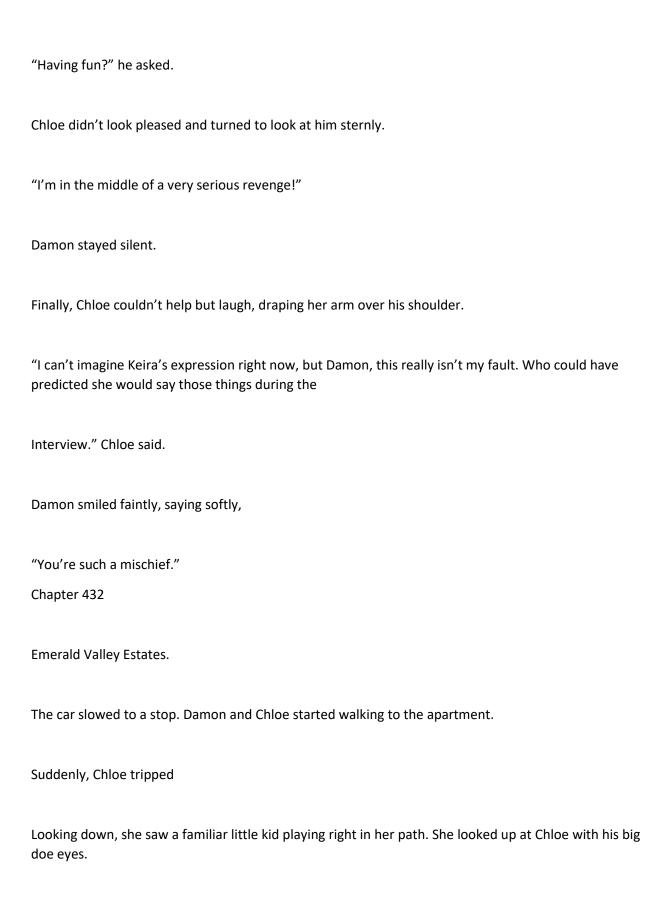
## **CHOSEN 431**

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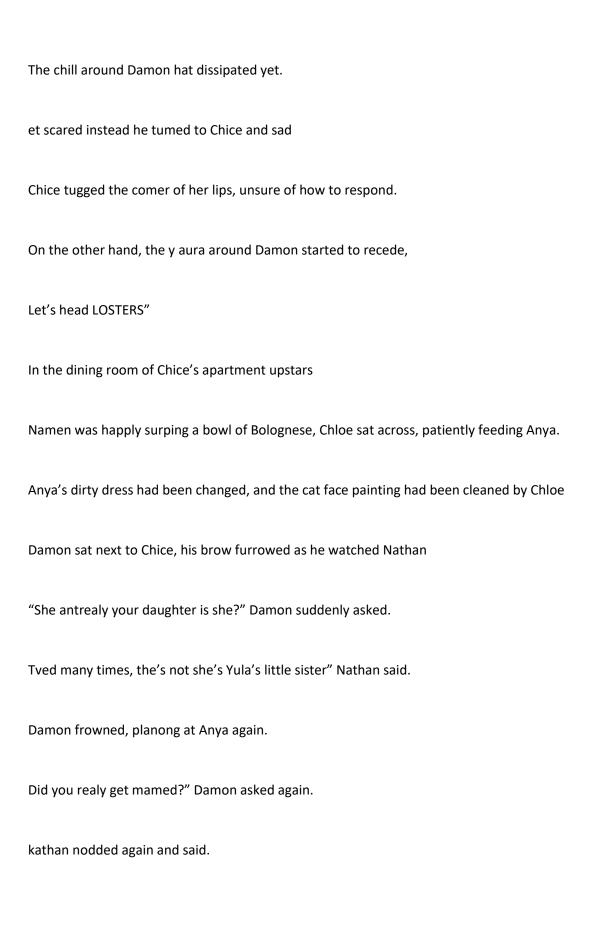
Especially since he was right next to Keira when she was being interviewed.
But this shouldn't be Chloe's fault, right?
"Keira, Chloe probably meant well." Lance said.
Keira's crying stopped abruptly, she stood up from Lance's arms, her pretty little face red with crying
"Lance, you know my sister. How could she possibly mean well?! She's clearly trying to make me look foolish." She said.
Lance looked serious, "But if she had said Allan's words on the spot."
Keira's face paled, that meant she would have been made a laughingstock on the spot!
Keira was really angry!
After working so hard for so many days, she had finally regained some fame in the entertainment industry. Today, everyone was praising her for her talent
But now, Chloe's words had greatly damaged her image.
How could she not be angry?
Chloe put away her phone, propped her forehead on her hand, thinking about Keira's possible reaction.
Seeming to think of something, she chuckled softly.
Damon glanced at her, looked at the webpage on her phone, then gently stroked her hair.



Her clothes were clearly smeared with mud, and her cute little face was dirty as well.
Chloe's heart melted. She looked around and didn't see the kid's sister, so she bent down and picked him up.
"Anya, where's your sister?" Chloe asked.
"She's at work." Anya said.
Chloe was shocked!
"So, you're here alone now?" Chloe asked.
Anya shook his head, "No"
Chloe was confused, then Anya pointed with his little hand to somewhere not far away.
Chloe turned to look and saw a tall man in a white casual shirt and black casual trousers, looking at Damon's luxury car.
Chloe frowned. So, Anya was brought out by this man!
The man had his back turned to them, so Chloe couldn't see his face. Damon's face suddenly turned very serious.
"This car, why is it here?" The man said confused
Chloe was startled and instinctively looked at Damon.



The man's face showed a shocked expression.
"Are you my brother's girlfriend?" He asked Chloe.
Chloe nodded.
"Huh," he laughed lightly, "Finally, my brother has a woman!"
Damon just gave him a cold look, then looked at the little girl who was waving at Nathan, and said coldly,
"She's your daughter?"
Nathan stared at Anya's cute face and started laughing.
"She's my wife's sister." Chapter 433
ad you get hated""
About two months ago Nathan said.
ow? Or am I the only one in the dark?" Damon asked
The danger in Damon's tore escalated, ittle Anya cung tightly to Chloe's neck her eyes wide with fear
"Well you could say you're the only one who didn't know. But I've called grandma already, will visit her when I have the chance." Nathan said.





"fed for her" Damon interrupted
Natharis utenols clattered onto the table
Had anyone ever told his brother how strange it was for his cold, poker faced self to express affection?
"Hack "Chice coughed awkwardly her face instantly turned beet red. She squirmed in her chair, obviously uncomfortable.
Looking at Anya, the little girl was looking up at her with wide, expectant eyes.
Before long. Nathan was back to eating as if nothing had happened, polishing off the bowl of Bolognese.
"Your cooking is amazing Chloe Hey, can we have pasta for dinner? Nathan asked.
Chloe smiled, "Yulia is from the south, and you prefer northern dishes. How did you guys end up together?"
Chapter 434
Nathan watched as Anya gracefully ate her meal, a small smile unconsciously tugging at the corner of his mouth.
"Who knows, right?" He said.
Chloe looked a bit awkward, stealing a glance at Nathan but not uttering a word.
She didn't feel right meddling in their private affairs.

Damon shot Nathan a glance, his voice cold and indifferent, "Since you're back and even got hitched, it's time to pull yourself together. You'll be reporting to the office tomorrow as Deputy CEO!"
Nathan took a deep breath,
"Just seeing your face, I knew it wouldn't be good news!"
Unfazed, Damon stared back at him, his eyes unreadable.
Nathan, starting to feel uneasy under his gaze, his brows furrowed in frustration.
"I got it, just give me some more time. There are things I haven't sorted out yet!" He said.
Damon casually glanced at him, "You haven't sorted things out, yet you have time to stay home and babysit?"
"I" Nathan said.
Damon looked at Anya, adding.
"You are babysitting your wife's younger sister."
Nathan remained silent.
"Are you letting your wife support you?" Damon asked.
"Enough already! If it weren't for me, she would've been bullied by her relatives long ago Nathan said.
Damon remained expressionless, "So, this is your excuse for letting her support you?"

Nathan hurriedly defended, "Alright, let's drop this!"
Only then did Damon raise an eyebrow, choosing to remain silent.
Anya finished eating. Chloe watched the two brothers, Damon and Nathan, feeling a warmth in her heart.
She had always wondered what it would be like when Damon and his brother spent time together
Maybe they lived their own lives, perhaps in this large family, competition between brothers was inevitable.
It seemed she thought too much.
"Alright, she hasn't returned so late, and Anya's starting to miss her. I'll take her home now!" Nathan said.
Right now, Anya was sitting quietly in Chloe's lap, watching as Chloe folded a small rabbit for her. Her big, sparkling eyes filled with curiosity.
Anya missed Yulia?
Really?
She was so well-behaved!
Nathan didn't wait for Chloe to argue, he stood up, took Anya into his arms.
Anya wriggled her chubby hands and feet in the air before finally settling down in Nathan's arms.

Seeing her helpless expression, Chloe couldn't help feeling distressed.
"Is this how you take care of a child? Don't grab her collar, what if you hurt her?" Chloe sald.
"Hmph, men arent that delicatel Nathan said.
Chloe rubbed her forehead, "She's still a child, and a girl at that! Can't you be a little gentler with her?"
Damon nodded coldly, "Yes, he's quite rough."
Nathan clenched his teeth.
Then Damon's gaze shifted to Chloe, his voice soft, "I won't be like him."
Chloe gave him a small smile.
Chloe gave him a small smile.  Nathan wondered if this well behaved man waiting for compliments was really his brother?!
Nathan wondered if this well behaved man waiting for compliments was really his brother?!  When he looked at Nathan again, Damon had already put away his smile, staring at him coldly, "Didn't you hear me when I told you to hold Anya properly?"
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His warm breath sprayed on the tip of her nose, his deep voice carrying a hint of huskiness, sounding incredibly sexy in Chloe's ears.
Chloe bit her lip lightly, avoiding his gaze slightly.
This man was too attractive.
Damon gently kissed her forehead,
"Do you still have the perfume you made today?"
At his words, Chloe looked up at him, "Yes."
"Vitality Alliance. Hmm?" Damon played with her hair as he thought about the video he had seen today, "Let me see."
Chloe nodded, got out of Damon's arms, found the box, and took out the perfume she had mixed up at the competition today.
When Damon saw the two sample bottles in front of him, a glint flashed in his dark pupils.
Chloe dripped a drop of perfume on Damon's wrist, gently smudged it with her fingertip, then looked up and smiled at him, "Smell." Damon sniffed at his wrist, the scent was refreshing. It felt cool on his nose, but the scent hit every sense of his body.
Chloe also put a drop on her own wrist, sniffed it, and then brought her wrist to Damon's nose.
The scent was also refreshing, but there was a soft and fluffy fragrance, the kind a woman should have
Then Chloe put their arms together and sniffed again.

It was a completely different scent.
A satisfied smile spread across Damon's handsome face, and he chuckled lightly,
"You're truly exceptionall How can those people even compare to you?"
Chloe's eyes turned cold and her voice calm,
"If it weren't for Keira, I might not have come up with such an idea. Let her gloat. I enjoy playing this game with her. This time, I will push her onto the international stage myself, and in front of the whole world, strip off her pretense"
Chapter 436
Inside the Summers family's mansion.
Keira was still a blubbering mess.
She just lay in Lance's arms, crying softly.
Carolina had listened to her sob for half an hour, and it was driving her up the wall,
*Alright, enough! Let the company's PR Department handle this mess! I'm sure they'll get this under control in no time. But I still want to know. what in the world did you do to tick off that judge? Why was he so mad at you that he didn't even want to score your work?"
At this, Keira stiffened in Lance's arms, her inner turmoil ratcheting up a notch.
She remembered talking to Chloe before Allan had said those things. Could it be that Chloe had spilled the beans about her to Allan?



Her grandparents and father, they all seemed to prefer Chloe now.
Even Lance would eventually be Chloe's!
Everything Keira once had was slowly being taken away by Chloe
Now she had nothing, so she didn't have anything to worry about, right?
But since she had nothing, why was Chloe still outdoing her in every way?
Keira shook her head, her face going pale, "I don't know. I don't know what Chloe said to Allan! Today was the first time I met Allan, how could I have offended him before?"
Viviana rolled her eyes in frustration,
'Chloe! It's all Chloe's fault! Mom, I've had enough! I've been putting up with this for years. I know being a stepmom isn't easy, and haven't always tried my best? Have I ever done anything to hurt her? And
Keira, she's always been sincere towards Chloe. When Chloe bullied Keira, didn't Keira always keep quiet and try to smooth things over?
The only thing Keira did wrong was not being able to control her own feelings. She was with Lance before, but Lance liked Keira, and they both wanted to be together Can Chloe find happiness by meddling in their relationship? Keira feels guilty and wants to make it up to Chloe, but look at Chice, she's always pushing her luck! She's always causing trouble, and there's never a moment of peace at home!"
Carolina furrowed her brows, the wrinkles on her face bunching together
Chloe's words from the anniversary party still echoed in her head

That attitude, that resolute and angry look and tone, it was etched in her mind, impossible to erase.
She rubbed her temples, even she didn't know what to do,
"After this international competition, I don't want any of you to have anything to do with that woman! If you can't deal with her, then just stay away from her!
Viviana scoffed, "Stay away? Can we even do that? Isn't she always the one looking for trouble? What is she trying to do? I know she's been resentful for years because she thinks I stole her mother's place, and that I drove Yasmine to her death, but is that really the case? Actually, it's
her
"Shut up!"
Chapter 437
Carolina suddenly shouted, silencing the entire living room.
Viviana was so startled that she shrank back, her heart pounding like it was about to leap out of her chest.
Keira's heart also skipped a beat.
Then she furrowed her brows
Why was Grandma so sensitive about people mentioning Chloe's mother?
Yasmine?
What had happened to her back then?

Carolina stood up, seething with anger, and glared at Keira,

"You just keep doing your charity work! I'll discuss this issue with the Public Relations Department. We should be able to control the public opinion, and there should be some news about it later As for your upcoming album, you better choose a song with more positive lyrics! Find a good timing and release the lead single first! No more screw ups!"

Keira bit her lip and nodded faintly, her pale face full of sadness and helplessness,

"I understand, Grandma."

Her obedient and restrained demeanor touched Carolina. She just pursed her lips tightly and left the living room.

After this scare, Keira's emotions finally stabilized.

Although she didn't know what Chloe had said to Allan, the fact that her plagiarism wasn't made public during the audition showed that Chloe had no solid evidence to accuse her. The audition was over, and Chloe had lost her best opportunity.

She had nothing to worry about!

Now, she could only focus on her own business.

Seeing Keira's mood gradually stabilizing, Lance gently patted her shoulder

He didnt want Keira to get involved in the entertainment industry anymore, at least not to go deeper. It would be best to quit silently when the time came, but now it seemed

the whole Summers family was really pinning all their hopes on Keira

"Alright, Keira, don't think too much. Rest well, cheer up, and prepare your lead single "Lance said." Keira was really tired today. She lay in Lance's arms for a while before reluctantly letting him leave Damon had been very busy recently. Sometimes, Chloe wouldn't see him for a day or two. Preparing for the international competition, Chloe decided to go out and relax after a few days, while looking for inspiration. She couldn't go far, so she decided to visit the Guardian Angels Orphanage. She drove about ten-minute, turned right at a crossroad and drove onto a concrete road leading to the orphanage. But just as she turned on the indicator light and drove onto the concrete road, she inadvertently glanced to the side and saw a familiar figure. Her speed gradually slowed down, and she kept observing the woman sitting by the road through the rearview mirror. The woman was wearing a white T-shirt and a yellow skirt, looking very charming She was chewing gum She just sat at the crossroad, looking at the end of the concrete road. Her face was clear in the rearview mirror.

Chloe was startled and immediately hit the brakes Then she reversed the car a bit and stopped in front of the woman.
"Cicely?" Chloe called softly
The woman looked up, and a beautiful and delicate face appeared in Chloe's sight.
"It really is you" Although Chloe's expression was indifferent, her voice couldn't hide her surprise.
Cicely stood up, looked at Chloe through the car window. She paused for a moment, smiled, spat out her chewing gum into the trash can next to
her, and waved at Chloe
Chapter 438
"Chloe." she paused, seemingly forgetting Chloe's name for a moment.
Chloe pursed her lips, not surprised at all.
That was just Cicely for sure, she was a social butterfly. She could get chummy with anyone in no time, but never really dug deep in any relationship.
Remembering Chloe's name, that was quite a feather in Chloe's cap
"Why are you sitting here?" Chloe asked.
She didn't dare to outright ask when she got out of prison, just hinted at it.
"I was just passing by. The smell on the bus was getting to me, so I decided to chill here for a bit." Cicely said.

Chloe nodded. She knew, if there was a contest for who had the most swanky, extravagant life, Cicely would win hands down.
She didn't exactly warm the cockles of people's heart, and it wasn't because she was a bad egg. It was just her character, her appearance.
Chloe thought for a bit, then asked, "Where are you off to? I could give you a lift."
Cicely glanced at her and retorted, "Where are you headed?"
"I'm going to the nearby orphanage." Chloe said.
Cicely's eyes flickered for a moment, then she opened the passenger side door of the car.
*Long time no see, I've got some time to kill, I can tag along to the orphanage, then you can drop me home "Cicely said.
Chloe sized her up for a moment, then glanced at the rearview mirror to her left, spotting a car parked across the street. Her eyebrows twitched slightly
She thought for a moment, then got out of the car. She then circled around it, got back in to start the car, and continued on.
Cicely's expression didn't change, but her hands clenched tightly into fists, clearly on edge.
Upon reaching the orphanage, Chloe parked the car, and the staff immediately came out to greet them.
"Chloe, you're here!"



Cicely stood to the side, with a tense body and eyes cast down, her long eyelashes trembling intensely.

Chloe could feel the deep emotions radiating off her
No matter how hard she tried to hide it, she couldn't completely cover it up.
How could such intense emotions be hidden?
Even a bystander hearing the staffs description would feel a pang in their heart, let alone, she was Hugo's mother.
"Let's go see him Chloe said
"Alright, you go ahead" The staff said.
Chloe took a couple of steps forward, but Cicely didn't follow Chapter 439
"Aren't you going in? Chloe asked.
Cicely glanced up at her, her body swaying slightly as if to move forward. But it was as if she was stuck in place, unable to take a single step
Chloe frowned. "After today, you won't have any excuse to come here again"
She said flatly and walked away towards the school building.
Cicely hesitated for a moment, then finally took a step, following Chloe.
As they got closer to the corridor, the sound of the piano became clearer.

Chloe stopped at the door, turning to look at Cicely whose face was a bit pale.
"Hugo is blind" Chloe said.
Cicely's lips began to tremble uncontrollably, then she bit down hard, a bead of blood appearing at the corner of her mouth.
Struggling to keep her emotions in check, she turned her head. Her usually soft voice was hoarse,
"I know."
Chloe lowered her head, ignoring the bitterness welling up inside her, before gritting her teeth and swung open the door to the plano room. The music stopped abruptly.
Jeanette turned her head towards the door. Chloe slowly walked in. After a long while, Cicely appeared in the doorway, her brown eyes fixed on the child sitting by the window. Her hands shook
uncontrollably, gripping the door frame tightly.
That was her child
Holding back her emotions, she looked into those bright but unfocused eyes The pain in her heart seemed to fill her entire body.
Hugo seemed to sense something. He turned towards the door, staring at Cicely.
His breath hitched, his brown eyes shaking with shock.
That face, it was the one from his dreams!

Jeanette looked confusedly at the stranger at the door, then turned to Chloe.
Chloe's brow was furrowed, her face grim.
She walked over to Hugo, squatting down and patting his head, "Can you guess who I am?" she asked softly.
Hugo nodded.
Chloe smiled gently, "I know you love music, so I brought a friend to play the piano for you, okay?"
Hugo nodded again.
"What a good boy."
Chloe stood up, turning to Jeanette. "Can I talk to you?"
Jeanette frowned They hadn't seen each other since the school festival.
After a moment's thought, she nodded.
The two left the room, and Cicely walked in.
Without another glance at Cicely, Chloe closed the door.
The sound of the door closing was like a signal. As soon as it shut, the woman's tears fell like a dam had burst.

"You're Hugo, right?" Cicely asked.
When Hugo heard Cicely's words, his tiny body shivered. His face turned towards her at the sound of her voice. His large dark eyes, though lifeless, seemed to be staring at her with excitement.
Cicely covered her mouth with her hand, tears falling down her hand.
She walked over slowly, took his hand, and gently touched his face. She was studying his features carefully.
"Hugo" She whispered her child's name.
That feeling was so unique, irreplaceable.
Hugo's lips were tightly closed, tears streaming down his cheeks.  Chapter 440
In the yard
Chloe seemed calm as a cucumber.
I've been waiting for you to come find me." Chloe said.
Jeanette chuckled, "I've been busy writing songs lately, haven't had a spare moment."
Chloe squinted a bit, "Really? Judging by your face, I bet you're pretty chuffed with your work"
Jeanette nodded, taking a deep breath, looking like she was carrying the weight of the world. She said,

'I've been familiar with all sorts of instruments since I was a kid, not saying I'm a virtuoso but I know my way around. My mum was hard on me when she was alive, but I actually enjoyed it, even though I had rebellious thoughts sometimes.

I've written many songs, but my mum shot them all down. I've always wanted to prove myself to her, to outdo her, but in the end...

Maybe I've been pushing myself too hard. I've been coming here a lot recently, seems like I've figured some things out, so I'm really pleased with that song. My teacher has heard it, he tweaked the lyrics a bit, and I believe, this song is going to be a smash."

Chloe listened quietly, then nodded.

Jeanette thought she had accepted it, but then Chloe said,

"You must know that Pulse Entertainment is planning to produce an album for Keira, right?"

Jeanette frowned.

Chloe said, "If you want to release an album or a single, it has to go through the company's review, even if it's your own song. The company can interfere.

Pulse Entertainment is pouring most of its resources into Keira, do you really think if your song is that good, they would hand over the release rights to you? They're definitely going to try and give it to Keira."

Jeanette shook her head in denial and said.

'That's my work! What can they do if I don't agree?!"

Chloe glanced at her, chuckled with a hint of helplessness, and sald,

"You've released two albums and held some small concerts. You've been in the biz for a few years now, are you still so nalve?"

Chloe let out a soft sigh, walked over to the flower bed, and started messing with the flowers.

She said, "Pulse Entertainment's support for Keira is unconditional. Do you think if you don't give your song to her, Pulse Entertainment is going to let you release it? They'll stop you, stopping your song from getting released.

If you release your song first, it might hinder Keira's development. And if you release it after, you might steal Keira's thunder. The guys at Pulse Entertainment are not going to let you steal her spotlight."

Jeanette's face had turned ashen, she was scared and furious

She couldn't refute a single word of what Chloe had said.

Jeanette's frown deepened, "What do you mean?"

After spending so many years at Pulse Entertainment, not just her, many artists knew all too well how they were treated.

But most of them didn't dare to stand up for themselves.

Because once they signed the contract and were still under it, if an artist publicly challenged Pulse Entertainment, they would receive 'special treatment'.

Seeing Jeanette's obvious emotional upheaval, Chloe smirked,

"Starlight International is a different kind of company. You have talent and know how to create. I have contacts and resources. As long as you have the chops, Ill help you reach your goals, make your dreams come true, and won't let anyone hold you back."

Jeanette was still on the fence, and Chloe didn't push her,

"I've given you plenty of time, Keira's working on her alburn now. She has a great voice, and she's musically trained. As long as she can come up with a top notch song, she'll be famous. During this time, you won't be able to release new songs. To keep her star shining brighter and longer, Pulse Entertainment will just keep you walling"