

CHOSEN 611

Chapter 611

Chloe easily picked up on his expression, a faint smile spreading across her face. Looking at him, she said with a touch of sarcasm, "You might want to give her a heads up. Her pure and innocent image has gone down the drain. She's probably hoping this perfume competition is her comeback moment, and a chance to knock me off my pedestal."

After finishing, she gave Lance a slight smile, her tall and slender figure turning to walk past him.

"Chloe," Lance tried to grab her wrist again, but withdrew his hand at her look. His hand hung in the air, awkward as hell.

Lance, remember every word I've ever said to you! With a calm expression, Chloe finished her sentence and without any hesitation, she quickly walked into the company's main entrance.

With a melancholic look, Lance watched Chloe's figure get further and further away. So decisive, final and no lingering attachments. The familiar hollow feeling in his heart was stronger than ever.

Once lost, it could never be regained. That was Chloe's personality. He knew that.

He slowly clenched his fists, shutting his eyes tightly. In his mind, was the image of Damon pinning Chloe against the car and kissing her. Despite the man's dominance and semi-coercion, she obediently let Damon touch her. He had never imagined that such a strong and tough woman, could also have such a docile and soft side.

Yes, Chloe was never truly cold, her gentleness was just hidden beneath a layer of ice! But the person capable of melting that icy exterior wasn't him. It would never be him....

After a while, he finally turned around and walked away, looking like a lost soul, an expression Lance had never shown before.

That morning, the employee group chat at Starlight International was blowing up.

“Come and see this!”

“Holy shit!”

“Dear lord!”

“OMG!!”

The picture posted in the group was of Damon pinning Chloe against the car and kissing her. The quality was a bit poor, clearly taken sneakily in a rush.

The tall man’s figure was shielding Chloe in his arms, just his silhouette was enough to drive everyone nuts. His expensive suit was neat and exquisite; when he bent down towards Chloe, it was enough to quicken anyone’s pulse!

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“Whoa, this is just too cool, I’m losing it! Spill the beans, what’s going on? Is it Cheloe trapped in the car door?”

“Check out the bit of clothing visible here, it’s just like what Chloe was wearing today.”

“I think I recognize this car, seems like it has picked up Chloe before.”

“I know, I know, I saw Chloe today, and she was wearing this exact outfit!”

“Even from just this silhouette, you can sense a strong aura. Look at that expensive suit, that tall figure, this person is definitely not ordinary! He’s the perfect match for our Chloe!”

“But where’s this guy’s face? Show us already!”

Due to the blurry image, it was impossible to make out who was in the picture, the distorted image drew a lot of jeers!

“Alright, alright! Here are a few more pictures. [picture] [picture] [picture]”

“Holy crap! Why is this jerk hanging around our building? He’s even holding Chloe’s hand, this is unbearable!”

“Utterly disgusting, it reminds me of the pictures with him and Keira from yesterday! God knows where his hands have been touching Keira and now he dares to touch Chloe!”

“So, is Lance trying to get back together with Chloe?”

“[Picture] See, Lance can’t even compare to a mere silhouette.”

“Trying to start over? Good luck with that, watch me gross out Keira!”

Keira, lying in the hospital, anxiously awaited Lance. She had called him countless times, but his phone was switched off. She kept browsing news on her phone. The attention on yesterday’s photo incident hadn’t died down, and many people had edited the picture into all sorts of weird versions. It had become a laughing stock. The phone she was clutching made her fingers shake nervously, revealing her knuckles.

But just as this hot topic was cooling down, another news story hit the trending list. It was about Lance pestering Chloe the day after his engagement, completed with pictures as evidence. In the pictures, Lance was holding Chloe’s wrist, his face full of urgency and regret. Even if she didn’t know what they were saying, she could guess the conversation from Lance’s expression.

Keira suddenly sat up from her hospital bed, staring at the picture on her phone for a long time, her face twisted in fury.

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Keira suddenly sat up, her eyes glued to the photo on her phone, her pale face twisted with anger.

“Ugh!” She stared at the photo on the internet, finally unable to hold back a scream, and smashed her phone onto the ground with all her might.

“Bang!”

Her face turned even paler from the excitement and anger. She was panting heavily. Her sudden outburst startled Viviana, who was resting beside her, causing her to open her eyes wide.

Her heart was racing, “Keira, what’s going on?”

Seeing Keira in a near-mad state, Viviana was startled.

Keira clutched her chest, gasping for breath out of anger. Her pale face, after the anger, suddenly had two lines of tears streaming down.

Viviana glanced at the phone Keira had thrown on the ground, figuring she must have seen some news that upset her. So, she also pulled out her phone and checked Twitter.

Almost all of Twitter was news about Keira, including the negative news before, the photo incident yesterday, or the photo of Lance pestering Chloe today. Seeing this, Viviana’s face also turned ugly, “This is just too much!”

At this point, the door was pushed open, and Carolina walked in with a cane, her face stern.

“What happened?” Carolina asked seriously.

Viviana looked angry and handed her phone to Carolina, “Take a look!”

Carolina took the phone with a frown.

“Lance is really over the line! He just got engaged to Keira yesterday, got their marriage license, and didn’t even show up when Keira was in the hospital. This morning he went to find Chloe, and the internet is saying he’s trying to get back with her! How could he do this?!” Viviana said.

Carolina’s eyebrows furrowed tighter.

Keira on the side suddenly covered her face and started crying, “Grandma, mom, what should I do. What is Lance trying to do? Is he really getting back with my sister. Everyone knows we’re engaged, what is he trying to make me look like by doing this?”

Carolina’s expression was gloomy. She threw the phone onto the bed, looking at Keira with furrowed brows.

“In the end, you brought this onto yourself! The engagement with Lance, was set in stone. What were you thinking? Sending that kind of photo to your sister? If it wasn’t for that photo, how would this happen?” Carolina said.

Keira’s crying paused for a moment, then she cried even harder. Seeing Keira looking so pitiful, Viviana also felt heartbroken. Keira had been hit hard these past few days. She had lost a lot of weight, her face palè without a trace of color, and she had even vomited blood from anger. Now she was exhausted and being reprimanded on top of that, wasn’t that just adding insult to injury?

Carolina also understood this, and sat down on the couch with a stern face.

The room was silent except for Keira’s crying. Carolina remained wordless, and Viviana didn’t know what to say. After all, on this issue, if Keira hadn’t made a mistake in the first place, things might not have gotten to this point.

After a while, the door to the ward was pushed open again. Everyone looked up; it was Lance.

He was still wearing the clothes from their engagement ceremony yesterday, his face pale, his expression indifferent, looking exactly like he did in the pictures.

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“Lancel Lance.” The moment Lance walked in, Keira immediately climbed out of bed, stumbling to her feet and tightly grabbing his hands. She looked pale but her eyes were brimming with joy

“Lance, you’re finally here, I’ve been waiting so long” Keira said.

At this point, Carolina and Viviana rose from the couch Carolina turned to Lance and bluntly said, “You’re not kids anymore, being married means taking on more responsibilities. Everyone needs to control their actions, and we can’t just do whatever we want! Think about the reputation of the Olson and Summers families

Lance stood there silently, his icy expression unflinching.

Carolina scoffed and was the first to leave the room.

Viviana looked more anxious, she helplessly said to Lance, “Lance, you two need to talk. Keira has been under a lot of pressure lately, you should be more understanding

Seeing Lance’s indifferent expression, she glanced worriedly at Keira, sighed, and left the room.

Once the door closed, Keira clung tightly to Lance, pressing her thin, frail body against him, “Lance, I really am sorry this time, can you forgive me?” Lance slowly pushed her away, but Keira instantly tightened her grip around him.

Keira, let go of me first.” Lance said.

“No! No!! Lance, can you forgive me, please forgive me! I know I messed up this time, I’ll apologize to my sister, okay? I shouldn’t have sent her that picture. But Lance, I only did it to make her give up. She

publicly humiliated me at the charity auction; she just won't let you go." Keira said. Lance closed his eyes, feeling drained, "I already proposed to you."

Keira shook her head, tears welling up in her eyes, "But I'm scared. I'm scared she'll steal you away from me!"

"So when will you stop being scared?! You were scared before we got married, you're still scared after! When will it end? In the end, you just don't trust me." Lance said.

Lance's voice suddenly became sharp. He looked at the woman in front of him, his expression as complicated as it could get, "Keira. I'm starting to doubt, is the person standing in front of me really you? Was it really like it seemed, that Chloe was bullying you all along? The piano competition six years ago, did it really have nothing to do with you? The perfume formula in college, did she really steal it from you? The incident on the ship when you both fell into the water, what really happened? There are so many things. Keira, you."

Keira's face turned pale, her heart seemed to stop beating, her body feeling weak as if she was about to collapse. Her eyes were evasive, not able to hide her panic.

"No..." she lowered her head, shaking it in denial. "No, Lance, I never held grudges over the things between me and my sister. I know she didn't mean it, and those were just accidents. You can't doubt me like this, haven't you always understood me?"

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"She always blames me and my mom for her mother leaving! She never liked me. She hates me! What's happening to me now, isn't it her revenge? She's still complaining about the Summers family sending her abroad back in the day. She wants to take everything I want and ruin everything I care about. She won't even spare Pulse Entertainment and the Olson Group. Lance, she has even taken the Watson family's investment now. Not to mention Fragrance Frenzy." Keira said.

Keira seemed to have found a strong excuse she could latch onto, her tone becoming desperate, full of hope as she looked at Lance.

Lance's expression subtly shifted at the mention of Fragrance Frenzy.

He slowly moved his gaze, looking down at Keira. His face was a complex mix of emotions, "The Watson family's investment was negotiated by Chloe herself. If they want to give it to her, that's Chloe's ability. If you hadn't lost control and used those photos to smear Chloe, the Watson family might not have withdrawn their investment! Even Harper Commercial Center, we can live without it. I can't bet the company on the Harper family alone. Keira, you don't need to use the Fragrance Frenzy to threaten me!"

Keira shook her head repeatedly, totally rattled by Lance's cold and direct attitude today. In the past, he would have softened and forgiven her soon. "No, no, no, Lance, how could I possibly threaten you? The thing with my sister was a moment of impulsiveness, and losing the Watson family's investment was my mistake! I will work hard in this contest, and get good results! We're married now, just newly married. I'm dealing with too much right now, Lance, please, forgive me. Please, let's not have any more drama, okay? From now on, I'll focus on preparing for the contest and stay out of the entertainment circle, okay?" Keira said.

Looking at Keira's pale face filled with desperate hope and pleading, Lance's complex expression didn't ease.

Keira was even more confused about what Lance was thinking at this moment, Lance."

Lance clenched his hands tightly, his voice filled with a defeated and lost tone, "Keira, can I really trust you?"

"You can! You can! Lance, we'll be okay in the future!" Keira said.

Lance's eyes flickered as he looked at Keira, his expression obscure. But in the end, he nodded slightly, gently pushing Keira away, "I hope so."

Keira laughed nervously, wrapping her arms around Lance's waist and burying her face in his chest, her eyes full of laughter gradually turning cold and ruthless.

When would she stop being afraid? Only when Chloe was forever defeated by her!

The Olson Group now had a lot of issues; because of Keira, the stock was continually plummeting. He didn't stay long in Keira's hospital room before leaving in a hurry.

Carolina and Viviana re-entered the room. Since Keira was going to be discharged in the afternoon, Viviana was packing up lightly in the room, while cautiously asking Carolina, who was sitting on the sofa, "Mom, any ideas about Keira's wedding gift?"

Carolina furrowed her brows, thoroughly exhausted and with a splitting headache. Hearing this question, she became even more irritable, "Aren't you well aware of the current situation at home? You decide!"

Viviana was delighted. She looked at Keira and then said, "I mean, on dad's side!

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Carolina looked up at her, "I already had a word with him yesterday. He should know what to do! Keira is his granddaughter, he wouldn't be unfair to her as her grandpa!"

Viviana's eyes flickered a little, then she said, "I know he wouldn't be unfair to Keira, but Mom, you know, he seems to favor Chloe more than Keira."

Upon hearing this, Carolina's face instantly darkened, "We'll cross that bridge when we get to it!"

Viviana closed her lips tightly, glancing at Keira with a meaningful look while tidying up her clothes.

Keira quickly glanced at her, then instantly masked the gloom and greed on her face.

The Summers family, Pulse Entertainment, they should all be hers!

After packing up, they left the hospital room together, Keira was dressed in a high-end light blue dress, with light makeup, still looking gorgeous. She was used to being in the public eye, as maintaining a perfect image was her duty. Even though her reputation wasn't great, she always stuck it out. As soon as she stepped out, she was in the spotlight, with people gossiping. She tried to ignore these, acting indifferent, but she actually cared. However, there were also people praising her beauty. Even though she'd heard compliments like this before, compared to the bad mouthing, it was a huge comfort.

The hospital was busy, and the elevator was hard to catch.

While they were waiting for the elevator, they chatted casually.

Carolina said, "I've arranged PR, at 5 p.m. today, we will officially announce that you need to take a break from the entertainment industry to prepare for Fragrance Frenzy International Contest. Keira, you know how important this competition is! Your relationship with Lance, your comeback, and the whole

Pulse Entertainment and entire Summers family. All depend on it. I know the pressure is huge, but we need good results this time. Especially since you're competing with your sister. She has been too much lately, it's about time she gets put in her place!"

Upon hearing Fragrance Frenzy, Keira clenched her hands, her heart pounding, she was really looking forward to the competition.

She couldn't wait for the competition to start. She was eager to beat Chloe. She was eager to win the competition, make a high-profile comeback, and receive countless praises and honors!

In this competition, either she or Chloe would stand at the top, while the other one would be labeled a failure, a loser, "Grandma, I know, my sister is a strong competitor."

Carolina sneered, "Hmph, she couldn't even submit a good piece for a local competition before, and tried to pass by using your work secretly. How can someone with such a plagiarism record surpass you!"

Carolina's disdain was evident in her eyes.

Keira's face slightly changed, her mouth twisted a little unnaturally, "My sister has made great progress in the past few years, after all, the Olson Group was quite fond of her."

The contempt in Carolina's eyes did not diminish. In her heart, the idea that Keira was the lucky star of the family had deeply rooted, deeply pierced into her heart.

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Keira was in a league of her own Chloe, on the other hand, was a born troublemaker who was always at odds with Keira!

Viviana, casually observing, chimed in "But the bottom line is, Lance chose you over her, didn't he? Fourth place in the Fragrance Frenzy, plus your name, Rosanna, should be more than enough to blow her out of the water! You don't need to put so much pressure on yourself!"

Keira bit her lip and said, "Mom, I admit my sister is amazing That's exactly why can't let my guard down. I've already arranged to meet my master in country Y tomorrow. There's still some time before the competition, and I'm going to ask him to help me. Ah-

Before Keira could finish her sentence, she let out a sudden scream.

Carolina and Viviana, startled by the scream, turned to see Keira being grabbed from behind by a man, "Hey there, gorgeous. How about we hit the sack together?"

Carolina and Viviana's faces went pale instantly. Keira, coming to her senses, struggled to free herself from the man's grip.

"Sweetheart, you smell so good." The harder Keira struggled, the tighter the man held her, until she felt like he was going to snap her in half.

"Let go of me! Let go!" Keira shouted in a mix of panic and embarrassment, and Viviana quickly stepped in to help free Keira from the man's clutches. "What the hell is wrong with you? Is this sexual harassment?" Viviana managed to pry the man's hands off Keira!

But the man was stubborn, continuing to pester them, “Don’t go, sweetheart. Come to bed with me, I can give you lots and lots of money. My family is loaded. How much do you want?”

The onlookers watched with amusement. Clearly they were the joke of the day!

Keira, livid, shouted, “Get lost!”

“Sweetheart, hottie.” The man continued.

“Abelard!” A commanding voice echoed through the crowd, followed by two men in black suits who forcefully pulled the man away!

Keira quickly hid behind Carolina. Her face was pale as she stared at the man in front of her.

When she recognized the man’s face, she turned even paler. It was the dim-witted son of the Bowles family from P City, Abelard!

She gritted her teeth in anger and shot a glare at Abelard, who returned a crooked smile, “Sweetheart.”

Keira shivered and hid behind Carolina again.

“Apologies, Ms. Petry, Ms. Summers. Apologies.” Heather face was filled with smiles, but there was a condescending air about her that left no room for sincerity.

Carolina felt a twinge of disdain and annoyance but kept it to herself. For the younger generation, they could put on a show of authority. But for their peers, they were all cunning foxes.

They all had their own game plan.

“Mrs. Bowles, what is this...” Carolina paused, her gaze falling on Abelard, her meaning clear.

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“I brought Abelard here for a checkup I didn’t expect to bump into you here!” Heather said.

Carolina smiled and said politely, “What a coincidence! Is Mr. Bowles’ health check all good?”

“Yep, he’s pretty fit!” Heather said.

“That’s great!” Carolina said.

After a bit of chit-chat, the elevator finally arrived, and a few people walked in.

To break the awkward silence, Carolina started some small talk, “How old is your grandson this year?”

“Twenty-seven.” Heather said.

Carolina chuckled and said politely, “He’s still quite young.”

Heather glanced at Keira, then at her own grandson, showing a bit of helplessness, “He’s not that young anymore, he should consider finding an obedient wife to look after him. We can’t always take care of him.”

Carolina laughed, “Maybe his true love hasn’t arrived yet.”

“Beauty, hottie, wifey. Abelard was guarded by two bodyguards, but he was still staring at Keira, standing there cluelessly.

Keira glared at him in disgust. What a moron!

Finally, the elevator stopped at the first floor. Keira heaved a sigh of relief, clung to Viviana's arm and walked out of the elevator against the wall, fearing that Abelard would suddenly pounce on her.

They all went their separate ways at the hospital entrance. Viviana looked at Abelard's back in disgust and couldn't help but make a comment, "He's so disgusting. Is he really okay? He even wants to marry a well-matched rich girl. What qualifications does he have?"

"Money is their capital! They made a fortune doing business in the early years, and then they entered the real estate industry and made another fortune. They all made money at the right time! Even if they don't do anything now, the money in their family is enough for them to squander. And they have quite a few investment projects now." Carolina said.

Viviana puckered her lips, "This idiot is so lucky!"

"Humph! No matter how rich their family is, it has nothing to do with us!" Carolina laughed lightly and got in the car first.

Keira seemed to think of something and looked thoughtfully in the direction where the Bowles family's car had left.

"Keira. Keira! What are you looking at? Get in the car and let's go home!" Viviana said.

Keira came back to her senses, flashed Viviana a relaxed and beautiful smile, and then got in the car.

As the car started moving slowly, Keira looked out the window, a smirk always on her face. This man was mentally challenged? That was great! The mentally challenged were the easiest to persuade...

Chloe saw someone post about her entanglement with Lance this morning online, and felt a headache coming on.

She could imagine Keira's expression when she saw these pictures. But these were just to piss Keira off. Now, she was the one who was the most uncomfortable.

Just as these thoughts started to surface, her phone rang.

Seeing the caller ID, Chloe helplessly put her hand on her forehead, "Hello."

"I saw you guys holding hands." This was Damon's calm voice speaking directly.

Chloe took a deep breath, "I can explain this."

'Alright, I'll wait for your detailed explanation tonight.' Damon said.

Chapter 619

When Chloe arrived at the Summers' house, it was already past seven.

The living room of the Summers' house was brightly lit. Everyone, except Old Mr. Summers, was sitting on the sofa, looking a bit off. They had been waiting for Chloe for over two hours, not even having dinner. Chloe was over two hours late!

They knew Chloe did this on purpose, but they were still pissed off.

"Keira, go get your grandpa!"

Ignoring them, Chloe walked to the sofa and sat down, placing her handbag aside and crossing her legs, her cold eyes scanning everyone.

"Shall we get straight to business? Have you guys had dinner?" Chloe asked.

Viviana hurriedly responded with a gentle smile, "Not yet, we knew you were coming back, so naturally, we were waiting to eat with you." Chloe nodded and replied with a faint smile, "Oh, I

see

But I have already eaten on my way here."

Viviana's face immediately changed; seeing Chloe's smile, she felt like Chloe was gloating and being sarcastic.

Chloe was clearly making them starve on purpose!

Viviana was biting her teeth in anger, but she still kept her cool, just smiling awkwardly. Then she glanced at Carolina and Nick. Though she didn't say anything, she acted like she was treated with

injustice.

Viviana knew that being a stepmother wasn't a walk in the park. Even though she despised Chloe, she couldn't confront her directly. Her goal was to make Carolina and Nick hate Chloe even more.

Luckily, Chloe had always had a bad relationship with the family, which saved her a lot of trouble.

Indeed, the faces of Carolina and Nick became even grimmer.

"If you weren't planning on eating at home, why didn't you tell us in advance? You were over two hours late. What were you thinking?" Viviana said. Chloe glanced coldly at Viviana and said, "How would I know you guys would wait for me to eat?"

"If it wasn't for Keira and her mom insisting on waiting for you, we would have already eaten!" Nick was a bit tongue-tied. Over the years, Chloe rarely _came home, and having meals with her was always uncomfortable.

Moreover, at home, everyone except Keira was her elder. It wouldn't be right to make the whole family wait for her to have a meal. Yet, this time they did wait for her, and it was a waste of time. This would make anyone angry.

When she heard that Viviana and Keira insisted on waiting for her to eat, Chloe smiled slightly and gave Viviana a meaningful glance, "Really? How thoughtful of you."

Viviana looked at her in surprise, taken aback by her sudden gentleness, "Not at all, we are family after all."

Family...

Chloe lowered her head, gently smoothing out her skirt, but she didn't say anything, just smiled. What an irony.

Just then, Keira led Jonah in from the porch of the backyard.

Chloe stood up and greeted Jonah with indifference. Jonah looked at her seriously and then sat down on the sofa, it was the head of the family's seat. Jonah looked serious, sitting upright, emanating the aura of the head of the family.

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Keira carefully sat next to Viviana.

Now, Jonah was sitting in the main seat, with Carolina, Nick, Viviana and Keira on the west side of the couch. Chloe was sitting all alone on the couch on the east side, completely like a stranger who was ostracized.

At this moment, Jonah cleared his throat, swept his gaze over everyone, and spoke with a calm voice, "Even though yesterday was the engagement party, in reality, Keira and Lance are already married. As a granddaughter of the Summers family, a wedding gift is definitely a must."

Upon hearing about the wedding gift, both Keira and Viviana were secretly excited and anxious. They had been holding their breaths for so long that they could finally get something useful.

While Jonah was speaking, he turned to Viviana, squinted his eyes slightly and asked, "Viviana, why don't you tell us how you've planned the wedding gift?"

Viviana rubbed her hands, and with a smile said, "Dad, mom, this is what I thought. Keira is marrying into the Olson family after all, so we must prepare a big gift. Otherwise, not only would Keira feels awkward, but the Olson family might look down on us the Summers. And with so many people, the word will get around, and it will affect our family's reputation."

Chloe frowned, gently stroking the smooth fabric on her skirt, and sighed impatiently, "Viviana, you don't need to say so much. We all know you, as her biological mother, would not let your daughter get the shorter end of the stick. Can you just get to the point?"

Viviana looked a bit embarrassed, glanced at Jonah, and saw that he also seemed a bit impatient.

She pursed her lips, shot a fierce glare at Chloe, paused for a moment, and then continued, "I've discussed with Nick. We'll give Keira 30 million as her personal spending money. After all, she can't manage the family affairs in the Olson family right away, and she can't always ask her in-laws for money. In addition, there are two luxury apartments in the city center and a villa in the suburbs, as well as a coffee shop, a nightclub, a yoga studio, a beauty salon, a jewelry store, and a factory. All these will be transferred to Keira. Also, I want to buy Keira a car with my own savings. That's all I've planned personally. As for the rest, I have no say."

It was obvious to everyone that she wanted the elders present to give Keira more stuff.

The whole living room fell silent, and everyone was looking at Jonah, hoping he would take a stance and set an example.

Keira was stunned by the gifts mentioned by Viviana. She didn't know that her mother had so many businesses over the years. Just these shops alone -brought in a considerable income every year.

Keira couldn't figure out how much secret savings her mother had now.

Soon after, Jonah started speaking seriously, "Is that all you've arranged?"

Viviana replied with a smile, "Yes, as long as it looks enough, I'm afraid I can't give more."

Jonah suddenly let out a cold snort, raised his eyes, and looked at Viviana with a ridiculous expression, "Just looks enough? More? What else do you want to give her? I think, even if the entire Summers family's property is given to Keira, it won't be enough to satisfy your so-called 'as long as it looks enough' gift?"