

## Desperation 155

### Chapter 155

Ashley was stunned for a moment before realizing that this was the surprise Joseph had mentioned earlier,

At that moment, everyone in the crowd, from movie stars to business tycoons and socialites, craned their necks, looking up at the stage.

Valentin, dressed in a well-tailored black suit, walked onto the stage. His white shirt was meticulously buttoned to the top,

exuding a restrained yet sensual vibe.

His gaze casually swept over the crowd. His stunningly handsome face seemed indifferent and distant, radiating a noble and

commanding demeanor that only a person of high status could have.

When his eyes landed on a particular spot in the crowd, he suddenly paused and had a carefree smile.

Ashley, sitting right there, suddenly realized Valentin was looking at her.

Though they were just looking at each other across the crowd, Ashley's heart raced.

This secret eye contact strangely felt like a hidden flirtation, causing her ears to burn uncontrollably.

Ashley quickly looked away, flustered. Once she calmed down, she heard the whole venue erupt into noise, especially the two

girls behind her, who were clearly thrilled.

"Ah, Mr. Kingsley is so handsome!!!"

"Did he just look down here? And he smiled, right? Was he looking in our direction?"

"No way! He's so handsome. I'd love to have sex with him."

Ashley heard these crude remarks and glanced at Valentin on stage.

She thought he really had the power to attract attention wherever he went.

Suddenly, Ashley's arm was grabbed by Miranda, who was sitting next to her.

Miranda excitedly whispered, "Ashley, do you think Mr. Kingsley has a girlfriend? Someone saw him at an amusement park with a woman. wonder if that woman is Mr. Kingsley's girlfriend."

Ashley, who had been photographed at the amusement park with Valentin, was speechless.

I

Meanwhile, looking at Valentin on stage, Jaden raised an eyebrow, recognizing him as Ashley's childhood fiancé Valentin. In

terms of looks, Valentin and Ashley were a perfect match.

As for Lester, his expression was somewhat cold.

He thought this must be the man Ashley was supposed to marry.

He felt a resurgence of annoyance at the thought of his sister being taken by Valentin.

Valentin briefly spoke a few words about charity on stage before sitting down in the middle of the front row, respectfully guided by

a staff member. Given his status, it was natural for him to sit there.

Sitting in the second row, Ashley glanced at Valentin not far away and quietly asked Joseph beside her, "How come Valentin is

here? Why didn't he tell me in advance?"

Joseph chuckled, "I wanted to surprise you. How about it? Are you thrilled?"

Ashley replied, "It almost scared me to death, okay?"

The next part of the event was the auction for donations.

The attending celebrities donated personal items for auction, and the selling price was considered their personal donation.

Miranda had brought a diamond necklace, starting at two thousand dollars. A wealthy man bought it for 160 thousand dollars.

Generally, these auction bids weren't too high, just enough to show participation, not to flaunt wealth.

Bryce brought an antique he bought on a foreign trip, starting at two thousand dollars. A young socialite bought it for 400

thousand dollars.

The auctioneer invited Bryce on stage to hand over the antique to the socialite, Brittany Walsh, who was dressed in an ice-blue

gown. The auctioneer invited Bryce on stage to hand over the antique to the socialite, Brittany Walsh, who was dressed in an

ice-blue gown

To liven up the atmosphere, the auctioneer casually asked, “Ms. Walsh, you bid earlier but specifically went for Bryce’s antique. It

seems.

didn’t you really like it.”

Tall and beautiful, Brittany raised her hand and flirtatiously moved her hair.

“Not really. I bought this antique just because I like Bryce, so I wanted to have something of his.”

Upon hearing this, the auctioneer immediately turned to Bryce, brimming with curiosity,

It sounded like Brittany and Bryce knew each other before.

Bryce looked indifferent, glancing at Brittany with a hint of impatience in his proud demeanor, deliberately misinterpreting her

words. “Thank you for liking this antique.”

Brittany didn’t mind and smiled seductively, “I know you heard me.

Bryce didn’t respond and didn’t look at Brittany again.

The auctioneer quickly smoothed things over with a few witty remarks.

Bryce stepped down and returned to his seat.

Ashley’s gaze landed on Bryce. “Wow.”

Joseph was even more curious. “Wow.”

Miranda joined in the gossip. “Wow.”

Bryce was speechless, finding these three overly nosy.

Bryce’s temple throbbed in annoyance. He glared at them and growled in a lowered voice, “Stop making a fuss.”

Although he tried to keep his voice down, Bryce was still a bit loud.

Lester and Jaden also curiously glanced over.

Ashley suddenly understood Joseph, finding joy in gossiping about others and bringing happiness to oneself.

The next moment, Ashley noticed Valentin in the front row, who seemed to have overheard and looked over at her with an

inscrutable gaze.

Ashley was perplexed, wondering why he was looking at her.

Several more celebrity items were auctioned off.

Suddenly, Joseph nudged Ashley, who whispered, "What's wrong?"

Joseph stared at the back right. "Look over there."

Ashley followed his gaze and saw Evan and Charlie.

Evan looked a decade older than just a few days ago. His hair, previously with a few gray strands, was now almost half gray.

Ashley knew Bertha was still in the hospital and wondered why Evan and Charlie were at the charity dinner.

Ashley coldly glanced at them before looking away.

Evan, catching sight of Ashley, felt a surge of anger. He held her responsible for the downfall of the Ramos family, leaving them

in shambles.

Thinking of Bertha in the hospital, the missing Frankie, and Jeremy and Matthew not returning home, Evan felt a murderous rage

towards Ashley.

Charlie patted Evan's shoulder, his voice still gentle when he said, "Dad, don't overthink."

Evan tried to calm himself and looked towards Valentin, who was sitting in the front row, his eyes filled with urgency.

Evan hadn't planned to attend the charity dinner, but hearing of Valentin's attendance, he rushed over.

He longed to meet with Valentin, and now he had the opportunity.

Evan's main goal was to secure an investment from the Kingsley family.

The Ramos family was on the brink of bankruptcy. If he could persuade Valentin to invest, they might still have a chance for a

turnaround.

Previously, Frankie tried to win over Attelia, not realizing Ashley was. Attelia, which ended up being a huge embarrassment.

Evan was confident in winning over Valentin. In his mind, a man like Valentin couldn't possibly be associated with Ashley.