

CHOSEN 1411

Chapter 1411

There was still a while to go before dinner.

In the garden outside the sleeping quarters, Queen Julia was decked out in a high-class white velvet gown, adorned with a hand-embroidered Jasmine flower that looked so real you'd think it could fly right off.

Queen Julia had delicate skin that was starting to show some signs of age. Her long hair, white as snow and without a single flaw, was tied up at the back of her head. The hollows beneath her eyes made them look deep and alluring. Despite this, there was no hiding her wisdom and power.

She exuded a calm and elegant aura typical of a mature woman. She stood there, a symbol of tranquility in the passing of time. But beneath her calm exterior was a hidden sense of nobility and dominance. It all felt strangely familiar.

The old servant, Lea, tried to drape a cloak over the Queen, but she was struggling to do so. Queen Julia took the cloak from her and draped it over her shoulders herself.

She looked through the large glass window in front of her and hooked a soft smile on her lips, her eyes gentle and tender. "Lea, you should retire."

Standing at her side, Lea replied respectfully, "I promised to serve you all my life."

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Queen Julia chuckled, looking down at the diamond bracelets in her hand, murmuring, "I should retire too."

Lea's gaze fell on Queen Julia's hand, watching as her wrinkled fingers ran over the bracelets, as if she was touching the princess of the past.

She sighed quietly in her heart. Decades had passed, and she had grown accustomed to seeing the Queen in this state. Even now, Queen Julia couldn't let go of the princess who had passed away.

Yes, her most beloved daughter, who she would miss forever.

But life had to move on. No matter how much you missed someone, they were gone.

"Queen Julia..."

Not far from the window, there were some children who had already arrived. They were about three or four years old, playing with the finest toys, carefully watched over by a few attendants.

Queen Julia's face was full of tenderness, but her expression was tinged with deep sorrow. "...I know I shouldn't miss her so much. But every time I see my grandchildren, I can't help but think, if my daughter were still alive, what would she be like now? Would she be married? Would she have children of her own? Would she be happy... I hope she isn't suffering... But I know, it's all hypothetical because the truth is, she's left this world..."

Julia began to choke up, lifting the bracelets to her chest. Her lips trembled, and her eyes filled with tears.

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Lea felt a pang of heartache looking at Queen Julia, but she didn't know what to say to comfort her. Over the years, she had tried many times, but she could never really comfort the Queen. It seemed more cruel to try. The princess at least lived on in the Queen's heart. If she persuaded the Queen to let go of the past, would it mean asking her to erase the existence of the princess from her heart?

Better to remember, then the princess would live on forever.

Tears blurred her vision, and the figures of the children in the courtyard gradually became fuzzy.

“Queen Julia, you are blessed now. Please give more love to the young princes and princesses.”

“No, it’s not the same.” Queen Julia shook her head. “I can give a lot of love, but I can’t share the love I have for Jasmine with them. It’s not the same; it’s completely different. No one can replace Jasmine in my heart, nor can anyone share my love for her. Yes, Lea, I admit, I am biased. If I could, I would give Jasmine everything I have, I am that biased. I just want her to come back. If she could come back, I would give her anything.”

Queen Julia was sobbing uncontrollably. The countless nights, the countless moments of solitude, and the countless times she missed her could not diminish her love for Jasmine.

Lea was still at a loss, and she could only stand quietly beside the Queen to keep her company.

In the hallway leading to the garden, Ava had brought Barbara and Becky to win Queen Julia’s favor. But they had heard everything Queen Julia had just said.

Jasmine, Yasmine.

“I just want her to come back. If she could come back, I would give her anything.”

What was she going to give her? The prestigious title of princess, or the throne of this country?

Ava knew. If Yasmine came back, her mother Queen Julia... No, her foster mother, would definitely hand over the leadership of the country—to Yasmine.

As long as Yasmine wanted it, the Queen would give her everything! From what the Queen had just said, Ava knew, there was no doubt about it.

Ava’s hands clenched tightly. Her nails were digging deep into her palms, but she didn’t feel any pain.

Yasmine had only been with the Queen for a few years, and yet she was so deeply missed. It had been over thirty years, and Ava had been brought to the palace for over thirty years. Every day she carefully tried to please the Queen, but in the end, she still couldn't compare to the daughter who was already dead in the Queen's heart....

If she came back... she couldn't come back! The only token was in Ava's hands. Even if Yasmine wanted to come back, she couldn't. As for what the Queen wanted to give Yasmine, it could only belong to Ava now.

Ava had been guarding and serving the Queen for so many years, doing things that even Yasmine herself might not have been able to do. Didn't she deserve those things?

Moreover, she had been taking Yasmine's place all these years. Since she was a substitute, shouldn't she be a complete substitute?

Yasmine couldn't come back. Even if she were still alive, she would never be able to come back. Thinking of this, Ava's lips curled into a triumphant smile, and her tightly clenched hands began to slowly loosen.

Beside her, Becky had already furrowed her brows. "It's been decades. The Queen should have stopped thinking about it. Why does she keep bringing it up?"

"Shut up!" Ava jabbed Becky lightly in the waist. "Can't you see the Queen's in a bad mood? Go comfort her now!"

Becky pouted. "What good is comforting her when I don't feel like she likes me anymore?"

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Even though she complained, she still moved forward. Barbara also walked a few steps, standing before Ava.

"Mom, why do we let those who pose a threat to us live? Aren't you worried about what might happen? How can you be sure that the Queen's biological daughter

won't come back?"

"If we're going to make a move, it should be unexpected. That woman is on high alert with me right now. If we push her too hard, she might do something drastic, like rush to Y Country. So, let's not stir up a fuss, and avoid making any public buzz, especially at this crucial moment of the throne transition!"

Chapter 1412

"As for her coming back, hah, she doesn't stand a chance. The only thing that could prove her identity is now in the Queen's hands. Without it, she can't prove that she's the real princess! Besides, Queen Julia of Y Country isn't someone she can just meet when she pleases."

Barbara pondered for a moment, seeming to understand something, so she flashed a content smile. If that was the case, then she had no more worries. Her life of a royal family member wouldn't be shattered.

So many years had passed, and everyone's lives were on track, so the Queen's biological daughter's return would only throw everyone off balance.

That woman must have gotten used to a civilian life by now, and she herself had grown accustomed to her luxurious princess life. It was all good.

Barbara thought, maybe that woman didn't want to return after all these years, probably the same as her.

Barbara walked towards Queen Júlia with a smile. She didn't mean any disrespect to her grandmother.

"Granny!" Becky called out brightly. A glint flashed in Queen Julia's eyes as she discreetly handed a pair of bracelets to Lea next to her. She retracted her tears, replacing them with a smile as she watched Becky approach.

Becky, still young, exuded a sense of arrogance, like a spoiled princess. Sometimes she would tell Ava to keep a close eye on Becky, but her personality remained unchanged.

Becky was eloquent and was always able to say things that pleased the Queen. In her old age, Queen Julia found life full of vitality when she looked at these young people. She thought that kids at this age

should be lively and cheerful, hence she doted on Becky. Moreover, Becky and Barbara's father had been away for years, showing little concern for them, which was truly disheartening.

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All in all, these two girls weren't often with Queen Julia, so she had no reason to nitpick this young girl.

After all, they indeed had the demeanor of princesses, and that was enough.

But if they were her biological granddaughters, she would dote on them with all her might.

"Such a big girl, yet so noisy."

Becky linked arms with Queen Julia. "Because I take after you!"

Julia chuckled softly, patting her hand. "You're such a chatterbox. You've said all the sweet words."

Barbará also approached, looking at Julia with a smile. "Granny."

Julia nodded, and teased Becky, "Look at your sister Barbara, only two years older than you, but so much more mature."

Becky looked a bit unhappy. "I don't care, you have to like me more. No, I'm two years younger than Barbara, so you should like me even more."

Queen Julia laughed at Becky's words. In fact, she favored Becky more than Barbara.

Barbara was too mature, and not good with words, but her behavior was poised and elegant. Although she appeared calm, she seemed cunning to Julia. If this cunningness was used for self-protection, that was acceptable, but if it was used to harm others...

Julia suppressed these feelings deep inside her, observing the two young girls on either side of her with a smile, her heart filled with mixed emotions. If her own daughter was still alive, would she have also had a lively daughter like them?

Ava stood not far away, watching the two perfect daughters making Julia smile from ear to ear. She couldn't help but feel proud and relieved.

After a while, a servant came to announce dinner, and everyone slowly made their way to the dining room.

The dining room was already filled with people, the children were with their families, and the long table of over five meters was almost full.

The children's children, their spouses, and their own children, a full house of descendants indeed.

Seeing Queen Julia arrive, everyone respectfully stood up. When she slowly sat down at the head of the table, they all followed suit. A few children were making a ruckus and wouldn't quiet down, but Julia didn't get angry. She just sat there with a smile on her face.

Apart from something that really crossed the line, Queen Julia rarely lost her temper in front of others. But nobody dared to behave improperly in front of her.

"Since we're all gathered here, please, feel free to relax," Julia said.

Everyone almost unanimously agreed, and then began to eat.

After dinner, Julia arranged and reminded everyone about the special matters at the state banquet, played with the children for a while, and before they knew it, it was already late. The children, not wanting to disturb the Queen's rest, left one after another.

The day after tomorrow would be the state banquet, and right after that, the matter of the hereditary kingship. At least during these processes, absolutely nothing could go wrong.

After leaving the palace, Ava found a corner, took out her constantly ringing phone, and returned the call. "What's up? I was just at a dinner party."

The familiar deep voice on the phone said, "I couldn't stop Chloe. She should arrive in Y Country around midnight. Keep an eye on her."

Ava frowned. "You couldn't even stop one woman?"

The other person's tone became cold. "What do you know?!"

Alright, alright, I got it. She can't possibly cause a big fuss. I'll handle it myself."

Ava finished speaking and the other person hung up.

"Incompetent. Can't even stop one person, and now getting mad at me..."

Ava looked disdainful, then dialed another number. "Chloe arrives in Y Country around midnight today. Help me track her whereabouts."

The other party agreed, Ava immediately hung up, and briskly walked towards the car not far in front.

After a flight of more than ten hours, Chloe had been to the bathroom several times. Not long ago she ate a piece of cake, and her stomach felt uncomfortable, She got up and went to the toilet, leaning over the sink,

It seemed like the two little buns in her belly were sensible. They seemed to understand that her increasing belly size might have made things tougher for her, so during her pregnancy, Chloe rarely had morning sickness.

There were hardly any times when she'd hurl as much as she'd chowed down. As long as the food wasn't particularly off-putting or made her feel sick, Chloe basically didn't have any adverse reactions.

But this time, it was probably because she'd been cooped up on the plane for too long, which had Chloe feeling queasy and on the verge of puking. She dry-heaved a couple of times over the sink but didn't actually throw up anything.

Chapter 1413

"Ms. Summers and her mom Yasmine, they are just one hell of a story."

"Totally. A person who was thought to be dead suddenly shows up, and now she's the target of a public manhunt."

"Doing such things in broad daylight in the city center, they've got some balls! Not sure whether it's Ms. Summers' enemies or someone Yasmine has pissed off."

The hand that was about to turn on the faucet stopped in its tracks, not turning the knob. Hearing the flight attendants' conversation, Chloe's face turned icy cold.

In the nearby galley, a few flight attendants were washing up and chatting. Seeing Chloe, their voices abruptly stopped and their faces turned sour.

"Ms. Summers..."

Chloe, stone-faced and icy-voiced, cut in, "What were you just talking about? The car accident in the city center was targeting Yasmine?"

The flight attendants bit their lips, looking uncomfortable. Her words were simple and to the point, and no one dared to speak.

“Well?” Chloe’s angry voice rang out, sending chills down their spines.

“Yes... yes...”

“But don’t worry, the news said Yasmine is fine.”

Chloe’s face darkened to the extreme. She immediately turned around and left the galley.

Seeing Chloe’s gloomy face, Jane was about to say something when she heard Chloe coldly say, “Give me the phone.”

Jane glanced at the flight attendants behind her, her eyebrows furrowed, with an idea of what might have happened.

“The news said, Yasmine is fine.”

Chloe didn’t respond, and just coldly stared at her, waiting for her to hand over the phone.

Jane hesitated for a moment, seeing the determination in Chloe’s eyes, and handed her the phone. Chloe took the phone and immediately called Yasmine.

It was already past ten o’clock at night, but she didn’t consider whether Yasmine was asleep.

The call was answered after a long while.

“What’s up?” Yasmine sounded noticeably tired on the other end of the line, which eased Chloe’s concerns a bit.

“You’re okay, right?” Chloe asked.

“Do you want something to happen to me?”

“No...”

Maybe feeling she’d been too cold, Yasmine spoke into the phone from her bed, “I’m protected, I hit my forehead on the back of the seat during the crash, but otherwise I’m fine, don’t worry.”

Chloe heaved a sigh of relief, hand on her forehead, eyes full of relief.

They were silent for a moment, then Yasmine spoke, “I’m going to hang up.”

“... Wait, Mom!” Chloe immediately stopped Yasmine.

“What else?”

Chloe hesitated for a few seconds, then took a deep breath and said, “...Nothing, just get some rest.”

Yasmine was silent for a moment, then casually replied and ended the call. Chloe sat back down, her face looked serious, and her eyebrows furrowed in thought. She tossed the phone to Jane across from her and said calmly, “Can you give me a rundown of today’s news?”

“The news about the serious car accident has the highest click rate, fastest spread, and most attention. Even the news about a famous actor joining a new drama has been overshadowed. Every TV station, individual media, and various social platforms are all focusing on this hot topic.”

Chloe's eyebrows twitched, and after a long time, she slowly said, "Someone wants me to know this new Do they not want me to attend the state banquet?"

Jane's mouth fell open, suddenly recalling Damon's reminder not to look at the news when the plane had just taken off. At first, she didn't know why, but after she saw the news online, she understood. But she thought Damon was probably worried that Chloe would be upset by the news.

Now hearing Chloe's words, she saw the light. If Chloe knew about this, she would definitely have chosen to get off the plane. The person in the car crash was her biological mother Yasmine. With something like this happening, how could she possibly go to the Y Country to attend a banquet that in reality didn't bring her any

benefits?

This must have been someone taking advantage of this, deliberately making a big deal out of it, trying to attract Chloe's attention, hoping she would cancel her plan to attend the state banquet in the Y

Country.

Chloe narrowed her eyes, her expression somewhat dangerous. Had Wendy really become this audacious?

But she quickly dismissed this thought. The matter of Infinity Media was still being investigated, Wendy's every move was under scrutiny, and she might have been focusing all her attention on attending the state banquet in the Y Country. How could she possibly do something so reckless?

Although Wendy herself was not very bright, she probably wouldn't do this. So besides her, who else wouldn't want Chloe to attend the state banquet?

Could it be... Becky?

But with Becky's personality, she would probably take advantage of the state banquet, on her own turf, to give Chloe a good trashing, right?

For some reason, although this had nothing to do with it on the surface, Chloe couldn't help but recall the scene of Yasmine suddenly jumping off the ship years ago. In fact, why she agreed to attend the state banquet in the Y Country, she herself couldn't even answer that.

After thinking it over and over, she still couldn't figure out who was trying to stop her from attending the state banquet. But she knew the answer would lie with

Yasmine.

Yet Yasmine, up to now, had no intention of telling her. What did the Y Country... have to do with her?

Chloe didn't ponder further, because the possibility in the back of her mind was too distant and too unrealistic for her. Maybe she was overthinking.

The in-flight announcement was already advising passengers to prepare for landing.

Chloe snapped back to reality, buckling her seatbelt, as if nothing had happened. Jane watched Chloe's transition from deep thought to nonchalance, feeling helpless. Throughout their journey, she found that the closer she got to Chloe, the less she understood this woman.

In this big old world, probably no one could tell what the heck was going on in her mind.

The plane touched down, and the friction between the tires and the tarmac made the whole cabin shake a bit, the noise grating on your nerves. Chloe was sat there, one hand on her belly, poker-faced.

Maybe, just maybe, all her questions would be answered at the state dinner.

Chapter 1414

Chloe had someone waiting for her as soon as she hopped off the plane. She was whisked off to the biggest hotel in Y Country, the Grand Horizon Hotel.

This hotel was world-renowned, but its service was so over-the-top that Chloe was left feeling overwhelmed. They were so eager to please that they didn't even bother with check-in procedures.

Chloe was a bit suspicious. Wasn't it standard procedure to check in with your real name at a hotel?

Jane, however, nonchalantly explained, "This is one of Mr. Harper's properties in Y Country, so it's yours as well. There's no need for you to personally handle any procedures."

"Damon's property?"

Jane blinked. "Yep, his, not the Harper family's."

Chloe looked shocked, her eyes sweeping over the luxurious hotel that was beyond star rating. Building a hotel like this must've required a huge investment, right? She seemed to remember that this hotel was part of a global chain.

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If this hotel was Damon's, then the ones in other countries...

"You probably don't know your husband as well as you think. Even if Mr. Harper truly gave up his position as the global CEO of the Harper Group, he can still provide you with an incomparable lifestyle. I wonder what Damon, the man who was forced into marriage by Presley to strengthen the Harper family's hold in P City, was thinking when he saw Presley and the Alonso family painstakingly trying to please him?"

Chloe fell silent for a while. "He has his own things to protect... everyone wants perfection."

Before he met Chloe, Damon was doing very well. He was a perfect man.

Jane sighed. "In this world, those who are perfect aren't truly perfect. There's give and take, strengths and weaknesses. Near perfection is the true perfection." Chloe raised her eyebrows, looking at Jane's reflection in the elevator mirror and smiling. "You make it sound like you're full of wisdom." "It's just the truth."

Maybe she was really persuasive. The unease and guilt that had been lingering in a corner of Chloe's heart seemed to slowly dissipate.

Near perfection was perfection. Yes, missing out on certain things may not necessarily be a bad thing.

As soon as Chloe arrived at the hotel, Ava was almost immediately notified. "She's staying at the Grand Horizon Hotel, quite posh." Ava snorted disdainfully.

Even royal family members could only occasionally stay at the Grand Horizon Hotel when meeting important international figures. During her many years in Y Country, Ava had only visited the Grand Horizon Hotel a handful of times.

Although her family had many properties, many times, Ava wanted to meet the owner of the Grand Horizon Hotel to discuss potential collaborations with her family's businesses. But no matter how hard she tried, Ava couldn't find out who the owner of the hotel was.

She never expected that Chloe would stay at this hotel as soon as she arrived in Y Country. Ava narrowed her eyes, feeling a bit disgruntled. She had worked so hard to become a princess in Y Country, but now, she seemed even more insignificant than an ordinary person!

Her teeth ached with frustration.

The better Yasmine and Chloe were doing, the more foolish she seemed. It made her years as a princess seem utterly ridiculous.

The next day, Chloe took a stroll around the hotel. When she returned, the hotel manager ran up to her and handed her two beautifully wrapped boxes.

“What are these?”

The bombshell manager smiled. “Gifts from Mr. Harper.”

Chloe’s eyes flickered, and she smiled, accepting the boxes. “Thank you.”

Back in her room, she opened the boxes to find, indeed, a gift.

The dress was stunning. And in the other box, a pair of flat shoes that matched the color of the dress perfectly made Chloe chuckle.

This man was too thoughtful, even thinking to get her flat shoes. She gently stroked the incredibly soft shoes, her smile fading.

She thought of Damon’s tall and upright figure, his outstanding aura, and his incredibly handsome face. On her second day abroad, she was missing him.

She put down the shoes, glanced at the time on her phone, and made a video call to Damon. The call was quickly answered.

The face on the screen matched the image in her mind.

“How are you doing? Have you settled in?” Damon’s gentle voice came through, his face adorned with a doting smile.

“I’m okay. I received the dress, and these...” Chloe waved the beautiful flats in her hand, her eyes full of joy.

Seeing the shoes, Damon seemed to recall something and laughed even harder. “Safety and comfort first. Who else would I do this for, if not for the mother of my

children?"

"I love it." Chloe was deeply touched.

The new identity of being a mother to his children felt foreign yet exciting to her, but she loved it. She was Damon's wife and the mother of his children. A smile glittered in Chloe's eyes, the depth of her happiness unfathomable. There were probably no words to describe it.

Seeing her radiant and adorable face, Damon couldn't help but soften even more.

"Do you miss me?" His voice was deep and warm, with a hint of obvious huskiness.

Chloe put the shoes aside and looked back at the screen, nodding without hesitation. "I miss you."

A mysterious light flickered in Damon's eyes. "I would rather you said you didn't at this moment."

Chloe was confused, her eyebrows furrowed, and her eyes full of puzzlement. Her voice was soft, with a hint of dissatisfaction. "Why? I really do miss you"

This woman...

Damon swallowed hard. After two seconds of silence, he suddenly spoke up. "Chloe, strip"

Chloe blinked, silent for another two seconds. Then she blinked again, her eyes widening in surprise!

Her face instantly flushed, utterly incredulous. "...Damon... where's your decency?!!"

In the past few seconds, it was as if her brain had short-circuited! Then realization hit her, but she still found it hard to believe.

Damon, however, acted nonchalant. His voice was low, and his eyes were twinkling with passion. "I want you too. Be good, let me see you."

Chloe shook her head firmly, grabbing her collar. "No way! Damon, you're a perv!"

Chapter 1415

"Chloe." Damon's voice was low and hoarse, his eyes seemed to be ablaze. "I miss you so much. What should I do?"

Damon was regretful. If he knew he'd miss her this much, he'd have cherished every moment with her before she left. Now all he could do was see her through a screen, unable to touch her.

Every time he thought of the feeling of kissing and hugging her, he wished he could reach right through that screen and pull out the tantalizing woman, to comfort her in his arms.

Looking at the desk in front of him, his gaze darkened a bit. Well, doing it on this desk wouldn't be bad either.

The more he thought about it, the turned on he got.

Seeing the obvious emotion in Damon's eyes and hearing 'his helpless, "What should I do?" was a bit pitiful. Ever since she found out she was pregnant, he's had it tough.

Chloe's hand slowly loosened its grip on her clothes. "I won't be here for long. I'll be back in a few days..."

"A few days are a few days away. Right now, babe, let me see..."

Chloe bit her lip tightly, her face flushed, her stance softened. "What's the point of seeing... Don't do anything weird..."

She could hardly imagine what Damon, this serious-faced man, would do when he was alone. She closed her eyes, unable to imagine the scene.

"What weird thing?" Damon saw her attitude was not as tough as before, a playful gleam in his eyes.

"That..." Chloe opened her mouth and then closed it again.

Looking at her shy appearance, Damon chuckled. "I just want to see you, I won't do anything weird. Weird things, I'd only do to you."

Chloe wanted to hang up the phone right away.

"Chloe, you have to be good now, otherwise, I might have a hard time tonight... Do you want to see me suffer?"

Chloe pursed her lips and looked down at her clothes. "I haven't showered yet..."

Damon pondered for a moment. "That's perfect."

"Huh?"

"You can take your phone into the bathroom."

An hour later, Chloe came out of the bathroom in her bathrobe, her face flushed. She plugged her phone into the charger and put it on the nightstand, then silently climbed into bed and covered her head with a blanket.

Ten seconds, twenty seconds...

The blanket was suddenly lifted. Chloe looked at the darkening sky outside, her eyes moist and blurry, her face red, as she muttered, "Butthead."

Wendy arrived at the Y Country at noon. Since Becky had some interactions with Wendy in the P City and Wendy's father Cole was also present, Ava arranged for Barbara and Becky to pick them up from the airport to maintain a polite front.

As soon as Wendy was wheeled out in a wheelchair, Becky was shocked. "Oh my god, what happened? How did you end up like this?"

Wendy was pale, the pain making her resentment even more profound. Most of the people on the same flight were from their country, and there were also some reporters waiting at the airport for news.

The state banquet held by the Y Country was a widely watched international news event, attracting numerous journalists from around the world, as well as some local reporters. Princesses Barbara and Becky picking up someone at the airport, was news the reporters would not miss.

The bodyguards brought by Barbara and Becky naturally protected them in a safe circle.

"May I ask what the relationship between the two princesses and these two is?"

"Are they representatives of a certain country?"

"Given the personal reception by the two princesses, their status and identity must be extraordinary..."

"Since the two princesses picked them up themselves, it seems that the relationship between the Alonso family and the royal family of the Y Country is indeed..."

The national reporters certainly knew the Alonso family. Seeing Cole and Wendy receive such treatment, they couldn't help but sigh.

Facing the cameras of reporters from various countries, Wendy took a deep breath, slowly reached out, and held hands with Becky and Barbara. She lifted her head, her eyes swollen and red, and said to the two, "Thank you, Barbara and Becky, for coming to pick us up personally. How is my Aunt Princess Ava?"

As soon as Wendy's words came out, the surrounding reporters immediately became noisy. "So Princess Ava is her aunt?"

Wendy's pale lips moved slightly. She knew that back home, some people questioned her relationship with Princess Ava of the Y Country. Even if some knew the truth, they only thought she was boasting and didn't take it seriously. Now, her closeness with Princesses Barbara and Becky, and mentioning Princess Ava, would definitely spread through the journalists present.

She wanted to make those who had mocked her understand that they had no right to mock her! She also wanted to remind everyone in the Harper family that they were asking for trouble!

Especially Damon... Cole was right, one day, Damon would come back to her! Compared to her, what was Chloe?

Her small actions concealed Wendy's obsession.

Barbara stared at Wendy, her gaze cold. Seeing Wendy in this state, Becky gently patted her hand. "You should take care of yourself first. In this state, it's not even certain if you can outlive Chloe!"

Becky's words sounded a bit presumptuous. Barbara frowned and quietly pulled her hand away from Wendy's.

"Alright, there are too many people here, it's inconvenient to talk. We'll talk more when we get home

They left the airport visibly under protection.

The news was uploaded to the Internet within ten minutes and spread to their home country. The close relationship between the Alonso family and the royal family of Y Country was causing a stir again, and with the two princesses personally picking them up at the airport, it indirectly confirmed their intimate relationship with Princess Ava. News with photos and videos like this was no doubt a hot topic.

“Wow, I never knew it before, but now seeing this news, I suddenly feel that the Alonso family is really powerful. Why is that?”

“I have the same feeling. So Princess Ava and the Alonso family are really that close!”

“No wonder Presley from the Harper family was so determined to set up Ms. Wendy with Mr. Harper before. Such a background is indeed enviable.”

“I’ve always thought that Ms. Summers is quite impressive, too, owning so many companies and being so capable. But now it seems that Ms. Summers still can’t hold a candle to the Alonso family..”

Chapter 1416

The news was everywhere, and naturally, the Harper family caught wind of it. Presley heaved a sigh and switched off the TV. Meanwhile, Robin was fixated on the news online, his gaze intense. He was reminiscing about the private discussion he had with Cole and Wendy before they left.

If he was willing, the Alonso family was ready to back him up fully to become the Chairman of the Harper Group.

Was he willing? Ha, they were no greenhorns. How could Cole not know his thoughts?

Although the Alonso family was in a pickle right now, their ties with the royal family of Y Country could probably help them weather the storm. If the Alonso family could support him, it would be the icing on the cake.

After mulling it over, Robin got up and left for the Harper family’s house.

Upon seeing Presley, Robin cut to the chase, “Dad, I reckon, I should be the next Chairman of the Harper Group.”

Having been through thick and thin, Presley had no particular reaction to Robin's declaration. He simply looked at him with sharp, cold eyes. "After all these years of biding your time, you finally can't hold back anymore, huh?"

Robin slowly sat down, calmly saying, "Isn't it normal for me to have such thoughts? When you handed over the entirety of the Harper Group to Damon, who had just come of age, I managed to hold back my feelings, which was beyond my own imagination. I held back for more than a decade. The reason is clear, I couldn't find fault with Damon. He has always managed the Harper family well.

"But that was on the premise that he was wholly committed to the Harper Group, with no distractions. But now, things are different. You know it, he's just like his father, Royce, going against the principle you've taught since he was young. They're smitten by women, and they're obsessed. You were right, once a man is infatuated with a woman, he can easily be fooled. Damon is no longer fit to be a competent family head, isn't he?

"Are you comfortable entrusting the vast Harper family to a fickle-minded person?

"If Damon was still the Damon of the past, I wouldn't have come to you today. So, dad, all my intentions are for the good of the Harper family." Robin's long speech was met with Presley's prolonged silence,

"Damon has made his stance clear, hasn't he? For that woman, he's willing to step down from the position of CEO of the Harper family. Do you still have any expectations for him?

"Moreover, because of his obsession with that woman and his torment of Ms. Wendy, the Alonso family has completely lost hope in him. Cole also stated that for the long-term cooperation between the Harper family and the Alonso family, he would rather have me take the position of Chairman of the Harper Group.

Presley frowned and looked up at Robin. "You've been meeting the Alonso family behind my back?"

Robin replied with a hint of sarcasm, "Are we not allowed to meet now?" Since when had it become so difficult for him to meet with the Alonso family?

Recalling the recent news report, Presley fell silent again. He still had hopes for Damon, but even if Damon were to become the Chairman of the Harper Group in the future, he had already seriously offended the Alonso family. If Robin and the Alonso family joined forces against Damon, the Harper family would inevitably be affected to some extent. He didn't dare to imagine the consequences.

Robin knew that Presley was starting to waver, so he continued, "Everything I've done is for the benefit of the Harper family, you can fully trust me on this. If you trust me, I can give the order now, and in three days, we'll reconvene the board meeting."

Presley squinted and let out a long sigh. "I need to speak to the Alonso family personally about their stance."

Robin smirked, his tone laced with mockery. "Cole is currently in Y Country preparing for the state banquet, so we can discuss this further at the board meeting."

"You sure are persistent, enduring all these years. Even if the Harper family ends up in your hands, how long do you think you can hold on to the position of Chairman?"

A familiar voice sounded from outside the door, and soon, Damon's figure appeared in the doorway.

Presley didn't want to see this grandson who had disappointed him time and time again at this moment. He coldly glanced at him. "What are you doing here?"

"If I didn't show up, wouldn't the Harper family just fall into someone else's hands?"

Robin remained silent, his face tense.

"Do you still have anything to do with the Harper family? Do you need to worry about whose hands it falls into?" Presley sneered coldly.

Damon slightly lifted the corners of his mouth. "I haven't handed in my resignation."

He then turned his gaze to Robin. "I remember I told you before, that if you want the Harper family, I may not necessarily give it to you."

Robin chuckled, but his voice was icy. "Damon, ask yourself, when you pissed off the Alonso family for a woman, what right do you have to manage the Harper family?"

"What's the connection between the two?"

"Wendy must loathe you by now. She's the future head of the Alonso family. Do you think she's just going to sit back and watch you and your woman flaunting your affection? She'll come after you, and the Harper family too. You say you can handle all the attacks, but the Harper family isn't just yours. Better to move forward than let the Harper family take a big hit from the Alonso family, right?"

Damon raised an eyebrow. "Your view of the Alonso family, I must say, is impressive."

Presley grunted heavily, full of rage. "How many times have I told you? The Alonso family isn't just the Alonso family. They have the royal family of Y Country backing them, you know that?"

Damon nonchalantly put his hands in the pockets of his black coat. He'd been standing still since he walked in. When he heard Presley's words, a slight smile appeared on his calm face

"So what if it's the royal family of Y Country?"

"What did you say?!" Presley roared again.

The familiar arrogance and indifference were almost enough to set Presley off.

Presley had heard Chloe say these words too many times. That woman was truly terrifying!

at woman You have no idea what

“Look at what you’ve become being with that woman. You have no idea what you’re doing. Your arrogance is unbelievable!”

Chloe never took the Alonso family or the Harper family seriously. Damon was even worse. He didn’t even take the royal family of Y Country seriously!

Presley was so angry he was having trouble breathing. James was a bit worried on the side. “Mr. Presley, please, you need to consider your health.”

Presley forced himself to calm down and finally said-

“In three days, reconvene the board meeting!”

His tone was firm, leaving no room for doubt, like the final hammer blow!

Chapter 1417

At four in the afternoon, Chloe arrived at the administrative district of Y Country, where the state banquet was to be held. She came early to do a rehearsal. Queen Julia had been hosting foreign dignitaries all day, touring around, and watching the military parade.

At seven in the evening, the state banquet began, and the unique dishes became the center of attention. There was no doubt that the scale of the state banquet was grander than ever.

Five in the afternoon was the meal time for the artists participating in the state banquet performance. Everyone that participated in the banquet performance of Y Country were excellent ones in their respective fields and could be considered top-notch artists worldwide. Naturally, their dining locations and treatment couldn’t be neglected. So, this also became a small banquet full of artistic atmosphere.

People gathered in small groups, tasting delicious food, sipping fresh juice, and sharing their lifelong artistic insights. The atmosphere was great.

When Becky pushed Wendy in, the banquet hall fell silent for a moment. Most people's gaze lingered on them for a bit, then quietly retreated.

Artists all shared one common flaw, that was, they were too full of themselves, carrying a kind of world-weary emotion. They believed that apart from their peers, most people couldn't understand their artistic philosophy! What could a few young women who were new to all this understand?

Becky was angered by the arrogance and contempt in their eyes, and she wanted to curse them for pretending to be elegant, exaggerating too much. They appeared as princesses here, and not many even took the initiative to greet them, let alone compliment them.

But she had just left the house and Ava had warned her not to speak casually. It hadn't even been half an hour. She couldn't mess up now.

Becky gritted her teeth and held back her dissatisfaction. Barbara stood elegantly on the side, indifferent.

After being treated like this by the guests, Wendy also felt aggrieved. Her thoughts were exactly like Becky's. She could see the arrogance and contempt in their eyes, but if they were so arrogant, why did they all rush to attend the state banquet?

It was clear that the worldly achievements made them, but they turned around and despised the world. Didn't they find that contradictory?

"Barbara, Becky, let's eat here too." Wendy suddenly spoke because she had looked around the entire banquet hall as soon as she entered, and Chloe was nowhere

to be seen.

This was the only place where Chloe could dine. Unless she didn't eat, she had to come here. Wendy wanted Chloe to see that even if she had been tortured by Damon, she still came, appearing together with two royal princesses.

After Chloe remembered the order of appearance and finished walking the field, she changed into her dress in the dressing room in advance to save time, put on her coat, and was led by her attendant to the dining place.

By the time she arrived, Barbara, Becky, and Wendy were about to dine in a corner. The waiter placed the dishes in front of the three of them and was about to leave when he heard someone say, "Wait."

The waiter stopped and turned to Wendy, politely asking, "Ma'am, do you have any other needs?"

Wendy's face was expressionless, and she coldly said while pointing to the spaghetti in her plate, "Feed me."

The waiter was stunned, and Barbara and Becky next to her also stopped their actions, looking at Wendy with furrowed brows.

Wendy's tone carried a firm command, and this sense of entitlement attracted the side glances of those around, everyone's face was full of displeasure. Who was this woman? So rude!

"Are you crazy? Can't you eat yourself?" Becky couldn't stand the gazes around her and reprimanded Wendy in a low voice.

Barbara's face was even worse, looking at Wendy's self-righteous eyes, feeling full of sarcasm. How stupid.

In response to Becky's accusation, Wendy's face showed a hint of apologetic smile, "Becky, I'm sorry. It's just that my hands are not convenient now. I can't ask you two nobles to feed me, can I?" Wendy's shoulders had been injured by Damon. Moving her arms would cause severe pain. She came here to laugh at Chloe, but not to be laughed at.

Becky finally realized, "Oh, I see." She looked up at the waiter next to her and nodded at him, "What are you waiting for? Feed her! Her arms are injured!"

Although Becky's tone was still cold and arrogant, at least she gave an explanation. Everyone looked at Wendy with different expressions.

The waiter was reluctant, but he picked up the fork, rolled up a mouthful of spaghetti, and fed Wendy.

Wendy opened her mouth and ate.

Barbara looked at Wendy's helpless look and was even more unhappy. Not wanting to look at her anymore, Barbara turned her eyes away, but immediately saw Chloe standing at the door.

Chloe was watching Wendy enjoy being fed by others. Her face had a smirk, making people very uncomfortable. She seemed to notice someone was looking at her, turned her head and met Barbara's gaze.

Chloe's face was expressionless, calm and composed.

Barbara's heart raced. She had seen Chloe in the news, but now face to face, she felt an inexplicable pressure.

Chloe had a hard-to-describe temperament. Was it her grace, or was her temperament just like Queen Julia?

That kind of feeling was something Barbara had always wanted. However, despite spending so much time with Queen Julia, she was still unable to understand the essential concept, despite her best efforts. Now she easily saw it on Chloe, a woman who had lived in the civilian area for more than twenty years.

Barbara clenched her knife and fork, a hint of unwillingness flashing in her eyes. At the same time, she became more wary of Chloe. She had once looked down on Chloe because of Wendy's stupidity. Now that they met, she suddenly understood that a woman who could catch Damon's eye would definitely not be ordinary.

People noticed Chloe and started to gather around her. As an internationally renowned perfumer, she might not appeal to the average Joe, but the artists present, who constantly attend events worldwide, were super into fashion. To them, dressing up was a big deal, and quite a few of them were either

interested in or obsessed with perfume. For these sensitive and delicate artists, any scent could potentially become their muse.

To them, Chloe was the “Picasso of scents”.

“You’re Star, right?” A probing voice made Wendy, who was in the middle of munching her pasta, freeze. She stayed put, casting her eyes in Chloe’s direction.

Chloe’s gaze swept over Wendy’s face. In Chloe’s smirk, Wendy saw sarcasm. At that moment, Wendy suddenly felt a strong sense of humiliation.

Chloe was standing there unscathed while Wendy felt like she was crippled, just waiting for handouts. She initially just wanted to but instead, Chloe beat her to the punch, making Wendy the laughingstock.

see Chloe make a fool of herself,

Chapter 1418

Chloe’s gaze shifted from Wendy’s face to the slowly gathering crowd around her, and she gently stepped back a couple of paces. Just like that, she created some distance between herself and the crowd,

“I’m a big fan of the Firefly piece from this year’s international competition. It’s in my collection.”

“I love your designs, every single one of them..”

“When I saw your name on the program, I thought it was a coincidence, but it’s really you.”

Everyone clearly admired and respected Chloe.

“Thank you, it’s nice to meet you all...” Chloe greeted everyone with a smile. She was surprised by the treatment she received here.

Finally, Chloe placed an order for her meal and found a random spot to sit. She needed to eat, regardless of her lack of appetite, considering her current situation. She was a pregnant woman, soon-to-be a mom.

Seeing how Chloe handled everything with grace, Becky became increasingly uncomfortable. Why would Chloe think that, after how she had treated her in P City, she would let it slide?

Without a second thought, Becky got up and walked toward Chloe. Barbara didn’t stop Becky but was worried about what she might do, so she followed. She didn’t mind getting a closer look at this Chloe.

Becky sat across from Chloe, chin up, looking at Chloe arrogantly. Chloe was delicately cutting her food and putting it in her mouth with impeccable manners. Becky felt ignored, which made her angrier.

“Chloe, what’s wrong with you? Can’t you even say hi?” Becky’s sharp voice filled with anger drew everyone’s attention.

Chloe slowly chewed her food, looking at the fuming Becky across from her, and put her fork and knife down only after swallowing. She picked up her napkin and gently wiped her mouth. “Ms. Becky, are you here to pay your debts?”

Becky paused, “What did you say?”

Chloe picked up her juice, took a sip, and said, “Isn’t it? Didn’t you lose a bet at the International Makeup Competition and owe me?”

“Shut up!” Becky cut Chloe off sharply, her face turned ugly at Chloe’s reminder.

Chloe just smiled and continued eating, “So, you’re not here to pay your debts.”

Seeing Chloe’s nonchalance, Becky remembered all the humiliations she suffered in P City and, in a fit of rage, swept Chloe’s plate off the table. The porcelain plate shattered on the ground with a loud crash.

Chloe paused for a moment, then put her cutlery down, the sound echoing on the white tablecloth-covered table. Her eyes instantly turned cold.

Everyone in the banquet hall turned to look in their direction.

Becky stood up, walked over to the broken plate, and stepped on Chloe’s half-eaten croissant, feeling a bit better. The crowd’s eyes conveyed their displeasure and, disgust at Becky.

Chloe didn’t argue with Becky at this moment. She slowly stood up, pulled out her chair, and walked back to the food counter.

Chloe’s indifference gradually erased Becky’s smugness, and the surrounding eyes turned her pale. Neglect was the best response to unreasonable attacks. Chloe did nothing, but the stares from the crowd were enough to make Becky feel embarrassed. Becky stomped her foot in anger, biting her lip.

Barbara watched Chloe order her food again and said, “Becky, you should know the occasion...”

Before she could finish her sentence, a shadow passed by her, heading straight for Chloe. It was Becky.

Chloe was just about to turn around with her newly ordered food when a hand flipped her plate onto the ground.

Becky glared at Chloe, her bright eyes full of rage, “What? You think you’re tough? Everything in this restaurant is mine. If you have any dignity, don’t eat!”

Chloe took a couple of steps back, leaned on the counter, and smiled at her, “All yours?”

“No shit! I’m the princess of Y Country. The whole Y Country belongs to the royal family. I don’t even have a say in this little restaurant?!” Becky crossed her arms and said smugly, “Sorry, there’s nothing for you to eat here!”

Chloe was silent for a few seconds.

On the side, Wendy was thrilled. That was more like it! Seeing Chloe embarrassed made her feel good!

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But Chloe kept her cool and calmly said, “This is a restaurant. I think there’s plenty to eat.”

Barbara, sensing something was off, was about to stop Becky when Becky beat her to it, “There’s plenty, but just don’t want you to eat! What can you do about it?” Chloe looked at Becky with a smile,

her eyes full of contempt. “Is this how Y Country hosts their guests? Whether dinner is served depends on the mood of the princess of Y Country. That’s news to me.”

“Becky... Barbara felt a sense of unease and held onto Becky’s arm tightly, trying to silence her with a low voice.

“You have a lot to learn! Do you think you’re amazing just because you performed at a state banquet? Here, I’m the host. For people like you who come to busk, me offering you dinner is charity.” Becky said.

Chapter 1419

The entire banquet hall fell into silence the moment Becky’s words were spoken. A faint smile flickered in Chloe’s eyes. Though unexpected, Becky’s words were indeed offensive.

Barbara’s head spun, leaving her completely flustered by Becky’s stupidity. What a bunch of nincompoops!

Chloe had clearly set a trap for Becky, and this nitwit was falling for it, hook, line, and sinker!

Everyone present considered themselves self-important artist. They were pampered and fawned over daily, ready to throw a fit at the slightest wrong word. Artists might just be the toughest bunch to please on earth! That damn Becky actually had the nerve to call them buskers in front of everyone.

Barbara shot a glance at Chloe, who was clearly indifferent and gloating, and her disgust for Becky intensified.

“Becky!” Barbara suddenly scolded in a low voice, but her words were interrupted by a cacophony of clatters.

Becky turned to look and found the entire banquet hall filled with displeased faces. People were slamming their plates on the table or dropping them on the floor. The sound of shattering porcelain and silverware hitting the floor filled the air.

Becky’s face wrinkled. She gazed at the mess in the banquet hall and couldn’t help but scream, “Have you all lost your minds? What are you doing?!”

A middle-aged man nearby snorted, “So this is the hospitality of Y Country! You invite us to live up your state dinner, only to treat us like your personal entertainers? Even having a meal depends on your

mood, a privilege granted when you’re happy and denied when you’re not! We sure learned a lot about the manners of Y Country’s royalty today!”

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The man’s sarcastic words left Becky stunned for a moment. When she finally realized what he was implying, her face froze. “That’s not what I meant.”

“Don’t worry! We performers may not be wealthy, but we won’t accept your charity!” With that, he called over his assistant to pull out several large bills and threw them at Becky. “We can pay for our

meal! This is enough for a day's worth of meals at a luxury restaurant! I'm giving you so much probably because the royal food is as precious as you are!"

Even though the bills didn't hit her in the face, Becky felt as if she had been slapped. She was utterly humiliated and furious. But it didn't stop there. Others started throwing money at Becky, some even hurling coins at her with enough force to hurt the pampered Princess Becky.

"Even street performers can afford this meal: The royal food of Y Country is average at best, but way too overpriced!"

"Since we've already paid, do we still need to cater to your highness's mood? If you still understand the principle of customer first, then clean up this mess right now it's ruining our dining mood!"

Chloe watched the scene unfold with a smirk and a sense of triumph. She was perfectly embodying Damon's words, "My woman doesn't need to be nice." If he granted her the right to do as she pleased, then she might as well indulge a bit.

Chloe pulled her hand off the counter, stood up straight, pulled out two bills from her pocket, and walked up to Becky. She waved the bills in front of her face before letting them flutter down onto the floor.

Chloe stepped back, putting some distance between them, and said with a smile, "Oh, I think we'd all be much happier if Princess Becky cleaned up herself." The crowd immediately agreed.

"Great idea!"

"Ha-ha, I love it, just thinking about it puts me in a good mood!" The man who had spoken earlier glanced at Chloe and smiled slightly. She was a bold one, daring to challenge the princess on Y Country royal territory. Not many would dare to do that.

He didn't like women who were too cunning, but in this case, Becky was the one who started it, so Chloe's retaliation seemed justified. No, it was more than justified; it was satisfying. The thought of the arrogant and haughty princess cleaning up the mess was a sight everyone was eager to see.

“Chloe!!” Becky’s face twisted in rage, veins popping on her forehead.

Chloe raised an eyebrow, “What’s wrong?”

Becky pointed at her, “Don’t push your luck!”

Chloe chuckled, “Ms. Becky, you’ve knocked over my plate twice, and I didn’t complain. So what exactly did I say or do to make you think I’m bullying you?” Becky was speechless. In reality, Chloe hadn’t said much or done anything. But Becky had knocked over Chloe’s plate, and then did it again. Seeing Becky staying silent, Chloe gently added, “Besides, didn’t you just say this is your place? How could I possibly bully you in your own home?” Grinding her teeth, Becky essentially reiterated Chloe’s words, “Right! That’s what I said! So even if I don’t clean up those pieces, what are you gonna do about it?”

Chapter 1420

Becky’s eyes widened Was she saying she wouldn’t attend the state banquet?! Fury coursed through her. “Are you threatening me?”

“If you think so, then yeah.” Chloe replied without further explanation, going along with Becky’s assertion.

Chloe not attending the banquet? Wendy would love that

What was the state banquet? It was where all the bigshots from around the world would be there. If Chloe did a good job and impressed them, who knew what opportunities might come her way? Besides, when word got back home, she would be on cloud nine

But if she didn’t attend due to last minute issues, Chloe would end up the laughingstock.

Wendy spoke softly. “Chloe, you can’t just decide whether to attend the state banquet on a whim. The program has been arranged. How can you back out at this point?”

Chloe glanced at Wendy, a smirk in her eyes.

Wendy continued, "I know you never care what others think, but if you're going to back out, you should at least let the production team know."

Becky sneered. "You're so full of yourself. If you don't want to attend, then don't. The world will keep turning without you. If you don't perform, there are plenty of people who will. It's not a big deal. I can take care of it with just a few words."

Chloe chuckled and nodded, her voice indifferent, "Oh, is that so?"

Becky was so mad she could barely think straight. She had been bullied enough by Chloe in P City, and she wouldn't allow it to happen again now that they were in Y Country

Was she supposed to clean up this banquet hall? She had never washed a dish in her life, let alone do this kind of dirty work. Dream on!

"Well in that case, Princess Becky, please also arrange for my performance to be cancelled. The somewhat older man said, his voice deep and calm.

Both Wendy and Becky froze.

"Yeah, since you can arrange things so easily, cancel my performance too."

"And mine. I never wanted to perform here in the first place."

"The Princess of Y Country has a lot of power and capability. Even though we won't be attending the banquet, we have learned a lot about the Y Country's royal family. Performing in such a country would be an insult to us. Go ahead and cancel our performances too." The speaker, the leader of an orchestra, declared

"And us too..."

Becky started to panic as she watched the entire banquet hall beginning to stir in protest. Wendy appeared unwell as well. Becky's actions were quite foolish. Even after Chloe changed the topic, Becky still wanted to challenge her. That was enough!

However, Barbara considered Wendy equally unintelligent. Hopelessly dumb! She had easily fallen into a trap.

Barbara knew that once these people made up their minds, they wouldn't easily change, but with the state banquet being such an important event, any mistakes were unacceptable.

Mishaps would be unacceptable, especially since the Queen was about to abdicate. What would the consequences be if the Queen found out that all of this was caused by Becky?

Barbara had always maintained the attributes expected of a princess, including manners, speech, etiquette, and social interactions. She even embraced subjects she might not have favored, all to fulfill her role as a princess.

Although she wasn't the Queen's biological granddaughter, the Queen had never raised the issue in all these years. Moreover, Y Country's hereditary system had led to dissatisfaction among certain factions. This could have severe consequences if someone less favorable inherits the throne.

Over the years, Barbara had consistently projected a favorable public image as a princess, amassing numerous supporters. If nothing went wrong, she was undoubtedly a strong candidate for the throne. If she allowed today's events to unfold unchecked and the Queen discovered them, the consequences would be dire, thanks to this imbecile!

"On behalf of my younger sister, I apologize to you all. She's young and impulsive, and has some misunderstandings about Ms. Chloe. I hope you won't be too harsh on her. She alone does not represent the entire Y Country royal family. I think everyone is very clear about Queen Julia's reputation in our Y Country and internationally. Please, I'd like to get your help to make the state banquet go smoothly for Queen Julia. Also, Ms. Chloe, I sincerely apologize to you again for Becky's words and actions just now." Barbara was humble and polite when she spoke, with an apologetic smile on her face, bowing at everyone.

When it came to offering a perfect apology, Barbara always knew how to do it.

Chloe's eyebrows twitched slightly as she turned to look at Barbara, who was smiling at her.

"Ms Chloe, what do you think?" Barbara asked once more. Chloe looked at her silently for a moment. The two—locked eyes in a standoff, neither willing to back. down first

Chloe's lips curled up slightly Her gaze remained fixed on Barbara as she said lightly, "Of course, I don't want to create a scene. As for my opinion..." She paused, glancing over at Becky, who appeared flushed yet defiant. Chloe continued slowly, "As I mentioned earlier, I'm in a terrible mood! When I'm feeling this way, I doubt my stage performance will be any good. I believe the other guests wouldn't deliver satisfactory performances either when they are feeling down. Being top artists globally, they would never allow any flaws in their image. If their performance is affected by their mood, it would damage their reputation at the state banquet. Isn't that a loselose situation?"

"Of course, we want to perform exceptionally well for Queen Julia; we just don't know if someone will give us the opportunity." Chloe's words resonated with the artists in the room, all of whom were considered top-notch

However, Barbara's facial expression noticeably stiffened as she focused on Chloe's eyes, her gaze slightly tightening Chloe's point was that, regardless of what she said here, she wouldn't change her mind because of Barbara's sake. She would only do it for Queen Julia.

While they certainly wanted to deliver a stellar performance for the Queen, the question remained whether she would permit it.

Now, Chloe was emphasizing that Barbara and Becky wouldn't allow them to give their best for Queen Julia.

How could she make such a statement!