

CHOSEN 1691

Chapter 1691

The more Chloe observed his cautious demeanor, the more she sensed that there was something fishy going on.

As she leaned forward to open the gift box, Damon had already started the car

Ten minutes later, the car smoothly pulled up to the grand entrance of a sprawling European-style building.

To call it a mansion would be an understatement, but to call it a castle would be lacking one had to label it, an estate would be more fitting It was on par with Damon's property in Greenfield Village in P City c2

At the moment, the parking area of Dubonnet's Manor was filled with a dazzling array of luxury cars.

Y Country's political figures were always particular about appearances and didn't shy away from lavish displays Men and women, of all ages and types, were paired off, adorned with glittering jewelry and dressed in luxurious attire.

Just by observing the guests occasionally walking towards the manor, Chloe began to understand why Barbara and Becky were so insistent on coming here It was a feast that would certainly satisfy their vanity

Regardless of who the real protagonist of today's birthday banquet was, as long as they arrived, the most eye-catching people would undoubtedly be the two most noble princesses in the Y Country Moreover those who came to compliment them were significant political figures and top-notch businessmen in the Y Country This was a different level of respect compared to their everyday lives.

Seeing this, Chloe smirked. So they liked this kind of attention.

The birthday banquet of Duke Dubonnet's beloved granddaughter. Fiona, would always make the front-page headlines of major newspapers in the Y Country every year Even if the newspapers didn't offer,

Duke Dubonnet would spare no expense to buy the front page to let the world witness his beloved granddaughter's birthday it was evident how important Miss Fiona was to Duke Dubonnet.

Moreover, many people paid attention to this annual birthday banquet. Over time, major newspapers vied to get the most comprehensive coverage of this event So, the gathering of various magazine journalists and the intermittent flashes of cameras were not surprising

heard that Julia's real granddaughter will be present tonight. This is her first appearance as a royal princess at a Y Country event."

I'm looking forward to her debut tonight."

A few journalists mentioned Chloe, inevitably adding a few more comments. Occasionally they would also take pictures of the guests walking towards

them.

"I wonder how Princess Barbara feels, having her position as the eldest princess suddenly usurped by someone else'

"Well, there's nothing that can be done After all, Chloe is the Queen's own granddaughter. There's no comparison."

"However, Princess Barbara has a good reputation in the Y Country. Compared to her sister, she's like an angel."

Everyone agreed, and there was nothing negative to say about Barbara's character.

Just as they were discussing, the protagonists of their conversation appeared in their sight.

"Here they come

Everyone instantly sprang to life raising their cameras towards the figures on the red carpet

Barbara and Becky made their entrance together.

To attract everyone's attention and highlight their prestigious status, the two sisters had clearly put a lot of effort into their attire.

With uniquely luxurious gowns by the royal designer, along with dazzling jewelry, meticulously applied makeup, and flawlessly coiffed bore perfect smiles. Their upturned chins exuded nothing but the aristocratic pride and dignity that came from their royal origins. The excitement of the journalists caught the attention of the other guests, who couldn't help but stop and watch.

Seeing the two princesses appear simultaneously and steal everyone's attention, the expressions of the guests were varied. Deep down, people really held no real fondness for these ostentatious princesses. Every time without fail, they would steal the spotlight. Which woman could truly them? However, as they were the esteemed princesses of the Y Country's royal family, even if someone didn't genuinely like them, they still had to find opportunities to pay them compliments if they could befriend them, it would be greatly beneficial for their families and even their future in-laws. The other journalists also reacted, taking a flurry of photos of Barbara and Becky. They were undoubtedly the most watched tonight. Barbara's smile was generous and gracious.

After a round of rapid-fire photography, the journalists who had obtained

factory photos began to question.

"Wasn't it said that the real granddaughter was supposed to attend the banquet tonight? Why are these two here instead?"

"Yes, our reliable sources told us the same thing the invitation was given to the real granddaughter

would want her to get acquainted with the royal nobility it's

“Yes, you’re right After all, Queen Julia just found her granddaughter, it’s only nati expected for her to be here Why are these two here instead? I didn’t hear about Dubonnet inviting them”

“Well, they are princesses of the royal family after all Who doesn’t know that? Who would dare to stop them even without an invitation?” “True, but its a bit

Everyone was discussing the unexpected appearance of the two sisters The low hum of conversation wasn’t loud enough for them to hear what wa being said Facing so many cameras and the attention of everyone, they maintained their composure and grace, although inside they were elated

Chloe sat in the car Watching the two sisters’ increasingly elevated heads and straight backs, she couldn’t help but sneer Was all this really worth all the effort?

Becky, arm in arm with Barbara, Was visibly overjoyed, her expression growing increasingly arrogant. Compared to Barbara, her emotions were too obviously displayed.

As the pair approached the entrance, they were stopped by two young men at the door. After a respectful bow and a smile, they spoke,

May we see your invitations, please?”

Upon hearing this, Chloe started to unbuckle her seatbelt. Damon swiftly opened his car door, walked around the car, and then gently guided her out

In Chloe’s arms was the gift box Damon had given her. He put his arm around her waist as they stepped onto the red carpet together.

Since they were still outside, Chloe hadn’t taken off her down jacket. She was bundled up, and the reporters didn’t recognize her at first. However, Damon’s face was unmistakably conspicuous, causing the paparazzi to swarm, their cameras flashing it wasn’t until the two had passed with emotionless faces that one of the reporters realized who they were.

Wasnt that the real princess of the royal family?”

Chapter 1692

Realizing who they had just seen, the crowd turned back to look, only catching a glimpse of two retreating silhouettes heading towards the door.

“Yeah, and the man with her, wasn’t he the CEO of the renowned global conglomerate?”

The Harper Group. He’s not the CEO anymore, but the lady with him is undoubtedly the royal princess.”

“Such a pity, she was so modestly dressed, I didn’t recognize her

“No worries, there will be plenty of opportunities to see her. At the New Year’s Day Coronation, she’s sure to be there.”c2

The two sisters who were stopped and asked for invitations had rather unpleasant expressions on their faces. The people around were now casting their glances towards them. Being present without an invitation could easily make them a subject of ridicule.

Even Barbara felt embarrassed and angry due to their blindness, her brows furrowing in vexation.

Due to her usual pretense, even this subtle change in expression made others inexplicably feel a certain pressure

After all, it was a highly-anticipated banquet. Offending the guests or causing any further disturbance that could ruin Miss Fiona’s birthday celebration wouldn’t bode well for anyone

There were plenty of spectators around, eagerly waiting for drama to unfold. Even Becky could sense it.

“Are you blind, daring to stop us?”

The two checking invitations glanced at each other awkwardly

At this point, a few flamboyantly dressed women came over to them and said “indeed, you two have to know your places. The two ladies are the most esteemed princesses in Y Country. They come to pay their respects on Miss Fiona’s birthday, and you dare to stop them?”

“Having the royal princesses attend your mistress’s birthday party is a great honor for anyone, I’m sure even Duke Dubonnet would agree. If you dare to stop them, the Dubonnet family will have to face the consequences. Don’t create trouble for Duke Dubonnet

“Absolutely right”

Some people seized the opportunity to curry favor with the two princesses, leaving the two checkers with a difficult expression.

“But Miss Fiona said, for her birthday party this year, she only recognizes invitations, not people.”

“Exactly, this is what Miss Fiona specifically told us

The two spoke frankly, but everyone heard it loud and clear These words seemed to be targeted specifically at the two princesses

Indeed, every year, Barbara, the elder princess, outshone the birthday girl at Fiona’s party, sometimes even accompanied by Princess Becky. No one really wanted them to show up

Although the presence of the royal princesses brought glory to the entire family the Dubonnet family didn’t really need their favor. As the proud Duke who had assisted the Queen in managing Y Country, even the Queen had to give him some respect. Did he need two princesses to boost his household’s prestige?

Duke Dubonnet’s most beloved granddaughter was always proud and spoiled. She occasionally disliked dealing with the two princesses. But the Queen, Julia, always respected the Dubonnet family, so they had to swallow their pride, despite their dissatisfaction.

However, Becky and Barbara didn't expect Fiona to blatantly guard against them today. The dignified princesses of a nation were deliberately stopped at the door, which was embarrassing. Hearing people starting to flatter them, Becky raised her chin arrogantly, snorted, and looked at the two with a more domineering look. "Did you hear that? If you heard it, let us in. Can you afford the consequences if you don't?"

"Becky" Barbara stretched out her hand to hold Becky, her tone somewhat stern, "Stop it"

Becky stomped her foot in frustration, "I'm not causing trouble. It's them who don't know any better"

Barbara pulled her back and said to the two: "We grew up with Miss Fiona. We've never missed her birthdays and don't plan to. We're just here to celebrate her birthday. We indeed didn't bring an invitation, but can you please ask Duke Dubonnet directly? If he doesn't agree with us going in, we'll just leave the gift and leave, wishing Fiona a happy birthday"

She paused, smiled at them, and her words sounded non-aggressive, but everyone understood. What did it mean to ask Duke Dubonnet directly, and not to insist if he disagreed?

She directly pushed the problem to Duke Dubonnet. How could he possibly refuse the royal princesses who came to celebrate his granddaughter's birthday? It clearly indicated that Barbara and Becky were determined to get in tonight.

-After a moment of hesitation, they nodded, "Alright, we'll call the Duke right away"

However, just as one of them picked up the phone, Damon and Chloe approached them.

Chloe handed over her invitation. "Excuse me" Her gentle and soft spoken voice emerged as she stood wrapped in her down jacket, keeping a rather low profile yet still managing to draw some attention towards her.

Everyone was dressed in dazzling attire for the party. Even those wearing outer coats did so while ensuring they looked attractive. But Chloe's attire was so seasonally appropriate. Without her, other socialites wouldn't have realized they were actually living in winter.

Taking the invitation from Chloe, one of them became more respectful after reading its contents

“So, it’s the princess. Please, come in.”

Princess? Everyone caught onto the keyword, and all eyes turned to Chloe as if saluting.

The high collar of her down jacket was covering her chin, leaving the most noticeable feature her eyes. A pair of starry eyes, placid and unruffled, were

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10:45

nestled in the broad, commanding chest of a tall, upright man. The woman seemed so incredibly delicate, it was hard to reconcile her with the rumored iron lady, who was known to be ruthlessly formidable.

She looked so harmless.

For a moment, everyone present relaxed their guard around Chloe, regretting how easily they had believed the rumors. Yet despite this, they dared not approach rashly. Because the man by her side, with his aloof and frigid demeanor, was enough to deter anyone.

Chloe nodded, turning to enter, her gaze landing on Barbara and Becky. A hint of inexplicable amusement twinkled in her eyes.

At that moment, another person who had been consulting Duke Dubonnet over the phone, hung up and walked over to Barbara and Becky, saying, “Your highnesses, thank you for your patience, the Duke has agreed to let you in 1

The amusement in Chloe's eyes deepened. Her smile, however, almost made Barbara lose her composure and slap her hard across the face.

Chapter 1693

But she couldn't. She could only watch helplessly as Chloe entered the door before them.

"Can't you see? It's clear as day what Queen Julia is thinking. Blood is thicker than water after all"

"While Chloe is received with respect after presenting her invitation, Princess Becky and Barbara still need the consent of Duke Dubonnet to enter. The difference in treatment is clear enough for even a fool to see who Queen Julia favors. Better keep your wits about you and try to get on better terms with the real princess"

"But Barbara and Becky have been by the Queen's side since they were kids. The Queen wouldn't completely ignore them just because there's a new princess. If so, what does that make of her? She's just letting the new princess get accustomed to the environment, there's no need for comparison."

The whispers reached Barbara and Becky's ears, their faces turning sour

"Please, princesses

The servant reminded them. Barbara, maintaining a shallow smile, turned and walked into the grand entrance.

The Dubonnet estate was vast To reach the banquet hall from the entrance, one had to traverse an escalator. Given the grandeur of the event and the discomfort of high heels, everyone chose to take the escalator

When Barbara and Becky caught up. Damon was just stepping onto the escalator with Chloe Chloe, clutching her gift box, squinted into the circular holes on the sides under the bright lights, but couldn't see what was inside.

Damon smiled at her curiosity and pointed to the box. "This ring has an outer layer. When you place it on the table, just take that off

Chloe blinked, her curiosity piqued.

"What's inside? I don't even know what the gift is How can it be the gift sent by me?"

Damon pursed his lips, "The birthday girl will love it. That's for sure." He had a hunch that if she were to know what was inside, he might have another enemy on his hands.

Chloe couldn't open the box now, so she clutched it to her chest. What the gift was, they would find out when Fiona opened it. This was certainly an unprecedented gift

The silence was soon broken by two figures walking past them to their left.

Barbara, being dragged by Becky, looked entirely passive. Everyone knew Becky was impulsive and lacked tact, so her behavior was not surprising. Barbara, on the other hand, looked uncomfortable and apologized to Chloe, "I'm sorry"

Chloe gave a casual smile. "That's okay. You two can go ahead"

But Barbara held Becky back and chose to stand in front of Chloe and Damon, striking up a friendly conversation. "We're all here for Fiona's birthday, and there's no rush. Becky's just a bit impatient."

Chloe just smiled and didn't respond

Barbara looked awkwardly at the gift box in Chloe's arms, a glint of curiosity flashing in her eyes "What's that? Chloe, what are you planning to give Fiona?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow and gave her a cryptic smile. "I don't know Fiona that well, so grandmother prepared the gift."

Becky snorted, “You’ve never given a gift before, have you? It’s just a..

“Becky”

Barbara quickly reprimanded her, giving Becky a warning look that instantly silenced her “Grandma’s gifts are always the best. We’re not at home now, so be careful with your words”

Becky pouted but didn’t say anything more.

Barbara gave a gentle and apologetic smile, “Sorry, Chloe. Well, since you don’t know Fiona well, I can introduce you later. She’s a bit temperamental, so be careful with your words. She can get unhappy suddenly, and today is her birthday after all.”

Chloe didn’t accept the offer, “No need, I can manage”

Barbara’s face twitched visibly before she forced a strained smile. She turned to Damon to strike up a conversation, but his cold gaze left her speechless

Finally, they exited the escalator and entered the banquet hall

The grandeur of the Dubonnet’s banquet hall was breathtaking Dozens of luxurious chandeliers hung from the ceiling, their glow reflecting off the glittering ornaments around the room. The opulence was palpable

In the center of the banquet hall, there was a circular platform surrounded by pink lace, adorned with an array of rose petals. At the very center, there stood a cake several meters high, exquisitely decorated and looking particularly stunning under the lights

Everyone marveled at the cake’s intricacy Chloe heard whispers that it had taken several master patissiers a whole day to make. The fruits and chocolates on top were of the highest quality, making

the cake worth nearly a million dollars

Chloe now understood the true meaning of the Dubonnet family's opulence. She saw what true luxury looked like.

Compared to them, Damon was modest. If he were like them, their relationship wouldn't have developed as it did.

Barbara and Becky were the first to enter, drawing some attention. When Chloe and Damon followed, Damon's presence diverted some of the attention. Some had guessed that the woman beside him was the new princess of the Y Country, Queen Julia's granddaughter, and they couldn't take their eyes off

her.

At this moment, Chloe was removing her coat in front of the waiter, and everyone was eagerly anticipating how she would present herself to the public for the first time as the noble princess of Y. However, when she took off her coat, the crowd's expressions were nothing short of shock and disbelief.

His outfit was as plain as they come. What on earth was she thinking?

Compared to the formal gowns worn by Princess Becky and Barbara, her entire outfit probably wasn't worth as much as the jewels on their dresses. This was nowhere near the appearance of a royal princess.

Chapter 1694

"Man, there's a world of difference between being raised in the palace and climbing up from the bottom, huh?"

"I thought she was going to surprise us tonight, but it looks like she just showed up in her regular clothes. A royal princess? How could she appear in such an ordinary attire?"

"Maybe she thinks this is the best she can do."

It doesn't feel quite right, does it?"

Hearing these murmurs, Barbara and Becky, the first to arrive at the banquet hall exchanged smug glances c2

Chloe thought she could outshine the princess? She should really take a look at herself first.

Despite having seen the princess's coronation gown, she still chose to wear a plain dress for such a grand banquet. What a disgrace And they didn't do anything this time. She brought it on herself

With Chloe as a stark contrast, the smiles on the sisters faces grew even more arrogant and confident

As more people came up to flatter them, the path Chloe had to walk became more congested.

This scene felt strangely familiar.

Barbara and Becky were in high spirits their smiles growing brighter by the minute

They graciously accepted all the praises, while Barbara was a bit more modest than Becky. They slowly made their way towards the center of the banquet hall, where a figure on stage already looked less than pleased.

Fiona, the true star of the night, had once again lost all attention to Barbara and Becky At first, she didn't care, but their constant upstaging started to get under her skin Nobody wanted to be overshadowed by others in their special day. And it was clear to her that these sisters only attended her birthday parties to feed their vanity

Such lowly behavior

She had complained to her grandfather about it before, and this year, with a new princess, she finally had a reason not to invite them. But damn it, they had the audacity to show up uninvited?

When they were denied entry, they actually asked her grandfather if they should be allowed in. Wearing the title of princesses, even if they weren't being given respect, the Dubonnet family would still have to consider Queen Julia and the royal family.

They were sure they wouldn't be turned away That was why they acted so shamelessly

How disgusting!

However both Barbara and Becky had one flaw: their vanity had completely clouded their judgment. They only cared about the glory and honor they enjoyed, never considering the feelings of others. As Barbara and Becky slowly reached the center of the banquet hall, they smiled at Fiona on stage. disregarding her obvious displeasure

They gracefully ascended the steps, their form-fitting dresses accentuating their perfect figures

As they approached Fiona, Barbara handed her a gift box first. "Happy birthday, Miss Fiona," she said sweetly

Fiona glanced at the gift box and took it, intending to throw it into the pile of gifts in the corner without a second look. Seeing this, Barbara hurriedly said. "Fiona, aren't you going to open it?"

Fiona frowned and glared at Barbara Just as she was about to retort, someone from the crowd chimed in.

"Indeed, Miss Fiona, we are curious to know what the princesses have gifted you this year"

"Every year, their gifts leave us green with envy

"Yes, Miss Fiona, please open it. It's a gift from the princesses, opening it would be respectful"

Several people agreed, leading others to join in

Fiona gritted her teeth in anger, but her mother, who had been standing by her side, shook her head, urging her to keep her cool. As people gathered around the central stage, Chloe finally got a clear view of Miss Fiona

With just a glance, she turned to look at the man standing beside her. Finally, she understood what he meant by voluptuous" earlier.

She never expected him to be so tactful; it was clear that Damon wasn't good at gossiping behind people's backs. Even such a straightforw

was difficult for him to utter

Miss Fiona was indeed voluptuous

She was plump and dressed in a voluminous white gown. Her elaborate hairstyle, her face, making it seem less large. But her pampered upbringing was clear

adorned with a small diamond crown

| adjective

on either side of

idiated an of privilege and impudence. She was defsstely a handful

Fiona obviously didn't think much of the princesses Barbara and Becky. In fact, she had heard that Fiona had once physically assaulted Becky over some matter. Duke Dubonnet apologized to the Queen, who let the matter slide. After all, the Queen had to give him his due respect.

Fiona's expression was clearly filled with anger as she glared at Barbara and Becky, wishing she could bore holes into them.

Chloe raised an eyebrow Miss Fiona, with her plump figure must detest standing next to people with better figures. But Barbara and Becky in their elegant and figure-hugging gowns, were a sight to behold. Even without trying to compare it was clear who was more beautiful.

Looking at her own dress, she felt grateful for Damon's thoughtfulness.

Many people were eager to see Fiona open Barbara's gift. Fiona's mother didn't want her to cause a scene. Although she opened the gift box,

as irked, she still decided to

Wow, it's beautiful!"

That ruby is so dazzling! The design is exquisite, too!"

A whole set, I'm so jealous. I can't even begin to imagine its worth."

Needless to say, the price was not something an ordinary person could fathom.

The smiles on Barbara and Becky's faces deepened. "Fiona, do you like your birthday gift?" Becky asked smugly.

Barbara was also watching her, with a smile on her face.

With a "snap, Fiona closed the box and put it on the nearby table.

Chapter 1695

"I guess I have to like it, huh? After all, it's a royal gift. Who can afford to dislike it?"

er tone was mocking and she shot Barbara a side-eye, her displeasure evident. “What are you doing here?”

arbara’s brows furrowed slightly, her gaze shifting to Chloe who was standing not far away. A cold smile surfaced on her lips as she looked in Chloe’s rection ‘Chloe, don’t you also have something for Miss Fiona? Perfect timing, I’ll introduce you”

arbara’s words drew the attention of everyone in the room to Chloe Amidst the opulence of the party and the glittering guests, she was decidedly nderstated

owever, while being understated might be suitable for an ordinary person, it was not in line with the style expected of a royal princess. Being born into le royal family, one should be like Princesses Barbara and Becky, always the center of attention wherever they went c2

owever,

:spect

even though this might be the general consensus, Chloe’s simple gown and the aura that seemed to seep out from her very bones commanded

o everyone present, including Barbara and Becky, the stunning appearances made a strong initial impression. However, beyond the surface, the novelty aded upon closer inspection.

hloe was different, her simple attire and aura were captivating. Her companion, too, was definitely eye-catching

1 response to Barbara’s familiarity, Chloe merely gave a faint smile, holding her gift box as she navigated through the crowd and climbed the steps to

iona

With a warm and gracious smile, Barbara began, Fiona, let me introduce you to

before she could finish, Chloe stepped forward, extending her hand towards Fiona. "Hello, Miss Fiona, it's an honor to be invited to your birthday party I's nice to meet you, I'm Chice, happy birthday."

From the beginning. Fiona had been observing Chloe, and her behavior, from directly engaging with her to ignoring Barbara and initiating the conversation, left her with a positive first impression of this woman.

Especially in comparison to the superficial peacock that was Barbara, it was like night and day.

Though it was her first time attending the Dubonnet family's event as a royal princess, her attire was simple yet elegant, displaying grace without being ostentatious. Her demeanor was modest and courteous, not aiming to steal the spotlight or exude arrogance. In comparison to everyone else there: she stood out in a positive and admirable way.

Fiona, who had been sickened by Barbara and Becky's nauseating display, finally cracked a smile for the first time that evening as she extended her hand to grasp Chloe's. She responded cheerfully, "Thank you for accepting my invitation, Your Highness"

Chloe smiled at Fiona, a look of understanding flashing in her eyes. Fiona raised her eyebrows, and the two shared a knowing laugh.

Barbara was seething at Chloe's dismissal and Fiona's friendly demeanor. From the very beginning, even after she presented her extravagant gift, Fiona had not once smiled or thanked her, let alone

addressed her as princess. However, this woman had just arrived, and with a few insincere words, had completely changed Fiona's demeanor.

She just openly addressed Chloe as Princess', and what did that make her?

Fiona's gaze took in Chloe again, "Your dress is lovely. What brand is it? I'll buy one too."

The crowd fell silent

Chloe smiled, "I have many more like it in my closet. If you don't mind, you can come over sometime and see if there's anything you like, I'll give it to you."

Fiona's eyes lit up. "You have many dresses like this in your closet?"

"Yes, quite a few."

At first, Fiona had suspected that Chloe's understated and overly loose dress was a deliberate ploy, a different strategy. But now, since she had many such dresses in her closet, it was clear that she liked this style of dress.

Fiona had always struggled with her weight, and had tried dieting, but the process was too painful. Her grandfather spoiled her, so she didn't stick to it. And luckily, she didn't gain more weight.

However, choosing clothes was her daily torment. Especially when she saw all the other women in their sleek, fitted gowns today, she had to convince herself not to care.

Who knew that Chice would suddenly appear, her loose dress exuding a unique charm.

Fiona's smile deepened. "Okay, I don't have much to do every day, so I'll come to you tomorrow. Or you can stay with me tonight, and we can go together tomorrow?"

With that, she reached out and took Chloe's wrist. This move shocked everyone.

Everyone else wanted to get closer to Fiona, but Fiona seemed to have a strong guard up and a volatile temper. Known for her explosive temper and violent tendencies, she didn't care about anyone else. Even Barbara and Becky, the two princesses, were treated the same. Now, however, she was showing a particular fondness for the new princess.

It was unbelievable.

What kind of magic did this woman have to win over this witch who gave everyone a headache with just a few words?

Chloe shook her head at Fiona's suggestion, "I'm afraid that won't be possible"

"Why not?" Fiona frowned in dissatisfaction

The crowd was gleeful, publicly rejecting Miss Fiona was indeed ungrateful. Chloe helplessly looked in the direction where Damon was standing, leaned

in close to Fiona and whispered: "He's a bit difficult."

Fiona turned to look and instantly understood. Then she gave Chloe a suggestive look.

"So clingy?"

Chloe simply smiled.

"Well, I won't force you then."

The crowd was left speechless. Who could tell them what was going on in Fiona's head? She disdained the flattery and brown-nosing of others, but was won over by a few insincere words. Being rejected in public was a joyride now, was it?

Good heavens

From the beginning, Barbara felt utterly disregarded by the duo, a burning resentment simmering within her. And they just wouldn't quit

Looking at the gift box Chloe cradled in one arm, a smirk flickered in Barbara's eyes. She then stepped forward and chimed in: "Fiona, Chloe, could you spare a moment from your little tête-à-tête? Aren't your arms tired from hefting that colossal gift box?"

"Chloe, it's your first time celebrating Fiona's birthday, isn't it? I wonder if you've prepared a unique gift for her?"

Chapter 1696

Chloe smirked inwardly, turning her gaze from Barbara and landing it on Becky. "Compared to your gift, I believe mine is rather unique."

Becky snorted with disdain and arrogance. "Just another set of expensive jewelry like the rest of us? What's so special about that?"

"Becky..."

"A fancy box for average jewelry?"

"Becky" c2

"Are you trying to make the gift look bigger to make it seem more valuable? Ridiculous"

"Becky!!!"

Despite Barbara's repeated warnings, Becky continued her tirade, causing the calm and gracious Barbara to finally lose her temper.

The room fell silent. Everyone looked at her in surprise, never expecting the always gentle and generous Princess Barbara to lose her composure

After realizing her faux pas, Barbara's face turned pale. Becky opened her mouth as if to say something but was at a loss for words.

Chloe smirked sarcastically, placing her box on the gift table.

Fiona curiously approached What's this special gift?"

Chloe bent down, following Damon's instructions, positioned the box so Fiona could see the black holes on both sides, then removed the outer rim

If her guess was correct, Damon's gift might be.

The hole was about the size of a fist, and everyone's gaze focused on the box. But after a while, nothing happened.

"What the? I thought it was jewelry? What's with the half-opened box?"

"Is she expecting the jewelry to fly out on its own?"

"Maybe she's just planning on giving a box"

The crowd's confusion and complaints filled the room with chuckles.

Fiona scrutinized the box for a long time, but she couldn't figure out anything. She stared at Chloe suspiciously

"You didn't just give me a box, did you?"

Chloe trusted Damon, but she still felt a bit nervous. She remembered Damon's reckless driving earlier, the startling drifts and turns. She worried that the gift inside the box might have been...

But she held her tongue allowing a faint smile to play on her lips, and gently tapped the back of the box.

“Is a magic trick coming up?” Becky was adamant about seeing Chloe embarrassed. Although she had slipped up earlier, everyone’s focus clearly wasn’t

on her words

“I wonder what this box will transform into? Could it be a homemade birthday cake?” Barbara smirked, watching Chloe with gleeful anticipation. “Chloe, are you not ready yet? Shall we give you more time? If it’s a surprise, we’re all excited.”

Chloe didn’t respond, however, she felt a slight vibration from the box she was holding. Then, slowly, something small emerged from the hole in the box

Fiona’s eyes widened in surprise and she stared at the small object, completely captivated. First the head, then the front paws, followed by the back paws, and finally a furry tail.

After the last leg came out, it stumbled at the edge of the box, causing the little creature to roll around on the table. Following this, a soft, kitten-like “meow” filled the room. It was an incredibly adorable white long-haired kitten, its round eyes irresistibly cute. Especially with its small meow, it melted everyone’s heart

its snowy fur was occasionally dotted with grey, and the tip of its tail was also grey, as if someone had purposefully sprinkled it on.

Fiona stared at the kitten, her eyes glued to it. After a while, she tentatively reached out and carefully cradled the kitten in her hands, bringing it up to her face to examine it closer.

“Meow” The kitten looked at her. Whether out of fear or friendliness, it meowed again at her.

“Ah

Fiona was completely smitten. Afraid of scaring the kitten, she tried to contain her excitement. She kissed the kitten madly, rubbing her cheek affectionately against it. "So cute Soooo cute. so adorable."

Chloe watched the kitten intently, taking in Fiona's excited and happy expression, then turned to look at the man below the stage.

Damon raised an eyebrow, meeting her gaze, but all he saw was Chloe's resentful face. He pursed his lips and shifted his gaze. He knew it

No one in the room expected Chloe to give such a gift. For Duke Dubonnet's granddaughter's birthday, everyone was trying to give her a satisfactory and sincere gift, measuring what would dignify and suit the Dubonnet family.

House, car, jewelry, antiques, all were given through Fiona's birthday party to indirectly please Duke Dubonnet. Every year the tricks were endless, but they were all variations of the same few things.

Who would have thought that the person who could not be pleased with all their efforts would be so excited about a cat?

Everyone's attention was fixed on the kitten in Fiona's hand. Gotta admit, even though they might not be familiar with such animals, this cat was remarkably adorable.

Fiona was completely immersed in her excitement, and the crowd was amazed.

Barbara and Becky's faces were full of changing expressions, they were completely stunned by this unexpected gift.

After Fiona finished her excitement, she lovingly held the cat in her arms, then joyfully planted a kiss on Chloe's cheek. "Thank you, this is the absolute best gift I've ever received."

Chloe managed a tight smile, her gaze drifting to a figure in the crowd. As expected, his face was brooding, an icy chill radiating from him.

Without changing her expression, she swiftly returned her focus back to Fiona. "I'm glad you like it."

Fiona nodded, stroking the kitten's soft head before looking up at Barbara and Becky, curiosity sparking in her eyes. "Why did you guys prepare this? It's similar to the princess gift?"

Chapter 1697

It was unexpected that Fiona, who was just in high spirits, had suddenly turned her attention to Barbara and Becky. It was as if the happy, carefree woman from moments ago had completely changed.

Caught off guard by the question, Becky's face flushed a shade of pink. She shot a panicked glance at Barbara, but her sister's expression flustered. Knowing she had made a blunder, Becky clenched her lips and refrained from speaking further.

At this moment, Chloe stepped in. Becky sidled up to her, grabbed her arm, and hissed. "You've got some nerve without saying a word!"

Chloe smirked. "Becky, what was that? I didn't quite catch that. Could you speak up a bit?"

Replacing the gift, Grandma I

Of course, Chice understood what Becky had said. If she went confident that Becky wouldn't blame herself, her intelligence wavering with her. Chloe wouldn't have been standing there waiting for Becky to approach. He'd first

Chloe's voice wasn't soft, and it drew the attention of everyone present. Becky hadn't expected Chloe to play this card and was startled by causing her to shudder. She certainly wouldn't repeat her words. They weren't supposed to know about the gift that their grandmother had pro

Chlor

Not only did they know now but they also chose a gift identical to Chloe's and gave it to Fiona before Chloe did. They wanted to make Chica copycat lacking originality and unlikely to gain Fiona's favor

up her sleeve

Their intent was to make Chloe's debut as a princess a complete flop. However, they hadn't anticipated that Chloe had an

Now being led by the nose by Chloe, Becky was grinding her teeth in frustration. It's nothing you heard wrong. Why would I say anything to

"Becky, honesty is the key. Are you saying Chloe is falsely accusing you? Or, are you treating me to switch out the gift the Queen had prepared?"

I'm dealing? You clearly just

Fiona cradled her kitten, stroking its head and making it purr contentedly. But her game was fixed on Becky, and her words were

with sarcasm

Chloe glanced at Fiona, who winked at her slyly, looking both cunning and mischievous. She smirked and said, "So that's what you meant. Sorry, quite understandable earlier."

Fiona, still holding the cat, moved closer to Chloe. Although she was slightly plump, her eyes were extraordinarily bright and spirited. As when she had caught wind of an interesting situation, they sparkled with excitement.

"What's going on? Did you change your gift? What was your original gift?" She paused, then turned to Barbara and Becky and asked, "Hon, Chloe switched her gift?"

Here were questions after questions directed at Chloe or them

ade for you

dripping

did you know

Becky tightened her lips, knowing she couldn't say anything without making a mistake. She decided not to speak at all this time. As for Fiona's anyone who wanted to answer could do so

However not only was Fiona curious about this, but so was everyone else present. After all, they had just heard Becky mack Chloe for the box Now Chloe had given a gift that wasn't jewelry, but Becky insisted she had switched her gift it seemed like there was a story behind thes

Two princesses opposing a new princess this was juicy gossip

in response to Becky's silence Chloe nonchalantly said 'Speaking of which, i might have to explain to grandma a

Nome. Actually, here to prevent me from making a mistake and causing unpleasantness at Mas Fiona's birthday party, grandma had already picked out set for me. It is quite similar to the gift you two have given "

At this point people seemed to understand something However Chloe continued. But I thought that since Miss Fiona and 1

Than the expensive jewelry grandma chose a cute little animal would be more likable Soi mu the decision thysell

This explanation sounded reasonable Although Queen Jubila chosen gift would be absolutely perfect. Chicers intentions were least Fiona seemed to love her gift perhaps more than any she had received in recent years

The intentions were good and the outcome was good. That was all t

Barbara and becky were left speechless by Chices words ther faces tuning johen However Cheue meant done yet. She gave

continued Fortunately switched gifts Otherwise if i had given the same gift as you two, I would have Gwen (maily errabatasang kumawa naghi an

said our royar farruly is no better than nouveau niche with all three precesses appearing an barly and giving

the only satisfying gifts the royal family can offer are just jewelry, if (had caused the royal family tûr be a

ridicule we would have faced

Barbara cler ved her hands lightly She stood there biting the maide

She simply wanted to be the feat is present the gift intending for people to track Chice a bit HOMES. decent gifts on behalf of the royal family

Just a few words escalated the situation in seriously damaging the

Staring at Chloes seemingly

face Barbara mas but the kien everytery

Everyone knew that this woman, Chice, held grudges, but no › expected that

After all it involved the dignity of the

Chloe certainly didn't deny that she rudge hoider Sensing

"At the time, my grandmother had the gift wrapped and gave it to me directly. Nobody else should have known found out that I switched the gift i vay and the gift i

Chapter 1698

Indeed, it was the power and influence that the two princesses had accumulated over the years in the royal household. With so many eyes and ears in the palace, wouldn't it be a piece of cake for them to find out anything they wanted?

Moreover, it was just a gift. There was no need to hide it. They didn't expect, however, that these two would use this to make a scene, attempting to embarrass the new princess.

People had been contemplating how Princesses Barbara and Becky would react to the arrival of the new princess. Now, they knew for sure that these two truly couldn't tolerate her.

Chloe was the legitimate princess with the royal bloodline. They were daughters of the child who was adopted by the Queen.

Having enjoyed power and respect in the royal household for years, they probably feared losing their status to this newcomer. However, they were princesses after all, and people never believed that the arrival of a new princess would mean Queen Julia would strip these

two of their titles.

Wouldn't it be better to coexist peacefully rather than harbor ill-intentions?d2

But clearly, the two princesses didn't think so.

Tonight, everyone had deeply felt their malice.

Barbara and Becky almost rushed to slap Chloe hard in the face.

This annoying woman!

Bit by bit, she was closing off all their escape routes. Now, everyone believed that their actions tonight were solely aimed at embarrassing her. Indeed, that was the case.

Anyone could tell from Chloe's words that Princesses Barbara and Becky were intentionally trying to embarrass her. Their gazes towards the two princesses became complex.

Suspicion and sarcasm were the most common expressions they saw

A vein popped on Barbara's forehead, and she was on the brink of exploding with anger. Tonight, she had intended to embarrass Chloe. not to make a fool of herself and tarnish her image

"Chloe, perhaps there's been some misunderstanding? With so many people present today, it's inevitable that some gifts will be repeated. Were all here to celebrate Fiona's birthday, and it's the thought that counts. I believe Fiona won't mind whatever gifts we bring, let alone nitpick over them. Even if we did bring the same gifts, it's probably just a coincidence. Are you overthinking this? Aren't intentions the most important aspect of gift-giving?"

Chloe chuckled, "Yes, even if my gift was simply a box or a magical performance, it would be full of my sincerity."

The implication hit home. It was a reference to when Becky had mocked her. Everyone back then was gleefully waiting to see her make a fool of herself, including Barbara

Barbara's smile stiffened at Chloe's words. It felt as if she had been slapped in the face by Chloe, causing a tingling pain. Her anger seemed to leak out bit by bit.

"Chloe, we've been giving Fiona birthday gifts every year, and there are only so many types to choose from. We didn't expect that you had prepared jewelry ahead of time Jewelry is a very common gift. Even

if we gave the same thing, it doesn't mean anything Now, are you suggesting that we knew in advance what you were going to give Fiona, so we deliberately chose the same gift to embarrass you

in front of everyone? What's so embarrassing about that? It's you who's holding onto this issue and refusing to let go. Are you only satisfied when we admit that we had ulterior motives? Fine, if that's the case, then I'll admit it. Everything you suspect is true. Are you satisfied now? I don't understand what you stand to gain by smearing our image and reputation, especially since we're supposed to be Sisters"

Barbara's angry words were effective. After all, she had successfully constructed her image over the years in Y Country. Her words sounded like those of a simple, naive, polite, generous, humble, and courteous person who was cornered and just wanted peace. It seemed like Chloe was the one being aggressive Her tone was full of sorrow and helplessness.

The crowd was confused by her performance, and their gazes towards Chloe filled with suspicion and contempt. It seemed like the one who truly couldn't tolerate others was the legitimate princess of the royal family.

Chloe, however, remained calm and smiled faintly "Are you in a hurry? I was just explaining, and it's not a big deal. As long as a gift is sincere, it's always good. You were the ones eager for me to present my gift, and you were the ones who scorned what I gave. Now that I changed the gift that my grandmother had prepared for me, you're still not letting me off the hook, accusing me of being audacious Don't I even have the right to explain?"

She had dealt with many people like these in the past. If they wanted to play the victim, she would show them who was the real master of this game

"It seems like my life in the royal household is going to be tumultuous, right? Even defending myself is seen as persistently blaming you, tarnishing your image, and damaging your reputation. In that case, I should speak less in the future. Otherwise, I might end up being labeled a criminal just because of

something I said. After all, I'm new here, and I can't compete with your power and influence in the royal household."

She paused for a few seconds before taking a deep breath and saying, "Rest assured, you two. I've learned my lesson from this incident. I'll talk to Grandma when I get back. There are already two princesses in the royal household, and that's more than enough. I'll take my leave."

Barbara's legs turned to jelly, stumbling back two steps, her breath hitching in her throat, almost choked by Chloe's words.

Every word, every sentence, was laced with accusation, declaring that they had no room for her, as if Chloe was being singled out at every turn.

At Fiona's birthday banquet, in front of so many people, due to her hostility, Chloe had to bid farewell to her grandmother. Chloe really played it well.

Chapter 1699

Her body was shaking with anger, and though she knew it was unbecoming, she couldn't control it. She forced out an ugly smile, the sound of her laughter only adding to the awkwardness.

"Well, Chloe, what are you talking about?" she stammered. "You're Grandma's own granddaughter. How could I not accept you? We all want what's best for Grandma, and she went through so much trouble to find you. If you leave, won't it break her heart? I'm sure there's just been some misunderstanding."

Chloe arched an eyebrow. "A misunderstanding, you say?"

"Of course it is."

Chloe blinked, "Well then, we should clear this misunderstanding up as soon as possible. Otherwise, today's event might inevitably cast a negative influence on the royal family. If Grandma hears that we're not getting along, it will surely upset her"

Barbara's hands clenched into fists, her knuckles whitening. "You are right. We should clear up the misunderstanding "d2

Her words stuttered. Chloe, standing close, could hear her unstable breath. Nodding, Chloe seemed very satisfied with her response, “So, getting back to where we started, how did you two know that Grandma’s gift for me was a full set of ruby jewelry?”

Barbara’s lips twitched uncontrollably. Her chest heaved with suppressed emotion “I just said that it’s a misunder

“That’s why we’re trying to clear up this misunderstanding, right? Could it be that what Becky said to me was misheard by Miss Fiona?”

Barbara could hear the relentless taunting in Chloe’s voice. This time, the blame was shifted onto Fiona, the birthday girl and the star of

the evening..

Fiona had always been hot-tempered and had a low tolerance for bullshit. She had always found Barbara and Becky annoying, and now they had come uninvited to her birthday, making things difficult for her. She saw right through their schemes. She wasn’t unaware of Chloe’s manipulative tactics, but if it gave her a chance to teach these two nuisances a lesson, she was more than willing to play along. “How can I hear it wrong? I heard clearly. Who dares to question my hearing? Becky was chewing Chloe out when I was standing right there, accusing her of daring to switch the Queen’s gift. And when Chloe brought the gift box out, Becky was mocking her saying the gift was less than the box it came in. Are you saying everyone present was deaf? What about this? I could still go with you to see the Queen and find out if the gift was known to only two people or was common knowledge

“And furthermore, you two, I only invited Chloe from the royal family to my birthday party. But you both eagerly came over and handed over the gift before Chloe had a chance. Becky even immediately asked Chloe to deliver her gift, saying something about looking forward to it. What exactly is your intention? Aren’t you just trying to embarrass Chloe in front of so many people? Or maybe you’re planning to turn the tables and accuse her of copying you by giving the same gift?”

If Chloe’s words were a bit suggestive, Fiona was absolutely straightforward, not intending to spare them any dignity

Barbaras face turned pale, then flushed. Becky, noticing her sister's discomfort, hid at a distance and remained silent.

The crowd's understanding looks were like daggers, stabbing into Barbara. Their derision and schadenfreude made Barbara wish she could disappear into a crack in the ground. However, in reality,

the Dubonnet family's banquet hall had no floor cracks, and they were still standing in the most prominent spot to garner the utmost attention, with nowhere to hide.

"Fiona, aren't you going a little too far with your words? No matter what, we grew up together, and we're friends."

"Don't talk to me about friendship. I don't have noble friends like you two. I don't know whether you genuinely come to celebrate my birthday every year or just to show off. In the past, I endured it out of respect for the royal family. This year, I didn't even invite you, yet you still came and stood beside me. Do you feel your status is too high to stand below, or do you think standing below isn't enough for others to recognize you as princesses?"

"Fiona!" Fiona's mother, standing below the stage, scolded her sharply after hearing these disrespectful words. Regardless of the circumstances, these were princesses of the royal family. Even as the granddaughter of a high-ranking official, she had no right to say such offensive things. Her words were out of line.

"What? You always tell me to be understanding and patient. But how long should I endure? What do I get from my birthdays? Each time I end up angry and upset. Every time, I swallow my anger. This year, I didn't invite them, but how shameless can they be to come up and stand in front of me, seeking attention? Are they so desperate to show off their prestigious status and good figures? Comparing their status, can they compete with the royal bloodline?"

"Fiona, shut up! Mrs. Dubonnet stepped onto the stage, trying to pull Fiona down, but Fiona pushed her away.

"What did I say wrong? They've been showing off for years, isn't it enough? Can't you see they can't get along with Chloe? They want to plot against those who weren't born and raised in the royal family, and don't possess their noble aura. Now that their plan has failed, they should bear the consequences.

They used my birthday party to plot against Chloe Should I still help maintaining their image? How weak would I be if I did that? I'm a descendant of the Dubonnet family I believe the Queen has sharp eyes. Besides, even a fool could see through their trick today There's no way the Queen wouldn't

"Let them complain to the Queen if they're not satisfied. I'm not afraid

"Who would fall for their scheme? Only fools wouldn't see through it. As princesses, they always dress like peacocks at every event,

while Chloe knows how to keep a low profile. Do they know what upstaging the host means? With such low emotional intelligence, they still think highly of themselves. Aren't they ashamed?"

The room fell silent. Everyone was stunned by Fiona's outburst. Perhaps the only person who dared to speak so candidly was Miss Fiona. However, her straightforward speech had a profound impact on them, almost like a sudden awakening.

The two princesses, they did have a knack for standing out wherever they went. Like protagonists in a tale, they controlled the rhythm of the room, often overshadowing the true heroes.

Today was no different, just like every other occasion they graced, and just like every day this year.

One could understand why Miss Fiona was so furious today. A birthday comes but once a year, and yet, every time, hers seemed to be overshadowed by others. It was enough to make anyone feel aggrieved

At this point, no matter what Barbara and Becky, might say, it was doubtful they could salvage the situation. After all, Miss Fiona's frank words were enough to make their positions crystal clear.

Chapter 1700

The more they talked now, the more they would only make themselves a laughing stock in front of everyone.

Clear up misunderstandings? Chloe had never thought about giving them an escape route. She was determined to make them a fool of themselves tonight.

And now, she just stood by, her facial expression hidden beneath her lowered brows. That posture, with her head slightly lowered, made her look like a meek and innocent victim, wronged and unable to voice her anger.

There were no words to describe Barbara's anger and humiliation at this moment. She knew it was all a set-up by Chloe.

Chloe used to be straightforward, but now she could even play the hypocrite.

The crowd beneath the stage was whispering about something, many refraining from speaking too loudly due to the princess' status, but all of them were pointing fingers at Barbara and Becky, who stood on the stage, uncertain how to salvage their reputation d2

If Chloe had taken a step back at this moment, even just expressing a few words to ease the situation, it might have alleviated their embarrassment. At the very least, it could have helped to diffuse the situation and allow them to gracefully step down from the spotlight. But Chloe, who had just delivered a long speech, was now refusing to say a word.

However, as ruthless as Chloe was, Fiona was even more so. Holding a kitten in one hand, she walked up to Chloe and firmly grabbed her wrist, saying in a rough tone. "Chloe, let's go. If they want to steal the limelight here, I'll give it to them. They must be desperate for popularity."

Chloe was somewhat surprised that Fiona would act so impulsively, but she didn't resist and let Fiona lead her away

Barbara and Becky, already embarrassed, were now left on the stage under the scrutiny of everyone, feeling more humiliated than ever. Everyone was watching them, their expressions all negative and mocking.

Barbara bit the inside of her cheek hard, the taste of blood spreading in her mouth. She had never been so humiliated in her life.

Chloe was pulled away by Fiona to her room backstage.

Fiona sat on the bed, cradling the newly acquired kitten, her attention focused entirely on the adorable creature in her arms. It was unclear whether she was still angry.

Chloe stood by, thinking she should apologize to Fiona. After all, she did put Fiona in a difficult position, leading to this current situation "Sorry..."

"Hahaha, that was so satisfying, I finally got to vent all the anger I've been holding in for years. Barbara's deflated look is so gratifying no matter how I look at it. Thanks, Princess Chloe, if it wasn't for you, I would have taken my resentment to the grave. I've known for a long time how hypocritical and vain those two sisters are, but I've never had the chance to expose their pretentiousness. Today was so satisfying. Did you see their faces? Especially Barbara, always acting like a graceful and generous princess, now let's see how she keeps up the act hahaha."

Chloe didn't know how to reply.

Fiona was holding the kitten and rolling around on the bed, laughing so hard she was gasping for breath. Chloe didn't say anything for a long time. This lady was also a badass.

She couldn't imagine how Barbara and Becky, left in the banquet hall, would save their dignity. They really embarrassed themselves today. But they brought it on themselves, as they were the ones intruding uninvited.

Raising an eyebrow, she looked at the kitten in Fiona's arms and then subtly curved her lips.

The credit for tonight's drama was all on Damon. Whether it was the clothes or the gifts, it seemed that he hit the nail on the head for the birthday girl today.

Without these two things, she thought, there wouldn't be Fiona's favor and subsequent cooperation. With this in mind, she let out a sigh, walked to the window, and sat down on the sofa next to it, watching Fiona laugh so carelessly.

"Haven't you ever thought about what will happen in the future? You totally embarrassed yourselves today, and they might retaliate in other ways later."

As the laughter gradually subsided, Fiona sat up from the bed. "How? Do they even have the ability? And would they dare? Today's incident was so big, and if anything happens to me, they'd be the first suspects. You can rest assured, they value their status as princesses more than their lives. They've already lost their dignity today, and they wouldn't dare to stir up more trouble, unless they don't want to be princesses anymore."

Hearing this, Chloe nodded, "That makes sense."

Fiona, with a triumphant look in her eyes, said, "Don't think I'm as brainless as they are. I've been putting up with them for years. Today was my most reckless day. Being a Dubonnet is really exhausting. I have to think more than anyone else, and yet I always have to play it safe."

As she spoke, she let out a heavy sigh, setting aside the hand that had been petting the kitten. Her expression carried a hint of melancholy. "I think being a girl in the Dubonnet family is exhausting

enough, but those two women have to constantly maintain their

demeanor, carefully keeping up appearances in front of the Queen. They are always on edge, afraid of making a misstep, yet they love to display that superior princess-like demeanor. Aren't they tired?"

Chloe blinked, her impression of this seemingly brash young lady changed once again. It seemed that she didn't like this kind of life. She was a free spirit, but she had to act cautiously and was restrained. No one would like this kind of life.

"In some people's eyes, wealth, power, and status are more important than anything else, even freedom."

Fiona pursed her lips, "Anyway, I won't continue to gauge my actions based on their attitudes. And it's not like I'm committing a crime, why can't I ask for freedom, right?"

Chloe smiled, "You're absolutely right"

Freedom had nothing to do with family background; it was about personality. If you were kind and just, freedom was yours to enjoy.

Finding common ground with Chloe, Fiona smiled contentedly. She held the kitten up to Chloe, waving it slightly as she said, "This is the best present I've ever received, and you're the best person I've ever met. This has been the absolute best birthday."

Chloe smirked, "As long as you're happy. But are you sure you don't want to go cut the cake?"

Chloe reached out and took the kitten from Fiona's hands. She'd been itching to do so all night.

Her eyebrows raised slightly, a strange chill flickering in her eyes. It seemed that Damon really knew how to win a woman's heart.