

Dangerous: Don't Mess With The Domineering Boss

Chapter 5 I Only Love You

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"Do you think she's trying to get close to you by using Precious?"

Luke assumed his brother would have a pretty good reason to think so.

After all, he was the CEO of Oliver Group, and the company engaged in real estate, hospitality management, jewelry lines, department stores, entertainment networks, and a host of other industries.

In addition, all of Oliver Group's subsidiaries had secured positions in being the best in their respective fields.

Just how much money did the man possess?

It was a ridiculous thought to even ponder.

Suffice it to say that a single strange move from his brother would send the global financial circle scrambling on their feet.

Over the years, a lot of people had attempted to establish a connection with his brother by getting close to his daughter, Precious. A lot of women had come and gone, but this was the first time that the man in question had actually wanted someone's background investigated.

"Ryan, what is going on?"

"Precious likes her very much."

Well, the reason made perfect sense for Luke.

The little girl was the prized treasure of the Oliver family.

That much was evident by her name, and it had been intentional from the start.

Ryan was turning thirty this year, and not once had he ever been interested in a woman.

But three years ago, a baby had been left at the gate of their villa, along with a note saying that the child was his.

The poor baby had been in a terrible condition when they had found her, crumpled into herself like a little monkey. A doctor's examination had revealed that the little girl's bones had been broken. Her body had been full of bruises, too. She had been almost dead at that point. The Oliver family had immediately sent her to intensive care, and had had a paternity test done to ascertain the baby's identity.

And it had turned out that she really was Ryan's daughter.

Since his parents had always been looking forward to news of their sons eventually getting married and having children, the news had made them both happy. But there had been sadness and regret as well.

Perhaps it was because she had no mother to call her own that the elders lavished the little girl with all the love and attention they could give. It reached the point where she began to act willful and arrogant, especially toward people who were not part of the family.

In particular, she had been rejecting all the women who had showed interest on her father. Even those who had been discreet about their intentions had not escaped her wrath.

And while Precious' actions seemed to have pissed off Ryan's blind date, this was indeed the first time that Luke had seen the girl throw herself at a woman, and a stranger at that.

She had even declared something he had never imagined would come out of her mouth—"I like her".

If someone were to use Precious on purpose...

Luke got to his feet. "I'll go check on it right away!"

Back at the VIP room Roger had booked, Wendy had barely stepped inside when Raymond pounced at her and clutched her legs.

"What's wrong, baby?"

"Mommy, what took you so long?" the boy whined. "I thought something bad happened to you."

His words brought warmth to her heart.

She picked up the boy and patted his butt before walking into the room. "What can possibly happen to Mommy? I just happened to meet this very cute girl outside who needed my help."

A very cute girl?

A girl?

Raymond had never heard his mother praising other children before!

An alarm was ringing inside the boy's mind.

"What's wrong?" Wendy asked, noticing the small frown he sported.

He hesitated for a couple of seconds before finally asking, "Mommy, do you like girls more?"

Why wasn't I born a girl?" He looked genuinely upset by this.

Amused, Wendy planted a big, sound kiss on his cheek. "Mommy likes Ray. I love Ray the most!"

The little boy's ears turned red and he wriggled in his mother's arms. "I'm a man of four years old," he announced proudly. "You can't kiss me like that from now on."

"No matter how old you are, you are still Mommy's good boy!"

Raymond grinned despite himself.

Roger smiled as he watched them, pulling out chairs to accommodate them at the table. "All right, all right. Come and eat!"

"Here we are!"

An hour later...

"Wow! It's hot! It's so hot!"

Luke was panting, his shirt drenched in sweat. He burst into the VIP room and made a beeline for the pot of cold tea at the corner. He hurriedly poured himself a cup and drank it in two big gulps, grateful when the drink helped him cool down a little. He plopped down on the chair nearest the air conditioner. "Ahh, that's better. I finally feel alive again!"

"Did you accomplish your mission?"

"Yes!" Luke replied, mockingly hiding the folder behind his back. "Hey Ryan, guess what I found out."

"Just tell me!"

"Gosh, you're so boring!" Luke threw the file over to his brother. "That woman is called Wendy Finch, and she's only twenty-three years old. She is actually connected to us. In a way, anyway. She is Rosie Finch's cousin."

"Rosie Finch?"

"Yes, the wife of our good friend, Kane Evans. We were invited to their wedding four years ago. This is where things get interesting. Do you remember that funeral service we attended with Kane three years ago? That was supposed to be Rosie Finch's cousin's funeral! This very same cousin!"

Ryan's eyes glinted with a sharp edge as he opened the folder and began to peruse the documents.

Luke continued to talk. "Wendy Finch is truly unfortunate and pitiful. Her mother died when she was only six years old, and her father remarried shortly after. The stepmother had a daughter of her own called Eris. Wendy has another sister, though, who shared the same parents as her. This other sister is six years older, and was married off by their father to a rich old man when she turned eighteen. And another important fact—Wendy Finch apparently fell in love with Brian Oliver at the age of sixteen!"

"Brian Oliver?"

"Yes! The Brian Oliver, our nephew!" Luke shrugged his shoulders and carried on. "They were supposed to have been in a relationship, but all of a sudden Brian fell in love and got together with Wendy's stepsister three years later. And then... Well nobody really knew for sure what happened, but news came

out that Wendy just "died." Her family held a funeral for her and everything. It turns out she's alive and had left Ywood for the US."

Ryan flipped through the pages and got to the section of her relocation to the US. The paper was blank.

He looked up at his brother.

"Don't ask me. I don't know either! There wasn't any information available about her life in the US, as if that part of her life was completely wiped out from public knowledge. Even with all our resources, we couldn't find anything at all."

Ryan frowned.

"Nevertheless, I can say for sure that she had no intentions to get close to Precious whatsoever."

"Why do you think so?"

"Because she just returned to the city today. She got off the plane roughly two hours ago," Luke explained. "She couldn't have perpetrated such a lucky encounter."

Ryan said nothing and looked back at the file.

"Don't worry. She isn't going to do anything to Precious."

This earned him a glance from his brother. "Are you absolutely certain?"

"Yes!"

"Why?"

"Wendy Finch is an actress, and the purpose of her return is to audition for the play of The Story of Concubine Ivanka."

"And this is enough to convince you that she is not a threat to my daughter?"

"Of course not!" Luke said, visibly affronted. He leaned over Ryan's desk and said in a teasing tone, "Guess who her agent is."

"Okay, stop trying to play games with me!"

"Humph! So boring! Her agent is Roger Johnson. He probably also has something to do with the data blackout on her time in the US. They must have been acquainted there given that Roger also went to the US three years ago. Besides, didn't he asked us for an opening at the addition just a few days ago? Same audition, same play. It must have been for Wendy Finch!"

Ryan's fingers paused mid-air.

Roger Johnson!

He was not the kind of person who would treat people well for no reason.

So

what could the relationship be between Roger and that woman?

Chapter 6 Eris Finch Is The Leading Actress

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In the private room that Brian booked, various dishes carpeted the table.

But even with those mind-numbing meals, Eris didn't have the appetite even for just a single bite.

"Are you not feeling well?"

Brian looked at her with concern. She had been absent-minded since she came back from the bathroom.

"No, no! Maybe it's because of the jet lag that I don't have any appetite right now."

"Then, all the more that you have to eat something. You look thinner these days." Brian picked up some food for Eris and added with concern, "Even if you want to keep your figure, you have to eat! If you want to succeed and take your career even higher, you have to be in your best health all the time. But really, you don't have to try hard in the entertainment industry. I can provide for you."

"I want you to feel proud of me!" Eris held Brian's arm and continued coquettishly, "I want everyone to know that Brian's girlfriend is a successful woman."

Heaving a deep sigh, Brian helplessly answered, "Well... If that's what you want, then I can't really do something."

Eris smiled sweetly in his arms, yet her thoughts were lingering on something else at the same time.

Just now, when she went to the bathroom, she accidentally saw a woman who looked exactly like Wendy!

The resemblance was uncanny!

Her features and voice were exactly the same, but her temperament and built were totally different. The Wendy she knew wasn't much into dressing up fancily, and she had always been thin. But the woman Eris met in the corridor was undeniably elegant and eloquent—much like any A-list celebrities.

She must be mistaken!

It couldn't be Wendy!

She was already dead. Her mother threw that woman into the sea three years ago! Her remains would probably have been decayed already!

'What the hell?!

Why am I thinking of Wendy Finch?' Eris cursed in her heart.

Meanwhile, it was already completely dark when Wendy's group finished their dinner.

Roger drove her and Raymond to the house he rented for them. And as they traverse through the streets of Ywood, Wendy felt utterly alienated from all the tremendous changes.

"Mommy, is this the city where you have lived for twenty years?"

"Yes, baby."

Holding the little boy in her arms, Wendy gazed out of the window at the flashing neon lights and asked Raymond, "Do you like this city?"

"Yes, I do!"

"Oh? Why?"

"Because this is where mommy grew up."

Wendy hugged the little boy and planted several kisses on his chubby cheeks.

How could her son be so cute and caring?!

She must be so really blessed!

Half an hour later and the car finally halted to a stop at a high-end residential area.

Roger drove directly into it as he had the pass card.

As the car slowly progressed inside, Wendy saw several guards patrolling the area with newly-built houses. For a moment, she was relieved to know that they were to stay in a secured community. The whole thing made Wendy realize how reliable Roger really was.

In three days, she would go for an audition, and if successful, she would immediately start working, leaving Raymond home alone. As the community was so safe, she could rest assured that nothing terrible would happen to her son.

After getting out of the car, Roger helped carry the luggage and led Wendy and Raymond into the elevator.

"The transportation here is very accessible. There is a bus station by the gate, and the shopping malls, supermarkets, and a hospital are very near. You won't really have anything to worry about."

Right after Roger said that, the elevator stopped on the 16th floor. The door opened, and he led the two to one of the units. He took out the key and opened the door.

As soon as Roger switched on the lights, the interior was revealed. Wendy couldn't be any more pleased.

The apartment, which had two bedrooms and a living room, was simply draped with beige wallpaper. A chandelier, hanging by the living room, shed bright lights on the grey sofa.

At the center was a white dining wooden table. Several shopping bags were atop on it, all of which were living necessities Roger bought for their stay. Everything they needed seemed to be there.

At the vestibule were several pairs of new slippers neatly placed on the shoe rack.

Wendy, who was holding Raymond in her arms, slowly stepped foot inside, surveying the unit's entirety with evident contentment in her eyes.

"Do you like it?"

"Yes, I like it so much!"

Feeling so thankful and touched, Wendy turned to face Roger and uttered, "Roger, thank you so much for this. I don't know how to repay you! Will marrying you be enough?"

"Wendy!"

"What?"

"If you could only sound any more sincere, then perhaps I'd believe you," Roger sneered, rolling his eyes at her.

Wendy immediately raised a sheepish smile and asked, "Am I not sincere?"

"Why don't you ask your son that question?" Roger turned to Raymond, who now struggled out of his mother's hands, and ran towards the sofa.

After slumping on the soft couch, the young boy looked up at his mother and said, "Mommy, your smile is so fake."

Instantly, Wendy was rendered speechless.

And as the smile dissipated from her lips, she grabbed a pair of house slippers from the vestibules before walking into the living room.

Wow!

Even the size of the slippers fitted her feet perfectly!

"I bought some food and drinks for you. There are also fruits in here. See if there is anything else you want. I'll take you to the supermarket," Roger said, following her to the living room.

"No. No. You've done enough already." Wendy sat down on the comfortable sofa, casually grabbing a pillow. Squinting her eyes, she sighed happily and expressed, "It's really nice to be so rich, isn't it?"

"So, you have to make money and repay me as soon as you can!" Roger teased with a grin.

Then, he threw a book at Wendy, who caught it quickly. "What's this?" she asked, looking at it, her brows furrowed.

"You are not part of the crew yet, so you can't get the script for now. According to some internal sources, this series plays close homage to the original work, so the script is almost exactly the same. You should read the original book first and get familiar with the character you are going to play. It will definitely help you with the audition later on."

As soon as they started talking about acting, Wendy's eyes instantly turned serious.

Over the years, acting had not been only her hobby but also what she considered a livelihood. If she hadn't made a living in the US, she wouldn't have been able to support herself and Raymond.

Wendy quickly scanned through the Story of Concubine Ivanka the book. The character she was going to audition for was the third heroine and the second villain in the play, Lady Faye. She was a beautiful imperial concubine. When she became a member of the imperial harem, she performed the pavane, which deeply attracted the emperor. Since then, she had been favored by him.

And as if the character was really meant for Wendy, Lady Faye's character description was so much like Wendy's image.

The more she read the story, the more fascinated she became.

"Mommy? Mommy!"

"What?"

The little boy, who had been trying to get his mother's attention, looked helpless as he added, "Uncle Roger has called you several times."

"Ah, I'm sorry. This book is too addicting."

Sitting between Wendy and the little guy, Roger sighed. He then patted Raymond on the shoulder and said, "It's getting late. Go and take a shower. There are pajamas for you in the wardrobe of the second bedroom."

The little boy looked at Wendy and then at Roger before leaving them in the living room to take a shower.

"Do you have something to say to me?" Wendy suddenly asked.

Roger nodded and replied seriously, "You should be mentally prepared. The main heroine of this TV play has been decided."

"Oh, okay."

That had nothing to do with her actually. Wendy wasn't auditioning for that role anyway.

"The leading actress of this play... It's Eris Finch."

Upon hearing that name, Wendy's face suddenly froze.

Wendy seldom went out of her room in the next three days.

Except for meals and sleep, she spent the rest of her time reading and immersing herself in *The Story of Concubine Ivanka*. The pages of the script, which had been new and crisp when she had received it, were now dog-eared with abuse.

The narrative of *Concubine Ivanka* started at the lowest places inside the palace. Within the span of 10 years, she managed to rise above her station and got to the top, outranking even the queen herself. She then became the dowager empress after the emperor's death, having supported her son's claim to the throne. She had grown from a young and innocent girl to the most powerful woman of her time.

The most exciting part of the story circled around the multitude of women in the imperial palace who fought against each other both openly and in secret.

The twists and turns set the readers on edge in anticipation of what would happen next.

Needless to say, Lady Ivanka was the leading role.

Next came the role of the queen, but aside from being the second heroine, she was also going to be the most significant villain in the entire play.

And then there was Lady Faye—the role that had been assigned to Wendy for the audition. Despite not appearing until the middle of the plot, Lady Faye's character played a key role. It could even be said that she was the third heroine of the story.

It had taken her three whole days, but Wendy finally understood her character and memorized all her lines.

Soon it was the day of the audition.

It was set for ten o'clock in the morning at Studio City.

It was a relatively remote area, and was a considerable distance from where Wendy resided. And so, she especially started her day earlier than usual. Her chosen outfit was a simple white T-shirt, skinny jeans, and a pair of white canvas shoes. She tied her curly hair up into a high ponytail.

With her beautiful face bare of any makeup, she looked like an ordinary college student.

"Baby, does Mommy look good?" she asked with expectation as she swung her ponytail from side to side.

"Yes, you look gorgeous!" the boy exclaimed, only for his words to be followed by a frown. "But Mommy, didn't you say that the role you're going to play is similar to a tramp? !"

Shouldn't she dress up more provocatively to match the character profile?

Wendy was at a loss for words.

A tramp!

Did Raymond learn this word from her?

She ran a hand over her temple consciously and hurriedly changed the subject. "Well, you wouldn't understand how it works. I will gain more attention if I deviate from the judges' initial preconceptions."

The little boy cocked his head to the side, confusion evident on his face.

Wendy proceeded to prepare a simple breakfast. They had just finished eating when Roger arrived to pick her up.

"Good morning!"

"Good morning!" He walked into the living room with a smile and picked up Raymond. "Have you gotten used to the life here?" He had noticed that mother and son were in good spirits recently.

The little boy answered seriously, "I will be fine anywhere as long as Mommy is with me."

"That's good then." Roger turned to look at Wendy and nodded. "It looks like you're ready for the audition."

"Of course! I'm sure I'll get the role of Lady Faye!"

She had not minded much before, but after learning that Eris was going to be the main heroine of the play, Wendy had become determined to bag this role.

Lady Ivanka and Lady Faye had a lot of scenes together, and she intended to show the audience exactly who was the better actress between her and Eris. Wendy was going to make this show a living nightmare for her stepsister!

Roger glanced at his watch. "It's getting late. We should probably get a move on."

"Let's go!"

"Let's go!"

Studio City was the biggest of its kind in the country. Numerous classic movies had been shot in within its site.

That being the case, famous stars were often spotted in the area, and fans naturally flocked there as well. Over time, Studio City had become something

of a tourist destination, with a lot of people coming and going at all times of the day. It was a very busy place.

On this particular day, people crowded at the gates as well, and Roger wasn't able to drive past them. He ended up parking in front of the nearest KFC.

"Here we are!"

"Okay!"

Roger handed Wendy a pass card. "Take this with you. Show it to the staff and they will let you in. The number indicated your place in queue for the audition. A lot of big shots have invested on The Story of Concubine Ivanka, and they have a lot of expectations for this project. The biggest sponsors are the Glory Media under Oliver Group and the Starlight Media, under which Eris is signed. The presidents of these two companies will be present at the audition. You need to seize this opportunity, Wendy. More importantly, the show's director, Carter holds the right to choose all of the actors and actresses. The most important thing is that you convince him that you are qualified for the job. Do you understand?"

Of course she understood.

She was an actress who didn't have any company's backing, which meant that she had no network and resources in the industry. This was indeed a perfect opportunity to establish connections. If she performed well and impressed the heads of two entertainment giants, she just might land a contract with either company.

"Won't you be going in with me?"

Roger didn't answer, and his eyes took on a faraway look.

"Roger?"

He came to his senses almost instantly, and his usual warm demeanor returned. "No, I will stay here. Ray and I will be waiting for you and your good news."

"Okay!"

Wendy entered Studio City and headed to the audition room for the Story of Concubine Ivanka. Just as Roger had said, she wasn't blocked by the staff after flashing her card.

"You're here for an audition?" the employee asked as he inspected the card. He then raised his head to look at Wendy, and his eyes widened at her beauty. His tone softened. "Right this way then."

"Yes, thank you."

Wendy followed him to an area somewhat similar to the back of a stage. It was already crowded with young girls, each one beautiful and graceful with their movements. Their nervousness was obvious, however, as they waited for their names to be called.

The moment she stepped into the vicinity, Wendy was immediately met with unfriendly gazes of the other aspiring actresses.

The employee tried to explain the situation to her in a low voice. "Almost all of the female roles in the play have already been decided. Only Lady Faye's role is vacant, and everyone here is auditioning for that single role."

Ah, so they were all competing for the same thing. Of course they would be hostile to each other.

"Thank you for your information," Wendy said, meeting the staff's eyes as she smiled.

Being a young man in his twenties, his face and ears promptly turned red. He scratched the back of his head and stammered. "Uhm... Well... You're welcome! I, uh, I believe in you. You will definitely succeed! So I... I still have work to do. I'm leaving now!"

Wendy had to chuckle at his reaction.

She looked at the card in her hand.

It said number thirty.

Really? Thirty?

That was definitely toward the end of the audition.

Everyone in the industry knew how this kind of audition worked. The more participants there were, the more interesting the performances would be. After all, they needed to stand out among the rest and make sure the judges would remember them. In most cases, the first ones to audition are easily forgotten since the performances are amped up as they move down the line.

Roger had truly done her good. Not only had he secured her a chance to audition, he had also made arrangements that would prove advantageous to her.

"The audition begins!"

The announcement seemed to make the girls even more nervous, but Wendy remained calm. She sat and leaned against the wall, closing her eyes as she waited leisurely for her turn.

The number of girls in the room dwindled one by one, and after a long while—

"Number thirty! It's your turn!"

Wendy opened her eyes and raised a hand. "That's me!"

Meanwhile, in an office located within the recesses of Studio City, a huge monitor was displaying the whole affair from the point of view of the judges.

In that moment, it showed as Wendy emerged from a side door and walked to the center of the room.

A little girl with messy hair, who had been dozing off mere seconds ago, jumped at the sight. She sat up straight and grabbed Ryan's hand. "Ah! She's here! The beautiful auntie has come!"

Chapter 8 You Got The Job

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"Aaah! She's coming! The beautiful auntie is finally here!"

Luke was inside the office, sitting comfortably on the reclining chair with his legs crossed.

He sported a floral shirt, which was embroidered with red peony and green leaves.

Pairing his summer shirt was a knee-length khaki short and a pair of flip flops. He looked as if he had just come back from a vacation at the seaside.

Not a lot of people could pull off this look, but for Luke, he made it seem so natural and effortless.

"Precious, do you really like that aunt that much?"

"Yes, I do!"

Hearing what his niece said, Luke sat straight and moved his chair next to her. When he saw her staring at the computer screen, he felt jealous and said sourly, "You bad girl! I love you so much, but you have never been so happy to see me!"

"It's different!"

Furrowing his brows, Luke queried, "What's the difference? Is it just a whim for this aunt, but you really love me?"

Precious continued staring at the screen with her hands cupped in front of her chest. The little girl didn't even mind giving him a glance. "Well... Uncle Luke, let me put it this way. If one eats chicken bones every day and suddenly gets chicken drumsticks one day for a change, do you think she will still like chicken bones?"

Luke, who was hinted to be the chicken bones, was rendered speechless.

'How could she say that?!

Luke thought as tears welled up on the corners of his eyes.

He turned his head, trying to look for an alliance. "Brother," he called.

Much to his dismay, Ryan merely glanced at him with cold eyes.

Luke trembled. It was him who told his brother about Wendy's audition, and Precious accidentally heard it.

And when his niece learned that Wendy was coming, she immediately proposed to be at the audition too! Of course, Ryan, cold-hearted as he was, did not agree, causing the little girl to break into tears.

Although everyone knew she just wanted to get her way, Ryan still took her with him.

"Precious..."

"Sssh! The beautiful auntie is about to speak. Stop talking, Uncle Luke," Precious warned, pressing her tiny index finger against her lips.

Instantly, Luke was rendered speechless, his mouth hanging agape in disbelief.

He looked at Precious and bore an obsessed expression as she gazed at Wendy. Then, Luke shifted his gaze at Ryan, whose eyes were glued on the screen.

The next moment, Wendy entered the audition room.

The entire space was massive, filled with cameras and other filming apparatus while electric wires carpeted the floor.

Staff were also present, carrying some of the equipment.

At the center was where Wendy was meant to stand. All cameras and eyes of the staff and crew were focused on her. At that moment, she was undeniably the center of all the attention.

Taking a deep breath, Wendy slowly rose her head.

A row of tables was paraded in front.

Four people were sitting behind the tables. Among them were three familiar faces.

Carter, the director, sat upright in the middle, with a pen and a notebook in front of him. He had his eyes focused on the notebook, writing something.

Next to him was Mason Thomas, who would be playing the hero in the series.

He had maintained his fame over the years, often playing roles in several historical dramas. He was even dubbed the prince of period dramas by his followers of over forty million people. But it did not come easy for him. He had been in the industry for a decade when he finally managed to get a break. Yet, even after becoming famous, Mason Thomas stayed down to earth, keeping a

low profile and not letting the hype get to him. With successful works one after another, he managed to establish his position through his talent and persistence.

Mason Thomas was managed by Glory Media.

Next to him seated Kane Evans, the president of Glory Media.

Wendy met him once four years ago. She was invited as a bridesmaid in his wedding with her cousin Rosie Finch.

She could still clearly remember her first impression of Kane—cold and aloof! It hadn't been long since that day, and yet he seemed to be even colder now. There was no emotion in his eyes, and his face was utterly stern.

The middle-aged man among the group must be the president of the Starlight Media.

"Miss Finch, you only have five minutes to prepare. Please make do with that time in reading the script."

"Okay, thank you!"

The audition piece was the first night when Lady Faye was bedded by the emperor.

Faye was not the woman's real name. She actually came from a highly-reputed family with her father as an army general. Her brother, who basically grew up in the military camp, took over their father's position when the latter retired. Her father only married once, so she and her brother were the only Miller family children.

As the only girl in the family, she was loved by her parents and brother very much.

Later, the emperor appointed her as one of his concubines, but both her father and her brother were worried that she would not be able to cope with the women from the imperial harem. So, they declined the emperor's proposal. This was also one of the reasons why the Miller family was exterminated.

The emperor didn't allow her brother to gain power anymore, even asking Concubine Ivanka's father to fabricate evidence in a conspiracy against the

Miller family. As a result, their entire household was charged with treason and eventually killed. Fortunately, she happened to avoid the death penalty.

To conceal the truth, the emperor sent troops to chase after her. She ran and ran until she fell off the cliff. Lucky for her, she survived the fall, after which she came to a nearby town. By chance, she met a young couple eloping. The woman was also on the list of concubines being hunted by the emperor.

Like her, the woman refused her entrance to the Imperial Palace, as her heart already belonged to someone else. So, to escape from her doomed royal destiny, the woman decided to elope with her lover, her childhood sweetheart.

Unexpectedly, the woman asked her to replace her into the Imperial Palace.

Since she had always wanted to avenge her family, she immediately agreed with the woman's proposal to assume the latter's identity, starting by taking her name Faye Miller.

Upon her entrance, she performed a pavane dance. So, she was immediately conferred the title of Lady Faye, which was unprecedented in the Imperial Palace. While it took other concubines years to achieve such a high position, Lady Faye managed to grab her title overnight.

Heaven must be really in her favor!

On the day she entered the Imperial Palace, she was immediately summoned to spend the night with the emperor. And this scene was what Wendy wanted to audition for mainly because it was challenging.

From the moment Lady Faye entered the Imperial Palace, she was no longer the daughter of a general nor a willful and unrestrained girl. At that moment, she had thoroughly transformed into a poisonous Mandragora who only had one agenda—to seek revenge for her ruined family.

The most difficult part of the audition was how to convey the change in Faye's character through the actress' eyes and physical movements.

"Five minutes is over!"

"Okay."

Wendy took a deep breath and slowly walked up the stage.

The setting had already been arranged by the staff, and it was perfect for Wendy to get into character.

Standing in the center of the room, she bowed and introduced herself, "Hello, everyone. I'm Wendy Finch, number thirty."

Carter, who wore a pair of old-fashioned eyeglasses, raised his eyebrows slightly when he saw her plain, bare face.

Since they were aiming for an evilly beautiful concubine role, most of the girls who came to audition today wore heavy makeup. Wendy was the first one to set foot inside without any makeup.

"Are you ready?" Carter asked with his deep, baritone voice.

"Yes, I am!"

Wendy answered enthusiastically.

And just like that, in a blink of an eye, she completely transformed into Lady Faye.

She leaned sideways on the big carved bed, stroking a red sachet embroidered with mandarin ducks, which symbolized a couple. Under the shadow of the bed, her face bore sheer loneliness.

Suddenly, several footsteps resounded.

"His Majesty has arrived!"

As that voice rang, Lady Faye's eyes seemed to be infused with darkness, instantly turning cold and piercing! She put away the sachet, and the door creaked open. Slowly, she raised her eyes, and her aura instantly changed.

With her eyebrows raised and her lips pursed, she seemed so full of amorous feelings.

She leaned her head against the edge of the bed, revealing her slender neck. Under the candlelight, her flesh was covered with a layer of mist-like luster, seductively inviting!

It was beyond all doubt!

At that moment, Wendy was Concubine Faye—an enchantress about to seduce the head of the entire empire.

Crack!

Something clapped, signaling that the audition was over.

Immediately, everyone fell into a deafening silence.

Wendy fixed herself up without saying anything. Little to her knowledge, all the men present blushed and even drooled for her!

Even Carter, who was extremely distant, was so excited that his face turned red!

This was the woman he was looking for!

That was exactly what he wanted! No need for peacocking skills, but just pure talent that could silence everyone in the room. Wendy didn't show any part of her skin except for her neck, but her eyes and movements were enough to turn on any man!

Without wasting any more time, Carter made his decision.

Clearing his throat, he fixed his eyeglass and announce, "You! You got the job!"

Chapter 9 She Is Going To Be My Mommy

Word Count: 1520 | Released on: 13/08/2022

"You! You're perfect!"

Carter was shouting as he got to his feet, fearing that Wendy might slip out of his hands. "What was your name again?"

"Wendy Finch."

"That's right. Wendy Finch, come here." He waved his assistant over. "Bring me the contract as soon as possible!"

His face was flushed with undeniable excitement.

Mason and Carter had collaborated several times in the past, and they were quite attuned to each other's minds. Seeing his friend practically jumping in joy, Mason couldn't stop himself from teasing him. "There are still other girls waiting for their turn to audition. Aren't you afraid of missing out on a better actress?"

"There won't be a better actress than her!"

The truth was that shooting had already begun, and every role had already been cast. But Carter was not satisfied with the actress playing Lady Faye.

He had searched through the roster of actresses the entertainment circle could provide, but all the women either had good looks with no skills, or passable skills with unacceptable looks.

Even today, he had almost given up after seeing a horde of annoying performances. He had actually been considering holding another audition if today's event had proven to be fruitless.

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Chapter 10 Held Her In His Arms

Word Count: 1508 | Released on: 13/08/2022

Because Eris was injured, the shooting was immediately suspended.

She was then advised to go back to her motor tent and take a rest.

With ice bag on her hand, Eris leaned against the seat and asked her assistant Ana, "Did you see someone standing outside the window when we were shooting just now?"

"No, I didn't notice anyone."

"Go and find out who it is!"

Without asking why, Ana immediately got out of the tent and ran to inquire about it. After a while, she came back panting and all sweaty. "Eris, I've asked around. Director Williams said that he found the actress who will play Lady

Faye. Some employee showed her around the set just now. She's probably who you saw."

"What's the name of that actress?" A hint of anxiousness could be extracted from Eris' tone.

"Well, I uh... didn't ask about that."

"Is she still here?"

Ana didn't understand why Eris paid so much attention to that actress. But she didn't dare ask her about it. Instead, she uttered in a low voice, "She was said to leave after the quick tour. But don't worry. I heard from the crew that she will officially join the team tomorrow. We should be able to see her by then."

Would they see her tomorrow? Eris's right brow arched while the corners of her lips pursed.

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Chapter 11 Let Dad Marry You

Word Count: 1455 | Released on: 13/08/2022

Inside the Hopewell Hospital...

Precious stood beside Wendy's hospital bed, clutching her hand as she stared at the woman's bandaged head. Tears were streaming down the girl's face, and her sorrow was real this time. Her eyes had turned red and blotchy as she choked in her sobs.

"Don't cry, Precious."

"Uncle Luke," she sniffed and looked up at him. "Beautiful Auntie will be fine, won't she?"

Luke ached for his niece. He reached out to hold her and spoke in a gentle voice. "Everything will be okay. Didn't you hear what your Uncle Leo just said? Beautiful Auntie just suffered some minor bruising and a slight concussion. She will be fine after resting for a couple of days."

His words did not stop her from crying though. "But still! She bled a lot."

"Don't worry. Hasn't she stopped bleeding now?"

Precious bawled harder. "You're lying! My pet Snow died because it hit the wall and bled a lot! You all told me it was just sleeping but it never woke up! Waah... Beautiful Auntie was hurt only because she was trying to save me."

The girl shook free from her uncle and sobbed harder at Wendy's bedside.

Luke turned to his brother helplessly.

"I can't do it, Ryan. You comfort your own daughter!"

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Chapter 12 The Motto Of The Oliver Family

Word Count: 1602 | Released on: 13/08/2022

"You saved me, so I will make my daddy marry you!"

Marry her?

Marry her?

Marry her?

A second ticked by.

Then another one.

Then three more seconds passed.

There was dead silence inside the ward as the adults looked at each other.

When they finally recovered themselves...

"Pfft!"

Luke spat out the mouthful of water he had been drinking. He covered his mouth, trying to catch his breath in the middle of his violent coughing. "Precious, what did you just say?"

The little girl only shook her head and delivered her reply casually. "Well, Beautiful Auntie has been disfigured. She's no longer as pretty as before! Uncle Luke, didn't you tell me that men are the most superficial visual animals that value appearance above all else? Since Beautiful Auntie is now disfigured, she would have difficulty finding someone to marry her in the future. But then she became like this in order to save me. Even though I want to, I'm still too young to take responsibility. And since Daddy is my sole guardian anyway, of course it's only right that he would assume responsibility for Beautiful Auntie!"

Luke gaped at his niece.

She had effectively rendered him speechless.

It took him a moment to collect himself then he finally said, "You say that your Beautiful Auntie has been disfigured, and still you want your Daddy to marry her?"

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Chapter 13 Born On The Same Day

Word Count: 1342 | Released on: 13/08/2022

"Roger, is this little boy really Miss Finch's son?"

His doubts were reasonable.

Wendy looked like she was only about twenty years old. If the boy was truly her son, then how old had she been when she had given birth?

More to the point, his brother had finally set his eyes on a woman! If the said woman turned out to have a son of her own, then Ryan's romance would be dead before it could even develop.

But then

another more frightening thought came to Luke's mind.

He pointed at Roger, his finger shaking slightly. "This boy... Is he yours?"

"Nonsense!" Roger glared at him. "How could I possibly have a son this old?"

"Well... This little guy looks to be three or four years old. And you've been abroad for just three years!"

Roger glanced at Ryan before chiding Luke. "Stop talking like an idiot. I'll tell you all about Ray later."

Meanwhile, as the adults dealt with their business, the two kids began to chat with each other.

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Wendy stayed in the hospital for three days

after making a call to Carter Williams to ask for a leave. The director was a little unhappy about it, but after learning that it had been her who had saved the little girl during the incident onsite, he had immediately changed his tune and told her to get a proper rest.

As it turned out, the horse that had gone out of control that day belonged to the crew of *The Story of Concubine Ivanka*. The animal had almost trampled the child to death, and the whole situation had caused extreme distress to everyone involved in the project. Such news would be disadvantageous to the show's publicity. Worst of all was that the child happened to be the CEO of Oliver International Group's daughter. To say that Carter had been terrified of the implications would be an understatement.

It was the little princess of the Oliver family!

Everyone in the industry was aware that the girl was the apple of the eye of the conglomerate, especially among the elders of the family. If even a single hair on her head had been damaged, Ryan's parents would definitely raze the whole site until it turned to dust. How much more if she had actually died that day?

Wendy Finch had practically saved the crew and the show itself.

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