

CHOSEN 421

Chapter 422

All eyes were on Keira, their expressions filled with sarcasm and schadenfreude.

“Yeah, if it’s her researched perfume formula, why did she contest with a failed one?”

“Failed, that’s hilarious. Chole is really sharp, she didn’t leave any room for Keira to save face.”

The journalists also agreed with Chloe’s point, turning their attention to Keira.

‘Ms. Keira, did you lose a perfume formula?’

Keira was caught off guard, “ ...”

“Ms. Keira, if you have a better one, why did you choose a failed one for the competition?”

Keira, coming from a prestigious school, was not ignorant about perfume blending.

This question made Keira angry, she said,

“Every piece of my research is the best to me! And, can you be sure you’ll get a perfect score before the test?!”

It sounded like a powerful and rational response, but the journalist asked another question without changing his expression,

‘So you’re saying that Chloe’s competitive work actually stole your formula?’

Keira did not answer the question, but her silence seemed to be a tacit admission.

Chloe stood there quietly, her eyes cold. Although her figure was slender, she exuded a strong calmness and composure, which was awe-inspiring

Sometimes, people could judge a person's true abilities just by their appearance.

Someone without real abilities wouldn't have firm eyes, straight backs, or strong presence.

When Keira was silent, she glanced at Chloe on the stage, seeing her meaningful smile. She shuddered, a chill spreading from her feet throughout her body.

Keira's silence did not provoke more reactions, and the journalist asked again,

"So y you admit that your sister, Ms. Chole, has once again stolen your perfume formula? So what exactly is the formula of the perfume you lost, what is the design concept, and what is the theme?"

The journalist's series of questions left Keira speechless.

Years in the entertainment industry had taught her not to reveal her weaknesses even in the most chaotic situations.

Her face grew increasingly ugly, as she looked at Chloe again. After a while, she suddenly stopped, then smiled and said to Chloe,

"I never said my sister stole my formula. But I'm curious, Mr. Allan said you designed two perfumes on the spot, why did you only submit one to the judges?"

Chloe chuckled, looked at her, and calmly said,

“Nobody on the field can prove that I copied your design! Our perfume formulas are different, the themes are different, and the design concepts are also different! In the Fragrance Frenzy International Contest, you advanced with your ‘Enchanted Devotion, and I advanced with my Vitality Alliance’, there’s no conflict. This matter should end here, we can all happily go home and continue researching for the competition! As for my other perfume...”

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Chloe paused on purpose, a sly and icy grin slowly creeping onto her face. She stared directly into Keira’s eyes, her cool voice slowly but powerfully echoing.

“You sure you wanna pick a fight with me on this one?”

Keira felt her anxiety bubbling up. She tried to look away from Chloe’s gaze, but Chloe’s eyes were like a bottomless vortex, pulling her in no matter how much she struggled.

Finally, Chloe broke the stare. Keira breathed a sigh of relief, her tension visible to everyone around.

“I was just wondering, since both works were made during the competition...” Keira said.

“Enough already!”

A fluent and angry voice cut through the room, followed by the slam of a fist on a table. Allan rose from the judges’ table.

Everyone watched him in shock. Ever since smelling Chloe’s non-competing work, he had been serious and stern. They all thought that Chloe had somehow offended him, but he had given her full marks with a poker face that only seemed to get more serious.

However, no one was paying attention to Allan, as they were all distracted by the journalists.

Nobody expected Allan to blow up now.

Keira recoiled at his sudden outburst, her eyes wide with fear, as she looked at the clearly enraged man on stage.

Allan, with a dark face, pointed at Keira and said in fluent foreign language,

‘Shut up already! You’re making a fool of yourself! If it wasn’t against the rules to change scores, I wouldn’t even give you a 0.1! You have the audacity to name it ‘Enchanted Devotion, you’re mocking the term and the work! Shameless!’

With that, Allan angrily pulled his chair, turned around, and stormed off!

The translator paused, feeling extremely awkward. After a moment of thought, she decided not to translate that After all, it was a harsh rebuke, no, it was more like an insult.

To avoid escalating the situation into an international conflict, she chose not to translate it and quickly followed Allan.

Everyone looked puzzled.

The translator just left?

Then what was Allan saying while pointing at Keira?

“What did that judge say? Did you understand?”

“No.”

“What a pity, he looked really angry, and seemed very unhappy with Keira.”

“He always seems unhappy with everyone, always has that gloomy look on his face, as if he thinks he’s above everyone else. Even after giving full marks, he looked like he swallowed a bomb!”

“But I’m still curious about what he said. I noticed the translator. She looked really embarrassed”

‘Me too.’”

And so, all eyes turned to Chloe on stage.

Because since the beginning, she was the only one who had been conversing fluently with Allan in a foreign language.

She was the only one who could understand what Allan was saying!

Upon hearing Allan’s words, Chloe couldn’t help but smirk.

Seeing the eager and expectant gazes from everyone, Chloe took a moment, then walked over to the host, grabbed the microphone, and said....

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“Mr. Atan was just saying that the game’s already been called, no need for any extra hoo-ha. He also gave props to Ms. Keira’s work, saying it’s top notch and if she keeps pushing, she’s got a world of possibilities ahead of her! Hope Ms. Keira keeps her nose to the grindstone, and we’re all keen to see how she rocks the international competition”

I see

“Yeah, the games already called, no use crying over spilt milk. She got the silver, which is still a pretty sweet deal”

“Absolutely, the key thing is the upcoming competition, that’s the real clincher”

“But looking at Allan’s face and the tone of his voice earlier, he seemed pretty heated, didn’t seem like he was singing Keira’s praises”

“Well, he’s a foreigner, and his demeanor’s bound to be different from ours.”

After Allan took off, the other judges didn’t stick around, they quickly packed up their stuff and left the judge’s booth

Hearing Chloe’s explanation, everyone loosened up

Keira’s tense expression faded when she heard these words.

“Keira, congrats, you’ve made it to the international competition”

“Yes, congrats And Mr. Allan seems to have a high opinion of you, he’s got high hopes for you!”

“Now I get why he gave you a 4.9, he probably meant that you’re already brilliant, but there’s still room for growth, and as long as you put in the effort, you can outdo anyone.”

At this point, some reporters circled around Keira, “Congratulations Ms. Keira on making it to the international competition! Seems like Mr. Allan has high expectations for you! Do you have any ideas for your work in the international competition? Could you give us a sneak peek, like, what kind of emotions you want to express? Or where your inspiration comes from?”

Keira’s spirits were lifted by these flattering words, her complexion gradually returned to normal. A soft smile appeared on her face, she presented a vibe of confidence and stood tall, her voice sounding pleasant,

“Thanks for Mr. Allan’s encouragement, I’ll push harder, create better works and not let him down. I’m aiming for a perfect score in his eyes, even surpassing perfect!

As for the international competition, I've got some ideas, but sorry, I can't spill the beans just yet. If you're all excited about it, please stay tuned to the competition."

"Are you worried about others stealing your ideas?"

Keira just flashed a smile, silent for a few seconds, which could be interpreted as her tacit agreement to the question, then she went on,

"I believe every person qualified to participate in the Fragrance Frenzy International Contest is highly competent. I also believe that they, like me, are fully committed to designing their own unique, perfect works. As for worrying about plagiarism. Though I respect everyone's abilities, it's necessary to be on guard against others, after all I've been through this kind of thing, so I must be vigilant."

This was obviously a veiled reference to someone, and everyone got the message.

All eyes naturally turned to Chloe.

Lance next to her also frowned at this moment, stood up and walked over to Keira.

"Lance."

Keira happily called out to Lance, and Lance smiled gently at her.

The two of them exchanged smiles, their feelings for each other deep in their eyes. He was handsome and suave, she was beautiful and outstanding. Their charisma was impressive, making many people feel envious and jealous.

At this point, a reporter said jokingly.

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“Mr. Olson sure hit the jackpot with a stunner and a whiz like Ms. Keira as his fiancée! You must’ve heard about Ms. Keira’s latest masterpiece, Enchanted Devotion, that’s made it into the Fragrance Frenzy International Contest. Any thoughts?”

Keira blushed while Lance just smiled, his voice gentle,

“I get her. She had my heart fluttering ages ago. As for what I want to say...”

Lance paused for a bit then chuckled lightly. “Let’s keep that under wraps for now

“Oh, looks like a proposal is brewing”

“It’s bound to be super romantic, can’t wait!”

“Finally you two are taking the plunge. All the best!”

Keira seemed both surprised and thrilled. Seeing Lance not denying anything, she was over the moon. Chloe was grilled by the reporters too, but she only answered a few easy questions and then zipped up. The buzz around Keira only grew, especially with the rumor that Lance was going to pop the question.

Chloe just flashed a faint smile, picked up her suitcase, and walked away

The host then announced the shortlisted names as per the program, wrapping up the local round of the contest.

In the backstage restroom, Chloe was washing her hands. Keira was already waiting for her

‘Did you move back home just to mess with me?’ Keira snapped at Chloe, her voice low and bitter.

Chloe kept washing her hands as if she hadn’t heard her, “Mess with you? If you were a bit more slick, how could anyone mess with you?” Chloe dried her hands, turned around, and smirked at Keira,

'I can't believe you're pulling the same stunt. You just want me to repeat the same mistake and then you can knock me out, right?" Keira clenched her teeth, silent

Chloe was calmly drying her already clean fingers, her face cold.

"I know you'd seize every chance to sabotage me, especially at such a crucial time. Thanks to your constant meddling over the years, I know you pretty well now. There are only so many ways to do harm. If I'm to fend you off, I have to be ready. But to be honest, I'm fed up since there's no surprise. Every time, your tricks are all within my expectations! You always walk right into my trap, like we've rehearsed it beforehand. It's just too perfect. Maybe you're not a good actress for others, but for me. Hey, Keira, you're so spot-on every time, I can't help but want to give you a best actress award" Chloe said.

Chloe couldn't help but laugh in the end, casually tossed the paper towel into the bin, and gave Keira a mocking glance.

Keira was furious, panting with rage. She was staring at Chloe, looking like she was about to pounce and bite her in any second.

"If you've already guessed I'd do the same thing as six years ago, stealing your recipe for the contest and framing you for plagiarism, why didn't you expose me?!" She said.

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"If you saw it coming that I would pull the same stunt as six years ago, using your work in the competition and getting you accused of plagiarism again, why didn't you expose me?" Keira said

That was a question she could never wrap her head around. She guessed maybe Chloe just wanted to advance in the competition quietly and didn't want to make a big fuss about it.

But when she thought about it, if she were in Chloe's shoes, she would've seized the opportunity to crush the opponent.

“What’s the point of exposing you now? At most, it will just become a hot topic for everyone to gossip about. The headline probably would be – the Summers sisters plagiarizing each other?”

Boring Chloe stood up slowly, walked toward Keira and said,

“Of course I will expose you, but not now. I will clear my name! Keira, you better figure out if there’s anything you’ve left undone, and fix it as soon as you can, and don’t leave any evidence Or else, you’re done for!”

When she stepped outside, it was raining and there was a crowd gathered at the entrance.

None of them had brought umbrellas.

Chloe stood in a corner, watching the heavy rain outside and feeling worried

She had been so tense these past few days that she had not paid attention to the weather.

Now the competition was over, and Keira had made some adjustments as everyone had expected.

With no sign of the rain letting up, Chloe leaned against a pillar at the entrance, watching the rain curtain outside with a calm and relaxed expression

The rain was scarce this year, but the few times it did rain left a deep impression on her

The first time was on a ship, where she almost drowned. Her world felt like shattered glass, breaking all at once

The second time was the morning she was discharged from the hospital. In the midst of the misty rain, a handsome figure stood by the car with an umbrella, smiling as he came to pick her up

It was then that he said he would take on her past and her future He said he loved her.

He barged into her life forcefully. She was caught off guard, but in the end, it was him who pulled her out of the abyss bit by bit.

She couldn't help but smile, watching the rain wash away all the filth outside.

As she watched one person after another being picked up, leaving behind sighs and voices of envy, a group of young girls aimlessly discussed the vehicles

A Mercedes S-Class had just left, and before the girls could express their admiration, a blue Pagani parked in front of them

The girls didn't know much about the make and model of the car, they just thought it looked cool and imposing, so they took a picture and looked it up online.

"Wow, this car is worth over 10 million?!" Someone in the crowd exclaimed.

Everyone stared even more intently at the luxury car in the rain, taking out their phones to take pictures.

"Whose car is this?! Who can afford such a luxury?! Wow, I am totally shocked! If I can't marry the owner, I would marry the car!"

"Can a car bring you happiness?" someone joked.

"Of course it can! I can drive it to attract handsome guys!"

Everyone laughed.

At that moment, a gentle voice came from behind the crowd, "Excuse me, could you please make way?"

The crowd dispersed, and Keira came out with her arm linked with Lance's, wearing a bright smile

The door of the Pagan parked at the entrance immediately swung open. The chauffeur, holding an umbrella, carefully approached the two, and respectfully said,

"Mr Olson, Ms. Summers. Please get in "

Lance took the umbrella from the chauffeur arm around Keira's shoulder, and got into the car. The car door slammed shut with a 'bang', and only then did the surrounding people react

"That's Mr. Olson a car, so that's why'

"True that, but i'm still so jesOUT

"Ah, ta al about fate

They assumed t car would drive off immediately. However, the rear window of the car slowly rolled down at this moment

Kara's delicate face appeared from inside and said

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Kava chuckled lighty. “Why not? We don’

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Chloe's heart started racing like a horse out of the gate. She looked towards the parked car at the entrance.

The sheer opulence of the car made her immediately think of the man inside. He was as elegant and noble as his ride.

Pushing down her excitement, she bent down to pick up a box but found Nate had already beaten her to it. He stepped aside, courteously letting Chloe lead the way.

As she approached the car, the door swung open before Nate could even reach for the handle.

Chloe ducked into the car, leaving the onlookers dumbstruck. Through the gap, they could see the man inside lightly patting Chloe's thigh, his cufflink glittering with expensive diamonds.

The door closed, leaving the crowd outside in the dark. Nate slipped into the car, closed the umbrella, and they were off in a jiffy.

Everything was so smooth and natural. Not a hair out of place.

However, most people at the entrance were still trying to process what had just happened.

'No wonder she didn't want to ride with Mr. Olson'

"She didn't even think his car was good enough"

"Whose car was that just now? Who was the man inside? Did you see that diamond cufflink? Must be worth a fortune!"

Inside the car, Damon took Chloe's hand, looking at her and said,

'Congrats

Chloe flashed a light smile, "Thanks, the international competition is a month away I can take a breath now"

Damon kept quiet for a while then slowly asked, "You could've beaten Keira, why didn't you?"

Chloe sighed, leaned her head against Damon's shoulder, and chuckled, "Don't worry I'm not going soft. I'm just playing the long game! Keira said she would embarrass me in front of the world. I'll give her a taste of her own medicine. Besides, if I had knocked her down this time, then her past plagiarism couldn't be exposed!"

Interest flickered in Damon's eyes, "So it can be resolved later?"

Chloe's eyes lit up with triumph as she pulled out a small recorder from her pocket, "This little thing is quite handy when dealing with such

snakes!"

Damon glanced at the device in her hand, a slight squint in his eyes. He took her hand, his voice low yet gentle, "What did she say?"

"Do you want me to play it for you?" Chloe asked.

"No need. I can't stand her voice. Did she explicitly admit that she plagiarised your work six years ago?" Damon said. "Yes." Chloe said.

A low chuckle rumbled from Damon's throat. Chloe felt a tingle down her spine at the sound.

She swallowed hard, looking up at him, her voice barely above a whisper, "What are you laughing at?"

"Isn't it something to be happy about?" Damon asked.

Oh, indeed it was a joyous moment!

But having known Damon for so long, Chloe seemed to understand the real cause of his happiness.

She moistened her lips, paused for a moment, and then asked, "Damon, how are you planning to celebrate your birthday? Are you hosting a public birthday party, or spending the day with your grandma? What about your grandpa? Your parents? And Nathan, will they be back?"

Damon pondered for a moment, his eyes filled with complex emotions,

"I won't be throwing a birthday party. They are all in Hong Kong. I don't know where Nathan is. I might spend my birthday with my grandma."

"Why is your grandma alone here? Is she not getting along with your grandpa? Chloe asked.

Seeing Chloe's cautious expression, Damon smiled slightly. "No, they have a very good relationship"

Chloe let out a sigh of relief, 'Oh, I see"

"So, you're planning to give me a birthday surprise, right?" Damon asked.

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Chloe's face turned slightly red, "I didn't, I'm so busy, how could I plan a surprise?"

Damon looked at her for a moment, then nodded, his face calm but warm.

"All I need is you by my side" He said.

Chloe was a bit touched, her face full of regret and affection, "You ask so little."

Damon grinned a little, "Not really"

How could it be a small request to have her by his side all the time?

"Are we going back to the Summers family tonight?" Damon asked.

"Yes, we're going back. But we might not stay long, just wait for me." Chloe said.

At the Summers family house, Lance was driving Keira home. The Summers family was having a blast in the living room. Keira and Lance sat together, their faces full of shyness and happiness.

When they found out that Keira had entered Fragrance Frenzy, Carolina was full of praise,

"I knew Keira could do it."

Lance nodded, then held Keira's hand, "I've always believed in her."

Carolina nodded, thought for a moment, then said.

"There's been a lot going on lately. After we discussed the wedding, we put it aside. It's about time we got the wedding schedule sorted out. What are your thoughts?"

Keira nervously clenched her hands, and Lance gave her a gentle smile.

"As long as Keira agrees, I'm more than happy." He said.

Keira's face turned even more red, looking very cute.

Carolina nodded with satisfaction, "Keira is my favorite granddaughter. She is the luck star of the Summers family, and the Summers family and Pulse Entertainment will be hers in the future. Although it's not as grand as your Olson Group, you must treat her good! Or else I won't let you off!" Viviana was pleased to hear Carolina's words, but before she could be happy, a discordant voice came from outside the door

, "Oh? I didn't know that the Summers family and Pulse Entertainment are all Keira's now?"

Chloe's voice came from the door, and soon, she appeared in the living room.

Seeing her, Carolina and Viviana's faces immediately darkened, but Chloe was happy to see their expressions.

Keira said, "Chloe, you're back?"

Chloe ignored her and sat down on the sofa, expressionless.

Carolina looked at her coldly, "You come home without even saying hello?"

Chloe poured herself a glass of water, took a sip.

"What did you just say? The Summers family and Pulse Entertainment are all Keira's?" Chloe said.

Carolina looked at her with disdain, "Don't you have Starlight International? Do you still want Pulse Entertainment?"

"You make it sound like Starlight International was a gift from your Summers family!" Chloe said.

“Starlight International was established after your mom married into the Summers family!” Carolina said

“But, I’m the only owner of Starlight International!” Chloe said

Carolina’s face turned very awkward, she composed herself, then yelled,

“Since your mom can freely give you Starlight International, then I have the right to leave Pulse Entertainment to Keira!”

Chloe slowly turned her head to look at her, her eyes cold.

Carolina was shocked by her gaze.

“What kind of look is that?!” She asked.

Chloe frowned, then stood up,

“Give it If you want, anyway, Pulse Entertainment will be ruined sooner or later!”

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With a loud “bang”, Carolina hit the table and stood up.

“What the hell are you trying to do?! Are you trying to ruin Pulse Entertainment?!”

Chloe just smirked, slowly turned around to face Carolina, and said each word deliberately.

“You’ve got it all wrong. It’s you who wants to destroy it!”

Then she went upstairs to pack her suitcase.

Carolina's angry voice echoed from the living room, "She just came back to settle scores with me! This ungrateful brat, trying to piss me off to death!"

Keira tried to calm her down, "Granny, don't be mad. Just chill out. She didn't mean what she said!"

As Chloe came downstairs with her suitcase, Carolina was still fuming.

Just seeing her made Carolina furious.

Chloe just smirked, didn't say a word, and walked right out of the mansion

Keira was so pissed off she could scream.

That woman, the moment the auditions were over she moved out. Obviously, she only moved into the Summers family to set a trap for her! Once in the car, Chloe took a deep breath.

Damon glanced at her, "Don't come back here again. It does you no good!"

'I'll try my best!' Chloe said.

Just as Keira had managed to calm Carolina down, her phone rang. It was Annarie

*Keira, we've been played by Chloe!" Annarie said.

Keira frowned, "What happened?"

"About the audition. Just check it online." Annare said.

After hanging up, Keira immediately opened Twitter.

The top four trending topics on Twitter were all related to the audition for the perfumery competition.

She refreshed Twitter and found that most of the content was also about the audition.

Videos and pictures were being shared non-stop

There was a video of Chloe on stage, fluently conversing with judge Allan.

Another a video of Allan grading Keira's work

A video of Allan pointing at her, angrily talking to her.

And a video of her being interviewed by the press!

Followed by the comments under these videos.

[Didn't expect Chloe to be so funny, considering she looks so serious and aloof]

[Allan only gave Keira's work a score of 4.971 Just 0.1 point away from passing. He didn't want to inflate her ego. That's hilarious']

[Looks like Chloe is doing a pretty good job as an older sister']

[Keira acts like there must be some problem if she's not the winner! So embarrassing']

[That's embarrassing? Look at Keira acting all high and mighty after hearing her sister's translation, even saying thanks for Allan's favor. Oh my, I'm cringing']

Keira's brows furrowed more and more as she continued to read the comments. Someone in the comment section asked, what did Allan really Say to Keira?

Chice had already explained that Allan said everything was settled and there was no need to do anything more. He praised her work and encouraged her to keep going, looking forward to her performance in the international competition.

But now, things seemed to have gone astray. She clicked open the comment, and underneath were many replies, all with the same sentence