CHOSEN 1371

Chapter 1371

"But what about the feelings of the two people involved? Everyone knows that President Harper's heart belongs to Ms. Summers from Starlight International!"

"You announced a board meeting right after the engagement ceremony, trying to use your position as the chairman to force President Harper to compromise. So you only care about the long-term development of the company and are willing to sacrifice your grandson's love life for it, right?"

Presley clenched his cane tightly, his face gloomy.

Wendy, standing next to him, was almost bursting with anger, but she had to maintain her composure as the missy of the Alonso family. She took half a step forward, facing the reporters with a calm demeanor, "I'd like to ask the reporter who just asked the question, what do you mean by sacrificing love? I grew up with Damon. I believe that no woman in the world knows him better than I do! I've admired him and liked him since I was a kid. My feelings for him are pure and unadulterated!

"Whether it's because of the friendship between our two families for many years, or my use of my status as the Alonso family's daughter to push for this marriage, I believe I am the best woman for him in the world, and the most qualified to stand by his side! I believe everyone is aware that in families like ours, we only demand an equal match! May I ask you all, who else is more suitable and equal to the Harper family than the Alonso family? Although I'm being blunt, this is the fact, isn't it? What's more..."

With a sneer in her heart, Wendy held her head high and chest out, full of confidence, "The Alonso family will definitely make even greater progress in the future, and our support for the Harper family will only increase! Isn't that enough? Or is there someone who can bring more to the Harper family than I can?"

Everyone kept quiet. Though her words were arrogant, they seemed to make sense.

But her attitude was really off-putting. So, she claimed that in the world, only she was worthy of Damon, and no one else was qualified? People without her background didn't deserve love?

"So Ms. Wendy, are you saying that Chloe's family background is not as good as yours, so she is not qualified to marry President Harper? But Ms. Summers is the woman that President Harper likes. His attitude towards you is also very clear. Why do you insist?"

"Because I believe that Damon is just momentarily blinded. With time, he will understand who the right woman for him is. I will give him time to reflect because I believe that this wait is worthwhile!" Wendy said.

The reporters on the scene couldn't help but bite their lips, discussing in hushed voices.

"She's really full of confidence!"

"I really don't understand who gave her the courage to say such things!"

"That's the Alonso family for you!"

"Ha-ha! I know, but are you trying to make me die of laughter?"

However, their words did not fully reach Presley and Wendy's ears. Presley was quite satisfied with Wendy's words just now. Firstly, she accepted the fact of the union between the Alonso family and the Harper family. Secondly, this was exactly the perception and aura a lady of the Alonso family should have.

This was the fact, and there was no need to hide it!

Seeing Wendy helping Presley enter the Harper Group building, a sneer suddenly sounded from a seemingly ordinary car parked not far away.

"What a shameless woman." Chloe said..

Chloe sat in the driver's seat, looking in the direction of the Harper Group's entrance, her face always showing a hint of indifference but filled with a sarcastic expression.

Alyssa looked in Chloe's direction and asked, "How can you stay so calm?"

"What's the point? Grandfather is over there. If I go, I'll just be humiliated." Chloe said,

With so many media present, she didn't think that if she and Wendy fought, her grandfather would stand on her side.

Alyssa looked at Chloe's back with a thoughtful smile on her face and said, "If that stubborn old man really gives his shares to Robin today, then it's only a matter of time before Damon is kicked out of the Harper family. Why do you seem so calm and not worried at all?"

Chloe started the car and drove to the underground garage.

"Didn't I invite you here?" Chloe asked.

"You trust me that much? I'm not sure I can change his decision, and maybe if I annoy him, he'll give his shares to Robin in a fit of anger." Alyssa said.

Chloe laughed, "It's always better to be prepared."

At two o'clock in the afternoon.

The Harper Group's executive meeting room was filled with shareholders, all looking dapper in suits. When Wendy helped Presley in, all the shareholders in the company stood up to greet him.

Presley nodded lightly. Robin stood up and helped Wendy to seat Presley at the head of the table.

The old man looked around the conference room, his face suddenly turned cold. "Where's Damon?"

"He hasn't arrived yet. Robin replied with a light smile.

Not only Presley, but everyone in the conference room looked displeased.

Damon was working on a major project, which was at a critical stage. If Presley really handed over the chairman's position to Robin at this time, this project might

not be able to continue.

The loss from a halfway terminated project would be hard to calculate. What was supposed to be a bigmoney project now might turn into a huge money pit, and the shareholders weren't exactly thrilled.

Plus, after all these years with Damon at the helm, they knew exactly what was it with the company, barely lifting a finger and still raking in the dough every year. Would anyone else be able to pull that off?

The old man's agenda for this meeting was a bit too pushy, even dragging in Wendy, making his intentions crystal clear.

It was enough to make people's skin crawl.

Wasn't this just forcing them to face the reality?

With all the crap Wendy had been stirring up lately, it was really not smart for Presley to act this way!

Damon still hadn't shown up in the conference room, did that mean he was not taking the old man's bullying and bowing out of this "competition"?

Wendy was gnashing her teeth in secret, getting antsy about Damon not showing up on time.

She had come this far, but if Damon didn't even show up for the board meeting, what was the point of everything she had done?

How could he possibly give up the whole Harper Group just for Chloe?!

Chapter 1372

Damon's private elevator shot up straight from the underground garage to the penthouse.

The elevator doors eased open, and Chloe, pushing Alyssa, walked out and headed straight for Damon's office.

Alyssa glanced at her watch, "Shouldn't we be going to the conference room?"

Chloe shook her head, "I bet Damon hasn't arrived yet. Let's check his office first. We still have time."

Sure enough, when they arrived at Damon's office, there were already many people waiting at the door, their faces full of anxiety and urgency.

Even Nate, his usually expressionles's face seemed tense. As soon as he saw Chloe and Alyssa, his eyes lit up, and he rushed over like he'd seen a savior.

Alyssa cast a sharp glance around, and asked in a low voice, "What are you guys doing here?"

Nate looked miserable, "The meeting has already started, President Harper is still in his office. It seems he has no intentions of attending the meeting."

Chloe sighed lightly. She knew, if it really came to this, he definitely wouldn't attend the meeting.

Alyssa also understood why Chloe had come to the office first. Despite the emergency, she couldn't help but laugh. Seeing her granddaughter—in—law understanding her grandson so well, of course, she was happy.

She remembered she was the one who introduced them to each other, and looking at them now, they were a perfect match. Her judgment was spot on!

But thinking about the old man who was always causing trouble–between them, she was really angry. Such an obstinate old man!

Opening the office door, Damon stood with his back to the entrance, his tall figure standing straight by the floor-to-ceiling window. His one hand casually tucked in his pocket while the office was filled with the smell of smoke.

Chloe's smile became forced; a worry began to form between her brows.

She was feeling more and more guilty. It was her, who had put him in a dilemma. It was her, who made him give up the thing he had cherished since childhood.

She knew that before meeting her, all his time and energy were devoted to the Harper Group.

From the moment he was born, the Harper Group was there, accompanying him till now.

And her?

She bit her lip, suddenly feeling sorry for Damon.

She really didn't know, what she had, that was worth Damon giving up the company for.

What good did she have.

Her hand, resting on the wheelchair, was gently patted. Alyssa looked at her with a comforting expression.

Chloe managed a smile.

Looking up, she saw Damon turning around.

Seeing them standing at the door, he quietly extinguished the cigarette in his hand in the crystal ashtray next to him.

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"Why are you here?" He asked in a low voice, walking towards them.

Alyssa said a bit annoyed, "Your wife is worried about you, and she insisted on coming here to support you."

Damon looked at Chloe, and smiled faintly, "Are you worried that I won't be able to support you in the future?"

Chloe didn't expect him to joke with her at this time, she stared at him for a moment, then nodded and said, "Didn't you promise to support me? If you lose your job, what are you going to support me with? My clothes, shoes, bags, cosmetics are all very expensive! Not to mention we will have two children in the future."

Damon's gaze swept over her belly, the corners of his mouth lifting into a faint smile.

Walking over to her, he wrapped his arm around her waist, his deep eyes staring at her, he said softly, "Who said I'm not going to support you?"

"I'm worried if you don't attend the meeting, you really won't be able to support me." Chloe said.

"Hold on." Their back–and–forth conversation left Alyssa a bit confused, "Can someone tell me, what does 'two children' mean?"

Conference room.

"Presley, to be honest, a few years ago when Damon just took over, we were very disapproving because we thought he was too young to fully take over the Harper Group. But over the years, we've seen the achievements the Harper Group has made under his leadership, and the company's employees trust him. As for your sudden decision now, is it really necessary?"

"Yeah, even without relying on anyone, our Harper Group can. develop well, why so stubborn?"

"Pushing people too hard might backfire."

The other shareholders finally couldn't resist voicing their opinions. Although their shares were not much, their main source of income was still the Harper Group. If there were any changes within the Harper Group, it would directly affect their interests. Compared with Robin, they trusted Damon who had brought them considerable benefits over the years more.

Presley had just sat down not long ago, and was choked by the words of the small shareholders, his face ashen. This obviously ignored Robin sitting next to him.

And Robin, with his usual smile on his face, was hiding his true thoughts.

Another shareholder glanced at him, and said, "Well, we can't exactly say that."

The conference room door was suddenly opened, and all the discussions in the room stopped immediately. Upon hearing the noise, Wendy looked up excitedly towards the door, but her smile quickly froze on her face.

Nate was pushing Alyssa in front, and behind them, Damon, with Chloe in his arm, walked in leisurely

Nate ordered someone to bring a chair and arranged for Chloe to sit next to Damon.

The atmosphere was a bit awkward. But the most awkward one was Wendy, standing next to Presley.

The speech she had just given on the stage, now seemed incredibly embarrassing. She didn't anticipate at all that Damon would bring Chloe to the Harper Group's board meeting.

Everyone else felt embarrassed for her as well. She said she was the one who knew Damon the best in this world, and she was also the one who deserved to stand by his side the most. She claimed that Damon would eventually realize the mistake he made. But now, was that really the case?

They appeared together so intimately and even at the Harper Group's board meeting!

Such meetings were usually business secrets. For President Harper to show up so openly with Chloe, it spoke volumes about her status –

She was the only woman President Harper acknowledged, and the sole granddaughter-in-law of the Harper family!

Chapter 1373

The atmosphere in the conference room was a bit awkward, but Robin casually asked at this moment, "Are all the shareholders here yet? If so, we should start the meeting."

It already past the scheduled time, and if Damon did this, wouldn't Robin's chances of winning be even greater?

A shareholder whispered to him, "A few are still missing."

"This is the Harper Group's board meeting, who allowed you to join?!" Presley shouted angrily, interrupting the shareholder's words, silencing the whole conference

room.

Everyone looked up and saw Presley glaring at Chloe next to Damon, his face ashen.

Wendy smirked. Yeah, how could Chloe have any good days as long as Presley was in the Harper family?

Damon's calm expression turned serious as soon as he heard Presley's words.

"I allowed her to join! Did you not see, or are you deliberately picking a fight?!" Damon said. His voice was low and chilling.

The atmosphere in the whole conference room seemed to freeze, and for a moment, everyone held their breath. Even Chloe, who was sitting next to him, thought his words were a bit too much. She gently tugged at his sleeve, and her hand was quickly held in a large, warm palm.

Everyone saw them, and although they knew the couple was close, this subtle action still surprised them. Before this, no one had ever thought that their President Harper would have any relationship with a woman, let alone this intimate

Wendy's heart felt like it was being squeezed, the pressure almost suffocating her. She was struggling to breathe, in unbearable discomfort, but couldn't pinpoint the pain. Her eyes on Chloe were full of malice.

Presley stared at Damon in disbelief, shaking with anger, but his eyes were strangely red, "You... Damon...you..."

Damon's lips were a thin line, "Grandpa, don't be angry. Take care of your health."

Wendy managed to suppress her anger, stepped forward to pat Presley's back lightly, and whispered soothingly.

Presley took a deep breath to calm himself, pointed at Damon, still angry, "Do you know where you are now? This is the Harper Group's board meeting. Even if you have a good relationship with her, what qualifications does she have to join? Damon, I think you're completely blinded by this woman now!"

Alyssa frowned and immediately retorted, "What's wrong with that? Being seduced by women is perfectly fine! I'd rather he be attracted to women than be single for life!

The people in the conference room were silent for a moment, then broke out in laughter. Chloe couldn't help but cover her face with her hand, feeling very embarrassed.

Presley was momentarily speechless, so Alyssa continued, "Damon being seduced by a woman is normal; you're at this age, and still being seduced by women, you should be the one feeling ashamed. What right do you have to judge others?!"

Presley glared at her, "You""""

"Damon at least might give me a great-grandchild, and you?" Alyssa sneered at Wendy, who looked terrible, "What can you give me? You're already so old, are you going to give me a son?!"

The chairman's wife, indeed lived up to her reputation! When she got angry, she didn't even spare her own husband!

"Ha-ha, grandma, come on, this is the board meeting." Damon said.

In such a formal setting, his previously cold expression was ruined by his grandmother! So unprofessional!

The other shareholders who were trying to hold back their laughter also laughed out loud at Alyssa's words, their shaking shoulders looking hilarious.

Presley, who was sitting in the main seat, was now red–faced. He had lived so long, and never thought he would get so mortified in front of all the company's shareholders. "What are you laughing at?!" He said with a stern face, and the conference room fell silent.

"This is the board meeting, not a place for you to mess around! Irrelevant people, leave immediately!" He said, his eyes already falling on Chloe.

"Did you hear that? Wendy, your 'grandpa' wants you to leave the conference room!" Alyssa said.

Wendy, who had been standing in place watching Chloe, suddenly heard this and looked indescribable. "Grandma, It's not what you think between me and grandpa. I respect him very much."

Wendy was very uncomfortable, putting her and Presley together, wasn't this deliberately annoying?

"Yes, Alyssa, you're pushing the joke too far, how can you say such things casually, aren't you asking for trouble?"

"We all know that Ms. Alonso is interested in our President Harper. How could she have an affair with Presley?"

"Alyssa, better hold your tongue, we still have opportunities to cooperate with the Alonso family'in the future. Don't offend them!"

Several shareholders began to persuade Alyssa; they were all a bit wary of the power of the Alonso family.

Presley also didn't plan to squabble with his wife in such a situation, and said in a deep voice, "The Alonso family and the Harper family have been thick as thieves and they're gonna be family soon. Wendy, of course, has every right to be on the board meeting! I don't wanna say it again! Some smarty– pants here, don't play dumb now! Get out! Or don't say I didn't warn ya!"

Damon tightly held Chloe's hand, his tall figure suddenly standing up from the chair, his face cold as he pulled Chloe up with him!

"So..." Damon was about to speak.

"Bang!"

Damon was interrupted when a loud door–opening sound came from the entrance. The conference room door was forcefully pushed open! Everyone turned to look at the door, a woman in a wheelchair with icy eyes staring straight at Presley.

Seeing his angry face, the corner of the woman's mouth curled into a cold sneer, "So, Mr. Chairman, who're you planning to get tough with?"

Chapter 1374

"You seem a bit cheesed off with some people, huh?" As Yasmine commented, Bryson was pushing her into the meeting room.

Presley furrowed his brows, "Why are you here?"

With a "thump", Yasmine tossed two documents that had been on her lap in front of him, sneering lightly, "Are these good enough for you?"

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Presley's eyes darkened, but he picked up the documents anyway. After a moment, he suddenly looked up, casting a sweeping glance around the meeting room. Spotting several empty seats, he finally slammed the documents onto the table.

He turned to look at Yasmine, anger rushing to his head!

"Are we now qualified to participate in this board meeting?" Yasmin asked.

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Presley glared at her for a long time, "You're quite something, managing to persuade them to give up their shares!"

Shares of the Harper Group weren't something people could just buy with money! The reason why there were still some lingering shares was because of the relationships they had built over the years, and the people who had struggled with them to build the Harper Group. But he didn't expect that today they would end up in her hands!

Yasmine chuckled lightly, "That's not my doing, it's mainly because you gave me this opportunity."

Presley squinted his eyes, coldly saying, "You think just because you have a few percent of the shares, you can strut around in front of me?"

Yasmine shrugged, "Isn't that enough?"

Presley remained silent

"I don't care about your Harper family's shares at all! The reason I bought these shares is partly to shut you up, but mainly, I just wanted to come and see you make a fool of yourself." With that, she looked over at Chloe, raising an eyebrow, "Sit down, as one of the shareholders of the Harper Group now, who dares to kick you out of this meeting room?"

Chloe blinked/staring at her suddenly appearing mother, still feeling a bit incredulous. Her mother was truly formidable.

She was about to take out her marriage certificate with Damoh. But at the critical moment, her mother actually pulled out the share transfer letter of the Harper Group.

"You, why do you have..." Chloe was confused.

"How many times have I told you to use your brain before you act, to completely corner those who are against you. Have you gone stupid recently?" Yasmine said.

Chloe was speechless.

Alyssa, who had somehow appeared next to Yasmine, laughed and grabbed her hand, saying, "Yeah, yeah, being a bit stupid is kind of cute!"

Yasmine remained silent.

The old lady laughed and said, "My grandson is a bit stupid! So it's good that Chloe is the same!"

Everyone suddenly felt an urge to chuckle, their eyes all turning to Damon. Dressed in a tailored and tidy black suit, with a neat and stylish tie, even without saying a word, he exuded a powerful aura that made people feel oppressed. Such a man was being called stupid?

"Ha-ha, my dear grandma, please stop, my brother still cares about his image!" Nathan was almost killed by his grandmother's laughter.

Compared to his unbridled laughter, everyone else felt quite strained. It was really hard to want to laugh but not dare to.

Damon's face looked a bit grim. Should he be happy or angry about what Alyssa said? Chloe had the same thoughts in her head, but who would want to be called stupid?

Yasmine had nothing more to say. This Alyssa, she was quite interesting. With a slight curl of her lips, she said, "Alyssa, if we don't sit down soon, I fear Presley will burn down the entire meeting room."

Alyssa's eyebrows twitched slightly, and the smile on her face gradually faded. "Is there anything else worth discussing?"

"Since Presley is prepared, let's take a look. If the shares I paid so much for don't come with a good show, I'll feel ripped off, don't you think?" Yasmine said lightly, her words making the old man's face turn an unprecedented shade of ugly.

She bought those shares just to watch the drama unfold? Just like her daughter, she really had the ability to infuriate people.

Alyssa didn't insist any further, since they were here, it would be pointless just to let Presley end the meeting.

She glanced at Wendy, "Do you know your place? Even as a mistress, you don't have the right to stand here! Aren't you Miss Alonso? Don't you even understand this basic rule? Get out now, or don't blame me for not being polite!"

Alyssa had almost word for word repeated what Presley had said to Chloe!

Wendy, being targeted by Alyssa, stepped back a few steps, her face looking ugly.

"Do you understand what you're saying?! What's the point of doing that?! Are you trying to make me embarrassed?!" Presley was furious.

"It's not beneficial to me, but to my grandson and granddaughter-in-law! What do I need so many benefits for? I can't take them with me when I die, what's the point?" Alyssa said.

"You're just..." Presley, Irritated, suddenly started coughing.

Alyssa's lips twitched, her eyebrows furrowed, letting out a cold laugh.

After a while, Presley's coughing gradually subsided, his hand shaking visibly as he held onto his walking stick..

Seeing the tense atmosphere, Wendy thought for a moment, then said, "Grandpa, I'll just go out, grandma is right."

Yasmine, sitting on the side, casually said, "If Presley insists on it so much, then Ms. Alonso can stay here. I won't object."

"Wendy came with me, I won't allow her to leave, and none of you have the right to make her leave!" Presley said sternly, his voice full of unchallengeable authority. Yasmine just smiled faintly, raising her hand to signal the start of the meeting. A minor shareholder with only a small amount of shares, using a simple gesture, involuntarily prompted everyone present to adjust their postures and expressions, quietly awaiting for the start of the meeting.

Although angry, he calmed down and said, "At today's board meeting, I plan to select for the next Chairman! Everyone here knows, in recent years, the Harper Group has been managed by my eldest grandson, with remarkable achievements! So, the Chairman candidate I'm most optimistic about is naturally him! I believe that handing the company to him is the right decision! However, I want him to agree to one condition, that is to marry the daughter of the Alonso family! They grew up together from a young age, with a solid emotional foundation. Whether it's family background, personal relationships, or even for the long-term development of the company, I believe, their union would only benefit us, there's no downside, and this is the right choice."

When these words were said, no one was surprised. Some shareholders shook their heads and sighed, showing helplessness. Presley's thoughts were not a secret

anymore.

Ignoring the reactions in the meeting room, Presley turned his head to Damon and said, "Damon, I give you the choice, this Chairman's position, do you accept it?"

As soon as he finished speaking, other shareholders hurriedly said, "Chairman, business is business. How can you use a marriage as a bargaining chip? How can these two matters be mixed up?"

"Yes, and it's well-known that Damon is currently with Ms. Summers, isn't this forcing him?"

However, there were also shareholders who said, "But what Presley said is not wrong. Wendy and Damon are childhood friends, and there is an emotional foundation. We know her character and behavior!"

"Yes, from the perspective of interests, the chairman has made it clear, and Wendy's position is also very obvious! The Alonso family is thriving now, and their alliance with the Harper family is undoubtedly a case of mutual reinforcement!"

Wendy nervously clenched her hands, staring at the man next to her.

Damon's face was expressionless, his eyes deep, filled with intense emotions."

Everyone hoped that he would make the right choice at the critical moment. But he, the real protagonist, seemed to be standing aside, showing no interest in the topic at hand.

"Damon!" The old man called out in a deep voice, frowning at him, "You must understand that, as a leader, you should prioritize the overall interest."

Damon's brow twitched; he looked down at Chloe's hand in his..

"No one can influence my decision. Nobody." He said calmly, causing Wendy and Presley's expressions to immediately change, "If marrying Wendy is your so-called big picture, then I'm sorry, I am not your ideal leader. I can't sacrifice personal interests for the big picture!"

He finished, tightly gripped Chloe's hand, and then stood up.

"As for the Chairman's position, I'm afraid I won't be taking it. The Harper Group is a legacy built by our ancestors, so I naturally have no say in front of you. The Harper Group is now yours. You can hand it over to whoever you want!" Damon said.

His tone was very calm, enough to make people unsettled. As if in his eyes, this Chairman's position was like a limited edition car model. It would be nice to have it, but losing it wouldn't be a big deal.

Chloe beside him gave a slight smile, although the current situation didn't allow her to be happy, she couldn't help but feel joy in her heart. Yasmine across from them saw every expressions on Chloe's face, smiling slightly.

Damon finished speaking, he pulled out the chair behind Chloe, took her hand, and left his seat.

After taking a few steps, Damon suddenly stopped, looked at Presley and said, "I don't want the Chairman's position, and maybe the Harper family won't have space for me soon. Since things have come to this, I can also resign from my current position. Just in time for this board meeting, I declare,

from today, I will voluntarily step down from the position of CEO of the Harper Group. From now on, all matters of the Harper Group have nothing to do with me."

As soon as these words came out, the whole meeting room erupted.

"Why are you doing this!"

"Please reconsider. Don't be impulsive!"

"This decision can't be made hastily. You mustn't act rashly!"

They could accept Damon not being the Chairman, but they couldn't accept him not being the President!

There were many old employees in the company who had come a long way; the Harper Group's development under Damon's hands was better than any previous leader.

What was more, he currently had a project in preparation. If it could proceed smoothly, the benefits would be incalculable.

If the Harper Group and PrimeVision's cooperation could be achieved, the Harpers would greatly surpass the Alonsos.

They originally thought this cooperation would be achieved before the scheduled board meeting, but they didn't expect, Presley would suddenly bring forward the meeting.

"Damon!" Nathan also immediately stood up from his seat, his usually carefree face now becoming serious.

Damon calmly said, "I've thought it through." After saying that, he took Chloe's hand, ready to leave the meeting room.

Presley's face had gone through a drastic change, holding back his fiery anger. But when he saw Damon give up all decision—making power in the Harper family without leaving any room for negotiation, his rage exploded. When Damon prepared to leave, Presley stood up sharply, glaring at his grandson who he had always been so proud of. His vision went blurry, and his body, leaning on his cane, shook violently. "Damon! You're really giving up the Harper Group for a woman, you..."

"Isn't it you forcing him to give up the Harper family for a woman?" Chloe's icy voice suddenly filled the air.

Presley's gaze instantly shifted to her, "Do you even have the right to speak here? Seeing Damon disobey me again and again because of you, even giving up the Harper Group's inheritance rights, are you smug about it and happy?"

The meeting room fell into silence again at Presley's roar.

Chloe ignored Presley's rage, a faint smile on her face, "Do I even need to say it? Of course, I'm happy." Why wouldn't she be happy when Damon regarded her so importantly?

Presley was fuming with anger at Chloe's attitude, "You're a real curse! Damon gave up so much for you, what can you do for him? Do you deserve him? What right

do you have to stand by his side? Why on earth ... "

"Because he loves me." Chloe said calmly, these four words cut off all Presley's reproaches.

Chapter 1376

Chloe glanced at her watch and then looked up with a faint smile, "You wanna talk reality with me? Well, I'm about to give you a taste of reality."

Her words and the slight smile on her face filled Wendy with a sense of dread. On instinct, Wendy was now genuinely scared of any smile that suddenly appeared on Chloe's face. Even a slight smile from her felt like standing on the edge of a cliff But what could she do now?

"Chloe, what are you up to now?" Presley stared at her coldly, "The reality is, no matter how good you are, I will never accept you as my daughter—in—law! You let Damon easily give up the Harper Group, I will never forgive you for this!"

Chloe's gaze gradually cooled down, "Why are you labeling me like this? I remember that your attitude was not like this in Hong Kong. You are changing your attitude now, simply because of Ms. Wendy's incessant pestering. And more importantly, you are afraid of the Alonso family. You were once the controller of the Harper Group, and being scared like this by the Alonso family is just too ridiculous! If I were you, I would eliminate anyone who hinders me! The friendship between the two families? You value them, but they threaten you with their family background! What's worth maintaining in such a friendship!"

Wendy's face changed instantly, her voice sharp, "Chloe, you're stirring up trouble here! It seems we've been too lenient with you and your mother, leading to your brazenness and lawlessness! Do you think we, the Alonso family, are easy to bully? You're making too much of a fuss, thinking you're great because you bought Infinity Media? Believe me, one day, I will make your Starlight International disappear from this world! I want to see how much longer you can be arrogant in front of me!"

As Wendy spoke, she seemed to be imagining Chloe's future downfall, and her face became increasingly smug.

However, Chloe just scoffed, "Still relying on the Alonso family, huh?"

Wendy lifted her chin, arrogance written all over her face. "So what? At least I have the Alonso family. What about you?"

"All I need is myself." Chloe raised an eyebrow, casually responding. She then pulled her hand away from Damon's and walked over to the multimedia console. "Presley being scared doesn't mean I'm scared. I rely on myself, and if I want, I can have even ten Alonso families." Chloe's words, to most of the people present, seemed quite arrogant.

They all acknowledged her capabilities, but the wealth of the Alonso family was not to be overlooked. Some of the people present had experienced more than half of their lives, and they had a profound understanding of the current state of society. Money, power, influence, these were the laws of survival in this world. Chloe had no reason to underestimate the Alonso family...

Wendy looked coldly at these people, then scornfully at Chloe, "You really never give up until you are consigned to the grave."

Standing not far away, Damon watched as Wendy turned her head to look at him and said softly, "Damon, I know my presence here today will make you angry, including the words I just said. But isn't what I said the truth? Grandpa has always valued you the most, and he would never harm you."

However, Damon's gaze was always following Chloe; he never looked at her.

Wendy bit her lip tightly, tears about to spill out, "Damon, I am the lady of the Alonso family, and there is really no need for me to do all this. But why am I still doing it? I just don't want you to regret it in the future. What I can give you, I believe is definitely not less than what Chloe can give, and there's also

the help from the Alonso family. Oh right, Damon, as you know, my dad is preparing a big project recently, if this project succeeds..."

"We're in a board meeting right now, what are you doing?!" Presley had been watching Chloe. Seeing her walk to the multimedia console and turn on the TV, he immediately snapped.

Everyone was puzzled, they began whispering, but when they saw the news on the TV their voices gradually died down.

It was two forty in the afternoon. The camera was on the arrival gate.

When Cole appeared at the gate, Wendy's face immediately lit up with excitement. "Dad's back! He's back from his business trip in M Country!" Her excited voice made the atmosphere in the room tense.

"Grandpa, do you see? Dad's back from his business trip!" Wendy excitedly grabbed her grandpa's arm and shook it happily.

Presley also smiled satisfactorily, "Perfect timing. This will show some overly confident people just how incomparable they are to the Alonso family."

Wendy smiled, then looked at Chloe who was standing by the multimedia console. Her choice to turn on the multimedia at this time was really helpful.

"I really have to thank Chloe this time, for letting me see my father returning home first hand." Wendy said.

Chloe turned around and smiled at her, "You're welcome."

Seeing her calm and composed demeanor, Wendy hated her from the bottom of her heart. She gave her a cold glance, then turned her gaze back to the TV.

As soon as Cole appeared at the airport, reporters quickly swarmed him.

"Hello, I'm a reporter from the P City newspaper, may I ask you..."

"Hello, I am..."

In the camera, Cole's face turned very serious when he saw the sudden appearance of the reporters.

His already unhappy expression was indescribable now.

He had not expected to encounter such a scene when he returned from his business trip abroad! And his whereabouts were accurately exposed; it was clearly intentional.

"Please make way! I'm not accepting interviews!" His voice was brimming with authority, but the reporter didn't give a hoot. Instead, she shot back, "Reportedly, this deal is a biggie for the Alonso family, and if it goes off without a hitch, it's gonna be a major coup. Can you spill the beans on what the project is all about?"

Chapter 1377

"Mr. Alonso, we've heard your daughter Wendy has high hopes for this project and the Alonso family is dead set on closing this deal. How are the negotiations going?"

The reporter's question made Cole's face tighten up in an instant. He speared the reporter with an icy stare and asked curtly, "Where did you get wind of my negotiations in the M Country?"

Another reporter piped up immediately, "Your daughter Wendy spilled the beans!"

"Don't you know? The Harper Group is having a board meeting right now and Presley, in his bid to curry favor with you, is using his position as chairman to strong–arm Damon into marrying your daughter. And your daughter is supposedly at the meeting too!"

Cole's face turned ashen. The crowd was puzzled at his reaction.

"Mr. Alonso seems a bit off."

"It's not just seeming, he's really not okay!"

"But that can't be right. He just closed a big deal. He should be fine!"

"Yeah."

Everyone was left scratching their heads. Then, a voice came through the TV speakers, "Mr. Alonso, according to reliable sources, you haven't signed any contracts with your partners in the M Country this time. What went wrong?"

The Harper Group's boardroom fell deathly silent. Wendy and Presley's smiles froze on their faces. People in the boardroom gawked at them, then a low murmur of conversation broke out

"No contracts signed. What does that mean?"

"It can't be. Big projects like this are usually kept hush-hush."

"But the reporter just said he had reliable information."

1

Everyone turned their gaze to Wendy, their eyes full of questions.

Wendy forced a smirk, furrowed her brows and retorted, "That's ridiculous. It's an Alonso family project, and my father personally negotiated it. How could there be any problems? Besides, who else would they collaborate with on such a great project?"

1

As soon as Wendy finished speaking, some people shot confused glances at Chloe. She sat closest to the multi–media podium, one hand on the conference table, the other holding a remote, lifting and putting it down intermittently. From afar, no one could really make out her expression, but they could just about see the faint smile on her lips.

The reporters' questions made Cole's face darken even more. He wanted to leave, but was stuck in place.

"Mr. Alonso, can you confirm if the deal has been closed?"

"Mr. Alonso, is this news true?"

"We heard this project was a win-win for both parties, why did it fall through? Mr. Alonso, can you clear up our doubts?"

Throughout, Cole remained stone–faced and silent.

Then another group appeared at the arrival gate. They were all suited up but in different colors, like they were trying to make a splash. Their hair was perfectly styled, clearly using some heavy-duty products. Each face full of confidence, they were a sight to behold.

Seeing them, Chloe frowned slightly, rubbing her forehead in a somewhat helpless gesture.

These guys were way too showy.

Their arrival immediately drew everyone's attention.

Seeing the chaos, the leader of the group raised an eyebrow, sporting a wide grin, "Oh, isn't it Mr. Alonso? Look at how lucky it is, we meet again."

Axel's voice rang out. Cole turned to look and seeing Axel and his team approaching, his face turned even grimmer.

Some reporters noticed the time, realizing there should be no other flights landing at this hour, and speculated that Axel and Cole must be on the same flight. They both came from the M Country and the phrase "meet again" got them all excited.

Recognizing the man in the red suit as Peck Innovations' highly paid CEO, Axel, a reporter thrust the microphone his way.

"Can you confirm, Axel, that you've met Mr. Alonso before?"

Axel nodded, "Yes, in the M Country. We bumped into each other almost every day."

This answer made Cole's team extremely uneasy. Yes, almost every day. While they were in the M Country for a few days, planning to negotiate further to maximize their gains, however, they were never given an opportunity.

Every day, they sought to negotiate with their M Country partners, but almost every time, Axel and his team would show up.

They always seemed to have perfect timing, showing up before or after them. Again and again, they were watching as contracts were signed with Peck Innovations.

Peck–Innovations was clearly gunning for them. Even though they had grievances, they had no choice but to suck it up. They couldn't do anything; the contracts were now out of their reach.

When they realized there was no going back, they prepared to return home, only to see Axel and his team at the gate, breezing past them into first class. Now they'd just gotten off the plane and were already cornered by reporters.

Axel's arrival made these already excited reporters even more thrilled.

"Can you tell us, Axel, what was the purpose of your trip to the M Country?"

"Why were you meeting with Mr. Alonso every day?"

Axel chuckled, but his expression seemed somewhat uncomfortable, "I'd rather not discuss that. I feel it might be inappropriate."

"Can you answer, Axel?"

Axel looked torn, glancing back and forth at Cole, before he finally decided to say, "Alright! To be honest, this thing has been eating at me. I might as well take this chance to share the good news with my colleagues and my boss."

A few reporters rolled their eyes, "Axel, spit it out already!"

Axel smiled, turned his head and loudly said to Cole, "Mr. Alonso, I'm sorry! I've swooped in and snatched a big deal right from under your nose! But don't hold it against me, I'm just a cog in the machine! And you saw it with your own eyes, the real deal–maker wasn't me, but the big shareholder of our Peck Innovations! She was the one who made all the arrangements in M Country. So if you're looking to stir up trouble in the future, don't come after me, go after her!"

Chapter 1378

"Every problem has a source, and every responsibility has an owner. Remember to find the right person to solve the issue!"

Axel seemed genuinely afraid of the Alonso family. He kept repeating this, giving the reporters present a real headache. They wished they could just throw their microphones right at his handsome yet annoying face.

"Axel! So, the Alonso family's deal did indeed fall through?"

"You guys stole his deal."

"Huh?" Axel suddenly interjected, pointing at the reporter who asked the question, and laughed. "I like the term 'steal'!" He said, then his face turned serious immediately, "But I didn't 'steal'. Every problem has a source, and every responsibility has an owner."

"So, who 'stole' the Alonso family's deal? And who is the major shareholder of Peck Innovations? The reporter couldn't stand this guy any longer, didn't give him a chance to continue, and cut him off directly.

Axel gave a wry smile, sighed, took a microphone, and turned to the camera saying, "Ms. Summers, I've completed my mission. Is the celebration party ready?" The interview spot fell silent instantly, and so did the meeting room. Everyone had a guess in their minds, but no one dared to voice it out.

"Axel, who did you mean by Ms. Summers?" A reporter asked, stuttering, the question that everyone was curious about.

In the meeting room, more than a dozen pairs of eyes were glued to the screen, bodies rigid from tension. Axel, however, looked completely at ease. "Ms. Summers? You guys don't know who she is?

How is that possible? Chloe from Starlight International is one of our major shareholders at Peck Innovations! And Ms. Summers' mother, is the founder of Peck Innovations. You guys don't know that either?"

The reporters present almost passed out! Even though they predicted it, they were still utterly shocked.

The founder of Peck Innovations was Yasmine? They didn't know about such a big piece of news.

But thinking about it, it made sense that they didn't know. Everyone knew that there was a Peck Innovations in P City, but the company had always been quite low–key.

Apart from necessary appearances in the media, there was rarely any news about Peck Innovations. Even though they were exceptional, their low–key approach had made them somewhat forgotten over time. So the reporters hadn't paid much attention to Peck Innovations. Nor had they done much research on the founder of Peck Innovations.

Actually, who the founder of Peck Innovations was wasn't that important to them, but looking at it now, it was undoubtedly huge news!

In the meeting room, everyone gasped!

All eyes turned to Chloe.

Chloe just pulled a faint smile. All she wanted was for everyone to know that the Alonso family's deal was taken away, that Wendy's once proud deal had now failed. But she didn't expect Axel to spill even more beans.

Celebration party? Huh!

She turned around, looked at Wendy, who was pale as a ghost across the long conference table, and said casually, "Ms. Alonso, sorry for stealing your family's deal."

Wendy's pupils trembled violently, her body swayed, and she grabbed the armrest of the wheelchair behind Presley.

"It's not possible, it can't be. Dad can't fail. Peck Innovations? How could it steal the Alonso family's deal?" Wendy was shocked.

1

Chloe laughed coldly, "Sadly, it was the insignificant Peck Innovations in your eyes that effortlessly stole your proud Alonso family's deal."

Wendy didn't know how to face Chloe right now, "Why does it have to be Peck Innovations? Why does it have to be you...

"Because it's your Alonso family's deal. Chloe said calmly, looking at Wendy again, "Exactly because it's your family's deal, it has to be me."

She slowly stood up, looking calmly at Wendy, "You wanted to show off the power of the Alonso family, right? I want to see how long you can keep your pomp and circumstance. I've said before, if I want it, even if I can't get the Alonso family, I can surely bring it down. Don't doubt me. I'm good at this kind of thing."

She walked over to Damon, took his hand, looked around with an indifferent gaze, finally stopping on Presley, full of arrogance. "I don't have Wendy's family background, but I myself am my most reliable backing!"

Everyone was speechless. It was only now that they realized, every word Chloe said was beyond doubt. She was capable of defeating the Alonsos, let alone any other challenge in the future.

Presley's face was indescribably ugly.

Alyssa sneered "This board meeting has always been a joke, and now they're trying to suck up to the Alonso family by moving the meeting to today. But the people they tried to suck up to ended up having their business stolen away! How embarrassing."

The directors in the conference room were all shame-faced.

"Alyssa is right, this is hardly a match made in heaven."

'Brazenly claiming that the Alonso family would help the Harper family more, but now it seems..."

If the Alonso family is so powerful, how could they have their business stolen by other companies?"

Those shareholders in the office who had always been dissatisfied with the Alonso family took the opportunity to roast Wendy good and proper.

Wendy was red with shame and anger, "What do you guys know? Even if this business was given to them, what could they change?"

Chloe just chuckled without saying a thing. Some things didn't need to be spelled out To everyone else, Wendy's words sounded like a last-ditch effort.

What could they change? There were way too many things they could change. At the very least, the business deal that the Alonso family had been eagerly awaiting fell through.

The shareholders wouldn't directly mock Wendy for her low–level behavior, but they did speculate, "I wonder how far Peck Innovations will go with this deal?"

Chapter 1379

"They were big to begin with, and who knows how much they'll grow in the future."

"The Alonso family is certainly going to feel this. This storm only serves to highlight Peck Innovations' strengths."

This was basically saying that the Alonso family couldn't hold a candle to Peck Innovations right now.

Wendy could never in a million years have imagined that today's board meeting would turn out like this. She had goofed up countless times in the past, and losing to Chloe was one thing.

But her father? How could he mess up? Why?!

Clutching her hands tight to stop them from shaking, she said "Just because one deal fell through, you're comparing Peck Innovations to the Alonso family.

"Mr. Alonso, can you tell us why the negotiation failed? I heard that you had a confirmed answer before you went to M Country, so why did the investors there have a change of heart?" Just as Wendy finished speaking, a reporter's voice came over the TV. Cole's face was even grimmer, but he didn't say a word.

Axel sighed, "I feel sorry for Mr. Alonso about this. The main reason is that the Alonso family's lady caused some trouble at a critical moment. At such a time, she made some huge mistakes at home. If the company goes under, that's one thing, but being involved in fraud and abusing power, forcing others to do illegal things, it's unbelievable. You may not know that the investor had already signed the contract, but when he heard about the mess Ms. Alonso caused at home, he tore up the signed contract on the spot."

The room was silent. Wendy's face was indescribable.

The shareholders bowed their heads and chuckled, most of them taking pleasure in her misfortune.

"So that's why. She brought the trouble overseas!"

"She's made so many stupid mistakes, and now she's trying to marry into the Harper family! Has the Harper family become a dump?" '

"If Damon actually marries such a woman, he's marrying a disaster. Even a signed contract can be torn up by her. That's really something!"

"And Presley, what was he thinking bringing her to the Harper Group's board meeting?"

At this point, someone grabbed the remote and switched to the stock market channel. The Alonso family's stock index was falling at a rapid pace, but Peck Innovations' stock index was rising quickly.

If the taunts didn't make Wendy panic, the sight of the Alonso family's plummeting stock index did. She felt drained of all energy.

Presley's face turned pale. They had been with the Alonso family for so many years but had never seen them in such turmoil. If the trend continued, it was unthinkable.

A few monotone claps started to echo, Yasmine clapping with a faint smile on her face. "Good show, I'm very satisfied with today's board meeting. As for the rest, it might not take place here. Ms. Alonso, I should thank you for giving me such a great project with Peck Innovations." Wendy's nails were digging into her palm, her gaze at Yasmine full of hatred, "It's just a business deal."

Yasmine chuckled, pointing at the stock market chart on the TV, said, "Looking forward to see the ripple effects of this deal?"

There were no conclusions from the meeting. With things as they were, even Robin, who was most eager for Presley's shares, couldn't carry on. Now only a few people were left in the meeting room, the

old man sitting grim-faced at the head of the table, his lips pressed tightly together. "Grandfather." Wendy murmured.

"With the company in such a mess, what are you still doing here, Wendy? You need to know yourself! From the start, Damon has made his stance clear! And Chloe has always been by his side. What are you trying to achieve by forcing your way in? Are you satisfied only when Damon is labeled a traitor? Everything that should be said has been said, and everything that should be done has been done, why can't you let go of your selfishness? You always say that you've grown up with Damon, that you understand him best. Is this what you mean by understanding, persuading Presley to use his shares to force Damon to marry you?" Alyssa said. Alyssa looked at Wendy coldly, her eyes devoid of any warmth for Wendy.

Even her expression was clear. Alyssa looked down on her.

Wendy shook her head, "But I love Damon, I can give him anything. I love him more than anyone else. Others can't make him happy. You don't understand." She couldn't listen to anything they said, suddenly feeling that everyone in front of her was so annoying! Surely, in this world, her love for Damon was the purest. They were the closest people to Damon. Why couldn't they see who really loved Damon the most?

Alyssa, seeing that she was not heeding any advice, sighed and ignored her. Damon also silently whisked Chloe away from the meeting room.

Wendy stared blankly as the pair strolled past her. Her eyes flickered, and she froze on the spot for a moment before suddenly turning and striding out. Downstairs at Harper Group's building, a swarm of reporters had gathered. Spotting Damon and Chloe together, they quickly closed in. Of course, they were promptly stopped by the bodyguards.

"President Harper, seeing as you're together with Ms. Summers, does that mean you won't be the next Chairman?"

Did President Harper willingly give up his inheritance to the Harper Group for Ms. Summers?"

"Damon!" Before the reporter could finish, Wendy came stumbling out from behind, abruptly pulling Chloe to the side and clutching onto Damon's arm.

Chloe didn't expect Wendy to unravel like this. She swayed slightly, but was quickly steadied by a bodyguard.

Damon's dark eyes narrowed as he pushed Wendy away to help Chloe. But Wendy was quick to cling onto him again. "Damon! Please."

Seeing that the bodyguards had successfully shielded Chloe, Damon finally turned his gaze to Wendy.

His stare was icy, devoid of any warmth, but Wendy seemed unbothered. She gripped Damon's arm tightly, seemingly ready to go all in, "Damon, please, look at me. Even if it's just one more glance, I wouldn't have done so much irreparable damage I did it all for you, Damon, please."

Chapter 1380

"Damon, I'm begging you. Please look at me. Even if it's just a quick glance, I wouldn't have done so many irreversible things. Everything I do is for you, Damon, please." Surrounded by countless journalists and facing numerous cameras, Wendy looked utterly cornered. Her voice choked with sobs, tears streaming down her face. She looked pitiful and hurt with her endless humility and pleading.

Damon's eyebrows knitted tightly, staring at her with an icy, bone-chilling gaze, "Aren't you embarrassed?"

Wendy shook her head vigorously, tears flying off her face, "I don't care, Damon. What can I do for you to forgive me, to be with me? I honestly don't know what else to do

Her helpless and humble state made it difficult to reprimand her. The journalists had taken enough photos, and the scene quieted down.

'Looks like Ms. Wendy really does have some deep feelings for Damon!"

"Thinking about it now, everything she did in the past was for Damon!"

"A woman falling to such depths for love is both pitiful and tragic."

"Indeed, as a member of the Alonso family, she wouldn't have gone this far if it wasn't necessary"

In the face of the rising sympathy among the journalists, Damon's facial expression grew darker.

"Let go." His voice was icy cold, devoid of any emotion.

"No." Wendy shook her head, tears streaming down her face. She knew that if she let go now, she wouldn't have another chance.

She held onto Damon's arm even tighter.

Damon clenched his lips, trying to shake Wendy off, but then he saw Chloe standing nearby, calmly watching him. His eyebrows twitched slightly, his face darkening. The words of Kane about his women not getting jealous seemed to be etched in his mind. He didn't care in the past, but whenever he thought about it, he still felt something.

Like right now, the nonchalant woman, watching him tangled up with another woman, yet still able to calmly look at him.

Swallowing his frustration, Damon shook Wendy off. No matter how indifferent that woman was, he knew his position. He wouldn't deliberately flirt with other women just to get a reaction from her.

"Damon, please, don't." Wendy was thrown aside, but she still desperately reached out to hug Damon's waist. But of course, she didn't get the chance, and someone stopped her from continuing this pathetic act.

"Don't you dare touch him again?!" Chloe had somehow made her way in front of her, her cold voice filled with undeniable force and danger as she glared at Wendy.

Wendy gave her a glance, a flash of resentment in her eyes. But her hand kept moving, and just as it was about to touch Damon's clothes, her hand was firmly grabbed. The person pulled her hand up high, causing her to stumble over. Before she could regain her balance, she received a harsh slap in the face.

A crisp sound echoed, and Wendy, with her meticulously styled hair now a mess and covering her face, was knocked aside. Nobody could see her expression at this moment. Everyone was stunned. Everything happened so fast that they could only gasp in surprise. Damon was also taken aback by Chloe's sudden action.

Wendy slowly got up, covering her face as she glared at Chloe, tears streaming down. She looked utterly wronged and pitiful.

"Chloe, why do you keep targeting me? Why?" Her pitiful state was truly heartbreaking.

"They are all women, did Chloe go to far?"

"Woman can be so cruel!"

"Ms. Wendy is really pitiful. She just fell in love with a man who doesn't love her."

Chloe knew that this woman was just trying to win sympathy, to win people over. She had seen this trick before from Keira. Did she think she would play along with her? She let out a cold laugh, ignoring the sympathetic voices around her. "Why?"

She slowly approached Wendy, looking directly into her eyes. "You openly tried to steal my man, and I'm not supposed to do anything about it?"

Wow! That was intensel

The journalists on the scene were all stunned looking at Chloe. They suddenly felt that their sympathy for Wendy was a huge mistake

Where did they go wrong to sympathize with a woman who openly flirted with a man and refused to give up?

Wendy didn't expect Chloe to go to such lengths. She had never seen her genuinely angry about her relationship with Damon before. So she insisted on keeping Damon today, thinking it was just between her and Damon. She never took Chloe seriously

Her man That phrase made Wendy want to strangle her.

"Chloe, it's you who took everything away from me! If it wasn't for you "Wendy cursed

"Yes, it's me!" Chloe interrupted her, "The only woman in Damon's life, now and forever, is me

Regarding Wendy's past actions, she and Damon had the same attitude. They ignored her, disregarded her, or didn't pay her any attention. This was also a punishment for such a woman. Even if she was delusional, this attitude should be enough to make her give up. But unexpectedly, she was more persistent than ever, crossing the line time and time again.

"Damon was never anyone else's before, but now, I'm warning you and everyone else, he is and will always be mine. If anyone dares to have designs on him, you'll have to deal with me first" Chloe said

Wendy was left speechless by Chloe's words. After a while, the suddenly screamed out. "It's you, it's you who took Damon away from me. You're the third

party! You took everything away from me! Why don't you just die!"

Wendy just snapped, going nuts and pushing Chloe with all she's got, "Fuck you!!"