

## Heiress 441

### Chapter 441

The crowd stopped bidding.

Bella was overjoyed and satisfied with such a good start to the auction.

“\$7 million.

A calm baritone voice spoke suddenly from behind.

Bella’s breath hitched, and the smile on her face suddenly faded.

The crowd was shocked.

Justin raised the paddle in his hand high into the air from the last Tow. His expression was cool and confident.

“That’s Justin Salvador, the president of Salvador Corporation!”

“OMG! When did he arrive? He appeared out of nowhere!”

“He’s a lowkey person, but he sure is generous!”

Justin did not lower the paddle. His burning gaze was fixed on Bella, unable to look away.

In the end, Bella did not even look back.

Seven million dollars could not even get him a look from Bella Thompson, the heiress of KS Group.

It looked like he had to keep spending, then.

“It’s overpriced to pay \$7 million for that necklace. One shouldn’t. spend money like that, even if he’s rich.” Alice shook her head in disgust at his action.

“The more idiots like those there are, the more hope kids out in the impoverished areas have.” Bella curled her red lips, already cursing. Jerkface Justin in her heart.

“Congratulations, Mr. Salvador! Thank you for your support to charity!”

The auctioneer banged his gavel, and the crowd applauded fiercely.

When the camera was trained on Justin, he smiled perfunctorily.

Meanwhile, Christopher, who was sitting not far from him, pushed his glasses up with a finger, his gaze chilly.

The auction proceeded smoothly.

All the jewelry donated for the auction was bought at high prices. Shannon even bought one as a symbolic gesture.

But what made Bella incredibly unhappy was that whenever they encountered a piece of jewelry nobody bid on, Justin would deliberately bid higher than the asking price and buy it.

In just a short hour, he had already bought three pieces of jewelry and spent more than \$30 million!

Bella wore a frosty expression as she wished she could chase this bastard out of the hall.

Right then, another not-so-valuable piece of jewelry was bought by Justin, and the crowd started discussing, as expected.

“Is that piece worth \$4 million? Mr. Salvador doesn’t have a discerning eye, does he?”

“He’s handsome and rich, so it’s fine if he’s a little foolish. No one’s perfect!”

“Foolish, my foot! Haven’t you guys noticed? Everything Mr. Salvador has bought isn’t valuable. Even if you’re picking at random, there’s no way you’d be able to avoid all the valuable pieces, is there? You can tell at a glance that he’s doing this on purpose!” Someone keenly noticed the pattern.

The crowd was shocked. “That’s true! Then, do you mean...”

“Mr. Salvador is buying the cheaper stuff to support Ms. Thompson and help create value for her auction. He’s trying to woo the beauty!”

Zoe Hoffman watched as Justin, whom she longed for desperately, did everything he could to please Bella Thompson. She was so angry that her eyes reddened. She was furious.

She wished for Justin so dearly, yet he served himself up to Bella on a silver platter. Yet still, Bella ignored him. This extreme contrast made

Zoe feel like she had suffered an unprecedented humiliation.

The crowd seemed to nod vigorously, thinking it was reasonable.

Justin could faintly make out what they were saying, and his lips curled slightly.

It looked like there were people who understood.

It was just a shame that Bella never glanced back his way from beginning to end.

His curled lips drooped back down slightly.

“Ha. How boring.” Christopher scoffed, looking down on Justin’s actions.

What was the use of throwing his money around? Did he think Bella was like other shallow women who only had eyes for money?

“Allow me to introduce the next lot!”

The auctioneer’s voice was loud and clear as he pulled off the red cloth covering the glass display in a sudden motion.

An expertly cut teardrop-shaped white diamond necklace was revealed to the crowd’s eyes. There were hundreds of tiny blue diamonds clustered around the white diamond. It was exquisitely chic and breathtaking!

“This piece of jewelry was donated by Ms. Ada Wang and was designed by the top international jewelry designer, Ms. Alexa herself! Thank you, Ms. Ada Wang, for your generosity!”

The moment that necklace appeared on stage, Bethany’s face twisted in shock as she jolted upright in her seat.

At that moment, Zoe’s expression also gradually stiffened as she interlaced her fingers and clenched them so hard over each other that they turned red.

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They had planned for every possibility except for this one-Ada Wang donating that necklace openly in front of everyone!

How could this be?!

Bethany hurriedly looked back to meet Zoe's gaze from a few meters away, wanting to speak but unable to.

The reveal of Alexa's work truly pushed the atmosphere of the auction toward its climax.

Those present who were part of the jewelry industry and enthusiasts all leaned forward and craned their necks just to catch a glimpse of the legendary designer's brilliant work.

Justin and Christopher had both heard of Alexa, and their eyes, which had been dull the whole night, sparked to life at that moment.

The two men gripped their paddles tightly, already eager to place their bids.

"Bethany, why did you stand up? Hurry up and sit down. Can't you see the people surrounding us are looking at you?" Shannon saw that Bethany was doing something undignified again and tugged at her arm hard.

"Mom, something's happened!" Bethany collapsed into her seat. Her voice was even trembling.

"Something? What thing?"

"The necklace Ada Wang donated... gave it to her."

"You gave it to her?! Where did you get an Alexa piece?!"

Shannon was shocked, but she quickly became furious. "You gave her such an expensive necklace? She's basically wasting it and dismissing your goodwill! Is she trying to offend you?! Also, why didn't you bring it home to me if you had a piece of Alexa designer jewelry and gave it to that actress instead? I raised you for nothing!"

"Mom... That necklace... It's fake." Bethany had broken out into a cold sweat as she spoke weakly.

Shannon was shocked. “What did you say? It’s fake?!”

“Zoe helped me get Alexa’s apprentice to make that counterfeit necklace...” Bethany stuttered. “Ada Wang was taking a long time to sign the contract, so out of desperation, I came up with the plan to do what Bella Thompson did and use Alexa’s jewelry to get her favor... The fake is very well done, and it’s one of Alexa’s less popular works, so Ada Wang didn’t notice. I know the truth gets out eventually, but I thought that even if it got revealed in the future, the contract would have been signed, and Ada Wang wouldn’t be able to go back on it even if she wanted to. But I never expected her to donate the necklace to charity! If this gets out, Salvador Corporation’s reputation will be ruined!”

“You really are dumb as a rock!”

Shannon said in a furious whisper, jabbing her sharp nails at Bethany. “It’s better to not give anything than to give fake goods! Our family name will be ruined by you if this gets out. Don’t you know that?!”

“It wasn’t my idea... It was Zoe’s! You can’t put the whole blame on me!” Bethany pursed her lips in indignance, actually feeling aggrieved.

“You can’t even tell that Zoe is just using you as a tool?!” Shannon was so angry that she stomped her foot, her eyes reddening. “If the fake isn’t discovered, you’ll have managed to get the rights to organize her wedding. That aligns with her goal of moving against Bella Thompson. If it’s discovered, the necklace was given by you under Salvador Corporation’s name, so what does it have to do with her?”

She’d be able to make a full retreat from the situation, leaving you to clean up the mess. You won’t even be able to cry about it!”

Realization finally dawned on Bethany, and she cursed herself for allowing herself to get used by Zoe just because she wanted the contract signed.

“Mom! Then what should I do now?”

“We’ll just have to adapt to the situation as it develops.”

Shannon forced herself to take a deep breath to calm down. “There are so many of Alexa’s works spread all around the world, so who knows if they can tell this one’s a fake? Even Ada Wang didn’t realize, so there’s no way anyone else will be able to!”

Bethany finally relaxed a little, but she was still worried the fake would be discovered.

“I want to say a few words about this piece of jewelry.” Ada Wang took the microphone and stood up to face the audience with a smile.

Her gaze finally fell on Bethany’s pale face. “I’d like to thank Ms. Bethany Salvador from Salvador Corporation for giving me this necklace.”

Bella leisurely dug out her phone to text Steven, who was backstage.

In the next second, a bright and piercing spotlight shone on Bethany’s face, which was as stiff as a statue.

Meanwhile, the large screen overlooking the stage also began to display her face, which accurately captured her every expression.

Bethany had no choice but to force a smile, cursing internally.

“Although I like Alexa’s works very much, I think donating a piece to give back to society and helping many more people in need is better than simply keeping it in my possession.”

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“This is the same philosophy that Ms. Alexa has been adhering to when designing jewelry all these years. As a fan of hers, I hope to follow in her footsteps in this way. I hope Ms. Bethany Salvador doesn’t mind me doing this. I like the gift very much, and it’s precisely because I like it so much that I want it to be of greater value.”

After Ada said this, Bethany naturally did not dare to say no.

Right now, she only wanted that damned spotlight on her to be turned off and for her embarrassed face to disappear from the big screen.

Ideally, she wished that she could vanish into thin air too.

“Alexa’s works are difficult to obtain and have extraordinary significance. Therefore, Ms. Ada has decided to put this lot up without an asking price!”

The bidding started, but the audience hesitated.

“\$30 million.”

A clear voice rang out, and Christopher Iverson smiled as he slowly raised his paddle.

Thirty million dollars?!

That was the highest bid any of the lots that night had gotten!

If the lowest price was already \$30 million, was the price going to rise into the hundreds of millions of dollars?

Although it was true that an Alexa piece was worth that price, this discouraged many people who were eager to try their luck.

“\$50 million.” Justin raised his paddle with a cold and distant expression.

But a spark flashed through his eyes, revealing his unquenchable fighting spirit and ambition.



The crowd was stunned, wondering if Justin Salvador had a money- printing machine at home that ran 24/7.

He had raised the price by \$20 million in one go.

There were a few people who wanted to try bidding too at first, but they caved at this moment.

“\$70 million.” Christopher raised his paddle again, not even frowning.

He added \$20 million too, obviously challenging Justin.

Justin continued, “\$90 million.”

Christopher chased. “\$100 million.”

Everyone exclaimed in disbelief as the hall erupted into an uproar.

Okay, it was confirmed that Christopher Iverson also had a money printing machine at home.

Bella crossed her arms as her thick eyelashes fluttered and her red lips pursed into a thin line.

She watched as the bid got higher, like a stock increasing in value, but there was no trace of a smile on her face.

“Ms. Thompson, those two don’t look like they’re bidding at an auction. They look more like they’re arguing.”

Even Alice could tell what was going on.

“Exactly! It’s like they think this is a highway intersection and are road. raging here!”

Bella wore a deep scowl. She really wanted to send someone to confiscate the paddles of these two crazy show-offs!

Elsewhere, Shannon watched the whole exchange, stunned.

“Mom, didn’t you say that Mr. Iverson was poor? But he’s made a \$

100 million bid! How on earth is he poor?” Bethany asked in shock.

Shannon was unable to reply.

Had she judged incorrectly this time? Was Christopher a wolf in sheep’s clothing?

“\$120 million.” Justin expressionlessly raised his bid once again.

Alexa had been one of his hang-ups for a very long time, and he had a lot of repressed feelings about her, so he had to win this bid tonight.

“\$150 million!”

A clear and pleasant voice rang out.

Bella’s beautiful eyes were clear and cold. Finally, unable to hold back, she raised her paddle.

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Justin and Christopher’s hearts trembled as they looked at Bella in unison.

They were both very attuned to Bella, so they realized right away that she was angry.

Thus, they both caved and backed out of the bid.

It was not a big deal. Why get angry? They would just give in to her.

“Congratulations, Ms. Thompson! The necklace is yours!”

The auctioneer was also very good at judging the situation. Before anyone could even react, he banged his gavel, which meant the necklace went to Bella.

The hall was silent for two beats before it erupted into roaring applause.

Bella, however, remained calm, with not a trace of happiness on her features as her eyes remained dull.

“Mom! Bella Thompson bought the fake necklace! Do you think she’s realized it’s a fake?” Bethany was panicking so much that her voice was trembling. Her heart was beating as fast as a rabbit’s.

“Shut your mouth! Are you trying to yell that for the whole world to hear?!” Shannon viciously pinched Bethany’s arm, spitting venomous fury from her eyes. “She definitely hasn’t. She won’t expect a fake item to appear at her auction. Let’s just consider her \$150 million as accumulating good karma for you!”

Bethany was still worried. “What if she notices after taking it back-”

“It’ll have nothing to do with you once the auctioned item leaves this place! Who would know if someone swapped it out after she took it home or if she was deliberately slandering you?”

Shannon sneered sinisterly.

Bethany admired her mother's ability to twist the truth without batting an eye. She secretly cursed herself and wondered why she could not have shared a brain with her mother.

Ada Wang could not help but smile in satisfaction when she saw that the piece of jewelry she donated was bought by Bella at the auction's highest bid so far.

She even thought that Bella must still be dreaming of working together with her, or else she had no other reason to go that far.

Ah, youth!

Right then, the youthful Bella's cold eyes darkened as she took out her phone to text Steven.

Then she adjusted her position, as if waiting for a good show to start.

"The next piece of jewelry is from-"

The moment the red cloth was taken off, the auctioneer's excited words suddenly cut off.

He looked at the teardrop-shaped diamond in the display case and then looked at the flow sheet in his hand.

There was a mistake. These were not the right goods!

When the dazzling spotlight shone on the glass display, the crowd made sounds of astonishment.

"I'm not seeing things wrongly, am I? Isn't that necklace the one that Ada Wang just donated?!"

"That's right, it is! It's exactly the same!"

“There’s no way! Each one of Alexa’s designs is completely unique!

How could there be two of one design, and how could they appear at the same auction?!”

“So... Is it possible that one of them is a fake?!”

The crowd hotly debated as they pointed and gestured at the necklace in the display case.

Ada Wang leaned forward in complete shock, thunderstruck, as she looked at the necklace on stage.

Shannon and Bethany were both frozen in terror as they held each other’s hands tightly. Bethany could even feel the cold sweat slide down her spine.

The necklace she gave Ada Wang was fake.

So there was only one possibility. The necklace on stage right now. that she did not know who had donated had to be the real one!

“Ms. Thompson, didn’t you check the lots before the auction? How could such a mess have happened?” Alice did not mean to reproach Bella but was purely concerned for her.

“Was I the one who didn’t follow the rules? Was it not Ms. Ada?” Bell smiled and asked in a thought-provoking manner.

Alice was taken aback. “That necklace... Could it be-?!”

Amidst the crowd’s suspicion, Bella gracefully stood up and walked onto the stage.

Justin narrowed his eyes slightly as he watched Bella smile charmingly and dazzlingly.

His heart, which had been lying dormant under his suit, thumped strangely, and every inch of his skin started burning like he had been scorched by fire.

“Everyone, I would first like to apologize as the organizer of Mint’s charity auction, and I bear responsibility as the person in charge of the hotel for the error that has happened, which has given everyone a bad experience.”

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Bella bowed deeply and courteously towards the audience after she finished saying that.

The hall slowly quietened.

“Secondly, I’d like to explain. I donated this piece of Alexa’s work called ‘God’s Tear’.” Bella pursed her lips slightly.

Everyone was taken aback by this, and they all turned in unison to look at Ada Wang.

Ada Wang was completely bewildered. Everyone surrounding her was looking at her, but she could only turn her stunned gaze to Bethany Salvador.

In turn, Bethany turned to look in Zoe Hoffman’s direction, only to find her seat was empty!

Zoe had a bad feeling earlier, so she took advantage of the chaos and left the scene.

Bella watched this ridiculous cycle coldly from her position on stage. and her red lips could not help but curl up. “Ms. Ada, I did not know you were donating this necklace tonight, so this is all truly a coincidence. Please do not misunderstand.”

“Ms. Thompson, why do you also have the ‘God’s Tear’?” Ada Wang’ confidence had been instantly extinguished as she asked with a sti expression.

Bella restrained her smile, and she frowned slightly. “Ms. Ada, the re issue right now isn’t why I have this necklace, but rather the fact that your necklace is fake.”

Everyone was deeply shocked by this statement.

Shannon managed to keep her calm, but Bethany was pale from the fear that had risen due to Bella’s words.

“But that necklace was given to me by Bethany Salvador, the daughter of Salvador Corporation’s chairman... How could it be fake?!” Ada

Wang was still having trouble accepting this fact.

If that necklace was fake, the way she had just made a big show of donating it like it was a genuine article made her look dumb, did it not?!

“Ms. Thompson! On what basis do you say that the necklace my daughter gave Ms. Ada is a fake? You should say that only after getting someone to appraise it! Otherwise, aren’t you just slandering us?!”

Shannon felt that there would be huge trouble if things went on like this, so she hurriedly stepped up to say so sternly as a means of preempting whatever the others might say or do next. That way, she could contain the suspicion against them temporarily before saying anything more.

“The fact that I dared to say your necklace is a fake means that I have a way of proving it. I am by no means being defensive.” Bella was calm, and her tone was unhurried.

A mischievous gleam subconsciously flashed through her beautiful eyes.

Justin sat straight, his gaze glued to Bella’s face as he smiled.

Whenever she smiled in that cunning and fox-like manner in the past, it meant she was up to something.

That expression used to infuriate him, but at the moment, he found it more adorable and pleasing the more he looked at it.

“Ms. Thompson! You claim that Ms. Salvador’s necklace is fake, but do you have evidence?”

“Ms. Ada is an expert collector of jewelry. How could she not be able to tell if it was fake?”

Exactly, Ms. Thompson! You have to take responsibility for making unfounded claims! The two necklaces look exactly the same. You should get an expert to appraise it before drawing conclusions!”

Bella faced the audience’s criticisms with an impassive expression.

Suddenly, the halls’ large, heavy doors were pushed open.

Everyone reflexively turned to look.

A blonde-haired, blue-eyed beauty on tall stilettos entered everyone’s astonished field of vision.

Justin also could not help but look back. Instantly, his eyes widened.

Surprisingly, it was Sliva, Alexa’s assistant.

Why had Sliva appeared right at this moment?

“It’s Ms. Sliva! She’s the manager of Alexa’s studio!” Someone in the audience recognized her and could not help but exclaim.

“Sliva actually came here?! She’s Alexa’s right-hand woman! Could there be anyone more suitable to appraise Alexa’s jewelry than she is?!”



In full view of everyone, Sliva walked straight toward Bella without looking elsewhere.

Bella smiled softly at her and walked off the stage, relieved.

“You’re here.”

The familiar and natural way she greeted Sliva surprised the onlookers.

Sliva stopped in front of Bella and took her hand, kissing the back of it lightly. This was a gesture of admiration and utmost respect in Inalia.

“I’m sorry for being late, Ms. Alexa.”

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The entire venue fell silent for a moment, followed by explosive gasps.

‘Alexa... Bella is Alexa?’ Justin experienced a brief buzz in his head before going completely blank for several seconds. It was as if even his soul had left his body, leaving him feeling weak from head to toe.

‘Bella is Alexa!’ Justin thought to himself. ‘She is the illustrious jewelry designer who is highly regarded. So she had spent the entire time watching me embarrass myself. She must have been overjoyed, secretly laughing at my efforts to meet Alexa, only to be rejected.’

Justin was completely taken aback. His lips trembled, and his breath was heavy. His eyes turned an unimaginably intense shade of red. He could not decide whether he was more angry or shocked.

“Bella, you deceived me again. You actually deceived me again!”

She clearly had an unparalleled talent, but she had kept it hidden from him for the entire three years of their marriage. She played the role of a housewife who toiled at home without displaying any of her talent or brilliance.

“Why would she degrade herself in this manner? Was she making fun of my ignorance in some twisted way?” Justin clenched his teeth, and the pressure caused his molars to ache. His heart throbbed faintly, prompting him to raise a hand instinctively to cover the area around his heart. Is it amusing to toy with me like this, Bella? How did you expect me to fall in love with you when you have never been honest with me?”

“Alexa?! The heiress of KS Group is Alexa?! This is truly sensational news!”

“Could it be a lie?”

“Diamond necklaces can be faked, but can her identity be faked?”

Besides, Sliva is here to confirm her identity!”

Even those who normally maintain dignified facades could care less about appearing sophisticated at this time. Everyone took out their phones and took pictures of Bella like paparazzi!

Given that Alexa was looking this hot and stunning, it would be a shame not to take a few pictures to show off later. Otherwise, tonight would be a complete waste!

Christopher calmly observed the crowd that had gathered around. Bella. She was like the moon, surrounded by many stars. He casually adjusted his glasses, and his smiling eyes revealed a hint of indulgence and playfulness.

No other woman could excite him as much as Bella. She was the only one who made him realize that the existence of love was not as dull and silly as he had previously assumed.

The scene became somewhat chaotic. In their eagerness to get closer to the spectacle, everyone crammed closer and closer to Bella.

Seeing the situation, Christopher was worried for Bella's safety if it continued. He stood up, intending to walk over and help her break free.

A cold gust of wind swept past him out of nowhere. Christopher's eyes widened as he noticed Justin rushing over with quick strides,

pushing his way through the crowd. He clenched his fists in frustration. His gaze was piercing, and he yearned to rip Justin apart.

Bella was taken aback when Justin suddenly assumed the role of her protector, standing in front of her like a human shield. She couldn't help but ask, "What are you doing?"

"There are too many people. I'm afraid you might be in danger," Justin replied without turning to face her.

Bella scoffed with disdain. "Steve is close behind. Not to mention that my hotel's security is excellent. We can easily handle this minor situation. There is no need for you to be the hero here."

"Bella, you deceived me again," Justin said slowly.

Justin shifted his gaze, his dark eyes intense. "Do you not have anything to say to me about your deception?" he asked in a trembling voice that only they could hear.

Bella laughed with a mocking look in her eyes. "Does it hurt to be deceived by me? Don't worry, you'll slowly get used to it."

Justin took a deep breath and let out a soft cough. She infuriated him.

The uproar sparked by Alexa did not die down until Steven dispatched a squad of bodyguards to restore order.

“OMG, you are Alexa... How is this even possible?” Ada Wang walked toward Bella, her mouth covered and her words incoherent. Tears streamed down her excited face.

“I did not conceal my identity on purpose. It is just that these titles do not mean much to me. I simply enjoy making jewelry and do not want to be in the spotlight or draw too much attention.” Bella maintained her usual gentle demeanor with Ada Wang. “I know you are a big fan, and I am honored to have your and everyone else’s affection.”

Such grace, such charm!

“I’m sorry, Ms. Thompson. No, Ms. Alexa. Please forgive my rudeness. earlier.”

Ada Wang was regretful. She wished she could go back in time and change her cold words and dismissive attitude toward Bella! It is like missing the forest for the trees!

“I am both Alexa and the general manager of KS World Hotel. My dual identity cannot make up for the breach of hotel confidentiality. So, I have never held it against you, and there is no need for you to blame yourself.”

At that moment, Bella was about to reveal Shannon and Bethany’s true colors.

“God’s Tears’ is one of Alexa’s relatively obscure private works and has rarely been publicly exhibited. Besides Alexa, no one in the world. possesses it.” Sliva’s sharp gaze was fixed on Bethany. “So, without a doubt, the one Ms. Salvador gave to Ms. Ada is a counterfeit.”

Sliva added, “Daring to replicate works by Alexa is a serious infringement on Alexa’s reputation and creative rights. Alexa ensures that each of her pieces is insured for a high value. You are not legally inept, Ms. Salvador. You should be well aware of the potential consequences and penalties, right?”

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Upon hearing those words, the crowd erupted into a clamor as they cast skeptical glances at Bethany.

When he heard the statement, Justin's eyes darkened slightly. His expression was calm, as if he expected it. After all, even he found the task of seeking an audience with Alexa to be like reaching for the stars. He never believed Bethany had the ability to acquire Alexa's jewelry. There was definitely something fishy about it.

Justin felt a surge of resentment and anger as he reflected on this. He turned around to give Bella a hard stare.

Bella shrugged her shoulders and scowled at Justin. 'What kind of expression is that? He looks like he wants to devour someone.' She examined Justin as if he were a psychopath.

The crowd's suspicious gaze made Bethany paler than ever. She quickly hid behind Shannon to avoid their gaze.

"Ms. Salvador, have you been lying to me since the beginning?"

Ada Wang was enraged, her eyes ablaze. "Were you resorting to such despicable tactics just to win me over? Did you deceive me in order to secure my cooperation with your Salvador Hotel?" she demanded angrily of Bethany.

Bethany stammered, unable to speak a single word. She was terrified and drenched in sweat.

"I chose to trust you unconditionally because you are associated with the Salvador Corporation, and I held you in high regard as a well-mannered young lady. With this incident, I am now skeptical of the Salvador family's entire reputation! It contradicts the century-old reputation your family has built in Savrow!"

Ada Wang was furious after being humiliated in front of her idol. She was determined to direct her rage at Bethany and the entire Salvador family.

The onlookers shook their heads in disapproval. Unbelievable! A billion-dollar family sent counterfeit goods to a celebrity and was caught in the act in front of the real Alexa! This, along with Rosalind's cheating on Justin, could go down in the Salvador family's history as a permanent stain.

“As president of the Salvador Corporation, I am unaware of the gifts Ms. Salvador gave you privately or of the terms she discussed with you, Ms. Ada. After all, she was solely in charge of your wedding arrangements.” Justin’s tone was cold, as if he were completely unconcerned. “Her actions are completely personal and have nothing to do with the Salvador Corporation.

Shannon was enraged. Her jaw clenched so tightly that her teeth felt like they were going to break.

Bella, who was hidden in the shadow of Justin’s tall figure, raised an astonished eyebrow when she heard these words.

“However,” Justin paused, his gaze on Bella deepening. “Regarding the forgery and losses suffered by Ms. Thompson, also known as Alexa, I, on behalf of the Salvador Corporation, am willing to accept responsibility.”

“Are you taking responsibility for her?”

Everyone exchanged puzzled glances. Even though they felt there was nothing wrong with this statement, they detected a subtle nuance.

As she turned away from Justin, Bella’s eyes became clouded with disapproval. She had assumed that he had matured. She thought he could overlook Bethany’s predicament. However, it became clear that he still needed to sort out the mess for Shannon and Bethany, putting his overall situation first.

Justin had expressed a desire for Bella to win, but it appeared to be nothing more than empty words.

“Hold on! Why are we being portrayed as if we have committed some heinous crime? We are also victims!”

Shannon stepped forward quickly to defend her daughter. Her face was flushed with anxiety. “My daughter had good intentions. Knowing how much Ms. Ada admires Alexa’s jewelry, she went out of her way to find a valuable piece for you, hoping that it would foster cooperation between our two parties! Our family is wealthy. We can easily afford ten pieces of Alexa’s jewelry, let alone just one. Why would we bother with a forgery that would tarnish the Salvador family’s reputation just to please you? We

would not have bought it if we had known it was fake. We even wanted to seek justice from the person who sold us the jewelry.”

A wave of murmurs rippled through the crowd.

“This woman purchased a forgery and dared to claim she wanted to buy ten pieces of Alexa’s work. Truly shameless.”

“That’s Mrs. Salvador for you.”

Finally, unable to bear her nonsense, Sliva stepped forward and retorted coldly. “It is well known that each piece of jewelry Alexa creates is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that is rarely available on the market.”

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“Anyone who owns a piece of Alexa’s designs would cherish it forever due to its rarity. No one will give it up voluntarily unless they are in dire financial straits. You should keep in mind that you could be duped when making a purchase. Furthermore, Alexa would not sell it to you even if you had the means to buy it.” A trace of mockery appeared in Sliva’s eyes. “No matter how I look at it, you are far from qualified.”

“You... You!” Shannon choked with anger, fuming.

When the spectators heard this, they quietly cheered. Shannon had caused trouble in Savrow on several occasions, and her reputation was about to come crashing down. She would never have been able to make it in Savrow without her title as Mrs. Salvador.

An advocate for justice ought to step up and correct this self-obsessed person!

“Moreover, Ms. Salvador,” Sliva interrupted, abruptly shifting the conversation to Bethany. “Were you really kept in the dark about the purchase of fake goods from someone else? Are you genuinely unaware?”

Bethany found it difficult to remain calm. She braced herself and replied, "Of course! Why on earth would I ever buy a fake? I can afford it without any issue!"

"Hmmm, I am not sure about that."

The crowd buzzed in confusion. Could there be some hidden mystery in these words?,

With bewilderment, Justin's brows knitted, and he looked at Bella. She had stayed quiet by his side the entire time.

Bella looked up at him then, her lips forming a seductive smile. Her every facial expression seemed to pierce his heart like a sharp arrow.

It turned out that she was in complete control of everything.

The mastermind behind the whole incident was Bella, who had always watched from the sidelines.

"What do you mean when you say that? Are you trying to accuse my daughter as well?!" Shannon hugged Bethany close, assuming the vulnerable stance of a victim.

Sliva dismissed Shannon's antics, turning her attention solely to

Bethany. "Ms. Salvador, do you remember who you commissioned to replicate this necklace for you? You should have some recollection, right?"

How could Bethany respond? It seemed like she would only be digging her own grave, no matter what she said.

"You can't remember? Then let me refresh your memory." After saying those words, a man appeared out of nowhere on the stage's big screen!



“Hello, Tyler.” Sliva greeted the person on the screen with a smile in French.

“Hello, Sliva. Hello, Master.” Tyler looked towards Bella, scratching his head shyly.

“You still have outstanding craftsmanship.” Bella had no bitterness toward him. “I knew this necklace was your handiwork from the moment it appeared before my eyes,” she said with a subtle smile.

For an instant, Bethany’s vision became blurry. Had Shannon not been there to support her, she could have collapsed.

With a guilty sigh, Tyler held up a transaction receipt for the camera to see.

“I was paid to forge a piece designed by my master, Alexa. Please take a close look. The person who asked me to duplicate the necklace will be identifiable by the signature on it.”

The journalists trained their cameras on the large screen as the crowd surged forward.

They zoomed in again and again.

At the bottom, there was a neat signature that formed two distinct words: Bethany Salvador!

“What is going on?!?” Shannon whispered to Bethany as her eyes narrowed. “You said Zoe had it made, didn’t you? Why is your name on the receipt?!”

“Mom, I was tricked by that cunning girl, Zoe!” Bethany sobbed, tears welling up in her eyes.

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Shannon’s vision blurred with rage as she heard these words, nearly causing her to black out. Her primary resentment was not directed at Bella this time, but rather at that cunning girl, Zoe, who played her daughter for a fool!

The crowd erupted in a frenzy of discussion. With concrete evidence presented, Bethany was no longer a victim but rather the mastermind behind the forgery.

The journalists present swiftly began disseminating the news.

[Shocking news! Bella Thompson, heiress to KS Group, is the legendary designer Alexa!]

[Though physical attractiveness can get you far in life, genuine skill is what really counts. How many hidden identities does the young heiress of KS Group possess?]

[Ms. Bethany Salvador, the third daughter of Chairman Gregory Salvador, has the gall to gift celebrity Ada Wang counterfeit goods! The audacity of her!]

[In-depth scrutiny: When will Shannon and her daughter stop making trouble?]

Bethany had no idea that she would be back in the spotlight in less than a year. When compared to the previous press conference where she had to apologize, the impact this time was even more intense and overwhelming.

Shannon attempted to put pressure on Justin, casting the messy situation onto him as she saw the situation spiral out of control. Justin! How can you, as president of the Salvador Corporation and Bethany's brother, stand by and watch them attack your sister? Even though I am not your biological mother, Bethany is your half-sister. How can you turn a blind eye to your own family for the sake of an outsider?"

"Turn a blind eye to my family? Who exactly is the outsider?" Justin's eyes darkened, and he retorted coldly.

"Who else could it be? Of course, it's the woman next to you!" Shannon gritted her teeth.

Justin cast a quick glance at Bella. "She's not an outsider."

Bella frowned as she looked at Justin's stern profile, thinking to herself, 'Is he sick in the head?'

Shannon was so enraged that she felt like vomiting. "You...! You're abandoning your principles for the sake of a woman!"

"Giving up my principles for the sake of a woman is better than giving them up for personal gain."  
Justin's cold eyes flashed with venom as he took his phone from his pocket and dialed Ian's number.  
"Bring them in."

Bella was perplexed, unsure what the man was up to.

The venue's doors were pushed open once more at this point. With everyone watching, Ian pushed the wheelchair into the room. A person wearing a cap and mask sat in a wheelchair. Her features were not clearly visible, other than the fact that she was a woman.

"What on earth are you doing, Justin?" Bella lowered her voice, instinctively grabbing the hem of Justin's clothes.

The man turned his head, as if his heartstrings had been pulled. Helping you reclaim what is rightfully yours."

'What is rightfully mine?'

Bella looked at the person in the wheelchair, blinking. The woman in the wheelchair lifted her trembling hand and slowly removed the cap and mask.

Surprisingly, it was Xena Gordon.

As they looked at her haggard face, the crowd exchanged puzzled glances. Only Bethany fled in terror, acting as though lightning had struck her. Her expression was frozen, and her entire body appeared to be drained of blood!

Bella stared at Xena in disbelief before turning to Justin, who was as calm as water. Her mind whirled in an instant, and she grasped the entire chain of events!

Xena had been in a car accident and hospitalized before, but she had not died of brain damage and turned into a vegetable. Justin purposefully orchestrated the spread of such information. His goal was to lull Bethany into a false sense of safety and escape. Then, just as she was getting comfortable, he dropped this bombshell, catching her off guard and leaving her unable to recover.

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Bella squinted her eyes and looked at Justin with curiosity.

“This face... Why does she look so familiar?” Someone inquired.

“Oh! I recall now, isn't she the mistress of Headlines' director, the man who was exposed as a cheater during a live broadcast?”

“It's surprising that she is still alive. If I were her, I would have dug myself a hole a long time ago. How can she still face the world?”

“Well, I would rather die than live like this. But why is she here?”

Xena's hands trembled as she took a deep breath. “Everyone, I've come this time to act as a witness to a crime, to repent, and to apologize for my actions. I would like to apologize to Ms. Thompson, the general manager of the KS World Hotel. My name is Xena Gordon, and I work as a journalist for Headlines. My stupidity and greed for money drove me to disregard professional ethics and morals. I bribed Ms. Thompson's employees to steal Ada Wang's wedding setup designs and sell them to other media outlets for publicity. As a result, Ms. Thompson breached her contract, causing the termination of the collaboration with Ada Wang.”

Everyone was stunned. They had not anticipated the complexity of the story surrounding Bella and Ada Wang's contract termination. The twists and turns were astonishing!

People looked sympathetically and understandingly at Bella. Being known as Alexa had bestowed unprecedented grace on Bella.

Everyone thought that Bella was as beautiful and pure as an angel. It seemed as though she would be better off residing in an ancient temple, shielded from the burdens and perils of the world.

“Ms. Gordon! Are you saying you were manipulated by someone ?!”

“Who bribed you?”

“What caused you to have a car accident? Could it be that the person directing you was afraid you would reveal their identity and thus wanted to keep you quiet?”

Reporters swarmed in, quickly encircling Xena. Conspiracies began to emerge one after the other.

Xena closed her eyes and took a deep breath. When she opened her eyes again, she raised her hand and pointed straight at Bethany.

“It was Ms. Salvador who ordered me to do it!”

Bethany’s ears filled with a deafening buzz, feeling like everything had turned blank. She felt her vision blurring.

Five nights ago, in a quiet hospital room, Xena leaned against the bed, tightly clutching the sheets. She lowered her gaze, looking subtly at the strikingly handsome man sitting in front of her with an overwhelming sense of oppression. Her hospital gown was soaked in layers of cold sweat.

As he sat in the chair, Justin’s sharp features maintained an expressionless demeanor. Ian stood off to the side, giving Xena a cold stare.

“Thank you for saving my life, Mr. Salvador,” Xena said cautiously, her voice trembling.

“Do you know why I saved you?” Justin asked in a chilly tone as he toyed with a silver lighter in his palm. Xena was afraid to say anything.

“Because you still have some value to me.” Justin snapped the lighter shut with a crisp sound, his long lashes downcast. “With a single word, I can either restore you to normalcy or render you a cripple for

the rest of your life. I can even make you vanish into thin air.”

“Mr. Salvador! Please tell me your orders.” Xena was terrified, her whole body turning weak. “As long as I can help you achieve it, I will do my best! I will give you my all!”

Justin’s dark eyes narrowed as he held an unlit cigarette between his fingers.

“Identify Bethany Salvador as the culprit and restore my wife’s innocence.”