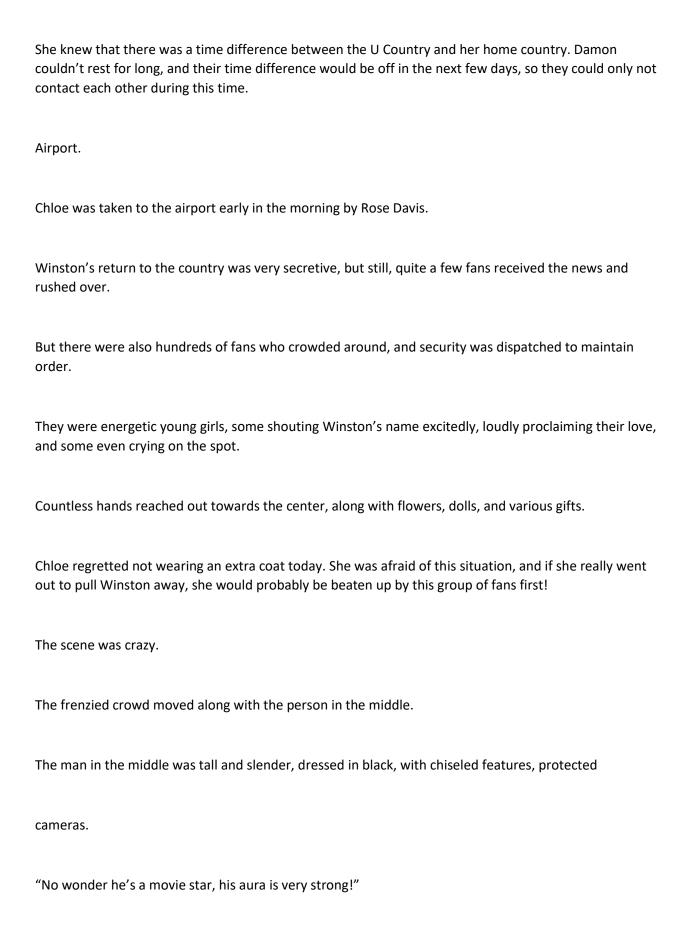
## **CHOSEN 161**

Chapter 161
But she still hung up the phone.
Damon Harper, who just got off the plane and got into the car, knotted his brows when the call was cut off.
Did she fall asleep?
But that hang up was pretty quick.
Staring at his phone for a few seconds, he decided to give up calling her when his phone suddenly rang again.
It was a video call.
Damon's face instantly relaxed, and his long fingers swiped across the screen to answer the call.
The woman's beautiful face appeared on the small phone screen.
"Did you just get off the plane?" A familiar and crisp voice rang out brightly.
"Yeah" Damon replied softly, his eyes fixed on the woman's face.
Chloe Summers could see Damon's exhaustion, and her heart sank a bit, "Then you should go back to the hotel and rest for a while."
After a few seconds of silence, Damon spoke again slowly.

"Did you miss me?"
Chloe hesitated for a moment, blushing a little, "You've only been away for less than a day"
"But I missed you." Damon stared at her, "I've been missing you since you got out of the car"
Chloe didn't speak for a while, because she didn't know what to say. She just felt her face flushing with embarrassment and her heart
" You're exaggerating!"
"That's your charm."
Chloe was choked by his words and didn't know how to respond. After a while, she said:
* Remember to eat when you get to the hotel."
"Okay. I'll be busy for the next few days, so take care of yourself and wait for me to come back."
Okay Chloe's chin rested on her knees, listening to Damon's low and pleasant voice, and nodded gently.
Even though the conversation was over, neither of them hung up the phone.
The two stared at each other quietly for a long time before Chloe finally hung up the phone with a flushed face!
Afterward, she held her phone and went back to the bedroom.



dby
several assistants, and expressionlessly
for photos with fans holding phones and
Rose gritted her teeth and said, and as Chloe turned her head to look at her, she had disappeared.
When she looked back, Rose had already squeezed into the crowd of fans,
Running straight toward where Winston was!
Chloe felt her scalp tingle.
Rose had never experienced this before. After all, she was still a rich young lady, and her strength was far from that of the
In the pushing and shoving, Rose was pushed to the ground.
"Be careful, be careful! Someone fell!"
"Stop moving!"
crazy
fans!

The security guards on the outside hurriedly shouted, but the crazy fans didn't stop. Instead, it was Winston in the middle who stopped first.
His cold gaze swept over the fans who had stopped with him and said coldly:
"Someone was pushed down, didn't you notice?"
"Someone was pushed down, didn't you notice?" Chapter 162
Winston's voice was deep and sexy. Most of his fans freaked out.
"I appreciate that you guys like me so much, but if it's gonna be this dangerous, maybe don't chase after me anymore!"
Winston's assistant rubbed his forehead. Winston was a good guy with a handsome face and a natural talent for acting, but his temper and personality didn't suit a celebrity.
"Everyone, what Winston means is, please be careful for your own safety. If you get hurt because of him, he'll feel terrible. Don't make him worry, okay?" The assistant stepped in to save the
awkward situation.
The fans finally nodded and said, "We get it."
At this point, Rose had already stood up and walked over to Winston, handing him her business card.
"Hi I'm the general manager of Spotlight Beauty Can we talk?"
However, Winston didn't even look at her. Instead, he looked up at Chloe, who was walking over.



On the way back, Rose kept staring at Chloe.
Chloe had a headache and remained silent, but she couldn't avoid Rose's gaze. Finally, she said, "What do you want to ask?"
Rose smiled slightly, shrugged, and said, "When did you meet Winston?"
Chloe sighed, "I guess you could sayI've known him since we were kids."
Rose coughed and sat up straight.
She looked at the road and frowned, "He's Uncle Robison's grandson, right?"
Chloe nodded, "Yes."
"I've heard you mention him before, but I've never met him in person"
"Anyway, you're my lucky star! The biggest problem is solved now. I can finally relax. Let's gather all the colleagues tomorrow night for a get-together. They've been working hard these days too. Today, let's head back to the company and prepare the endorsement contract."
In order to avoid any accidents, the endorsement deal with Winston was quietly completed.
In the Spotlight Beauty conference room, it was just Chloe and Winston.
"What's your main purpose for coming back to the country?" Chloe asked with a poker face, looking at the handsome and cold man across from her.
To be by your side."



Chloe's expression darkened, and she frowned.
"You're being nosy."
Winston's face fell too. "Do you want to leave this place?"
Seeing Chloe's silence, Winston grew agitated.
"How much longer do you want to stay here?"
"I still have some things to sort out I don't want to leave!"
Chloe walked past him after saying this.
Winston had just returned for a break, so he didn't have any work at first.
The next couple of days, Chloe checked his schedule and found a familiar name on the cast list of his scifi drama–Keira Summers.
Of course, Keira wasnt the lead actress.
She was only to play a character who went crazy from love and ended up as an enemy because she couldn't have the man she'd guarded for nearly a thousand years.
Chloe couldn't help but sneer when she saw the character outline.
The role matched Keira's personality perfectly.

For Winston's first acting job back in the country, his agency didn't cast him as the lead, which was a clever move.

This gave Chloe some relief. After all, he was a movie star, and the entertainment industry was full of messy relationships. Any actress who knew how to please investors could bribe her way onto the set, making the script and cast unstable.

In the end, if the show failed at the box office because of this, the leads would be the ones to blame.

So supporting male role wasn't a bad choice.

The lead actor was Antonio, a popular artist under Radiant Entertainment.

The lead actress, well-known to everyone, was Danielle, who was taken care of by Seth Diaz..

With such a cast, it's clear this would be a high-quality TV show.

Although there was still some time before the drama started filming.

The pre-production promotion would take about a month to prepare.

Rose had fully let go of Chloe, only asking her to take good care of Winston.

Chloe understood how important Winston was, so she naturally treated him with great care and respect.

After spending two days with Winston, words like "I can't have your ladyship worrying about anything" never happened again.

One afternoon, Chloe finally managed to get Winston's attention. Just when she wanted to rest for the evening, she was stopped by someone outside the company building.

Chapter 164
"Miss, there's a family dinner tonight, and the lady is here to pick you up herself."
The driver respectfully stood in front of her, turning sideways to let her get in the car.
Chloe looked up at the open car door and saw someone sitting inside.
It was Carolina Petry.
1 believe Keira must have told you guys all about what happened yesterday afternoon. A family dinner has nothing to do with me."
"I came to pick you up personally, and you're still arguing with me?"
Chloe's face was expressionless. "If you want to keep enjoying the view from the car, go ahead."
She turned to leave, but Carolina's voice rang out again, heavy: "This time, we're discussing the company's anniversary party. Your grandfather specifically was to be invol
can ignore me, but will you also ignore your grandfather's words?"
Chloe stopped, and seeing her waver, Carolina continued, "Your grandfather will be there tonight, too.

A true treasure trove and a favorite place for wealthy merchants and businessmen.

Stardust Soiree.

Chloe stood at the entrance, gazing up at the magnificent club, but feeling a chill in her heart.



She would sing off–key songs and dance awkwardly in front of her, giggling.
Back then, she brought so much laughter and joy to the family.
Everyone wanted to give her the best, treating her like a little princess.
But the real princess of the Summers family wasn't her.
Her absent–minded gaze gradually cleared.
The real princess wasn't her.
Carolina sighed heavily and led Chloe to their reserved private room.
But when the door opened and she saw the people sitting inside, the light in Chloe's bright eyes gradually dimmed, like a frostbitten stone on a cold winter morning, hard and icy.
Carolina glanced at her, "Go in and sit down!"
Chloe looked at her, her voice cold, "Where's Grandpa?"
"He's not here yet!"  Chapter 165
Chloe furrowed her brows slightly and, after a few seconds of silence, decided to go in anyway.
"Ah, Chloe's here"

The greeting words sounded a bit awkward. Chloe managed to show a faint smile, as her upbringing made it impossible for her to ignore the two people in front of her. The one who just spoke to her was Lauretta Ablett, Lance's mother. She was wearing a purple lace dress and looked well-preserved, with her beautiful features still intact. Sitting next to her was a middle-aged man in a suit and leather shoes, Grover Olson. His face looked naturally serious, but he was quite handsome. He and Lance looked very much alike. How Chloe and Lance felt about each other was their own business. She never thought of venting on the two elders the resentment in her heart caused by Lance's betrayal. But why meet again on such an occasion? Today, Carolina said it was the Summers family's banquet. Why were the two elders of the Olson family present? Chloe's lukewarm response made Lauretta awkwardly look at her husband. Grover comforted her with a glance, his face showing a hint of helplessness.

"Young lady, the elders are trying to greet you. What kind of attitude is this?"

From the side, Nick Summers spoke in a deep voice,	feeling very displeased with Chloe's attitude which
made the atmosphere tense as soon as she entered.	

"It's fine, it's fine..."

Lauretta hurriedly stepped in to mediate. After all, she didn't dislike Chloe, and from beginning to end, it was the Olson family that owed Chloe.

Chloe ignored Nick. In fact, from the beginning to the end, she never paid attention to Nick and Viviana Reeves.

Chloe poured herself a glass of water, took a sip, and just put the glass back on the table when a burst of laughter came from the doorway. "Grandpa is right, you're so pretty. You would look pretty even dressed in rags."

"No way, I'll never be in rags!"

Chloe's hand gripping the glass tightened slightly. With her back to the door, she didn't even turn around.

Jonah Summers' laughter grew closer and closer, making Chloe feel desolate inside.

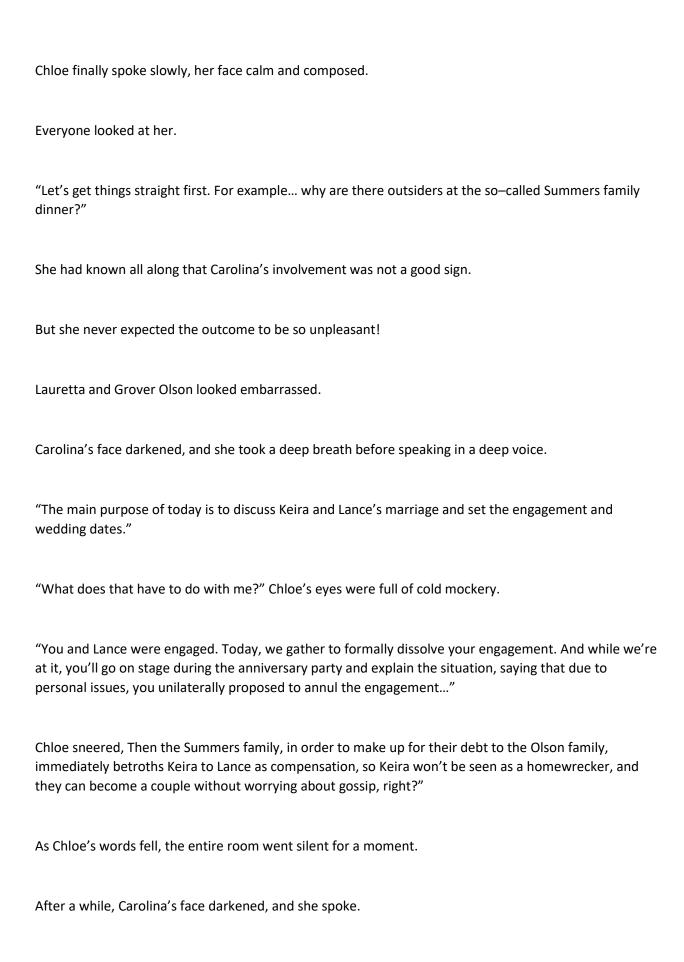
She told herself she shouldn't be like this. Keira was his granddaughter too, and he wasn't wrong in treating them equally.

But if it was him who invited her to this gathering today, did he ever think about how ridiculous her position here would be?! Lance pushed wheelchair—bound Jonah in, while Keira walked in arm in arm with him, chatting and laughing.

"I'm sorry for the wait. Lance and I went to pick up grandpa from home."



Chloe sat there quietly, feeling like an outsider amidst the laughter and chatter in the room.
There were so many moments when she wanted to stand up and just leave.
But she knew that doing so would be too disgraceful.
So she could only sit there quietly, watching the happy family scene unfold.
It wasn't until everyone approached the dining table that her face suddenly changed.
"Sis, you're here too! Keira looked both embarrassed and surprised.
And Lance's smile froze on his face.
"Chloe, you're here
Chloe smiled faintly, not responding.
It was then that everyone in the room seemed to notice Chloe's presence again, and the atmosphere became tense.
Jonah glanced at Chloe and sighed quietly, "Sit down, everyone!"
After everyone took their seats, the atmosphere at the table was still somewhat stifling.
"Serve the dishes." Jonah ordered in a deep voice.
"Wait."



1 know you've never liked Keira, but don't you know Lance well enough? Lance and Keira have reached a point where they can't be separated. If he could, he wouldn't have made such a decision!\*

At this moment, Lauretta looked guilty, nodding repeatedly, almost in tears.

"Chloe, it's true, really. I noticed Lance's fondness for Keira even before you went abroad, but he was always torn. He told me he couldn't be irresponsible to you. For all these years, he's been struggling in pain. If it weren't for these undeniable feelings, he might have continued to be torn. Chloe, if you still love him, can you let him go? Let him be happy! Please? Can you let Lance go and let him be with Keira?"

Chapter 167

Chloe clutched her teacup tightly, feeling as if she had fallen into an ice cave, her whole body freezing cold.

"So you are telling me that... before I left, Lance had already had feelings for Keira?"

Lauretta's face was streaked with tears. Hearing Chloe's sudden question, she was visibly stunned. She bit her lip and nodded slightly

Chloe looked up at Lance, his eyes filled with guilt.

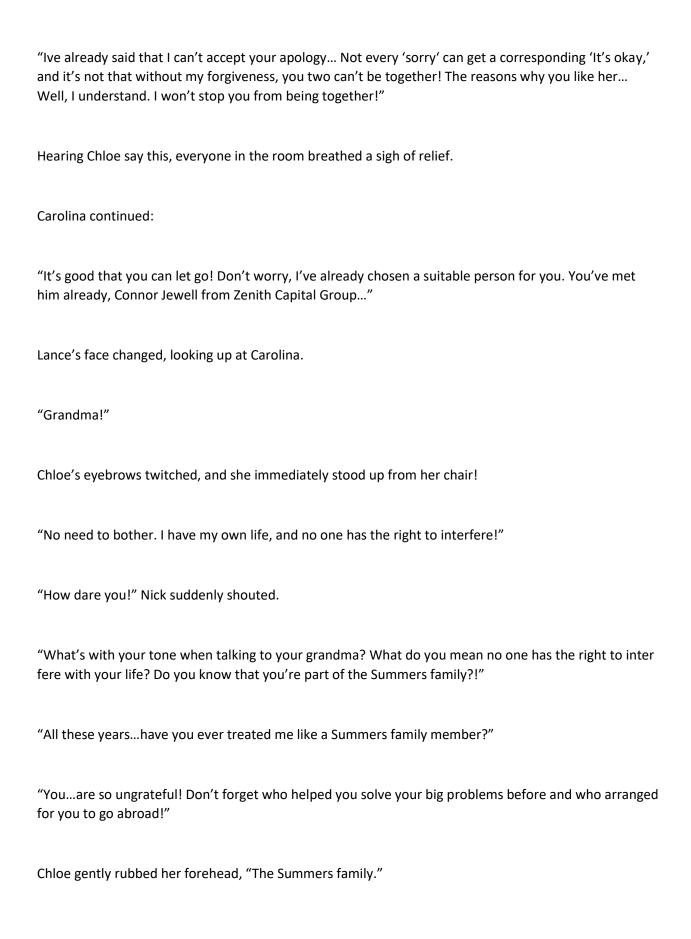
She stared at him silently, her body shaking with anger. "So, you liked her even before I left? You've been struggling with this for six whole years?"

Lance didn't speak, but the guilt in his eyes grew deeper, which was his answer.

Chloe laughed coldly, "I thought you started getting closer to her while I was away because you couldn't stand the loneliness... I didn't expect it to be so early..."

Chloe's words were calm and sarcastic.





"Hmph! So you still remember?"

"Yes, I remember. It's because I didn't take your advice and participated in the piano competition privately. Then, on the day of the competition, all the reporters saw the situation between me and the judge in the break room. I said I was forced, but the judge said I seduced him. You chose to believe the judge instead of me.

Chapter 168

"I begged you guys to trust me, but you chose to hide this info instead. Because of your cover—up, everyone thought I seduced the judges in the piano competition!"

"As for the fashion contest, I was accused of plagiarism? I insisted it was my own design, but Keira cried and said she stayed up all night to make it, and you guys chose to believe her over

me..."

"In the end, I got kicked out of school, and you shipped me abroad to save face. You never cared about me in the past three years..."

Chloe's throat was beginning to burn, but she tried her best to hold back, standing up straight with sadness in her eyes but also determination.

"Just because I didn't cry and make a scene like other girls, does that mean I don't deserve your attention and sympathy? Do you think you've actually done enough and fulfilled your responsibilities?"

"But have you ever considered that it was your actions that had pushed me into the abyss?"

"You didn't help me when I needed it the most, nor did you share your glory with me when you were on top! Instead, when you're about to hit rock bottom, you hope I can give you a hand and sacrifice myself one last time for the Summers family?"





"What the heck did I see tonight? Keira being treated like royalty in the Summers family, and she's bound to become the respected Mrs. Olson once she marries into the Olson family!" "You knew I couldn't stand her, but you still let me witness her smug happiness! More importantly, didn't everything she has now come from me?!" For the first time, Chloe completely lost her cool in front of Jonah! After a while, she took a deep breath, trying to calm herself down, but then she laughed mockingly. "Coming here tonight was like asking for trouble, asking to be unhappy!" She pulled her hand away, stepped back, and her face became cold. As if nothing had happened. Jonah sighed deeply, "Chloe, I just want you to come back home, to the Summers family! Your grandma's words might be harsh, but she's telling the truth. What's happened is history. Will you never return to the Summers family?" Chloe smiled, "Return to the Summers family?" After a moment of silence, Chloe just said, "It's cold outside. You'd better go back to the room!" She didn't say anything more about returning to the Summers family. Because for her, that was impossible! Even if she were to return, it would be for revengel

The family banquet continued, and Lance and Keira's wedding took place on that very day.

When the banquet ended, as the future son—in—law of the Summers family, Lance naturally had to be on his best behavior.

Grover and Lauretta returned to the Olson family mansion first.

Grover seemed a bit unhappy.

Lauretta took a deep breath and glanced at him, "Why are you still angry? You wanted to watch our son get married in the Olson family house. What's with the anger at the dinner table?"

Grover said, "Tonight's events upset Chloe. Back when the Olson Group was facing bankruptcy, if it weren't for Chloe, the Olson Group might have declined... Have we forgotten her past kindness?"

Lauretta pursed her lips, ". I always knew that our Olson family owed that girl a lot, but we can't control who Lance loves!"

Grover frowned and looked at her, "I know you deliberately made Lance and Keira get together back then!"

"I did it for the Olson family!"

Lauretta looked a bit unhappy, "Which of the problems Chloe caused back then could we accept?! How could the Olson family be willing to accept such a woman as our daughter—in—law? Besides, Lance is my son. I don't want him to marry a woman with a bad reputation. What's wrong with that?"

"And it's not like you couldn't see the Summers family's attitude towards Chloe. Even if Chloe did join the Olson family, what could she bring to us?"

As Lauretta watched Grover's anger slowly fade, she breathed a sigh of relief and whispered:

"Do you know why the Summers family favors Keira so much?"
Grover turned to look at her in confusion.
In the past, Chloe used to be just as pampered in the Summers family, like a little princess!
But then, for some reason, the always decisive Carolina, who despised third wheels in a marriage, suddenly encouraged Nick to bring his mistress and her daughter home and excessively doted on them.
As for the reason-
Lauretta whispered.
"Years ago, an Eastern priest from Graceful Haven Church said that the daughters of the Summers family were born as phoenixes. The phoenix hides in the forest, unable to return to its home even if it has one, and there are villains who plot against it, making its destiny full of twists and turns I can't remember the rest of the description, but there's one thing – the younger generation will surpass their predecessors!"
Chapter 170
Hearing Lauretta say this, Grover's face dropped.
"Do you really believe in all that?"
"Of course I do! It's from the priest of Graceful Haven Church, and it's all come true The phoenix hiding in the forest, unable to return home, a life full of setbacks, always being framed by villains — isn't that Keira? She's the daughter of the Summers family, but she grew up outside, and all the things she experienced were challenges brought by fate. And Chloe, clearly the
villain.

The most important part is the younger generation will surpass the older.' Didn't Keira eventually return to the Summers family?
She was born a phoenix, with great fortune. Have you ever thought about how much honor Keira will bring to the Olson family in the future?"
"" Grover squinted and fell silent, not saying anything more.
Thinking about it carefully, his wife's words seemed to make sense.
As businessmen, especially the most vulgar ones, they more or less believe in these things.
Just like the Summers family firmly believes in them too!
But now they never mention it, not even thinking of it
_
Back when the Olson family almost went bankrupt, it was Chloe who selflessly helped them, bit by bit, to get back on their feet
Chloe returned to Emerald Valley Estates and collapsed on the sofa
She tried not to think about all the people she had seen today, all the words she had heard
But it was just how people were. The more you want to escape and the more you feel disgusted, the easier it is for your mood and emotions to be affected.
She sighed, pressing her hand on her forehead, and the room was silent.

Damon stared at her face for a long time, then asked softly,

"What happened?"



"Do you miss me?"

Chloe stared at his face, somewhat dazed.