

CHOSEN 1521

Chapter 1521

Damon suddenly felt a bit bummed. If a woman was too smart, nothing could be done to surprise her.

Chloe tried to stand up, but Damon held her down, making it impossible for her to move. "What's going on?" Chloe asked, looking at him with a puzzled expression.

Damon stared at her, and said, "They say pregnancy can make a woman a bit slow. I wonder when this will apply to you?"

Chloe rolled her eyes. Why should she become slow because of pregnancy?

Damon gave her a soft peck on her lips, "You are a bit too smart. Being a little slow might make you even cuter."

Chloe raised her eyebrows, "Are you complaining about me?"

Damon chuckled softly. "Complaining that you're too smart?"^{e2}

Who in this world wouldn't appreciate being praised for being smart? Even more so when the praise, came from a man like Damon?

1

But not many people had his recognition. Being praised by him naturally made her happy.

Wasn't being too smart even better? Chloe didn't think Damon was picking a fight. She naturally took his words as a compliment. She glanced at Damon's shirt, lowered her head to gaze at his handsome face, and giggled, "If I wasn't smart, who would be sitting here now?"

Would he still be interested in her if she wasn't smart?

Damon tugged at his lip, and started laughing lightly, "Are you praising yourself for being smart?"

Chloe pressed down one of her eyebrows, "Didn't you say it?"

Damon nodded, grabbed her flailing hand, gave it a gentle squeeze, and looked at her. "Do you really believe what I say?"

Chloe nodded without hesitation, "Of course."

There was always a light smile on Damon's face, his black suit and white shirt showing off his elegance and nobility. His maturity and stability were always on full display.

He lifted his eyes to look at Chloe, his face filled with a relaxed and gentle smile. His deep and charming voice slowly entered Chloe's ears, "Well, I say you're a sly little fox. Do you believe that?"

Chloe's face, previously filled with pride from his praise, stiffened and immediately flushed red. She remained silent, looking at the man in front of her, who was dressed in a suit, dignified and mature. Who would have thought he would call a woman a "sly little fox"?

Seeing Chloe's shyness, Damon held her hand and kissed it, then continued to look at her. He reached up, held the back of her head and pulled her down. Chloe was laying on him, staring into his eyes at a close distance. She could see her blushing face reflected in his brown eyes, every expression clearly visible. "Come on, tell me."

Chloe's eyes quivered as she stared into his, and she softly said, "Say what?"

Damon gave a small smile, his eyes slightly curved as he leaned in to whisper in her ear:

"Say you're a sly little fox."

Chloe's eyes trembled violently, and her face felt burning hot, as if all her blood had rushed to her cheeks. Caught off guard, she didn't know what to do. After a pause, she attempted to get up from Damon. However, Damon had blocked all her escape routes. She anxiously looked at Damon, only to find him smirking at her. "Hmm?"

Chloe bit her lip tightly, her eyes misty with shyness.

"You..." She turned her eyes, and suddenly waved her hands, touching Damon's solid chest. "You look so proper in your suit, but you're actually a pervert!" Pervert was a phrase she hesitated to use on him. After all, he was her man. How could she casually label him like that?

"Chloe." Damon murmured, his tender voice making her heart tremble. "It's been a while since we have ***. You can't even say a single sweet word to please me. When did you become so heartless?"

His forehead rested on hers, his lips lightly touching Chloe's as he spoke. Just a few words had already drained most of Chloe's strength. She bit her lip, her breath a bit rushed. This man surely knew how to flirt.

"Stop messing around." How could she possibly say those words. It's too embarrassing.

Damon slid over to her ear, gently kissing her. She didn't react immediately and instantly hunched her shoulders.

The man's deep, warm voice slowly sounded, "If you don't say it this time, it won't be so simple next time,"

His warm breath made her even more shy. His suggestive tone made Chloe's heart race. How could she not catch what he meant?

Damon was pressuring her. If she didn't say it now, later he would make her even more embarrassed. She thought about it and tried to speak, but the man wrapped

his arms around her waist, helping her to stand up. "Alright, even if you want to say it now, you no longer have the chance."

Chloe was surprised. Once Damon made a decision, she knew he must have thought of something even more embarrassing.

"Let's go. I'm taking you to get it notarized."

Chloe moved her mouth, but in the end, she didn't say anything. Damon led her downstairs to the car, then stopped. His gaze fell on a nearby SUV.

The car was still running, a crack in the window let out white smoke. Someone was in the driver's seat, apparently smoking.

Damon frowned, walked over, and kicked the car. A few seconds later, the window rolled down. The smoke immediately dispersed, and Damon's brows furrowed deeper.

Chloe was confused by Damon's actions. She moved forward to ask, "What's going on?" However, before she could approach, she was stopped by Damon's long

arm.

Seeing the thick smoke coming from the car, Chloe instinctively stepped back. But she could still smell the nicotine.

She knew this was Nathan's car. The amount of smoke in the car was just too much. What could have happened to make him smoke so much?

Wasn't he supposed to go to the hospital with Yulia for a check-up? Could something have gone wrong?

"Nathan, are you trying to kill yourself?" Damon's grim voice rang out, and his gaze was as cold as an ice pick

Nathan took a deep drag of his cigarette, inhaling almost half of it in one go, then he snuffed out the butt and exhaled heavily.

Chapter 1522

"Are you guys heading out?" His answer was completely off topic from Damon's question. It was clear he didn't want them meddling in his affairs.

"Have you been to the hospital yet?"

Nathan gave a small smile. "Yeah, we flew over there."

It had only been about an hour since they had lunch. If he really had been to the hospital, even a simple check-up would've taken a while. It was impossible he could be here now. Anyone with half a brain could tell he was bullshitting.

Damon's expression darkened. "What happened?"

"Nothing."

"Get out."e2

Nathan sat in the car all along. Damon asked him a question, and he responded with just one answer. His face couldn't be seen, and neither could his expression. Even though they were brothers, it was clear Damon was pissed.

Nathan was silent for a moment, then finally got out of the car. In the cold winter, he wore only a grey shirt with noticeable creases. Two buttons were undone at the collar, revealing his muscular chest. He exuded a masculine and wild aura, but in this weather, it was simply chilling to look at.

Upon seeing this, Damon's eyes narrowed dangerously. "Where's Yulia?"

Nathan glanced at him. Damon's eyes seemingly piercing through everything, leaving Nathan with nowhere to hide. In this world, the person who probably knew him best was Damon. They had grown up together, and coupled with Damon's ability to see through everything, Nathan couldn't fake anything. He licked his lips and calmly said, "She's at home."

Damon fell silent. Although Nathan was his brother, he still didn't quite understand the situation between Yulia and Nathan, other than the fact that Yulia was always by Nathan's side, and she seemed very obedient to him.

However, if something unpleasant had indeed happened between them, he was certain that Nathan was the one at fault. He said coldly, "Since you decided to marry her in the first place, you better be clear about what you should do. Men of the Harper family don't shirk responsibility, and they're not the kind who mistreat women. If you have any unresolved issues, you should let her go sooner rather than later. Don't waste her time, if you can't do it, there are other men who will treat her right."

Damon's words stoked the anger in Nathan's heart. When he heard 'other men', the faces that flashed in his mind were all of Ronald. If he was wasting her time, would Ronald treat her well then?

If he really wanted to treat her well, why did he give Yulia a chance to leave back then?

He scoffed. "That's impossible. Damon, you just need to take care of your wife. Don't worry about me."

Damon gave him a cold stare, then turned around and shoved the puzzled Chloe into the car. Then he turned to Nathan and said, "I'm warning you, if you keep messing around like this, you'll regret it someday. I don't want to meddle, but there will be someone who won't let you off."

With that, he opened the driver's seat door and got in. The car slowly drove past Nathan, leaving him standing alone in the cold wind, looking stern and resolute. Chloe had been watching Nathan through the rear-view mirror, her eyebrows slightly furrowed.

"Will he be okay?" she asked.

Damon glanced at Nathan still standing in the same spot through the rear-view mirror, his voice cold. "He's fine."

"Is Yulia being badly bullied by him?"

Damon curled his lip, "What do you mean by 'badly'?"

The two headed straight for the notary office. Perhaps because Chloe had been ignoring him these past few days, Damon kept arguing with her throughout the journey. There were several times Chloe didn't want to argue anymore, but Damon didn't let her off. Throughout the journey, Chloe was teased by Damon until she was blushing and couldn't say a complete sentence. Seeing her like this, the anger Damon had felt because of Nathan earlier gradually subsided.

Just as they were about to reach their destination, Chloe's phone suddenly rang. She saw it was from the office and frowned.

Before leaving the office, she had arranged all her work. Why were they calling now? Was it because Carolina was causing trouble at the office again?

Speaking of Carolina, she was really feeling a mix of annoyance and amusement. Carolina actually wanted to sue her?

Facing such a shameless person, sometimes she felt powerless.

She took a deep breath and answered the call. Damon glanced at her. "Hello?" she said.

The secretary's voice came through the phone, "Ms. Summers, we received an invitation from Alonso Corporation for you."

Chloe raised an eyebrow, "An invitation for me from Alonso Corporation?"

The secretary replied, "Yes. Alonso Corporation is hosting a business banquet next week. Many businesses from P City have been invited, including Starlight International."

Chloe was silent for two seconds, then a smile slowly creeping onto her face. "Really? Seems like Ms. Wendy has regained her confidence."

Such a nuisance." The secretary couldn't help but comment. She really detested Wendy. "Ms. Summers, it's not worth dealing with such people. She just wants to show off in front of you. I don't understand such shameless people."

Chloe pondered for a moment, "I'll deal with it when the time comes."

The secretary responded, "What about the invitation?"

"Trash it."

"Okay."

And then there was nothing else, which made Chloe breathe a sigh of relief.

Damon glanced at her through the rear-view mirror. Chloe candidly said, "Alonso Corporation is throwing a business party and they've invited me."

With a poker face, Damon asked, "You wanna go?"

Chloe took a deep breath, leaned back in her chair, and hesitated for a bit. "I don't want to see Wendy, but I'm curious about what she's up to. Ugh, forget it, she just wants to show off in front of me. I won't give her the satisfaction."

Damon gave a slight smile, "What has she got to show off? 30 billion, even if she invests all of it, she wouldn't get as much as you."

"Really?" Chloe blinked, her eyes growing brighter.

"You now hold the shares of both Cole and Wendy. Cole has given all his shares to you, and Wendy still has 10 percent. You own 60 percent of the shares, excluding those given to you by Phoebe. You're already the largest shareholder of the Alonso Corporation. Wendy's hosting a business banquet seeking investment, but aren't you the ultimate beneficiary? Who do you think is the real winner between you two?"

She got it. Just a slight hint from Damon, and Chloe immediately got it. She was now the largest shareholder of the Alonso Corporation. Even if the project was successful, she would be the biggest beneficiary.

Wendy only had 10 percent left but still wanted to show off in front of Chloe. It seemed that Wendy really hated her and wanted to see her fail.

"Well... I guess I'll go and check it out. After all, it's a business dinner for the Alonso Corporation, and as the largest shareholder, I should definitely be there."d2

Damon smiled. He knew Chloe wouldn't stay home quietly.

"Are you bringing a plus one?" Damon suddenly asked.

Chloe raised an eyebrow, glancing at him. They hadn't appeared together at any other events apart from their engagement ceremony. "Well. Is Mr. Harper available?"

The smile on Damon's lips deepened, "What for?"

"To show off our love."

The man chuckled and didn't answer. Chloe also laughed.

Wendy was busy arranging the business banquet. Her assistant was listening to her detailed plan. "The venue has to be the best hotel in P City. Make sure to invite all the major media reporters, including some self-media studios. Announce the specific time and layout of the venue as soon as the arrangement is done. Make it as luxurious as possible."

Since they were courting investors, the guests had to be treated like royalty. More importantly, the banquet couldn't look cheap.

The assistant sighed inwardly as he listened. She was really overdoing it. With 30 billion in funds and a promising project, she should focus on the project instead of wasting time on this. Even without this banquet, many people would want to be partners with Alonso Corporation, right?

Everyone in P City probably knew that this banquet was nothing more than a grand show-off.

Apart from establishing Alonso Corporation's powerful position in the business world, it was mainly to show off to Ms. Summers of Starlight International.

The recent turmoil in Alonso Corporation nearly gave Chloe what she wanted. If it weren't for the sudden appearance of the 30 billion, Alonso Corporation would probably be completely under her control by now. That was too close.

But because of this, more people came to understand that Chloe of Starlight International in P City was not someone to be trifled with. Her tactics and schemes surprised many people.

Alonso Corporation used to be on par with the Harper Group. Chloe was able to push Alonso Corporation into such a predicament, and everyone was secretly admiring her. Such a woman was best to be an ally. If not, you should keep away from her as much as possible.

Alonso Corporation had been at a disadvantage in Chloe's plan, and they still hadn't shown much vigilance. They even actively provoked her. What on earth was Wendy thinking?

“Do you have any other requests, Ms. Alonso?”

Wendy thought for a moment and shook her head, “Not for now. You go ahead and arrange it. I’ll let you know if I think of anything else.”

“Alright.”

The assistant dutifully arranged the work as instructed.

After watching the assistant close the office door, Wendy maneuvered her wheelchair to the floor-to-ceiling window of the office. Looking down at the scene below was like watching a group of ants.

It felt great to be on top. Everything was in sight, and everything was underfoot.

She would make Alonso Corporation even stronger. Then she would trample Chloe under her feet and watch her suffer. She would make all those who mocked her kneel before her, making them realize the cost of offending her. Including Damon. She would make him regret one day, she was sure of it.

But now, the most important thing was to get Phoebe’s shares. The scattered shares in the stock market were bought by people at the lowest price, and she didn’t know where they all went. She only knew that there was a small part in the Harper Group, and the rest were scattered in various people’s hands.

She had already arranged for people to find those small shareholders. If she could buy back the shares that accounted for more than thirty percent, she wouldn’t have to worry about what Phoebe would do with her shares.

But she couldn’t let Phoebe keep her shares. She had to be fully prepared and would no longer allow herself to make mistakes. She wanted to buy back the small shares in the stock market, and she also wanted to get the shares in Phoebe’s hands. At least she had to completely surpass everyone in the company in terms of shareholding. Alonso Corporation could only be hers in the future.

She had never received love in her life, and she would never lose to others in other aspects. Especially in front of Chloe, she would regain her lost dignity from her even if she had to give up everything.

Considering Chloe's snobbish, stuck-up personality, she'd probably ignore a mere invitation. Their relationship was on the rocks. Chloe, realizing her intentions, wouldn't go out of her way to make trouble.

After a moment's thought, she sneered, turned around, walked over to her desk, and dialed a reporter.

After taking care of the formalities with Chloe, Damon heard news about Alonso Corporation's business banquet. The report directly listed several key companies that were invited, among which the Harper Group and Starlight International stood out. No doubt it became a hot topic for everyone.

"What on earth is Alonso Corporation up to? They actually invited Starlight International to a business banquet?"

"Since when did Starlight International get chummy with Alonso Corporation?"

"No way, are you kidding? Everyone knows that there's bad blood between Ms. Summers and Ms. Wendy."

"I don't get it. What on earth is that woman doing?"

Chapter 1524

"I bet Ms. Wendy just wanted to make Ms. Summers squirm at the party, right?"

"Doesn't she realize who Ms. Summers is? If she dares to challenge her, it'll be a total joke."

"But you know what, Wendy's move is seriously sickening, just riding on the coattails of Ms. Summers' popularity. In the business world, who isn't curious about Ms. Summers or doesn't want to build a relationship with her? Now, even those companies that weren't planning on attending will probably show up for Ms. Summers, won't they?"

“What’s worse is, I’m super uncomfortable. If Ms. Summers doesn’t go, people will think she’s running scared from Ms. Wendy, saying Ms. Summers is hiding away without a peep, and without any backbone. But if she does show up, it just plays into their hands. It’s such a headache.”

“Wendy is so sly, pulling a stunt like this. So does that mean Ms. Summers has to go?”d2

Everyone who saw the news was seriously peeved at Wendy’s actions. But Wendy was immune to all the chatter. She chose to ignore it.

She’d been battling it out with Chloe for so long, and she’d heard much worse. There was nothing she can’t handle.

Chloe just scoffed at Wendy’s actions. The sheer stubbornness was almost laughable.

Yet, the online buzz about this was only the second hottest topic. What really caught people’s attention was Carolina suing Chloe over money. And then there was Carolina playing the wounded party in front of the media, accusing Chloe of being cold-hearted, disrespectful to elders, ungrateful, and a whole host of serious allegations.

She was so worked up, you’d think killing Chloe on the spot wouldn’t even quench her thirst for revenge.

The courthouse was the backdrop for Carolina’s interview.

Seeing Carolina’s greedy and manipulative demeanor, Chloe suddenly felt that sometimes, you just need to cut off all escape routes for some people, and do it thoroughly, leaving no room for possibilities. Sometimes, even the slightest hint of softness could land you in irreversible trouble.

She never thought she’d go soft on Carolina, only doing so to honor her grandfather’s wish of “not giving up entirely”.

She let out a deep sigh, feeling a wave of irritation.

Damon said, "You don't need to worry about this. She won't even have the chance to step foot in court."

Chloe turned to look at him. After a few seconds, he finally cracked a smile, "Have you got it all figured out again?"

Damon chuckled, "This 'again' makes me feel like I've done a lot for you."

"Isn't that the case?" Chloe looked at him, her gaze intense.

Damon kept his eyes on the road ahead, his tone somewhat cold, as he drove the car into the apartment complex.

Chloe could sense his mood wasn't great. After skillfully parking the car, Chloe bent down to undo her seatbelt, but halfway through, he grabbed her arm. She turned her head to see Damon unbuckle her seatbelt, then lift his head to look at her. "Will you suddenly leave me one day?"

Chloe's eyes trembled instantly. She never expected Damon to suddenly ask such a serious question. And he was so direct

about it.

"Why would I... I've never thought about it. Why would you suddenly think that?" She shook her head, finding the question absurd.

Damon's gazes held a hint of mockery, "Because I feel you can do perfectly well without anyone, including me."

Chloe froze, staring at him. She knew exactly why he said that. After a while, she shook her head, denying it. "No, you're wrong."

"You have your own determination and judgment. You have the ability to handle crises, foresee and plan everything. You're intelligent and capable of dealing with everything independently. You don't need

to rely on anyone. I know you've been. trying to reduce your dependence on me lately, but do you really think there is no one indispensable in your life?"

Chloe kept shaking her head, "No, that's not it."

"Even with the kind of dependence you have on me, you believe it's something you should do. You even think about me, so that someone like me who's by your side won't appear so useless."

Suddenly, Chloe felt her heart stop. Her mind was filled with thick fog, impossible to disperse. "Damon!" Chloe suddenly erupted, her voice low and hoarse as she shouted, her eyes reddened, her long eyelashes quivering intensely, and her face turned pale.

Damon's words halted, he stared at her pale face, and his expression slightly changed.

"I've already said that you're wrong, and I've never thought that way. And I won't allow you to belittle yourself. Yes, I'm not afraid of anyone or anything. If someone provokes me, I'm confident I can handle it.

"I admit that I used to be used to handling things on my own, and I thought I knew best how things should go. But I don't want it to always be this way. As long as I have a reliable rock, I won't make myself so tired. So now I choose to let go, I want to selfishly rely on you entirely.

"If I have trouble, you'll help me solve it; if there's a dispute, you'll help me handle it; if the company needs managing, you'll help me. I don't want to do anything else apart from the essentials. Because I know that you can handle these things very well.

"How can you say you're not necessary in my life? You're the husband I've entrusted my life to. You are the father of my children, our protector, how can you say you're not necessary?"

Chloe's voice was filled with sadness and anger. Her anger left Damon too scared to speak.

Yes, he was genuinely scared. He didn't dare to mess with Chloe when she was pissed off.

Her words left him speechless. Every time he said something, she fired back tenfold.

The car suddenly fell silent, with only the sound of Chloe's angry breathing. He sneaked a glance at her, her eyes were flaming red, like a dragon's. It scared him, so he quickly looked away.

He didn't dare to look her in the eyes. He started to feel uneasy, and it was a feeling he wasn't familiar with.

Chapter 1525

He licked his lips, took a moment to gather his thoughts before he slowly whispered, "I just..."

He tried to explain, but he was feeling somewhat uneasy. She was too independent and smart, always giving him a nagging feeling of fear of losing her. The thought would occasionally prick his heart, causing him pain. But when he saw her angry and wronged expression, he couldn't help but sigh. "Alright, my bad."

The look of injustice on Chloe's face seemed to deepen. "What did you do wrong?"

Damon nodded, "I shouldn't have doubted you."

Chloe, in her anger, smacked him on the shoulder. "And what else..."

Damon was starting to regret having brought up topics that should be avoided. He was lost for words to apologize. "And... I shouldn't have doubted my importance to you."d2

Chloe bit her lip, "and?"

Damon arched an eyebrow, "And?"

A fire ignited in Chloe's eyes, her chest heaving with anger. Seeing her temper flaring again, Damon quickly pulled her into his arms. "Alright, alright, no need to get mad. It's all my fault, I promise I won't bring this up again, okay?"

The fresh scent of the man enveloped her instantly, and the warmth and sense of security from his sturdy chest washed over her. He might have never apologized to anyone before, let alone being so cautious in front of her. She was mad, but upon further thought, she felt she was being somewhat unreasonable. She struggled at first, but Damon's strong arms held her firmly, and she eventually gave

up. In the end, she even buried her face into Damon's neck, her warm breath and soft lips brushing against his skin.

At the same time, a deep voice resounded from his neck. "You're not powerless." She said, feeling increasingly wronged and hurt.

Such a proud and noble man, surely his dignity was a line that must not be crossed. But how could he bear to say he was powerless in front of her?

He wasn't...

Damon's gaze fixed, holding her tighter instinctively. Then he noticed her shoulders starting to tremble, a warm liquid sliding down his skin from where her face was buried, followed by a sudden sting.

Chloe bit down on Damon's neck without mercy.

Knowing he was at fault, Damon didn't dare to get angry or say anything, letting her vent her anger. Thankfully, Chloe didn't bear to bite him for too long. She then straightened up from Damon's embrace, her eyes red and glared at him fiercely. "I want to make it clear, Damon, that you are now the man I'm spending a lot of money to keep. You need to understand that you are my man, Chloe's man, my husband; You belong to me, not yourself. If you dare to belittle yourself again, I will..."

Damon looked at her with a grin, seeing her suddenly lost for words and blushing, he couldn't help but ask, "Then what will you do?"

Chloe was silent for a moment, caught in the act. She used a fierce gaze to cover her embarrassment, "I will... I will find other men to keep."

Damon's indulging smile suddenly turned serious. The expression on Chloe's face eased a bit. She found his Achilles' heel, and it didn't bother her. She found it quite amusing every time she saw his

expression change because of this.

"How dare you!"

"Well, let's see!" Chloe stood her ground.

Damon's handsome face tightened, a hint of coldness flashed in his eyes as he stared at Chloe.

Chloe felt a little nervous, his gaze was like a sharp blade, ready to cut her into pieces. For a moment, she even wanted to compromise, but then his cold voice rang out-

"Okay."

Chloe blinked, not comprehending for a moment.

Damon continued with a stern face, "Okay I got your point, so you better not do that either."

Chloe stared at the handsome face in front of her for a while, then burst out laughing.

Oh my God. He wore such a cold expression, and with such murderous gazes, but he said this.

"Hahaha..."

Chloe couldn't help but laugh, but seeing his unhappy face, she quickly covered her mouth. The corners of her eyes and her shaking shoulders were clearly holding back laughter.

Damon's face got even gloomier. This woman, she was unbearable. Yet he couldn't do anything about it.

"Chloe!"

Chloe shook her head, indicating her innocence.

Damon was speechless. He grimaced, staring at her darkly.

The more Chloe saw him like this, the more she wanted to laugh. What kind of man was this, oh God! Why was he so adorable!

"Chloe, you can stop now." Damon's tone was unusually serious.

Chloe nodded, "okay." But although she agreed, she couldn't control her laughter. She was supposed to be angry, but now she couldn't help but laugh.

Damon's face grew gloomier as she laughed, his ears even turning red. Seeing that she had no intention of stopping, he grabbed her hand covering her mouth, pulled it towards himself, and kissed it.

It was a kiss with a bit of temper, and a hint of punishment. He advanced, Chloe had no time to resist, and all her laughter was swallowed by him.

Just like Chloe had a trump card against him, he had one against her too. Both of them were savvy, and both of them fully aware of each other's weaknesses.

Clearly, this showdown ended with Chloe being kissed until she was powerless and then carried off the car by him. Just as they got off the car, Chloe glanced at the parking spot next to them. Nathan's imposing SUV was no longer there. Thinking of the topic Damon suddenly brought up, she looked at him and whispered, "Would you do the same as Nathan?"

Damon furrowed his brow, his almost imperceptible expression made Chloe more certain that his sudden anxiety was definitely influenced by Nathan.

Got to admit, Nathan looked really terrifying just now, no joke.

Chapter 1526

He was all chummy with Yulia just an hour ago and now he had gone all Jekyll and Hyde on them.

Probably he was sitting in his car right now, pondering what life would be like if he let Yulia go. Regardless of what was going on in his head, if it was all about Yulia, then Nathan was definitely up a creek without a paddle. He probably didn't even realize what a spectacle he was making of himself in that car.

"I don't know," Chloe was in deep thought, when she heard Damon's voice suddenly ring out calmly. She blinked slowly, her gaze rising to meet his.

Damon continued to look down at her, his gazes filled with tranquility. "You better not leave me in the end. Otherwise, I might end up like him, sitting in a corner feeling lost and confused, or I'll pull out all the stops to find you. I swear that I'll turn the world upside down to find you. And if you don't have a darn good reason for making me forgive you, I'll make sure you can't walk when I find you."

Chloe's heart skipped a beat. His serious and dangerous demeanor took her by surprise. Even though she knew he would never lay a hand on her, she didn't doubt his words for a second. If she ever left him and he found her, he would make sure she couldn't walk.

Shaking her head, she wrapped her arms around Damon's neck tightly. "I won't leave unless I've gone crazy." She meant every word she said. And it was true. There was no reason for her to leave him.d2

Damon smirked slightly, leaning down to kiss her, only to have her move a step closer to him..

Carolina didn't even make it to the steps of the courthouse. She reached out to all the lawyers in the P-City, but no one took her case. No one would even draft her complaint. The courthouse wasn't a place for anyone to stir up trouble.

Carolina was raising a ruckus at Starlight International, threatening to sue Ms. Summers. This was a lawsuit without any bottom line. But after all, the courthouse was a public service place. If someone filed a lawsuit, they had to accept it. However, now that Carolina can't even find a lawyer to sue, they naturally won't take the initiative to deal with it. This was nothing more than using their department to satisfy her own selfish desires.

If it came to a court case, Carolina might not even win. To put it bluntly, she was a social outcast.

If Carolina lost, they were just wasting their time appeasing her, providing free entertainment for the media. If Carolina won, they would definitely be cursed by those who pay attention to this matter, and it would not be worth the loss.

The media reported that Carolina couldn't find a lawyer, and it was foreseeable that it would become another joke. Wendy saw Carolina's pathetic look on the news and felt nauseous. She was getting more naive the older she got.

After thinking about it, she contacted the company's legal department. The lawyers in the legal department wanted to quit when they heard that Wendy wanted them to act as defense lawyers for the notorious old lady. There had been so many things happening recently, Infinity Media still had a lot of issues to deal with, and now they had to take care of others' business? But Wendy had already arranged it. They had to find someone to fill in temporarily.

At the same time, Wendy's lawyer found Carolina, and Chloe told Damon that she wanted to go to Sacred Heart Church. There was nothing to do now, so she wanted to seek psychological comfort there and see Jonah who lived there.

"What are you going to do there?" Damon asked, believing that there must be another reason of her travel plan.

Chloe was looking for delicious snacks online. She didn't have much interest in snacks before, but now that she was pregnant, she had got a sweet tooth. She bought a lot of snacks, and when she was about to check out, her phone was taken away by Damon.

Then he emptied her shopping cart without hesitation. He didn't leave her anything.

Chloe was speechless.

"No snacks."

"But they're all certified and very hygiene and safe."

Damon smiled, "I'm also safe. Do you want to eat me?"

Chloe was speechless again.

"I'll have someone make whatever you want to eat, but no snacks." After saying that, he held Chloe in his arms. "Come on, tell me, what are you going to do in the church?"

Chloe knew that Damon was doing this for her own good, so she didn't argue with him about snacks. She took a deep breath, leaned her head on his shoulder, and looked at the milk on the table, saying, "There are some things I still don't quite understand. I want to go and verify them with... with grandpa."

The next day, Damon took Chloe to the Sacred Heart Church, and Chloe also invited Yulia and Rose.

Sacred Heart Church was the only church in P City and it covered a large area. It was rumored to have been a royal church and had a long history.

When they first arrived, they were able to enthusiastically explore the scenery of the church and the century-old trees in the church. But later, they felt a little tired.

Nate arranged for them to rest for a while, and the pastor of the church gave them special treatment. He told them that there would be a hearty meal at noon, and took them to meet the main pastor of the church.

Chloe didn't care about these things, but she was devout. Especially since she knew that the difference in how Carolina treated her and Keira was simply because of a reminder from a pastor in the church, she felt somewhat resistant. If it weren't for that pastor, she thought, she and the Summers family might not have come this far.

Rose noticed that Chloe didn't look very good, and Rose vaguely figured out something in her heart. She held Chloe's hand, "Are you thinking about the things with the Summers family again?"

She remembered that Chloe had once told her that Carolina's attitude towards her was actually because of a prophecy from a pastor many years ago.

The corners of Chloe's mouth twitched slightly, her face a tad pale, and her smile somewhat forced.

Rose gently tightened her grip on Chloe's hand, "Since we're already here, why don't we check out the priest, and let him do another one of his prophecies."

The young priest was the first to enter the room, and shortly after he came out to usher a few others in.

There was a table in the outer hall of the room, the entire place was filled with a scent that seemed ancient. The young priest stepped out to fetch some refreshments for the guests, and after a few minutes, the head priest also emerged from the back.

Chapter 1527

The young priest left to prepare some tea. A few minutes later, the head priest also emerged from behind the curtain, giving them a slight bow. Dressed in a long robe, he radiated an aura of solemnity and sanctity. He finally settled down across from Chloe and Damon. His gaze lingered on them for a moment before shifting to Yulia and Rose, giving them a warm smile. "Greetings, everyone." His eyes, however, were locked on Damon and Chloe sitting across him.

Damon had strikingly distinct features with a gentle demeanor. His long eyebrows rested calmly on his eyes, revealing no emotion. He exuded an aristocratic charm, a telltale sign of his extraordinary status and position. Upon the priest's gaze, Damon's brows twitched slightly as he glanced back at him. The priest didn't seem flustered, just smiled and shifted his gaze to Chloe. "Got something you want to ask me?"

Chloe seemed a bit taken aback by the priest's direct question. But soon, she regained her usual composure. "With everyone here, why are you so sure I'm the one with questions?"

The priest chuckled, "Because aside from this gentleman, you're the only one who seems to be harboring some hostility towards me. This gentleman here is confident, destined for greatness, and would never ask for help, even if he were chasing fame and fortune his entire life. But even heroes have their kryptonite, and oftentimes, it's a beautiful woman." He paused for a moment, looking at Chloe with a deep meaning. "Despite your coldness, you're also too paranoid." Chloe paused, turning to glance at Damon.²

The priest chuckled, "You seem to hold quite a bit of resentment towards me, which makes his hostility particularly noticeable." What he meant was, no one could mess with Chloe, or else Damon wouldn't let them off the hook.

Seeing Damon silent but slightly frowning at the priest's words, Chloe gave a small smile. Clearly, the priest had hit the nail on the head.

"So do you have a question for me?"

Chloe snapped back to reality, her face slowly turning serious, eyes glinting with a hint of coldness and even mockery. "Since you're so perceptive, why don't you guess why I want to talk to you?"

Because of his words, her life had been thrown into chaos. How could she not hold a grudge against him? His words almost ruined her.

The priest still smiled at her, watching as the young priest placed the tea tray on the table and poured tea for them. Once everyone's tea was served, he looked up at Chloe, slowly saying, "You are a member of the Summers family, and it's your destiny."

Chloe was taken aback.

Rose quivered in her mind and looked cautiously at the priest, "How...how do you know her surname?"

"Everyone's destiny is different, and yours is unique."

This time, even Damon slowly lifted his eyes, looking at the priest across the table.

"The Summers family has a daughter whose destiny is as special as a phoenix. She's like a phoenix hidden in the forest, with a home but unable to return. Her destiny is filled with trials and tribulations, experiencing life and death, and eventually reborn like a phoenix. All she needs is to find a place to settle down, find a partner, and she can live in peace."

"Of course, my appearance is also part of your destiny." The priest continued, if he hadn't appeared, Carolina might not have believed his words and changed her life and that of Keira. "I am a priest, I do not lie, and all these are facts. Haven't you noticed?"

Yulia, sitting to the side, widened her eyes in surprise. "A destiny as unique as a phoenix...aren't you... the princess of Y Country?"

Rose chimed in, "Does 'unable to return home' refer to the years you were sent abroad? And after returning, did Carolina and Keira do something that made it impossible for you to fully return to the Summers family?"

The priest gave a faint smile, "Your destiny is unique, but your life is also full of karma. It shapes destiny, the world is ever-changing, but there must always be a balance. What you gain, you may also lose, there's always a downside to the upside, and there's always a payoff after sacrifice."

Chloe clenched her lips tightly, her voice cold as ice when she finally spoke, laced with a hint of mockery. "Karma? What did I do wrong to deserve all this? The Summers family should have been my safe haven, and my family members should have

been the closest people to me in the world. I didn't expect their selfless dedication, but they should have, at least, treated me like family. I just wished they wouldn't abandon me when times got tough, wouldn't kick me when I'm down, and wouldn't try to drag me down when I achieve something. If it were someone else, I wouldn't care. But they aren't just anyone. I would rather be hurt by anyone than be betrayed by them."

She vented years of resentment. Even though the Summers family no longer held a place in her heart, she couldn't deny how much it hurt when she was repeatedly betrayed, hurt, and oppressed by them. When she found out Carolina treated her the way she did for that reason, she was filled with nothing but anger, sneer, and powerlessness.

Her life, thrown into chaos by the words of a priest. Betrayal. The pain in her life came from the betrayal of those close to her. What did she do to deserve such karma?

Chloe's rare display of cold mockery and agitation silenced everyone in the room. They had always been concerned about her, from start to finish.

Rose knew all too well what Chloe had been through all those years. Even if she didn't say it, her feigned strength was all too telling. Even though she was her closest friend, she couldn't share any of her sorrow.

She didn't understand why so many people could say that a best friend was someone who shared their pain. God knew how much she wished Chloe could have a better life. During those hard times, if she could really share the pain, she would definitely be willing to bear it with her.

But can it really be done? Nope. It was an unspoken understanding between her and Chloe. They both knew that when the knife cut into your own flesh, nobody can truly help you bear the pain. Not even a bit.

Chapter 1528

They thought the issue with the Summers family was done and dusted. But nope, that old bat Carolina had to stir up a fuss. She was raising hell, tarnishing Chloe's reputation with a disloyal and ungrateful label, slinging mud at her, and even threatening to drag her to court.

Why couldn't it just end? Why were people so damn greedy?

Rose wanted to hold Chloe's hand, but someone beat her to it, clutching Chloe's other hand as if he saw her reaching out. Rose was left hanging. She glared at Damon, but the man just shrugged it off, not giving her a second glance.

He did that on purpose, didn't he?! She was just trying to comfort her friend, okay? She was not even allowed to touch her hand now?!

Rose's hand hung in the air, feeling super awkward. Chloe saw it too, and tried to pull her hand away, but Damon held on tight. Yulia, seeing Rose's awkwardness, quickly reached out and grabbed her hand, pulling her back. Rose was grateful for Yulia's save, but their sudden hand-holding seemed a bit stiff. Yulia gently patted her hand, telling her not to worry about it. "Rose, if Chloe has a kid, can I be the godmother?"^{d2}

Chloe had been very busy lately, and with a possessive man around, she didn't have much time to spend with Rose. When she was not around, Yulia would come over to keep her company. Her relationship with Yulia was also quite good.

Yulia was always reserved, never making any requests, not even asking for help. Even for a small favor like fetching a fruit or pouring a glass of water, she would never ask. Now the sudden request to be the godmother of her child was a real surprise.

"Of course." Rose didn't hesitate and agreed right away.

Yulia smiled, squeezing Rose's hand a bit. "Then I better start preparing my godson's gift."

Rose instantly lit up. "Great. You and Damon should hurry up and have a baby, so I can prepare for my nephew."

The previously tense atmosphere lightened up. Seeing the two as if they had decided their future, Chloe's sadness was overshadowed by their interaction, making her chuckle. Damon held her hands, gently squeezing them. Compared to earlier, his expression was more somber.

The priest seemed unaffected by Rose and Yulia's actions. Facing Chloe's accusations, he still remained calm. "This is your fate. In this world, some things are just destined to be. These are all things you must go through."

Chloe stared at the priest, "I don't understand what you mean. I don't care about these, I just want to know, who told you to go to Carolina? What exactly did you tell her? Why is she so convinced that between me and Keira, Keira is the one with the phoenix-like destiny? Is it really her misunderstanding? I don't believe that it's that simple."

The priest sighed, "Smart people always tend to overcomplicate simple things. Sometimes, things are just that simple. I live outside the mortal world, not seeking fame or fortune. I have dedicated my life to serving God. There's no such thing as 'who told me to do this'."

Chloe slowly closed her eyes. Could she really believe that it was just that simple? "To believe that the reason that could destroy me is just that simple, I really cannot accept it. Moreover, these reasons were so elusive, tied to the mysteries of fate. Hmm... what a complex web of causality."

She sneered, whether materialists or idealists, they would not accept such a reason. What era was this? With the education she received, how could she fully believe in this?

Seeing her like this, the priest smiled, took his teacup, and took a sip. "You just need to answer one question, and you will understand everything."

Chloe looked up at him, "What question?"

"Are you satisfied with everything you have now?"

As soon as the priest's words fell, Chloe turned to look at the man beside her. The answer in her heart followed.

She was satisfied.

She knew that without all the previous experiences, she would never have met Damon. Even a wrong step, she would not have met him.

She was satisfied. Having this man, she knew she almost had the world. Because he promised her the rest of his life. He

had promised her that everything would be okay for the rest of her life.

The priest noticed her silence, smiled, and stood up. The prayer beads in his hand were always rotating at a steady pace, paused slightly after a circle, then continued to rotate.

Good deeds would be rewarded, and evil deeds would be punished. Whether it was secret evil deeds or covert good deeds, they can't escape the retribution of karma. The cycle of cause and effect, you may think others don't know, but everything was clear.

"Your journey continues. There are many greedy people in the world, and by blocking their way and thwarting their desires, you've surely earned their resentment. Be cautious."

Chloe was silent for a long time before standing up from the chair. The priest's last words were like a warning to her. But she was never afraid. "I understand. Thank you."

Although she hated what he said to Carolina, which almost ruined her, no matter what happened before, even if she had been through countless hardships, having Damon was enough to offset all the suffering and grievances. Everything she had been through was just to meet this man, so she had no complaints.

Rose and Yulia exchanged glances, both in awe and fear of the old priest. He seemed to have an unfathomable power, his description of Chloe's situation almost 100% accurate.

Mysticism was a profound field. Yet, the more profound it was, the more we wanted to understand some information about ourselves. After all, Chloe was a prime example. His predictions were really accurate.

In the end, Rose couldn't help but ask, "Master, since we're here, can you also give us some guidance?"

Curiosity killed the cat.

Chapter 1529

The priest turned his head, his bright and wise eyes briefly sweeping over the people standing in front of him. His gaze landed on Rose and he said, "Don't get too caught up in one thing, paying more attention to your work will be more beneficial. Effort always pays off. As for other matters, don't sweat the small stuff. What's meant to be yours will be yours, if it's not meant to be, no amount of insisting will make it yours."

At his words, the hopeful expression on Rose's face instantly turned pale.

Then, the priest turned to Yulia, saying, "You will have many children, and you are a lucky person."

Upon hearing this, Chloe became interested. She couldn't help but ask, "How many children? How many daughters, and how many sons?"

Perhaps feeling a bit guilty about Chloe, the priest gave Yulia an extra glance and said, "She will only have one daughter, but at least three other sons."

Chloe was a bit thrilled at his words. She looked at Damon and said with a chuckle, "Your Harper family is truly blessed, Nathan is so amazing for having at least four kids."d2

Damon simply smiled, holding her arm a little tighter. "I'll outdo him."

The crowd fell silent. Chloe blushed deeply and stammered as she spoke. "This is a holy place. What are you saying?" The surrounding gazes made her lower her head.

Damon gave a nonchalant smile, "What did I say? As a worldly person, I naturally can't avoid worldly matters."

Chloe was speechless, as there were two other worldly people present. Yulia and Rose turned their gaze away, while the priest kept his smile, his expression unchanged. He continued to say to Yulia, "Your daughter will be older, and it's a blessing to have a few younger brothers to protect her." The priest changed the subject, sparing Chloe further embarrassment, and turned his gaze to Yulia.

Rose seemed surprised, "Yulia, your first child is a daughter? My son is already engaged, or else we could have become in-laws."

Yulia's eyes flickered away, she simply smiled and said, "That's...a pity."

"No worries, I'll treat her as my goddaughter."

Yulia nodded, "That's not bad."

Chloe watched Yulia, noting every subtle change in her expression. She furrowed her brows but ultimately remained silent.

Then, the priest turned to Damon, "You...."

"I don't need it." Damon interrupted, his voice flat. "I don't believe in these things, nor can I have that kind of absolute faith. I prefer to predict my own destiny." His attitude was confident and arrogant.

The priest nodded, "Alright."

Chloe gave a small smile. That was Damon. His destiny, like his decisions, was his own to control.

After bidding farewell to the priest, they inquired about the long-term residents from a young priest at the church. The reason Jonah lived a bit farther away was because when he first moved there, he expressed his intention to stay long-term and he had Carolina with him. Apart from their regular prayer times, they usually spent their time studying scriptures.

When Chloe and her group reached the small courtyard where Jonah lived, the sun was shining just right. Jonah was copying scriptures in the courtyard. He was still dressed as he usually was, but his demeanor seemed more reserved than before.

Seeing him again, Chloe felt a pang of sorrow. She had said some cruel words to Carolina before. Jonah, just like she had said to Carolina, didn't give his granddaughter the protection a grandfather should. But in a desert, a slight breeze, or even a drop of water, can be incredibly precious. Back then, she was like a traveler trapped in a desert, and Jonah's care was like a drop of water in the desert. That care was something she would never forget.

Today, she came looking for answers. She wanted to know why she had to go through everything she did.

The priest had given the answer with karma. So naturally, she needed Jonah to give the other answer.

Jonah sat there, face expressionless, looking even more indifferent than the priest who had guided them, as if he had

transcended worldly matters. His hair was almost all gray now, which made Chloe feel a bit sad.

Seeing them arrive, Jonah calmly put down his pen and stood up. "You're here?"

Chloe walked slowly to him, seeing the scriptures and a pen on the table. "You refused the place I arranged for you. Do you think it's better here?"

Jonah nodded, sat back down, and closed the scripture on the table. "Living here, I feel more at peace."

Chloe also nodded, sitting across from Jonah. She looked at the scripture on the table, and fell silent for a moment. "As your granddaughter, there are many things I didn't do well," Chloe said. "But I still

can't understand why things have come to this point." They were supposed to be family, but they were filled with resentment for each other. People said blood was a magical connection. But for her, it was far from that. "Even so, I can't forgive you. So you don't have to forgive me either."

Regardless of the cause and outcome of the situation, and how passive she was in this family feud, the families didn't act like families, and she also didn't fulfill her duties as a granddaughter.

Jonah nodded, "We owe you too much. We didn't leave you with good memories, and for that, I'm sorry."

"Some memories are not worth my time to recall, so the past, good and bad, have become history to me, not worth mentioning." Chloe cut him off decisively. She wasn't there to hear his regrets and apologies. She didn't want to listen, nor did she want to forgive. "As for the Summers family, I reckon I've done all I can. You said 'no' to the house, and you won't accept any support either. But if the day comes, I'll still do my duty and step up to the plate, doing what a granddaughter should do. I take note of even the tiniest favor from others, let alone the gift of your upbringing."

Jonah let out a deep sigh, "So what brings you here today?"

Chapter 1530

Chloe bit her lip, fell silent for a moment, then slowly asked, "Why did you choose to live here?"

Jonah was silent for a long time before he sighed again, "I wanted to make amends with the rest of my life."

Chloe looked at him indifferently, "Can you ever truly make up for it?"

Everyone had made mistakes, including herself. But she had never thought about making amends because she didn't regret anything she had been through, or any decision she made.

Because even if she had to do it all over again, she would still make the same choices. She wasn't religious, but she believed everyone was guilty. What was done was done, and a mistake was a mistake. You needed to pay the price for your mistakes, you can't just make amends and repent to make things right.

Making amends? It was just a way to ease your own conscience.d2

Jonah shook his head, "I can't fully make up for it. I just hope to trade it for some prayers, hoping that you could have a better life."

Chloe smiled slightly, "Pray for me?"

"Besides this, I don't know what else I can do for you. Whether you accept it or not, it's just how I feel, it doesn't concern anyone else."

Chloe nodded, looking down at the sutra not far away, and fell silent for a moment. "I came here today to ask you one question."

"Go ahead." Jonah said indifferently.

"Why do you indulge Carolina so much?"

Jonah frowned, "Why do you ask?"

Chloe looked straight at him, her voice cold, "Don't tell me it's because she's your wife, and you've spent a lifetime with her, so it's only natural to love and spoil her. I can't interfere with that, but as I've said before, this isn't spoiling, it's indulging."

As she spoke, she glanced around the simple courtyard and sneered. "This so-called amends you're making, is it for yourself or for her?"

Jonah's calm expression finally changed slightly, Chloe's words made him uncomfortable.

Chloe looked at him, and her eyes slightly narrowed. "All these years, I at least knew you used to be a man of principles. Your peers didn't have any complaints about you. The only thing they find strange is your attitude towards Carolina. They all said that you didn't seem to be spoiling her, but rather, like she had something on you, or you felt guilty towards her."

Jonah lifted his eyes and looked at her suddenly, "Do you have any speculations?" His tone was guarded.

Chloe smiled. She was right. "I don't know about your past. So I don't know what you did back then that made Carolina control you to this extent. If you want me to speculate, then I'll give it a shot."

Chloe spoke calmly, staring at the pink furry set of gloves on her hands and raising the corners of her mouth slightly into a cold smile. "If this man has a shred of conscience, he should know that the most guilt-inducing thing a man can do to a woman is be unfaithful. And the most guilt-inducing thing a husband can do to his wife is to cheat, betraying his wife and family."

Jonah's face finally showed agitation; he couldn't keep calm anymore.

Chloe sneered in her heart, feeling disappointed in Jonah's character. She had experienced too many betrayals. Lance and Keira had been having an affair behind her back, which in her view, was disgusting and filthy. Wasn't loyalty to a relationship a principle and bottom line everyone should have? If a man can't even do this, how can he earn the respect of others?

The little respect Chloe had left for Jonah in her heart plummeted once again.

"Let me continue." Chloe clasped her hands together, looked straight at Jonah, her eyes cold. "The pinnacle of a husband's secret adultery is a peaceful family at home and a mistress outside, and if this mistress has a child, wouldn't that make life even more perfect?"

Jonah lowered his head. It was hard to see his expression, but his arms were clearly trembling. Rose and Yulia looked shocked. And Rose, who often visited the Summers family, seemed even more incredulous. "You..." She never thought that

the man who was always kind and loving when she was a child would do such a thing. She didn't see it coming at all; he didn't seem like the kind of person who would betray his family.

In Rose's eyes, what did Jonah's infidelity look like? It was as unbelievable as a monk suddenly having a son. It took her a while to regain her senses.

“No, Chloe, Jonah wouldn’t do things like that, would he? You’re just guessing randomly, don’t misunderstand Jonah.” Chloe’s smile remained cold. She released her tightly clasped hands, propped herself up on the table, and slowly stood up, never taking her eyes off Jonah. “I also find it hard to believe. So many things happened back then, but I never really thought about them. Back then, these doubts in my heart tried to grow, but I ignored them. Because I just didn’t want to believe, or dare to think that you could be that kind of person. Even though you didn’t really help me much back then,

when everyone else was ignoring me, you were a comfort to me. I didn’t want to destroy the only good thing in my heart. I didn’t think about it, and I didn’t want to think about it. As long as you were my grandfather, that was enough.”

Jonah looked up at Chloe, his lips trembling as if he wanted to say something, but he couldn’t. Chloe looked at him condescendingly, coldly and sadly. “Just like today, if what I suspect is true, then the grandfather in my heart no longer

exists.”

“Chloe...” Rose could hear the disappointment and sadness in Chloe’s words, and couldn’t help but softly call her name.

Chloe’s eyes started to well up, but she ignored what Rose had said. Staring at Jonah, she blurted out, “So all these years, my only respected grandpa, turns out to be the big bad wolf. You felt guilty about Carolina, so you used my life to make it up to her, right? She can do whatever she wants, and you’ll just let her, even if it means sacrificing me?”