

CHOSEN 1401

Chapter 1401

“How do I look?”

Ava glanced at her young daughter and nodded in satisfaction. “Absolutely stunning, of course. Look at you both, you are my baby daughters Don’t worry, you two will be the belles of the ball.”

Barbara and Becky, one on each side of Ava, gratefully beamed at her.

“We won’t be the prettiest ones there. The most beautiful woman at the banquet will definitely be you, Mom”

Ava chuckled. “You girls sure know how to sweet talk”

They all shared a light-hearted laugh. After a while, Becky’s smile faded, and she asked somberly, “Dad’s going to be there with you at the state banquet, right?” Ava’s smile vanished, too, as a flicker of pain crossed her eyes. Becky realized her misstep, but it only fueled her resentment. “Dad’s being ridiculous. You’re his lawful wife. How can he spend every day with that other woman? She can’t even have children, and yet he neglects us for her. I hate him!”

Ava felt a pang of pain. “Enough, Becky! Haven’t I taken good care of you two?”

Startled by Ava’s outburst, Becky withdrew her hand and stomped upstairs.

Barbara comforted Ava, patting her shoulder gently. “Don’t be upset. Dad will definitely come back for such an important occasion. He always did, didn’t he? And unlike other men, Dad doesn’t have multiple wives. You still have your dignity...

In their society, it was common for wealthy men to have several wives.

Ava, who grew up in a more conservative environment, found it hard to reconcile with this.

Barbara and Becky, however, having grown up here, had no problems with it. They never understood why Ava was so opposed to their father taking other wives. As they grew older, they began to understand some things, but still couldn't change anything.

Moreover, their father never intended to marry their mother. If it wasn't for Ava getting pregnant and telling their grandmother, their father wouldn't have married her. Perhaps Ava should have let their father marry that other woman. It might have made him remember Ava's understanding character. But who was to blame now? Although no one voiced these thoughts, they were all aware of it. They avoided the topic out of respect for royal dignity.

Ava was the adopted daughter of Queen Julia, and her husband, William, was Julia's nephew.

Barbara guided Ava to the couch, and then brought up a new topic. "Mom, do you remember Chloe?"

Ava's face changed. I remember Why?"

Barbara gave a mysterious smile, her eyes holding a glint of something more. "She's been invited to the state banquet. I'm just wondering if she has any other plans."

Ava, who had sensed something strange in Barbara's tone, turned to her "What are you implying? Spit it out."

Barbara chuckled lightly. I'm just worried about her past feud with Becky in P City I wonder if she might stir up trouble this time..."

Ava snorted, "She's just there to perform. She doesn't have the right to even see you two. After her performance, she should leave. How could she possibly have anything to do with you?"

Barbara raised an eyebrow, then nodded. "If that's the case, then it's all good"

"Alright, you should go change into your gown and rest" Ava waved Barbara off, clearly perturbed.

Barbara looked at her for a moment, got up, and started to leave. But after a few steps, she turned back and asked, "Mom, is it true that grandma's biological daughter is dead?"

Ava froze

She looked up at Barbara, her eyes filled with wanness. "What do you know?"

Barbara replied nonchalantly, "If she's not dead, could she return to the royal family?"

Barbara knew. Ava was initially shocked, but Barbara's next question calmed her down. "No chance of that"

If Queen Julia's daughter could have returned, she would have done so long ago. The only token of their relationship had been taken back, so what reason could she possibly have to seek out her mother?

Ava's response eased Barbara's mind. "That's good then."

As Barbara left, Ava's face hardened. She pondered for a moment before picking up the phone. The call was answered promptly

is there any way to prevent Chloe from attending the state banquet?"

A deep male voice responded, "I thought you weren't womed. Why the sudden change of heart?"

Because I don't want her ruining my mood

As the date of the state banquet approached. Chloe received an invitation from Y Country.

Since Presley's observation period wasn't over, and the plane crash incident was still being handled, with Royce and his wife's whereabouts still unknown, Damon couldn't leave So Chloe had to go to Y Country alone

Damon arranged an army of bodyguards and a private jet for Chloe, to protect her throughout the journey to Y Country

Such a grand arrangement might have seemed excessive to others Chloe, hearing of Damon's plan, felt it was a bit much, but she didn't refuse. She had to be prepared

There could be many people watching her in places unknown to her. She couldn't afford to become Damon's weakless, and since she was pregnant, she couldn't put herself in any danger.

Extra protection was more than welcome

The jet, time was not an issue

Before leaving, Chloe paid a visit to Peck Innovations. She needed to get the project she snatched from the Alonso Corporation. Everything needed to be meticulously planned.

Afterwards, Alonso Corporation's stock prices fell for several days. Some people attempted to buy shares, but the quantities were small and insufficient to rescue Alonso Corporation from its crisis. At least they were trying, which was better than nothing.

This kind of stuff used to fly under the radar, but now it was sticking out like a sore thumb. As for these shenanigans, someone brought them up in the meeting. After hearing this, Axel let out a sarcastic laugh and turned to Chloe sitting next to him Ms. Summers, what do you reckon we should do next?" Yasmine, the biggest shareholder of the company, was sitting at the head of the table, yet Axel decided to shoot the question directly to Chloe

Chapter 1402

Yasmine watched Chloe quietly, her face expressionless, clearly waiting for her input. Chloe glanced at the stock market graph in front of her, her face equally unreadable.

“Keep waiting” she said.

Axel raised an eyebrow, his gaze lingering on Chloe

Even though they’d met before, it was mostly through online news and their occasional phone calls when he was abroad. Today was their first formal meeting, and at first, he thought she was just an over-hyped regular Joe

But when he actually met her, he realized he might have underestimated her. This woman’s aura was far beyond that.

The Alonso family’s stocks were a hot topic for almost everyone. They had been falling for the past few days with no signs of a rebound, and in the last two days. some people started making sneaky moves

They weren’t bullish on the Alonso family’s stocks; they were betting on Chloe. This was Chloe’s wedding gift. If the Alonso Corporation fell into her hands, she’d definitely make a move. If the Alonso Corporation ended up with Chloe, it would definitely thrive.

But

“My sources say the Alonso family hasn’t given up their plan. They’re just looking for a new partner, probably from Y Country If things go on like this, you might end up with nothing”

Chloe just shrugged and casually said. “The royal family of Y Country is, after all, a royal family. Even though they can engage in business, they wouldn’t be too flashy. They can partner with Princess Ava,

but she can’t be too conspicuous, so this business might end up with...

She paused, a small smile tugging at her lips. “Viscount Rhys... and right now, he’s having the time of his life in Las Vegas, so he probably won’t have time to deal with this.”

Witnessing the coolness on her natural face, Axel’s eyes sparkled. He was head over heels for this woman. She had thought of all angles, even knowing where Rhys was and what he was up to

That calmness could only come from absolute confidence. And this confidence was, of course, self bestowed

The Alonso Corporation’s stocks had been in free fall for days, and the Alonso family had shown no reaction, just letting things be. It was clear they were looking for a solution and seemed to have found one, hence their boldness in letting the stocks fall. Their calmness clearly came from absolute confidence in their ability to turn the tide.

Stock investors were jittery, constantly checking the news, afraid of the Alonso family making a move

Everyone was on edge these days, neither the Alonso family nor Chloe would miss the perfect opportunity to buy stocks.

The reason they hadn’t bought in advance was that Alonso Corporation’s stocks were in a slump, everyone wanted to buy the most valuable thing at the lowest price, and then earn a huge profit. This would make them very satisfied

During such tense times, Chloe still had time to find Rhys. She was truly admirable.

Even he, as the highly paid CEO of Peck Innovations with years of experience in the business world, had only thought of planting his own people in the Alonso family and kept an eye on the stock market daily.

He once thought her too careless. She disappeared for days after the negotiations were over. Now he realized, that her disappearing for a few days was more meaningful than their sleepless nights at the company.

The other executives in the company were surprised when they saw Axel's admiring look at Chloe. They had never seen their CEO look at a woman like that. Chloe might have noticed Axel's gaze, so she turned to look at him. "Do you have a question?"

Axel moved his chair closer to Chloe, his hands gripping the armrests. "Nope."

Everyone fell silent. If there was no question, then why did Axel move closer to her?

Chloe leaned back in her chair, looking at everyone in the room. "Any other questions?"

"When are you planning to take action?" Axel moved closer to Chloe again, seemingly looking for a topic.

"Who said I was going to take action?"

This time Axel was visibly startled by her words. "Didn't you say you had to get the Alonso Corporation?"

Chloe chuckled. "Wouldn't it be better to make the Alonso family disappear from the world? Can Peck Innovations be worse than the Alonso family in the future?" Everyone understood.

That was the way it was. Even if she didn't take action against the Alonso family now, just having the Peck Innovations name was enough to elevate Chloe's worth. Not to mention, she had the highly successful Starlight International and her other assets. Combined, her net worth was probably much higher than the Alonso Corporation's.

She had every right to be proud. If she wanted something, there was probably nothing she couldn't get. Going against her was a truly foolish act.

This woman was a real gem.

Even though the idea sounded dominant, he would feel it was a pity if the Alonso Corporation was not acquired.

Chloe shot him a cold glance When Axel looked up, she had already averted her gaze If there are no other questions, then this will be it. Any other comments, Director Yasmine?"

Chloe was always straight to the point.

Yasmine shook her head "Nope. Let's call it a day"

Chloe nodded standing up, and Axel followed suit

Chloe moved her chair, and Axel did the same

Chloe turned around, and Axel turned too.

Chloe headed towards the door, and Axel was right on her heels

Chloe stepped forward with her left foot, and Axel mirrored her

Everyone was at a loss for words. It was just a meeting. How did their CEO suddenly turn into a follower of someone else?

Well, talk about a plot twist.

I've never seen Axel so into a woman before."

"Tell me about it. It's the first time I've seen a guy following a girl like this."

"Ms. Summers does have quite the charm, enough to make more people follow her."

With that, everyone mimicked Chloe's actions, standing up, pushing their chair, turning, stepping with their left foot, and heading towards the door.

Chapter 1403

Chloe had just walked out of the conference room when she suddenly came to a halt. She spun around a few times on the spot, then abruptly turned to look at the man trailing behind her.

Axel was quick on his feet. Upon seeing Chloe's action, he also instinctively spun around, but all he saw was the empty conference room door. "Axel"

Chloe called out to him. Axel turned around, looking at Chloe's impassive face, and he gave a small smile.

"Something you need, Director Chloe?"

Chloe pursed her lips. "Hold off on the Alonso Corporation for now. Wait until their stock drops to the lowest point"

Axel raised an eyebrow. "Didn't you just say you weren't interested in the Alonso Corporation?"

"Do you think I'm that stupid? To just ignore such a big business opportunity"

Her words were tinged with anger, and Axel was taken aback for a moment. But soon, he started laughing again. "I didn't know you were like this, Chloe"

Seeing the executives coming out of the conference room one after another, Chloe furrowed her brow and turned to keep walking

Axel, watching her slender figure, couldn't help but laugh. He knew what she was thinking. Many people were secretly buying back shares of Alonso Corporation. They were all guessing what Chloe's next move

would be. If she suddenly announced she wasn't planning to acquire Alonso Corporation, the news would discourage many from keeping their hopes up about the company

No hope, and no competition for her

She wanted to have the whole pie to herself. This woman was sly. But, she had character, didn't she?

People behind Axel were watching him stand there, lost in thought, and thought he was a fool.

"Axel, give it up. Director Chloe is already married"

"Yeah, to Mr Harper of the Harper Group."

"They're very much in love."

These people had worked on countless cases with Axel and knew him well. They had no reservations in their speech. Their words felt like a jab to his heart Axel pushed them away. I haven't even started pursuing her, and you all are already discouraging me. Are you looking for trouble?"

"Axel, we just don't want to see you get hurt."

Axel looked at Chloe's retreating figure, then ran his fingers through his hair and cleared his throat. "Who's more handsome, me or Damon?" Everyone burst into laughter.

"Get out of my way!"

Everyone was given a kick by him. Seeing Chloe's figure about to disappear, he quickly chased after her

"Chloe..."

Chloe completely ignored Axel, who was following closely behind her. As soon as the elevator doors opened, she walked out swiftly. “Chloe, it’s almost lunchtime. Would you like to have lunch with me?”

“Sorry, I’m not hungry right now”

“Then are you thirsty? Can I buy you a coffee?”

“No need, I prefer drinking plain water”

“Wait a moment, I’ll get some water

She left the building and saw the bright sunshine outside. Before she could take a deep breath, Chloe saw a black car parked at the entrance of Peck Innovations. The car looked very low-key, its color and shape were not prominent. Except for the identical plates at the front and back, it wasn’t conspicuous at all.

Then, the car door opened, and a man dressed in a fancy dark suit with a handsome face and a cold expression stepped out. His tall and upright figure stood next to the car, making the seemingly low-key car immediately look high-end and domineering.

In just a few short seconds, Axel saw Chloe, who had just been cold to him, look surprised as her eyes went from surprised to bright, and then her whole face became lively and radiant

Then, she stepped down the stairs and walked quickly towards the man.

At that moment, Axel felt like he was just dumped. It was over before it even started,

He ran his hand through his hair in frustration, a scream rising in his heart-

Oh no! This damned love!

Chloe walked up to Damon, locked up, and smiled at him "What brings you here?"

Damon's lips tightened slightly, making him look a bit sharp. His dark eyes looked past Chloe straight at the man trailing behind her

Axel, whose heart just got broken, felt a slight numbness in his body when he saw the man's gaze He looked at Damon and forced a smile "Hello, Mr. Harper His smile and voice sounded very fake, very insincer

Damon frowned slightly and pulled Chloe into his arms His simple action revealed his dominance and assertiveness

Chloe leaned against him, hearing his deep voice asking "Whos this guy who looks like he's just been dumped by a woman?" Damon's summary was spot on. Yes, he was right, Axel had just gotten dumped But hearing it from a "love rival" felt weird

Chloe looked at Axel in confusion, how would she know that Axel was just dumped? Weren't they just in a meeting?

Ur was he dumped right before the meeting? Wait, who said he was dumped?

Chloe didn't know where Damon's conclusion came from, but she knew he was referring to Axel.

He is

"Never mind, he's not important, no need to introduce him."

Could you be any more harsh?

At that moment, Bryson also came out of the building pushing Yasmine. "Aren't we supposed to be heading to Y Country, why are you dilly-dallying?"

“We still have time, I came to pick up Chloe for lunch, do you want to join us?”

Yasmine glanced at him. “Then let’s find a place first.”

“Okay”

This kind of family gathering wasn’t appropriate for Axel to stick around. He made an excuse and left. Looked like he was going to have a big drink tonight, to mourn his dead love

In a secluded villa, two people were having a secret conversation.

“Sir, there are too many people around that woman, we don’t have a chance to act. There are always people guarding her closely on the plane, there’s no chance to get close to her”

The man referred to as ‘sir pondered for a while, then murmured. The plane at one o’clock in the afternoon...”

“Yes!”

Then they fell back into a long silence

After a bit, the man suddenly let out a light chuckle, saying,

“If we can’t lay a finger on Chloe, let’s switch the target. As long as we give her a good enough reason to stick around. There are plenty of ways to stop her from going to that state banquet.”

The other person paused, asking with confusion, “You mean, sir.

Chapter 1404

After the meal, Yasmine didn't see Chloe off, just gave her a few parting words.

Nothing out of the ordinary, just reminding her to take care of herself and remember not to eat anything weird now that she was pregnant. It was basic stuff, even if Yasmine didn't say it, Chloe would be aware of it

The lunch was pretty chill, and Yasmine didn't give Damon the cold shoulder anymore. After all, he was Chloe's choice, and there was no need for her to be a third wheel. She was not the kind to stubbornly stand in the way.

"Alright, we've dawdled enough. Time's ticking. Let's get a move on." Yasmine urged them on, and Damon, arm around Chloe, took the hint and left. Watching as Damon took care of Chloe, helping her into the car, Bryson commented, "Chloe has a good eye for people. Mr. Harper is quite the gentleman. With a poker face, Yasmine replied, "Living in the moment is the way to go." She knew that no matter how much she disapproved, she couldn't stop the two from being together, even if there were problems down the line, with Chloe's personality, she probably wouldn't have any regrets.

That was how it was with choices. No room for second thoughts, no room for regret

Bryson sighed, "If only we knew earlier how much Presley valued social status, we should have.."

Yasmine sighed deeply, murmuring, "it's all in the hands of fate"

Bryson nodded solemnly, echoing her sentiments, "Indeed, it's all fate. What's meant to be, will be, and what's not, can't be forced... it's all fate."

Yasmine gave a bitter smile. It was a harsh reality. Everyone's hardships and happiness were predestined, and no matter how hard you tried, you couldn't escape fate.

Wendy wasn't destined to be the heiress of the Alonso family, and she never would be

The real princess of Y Country wasn't Ava, her daughters weren't little princesses, and they never would become what they were not

No matter how hard they tried, how much they dreamed, fate would take back what didn't belong to them. Because these things weren't theirs to begin with Damon took Chloe to the private jet, insisting that Nate personally checked the plane for safety. Only once he was sure everything was fine did he board the plane with Chloe

After settling Chloe into a comfortable seat and fastening her seatbelt, he turned to her, looking serious. "Behave yourself, okay? Don't eat or drink anything you shouldn't, and don't talk to strangers. Once you've completed your mission, come straight home and make sure you rest"

Chloe nodded, a little helpless. Damon was fussing as if this was her first time traveling abroad.

"Let me know as soon as there's news about Elizabeth and Royce. They'll be okay, won't they?"

Damon nodded. "Yes, they're smart people. My dad wouldn't let anything happen to my mum."

Chloe gave a small smile "I think so too. They haven't even met their grandchild yet, and I'm pregnant now, with twins"

Damon chuckled softly, finding the pregnant Chloe even more adorable than before.

"Yes, they'll be thrilled" He leaned in, pecking her nose "After the state dinner, you should just rest at home, focus on your pregnancy, and safely give birth to these two little troublemakers."

His deep voice, warm breath brushing her face, making Chloe blush. His voice, for some reason, made her feel a sense of intimacy. She tucked her chin in, her long eyelashes brushing Damon's face

"What little troublemakers....."

Damon smiled slightly, lifting Chloe's chin with his hand. "Who else? Haven't they been quite the cock block?" His eyes were gleaming with an indescribable light. This man, really! He still managed to tease her before leaving

Chloe pushed him away a little, creating some distance between them. "Alright, it's time. You should get going"

But Damon pulled Chloe into his embrace, leaning in for a deep kiss

"If you can't get used to the food abroad, don't force yourself. I've arranged for a local chef and doctor for you. Jane's also on the plane. Tve asked her to stay with you."

"Okay" Touched by his thoughtful arrangements, Chloe obediently agreed, like a woman spoiled rotten

Damon felt a jolt in his heart. He was so in love with her. He couldn't help but want to hold her close, to kiss her, to love her.

Just then, Nate came over Seeing their affectionate display, he didn't shy away, though he looked a bit uncomfortable Mi Harper "

He barely spoke when his gaze landed on Chloe, causing him to stop mid-sentence Chloe looked at him in confusion, but Nate quickly averted his gaze.

Damon ran a hand through Chloe's hair before standing up. After giving her one last reminder, he turned and left the cabin. Nate followed him out

Once they were out, Damon asked in a cold voice, "What happened?"

Nate quickened his pace, murmuring. "Yasmine's car was followed on the way home and got into a blatant car crash on the road. The media is making a big fuss about it

Damon stopped in his tracks, turning to look back at the cabin door, then asked in a low voice, "How's everyone?"

Nate replied. "I think they're okay. The car was hit at first, but then other cars immediately shielded Yasmine's car. Five cars were involved in the collision on the Overpass, but Yasmine's car wasn't hit too badly I think everyone should be okay"

Damon squinted, his handsome face serious "Did they go to the hospital?"

"They did"

"We should go to the hospital too"

"Alright" Nate agreed, then hesitated, "What about Mrs Harper"

Before Nate could finish, Damon's phone rang. It was Yasmine.

"I'm okay" She said calmly as soon as he picked up. "Don't tell Chloe about this for now. Somebody's been bold as brass, wreaking havoc right out on the street, clearly aiming to stir the pot. The only reason I can think of is that someone wants to keep Chloe from hitting up that state dinner."

Chapter 1405

When Damon arrived at the hospital, he found that the entrance where Yasmine was staying was heavily guarded. He tried to go in but was stopped

Facing the situation, Damon could pretty much guess who was pulling the strings behind the scenes. Nate stepped forward first, telling the people guarding the door. "We're just here to visit the patient."

"Sorry, we can't let you in without authorization."

"Let them in!"

Yasmine's angry voice echoed from the room.

Damon's eyebrows twitched, his mind full of confusion. Although he hadn't spent much time with Yasmine and didn't know her very well, it was hard for him to imagine Yasmine speaking in such an emotional tone.

The two people at the door glanced at each other, but they finally opened the door

There were more people other than Yasmine in the room. There was Bryson and an unexpected person. Damon remembered this was the person who had taken Yasmine away right in front of him. And for this, the person paid the price of a bullet

Damon had long known that this person wouldn't give up easily, but he didn't expect Boyd, who was supposed to be in B Country, to appear here after the unexpected event.

All Damon knew was that this man had been protecting Yasmine, even though she had been completely ignoring him for many years.

Boyd sat on the sofa in the hospital room. His gaze was dark and gloomy as he looked at Damon, as if wishing he could shoot Damon to pieces on the spot. Damon chuckled, ignoring Boyd's murderous intent, and turned his attention to Yasmine. Her head was wrapped in white gauze and her arm was bandaged. Her face, similar to Chloe's, was as cold as ever.

"Are you really okay?" As soon as Damon arrived at the hospital, he asked the doctor, who told him Yasmine was fine. But looking at her now, Damon began to doubt the doctor's honesty.

Yasmine responded coldly, "Has Chloe left?"

Damon nodded.

There was silence in the room for a while before Damon spoke, "Who doesn't want Chloe to attend the state banquet?"

Yasmine's face got even colder. "Damon, settle the problems with the Harper family! I entrusted Chloe to you, and I trust you not to put her in danger! If she gets hurt because of you, even if I die, I'll make sure to drag the whole Harper family down with me!"

Damon's face gradually cooled.

Yasmine's mood could be described as extremely bad. Although she didn't directly answer Damon's question, her words gave Damon a rough idea of the answer. His eyes became even darker. Any man would feel something if he was accused like this in person.

The men present knew Damon wasn't in a good mood. Nate stood at the door, his palms sweating. Boyd's lips twitched in satisfaction as he watched Damon's discomfort.

But in front of Yasmine, Damon showed no emotion and said, "I understand."

"I'm fine. If you're okay, go look for your parents." Yasmine rolled her eyes at Damon again.

Damon left the hospital room with Nate cautiously following him.

"Where is Robin now?" Damon walked a dozen steps before finally stopping in the hallway, his voice too low to describe.

Nate stood next to him.

Damon was angry. His eyes were filled with anger and determination, as if a black flame was flickering in his eyes, ready to burn anyone who offended him to

ashes.

"He just came to the hospital to accompany Presley"

Damon didn't respond, heading straight to Presley's room.

Nate hurriedly followed, explaining quickly and clearly, "Mr. Robin came to the hospital with Mr. Alonso...

Damon's steps became bigger. Nate knew the situation seemed a bit out of control.

In Presley's hospital room, Cole stood by the bed, his face serious

"The state banquet is in two days. I must take Wendy away today. Presley, please help me. Ask Damon to let Wendy go."

Presley remained silent, his breathing a bit heavy

"Presley, we didn't mean any harm in the beginning Wendy just likes Damon too much. I believe that Damon and Wendy being together is what we hope to see the most. But Damon now has his own woman, and Wendy's past actions have become a kind of insistence. In fact, Wendy has paid a lot of

prices. Perhaps the fate between our family just isn't meant to be, but I still hope you can let Wendy go considering our long standing friendship I promise we will never bother the Harper family again.

That's when Robin spoke up. "Cole, the relationship between the Harper family and the Alonso family has always been good. Over the years, our friendship has been the deepest. Even if Damon and Wendy can't end up together, our friendship won't change. It's too serious to say it will change because of the young people's

Cole gave a cold laugh, seemingly helpless, but full of sarcasm. Robin, we grew up together. I know you mean no harm to the Alonso family. It's good that we are friends, but my daughter Wendy is still in Damon's hands. I've tried everything I can to take her away these past few days but have been turned away. Presley's health is not good, and I wouldn't disturb him if I didn't have to

Look, us, the Alonso family, sure, we're down in the dumps right now, but that doesn't mean we'll stay bummed forever. What Damon did, well, it's not exactly like he kicked us when we were down, but it's safe to say he rubbed salt in the wound, isn't it? Is that how two families with a deep bond should treat each other?" Presley's breathing became heavier Cole's words, to the ears of those present, were clearly turning into a threat. Sure, the Alonso family was in a tough spot now, but there was always the chance of a comeback, even a rise to new heights. When that happened, whether the Harper family still wanted to keep a relationship with the Alonso family, it wouldn't be a piece of cake

The smart move would be to let Wendy go now. Otherwise, years of a good relationship would go up in smoke in the blink of an eye.

Presley could definitely catch the hidden message in Cole's words, but you had to admit, Cole mally hit Presley where it hurt. All Cole wanted now was to find a reliable ally for the Harper family in the future.

No doubt, the Alonen family was that cholon

Chapter 1406

Robin let out a light sigh. "Young folks tend to act on impulse and get carried away Don't sweat it too much. Damon might swing by later, and you can hash it out with him then.."

Cole glanced at Robin, then shook his head with a sigh. "Ah, it's always a worry with the young ones. I've always had high praise for Damon's abilities, but... he's young, hasn't really been through the whole love thing, and doesn't know what's important. Handing over something as big as the Harper Group to a kid like Damon is uncertain because who knows what unpredictable things could happen down the road

Just before Cole said this, his gaze towards Robin was caught by Presley. Those who understood the implications of Cole's words would get it. Robin played dumb and flashed a bland smile.

Damon had just reached the door when he overheard the conversation going on inside. His eyebrows drew together, almost imperceptibly

The door opened, and everyone watched as Damon, tall and imposing, made his way in

Young folks had their own vibe and determination, but they could also possess the composure and steadiness of successful adults. Older folks, on the other hand, tended to be more limited in what they could offer

But watching Damon enter the room in silence, Cole felt a wave of embarrassment due to his earlier comments. He felt a bit awkward, but it was only momentary. The most pressing issue now was to get Wendy back from Damon,

“Damon, it’s been days. I’m begging you. Please let Wendy go.”

Damon stared coldly at Cole. “I’m not done settling the score with her yet.”

“What score to settle?” Presley suddenly bellowed. “What issue can’t be resolved between you and a woman?”

“There are many issues!” Damon replied calmly. “I still have unresolved issues with you... let alone her

Presley turned to stare at Damon in shock and was still met with that nonchalant face

Damon’s disregard for family ties left Cole feeling unsettled. He had a sudden premonition that Wendy wasn’t faring well. If Damon was holding a grudge over an issue with Presley, Wendy’s situation would be far worse.

“Damon, I’ve talked to Presley earlier. Wendy has made a mistake, and I’ve punished her for it. You’ve had her locked up for days now, and she must have learned her lesson. That’s enough. She has important matters to attend to..”

Damon glanced at him. “The state dinner? She’s in no shape to attend right now

Cole’s heart skipped a beat. “What have you done to her?!”

“Nothing much, just shot her six times. She’s still alive, recovering”

Six bullets...

Cole's mind felt like it had been hit by a grenade, blasting his thoughts into a mush. He swayed a few times, nearly falling to the ground.

"Six bullets! Damon, are you trying to kill her?" Presley was tossed from one shock into another

I'm just granting her wish, said Damon, his face devoid of any expression. If he had even the slightest smile on his face right now, he would seem like a ruthless monster. But Damon was in a foul mood,

standing there calmly was already pushing his limits. He thought it showed remarkable patience that he hadn't shot dead the schemers in this hospital room

"Fulfilling her wish? Is that to die?" Cole was shaken, his rationality slipping.

"She said she'd rather die than be with me. You tell me, isn't that granting her wish?"

No one spoke for a moment, it sounded exactly like something Wendy would say

"Let her go. Let her go... let her go!" Presley cried out again, drawing out his words as long as he could, almost using up all his strength. His voice could probably be heard all around the VIP ward

Six bullets. That was practically a death sentence. What could have happened to push Damon to such extremes?

Damon took a couple of steps forward, standing by the bed and coldly staring at the bruised faced Presley.

"When I was six, I had a dog I gave it the best food, water, a doghouse, and even a bowl. I treated it well. Then one day, it bit Nathan's finger. I killed it myself. "When I was fifteen, I got the car of my dreams. I took Nathan for a drive, and we were surrounded by a racing team in the mountain area. They pulled

Nathan out of the car and threatened me to race with them. Nathan's knee was scraped, his head was hit three times, and his stomach was punched twice I drove them all off the cliff the car I just got was wrecked"

Damon casually recounted two of his past experiences, his voice indifferent. But everyone in the room was on edge hearing it. They knew of these incidents and knew they were true. They had no doubt Damon was capable of such actions, as they knew of far worse things he'd done.

"Wendy I might have been kind to her when we were kids, but that was just for my own happiness, like how I treated that dog I didn't expect her to help me in any way but I also didn't want her to bite the hand that fed her Have I become too soft, too agreeable over the years, causing you to forget that I, too, have a temper" I don't mind people judging me or even doing stupid things in front of me If it doesn't cause much harm, I can turn a blind eye. Let bygones be bygones." Danc

› didnt continue but everyone understood. He might have seemed like a gentleman on the outside, aloof to strangers, and appearing very tolerant as long as it didn't provoke him. But if anyone harmed those he truly cared about or something he cherished, even the slightest damage would be pursued to the end and

in after the cost, regardless of who it was or what the consequences would be

Be it the dog he cared for the new car he longed for or the race he drove off the cliff, nothing mattered more than his younger brother Nathan

Thus Wendy's life, compared to what had done to Chloe, was far from enough to make amends, there was still a huge gap

The sudden tension as the routine made every

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Hut Dainon, out of no

hare, burned his attention to Rubin, who always tried to fade into

Chapter 1407

“Robin, what’s your take on letting Wendy go?”

Robin was caught off guard by the sudden question. He looked up at Damon, gave his usual slight smile, and said, “She’s forgivable”

Damon responded coldly, “And at what point does it become unforgivable? Is it when it involves taking lives?”

Robin’s face stiffened Wendy hasn’t gone that far.”

Cole immediately chimed in, “That’s right, Wendy is still young and hasn’t made any significant mistakes. Damon, if you give her back to me now, I promise we won’t cross paths again.”

“It’s too late for that.”

“Damon... what the hell do you want?

“Her death would be the best solution. She could fulfill her wish, and I could finally have some peace of mind”

“Damon

Cole was genuinely angry this time. He had done his best to compromise and plead, but it was all in vain. After all the effort to meet Damon, was there no change at all? How could he stand by and watch Wendy march towards death in Damon’s hands?

Presley was utterly taken aback by Damon's words. He knew Damon was smart, thoughtful, and resilient. Damon was decisive and resolute in business, with a distinctive leader's demeanor

He knew about the two things Damon had done, but he hadn't thought much about it. He hadn't witnessed Damon killing his beloved dog or how he drove the four racers off the cliff. All he knew was that it happened. The dog was buried, and the four lives were cleanly dealt with

He thought it was just a phase of rebellion or youthful folly for Damon. But if he saw Damon's eyes when he was angry, even just once, he wouldn't be so shocked

now

Damon was excellent at hiding his cruelty and ruthlessness. As he said, he seemed calm on the surface, but deep down, he was a bloodthirsty devil. Just like his father, Royce

Presley had seen it with his own eyes, the seemingly peaceful Royce had once wreaked havoc on the number one gang in Hong Kong for Elizabeth, which was terrifying

What about Chloe? Does she know about you capturing Wendy?" Presley suddenly had a bad feeling.

"She never needed me to meddle in her business" Damon indirectly answered Presley "We are two individuals. The origin of the problem lies with me. If it wasn't for Wendy insisting on fighting me, Chloe wouldn't have wasted so much time and energy trying to deal with her. I feel guilty towards Chloe for giving Wendy too many

chances."

Presley's hands were trembling. "Are you waiting for Chloe to leave before settling scores with us?"

"Yes. Chloe didn't want to put me in a difficult position, so she has been accommodating to you guys. Even though you are my family, even though you have been good to me, even though I feel guilty for favoring her, she's always been clear about her likes and dislikes, and she's been taking up too much for me"

Presley's resentment towards Chloe was deep rooted. He didn't want to hear any word from Damen that was in Chloe's favor. "Don't you think she's hypocritical? If she really wanted to make it easier for you, why didn't she leave earlier?"

Damon's eyes instantly turned cold, his gaze sticking to Presley like glue, seemingly ready to tear off a layer of skin in the next second

"Maybe it's because she knew that if she left, I would kill whoever forced her to

Everyone was shocked by such a crazy statement

"Have you lost your mind, Damon?!"

"You should be thankful that she didn't leave me as you hoped, or else none of us would have it easy" Damon felt very clear headed, he had never doubted his decision. Where did his obsession with Chloe come from? Could a woman really have such a great influence that he could become so crazy?

He had no reason. He just liked her if she left, he couldn't handle it.

Maybe on the day she left, he would really kill everyone. But that day probably wouldn't come

Chloe wouldn't leave him, no one would force her to, and he wouldn't harm Presley

Unless she chose to leave. But that day probably wouldn't come either because he wouldn't let her leave. Therefore, he felt no pressure to make empty threats. But no one doubted his words, they were all shocked by them.

"Chloe just left, and you barged into my hospital room.

just didn't want to scare her. All she needs to know is that I'm good to her, she doesn't need to know anything else."

She never needed to see his determination and ruthlessness

I wasn't planning to come so soon Damon's voice was chillingly cold as he looked at Robin "But some things forced me to have a chat with Robin sooner rather

than this expression finally showed a hint of change "What do you want to talk about? Robin squinted his eyes. Is there something we need to discuss privately?"

Damon looked at him coldly "Would you prefer to discuss it here?"

Seeing the cold, merciless ex

make things difficult for him

face Robin had a hunch about Damon's intentions. If he didn't agree to leave today. Damon would certainly

As for what Damon was going to do, Robin had no idea. Like the things he had just heard, he was just beginning to understand this nephew who had always been distant. Damon was a complete lunatic, just like his father Royce. They seemed harmless on the outside, but they were still kings, the king of beasts

They would tolerate their soldiers, their generals, and even irrelevant people fooling around in front of them, but they couldn't allow anyone to encroach their territory Anyone who did would be severely punished

With this understanding, Robin didn't hesitate and walked towards the door. Robin's action was his answer.

Damon scrunched up his face, hiding the chill in his eyes, but the cold vibes between his brows were impossible to conceal. He silently turned around, carrying a wave of coldness with him.

Chapter 1408

“Damon!” Cole attempted to stop Damon from leaving, still clueless about the whole Wendy situation.

“If you want to speed up Wendy’s death, by all means, stop me”

Cole froze in his tracks. He stood still, didn’t make a move, and just watched Damon leave the room. His forehead veins were bulging, and he turned his gaze at Presley who was lying in the hospital bed.

“Presley, are you really not gonna explain anything to me?”

Presley closed his eyes, and took a while before he slowly said, “You should head back. I’ll make sure Wendy gets back to the Alonso family”

What he wanted to say was, “Til make sure Wendy gets back to the Alonso family safe and sound,” but he couldn’t bring himself to say those words.

Cole was silent for a few seconds. His tone hardened, showing his authority as the head of the Alonso family. “By tomorrow at the latest! I hope you can sort this out ASAP!

In the hospital room next to Presley’s, Damon and Robin were facing each other.

Robin, whatever it is you want, just spit it out. It’s just the Harper family, if you’d just come clean, I might even give it to you willingly! Is it really worth killing so many people for the Harper family? And once you get the Harper family, what’s the use? If you’re willing to kill your own brother, how long do you think you can hold onto the position of chairman of the Harper Group?”

Robin didn’t expect Damon to be so blunt. He couldn’t just accept the accusation. He paused for a moment, then started to chuckle. “Damon, don’t go around making wild accusations without evidence. This isn’t multiple choice, and you can’t just pin it on me because others are innocent. Being falsely

accused doesn’t feel good. And... your parents fate is still uncertain. Don’t talk as if they’re already gone. It’s bad luck.”

Damon just quietly stared at Robin, a hint of rage surfacing in his eyes. His gaze shifted, and his lips tightened. "You're right."

He moved to the window, resting his fingers on the sill and looking out at the bright sunshine. He was thinking that in such weather, the plane Chloe was on should have been stable. Was she sleeping, listening to music, or daydreaming?

"Before my parents are found, I shouldn't have such thoughts. So, let's talk about something else today: "Damon paused, looking at the park below where a middle-aged man was carefully accompanying a pregnant woman for a walk. The pregnant woman's hand was rested on her swollen belly, gently stroking it. A smile shown on her face, but her expression was calm and warm.

Damon smirked, turning his gaze back to the slightly nervous man next to the pregnant woman. He didn't envy the man, because his wife was more beautiful than the man's, and she was carrying twins. He had two little rascals on the way

"You've been manipulating my relationship with Wendy behind my back, and you've been trying hard to stop Chloe from attending the state banquet. Robin, what are you so afraid of?"

Damon's gaze remained on the scene below, where the pregnant woman had run into another pregnant woman who was out for a walk alone. What were they chatting about?

I've heard that question too many times, and I've given you too many answers. Everything I do is for the benefit of the Harper family. If you and Wendy were together, the vast Alonso family would be yours, and also the Harper family's. You know Presley's condition now Isn't his firm stance just to help you better manage the Harper family and save you some detours?"

"You know me well," Damon smirked. "So you went against my wish. I will not compromise, so in the end, Presley will only be disappointed. If you really wanted the Harper family, and if you had spoken up earlier, I might have given it to you, but now. Robin, the more you want it, the less I let go. Seeing you unable to get what you want, I actually feel relieved"

Robin's usually smiling face was now frighteningly cold. "Are you trying to cross me Damon?"

Damon turned around, flashing him a cold smirk. "Robin, it seems like you've already disregarded our familial ties with your actions."

Robin's face was filled with rage. "I don't understand what you're saying"

Is that so? Since we've already fallen out, why not make it official?"

Just as Damon finished speaking, the hospital room door was violently pushed open from outside. Robin turned his head, and his face changed instantly. Nate walked in, accompanied by two men supporting someone else

Mr. Robin" The man shouted at Robin with a terrified look on his face. Although his face was beaten beyond recognition, Robin still recognized him. It was Gerry one of Robins closest aides. The other was Edwin, Gerry's father. Both of them had been working closely with Robin, which showed Robin's trust in them and their loyalty to Robin.

The TV in the room suddenly turned on, showing footage of the recent vicious car crash at the city center interchange Damon held the remote, gradually turning up the TV volume. "The mastermind behind this vicious car crash, Gerry, you know him, right?"

Robin didn't expect Damon to find Gerry so quickly and bring him back to him. He was at a loss for words. Since Damon could bring Gerry to him, it meant he had confirmed Gerry's connection to him.

The sound of the TV echoed through the hallway. Although the door was closed, people in the hallway could clearly hear the content on the TV

How do you wanna handle this?" Faced with this situation, Robin couldn't deny it, otherwise, it would just look like he was flailing about like a dying fish

Damon turned around gracefully extending his hand Nate standing next to him, pulled a gun out of his coat and handed it to Damon. He didn't utter a single word during the whole process. The sound of the guns trigger being cocked was drowned out by the news broadcast.

Watching Damon's actions. Robin snorted with derision. "Damon, I ain't no pushover. This kind of intimidation is just a walk in the park to me

Hotaria's words were abruptly cut off. His eyes twitched violently. He froze for a moment, then whipped his head around

Sound traveled faster than light. By the time Robin turned his head, he h

(Caught sight of Gerry's head, who had been restrained by the two bursting like a

Chapter 1409

Blood splattered all over the faces of the men next to him, instantly blurring their vision. Gerry's body swayed for a moment before being propped up again.

One shot was all it took to end a life.

Robin stared at Gerry, who kept his eyes wide open till he died, and suddenly felt as if he was standing in an ice cellar. He had thought Damon was just threatening him with a gun. But to his surprise, Damon actually shot and killed a man right in front of him.

The sound of the gunshot was drowned out by the sound of a news broadcast on TV. Even though the gunshot could be heard, nobody would believe that someone would actually shoot to kill.

Damon passed the gun back to Nate, unimpressed.

"Guns are handy," Damon said.

They were direct, efficient, simple, and convenient. You didn't have to worry about getting close to someone you despised or getting your hands dirty with their blood.

“So just because of my liking for this, I can’t hand over the Harper family to you.” Damon continued.

The Harper family was involved in the arms trade, and they were self-sufficient.

A liking? A liking for killing people with guns? If Robin had only understood Damon’s sinister side from the conversation in Presley’s hospital room before, now, he had witnessed Damon’s brutality through his actions. This was not just empty_talk.

“This is a face-to-face confrontation,” Damon said, his gaze slowly falling on Robin’s face, his eyes as fierce and ruthless as a predator holding its prey in its claws. “And a warning. You can take a swing at me. But if you dare touch anyone around me... Give it a try? You see what happened to Gerry when he tried to deal with Yasmine.”

Damon’s warning and threat were displayed in full. In the room, besides Robin and the now-dead Gerry, the other three couldn’t help but shudder.

Just then, the hospital room door was knocked, and a nurse walked in. “Could the patient please lower the volume of the TV because... Ah!

Seeing the bloody mess on the ground, the nurse screamed, clutching her head, and ran out, her face pale. Watching Robin’s pale face, Damon curled his lips, and gestured to the others to drop Gerry’s body at Robin’s feet. “He died for you, after all. Keep him.”

With that, Damon left the blood-stench-filled room, stepping over Gerry and the pool of blood.

“Mr. Harper, the general manager of PrimeVision has checked into The Watson Hotel. He’s waiting for your reply regarding the continuation of the cooperation project.”

“If he’s already here, then this question is redundant.”

Nate smiled. Smart people always showed their intelligence when doing business. “I’ll arrange a dinner immediately.”

At four in the afternoon, Presley insisted on being discharged.

At six in the evening, Wendy was pushed out of the dungeon.

At eight in the evening, Presley personally delivered Wendy back to the Alonso family.

Seeing the tortured state Wendy was in, Grace screamed, nearly fainting!

Wendy was barely hanging on, and Cole's face was a mess. Looking at Presley in the wheelchair, his eyes filled with blood, and he said, "Presley, if something happens to Wendy, the Alonso family and the Harper family will become enemies!"

Presley's eyes trembled, and his face aged significantly after the illness. "I am responsible to the Alonso family for this incident."

"Presley, please go back. Thank you for helping me bring Wendy back!"

The always polite Alonso family didn't even let Presley through the door today.

Phoebe just flew back from Hong Kong this afternoon. She didn't have much expectation about attending the Y Country state banquet, but she was curious to see what Princess Ava, who was said to have plotted against her mother, looked like. If possible, she wished all those who had plotted against her mother were dead.

Seeing Wendy being carried in, her face full of pain, made Phoebe feel a bit of schadenfreude. This person took everything from her and stole her life.

But that wasn't the most important part. The most important part was that, to make Wendy become the heiress, Phoebe's mother died at their hands.

Phoebe didn't care about the title, nor did she care about the entire Alonso family. If possible, it would be best if the Alonso family disappeared altogether. But some people saw the Alonso family as more important than life itself.

While Cole was staring at Wendy, not knowing whether to be angry or sympathetic, and finally waving his hand to let the servants take her to rest, Wendy suddenly grabbed Cole's clothes.

"Dad, please, I want to go to the state banquet. I want to go..."

Phoebe laughed coldly. Even at this point, when her life was hanging by a thread, Wendy still wanted to attend the state banquet. Was it to show off at the banquet, or to fulfill her duty as Ms. Wendy and save the Alonso family, which was in shambles?

Did she think she was the savior of the Alonso family?

Phoebe looked at Wendy coldly. Wendy was sweating just from sitting up, and she looked at Cole with a pleading face. Wendy was panting just from speaking, and Phoebe was amazed at her determination.

Cole's eyebrows shot up in anger. "Look at you now, why the hell do you want to go to the state banquet, to make a fool of yourself?!"

Tears streamed down Wendy's face. "This is being sincere, right? Dad, the Alonso family can't fall apart. I can't let Chloe get her way... Dad, I'd rather die than see Chloe living a happy life!!"

She clung tightly to the corner of Cole's shirt. Her weak voice was barely audible as if she had exhausted all her strength. Her voice did not increase in volume, but the hatred in it sent chills down one's spine.

"

Stop being a drama queen!" After a long pause, Cole let out a helpless sigh, "What's the point of fighting with Chloe? What does it matter to you whether she's

doing well or not? You can't even take care of yourself, yet you want others to suffer.

"Dad! I'm begging you!" Wendy didn't have the energy to argue with Cole continuously

Seeing her determined and resolute expression, Cole squinted. "If you can't stand Chloe, I can help you teach her a lesson, but you need to rest first!"

'No! No!' Wendy shook her head. "Dad, I hate her. If I can't personally lead her to a dead end, if I can't see her failure with my own eyes, I'd rather die than be at peace!"

No one could understand how much she hated Chloel

Everyone knew about Wendy's deep-seated grudge.

Chapter 1410

Cole stared at Wendy intensely. "You still like Damon after the way he's been treating you?"

Wendy shook her head, her eyes still carried a hint of stubbornness, but it was her rage that was most apparent. "No, I'm gonna make Damon regret it! I'm gonna show him that choosing Chloe was a massive mistake!"

Cole squinted, then burst into laughter. "That's the spirit! You're the Alonso family's golden girl, a woman that Damon can only dream of! Make him bow to you!" Wendy smirked, clenched her teeth, then plopped back onto the lounge chair.

Phoebe stood nearby, observing the drama unfold with an icy stare. Was Wendy still the Alonso family's golden girl?

The Alonso family never considered Phoebe's feelings.

The flight to Y Country would take six hours. The private jet was decked out with all the luxurious trimmings.

Just as Chloe logged onto the WIFI and was about to check the news, a bunch of news alerts popped up on her phone. She glanced at her notifications, most of which were about a severe car crash in the center of P City. As she was about to tap on one, her phone was snatched away.

“You are an expectant mother, and you should avoid these electronic devices. They’ve got radiation, get it?”

Jane looked at the half-open news article on Chloe’s phone, cleared all the notifications, and pocketed the phone.

Chloe tried to retrieve her phone, but Jane caught her wrist. “Mrs. Harper, think about the twins in your belly. I must remind you that prolonged exposure to radiation can harm the fetus...”

Chloe’s face paled instantly. She pulled her hand back, clutching it tightly as if afraid she would reach for her phone again. Jane’s final words had clearly scared her. She would never risk anything that could potentially harm her babies.

Seeing Chloe’s reaction, Jane couldn’t help but shake her head, amused. The rumors were one thing, but seeing Chloe in person was a whole different story. Who would’ve thought that the formidable Ms. Summers would be so easily threatened while pregnant?

“Why don’t you tell me the news? I’m bored out of my mind.”.

Jane raised an eyebrow and took a seat across from her. “There’s nothing much. There was a severe car accident in the center of P City and it’s being investigated.

“The ‘fraudulent contract’ case involving Infinity Media is still under investigation, the media is waiting for the results.

“Famous actor Winston and Crysti are about to start filming a major domestic production, release date is yet to be determined.

“A renowned male star was accused of drug use, he denied it three times, but just recently admitted it...

“A famous actor was exposed for having an affair, and he held a press conference to apologize to his wife and the public...

These stories were indeed the hottest news, and each story was enough to spark a lot of attention and discussion.

“Life would be so dull without celebrities.” Jane mused, looking at the trending news on her phone.

Chloe smiled. “That’s one of the roles of celebrities – to entertain the public.”

Jane raised an eyebrow. “From your tone, it seems like you’re quite proud to be one of them. I mean about the drug use and affairs.”

“Is it only celebrities who use drugs and cheat?” Chloe retorted. “That’s the life they chose. They have to face the consequences, and it can serve as a warning to the public. I think it’s meaningful.”

Even though Chloe was in showbiz, she couldn’t infringe on her artists’ private lives. What they did off the clock was their own ‘business, whether it involved drugs or affairs.

“Really?” Jane stared at her, raising an eyebrow. “You’re quite ruthless.”

Chloe shrugged. “Aren’t we all? They don’t care about me, and I don’t feel any warmth from them either. It’s always a two-way street.”

Jane was left speechless. Indeed. Why should she be nice to others when they weren’t nice to her?

“You’re quite clear-headed. How do you feel about Presley? Do you hate him?”

Chloe gave a small smile. “I wouldn’t say I hate him. He can be stubborn and annoying, but he can’t control me, so I feel nothing towards him.”

“That’s based on the premise that he’s Mr. Harper’s grandfather. If it were someone else...”

“Who else could be Damon’s grandfather?” Chloe laughed. “There are no ifs. Presley just can’t control me.”

“I sometimes wonder where your confidence comes from.”

If—Presley really wanted to, he had many ways to prevent Chloe and Damon from being together.

“Damon gives me confidence.” Chloe thought, if she really left as Presley wished, Damon wouldn’t let it go. He wouldn’t let her go, nor would he let anyone who forced her to leave off the hook. Even if it were his grandfather, it would be the same. There were many ways to punish someone, and there was always a subtle way to hurt them deeply.

Jane had been in the medical field for over twenty years and had always scoffed at these emotional matters. But now, she found herself drawn to the spark in Chloe’s eyes. She took a deep breath, adjusted to a comfortable position, propped her chin up, and stared at Chloe for a while before saying, “Although you sometimes seem cold to others, I don’t think you’re a cold-hearted person.”

“Of course,” Chloe replied without hesitation. “If anyone dares to hurt the people I care about, I will retaliate twice as hard.”

Chloe smiled, but Jane felt a deep sense of danger from her smile. Jane suddenly got the chills, thinking to herself, “Chloe and Mr. Harper really do make a smashing pair.”

At the Royal Palace of Y Country.

A state banquet was on the horizon, and Queen Julia had invited all her kids over tonight for dinner, to give them a heads up about what to watch out for during the banquet, and also to seize the chance for a family get-together, a good old chinwag

Her kids all had their own lives now, and even her grandkids were there, milling around. The family was flourishing, and she was one lucky woman. She knew it, and her old faithful servant often told her so!

However, for all these years, there'd been a knot in Queen Julia's heart that she just couldn't untic.