

CHOSEN 571

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The collar of his crisp white shirt had two buttons undone, a result of her attempts to make sure his tie wasn't choking him earlier. Now, you could see the pronounced cartilage on either side of his neck. He was leaning lazily against the bathroom door frame, looking incredibly handsome.

Chloe held her breath slightly. "What are you going to do?"

"Do you want to take a shower with me?"

Chloe's eyes widened in shock and she shook her head unconsciously,

"No, no need! You go ahead and shower, I...I have other things to do. You...you go ahead!"

Chloe took two steps back, shook off Damon's hand, and quickly walked out of the bedroom.

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Damon chuckled softly and turned to enter the bathroom.

Chloe dashed to the living room, took a bottle of water from the refrigerator, and took a couple of gulps.

Shower together?

Although stripping naked in front of Damon wasn't anything out of the ordinary, she just couldn't do it. She sat down on the couch with her water, took another couple of sips, and then pulled out her phone to look at the picture Keira had sent her.

Chloe still closed her eyes at the first glance of the photo. It took her a long time to prepare mentally before she dared to look at it again.

After a thought, she opened the chat and started typing.

Keira was holding her phone. All the things she had done, had been sorted out by Pulse Entertainment, so no one online would pay attention to her past anymore. Now all over the internet was the scene of Lance proposing to her tonight, which naturally aroused many people's envy.

"Mr. Olson proposed at the charity gala, how grand."

"Keira has always been enthusiastic about charity, it's fitting for Mr. Olson to propose at a charity gala!"

"You guys are all focusing on the wrong thing, the key is the ring, the ring! It's worth ninety million!"

Keira smirked smugly.

"Ninety million is nothing, Chloe straight up smashed a perfume worth two hundred million! And that was supposed to be another surprise Lance had for Keira, but Chloe smashed it."

She was okay until she read this, then she started to get angry.

Just then, her WhatsApp notification sounded. It was recognizable from the prompt at the top that it was a message from Chloe.

She was surprised. She never thought Chloe would text her back.

She opened the message, it was just a simple sentence – Shameless!

The fact that she responded meant she cared. It was clear she had been provoked.

After thinking about it, she smugly replied to her –

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[It's totally normal for me to do these things with my man. Are you gonna stay single forever?]

Chloe was speechless. She then went online and found a famous blogger. After a quick chat, she sent the blurred photo to the blogger.

Driven by curiosity, the blogger asked her – Who the man in the picture was?

Chloe replied – You'll find out tomorrow!

After that, she tossed her phone aside. Since Keira thought it was normal for her to do these things, she would want everyone to know, right?

The next morning, at the Royal View Hotel.

Keira didn't come home last night and said she'd go straight to the hotel to get her makeup done, so the Summers family wouldn't have to worry.

The whole Summers family headed straight to Keira's dressing room upon arriving at the hotel.

Jonah was quite unhappy upon learning that Keira didn't come home last night. When Keira saw Jonah's mood, she looked to Carolina Petry and Viviana Reeves for help.

Carolina said, "Times have changed. As long as two people are in love, that's all that matters."

Jonah stayed silent.

At this point, the makeup artist took Keira away to get dressed, leaving Jonah, Carolina, Viviana, and Nick in the room.

As the dressing room door closed, Carolina went silent for a bit, then turned to Jonah and said,

“Keira has signed a marriage contract with Lance. They’re only hosting an engagement party now because of the timing....”

“If they’ve signed a marriage contract, why don’t they just get married?”

Viviana glanced at Carolina and quickly looked away.

Carolina replied bluntly,

“The Summers and the Olsons are both well-known families in P City. You can’t just rush into marriage. As Keira’s grandfather, you should be preparing more gifts for her.

Jonah looked at Carolina, “So, the whole point of throwing an extra engagement party is to get me to prepare more gifts?”

Carolina’s face changed, “Keira is your granddaughter. Even if she wasn’t throwing an engagement party, wouldn’t you still be preparing gifts?”

Jonah seemed relax a bit after hearing Carolina’s words, which prompted Carolina to say, “It is Keira’s engagement party after all... Don’t you still have shares in Pulse Entertainment? How about giving those to Keira on this occasion?”

Jonah asked directly, “You want me to give all of my shares to Keira?”

Carolina frowned, “Keira is eventually going to take over Pulse Entertainment. Wouldn’t it be perfect to give them to her now?”

Let's talk about it after the engagement party"

Jonah cut off Carolina mid-sentence. She looked pretty miffed.

Carolina's face darkened in an instant. "So, what are you planning to give Keira for her engagement?"

"It's just an engagement, so I didn't prepare a gift! We'll talk about it after the party, and I'll call Chloe back then to discuss."

"But..."

"I'm not dead yet!"

Jonah interrupted Carolina again, his tone sharp.

Seeing his unwillingness to continue the conversation, Carolina chose to keep silent.

Keira had been listening to the conversation from the 'dressing room. As soon as she heard that her grandmother intended to give her the shares held by her grandfather, she held her breath.

She was insistent on having this engagement party because she had hoped to get something extra from her grandfather.

Now, someone had been secretly buying shares of Pulse Entertainment. According to their estimates, it wouldn't be long before that person's shares would exceed theirs. If her grandfather's shares were given to her at this time, their combined shares would secure their position as the largest shareholder of Pulse Entertainment, giving her absolute control.

But to her surprise, her grandfather didn't give her anything at this engagement party.

She put on her dress with a cold face. By the time she reappeared, she had regained her usual delicate demeanor.

“Grandma, Grandpa...”

Carolina gazed at Keira’s face, feeling a pang of heartache

Don’t worry, Pulse Entertainment will be yours eventually. Since your grandfather said we’ll discuss it after the engagement party, we’ll just wait until then.”

Keira shook her head.

“Grandma, I trust Lance won’t mistreat me. Grandpa was right, we shouldn’t turn the house upside down because of my marriage.”

Then, as if she suddenly remembered something, she looked around and asked,

“Mom, has my sister arrived?”

Viviana shook her head, her brows furrowed.

I didn’t see her. She probably didn’t come.”

Til give her a call”

Chloe was busy in the lab at the moment. Seeing Keira’s call, she tapped the answer button.

“What’s up?”

“Chise, my engagement party is about to start, aren’t you coming?”

Chloe didn't even have a chance to speak when she heard Keira's soft, pitiful voice again.

I really hope to have your blessing..."

Chloe's face instantly turned cold. "Keira, stop acting. Don't worry, it's your engagement party after all, I'll prepare a gift for you guys."

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"You?"

Keira's voice came out a little screechy, uncontrollably. Then she realized there were other people in the room, and she toned it down, "you... are giving me an engagement gift?"

Chloe was waving a clear crystal glass bottle in front of her.

Hearing Keira's voice, she chuckled and said, "Are you surprised?"

Hearing Chloe's obviously cheerful tone, Keira said, "Indeed..."

"Don't worry, I'll definitely give you guys a surprise."

A wave of unease rose in Keira's heart, "You..."

There was a brief moment of the sound of static, then the line went dead.

Keira stared at the hung-up phone, feeling very uneasy.

"What's wrong?" Carolina asked, her voice deep.

Keira gripped her phone, shaking her head in disappointment, "My sister won't be coming today."

Carolina snorted, "It's better if she doesn't come. If she does, she'll definitely stir up trouble."

Chloe hung up the phone and left the lab, then picked up her bag and left.

"Why are you leaving so early today?"

An old lady in plain clothes asked from the side.

Today is the last day."

"So we won't be able to see so many beautiful flowers anymore?"

Chloe turned to look at the small country cottage behind her, pondered for a moment, and then smiled,

I come back later."

"That's good!" The old lady smiled contentedly, then looked at the trunk of Chloe's car, "There's still so much?"

I'm keeping them for a good use."

Chloe went over and reorganized it a bit, finally closing the trunk.

"Goodbye"

"Goodbye!"

Chloe opened the car door. The car was still full of bright red roses.

Nate had been super busy recently, but if it were company matters, he wouldn't feel tired. However, reality is often cruel, he had completely transformed from a top assistant to a gardener.

Looking at the endless plantation in front of him, Nate felt very upset.

"Nate, the stuff we ordered from The F Country has arrived. We've got the seeds, the rest... it's up to you."

Of course, he had to handle it. How could he let someone else handle such... important matters?

Royal View Hotel

Lance and Keira's engagement ceremony was about to start.

Keira was dressed in a red lace dress, with an X-shaped design on the skirt. The assembled design of white lace and red ribbon was very creative.

The high-waist design elevated her body curve, making her look very elegant.

Lance was in a sharp black suit, a red handkerchief peeking out from his left chest pocket, matching Keira's dress perfectly.

Keira, with her arm hooked into Lance's, stood on the second floor of the spiral staircase. Besides excitement, she felt a bit nervous.

Mamage. She was about to become Lance's wife

Turning to look at Lance beside her, his handsome face and upright body emitted a charming aura.

Trust man This man she had snatched from Chloe, was about to truly belong to her.

It was a pity that Chloe couldn't be there to witness this moment,

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Downstairs, all the guests were seated, everyone surfing the web on their phones, waiting for today's two stars to make their entrance. "Ha, check this out!" Someone snickered and passed their phone to a friend.

"Wow, this."

A few people gasped, covering their mouths, then exchanged glances. Their faces were a mix of expressions, all a bit awkward.

"What's going on here? It's just the engagement party, how could these pictures have popped up?"

"I have no clue."

Slowly, the large engagement party was filled with a slight buzz. Everyone was trying not to make a scene given the event, but with so many people, how could gossip be avoided?

"Look, up on the spiral staircase on the second floor, it's Lance and Keira."

"She's dressed so beautifully today. She's always maintained such a pure image since her debut, who would've thought."

"Stars, they're all about appearances. A pure image makes her more popular. But now it seems."

Everyone's eyes shifted towards the second floor, pointing at Keira and Lance. Their faces were a mix of expressions, with occasionally giggles coming from everywhere. Keira was used to being in the spotlight, and accepting compliments. Despite feeling a bit nervous right now, under the gaze of so many people, she lifted her chin, smiled, and appeared quite composed.

The MC took the stage, after the opening remarks, naturally said, "Next, let's welcome our two newlyweds of the day, and witness their lifelong promise!"

The MC started the applause, and everyone in the room followed suit.

Keira looked up at Lance, and took a deep breath. A perfect smile showed on her face. She linked arms with him, and they descended.

With the warm applause of the crowd, Keira clung to Lance's arm, carefully taking each step.

Family members of Lance and Keira emerged from backstage, taking the front seats.

Seeing the perfect couple, they nodded their heads in satisfaction, their faces full of respect and friendliness for each other's family. Parents exchanged compliments and congratulations, the atmosphere harmonious.

"Looks like the Olson family really likes Keira."

"Yeah, from their faces, they don't seem affected."

"That news just came out, maybe they don't know?"

"Maybe, if they knew, how could they still be smiling?"

The whispers of the guests in the back got overheard by an elder of the Olson family, who turned and glanced their way.

The guests met her gaze, shared an awkward smile, then exchanged glances and fell silent.

Keira and Lance descended the staircase, stepping onto the stage once more, letting everyone witness their vows.

Up close, people found Keira even more delicate and beautiful. Some took out their phones again, unable to resist the chatter.

Seeing few in the audience actually focusing on them, Keira was a bit confused. Was her outfit not stunning enough today?!

"Lance, they..." She said.

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Kara watched as Lance barely got a word in before a reporter lost control and boiled forward

This reporter, phone raised high in hand, stretched as far as possible in front of Vain and Lance shouting "Ms Summers, could you tell us who the man in the photo is?" Keira frowned at the question and asked, "What photo

Bending perplexed she peered closely on the phone screen in the reporter's hand. As soon as she realized what was in the photo, her face went pale as a sheet!

"Where the hell did you get this? Her voice came out as a shrill shriek, her face distorted with shock

A big smile flashed across the reporter's face as he retracted his phone, responding loudly "From the internet Ms. Summers, this photo is blowing up online! Surely, everyone would have seen by now"

Looking around Keira saw that everyone was wearing a shocked expression. A sense of humiliation washed over her as she thought, "So, that look in their eyes was them watching me make a fool of myself. They're not admiring me. They're laughing at and mocking me Like I'm some sort of joke"

“What photo?” Suddenly, Lauretta, Lance’s mother, chimed in, having been listening to the snickers behind her

At first, she had chalked it up to petty jealousy and mockery But the current situation was obviously far worse than she thought.

The reporter grinning responded to her question, then glanced at Lauretta, “So Mrs Olson is it aware?”

After saying this, he scanned the room, then hopped on stage. He located a multimedia device in the corner, and connected his laptop. Once set up, a photo was displayed on the big screen. It was a

scandalous bedroom shot.

The photo was large on the screen, the light from the screen illuminating the faces of those in the front row

Keira’s face was full of embarrassment and the face of the man beside her was blurred

Lance’s face darkened the moment he saw the photo, while Keira, seeing the photo on the big screen, went blank

The next second she let out a shrill scream, “Ah! Turn it off! Turn it off!! Don’t look, none of you are allowed to look!!”

She screamed, waving her hands frantically, trying to block everyone’s view. But the screen was too big, revealing every detail of the photo

She turned her head to look at it, the light from the screen reflecting off her face, making her look deathly pale. In the midst of the chaos, she suddenly swayed and collapsed straight onto the floor.

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“What the hell is going on here?” That was when Lance’s dad Grover suddenly blurted out, his voice filled with unmistakable fury.

Carolina Petry, sitting next to him, had already jumped up from her chair in shock. Hearing Grover’s angry voice, she hurriedly said, “Please calm down, there must be some misunderstanding”

Grover scowled, pointing at the indecent photo on the stage. His face twisted and he quickly turned his head to glare at Carolina, “Look at this mess, and you’re still talking about misunderstandings? Carolina, how has your family been treating us? And your granddaughter, she always claimed she likes Lance, and is this her way of showing it?” Carolina’s face had already darkened to an extreme. She looked at the photo on the screen, Keira’s expression, the kiss mark on her chest, and that hand...

Her eyes, as if shocked, quickly withdrew. She wanted to say something, but couldn’t.

Viviana anxiously looked at Keira, “Keira, what is this all about? That man and you. What the hell have you been up to?”

Keira collapsed on the floor, her body shaking uncontrollably and her frail shoulders shaking visibly.

She was on the verge of losing her mind, her heart filled with anger and hatred. She originally intended to use this photo to provoke Chloe, as only the two of them knew about the existence of this photo.

Without a doubt, this photo of her and Lance in bed must have been leaked by Chloe. However, Chloe did not show the original photo, but covered Lance’s face with a sticker. Now, nobody knew that the man was Lance. The public exposure made everyone think she was promiscuous and cheating on Lance.

Keira stared coldly at the blurred Lance’s head in the photo, her fingers digging into the ground. Her well-manicured nails were broken, and her delicate crystal diamonds were scattered all over.

Chloe, that bitch!

Suppressing her anger, she lifted her pale face and looked anxiously at Lance, “Lance...”

And Lance was staring at her with a complex expression, “Keira, why do you have such a photo?”.

Lance’s cold voice made Keira’s heart skip a beat, and she suddenly found herself at a loss for words. However, the crowd below was in an uproar again.

“Oh my god, just like what people online said, look at Keira’s eyes.

“What, what?”

“Look at her eyes!”

“Her eyes, look closely!”

Eyes? Keira was taken aback, and also looked up at the big screen.

She only took one glance, and her mind went blank again. She felt as if she had fallen into an ice cellar, her whole body freezing.

“Oh my god, I really saw it!”

“So amazing, I didn’t expect to see such information!”

“People online are so powerful. What sharp eyes!”

“Really, I can see the reflection of the phone screen in her eyes! This photo was actually a selfie! Oh my, isn’t she embarrassed?!”

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Keira was as stiff as a board, unable to lift her head to look at Lance. Lance’s brows suddenly twitched and he closed his eyes tightly.

“A selfie?” Laretta’s face drained of color as she looked at the screen Soon, her expression changed.

The Summers family felt their faces burn, utterly embarrassed.

A scandalous photo snapped by Keira herself! What on earth was there to take a photo of?

“Take a good look, can you see a man’s face on the phone screen?”

“Let me see. Oh!”

“What’s wrong?”

“There’s definitely a guy in the photo, but he’s been blurred! They even lowered the transparency. Who did this? I’m dying of laughter!”

“This woman is beyond words.”

“I kinda like the person who edited the photo. So cute!”

The engagement party that was the talk of the town had turned into a laughing stock!

“So, Keira, would you care to tell us who the man in the photo is?”

Seeing Keira remaining silent, the reporter turned to Lance and asked, “Mr. Olson, it’s said that you spent ten million dollars on an expensive ring at a charity auction last night and proposed to Ms. Summers on the spot. Do you think it was worth it?”

Lance clenched his fists, veins bulging on his forehead from anger. He slowly lowered his eyes to look at Keira, his gaze filled with disappointment.

Perhaps sensing Lance's gaze, Keira looked up at him, her face stained with tears.

"Lance." She whispered.

Lance closed his eyes again, his hands clenched even tighter, his facial muscles taut. After a while, he finally said in a strained voice, "The man in the photo is me." It was a difficult admission for Lance. He felt as if he had lost all his dignity. He was the man lying naked next to Keira in the photo, hand in hand, his face blurred! It was a total insult. Keira could feel Lance's restraint and it alarmed her even more..

Everyone was stunned.

"Mr. Olson, are you saying this to protect Ms. Keira? Or are you admitting it's you so you don't feel too embarrassed?"

"No, it's me," Lance said coldly. "I've given you the answer you want. Now, can you please take the photo down?"

The reporter raised an eyebrow, laughing, "Mr. Olson, I understand some things should be kept private. But you should also know that if you lie now, it will be even more embarrassing when the truth comes out. Are you sure the man in the photo is you?"

"Yes!" Lance answered decisively, his gaze pulling Keira up from the ground. "This is our private matter. I hope you won't go too far. Otherwise, I'll take legal action!"

The reporter said, "Mr. Olson, the photo was taken by Ms. Keira herself. As for why Ms. Keira's selfie ended up online, it has nothing to do with me. I did this for your and the Olson family's interest, after all, I had no idea that the man with Keira was you."

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Lance's face turned a deep shade of embarrassment

The reporter continued, “Moreover, to clarify things for the public and add credibility to my report, I still hope Mr. Olson could provide some evidence that the man in the photo is you’ Otherwise, people might find it hard to swallow”

Lance’s gloomy eyes instantly snapped to the reporter, “Don’t push it.”

The reporter lifted an eyebrow, wearing a careless look, “Since Mr. Olson can’t provide evidence, then my news report.”

As soon as the reporter said this, Grover immediately scolded Lance loudly, “Lance! What the hell is going on?! Is that really you in the photo?”

Nowadays, the media loved making big news. The bigger the news, the happier they were, because it meant more attention.

What kind of story would the reporter spin if Lance admitted but couldn’t provide evidence? Especially when Keira was a hot topic lately, and Lance was always involved. If this scandal spread, the reputation of the Olson Group would be totally ruined!

Seeing Grover’s grim face, Lance felt his head throb, “Dad, it’s really me. Keira and I were at my apartment last night.”

Grover’s face lightened a bit and Carolina’s heart also relaxed slightly.

Yet, the reporter was relentless, “Mr. Olson, what we need is evidence.”

At this point, Viviana suddenly interjected urgently, “Keira, did you take that selfie? Do you have the original?”

Keira swallowed hard and nodded, “Yes, it’s on my phone. I left my phone in the lounge.”

Relief washed over Viviana’s face, “I’ll go get it!”

After that, Keira looked at the somber faces of the Olson family elders, her expression desolate.

"I truly love Lance. I would never do such a thing with another man. Please, believe me." Keira said.

Grover's face showed no signs of improvement, and Laretta was equally embarrassed.

Soon, Viviana returned with Keira's phone, "The evidence is right here. The original picture is on Keira's phone."

She flipped to the photo on Keira's phone and handed it to the reporter.

"Even though Keira is a public figure, she also has her private life. You guys keep prying into it, don't you journalists have any moral principles?" Viviana said.

The reporter grabbed Keira's phone and directly sent the picture to his own mobile.

After a moment of probing, the original photo appeared on the screen. With the mosaic blur gone, everyone could clearly see that the man in the photo was indeed Lance. He was obviously asleep, his muscular chest and attractive side profile were incredibly charming. And Keira, her face was full of desire, her expression seductive.

"Hah, seems like Mr. Olson is quite the catch!"

"Judging by Keira's expression, she must have had quite a wild night!"

"Guys, they all love the 'innocent on the outside, wild on the inside' types, don't they?"

"And how else do you think she managed to snatch Mr. Olson's affection from her own sister?"

The murmuring from the crowd was constant. Although the evidence was out, Lance's sense of shame deepened.

Who would have thought, the ultimate evidence would end up being them revealing such an indecent photo themselves!

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They didn't see it coming, the final piece of evidence was those guys sharing these indecent photos of themselves!

"Although it's been confirmed, I still have one last question – Ms. Keira, why did you take this photo?" The reporter asked.

Keira immediately turned pale. She sneakily glanced at Lance and saw that he was also silently staring at her.

"I just wanted to keep a memory, because it was our last night before getting married." Keira said.

The reporter sneered, "So, you edited the photo and posted it online yourself?"

Keira immediately shook her head, "How could I do such a thing?"

"Well, that's strange! If it wasn't you who posted it, then who did?" The reporter asked.

Keira's eyes were flickering. "I don't know. I don't know who wants to set me up!"

She actually knew. It was that low-life Chloe!

But she couldn't say it, if she admitted she willingly sent the photo to Chloe, how could she explain it to Lance, that she initially wanted to provoke Chloe.

But when everyone heard Keira say this, they all felt somewhat pissed off.

“This is way over the line, today is their engagement party and they chose to reveal this photo now, this is pure provocation!”

“This is a bit too much, they should’ve at least waited until the engagement party was over.

“Just pure jealousy, trying to mess things up.”

At this moment, another piece of news rapidly made headlines online, posted by a gossip blogger,

“Oh my God, I knew this had something to do with Chloe, and sure enough.”.

“What, what?”

“Check out the news!”

The reporters on stage also started to check, and indeed they found the news posted by the gossip blogger. It was a screenshot of a WhatsApp conversation between Keira and Chloe last night.

The conversation started with Keira, there was no text, just a photo, the original photo from Keira’s phone.

Then there was Chloe’s reply after a long time, however, she only replied with one sentence:
[Shameless.]

The screenshot ended there.

“Oh my, Keira, sending a photo of her intimate moments with Lance to his ex–fiancée, this is clearly to provoke and show off!”

“What a typical mistress, using typical mistress tactics.”

“Sending intimate photos to the original partner, doing such a thing is really disgusting, disgusting to the max!”

“Who wouldn’t want to punish such a person?”

“So, this seemingly pure and innocent look is really fake!”

The thing Keira feared the most happened.

“No, Lance. It’s not like this!” Keira instinctively looked at Lance, wanting to defend herself.

But all she saw was disappointment in Lance’s eyes, “If it wasn’t you, then who it could be? Weren’t these photos taken by you, or weren’t they sent to Chloe by you? Keira, we’re married now, why would you send such photos? What are you trying to achieve?”

Keira was speechless, she just kept shaking her head and frantically said, “Lance, it’s my sister who’s too much, how could she post these photos on the day of our engagement. She’s trying to make us look bad!”