

Desperation 171

Chapter 171

Miranda noticed something off about Ashley and quickly asked, "What's wrong, Ashley?"

Ashley stared at the driver in black and confirmed again, "You're saying the guy in the black clothes is Bradley?"

Miranda nodded, puzzled, "Yeah, why? What's up?"

Ashley smiled bitterly, thinking. 'Bradley? Heh, he even takes a fake name. That's obviously Ryan!"

"Did he tell you his name was Bradley?" Ashley hesitated and asked Miranda,

"Yes, he said his name was Bradley, Ashley, why do you ask this? Could it be..." Miranda asked in surprise. "That's not his real

name?"

That's not his real name."

"What?" Miranda was astonished, pausing for a moment before

murmuring. "He gave me a fake name... Then what is his name? Do you know him?"

Ashley remained expressionless and calmly said, "His real name is Ryan, and he is from the Ramos family. Before I cut ties with

them, he was my brother.

"What? A member of the Ramos family?" Miranda's eyes widened in shock as if she had heard an unbelievable joke, and it even

felt hard to breathe.

She didn't know Ryan, didn't understand him, but hearing that he was one of the Ramos made her guess that Ryan must have

been abusing Ashley like Frankie and Jeremy, mistreating her, far from a decent family member.

Yet, during their recent interactions, she always thought Bradley was a good person, even developing a liking for him. Despite

not understanding racing, she had even traveled abroad to watch his competition.

But now, the truth was that Bradley was Ashley's despicable brother.

After a long moment, Miranda snapped out of her daze, suddenly standing up. "Ashley, the race doesn't start for another hour. I

want to go find Bradley and ask him about this. Will you come with me?"

11:07

“Alright.”

Ashley stood up and went with Miranda to the driver’s rest area.

Typically, spectators weren’t allowed near the driver’s rest area.

But last night, Bradley told Miranda that he had arranged with the staff for her to visit the lounge any time before the game

started.

Last night, Miranda had even felt a sweet sense of being specially treated because of his actions.

Upon seeing Miranda approaching, Bradley was surprised.

However, the next second, his expression turned sour as he saw Ashley beside Miranda, his brows furrowing into a scowl.

Witnessing such a stark change in Bradley’s expression, Miranda instantly realized that everything Ashley had said was true.

Ryan had been using the alias “Bradley” to deceive her.

The Bradley she thought was a good guy was actually Ashley’s despicable brother.

Miranda suddenly lost the will to ask. Her spirits dampened as she lowered her eyes. “Ashley, let’s go back.”

Ashley couldn’t bear to see her so dejected. “Miranda, if you...”

Just then, Bradley, or Ryan, ran over in a panic, calling out, “Miranda!”

As he reached them, Ryan glared at Ashley. “Ashley, did you say something? I warn you...”

“Shut up!” Miranda suddenly cut him off sharply, her hands clenched. The emotions she had been suppressing burst out, her

eyes reddening. but she stood firmly before Ashley.

“Miranda...” Ryan opened his mouth, his voice barely audible.

Ashley was taken aback. She hadn’t expected Miranda to defend her. A wave of tenderness washed over her heart, and she

patted Miranda’s shoulder.

“I’ll wait over there,” she said.

Ashley could tell Miranda had something to say to Ryan..

“Okay.” Miranda nodded.

Ashley didn't go far, standing a short distance away.

Over here, Miranda looked at Ryan and suddenly realized. "Yesterday at the airport, right after I told you that Ashley was coming

to pick me up, you suddenly said you had to leave because of some issue with your team. But there was no issue, right? You

were just trying to avoid Ashley, right?"

Ryan didn't deny it. "Yes."

He hadn't known Ashley would be coming to the car race, so he had invited Miranda.

But when he learned that Ashley would come, he had a feeling his secret of being Ryan would come out in front of Miranda.

He just hadn't expected it to happen so soon.

Miranda closed her eyes, her eyelashes fluttering. "Why did you tell me your name was Bradley? Why didn't you tell me your real

name?"

"I..." Ryan glanced at Ashley and spoke regretfully. "I knew you were friends with Ashley, so I didn't reveal my real name at first

because I was worried..."

"Worried that if I knew you were from the Ramos family, Ashley's former brother, I wouldn't give you the time of day, right?"

Miranda cut him off.

"Miranda..." Ryan took a step forward, trying to explain.

But Miranda stepped back. "Since you know it, let's not see each other anymore."

Ryan's brow furrowed. "We've gotten along so well these past days. Why let Ashley affect our relationship?"

Thinking back on their recent interactions, Miranda lowered her eyes, tears welling up. "The person I enjoyed being with was

Bradley, not Ryan."

In front of Ashley and the Ramos family, she would unconditionally choose Ashley.

Let the Bradley she thought she knew to stay in the past forever.

After saying this, Miranda turned and walked away.

Ryan, however, suddenly grasped her wrist, shouting, "Miranda, don't you really remember me?"

Miranda paused and looked at him. "What do you mean by remember you?"

Ryan stared at her, his eyes bloodshot with a vivid red. "Two years ago, the hospital, Christmas Eve."

Back then, he had injured his right leg and the doctors had declared he would be disabled for a lifetime.

This meant he could never return to the racetrack. How could he possibly be a race car driver as a cripple?

From the moment the doctors said he couldn't be cured, he felt his life had collapsed, and he became lost.

On that cold Christmas Eve night, Ryan dragged his injured right leg down to the hospital garden and sat on a bench.

Snowflakes drifted down from the sky, but he felt no cold.

A group of naughty kids passed by, throwing branches and clumps of dirt at him, mocking him as a cripple.

Ryan didn't even try to dodge, letting those kids circle around him and laugh at him.

Somehow, a girl with a sweet smile appeared out of nowhere, helping him fend off the naughty kids and handing him a bright red

apple.

When Ryan looked up, he saw the girl smiling with two charming dimples.

She sat down to chat with him.

On a snowy night, under the warm glow of a street lamp, in his darkest and most desperate moment...

The girl with the sweet smile who gave him the red apple stayed with him for two cold hours.

She only left after making sure those kids wouldn't come back.

Miranda was utterly astonished as Ryan recounted this memory. She couldn't believe that the Ryan before her was the same

little cripple bullied by those kids.

4/6

11:07

"Your leg...is cured?" she asked.

Ryan's voice was hoarse. "Yes."

The Ramos family found a top-notch, internationally renowned doctor who only operated on national figures and refused to treat

Ryan.

Somehow, the doctor had changed his mind and agreed to treat Ryan.

His right leg finally healed, and he returned to the racetrack he had longed for.

At the same time, he began searching everywhere for Miranda, wanting to thank her for bringing warmth into his darkest, most

despairing

moments.

Ryan was thrilled when he saw Miranda had become a celebrity.

However, Miranda became good friends with Ashley.

He hesitated for a long time, worried that Miranda wouldn't accept his identity as a member of the Ramos family, and he never

dared to approach her.

It wasn't until the charity dinner back then, when he encountered Miranda in a near car accident, that he began to interact with

her under the alias of Bradley.

After hearing all this, Miranda finally understood. It made sense now. why Ryan had left his number at the charity dinner, insisting

she call him if needed, even though the accident wasn't his fault.

"I've been looking for you for two whole years, Miranda."

Ryan gripped Miranda's wrist, his eyes reddening. "Can we...not let Ashley affect our relationship?"

Ashley stood at a distance, waiting patiently.

Not long after, Miranda returned.

"Ashley..."

Miranda's eyes were welled up with tears. Her eyelashes trembled as she looked at Ashley.

Chapter 172

Only taking one glance at Miranda's pained and sorrowful expression, Ashley felt a pang of heartache.

Ashley quickly approached her. "Did Ryan do anything to you?"

No. Miranda's lips turned white as she struggled to hold back tears. "I just talked to Ryan, and we decided never to contact each

other again. We're... We're going to act like we never knew each other."

"Miranda, you know, actually..." Ashley felt uneasy. She reached out and gently wiped away the tears in the corner of Miranda's

eyes. "If you still have feelings for him..."

"No," Miranda interrupted, gripping Ashley's hand tightly in hers.

Tears shimmered in Miranda's eyes as she looked earnestly at Ashley, saying, "Ashley, even though I had feelings for Bradley...

Ryan has done so many hurtful things to you in the past. You're my good friend. If I had to choose between the Ramos family

and you, I would definitely choose.

you."

Upon hearing this, Ashley's heart ached terribly, and she couldn't resist. pulling Miranda into her arm.

"Miranda..."

Miranda hugged Ashley back, and her arms trembled slightly. As she buried her forehead in Ashley's shoulder, her tears began

to flow uncontrollably. "I just never thought that I had already met him two years ago..."

Ryan had just said that regardless of whether Miranda despised him or not, he would never forget that snowy Christmas night.

He would always remember the young lady who gave him a red apple.

Ryan even said he had been looking for Miranda for two whole years.

However, there was something Miranda couldn't comprehend. She mused, 'Ryan can care so much about me, a stranger, so

why couldn't he be kinder to Ashley, his own sister? Why does he treat a stranger better than his own family? If only Ryan had

treated Ashley well, I wouldn't have been so repulsed by him...

Meanwhile, Ryan, watching Ashley and Miranda embracing, furrowed his brows deeply.

He wondered when Ashley had become interested in car racing.

Ryan pondered, 'If it weren't for Ashley wanting to watch the race, I could have continued pretending to be Bradley and be with

Miranda much longer. Now that Miranda knows I'm Ryan, she's decisively chosen. Ashley's side and no longer wants to have

anything to do with me. If I start treating Ashley well now, will Miranda stop despising me? No, why should I be nice to Ashley?

She's the reason Miranda dislikes me so much!"

Soon after, Ashley led Miranda back to their seats.

Joseph, noticing their return, raised his eyebrows in surprise. "What happened? Why does Miranda look like she's been crying?"

"I wasn't," Miranda denied, though her eyes were still slightly red..

"Still denying, huh? Your eyes are all red like a little rabbit," Joseph commented, lounging with his legs crossed, teasingly looking

at Ashley. "She didn't just have a breakup, did she?"

Ashley was at a loss for words, thinking, Joseph really knows how to say the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Miranda pressed her lips together. "I haven't even dated yet. How could it be heartbreak?"

"Breakups are no big deal," Joseph confidently said and snapped his fingers. "There are plenty of handsome men out there. I'll

introduce someone to you later!"

"You? Introducing someone?" Jaden couldn't help but retort, "Come on, knowing you, you'd introduce another playboy like

yourself. Don't go. ruining young girls' lives."

Joseph immediately got defensive. "How am I a playboy? I've never done anything immoral like cheating or meddling in others'

relationships! Bryce, back me up here!"

Bryce glanced at Joseph and smirked. "Maybe it was last year? I happened to see you being quite chatty and touchy with a few

girls, Mr. Fox..."

"Damn it, stop slandering me!" Joseph snapped, wishing he could tape Bryce's mouth shut.

"Alright, enough, quiet down for a bit, Ashley said, rubbing her temples. in frustration, wondering why the conversation had

shifted to

11:07

introducing boyfriends.

Clinging to Ashley's arm, Miranda whispered, "Let's forget about introducing men."

For Miranda, men were never as important as her sisterhood.

Ashley was constantly attentive to Miranda's mood and gently patted her hand. "Do you still want to watch the race? We can go

back if you don't feel like it."

"No need." Miranda immediately shook her head. "We're already here. It would be a waste not to watch. Besides, Ashley, you're

interested in racing, so we should definitely stay until the end."

"Alright, then we'll stay until it's over," Ashley responded, her heart softening as she gently pinched Miranda's cheek.

Lester, who was sitting nearby, observed the interaction between Ashley and Miranda and quickly figured it out. "Did you guys

just go see Ryan?"

"Yeah." Ashley acknowledged.

"Ryan..." Lester uttered the name, a cold indifference flashing through his eyes.

He thought irritably, 'Another one of the Ramos family who once bullied Ashley...

Soon after, the car race began, and the atmosphere was electric.

The competing vehicles zoomed off from the starting line with incredible speed.

Ashley had always been interested in racing and was quite familiar with Ryan's racing skills. However, as she watched for a

while, she couldn't help but raise an eyebrow in surprise.

She saw that Ryan was off his game today. He wasn't performing at his usual standard.

When he took the first bend, he was unexpectedly overtaken by two other cars.

This was an unlikely scenario, given Ryan's standard skills.

Though Ryan managed to regain his lead for a brief moment, he was surpassed again at later turns and nearly caused an

accident due to his

11:071

rashness. And because he was too impatient, he almost overturned.

By the time he crossed the finish line, he only managed to secure fifth place, not even making it into the top three.

After the race ended, Ryan's team members surrounded him, expressing their frustration.

"What happened to you today, Ryan? This isn't like you!"

"Exactly, you could have easily taken first place, but..."

"Ryan, no one but Ava, the Racing Legend, is better than you at racing. But today you only managed fifth place, that's so unlike

you! What went wrong?"

For a professional racing team, winning first place means not just honor but also a significant prize.

Now, he had lost out on both.

Ryan then irritably ran his fingers through his hair. His ruggedly handsome face showed traces of defeat.

He knew his performance was off because he couldn't stop thinking about Ashley and Miranda....

Ryan cursed under his breath and kicked a nearby wall in frustration. He then looked up toward where Ashley was sitting in the

audience.

To his dismay, he found that Ashley wasn't even looking at him.

The feeling of being ignored, especially by Ashley, instantly made Ryan's temper flare up.

He then looked toward Miranda beside Ashley.

But as soon as their eyes met, Miranda looked away indifferently and unhesitatingly.

Ryan instantly felt a tightness in his chest, as if his heart had been clenched, causing a dull, throbbing ache.

He couldn't help but wonder, 'How did I end up in this situation?'

Although Ryan only managed to secure fifth place in the race, he had always been a hot favorite for the championship and,

indeed, possessed remarkable skills.

The unexpected dip in his performance sparked a flurry of discussions. among the audience, curious about what had gone wron

The race host then approached Ryan with a microphone for an interview.

There were six large electronic screens set up around the venue. Ryan's interview was live-streamed in real-time on the big

screens, allowing the entire audience to watch.

The host asked, "Ryan, you seem to have underperformed in this race. What happened?"

Ryan's eyebrows furrowed, and his expression involuntarily betrayed at hint of aggression. "I wasn't in the right state of mind

today. I apologize for not meeting the expectations of the racing fans."

"Not in the right state of mind? Is it due to a recurrence of your leg. injury?" the host asked knowledgeably. "We all know you had

a serious. leg injury that almost led to a lifelong disability, but thankfully, you recovered and returned to the track."

Ryan shook his head. "It's not the leg injury. It was my mindset today."

The host expressed his regret, saying, "I know I'm speaking for all the racing enthusiasts here when I say that Ava, the Racing

Legend, was the only one that could have beaten you in a race. However, Ava is not here. today. Even so, you still narrowly

missed first place. What a pity."

"Ava, the Racing Legend... Ryan repeated in his mind.

He was well aware of Ava's reputation.

Ava had won the world's top car racing championship three times in a row, achieving a triple championship and earning the title

of the Racing Legend.

His racing skills were exceptional.

However, Ava suddenly announced retirement two years ago, taking the fans by surprise.

Many racing fans had pleaded with Ava not to retire, but unfortunately, it was to no avail.

Ever since then, Ava has never competed in a race publicly again.

A sudden realization flashed through Ryan's mind as he recalled an incident two years ago. Back then, his right leg had been

seriously injured, and ordinary doctors were unable to treat it effectively.

The Ramos family had managed to find a top-notch, internationally renowned surgeon. However, this surgeon typically only

operated on high-profile individuals and refused to treat Ryan.

Then, the doctor changed his mind for some unknown reason and agreed to treat Ryan.

It was also around this time that Ava suddenly announced his retirement.

Ryan couldn't help but wonder if the two events happening so coincidentally might have some connection.

This interview was broadcast live to the large screens at the venue, allowing the audience to follow along.

Upon hearing the host mention Ava, the fans on-site instantly became excited.

"Ah, Ava! My favorite racer!"

"Mine too! Ava retired two years ago, but I still vividly remember the last race, especially that thrilling turn. It was so exhilarating!"

"Alas, why did Ava suddenly retire two years ago? It still saddens me."

As Lester listened to these discussions, he subtly glanced at Ashley.

He had thoroughly investigated and discovered that Ava, the Racing Legend mistakenly believed to be a man by racing fans,

was actually Ashley.

Lester pondered, 'Who would have guessed that the widely admired Racing Legend was actually a young lady?'

As for the reason behind Ava's retirement two years ago, Lester had also discovered the truth.

It was all because of Ryan, that ungrateful brute.

Ashley had made a deal with that top surgeon to heal Ryan's injured right leg and allow him to return to the racetrack he so

dearly loved.

She agreed to announce Ava's retirement in exchange for the surgeon agreeing to treat Ryan.

The surgeon's nephew was also a racer who could never achieve first place as long as Ava was around.

Therefore, to ensure his nephew's success, the surgeon agreed to treat Ryan on the condition that Ava retired.

Ashley agreed to this deal for Ryan's sake.

At the height of her glory and the peak of her career, she announced her retirement and gave up her beloved racing.

The lengths Ashley had gone for Ryan...

Lester's gaze deepened as he looked at Ashley's side profile, thinking about how she had truly desired recognition and affection

from the Ramos family.

He pondered just how much she had sacrificed and given up for those ungrateful, heartless Ramos family members.

When Ashley noticed Lester was staring at her, she asked, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing," Lester replied, suppressing the turmoil of emotions within him.

After watching her for a moment, his eyes, unbeknownst even to him, filled with unspoken tenderness.

"Ashley, you must always

remember that you are the most important. Take good care of yourself."

Ashley was taken aback for a moment, then she smiled radiantly, "I know that now."

Lester instinctively reached out to ruffle her hair but stopped halfway, realizing the gesture was too intimate for their current

relationship.

"What are you two whispering about?" Joseph butted in curiously. "Didn't you hear the host mentioning Ava just now? The

famous Racing Legend!"

Ashley chuckled, "Yes, I heard."

3/5

11:07

"Ah, it's such a pity that the Racing Legend retired at the peak of his career," Joseph said as he clutched his chest with deep

sorrow. "Not just retiring at their peak, but also dying young, oh!"

Ashley was left speechless, thinking, 'Here we go again!'"

Turning around, she realized that the surrounding audience was also discussing Ava's supposed tragic demise.

"My favorite Ava, the Racing Legend... Why did he have to die in a car accident? I can't accept it!"

"Actually, it's good that Ava retired to live freely. But why, oh why, did such a talented person have to be taken by heaven?!"

"Last year, our fan forum held an online memorial for Ava. The entire page was in black and white. I wonder if Ava can see from

heaven how much we miss them."

"Ava deserves this mourning! Such a loss!"

Ashley was utterly speechless, unable to believe the absurdity of the situation.

Lester's expression darkened instantly upon hearing these words.

He thought irritably, 'What is all this bullshit about accident and dying young?! Ashley is alive and well! Don't curse her!"

After hearing the discussions around him, Joseph, who was oblivious to the actual situation, even considered having everybody

in the venue have a moment of silence to pay respects to Ava.

Bryce sighed repeatedly, and even Jaden commented on the tragedy of a young talent gone too soon.

Miranda sighed, "I may not know much about racing, but I, too, feel regret hearing about Ava's death."

Ashley's forehead throbbed with irritation, and she couldn't hold back any longer, correcting them.

"Ava's not dead. He's alive

and well!"

Ryan's questioning voice came from behind as soon as she finished speaking. "Ashley, what did you just say? Ava's not dead?"

Ryan had come to talk to Ashley and happened to hear her remark. He first looked surprised, then scoffed, "Ashley, since when

have you been so interested in racing? How do you even know Ava's not dead?"

Chapter 174

Ryan had been the most likely racer to win this race, but his performance went awry, and he only ended up in fifth place. This

had the entire audience at the edge of their seats, trying to figure out what had

wrong.

gone

So, when Ryan made his way to the spectator stands to find Ashley, the people around him craned their necks to see.

They then overheard Ashley saying. "Ava isn't dead," instantly causing a stir among them.

"Ava is still alive? Are you serious? Don't fool us!"

"That girl with long hair said it herself! She said Ava is still alive and well! And Ryan questioned her about it!"

"Come on,

how would a girl like her know such things? She probably just made it up."

"Wait... Isn't that Attelia over there?" A foreign spectator suddenly recognized Ashley, exclaiming, "Oh my! The woman who said

Ava isn't dead is Attelia, the chief designer of Glory Youveile!"

Even though the venue was at Yaloria, Manditus, there were many Zyrrinthian spectators. Initially, everyone was too focused on

the race to recognize Ashley.

However, after the foreign spectator pointed her out, many others started to recognize her.

"My goodness, it really is Attelia!"

"Look how beautiful and elegant she is!"

"I didn't know she was interested in racing. She had even come all the way to Manditus for it.

Seeing how popular and admired Ashley was, Ryan frowned and snorted. disdainfully.

He thought sarcastically, 'All this fuss just because she designs dresses? It's not just the Zyrrinthian crowd. Even the foreigners

seem eager for a photo with her. What's the big deal anyway?"

With that thought, Ryan looked on even more disdainfully.

Ryan then crossed his arms and looked down at Ashley from the aisle, arrogantly saying, "Ashley, you just said that Ava isn't

dead. Do you realize how foolish your lie is?"

The surrounding crowd instantly quieted down, their attention turning to Ashley, curious if she knew something about Ava.

Meanwhile, Ashley, sitting in her seat, calmly looked up at Ryan, who was standing.

Even though she was clearly not as tall as him and was in a position of apparent disadvantage, she exuded an air of calm and

defiant demeanor.

“If you think I’m lying, then how can you be so sure Ava is dead?” Ashley challenged.

Ryan sneered, “Ava hasn’t participated in any race since announcing his retirement two years ago, and his social accounts have

been inactive. There were even people saying that they saw him lying in a pool of blood after a car accident. It’s common

knowledge among racing fans.”

Upon hearing him, the fans around them nodded in agreement.

It was indeed as what Ryan had said, hence why they had organized an online memorial for Ava.

Ashley found it rather amusing, then she looked at Ryan and asked, “So. someone claimed they saw Ava in a car accident? It

seems like you’re going by hearsay without any evidence. If I say Ava isn’t dead, what you the right to accuse me of lying?”

8

“You!” Ryan was taken aback, not expecting Ashley to be so quick-witted. Angrily pointing a finger at her, he exclaimed, “I’ve

never seen you show interest in racing before, so you’re clearly an outsider. And now you suddenly claim that Ava isn’t dead.

Isn’t this just an attempt to gain attention by using Ava’s fame? Let me tell you, Ashley, this is a lack of respect for the deceased!”

Lester, who was sitting nearby, was irritated upon hearing Ryan, and his eyelids twitched.

He pondered irritably, ‘Lack of respect for the deceased? Ryan is such a fool:

Joseph’s expression then turned grim as he cautiously watched Ryan.

Although Joseph was puzzled as to why Ashley claimed Ava was still

alive, he unconditionally supported her.

Miranda looked at Ryan with disbelief, clearly repulsed by his arrogant demeanor.

She wondered, ‘Ashley is his sister. Why is he targeting her like this?’

anger at

Noticing Miranda's aversion, Ryan felt irritated and directed his Ashley. "Ashley, how do you know Ava isn't dead? If you're

talking about Ava, who has passed away..."

But, before he could finish, Ashley interrupted him with a scoff and stood up unhurriedly.

Her expression was filled with a clear, mocking sarcasm as she spoke in a casual tone. "I just met Ava today, so of course, I

know he's not dead."

One among the crowd then repeated in his mind, 'She...just met Ava today?!!

As soon as Ashley said this, it instantly ignited excitement among the surrounding race fans, who erupted into a flurry of chatter.

"Did I hear that right? Ashley said she just met Ava today!"

"Holy crap, Ashley knows Ava?"

"Ashley, have you really seen Ava? Was it the real Ava? Are you friends with him?"

Not just the racing fans but Joseph and Jaden Bryce were also stunned.

They wondered in shock, "Ashley...met Ava today? How did we not know about this?"

Ryan was equally shocked by Ashley's words, his brows furrowed, and his gaze turned sharp. "Ashley, Ava has never shown his

face publicly. You say you've seen him, and just today at that. Who knows if you're telling the truth?"

Upon hearing this, the crowd calmed down a bit.

Indeed, no one here had seen Ava in person and couldn't tell whether Ashley was telling the truth or not.

Just then, two security guards, looking hurried, ran toward the racetrack entrance, holding walkie-talkies and respectfully saying,

"Roger that! Mr. Pullan Lawrence has arrived. We're going out to greet him now!"

Hearing Pullan's name, the racing fans on the scene erupted with excitement again.

"Mr. Lawrence? The only person who has seen Ava's real face?"

"It must be him. Didn't you see the security guards going out to welcome him? Mr. Lawrence is Ava's friend. He's the only one

who's seen Ava in person. But why has Mr. Lawrence come here so suddenly?"

"Mr. Lawrence is also interested in racing. He and Ava had co-founded a racing team, with Mr. Lawrence as the manager and

Ava as the star racer. But it's a shame Ava suddenly retired two years ago, and since then, the team disbanded, and Mr.

Lawrence stopped paying attention to racing. Why did he suddenly come to the race today?"

"Is it because he heard someone say Aya isn't dead, so he made a special trip?"

"That is possible!"

Ryan was, of course, well aware of Pullan's friendship with Ava.

Hearing of Pullan's sudden arrival, Ryan's first reaction was surprise.

However, this surprise lasted only a few seconds before Ryan figured it out, looking at Ashley mockingly.

He pondered with a slight smirk, 'Mr. Lawrence is the only one who's seen Ava's true face. Now that Mr. Lawrence has

personally come to the race, it's obviously for Ava. Let's see how Ashley continues to lie about having just met Ava today!'

Chapter 175

As everyone's attention was focused on the imminent arrival of Pullan, Joseph quickly pulled Ashley aside and whispered, "Did

you meet Ava today? When?"

Ashley pondered for a moment and answered truthfully, "This morning."

That morning, while she was washing up and looking in the mirror, she had just seen her reflection in the mirror.

Jaden was immediately thrilled and exclaimed, "Honey, you know Ava, the Racing Legend? Can you introduce me? I've always

wanted to meet Ava!"

"That's not right," Bryce said, stroking his chin and carefully thinking it over. His brows furrowed slightly.

"Ashley, we've been

together all day. You didn't go out alone. When did you have time to meet Ava?"

Upon hearing this, Jaden thought, 'Right, Ashley has been with us all day.'

He then lowered his voice and asked Ashley, "Did you make up meeting Ava today just to contradict Ryan?"

Ashley was momentarily puzzled and pondered, 'Making it up?'

Jaden clenched his right fist and hit it into his left palm. "This is bad. Mr. Lawrence is about to arrive. He's Ava's friend. Won't

your lie be exposed when he sees you?"

"Exposed?" Miranda also grew anxious. Seeing Pullan was about to arrive, she wondered, 'What if he publicly accuses Ashley of

lying?"

Joseph gritted his teeth, adopting a determined stance as if ready to defend Ashley at all costs. "Don't worry, Ashley. Even if you

were bluffing, it doesn't matter. I support you unconditionally. You can bluff all you

want!"

Ashley, witnessing all this, was speechless.

Lester couldn't take it anymore and shook his head in resignation. "Enough, you're all overthinking it. Stop guessing."

Although they were speaking in hushed tones, Ryan, who was observant of Ashley's every move, still managed to overhear a

few sentences.

He thought smugly, 'So Ashley was just bluffing. She didn't meet Ava

today. How humiliating for her! Wait until Mr. Lawrence arrives, and she'll be publicly exposed for lying!"

Soon after, two security guards respectfully escorted an elegantly dressed older man toward them.

"Mr. Lawrence, right this way, please."

Despite his age, Pullan exuded an air of extreme refinement. He was dressed in a vintage suit, his gray hair neatly combed back

and topped with a black top hat, resembling a medieval noble.

He leaned on a silver cane in his right hand, followed by a line of bodyguards in black suits, clearly a man of significant status.

The racing fans on the scene immediately recognized him and thought. excitedly, "That really is Mr. Lawrence, the one who co-

founded a racing team with Ava, the Racing Legend!"

Ryan approached Pullan excitedly. "Hello, Mr. Lawrence!"

Pullan recognized Ryan, a well-known and skilled racer, and nodded. courteously.

However, Pullan did not respond to Ryan's greeting and continued. walking straight ahead.

Ryan was momentarily taken aback, then hurriedly followed him. "Since Ava retired two years ago, you disbanded the racing

team and stopped. following racing. Your sudden appearance at the race today has surprised everyone."

A look of regret and nostalgia flashed in Pullan's eyes after hearing about Ava's retirement.

Even after two years, Pullan still felt a deep sense of loss over Ava's retirement.

Sensing Pullan's sorrow, Ryan quickly seized the opportunity to stir the pot. "Since retiring, Ava has never updated his social

accounts, and rumors say he died in a car accident. But just now, someone lied about having met Ava today..."

Pullan's expression turned grim at these words, and he suddenly stopped walking. He then struck his cane heavily on the

ground.

This was clearly a sign of his anger.

11:07

Ryan briefly paused, a flicker of surprise crossing his face, followed by at surge of guilty pleasure.

He thought, 'Mr. Lawrence and Ava have a close relationship, and he hates it when people exploit Ava for their gain. Ashley lying

about. meeting Ava today has clearly hit a nerve with Mr. Lawrence. No wonder he's angry.

As Ryan reveled in this moment, Pullan finally looked straight at him. "Who told you Ava died in a car accident?"

Ryan muttered, "Mr. Lawrence, that..."

Pullan struck his cane forcefully, his eyes blazing with fury, and he scolded, "Who gave you the audacity to curse Ava? Ava is

very much alive!!".

'What? Ava isn't dead?' Ryan thought in shock.

He stood there, dumbfounded, as he was reprimanded in front of

everyone.

Hearing Pullan's words, the surrounding race fans became restless and immediately rose from their seats.

“Mr. Lawrence, are you saying Ava is still alive? Please answer me, this is very important to me! Ava is my favorite racer!”

“If Mr. Lawrence says so, it must be true! My beloved Ava, the Racing Legend, is still alive!”

“So, what Ashley said earlier was true?”

“Did she really just meet Ava today?”

Ryan frowned and looked at Ashley with a face full of shock, wondering. ‘Did she really meet Ava today? What is Ashley’s

relationship with Ava then?’

The next moment, what startled Ryan even more was that, after scolding him, Pullan walked straight toward Ashley.

Once he arrived in front of Ashley, Pullan’s eyes were filled with excitement and longing.

Despite being older, Pullan stood before Ashley and respectfully removed his black top hat, nodding politely at her.

This gesture in etiquette signified profound respect.

Everyone was collectively shocked by this scene, thinking, “Mr. Lawrence, an elder of high stature, is showing such respect to

the young Ashley?! What’s going on?!”

Pullan looked at Ashley, his eyes twinkling with tears as if he had longed for this moment. “Av...”

He stopped halfway through the name, remembering Ashley didn’t want to reveal herself as Ava, and quickly corrected himself.

“Ashley, you’ve finally returned to the racing track.”

Ashley chuckled and smiled brightly, “Not really, I just came to watch a race today.”

“I see...” Pullan replied, pondered for a moment, and said, “Even though you don’t plan to return to racing, it’s a pity, but I’m very

happy to see you today. I came straight here as soon as I heard you were here.”

The racing fans listening to their conversation could clearly tell the two were very familiar with each other.

They pondered, ‘Returning to the racing track? Does Ashley race, too? And Mr. Lawrence came here as soon as he heard

Ashley was here? He values her that much?’

A few bold individuals couldn’t resist asking, “Mr. Lawrence, what is your relationship with Ashley?”

Pullan elegantly put his hat back on. "Ashley and I are very good friends."

Another person said, "Ashley said earlier that she had met Ava today. Is that true?"

"If Ashley said she saw him, then she definitely did," Pullan responded. Since he knew Ashley was Ava, he was sure that she

would see herself every day.

This was an explosive news for the race fans.

Previously, someone claimed to have seen Ava die in a car crash, even sharing a photo on a forum. The person in the photo

resembled Ava.

Since Ava's retirement, Pullan, closely associated with Ava, had stopped following racing news and couldn't debunk the rumors

in time.

As a result, the rumor gained traction and was believed to be true.

Today, they finally received confirmation that Ava, the Racing Legend, had not died in a tragic accident.

Moreover, Ashley had seen Ava today.

Everyone then returned to the question, wondering, "What is Ashley's relationship with Ava? Are they also good friends?"

At this moment, Ryan stared at Ashley, and looked bewildered.

He mused, "Ashley has changed a lot since leaving the Ramos family, doing many unexpected things, like being the mysterious

composer Ash and the talented designer Attelia. Now, Mr. Lawrence, who co-founded a racing team with Ava, is showing such

respect to Ashley. Mr. Lawrence even said he thought Ashley had finally returned to racing. Could it be....

A seemingly absurd thought then suddenly popped into Ryan's mind, "Could it be that Ashley is Ava, the Racing Legend?!"

Chapter 176

However, Ryan quickly dismissed this thought.

He thought, "Everyone knows Ava, the Racing Legend is a man. And Ashley is a woman. How could the two be connected?"

Ryan then quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

He pondered, 'How can it be like this? Frankie's search for Attelia led to Ashley, and Matthew's mentor Ash is also Ashley. It is

making me paranoid now. But thankfully, Ava, the Racing Legend, is a man. Ashley can't possibly be Ava.

The tension inside Ryan then finally eased.

Yet, he still looked at Ashley curiously. "Mr. Lawrence just said he thought you were returning to racing today. How come I didn't

know you could race?"

Ashley responded indifferently, "There's a lot you don't know."

"Ashley!" Ryan immediately felt irritated, thinking, "What kind of attitude is this toward her brother? Doesn't she have any

respect?"

Ryan took a deep breath and stared intently at Ashley. "Since you can race, why not have a competition with me right now, here

at the racetrack?"

He wanted to see just how good Ashley's racing skills were.

If her skills were mediocre, then it was even less likely she was Ava.

But to Ryan's surprise, Ashley, with a slight raise of her eyebrows, decisively refused his offer. "I don't want to."

With a look of confusion, Pullan turned his gaze to Ashley, silently asking why she refused to compete.

To Pullan, it seemed like a good opportunity to teach Ryan a lesson, especially after his rude behavior toward Ashley.

Sensing Pullan's query, Ashley chuckled, yet with a barely noticeable bitterness, "Have you forgotten? I promised someone that I

would no longer participate in racing competitions."

Upon hearing this, Lester immediately understood and pondered, "This is

the deal Ashley made with that doctor! Ashley announced her retirement to get the doctor to agree to operate on Ryan's injured

leg and promised the doctor she would never race again. For Ryan, she sacrificed her own racing career without hesitation...

Hearing Ashley's words, Pullan suddenly remembered that Ava had indeed said he would no longer participate in racing

competitions when he announced his retirement.

However, Pullan only knew that Ava had suddenly retired, not aware of the specific reason behind it.

Pullan thought it was such a shame.

For whatever reason, Ashley had to end her racing career at its peak, its most glorious moment.

But it was Ashley's choice. All Pullan could do was support her.

So after Ava's retirement, Pullan, overwhelmed with regret and heartache, never paid attention to racing again. Only when he

heard Ashley was here today did Pullan come specially.

At that moment, Ryan, hearing Ashley say she had promised someone not to race again, scoffed derisively, "You're not scared,

are you? You're afraid to race against me, so you found such an excuse?"

Ashley's gaze then turned ice cold as she looked at him indifferently.

Seconds later, she looked away with a poker face. "Feel free to interpret it however you wish."

Ryan's eyes flashed with more profound scorn. "Just admit it if you're scared to race. There's no need to give me such a

ridiculous excuse, saying you promised someone not to race again. Aren't you embarrassed?"

With that, Ryan deliberately let out an exaggerated and mocking laugh, which was particularly grating.

Lester's expression instantly turned grim, his gaze toward Ryan carrying a chilling, almost lethal edge.

Lester thought irritably, 'Ashley sacrificed her career for Ryan to fulfill his dream of returning to the racetrack. She promised the

doctor she would retire in exchange for Ryan's treatment. And what is Ryan doing now? Mocking Ashley for being a coward and

belittling her for not daring to

11:07

race. What did Ashley's sacrifice earn her? Just this thankless, cold-hearted response?"

While Ryan was laughing loudly, he suddenly felt a cold, eerie gaze enveloping him, instantly silencing him. He turned to look

and saw it was

Lester.

Lester was staring at Ryan with eyes as cold as the bottomless ice of a frozen lake.

Ryan was startled and quickly averted his gaze in a panic.

Ashley's thick eyelashes fluttered slightly as she turned to glance at Lester. "The race is over. Let's go."

With that, she turned and walked away.

Joseph and Jaden exchanged stunned looks, then hurriedly followed her.

Watching Ashley's retreating figure, Ryan sneered again, "Ashley, it looks like you really are too scared to race me. Since you've

made up such a ridiculous excuse, I'll just assume you really did promise someone

race."

not to

Though Ryan said this, his tone was clearly sarcastic, mocking Ashley for being afraid to race him and deliberately finding an

excuse to evade the challenge.

Bryce's expression darkened, and after glaring at Ryan, he turned and walked away, following Ashley.

Ryan didn't bother with Bryce, but he instantly felt a sharp pang in his heart when he caught Miranda's disappointed and

disheartened look.

Ryan mused, "Why does Miranda always side with Ashley? Can't Miranda understand me for once? What's wrong with me

disliking Ashley and treating her poorly? Has Ashley ever been nice to me?"

Fuming inside, Ryan stared fiercely at Ashley's back. "Ashley, this is your chickening out and running away. Don't regret it later!"

Ashley seemed as if she hadn't heard him and walked away without even looking back.

Ryan was convinced that Ashley was definitely not Ava, as Ava wouldn't be this cowardly.

At that moment, Pullan glanced disapprovingly at Ryan and then at

84

11:07

Ashley's retreating figure. Suddenly, Pullan remembered something and quickly chased after Ashley.

"Ashley!"

Ashley stopped upon hearing Pullan's voice.

Pullan quickly approached her, saying "Ashley, I just remembered.

"When you agreed not to race again, it meant not participating in official competitions. Right now, a private match between you

and Ryan doesn't count as an official race!"

Ryan arrogantly walked over with his arms crossed and taunted. "Mr. Lawrence, I know Ashley is your friend, but it's useless to

find excuses for her if she herself doesn't dare to race.

"Shut up!" Pullan cut him off with a cold glare. "Let's get this straight. If you want to race Ashley, this match will just be for

bragging rights. The winner gets no prize money, nor will it affect any racer's points or standing on the leaderboard!"

The so-called leaderboard was a system where racers earned points for winning in official races.

Even though Ava had retired two years ago and hadn't raced since, he still held the top spot on the leaderboard, with a

substantial lead over the second-place racer.

Even after giving other racers two years of opportunities, no one had managed to catch up, with Ava still dominating the highest

record.

Looking mockingly at Ashley, Ryan sneered, "I agree with Mr. Lawrence's terms. It's just a friendly match. Now, do you dare to

race me?"

'Do I dare?' she echoed in her mind.

"Ha..." Ashley lowered her gaze and chuckled. Her eyelashes lifted slightly, and her eyes gleamed mysteriously. "Ryan, since

we're going to compete, let's raise the stakes. Whoever loses has to beg for mercy. Do you dare?"

Chapter 177

Upon hearing Ashley's bet, Ryan immediately wondered if she was up to some trickery.

to

But then Ryan reconsidered. Ashley had been making all sorts of excuses to avoid racing him from the start, even resorting to

the laughable excuse of having promised someone she would quit racing.

He thought, 'Now, Ashley is proposing a bet where the loser has to beg. Isn't she just trying to scare me off?'

Ryan felt contemptuous inside.

He wouldn't dare claim expertise in other fields, but he had extreme confidence in his skills and abilities on the racetrack.

Moreover, it was Ryan who had initially challenged Ashley to a race. If he now refused this bet, it would seem as if he was afraid

of her.

"It's just a bet. What do I have to be afraid of?" he smugly said.

Ryan's face was rugged, and when he got competitive, he looked fierce, his gaze at Ashley conveying his confidence in victory.

He warned her, "Ashley, just so you know, don't cry when you lose!"

Ashley simply smiled faintly, "You better think about how you're going to beg me for mercy later!

"Ashley!" Ryan nearly lost his cool and grumbled to himself, 'She really doesn't know her limits!"

Seeing that Ashley finally agreed to race, Pullan felt it was a good opportunity to put Ryan in his place. Pullan happily ordered his

bodyguards to bring the silver Agera FE sports car from his collection for Ashley to use in the race.

Soon after, the car was delivered.

Ryan had his own customized racing car, with a specially modified

engine for racing, performing much better than average cars.

The silver Agera FE Pullan provided was a decent race car, but it couldn't match Ryan's in terms of performance.

Both their cars were now lined up at the starting point, ready for the race.

The game was about to begin.

Although the racing fans at the scene were unclear on how the situation had escalated to this, they were excited to see Ryan

and Ashley race.

In the previous race, Ryan had performed poorly, finishing fifth. They wondered if he could show his true skills this time.

Joseph knew Ryan's abilities were formidable, arguably the best in the racing world.

However, Joseph had never seen Ashley race and was unsure of her abilities. The thought of her possibly losing filled him with

dread and anxiety. Joseph rushed to Pullan and asked nervously, "Mr. Lawrence, since you're Ashley's friend, do you know how

good she is at racing?"

Jaden was equally anxious.

Pullan, however, smiled courteously, "The race is about to start. You'll see for yourself very soon."

Hearing this, Joseph felt a lump in his throat, thinking, "Why is he being so mysterious? I'm really worried about Ashley losing.

What if Ryan bullies her... He was really afraid that Ashley would lose and be bullied by Ryan...

Bryce and Miranda were also anxious, while Lester appeared relatively calm.

There was a heated debate among the spectators in the stand about who would win the race.

Even though Ashley was Pullan's friend, and the racing fans respected Pullan, they didn't view Ashley with the same regard.

After all, in racing, skill was everything.

"Although Mr. Lawrence says Ashley can race, I still think Ryan has a better chance of winning. After all, Ryan is a professional

racer, and I've never heard Ashley's name in the racing world."

"It's obvious Ryan will win! Don't let his fifth place in the last race fool you. That was just an off day for him. Frankly, the only

person who could beat Ryan in racing is Ava, the Racing Legend!"

"Indeed, I've been watching races for five years, and since Ava retired, Ryan has been the number one in racing. Surely,

Ashley's amateur racing

ILON

dalls cant compare to a professional.

fcousask me, it's a shame for Ashley to race against van. It's going to obbad for a girl to lose and beg for mercy!"

With the sound of the starting gun, the race officially began.

36 meters then sped off from the starting line simultaneously

highlighted above a silver Agera FE while Ryan was in a bit of a rut.

The blinker car zoomed ahead in the blink of an eye, leaving Ashley's very spotty Cartar behind.

tau sugerer,

man that his professional race car class occasion

highly significant in terms of performance alone. It was only a matter of

time to leave not training.

However, Alan was intentionally lagging behind. Her silver car could not match the initial speed of a professional race car

1. not getting cried away, seized the opportunity to accelerate. His black car sped ahead like lightning, increasing the distance

between him and Ashley.

Watching Ashley fall behind. Ryan scoffed, thinking. I thought she was all that but this is she's got? All that talk about begging

for mercy if you lose. Hai looks like Ashley will be the one begging to

the stands. Joseph was utterly anxious as he saw Ryan's black car idling all the way.

Den and Bryce were not as fit as Joseph, but their expressions were usually grim

and the fans in the stands had a job to do on their faces.

1. I told you. Ashley couldn't possibly beat Ryan. She's already falling behind, and it's just the start.

There's no way a casual racer can beat a professional, especially one of Ryan's caliber

sk, sk, thinking about Ashley having to begin in error after losing. I had to feel sorry for her!

Meanwhile, the cars were approaching the bend on the racetrack.

Ryan was entirely focused, and all his attention was on the track.

When it came to his greatest passion, racing, he had always been highly dedicated.

Before entering the bend, Ryan began to slow down appropriately, planning to speed up once safely through the curve.

Just then, he caught a glimpse of a silver flash from the corner of his eyes, rapidly approaching from behind.

It was Ashley!

Ryan frowned and then sneered, thinking, 'Does Ashley really think she can overtake me while I slow down for the curve? Ha!

Everyone knows one must slow down for a curve, otherwise, you risk flying off the track or crashing into the barrier. If I have to

slow down for the bend, so does Ashley. How can she overtake me?"

But the next second, Ryan's eyes widened in shock.

He saw Ashley's silver car, like a meteor streaking across the sky, not slowing down at all!

With a smooth and slick drift, her tires screeched against the pavement, and she was through the bend in a blink!

Then, with a clean and beautiful maneuver, she instantly overtook!

Seeing this, Joseph jumped up, his adrenaline skyrocketing with excitement.

He thought excitedly, 'She did it! Ashley has overtaken Ryan! So clear and slick, absolutely beautiful!"

Miranda was so thrilled she almost screamed.

Thee racing fans in the stands, stunned for several seconds at the sight, thehen erupted into incredulous exclamations.

What WWirat just happened? Damn, how did Ashley overtake him just

Thauwazab beautiful! That drift around the bend was incredible! She handleti dahcurve even better than Ryan, a professional! Is

Ashley really just a casulataner?"

Could it hot Ryan is off his game again, allowing Ashley to overtake?"

"Uh, maybe Ryan wasn't in top form in the last race... Look, Ryan is catching up to Ashley!"

At that moment on the track, Ryan's eyes were fixed on Ashley ahead. Clutching the steering wheel tightly, he accelerated in

pursuit.

Finally, he was closing in on Ashley.

Ryan thought smugly, 'Ha, I knew it. Ashley overtaking me was just at fluke. In the end, I'm the one who's going to win this race!"

Just as he was about to overtake Ashley's silver car, she suddenly sped up, leaving him far behind once again.

The audience watched in frustration, wondering, What's happening with Ryan? Why is he spacing out? How could he let such a

perfect opportunity to overtake slip by?"

Then, the same scene was repeated twice more.

Each time Ryan struggled to catch up to Ashley, thinking he was about to overtake her, she suddenly sped up again, leaving him

far behind.

Each time was the same.

The racing fans in the stands fell into an eerie silence as they realized an unbelievable fact.

They thought, 'Once could be luck. But happening two, three time row? That's skill! Ashley is doing it on purpose! She's toying

with Ry Giving him hope only to dash it, like a cat playing with a mouse!"

Chapter 178

"Oh my goodness! Are Ashley's racing skills so good? She tantalized Ryan, a professional racing driver. Her racing level can

match that of Ava, the Racing Legend."

"Why didn't Ashley join a professional racing team with such good skills? If she becomes a professional racing driver, she will be

the next Ava!"

"Ashley said before that she promised someone not to participate in racing competitions in the future. Now it seems that what

she said is true...

"Damn it! I just said that Ryan would win this competition. I'm too ignorant to recognize her."

Ryan naturally discovered that Ashley was tantalizing. He gritted his teeth in anger, and his eyes flashed red with fury.

But he couldn't catch up with Ashley, and getting angry would be useless.

He could only helplessly watch Ashley reach the finish line ahead of him.

Ryan finally reached the finish line. got out of the car, and slammed the door. He wanted to ask Ashley why she had teased him

just now.

It was a burning shame to him.

But he saw Ashley getting out of the car calmly. The bright sunlight shone on her, making her shine in the light.

Ashley said in a lazy and contemptuous tone, "I've given you a chance to win so many times, but you can't catch me. Loser."

Ryan was stunned and suddenly became furious. His handsome face distorted with fury.

He cursed in his heart, 'Loser? Ashley dared scold me a loser!'

Joseph ran over excitedly and heard Ashley's jibes at Ryan.

The contempt and disdain in her eyes were undisguised, blatantly telling Ryan that she just despised him. She now looked like...

a queen.

In addition to Joseph, Bryce, Jaden, and Miranda also ran over.

"Ashley, you win! That's great!"

1/6

ILOS

anda jumped with joy and rushed over to hug Ashley.

en Ryan hband Miranda's voice, he froze slightly and couldn't tip ning todoobanther.

soon as Matannax taught his gaze, she looked away without ever king at him.

in clasped his sidht hand.

ter walked over de arrel with a smile. He was not surprised that

derzelve ley could win.

an wiped away the steras from the corners of his eyes with a dkerchier. Huseves shoone with excitergent and nostalgia. He

finally Ava on the racing track 22...

I almost forgot sopceething noortant joseph clapped and smiled adly. Ryan, according too topoet just now, the losing party has to

logize and beg forceeyou don't forget it, do you?"

n's face turned gloom

would rather be killed at once than beg Ashley's forgiveness in public.

at are you waiting for? Didn't you here?" Joseph would not let

I do.

He had been so arrogant and bullheaded just now. Ashley had already told him she had promised to participate in

the

petition, yet he still laughed at her and forced her.

Why... Ryan stared at her fiercely with

her. How dare you let me beg you to

open your eyes. "I am your

brother

Why did you glance at him. The gentleness in the corners of her eyes made her look stunningly beautiful. What do you want to go back on

me?

The racing fans nearby all looked in this direction. Although no one knew their eyes were rosy

because he had agreed to the bet before the competition, he would embarrass himself if he could not afford to lose and

lose. Even if others would look down upon him, he would never do that.

Suddenly, there was a bang.

Ryan's eyes widened, and he groaned in pain.

Someone kicked him in the back of his knees from behind.

The severe pain made Ryan hardly stand still, and he knelt on the ground.

Coincidentally, he knelt in front of Ashley,

Lester calmly withdrew his foot, and his voice was ice-cold. "Do you have to let others teach you how to keep your word?"

Joseph burst out laughing. "Oh, Ryan, the way you kneel to beg for mercy is special."

Ryan couldn't get up for a while. He immediately raised his head, seeing Ashley's condescending gaze.

Ashley raised her right foot casually to lift Ryan's chin and said with a stern look, "Now you know...can I bear your apology?"

In an instant, Ryan became livid. He pressed his lips into a thin line and glared at Ashley.

He thought, 'Ashley, this bastard... She dared humiliate me like this hadn't even dared to speak loudly to me and retort me when

I hit

scolded her before. But now, she..."

Ryan trembled slightly in a fury. He knelt in front of Ashley in public was so embarrassed and angry that he immediately got up.

Ashley didn't bother to say anything to him.

She winked at Joseph, Lester, and others, and then the group left the racing track.

Ryan glared at Ashley's back fiercely. The hatred in his eyes became even more intense.

"How could I have such an annoying sister? Ashley was not as good as Jessica.

'Besides, Ashley's racing skills are so high... Ryan thought.

When Ryan looked away, he noticed the contemptuous looks of the

11:08

racing fans around him and frowned. Their glances made him feel embarrassed again...

After leaving the racing track, Pullan invited Ashley to have lunch at his manor. They hadn't seen each other for a long time.

Pullan was excited. To play a good host, he asked the servants to prepare a table full of local delicacies.

After eating for a while, Joseph couldn't help but ask, "Ashley, when did you start racing? And your skills are amazing."

Bryce sat opposite Ashley and looked up at her. "She's really awesome."

Jaden thought for a while and turned to look at Lester. "You were not nervous at all during the competition. Do you know

something?"

Upon hearing this, Miranda looked at Lester curiously.

Lester glanced at her slowly and shifted his gaze to Jaden. He smiled, "You are actually overthinking things. Should I know

something?"

Jaden rolled his eyes at him.

He wondered, 'I'm not overthinking, okay? You old fox.'

Pullan looked at Ashley with respect in his kind eyes. "Ashley, don't your friends know your identity?"

Ashley nodded. I haven't had time to tell them yet."

Joseph immediately asked, "What is your identity?"

Pullan thought, 'Ashley said that she hadn't had time to tell them yet, meaning she didn't plan to hide it from her friends. With this

in mind, he smiled, "Ashley's racing skills are so high because she is Ava, the Racing Legend."

As soon as he finished speaking, the dining hall suddenly fell silent.

Joseph blinked quickly, looking at Ashley in disbelief. "Ashley, you...you are...

"You are Ava?!" Jaden was stunned. His blue eyes were full of doubt. "Isn't Ava a man? Oh my goodness! Ashley, are you actually a man?"

Ashley said, "I'm a woman."

She used to wear a wig when she participated in racing competitions, so her fans thought she was a man.

Miranda's eyes lit up with excitement. "Ashley, you are awesome, whether you are a man or a woman."

Ashley was speechless.

After the initial shock, Bryce rarely retorted to Ashley. "Indeed, she is amazing as a man or a woman."

Ashley sighed helplessly.

Only Lester had known about it for a long time, and he looked at others' surprised expressions with great interest.

It would be great if Ashley were really his sister.

And it was also an honor for the Pliskin family.

The Ramos family didn't cherish such an excellent daughter.

After dinner, Ashley accepted Pullan's invitation and visited his manor.

She left there in the afternoon.

After returning to the hotel, Ashley took a break.

Joseph took her out to see the night scene after dinner.

“There is a river nearby. The river view is breathtaking, especially at night. We will return home tomorrow. Let’s see the river today!”

Joseph’s proposal interested Ashley.

The group walked to the river together.

The river was vast, with brightly lit cruise ships sailing slowly. The high-rise buildings on both sides of the river flashed bright

lights, reflecting blurry shadows on the river.

“Is the night scene beautiful?” Joseph asked, taking credit.

“Yeah, it looks good.” Ashley nodded.

But there are a lot of people, most of them tourists from all over the world.

After visiting for a while, a growing number of visitors crowded there and were noisy. Joseph and the others of the group became

caught up in a

3/G

11-08

seething mass of people.

Joseph turned around and found that the group had been separated by the crowd.

When they were reunited, he frowned and asked, “Where is Ashley?”

Lester immediately turned to look around.

Jaden asked, “Isn’t she with you?”

“No, we were separated just now,” Joseph said and immediately took out his mobile phone to call Ashley, but no one answered..

Bryce frowned, “Look for her around.”

Miranda had already looked for Ashley.

But after finding her for a while, she couldn’t find Ashley or get through the phone.

Joseph’s heart skipped a beat. He thought, I’m done! Has something unexpected happened to Ashley?!”

Chapter 179

Joseph was anxious and frightened. He called Ashley again, but her phone was off.

“Her phone is turned off?”

Joseph’s back was covered in cold sweat.

If something happened to Ashley, he wouldn’t have to return home. He didn’t know how to explain it to Valentin.

Lester had strong observations. While looking for Ashley in the crowd, he took out his mobile phone and decided to call the

accompanying bodyguards and ask them to bring some people to find Ashley.

Unexpectedly, he just took out his cell phone and received a call from his brother, George Pliskin.

Lester wondered, ‘Why did George suddenly call me?’

He swiped the screen to answer the phone. “George.”

“It’s me. I’m Ashley!”

The girl’s clear and pleasant voice came from the other end of the call.

Lester was stunned. “Ashley?”

As soon as he spoke, Joseph, Jaden, Bryce, and Miranda, who were looking for Ashley, immediately gathered around him.

“Is a call from Ashley?” Joseph was anxious, staring at Lester.

Lester nodded. “Yes. It’s her voice.”

Joseph breathed a sigh of relief and patted his chest. Ashley’s sudden disappearance almost gave him a heart attack. His heart

was really scared.

Fortunately, Lester connected with Ashley.

Jaden, Bryce, and Miranda also felt relieved when they heard that.

Lester took down his phone from his ear and glanced at the screen. It was a call from George, but why was Ashley speaking?

“Ashley, why didn’t you call me on your mobile phone?”

“Oh, my phone is out of battery and turned off,” Ashley sighed. It was

LS

11:08

unlucky. "Didn't everyone get dispersed by the crowd just now? I was pushed a little far away and couldn't find you when I turned

around.

mobile phone was in silent mode, and I didn't receive any calls from you. Then it ran out of power and turned off. I met a man on

the roadside who looked a lot like you. He recognized me, said he was your eldest brother, and came to Manditus to see you."

Ashley would not easily believe strangers' words, but that man had Lester's number in his mobile phone contacts.

She dialed it and actually got through.

After listening to Ashley's explanation, Lester rubbed his forehead and thought, 'George came to Manditus. It seems that he

already knew that Ashley might be our sister who had been lost since childhood."

"Ashley, where are you now? Joseph and I will go find you right away."

Ashley answered, "I'm next to a swan-shaped lantern."

Lester looked over.

This swan-shaped lantern was a famous landmark nearby. It was indeed far away from where Lester was now. Ashley had

actually been pushed over there by the crowd.

After hanging up, Lester immediately led Joseph and others there.

Walking to the swan lantern, they saw Ashley talking to a man.

The man was tall and handsome with outstanding facial features. He wore a well-tailored black suit. His face seemed to be

stained with frost and snow, carrying the coldness of being superior and indifferent.

Even though George looked cold and indifferent, his perfect face, as if carefully carved by the creator, attracted many women to

look at him frequently.

His height and temperament were outstanding among the crowd.

The person next to George was a man who looked like an assistant.

The assistant lowered his head slightly, looking extremely respectful.

Joseph saw the intact Ashley, and the last trace of worry in his heart disappeared. He wanted to run over, but when he saw the

man beside Ashley, he stopped.

2/5

However, Joseph had always been casual. He just paused a second and then ran towards Ashley.

“Ashley, I finally found you! Fortunately, you are okay. Otherwise, how could I explain to Valentin?”

Ashley blinked and thought, ‘Is it that serious?’

She coughed lightly, saying, “Don’t worry. I’m fine.”

On the side, Bryce was slightly startled when he heard Joseph’s words and keenly sensed something was wrong.

Why did Joseph say he could not explain to Valentin?

‘If something happened to Ashley, couldn’t he explain to Valentin? What is the hidden relationship between Ashley and Valentin?’

Bryce

wondered.

Jaden secretly looked at George, who had a cold temperament.

Lester raised an eyebrow slightly and introduced to everyone while chatting and laughing, “This is George Pliskin, my brother.”

Jaden suddenly realized that the man beside Ashley was George, the current leader of the Pliskin family.

George’s appearance was somewhat similar to Lester’s.

Miranda only dared to peek at George because he looked too cold. She thought his face was covered with a layer of frost, and

even his hair exuded chill, making people fear getting close to him.

His temperament was completely different from Lester’s.

Lester was cunning and scheming, while George was cold and distant.

It was late at night, and everyone no longer admired the night view of the river and returned to the hotel.

The group went back to their rooms.

George followed Lester to his room.

Lester asked, "George, why did you come here suddenly?"

George walked to the single sofa and sat down, looking up at Lester. He

asked coldly, "How long do you plan to delay it if I don't come?"

3/4

11:08

After saying that, he shifted his gaze to Lester's legs. "Your legs are healed? Are you no longer in a wheelchair?"

Lester felt somewhat guilty.

George's handsome face took on a stern expression. "Then go abroad and manage the branch."

Lester panicked, and veins popped out on his forehead. He quickly changed the subject. "George, you saw Ashley. What do you

think?"

Thinking of that girl with a bright and lively smile, George softened his usual cold face.

Lester knew what George meant as soon as he saw his expression. He smiled, "You also think Ashley is a bit like our lost sister

since childhood, right?"

"Why didn't you tell me about this earlier?" George looked at Lester..

Lester sighed, "I want to confirm it before telling Mom. After all, we have mistaken girls many times before. Every time we find

the wrong person, Mom would feel sad."

"So you're hemming and hawing, and you still haven't confirmed it yet?"

"George, taking a paternity test is not that simple." Lester had been having a headache about this matter for a long time.

Looking at George, Lester suddenly smiled, bent over, and aproa "Do you have any good ideas?"

George pushed him away expressionlessly and said in a calm tone, "Explain this matter to Ashley."

Lester was startled. "Is that okay?"

George tapped the sofa's armrest, saying, "Don't try to take hair or other things from her secretly. Tell her directly. It is also a sign

of respect for her.

Lester nodded thoughtfully.

George was right. He had to respect Ashley's wish.

a

George continued, "I have brought Mom's blood sample and trustworthy doctor. After explaining it to Ashley, we can start the paternity test if she agrees."

4/5

11:08

Lester paused for a moment.

He didn't expect George to bring blood samples and doctors over.

He exclaimed in his heart, 'George is indeed efficient.'

Lester took a look at the time. It was still early and not time to go to bed, so he said, "Let's come to Ashley now and explain it to her."

Chapter 180

Lester called Ashley and learned that she was not busy, so he took George there.

After knocking on the door and entering, Ashley glanced at George, who had a cold temperament, and then shifted her gaze to

Lester, asking, "It's so late. Why did you come here?"

She was relatively familiar with Lester and could communicate more casually.

George frowned slightly.

'Ashley didn't greet me. Did I scare her as I looked too cold?'

'I should have come here early and gotten to know her in advance. Damn! Lester took advantage and got familiar with her.'

George thought.

Lester was happy. He finally developed some feelings with Ashley during this period.

George put on a cold face all the time. Of course, Ashley wouldn't take the initiative to talk to him.

Lester smiled, "Ashley, do you remember I had told you before that you were a bit like my sister, who had lost since childhood?"

Ashley thought for a moment and nodded. "Yeah. I remember that."

"Actually, I'm not the only one who feels this way. George also thinks so." Lester mentioned George.

Ashley glanced at George and pressed her lips. "But I am definitely not your sister.

"I have done the paternity test with the Ramos family three times, and the results showed that I have a blood relation with them. I

am indeed a member of the Ramos family."

Lester was silent for two seconds. His Adam's apple rolled slightly. He said solemnly, "Ashley, what I say next may be a bit

offensive, so I want to apologize to you first."

Ashley was startled for a moment and immediately said, "Go ahead."

Lester smiled at her, but his smile looked a little lonely.

1/5

11:08

"George and I have been looking for our sister, who has been lost since childhood, and my parents never give up on finding their

daughter. We are always looking forward to finding her as soon as possible. Even though someone has only a slight

resemblance to her, we will try our best to investigate. Unfortunately, we are disappointed every time. But even so, we never

gave up for a moment.

"Now... Ashley, I take the liberty to ask you, can you take a paternity test with us and get an exact result?"

Ashley's eyes widened slightly, with a hint of astonishment in them.

Paternity test?

She heard this request and felt a bit strange.

But Lester said it so seriously and sincerely just to find his sister, who had been lost since childhood.

Ashley thought for a while and thought it didn't matter to take a paternity test. If the Pliskin family could get a definite result, they

wouldn't have to worry about it all the time.

She nodded to Lester. "Okay, I can accept it."

"Ashley, you agreed?" Lester's eyes overflowed with surprise, like a beam of light breaking through the haze and fog.

“Yes, I agreed. However...” Ashley paused and said with a serious face. “We have to go to a regular hospital to do it.”

Only in this way were the results obtained convincing.

Seeing her cute and cautious look, Lester couldn't help but laugh. “Okay. When will it be convenient for you to go to the

hospital?”

soon

Ashley felt it would be better to resolve this matter as as possible to avoid worrying about it.

She had booked the flight back home tomorrow, but for that matter, she could delay the departure date by one day.

Ashley answered, “Tomorrow.”

Lester nodded. “Okay.”

After entering the room, George's eyes fell on Ashley. There was a trace

of softness in his cold eyes. He wanted to say something but feared

scaring her, so he remained silent.

Joseph was shocked after knowing that Ashley had agreed to take a paternity test with the Pliskin family.

Joseph thought, ‘Could it be that Ashley is related to the Pliskin family?’

Curiosity suddenly surged in his heart, and he changed the flight tickets, which were delayed by a day.

Ashley, Lester, and George went to the hospital the next morning. In addition, Joseph and Miranda also followed, while Jaden

and Bryce stayed in the hotel.

The doctor brought by George had been working with the Pliskin family all year round and was very famous. The hospital dean

came out to greet him and called him professor.

The doctor drew blood from Ashley and took it together with the blood sample of Lester's mother to do the paternity test.

Lester requested expedited service, and the results would be available in about three hours.

After drawing blood, Lester helped Ashley stand up. Looking at the obvious red dot on her arm, he asked in concern, “Does it

hurt?”

“No.” Ashley shook her head. She was not afraid of needles, so it was okay.

“Go over there and sit.” Lester took her to sit on a chair in the rest area.

George couldn't help but frown when he saw the red dot on Ashley's arm.

The place where the needle was pricked began to turn blue. Her skin was tender, and the blue area looked more and more

evident.

George's assistant brought drinks and snacks.

George glanced at them, picked up a bottle of water, and unscrewed the cap before handing it to Ashley.

Ashley was stunned, then took it and smiled softly, “Thank you.”

“Don't mention it. George's voice was clear and pleasant. “I am sorry you have suffered.”

“No.” Ashley scratched her head, feeling embarrassed.

It was just a blood draw, and she didn't mind it at all.

Joseph stood aside and glanced back and forth at Lester and George. Although the paternity test results had not yet come out,

they were quite concerned about Ashley.

Miranda suddenly sighed in a low voice, “It's not bad if Ashley is a member of the Pliskin family.”

Joseph looked at her, raised an eyebrow, and asked her to continue.

Miranda lowered her voice and said, “In this way, someone will treat Ashley as a relative and treat her well. Unlike those in the

Ramos family, no matter how much Ashley devoted, she couldn't get affection from them.”

Joseph raised an eyebrow again and said, “I am also very kind to Ashley.”

“That's different,” Miranda shook her head and murmured. “Friendship. and family affection are different.”

“That's true. Joseph nodded.

Regardless of whether the paternity test results proved that Ashley had a blood relation with the Pliskin family or not, the thing

certain was Valentin would always treat Ashley well and be her family.

Miranda walked over, sat beside Ashley, and asked in a low voice, “Ashley, are you nervous?”

Ashley smiled. “No.”

She had taken three times of paternity tests with the Ramos, and each result proved that she had a blood relation with them.

Therefore, she basically knew that she would have nothing to do with the Pliskin family.

Joseph handed two pieces of dessert to Ashley. "You have been taken so much blood. Eat sweets and make up for it."

Ashley smiled helplessly.

She wasn't nervous, but Lester couldn't calm down. The feeling was like the undercurrents in the depths of the sea, which were

surging and stacking up, upsetting him.

George sat on the chair with an indifferent face, but he gently tapped the armrest of the seat, revealing his uneasy heart.

Time passed quickly.

Finally, three hours passed..

The doctor came over with the report. "Mr. Pliskin, the results are out."

Lester's eyes widened suddenly. He strode over and asked, "Mr. Morgan, what was the result?"