accustomed to her mother's discontent these days. "What's for breakfast?"

"What breakfast is there now, just have it as lunch."

"Sure." Chloe was not picky. As long as there was food, she was satisfied.

Seeing Winston, she suddenly remembered that she had mentioned going to the company today. "I'll get ready right away, just wait for me."

Winston glanced at her from head to toe. Her plain pajama set was not at all attractive. He took his eyes off her, took a sip from his water cup, and said nonchalantly, "It's fine, take your time."

Walking into the dining room, the housemaids had already heard her voice in the living room and brought out the food they had prepared in advance. All were dishes that Chloe had asked the chef to make the night before.

Yesterday when she told the chef Lilian, Lilian looked at Chloe's impatient expression and felt like making the dish for her right away. But Chloe stopped her. She said, "Late-night snacks will make you fat. Let's have them tomorrow", and then took an orange and went upstairs.

Seeing the food she had been craving for all night, Chloe smiled and thanked Lilian. "Thank you."

Lilian shook her head, "It's what I should do. Enjoy your meal."

"Okay." Then Lilian went back to the kitchen.

Chloe picked up the cutlery, took a bite, and her delicate eyebrows were slightly raised, obviously very satisfied with these dishes. After eating, Chloe went upstairs to change her clothes. When she came down again, she was dressed professionally. The familiar Ms. Summers they knew came back. "Okay, let's go."

Hearing this, Winston stood up, and the two walked toward the door together.

Winston drove, and Chloe sat in the passenger seat. After driving for a while, Winston finally asked, "Why do you suddenly want me to go to work with you?"

Chloe's hand rested on the car window, her forehead leaning on the side, staring straight ahead. "I don't feel like driving, and aren't you going that way too?"

Winston, ... Have you ever seen someone going to work at lunchtime and just happening to be on the way?"

Chloe, "Aren't you?"

Winston was left speechless. This woman truly lived up to her reputation.

You're right. Of course I am." Winston gritted his teeth, immediately grabbed his phone and shot off a message to someone.

Chloe glanced at him briefly, didn't make a big deal out of it, instead she asked, "The historical drama you took upon returning to the country, isn't it about time to start filming?"

"Next month."

Chloe frowned slightly, saying, "Crysti took a role in the drama. Keep an eye on her agent for me, will you?"

Chapter 1277

Winston's hand on the steering wheel twitched, the car swerved slightly.

Was she for real? Shouldn't he be watching over the artist? Why was the agent the one to protect in her case?

"Crysti's got the Watson family backing her up. I reckon with Danielle on the scene, all the chatter in the industry is against Cicely. Someone might target her. Don't just stand by and do nothing."

Winston snorted, "Who would dare to mess with Crysti's agent?"

Chloe chuckled, "Maybe it's because of her status that people don't want her to do well."

So, the smoother your life sailed, the more enemies you attracted.

There was a stretch of silence between them. The worst thing when you were with one or more people was sudden silence. Although Winston wasn't the chatty type, and even a wizard at killing conversations, he naturally couldn't let things get awkward with Chloe.

“You...” Just as he turned to address Chloe, he noticed the woman in the passenger seat doze off again. He frowned, her recent behavior was out of character.

As they pulled into Starlight International, Chloe finally opened her eyes.

“We’re here.” Winston announced coldly.

“Mm.” Chloe unbuckled her seatbelt, about to open the door when a swarm of reporters rushed over.

She paused, eyebrows furrowing. “What’s going on at the company?”

Winston chuckled, “You’re the boss, and you’re asking me?”

He said, pulling out the car keys and stepping out of the car.

At the hospital, Nathan walked up to Damon with a fruit platter. “Damon, it’s been four days since the engagement party, I’m starting to miss Chloe...” Damon shot him a cold glare, making Nathan shiver and nearly drop the fruit platter.

“It’s not just me, Mom’s been missing Chloe too. She’s at home, going into your room every day, crying while holding Chloe’s picture.”

Damon’s hand twitched.

Crying while holding Chloe’s picture? She was not dead, why was his mom crying over a photo? Just the thought of that scene was too much to bear. How much she must miss that woman.

Accustomed to her company, even if sometimes not verbal, he felt content. As long as she was visible to him, within his reach. But now, four days had passed, and he didn’t know how he made it through.

Nathan really had no tact by bringing it up now.

Damon withdrew his hand. What was the point of eating this fruit when she was not here?

“Damon, these fruits are high in Vitamin C, which helps with wound healing.” Nathan reminded him gently, about to take the fruit platter away when he saw Damon reach out for it again, so he quickly handed it over.

Damon ate the fruit, switching on the TV in the meantime. “How’s Grandpa doing now?”

Nathan frowned, his expression somber. “Mom and Dad and Grandma are at Greenfield Village, Grandpa’s with the Harper family, and Robin is with him all the time.”

Damon was expressionless, as if everything was within his expectations.

“Damon, are you not worried about Grandpa...?” Nathan was cut off by Damon’s suddenly stern expression.

That face was like a cold ice sculpture, exuding a chilling air. His eyes, filled with coldness, focused on the LCD TV ahead, as if they contained infinite killing intent.

He suddenly turned his head, his gaze landing on the TV. On the screen, the popular actor got out of the car, walked over to the passenger side, and opened the door like a gentleman.

The HD camera perfectly captured a tall, slender figure slowly stepping out of the car. She was dressed in a crisp, caramel-colored trench coat, her face beautiful and cool. This was Chloe’s first public appearance after the engagement party.

“It’s Chloe, it’s Chloe!”

Nathan turned around, pointing excitedly at the TV screen while quickly pulling out his phone. “Hey, Mom, turn on the TV, Chloe’s on! Yeah! Don’t worry, I’ll talk some sense into Damon!”

“Ms. Summers, how did you and Mr. Harper of the Harper Group meet and fall in love?”

“Ms. Summers, would you consider your engagement to Mr. Harper a success?”

Security from Starlight International had already surrounded Chloe, providing protection. “Please focus on Starlight International’s business moves, and refrain from probing into personal matters. Thank you for your cooperation.”

All the way, Winston had his lips slightly curled, his arms slightly open, protectively shielding Chloe. This one act was enough to enrage Damon in front of the TV.

They finally reached the entrance of Starlight International, and Chloe was able to get a breather. With security completely isolating the reporters several steps away, she suppressed the sudden wave of nausea from the crowd’s chaos and slowly spoke up, Thank you everyone for your concern. But now, I hope you can shift your attention to Starlight International.”

“What’s Winston’s upcoming work schedule? As far as I know, Winston’s agent should be you, Ms. Summers?”

Chloe nodded, “He’s going on set next month, the first drama he’s picked up since returning home.”

“I heard that Inherent, which overshadowed a series of renowned brands at the last fashion week, is now available nationwide. First off, congrats to Ms. Summers for successfully creating a brand. But at Fashion Week, the makeup artist who made Inherent shine even more, apparently a new discovery of yours, will he be participating in the upcoming International Makeup Competition?” This contest was a dream-come-true honor for all professional makeup artists.

Chloe immediately responded, “Thanks for your congrats. He will be participating.”

“Ms. Summers, judging by your expression, you seem quite confident about your makeup artist for this contest, what are your expectations for him?”

Chloe smiled and said, “Of course, the championship.”

The journalists immediately started buzzing, “Jacob seems to be aiming for a three–peat this year.”

“Looks like Infinity Media and Starlight International are at it again.”

“They’re born rivals.”

“Ms. Summers, may I interview your mother? Many people are curious about her background.”

“I’m afraid that might not be possible,” Chloe politely declined. Then she went on, “If there are no other questions, then...”

“May I ask why Ms. Summers and Winston came together today?”

Chapter 1278

Just as Chloe was about to end this surprise visit, a sudden voice rang out. Chloe hesitated, “Well...”

Winston stood by her side, his handsome face showing a rare smile, though his tone remained cold. “We’re just heading the same way.”

The reporters looked at each other and laughed.

“Going the same way?”

“Same way...”

“What do you mean by the same way?”

Chloe seemed to suddenly understand something, turned around to look at Winston, her eyes full of warning. The smile on Winston's face became more obvious, clearly provoking deliberately. "We live in the same place, so it's normal for us to go the same way."

"So living in the same place means..."

Winston raised his eyebrows, turned to look at Chloe, his eyes full of tenderness and indulgence, which was heart-stirring. He didn't speak, but his silence was more powerful than words.

Faced with the camera, Chloe could only pretend to be calm and laughed awkwardly. Trying to explain at this time only made people doubt their relationship even more. But her smile was still somewhat stiff. After all, such an ambiguous answer was much better than admitting they lived together.

In the end, Chloe quickly thanked the media vaguely and then turned into the company.

At Winston's deliberate provocation, Chloe couldn't help but kick him in the lobby. "What the hell are you talking about!"

"Ah!" Winston winced in pain, "We both came to work together in the afternoon, who would believe we aren't living together?"

Chloe got it that he was just trying to piss her off.

Seeing that Chloe finally understood his intention, Winston walked away, leaving Chloe behind.

In the hospital ward, the air was almost frozen. The fact that the two lived in the same place was enough to speculate, but when the camera was retracted, it actually caught Chloe kicking Winston. This kick was very interesting, like an affectionate action of young people in love. And just now Winston's gaze at Chloe in front of the media, it was truly enviable.

Nathan felt like he was about to suffocate.

Winston, the actor, his body, his looks, all top-notch.

A few days without seeing Chloe, how could such a threatening rival in love appear beside her?

“...Damon...Damon...” Nathan’s gaze floated uncertainly on Damon’s face, not daring to look directly at his cold expression.

Suddenly, Damon extended his hand and pointed at the TV screen. His sharply defined face, along with his deep, bottomless gazes, seemed as if he wanted to pierce through the man on the television screen. “Who is that man?”

Nathan immediately replied, “Winston, the youngest international actor in the past decade. His contract is currently with Starlight International. Chloe used to be his agent...”

Damon was silent. He had seen him on TV before. He really seemed to be a Starlight International artist.

The ward was silent for a while, then Damon suddenly turned to look at Nathan. “Anything else?”

“No...no more.”

“His family situation, personal information, address, license plate number...”

Did he need the license plate number? Was he planning to stage a car accident to silence him?

“I haven’t found that yet.”

“Look it up.”

“That will take some time.”

Damon was silent for a moment, his eyebrows furrowed.

Less than a minute later, Nathan's phone rang. Elizabeth's heartbroken voice came from the phone. "My daughter-in-law was taken away by another man, my daughter-in-law, my grandson... ah! Where has your useless brother gone. His wife is gone. Why isn't he in a hurry?! My daughter-in-law... my daughter-in-law is with another man!" Elizabeth's words were particularly harsh.

Damon's forehead throbbed violently, and there were faint veins on his forehead.

Noticing that Damon's expression was off, Nathan quickly said, "Mom, it's not confirmed yet, how can Chloe, who loves my brother so much, be with another man..."

He elongated his tone on a few key points, and Damon's expression visibly improved. Just as Nathan let out a sigh of relief, Elizabeth on the phone started to complain again, "What do you know! Good

women are always easily pursued by men, you know?! If it wasn't for your father's conscience, I might have run away with someone else. There wouldn't be you two. Women are soft-hearted. If a man is a little more attentive, considerate, says a few sweet words, or looks at her with gentle gazes, as long as he is enthusiastic enough, women will be moved quickly. I see that Winston has a good figure, looks handsome, and his gazes on Chloe are so tender. The key is that they are living together now. My daughter-in-law is about to be taken away by another man..."

Elizabeth's voice was loud, and Damon heard every word on the side. Similarly, his expression became increasingly gloomy.

Good women were always easily pursued, Nathan blinked and his face became serious. "Good women... are easily chased by men?"

There was no response on the other end of the phone. When Nathan looked at the phone, the call had been hung up.

In Greenfield Village, Elizabeth's phone was taken away by Royce, who hung up the call and then pinned her to the wall.

Elizabeth blinked, “Why did you pin me to the wall all of a sudden? I’m really upset right now...”

A dangerous light flashed in Royce’s eyes, “Good women are easily pursued by men. Is that so? So who almost got your heart back then?”

1...”

At Starlight International, Chloe walked straight into her office, with several secretaries and assistants respectfully greeting her.

Assistant Emily followed Chloe into the office. Chloe took off her coat, hung it on the coat rack by the door, and then sat down behind her desk. With a notepad in hand, Emily said, “Ms. Summers, it seems like Infinity Media is at it again, trying to outdo us.”

Chloe raised an eyebrow, not surprised by this news in the slightest. She’d find it more odd if Infinity Media wasn’t making any moves. “Beverly Rogers’ charity short film shot before Fashion Week aired yesterday on various TV and online platforms. It had a great impact and was spearheaded by Infinity Media. It’s aimed at preserving intangible cultural heritage, a significant cause with a wide reach. It’s been getting rave reviews. With Beverly as the leading lady, her fame is skyrocketing. In the upcoming International Makeup Competition, she’ll be Jacob’s model. The fashion world is buzzing with anticipation over this power couple’s performance.”

Chapter 1279

Chloe nodded in understanding. She had been glued to the news at home recently and knew about this.

This charity event was the only thing she was ever giving Wendy credit for. Initially, she started this to please her mother, but overall, she did a fantastic job, and it’d been smooth sailing since the beginning.

“There’s another thing, lately a lot of artists have been expressing interest in signing with Starlight International privately, including some famous stars. I’ve sent the information to your email.

“But, Ms. Summers, we’re not exactly rolling in resources. Infinity Media has also been actively developing its artists, and many of our artists’ endorsements and events have been taken by them. Usually, they use famous stars to compete for our endorsements and events, and the brands easily choose the more famous artists.

“Infinity Media is also actively competing for other events. It seems they’re not even planning on leaving us any crumbs.”

Hearing this, Chloe gave a small smile. “Then let them snatch them.”

Emily didn’t get her meaning. “What?” She thought Chloe would have some countermeasure, but was she not planning on doing anything?

Chloè lifted her eyes to look at Emily, then turned towards the floor-to-ceiling window. She rested her hands on the armrests of her chair, her expression calm. “What do you see outside?”

Emily didn’t understand her meaning, but still walked towards the window with her laptop, looked for a long time, and furrowed her brows. She completely didn’t understand Chloe’s meaning, but still ventured to say, “Skyscrapers?”

Chloe chuckled. “See, these buildings have different heights. The taller ones can get closer to the sun, while the lower ones can only remain in the shadows. Just like us humans, there are strong and weak people among us. To survive in this world, we need to follow the laws of survival, survival of the fittest, where only the strong dominate.”

Thinking of something, Chloe’s smile widened. “Notify all the artists’ agents and assistants to negotiate as many endorsements or events as possible. I only have one requirement. It has to fit our artists’ style.”

Emily nodded, but her brows were still furrowed. “But Infinity Media will snatch them eventually.”

“We just need to do our own thing. If they want to snatch everything, that’s their business.”

“Alright.”

When Emily left, Miles was about to knock on the door. They greeted each other, then Miles entered the office.

Chloe leaned back in her chair and looked at him, a faint smile on her face. "Have you chosen the model for the competition?"

Miles didn't expect Chloe to ask so directly, so hesitated for a bit, then said, "I've found Katie..."

Chloe lifted her eyes to look at him. "Did she agree?"

Miles nodded.

Chloe was silent for a while, then said, "She made a big sacrifice for you. If it were before, she would've hidden long ago. But are you sure this is right? Making her reveal the birthmark she's always wanted to hide, this will make her receive a lot of harsh words. Have you thought about all this?"

Miles stood there, this was also what he had been worried about. Chloe saw his indecision and lowered her eyes. "Actually, it doesn't have to be Katie. With your skill, others can also do it..."

"Ms. Summers!" Miles who had been silent for a while suddenly shouted. Chloe lifted her head to look at him. "What's up?"

"Katie is not worse than anyone!"

Chloe smiled faintly. "Is that so?"

Miles' voice was full of determination. "Yes!"

Chloe scoffed, "That's just your opinion. Are you trying to force your views onto others?"

He thought Katie was the best, so he wanted everyone to think Katie was the best? How was this view different from Wendy's self-righteous attitude?

"So I will prove to everyone that Katie is the best."

"Well, go for it then." Chloe didn't say much, lowered her head, picked up the documents on the desk, and started flipping through them.

But Miles still hadn't left.

"Is there anything else?"

Miles was silent for a while, then asked, "Will you come to the venue on the day of the final?"

"Can you win the championship?"

Miles was silent.

'Jacob from Infinity Media has a strong drive having won his three consecutive championships this year. You're now Starlight International's makeup artist. Infinity Media and Starlight International are competitors, and you and Wendy are at odds. If you don't win the championship, wouldn't attending be like asking Wendy to humiliate me?"

"I won't lose."

"Alright, then I'll go!" Right before Miles had finished speaking, Chloe agreed. "I'll go. So whether I'll be humiliated by Wendy or compared to her by the media that day, all depends on you."

Miles felt that coming to Chloe at this time was just asking for trouble.

At the hospital, Nathan reported his experiences of the day to Damon with a dispirited face.

“Damon, the Peck family is really hard to deal with, they didn’t even let me in the door...

“Chloe’s mother said, she absolutely won’t let anyone from the Harper family get near Chloe...

*Also, that movie star and Chloe, are they really living together...

“I’ve tried all methods, but even the best arguments couldn’t convince Chloe’s mother. I can’t get into that place...

Damon furrowed his brows, was silent for a long while, then said, “I want to be discharged.”

Nathan shook his head. “You can’t be on the move yet, dude. Your wound hasn’t fully healed. The whole fam is against you pulling stunts like this. Plus, even if you go in person, you might not even get to see Chloe. I heard that Chloe and that movie star grew up together, just like you and Wendy. They’re tight. I bet Chloe’s mom wants them to end up together. After all, he grew up under her watchful eye,

and she knows him like the back of her hand. Oh man, now that I think about it, your situation seems pretty similar to Chloe’s. I hope Chloe’s mom isn’t pulling a grandpa on us...”

Grandpa wanted his own grandson to be with Wendy because they’d known each other since childhood. Chloe’s mom would want that movie star to be with Chloe because they’d known each other since childhood.

“Knowing each other since childhood, what a pain in the ass...”

The temperature in the room suddenly dropped, but Nathan was used to it.

“I need to see Rose. Get her here.” Damon’s cold voice suddenly broke the silence.

Nathan was taken aback for a moment. “Why do you want her here?”

A sharp look came over, and Nathan immediately stood up. "I'll get her right away!" Before he could finish, Nathan had already left the room.

Chapter 1280

Around four or five in the afternoon, Chloe was hit by hunger again. While going for a bathroom break, she bumped into two secretaries at the front desk, who were casually chatting and cleaning some stuff.

"Who would've guessed that our Ms. Summers' fiancé is the CEO of the Harper Group..."

"Right? I never saw it coming. Compared to the previous Mr. Olson, it feels like she really hit the jackpot."

"But alas, the Harper family isn't a walk in the park. It's still up in the air whether Ms. Summers and the CEO will actually tie the knot... Oh, Ms. Summers."

One of the secretaries noticed Chloe, and they both instantly became tense.

Chloe overheard their chit-chat. They didn't say anything bad, but they mentioned a few things that could've potentially been hurtful.

Chloe nodded, then walked towards the sink, but her gaze was fixed on the two boxes of cherry tomatoes in their hands.

One of the secretaries quickly handed the two boxes of cherry tomatoes to Chloe, and politely asked, "Ms. Summers, would you... like some?"

Chloe looked for a while, then suddenly reached out and took one of the boxes. "Thanks."

The secretaries were speechless. They initially just wanted Chloe to try some, thinking that with her high status, she probably wouldn't want to eat their food. How could they've ever imagined that Chloe would actually like their common food?

They thought, if the boss actually took one or two to taste, that would already be pushing it. But Chloe just straight up took a whole box.

Back in the office, Chloe started eating the box of cherry tomatoes. With the first bite, Chloe thought, this might've been one of the best things she'd ever tasted.

While working, Chloe kept eating, and before she knew it, the whole box of cherry tomatoes was gone, and it was about time to clock off.

She still rode home in Winston's car. Since she had a box of cherry tomatoes in the afternoon, she got her appetite going. There were several heavy-tasting dishes on the dinner table, and Chloe ate a lot.

Yasmine looked at her and couldn't help saying, "What's up with you lately? You're eating more and sleeping more."

Chloe paused, then said, "It's because Lilian's cooking is good."

"Why are you sleeping so much then? Is it because the bed here is comfy?"

"It's fine."

At ten in the evening, Chloe was ready for bed after taking a bath.

Suddenly, Rose called. "Chloe, you heartless creature. You actually left me alone in the Harper family. You don't even care about me!" Chloe responded, "...are you okay?"

"You did forget about me!" Rose said angrily, making Chloe's ears buzz.

“I don’t care, I’m coming over right now. Make sure you open the door for me.”

Chloe asked surprisedly, “You’re coming now?”

R

“Yes, I’m on my way.”

“Then I’ll call the doorman. Have you eaten?”

“I haven’t had dinner!” Rose’s reply had a hint of annoyance.

Chloe was speechless. “...do you want to have some porcini mushroom soup?”

“Yes!”

“I’ll prepare it in the kitchen.”

Chloe hung up the call, notified the doorman, then put on a coat and left the room. In the kitchen, Chloe found a recipe online and started making porcini mushroom soup. Soon enough, Rose appeared in the kitchen.

Ten minutes later, two bowls of soup were ready.

The two women sat in the dining room, chatting and eating. “You’ve been pretty cold these past few days, not showing up when you say you won’t. Turns out you’re a spineless dependent.”

Chloe took a sip of soup, unfazed. “Just following Mom’s advice.”

“You really have no conscience!”

Chloe didn’t respond, and just kept eating.

“Rose.”

“Hmm?” Rose looked up to see Chloe looking at her seriously. “Why did you suddenly get so serious? What happened?”

Chloe stirred her bowl a few times with her utensils, then looked at Rose and said, “I think I might be pregnant.”

Rose got it at once!

“Have you gone to the hospital to check?!”

Chloe shook her head. “I’m under too much media scrutiny right now, how could I possibly go to the hospital for a checkup?... But right now, I sleep and

eat a lot, and my appetite is much heavier than before. I ate all the oranges you gave me, and today when I went to the bathroom, I took a box of cherry tomatoes from the secretary... Rose, this isn’t normal...”

Rose picked up her bowl, took a few big gulps of soup, then slammed the bowl on the dining table. She stood up and pulled Chloe to her feet. “Rose, what are you doing?”

In the first-floor bathroom.

“You... actually carry this thing with you, you...”

Chloe looked at Rose's belly, then at the pregnancy test Rose had just handed her, her expression complex.

"What are you thinking? This is just for you."

Chloe was speechless.

"I noticed something was off about you for a while, so I prepared this for you before coming today, just in case."

Chloe looked at the instructions for use on the pregnancy test, and upon hearing Rose's words, caught onto the key phrase. "What do you mean just in case?"

"That's..."

Rose's smile froze. "Just go test it already."

Chloe was pushed into the bathroom. Five minutes later, she came out with the pregnancy test.

Rose rushed over immediately. "What does it show? What is it?"

Chloe showed Rose the result of the pregnancy test.

"Two lines?" Rose's eyes widened, she was so excited she almost screamed!

Chloe quickly made a shushing gesture. Then she slowly placed her hand over her chest, looking at the almost crying Rose. "Rose, I'm really pregnant!" "Congratulations! I'm so happy for you!" Rose looked at Chloe excitedly, her mood even more excited than when she found out she was pregnant herself. Indeed, the feeling of knowing she was pregnant then, compared to now, was still an indescribable complexity. Happiness, sadness, excitement, fear, confusion, avoidance...

But Chloe's was a different story. After everything she'd been through, and finally bumping into the right guy, Rose couldn't be happier for her. The two of them were hugging it out in the bathroom, all excited. Even though they tried keeping their voices down, they were still making quite a racket. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door, followed by Yasmine's icy voice. "What on earth are you doing in the bathroom in the middle of the night?"