

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

As Bernard caught Merissa's nervous glance, he finally shot a cold look at Maddie, who had been awkwardly trying to join the conversation.

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Maddie stared back at Bernard, desperate to figure out Merissa's true identity.

But Bernard just stared at her with that cold, piercing gaze!

Chilled by that icy gaze, Maddie felt a shiver run

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

down her spine.

His look seemed to say, "Who are you to speak to me?!"

For a tense ten seconds, Bernard's frosty eyes said it all without a word.

Maddie didn't get the answers she was looking for!

Merissa let out a sigh of relief! Thankfully, her well-guarded secret was still safe!

Bernard turned back to Merissa, Cartland, and Edgar, his face softening. "Sorry, I've got another appointment. I'll have to leave now."

He gave Maddie one last glance, brushed off Edgar's pleasantries, and left.

The room fell silent again.

"Maddie, aren't you due on set in ten minutes? What are you still doing here? Remember, you're an actress, not a barista!"

Edgar didn't scold her directly but his message was clear. He had put up with her only because of a favor to Richard; he never would have hired her otherwise!

"Mr. Mortiz..."

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

"Enough! Go get ready!"

Edgar felt like he'd brought trouble upon himself by letting Maddie join the production. Ignoring Maddie, he turned back to Cartland and Merissa and put on a friendly smile as he led them out of the room.

Again, it was all because of Merissa!

Maddie's eyes burned with resentment. She pulled out her phone and called someone.

"Hello, is this the detective agency? I need you to track someone for me..."

After enjoying the fancy meal Merissa ordered, the crew got back to work.

Since Merissa was one of the investors, she got to stay and sit with Edgar behind the monitors.

On the screen, Maddie, all decked out in a blood-stained white dress with a knife in hand, was walking through the dimly lit corridors of an old mansion, giving off a creepy vibe.

As she crept towards a room, the heroine was shivering in fear under the bed.

Maddie was playing Elena, a murderer with

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

+5 Points

multiple personalities. The personality she was portraying was a girl who took pleasure in hunting her victims like a cat after a mouse.

Elena hummed a nursery rhyme as she walked into a room, flashing a chillingly twisted smile as she peeked under the bed.

"Cut!" Edgar suddenly yelled out. "That's not it! I've told you over and over. She's into torture, but not like this. You're not nailing the psychopath vibe!"

The set went dead silent. Maddie frowned impatiently.

It was just a psychopath role, what was so tricky about it?!

But she couldn't be straight up about those true thoughts. Glancing at Merissa sitting nearby, she came up with an idea.

With a pitiful bite of her lip, she said, "Sorry, Mr. Mortiz, maybe I'm just not getting it. I heard Merissa is good at acting, maybe she could show me how it's done?"

Edgar's face lit up with surprise at Maddie's suggestion. "Really? Ms. Narth, you can act?"

Merissa was indeed a pro at acting, but she had never told anyone. Back in university, she was the

star of the drama club and had even been invited to play a lead in a youth film by a drama academy teacher.

Maddie's acting was fine, but it lacked depth.

Merissa, sitting upright with an air of authority, wasn't intimidated by Maddie's challenge.

With a light snort, she stood up. "Okay!"

Maddie was caught off guard. Merissa actually agreed?

She was just a poor country girl; how could she possibly know how to act? Now Maddie was eager to see if Merissa was just bluffing!

As Merissa went to change into her costume, she paused. "Not this bloody one, give me something plain white. People with her kind of psych issues care a lot about how they look. They wouldn't stand blood on their clothes. Plus, all her personalities have a mental strain, and plain white shows that best."

Maddie rolled her eyes. A killer's appearance needed to be bloody and violent for visual impact. Dressed all prim and proper, she would look more like a naive princess than a murderer.

But Edgar was clearly impressed by Merissa's

words: She really understood the character inside out. Edgar nodded approvingly and signaled for the costume designer to get what she asked for.

Minutes later, as Merissa stepped out in a white dress, she looked like a beautiful, innocent girl bathed in moonlight.

But there was a creepy vibe about her that made people uneasy.

She nailed the character of Elena right off the bat.

The new Elena, clad in white, moved down the hallway with slow, graceful ballet-like steps, wearing a serene smile on her lips.

It was as if she was about to perform ballet, not commit murder.

But the glint of the knife in her hand told a different story.

Approaching the door, she leaned in and lightly knocked. "Rebecca, are you there?"

But there was no response, and Elena's smile faltered, replaced by a chilling look in her eyes that sent shivers down everyone's spine.

The set was silent.

Elena pushed the door open gently as if trying not

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

+5 Points

to disturb anyone.

She circled the room, then sighed in feigned disappointment and murmured about what a pity it was, before heading back to the door.

As soon as the door clicked shut, the heroine

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crawled out from under the bed, trembling.

Everyone held their breath, eyes fixed on the scene unfolding.

But then, out of nowhere, Elena appeared above her on the bed, whispering right next to her ear, "Found you."

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

The heroine collapsed in shock.

Elena burst into shrill, excited laughter.

Holding her dress, she gracefully curtsied to the terrified girl.

Everyone was freaked out.

The contrast between Elena's innocent looks and her terrifying actions sent chills down everyone's spine.

She knew her prey was hiding under the bed all along. She just enjoyed toying with her victims, reveling in their fear.

She was elegant and joyful while hunting, and exhilarated when she found her prey, yet still maintaining the demeanor of a noble lady.

The stark contrast made it clear who nailed this role. Maddie's interpretation was superficial, but Merissa brought the character vividly to life!

"Cut!" Edgar shouted, his eyes shining with approval. This was the performance he was looking for.

Maddie watched in shock. She had wanted Merissa to embarrass herself!

How had it turned out like this?!

Chapter 15 Acting Genius

How come Merissa was so good at acting?!

Edgar stood up, excitement written all over his face. "Ms. Narth, that was amazing! Could you continue with this role? It's just what I envisioned!"


Maddie looked at Edgar in disbelief, feeling panicked. This was the role she had fought so hard for!



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