CHOSEN 651

Chapter 651

"That's exactly what you wanted, right? We're in a foreign place, without so much attention. You still need to keep up appearances?"

Keira blinked, then slowly curved her lips into a smile.

"You got me wrong I really hope you can advance. I once said I hope you make a fool of yourself on the international stage, so the whole world can watch your failure. If you can't even pass the elimination round now, I'm gonna be super disappointed"

Chloe also smiled back at her, "Is that so? I guess I'll have to try my best then, so I won't let you down."

Keira nodded, "That would be best. But can you really pull it off? Your talent has been exhausted, and with the lack of competition materials... Anyway, good luck."

At this time, Annarie walked out from the competition venue. Keira went over. She grabbed Annarie's hand and eagerly asked, "How was it, did you make it?"

Annarie's eyes were red, and she shook her head in dissatisfaction. "No, I ran out of the essential oil I needed the most.

Keira immediately showed a sympathetic expression, "That's really such a shame."

After saying that, she glanced at Chloe and asked, "Is there a lot of essential oil running low now?"

Annarie nodded, "Almost half of them are almost used up."

As she said this, she suddenly saw Chloe not far away, feeling both shamed and angry. She had just mocked her, and in a blink of an eye, she was eliminated. Chloe's expressionless face still felt like she

was being mocking her."

"What does she have to be so chuffed about?! With so little competition materials left, how could she possibly advance?"

"Alright, don't be upset, consider this as a trial run. Just try harder next time."

Keira didn't really care whether Annarie advanced or not. It wasn't important to her. It's just that if Annarie did advance, it would have been a little beneficial for the Olson Group.

The competition continued until noon, and Chloe, as the last batch of contestants, finally entered the competition venue around two. All the previous speculations were right. Two-thirds of the essential oils were now finished. Alcohol was also running low, and the glassware was a mess.

The judges below the stage had been sitting for nearly six hours and their faces were full of fatigue. They clearly ran out of patience for the remainder of the competition.

The other contestants saw the leftovers on the stage and were furious. They demanded the organizers to replenish the materials, but essential oils were not ordinary items. They had provided what was sufficient for their initial budget. But who would've guessed that today's contestants had no idea how to use the essential oils sparingly. Some intentionally finished the essential oils, cutting off the hopes of the contestants at the back. It was already too late to replenish essential oils at this point.

Despite this mishap, there were always unforeseeable circumstances. Luck was often a key factor.

In this vast competition venue, with a stage that was over sixty meters long, the shelves were filled with numerous essential oils, thousands of different types. But all were ruined, for some understandable reasons.

Chloe looked around, it was really difficult to match the remaining essential oils, let alone attract the attention of the judges. Chloe's eyebrows also slightly knitted; this problem was indeed a bit tricky.

However, at this moment, the curtain of the venue was lifted from the outside.

Chapter 652

And just like that, the curtains of the venue were yanked open from outside.

Everyone's eyes darted towards the entrance, and lo and behold, Princess Matilda strolled in.

A few judges scrambled to their feet, placing their hands over their chests in a salute to Princess Matilda.

The event organizer rushed up to her, standing by her side.

"Your Highness, you came?"

Matilda gave a gentle smile, "Yeah, I didn't want to miss today's competition."

The organizer's face changed slightly. Right now, the last batch of competitors were competing, and the materials were already scarce. They had practically given up on this batch. Now with the princess here, she would be disappointed.

"Cough."

Princess Matilda was led to her seat, but during the walk, she gave a light cough. The organizer immediately had someone bring her water,

"Your Highness, are you sick?"

Matilda smiled lightly and shook her head, "Just a little cough, it happens from time to time."

Princess Matilda smiled and looked towards the stage. When she met Chloe's gaze, she paused slightly. Sensing Princess Matilda's gaze, Chloe turned her eyes, saw her, and gave a little nod. The

noble and peaceful temperament made Princess Matilda's eyes flicker with admiration and a hint of confusion.

"How far along is the competition?"

Finally, Princess Matilda withdrew her gaze and turned to the organizer beside her.

"Your Highness, we are down to the last batch of competitors in the elimination round."

"Is that so? Seems like I have perfect timing."

"Heh. Hehe." The organizer was speechless. He didn't find it amusing at all.

"Cough." Princess Matilda coughed again lightly and finally waved her hand, "Let them continue the competition."

"Alright."

Chloe's gaze lingered on Princess Matilda for a while before she turned and walked to the rack of essential oils. She stared at it for a long time.

Finally, she found a bottle of essential oil on the top shelf. There was no sign of it being touched before, as it was a pretty rare type. Amazingly, the organizers had thought of everything.

She found a few more usable ingredients and then started making her product.

Out of the last fifty competitors, more than thirty left due to a lack of essential oils. Only two of the remaining competitors managed to snag the few bottles of essential oils, barely making it to the next round.

In the end, only Chloe was left.

The judges were impatient, hoping to wrap things up and take a breather. They knew there was unlikely to be any standout product, but they had to wait for Chloe because Princess Matilda seemed very interested in her.

Finally, Chloe seemed to have finished her product. The judges and Princess Matilda saw her finally lift her head. Then, a pair of calm but wise and confident eyes scanned the table and finally found a clean and unused glass test tube.

She reached out, picked up the test tube, and then smashed it on the ground. The sound of glass shattering startled everyone in the room.

"What are you doing?"

Chloe didn't answer. Her next actions left everyone in shock. Princess Matilda couldn't help but cover her mouth and gasped softly.

Chapter 653

Princess Matilda clapped a hand over her mouth, gasping in a whisper. All the judges had their eyes glued on Chloe's actions.

Chloe picked out a shard of glass from the pile of broken pieces, a thin slice fitting perfectly in her hand. She held up her left hand and sliced a small cut on her finger, her face void of any expression.

Blood seeped out from the wound quickly. Finally, she let two drops of blood fall into the freshly made perfume bottle.

This was mind-boggling. Everyone present was dumbstruck!

They had never seen anyone use their own blood as an ingredient in making perfume. The thought of human blood in perfume sparked a powerful disgust. So, when Chloe passed the finished perfume to the judges, they didn't even want to give it a sniff. Who would want to smell someone else's blood?

But with Princess Matilda present, the judges reluctantly picked up the scent test strips, holding them to their noses. When the rich and warm fragrance hit their nostrils, the judges were stunned. They looked up at Chloe.

Chloe gave a small smile, watching them nonchalantly. Their reactions didn't surprise her one bit.

Afterward, the judges gave their test strips a little shake. They took another whiff and their eyes filled with admiration.

"This..."

One of the judges couldn't help but shift his gaze back to Chloe, his eyes full of confusion.

"This is a very warm fragrance. Like a sunny day, cloudless and crisp, you can even feel the majestic and comfortable feeling of the sun shining on a sea of flowers. There's a hint of flowers, grass and wood. It's just perfect! Can you tell us the name of this perfume?"

Chloe fell silent for a moment, then turned her head to look at Princess Matilda at her side..

Seeing Chloe's face up close, Princess Matilda's eyes widened slightly, followed by a deeper confusion.

"Why are you staring at me like that?" Princess Matilda asked her.

Chloe gave a small smile, "I'm sorry, Princess Matilda."

Then, she picked up her perfume, giving it a twirl in her hands, pondering for a couple of seconds, and then said softly, "The name of this perfume is Dance."

"Dance?" The judges shook their heads in perplexity, "Why Dance? There doesn't seem to be anything dance-related in this perfume.".

Chloe smiled, holding the perfume and walking over to Princess Matilda, her voice calm and confident, her smile natural and graceful.

"Princess Matilda, would you like to give it a try?":

Princess Matilda smiled at her. She looked at Chloe's face for a long time, then nodded.

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"Since all the judges unanimously praised it, I think I won't pass up this opportunity."

Chloe, with a smile, dabbed the perfume on Matilda's wrist and the nape of her neck; finally spraying it into the air twice, and Princess Matilda willingly stepped into the mist. "Um, it indeed is a unique and warm fragrance. I really like it. But can you tell me, why did you add your blood to the perfume?"

Chloe put the perfume bottle aside, looking at Princess Matilda and said calmly, "About that. I'd like to ask you to take a walk with me outside."

"I'd like to invite the princess to take a stroll with me outside..."

Chapter 654

Princess Matilda looked puzzled, but agreed and got up from her seat. The judges looked equally confused as they followed Matilda and Chloe out of the competition

venue

The crowd was still dense outside. Keira had been waiting outside because she was anxious about Chloe's performance. Most people were there because they knew Princess Matilda was present and had come to see her. Upon hearing that the last competitor standing was a woman named Chloe, they started to become curious about her

"Keira, what do you think Chloe is up to? She knows there's probably no hope, but she keeps on going..."

Annarie frowned Even as she said this, she felt a bit uneasy. After spending three years with Chloe, she knew her resilience all too well.

Keira was torn. On one hand, she wanted Chloe to advance. On the other hand, she wanted her to be eliminated.

"Don't say that! Chloe's strength is pulling through tough situations. You might think there's no hope now, but to her, it might not be a problem at all..."

Annarie grimaced, "Without the essential oils, how is she going to advance?"

Keira smirked, giving her a side glance. "Are all the essential oils gone?"

Annarie frowned, "There are some left, but as you've seen, most people chose to withdraw from the later rounds. This implies that the usable essential oils are really scarce. For someone who has no

talent, she's just struggling."

There were many who shared Annarie's sentiment. Since last night, they had been dissatisfied with Chloe. Now that she was the last one to finish the competition, they didn't think much of her.

But then, the curtains of the competition venue were suddenly drawn open. Chloe walked out, hand in hand with Princess Matilda. They descended the steps under the surprised gaze of the crowd, and headed straight for a field of purple lavender not far away.

A few judges followed them.

Keira furrowed her brows in confusion, stepping forward to ask one of the judges, "Nigel, what's going on?"

The judge named Nigel shook his head. "We're not sure either. Let's go see, maybe we'll understand."

Keira nodded. The audience also followed Chloe and Princess Matilda.

In the end, Chloe led Princess Matilda to the purple field of lavender. Matilda looked at her, still puzzled. She shrugged, shook her head, and said helplessly, "You seem very clever, I really want to know what you're thinking."

Chloe raised an eyebrow, speaking in fluent French, "Is your throat still bothering you?"

Princess Matilda blinked, touched her throat with her gloved hand, and then looked surprised.

"Oh my, it's much better. Come to think of it, I haven't coughed since earlier."

Chloe laughed lightly, just as she had anticipated.

Chloe chuckled

Chapter 655

"Is this... the effect of the perfume? Is this the effect of your blood? Are you some kind of mythical goddess?"

Chloe suddenly broke into laughter, and her aloof features softened.

She shook her head and quickly responded, "I'm definitely not a goddess. That's cypress oil, distilled from the branches and cones of F Country's cypress trees It has a woody, resinous scent, which can alleviate asthma, cough, and soothe itchiness. It's all thanks to it, not my blood, and I'm certainly not some goddess reincarnate

Princess Matilda was over the moon. She often had throat problems and had been suffering from a chronic cough. Now she finally got some relief, and in such a romantic and fragrant way, without having to endure bitter pills. How wonderful!

"You're so clever, I like you a lot! Oh, by the way, can you tell me, what's the use of your blood?"

Chloe shrugged her delicate eyebrows, glanced into the distance, chuckled, and took two steps back.

"Just wait a sec here."

Then, under Princess Matilda's puzzled gaze, Chloe left the lavender field.

The judges standing on the edge of the field had no clue what was happening.

"Keira, what on earth is Chloe up to?"

"No idea." Keira replied to Annarie, her face icy, eyebrows furrowed.

From what she knew about that woman, she was sure Chloe was up to some shenanigans again. Judging from the satisfied look on Princess Matilda's face, she had a hunch that Chloe probably made it to the final round.

But if Chloe had already secured her place in the finals, why was she drawing so much attention here?

"Look at Princess Matilda!"

Someone shouted, and everyone turned their attention to Princess Matilda in the middle of the field.

A colorful butterfly was fluttering around Princess Matilda and seemed reluctant to leave.

Princess Matilda's eyes sparkled with astonishment. She excitedly followed the butterfly with her eyes, spinning in place.

She tried to move aside, and the butterfly followed her, continuing to dance around her.

"Oh my gosh. It's actually following me!"

Princess Matilda covered her mouth in disbelief, her face alight with joy. She stretched out her hand, and the butterfly gently landed on her wrist, its beautiful wings slowly moving.

Before long, a second butterfly flew towards Princess Matilda, then a third, a fourth

"Oh my gosh, oh my gosh! Look, a swarm of butterflies is flying in from the field

Someone in the crowd excitedly shouted, pointing at the butterflies dancing in groups in the field

"Oh my gosh, it's so beautiful!"

"I've never seen so many butterflies. It's so beautiful!"

"Wow, there are so many butterflies! Why are there suddenly so many butterflies? What's going on?"

"Everyone, look! The butterflies are all flying towards Princess Matilda My God, Princess Matilda is surrounded by butterflies. She looks so blissful..."

At this moment, Princess Matilda was extremely excited, unable to express her feelings with words.

Just yesterday, she was chasing a butterfly. Today, a swarm of butterflies were fluttering around her. The vibrant, colorful butterflies danced around her, it was a sight to behold.

Chapter 656

She couldn't help herself and started dancing with the butterflies, flapping her arms around like she was back in her younger days, totally immersed dancing on the stage. Even though it was nearing dusk, the sun still shone brightly on the field.

In a sea of purple flowers, a light pink figure was surrounded by a group of elegantly flying butterflies, dancing gracefully.

Every now and then, a breeze carrying the scent of flowers would blow, causing the butterflies to be swept aside, then circling back around Princess Matilda, dancing with

her.

Dance?

The word suddenly popped into Princess Matilda's mind.

No, it was more than just a word. It was also a name.

She finally understood completely. Why the young beautiful woman would name a perfume that seemed unrelated to the theme! It was something no one could imagine, or even predict. Yet not only did she think of it, she even made it happen.

She accomplished what others couldn't even imagine.

"It's really spectacular!"

"Indeed, it's unbelievable!"

"So, this is the secret of your two drops of blood?"

The judges around Chloe exclaimed, casting doubtful glances at Chloe.

Chloe took a deep breath, watching the butterflies that were attracted to Princess Matilda because of her scent, softly said,

"The two drops of blood is just one factor; the real key is the raw material of the perfume. Although butterflies look beautiful, their preferences can be a bit hard to swallow, like blood, high–salt water, sweat, even the smell of decay, urine, etc. But how could these things be used in perfume? After some thought, the only thing I could use was blood, so it wouldn't severely affect the original smell of the perfume."

The judges nodded in contemplation, but then raised another question, "The base note of perfume will change over time, and its scent will eventually fade, why are there more and more butterflies around Princess Matilda?"

Chloe smiled faintly, looking at Princess Matilda who was still happily dancing in the flower field, said,

"Because she's dancing!"

"What?" This was no causal relationship, right?

Chloe continued, "High temperature can speed up the evaporation of a fragrance, which is why it attracted so many butterflies at the beginning. The reason why the butterflies stayed is because of the princess herself. She was sweating because of the dancing...

"Oh, I see!"

The judges immediately had an epiphany. They nodded approvingly at Chloe.

After a while, Princess Matilda finally walked towards Chloe, panting, standing by her side, looking at her with gratitude and excitement.

Chloe smiled and spoke first, "Happy birthday, Princess Matilda"

Princess Matilda smiled even brighter. She excitedly held Chloe's hand tightly in hers, tenderly kissing her on the cheek. "I haven't been this happy in a long time. Thank you, kind and clever child. Can you tell me your name?"

"My name is Chloe."

"Chloe..."

Princess Matilda slowly repeated Chloe's name.

Annarie stood on a distant path, watching them, and asked in confusion, "What are the princess and Chloe talking about? Why do they look so happy?"

Chapter 657

"I'm in the dark too." Keira clasped her hands tightly with a gloomy look on her face.

This was so annoying, Chloe was stealing her shine again. Even the princess seemed to be smitten with her! "What a beautiful name!"

Chloe smiled faintly, "I have another name, it's Star."

Princess Matilda was taken aback, "Oh, I see..." She covered her mouth again, looking at Chloe in disbelief.

After a while, she came back to her senses, "Don't worry, I'll keep your secret. It'll be our little secret." "Thanks."

"Have we met before?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow gently, "Why do you ask?"

Matilda looked at her, "I just feel that there's something about you. Your eyes, they seem familiar."

Chloe laughed, "There must be quite a few people in the world who look like me."

Princess Matilda nodded, "You're right... Oh, tonight is my birthday party. Can I invite you to come?"

"Of course, I'm honored."

Princess Matilda smiled happily, "That's fantastic, I'll introduce you to my children!"

She brushed off a butterfly gently with a satisfied smile on her face.

Someone posted about Princess Matilda's situation today on Twitter and other sites. The image of Princess Matilda surrounded by butterflies instantly caused a sensation online.

It was a miracle. Everyone wanted to know the secret and experience the romantic and wonderful feeling of being surrounded by butterflies. But, they couldn't find the answer to this mystery!

Just the scent of her perfume was enough to earn her so much praise. With Princess Matilda being so happy, Chloe was bound to receive even more praise.

Chloe became the center of attention, attracting the attention of the world, and Keira's jealousy spread like a virus. But at the same time, she felt a sense of spite. So what if Chloe was in the limelight again. The higher you climbed, the harder you fell.

Was Chloe pleased with herself? Let her enjoy it!

She clenched her hands tightly. The smile on her face turned dark and grotesque.

Chloe napped throughout the afternoon before putting on a simple dress for Princess Matilda's birthday party that evening. Under the guidance of a servant specially arranged by Princess Matilda, she entered the party venue.

Just after she entered, a white figure came to her side and circled around her twice. It was a young girl. Her skin was smooth, and with golden curly hair, she looked like a beautiful Barbie doll.

When she started to speak, her English was not very fluent.

"Are you the one who brought the butterflies to me?"

A hint of surprise flashed in Chloe's eyes.

This must have been Annick, the beloved daughter of Princess Matilda and King Gabriel.

"Your English is very good." Chloe complimented her lightly.

Annick puffed up with pride, "Of course! That's because my fiancé speaks good English!"

Chapter 658

Chloe's poker face made it impossible to read her emotions.

Annick was somewhat irritated. "You're such an ice queen, so dull, just like my future hubby!"

Chloe was left with no choice but to say, "Congrats on getting hitched to the guy you love."

Annick blushed slightly, glanced at Chloe, and moved a bit closer. "It's true. you kinda remind me of my fiancé..."

Chloe was left speechless. She'd heard this a bit too much today.

"Annick "

A cold voice rang out.

Chloe clearly saw Annick's pretty face change color instantly, and she became nervous.

She then slowly took a step back and stood there muttering under her breath, "Cold-hearted jerk!"

"What are you up to?" The voice was frigid, speaking in English.

"What can I do? Do you always think I'm up to no good?"

"Isn't that the case?"

"You... you ice... man!"

Chloe frowned. The broken English was a bit odd. Looking up, she saw the man who was speaking was now standing next to Annick.

Upon seeing the man's face, Chloe frowned slightly. His handsome face felt familiar, but she was certain she'd never met the man before.

The man was also frowning at Chloe, although his expression was cold, there was a hint of confusion in his eyes.

Their eye contact made Annick's face scrunch up in annoyance.

"Enough with the staring!"

She squeezed in between the two, pushing Chloe and the man apart with both hands.

Seeing her huffing and puffing, it was clear Annick was pissed.

Chloe knew the little princess was jealous and said calmly, "Don't get the wrong idea, I've got a fiancé too."

Upon hearing this, Annick immediately looked up, a smile appearing on her previously angry face.

"Let me introduce you, this is my fiancé, the eldest grandson of Queen Julia of Y Country, Mathew William."

Queen Julia?

Chloe's eyes flickered, recalling that at the banquet she had accepted an invitation from a Count of Y Country to attend a state banquet in the fall.

What a coincidence.

Annick pointed at Chloe and said, "This is... the one who brought the butterfly for my mother... what's your name?"

"Chloe."

"Oh, her name is Chloe."

They shook hands, exchanging greetings.

Then, the cold man put his arm around Annick's waist and walked away.

Watching the man's retreating figure, Chloe felt an indescribable emotion stirring inside her.

"See, this woman is so desperate for male attention. She's been staring at other men the whole time."

"Keira, you need to keep a close eye on Mr. Olson, don't let those crafty women snatch him away!"

"Annarie, don't say such things. Lance isn't the kind of man who's easily influenced by others."

Her tone was gentle and careful, but her words seemed to imply that Chloe was one of those crafty types. However, no matter what she did, Lance would never pay her any

extra attention.

Chloe found this ridiculous and was about to find a place to sit when she heard Princess Matilda's gentle voice from behind.

"Chloe ... "

Chapter 659

Chloe spun around.

Princess Matilda gave a slight nod. All eyes in the room turned their way, but not for the princess. Instead, they were ogling the two handsome men behind her. Princess Matilda, with a smile, took Chloe's hand.

"Let me introduce you. These are my sons, Mitch and Amos"

Mitch and Amos stepped forward, each giving Chloe a gentleman's bow

Just as Chloe was about to say something, Princess Matilda chimed in, grinning.

"Neither of them is married yet. Which one do you fancy?"

At this, the room buzzed with shock.

Keira and Annarie, standing nearby, furrowed their eyebrows.

The princess' words were a clear attempt to set Chloe up with one of her sons. All eyes were glued to Chloe, seemingly worried she would actually pick one.

Both were princes, both handsome and charming. So no matter who Chloe picked, she'd be the envy of every girl as she would become a princess. Even if Lance was a top catch, how could he compete with a prince?

Chloe paused for a moment, then gently shook her head.

"Thanks for the offer."

She knew that Princess Matilda was trying to help her out.

In this country, everyone valued their freedom of thought and decision. They wouldn't let anyone else dictate their lives, even their loved ones with the best intentions. The princes looked at Chloe, their admiration and gratitude clear to see.

Chloe gave them a nonchalant acknowledgment, then was led by the princess to the VIP seats.

Keira and Annarie found a random seat. They watched Chloe at the table with the princess, chatting with Princess Annick and the princes.

They could even see the princes' eyes on Chloe, shifting from initial politeness and aloofness to a growing warmth.

The princes wore their emotions on their sleeves. And Chloe was no fool, she could feel it. Overwhelmed by their enthusiasm, she pretended not to notice their heated stares and turned to chat with Annick.

Meanwhile, Mathew, sitting next to Annick, kept his gaze fixed on Chloe, his expression cold and emotions subtle.

Somehow, the conversation turned to the state banquet in October, with Princess Matilda deciding which son would attend, eventually picking Mitch.

Annick excitedly raised her hand and said, "I want to go too! I want to be part of it!"

Princess Matilda, half-indulgent, half-resigned, looked at her and said, "You're always everywhere!"

Annick pouted, "I want to go!"

Mitch looked at Annick affectionately, chuckling, "Just let her go, or she'll turn the palace upside down."

Princess Matilda sighed, "You've all spoiled her rotten."

Chapter 660

Mitch flashed a smile and turned his gaze to Chloe, "Ms. Summers, would you do me the honor of being my date to the State Banquet in Y Country?"

Chloe took a casual sip of water, returning a polite smile, "I'm afraid I might be taken by then, Prince Mitch."

The moment these words left her lips, a flash of disappointment crossed Mitch's face, but he quickly recovered.

"You mean...you're also attending the State Banquet in Y Country?"

Annick and Mathew also looked at Chloe.

The State Banquet was a significant event, and the invitees were all high–ranking officials from various countries. If she qualified to attend, she was very prestigious! "I'm just invited to perform at the banquet."

"Oh my God, you... you're performing at the State Banquet?!" Annick exclaimed in surprise.

The two princes' gazes became even more intense, and Annick continued. "Do all the women in your country have such varied talents like Mathew mentioned?" "Not everyone..."

"But you are one of those women, aren't you!" Annick suddenly got serious, staring at Chloe, and warned, "You better stay clear of Mathew, he loves women like you!" Chloe chuckled slightly, Princess Annick was... so innocent.

"Annick!"

Mathew's deep, icy voice called out to Annick. Annick looked at his frosty face and felt a little offended.

"Why are you angry? Did I say something wrong? Oh... Is it because I'm right, and you're embarrassed?"

Mathew's face was glacier cold, his eyes filled with frost and anger.

"Mathew!"

Feeling his icy demeanor, Annick's eyes flamed, and she punched him on the shoulder.

"Annick, stop being childish," Princess Matilda chastised in a low voice.

This child had been spoiled.

"Humph!"

Annick's eyes were welling as she glared at Mathew. She huffed loudly, and stormed out.

Chloe looked at Mathew who was frowning. He stood up, "Sorry, I should go check on her."

Princess Matilda sighed as Mathew walked away.

"Chloe, she always manages to make a mess of things."

Seeing the small skirmish on the stage, Annarie scoffed. Her expression finally lightened a bit. Finally, she looked away satisfied, hearing people discussing Valentine's Day tomorrow.

Annarie sighed, saying helplessly, "The competition is tomorrow, what a downer... Keira, what are your plans after...

Keira smiled gently, "I've already booked a flight for tomorrow afternoon. I'll head home after the competition.".

Annarie's eyes sparkled, "Right, you should make it for the last few hours. Anyway, the competition results won't be out for another fortnight. You can just attend the award ceremony then."

"Mmhmm."

"Keira, best of luck with everything tomorrow!"