CHOSEN 131

Chapter	131	
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The chilly, stern voice seemed to freeze the air around it. It wasn't loud, but it was enough to silence everyone in the room
Amelia Schneider's face was filled with surprise. She stood still in disbelief, unable to comprehend the sudden change in the man before her.
"Sir what are you talking about?" Amelia stuttered, her mind filled with confusion.
Damon Harper ignored Amelia, turning to approach Chloe Summers. He slid his hand around her waist gently pulling the stunned Chloe into his arms.
"Nate, kick out all the annoying people-*
Nate, in the crowd, wanted to laugh but couldn't.
Kick out?
How the heck?
If it was a dude, that would be a piece of cake!
But Amelia, she was a woman. How were they supposed to lay a hand on her?
Mr Harper sure knew how to make things difficult!

Nate had already radioed two bouncers. Upon hearing Damon's words, he shot them a glance.

Everyone knew who Damon was talking about, even Amelia herself. The annoying one was none other than her-
Everyone knew Chloe wasn't exactly a saint. So why was this man still so hell bent on protecting her?
Amelia couldn't take it. To be treated like this by the man she had feelings for it was heartbreaking.
"Why? Chloe is a loose woman, I'm telling you, she doesn't deserve this!"
At that moment, the two bouncers Nate had called for arrived and grabbed Amelia by the arms.
"What the hell are you doing? Let go of me!"
Amelia was freaking out. She had gone through a lot of trouble to get to this party, and a lot more to find the man she had set her heart on. Why did things have to turn out like this?
Being kicked out of a party by the man of her dreams was utterly humiliating.
"Let go of me! I don't want to leave! I don't!"
She didn't want to!
It was too embarrassing!
She couldn't accept it!
In her struggle, the strap of her strapless dress snapped. Her dress loosened, exposing her nearly bare body.
There were gasps, laughter, and jeers from the crowd.



Damon and Chloe were close, and the crowd could only vaguely see their lips moving, not knowing what they were saying.
However, Rose Davis, who was closest to them, caught every word, every move.
She watched them in surprise.
When she saw Chloe's ears turn red, the tension in Rose Davis' eyes finally disappeared completely. Chapter 132
Chloe didn't speak, Damon gently pressed on her slightly furrowed brows.
"Just don't look at it next time "
His tender gesture was a stark contrast to his previous cold demeanor
This small move showcased his gentle care
All the women were moved by him. This man's manners and expressions were so charming, they were irresistible.
"Continue the bidding 'Damon dropped his hand and glanced at the host on stage
The host was a bit flustered and quickly said, "Alright, let's continue Miss Chloe, one billion, anyone else want to bid?"
One billion for a dancel
This was already crazy enough, apart from this mysterious man, who would do such a bottomless thing?

Lance Olson certainly wouldn't raise the price

One billion, his entire company's working capital wasn't even that much, what could he bid with?

The host looked at Lance for a few seconds, realizing Lance wasn't going to bid anymore, finally announced, "Alright, congratulations to Miss Chloe and tonight's Mr. Billion, the opening dance of tonight's banquet belongs to them!"

The banquet hall erupted in applause and before long, a beautiful violin played.

Damon let go of Chloe's hand with a smile, stepped back two steps, and extended his hand to invite Chloe to dance

There were some catcalls from the crowd, Chloe looked at the hand in front of her, a smile unconsciously surfaced on her face

Then she reached out her hand and gently placed it on his

As soon as her hand touched his, Damon tightly held onto it, his palm radiating warmth.

He gently rubbed her hand, his thumb caressing her palm...

Chloe looked up to find him staring at her, his gaze intense.

His other hand gently wrapped around her waist, pulling her closer, the warmth from his palm was impossible to ignore.

Her heart fluttered and her breathing quickened.

She didn't resist, she unconsciously moved closer to him, her arm slowly raising to drape over his shoulder,
Damon was much taller than her. To avoid tiring herself out, she had to get even closer.
Then the lights dimmed, they quietly stared at each other, dancing slowly to the rhythm of the music
Their gazes locked, at such a close distance, their eyes were filled with emotions they couldn't escape, a sense of ambiguity flowed between them.
"You look beautiful tonight."
Damon lowered his head to look at her, his gaze lingering on her lips, his deep voice not hiding his admiration.
"Thank you"
"You always say thank you with words, could you show it in a different way?" Damon continued to stare at her lips.
A shy embarrassment showed on Chloe's face.
"Can you be less obvious with your intentions?"
Damon chuckled, "Oh? What are my intentions?"
Chloe bit her lip lightly, looking a bit troubled.
"Stop staring at my lips, it makes me think you want to kiss me at any moment!"

Damon's hand on Chloe's waist tightened.
"That's exactly right. But if you keep biting your lip like that, I plan to kiss you in the next second." Chapter 133
That's right. But if you keep biting your lip like that, I might just have to kiss you right here and now."
Chloe instantly stopped her lip-biting.
The bitten spot left a faint tooth mark.
"So, you're not into me kissing you?"
Chloe's face turned a bit awkward, "There are so many people around, can't you tone it down a bit?"
'So I can kiss you when no one's around?"
**Chloe didn't respond.
Just then, as the music hit its climax, Damon took her hand, gently pushing her waist. Chloe spun around under his guidance, then Damon pulled her back in front of him, her back against
his chest.
"Why didn't you explain earlier?" Damon asked in her ear.
"Explain what?"
Chloe followed the dance steps, facing Damon again.

"All those rumors."
Chloe gave a small laugh, "I couldn't clear those up back then, how can I clear them up now? That's not the point tonight. I came here tonight just to see you"
Chloe paused.
Damon lifted his head, staring intently at her, "To see me do what?"
Chloe was silent for a moment. After a couple of dance steps, she looked into Damon's eyes, "Today is one of the most important days of your life, I didn't want to miss it."
Damon's pupils suddenly constricted, his hand unconsciously tightened around her waist.
"Alright, remember that. There will be many important days in my life in the future, you better not miss any of them."
Chloe chuckled.
"A billion, isn't that a bit much?" Chloe finally brought up the subject. Not only others, but she herself was also taken aback.
That's nothing. You're Chloe, worth every star in the universe. A mere billion, I can easily afford that."
Chloe's voice choked.
Their dance was elegant and unrestrained, a billion-dollar dance, so precious.

Everyone was admiring this once—in—a—lifetime dance, only Keira Summers was glaring at Chloe, her eyes filled with resentment, as if she wanted to tear Chloe apart.
The Harper Group's banquet was always a private affair. Over the years, it had only been open to the public a few times.
Keira was all dressed up, but was upstaged by Chloe who suddenly appeared.
Amelia had carefully planned for Keira, hoping to turn things around for her. Keira's opening dance, worth a million, was enough to make every woman jealous!
But then someone suddenly bid a billion for Chloe!
Such a huge difference made her the joke of the evening.
Wasn't Chloe supposed to be in love with Lance?
Then who the hell is this Mr. Billion?!
Her palms were almost pierced by her own nails, and her other hand was clutching Lance's jacket hem.
Lance's eyes were also filled with shock!
Who was that guy?
Did he know Chloe?
He actually spent a billion to save her!
A billion for a dance, what was happening?

Chloe's occasional laughter disturbed Lance's line of sight, her occasional cute gestures, pained his heart.
Turns out Chloe could be so stunningly beautiful!
But, her beauty had a unique charm.
Not something anyone could mimic.
He hadn't noticed this before, and now that he had, he clearly no longer had the right to stand by her side.
Keira was very upset. Seeing Lance constantly staring at Chloe, she was almost gnashing her teeth with hatred!
The dance ended amidst the applause, Damon bowed and gently embraced Chloe.
In the eyes of the audience, this was just a ceremonial hug.
However, Damon quietly kissed Chloe's ear.
"Wait for me tonight, okay?" Chapter 134
Damon is the star of the show tonight, so naturally he's got some stuff to prep for
And also, he's left some friends hanging downstairs waiting for him
After Chloe gave him a nod, he flashed a satisfied grin before turning to leave.

Once Damon was out of sight, Rose Davis made a beeline for Chloe, handing her a glass of champagne "Look at you, Chloe, where'd you find such a catch? You're really stealing the show tonight Chloe retreated to the sides, making room for the dancers "Actually we just met by chance. She bumped into Damon at the hospital and who would've thought that in just a few days, things had escalated to this point "No way it's that simple! Rose Davis exclaimed, scrutinizing Chloe's helpless face before pulling her aside. "Although I might've been a bit dramatic before, I wasn't entirely wrong. Just seeing Keira and Lance tonight makes me wanna slap them both! You've broken up with Lance, yet they keep rubbing it in. And they're still planning on getting engaged, married. "Chloe, if you can, settle down as soon as possible. Not just to get back at them, but also for you to shift your focus away from them" "I reckon that rich guy from before isn't that bad, he seems really into you Chloe looked up at her, "We've only known each other for a few days, and you just met him? How how can you tell he likes me?" Rose Davis sighed, "The way he looks at you is different from others, he's protective of you, he wants to be close to you, and most importantly, he smiles whenever he sees you... "Smiles?"



"Rose Davis, Keira and Chloe are sisters after all! Can you mind your own business?" Lance said, standing helplessly to the side.
"And who do you think you are? Chloe's ex–fiance, or Keira's lover?"
"Rose, enough with your nonsense, I don't have a fiance." Chloe took a sip of her drink, her voice calm and her face expressionless.
Lance froze, looking up at Chloe with a complex expression on his handsome face.
"Sorry, he indeed doesn't deserve it!" Rose Davis scoffed, her contempt for Lance clearly visible in her gaze.
Lance's expression turned gloomy and intimidating, but he couldn't argue with a woman!
"Chloe, you look really stunning tonightI've always been envious of you"
Chloe gave a mocking smile, "Yes, I know. If you weren't envious, why would you always try to take everything from me?"
Chapter 135
Chloe's words made Keira's face turn pale instantly, her lips clenched.
"Chloe, I'm telling you the truth, you look really gorgeous today, everyone thinks so."
Chloe smirked.
"Chloe, Keira didn't mean any harm, she wasn't lying, you do look stunning today."
Chloe slowly looked up, her icy gaze flickered over Lance.

That ruthless gaze made Lance's heart sink.

"I know whether she means harm or not, you think she doesn't... good for you. Whether she's telling the truth or not, I don't care, if you believe it... that's all that matters to you. Whether I'm ugly or beautiful today, neither she nor you have the right to judge."

Chloe's words seemed to leave room for interpretation, but were actually filled with ruthless mockery.

Keira took a deep breath, then took a glass of red wine from a nearby water and walked up to Chloe.

"Anyway, your billion-dollar opening dance tonight was indeed stunning, definitely worth celebrating Cheers, sist

Chloe looked at the wine glass extended in front of her, a cold smile on her lips.

She looked up at Lance and saw that he was looking at her with eager anticipation.

Then, Chloe nodded, picked up her own wine glass, and slowly extended it towards Keira.

"Clink-"a sound of glass rubbing against each other.

Keira's wine glass tilted slightly as Chloe's glass neared, spilling directly onto Chloe's dress.

"Chloe, watch out!"

Rose Davis immediately noticed Keira's action and shouted.

Chloe just scoffed, raised her other hand and "smack" it on Keira's hand, causing the wine spilled towards Chloe to fall on the other side.



"Yeah, I know, you didn't mean to."

Once again interrupted by Chloe, Keira hunched her shoulders, looking at Chloe with a pitiful expression. Chapter 136

Chloe was hogging the limelight again, leaving Keira in the cold, looking mournfully at her.

"Today, you didn't spill the drink on me, but what if you did? You'd probably say it was unintentional. Then you'd wait for me to blow my top, blame you and then... well, just like you're doing now, looking all teary—eyed and pitiful, like you've done something wrong but it wasn't on purpose... Afterward, there will always be someone who'll take your side, feel sorry for you, berate me for being ruthless and bullying you all the time..."

As Chloe spoke, she looked at Lance. His face stiffened, and he looked down at Keira, his expression complex.

Keira's face turned even paler as Chloe laid out all possible scenarios. More and more onlookers gathered, including Lance, none of whom wanted to be the fool whod stand up for her as described by Chloe.

Keira could even feel Lance's attitude changing, his gaze now filled with suspicion.

She bit her lip, looking sadly at the drink in Chloe's hand, then suddenly lunged forward, trying to grab Chloe.

"Chloe, believe me... I didn't do it on purpose..."

But Chloe effortlessly dodged her, then suddenly lifted her glass, splashing its contents all over Keira's face with a loud smack.

Keira was caught off guard, Chloe's forceful splash hitting her like a slap in the face.

"Oh my God-"
Gasps filled the room. No one saw this coming from the previously calm Chloe.
Keira's eyes stung from the alcohol, and she was shaking uncontrollably.
"Your favorite trick! You're trying to make me spill my drink on you on purpose, then play the victim to make it look like I'm bullying you, right? Don't bother, I'll do it myself! If I'm going to do something bad, won't hide it!" Chloe said.
Such a scene in public was rather disgraceful.
Keira's light-colored dress was soaked, her elegant hair disheveled by the alcohol, and her makeup smeared. Her eyelashes fluttered, and her face was as pale as paper.
Lance finally couldn't stand by anymore.
"Chloe, you"
With a harsh sound of breaking glass, the glass in Chloe's hand shattered at Lance's feet!
Lance halted in his tracks, looking up at Chloe's icy face.
"What do you want to say?!"
Chloe's frosty gaze and assertive tone left Lance speechless.
Seeing Lance's lack of action, Chloe averted her eyes, glanced at Rose Davis by her side, and said softly: "I need to use the ladies' room."

Rose Davis smiled and asked, "Want me to accompany you?"
"I'll be fine."
It took Keira a while before she could open her eyes. She had waited for a long time, but Lance's protection never came. She turned her head, only to see Lance staring at her, his face grim and his eyes icy cold.
Panic started to set in. She moved forward, gripping Lance's arm tightly, her eyes filled with tears and a sense of injustice, regardless of her disheveled appearance.
"Lance, I really didn't"
"Didn't what?"
Lance looked at her with an icy expression, pulling her hand off his arm.
Then, he beckoned a waitress, "Please take her to freshen up." Chapter 137
In the restroom, Chloe stood in front of the sink, her palm under the faucet, letting the icy water run between her fingers.
She curled her fingers, trying to grasp the water, but it kept slipping through.
She smiled soundlessly. People destined to leave can't be held onto.
She sighed lightly and wiped off the few drops of alcohol that had splashed on her.
Stepping out of the restroom, Chloe felt a breeze. There was a terrace not far down the corridor.

Preferring the quietness of the terrace to the bustling party, Chloe decided to catch a breather there.
The cool wind blew, bringing a slight chill with it.
Tonight, Chloe's dress was simple and elegant, showing off her tall, slender figure and perfect proportions. She stood straight, looking indifferent and regal.
As light as the wind.
"Chloe"
A familiar voice sounded from behind. It was Lance, hands in his pockets, looking at Chloe with a complicated expression.
Chloe's already emotionless face grew colder. She glanced around the deserted terrace, lowered her eyes, and was about to leave.
"Chloe"
It seemed Lance had come to find her specifically. Seeing her about to leave, he quickly stepped forward, blocking her path.
In that moment, they were too close. Lance could smell the faint fragrance of Chloe.
Chloe stopped, took two steps back, and looked at Lance coldly.
"So are you trying to get revenge for your girlfriend?" Chloe asked.



Chloe's brow furrowed slightly, and she looked up to see Carolina Petry looking right back at her.
Carolina picked up her glass and walked steadily towards Chloe.
After giving Chloe a once–over, a glint of satisfaction flashed in Carolina's sharp eyes.
"Good"
Chloe glanced at her, then at the man standing next to Carolina.
"This is Connor Jewell from Zenith Capital Group!" Carolina introduced promptly.
"Mr. Jewell, this is my granddaughter, Chloe! Chloe, say hello to Mr. Jewell!" Chapter 138
Carolina's expression and posture seemed way off the chart
Chloe frowned uncomfortably.
"This is the lady of the Summers family? Damn she looks even more stunning than what I've heard!"
Connor, standing aside, suddenly spoke with a grin.
He knew the rumors about Chloe, of course.
But he never expected Chloe to be this gorgeous.
Connor's eyes behind his gold rimmed glasses unabashedly took in Chios



Carolina chuckled and turned her head, only to see Chloe was pulled aside by Rose Davis.
Connor's gaze stayed on Chloe's retreating figure, a smug smile playing at his lips.
Keira found out from a waiter that Lance was on the terrace in the corridor.
She gently walked up behind him, wrapping her arms around his waist, her body pressed against his back.
"Lance"
Lance frowned, glanced at the hands suddenly appeared around his waist, and slowly turned around.
"Why are you here, aren't you cold?"
Keira asked him cautiously, but got no reply from Lance.
"Lance, do you love me?"
Keira bit her lip, her eyes welling up with tears.
Lance's gaze grew complicated, he didn't expect her to ask this out of the blue.
* You know what? I feel really insecure. I knew about your engagement with Chloe, but I still fell for you. I want to do my best, to make everyone believe I'm the one who deserves to be with you.
I thought tonight was the moment to prove it all, but I didn't expect Chloe to show up at the party with such stunning and high—headed attitude.

Everyone was fascinated by her, including you!

Lance, did you realize how you looked at her tonight? Every glance you threw at her was like a knife stabbing into my heart.

I just want to be with you at all costs, I don't want to lose you. Lance, I'm scared, I'm really scared..."

Keira's tears rolled down her cheeks as she spoke.

Lance's heart ached with pain and sympathy.

At the party, despite all the humiliation, Keira didn't shed a tear

But now, when no one was around, she cried her heart out.

Her words struck his heart one by one, causing him pain and guilt.

He couldn't deny what Keira had just said, he had to admit, his heart did flutter for Chloe tonight.

Wiping away the tears on Keira's face, Lance sighed, "Stop crying. Your makeup is all smeared, you're not pretty anymore."

Keira shook her head, "I'm not pretty anymore. Tonight... I lost all my dignity, whether I should have or shouldn't have. I'm even about to lose you, do I still care about being pretty?"

"What are you talking about, when did I say I don't want you?" Lance felt helpless, yet his tone was full of affection

Keira stepped forward, her thin arms gently wrapping around his neck, pressing her curvaceous body against his broad chest. With tear filled eyes, she looked at him, tiptoed, and gently kissed Lance's lips...

Chapter 139

Chloe was filled with uncontrollable anger and loneliness.

She wasn't an idiot. If she couldn't see Carolina's obvious motives, then she had lived these years in vain.

Turns out, having her shield Lance and Keira from the paparazzi was just a cover.

Over the years, she had never thought of attending any banquets in the name of the Summers family. And this time, the Summers family's invitation wasn't as simple as it seemed

"Do I have to beg you on my knees just to get you to attend a banquet?"

Carolina's words echoed in her mind once again.

Now that she thought about it, Carolina really had a reason to beg her for the sake of getting on Zenith Capital Group's list

"Chloe, I must say, the Summers family members are weirder than one another. I'm really doubting if you're even a descendant of the Summers family?"

Chloe gave a bitter smile, poured herself another drink, and sat down in the food area.

"Yeah, sometimes I doubt it too. But I am.."

"Well, you're definitely an oddball in the eyes of the Summers family, Rose Davis said helplessly and sympathetically.

Why was she born into such a family?

Chloe didn't say anything, just sat there. Through the thick glass window, she looked at the skyscrapers outside, shimmering with brilliant lights in the night. The colorful world ge became blurry in her eyes
Lonely and suffocating
Chloe just drank, one glass after another.
Rose Davis felt sorry for her, silently accompanying her in drinking.
As best friends, Rose Davis and Chloe had a kind of unspoken understanding.
Comfort at this time was undoubtedly like rubbing salt in the wound.
Because being comforted at your most vulnerable would make you break down immediately.
They were both too proud
Who would want the other to be upset!
The noisy banquet hall slowly filled with applause.
Chloe pressed her throbbing temples and quickly looked towards the brightest direction.
The man speaking on stage was a tall and mighty middle—aged man, different from his chubby, gaudy peers. He had a strong and fit physique, handsome face, and a steady and calm temperament. It was evident that he must have been a captivating man when he was young, and even now, he still was.

It was just that his facial features gradually overlapped with a face in her mind.

"Thank you all for taking the time to attend my son Damon's official succession ceremony for the Harper Group! The Harper Group has made it to today..." It turned out to be just as she thought. The man speaking on stage was Damon's father. "Huh? Why does the guy on the stage look familiar?" Even Rose noticed it. The middle-aged man didn't say much before leading the applause and inviting the new CEO, who would officially take over the large financial group, to come up. When Damon's figure slowly appeared and finally stood on the podium, there was a low murmur in the banquet hall. "So he's the new leader of the Harper Group!" "I knew he had a strong presence from the beginning. I asked many people who he was, and it turns out he's the center of attention tonight..." "It's a blessing to have such decisiveness and initiative at such a young age." "I thought he would be a somewhat balding, potbellied man. I didn't expect him to be like this..." Rose Davis was also surprised. So, Damon was the young director of the Harper Group, and the new global CEO of the Harper family? Chloe leaned on the table and stood up, her tall, slender body slightly unsteady. Enduring the discomfort caused by her throbbing temples, she walked forward. Chapter 140

Chloe once said she wished she could be there for Damon during the important moments in his life.

Standing among the crowd, Chloe stared at the man in the most prominent position
His appearance tonight was like a godsend, pulling her out of the cold abyss.
She's a woman too, after all.
How could she not be moved by such a rescue?
No, not just tonight
From the moment he appeared in her life, she was smitten.
Damon stood tall above the crowd, his features deep and unique, his expression as light as the wind, as if he could control any emotion. He was calm, refined, indifferent, cold, sharp, serious, and strict.
And there he stood, his expression serious, exuding an astonishing pressure, proud and sharp.
His voice was gentle, neither fast nor slow, but it made people involuntarily feel awe.
Such a man
On the other side, Carolina looked at Damon on stage with admiration.
She thought that starting tonight, many powerful people would try their best to get on good terms with the Harper family.
She wondered which family's daughter would eventually marry into the Harper family.
Feeling a little disappointed, she thought about the current situation of the Summers family. If the Harper family really wanted to form a marital alliance, it probably wouldn't be v Summers family

Thinking of this, Carolina sighed softly, but then she thought of Keira.
Carolina looked around and didn't see Keira, so she turned to her assistant and asked, "Where's Keira?"
"I'm not sure. Mr. Olson isn't here either"
Carolina was silent for a second, seemingly understanding something, her face becoming unhappy.
"Ungratefull
On stage, Damon's speech had ended. Amidst the applause, Chloe took a deep breath and turned to walk out of the banquet hall.
Damon looked up and saw the slender figure moving in the opposite direction of the crowd.
He stepped down from the stage.
Kane Ziems immediately handed Damon a glass of wine.
"Congratulations, Damon."
Damon took the wine, turned his head, and said, "Nate!"
Nate appeared like a ghost, seemingly out of nowhere.
Damon's gaze swept towards the door.
"Keep an eye on her, she's had too much to drink,"

Nate immediately understood, "Got it."
Kane was confused, looking towards the banquet hall entrance, but Chloe's figure had already disappeared around the corner.
"Who? Who's had too much to drink?"
Damon glanced at him indifferently, not saying anything.
Danielle wore a champagne–colored gown, her hair pulled up, and her makeup delicate but not vulgar.
Despite that, her appearance still attracted many people's attention.
Seth Diaz stood tall, his handsome face wearing a smile, but his eyes revealed indifference and depth.
Danielle held onto Seth's arm, smiling.
"Congratulations, Mr. Harper."
Damon looked at Danielle, but in his eyes seemed to be the shadow of another woman.
Damon's gaze briefly swept over the man being supported by Danielle.
Then, he calmly looked away and raised his glass to toast.
Tonight, there were some people who needed to be entertained
At the parking lot behind the hotel, Chloe sat by the flowerbed, not saying a word.

"Ms. Summers, should I find someone to take you home?"

Chloe shook her head, 'No, Damon told me to wait for him."