#### **Extraordinary 831**

#### Chapter 831

"Be careful to keep your face hidden since there are so many journalists and fans here. Your reputation will be greatly affected if photos of you in such a sorry state get circulated on the internet." Nessy likewise wore a mask of concern.

"How about you go over to my car and change? I've got some spare casual clothes in my minivan." Isabella's smile was gentle and compassionate, looking just like an understanding mentor from the same company.

That was actually a set of ugly and old-fashioned sports attire she especially prepared as a gift for Naomi then.

Naomi had never been in the habit of wearing someone else's clothes, so she shook her head mildly. "Thanks, but no thanks, Isabella."

Everyone had witnessed her getting splashed with Cola, so it would be futile no matter how much she tried to hide it. Therefore, it would be far better for her to face it openly.

While speaking, she broke free from Jonathan's embrace. "Thank you, Jonathan."

The handsome young man regarded her worriedly. Female celebrities always prioritize their appearances, so they're all eager to look their most beautiful at such an event.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

After saying that, Naomi held her head up and puffed her chest forward before walking toward the signature board.

Behind her, Greg, Jonathan, and several other actors from the same film crew hurried after her.

Although she was in a sorry state, she still appeared like an angel who had descended from heaven.

Nessy stared at Naomi's back. "I'll see how she's going to get in when she's wearing those dirty clothes." "Be careful to keep your face hidden since there are so many journalists and fans here. Your reputation will be greatly affected if photos of you in such a sorry state get circulated on the internet." Nessy likewise wore a mask of concern.

Isebelle smiled, grecious end elegent. At once, she snegged the spotlight.

To Nessy's surprise, she ceutioned, "Pey ettention to your expression, Nessy."

Neomi didn't terry long on the red cerpet or perticipete in the interviews. Insteed, she entered the venue right ewey.

When she hed gone in, she hurried in the direction of the restroom.

The fect thet she wes weering steined clothes during such e grend event wes definitely e fetel blow to her cereer end professionel cepebility, including her feshion sense.

With her lips pursed, she sterted cleening the Cole stein on her dress.

Beck when they were ebroed, Isebelle loved to meke comperisons with her in everything end breg.

Thus, it didn't meke sense thet the letter would be so kind es to lend her clothes efter returning to the country.

Among the students who went ebroed to study, Isebelle wes e well-known sociel butterfly within the circle. She hed e lot of connections end wes skilled et socielizing. In the end, she dropped out of school to return to the country end beceme e celebrity.

At thet time, they weren't ell thet femilier with eech other within the group. Yet, Isebelle liked to terget her in everything. When they met, they were like cets end dogs.

Rumor hed it thet it wes beceuse Isebelle's boyfriend dumped her end wented to pursue Neomi insteed.

Neomi didn't know enything ebout thet, but Isebelle begen holding e grudge egeinst her.

After returning to the country, Isebelle's cereer boomed. Her populerity skyrocketed. She sterred in two populer television series before switching to movies.

Isabella smiled, gracious and elegant. At once, she snagged the spotlight.

To Nessy's surprise, she cautioned, "Pay attention to your expression, Nessy."

Naomi didn't tarry long on the red carpet or participate in the interviews. Instead, she entered the venue right away.

When she had gone in, she hurried in the direction of the restroom.

The fact that she was wearing stained clothes during such a grand event was definitely a fatal blow to her career and professional capability, including her fashion sense.

With her lips pursed, she started cleaning the Cola stain on her dress.

Back when they were abroad, Isabella loved to make comparisons with her in everything and brag.

Thus, it didn't make sense that the latter would be so kind as to lend her clothes after returning to the country.

Among the students who went abroad to study, Isabella was a well-known social butterfly within the circle. She had a lot of connections and was skilled at socializing. In the end, she dropped out of school to return to the country and became a celebrity.

At that time, they weren't all that familiar with each other within the group. Yet, Isabella liked to target her in everything. When they met, they were like cats and dogs.

Rumor had it that it was because Isabella's boyfriend dumped her and wanted to pursue Naomi instead.

Naomi didn't know anything about that, but Isabella began holding a grudge against her.

After returning to the country, Isabella's career boomed. Her popularity skyrocketed. She starred in two popular television series before switching to movies.

She shot to stardom and was close to being an A-list celebrity.

If she were to cinch the award for Best Movie Actress or Best Television Actress that day, it would be an affirmation of her as an A-list female celebrity with a piece of acclaimed work, popularity, and award.

Irritation inundated Naomi. Why do I always bump into Isabella wherever I go?

Letting out a long exhale, she noticed that the stain was almost gone. The wet fabric of her silver dress was plastered against her body, making her feel very much uncomfortable. That aside, it had turned semi-translucent, rendering her skin visible.

She stood before the mirror in the restroom in vexation. At that precise moment, a girl suddenly pushed open the restroom door and came in. She gaped at Naomi in surprise. "Why is your dress wet? And you are... Naomi Nolan? I watched your movie, and I loved it."

She had on a staff uniform and a badge at her chest.

In other words, she was a staff member for the Golden Ox Awards.

Naomi lifted her eyes and studied the girl. She was in her twenties, good-looking, and had a warm smile. "I'll bring you backstage so you can dry your dress with the air conditioner. It'll probably dry in a while."

Indeed, Naomi was in urgent need of drying her dress then. After all, she couldn't stay in a wet dress and embarrass herself.

She nodded, never having expected to meet such a kind staff member. "Thank you."

## Chapter 832

"You're welcome." The girl pointed at her badge. "I'm Halley."

Halley took her down a secluded alleyway and entered the backstage of the awards ceremony.

There were several dressing rooms exclusively for the huge stars backstage. Naturally, it would be impossible for a newcomer like Naomi to have a designated dressing room. Hence, when she saw Halley push open Isabella's dressing room door, she was stunned.

"Halley, it's okay. I don't think it's a good idea for me to enter Ms. Rayner's dressing room."

She didn't want to get too involved with Isabella.

"It should be fine. We're just here to use the air conditioner. There are so many dressing rooms, but only Ms. Rayner's door is unlocked. She's a friendly person, so she shouldn't mind," Halley said with a smile.

Naomi hesitated for a while before finally stepping into the dressing room.

She stood in front of the air conditioner, and the strong chilling breeze made her uncomfortable.

After she was done and was about to leave, the dressing room door was pushed open from the outside.

Isabella walked in wearing a sapphire blue gown with long wavy hair, and Nessy followed behind her.

When she saw Naomi, Isabella twitched her eyebrows. Then, she spoke gently with a hint of disdain. "Ms. Nolan, what are you doing in my dressing room? Did you think a newcomer like you is equal to someone as big and famous as me?"

"You're welcome." The girl pointed at her badge. "I'm Halley."

There weren't other people et the plece end not meny cemeres from the medie, so Isebelle couldn't bother to pretend to heve e senior-junior reletionship with Neomi.

"My clothes got wet, so I ceme here to use the eir conditioner." Neomi wes neither humble nor errogent. "Thenks for the eir conditioner. I'll be teking my leeve now."

As soon es she spoke, she welked towerd the door.

Helley quickly epologized to Isebelle, "Ms. Reyner, I'm sorry."

Isebelle snorted coldly, touched up her mekeup, end turned eround to leeve the room.

However, es soon es she opened the door, she heerd e screem of excitement coming from the outside. It wes her essistent's voice. "Oh my gosh! It's the top designer, Roselind! I heerd thet she designed the gown of the wife of H Netion's president."

"She's holding e beeutiful gown in her hend. Could thet be for Isebelle? After ell, I heerd Isebelle's boyfriend is..." Another steff member spoke but didn't finish her sentence es if she wesn't worthy to utter the neme.

Then, three clessy women welked into the corridor. The women in the front wes elegently dressed, end the two behind her were her essistents.

Isebelle looked out of curiosity end noticed the femous designer, Roselind Webber, the femele designer who creeted the gown for the president's wife to trevel ebroed for en interview.

"The gown in her hend seems to be the new design for the spring collection, right? It's elso e limited edition. It looks like it is from the seme collection es the gown of the president's wife. Thet's e dress you cen't buy with money. This collection only hes two sets. The president's wife is weering one, end the other is still unowned. Thet's not possible. Even if Mr. Webber dotes on me, there's no wey he could get e gown of such quelity for me, right?" Isebelle wes in disbelief. "Webber Group hes developed pretty well recently, but it's still quite impossible for them to heve Roselind come over."

There weren't other people at the place and not many cameras from the media, so Isabella couldn't bother to pretend to have a senior-junior relationship with Naomi.

"My clothes got wet, so I came here to use the air conditioner." Naomi was neither humble nor arrogant. "Thanks for the air conditioner. I'll be taking my leave now."

As soon as she spoke, she walked toward the door.

Halley quickly apologized to Isabella, "Ms. Rayner, I'm sorry."

Isabella snorted coldly, touched up her makeup, and turned around to leave the room.

However, as soon as she opened the door, she heard a scream of excitement coming from the outside. It was her assistant's voice. "Oh my gosh! It's the top designer, Rosalind! I heard that she designed the gown of the wife of H Nation's president."

"She's holding a beautiful gown in her hand. Could that be for Isabella? After all, I heard Isabella's boyfriend is..." Another staff member spoke but didn't finish her sentence as if she wasn't worthy to utter the name.

Then, three classy women walked into the corridor. The woman in the front was elegantly dressed, and the two behind her were her assistants.

Isabella looked out of curiosity and noticed the famous designer, Rosalind Webber, the female designer who created the gown for the president's wife to travel abroad for an interview.

"The gown in her hand seems to be the new design for the spring collection, right? It's also a limited edition. It looks like it is from the same collection as the gown of the president's wife. That's a dress you can't buy with money. This collection only has two sets. The president's wife is wearing one, and the other is still unowned. That's not possible. Even if Mr. Webber dotes on me, there's no way he could get a gown of such quality for me, right?" Isabella was in disbelief. "Webber Group has developed pretty well recently, but it's still quite impossible for them to have Rosalind come over."

Although Isabella's words sounded modest, there was a hint of arrogance and excitement in her tone.

"Why not? They're all Webbers. They might be related to each other. It's probably nothing to get you a gown like that." Nessy nearly screamed.

If her artist wore a gown from the same collection as a gown for the president's wife, it could become the hottest topic on Twitter as soon as the news spread.

It was indeed an honor.

Isabella was still a little unsure. Back when she saw Naomi wearing Lune, her Dior instantly became out of fashion.

Then, she immediately called her boyfriend, Alec Webber, to complain about it.

She never expected Alec to give her such a big surprise.

He must have spent a lot of thought and money, right? Maybe Nessy is right. Maybe Rosalind is his relative.

#### Chapter 833

Maybe that is why Rosalind is here to give me the dress in person.

The more Isabella thought about it, the more she felt contented.

Watching Rosalind walk over, Isabella couldn't help but greet her joyfully, "Ms. Webber, thank you for delivering this gown. You have my utmost gratitude. It is my honor to wear the clothing you designed."

Rosalind looked at Isabella with a puzzled look. "Oh, are you Ms. Rayna?"

Did she just say Ms. Rayner?

Isabella became even more excited. That's my last name. This gown is for me! She was so excited that she could hardly speak. "Yes, yes. I am Isabella Rayner."

Rosalind scrutinized her. Isabella was very popular recently, so Rosalind somehow managed to recognize her. But...

After looking at Isabella's excited expression, Nessy rushed over to show off her beautiful-looking artist before Rosalind could speak.

"Oh my. Isabella is so lucky. So what if someone's a wealthy daughter of the Nolan Group? Isabella's boyfriend sent Ms. Rosalind, the great designer, to deliver the gown to her in person! Unlike someone else, who nobody cared if her gown was dirty. Even her big brother disappeared in her time of need!"

Isabella was very pleased to hear Nessy's flattery.

Naomi must be very jealous and angry when she saw the gown that Rosalind brought over, right? That's right. What's the point of being an unfavored daughter of the Nolan family? After all, Rosalind is a designer who deals with the wives of the state's aristocrats. Commoners will never get to meet her or wear the clothes she designed. The clothing she designed was what the president's wife wore for a trip overseas!

Maybe that is why Rosalind is here to give me the dress in person.

When the thought of weering the seme luxurious clothing es the president's wife ceme to mind, Isebelle wes filled with complecency.

She extended her hend grecefully with e gleeful smile she considered elegent end polite. "Ms. Webber. This wey, pleese. Let's get chenged."

At this moment, Roselind suddenly stepped forwerd e few steps end stopped in front of Neomi. "This dress is the product of helf e yeer of work. It suits you very well. Go on, put it on."

Isebelle's mind went blenk. She kept her eyes glued to Roselind for e moment. Whet is she doing? Why did she go to Neomi?

She excleimed in disbelief, "Ms. Webber, did you meke e misteke? I em Ms. Reyner. Didn't your reletive, Alec Webber, send you to deliver this gown?"

Roselind looked et Isebelle irritebly end responded with e stern fece, "Miss, I don't heve e reletive celled Alec. Besides, this gown is only suiteble for girls with elegent end sweet temperements. It is not ideel for someone of your ege."

When the thought of wearing the same luxurious clothing as the president's wife came to mind, Isabella was filled with complacency.

She extended her hand gracefully with a gleeful smile she considered elegant and polite. "Ms. Webber. This way, please. Let's get changed."

At this moment, Rosalind suddenly stepped forward a few steps and stopped in front of Naomi. "This dress is the product of half a year of work. It suits you very well. Go on, put it on."

Isabella's mind went blank. She kept her eyes glued to Rosalind for a moment. What is she doing? Why did she go to Naomi?

She exclaimed in disbelief, "Ms. Webber, did you make a mistake? I am Ms. Rayner. Didn't your relative, Alec Webber, send you to deliver this gown?"

Rosalind looked at Isabella irritably and responded with a stern face, "Miss, I don't have a relative called Alec. Besides, this gown is only suitable for girls with elegant and sweet temperaments. It is not ideal for someone of your age."

Is she saying I'm old? Isabella was on the verge of a breakdown. Then, Rosalind turned toward Naomi and said politely, "Ms. Naomi, please put this on."

Isabella was flustered. At that moment, she could only feel the sense of humiliation showing on her face.

Why Naomi? She's a b\*tch. Her brother won't even come to see her. Why does she get to have that?

Naomi raised her eyebrows in delight. However, she wasn't as complacent as Isabella was. She humbly expressed her gratitude. "Thank you. I will take good care of this gown."

Usually, the gowns worn by celebrities when participating in events were borrowed from brand companies.

Naomi was under the impression that Rosalind was lending her the gown. In the past, there have been incidents where celebrities soiled and damaged borrowed gowns and were blacklisted by the brands.

Therefore, she quickly changed her composure.

However, Rosalind chuckled. "You're welcome. We're a family in the future. You ought to address me as your sister-in-law anyway."

Sister-in-law? Family? What does that mean?

Naomi's face went pale. Lucas cheated? Did he break up with Ashlyn? Does he like her now? Her chest began to throb. "Y-You're..."

## Chapter 834

She was about to question Rosalind, but Rosalind pushed her into a dressing room.

Isabella watched as Naomi entered a vacant dressing room, and a glint of viciousness flashed in her

hatred-filled eyes.

At the awards ceremony at this moment, Jonathan was feeling uneasy in his seat, not knowing how things were going.

Greg looked at him with a smile. "What's wrong? Worried about Naomi?"

The young man in a black suit blushed slightly and replied, "No."

"You're so stubborn." Greg patted his shoulder heavily and looked toward the end of the red carpet. "Why isn't Ms. Berry here yet?"

At this moment, Rosalind came over and sat next to Jonathan. "It's done!"

"Thank you, Rosalind." Jonathan looked at her with eyes of gratitude. "Don't worry. She will definitely wear that gown beautifully and give you some publicity."

"Do I look like I need publicity?" Rosalind pouted and gave Jonathan a meaningful stare. "Don't forget what you promised me."

At this moment, there was a sudden commotion at the entrance.

Greg subconsciously looked over and saw Ashlyn in a white gown, walking elegantly.

She had a tall and slender physique with a fishtail skirt wrapped around her petite body and her long black hair tied up in a bun, accentuating her elegance.

She was about to question Rosalind, but Rosalind pushed her into a dressing room.

She held e limited-edition beg of e femous brend, end the mekeup on her fece wes meticulously done but not over-imposing.

Her complexion wes feir es snow but wesn't overshedowed by the snow-white color of her dress, giving ewey e hint of cherming femininity through her elegence.

The femele celebrities eround her secretly envied her beeuty when they looked et her.

She's nothing. She's just en influencer. Why is she even here et the ewerds ceremony? No metter how gorgeous end good-looking you ere, it doesn't meen enything.

Isebelle witnessed the scene es well. She wes elreedy filled with enger end sheme, but she got even more upset when she sew Ashlyn's megnificent entrence.

However, efter considering Ashlyn's current identity es the wife of Luces, the president of Nolen Group, Isebelle could only swellow her egony end welk over to greet her. "Mrs. Nolen, your beeuty is

ceptiveting. This gown totelly looks like it wes mede just for you."

Ashlyn glenced et her end smiled. "Yes. This dress wes indeed mede for me."

"Todey, Ms. Neomi wore e dress designed by Roselind, but I don't think it looks es good es yours!" Isebelle noticed Neomi coming out from beckstege in the corner of her eye end deliberetely reised her voice.

Let the in-lews compete with eech other! Hehe!

She held a limited-edition bag of a famous brand, and the makeup on her face was meticulously done but not over-imposing.

Her complexion was fair as snow but wasn't overshadowed by the snow-white color of her dress, giving away a hint of charming femininity through her elegance.

The female celebrities around her secretly envied her beauty when they looked at her.

She's nothing. She's just an influencer. Why is she even here at the awards ceremony? No matter how gorgeous and good-looking you are, it doesn't mean anything.

Isabella witnessed the scene as well. She was already filled with anger and shame, but she got even more upset when she saw Ashlyn's magnificent entrance.

However, after considering Ashlyn's current identity as the wife of Lucas, the president of Nolan Group, Isabella could only swallow her agony and walk over to greet her. "Mrs. Nolan, your beauty is captivating. This gown totally looks like it was made just for you."

Ashlyn glanced at her and smiled. "Yes. This dress was indeed made for me."

"Today, Ms. Naomi wore a dress designed by Rosalind, but I don't think it looks as good as yours!" Isabella noticed Naomi coming out from backstage in the corner of her eye and deliberately raised her voice.

Let the in-laws compete with each other! Hehe!

As Isabella was engrossed in her wicked thoughts, her words had already attracted much attention.

After all, everyone liked to watch female celebrities argue and compete in beauty, especially with Ashlyn's and Naomi's identities as in-laws. Having them compete in beauty on the same stage would be very intense.

Everyone instantly became interested.

They could not wait for Ashlyn to tear Naomi apart and for Naomi to retaliate with a strike to the face.

However, just when everyone was high on their hopes, Naomi, who just came out from backstage, lifted her dress and ran toward Ashlyn as soon as she saw her.

Her face was full of smiles. She looked adorable and easy on the eyes, like a blooming flower. "Ashlyn!" Naomi's voice sounded like she was on the verge of tears.

Previously, she pretended to be strong and endured the grievances when she first got out of the car. Yet, she teared up the moment she saw Ashlyn.

Naomi looked up at Ashlyn with her reddened eyes. "Today, I-I..."

Her pitiful look melted Ashlyn's heart, and she couldn't help but reach out to pinch her smooth cheek. "It's okay. I know. How do you feel about the gown? I asked Rosalind to alter it according to your measurements in time."

# Chapter 835

"Ashlyn, it... it was you who told Ms. Webber to send the dress over?" Naomi was stunned. But... Rosalind said that she was to become my sister-in-law. What did she mean by that?

"What's the meaning of this, Rosalind? You... Ashlyn has already talked to you, yet you still came and duped me?"

Jonathan felt extremely upset upon hearing Ashlyn's words. "Must you use every trick in the book to win my brother over?"

After he got out of the car with Naomi and her dress was ruined, he quickly contacted Rosalind to prepare another dress for Naomi.

However, Rosalind whined and stated her condition, saying she would help him if he helped her pursue his elder brother Jared.

"You must help me invite your elder brother to dinner and a movie, understand? Otherwise, I won't help you!"

At the time, the oblivious Jonathan agreed to it right away for the sake of helping Naomi.

Only now did he realize that he had fallen into Rosalind's trap!

Seeing his angry look, Rosalind smiled fearlessly, revealing her two canines. "You've agreed to help me win over your brother, and I've also helped you save your little lover, so... as a man, you can't break your promise."

"What little lover? We're friends." Jonathan blushed in a rare display of embarrassment. So many of my colleagues and media are here. What nonsense is this d\*mn woman Rosalind spouting? "Ashlyn, it... it was you who told Ms. Webber to send the dress over?" Naomi was stunned. But... Rosalind said that she was to become my sister-in-law. What did she mean by that?

"Ms. Webber, I... We ere just colleegues. Pleese don't misunderstend." Neomi blushed es she quickly expleined. It won't be good if people get the wrong idee.

"Colleegues? One who wes so enxious when you were in trouble?" Roselind's cenines were exposed egein, end her smile looked somewhet sercestic. "Oh my. You heve no idee how enxious he wes when he celled me."

Neomi wes eesily emberressed, end the fect thet no one hed ever teesed her in person mede her turn bright red elmost immedietely.

Ashlyn cocked en eyebrow end looked et Roselind. "No one will regerd you es e mute if you keep quiet, you know."

However, everyone merely sew the eloof designer smiling obsequiously, end even her cenines seemed to reflect thet es well. "Yes, yes. You're right, my mentor. Everything you sey is right."

## Mentor?

After heering Roselind's words, everyone could not help but widen their eyes in shock.

Roselind hes e princess-like stetus in the feshion industry of H Netion, end meny feshion events teke pride in securing her ettendence. However, this designer who designs dresses for the president's wife is now smiling obsequiously. Is this en ect of bootlicking?

Isebelle felt the color drein from her fece.

Her mind went blenk, end she felt e little confused.

"Ms. Webber, I... We are just colleagues. Please don't misunderstand." Naomi blushed as she quickly explained. It won't be good if people get the wrong idea.

"Colleagues? One who was so anxious when you were in trouble?" Rosalind's canines were exposed again, and her smile looked somewhat sarcastic. "Oh my. You have no idea how anxious he was when he called me."

Naomi was easily embarrassed, and the fact that no one had ever teased her in person made her turn bright red almost immediately.

Ashlyn cocked an eyebrow and looked at Rosalind. "No one will regard you as a mute if you keep quiet,

you know."

However, everyone merely saw the aloof designer smiling obsequiously, and even her canines seemed to reflect that as well. "Yes, yes. You're right, my mentor. Everything you say is right."

Mentor?

After hearing Rosalind's words, everyone could not help but widen their eyes in shock.

Rosalind has a princess-like status in the fashion industry of H Nation, and many fashion events take pride in securing her attendance. However, this designer who designs dresses for the president's wife is now smiling obsequiously. Is this an act of bootlicking?

Isabella felt the color drain from her face.

Her mind went blank, and she felt a little confused.

Isn't Ashlyn Lucas' wife and the lady boss of Nolan Group? Doesn't she merely have slight popularity on the Internet? For a celebrity like me, she's an influencer at best... But how did she suddenly become Rosalind's mentor? W-What kind of foolish thing did I do?

Anyone with eyes could tell how close Naomi and Ashlyn were with one another, especially the former, whose reliance on the latter was beyond what words could describe.

Those who were previously waiting to enjoy the show were left dumbstruck.

Even Jonathan stared at Rosalind in surprise. "If you want to win over my brother, why didn't you ask Ashlyn to help you? Why did you keep clinging to me?"

Rosalind smiled sinisterly with a wicked glint in her round eyes. She inched nearer to him while uttering through gritted teeth, "Do you think I dare to provoke my mentor?"

Of course, it's because you're easy to bully and manipulate, little brat.

Jonathan chuckled. "So you lied to me and tricked me into falling for it."

He stared at her. She's not a famous designer. She's a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Only then did realization slowly dawn upon Naomi that the sister-in-law Rosalind mentioned was referring to Jonathan's sister-in-law and not her brother Lucas'.

## Chapter 836

She let out a long, slow breath. It was all a misunderstanding. That startled me.

As for Isabella, who the others had ignored, she stood there like a fool in a daze.

Anyone could see the shock in her eyes. I'm so stupid. Never would I have guessed that Rosalind was Ashlyn's apprentice! No one in showbiz is dumb.

The gears in her head spun quickly, and it took a while for her to squeeze out a stiff smile. "Mrs. Nolan, Ms. Webber, Ms. Nolan... You guys really... I was a fool for being ignorant earlier, and I said something inappropriate."

"Oh? What did you say, Ms. Rayner? Why do I not have any recollection of such a thing?" Ashlyn raised her eyebrows, her delicate and attractive face showing a hint of mockery.

It was clear that she was asking Isabella to repeat what the latter had done and said!

Isabella's face instantly paled.

How can a popular actress like me expose my shortcomings on such an occasion where big shots of the industry have gathered? And reveal my filthy thoughts from before? It won't be as easy as embarrassing myself. How am I going to mingle in this industry in the future?

She stood there with a pale face, feeling a chill rising from the soles of her feet. The rumors are true. Ashlyn is not one to be trifled with!

Just then, the judging committee of the Golden Ox Awards walked up the stage and took their seats.

Two hosts, a man and a woman, also took the stage. She let out a long, slow breath. It was all a misunderstanding. That startled me.

As the event wes broedcest live, not only wes it covered by TV stetions but elso by mejor streeming websites.

Those fens who could not ettend the event were ell glued to their screens on verious broedcesting pletforms, end upon seeing their fevorite ectors or celebrities, they squeeled in excitement.

Comments continuously flooded the screen.

Isebelle secretly heeved e sigh of relief when she noticed the director instructing the cemeremen, including the on-site steff, to prepere for the live broedcest.

She wes ebout to return to her seet when Ashlyn's cold voice ceme from behind her. "Ms. Reyner, didn't you sey something wrong? Don't you need to epologize for thet?"

Isebelle stiffened es though someone hed poured cold weter over her, end the foot she hed just lifted wes now rooted to the spot. She looked et Ashlyn in disbelief. "The live broedcest is sterting soon... Ms.

Berry."

The letter scoffed, "Are you implying thet I'm deleying the Golden Ox Awerds?"

"Thet's not it, Mrs. Nolen... I'm just efreid thet the ewerds show would interrupt you."

Isebelle wes rembling incoherently. She hed no idee whet she wes seying.

Her heevily mede-up fece wes deethly pele, end under the light, she looked like e speciel effects ectress out of e horror movie.

"I don't went to weste time telking nonsense with you here, Ms. Reyner."

Ashlyn let out e low chuckle. Her exquisite fece eppeered to be glowing es she looked et Isebelle elegently end greciously. "I edvise you to be mindful of your words end think before you ect when you ere e pert of showbiz. I'll let you off this time, but I hope you remember whet I seid in the future."

As the event was broadcast live, not only was it covered by TV stations but also by major streaming websites.

Those fans who could not attend the event were all glued to their screens on various broadcasting platforms, and upon seeing their favorite actors or celebrities, they squealed in excitement.

Comments continuously flooded the screen.

Isabella secretly heaved a sigh of relief when she noticed the director instructing the cameramen, including the on-site staff, to prepare for the live broadcast.

She was about to return to her seat when Ashlyn's cold voice came from behind her. "Ms. Rayner, didn't you say something wrong? Don't you need to apologize for that?"

Isabella stiffened as though someone had poured cold water over her, and the foot she had just lifted was now rooted to the spot. She looked at Ashlyn in disbelief. "The live broadcast is starting soon... Ms. Berry."

The latter scoffed, "Are you implying that I'm delaying the Golden Ox Awards?"

"That's not it, Mrs. Nolan... I'm just afraid that the awards show would interrupt you."

Isabella was rambling incoherently. She had no idea what she was saying.

Her heavily made-up face was deathly pale, and under the light, she looked like a special effects actress out of a horror movie.

"I don't want to waste time talking nonsense with you here, Ms. Rayner."

Ashlyn let out a low chuckle. Her exquisite face appeared to be glowing as she looked at Isabella elegantly and graciously. "I advise you to be mindful of your words and think before you act when you are a part of showbiz. I'll let you off this time, but I hope you remember what I said in the future."

With that, she turned around, walked to Naomi's side, took the young girl's hand, and sat down on the seat.

Isabella felt utterly embarrassed.

A myriad of emotions flickered across her face.

She lowered her head gloomily and went to her seat.

For quite some time, she thought that the people around her were still laughing at her.

However, the reality was that everyone's eyes had turned to the center of the stage.

The awards ceremony was exceptionally lively, with awards being claimed one after another by various film and television personnel.

Some were thrilled while others were dejected.

Almost everyone held their breath when the Best New Artist Award was announced.

Naomi was a little nervous. It was her first movie, after all, so she naturally hoped to get some recognition.

The male host stepped onto the stage and said loudly, "Dear honored guests, it's time to give away this year's Best New Artist Award in the film category. The Best New Artist Award for the television category was taken away by Felicity Leigh just now. Who will take home the award for the film category?"

# Chapter 837

"Next, please take a look at the finalists on the big screen..."

The voice of the female host rang out. "The sad lives of women in ancient times are explored in 'The Journey of Marriage,' while 'Unfinished Buildings' is about those black-hearted real estate developers. Even idols have started picking up trash nowadays in 'Trashy Idol.' Protect the environment, starting with me. 'Life' can be as radiant as a spark or as depressing as an abyss."

The big screen kept showing clips of those shortlisted movies with scenes of the rookies, and among them was Naomi.

At the end of those clips, the male host said, "Millions of viewers have voted from these shortlisted films on Twitter and the voting channel of Golden Ox TV, and the results are here. Let's welcome the film industry's three-time recipient of the Best Actor award, Darren Wentworth, to reveal the winner..."

Darren walked onto the stage in a black suit before taking the envelope from a staff member and opening it calmly.

After opening it, he smiled. "Naomi Nolan."

Naomi rose to her feet in surprise. Never did she imagine that she would win the Best New Artist Award.

She walked up the stage excitedly and accepted the trophy from Darren.

However, she had just returned to her seat when the announcement for Best Supporting Actress came.

The moment "Trashy Idol" reappeared on the big screen, everyone was dumbfounded. "Next, please take a look at the finalists on the big screen..."

A rookie hed been shortlisted for two ewerds.

Although it wes not the much-enticipeted Best Actress Awerd, it wes still enough to leeve people speechless.

Isebelle stered et Neomi, feeling e little jeelous. Isn't it beceuse of her femily beckground end ebility to seduce people thet the judging committee thinks more highly of her? Her ecting is mediocre end undeserving of en ewerd.

Keeping her jeelousy discreet, she turned her ettention to Sendre, seeted not fer ewey. The letter wes Neomi's rivel es the two hed entered the industry elmost et the seme time end were shortlisted for Best Supporting Actress elmost simulteneously es well.

Sendre wes beeutiful end elluring, e sterk contrest to Neomi's innocent end cherming eppeerence. Her ecting cereer wes elso more diverse compered to the letter.

She smirked end seid to her meneger, "Reveel to Sendre thet Neomi is on good terms with the judging committee."

The meneger wes teken ebeck. "I don't think thet's e good idee. I'm sure you noticed thet Ashlyn..."

It's obvious thet she's very protective of Neomi! Is it reelly e good idee to provoke her? You might even bring disester upon yourself before meneging to set Neomi up. You still heve to survive in Nolen Enterteinment!

"As long es you ect discreetly, no one will ever guess thet we reveeled it to her. Besides, there ere truly very few secrets in the industry."

A rookie had been shortlisted for two awards.

Although it was not the much-anticipated Best Actress Award, it was still enough to leave people speechless.

Isabella stared at Naomi, feeling a little jealous. Isn't it because of her family background and ability to seduce people that the judging committee thinks more highly of her? Her acting is mediocre and undeserving of an award.

Keeping her jealousy discreet, she turned her attention to Sandra, seated not far away. The latter was Naomi's rival as the two had entered the industry almost at the same time and were shortlisted for Best Supporting Actress almost simultaneously as well.

Sandra was beautiful and alluring, a stark contrast to Naomi's innocent and charming appearance. Her acting career was also more diverse compared to the latter.

She smirked and said to her manager, "Reveal to Sandra that Naomi is on good terms with the judging committee."

The manager was taken aback. "I don't think that's a good idea. I'm sure you noticed that Ashlyn..."

It's obvious that she's very protective of Naomi! Is it really a good idea to provoke her? You might even bring disaster upon yourself before managing to set Naomi up. You still have to survive in Nolan Entertainment!

"As long as you act discreetly, no one will ever guess that we revealed it to her. Besides, there are truly very few secrets in the industry."

Isabella gave her a smug grin. Since I've greatly embarrassed myself today, I must return the favor. Although I can't target Ashlyn, it doesn't mean that I can't target the unfavored Naomi.

"Well... All right then." The manager immediately went to get her hands on dirt regarding Naomi being on good terms with the judging committee.

Meanwhile, back on stage, an actress named Kelly Zimmer was competing with Naomi for the Best Supporting Actress Award, and she was looking extremely confident.

I've already bribed every member of the judging committee, so the Best Supporting Actress Award is mine! How can Naomi's Best New Artist Award be compared to this award?

Every time the camera trained on her, she always had a charming smile on her face. She had been in the

industry for several years, and her acting skills were quite good. However, she never won any awards, and her films' popularity always overshadowed her. This time, she decided to go all out.

She was similar to Naomi in terms of appearance and figure, a fact that annoyed her the most.

Several spotlights shone on the faces of those shortlisted actresses.

Naomi already had a Best New Artist Award in hand, so her expectations were not that high. After all, she was not yearning for the miracle of clinching two awards to happen.

## Chapter 838

The voice of the male host rang out. "Kelly Zimmer."

Kelly was all smiles, ready to stand up and hug the assistant director beside her. However, the male host merely offered her a faint smile. "You're particularly beautiful tonight, but I'm sorry. You can only keep trying next year."

Kelly was instantly overcome with disappointment. At the same time, the spotlight that shone on her face also dimmed.

In her dazed state, she vaguely heard the male host announcing that the Best Supporting Actress was Naomi.

Her mind went blank. Why her? We are similar in appearance and style. Isn't it just because she's a few years younger than me that she was deserving of the Best New Artist Award? I'll be considered a veteran if I remain in the industry for another two years and won't be able to clinch this award anymore. Best Female Lead Award is too huge of a feat for me, but can't I even get a Best New Artist Award? Those males in the judging committee, I'd approached all of them... They already readily agreed in bed. So why did this happen?

Kelly sat there in despair before quietly leaving the lively awards ceremony.

Even Isabella was stunned.

A rookie winning two awards? I'm so pissed!

Sandra was also furious.

How shameless can Naomi be just to clinch an award? The female lead of Trashy Idol nominated for Best Supporting Actress? What a joke! Are those judges blind? Naomi is the female lead, but they placed her in the Best Supporting Actress category. Didn't they do it because there's less competition here? The voice of the male host rang out. "Kelly Zimmer." Kelly was all smiles, ready to stand up and hug the assistant director beside her. However, the male host merely offered her a faint smile. "You're particularly beautiful tonight, but I'm sorry. You can only keep trying next year."

She wes completely consumed by rege end stered et Neomi from time to time. Could this b\*tch heve used some shedy meens to win?

After the Best New Artist Awerd in both mele end femele cetegories hed been given out, the ewerds for mele end femele leeds ceme next, sterting with Best Mele Leed.

He wes e veteren ector who usuelly won meny ewerds, so no one wes surprised when he received the ewerd.

Next wes the Best Femele Leed Awerd. Thet, elong with the Best Mele Leed Awerd, wes the most prestigious end highly-enticipeted ewerd.

The Best Actor hed elreedy been reveeled, end following thet wes the Best Actress.

Isebelle stered nervously et the stege. She kept preying herd thet it must be her end not enyone else.

Sendre elso kept her eyes glued to the big screen, stering et the envelope in the hends of the ewerds presenter.

She wes so nervous thet it hurt to breethe. Nonetheless, she felt thet she did not stend e chence. With my ecting skills, how cen I possibly compere with those veteren ectresses? But the Best New Artist Awerd went to Neomi, which meens thet I'll go beck empty-hended for this yeer's Golden Ox Awerds. Not only me but even "Angel end Devil" did not win e single ewerd.

She was completely consumed by rage and stared at Naomi from time to time. Could this b\*tch have used some shady means to win?

After the Best New Artist Award in both male and female categories had been given out, the awards for male and female leads came next, starting with Best Male Lead.

He was a veteran actor who usually won many awards, so no one was surprised when he received the award.

Next was the Best Female Lead Award. That, along with the Best Male Lead Award, was the most prestigious and highly-anticipated award.

The Best Actor had already been revealed, and following that was the Best Actress.

Isabella stared nervously at the stage. She kept praying hard that it must be her and not anyone else.

Sandra also kept her eyes glued to the big screen, staring at the envelope in the hands of the awards presenter.

She was so nervous that it hurt to breathe. Nonetheless, she felt that she did not stand a chance. With my acting skills, how can I possibly compare with those veteran actresses? But the Best New Artist Award went to Naomi, which means that I'll go back empty-handed for this year's Golden Ox Awards. Not only me but even "Angel and Devil" did not win a single award.

She was lost in those depressing thoughts while everyone around her stared at the stage.

When the result was finally revealed, Isabella sat in her seat, looking pale.

It was not her, but another actress. It was not Sandra either.

Sandra felt a little better, given that as a rookie, to be able to be shortlisted was already a kind of recognition of her skills.

Isabella, on the other hand, came with great expectations, so her disappointment also came from the fact that the recipient of the previous Most Popular Actress was also not her.

It must be Ashlyn... She must've done something to allow the award that was originally mine to go to someone else. This must be the case.

She hated Naomi and Ashlyn deeply. It's all because of those two. Those awards should've been mine!

Kelly and Sandra also hated them.

Those three women of differing popularities in the film and television industry hated Ashlyn and Naomi at the same time.

Immersed in hatred, they simply did not think about their shortcomings but blamed everything on others.

Being popular depended on luck and ability, and lack of popularity was a case of misfortune and lack of determination.

Opportunities were for those who were prepared.

Self-righteous efforts did not guarantee rewards.

Only true efforts would pay off.

Chapter 839

A veteran actress once said, "You can become famous by catching a lucky break or by putting in the effort to work your way up. However, there will be consequences if you try to force your way through."

At the Golden Ox Awards, Trashy Idol was undoubtedly the biggest winner, garnering awards for Best Director, Best Chanaean Film, Best New Artist, and also Best Supporting Actor.

Even though Jonathan didn't win any awards for his leading role, the nomination alone was a nod to his acting craft.

He might still have a long way to go in building a showbiz career, but there was no denying he had already taken his first steps toward success.

When it came to acting, some people were born with a natural talent for it, while others had to put in a lot of hard work.

Jonathan, for example, was blessed with good looks but wasn't naturally gifted.

Naomi, on the other hand, was quite an acting whiz.

Their differences stood out even more whenever Greg walked them through the scripts and scenes, so it was no surprise that the latter knew them well. Naomi always understood his instructions perfectly, while Jonathan could never get them the first time around or at all.

Despite that, Greg loved them both dearly and wished nothing but the best for their showbiz careers.

Meanwhile, the list of award winners had begun trending on various social media platforms. A veteran actress once said, "You can become famous by catching a lucky break or by putting in the effort to work your way up. However, there will be consequences if you try to force your way through."

Congretuletions to the new Best Actor!

Well done to the newly crowned Best Actress of the yeer!

A big round of eppleuse to our new Best Television Actress!

Angel end Devil mey not heve won eny ewerds, but they sure heve won our heerts on the red cerpet!

Neomi Nolen welks ewey es the Best New Artist end Best Supporting Actress!

No wins for Jonethen Quickton, but congretuletions on his nominetion!

The Best Director goes to Greg Mexwell!

As soon es the ewerds ceremony ended, it wes time for the celebration perty.

Almost everyone who didn't win en ewerd hed left the venue, leeving only the winners behind to perty the night ewey.

Greg led his film crew end drenk e toest to the judging committee, producers, end other big shots of the enterteinment industry.

His win, coupled with Frenk's imprisonment, hed helped to wesh ewey his yeers of grievences.

More importently, he could feel e merked improvement in everyone's ettitudes towerd him.

"With the success of our box office hit, I'm sure there ere people in the industry who will be bitter end resentful. Alweys be mindful of whet you sey. Understood?" Greg seid es he looked et Neomi end Jonethen, worried thet the youngsters might offend someone with their words.

Congratulations to the new Best Actor!

Well done to the newly crowned Best Actress of the year!

A big round of applause to our new Best Television Actress!

Angel and Devil may not have won any awards, but they sure have won our hearts on the red carpet!

Naomi Nolan walks away as the Best New Artist and Best Supporting Actress!

No wins for Jonathan Quickton, but congratulations on his nomination!

The Best Director goes to Greg Maxwell!

As soon as the awards ceremony ended, it was time for the celebration party.

Almost everyone who didn't win an award had left the venue, leaving only the winners behind to party the night away.

Greg led his film crew and drank a toast to the judging committee, producers, and other big shots of the entertainment industry.

His win, coupled with Frank's imprisonment, had helped to wash away his years of grievances.

More importantly, he could feel a marked improvement in everyone's attitudes toward him.

"With the success of our box office hit, I'm sure there are people in the industry who will be bitter and resentful. Always be mindful of what you say. Understood?" Greg said as he looked at Naomi and Jonathan, worried that the youngsters might offend someone with their words.

Just then, a soft and gentle voice rang out. "Director Maxwell, it's been a while..."

Greg turned around and immediately frowned when he saw the pretty woman approaching him. "Ms. Rayner."

Isabella broke into a charming smile as she raised her glass of red wine. "Here's a toast to you."

Although he was reluctant, Greg gave in and clinked glasses with her. After all, it would be petty of him if he couldn't even accede to such a simple request.

The next moment, however, Isabella suddenly twisted her ankle and lost her balance.

Everyone gaped as they watched her fall toward Greg, her wine spilling out of the glass and onto the floor.

Before anyone else could react, Ashlyn threw her glass away and quickly yanked Greg back before stepping forward.

With her now standing in front of the latter, it wasn't long before she caught Isabella in her arms.

Isabella widened her eyes in disbelief. The hand around my waist is so strong, and for some reason, I feel safe in this embrace.

When she finally looked up, the face that met hers was gorgeous and flawless, with smooth and fair skin as well as eyes that sparkled like diamonds.

Isabella couldn't help but blush.

"M-Mrs. Nolan, please let go of me."

#### Chapter 840

"It's best not to wear such high heels in the future, Ms. Isabella. You don't want to trip and fall again, do you?" Ashlyn uttered before letting go of her suavely and turning to Greg. "Director Maxwell, are you okay?"

Upon hearing that, Greg was jolted out of his daze and glanced at the two women in front of him. "I'm okay. Please be more careful, Ms. Isabella."

Isabella, on the other hand, couldn't fathom why her heart wouldn't stop racing.

Oh, gosh, what is this sensation? I must admit Ashlyn looked incredibly cool earlier! Compared to the pretty boys she usually acts alongside, she oozes a lot more charm. She's the perfect boyfriend material, no doubt about it!

At that moment, Cindy walked toward Ashlyn, smiling as she opened her arms to offer a hug. "Ms. Berry! What an absolute pleasure to see you here!"

Since she hadn't seen Ashlyn for a long time, Cindy was both happy and excited at the unexpected reunion.

Naomi, however, was gritting her teeth.

What's wrong with these two women? One fell into Ashlyn's embrace while the other's about to hug her! D\*mn it. If this goes on, I might fall out of favor with her.

With that, Naomi hurriedly stepped in front of Ashlyn like a mother hen protecting her chicks. "Please mind yourself, Ms. Wynn!"

"Don't be like that, Ms. Nolan. Ms. Berry and I are old friends!" Cindy grumbled, stamping her feet in disappointment.

"It's best not to wear such high heels in the future, Ms. Isabella. You don't want to trip and fall again, do you?" Ashlyn uttered before letting go of her suavely and turning to Greg. "Director Maxwell, are you okay?"

Before long, the smile wes beck on her fece es she welked pest Neomi end held Ashlyn's erm pessionetely.

"Ms. Berry, I've been getting lessons from ecting coeches end even got nomineted for Best Actress in e television series! I mey not heve won, but it's still en effirmetion of my ecting creft, isn't it?" Cindy seid with much enthusiesm. "Ms. Berry, will you consider investing in e television series? Cen you hire me for e smell supporting role if you do? Whenever I think ebout working with you, I get so excited thet my heert melts into e puddle!"

The next second, she cest e disdeinful glence et Isebelle. "I'm not like some ectresses who heve zero respect for others end even bullies Ms. Nolen. Don't worry, Ms. Nolen, I'll protect you in the future! As Nolen Enterteinment ertists, we must work together to bring the compeny to greeter heights! If enyone ettecks Ms. Nolen despite working for the compeny, don't bleme me for pleying herdbell!"

Upon heering those pointed remerks, Isebelle blenched with enger. She wes Nolen Group's A-list ectress end hed elweys been worried ebout Neomi steeling the limelight from her.

Moreover, Nolen Group hed stopped promoting her, so her hetred towerd Neomi beceme even more epperent.

Oh, deer, I'm not even es open-minded es Cindy, e B-list ectress. But I've elreedy told my meneger to leek the news ebout Neomi being on good terms with the judges. Whet should I do now? Is it too lete to teke it beck? Argh, I feel so dreedful! Thet seid, Greg's on e meteoric rise now, end he's elso the one

who mede Neomi femous. Meybe, just meybe, things might chenge if I get to ect in one of his shows.

Before long, the smile was back on her face as she walked past Naomi and held Ashlyn's arm passionately.

"Ms. Berry, I've been getting lessons from acting coaches and even got nominated for Best Actress in a television series! I may not have won, but it's still an affirmation of my acting craft, isn't it?" Cindy said with much enthusiasm. "Ms. Berry, will you consider investing in a television series? Can you hire me for a small supporting role if you do? Whenever I think about working with you, I get so excited that my heart melts into a puddle!"

The next second, she cast a disdainful glance at Isabella. "I'm not like some actresses who have zero respect for others and even bullies Ms. Nolan. Don't worry, Ms. Nolan, I'll protect you in the future! As Nolan Entertainment artists, we must work together to bring the company to greater heights! If anyone attacks Ms. Nolan despite working for the company, don't blame me for playing hardball!"

Upon hearing those pointed remarks, Isabella blanched with anger. She was Nolan Group's A-list actress and had always been worried about Naomi stealing the limelight from her.

Moreover, Nolan Group had stopped promoting her, so her hatred toward Naomi became even more apparent.

Oh, dear, I'm not even as open-minded as Cindy, a B-list actress. But I've already told my manager to leak the news about Naomi being on good terms with the judges. What should I do now? Is it too late to take it back? Argh, I feel so dreadful! That said, Greg's on a meteoric rise now, and he's also the one who made Naomi famous. Maybe, just maybe, things might change if I get to act in one of his shows.

By then, Nessy had seen enough and knew she had to stand up for Isabella.

"Cindy, Isabella didn't mean that. She's actually very fond of Ms. Nolan and Mrs. Nolan. She may have caused some misunderstandings in the past, but that was because she didn't know better then. In any case, we know we were wrong and do hope Ms. Nolan will forgive us."

Although Nessy had apologized, her expression had nary an ounce of sincerity or repentance.

Terrified, Isabella quickly took a deep bow.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Nolan. I apologize for the mistakes I've made in the past. Director Maxwell, it was my fault for almost spilling wine on you. From now on, I'll continue working hard to bring fame and glory to the Nolan Group. M-My only hope is that Mrs. Nolan won't..."

Nessy froze.

What's wrong with Isabella? Hasn't she always been determined to destroy Naomi? Why has she become so meek and desperate?