

## **CHOSEN 331**

### Chapter 331

Chloe didn't hang around the hilltop for long

She made her way back following the path from memory, the dim lights seeming a bit eerie.

Holding up the hem of her dress and squinting, Chloe kept her eyes trained on the path.

"Hey there, you're quite pretty."

A flippant, slightly tipsy voice came from the side.

Frowning, Chloe quickened her pace and ignored him.

"Hey! I'm talking to you! You look lonely, let me keep you company."

The man staggered in front of her, blocking her way. Seeing Chloe's face, his drunk eyes lit up.

He pushed away the woman he was with, opened his arms and lunged at Chloe, who coolly stepped aside

She thought the drunken man would fall and stay down.

But just as she dodged him, the man who should've been behind her suddenly appeared in front of her, falling unconscious with a thud

"Ah-

The woman screamed, covering her head and running off.

Chloe turned around, indeed seeing a familiar figure standing behind her.

Damon looked emotionless, a slight frown on his face. He glanced at the unconscious man, then casually shifted his gaze.

He gently pulled Chloe into his arms.

“Where have you been, you scared me...”

As Chloe spoke, she noticed two figures out of the corner of her eye.

It was the principal and vice-principal...

Damon reached up and plucked a petal from the peach blossom above her head.

“Why are you running around by yourself in the dark?”

Chloe took the petal from Damon, sniffed it and said:

“The party was boring, so I went out for a walk. Who knew I’d run into someone like that?”

“You shouldn’t wandering alone,” Damon frowned. If he hadn’t seen a figure that looked like hers from afar and followed, wouldn’t she have been harassed?

Chloe looked up, squinting and smiling, “Are you... complaining about me?”

“Not at all.”

The two behind them were silent, their minds full of shock.

Who would have thought that Damon, known for his indifference towards women, actually had a girlfriend, and to dote on her this much!

The principal and vice-principal glanced at the unconscious man on the ground, marveling at Damon's powerful kick.

"Miss, were you heading to the hill?" the principal suddenly asked.

Chloe stepped back from Damon's embrace and nodded at the principal, "Yes."

She didn't know who among those who decided to expel her back then, but the school, which should be a sacred and pure place, maliciously slandered her at a crucial moment, putting a

rd-to-shake-off stigma on her.

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She wasn't exactly in high spirits, the past wasn't something she could easily shake off.

Damon noticed something was off with Chloe, his eyebrows knitting together slightly, "Do you need to head home now?"

However, before Damon could finish, the Principal nearby hastily said, "Mr. Harper, considering the students are from all over, leaving on a whim might be inconvenient. We're providing accommodation for tonight. If your girlfriend's not feeling well, she can rest in the room."

Damon glanced at Chloe, asked again, "Would you like to rest or leave?"

"I'll go to the banquet hall to check on Rose before deciding. You can go ahead if you're busy."

“Let me know once you’ve decided.”

‘Sure.’”

Chloe gave a nod, slightly turned and bowed her head to the two men behind her, before leaving.

Under the dim light, only Chloe’s profile was visible. People’s appearances can change a lot over the span of six years, and Chloe had only been in university for less than two years. Neither the Principal nor Vice Principal recognized her.

Despite Damon’s high status, she remained calm and indifferent. They found her quite unique.

“Damon, is that your girlfriend?” The Principal asked, watching Chloe’s retreating figure.

“Yeah.”

Damon replied without hesitation, hoping everyone knew she was his and no one could bully her.

However, she wasn’t dependent on him.

The Principal’s heart raced, regretting he didn’t get a good look at her face.

He was a bit disappointed, but he believed there would be opportunities to see her again in the future.

“Mr. Harper, our university is honored to host this year’s international contest. Would you like to bring your girlfriend? The finalists are all industry leaders. You could also use the opportunity to scout talent for your company...”

Damon’s eyebrows furrowed, “International Contest?”

Seeing Damon's interest, the Principal chuckled, "Yes, speaking of which, our students have brought much honor to our school! Oh, do you know Rosanna? She's a contestant in the Fragrance Frenzy International Contest. She ranked fourth in her first participation!"

The Principal beamed with pride.

"As a perfumer, she's the best in the country, and also our student, Keira!... Speaking of her, she's truly outstanding... She has won various awards in dance, perfume, and piano contests... Oh, speaking of piano, Keira will perform as a special guest tonight. Many students think her as role model, it'll definitely be lively tonight!"

Damon listened quietly, his brows furrowing deeper with each word.

Outside the school, Nate found Chloe's car. He had circled it several times, his eyes filled with curiosity.

Initially, he thought it was just a regular car, worth at around 80 thousand, perfect for professional women.

But is this car really an ordinary car?

He originally drove Bentley to pick up Mr. Harper, but seeing how this car shot out like an arrow, Mr. Harper immediately chased after it in his Maybach Exelero, not sure if he managed to catch up with Ms. Summers.

In the midst of examining, his phone suddenly rang.

Seeing the caller ID, Nate immediately tensed up and quickly answered

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Chloe got back to the banquet hall and found Rose pretty plastered. Her face was conspicuously flushed and she had this charming, slightly dazed look about her.

“How much have you had to drink?” Chloe frowned

Rose just laughed, “Tve run into a lot of old classmates Been having such a good time, I guess I overdid it a bit.’

Chloe sighed, “We’ve got dorms provided tonight. If you’re wasted, you better not move around.”

“Alright.”

Just then, the host on stage announced, “Now, let’s give a warm round of applause for Ms. Keira from Pulse Entertainment. She’s going to kick things off by performing for us.”

Soon after, Keira hobbled up onto the stage, her dress in tow.

Chloe watched as Keira sat gracefully at the piano amidst applause. Her heart ached, and her eyes twitched involuntarily. She quickly turned away.

Nobody’s immune to the sting of giving up something they love.

Rose saw Chloe’s reaction and felt a pang of sympathy. She rarely saw this side of Chloe. To most people, even to Rose sometimes, Chloe was made of steel, able to face anything.

But she wasn’t invincible. She could be hurt too...

All because of that woman, Keira!

The piano began to play, the melody was beautiful...

“Ha... a home wrecker playing the piano, how disgusting”

Rose might have been drunk, but she began to make her way to the front.

“Rose...”

Chloe quickly grabbed her, “What are you doing?”

I can’t hear it. I need to get closer!”

Chloe managed to stop Rose. She knew what Rose was up to.

“Rose, you’re drunk. Don’t make a scene...”

Chloe tried to lead Rose away, but suddenly the music stopped!

“Huh? Why’d it stop?”

“I have no idea!”

In a moment, Keira stood up from the piano, picked up the mic, and with a regretful look said, “I’m sorry, everyone. I twisted my ankle on the red carpet. It’s a struggle to use the pedals. If I force myself to continue, the piece won’t be perfect. That would be disrespectful to you and to the music... I’m really sorry. On behalf of Pulse Entertainment and the Summers family, I apologize!\*

After her apology, she bowed to the audience. When she straightened up again, her beautiful face was full of guilt and frustration. Her eyes scanned the crowd and landed on Chloe’s back. After a moment, she awkwardly looked away, her gaze falling on Amelia Schneider.

Amelia seemed to catch her meaning, pondered for a moment, and said, “You’re not the only representative of the Summers family here tonight. Your sister Chloe is here, isn’t she? Let her finish your performance!”

As soon as Amelia finished speaking, many people turned their attention to

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At this point, Amelia walked over to Chloe, chuckling. "Chloe, since Keira's foot is hurt, can you go on stage and finish the piece? You're also part of the Summers family, representing Pulse Entertainment should be no biggie, right?"

All eyes were on Chloe, and whispers started to fill the room.

"Chloe?"

"Keira's sister, yeah I remember her, didn't she get kicked out of school?"

Yeah, I heard it was for plagiarism."

"Didn't she try to seduce a judge during a piano competition or something?"

"Yeah, I heard that too, she got caught in the break room by a reporter."

"Chloe... she's always been so distasteful, eventually the Summers family had to send her abroad to avoid making things worse..."

Hearing all these words, Amelia felt a sense of relief.

She glanced at Keira, a smirk on her face, her eyes gleaming with satisfaction.

Rose could feel the hand holding hers getting stiffer and colder.



She turned her head slowly, her icy gaze sweeping over the people around her, and snapped, "What the hell are you guys talking about?! Do you have any proof?! We're all adults here, don't we have to be accountable for what we say?!"

"Oh! My bad, it's been so many years, I totally forgot." Amelia suddenly covered her mouth, acting like she just realized, "But it's not like people are talking nonsense, why else would the school kick Chloe out?"

Cold light flashed in Rose's eyes as she took a couple of steps towards Amelia, exerting a powerful pressure.

"Don't think I don't know you're doing this on purpose! Instead of being a decent talk show host, you've picked up some crappy acting skills!"

"What did you just say?!" Amelia's face darkened instantly.

I'm talking about you! I respect your career choice, but instead of focusing on your work, you're running around picking up bad acting skills, you're just plain stupid!"

Rose clearly had a bit too much to drink that night, otherwise she would never have said such crude words.

"Say that again, I dare you!" Amelia was infuriated by Rose's words.

"Amelia, don't!" Keira immediately tried to stop Amelia.

Rose raised her head to look at Keira on the stage, her eyes icy, her voice stern, "Keira, you're behind all of this, aren't you?"

Keira, holding the microphone, took a step back, a look of surprise and innocence on her face.

"What... what did I do?"

Rose glared at Keira, anger surging up in her heart, "If you twisted your foot on the red carpet, you shouldn't have gone on stage to play the piano in the first place, then stop the performance halfway through, and now you're here arguing with Chloe out of jealousy, others might not know about the past, but how could you not know?!"

At this point, Lance walked out from backstage, frowning, "What's going on?"

Keira bit her lip, shaking her head at Lance, "Nothing, Lance, there might be some misunderstanding here, it's all my fault, I shouldn't have insisted on going on stage..."

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Rose sneered at Lance and Keira, "Cut the crap, you ain't no saint! You play the innocent victim every day, but in reality, you're a two-faced snake, doing all sorts of shady stuff behind people's backs! If anyone's into you, they must be blind as a bat!"

Everyone around took a sharp Intake of breath. Rose was a big shot in school, well known by most. No one expected her to blurt out such harsh words.

Lance frowned. "Rose, you gotta know when to stop! This isn't the place for your nonsense!"

Lance, you must be really blind to make Keira your girlfriend! I can't wait to see how long she can keep up this act! I'm dying to see the day you regret this! But I gotta thank you first, for letting go of Chloe. Chloe's way too good for you, she deserves the best guy in the world!"

At this point, Amelia angrily retorted: "The one who's blind is the one who likes Chloe! I remember her doing shady stuff with that judge in the backstage dressing room, got caught by the paparazzi. Can she deny those photos are fake?! She looks Innocent, but she's done a lot of disgusting things!"

Chloe froze on the spot, her beautiful face couldn't hide her paleness.

She didn't care about the impact of these rumors, but the scenes of the past kept flooding into her mind...

Carolina forced her to quit the competition, but she refused. As a punishment, she was locked in her room and starved for a full day. The next day, she went to participate in the piano competition, a judge almost raped her in the dressing room...

She can't forget, can't forget that man tearing her clothes with filthy words. She couldn't push him away with all her strength...

Seeing Chloe's face, Rose felt an intense pain in her heart and suddenly hated herself!

Although she was Chloe's friend, she always couldn't stand up for Chloe because of her own status.

She knew this is the thing Chloe could never mention in her life, yet these people wouldn't let her go!

She clenched her teeth, grabbed a wine glass from someone's hand, and violently threw it at Amelia's face!

"Ah!" Amelia screamed, before she could react, she heard the sound of the wine glass shattering. Looking up, Rose had smashed the wine glass in her hand, pointing at Amelia with the

broken glass, ready to charge.

"Who did you say did disgusting things?"

Chloe suddenly came back to her senses and quickly pulled Rose back.

"Rose, calm down!"

Keira's face suddenly changed, a cold light flashing in her eyes.

Amelia, you idiot!

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What a bonehead Amelia is!

She blew things way out of proportion!

“Holy cow! I was just in the loo, how did Rose screw up in no time?”

At this point, Kane’s voice suddenly rang out, and Chloe quickly called him over.

“Mr. Ziems, please get Rose out of here right now!”

“What’s going on?” Kane looked at the scene, a bit confused.

Chloe said nothing, someone nearby gave him a quick rundown, and Kane instantly got ticked off.

Glanced at Keira on stage, Kane suddenly sneered. This is way over the line.”

Keira felt uneasy under his gaze, her eyebrows furrowed slightly.

Chloe looked at Amelia, the look in her eyes made Amelia feel more terrifying than the broken glass in Rose’s hand.

After a long while, Chloe said to Amelia, “I’ll let it slide for now. If you don’t have any proof, quit talking out of your ass!”

After that, she looked over at Keira who was still on stage.

“As a shareholder of Pulse Entertainment, I hope Ms. Summers can continue to perform. Don’t jeopardize the company’s future for a laugh.”

Hearing the word “shareholder” from Chloe, Keira involuntarily tightened her grip on the microphone.

Chloe smiled slightly, then turned around and left with Rose.

She inquired about their accommodation for the night, and they headed off.

“Ms. Summers, are you just going to let them off the hook? No way! They’ve pushed you this far, you can’t just let it slide!”

“Who said I was letting it slide?”

Chloe’s voice suddenly rang out, her icy tone gave Kane a start.

“So when are you going to do something?”

Chloe paused for a moment, then looked up at Kane, “What do you think about the previous allegations of me seducing the judges?”

Kane’s eyes widened, “What do I think?”

“Do you also believe that I really seduced him?”

“Oh, back then everyone was saying it, so I was kinda on the fence. It didn’t involve me, so I didn’t pay much attention.”

He then added, “But I don’t believe it now.”

“Why?”

“Because Mr. Harper chose you. Even if it were true, I’d have to believe it was false.”

Seeing her silence, he laughed and said,

“Haha, just kidding! I trust you completely.”

Chloe smiled and then said, “The main goal tonight for Keira isn’t this.”

“What?”

Kane was puzzled, and the drunk Rose also looked up at her, “What main goal?”

Chloe patted her head and whispered, “Someone’s tailing us.”

Kane frowned, turned his head, and sure enough, he saw a woman sneaking behind them in a waiter’s uniform.

When Kane suddenly turned his head, the girl was startled and shrank back.

Chloe also turned her head and waved at her, “Could you come over and help, my friend’s a bit sloshed.”

“Sure thing.”

The waitress took Chloe’s place.

Summit Ridge University is a wealthy campus. To familiarize students with hotel management, they built a mock hotel nearby.

Upon arriving at the hotel, Chloe and her friends got their room

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Chloe hesitated, unsure what to say, "I can handle it..."

Damon snorted in fury, rolling off her

The room light flicked on, and Chloe sat up, turning to look at the man standing by the door in a neat uniform, the room filled with a tense atmosphere.

Chloe sat on the bed, nibbled her lip, flicked her hair back, and turned to look out at the night.

The room was eerily quiet

After a moment –

Chloe's soft voice slowly came, "I messed up, I ignored your feelings..."

She blinked, turning her head towards the window

"This situation. 'Chloe paused, is just too awkward, Damon, it's really awkward for me..."

Damon's body tensed up slightly, he turned around slowly, his eyes filled with cold and gloom.

This was a secret she had suppressed for a long time. Now she seemed to be revealing herself, calm yet sad, she slowly spoke:

"The day before the competition, Carolina asked me to drop out. She said my piano skills were already outstanding, I didn't need to prove anything, and Keira wanted the championship, she hoped I wouldn't

stand in her way. I refused and she called me a rebel, locked me in the room and starved me for a whole day, until the next day she feared grandfather would find out, she let me go...

As she got here, Chloe's hands clutched around her, even her voice was trembling.

was starving, bought some food and ate in the changing room to regain strength, but I didn't expect the judge to suddenly walk into my room... I was trying to tell him to leave, I said it's not good for the judge and contestant to meet before competition, but he suddenly hugged me..."

Chloe's voice involuntarily went up, filled with tremors of fear. Damon's chest tightened, he couldn't see her face, but he saw her pale profile.

I didn't know what to do, I screamed, but he covered my mouth. I struggled, but I was weak, I couldn't push him away..."

Chloe couldn't control herself anymore, fear and grievance surged up at the same time, tears instantly flowed out. She held her arms tight, lifted her head, bit her lip, trying not to let the

tears fall

Yet, she was tightly held in his arms, the familiar scent and warmth made the tears she had been holding back slide down instantly.

I was really scared, Damon, I was so scared because no one was there to help me... do you know how relieved I was when the reporters suddenly rushed in? They saved me..."

"The pictures they published were real... I begged them, explained to them, but no one believed me... I felt embarrassed, those pictures were really bad... but they were all real..."

"Although Lance didn't say anything at the time, I could feel that he actually cared. No man would be indifferent..."



Chloe lifted her head, staring at Damon, clutching his clothes tightly, her voice a bit rushed, "But Damon, I didn't intentionally let that man touch me... you... would you mind?"

"I would mind."

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She knew it... No man could ignore these things.

But Damon lifted his hand to wipe away her tears, "I gave you the chance to go deal with him and all that past shit yourself, but after that, hand him over to me!"

Chloe opened her eyes to look at him.

Damon leaned down to kiss away the tears at the corners of her eyes and whispered, "Because I'm your man, you don't have to feel inferior anymore! All the glory, I can give it to you."

Chloe was deeply moved.

"Damon... what should I do without you?"

Damon's voice was full of seriousness and danger, "Are you still thinking about leaving me?!"

Chloe shook her head, "What if I can't..."

Just then, there was a noise at the door of the room, and Chloe's body stiffened instantaneously.

They exchanged glances, and Chloe quickly ran to the door and turned off the light.

There was the sound of a card swiping outside the door, followed by the door opening and closing.

He groped in the dark towards the bed, Chloe grabbed his wrist from behind, he gasped in fright. Immediately after, she twisted his wrist hard, and the man's scream echoed. Chloe pushed his head down onto the bed with one hand, her knee pressing hard against his waist, silencing his screams and struggles.

"Mmm... mm..."

The man's screams turned into whimpers, he writhed trying to break free, but Chloe's knee was pressing hard against his waist, he couldn't move at all.

His hand was held tight by her, unable to break free, and his other hand was also caught by her. Chloe twisted his wrist even harder.

The man writhed in pain, whimpering a few times, but after struggling in vain, he had no energy left, lying on the bed gasping for breath.

For survival, for no longer being bullied, for being able to protect herself properly, all the sacrifices, all the pain and suffering, she bore without complaint.

She was no longer the weak, powerless twenty-year-old Chloe.

The man struggled a few times, already out of energy, Chloe gradually let go of his head, the man quickly said, "Who are you?!"

Chloe picked up strips of torn bed sheets on the side, wrapped them around the man's neck, shoulders, arms, wrists, and tied him up.

"Ah... hurts! Who are you? Who are you really? Why are you doing this to me!"

Chloe threw the man on the floor and turned on the room's light. The man's eyes were irritated by the light and he instinctively closed them.

“Chase Hicks.”

The man’s body suddenly stiffened, and he slowly opened his eyes.

“You are... you’re Chloe...”

The man wore a pair of glasses with silver frames, just as gentlemanly as before.

It was him, with this appearance, he deceived everyone.

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Chloe strutted towards him, decked out in an elegant evening gown. But no amount of class could disguise the cold ruthlessness that radiated from her

“You’ve really been a pain in the ass to track down these past few years.”

“What...what do you want?!”

Ever since she came back from abroad three years ago, she hadn’t stopped searching for him. She was swamped with business from Starlight International and the Olson Group, so she outsourced the job to others.

But news of him was scarce.

Until she found out recently that he was showing up in casinos, but he was always slippery!

If it wasn’t for Keira leading her into a setup to meet him, it would be very hard to catch him.

“What do I want?” Chloe scoffed. She picked up a bottle of booze from a nearby cabinet, smashing it to pieces. The room was instantly filled with a strong alcohol aroma.

With the sharp end of the bottle in hand, she took a couple of steps closer to that man, Chase.

The lethal aura she exuded gave Chase quite a scare, but he chuckled after a moment, "You don't need to threaten me. What can you, a woman, do?"

Suddenly, Chloe raised the bottle high above her head and smashed it downwards, embedding it into his shoulder!

"Ah!"

Chase screamed. Chloe kicked him in the mouth and he went down,

"There's nothing I wouldn't dare to do! Chase, think about what you've done to me. Do you really think I'd let you off easily?! Today, even killing you wouldn't quench my hatred!"

"How dare you!"

"She dares."

A cold voice suddenly echoed from behind Chase.

He froze, whipping around to look.

A man stood by the window, dressed in a crisp black suit. His eyes bore into Chase with an overwhelming pressure

"Who...who are you?!"

Damon glared at him, sending chills down his spine.

“Do as you please. I’ll handle things if they get out of hand.”

Damon’s eyes were on Chase, but his words were clearly directed at Chloe.

Chase turned as white as a sheet, shrinking back into a corner, trembling

He didn’t know who this man was, but he didn’t doubt his word for a second.

Chloe snapped back to reality and crouched down with a smile. She jabbed the bottle into his forehead with force, skin breaking and blood seeping out.

“Don’t...don’t kill me...what do you want just let me go. I beg you...please...calm down first...”

Chloe didn’t seem to hear him. She angrily scratched his forehead with the bottle, finally standing up amidst his pleas

She took out her phone from her purse, turned on the camera and pressed recording button, and tossed it next to the bed.

“Tell me, what really happened at the piano competition six years ago?”

“There...was nothing...nothing happened...ah!”

Chase looked bewildered, about to deny it when his other shoulder was fiercely stabbed again.

Chloe’s hands tightened, using almost all her strength.

The despair and fear she had back then transformed into a rage that almost made her lose her sanity.

“Tell me or not?”

“Til tell you, I’ll tell you everything!”