CHOSEN 881

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"Do you know, Penny's been badmouthing you to your dad, saying you shouldn't take over the family business. You're quite the bigger person, huh."

Phoebe didn't answer, just shrugged, "I don't really care anymore. My sister is definitely competent. I admit I'm not as good as her, and I don't need to make life so hard on myself. If I really went for it, I wouldn't have time to hang out with you."

Angie quickly took Phoebe's arm, "You've still got your research to finish. Plus, I'm not such a party animal. If you really want to do your own thing, I won't cling on to you."

"But I still want to be with you all the time."

"Haha..."

Chloe watched these two good friends, feeling a warmth in her heart.

In this complex high society, there was still such innocent friendship. She hoped this friendship could last forever.

Chloe sighed softly, looking at Angie, and whispered.

"Do you know, Damon's mother is coming back the day after tomorrow?"

The smile on Angie's face froze instantly, her small face twitched twice. "She's coming back?"

Phoebe swallowed hard, her face turning a little pale.

| Seeing Angie and Phoebe's reactions, Chloe couldn't help but feel a little nervous. |
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| What was going on? |
| Why did they react so strongly when it came to Damon's mother? |
| What kind of person was she? |
| "What's with your reactions?" |
| Angie slowly looked up at Chloe with sympathy, "She Actually she's not that bad." |
| Chloe's face gradually became serious, they were all acting like this, and yet they said, "she's not that bad"? |
| Angie never reacted like this in front of Presley, but when it came to Damon's mother, they seemed to have been struck by lightning. |
| Was she really that terrifying? |
| As Chloe was pondering this, Angie and Phoebe were beginning to feel restless. |
| "We won't disturb your rest then. Get well soon." |
| With that, the two of them hurriedly headed out of the ward. |
| It wasn't until dusk that Damon returned to the ward. |
| |

Chloe was standing by the window, her arms crossed in front of her, one hand slightly bent, her fingernail lightly resting on her lips, her expression somewhat heavy, as if she was thinking about something. Her tall, slender figure was wrapped in a large hospital gown, looking a little petite. Her hair was tied back, revealing a pair of small ears. She stood there, her beautiful profile looking somewhat serious, her long eyelashes fluttering unconsciously. The aloof and indifferent aura she emitted, along with her non-competitive elegance, were unmatched by anyone in this world. She always exuded this unique aura unintentionally. He walked up to her, bent down to pick her up. "Ah..." Chloe was suddenly lifted, she let out a small cry, then felt a familiar scent enter her nostrils, and she held onto the man's shoulders tightly. She looked up at him, surprise on her face. "When did you get here?" she asked. Damon glanced at her, then put her on the bed. "What were you thinking about just now?" he asked. Chloe lowered her head, "I was thinking about your mother."

Seeing her troubled by this, Damon sighed softly.





Chapter 882

At a high-end spa, Wendy was having a full body treatment with a friend, Vera.

Her friend was a rising star with a successful career.

She was an artist from Hong Kong who signed with a local agency but didn't make any significant achievements. Back then, the spotlight was on the experienced artists, the veteran leading actors and actresses, and it was difficult for her, a newbie with average acting skills, to get noticed.

In the end, she decided to ditch her career in Hong Kong and try her luck somewhere else. She quickly became well–known because she was already a big deal in the entertainment industry.

She also successfully signed with a well-reputed entertainment company, and her

career had been going smoothly these past few years.

She came back recently to attend some promotional events and made a point to meet Wendy, knowing she had just returned from abroad.

"You've been grooming this person for so long, and now someone else is swooping in and stealing him away. Are you okay with that?"

The woman was reclining on the massage table, her smooth skin covered in massage oil, being kneaded by the masseuse. She sounded rather content.

"How could I possibly be okay with that..."

Whenever Wendy thought about the sight of the two passionately kissing on the hospital sofa, her heart ached.

The man she didn't dare to touch was passionately kissing a woman.

Every time her mind settled, it would be filled with the image of him kissing that woman.

All night, whenever she closed her eyes, she would see the fiery desire in his eyes when he turned his head.

Just that look, which wasn't meant for her, made her blood boil over and over again, leaving her weak all over.

"I believe he was just momentarily bewitched, it's his first woman after all. Once the novelty wears off and he sees reality, he will come back. What I need to do is not only wait but also make him realize and come back as soon as possible."

"All men are the same. Their hearts can't belong to just one woman. With power, status, and money, what do women even count for? They could probably give their heart to any woman, but definitely not the first one. The man's first woman is often the first one to be ditched."

This was one of the insights she gained after so many years in the entertainment industry.

Wendy chuckled, "Yeah, so I'm not in a hurry. As long as he's willing to turn around in the end."

At this moment, a familiar ringtone sounded. A waiter came over with a phone.

"Miss, it's your phone."

Taking the phone, Wendy's face was tinged with a hint of melancholy, "What's up?"

After listening to the other party, Wendy's lips curled up slightly in a mix of sarcasm and pleasure.

"I get it."

| After hanging up, she told the masseuse, "I'm done here." |
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| Vera asked with a puzzled look, "What happened?" |
| "That woman is going shopping, and she's taking Katie with her." |
| Vera also sat up, her face meticulously made up. It was a face that could be displayed in public. |
| "What are you planning to do?" |
| Wendy gave a slight smile, a hint of mockery in her eyes. |
| "I'm going to see how that woman gets played." |
| Vera raised an eyebrow, "What do you mean?" |
| As the two headed to the washroom, Wendy laughed, "Katie, that useless person, is so surprisingly similar to the old me." |
| Chloe was somewhat surprised to see the woman who suddenly appeared in the living room. |
| The woman had thick hair that completely obscured her eyes. She had a simple ponytail, black–framed glasses, and a gray cotton and linen long dress with inevitable wrinkles. |
| The dress did not accentuate her waist or reveal her neck. Even the long sleeves on her wrists only revealed a small section, just enough to see her wrist. |
| Apart from using a lot of fabric to highlight that she was wearing a dress, it didn't have any advantages. |



| "Nonsense. I've already called someone, isn't this disrespectful?" |
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| Chloe's gaze settled on Presley. |
| Presley also stared at her, a hint of unease flashed across his face, then he shouted angrily, |
| "What are you looking at?! Are you thinking of some scheme again?!" |
| Chloe raised an eyebrow, grabbing Damon's hand, "It's okay, I can go by myself. It's just shopping." |
| Damon fell silent for a few seconds, not insisting, "I'll find you as soon as I'm done." |
| "Okay." |
| "I'll arrange for a few people to follow you." |
| |
| Chloe nodded slightly, not refusing. |
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| Although she didn't know much about the Harper family's situation, she knew that there were people watching Damon's weaknesses in the dark. She didn't deny that she was one of Damon's weaknesses, so she naturally had no objections to how |

Chloe frowned. This personality...

"Katie is a good girl, you two should get along. Damon and Nathan's mother will be back tomorrow, and the social activities in their circle are inevitable. You should take care of each other and buy some dresses."

Presley said a few vague words, then stood up and walked upstairs.

Chloe sighed in her heart, then stood up. The servants in the living room were busy with their own tasks. Chloe, expressionless, walked towards Katie, who was standing there.

And then, she stopped.

Feeling a powerful and icy aura approaching, Katie hunched her shoulders, buried her head deep, and took two steps back.

Chloe's brows twitched slightly, and suddenly, she reached out and grabbed Katie's chin.

Chapter 883

Chloe Summers' brow twitched slightly, and suddenly, she reached out and grabbed Katie's chin.

"Don't..." Katie was obviously scared, and the words she spoke came out in a weak voice, like the buzz of a mosquito.

James was following behind Presley Harper, standing at the staircase entrance, watching the two of them.

Seeing Chloe's cold, domineering demeanor, Presley's eyes looked indifferent and calm. James, on the other hand, was deeply shocked. Even though it was a small gesture, Chloe's aura felt like it was flowing from her very bones.

Presley's wife and the lady who was coming back tomorrow, just the two of them had their own unique traits. In some respects, they were even matchless. Now looking at Chloe, although they hadn't been together for a long time, the Larkin family's matters were enough to prove she was a smart woman. This woman, other than being from a poor family, was quite good otherwise,. Chloe completely ignored Katie's panic and unease, tightly holding her chin and forcefully lifting up her downcast face. The sight before her caused Chloe's cold eyes to instantly brighten. She moved aside the hair on Katie's forehead, and an irregular birthmark in the center of her forehead immediately caught her eye. Chloe lifted her other hand and gently touched the birthmark on Katie's forehead, a trace of interest slowly rising on her face. Katie's face was full of panic, her eyes filled with fear and pleading. "Don't... Don't look..." However, the hand on her chin didn't release its grip. Feeling the cool fingertips lightly tracing her birthmark, Katie wished she could find a place to hide. Her body involuntarily trembled, the harsh laughter and mocking voices echoing in her ears. "Ugly!" "Disgusting!"

"I heard it's a birthmark. My mom said my birthmark is on my butt. Hers is on her face, how..."

"Fuck off, don't bother me!"

From childhood to adulthood, wherever she went, she would become the laughing stock. She had no friends. Even her family was indifferent to her. No one cared. She read, studied, and even did more things on her own, there were so many things she wanted to do, but they were all held back because of this birthmark. If it weren't for Presley calling her over, she would never go out. Unexpectedly, this woman, from the very beginning, directly uncovered her "wound". "Beautiful." Chloe's words brought different expressions to the faces of those in the room. Katie's body stiffened even more, and she looked at Chloe in disbelief. "You... what did you say?" She said... beautiful? Chloe's eyes shimmered with a strange light. Hearing Katie's voice of disbelief, she lowered her eyes, her bright eyes sweeping over the woman's face. Untouched by makeup, her skin was glowing and smooth. Her eyes were exceptionally beautiful, devoid of any hostile emotions, displaying gentleness, grace, as well as a hint of shyness and surprise. Chloe gave a slight smile, looking straight into her eyes, and asked, "Do you think it's ugly?" She said, placing her finger on her birthmark.

Katie's eyes flickered, and after a moment, she gave a somewhat sorrowful smile, "Don't comfort me. Do you think it's beautiful? You won't understand. From childhood to adulthood, the kind of life I've lived because of it. No one has ever accepted it, not even the people closest to me. Your kindness feels too forced..."

Hearing Katie's words, Chloe felt warmth in her heart. She no longer felt Katie's lack of self—confidence was due to her own inadequacy. On the contrary, she might have her own unique traits in some aspects.

"Is everything everyone says always right? Does the only person with a different opinion have to be wrong?"

Due to her height advantage, Chloe looked down at her, with a slight smile on her face.

Katie didn't speak, but Chloe continued, "You've just accepted their point of view."

Having said that, Chloe let go of Katie.

Katie instinctively started to sort out her hair, trying her best to cover the birthmark. Chloe just watched her and smiled faintly, "Let's go for a walk."

Katie was somewhat reluctant, clutching the white canvas bag in her hand tightly.

On the bag was an exquisite moon pattern. Chloe's eyes swept over it, flashing with interest; she suddenly bent down to look at the bag in her hand.

Upon a closer look, she realized that the pattern was indeed embroidered.

"Where did you buy this cloth bag?"

Katie retreated a little, looking at Chloe, who was looking up at her, and she turned her face to one side, "I embroidered it myself."

| Chloe was taken aback, and turned to look in the direction of the staircase entrance. |
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| James and Presley felt awkward under her gaze. Presley coughed heavily and disappeared into the staircase entrance. |
| Chloe gave a small smile and said helplessly, "Teach me too when you have time." |
| "What?" |
| "Embroidery." |
| By the time they were ready to leave, a car had already been arranged to wait for them. |
| They got in the car and headed straight for the nearest mall. |
| There were naturally a lot of people in the mall, everyone dressed in suits and designer clothes, exuding an air of elegance. |
| Katie felt even more restrained in such a place. |
| Seeing her almost trip while nervously getting on the elevator, Chloe quickly grabbed her hand. Her palm was full of cold sweat. Katie tried to pull her hand back, but Chloe didn't let go. |
| Although she had doubted Chloe's words at the Harper family, Chloe's proactive approach now made Katie feel a bit warm. |
| The two went straight to the clothing section. Chloe picked out a few dresses she wanted to try on Katie, but Katie, being nervous, dodged them all. |

Chloe shook her head, and when they passed by a vintage—style clothing store, she dragged Katie straight in. Sure enough, seeing the clothes in the store, Katie was willing to stop. However, the part she was most interested in was the patterns on the clothes.

Chloe picked out a bright yellow dress embroidered with jasmine flowers and walked over to Katie. She held it up against Katie's body, then nodded her head.

"Go try it on." She stuffed the dress into Katie's arms.

Katie was looking at the brightly colored dress in her arms, just about to decline when the store attendant suddenly walked

over.

"M'lady, you've got quite the taste! This dress is the pride and joy of our brand designer, a real gem in our store. It's just that, due to its unique design, its appeal is somewhat limited. To be honest, quite a

few wealthy ladies have shown interest in this dress, but after trying it on, they all felt it wasn't quite right for them..."

The store attendant's tone was gentle, her eyes briefly swept over Katie, who was dressed in cotton and linen, and she gave a somewhat sheepish smile.

Seeing this scene, Katie's resolve began to waver.

"Try this one on." Chloe's expression was somewhat cold as she repeated her previous statement, leaving no room for

argument.

The store attendant was a bit intimidated by Chloe's aura, but under some subtle pressure, she still led Katie into the fitting



| The man was now looking at Katie's back, and a hint of amazement flickered in his eyes. And the woman in the man's arms seemed to fancy the dress on Katie. |
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| "Eh, Katie, is that you?" The woman sounded very surprised. |
| Chloe tugged at the corner of her mouth helplessly. |
| What a small world. But it made sense, women of high society seemed to have nothing else to do but shopping, beauty treatments, and attending parties. |
| Hearing the word "Katie" from the woman's mouth, the man frowned instantly. He thought the woman's back was quite attractive, but he didn't expect it to be her. |
| Katie turned around, looking at the two nestled together, her hands slightly trembling. |
| "What a coincidence" |
| Before the woman could speak, the man spoke first with a stern face. "Why are you here? Are you stalking me? Katie, you really have no shame!" |
| These words made Katie's face flush instantly. A sense of humiliation gradually enveloped her. |
| "I didn't." Katie shook her head in denial. |
| Seeing her submissive demeanor, Jesse's face grew even darker. |
| "Get out." |
| Katie's face turned pale. She moved her lips, trying to say something, but as soon as she looked up and saw the man's disgusted look, she couldn't speak. |

Instead, the woman in the man's arms pushed the man's chest, "Jesse, don't be like this. She's my sister."

Chloe's eyebrows furrowed, her expressionless face now icy cold. This situation was seen by Wendy who was following closely behind.

"Just because she's your sister, we've had to put up with so many misunderstandings. I don't mind being misunderstood, but what about you? My engagement with her has been broken off, and if we're still tangled up like before, how long do you want me to put up with her?"

Jennifer looked at Katie's expression with some sympathy, "Alright, alright, stop it. Katie, do you want this dress? If not, can I try it on?"

She seemed to be changing the subject, but actually drew everyone's attention to the dress on Katie.

Jesse's face was full of disgust. The thought of being momentarily captivated by Katie's figure made him feel disgusted, as if he had swallowed a fly.

Jennifer's face was delicate and alluring, her figure displaying graceful curves and a seductive allure. In contrast, Katie's slender body, overly shy and nervous expression, and the air of dejection she exuded made them appear nothing like sisters.

Chloe looked at the man and woman in front of her and suddenly sneered. "I'm sorry, but we've decided to buy this dress."

Looking at Chloe who suddenly appeared, Jennifer and Jesse both looked at her in confusion.

"Who are you?" Jesse asked seriously.

Chloe didn't answer him, but turned to Katie, "Go take this dress off and give it to the salesperson to pack. We're buying it."

Jesse, who was feeling ignored, was furious and turned to Katie and said coldly, "The dress doesn't suit you, take it off and let your sister try it on."

Chloe raised an eyebrow and turned to look at the grim–faced, shamelessly boastful man. "And who are you to say that? Fiancé, ex–fiancé? Or brother–in–law?"

Chloe's words seemed harmless, but they made Jesse's face turn a shade of embarrassment. Hearing Chloe's sarcasm, Jennifer started to size her up and then looked surprised. "You... you're that perfumer, right? How... how do you know my sister?"

Chloe smiled, "We have a lot in common, similar life experiences, so we met."

Saying this, she looked at Wendy who was coming over, her eyes full of sarcasm.

So many coincidences? She didn't believe it! These people were always trying to upset her.

Chloe's answer made Jennifer's face freeze instantly! Who didn't know about Chloe's past? She was betrayed by her sister who took her boyfriend, and was constantly targeted and suppressed by her. Not long ago, she slapped her sister, Keira, at an international awards ceremony, making her famous worldwide.

What did she mean by 'similar experiences'?

Jennifer looked at Chloe, stepped back, and hid in Jesse's arms looking terrified and shivering.

"Ms. Summers, are... are you threatening me?"

Chloe was taken aback by her sudden reaction. What the hell was she doing? It took her a few seconds to react and then she started to laugh softly.





Katie changed back into her old clothes. When she emerged from the fitting room, Jennifer was wearing an identical dress and confidently walked out of the other fitting room. But as she was prancing around, expecting compliments, she didn't notice the cold and awkward looks in these people's eyes.

"You look beautiful, Jennifer."

Wendy was probably the fastest to react. However, after she spoke, the atmosphere in the quiet store became even more awkward. This type of consolation compliment made everyone feel embarrassed.

But then Wendy quickly turned to Jesse and asked, "What do you think, Jesse?"

On hearing this, Jesse looked at Jennifer and nodded with a smile, "Of course, she looks beautiful."

Women were usually very sensitive to men's compliments. At this moment, Jesse was insincere, which made Jennifer feel a bit disappointed.

She still remembered how amazed Jesse looked when he first saw Katie from behind. She frowned, turned around, presented her back to the crowd, waited for a while, then turned around again, looking at everyone.

"How does it look from behind?"

"Beautiful," Jesse said with a smile, but his gaze was on Katie.

Katie was slender, with a soft waist, long thin legs, narrow shoulders, and a graceful back. Even the curve of her neck was beautiful. The dress gave her an air of noble elegance.

Jennifer's figure was very attractive, especially her chest, which could be seen jiggling slightly as she walked, as if it was about to burst out of her dress. Although she always maintained a good figure, compared to Katie, she looked more provocative.

However, Jennifer in the dress didn't give off a sense of elegance. Instead, she looked vulgar, like some streetwalker from a different era. Of course, this provocative figure was naturally what men liked the most.

Wendy didn't say anything else. She knew that "the more you say, the more mistakes you make."

Katie silently looked at Jennifer, then told the saleswoman, "Sorry, I won't be needing this..."

Hearing Katie say this, Jennifer raised an eyebrow and said with a smile, "Katie, don't be like that. It's rare for you to go shopping. If you like the dress, just buy it. We're sisters, wearing the same dress won't make us a laughing stock. Instead, it will show how harmonious our relationship is. I believe our parents would be happy to see us getting along. Are you still upset about Jesse and me?"

Jesse's gaze instantly switched to Katie, but Katie was sorting out the clothes in her arms and didn't look up. She calmly said, "I don't mind."

She only said that one sentence, nothing more. Jesse suddenly felt a choking sensation in his chest.

At this moment, Wendy spoke up, "Mrs. Harper is coming back tomorrow. I am planning to throw a welcome party for her the day after tomorrow. Everyone should come, it will help us bond. Katie, you will come, won't you?"

"Of course she'll go. She's never been to a party before, so it's a good opportunity for her to experience one."

Although Jennifer said so, she was obviously planning to use her sister as a foil to herself. Her goal was clear: to show everyone why Jesse chose to give up on Katie and chose her as his girlfriend.

What man would want to marry an ugly woman?

Chloe coldly looked at Wendy, a smirk creeping onto her lips.



| However, halfway there, Chloe spotted Wendy in the decorative mirror outside a brand counter. Turned out, she had been following them all along. |
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| Chloe narrowed her eyes slightly, then slowly stopped. |
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| Katie was a bit puzzled, "What just happened?" |
| Chloe's gaze fell on Katie's bag, suddenly asking: "How long have you been learning embroidery?" |
| Katie was totally clueless why Chloe would bring up this topic out of the blue. |
| "I started learning when I was little" |
| As Katie said this, she clenched her bag a bit, a frown forming on her face. Chloe noticed her reaction and couldn't help but give her an extra glance. This girl seemed to have quite a few secrets. |
| "I have a ton of stuff to do this afternoon, so let's skip the shopping trip."" |
| "What? But you just said" |
| Chloe grinned and raised an eyebrow at Katie, "I think tomorrow would be a better day for shopping." |
| Katie had no clue what was going on in this woman's head. She was even more confused. What was going to happen tomorrow? How would she know? |
| "So, what are we doing this afternoon then?" |

| Chloe just smiled and didn't answer. |
|--|
| At that moment, Wendy came over and stood in front of them, her face adorned with her signature smile. |
| "What's going on?" |
| Katie looked up, gave her a glance, and upon seeing her radiant and generous smile, she quickly looked back down. |
| Seeing Katie's reaction, Wendy just smiled slightly and turned to Chloe with a questioning look. |
| Chloe smiled back and asked: "Ms. Alonso, where are you planning to go shopping?" |
| Wendy chuckled, "I'm heading to the men's section to pick out some clothes for my father." |
| "Oh, I see." Chloe nodded understandingly, "Take your time then." |
| Wendy paused, "Aren't you guys going shopping too? Why don't we go together?" |
| "Um, we have other stuff to do, so we'll have to pass on the shopping for today." |
| The smile on Wendy's face dimmed a bit, "Is that so?" |
| "Yes, feel free to shop around." |
| With a relaxed smile on her face, Chloe grabbed Katie's hand and started walking in the opposite direction of the men's section. |

| As they passed by Wendy, the smile on her face instantly faded. She turned to look at their retreating figures, her expression turning gloomy. |
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| "Where are we going next?" |
| Katie had a hunch of what was going on, but she didn't push for more. |
| Chloe turned to look at her, "Aren't you planning to wear that dress your sister bought for you?" |
| Katie's face paled, shaking her head, "I have no intention of attending any 'welcome party"." |
| As the elevator reached the ground floor, she led Katie out, giving a cold snort. "Do you think you have a say in this? You think your sister will just let you off if you refuse to go?" |
| Katie didn't speak. |
| "Do you think if you don't seek trouble, trouble won't find you?" |
| "Thenwhat should I do?" |
| Chloe turned her head, squinting her eyes and smiling at her. |
| "What do you think of your sister in that dress?" |
| "I" Katie tugged at the corner of her mouth, "It looks decent" |
| Chloe chuckled and got into the car that was waiting for them at the entrance. |

The car finally stopped next to a photography studio. Considering Katie's mood, Chloe found a photography studio that was a bit out of the way. The whole studio wasn't big, and it looked like business wasn't booming.

Chloe practically dragged Katie in, and as she expected, the place was almost empty. There were only three staff.

As they entered, they happened to encounter two people asking the director to resign.

"Your contracts aren't up yet." The young man sitting in the chair held his forehead, looking very tired.

"We know. We'll pay the penalty."

The person who seemed to be the director scoffed, "Penalty? I know how much you guys make in a month. Where would you get the money for

that?"

One of them was quite honest, not avoiding the question at all, "You must understand why we're doing this. Why are you provoking us? Shadow Studio wants to hire us, and they've promised to help us pay the penalty."

The director's forehead veins were popping, "Do you know who's in charge of Shadow Studio? You forgot who pushed you out and left you with nowhere to go? And who took you in afterwards? Have you lost all sense of gratitude? You know it's him and you still want to be close to him?!" The two of them were expressionless, "People have to move on. Look at the current state of the studio, what future does it have? Shadow Studio is now more than just a photography studio. That's where all the A-listers get their shots, and many stylists have even become their exclusive stylists. Plus, it's owned by the Alonso family. The Alonso family also has their own entertainment company, and I heard that Ms. Alonso is even planning to develop their business domestically. Think about it, what kind of prospects does that have? If you were us, where would you choose to go?"

Chloe, standing at the entrance, raised an eyebrow, a cold smirk flashing across her face.

| Ms. Alonso of the Alonso family? An entertainment company? Developing their business domestically? |
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| 'Of course, everyone would choose Shadow Studio." |
| A arrogant voice suddenly sounded from behind them, followed by a young man in a burgundy suit with neatly combed hair walking in. |
| He looked quite young, yet his face was glowing with confidence and pride. Not even a speck of his gaze landed on Chloe and Katie. Two men in suits followed behind him. |
| "Jacob." |
| "Jacob." |
| The two people who wanted to quit greeted him as soon as they saw him. |
| The man smiled and patted them on the shoulders. "That's enough, let them go. Don't hold back these young people." |
| After he finished speaking, he looked around with a mocking smile. |
| Miles's forehead veins popped as soon as he saw Jacob, his disgust clearly visible. "Shameless man, get out!" |
| "Why are you so upset? I'm just here to take my employees." |
| Miles slammed his hand on the table, standing up from his chair, "I want you out now." |
| Jacob's grin faded a bit, "I wouldn't wanna be stuck in this backwater place either." |
| |

He waved his hand and a guy behind him slammed a silver box onto the vanity with a loud thud. He opened it, and it was chock–full of cash.

"This is the penalty for Cooper and Edgar breaking their contracts. If you still refuse to let them go, feel free to consult my lawyer."

Another guy stepped forward, emotionlessly adjusting his glasses.

"Mr. Miles, according to ... "

"Enough!" Miles didn't let him finish, growling, "All of you, get lost."

Jacob scoffed, turning to leave with Cooper and Edgar.

But halfway out, he paused, chuckling, "Miles, if you're short on cash, you can always hire new people. Shadow Studio can afford to pay the penalties... Oh, and Beverly and I are getting married next month. Hope you can make it to our wedding."

Miles was fuming, his fists clenched, looking like a volcano about to erupt. But Jacob didn't stick around, he led his group out of there.

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Chloe had already turned her back, eyeing the photography pieces hanging in the hallway. Jacob glanced at her, then at Katie who was standing next to her, dressed in a simple linen outfit, with her head lowered. He sneered and walked away without a backward glance.

Katie unintentionally caught sight of this scene and felt a bit embarrassed. She tugged at Chloe's sleeve, hinting if they should leave.

But Chloe took her hand and led her in.

| Miles watched them, his fists clenched. He took a long look at them and then slumped down on a chair. |
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| "We're not open. Can you guys go somewhere else?" |
| Chloe didn't let it bother her, "Your sign said 'Open' when we walked in. So, you don't have any right to kick us out. Unless you want a complaint." |
| Miles looked up at her after hearing her words. Chloe; however, pulled Katie in front of her. |
| "Cut her bangs off. You decide the rest of the style," |
| L |
| Hearing Chloe's words, Katie panicked, "No Don't" |
| Chloe led her to a chair in front of the styling station, "Trust me." |
| "Trust you?" Katie asked, confused. |
| Chloe gave a faint smile and touched her forehead, "Presley wanted you to come with me today for this very reason." |
| Katie still didn't get it. |
| "Just sit still and let the stylist do his job. It's not like it can get any worse at this point." |
| Hearing Chloe's words, Katie felt even more depressed. She decided to give up. |
| |

Seeing all of this, Miles's mouth twitched. How can this woman just do whatever she wanted on his turf?! And why did her words sound so harsh? At this moment, Chloe looked at Miles and said in a clear and concise manner, "I'll leave it to you."

-Upon closer look, Miles's gaze faltered, "You are..."

Chloe raised an eyebrow at him.

He didn't say another word, just lifted Katie's bangs, and when he saw the red birthmark on her forehead, he paused, then looked at Chloe, "Are you sure you want to do this?"

"Sure." Chloe answered calmly, then walked over to the rest area, picked up a portfolio from the studio, and started to browse.

Miles took a look around Katie, and noticing her low self–esteem and nervousness, he couldn't help but say,

"You don't need to be so hard on yourself. Some people are pretty on the outside but ugly on the inside. If they can live freely, why can't you?".

Katie didn't answer. The birthmark on her forehead had been a source of insecurity for her for over twenty years, and it wasn't something that could be solved with a few words.

Miles had already started to style her hair, "I admit, a pretty appearance can give people confidence. I can't change a person's heart, but changing a person's appearance is not a big deal for me."

After a while, when the stylist announced, "Done," Chloe approached Katie with a set of clothes.

When Miles saw the clothes, his gloomy eyes lit up.

Chloe raised her hand, touching her chin, and studied Katie from all angles. Her forehead, now clean and smooth, was fully exposed. Under the bright light, the gloss on her forehead was clearly visible.

| Her light brown eyes were very beautiful, bright and energetic. Her facial features were soft, and she had a very low–key vibe due to her years of feeling inferior. |
|--|
| "Very good." |
| Katie didn't even have a chance to look in the mirror, |
| Chloe had already handed the clothes to the stylist, "Please help her change into this." |
| Miles nodded and led Katie into the dressing room. |
| Soon, the dressing room door opened. Katie, dressed in a classic red gauze dress, appeared in front of Chloe. Although her face hadn't changed and the birthmark was still on her forehead, the feeling vibe had when trying on clothes in the mall came back. |
| An aura that went deep down to the bone was really something marvelous. |
| Now, in her red dress, the red birthmark on her forehead didn't seem as prominent as before, but rather became a unique mark and beauty. |
| Chloe gave a satisfied smile, and finally, Miles simply combed her hair back. |
| Katie sat there the whole time, looking a bit nervous, still not daring to look in the mirror. Chloe didn't pressure her, just let her step onto the shooting platform. She borrowed Miles's camera, studied it for a |

She took a few random shots. The way she lowered her head in contemplation, the side profile with closed eyes, and the occasional startled expression when looking into the camera...

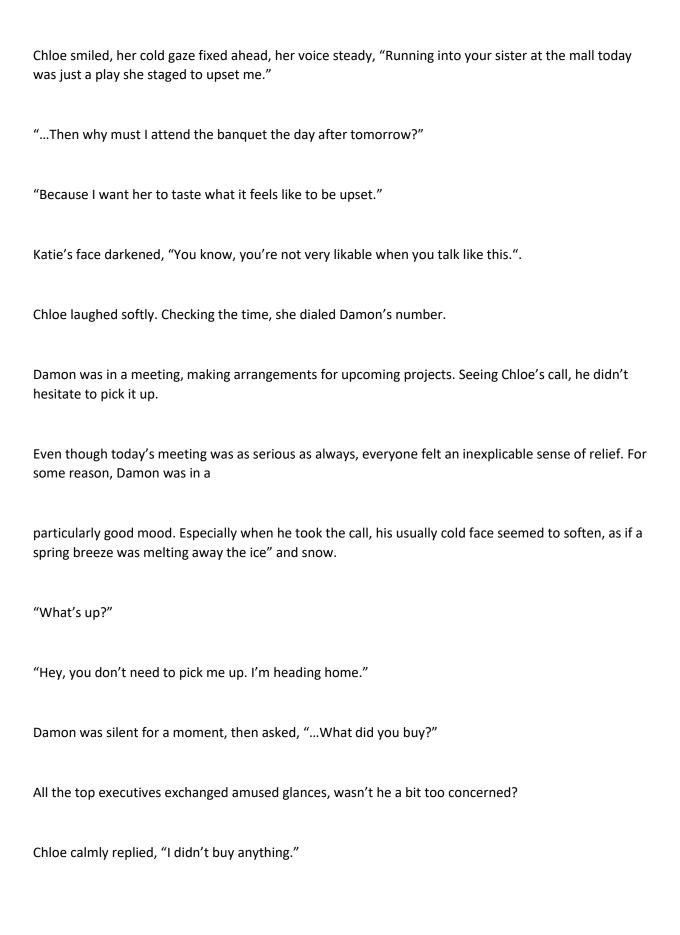
bit, then looked up at Katie on the platform,

Miles watched Katie the whole time, and now seeing Chloe taking photos like a pro, he quickly walked over to her. When he saw the photos on Chloe's camera, his eyes were filled with astonishment.

| "My god she's absolutely stunning." |
|---|
| Katie was completely astounded when she cautiously approached and dared to take a peek, her heart beginning to race. |
| "This" |
| 1 |
| The three of them huddled around the small camera screen. |
| Miles clearly saw Katie's surprised expression, and a smile appeared on his handsome face. Pointing at the picture facing the camera, he looked at Katie and said softly, "You look like a bride seeing her groom for the first time, shy and flustered." |
| Katie shifted her gaze, met Miles's eyes for a moment, then quickly looked away. |
| The scene was just like a bride seeing her groom. |
| Miles's mouth curled up into a smile. Chloe watched them and couldn't help but laugh as well. |
| "Do you think you're pretty?" |
| Chloe asked Katie. |
| Katie's gaze fell back on the camera. Although she didn't speak, her eyes showed more interest. |
| She returned the camera to Miles, then posed a question, |

| "Miles, can we collaborate?" |
|--|
| Miles looked up suddenly, "How did you know my name?" |
| Chloe smiled and looked at him with a meaningful gaze: "Have you forgotten your past glory?" |
| His face stiffened instantly at her words, because this statement packed a ton of meaning. |
| First off, he used to be a man bathed in glory, but that time of glory had passed. Secondly, just because he was once the bee's knees, didn't mean he would stay put and not move forward. |
| He knew full well that Chloe's words right now came with a hint." |
| Thinking back to the insult he just got from Jacob and his cocky attitude, Miles clenched his fists. |
| "How do you wanna collaborate?" |
| Chloe responded with a smile, "You should know, I own an entertainment.company." |
| Hearing this, Miles looked up at her abruptly, "Okay, I'm in." |
| Katie, who was watching from the side, couldn't believe her eyes. They just casually walked into a studio, and just like that, her company scored a stylist. |
| Chloe, this woman, was seriously badass. |
| And Chloe herself also felt that her gains today had far exceeded her expectations. Not only had she identified her enemy, but she also scored a |
| 'sharp weapon'. |





Chloe only felt a long silenc, but those in the conference room knew that this silence was like a suffocating atmosphere. They could even feel a cold wind whistling through the room, filling it with chilly frost. What on earth had happened during those few seconds of the call? Everyone looked at Nate. Nate just smiled, resting his hand on the table, rubbing his face. Being with Damon was like being with a tiger. Who knew what Chloe had said to Damon? With Damon's temper, every word that followed could touch a nerve and set him off. Nate didn't answer, but everyone swallowed hard at his dispirited look. And then... Oh, dear. "Are you busy? If so, I won't bother you anymore. I have work to do too. Good luck." After Chloe finished speaking, she immediately hung up, which left everyone in the meeting room stunned. They all stared at their boss, who only said a few words. Then, with a serious expression, he slowly put his phone down from his ear and placed it en the table. What did this mean? Their president, was actually hung up on! My God, who was the person on the other side? Was she too arrogant?

The atmosphere in the conference room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Everyone held their

breath, not daring to make a sound.

| Damon's face was expressionless, his eyes fixed on the phone as if he wanted to make it disappear with his stare. |
|---|
| Everyone else wished they could disappear too. But the meeting was only halfway through. |
| Damon picked up a pen from the side, glanced at the top executives around him, who all stiffened in an instant. |
| "Continue." |
| His handsome face was expressionless, like always. |
| Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, and Nate spoke up, "Next, the Administration Department will summarize their work and suggest future development directions." |
| The head of the Administration Department took a deep breath, picked up the file and was just about to stand up when he heard a 'click' from the head of the table and quickly sat back down. |
| Everyone turned to look and gasped. The pen that had just been in the Damon's hand was snapped in half. |
| How much force did it take to silently snap a pen like that? |
| Nate was particularly shocked. The ink from the broken pen splashed onto Damon's suit, staining the white cuff of his shirt as well. The black and white contrast was stark. |
| How could a perfectionist like Damon tolerate this? |
| Although he never explicitly stated he was a clean freak, his attention to detail was no different than |

one.

| Nate quickly stood up, looking at the ink stain on Damon's sleeve, and hurriedly said, "Sir, would you like to change your clothes in the office first" Damon stared blankly at the ink on his sleeve for a long time before trying to wipe it off. The ink had already soaked a large portion of his cuff. |
|---|
| "It's fine, continue." |
| No one knew what their president was thinking. It was common sense not to try and wipe off ink before it was dry. Damon would definitely knew. this, right? |
| Nate was also completely clueless, he turned his gaze to the head of the Administration Department. The man trembled and managed to stand up again from his seat. |
| "Right, wait a moment, stop by a convenience store." |
| In the car, Chloe suddenly told the driver. |
| Then soon after, the car pulled over. |
| "Just wait for me." |
| Chloe told Katie, then got out of the car. Not long after she came out from the convenience store, carrying a bag, and got back into the car. |
| "What'd you buy?" Katie asked curiously. |
| Chloe opened the bag and showed her. |
| "This is" |
| Chloe raised an eyebrow, "Weapons." |

Katie seemed a bit puzzled, but her gaze fixated on Chloe's face, her eyes full of confusion, envy, and longing.

"Why are you staring at me like that?" Chloe asked, tucking away her bag and turning her head to look at her.

Katie's expression shifted a bit, and she let out a soft sigh. "...I think you're incredible, really smart. Sometimes, I have no clue what's going on in your head."

Chloe took a deep breath. "Right now, all I want is for you to teach me how to embroider as quickly as possible."

Katie shook her head. "Embroidery isn't something you can learn in a heartbeat."

Chloe smiled, her gaze calm and steady.

"But didn't you just say I'm really smart?"

The evidence suggested that Chloe was really a smart cookie.

Chapter 889

In the living room of Harper's mansion, Chloe managed to stitch a petal following a basic embroidery pattern that Katie had given her.

While Katie was working on her own embroidery, she imparted some knowledge to Chloe. However, upon hearing that there were more than 30 types of patterns, Chloe immediately put down the white gauze in her hands.

"What's up?" Katie asked, looking at her curiously.

Chloe scratched her forehead, "Everyone has their own strengths. I don't think embroidery is my thing."

Seeing Chloe's resistant expression, Katie couldn't help but chuckle.

"Embroidery requires patience to learn and master. Many people today don't have the patience for it. You could just say you're impatient, instead of saying it's not for you."

Katie felt Chloe's excuse wasn't convincing, not what you'd expect from a smart person.

Chloe took out her phone, opened up a search engine, typed in "embroidery", and sure enough, there was a detailed introduction and history of it. As she scrolled through the information, she said, "Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. Asking me to learn embroidery is like asking a pig to climb a tree. If used this time to do something else, I might've made some decent money."

All Katie could do was shake her head. "It's because everyone thinks like you that embroidery is becoming rare."

Chloe responded nonchalantly as she kept scrolling through her phone. "Hmm, do you know that embroidery has a history of over 2000 years?" Katie sighed "Are you sure about this? The reason you asked me to teach you embroidery was because Mrs. Harper is coming back tomorrow, right?"

Chloe coughed awkwardly, "Cramming at the last minute won't do much good."

"That's true, especially with something like embroidery. But Mrs. Harper values it a lot."

Chloe was well aware of this. "Because there are fewer and fewer embroiderers, Mrs. Harper is a bit troubled. Look around, most girls our age can do embroidery."

Chloe nodded, looking at Angie and Phoebe, she pretty much got the picture.

It seemed that she was searching for an heir everywhere.

At this point, Nathan came back from god knows where, bringing with him a chill and a hint of alcohol.

Nathan sat down on the sofa next to Chloe. He cast a casual glance at Katie, then raised an eyebrow, "Oh, you've pulled your bangs back? Aren't you afraid of showing your face?"

Katie instinctively turned her head away from him, continuing with her embroidery.

"Is this your sister's work?" Nathan's alcohol scent was getting stronger. He picked up the hanky that Chloe had been embroidering. "Huh, what is this? It's all uneven, inconsistent stitches, do you know that?"

Chloe looked at him and almost laughed at his actions.

Nathan took a look at the hanky, picked up the needle, and continued where Chloe had left off.

The tall guy, with his healthy tanned hands holding the embroidery needle, looked hilariously out of place.

The needle was almost invisible in his fingers, but he was embroidering very seriously.

Chloe happened to have her phone in her hand, so she subconsciously opened the camera, switched to video mode and started recording Nathan. About a minute into the recording, Katie suddenly burst into laughter.

Nathan looked up, and Chloe immediately stopped recording.

Nathan's handsome face turned beet red, and he hastily tossed the hanky onto the coffee table.

"Oh my god!"

| He recoiled as if avoiding the plague, pointing at the hanky with a look of horror on his face. |
|---|
| "Who who gave this to me?" |
| Chloe picked up the discarded hanky, and took a closer look. It was indeed better than what she had done. |
| She couldn't help but laugh, "You did a good job, have you learned this before? You've been at it for a few years, right?" |
| Nathan's face turned even redder, "I I just did a couple random stitches |
| Katie, who was sitting next to him, covered her mouth and laughed. "He was forced to learn embroidery by Mrs. Harper when he was a child. Back then, he used to hang out with us girls and Mrs. Harper would take him to learn" |
| "Katie, shut up!" |
| Seeing this, Chloe couldn't help but laugh. |
| "Nathan, your life experiences are really rich." |
| Nathan's mouth twitched as he thought about those unforgettable past experiences. He closed his eyes in resignation. |
| Outside the villa, a car engine could be heard. Shortly after, Damon's tall and straight figure walked in. His eyes swept over the people in the living room, finally settling on Chloe. |
| ! |
| She was sitting with Katie, flipping her hand back and forth. |

"Do you guys who know embroidery really take care of your hands?" Katie nodded, "Yes, the embroidery thread is very thin and soft. If you don't take care of your hands, it can catch on the thread." Chloe nodded as expected, she held up Katie's hand to the light, then sighed. "Your fingers are slender, and your skin is smooth. Katie, you have really nice hands..." "Pfft..." Nathan, who was drinking a hangover tea, suddenly spat it out. Chloe shot him a sidelong glance. "Chloe, remember you're a woman, can you stop saying these flirtatious things to other girls?" Chloe frowned, "How was that flirtatious?" Nathan looked at Katie, whose face was red with embarrassment, and his mouth twitched involuntarily. Unintentional flirting was even more terrifying, okay?! However, just then, Nathan suddenly felt a chilling, terrifying atmosphere, like a wind from hell. His body stiffened, he quickly turned around, and sure enough, saw a man shrouded in a dark aura slowly walking in from the entrance.

Chapter 890

| "Crash-Nathan suddenly tumbled off the couch. "Youyou're back." |
|---|
| Nathan, how much of a scaredy–cat are you? |
| Chloe, hearing this, turned her head and her face softened when she saw Damon. She smiled at him. |
| "You're back?" |
| Damon's icy gaze swept over her hand holding Katie's. Chloe felt a little awkward and let go of Katie's hand. |
| "What are you guys doing?" |
| "We're learning embroidery." |
| Damon frowned, walking over to them and seeing yarious threads and needles on the coffee table. He looked at Chloe without saying a word. Chloe, seeing his face, was somewhat puzzled. Seeing that he was still in his suit, she stood up to help him take off his coat. |
| "Didn't work go well today?" |
| Damon didn't say anything, watching as Chloe undid the buttons of his suit and helped him take it off. |
| Chloe hung up the jacket and then walked in front of him, ready to help him untie his tie. But Damon beat her to it, lifting his hand and tugging at his tie. |
| Chloe, watching his movements, smiled slightly and pushed his hand away, "Don't move, I got this." |
| After loosening his tie, Chloe began to unbutton his cuffs. Damon lifted his hand, but Chloe went behind him to the shoe cabinet, took out a pair of slippers and put them under his feet. |

"Change your shoes. Then wash your hands, I'll go check if dinner is ready." Finished speaking, she turned and headed to the kitchen. The housekeeper called Presley down, who looked at Katie's exposed forehead and was surprised. The way she looked at people was not as tense and timid as before. He couldn't help but glance at Chloe, feeling somewhat incredulous in his heart. How did she manage to lift the bottom line that no one could touch in Katie's twenty-plus years of inferiority in just half a day? She actually lifted Katie's bangs? He knew that this girl was very clever, so he approached with a trying attitude, but he didn't expect the results to be so evident. Damon did not look so happy, and the atmosphere in the dining room became somewhat depressing. Presley glanced at him and didn't ask any more. If he didn't even have the ability to control his emotions, then he wouldn't be the grandson he was most satisfied with. After dinner, after Nathan sent Katie home, Damon took Chloe back to his yard. "You go freshen up first, I'll pick out what to wear tomorrow." Chloe didn't give Damon a chance to speak. She was now just thinking about meeting Damon's mother tomorrow.

Finally, Damon walked into the bathroom with a serious expression on his face.

When Chloe finally came out after taking a shower, Damon was already lying on the bed, his mood didn't seem to get any better.

Looking at his displeased face, Chloe smiled slightly, lifted the blanket, and snuggled into Damon's arms.

Damon looked at her coldly, his body slightly shifting to one side. He actually moved away from her.

Chloe moved closer to him, and he wanted to move again, but was tightly held by Chloe around his waist.

"What's wrong? So angry?" Chloe smiled at him, "Your mother is coming back tomorrow, you should be happy, right?"

The center of Damon's eyebrows twitched slightly. Chloe, feeling helpless, leaned in and gave him a peck on the lips.

As a result, Damon, with nowhere to vent his anger, lowered his head, grabbed her chin, and kissed her passionately when he felt the minty. breath of Chloe who had just brushed her teeth.

Uh..."

Chloe was suddenly kissed, his kiss was so intense that it hardly gave her a chance to breathe. He forcefully pried open her lips and swept away her tongue. His unique scent filled her mouth. Chloe didn't know when she started to have a fascination for his scent; the short and hot breaths of the two made their bodies hot.

Her hands stretched out from under the blanket, wrapped around his neck, and their bodies were closer. Damon even reached through her waist, grabbed her buttocks and lifted them up a bit so that he could kiss her deeper.

After a passionate kiss, Damon looked at her swollen lips from his kiss, and his mood improved a bit. Thinking that he had to get up to pick up his mother tomorrow, Damon suppressed the urge in his body and forcibly pressed Chloe into his chest.

| "Sleep!" |
|--|
| Chloe was a bit confused after the kiss. She initially thought he would be more intense, but she didn't expect him to let her go so easily |
| Well, she can't waste his kindness. Tomorrow was an important day. Better save energy for tomorrow. There will be opportunities laterto properly compensate him. |
| The next morning, Chloe woke up early. Just as she was about to get out of bed to freshen up, she was pulled back by a strong arm next to her. |
| "Sleep some more." |
| Damon's face was buried in her sweet and soft hair, his deep and lazy voice echoed in the hair, making her scalp hot. |
| "We have to pick up your mother today." |
| "She doesn't arrive until ten in the morning. It's only six now." |
| Chloe sighed, "I can't sleep anymore." |
| Damon closed his eyes and didn't make a sound, continuing to sleep. |
| The room was silent. |
| "Mmm" Chloe suppressed a moan. |
| Turned out Damon, although expressionless, had his hand already under her clothes |

| His touch was really good. |
|--|
| She tried to hold his hand, her soft and warm palm against his wrist, but in the end, she didn't use much force to stop him. |
| His hand was moving, and so was hers. |
| Damon became aware of this situation, and his eyes that were lightly closed slowly opened. His eyes were not blurry and lazy as when he just woke up, but with a deep and complex light. |
| He didn't think too much, he leaned down and kissed Chloe's ear lightly, then his kiss moved to her lips. |
| After the deep kiss, his husky and sexy voice echoed in her ear. |
| "Since you can't sleep, don't force yourself to." |
| |
| |
| |