CHOSEN 1351

Chapter 1351

In some conference room in M Country, Cole was enthusiastically discussing with his team and their long-term partners from M Country

A contract was laid out on the table, and just waiting for both parties to sign it. Everyone would be over the moon.

"If this project succeeds, your family will definitely grow bigger. Of course, I'll also benefit from it." The blonde-haired, blue-eyed man said with a friendly

smile.

Cole laughed confidently. "That's a given, Mr. Smith. Everything depends on your trust and support. Without you, it's all just talk."

Hearing this, Smith became even more pleased. "I heard you have a beautiful and talented daughter? You should let her get out more, and not just keep her at home all the time."

Cole chuckled. "Actually, she's been in our home country lately. Our family's future depends on her, so she's been learning how to manage the company"

"Really? I didn't expect your daughter to be such a talented lady. Beautiful on the outside and capable on the inside. You're so lucky!"

Cole laughed happily, then pointed at the contract in Smith's hand..

Smith smiled and picked up the pen. His secretary turned to the signature page of the contract, and he left his signature on it.

Just at this moment, the office door was suddenly opened. Smith turned his head towards the door, only to see a tall and handsome man walking in with

a teenage girl. Smith looked at them, somewhat displeased. "Jon, Diana, where are your manners?"

"Daddy!" The beautiful girl completely ignored her father's anger and threw herself into his arms.

Smith, being a father who doted on his daughter, genuinely wouldn't be angry with his adorable daughter, Diana. He could only direct his anger at his son,

Jon!

*Jon."

I'm sorry, Dad, but I urgently need to talk to you."

"Couldn't you wait until I finished my meeting?!"

Cole chuckled. "So, this is your son, Jon. He certainly has manners."

Smith sighed helplessly. "His mother spoiled him."

He got up, walked over to Jon, pushing him in front of Cole and introduced him. "This is my son, Jon. Mr. Cole, given our close partnership, would you be willing to let him meet your outstanding eldest daughter?"

Cole's face changed slightly, and his brows furrowed imperceptibly. He knew Wendy had always liked Damon. Considering Damon's reputation and the Harper family's influence, if it really came down to comparison, the Harper family would definitely outshine the Smiths. Marrying Wendy, whom he had nurtured since she was young, to Jon would be a total waste.

Cole laughed awkwardly, saying, "Of course they can meet, but..."

"Dad, what do you mean? You want me to marry Ms. Alonso? No! I'd never agree to marry that annoying woman! She's rude, cold-hearted, and incredibly stupid! I'd rather marry a beggar than her!"

Jon's words made Cole's face instantly turn rigid. Smith also felt embarrassed, so he angrily kicked Jon. "What nonsense are you talking about?!" Jon didn't care at all, instead, he coldly turned around and told Smith, "Dad, I won't marry Ms. Alonso! And I also refuse your partnership with the Alonso family!"

After saying that, without waiting for Smith to respond, Jon reached out and tore up the contract that was already signed by Cole!

Seeing the contract, which took months of effort to finalize, being torn apart, Cole abruptly stood up and glared at Jon, but he had to hold back his anger because Smith was present. "Young man, don't be so impulsive! I don't know where Wendy offended you, but please don't involve that in our partnership! Plus, even if you and Wendy meet, she might not necessarily agree to marry you..."

"Huh! Who would she want to marry then? Who would dare to marry that vicious Ms. Alonso? Do you still treat Ms. Alonso like a princess? Have you seen her character?!"

Cole was so angry at Jon's words that his lips were trembling. He pointed at Jon but was unable to speak

Jon! Have you lost your mind?! What the hell are you doing?!" Sinith roared.

Im not crazy, Dad Believe me, we absolutely can't partner with the Alonso family, or we'll regret it!"

Seeing Jon's anger and determination, Smith also slowly calmed down "What the hell happened?"

Jon took out his phone, clicked away, and connected the phone to the conference room's projector

A video of Wendy hitting someone was playing silently, showing her sitting on a man, grabbing his head harshly as if she wanted to smash han.

People in the conference room began to whisper

Jon looked at the completely frozen Cole, and sarcastically said, "Recognize her? This is your beautiful and intelligent daughter Ms Alonsof

"What?"

"This shrew is Mr. Cole's daughter?"

The other members at the M Country's partnership meeting couldnt believe their eyes. The faces of Cole a team members also turned very ugly! Everyone lowered their heads, not daring to look at each other.

Just a moment ago, they were all basking in the praise Smith had given to Ms Wendy, even chiming in with a few pranes of their own. Now, they all felt

humiliated!

"What's going on... Smith was also shocked, casting a questioning and probing look at Cole.

But Jon said, "You think that's all? No!"

He said, and tapped on his phone, changing the display to a video of Marco holding a press conference. The video had been edited and subtitled, translating every word Marco said.

Wendy's assault victim's medical report, Infinity Media's misconduct, everything was fully exposed to the public.

Next, Jon laid out all the dirt on Wendy's past actions on social media for everyone to see, including the time she picked a fight with Starlight International and ended up with her tail between her legs, and all the scathing reviews of Wendy on various websites globally, all of which were downright ugly

"Is it true that she's been scamming naive girls and forcing them into shady deals?"

Upon hearing Smith's question, Cole turned ashen faced. He hurriedly explained, "There must be a mixup here, I'll sort it out when I get back! But Mr. Smith, this won't affect our partnership..."

Chapter 1352

Smith suddenly shouted angrily, hugging his daughter Diana tightly, glaring at Cole.

"Do you know what my daughter Diana's dream is? She loves acting, she wants to be a superstar in the spotlight, and she wants to break into showbiz! But I can't imagine, if Diana full of hope thinks she's about to realize her dreams, only to find out it's all a scam! Being forced into this shady business.... Jesus! How many innocent girls have you ruined?!"

Cole was angry, embarrassed, and even a bit panicked. "Mr. Smith, there must be a misunderstanding....

"Let's talk about our cooperation after you clear up this misunderstanding!"

After saying this, Smith tore up the contract they just signed into pieces!

Cole's face turned pale in an instant, and he slumped back into his seat. Settle the misunderstanding first? Even if he could really solve this problem, Smith would have already signed a contract with someone else.

What was left to talk about? What the hell did Wendy do?

Before Cole could fully recover, his team members were already answering their phones.

"What? How can you cancel the contract? Sir?! Hello?!"

"No! There must be a misunderstanding...

"Hello..."

Listening to these phone calls, Cole had a bad feeling. Before he could ask, his own phone rang.

The caller ID showed it was from an important partner this time, and he suddenly felt a reluctance to answer it. But it was a call from a partner. How could he not answer it?

After hesitating for a while, he finally picked up the call.

"Hello..."

"Sorry, Mr. Cole, let's forget about our previous contract. As a businessman, I can understand doing some excessive things for the sake of profits, but the Alonso family's behavior is too much!"

After saying these words, the person on the other end of the line hung up the phone without giving Cole any chance to respond.

Cole slowly put down his phone, his face beyond description. His daughter, Wendy, had ruined everything!

"Mr. Cole, all the calls we just received were to cancel the cooperation...

Cole gestured to stop the person's words. No need to say more, he knew what it was!

He had been preparing for this project for so long, and the last contract was about to be finalized, but then this happened at the most critical moment. Why did it have to blow up now!

The veins on Cole's face were bulging, looking terrifying. What did he do to deserve having such a troublemaking daughter like Wendy?!

Jon saw Cole's reaction and sneered. "Your beautiful and noble daughter, Ms. Alonso, knows that someone else has a fiancée and is still pursuing him, and making such a big fuss, aren't you embarrassed? Thinking I would marry such a terrible woman, it's utterly delusional! Marrying a beggar would be better than marrying her! You better spend your time teaching Ms. Alonso how to behave!"

Cole's face stiffened. Despite Jon's insults towards Wendy, he couldn't say anything to refute

Ignoring Jon, he turned to Smith. "Mr. Smith, I hope you can seriously consider, this cooperation will definitely be a win-win in the end..."

"No need, I don't think we need to continue our cooperation!"

Jon quickly interjected, Dad, when I just came in, I noticed that the people from Z Country were also here to discuss business with you. Do you want to see them now?"

A furious Smith obviously wanted to make Cole and his team uncomfortable, so he immediately agreed "Good, let them in!"

Cole looked up sharply, frowning at Smith "Mr. Smith!*

"Our cooperation ends here, Mr. Cole, please take your team and leave immediately!

Peck Innovations team, who had been waiting outside the conference room for news, couldn't help but feel secretly pleased when they heard the commotion inside

Looks like we might score something this time?"

All in all, Yasmine and Ms Chloe are still the better ones?"

No, I thank the most amazing one is still Ms Chloe, I never thought the entertainment industry could have such a big impact on us

"Step by step, pushing Ms Wendy to such a state, the timing was just perfect Ms Chloe really lives up to her reputation"

Axel, the team leader a middle aged man, also smuted when he i sard his subordinates comments.

The conference room door opened, and Jan personally brought the people from Peck innovations in. At this moment, Axel's phone rang. He stopped at the entrance of the conference room and answered the call

"Hello?"

It's me, Chloe'

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Axel was taken aback, "Ms. Chloe?"

"Yep." Chloe responded, then cut to the chase. "When Yasmine was assigning you tasks, did she mention anything about making concessions?"

Axel, certainly, wouldn't divulge any business secrets just because a woman claiming to be Chloe called.

"What are you trying to say?"

Chloe understood his concerns, so she said, "Don't make any concessions. Negotiate based on the original profit margin assessed by your evaluation

team."

Axel frowned. "According to our research and evaluation, our data is 5% higher than that of the Alonso family. I don't think they will accept these terms."

"They will" Chloe said firmly, her eyes focused on the computer screen, which displayed information about Smith,

Smith was a father who adored Diana, he knew her dream was to become an actress, and if he learned about the behavior of Infinity Media, a subsidiary of the Alonso family, he would be moved.

"Even if you guys didn't get involved in this deal, they couldn't keep it going. Your appearance now is just giving Smith a chance to blow off some steam. Don't worry, he's definitely itching to teach Cole a lesson he won't forget. As long as our demands aren't off the wall, he'll surely agree!"

Chapter 1353

After hanging up the phone, Axel was in awe. Chloe's confident voice was still ringing in his ears. His mind was rattled by her plausible words, but he wasn't entirely convinced.

Basing the outcome on one person's character seemed risky to him. Such a big deal, how could it be driven by emotions?

However, Axel found himself wanting to believe Chloe. Although she didn't totally win him over, he couldn't deny that it was a possibility.

Axel was torn about whether or not to follow Chloe's advice. He felt he couldn't risk anything at this critical moment, but Chloe's confident voice made him want to go for broke.

His indecisiveness made his team confused, even Jon was looking at him puzzled.

"Axel?"

Jon called out to him and Axel snapped back to reality, giving Jon a nod and a smile. He slipped his phone back into his pocket and walked into the conference room.

Inside, Cole was still there, steaming. When he saw the people from Peck Innovations entering, his angry gaze landed on Axel. Cole had heard about some team trying to cut him out of the deal when he was signing contracts with other partners. Back then, the deal was set and he didn't think much of it. He didn't think any partner would choose to work with a nobody over the Alonso family.

But now, regardless of whether the deal went through or not, the Alonso family had become a laughingstock, something Cole could not stomach.

"Are you the ones stealing my business?" Cole asked, his voice full of disdain. "Which company are you with?"

Axel looked at Cole calmly and reached out his hand to Smith. "Hello, Mr. Smith."

Smith shook Axel's hand politely with his expression a bit dismissive. Axel didn't mind, after all, compared to the Alonso family, Peck Innovations, which had always kept a low profile, was easy to overlook.

Cole's anger grew seeing this. But noticing Smith's attitude, he forced a smile. "Smith, are you sure you want to work on such a big project with a nobody?"

Smith frowned. However, Axel, with a beaming smile, said, "Mr. Cole, that's not quite fair. Who says small companies can't handle big projects? Compared with the current performance of the Alonso family, I think we are more reliable. What do you think, Mr. Smith?"

Smith sat down, nodded, and seriously said, "You're absolutely right."

Axel smiled, looked around the office, and seeing that the Alonso family had no intention of leaving, he didn't say anything more. He pulled out the chair next to Smith, sat down, and said, "Let's show Mr. Smith our original contract proposal."

The people behind him froze. Didn't Yasmine say we were supposed to make concessions? Why is it still the original contract? But they handed the contract to Smith anyway.

Smith glanced at it, his brow furrowed, and looked up at Axel.

"Are you serious about this contract?"

Axel replied, "This is a significant collaboration, why would I joke about it?"

Smith glanced at Cole, his frown getting deeper.

Cole seemed to understand his meaning, chuckled softly. "Mr. Smith, I'm sure the sincerity of the Alonso family is unmatched..."

"Sincerity is a matter of perception. I believe the true sincerity is confirmed collaboration that can bring the most profit to the other party. Mr. Cole may not know the mess Ms. Wendy has made at home. Whether it's true or not, you'll need to spend a lot of resources to deal with it, right? During this time, the collaboration project will definitely be affected, won't it? I also don't think partners of questionable character can bring long-term benefits to Mr Smith*

Cole's smile vanished instantly

Smith nodded, thinking of the news he had just seen about Ms. Alonso and the scandalous rumors. He grew angry picked up a pen, and was about to sign the contract

Seeing this, Cole shouted out, "Smith, don't be rash

Axel frowned and then smiled "Perhaps Mr. Smith is not very familiar with Peck Innovations. The reason I dare to talk about long-term benefits with you is because I have strong reasons to back me up

"What reasons? Smith wondered

"Mr. Smith, have you heard of Starlight International?"

Smith nodded Jon also nodded. "The company that Ms Wendy has been provoking?"

This made Axel laugh a little Since Chloe directed him to negotiate this cooperation, he might as well bring her name into it. The results might be surprising

Hearing Starlight International and Chloe, Cole was boiling with resentment! Every time Chloe was mentioned, his daughter Wendy became a jokel

"What the hell are you trying to say?"

Axel laughed, took out his phone, found the call record from Chloe, and dialed a video call directly Chloe didn't expect a video call, but seeing who was calling, she answered

By that time. Axel had Jon connect his phone to the projector. The moment the call connected, Chloe's image appeared on the screen. She was uitting in her office chair, looking calmly at the screen

"What's up?"

Seeing Chloe's face, Axel knew his guess was right. It was her.

Cole's forehead vein throbbed, as his instincts were telling him this couldn't be good.

Smith's daughter, Diana, was over the moon, shrieking. "Oh my God, is that Chloe?! Dad, I love her!"

Smith was gobsmacked.

Chloe, peering at the conference room on the other side of the video, recognized Cole despite not knowing him well, and instantly caught on to what was happening

"Hello, Mr. Smith, and... Miss Diana."

Chapter 1354

"Hello, Mr. Smith and... Miss Diana."

"Wow, Dad, she's calling my name!" Diana was excited, while Axel by her side was surprised. Didn't expect Ms. Summers to have fans abroad.

Seeing Diana so excited and happy, Smith turned to Chloe and asked, "And who are you?"

Chloe smiled. Tm Star...

Someone nearby took over the conversation. This is Ms. Chloe. She's the CEO of Starlight International and is always being targeted by Ms. Wendy. She owns a 25% share in Peck Innovations, and her mom, Yasmine, is the chairwoman of Peck Innovations! I believe this should prove our strength to Mr. Smith!"

Chloe felt nervous listening to the praise; she was pretty modest.

Upon hearing this, Cole was shocked and staring at the screen. Peck Innovations is yours?!"

Chloe glanced at Cole calmly but chose to ignore him.

"Mr. Smith, it's a pleasure to meet you. As for the contract, the terms were decided after comprehensive evaluation by our professional teams. I believe you have good judgment, but it's hard to see the specifics just by looking at the contract. In fact, Peck Innovations is not a large-scale company, and the initial investment in this deal is already our limit. Although this is a must-win project, we need funds for further expansion beyond just profit recovery. Therefore, I hope for your assistance, Mr. Smith, and look forward to your support"

Chloe's words left Smith a bit stunned. He didn't expect her to be so upfront.

Small companies needed to grow, so she needed a slightly larger share, which was totally his favor to help the company grow. So candid and respectful, Smith would feel embarrassed if he refused.

"Of course, I believe that only when the company develops can we have better and more perfect cooperation, don't you think?"

Chloe really left Smith no room to refuse with just a few words. She guaranteed long-term benefits and didn't rule out future cooperation, Solely in terms of investment return, Smith had no reason to refuse. What a smart woman.

But if it were someone else, Smith might not have believed them. However, for some reason, Chloe's confidence, and candidness, as well as her natural aura, made people want to trust her!

"Dad, are you going to work with Star? Please say yes! Can I ask her for an autograph? Can I be an actress in her company in the future?"

Smith didn't even have a chance to speak before Diana excitedly grabbed his arm. Her eyes were shining. Smith helplessly patted Diana's head. "Don't be silly

Diana immediately looked disappointed. "Dad, don't you want to work with Star? She's so good and smart. I want to be like her, independent and smart."

Independent and smart? I thought you always dreamed of being a princess." Smith was a bit pleased. Independence and intelligence sounded promising.

"Yes! Being independent and smart can be helpful to protect myself and the people I love. Isn't that good?"

Smith looked at Diana, surprised. After a while, he suddenly laughed happily. "Good, that's my girl!"

Diana's eyes lit up again. "So you mean you agree to cooperate?"

Smith kissed Diana on the forehead, then looked up at Chloe on the screen.

"I don't know much about you, but I think you're someone I can trust"

Chloe smiled. "Thank you for your trust! I'll do my best not to let you down."

Smith nodded, then signed the contract. Chloe watched his casual signing action, her smile deepening a bit

Smith continued, "Although I don't know much about you, I'm glad my daughter Diana has the right life goal and values because of you. I want to thank you"

Chloe's gaze lingered on Diana for a few seconds, her smile even warmer. Tri honored, and I hope you can become the person you dream to be"

Diana nodded firmly her eyes shining "T want to be an actress in the future, can you be my agent?"

Chloe chuckled 1 believe by then you'll be the best actress even without me But I do look forward to being your agent"

"Thank you! You've made me more determined about my dream"

Chloe looked at her, a smile in her eyes "And I hope you can take good care of yourself"

Hearing this, Smiths joyful face aanediately turned serious. He looked at Cole, who was still sitting next to hun.

"Mr. Cole, what are you still doing here? I decided not to work with you. As you can see, I've chosen to work with Star i hope you understand that even

as businessmen, we should have morals Don't tell me you don't know about tofauty Medias misconduct! I'm very disappointed in your

Cole's forehead veins bulged, and he suddenly stood up and stormed out of the mesting room.

His team members packed up their belongings one by one not daring to lift their heads, and quickly followed him out

"What do we do now? We've prepared for so long if we fall, the company's losses will be unimaginable?

Cole was so angry his ead was about to explode Hearing what the man behind hum Our partnera again and see if we can salvage this "

he rubbed his temples and said with a serious face. "Go talk to

The others looked at each other. They were already scolded just for answering the phone if they tried to talk to people now, they would probably be chased away before they even met. They had planned to go back home today, but it seemed they might have had to stay here longer.

Infinity Media, a 24-story building, was now only occupied by Wendy. The only bustling area was the entrance downstairs, all full of journalists

Fans of various artists kept trickling in, blocking the entrance of Infinity Media so tight that not even a drop of water could get through. All the fans were super jittery right now, scared that their beloved artists would get dragged into this whole mess.

Forcing no-name female artists to sell themselves for collaboration opportunities. If the reporters dug deeper into this, who knew which celebs had profited from it and were gonna get pulled into this whole thing.

But to distance their favorite artists from this shady company, that was the only thing the fans could do.

After seeing the news, Grace rushed to the company. She got into the office, only to find Wendy sitting there, the whole office already wrecked beyond recognition.

Chapter 1355

At this point, even Grace had no clue how to console Wendy. After such a big mess, Grace was at a loss on how to fix things.

The company was gone, all the artists and staff had left. Not only had they landed in legal trouble, but the recent scandal had also left Infinity Media with no chance of bouncing back. Up next, they'd have to face inspections from different departments.

Grace didn't even know how to explain this to Cole. Wendy had single-handedly ruined a perfectly fine company!

This was a big deal, and there was no way to keep it hush-hush.

Right now, Wendy's mind was blank. She was staring at her computer screen while her face twisted in agony. The screen was filled with mockery and insults aimed at her. She'd never thought she'd see the day when people would hate her so much. She was even more pitiful than Keira had been.

Wendy had thought that by sending Becky off today, the media would report on her close relationship with the royal family of Y Country. Once the news broke, the pressure on the artists would not only come from the Alonso family but also from the royal family of Y Country

They certainly wouldn't dare make a move easily. At the same time, she could use this to give Chloe a warning she wouldn't forget!

But Chloe had jumped the gun and announced her collaboration with Seth. Using Seth's status in the entertainment circle of H Country, she'd managed to attract all the artists to Starlight International!

Wendy was just one step behind. If her relationship with the royal family of Y Country had been reported just one minute earlier, things wouldn't have turned out this way!

Right now, Wendy's only thought was on how to deal with Chloe. Chloe's appearance had turned her life upside down! If not for Chloe, everything would have been hers!

Damon, the position as future matriarch of the Harper family, all the love from the Harper family, the entire Alonso family, they would all be hers! She would've been the envy of all, the happiest woman in the world!

But now, Damon wasn't hers, the love of the Harper family wasn't hers, she'd turned the Alonso family into a mess, and she'd become the laughingstock of the world!

"Mom, I can't take it anymore! I want to kill Chloe! If I don't get rid of her, I'll never be able to let go of my hatred!"

As Wendy read the insults and mockery online, she swept the last intact computer on her desk onto the floor. Hearing the sound of the computer crashing, Grace's heart pounded in fear. But once she calmed down, even she was seething with anger.

"All this happens and all you know is to throw a tantrum! Have you thought about what to do next? What's the use of smashing things? Look at yourself! What's so special about Chloe? Her family background isn't even as good as yours, yet with just Starlight International, she's managed to push you to this point?!"

"Then you tell me what I should do now?" Wendy shouted back at Grace in anger.

She was at her wit's end. She had wanted to bounce back, but then the Human Resources Manager suddenly revealed the worst scandal!

Now, she was tied up in numerous lawsuits, and with everyone knowing the truth, there was no one in the court she could use. What she had to face next were investigations from various departments, breach of contracts and compensation.

The company was gone, and she had to face huge compensations! What else could she do?

Grace swallowed hard. How could she possibly know what to do? All of Grace's attention had been on becoming a wealthy lady, she had no clue about business

Grace sat on the sofa, rubbing her forehead, silent for a long while before she finally said, "....Give up. At this point, there's no saving the company. Calm down, and spend more time with Presley in the next few days.

"Your father is doing business in the M Country, he should be back in a few days. At that time, if Presley puts some pressure on Damon, there might still be a chance. Also, isn't the state banquet of Y Country coming up... these matters should keep you busy

"Stop focusing on work. Your main task now is to be the lady of the Alonso family, which is the most distinguished socialite that everyone aspires to be. Stop fighting with people who don't matter, it's just a waste of time."

Hearing about Cole's business and the state banquet of Y Country. Wendy slowly calmed down.

Maybe Grace was right, Wendy shouldn't be focusing on Chloe now

Compared to Wendy's current state, Chloe was leisurely heading towards the orphanage Wendy didn't have the energy to mess with her anymore, so she should've had a pretty easy time for a while

After a busy morning at the company, she arrived at the orphanage and Cicely was waiting at the entrance

Frowning, Chloe got out of the car and walked over to Cicely

"Why aren't you going in?" Chloe asked

Cicely looked up at Chloe with a lollipop in her mouth, but no expression on her face.

Surprised, Chloe asked, "What happened? Did Did something happen to Hugo?

But then Cicely grabbed Chloe's arm. "Why are you only here now?"

"The meeting ran late Why didn't you go in?" The pain in her arm caused Chloe to frown.

Cicely leaned her forehead against Chloe's shoulder "He's having me followed he's got someone tailing me..."

Seth was still having people tail Cicely? What was he thinking? Chloe furrowed her brows, picking up the exhaustion and rage in Cicely's voice.

It had been a whil. Probably since the last time Chloe had brought Cicely here, Cicely hadn't come by since. Her son, she'd only seen him once since he was born. Now, with just a few steps through the door, she could see him again. Yet, she had to stop at the entrance.

Cicely's helplessness and sorrow were heart-wrenching.

Chloe sighed, shooting a glance at her bodyguards behind her. She then took Cicely's hand. "Let's go."

Cicely stood still, shaking her head. "I don't want to go in."

"No problem, the bodyguards are here. No one can get close to me. You just stick with me."

Cicely looked at the bodyguards who got out of the car, her resolve wavering slightly.

"So..." Cicely hesitated, about to speak when a black Bugatti slowly parked next to them.

Then, the car door opened, and a tall, strapping figure appeared in their sight.

"Alright...

Chapter 1356

As Cicely was speaking, a black sports car slowly pulled up next to them. Next, the car door opened, and a tall figure appeared in their sight. He was dressed in a suit, looking elegant and sophisticated, oozing grace and nobility with every move..

Every time Chloe saw him, she could feel a deep sense of cunning and ruthlessness from him.

There was no concrete evidence of his character, only his appearance and demeanor were enough to give her this impression.

If it weren't for Damon, Chloe might not have had any contact with this man, let alone unexpectedly screw him over in this Infinity Media affair. He was supposed to be a godlike figure, but now he was utterly detestable.

He was Seth.

Chloe's heart began to race. This lasted until Cicely suddenly let go of her hand.

Seth glanced at Chloe indifferently and a cold light flashed in his eyes. Then he turned his gaze to Cicely. He closed the car door and walked over.

Cicely still had candy in her mouth, and the once-sweet candy now tasted bitter.

Cicely looked up at Seth and taunted with a smirk, "Do you enjoy stalking me?"

"Why aren't you going in?" Seth looked up at the orphanage.

Faced with Cicely's attitude, Seth did not react in anger, but just smiled slightly.

"What's it to you?"

Cicely spat out a sentence and walked past Seth, quickly leaving the front of the orphanage. She didn't want to tangle with Seth here, she couldn't let him have any chance to see Hugo. As Cicely walked faster and faster, she felt as if Seth was like a demon. But, she hadn't gotten far before her wrist was grabbed by a cold hand.

Her heart pounded, she turned and saw Seth's towering figure closing in.

"Let go." Cicely struggled, her voice trembling slightly.

Seth squinted, he looked down at Cicely's redden

I due to the struggle.

"Why are you running?" His deep voice resonated in Cicely's ear. He looked up, eyes filled with a mix of familiarity and fear, wisdom, and curiosity

His thumb gently rubbed her wrist. His lips curled up, and even his eyes seemed to hold a hint of a smile as he spoke again, "Why are you in such a hurry to leave? Have you done something you don't want me to know?"

Chloe stood still, hearing this made her nervous. She stared at Cicely, afraid of her losing control because of Seth's words. In front of someone like Seth, even the slightest slip could have unthinkable consequences.

However, Cicely stared at Seth after a moment of silence, and laughed lightly.

"Do you think there's something I'd be afraid of you knowing? Would I commit a crime and end up in jail? I've lived there for almost three years, it's like my own home. Even if I went back, there's nothing to be afraid of. So, why would I be afraid of you knowing something?"

She crushed the lollipop in her mouth and swallowed it.

Seth's face held a cold smile, his cheek becoming colder as the wind blew, and his eyes were filled with coldness.

Cicely smiled and turned her gaze towards the orphanage. "When I first got out of prison, I came here. The children here are all homeless. Some have lost their parents, some have been abandoned, and there's one child whose mother's serving time in prison...

"Every day she would go on about her child, awake or asleep. I was almost driven mad by her. She's young, why doesn't she think about herself more, instead of always thinking about others? It's just stupid!"

Seth coldly stared at Cicely. Thinking about the news he heard last night about Chloe being pregnant, an idea surged in his heart. His hand gripping Cicely's wrist tightened unconsciously. "Is a child just another person to you?"

Gicely clenched her teeth, forcing down the bitterness in her throat, then continued, "A child is just a burden. What use do they have other than taking what they need from their parents or even others? Today is a rare day off, I came out to relax, not to get upset. Seeing those kids makes me upset. Seeing you now, I'm even more

But the truth was not so

Cicely was here to see Hugo Hugo wasnt a burden Hugo was her treasure! Hugo had never exploited her, never Ever since Hugo was born, she had never fulfilled her duties as a mother She had never held him, never fed him, never properly protected him

On the contrary, it was Hugo who made her regain her desire for life in prison, gave her a goal, the deuse to get back on her feet. Hugo gave her a new life, gave her a second chance made her a mother

The lies flowed naturally from Cicely's mouth, full of sincerity and indignation

But every word, every sentence was like a sharp blade, cutting open her heart, making it bleed. What right did she have to say such bullsht?

Chloe watched Cicely from afar, her heart turned cold. A burden? How could it be? Who was Cicely talking about? Why did she have to hurt her own heart. like this?

"You really are heartless"

Seth coldly stared at Cicely, but his hand holding her arm did not let go.

Cicely smiled at him, her eyes full of sarcasm Yes, I'm cold lost my sympathy a long time ago"

Just a moment ago, Seth's face held a hint of fake expression, but now, it had completely vanished.

After a while, a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. Only this smile was colder than his emotionless face.

"Where did your sympathy go?"

Cicely caught her breath, looked up at the man's cold face, and forcefully wrestled her hand free from his grip.

She didn't expect to succeed, and instinctively turned to leave. Suddenly, her shoulder was gripped tightly, and with a pull, her body was forced to half-turn and was pushed against the black luxury car behind her.

Seth's handsome face leaned closer.

Chapter 1357

Suddenly, someone gripped Cicely's shoulder hard. She was spun halfway around and then shoved against the black luxury car behind her.

Seth's handsome face leaned in. His face was devoid of warmth. His lips were slightly pursed and his gazes were as sharp as knives, staring at her.

Cicely's waist was pressed against the car, her shoulders firmly held against the window.

Seth opened his mouth again, each word seeming to grind out from between his teeth, "Where'd you leave your compassion, huh?"

His voice nearly froze the surrounding air, and his eyes emitted a chilling and sinister aura that sent shivers down one's spine.

Cicely, enduring the pain in her body, maintained a calm and indifferent facade. Seeing her expression, the anger in Seth's heart blazed even more fiercely. "Speak up! Where did it go?!"

Cicely was startled by Seth's words, her eyelashes fluttering. She lifted her face, forcing a smile as she looked at him, then she slowly said in her unique voice, "I don't know. The things I lose, I never think about getting them back. Do you go digging through the trash for something you threw away?"

Seth's brow twitched, and the veins on his forehead became visible.

Cicely laughed, watching him. Rarely did she see so many expressions on Seth's face. "Are you mad?" Cicely smiled again, "See, what's the point in you looking for me? I won't sleep with you, I don't care if you're tired or drunk, and I'll probably piss you off and cause you trouble. You're not exactly lacking in women, just a wave of your hand and there'll be a line of them ready to jump in your bed, serving you,

pleasing you, trying in every way to win your favor, and they're way more sensible than me. Why do you want to keep me around to be a thorn in your side?"

Cicely's words were laced with sarcasm, the idea of having to face this man again gave her a headache.

Seth suddenly laughed, "There are plenty of women who know how to please me, so that makes you special. Maybe one day some clueless woman will replace you, and then you can bow out gracefully."

Cicely was stunned for a moment, then raised an eyebrow, "Really? Then I can only pray for that person to show up sooner."

Seth's decision couldn't be changed no matter how it was phrased. There was no point in remaining in this standoff with him. But he wanted a special woman? What was so hard about that?

"Are you two done arguing yet?"

Chloe's voice came from behind, breaking the standoff between them.

Seth stood up, creating distance between himself and Cicely. Cicely stood up, tidying her messy hair. The next second, her arm was grabbed again.

She stopped in her tracks, furrowing her brow as she looked at the man who had once again approached her.

"What more do you want?"

"Weren't you supposed to be going to clear your mind? Since you don't like the kids here, I'll take you somewhere else."

Cicely chuckled lightly, decisively pulling her hand back. "Sorry, I'd rather stay here with these naughty kids than go clear my mind."

"Cicely, trying too hard will only backfire. If you really want to leave me sooner, then act like other women, follow some rules. Maybe I'll get tired of you sooner and/ let you out of my sight," Seth stared at her intently.

Cicely snorted, "Even though that's a good idea, unfortunately, I can't even pretend to play along."

Seeing Seth's mood turn sour, Chloe quickly stepped forward and took Cicely's hand. Chloe looked at Seth coldly, "She and I had plans today, Seth. You should've known she was going to be with me today. Are you afraid she'll leave, or that I'll hurt her?"

Seth stared coldly at Chloe, "She's been sitting at the door for nearly three hours, and you say you came together?"

Chloe hesitated, she was indeed somewhat guilty about that, but she hadn't expected Cicely not to go in.

"Let's go." Cicely sensed Chloe's discomfort and tugged at her arm, leading her toward the entrance of the orphanage.

This time Seth didn't bother them, and he just stood there, watching as the two women's figures slowly moved away.

Cicely's grip on Chloe's hand tighten. The farce was finally over, but it wasn't meaningless. Like now, Cicely could confidently walk into the orphanage under Seth's watchful gaze.

When Cicely entered the orphanage gate, Chloe could already feel her hand being crushed. Just a few steps distance, she couldn't imagine what Cicely had been through.

Seth watched as the two figures disappeared through the door, then got back into his car. A faint cloud of smoke soon filled the car.

"See, what's the point in you looking for me? I won't sleep with you, I don't care about you, and I'll probably piss you off and cause you trouble... You're not exactly lacking in women, just a wave of your hand and there'll be a line of them ready to jump in your bed, serving you, pleasing you, trying in every way to win your favor, and they're way more sensible than me. Why do you want to keep me around to be a thorn in your side?"

What Cicely had just said was like smoke in the car, inhaled and exhaled by him.

This nightgown isn't mine, but I wanted to see your reaction so I wore it"

"You've been working all day and you're still drinking so much? You stink... hurry up and drink this water and take a shower."

"Who pissed you off? I'll get back at them for you!"

"You actually picked the model yourself? You actually watched other women in bikinis? You're not allowed in the bedroom tonight."

In the past, the domineering and clingy Cicely couldn't stand him paying attention to other women, but now she wished he was with other women every day.

"Although it's a good idea, unfortunately, I can't even pretend to play along.

She couldn't even pretend...

Seth chuckled, his handsome face obscured by the smoke.

After Chloe and Cicely entered the orphanage, Winston and Rose were distributing lunch to the children.

The children formed two orderly lines and collected their lunches. However, the expressions on the children in the two lines were starkly different. The line in front of Rose was lively and relaxed, with the children joking and laughing. In contrast, the line in front of Winston was tense, with the children's faces tight and their lips sealed, looking like they were facing their execution.

Chapter 1358

Winston's voice suddenly rang out, and then a kid holding a tray suddenly burst into tears.

Winston, who was already stone–faced, now looked even more ruthless. "Why cry?" Did he say something upsetting? Why did they suddenly start crying so sadly?

"Wah!" The crying seemed contagious and soon several kids in front of Winston started weeping.

Chloe quickly stepped forward, came to Winston's side, bent down and said to the kids, "Guys, don't cry. If there's a problem, talk about it first. If you cry, we'll be really worried, you know?"

Chloe's gentle tone left Winston slightly taken aback. He had seen Chloe before as someone who was usually detached from the Summers family matters, very focused on her job. He rarely witnessed this gentle side of Chloe, and her patience and kindness towards the children, in particular, caught him off guard. Could kids really change a person like that?

These kids were so naive. They always regarded their teachers as the smartest people in the world, hoping for their praise and affection. Hearing Chloe's words, the crying stopped.

"Who can tell me what happened?" Chloe asked with a smile.

A little girl wiped her tears and pointed at Winston tremblingly, "He bullied us and wants to starve us. His face is scary..."

Winston was speechless, and his expression grew even darker.

"Wah...so scary!"

"Really mean ... "

"So scary..."

Chloe turned her head and looked at Winston, her eyes full of dissatisfaction and blame.

"When did I bully them?" Winston bit his lip, looking unconvinced.

Chloe accused, "You're going to starve them!"

"Yes!" The kids nodded their heads.

Winston turned his head and glared at them, "When did I say I'd starve them?"

"Wah...so mean ... "

Winston was speechless. "I saw it just now. You said if they knocked over their food tray they would starve."

Winston's cold face twitched slightly; he looked down at the little girl standing in front of him, staring at her tear-stained eyes. "I was just trying to make her be careful..."

Chloe looked up at Winston and counter-questioned, "Your demeanor isn't friendly to begin with, and your words are so ambiguous. No wonder they're crying." Winston closed his eyes in frustration, and took a deep breath, "Fine, I'm sorry, I apologize."

The little girl rubbed her eyes and said with a thick nasal voice, "I accept your apology. But can I take a picture with you?"

The other little girls also cautiously came out, looking at Winston's stern face, their eyes full of longing, "Can I take a picture with you too?"

"I also want to, even though you look very strict, you're actually handsome..."

Chloe smiled helplessly, not expecting things to turn out this way.

Compared to the scheming in the business world, Chloe found the world of children to be a completely new and unknown territory.

The little girls who had just been frightened to tears by Winston suddenly ran over to request a photo with him the next moment. They were too cute.

Finally, under Chloe's urging, Winston bent down and took photos with a few little girls, receiving all kinds of hugs and kisses, successfully arousing the jealousy of the other boys in the orphanage and becoming the "enemy of the boys".

Faced with a sea of laughter and joy, Cicely found herself unable to join in. Her gaze wandered around the cafeteria, and finally, in a distant corner, she saw Hugo. the one she had been longing for all along.

Hugo sat obediently in the chair, his legs dangling in the air, yet he still sat up straight, his delicate face filled with calmness.

Although Cicely really didn't want to admit it, Hugo's demeanor was too similar to Seth's.

Cicely's heart couldn't help but tremble, just watching from afar, the sourness in her heart spread all over her body.

Chloe somehow came to her side and gently patted her shoulder.

"Hugo is a good boy." Cicely said, her voice full of indescribable emotions and heartache.

Chloe nodded.

Hugo sat there quietly, so well-behaved that it tugged at people's heartstrings. If his eyes could see, maybe there would be more expressions on his face, maybe he would be as playful and mischievous

as the boys next to him.

That was what children his age should look like, wasrit it? In contrast, this quiet and obedient Hugo, how could he not be pitied?

Hugo's eyes couldn't see, co the orphanage had special staff to take care of him. As a caregiver was carrying a tray to Hugo, Cicely immediately stepped forward and stopped the caregiver.

'I'll do it." Cicely said.

The caregiver, knew that there were guests at the orphanage today, thought for a moment and handed the tray to Cicely.

"This is the kid's meal. He's been refusing to let others feed him recently..."

"Thank you." Cicely said softly, carrying the tray to Hugo's side.

But just as she got to Hugo, before she could speak, Hugo's eyes moved. He reached out and tightly grabbed her clothes as if afraid she would leave.

Cicely bit her lip, barely holding back her tears.

"Hugo..." She called softly.

Hugo's eyes turned red instantly, tears swirling in his eyes, his lips tightly pressed, trying not to cry.

"Is...is Hugo not good?"

His voice was particularly soft, and his careful demeanor made Chloe, who was nearby, feel a sense of melancholy.

Cicely placed the tray in front of him, but at the moment she bent down, two glistening tears fell, illuminated by the light.

"Hugo, you're a good boy..." Cicely said, biting her lip.

"But...you took so long to come see me..." Hugo said softly, full of grievance.

Chloe turned away, unable to restrain the sorrow in her heart, her eyes burning with tears.

Cicely tasted a hint of rust in her mouth as tears silently rolled down, drop by drop, falling to the ground. "I've been busting my hump trying to make ends meet. Once I've scraped together enough dough, I'll get your eyes fixed, then we can start living our lives together. So I'm sorry, Hugo. Can you forgive me?"

Chapter 1359

Hugo's vacant eyes fluttered and tears made them seem even brighter. "Are we gonna live together?"

Cicely replied softly, "Yes, that's my wish. Do you want that too?"

Hugo nodded vigorously, "I want to live with you too, mom."

Cicely gently patted Hugo's head, her eyes brimming with tenderness and guilt.

In the afternoon, Chloe, aside from helping out and playing games with the kids, sat on the sidelines watching them. Winston became the girls' hero but was messed around with by the boys all afternoon.

Cicely spent the whole time with Hugo, bathing him, dressing him in new clothes that she had Chlo

buy, playing piano with him and chatting with Chloe. Hugo was becoming more outgoing. For the orphanage's staff, him starting to talk was already a miracle, but today he spoke a lot, even sporting a

rare smile. Perhaps Hugo didn't smile often, hence his smiling face attracted a few pretty little girls to play around him. However, Hugo seemed a bit shy. Hearing the girls' voices, his smile vanished instantly.

Cicely had told Hugo to get along with everyone, but he just pursed his lips, turned his head, and hid in Cicely's or Chloe's arms.

Cicely felt helpless but couldn't help but smile bitterly. Hugo's personality was really similar to Seth's. If there was no woman like the former Cicely who was not afraid of being embarrassed and never gave up no matter how many times she was rejected, would he stay single forever? Quite likely. Cicely chuckled.

Seth wasn't lacking in women, and it wasn't that he couldn't live without her.

Looking at Hugo's head in her arms, Cicely's melancholy faded a bit. Hugo was still so young, why was she thinking so much?

Rose was also very satisfied today. Looking at all the adorable children, she was looking forward to her own child being born. When the time came, she will give him the best things in the world, she will raise him to be the most outstanding person.

"Chloe, the kids are so cute. I feel that once my child is born, I won't have much energy for others. Just thinking of having a child with me makes me feel so happy." Chloe replied with a smile, "All kids are angels."

They undoubtedly brought happiness to people. Thinking of the two little angels in her belly, Chloe was filled with joy.

After dinner at the orphanage, they left.

Chloe chatted with them in the car for a bit, then took out her phone to check the news online, wondering if Wendy was making any moves. However, everything was within Chloe's expectations.

What surprised her was that Wendy hadn't made any moves. Reporters were still waiting outside Infinity Media's door, but got no response.

Seeing Chloe constantly on her phone, Yasmine frowned, "Do you know you're pregnant? You're always on your phone. Do you know that phones emit a lot of radiation?"

Chloe looked at Yasmine, then smiled, "It's okay, Damon bought me anti-radiation clothing."

Yasmine was speechless for a while, "That's just treating the symptoms not the cause. Can antiradiation clothing really block 100% of the radiation? This is nonsense!"

Chloe paused, then just put away her phone. She turned slightly and asked, "Has there been any news from M Country?"

Yasmine glanced at her, "Not yet, might have to wait a few days. You should be concerned about your own matters. Don't worry too much."

Chloe helplessly said, "Mom, can you be a bit nicer to me?"

"No." Yasmine immediately replied, "I just got back and you're already pregnant out of wedlock, I told you not to meet Damon, but you eloped with him in no time. Now you're even living with him without my approval. We haven't settled these issues yet, where do you get the nerve to ask me to be nicer to you?"

Chloe sighed, "Okay, my bad."

Yasmine gave her a cold glance, "Let me tell you, don't think that because you're pregnant now, I have to compromise with you. You're not married, so what if you have kids? You and Damon have nothing to do with each other, do you hear me?"

Chloe silently turned her head, her eyes filled with worry, and she thought to herself, "This is embarrassing. Although Damon and I haven't held a wedding ceremony, we have registered for marriage. We're... married."

Seeing that Chloe didn't respond, Yasmine said seriously again, "Did you hear what I said?"

"I heard you."

To end this conversation as soon as possible, Chloe could only temporarily compromise. If Yasmine knew that she and Damon were already married, she didn't know what she would face next.

'Go horne with me tonight," Yasmine said.

"Mom..." Chloe felt a headache coming on.

"Do

o you think everything I said earlier was nonsense?"

Unable to refute her mother, Chloe could only send Damon a message.

When they arrived at Peck's Manor, a black luxury car was parked outside the gate. Damon was dressed in a slim–fitting trench coat, underneath which was a crisp black suit. His pants were ironed flat and meticulous. His handsome face was cold and expressionless. Noticing the approaching car, he casually lifted his eyes, staring out the car window as if he could read people's minds.

Seeing Damon, Chloe immediately opened the car door and got out, Damon quickly walked over, directly pulling Chloe into his arms.

"Cold?" he asked.

Chloe shook her head with a smile.

Damon held her a bit tighter, then glanced at Yasmine who'd just got out of the car, saying, "I'm gonna take Chloe with me now. Won't be bugging you today, you should hit the hay early too."

Yasmine squinted her eyes and said, "Chloe's staying with me at home these days."

Damon frowned slightly, "Chloe is going through a special time right now and needs care."

Chapter 1360

"I can take care of her, you should mind your own business. If you lose your spot at the Harper Group because of Chloe, I will feel guilty, and so will she."

As expected, Chloe's body tensed slightly upon hearing Yasmine's indifferent words,

If it was truly because of her that Presley stripped Damon of his power in the company, then Chloe would indeed be responsible.

"You can't use that as an excuse..."

"You got your own thing going on, and we got ours. I made it clear at the engagement party, the Alonso family will be Chloe's wedding gift. Even if you don't care about your position in the Harper family, without this gift, the wedding can't take place."

"The words I've spoken won't be taken back. There were so many people present at the time, including the media! I don't have the luxury of turning back, and you two won't easily get together. It's not just up to you two, otherwise, there wouldn't be so much emotional distress in this world."

After Yasmine finished, Damon calmly spoke, "Done talking?"

Yasmine looked at him coldly

Damon paused, then pulled Chloe's hand over, "If you're done, then we should leave"

Yasmine narrowed her eyes and warned, "Don't get too cocky."

Damon smiled and replied, "Didn't you say you're going to use the Alonso family as a wedding gift? Can't handle it?"

Yasmine gritted her teeth, staring at Damon with a chill in her eyes, feeling an impulse to give him a piece of her mind.

"What do you think?"

"I trust in your abilities." Damon said dismissively, "So Chloe will eventually become my wife. I'm just exercising my rights ahead of time, no big deal. I hope you can get the Alonso family ASAP, need any help?"

Faced with Damon's words, Yasmine was truly annoyed, she hadn't had the urge to hit someone in years, but this man was just so punchable.

"I don't need your help! Get out of my sight! I don't want to see you!"

Damon raised an eyebrow, his tone tinged with amusement, "Keep it up, Yasmine."

"Get lost!" Yasmine's eyes twitched fiercely.

Chloe was a bit scared; she rarely saw Yasmine this angry.

"You just pissed off my mom." Chloe thought it was necessary to remind him. After all, Yasmine was her mother, how could he treat her like this?

Damon leaned down and kissed Chloe's forehead lightly, "I'm sorry about this, but no one can stop us from being together, right? Once this is over, I'll apologize to her."

Chloe was helpless.

Damon had already apologized and made his stance clear. Continuing to speak further would seem overly sensitive.

For the next few days, the topic of Wendy was widely discussed by everyone. All kinds of things about her were dug up and discussed one by one, constantly trending. All the netizens were waiting for Wendy to make a statement, but after a long wait, there was still no response from Wendy.

"What's the deal? The company is in ruins, and she won't come out to fix it? Has she given up?"

"The Alonso family is powerful; an entertainment company is nothing for them. Don't worry, there are many other companies waiting for her to take over." "But she's really lacking courage, right? Hiding when there's a problem? What a coward!"

Wendy, who was hiding at home, was tormented every day. She knew there were many people attacking her online, and she constantly reminded herself not to look, but she couldn't help it.

Every time she looked, she would get angry. She smashed things in the room one after another, and even many of the household staff resigned due to her explosive temper.

This time, seeing someone call her weak and incompetent touched another sore spot, and Wendy once again shattered the decorations in the room into pieces. The housekeepers heard the noise, they were used to it and kept their distance, their faces full of disdain for Ms. Wendy.

"Look, she's at it again."

"She's really a bitter person; all she knows is to vent her anger on others."

"She doesn't have much ability, and she just breaks things when she's angry. Those people online didn't say anything wrong."

After hearing these sounds a few times, Grace was also a little bit heartbroken. After all, the decorations that were being smashed in Wendy's room were worth quite a bit of money, and this continuous cycle of destruction was costing a fortune.

Moreover, Grace was getting fed up at this point.

Cole had gone abroad for business and hadn't called her once. Aside from some disappointment, she felt more relieved. Because once he asked about Wendy, she wouldn't know what to say.

With such a big problem, she could only hope that Cole would be in a better mood when he came back because of a successful deal, and be less angry with Wendy. But now, Grace couldn't let Wendy continue to destroy things.

"Can you stop?" Grace burst into Wendy's room angrily, "I told you to come home and reflect, not to throw tantrums here."

Wendy's room was a mess. Hearing Grace's words, she sat on the sofa, gasping for breath, her face pale.

Grace glared at Wendy angrily, "I've told you so many times, you're now the lady of the Alonso family. Where did all the manners you learned go?! All you know is to sulk at home, can't you do something meaningful?!"

The failures in reality and all the mockery and sarcasm online made it impossible for Wendy to calm down completely.

"How can I continue to be calm when people are slandering me like this? I wish everything could start over. I wish to salvage everything, but is it possible now?"

"What's there you can't do? Do you think any of those people who are attacking you online can hold a candle to you? They're just a bunch of nobodies who can't get the public's approval. They've got no pedigree, no background, and no money. No matter how much they talk, they're just green with envy about your birth and family. They're simply a pack of people who get a kick out of watching others suffer. The more you care about them, the more they'll provoke you. Can't you see

that?"

"Now there are some follow-up issues with Infinity Media that need sorting out. I've already got a lawyer on it, but you need to get your act together. The company might not be salvageable, but you need to wriggle out of this whole mess. You shouldn't just be sitting at home brooding and blowing your top at the slightest problem. You need to know how to play to your strengths, got it?"