

CHOSEN 1431

Chapter 1431

Queen Julia slowly turned around her eyes landing on the woman playing the piano on stage. Her pupils contracted, and her lips quivered uncontrollably.

The sound of the piano seemed to float in from a faraway place, entering Julia's ears, seeping through every pore of her skin, flowing into her body, and resonating deep within her soul. Who was she? Why was she playing this piece?

The soulful tune matched the melody in Julia's heart perfectly, without the slightest deviation, Julia's heart nearly stopped beating. She held her breath and stared intently at Chloe, not daring to blink. Your Majesty..."

Lea noticed something was off with Queen Julia and gently patted her. With a sigh of relief, Julia's body went limp, nearly collapsing on the spot. Luckily, Lea and Barbara were there to catch her in time. Seeing the way the Queen was looking at Chloe, Barbara felt a twinge of unease. She was wary of Queen Julia showing Chloe any special treatment.

Julia's eyes started to redden involuntarily, and her body was still shaking.

Your Majesty, what's wrong? Barbara asked in a low voice, her brow furrowed.

Julia didn't respond but tightly gripped Lea's arm, hurriedly making her way to the stage. She moved in a rush, clearly impatient.

The performance had been grand and majestic so far, but now a light and lively piece had emerged. Although Barbara's piece had been played before, Chloe's was more popular.

After all at a state banquet like this, everyone was on edge. No one had expected such a relaxing moment. The power of music was just that magical. Compared to Princess Barbara's piece, the guests

preferred this one.

However, as everyone was immersed in the music, some people noticed Queen Julia being escorted off the stage in a fluster. All eyes were drawn to the Queen, faces filled with confusion “What’s going on?”

The reporters present also turned their cameras towards Queen Julia.

Barbara froze in place, her scalp tingling. “What are you doing? This is a state banquet, you should be careful...”

Julia didn’t seem to hear her, pushing Barbara aside and moving forward with Lea.

What about the occasion? She didn’t care about the occasion. Nothing was more important than verification.

For the so-called “occasion,” Julia had always been cautious. Now, all she wanted was to find her Jasmine, no matter the cost.

As Queen Julia took the stage, all the guests began whispering amongst themselves.

“What’s going on?”

Barbara stood there, completely at a loss.

What was happening? Was there something special about the piece Chloe was playing?

She listened and listened, but technically, there was nothing outstanding about it! But why had Queen Julia suddenly acted this way?

Chloe was unaware of the unusual atmosphere off stage. Her only task at the moment was to finish playing the piece at hand.

This piece was just an ordinary piece, nothing special, not likely to offend anyone, plain and simple. She had no reason to suspect that this piece would cause her any irreparable problems.

As the piece was drawing to a close, Chloe looked up and suddenly saw someone slowly standing next to her. Chloe's expression froze for a moment, but her fingers continued to play swiftly, successfully bringing the piece to a flawless end.

Chloe stood up and nodded at Queen Julia. "Do you have any questions?"

Queen Julia's gaze lingered greedily on Chloe's face, her excitement puzzling Chloe.

Chloe smiled gently and said softly, "Would you like to play the piano? I'm done. I can give up the seat for you."

As she spoke, she picked up her skirt to leave, but was stopped by a hand grabbing her arm.

Chloe paused, turning back to look at Queen Julia in confusion. "May I ask..."

"Why did you play this piece?" Queen Julia asked Chloe with a complicated look in her eyes.

Chloe stiffened, a shock going through her heart. "You know this piece?"

Queen Julia smirked slightly. It seemed that Chloe was a cautious one, but she reacted fast. A normal person would've just answered her question, right?

"You don't want to tell me?"

Chloe quietly stared at Queen Julia's face, her smile, her eyes, filled with profound meaning. After a while, Chloe finally said, "It was taught to me by my mother..."

Chloe could clearly feel the grip on her arm tighten instantly. Ice—cold sweat covered Queen Julia's palm, and she couldn't control her shaking or the excitement on her face. Her thoughts were a whirlwind.

"Your... mother..." Julia muttered to herself, seeming a bit dazed. "your mother..."

Chloe slowly nodded, looking into Queen Julia's eyes, and said slowly, "Yes, my mother. This is the piece my mother taught me. She said... it's a unique piece in the world, only to be played for those who can understand..."

A tear fell from Queen Julia's eye.

"Only for... those who can understand..." She repeated, shaking her head, her face a mix of emotions.

Excitement, joy, shock...

Bryson's words echoed clearly in her mind at this moment, and Chloe's hands clenched tightly. "Um... My mother once told me that this piece should only be played for those who can understand... So, did you understand it?"

Chloe looked at Queen Julia, unsure of what her current emotion should be, or what kind of emotion she should have. Before deciding to come to the Y Country, she had noticed something off about Yasmine. Yasmine had always refused to tell Chloe why she had only given her this melody.

Chloe's arms were suddenly grabbed tightly, a sharp pain bringing her back to reality. Julia was looking at Chloe with anticipation written all over her face, totally thrilled. "What's your mother's name? Where is she now?"

Chloe wet her lips, giving her a complex look. "Your Majesty..."

"No! Don't call me that, child... Julia was somewhat losing it, and her words almost came out as a growl.

Seeing this, some of the spectators down below even stood up from their seats.

Chapter 1432

"I have no idea, it doesn't look like there's any argument or anything."

Barbara's hand was tightly gripping the chair next to her, with her whole body practically leaning on it. She held her forehead, trying her best to keep her nerves in check.

She never in a million years would have thought that Chloe would sabotage her by playing that song. Just one song and her cover was blown?

For a moment, a glint of ruthlessness flashed in Barbara's eyes. Her perfectly manicured nail suddenly broke. How could she... just let Chloe snatch everything she had so easily?

With tears streaming down her face, Julia took a step towards Chloe, looking up at the younger girl who was a few inches taller than her. From the moment Chloe appeared, her heart had been uneasy, and the familiarity she felt from Chloe now made sense.

This was... Jasmine's daughter...

Really? Should she hold out hope? Would her hope be in vain?

Hadn't they said that her Jasmine... was dead?

So, this child in front of her, was she really her granddaughter?

No one could understand how Julia felt at that moment; She had always missed Jasmine

Julia dared not even hope, fearing the higher her hopes, the greater her disappointment. But now, how could she remain unaffected?

Julia slowly raised her hand, stroking Chloe's hair, her face full of tenderness. "Is your mother... is she okay?"

Chloe's eyes flickered, she had so many questions, but didn't know where to start.

What was Yasmine thinking? If the truth was as Chloe thought, why hadn't Yasmine ever thought of returning to the Y Country all these years.

If it weren't for Presley threatening Chloe with her "identity," she thought, Yasmine might have kept this secret for life. Didn't Yasmine want to come back? Didn't she want to return to the Queen's side?

"She..."

"Arrest her!"

Chloe's words were interrupted by a cold command, and when she turned her head, she was surrounded by several people in Y Country military uniforms. She frowned, sidestepped a few steps to avoid the two who approached. Looked up again, her eyes were now cold.

"How dare you!" Queen Julia roared with authority, making the soldiers around her take a few steps back, "What do you think you're doing?" Julia stepped forward to shield Chloe, glaring at them.

"Your Majesty..." Barbara's voice sounded and the soldiers parted to let her through. She walked over elegantly, her eyes full of coldness and caution. "I don't know what the song Miss Chloe just played means, but judging by your reaction, Your Majesty, I fear... you might have been deceived by someone with ulterior motives."

Chloe's brows twitched slightly, her eyes squinting as she stared into Barbara's eyes.

"You fear I've been deceived?"

Barbara nodded. "It's just a song, maybe it has a special meaning to you, but how can you be sure this song hasn't been spread around over the years. Maybe it's already common somewhere else. Drawing conclusions based on just a song, isn't that a bit hasty?"

Chloe's cold expression seemed to deepen, a hint of mockery curling at the corner of her mouth. "So, Princess Barbara, can you tell me, what am I trying to convince the Queen of with a song?"

Barbara's face changed.

Chloe was a woman who knew how to seize a person's weakness. Just a few words, and she was able to find the flaw in the dialogue.

"Princess Barbara, do you already know something?"

Upon hearing this, Queen Julia turned her eyes and calmly looked at Barbara. Barbara gritted her teeth inwardly. She knew one of the Queen's habits.

The more angry and suspicious Julia was, the calmer she appeared on the outside. She was accustomed to quietly observing everyone's thoughts and goals.

"Since Miss Chloe might know and dare to stir things up here, why couldn't I know?"

The situation on the stage was very chaotic; after all, force had been used.

Chloe nodded, looking at Barbara. "I hope you can provide evidence before having these people arrest me. If there's no evidence..."

She paused, turning to look at Queen Julia next to her. "There's no evidence and you're going to arrest me for false accusations... So, this is how the Y Country governs, so tyrannical and authoritarian, disregarding right from wrong, and making a fuss about nothing?"

Silence fell on the stage. These adjectives were completely unsuitable for judging any members of the royal family.

Barbara's face darkened. With Chloe making such remarks in front of so many foreign envoys, it seriously affected Barbara's future goal of the throne and would damage her image.

"Alright, I apologize, I misunderstood. So, since Miss Chloe has finished her performance, it's time for you to leave, right?"

Chloe lifted the corner of her lips. "You're acting as if I brought a bunch of people up on stage to cause a scene."

Barbara's brows furrowed. "What do you really want?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow, crossed her arms in front of her chest, leaned back against the piano, and casually said, "I don't accept your apology."

Glancing over the people below the stage, Chloe pressed her lips together in resignation.

Such rotten luck.

7 was invited by the Y Country, but now I'm almost accused as a fraud, almost became a prisoner, and almost became a laughingstock for the world. Your apology was too perfunctory No one knows better than me about public opinion What I want is justice, I don't want to carry this blame and I don't even want to be tainted by a speck of dirt

"So let's get this straight about today's incident, right here, right now. Once I'm out of here, I won't have any control over the situation. As the princess of Y Country you didn't give a hoot about the national image, causing a ruckus at the state banquet for no good reason and letting the people down. And me a nobody with no ties to Y Country, never having received any favor from you guys, is mistaken for a

con artist. You expect me to mind the military might of Y Country step back and smooth things over Is that what you're saying?"

What a pain in the neck! Barbara really didn't see this coming, this woman was such a hard nut to crack.

"So, Ms. Chloe, here's your chance to explain. If I've got you all wrong, you can prove your intentions today are legit in some other way. But let's not bring up that piano piece again, shall we? It may have been one of a kind, but it might not be anymore"

Chloe retorted coldly, 'Another way to prove my intentions today?... What intentions? To prove that my mother is Queen Julia's biological daughter?'

"Whoa--"

Even the guests, who were trying to keep their curiosity in-check and stay cool, couldn't contain their excitement when they heard Chloe's words

"What?! Queen Julia's daughter?!"

"Weren't we told the Queen's daughter died decades ago?"

"If that's true, then this woman, wouldn't she be the real princess..."

Chapter 1433

"Is this woman seriously...the real princess of Y Country?!"

"Holy cow, this is some earth-shattering news!"

That's what Barbara had insinuated, but when Chloe spelled it out so bluntly, her heart pounded faster than ever. Barbara's mind was a mess. The atmosphere of the room said it all.

Chloe didn't beat around the bush like Barbara had. But what made Barbara even more uneasy was the fact that there seemed to be no turning back now. What a disaster!

"Ms. Chloe, you're reading too much into..."

Chloe abruptly raised her hand, cutting Barbara off, "I have no other way to prove that I'm Queen Julia's granddaughter. I never planned on proving anything. But, if you insist on calling me a fraud, then I'll give you a chance, Princess Barbara. You can find evidence that proves I'm not Queen Julia's granddaughter."

Seeing Chloe's smirk, Barbara suddenly realized that maybe Wendy wasn't the fool; she was being led step by step into foolishness by Chloe. Even though Wendy was Cole's chosen heir, she had lost miserably in every confrontation with Chloe; she had never won.

One by one, Chloe was luring them into her trap, and they had no way out.

Finding evidence that Chloe was not the real princess?

If Barbara agreed to find the evidence, that would mean she was admitting her concern over Chloe's ties to the royal family. If she couldn't find it, then was Chloe the real princess?

No!

Barbara couldn't make any response now because any response would be a trap set by Chloe. No matter which option she chose, the result would be a failure! This couldn't go any further; if it continued, someone would eventually find out the truth, and things would not be able to be covered up. Queen Julia quietly stood on the side, watching the standoff between the two young girls and the corners of her mouth gradually lifting.

Sharp-witted, quick to react, sharp-tongued, and strong-willed, Chloe had Barbara trapped in a difficult situation with just a few words. Her thinking was indeed excellent. If only Chloe were really her granddaughter.

That would be the purest blood of the Y Country Royal Family, and the way a country's leader should be.

The state banquet had completely changed its nature.

Queen Julia knew from the start that this banquet had become a foregone conclusion the moment Chloe stepped onto the stage. She had worked hard for this country her entire life, and she had endured, lost, and sacrificed so much for it.

She didn't want to endure any longer, didn't want to lose her own flesh and blood. As long as there was a glimmer of hope...

No, she had a hunch that Chloe was Jasmine's daughter.

Unable to directly respond to Chloe, Barbara took a deep breath and said, "Ms. Chloe, if you weren't planning on proving anything, I may have misunderstood you. I apologize."

Chloe smirked, her gaze cold as she calmly said, "Even if there's a 99% chance that someone claiming to be the Queen's biological child is lying, there's still a 1% chance they're telling the truth. So why did you go to such lengths in the first place?"

Barbara's face darkened, and she simply said, "I was mistaken. Please forgive me."

Chloe watched as Barbara tried to deal with this, and a cold laugh escaped her lips. She stood up from her chair and walked towards Barbara. Her slender, clean fingers gently brushed her forehead, as Chloe looked down at Barbara and continued, "I heard a long time ago that the Queen's biological daughter died more than thirty years ago. Princess Barbara, didn't you know?"

"...I knew." It was something everyone in the world knew. How could she deny it?

Chloe laughed. "Then why are you so nervous?"

Barbara's heart raced as she realized she had fallen into Chloe's trap. She looked up at Chloe.

Chloe was already taller than her, and her commanding presence made Barbara feel at a disadvantage. Barbara was filled with anger and humiliation.

The guests below were looking at Barbara. Their eyes were no longer filled with admiration and praise but with doubt and mockery

Nervous about what? That person had been dead for decades, what was she nervous about? Now, Barbara's guilt was completely exposed to everyone. "I... was just afraid that the Queen would be deceived..."

"Are you saying..." Chloe cut her off, "A queen who can manage a country would be deceived by a nobody like me in front of so many national leaders? Do you think the Queen is too foolish, or do you think all the guests here are fools, or do you think I'm capable of deceiving the Queen in front of so

many national leaders?" Chloe's words were sharp and oppressive, making Barbara involuntarily take a step back. This small movement made Chloe laugh.

Barbara felt even more humiliated, and with these words, Chloe left her with no way retort.

"All in all... I apologize again. As the host, Tindeed didn't consider things thoroughly, and I hope you won't take it to heart..." Barbara forced out.

Chloe looked at her, smiling. "Continuing this won't lead to any results. Seeing you so helpless, it seems I'm too ruthless. After all, I can't find a better way to prove my relationship with the Queen either, so let's just leave it at that..."

"Smack..."

Chloe's words abruptly came to a halt as her gaze caught sight of someone charging full speed ahead. Despite her attempts to dodge, she still fell victim to the person's antics.

With a loud “thunk,” Becky chucked the ice bucket she was holding to the ground. Becky initially intended to drench Chloe’s head with ice water, but due to Chloe’s evasive maneuvers, the water ended up splashing over half her body instead.

Frosty water soaking her skin caused Chloe to involuntarily shiver, a tremor also going through her heart.

Barbara got splashed as well, her dress becoming semi-transparent upon contact with the water. Her chest area was exposed in an instant. She let out a small gasp, hastily covering herself with her hands.

“Chloe” Queen Julia’s heart ached with both concern and guilt.

Chapter 1434

She just saw clearly that if it wasn’t for this girl shielding her from the water, she would have dodged it and at least wouldn’t have gotten drenched like she did now.

“Thank you for protecting me.” Julia tried to grab Chloe’s hand.

Chloe pulled her hand back with an indifferent look. “No need. You are... the Queen, after all. You need to keep your dignity.”

After saying this, Chloe turned her head away, no longer looking at Julia.

A sting of pain hit Queen Julia’s heart. Her pause, was it because-

Because she was her...

“You’re such a conceited bitch. Who do you think you are, trying to impersonate a princess?! You’re so shameless. It’s horrifying that someone like you exists in this world. You deserve severe punishment! Your parents must be crazy to have given birth to such a shameless person. It’s so unfortunate. You should have been strangled at birth...”

Chloe and Queen Julia's faces turned stern.

A sudden shrill noise echoed through the banquet hall. People were annoyed by the noise, and when they came to their senses, they saw Chloe holding Princess Becky's neck, pressing her head hard on the piano keys next to her.

It all happened too fast, just in a blink of an eye.

"Ah!" Becky screamed. "Let go of me! You bitch! Grandma...ah!!"

A confusing melody sounded as Chloe forcefully dragged Becky's head back and forth on the piano keys.

People simply couldn't believe their eyes.

"I can bear your insults, but I won't tolerate you involving my parents! Becky, it seems your lesson in P City wasn't enough!"

"Let go of me. I'll kill you...ah!!"

Another harsh melody sounded as Chloe raised Becky's hand and slammed it down repeatedly. It was terrifying to watch. By the time she finally stopped, Becky's body collapsed on the floor. She lost consciousness. Indeed, the impact was so great that even if she didn't have a concussion, she would have hurt her brain.

The guests below began to feel nervous. This was too shocking! This woman was so fierce and violent!

Barbara was the closest, but she didn't see how Chloe grabbed Becky and pressed her on the piano. Even the soldiers nearby didn't react in time. Just the momentum was enough to scare her.

By the time Barbara reacted, her face had turned pale. "...Chloe.... you're too bold!"

Chloe turned her head and gave her a cold look. Barbara involuntarily took two steps back.

Turning back, Chloe walked over to Becky, who had fainted on the ground, bent down to pick up her phone, and dialed a few numbers.

The call was quickly connected, and a deep, charming voice came over. "Hello?"

Chloe swung her hair, standing straight, chin up, looking fearless. She casually said, "Mr. Harper, I've caused a big mess in Y Country."

"Hmm? What mess?"

Chloe smiled slightly. "At the state banquet, I knocked out Princess Becky."

There was a brief silence on the other end, followed by a chuckle. "No problem, I'll handle it."

"Alright." Chloe raised an eyebrow.

She was about to hang up, but Damon suddenly spoke again, "Did you enjoy hitting her?"

Chloe pursed her lips. "Not really, she not only insulted my parents, but wished me an early death, even said I should have been strangled at birth..."

She smiled, raising an eyebrow. "Mr. Harper, you might not have a wife to spoil in the future,"

There was another pause at the other end, then after a dozen seconds, a cold voice came through the phone. "I'll handle it."

The stage was equipped with high-quality microphones, so even though Chloe and Damon's conversation was quiet, everyone in the silent banquet hall could hear it. Damon's response made everyone uneasy.

As they were expecting a murderous tone, they heard a gentle phrase. "Eat well and sleep well. Wait for me."

"Alright."

After hanging up, Chloe carefully deleted Damon's number from the phone and threw the phone back to Becky.

The people below were mostly confused.

"Who is Mr. Harper?"

"I don't know, does he seem to have a strong backing? He doesn't seem to care about the royal family. He even dared to touch Princess Becky of the royal family?"

"Don't you know? It was reported in the recent news of Z Country that Ms. Chloe is engaged to the CEO of Harper Group."

..Who?!"

The person paused, looking surprised. "The Harper Group..."

"You don't know the Harper Group?"

"No, I know the Harper Group. But... the one who got beaten was the princess of Y Country's royal family. No matter how powerful he is, can he really lay hands on the royal family?"

“I don’t know about that. But the so-called princesses of the Y Country royal family are just two adopted daughters of Queen Julia. If it’s about nobility, can they compare with the real royal bloodline?”

Hearing this, people around turned to look at Chloe. There was a hint of uncertainty in their eyes. Speaking of the real royal bloodline of Y Country...

Chloe turned around, looking at Queen Julia. “I’m sorry for hitting your granddaughter at the state banquet! But I won’t apologize again because she deserved it, and I don’t feel relieved at all. As for how to handle this, I’ll wait for the decision of the Y Country royal family.”

Julia didn’t say anything, and just looked at Chloe, with no particular expression on her face.

Chloe spun around, her gaze landing on Barbara who was standing idly by. A hint of indifference flashed in her eyes. She walked up to Barbara, her icy stare almost freezing Barbara on the spot. After

a moment, Chloe said in a low voice, “I thought you were pretty smart, but you’ve shown your true colors today. Including... your plans for my mom. If I find any evidence, Barbara, even if you were the Queen, I wouldn’t let you slide!”

Barbara’s eyelashes fluttered. She awkwardly turned to face Chloe, but when their eyes met, she couldn’t help but tremble. “...I don’t know what you’re talking about.” Chloe narrowed her eyes. “It’s better that way.”

With that, she turned to leave, but in the next second, her arm was grabbed.

“Chloe, you’re all wet. I’ll take you to change into something dry, okay?”

Chapter 1435

Queen Julia’s voice came from behind, filled with hope and worry. For the first time, Queen Julia was pleading so humbly.

Her last sentence had successfully persuaded Chloe. Indeed, she couldn't ignore her health, not just for herself but also for the two little ones in her belly. Her illness would affect the babies' health.

Chloe looked down at her wet clothes and finally decided to accept the offer.

Queen Julia's anxious face finally relaxed. She turned towards Lea and said, "Prepare my chambers."

Lea nodded and left. But before leaving, her gaze lingered on Chloe. Chloe frowned but didn't say anything.

"Your majesty!" Barbara exclaimed her heart skipping a beat. "How could you... let a stranger into your chambers?" She couldn't stand the thought of Chloe being so close to the Queen.

"Do I need your approval for everything I do?"

"I... I was just concerned for your..."

"Enough!" Queen Julia shouted, causing Barbara to shut up. Barbara bit her lip, looking at Queen Julia with hesitation and resentment.

"Take Becky away now!"

The soldiers immediately stepped forward, lifting Becky from the ground.

Suddenly, there were gasps from below.

"Oh my god..."

"That scared me!"

“What happened?”

“Princess Becky... her nose is crooked!”

“And her chin too...”

Chloe raised an eyebrow.

Seemed like this chaos was quite a stir.

Queen Julia apologized to the guests, and the banquet ended.

Barbara found a corner and called Ava: “There was a situation at the banquet.”

Ava had just gotten out of the shower, and she paused while drying her hair. “What happened?”

Barbara bit her lip. “Chloe played a piece, and the Queen had a strong reaction. Becky splashed water all over Chloe. She’s probably in the Queen’s room changing

now.”

Ava froze, her hand gripping the phone tightened. “What piece?”

“I don’t know, I’ve never heard it: I told the Queen that a piece of music doesn’t prove anything. Chloe doesn’t have any other evidence to prove her identity.”

Ava let out a sigh of relief. “Oh, okay... she doesn’t have any proof either. What about Becky, why did she splash water on Chloe?”

“Because Chloe was deceiving the Queen. Becky lost her temper and lashed out at her, but...”

“Becky, that damn girl, she’s been causing me trouble every day! You need to keep an eye on her, and the Queen, in case the Queen does something impulsive like a DNA test. As for the doctor, I’ve already given him a heads up... You should arrange for the guests to leave now, I’ll be there soon. We can’t let Chloe and the Queen spend too much time alone!”

“Okay.”

Barbara wanted to say more about Becky, but Ava didn’t give her the chance, so she just answered briefly and ended the call.

Becky was taken straight to the royal hospital; Barbara had to maintain her princess status and arrange for the guests to leave. Each guest looked at Barbara with a strange gaze before leaving, but she bravely maintained her princess demeanor.

Queen Julia held Chloe’s hand the entire way, not letting go.

Chloe was silent the whole time. The warmth from their hands gave her a strange comfort. It wasn’t just the physical touch, but also the warmth for her heart that had been frozen by her past.

She trusted Yasmine and knew her well.

This piece was only played for those who could appreciate it. And, the one who could appreciate it was right in front of her.

Bryson had mentioned that the prelude to this piece was just a few notes played by Yasmine and was later developed into a full piece by the Queen. Given Queen Julia’s strong reaction today, Chloe’s suspicion was probably correct.

But Chloe didn’t know how to face Queen Julia now because it was too strange. They were the strangest relatives in the world and had the strangest kinship.

Chloe chuckled in her heart. She didn't understand why her familial relationships were always so indifferent.

Her time with Carolina was filled with unbearable memories. Her relationship with the Queen. Now it was so strange that she didn't know how to act.

Upon arriving at the chambers, Queen Julia led Chloe to the couch but didn't let go of her hand. Her dark eyes were locked onto Chloe's face, not moving away for a second.

A servant brought a towel, and Julia took it and gently wiped Chloe's wet spots. Chloe pursed her lips, wanting to avoid it, but decided to let Julia do it to avoid making things awkward.

At the same time, Chloe looked into Julia's eyes and said coldly, "If you want to ask about the piece, my answer is the same as before. But Barbara was also right, after all these years, I can't guarantee the uniqueness of the piece. And I don't have any evidence to prove that I'm your kin..."

Chloe paused, looking at Queen Julia who was handing her a cup.

Queen Julia gave her a loving smile. "I ordered some hot milk. Drink it to warm yourself up, don't catch a cold..."

Chloe quietly took the cup and sipped it carefully. The smile on Queen Julia's face got even bigger, and her eyes were filled with satisfaction.

Only when Chloe was almost done with her milk, did Queen Julia slowly say, "You know...there are other ways to prove it."

Chloe paused, looking up at Julia, her pretty face beginning to blush from the warm milk she had just drunk. "You mean, DNA..."

Queen Julia shook her head, "No need for that."

Chloe quietly stared at Julia, confusion creeping into her eyes. The only thing she could think of was just that.

Chapter 1436

"I don't think anything other than a DNA test could be more convincing."

Queen Julia gripped the towel on her lap tightly, her nerves seemed hard to restrain. "No need for DNA, you just need to tell me about your mother, she..."

"Your Majesty, the bath is ready, Ms. Chloe should take a hot bath as soon as possible."

Lea suddenly emerged from the bathroom, tactfully cutting off Queen Julia's words,

Only then did the Queen look enlightened, hastily saying, "You should go have a bath."

Watching Chloe enter the bathroom, Lea walked over to Queen Julia. "Your Majesty, although what Princess Barbara did was wrong, she did have a point. You're too invested in this, and it's inevitable that you'll act on impulse..."

"Lea, I know your concerns." Queen Julia cut off Lea's nagging. "I did act impulsively, but this is about Jasmine. I can't possibly have no reaction. I miss her, Lea, I miss her so much... This girl, she gives me hope... I have a feeling, she is... she's my daughter's child..."

Julia's voice choked up, a bitter pain swelling in her heart to the point of suffocation. She was again in tears, her hands clutched tightly on her chest, her shoulders trembling along with her.

Her sorrowful state was so heart-wrenching that even Lea's eyes welled up in sympathy. "Your Majesty... Please don't be too sad, Ms. Chloe is here, and there are still many ways to verify..

Queen Julia nodded, looking in the direction of the bathroom, her eyes filled with anticipation.

Ava arrived at Queen Julia's bedroom in record time. Hearing the door knock, Queen Julia furrowed her brows.

Lea whispered, it's Princess Ava."

Julia's face darkened even more. "Why is there so much drama from these three tonight? Tell her I'm asleep!"

Lea nodded, walked to the door, opened it, and whispered, "Princess Ava, the Queen is tired today and plans to rest. Whatever it is, please come back tomorrow." Ava's brow furrowed, but she smiled and said, "Lea, the Queen's bedroom clearly still has a guest. Why is she going to sleep now?"

Lea's eyebrows twitched imperceptibly. "Princess Ava, do I really need to spell it out? The Queen is very tired and doesn't want to see anyone right now,. Is that clear enough?"

Lea repeated her statement, leaving Ava wishing she could slap this old woman. She forced a smile, but her expression failed to hold. "Lea, Barbara told me what happened. As my mother's personal attendant, how could you allow such a person with an unknown background to approach her? After all, my mother is the Queen of Y Country, and not just anyone can see her, right?"

Ava didn't even give Lea a chance to speak. She just kept going, "Also, please remember your place and how you should speak to me. Have I been so laid-back that you've forgotten that I'm still a princess of Y Country?"

Lea's face tightened, she gave a cold laugh, and said, "That's true, since you know you're the noble princess of Y Country, then why are you arguing with me at the door, at this late hour? Princess Ava, you've never been as reckless as you are tonight. I'm really curious, apart from the state banquet, what's so special about today to make all three of you... so anxious."

Ava felt a rush of panic, her fingers curled. She swallowed hard, then slowly said, "A person with unknown origins is doing everything possible to get close to the Queen, with impure motives. Don't you think we should be worried?"

“Who said she has unknown origins?” Julia’s cold, somber voice came from the room. Lea stepped aside to see Julia walking out and respectfully moved aside. Ava immediately straightened up and stepped into the room. “Mother, what are you thinking? You can’t just let any random person get close to you...”

Julia frowned, all her thoughts were on one thing right now, and she didn’t have time to argue with Ava. “What are you here for this late at night?”

“Of course, I’m worried that you might be deceived in a moment of impulse.”

Ava helped Julia walk inside while speaking, her gaze subtly scanning the room. Seeing no one, her eyes flashed with confusion.

Queen Julia said coldly, “You and Barbara are indeed mother and daughter. How foolish do you think I am that I would be deceived?”

Ava sighed, appearing very earnest. “People can be unpredictable. There are many bold people these days, and it’s not impossible for you to be exploited due to your lack of guard. I’ve known you since I was a child, and also Barbara and Becky. How they respect and adore you, you must know this. Would we have ulterior motives towards you? Don’t just assume she’s the person you’re looking for because of a song...”

“Ava, Queen Julia suddenly called out.

“What is it?”

Julia looked straight at Ava, her face expressionless. “Is what you told me true?”

Ava was taken aback, not quite catching on, “What?”

“Back then, the thing you told me, that my daughter Jasmine was dead. Was that true?”

Ava’s face stiffened, her palms suddenly cold, her fingers trembling uncontrollably.

Back then...

Seeing Ava's reaction, Julia squinted her eyes and asked again, "Was what you said back then true?"

The overwhelming pressure made Ava's heart quiver; she even dared not breathe. "Of course it's true... I saw her body being cremated with my own eyes..." Yeah, because Jasmine was cremated, Julia thought she'd never see her again in this lifetime. But still, Julia couldn't help but imagine countless times, that if Jasmine were still around, what kind of life she'd be living each day. On her birthday every Christmas. Was there anyone who'd make a fuss about her? Did she grow up healthy? Did she get a decent education? Did she meet her prince charming? Did she have good-looking kids...?

In Julia's world, Jasmine was still alive, kicking around in some corner of the world. However, Julia had to face the harsh reality over and over again. Ava was

constantly reminding her, Jasmine was no more.

Chapter 1437

"Really?" Julia stared at Ava, her reply was so calm, and there was no hint of emotion in her voice or her face.

Ava forced a smile, trying to appear relaxed. She had nothing to hide. A song didn't prove anything. And as long as she was here, she'd do everything she could to stop Chloe from getting a DNA test.

"Yes, so we should be suspicious of Ms. Chloe..."

"She never intended to prove anything. She made that clear to Barbara. I just happened to know the song she played. If Becky hadn't suddenly decided to throw water all over her, she would've been gone by now. She blocked the water to protect me, and I felt bad, so I let her take a shower in my room to warm up. How could anyone call her a fraud?"

Ava frowned. Becky was such a screw-up! “Is that so? Well, I’ll take Chloe out after she finishes her shower. I need to head home anyway.”

Queen Julia glanced at Ava but didn’t respond..

The bathroom door opened, and Chloe stepped out, her face flushed from the warm shower. She was wrapped in a white bathrobe, standing at the door, looking at Julia and Ava.

“Where are my clothes?”

She had left them on the hanger outside the bathroom, but they were gone.

Lea quickly replied, “I had someone take them to be dried. We have other clothes for you...”

“When will my clothes be dry?” After all, they were a gift from Damon.

Queen Julia got up and walked towards Chloe. “Your hair is still wet.”

Queen Julia said, smiling. Lea immediately handed her a towel, as if everything had been planned in advance.

Chloe avoided Queen Julia’s attempt to dry her hair, saying, “I can do it myself.”

Queen Julia handed Chloe the towel, but her gaze fell to Chloe’s exposed chest. As Chloe dried her hair, her bathrobe opened and closed with her movements, revealing her delicate skin.

Chloe felt Julia’s gaze, stopped drying her hair, and looked at Queen Julia. She moved away, creating distance between them.

“Chloe!” Queen Julia suddenly called out in desperation, grabbing Chloe’s arm.

Ava's eyes flashed with coldness. This was more than just a shower.

"Is there anything else?" Chloe asked, looking at Julia.

"Can I... look at you?"

Chloe paused. "...Why?"

"...Please." Julia's pleading look and shaking voice made Chloe's heart heavy. The heavy feeling in her heart made her eyes sting.

The Queen was begging.

Lea couldn't help but tear up. Queen Julia was always proud, always strong, always resilient. No matter what, she never begged. But now, she was begging Chloe.

Chloe couldn't ignore the humility and desire radiating from Queen Julia. She shouldn't have to be like this.

"Can I?" Queen Julia asked again.

Chloe gripped the towel tightly, then finally nodded, her voice stiff and detached. "...Okay."

Queen Julia almost cried with joy. She looked at Chloe gratefully and slowly raised her hand. It was shaking badly.

Chloe looked away, feeling sad. A warm hand touched her cheek, caressing her skin and pushing her wet hair away from her face.

“My Jasmine didn’t like to dry her hair after a shower. She liked to play pranks, always splashing water on me. I didn’t mind, because I was too busy, and I liked her laughter after she succeeded.”

Chloe’s eyes flickered involuntarily. She bit her lip. She remembered when she used to play pranks like that when she was little. Yasmine was always serious, but she always laughed helplessly and lovingly. Yasmine would pretend to punish her while gently scratching Chloe’s nose. “You little rascal! Who do you take after?”

Who?”

It was her. No wonder Yasmine’s smile was so beautiful then. Maybe she was thinking about her own childhood.

Queen Julia touched Chloe’s eyes, nose, and lips, then slowly let go of her shoulder. Just when Chloe thought it was over, she felt a hand on her chest. She looked down and saw her robe had been pulled open.

She was speechless. She didn’t expect this seemingly kind old lady to suddenly do this to her!

But then, she heard a gasp. Lea was staring at her in shock, her hands covering her mouth. “Oh my God...”

Chloe quickly pulled her robe closed, but Queen Julia held on tightly. She gripped the robe so hard her hand turned pale.

“Let go!” Chloe was getting angry, her voice turning low. Even though they were both women, having her clothes pulled open and half her chest exposed was not okay.

Queen Julia didn’t seem to hear her. She put her hand on the tattoo on Chloe’s chest, her trembling touch making Chloe feel uneasy. “What is this? When did you get this? Who did this to you?!”

Chloe looked where Julia was touching, and suddenly understood some things.

She lowered her head, looking at Julia, who was clearly on the verge of a breakdown, and said slowly, "It might be a tattoo. I've had it for as long as I can remember My mother did it for me."

"Oh my God..." Queen Julia murmured, looking up at Chloe with a mix of laughter and tears. "I knew it. I knew I wasn't wrong..."

This seemed to take all of her energy, and Queen Julia slowly slumped to the ground, clutching her chest.

"Your Majesty!"

Lea rushed forward, her hand tightly gripped by Julia. "It's her, Lea... My daughter, my Jasmine is still alive... God..."

Tears streaming down her face, Lea nodded vigorously.

Yes, yes! This is so great, really so great... Your family is all here..."

Chapter 1438

"Absolutely, absolutely no doubt..." Julia's face was streaked with tears of joy.

Chloe felt a pang of sorrow. So, the tattoo on her chest meant this... Yasmine was actually the princess of Y Country.

Chloe's eyes flickered, still finding it hard to believe. The princess of Y Country, this identity seemed too distant for her. Even now, she felt that this matter had little to do with her.

Queen Julia's sobs and Lea's comforting words echoed in the room, creating a mix of emotions. Chloe's resentment had long since faded.

Seeing this scene, Ava swayed, completely clueless about what was happening. But the only thing she could tell was that Queen Julia had confirmed Chloe's identity.

How could this be?

Her mind was a mess, desperately looking for a way to deal with this, but her trembling legs involuntarily moved towards Chloe. She needed to see what proof had made Julia so certain.

However, Chloe didn't give her that chance. As Ava's gaze fell on Chloe, Chloe quickly covered up her collar, a cold glare in her eyes as she stared back at Ava. Ava stopped in her tracks, startled by Chloe's gaze. Cursing under her breath, Ava was the first to look away, looking at the emotional Queen Julia on the floor. She hesitated for a moment, then stepped forward to help her up. "You need to calm down. Nothing's been confirmed yet. You need to take care of yourself." Queen Julia shook her head. "No, my Jasmine is alive, Chloe is Jasmine's daughter, my granddaughter. God bless, my daughter is alive..." "Mother!" Ava firmly shook her head. "This woman clearly came prepared! You must stay calm and not let her easily deceive you."

Queen Julia closed her eyes tightly, her brow furrowed. Her face showed indifference, and even with her eyes closed, you could feel her impatience and anger.

Looking at Queen Julia's state, Lea was also filled with anger. "Princess Ava!" Lea called out in a low voice, then said angrily, "The Queen knows her own kin best. Finding Jasmine and Chloe is something to celebrate! You don't understand anything, and your first reaction is always denial! Why?"

Ava's face turned red with embarrassment as she glared at Lea, angrily saying, "Lea, you are being too bold! Don't judge others by your narrow-mindedness! I'm saying this because I'm afraid the higher the Queen's expectations, the greater the disappointment! What do you think I'm doing this for? Do I have to wait till this woman messes up the entire royal family before you're satisfied?"

"If you don't understand, let me remind you once again. Remember your place, you are a servant, and I am the master..."

"Enough."

“Mother...”

Queen Julia calmly interrupted Ava, then slowly opened her eyes and glanced at Ava, her eyes deep. Queen Julia turned around, held Chloe’s hand, looked at her calm face, and smiled. “No need to wait, I am certain now. Chloe is my granddaughter. I’ll let Becky off the hook for the mess she caused today. In a way, I should thank her. If she hadn’t splashed water on Chloe, I might not have found out so soon... Chloe is my real granddaughter.”

Ava swayed, her voice shrill. “Mother!”

“Enough, Ava. It’s late, you should go.”

“But...”

Seeing that Queen Julia had made up her mind, Ava still wanted to say something but was blocked by Lea. “Princess Ava, please leave!”

Ava glared at Lea angrily, wishing she could slap her.

Lea was unfazed.

After one last glance at Queen Julia, Ava hesitated for a few seconds before finally choosing to leave.

No, Yasmine and Chloe, neither of them could stay. Especially Yasmine!

Seemed like she needed to hurry up and take action! She should have decided to get rid of them a long time ago but kept delaying till now.

She shouldn’t have had so many reservations.

Chloe watched Ava leave unwillingly; only then did she take her gaze off her. There was a hint of coldness in her eyes.

Ava and Barbara's actions today made Chloe suspicious. They might have known the truth a long time ago. The people who had deliberately hurt Yasmine to stop Chloe from leaving P City to attend the state banquet might have also been them.

She would remember this because she felt that Ava had done more than just this. Yasmine was such a smart and strong woman, choosing to jump into the sea. Chloe guessed this must have something to do with Ava.

Why? Because they didn't want Chloe and Yasmine to return to Y Country and take away the luxurious life they had been enjoying for years?

Queen Julia calmed down, holding Chloe's hand tightly, as if she would disappear if she let go even a little. "Chloe, did you hear that? Do you understand? I... I am your grandmother. Your mother is my daughter..."

Chloe turned her gaze to Queen Julia and said indifferently, "...I know."

She couldn't deny this fact. Looking back, everything Yasmine did before she came to Y Country, the music score she gave her, and every word she said, had a reason. It was all to get Chloe to acknowledge her origin, to prove she was of royal blood.

Well, given the facts, there was nothing Chloe couldn't handle because her mom, Yasmine, was Queen Julia's daughter. That was a fact

Chloe being Queen Julia's granddaughter, was also a fact.

Julia breathed a sigh of relief. She thought Chloe would be put off by her attitude earlier on. But to her surprise, Chloe took it on the chin.

"I thought you'd deny it..."

Chloe responded nonchalantly, "So if I deny it, it's not true?"

Queen Julia shook her head, gripping Chloe's hand tightly. "Your denial changes nothing. You're still my granddaughter." As she said this, Julia hugged Chloe even tighter, like a young child clinging onto her, afraid she would leave.

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Julia's actions coaxed a small smile out of Chloe. "So, there's nothing left to say." Chloe put up a tough front, but she didn't know why she felt so emotional talking to this high and mighty queen.

She wasn't emotionless. Yasmine had disappeared for over thirty years, and Julia had shifted all her love for Yasmine to someone else. Chloe felt a sense of injustice and bitterness on Yasmine's behalf.

Even though Julia had her own reasons, a sense of sadness and helplessness, the gap of over thirty years was a harsh reality.

Chloe felt wronged herself too because Barbara and Becky, who grew up under Julia's protection, were unfair to her.

Queen Julia wasn't bothered by Chloe's coldness. Instead, she said, "Right, there's nothing more to say. So, you'll accompany me to the banquet tomorrow night. I can't wait to announce your identity to everyone."

Chloe frowned. "Can I refuse?"

"No."

"What if I insist..."

"There are no ifs. If you have ifs, I have my own. The outcome won't change, you have to come with me."

Chloe was speechless. How was this different from Damon's "I refuse your refusal"?

Chloe didn't leave the palace. Queen Julia arranged a room for her in her own quarters. Out of frustration, Chloe requested to see her personal doctor Jane, appointed by Damon.

"If you won't let me go out, bring my personal doctor in."

Queen Julia said, "There are many doctors in the palace..."

"Sorry, I only trust my own people."

So, Queen Julia had no choice but to bring Jane in.

Ava nervously contacted the folks in P City and then called Barbara to ask about Becky. Thinking of Becky's impotent rage, Ava wished she could just strangle this useless idiot!

Ava had been cautiously vigilant for over a decade, only for it all to be ruined by Becky. Damn it!

"Becky's in the hospital now," Barbara said.

When Ava stormed into the hospital intending to scold Becky, she saw Becky with a crooked chin and nose, prepped for surgery. Her face was a horrific sight. Ava was both shocked and angry. Looking at Becky's face, she almost passed out! "Damn it! What was wrong with the face I gave you?! You actually wanted plastic surgery?!" A

Ava yelled furiously, her angry voice echoing throughout the hospital.

“Mom...” Becky cried pitifully. “You have to avenge me! Chloe is the villain, she did this to me, and at the state banquet, too. It’s so humiliating...”

If Becky’s face wasn’t already beyond recognition, Ava would’ve slapped her a couple of times. In the end, she couldn’t bring herself to do it and left the hospital.

“Fools! All of them!” Ava screamed in anger as if she wanted to tear the night sky apart.

Despite Barbara’s best efforts, the news about the state banquet spread like wildfire. As soon as Ava finished screaming, a few reporters rushed out of a car parked in front of the hospital, scrambling to surround her.

Ava hurried out of the hospital, completely unprepared; she didn’t even bring a bodyguard.

“Princess Ava, what’s your opinion on what happened at the state banquet?”

“Why was Princess Barbara so certain that Ms. Chloe was a fraud? What led her to believe so?”

“We heard that Ms. Chloe might be Queen Julia’s real granddaughter, what’s your take on this, Princess Ava?”

Ava’s face was beyond grim. She wasn’t in the mood to answer any of the questions thrown at her by the reporters.

“Princess Ava, why aren’t you answering? According to our investigation, you were best friends with Queen Julia’s biological daughter Jasmine when you were young. Is there something hidden beneath this?”

The reporter’s question hit Ava’s sore spot. Her eyes widened, her gaze icy, and her expression gloomy.

“What do you mean? What does my friendship with Jasmine have to do with whether Chloe is the princess of Y Country?”

The reporter smiled. "Because Ms. Chloe is your friend's daughter..."

Ava clamped her mouth shut, biting her teeth in silence. She wasn't a fool; it was clear the reporter was trying to bait her.

Barbara, standing nearby, watched Ava for a few seconds, then gracefully stepped forward, smiling elegantly at the reporters' cameras. "First of all, I want to apologize to all the citizens of Y Country for the chaos at the state banquet, an incident we did not foresee. I can't deny that I played a part in it. I acted impulsively out of fear that the Queen would be deceived, driven by anger and worry..."

The reporter reiterated the previous question, "Why were you so certain that Ms. Chloe was a fraud?"

Barbara smiled and said, "Because my mother Ava once told me that the Queen's real daughter had died long ago. She saw her cremation with her own eyes, so how could she have a granddaughter? Moreover, the Queen herself stated that she was being overemotional and shouldn't have made judgments based on a simple song The Queen has always been smart, so how could she be duped?"

Ava was pushed aside by the reporters, her mind a whirlwind after hearing Barbara's words. It wasn't until the reporters left that Ava, leaning against a pillar at the hospital entrance, finally regained her composure.

After a while, Barbara walked up to Ava, smiling as if nothing had happened, and said, "Let's go..." No sooner had she finished her sentence than Ava slapped her so hard that her head turned to one side...

Barbara stayed silent for a few seconds and then turned her head back to Ava.

Ava was fuming "What the hell were you trying to say, Barbara? Don't tell me you didn't see that the reporters were trying to trap you!"

"Did I say something wrong? Everybody knows that the Queen didn't make a clear stance at the state banquet, and a piano piece doesn't prove anything! Isn't that the truth? What do you want me to say? Chloe is the Queen's granddaughter?"

“You know that’s not I you meant!”

Barbara suddenly let out a cold laugh, her tone icy. “I can only say this to potentially leave us a way out in case of emergency. Otherwise, we’ll be kicked out by the Queen!”

Cole was the first to know about what happened at the state banquet and started laughing. “Chloe dared to mess with the Y Country’s royal family. She’s just asking for it.”

Wendy also felt very satisfied. She sneered, “She brought this trouble on herself. Losing face in front of the whole world, she deserves it.”

Cole nodded. “With my press conference yesterday and today’s news, the Harper Group’s Board of Directors will surely let Damon taste the bitterness of failure!” Wendy laughed crazily. “Yes, I want him to fully realize how stupid it was to choose Chloe over me! I want him to lose everything because of Chloe!”

Chapter 1440

Cole glanced at Wendy, then sighed, considering her condition. “As long as you’re happy, that’s all that matters. The banquet’s about to start. You and your sister Phoebe should get ready.”

Cole then glanced at the silent Phoebe, and his gaze unconsciously grew cold. “You’ll be going with Wendy! You better behave yourself there. You know what kind of party it is. The Alonso family has been taking care of you for years, and now’s the time to show some gratitude. If you can’t find a suitable man at this party, I will...”

“You’ll marry me off to that fool from P City, right?”

Cole paused, surprised at Phoebe’s harsh words. He’d never thought the usually quiet and obedient Phoebe would talk to him like this. “What kind of nonsense are you talking about?!”

Phoebe smirked coldly, making the atmosphere a bit awkward. Wendy jumped in "Phoebe, how could you talk to our father like that, don't you know how hard he's been working?"

"Yeah, Dad's been working hard, but who put him in this situation?"

Phoebe's words left Wendy speechless. "Phoebe, it seems you have a big misunderstanding of me..."

"A misunderstanding?" Phoebe scoffed.

"Enough! What are you two squabbling about?!" Cole, sensing that Phoebe might have had more to say, cut their conversation short. "The banquet is about to start, aren't you going to get ready? I'm warning you, don't cause any more trouble, or I'll teach you a lesson!"

He left after saying that; leaving Wendy and Phoebe in silence.

"Phoebe, it seems you're not taking me seriously anymore..."

Phoebe suddenly grabbed the wheelchair and spun Wendy around. Wendy almost fell off the wheelchair. "Phoebe you..."

"Do you think you're worth anyone's attention right now?" Phoebe pushed the wheelchair towards the banquet hall after saying that.

"Phoebe, are you trying to get yourself killed?"

"Heh," Phoebe scoffed. "Isn't it more cruel and painful to live than to die?"

Her voice was calm, and her eyes were devoid of emotion, but that made her even more terrifying.

Wendy, sitting in the wheelchair, couldn't see Phoebe's expression, and just scoffed in response, "Right, you're absolutely correct. Wait and see, I'm really curious to see if Chloe, that bitch, is living a life worse than death."

"You never learn, do you?" Phoebe retorted.

"Phoebe, I'm in a good mood right now, so I won't argue with you. You better behave tonight, or you might end up marrying that fool from P City."

"I'll be looking forward to it."

After that, the two stopped talking.

Phoebe, in a white dress that reached her ankles, with her natural hair simply tied in a side braid, looked fresh and graceful. Her beauty was eye-catching, but not out of place in that setting.

When Phoebe pushed Wendy into the banquet hall, the whole place fell silent.

Today's venue was next to yesterday's state banquet hall, equally luxurious. Everyone was dressed to the nines. The dazzling chandeliers were casting a golden glow over the guests sipping from their wine glasses, mingling, and laughing, high society in full swing.

Seeing the atmosphere in the banquet hall, Wendy knew that this was the real high society. Although she had attended so-called high society gatherings before, they paled in comparison to a royal banquet. The people here were undoubtedly from influential families, all descendants of prominent families.

Wendy smiled, realizing her naivety. She had always thought that the Harper family's background was unrivaled. But it seemed that any man her age here was from a family no less prestigious than the Harpers. Even if some were less prestigious, how much less could they be?

"Maybe I don't need to fixate on one person. There may be better men in the world than Damon." Wendy said with hope to Phoebe behind her.

“Really? Then I sincerely hope you can find a man better than Mr. Harper tonight.”

Wendy smiled.

Just then, there was a commotion in the crowd.

Barbara appeared at the entrance of the banquet hall in a pure white dress, with a unique one-shoulder design, half-exposing her memorizing shoulder. The asymmetrical hem of the dress, her wavy hair, and matching diamond jewelry all showed off her noble and Juxurious appeal. The dazzling tiara on her head fully displayed her royal status.

Barbara’s entrance, with her fragrance wafting and her skirt swaying, immediately drew everyone’s attention.

Most people would tend to forgive someone’s past wrongdoings when they saw how beautiful they were, even temporarily forgetting their past errors. Just like now, the person appearing in everyone’s eyes was the most prestigious Princess Barbara of Y Country.

Voices of admiration rose and fell, and Barbara’s smile was full of confidence.

Not long after her appearance, other members of the royal family began to arrive. Wendy’s gaze was immediately drawn to a man, as were the gazes of most women in the room. Mathew, in a white suit, walked out expressionlessly. His face, coupled with his aura, made him look extremely handsome and dignified.

“That’s Prince Mathew. He is really handsome,” someone commented.

“He’s royal blood, high up on the ladder, and seriously hot, like a real-life Prince Charming!”

“Who knows what kind of woman he’s into...”

All the men were drawn to Barbara, and practically all the women had their eyes glued on Mathew. But in that moment, no one had the guts to make the first move and approach their dream prince.

Wendy turned her head, suddenly saying, "Let's go hit him up." Of course, she was referring to Mathew.