

CHOSEN 1421

Chapter 1421

It Seemed like the rumors about her weren't just empty talk. With just a few words, she demanded that Barbara make a choice that satisfied her. This woman was truly a tough nut to crack. She curved her lips into a smirk, only to suppress it, hiding her sneer.

Chloe raised an eyebrow, a dash of sarcasm barely perceptible in her eyes. She caught every expression on Barbara's face.

"Ms. Chloe is right." Barbara's voice was as sour as lemon juice the moment she spoke. Then she coldly said to Becky, "Becky, clean up this mess yourself!" Becky's eyes widened in surprise, "Why? Why am I doing this lowly job?!"

Barbara's face immediately turned icy cold.

Becky cut off her words abruptly.

Chloe raised an eyebrow and smirked, "Looks like Princess Becky hasn't learnt her lesson, huh?"

"Chloe, you bitch..." Before Becky could finish her sharp retort, a hefty slap landed on her face.

"Do you have any idea how serious this is? You've offended so many respected artists. You've become a joke, and you want to turn the whole national banquet into

a joke, too?" Becky covered her face, tears streaming down as she looked at Barbara.

Barbara didn't care and continued, "If our grandmother finds out about this, Becky."

Her words hung in the air, filled with dangerous warning. Becky seemed to understand something, bit her lips, and glared at Chloe again.

“Get to cleaning, now!” Barbara’s authority and sternness were fully revealed. Becky was filled with resentment, but eventually, she turned and walked into the kitchen. Soon, she came out with a broom and dustpan.

Watching her clean in humiliation made everyone feel relieved. Chloe was no exception. Especially when she saw her clean up the plates and leftovers that she had knocked over, Chloe chuckled lightly.

When was she ever a pushover?

“Is everyone satisfied now?” Barbara said with a smile, her gaze lingering on Chloe. After she finished speaking, she slowly swept her gaze over everyone else. She was still the same humble and polite, with graceful manners.

The noble princess was doing the most lowly work in front of everyone, lost her royal dignity, and became a laughingstock for people’s amusement. Even though Becky was the one who caused this, she also lost her dignity!

Chloe chuckled and turned her head to the side, not responding.

The others seemed quite satisfied, “Let’s leave it at that. We’re doing this for the Queen.”

Everyone waved their hands, their attitudes indifferent. Afterwards, they all shook their heads and sighed.

“But the royal family’s education problem is a big issue. A princess who’s so brainless, it’s really an eye-opener.”

“She’s arrogant and disrespectful, loves to cause trouble. If she’s not corrected, who knows what she’ll become? This kind of behavior would be worrying even in an ordinary family, let alone she’s a princess.

Everyone knows Queen Julia’s reputation internationally. How can she have someone like this around her?”

“Some traits are passed down from ancestors, flowing in the blood. She’s not of true royal blood. If she were a true princess, that’d be even more pitiful.”

The years of cultivation and patience allowed Barbara to endure their criticism and mockery of Becky, but the last sentence indeed hit her where it hurts. She gritted her teeth tightly, trying her best to control herself from arguing with these lowly people.

She slowly turned around, her eyes fixated on Chloe’s back, her fists clenched tightly. Chloe, she better left completely after the banquet. Barbara had to tolerate her for now.

“Ms. Chloe, you didn’t eat much. I’ll have the kitchen prepare another portion for you. Barbara said.

“No need. I remember clearly what Princess Becky said. I don’t want her to knock my plate over again, nor do I want to be pitied.” Chloe said.

She wouldn’t starve to death if she missed a meal; she could eat after the banquet ended.

Becky, who was cleaning nearby, heard Chloe and flared up again, “Yes, I’ll knock your plate over every time you dine! You’re not even worthy to smell the royal

food!”

“That’s too much!” An older man nearby suddenly shouted in anger, “You don’t know how to repent at all! You’re so arrogant and disrespectful with your princess title! If you were a true princess, that’d be one thing, but someone with no blood ties to the royal family, what right do you have to call yourself noble?”

Becky’s eyes widened, “What did you say?!” Her voice was shrill to the extreme.

Seeing Becky drop the mop and about to charge at him, Barbara’s eyes turned cold. She quickly walked over to Becky, looking down at her, “Becky, stop causing more trouble!”

Becky was about to explode with anger. “He insulted me!”

The man sneered, “I insulted you? I said you have no blood ties to the royal family and that’s an insult? Isn’t that a fact? What a joke!”

Barbara also gritted her teeth tightly. She was very angry right now!

She looked at Chloe, who was standing at the door at this moment, feeling panicked. What did her standing there mean? Did she know something?

Becky’s words provoked her. Maybe in the next moment, she would reveal that she was the real princess with the purest bloodline in this country? What was Chloe’s expression now? Was it sarcastic, ridiculous, or angry?

She felt uneasy, but soon several people came in through the door, one after another. Each of them was holding several shiny silver trays, and they walked in an orderly fashion.

Everyone looked puzzled.

Barbara watched them as they entered and placed the trays on a spacious dining table. Approaching slowly, she furrowed her brows and inquired, “Who are you and what are you doing?”

“We’re responsible for delivering dinner to Mrs. Harper. After their brief reply, they proceeded to arrange the silver trays on the table.

“Wow! Sis, come and have a look! These are the famous dishes from the Z Country that we had last time!” Becky said.

Barbara turned to see that Becky had already lifted several silver lids, revealing the dishes within. Every dish hailed from the Z Country, renowned in its own right. Once more, she furrowed her brows.

Chapter 1422

"I don't care who you guys are, but how did you get in here?" Barbara scowled.

Her question went unanswered.

"You guys..." Just as she was about to speak, she saw Chloe and another person entering from the door.

"Mathew." Seeing her brother with Chlpe, Barbara's expression tightened instantly.

Mathew walked up to her, his handsome face shrouded in indifference. His gaze fell lightly on her, his voice icy as he said, "Move."

"Mathew! This woman bullied me! Why did you bring her back again?!" Becky was not convinced. She was embarrassed and annoyed to see Chloe. She was about to leave, so why did Mathew bring her back?

But Mathew ignored her, turning to Chloe to say lightly, "This is all Mr. Harper's arrangement. I've heard about what happened just now, and I'm sorry for it."

Chloe chuckled, seeing so much food from Z Country in front of her. Almost all the famous dishes were there. How much influence did he have to be able to support her from so far away in Y Country?

After Mathew finished speaking, the chef next to him spoke, "Mis. Harper, Mr. Harper said that royal food might not suit your taste. He asked me not to let you 'put

up with it'."

His words were subtle, but they effectively conveyed his meaning. To him, royal food was just something to fill her stomach with when she had no other choices. Becky clenched her teeth; glaring at Chloe. She dared to look down on royalty?

Chloe smiled, her gaze sweeping over the dishes on the table. She raised an eyebrow, her eyes scanning over the artists in the banquet hall. Then she said with a light smile, "Dear artists, this is food from Z Country. If you don't mind, why don't we enjoy it together?"

Seeing so much food on the table, she knew that Damon definitely did not prepare it just for her. She understood his intentions.

The artists noticed too; someone was supporting Star. Judging by the amount of food, it was obvious that someone was inviting them.

Moreover, the world-renowned food from Z Country was something most of them had only heard of but never really tasted. They were all curious.

"Alright, then I will take your invitation."

"I'll try some too!"

Everyone gathered around, silver plates filled with food, chatting and laughing, with occasional bursts of laughter. People enjoyed the lively atmosphere while eating. The present atmosphere created a sense of harmony..

"Can I have some too?" A voice suddenly sounded beside her. Mathew looked down at Chloe; his dark blue eyes were cold, yet there was also a hint of anticipation. Chloe nodded and replied, "Of course."

Mathew smiled. He turned and walked to the table to serve himself some food onto his plate.

When Becky saw Mathew mingling in the crowd, her eyes instantly reddened. "What does Mathew mean?! I just said that Chloe is not worthy to eat the royal meals, and he turns around to eat the food prepared especially for Chloe?!"

Barbara looked at Mathew with tightly pressed lips. "Don't ask. He's just trying to make you feel awkward. Can't you see that?"

Becky was both angry and aggrieved, “Why?! Why is he helping an outsider in bullying us?!”

Barbara said nothing, a sense of unease surged in her heart. She couldn’t stay there any longer, her steps became a little frantic.

The chef had prepared a separate dinner for Chloe, tailored to her specific requirements.

Mathew sat across from Chloe with his plate. He watched her eat with relish before glancing at the few bright red peppers in the dishes before her. “If you like this kind of food, then royal food probably really isn’t to your taste.”

Chloe didn’t hold back, “I was indeed forcing myself, just so I won’t starve.”

Mathew took a bite of his food and replied, “I’ve never seen Mr. Harper treat anyone so considerately. You’re definitely the first. You’re lucky.”

“I think so too.” She always felt this way. Meeting Damon, she suddenly felt that all the injustices she had endured before were insignificant.

Mathew took a couple of bites, then pulled out a napkin to gently wipe his mouth, sitting across and quietly watching Chloe eat. As Chloe neared finishing her meal, Matthew spoke up, “You seem to eat a lot more than when you were in F Country.”

Chloe wiped her mouth, glanced at his plate, and noticed there was still plenty of food remaining. She tugged at her lip and replied, “Is this all you have eaten?”

Mathew smiled apologetically, understanding Chloe’s meaning. It appeared to be a matter of personal preference

Having grown up with Y Country’s cuisine, Matthew couldn’t immediately embrace the food from Z Country, regardless of how well it was prepared this time. Likewise, compared to the food Chloe had in F Country, the traditional Z Country cuisine she was enjoying now clearly suited her palate better. It was only natural that she ate more.

Barbara left the dining room in search of Ava. She searched around in circles and eventually discovered her near the garden's fountain, accompanied by Cole.

"Mom!" Barbara shouted out.

The two appeared engrossed in a serious conversation, and when they heard Barbara's voice, Ava turned to her with a somewhat displeased expression. "Why the

haste?"

Barbara was seldom seen in such a flustered state. Although she seemed composed on the surface, her voice had just betrayed her inner turmoil.

*What's wrong?" Ava asked again.

Barbara pulled Ava aside and said, "Mom, when did Mathew get so close to Chloe?"

Ava frowned and asked, "What do you mean?"

"In the dining room earlier, I noticed that Mathew and Chloe appeared quite acquainted" Barbara said.

"Why would their relationship concern you?" Ava asked in confusion.

Barbara bit her lip and said, 'I'm wondering if Mathew has discovered something?"

"Impossible! If he knew, why would he remain idle? He would have reclaimed them by now." Ava was quite confident in her assessment. She held a genuine concern for Yasmine and Chloe, and she was well aware of those who were prying into their affairs. No one had a better understanding than her. She was entirely

convinced that no one within the royal family was aware of their secret.

Barbara breathed a sigh of relief, it indeed seemed that way.

Still, she couldn't shake this feeling of unease. Why the heck was that?

"Alright, I've never seen the two of them rubbing elbows before. As long as we get through this state banquet without a hitch, there won't be anything to worry about in the future. Why was Mathew at the restaurant? You guys didn't stir up any trouble for me, did you?" Ava asked.

Chapter 1423

Ava's words made Barbara's heart sink "Becky was intentionally causing a scene at the restaurant, upsetting all the guests. Now she's cleaning up over there." She answered.

Ava frowned, asking. "What did you just say?"

"Mom, Becky was stirring up trouble at an inappropriate occasion. She said some things that offended those artists. They're very sensitive; even the slightest misstep can get them agitated. But it's all good now. Becky might be feeling a bit hard done by, but as long as the state banquet goes smoothly, everything else is secondary Barbara managed to persuade Ava. At this point, she had to keep a low profile. As long as the state banquet proceeded smoothly, and as long as she got through Crown Day, nothing else mattered.

However, news of the incident at the restaurant soon reached Queen Julia's ears. The world-class artists whom Queen Julia had sincerely invited felt insulted by Becky's thoughtless words and even threatened to strike and not perform, causing Queen Julia a real headache.

If these artists didn't perform, this state banquet would become a laughingstock worldwide.

The power of public opinion was enormous; it could cause a huge stir in a small circle, let alone at a world-class event!

“My granddaughter actually called the top artists buskers, knocked over guests’ meals twice, and even said they didn’t deserve to eat the royal food. This is just too much! Someone, bring Becky here, and get Ms. Chloe over here too!” Queen Julia said.

“Roger!” Someone immediately responded and rushed off to do it.

“Hold on!” the Queen suddenly stopped the attendant, “Don’t get Ms. Chloe just yet. I’ll see her personally after the state banquet.” “Roger!” The attendant responded again.

Then, she turned her gaze to the projected screen in front of her. “Mr. Harper, I’ll handle this. Don’t worry; I’m not letting Becky off easily,” On the screen was Damon’s captivating face. “Alright.” Damon replied nonchalantly. “She’s not Ms. Chloe; she’s Mrs. Harper.”

Queen Julia paused, a kind smile appearing on her face. “It seems you’re quite fond of Mrs. Harper.”

“Yes.” His voice was flat.

Queen Julia smiled and said, “I will give her an explanation.”

“Okay, Damon said.

After hanging up the video call, Damon’s expression didn’t change, which made Nate, who was next to him, shake his head helplessly.

He should’ve been used to Damon indulging and tolerating Mrs. Harper by now. But he was still shocked.

Damon was simply too doting on Mrs. Harper. He actually learned to tattle?!

He knew very well what happened. Mrs. Harper was provoked by Princess Becky, and then Princess Becky was also severely humiliated. Mrs. Harper had clearly turned the tables, but he has to act to help her.

Not only did he help Mrs. Harper turn the situation around, but he also reported it to Queen Julia. How immature!

Was this his way of protecting Mrs. Harper from being wronged? He was clearly only allowing his woman to bully others.

When Becky was summoned by the attendant, she was crying to Ava, but her tears immediately stopped when she heard she was being summoned by the Queen.

Ava's face also turned serious. But she didn't dare to delay, leading Becky to follow the attendant.

Upon entering the side hall where the Queen was currently located, Becky carefully called out, "Grandma!"

Queen Julia was sitting behind the table. Hearing the voice, she took off her reading glasses off her nose and suddenly threw them on the table.

Becky shrank back a bit. From the moment she entered the room, she felt that something was wrong. The whole room seemed to be filled with suffocating cold air, and a strong aura emanated from Queen Julia, making people shiver. She rarely saw her grandmother so angry.

Ava, feeling the tension in the atmosphere, gave an awkward laugh, "Mom..."

Queen Julia's gaze remained cold. "I went through great lengths to sincerely invite world-class artists, and you called them buskers in front of everyone."

Ava was taken aback. She only knew that Becky had offended those people, and she hadn't had a chance to ask what exactly had happened. The sudden surge of anger made her head spin. How could she have such a foolish daughter?!

Queen Julia continued, "You provoked others for no reason, knocked over guests' meals twice. You claimed that the guests didn't deserve to eat the royal food, and that you were being charitable by feeding them."

Ava felt like her head was about to explode.

There was silence in the room for a few seconds. Then, a cold laugh rang out from Queen Julia, "Becky, I didn't know when the entire Y Country royal family became yours"

The tense string in the air suddenly snapped, and Ava's legs gave away. "Mom, Becky was spoiled by me. She's young and doesn't think before she speaks or acts."

Queen Julia picked up a bookmark and placed it in the half-read document, closing it and gently stroking the special shaped letter "E" on top. Her gaze was cool.

They say actions speak louder than words" Queen Julia slowly said, "If it weren't for the greed in her heart, she never would have said those words."

Slowly looking up, Queen Julia squinted at Ava, "William has been abroad for most of these years, and you've been in charge of her upbringing. Ava, tell me, how have you disciplined her during these years, and what values have you instilled in her?"

Ava's heart pounded out of her chest, and she shook her head in denial, "Mom, I didn't. You've got it all wrong. I just want her to grow up happy and healthy. It's my fault for not being strict enough, that's why she turned out like this."

Becky was already feeling wronged today. Seeing her grandma lash out at her without understanding the situation made her feel even more upset. "Grandma, it was that woman who started trouble with me first in P City. She slapped me several times, and I just can't help but get angry when I see her."

"She hit you first?" Ava asked

Yes, in P City, she and her mom bullied... Becky was about to finish speaking.

“Shut up!!!” With a crisp sound, Becky’s face instantly swelled up.

Ava’s hand also felt numb from the slap

Chapter 1424

Ava’s hands were shaking uncontrollably as she watched Becky get knocked to the ground, still not quite grasping the situation. Her heart was trembling even more under the weight of her rage.

Not for any other reason. Just because the phrase, “her mother”, Becky mentioned which had instantly ignited the fury deep within her!

How dare she mention Yasmine here? How dare she?

The one she had been running from her whole life, the one she’d been so careful to conceal her whole life. She didn’t even dare to mention that person’s name, but her daughter casually let slip a word, nearly revealing a secret she had hidden for almost 40 years.

What the hell was she trying to do? Go tell the Queen and let the Queen avenge her? And then what?

The Queen wouldn’t have to think too hard to connect the dots to Yasmine and Chloe. How could she face the lie she had told all those years ago?

She knew the Queen was yearning for her own daughter her whole life. She knew Yasmine was alive and well, yet she told her she was dead, and kept it from her for half her life. If the truth were to come out, how was she going to explain to the Queen?

Would her princess status and everything she had disappear just like that?

She couldn’t mention Yasmine! Especially not in front of the Queen! What a foolish girl! How did she end up with such a useless child!?

Queen Julia was taken aback by Ava's sudden outburst and could clearly see her anger and panic. She slowly turned her head, squinting her eyes toward Ava. "Ava, are you nervous?"

She casually pointed out Ava's current state, and Ava's eyes flashed uncontrollably with tension.

Her body swayed, her lips trembled, and her mouth became dry. "I..."

"Why are you nervous?" Queen Julia asked coldly.

Ava's legs under her long skirt were also trembling; she could barely stand. She swallowed, her throat so dry it felt like it was about to split

"Mom, I'm not. it was Becky, she sneaked off to P City and caused a mess. I was afraid you'd be angry. Now, things are getting worse." Ava came up with a somewhat reasonable excuse, although stuttering, but it should be clear enough.

Queen Julia stared at her quietly. Ava didn't dare to meet her gaze, keeping her head down. Her whole body trembled with tension, especially knowing that Queen Julia's gaze was fixed on her.

Becky's crying filled the room, its sound particularly piercing.

Finally, Queen Julia looked away and turned her gaze to Becky. "Anyway, now is a crucial moment for the state banquet. We absolutely cannot afford any mistakes! You, as a princess of the royal family, what's the meaning of this arrogant attitude in front of so many artists? Do you know what would happen if those artists didn't show up at the state banquet? The entire royal family of Y Country would become the laughingstock of the world! Becky, haven't you considered these basic things? How could you not know about such an important matter?!"

Becky was crying; she knew very early she had done something wrong today, and already got a scolding from Barbara. Now, she got slapped by her mother and faced her grandma's reprimand. She had done so many dirty jobs today, yet no one was there to comfort or understand her! At that moment, her heart was filled with intense dissatisfaction and resentment.

Queen Julia fully understood her attitude at the moment upon seeing her expression. “You’re so reckless, arrogant, and irrational. You don’t know how to repent! You’re grounded for a month! Relearn all about morality and etiquette!”

Upon hearing this, Becky suddenly looked up at her and, “No, grandma, I want to go to the state banquet.”

“Don’t you understand what I’m saying?” Queen Julia asked.

Ava quickly responded, “I’ll have someone take her away immediately!”

Queen Julia didn’t mention the recent incident again. Ava breathed a sigh of relief, only hoping that Becky would learn her lesson.

“Wait.” As Ava was about to pull Becky up from the floor, Queen Julia’s voice rang out again.

She looked up and saw Queen Julia turn her head to address Lea, saying, “Go and fetch Mrs. Harper. Have Becky apologize to her.”

Ava’s hand holding Becky’s arm suddenly tightened. “I won’t!” Becky yelled out suddenly.

Queen Julia’s eyebrows furrowed, and Lea glanced at her watch, saying, “The state banquet is about to start. You should get ready to leave.”

Queen Julia also glanced at the clock, then nodded, “Then take her away first!”

A hint of unwillingness flashed in Becky’s eyes, but in the end, Ava forcefully dragged her out.

Ten minutes later, Ava tried to get Becky into the car, but Becky broke free.

“Becky!” Ava yelled

“You hit me! I hate you! Why should I apologize to that woman? She’s only invited to play the piano on stage! I can play the piano too!! I’d rather see if she can turn the piano piece into a tune that only a god can hear?!” After saying that, Becky picked up her skirt and ran off.

Ava didn’t react in time, it was too late to grab her. “Becky!!” Ava screamed.

Their car was parked at the side entrance, not far from the main entrance of the state banquet. She didn’t dare to shout out loud, just picked up her pace and chased after Becky

The scale of the state banquet was naturally unprecedented.

The guests attending the state banquet included foreign diplomats from various countries and top international elites. It also featured representatives from various countries’ important economic sectors.

To host this international feast, the Y Country had invested a substantial amount of money to renovate the current state banquet mansion.

The vintage and splendid palace, the expansive green gardens, numerous fountains and wishing pools, and the abundance of corridors adorned with lifelike

carvings, ornate cages, engraved inscriptions, and dazzling lights—all contributed to the grandeur and magnificence of the entire state banquet mansion.

The entrance of the state banquet hall was covered with a long red carpet. Guests emerged from their luxury cars and walked along the red carpet into the hall. Above the high dome hung a bright and dazzling chandelier. Even though it was dark outside, the state banquet hall was as bright as day. The light from the chandelier illuminated everyone, making them appear even more elegant and noble.

Once all the guests had entered the state banquet hall, and the waiters had carefully escorted each VIP to their respective seats, only then did Queen Julia make her leisurely entrance.

She had dressed herself in new attire wearing a formal champagne–gold dress. She adorned a red agate on her chest, which cost a fortune, along with a golden crown peppered with diamonds and a few blue gems on her head. All dressed up like this, it was evident that she was showing her respect for the banquet and all the attending guests.

As she came into view, all the guests in the hall rose to show their respect.

Queen Julia took her place at the head of the table, flashing a gentle smile at the crowd.

Chapter 1425

The ensuing conversation didn't last long. Queen Julia expressed a brief word of gratitude and then instructed the servants to commence serving the food one dish at a time.

The state banquet gradually commenced amidst the chit–chat

A state banquet and an ordinary party were two distinct entities. Everyone had their designated place, there was no room for moving around. In simple terms, it was not an unstructured gathering. Each attendee was a significant figure on the international stage, representing their respective nations. As a result, no one was willing to make a mistake.

Despite the Queen's cheerful demeanor, she was secretly anxious. One couldn't afford to make a mistake at such a significant event.

Witnessing the smooth progress, she began to relax slightly. However, before long, a figure humed into her view.

"Granny Becky shouted out.

Queen Julia's expression faltered.

All heads turned toward the side door of the banquet hall, from which emerged a petite woman in a pink princess dress, running. She headed straight for Queen Julia and said out loud, “Granny” Becky summoned the courage to rush forward and shout once more.

It then became clear to the perplexed crowd.

Ah, she’s the Queen’s granddaughter”

“What on earth are you doing here?! Don’t you realize where you are?’ Queen Julia’s countenance turned stern, her voice icy.

Becky thought she’d probably get into trouble regardless, so she decided to crash the state banquet first. She didn’t care about the possible repercussions. After all, her grandmother wouldn’t actually harm her

I was just curious, and I wanted to be part of the state banquet too! Becky said.

Becky’s attitude was like that of a spoiled child. If people didn’t know about the foolish thing she did earlier, they wouldn’t dislike her just by looking at her now.

Everyone there respected Queen Julia, and many even deliberately complimented the Queen.

“Since she’s a princess, we can still share a meal together. Someone said.

“Yeah, it’s refreshing to see a young and vibrant girl among us old folks; it makes me feel a bit younger.”

Hearing others go along with it, Becky blinked her eyes, standing not far from Queen Julia, looking hopeful and wronged. This expression made even more people laugh, echoing her.

Julia suppressed her anger, put on a smile, and said, “Get her a chair, then.”

Becky grinned.

Ava followed behind, her legs going weak at the doorway. Luckily others didn't mind. Otherwise, she had no idea how the banquet would turn out. But she could tell that Queen Julia wasn't spoiling Becky, she just wanted the state banquet to go smoothly and didn't want to contradict anyone there.

As for Becky, she would find out her punishment soon enough.

Becky sat obediently beside Queen Julia, wearing an innocent smile.

A few people laughed, "I heard the Queen has two granddaughters, Barbara and Becky; they sound like twins. Why didn't they come together?"

'That's right, the lively and spirited young lady here must be Princess Becky!

"Where's her sister, then?"

Becky was a bit upset when she heard Barbara's name. She pouted and said, "My sister is preparing a surprise for granny tonight; she should be...

'Becky!' Barbara had been watching Becky's antics backstage. When she heard Becky say this, she immediately interrupted her. Then she slowly walked out from behind the curtain.

She was wearing the evening gown that Ava had prepared for them in advance, originally intended to be worn at tomorrow night's banquet.

The form-fitting gown showcased her tall, slender figure. Her hair was carefully styled, and she was wearing a full set of diamond jewelry. Her makeup was naturally done by the royal makeup artist

She looked every bit the noble and elegant princess.

“That’s Princess Barbara!”

“She really has the royal bearing. Her temperament is quite impressive.”

“Yes, she’s not only beautiful but also seems intelligent. If there’s a chance... ha–ha...”

“But she’s a princess, after all. There are some things we can’t just think about.”

That person obviously had his eyes on Barbara, dreaming of his son marrying her. But, after all, she was a princess. Even though they were dignitaries from other countries with clean backgrounds, marrying a princess still posed challenges. Besides, the princess might not be interested in them.

Praises came one after another. Becky was even more displeased seeing Barbara basking in the compliments. She even wore the dress that was prepared earlier. Was she planning on coming here all along?

Even if she was preparing a surprise, why did she have to wear that dress today? She was just trying to be the center of attention!

So annoying! Becky shot her a dirty look, but Barbara had already walked off to one side.

“Granny” Barbara said.

Queen Julia’s face was slightly displeased, but she still smiled at her, “Becky said you prepared a surprise, what is it?”

Barbara smiled lightly and said in a hushed voice, “Since it’s a surprise, it has to be kept a secret. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be a surprise.”

Queen Julia chuckled, her sharp eyes fixed on Becky for a long time before she said, “I hope you don’t disappoint me later.”

Barbara nodded, “Granny can I join the state banquet too?”

Queen Julia nodded and instructed the servant, “Get a chair over here.”

Before long, Barbara was also sitting beside Queen Julia. One on each side.

The invited journalists from various countries captured this scene.

Ava, standing in the shadows, heaved a sigh of relief at this sight. She leaned against the wall, forcing herself to stand despite her exhaustion. However, the expression on her face didn’t completely relax. She just hoped that in the hustle and bustle of the state banquet, her mother could forget about Becky’s earlier mention of Chloe and Yasmine. She can’t let her mother know about their existence.

Thinking about this, she paused, a fierce glint flashing in her eyes. If she was so anxious, why not just get rid of the one who should’ve been dead long ago? Once she was gone, no one could interfere with her current status and lifestyle.

With a stern face, she staggered out of the banquet hall, got into a car, and immediately made a phone call. The moment the call connected, she blurted out, “I want Yasmine gone from this world forever”

There was silence on the other end of the line, then a response, ‘Okay’

Meanwhile, back home, it was nine in the morning

The situation at Harper Group was, to put it mildly, a hot mess

Chapter 1426

The tense atmosphere from their just-ended Board of Directors meeting had barely subsided, and they were about to call for another meeting right away.

The purpose of this meeting was well-known. The last board meeting aimed to decide the next chairman between Robin and Damon. In the end, Damon not only refrained from participating in the competition for the chairman position but also resigned from his role in front of all shareholders.

However, the final appointment letter had not yet been officially issued, so they could only act as if nothing had happened.

Damon still held the position of CEO.

This time was different from the past because rumors were circulating within the company that Presley intended to announce at the upcoming board meeting that Robin would succeed as chairman. Indeed, these rumors were true.

Yesterday's video from Y Country's airport showed Wendy initially in a wheelchair. Some media outlets had raised doubts about this. Early this morning, Cole, who was far away in Y Country, invited reporters from the domestic news agency stationed in Y Country to hold a press conference and provide an explanation for Wendy's situation.

At this moment, in Damon's office, the video of the press conference held by Cole, intentionally circulated domestically, was also being played.

Cole said in front of the media, 'Everyone knows that the Harper family and the Alonso family have been close friends for many years. My daughter Wendy and the eldest grandson of the Harper family have grown up together as good friends. Even if there is no love between the two, there is deep

friendship. Everyone is curious about why my daughter is sitting in a wheelchair. Now I will answer you. It's all because of the eldest grandson of the Harper family. Wendy has six bullet holes in her body.

all.

"I can't even imagine. Damon is also a child I watched grow up, and he shouldn't be such a cruel and ruthless person. However, he has harmed my daughter, the girl he has taken care of since childhood, in this way. If there is any reason for him to become like this, I think it must be due to Ms. Chloe's

influence. I believe that she's jealous and unwilling, afraid that Damon will leave her because of family and identity reasons.

asons to be with Wendy, and that takes this opportunity to speak ill of Wendy in front of Damon, Damon would not do such a thing.

"The relationship between the Alonso family and the Harper family has been maintained for so many years, and it's really not easy. I am also willing to believe that Damon is only temporarily infatuated with

that woman.

"Nevertheless, I want to say, if a man who controls the entire Harper Group, listens only to a woman's words, the Harper Group will undoubtedly pay a substantial price for this in the near future.

"For the benefit of the Harper Group, I want to issue a warning. If Damon persists in his infatuation and remains involved with that woman, it may be prudent for the Harper Group to seek alternative management in the future."

His final remarks appeared casual but carried a semblance of reason.

Nonetheless, with the imminent board meeting and Cole's released video, Damon undoubtedly faces a significant setback. As the heir to the Harper Group, Damon had often been influenced by a woman,

making him prone to disruptions in his decision-making.

Damon arched an eyebrow, turned his head to face the silent Nate, and requested, "Provide a summary of his intent."

Nate bit his lip, swallowed nervously, and spoke with a serious tone, "In essence, Mr. Alonso suggests that Mrs. Harper is a perilous seductress, and you, in turn, are an ineffectual ruler." Damon fell into a brief silence, then smiled and remarked, "A perilous seductress. He summarized it well.

Nate was speechless and thought to himself, “Could you be a tad more serious, Mr. Harper?! It’s quite evident that you were labeled a ‘useless emperor, yet the emphasis still lingers on the perilous seductress. Doesn’t that appear somewhat too casual?!”

“Indeed, Mrs. Harper is exceptionally beautiful.” Nate said.

“Ha-ha!” A familiar laughter echoed. Nathan, seated on the couch, was engrossed in his game but found amusement in Nate’s words.

“I often wondered why you’ve been so close to my brother all these years. It seems there’s a good reason. You’re quite skilled at flattery!” Nathan said.

Damon casted a sidelong glance at Nathan. “Flattery?”

Nathan promptly set aside his phone and embraced the role of a devoted follower, offering a thumbs-up as he exclaimed, “Your wife is genuinely charming, intelligent, and courageous!”

Nate felt like facepalming. These two brothers were indeed a handful. One appeared suave, yet his humor was helplessly natural. The other appeared serious, but in moments of levity, he might be less serious than anyone else.

In any case, each of these two brothers was more unconventional than the other.

What time was it now, the board meeting started at ten tomorrow morning.

Cole was suddenly holding this press conference; clearly, he wanted him to resign.

Who would dare to hand over a big company to a useless emperor addicted to women? Did these two brothers have no feeling at all now? They still felt quite happy. Mr. Harper, was he really a useless emperor?

However, the next moment, he saw Mr. Harper sitting there, and his expression on his face had become serious at some point.

Nate straightened up a bit. Now, that was more like the usual Mr. Harper. But what the heck was he thinking?

Right now, all the cards were in Presley's hands. Presley had always had a thing for the Alonso family. Rumors were rife that he had planned to hand the Chairmanship to Robin this time.

If he was still a bit hesitant, then the press conference hosted by Cole had pretty much shattered any doubts he might have had. Presley was utterly disappointed in Damon. It was anyone's guess how he was going to keep his chairmanship.

"Mr. Harper, about the meeting tomorrow." Nate said.

Damon pushed the files in front of him to one side, resting his slender fingers on the edge of the table. "Although my grandfather's shares can indeed determine the next chairman, it might be a bit tough to get everyone's approval.

"So, you don't have to compete for the chairmanship!" A cold voice rang out, and the door to Damon's office was pushed open.

At the door was Yasmine in a wheelchair. Damon paused, then stood up, asking, "Why are you here so early?"

As he spoke, he gestured for Nate to prepare some coffee for the guest.

Yasmine rolled to the center of the office and stopped, "I watched Cole's press conference. He is clearly siding with Robin. Considering your grandpa's timid nature, unless you agree to marry Wendy, you won't stand a chance against Robin for the chairmanship."

A tiny twitch of Damon's brow, a half-smiling, half-sneering expression on his face as he looked at Yasmine.

The babies in Chloe's belly still need a father's love."

Yasmine was speechless. This annoying, shameless man! He was now using the kids to make her shut her mouth!

'Glad to hear you know that. I think men are unreliable. What do you guys think of family and children? Career and ambition are the most important.'" Yasmine said.

Damon chuckled, "I don't have much ambition now; the children are the most important."

Yasmine frowned, "Don't play innocent in front of me

"Regardless, Chloe is mine." Damon said.

Yasmine's lips were tightly closed,

'And the children are mine.'" Damon added.

Yasmine clenched her fists.

'Chloe and the children are mine.'" Damon continued.

Yasmine's wheelchair sled towards Damon.

Nate, who was on the side, watched them without finding it strange. A subtle expression on his face, but it seemed he was used to it.

Nathan, on the other hand, his head swaying back and forth with the rhythm of Yasmine and Damon's conversation. Hearing his brother keep mentioning the children, he blinked. "Bro." Nathan slowly raised his hand, "I have a question."

Damon looked at him coldly, "Shoot. Just spit it out, don't waste our time."

Nathan curled his lips and said, "The children you're talking about, are they yours?"

This time Damon stared at him coldly. Yasmine also turned her head and gave him an icy look, saying "What do you mean? The two children in my daughter's belly are not your brother's, but someone else's? Is this how you think of my daughter?"

Nathan wasn't really stupid. After hearing this, he quickly shook his head and waved his hand, saying, "I didn't mean anything else, I just didn't expect. How could she have children? My brother, he's like

this..."

As he said this, he secretly glanced at Damon.

Damon narrowed his eyes and asked, "Go on. What am I like?"

Nathan

gave a dry laugh and replied, "Nothing really."

Yasmine looked at these two brothers and suddenly felt a bit envious of their relationship. If she had been able to keep that child back then, she thought, Chloe wouldn't have been so lonely, and she. wouldn't have been without anyone to rely on. If there was someone who could stay by her side, why would Chloe have to bear so much.

But then she thought, that was life; everything was destined.

For example, she was destined to lose a child and to give birth to Chloe. Chloe was destined to go through all this, to meet Damon. Wasn't everything destined?

For example, this time attending the state banquet was also the case. Since it was already decided by fate, then, she would just go with the flow.

*Since you won't back down, your grandfather certainly won't treat the entire Harper family as a joke. You might as well give up your inheritance." Yasmine advised. Nate looked at Yasmine, a little confused.

Damon asked, "So I don't fight at all?"

Yasmine smiled and responded, "Rather than fighting and losing in the end, it's better not to fight at all. At least you can keep some dignity and not lose too much dignity." Damon was silent for a few seconds and then said, 'But this way, Robin gets his way. I can't accept that.'

"If you can't accept it, just win it back. What's there to be tangled about? Let him have it, then let him lose it. Isn't that more fun?" Yasmine suggested.

Damon remained silent. So did Nate.

Very well done, truly brilliant. She was just as cunning and intelligent as Mrs. Harper!

Losing what they had gained, falling from a high place to a low one that feeling could truly drive people to madness.

Damon paused for a moment and remained silent.

Yasmine continued, "In any case, you still control the business with PrimeVision. You should be the most confident one, right?"

Damon raised an eyebrow. He felt a sense of relief that he had chosen Chloe as his wife. Otherwise, in the event of a conflict with this mother and daughter, he might have truly fallen into their trap. They were too clever, it was incredibly difficult to guard against them.

“Let Robin enjoy himself for a while then.” Damon chuckled, his tone indifferent, as if he were discussing something inconsequential.

Nate was visibly anxious on the side, ‘Mr. Harper, if the company falls into Mr. Robin’s hands, we can’t guarantee what he’ll do. I’m afraid it will require a significant amount of time and effort to regain

control...”

‘His satisfaction won’t last.” Yasmine said indifferently, “Even if he has the support of the Alonso family now, the Harper family is nothing like the Alonso family. Besides, the Alonso family may not grant him complete peace of mind.”“

Her words were full of sarcasm, not hidden at all.

Nate was bewildered.

Nathan remained stunned, his thoughts consumed by Chloe’s pregnancy. His brother was going to be a dad to two kids. He suddenly felt a bit uneasy, what was happening here? He couldn’t help but feel jealous!

After Yasmine left, Nathan slowly turned to look at his own brother, asking, “Bro, is Chloe really pregnant with twins?”

Damon raised an eyebrow at him, whose yes showed a mix of envy and hesitation. A sudden sense of pride welled up in his heart.

Yes, twins. Congratulations, you’re about to become an uncle to two kids.” Damon said.

What was there to congratulate? Was there anything better than him becoming the father to two kids?

‘Congratulations to you! You’re about to be a father to twins.’ Nathan said, raising two thumbs up towards Damon, ‘I didn’t expect you to be so capable. You look so abstinent, but now you have two kids. That’s really amazing!’

Looking at his two thumbs up, Damon smiled contentedly, ‘You should try harder too; it’s still possible.’

Nathan thought to himself, ‘Just you watch, I’ll have three kids for you to call nephews! Hmph!’

‘I’m leaving’ Nathan said. He’d had enough of this place. Seeing his brother’s smug face, he felt really angry.

The office door swung open and closed, and Nate looked at the self-satisfied Damon still sitting there. He took a deep breath and then said, ‘Mr. Harper, what should we do at the board meeting tomorrow?’ Damon replied nonchalantly, ‘Just go with the flow.’

Nate didn’t say a word, glanced at the paused press conference on the screen, and then gave a sigh. ‘Alright, I got it.’

His boss was really turning into a do-nothing emperor. Who would have believed, in the past, that his boss would eventually be influenced by two women?

Nate left the office helplessly. As soon as the rest of the staff in the company saw him, they crowded around him, asking, ‘Nate, is Mr. Harper super confident?’ Nate gave a wry smile and replied, ‘He’s definitely full of confidence!’

He was just really confident in his wife.

At Y Country’s state banquet hall.

The food and drinks were already set on the table, and various performances had been staged one after another.

Delicious food and top-notch art performances, every single detail showed the importance and enthusiasm that Y Country attached to this state banquet.

Barbara and Becky sat politely on either side of Queen Julia, occasionally passing her some dishes, and nothing chaotic had happened so far.

On the huge stage, the orchestra, consisting of dozens of members, was approaching the end of their performance, with everyone in the audience deeply engrossed in the enchanting melodies. The music played by the orchestra was grand and majestic, echoing the thunder of galloping horses, as well as a resolute determination in the face of destiny's challenges.

After the music ended, a round of enthusiastic applause broke out in the banquet hall.

"That's what a top-notch orchestra sounds like! Even a music dummy like me was moved!"

"Indeed, their previous world tours always received rave reviews."

"They truly live up to their reputation."

Queen Julia also nodded in satisfaction. So far, she was quite pleased with the arrangements for the evening.

As for this kind of traditional music, Becky didn't understand it at all; she had no idea what they were trying to express. The sound in her ears was like something was hitting her eardrums out of tune, making her feel dizzy.

But Barbara was full of appreciation and admiration. She whispered to Queen Julia, "It's really beautiful, isn't it, Granny? I attended their world tour performance in Y Country a few years ago

Considering Becky's inappropriate behavior earlier today, Queen Julia was more satisfied with Barbara at the moment. She smiled and nodded at Barbara, saying, 'Indeed, we owe you for inviting them over.' Barbara replied with a smile, "While they are undoubtedly excellent, participating in a state banquet also adds prestige. Inviting them didn't require much effort

Although her words sounded pleasant, they subtly revealed her sense of superiority due to her royal birth. Queen Julia gave her a subtle glance, her smile still present, but the mirth in her eyes slightly faded.

Throughout the years, she had never displayed favoritism towards her two granddaughters and Ava. She provided them with everything she could: affection, family, a life of wealth, and noble status and-identity.

When she brought Ava back, it was because Ava had once been her daughter's closest companion. She poured her deep love and regret for Jasmine onto them."

She treated them well, even in the face of her nephew's opposition. She entrusted Ava to him, and due to his current indifference, she pampered them even more.

If given the choice, she wouldn't mind continuing this way.

However, the mistake Becky made today provoked some resistance within her. She wondered if her true granddaughter, a royal-blooded member of the family, would ever display such arrogance and make such basic mistakes.

Absolutely not.

She was certain that Jasmine had always been exceptional, understanding, and intelligent since childhood. How could she raise her child differently? The royal bloodline would never tolerate such foolish individuals.

She would never regard her princess status as an invaluable jewel, nor would she ever exhibit such an overt sense of superiority.

‘Mom, when I grow up, I want to see the world. I don’t want to remain confined to the palace. I want to capture all the beautiful landscapes for you to admire and share many captivating or poignant stories. I will narrate them all to you. Also, I wish to find a prince who genuinely loves me and introduce him to you. Mom, would you like the prince I bring back? Even though my prince may be an ordinary man, would you still like him?’ Jasmine said.

She remembered nodding at the time. Because she understood her daughter, and her daughter understood her. Both of them disliked being trapped in this situation.

Superficially, they appeared glamorous and respected. However, true glamour was different for them. She longed to explore the vibrant world, to experience genuine relaxation. Yet reality proved otherwise.

Merely by virtue of their royal birth, they bore immense responsibilities. They never regarded their royal lineage as a source of pride. Given the choice, they all desired a normal life.

However, Ava, Barbara, and Becky evidently placed excessive importance on their royal status. After all, they were not her real family.

Lately, she had been thinking about Jasmine a lot.

Could it be that the lifelong secret she had kept was on the verge of being revealed?

Indeed, she missed her daughter deeply.

The next scheduled performance in the program was supposed to be Chloe’s.

However, as the curtain was raised, Chloe noticed from backstage that the staff had placed a grand piano adorned with crystals on the stage. The crystal lamp’s light illuminated the piano, creating a dazzling radiance.

She frowned, recalling that the piano she had played just moments ago appeared different. It lacked the layer of crystals that now made it blinding to look at.

There were an excessive number of crystals; it was impossible to have affixed them meticulously to the entire piano in just a few hours. They must have replaced the piano at the last moment.

Yet, even for the sake of upholding the state banquet's image, shouldn't they have informed her in advance?

As all the orchestra members left the stage, the host walked past her, offering a polite smile upon noticing her.

Chloe then watched him step onto the stage, his voice resonating, "Next, we have a truly astonishing performance. Please welcome the most noble and elegant Princess Barbara of Y Country, who will delight us with a piano solo dedicated to her beloved queen."

As soon as his words came out, enthusiastic applause erupted from the audience below the stage. Chloe's expression turned cold. She looked up at the piano, studded with crystals, and everything seemed to make sense.

She paused for a moment, then curled her lips into a cold smile. She had thought that Princess Barbara would behave herself, at least to maintain her elegant princess image. She wouldn't have taken any action to compete, but it turned out she had been waiting quietly.

Queen Julia's face didn't change at all due to the applause. In fact, when she heard those grandiose words, she was filled with anger.

She admitted that, compared to Becky, Barbara was a clever girl. But playing mind games in front of her? That really grinded her gears.

She couldn't stand her sneaky ways.

Chapter 1429

Everyone knew Barbara and Becky were her granddaughters, but that was only recognized in Y Country, barely anyone knew about it abroad.

People naturally wanted to know, and she never had any intention of hiding their existence. However, due to personal considerations, she never held a special coronation for them, nor did she announce to the world that they were princesses of the Y Country royal family.

Now, at a state banquet where important envoys from all over the world gathered, she just went ahead and publicized herself as a princess of Y Country. And she claimed it was a surprise for the Queen. Was now the time for surprises?

She was the hostess entertaining guests, and Barbara was giving her, the hostess, a surprise at such a grand occasion? She watched Barbara rise, pick up the hem of her beautiful dress, and slowly walk to the stage.

1. 1.

When Barbara ascended the stairs, she saw Chloe standing back stage. She gave her a seemingly elegant and polite smile, but the provocation behind the smile left Chloe feeling quite helpless. Barbara and Becky, these two sisters, were truly worthy of being Wendy's buddies. The sense of superiority they exuded all the time was really one stronger than the other.

She gave a light smile, turned her head, and watched a small band gradually take the stage, raising her eyebrows lightly."

Barbara walked straight to the center of the stage, bowed to the audience below, and then slowly moved toward the piano, plucking up her skirt and sitting down slowly.

The applause ended, and then Barbara raised her slender fingers and placed it on the keys.

The melodious piano sound slowly rose, followed by the sound of the instruments playing in harmony.

Hearing the tune she played, Chloe chuckled. "Jasmine In Bloom", very characteristic of Z Country.

However, it must be said, there was a reason why foreign artists liked the piece so much. She said it was a gift for Queen Julia, and indeed it was.

Queen Julia herself had Z. Country blood; she had lived in Y Country for many years and had a deep love for Z Country's culture.

How could she not see that after so many years with Queen Julia?

But for those of people who had never lived in Z Country since childhood, apart from "Jasmine In Bloom" and a few other places, there was nothing of use for them to play. These pieces were not too difficult, but the key lied in the rhythm, smooth cooperation, and the atmosphere they created, which was already very beautiful and romantic,

After the piece ended, the applause from below was slow to start.

Barbara stood up, gently lifted her skirt, and smiled in gratitude to the audience.

The invited journalists at the scene captured several photographs.

Barbara standing in the center of the stage.

Barbara playing the piano in front of a piano adorned with crystals.

Barbara standing up, picking up her skirt, and bowing in gratitude.

Each shot was as beautiful as a painting.

The applause grew even more enthusiastic.

“Is she the Queen’s eldest granddaughter?” Some people whispered.

“I heard she’s talented in various fields, such as piano, painting, and chess; she’s a jack of all trades.”

“She’s capable of more; this is just the tip of the iceberg.”

She’s indeed a true royal granddaughter.”

Whether it was insincere flattery or genuine praise, it all sounded pleasing.

Barbara’s smile remained unwavering as she maintained the same expression. Amidst the enthusiastic and prolonged applause, she walked back to Queen Julia’s side. “Granny, I played this especially for you, do you like it?”

Queen Julia nodded calmly, ‘Not bad, I love the culture of Z Country.’”

What she liked was not Barbara’s performance, but the culture of Z Country. Although the implication was subtle, Barbara’s smile stiffened, slightly. Then, she laughed and said, “I’m glad you like it.”

Queen Julia remained silent.

The host came back on stage, and the backstage staff replaced the piano Barbara had just played with the ordinary black piano Chloe had used in the rehearsal.

Although referred to as ordinary, it was only in comparison to the piano Barbara had just played. After all, this was a state banquet hosted by the royal family. How could the piano be subpar?

However, the contrast was too glaring.

Following a brief introduction by the host, Chloe gracefully took the stage.

She was adorned in an evening gown, meticulously prepared by Damon. The gown featured a Z Country-style stand-up collar design and a lifelike, hand-embroidered champagne-colored top adorned with golden lace flowers. The flowing skirt swayed gracefully in beautiful arcs as she walked. A pair of matching flat shoes was discreetly hidden beneath the long skirt, barely visible. She radiated an aura of elegance and sophistication, yet her presence remained understated and unpretentious.

Her long hair, gracefully pulled back, had bangs elegantly falling on either side. Her delicate features were accentuated by a hint of calmness in her eyes. In just a few steps from backstage to the stage, she possessed an indescribable aura that left everyone in the room breathless.

Words could not capture it. It was as if a cool and proud demeanor flowed through her veins—powerful, yet conveying gentleness and indifference, enveloped in a warm aura.

Whispers filled the air from below the stage.

“This is Star, I know. My son’s crazy about her. He said he wants to find a wife like her. I’m quite relieved.”

“My daughter has been working tirelessly lately. She once mentioned wanting to be someone like Star.”

The two people exchanged knowing glances and shared a laugh, then raised their glasses for a toast, “Let’s arrange for them to meet when we get the chance.”

“I once heard about her various achievement. She revived a company on the brink of bankruptcy, dismantled another, and then led her own company to prosperity. This woman, she’s clever and strategic.” “Exactly, that’s how it is. Otherwise, how could she have captured the heart of the handsome and accomplished CEO of the Harper Group?”

“Oh! Now that you mention it, I remember...”

Barbara had already performed on stage, and Becky’s mood had soured considerably. Seeing Chloe bask in the spotlight and hearing the praises lavished upon her only intensified Becky’s frustration. She had endured numerous insults in Chloe’s presence today. While she relished the idea of seeing Chloe

humiliated, this was their own state banquet, and Chloe's failure on stage would tarnish Y -Country's reputation.

However, her patience was wearing thin.

Chapter 1430

"So she's the one..." Queen Julia's eyes were glued to the tall, slender figure on stage. She couldn't tear her eyes away from the woman. Even her heart was beating faster than usual. A strong sense of familiarity made Julia tense all over.

Judging by her age, the woman in front of her clearly wasn't her Jasmine. Moreover, her features also greatly differed from those of Jasmine in her memory. But why did she always feel like she saw a hint of Jasmine in the woman's eyes?

And her powerful aura was also making her heart race. Why couldn't she control herself and why did she have the urge to hug her?

At some point, Julia's eyes were filled with intense longing and passion.

Was it just because the girl was too charismatic? Yes, otherwise, how could she have attracted a man like Mr. Harper? It must have been her illusion, right?

Ever since Chloe took the stage, Queen Julia's aura had noticeably changed.

Barbara had always been sensitive to Queen Julia's first meeting with Chloe. Seeing Queen Julia's current state, she became anxious. She couldn't help but glance at the person on stage. There was such a big distance between Chloe and Queen Julia, and this was their first meeting. They didn't have any conversation, so why was Queen Julia reacting so strongly?

Could it be that blood relations really unknowingly drew two people closer? No, how could that be? They didn't even look alike!

Barbara gritted her teeth, glanced at Becky, who was glaring at Chloe, and whispered, "Does the Queen know Ms. Chloe?"

}

Upon hearing Chloe's name, Becky immediately said unhappily, "Who is she? What makes her worthy of the Queen's notice? the Queen is busy all day. She doesn't have time to care about & nobody." Barbara glanced at Becky. This is not the time for you to throw a tantrum. You should learn from others' strengths. Her companies are all thriving, she's been the internationally renowned leading perfumer for three consecutive years, and now even got invited to perform at the state banquet..."

Becky rolled her eyes impatiently, saying, "You're always praising others and not seeing your own strengths! You can play the piano too. Aren't you better than her? The arrangement of this program is unreasonable. Why would they schedule two piano performances together? Aren't they afraid the audience will get bored?"

Becky's voice was loud, and the surrounding guests all heard her words.

'Becky, watch your mouth!' Barbara immediately reprimanded Becky in a low voice, shaking her head disapprovingly at her.

'I didn't say anything wrong. The content of this program does indeed overlap! You just performed a piece in the Z Country style, and Chloe is also from the Z. Country, so her performance must also be characterized by national traits, right? This is supposed to be a piano program, yet all we hear is the Z Country style. It really grinds my gears!'

Queen Julia sat in the middle, her face turning extremely unpleasant. The people around her all looked over, making her feel very embarrassed.

'Princess Becky, you need to mind your words!' Lea felt the sudden change in Queen Julia's mood and quietly reminded Becky.

"Mind my words? I am minding my words. With so many distinguished guests here, we should, of course, provide them with the best treatment. This program arrangement is just unreasonable." "Becky!

If you say one more word, you must leave immediately!” Queen Julia’s voice was low, showing her anger, which scared Becky.

“Your Majesty...”

“Becky!” Barbara suddenly reprimanded in a low voice. “You think the arrangement of the state banquet is inappropriate? Do you know who that would embarrass?”

Becky was stunned, and her face turned pale. Looking at Queen Julia’s displeased face, she felt even more flustered.

But Becky’s words did have some influence on other people. Although no one said anything, their faces clearly showed boredom.

Reporters nearby were whispering-

‘Indeed, watching two performances back-to-back is a bit awkward.’

Yeah, it would-be fine if there was a break in between, or at least they could switch the order. In Princess Barbara’s piano performance just now, that piano alone was pleasing to the eye, but now this...

“Compared to that, this is indeed a bit lacking...”

Seeing this, Barbara secretly rejoiced. Becky would be punished sooner or later, and one more time wouldn’t make a difference. If she could make Chloe mortified at this state banquet, she would need to manipulate the arrangements. Otherwise, how else could she make Chloe feel embarrassed and force her to never return to this place stained with her disgrace?

Intentionally scheduling Barbara’s performance before Chloe’s would not only have the performances overlap, but also, since Barbara’s performance was first, the guests would undoubtedly feel fatigued by Chloe’s performance.

Chloe would not have the upper hand in terms of auditory experience, and with Barbara's crystal piano setting the bar high, Chloe's ordinary piano couldn't compete in terms of visual effect.

Chloe's performance would be subpar overall, making her trip to the state banquet a joke.

The news would spread around the world. She was going to be embarrassed, and she would never be able to hold her head high in front of the world.

Unlike Wendy, who tried so hard yet couldn't shake Chloe, Barbara just had to pull a simple trick to let the whole world know she was the most prestigious princess of the Y Country, while also making Chloe get embarrassed.

Killing two birds with one stone!

Barbara smiled faintly, and, looking back at Chloe on stage, she suddenly felt a lot better.

Chloe stood in front of the piano, bowed to the audience below the stage, then lifted her skirt and sat down.

Out of courtesy, the audience below the stage also quietly watched her.

The light cascaded down on her, illuminating her poised posture, delicate profile, and skin so smooth it practically glowed. The tranquil aura she emitted calmed down the guests, who were previously agitated by Becky's words.

Watching the poised woman on the stage, Becky was filled with contempt. "Pffft... What's so special about her?"

Even the most patient person would lose their cool around Becky. Queen Julia cast a glance at the guests focused on the stage and slowly rose from her seat.

Your Majesty..." Lea immediately walked over.

'I need a break. My head is killing me!'

"Alright!" Lea quickly responded, stepping forward to assist Queen Julia. But Barbara beat her to it.

I've got this. With that, Barbara took hold of Queen Julia's arm.

Queen Julia didn't resist. She simply left her seat with Barbara's help. But before she could take two steps, a beautiful piano melody suddenly filled the banquet hall. Queen Julia stopped in her tracks, her hand resting on her forehead, frozen in place.

Barbara was puzzled. "Your Majesty, what's..."

Before she could finish, she felt the woman she was supporting start to tremble noticeably.

Sounds kept flowing into her ears.

Notes, rhythm, melody, voices...

Queen Julia slowly turned, her gaze landing on the figure sitting quietly on the stage. Her pupils contracted, her lips trembling uncontrollably...