

## Heiress 631

### Chapter 631

Ryan's furious outburst left a profound psychological impact on Zoe.

Zoe's secretary and Adam were dealt with severely.

Ryan was ready to cut ties with Adam, who had been working for him for so many years. Judging by

the situation, it seemed like Adam's

days were numbered.

'All this drama is just for the sake of that foolish woman, Carrie. Did

his own biological sister not compare to that woman? What a joke!'

Zoe, brimming with resentment, returned to the Hoffman residence

after leaving the villa. Her face, as dark as a vengeful spirit, reflected

the turmoil within.

Along the way, memories of Ryan's past affection for her kept

flooding her mind. The more she thought about it, the angrier she

became, shedding tears of frustration along the way.

In the end, Zoe came to a conclusion. Regardless of the means, she was determined to make Ryan and Carrie break up. She could not allow this fool to become her sister-in-law.

Back at home, Claire welcomed Zoe warmly.

“Zoe! You’re finally back!” exclaimed Claire, her eyes welling up with tears of joy as she had not seen her daughter for a long time.

Claire rushed over to embrace her daughter. “My dear daughter, didn’t your flight arrive earlier? Why did you take so long to come home? I was starting to get worried!”

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Zoe’s eyes teared up and turned red upon seeing her mother.

“Mommy...” Zoe cried. She could not help but think of the injustice she had endured.

“What’s wrong, my darling? You seem unhappy. Did someone bully you?” Claire inquired with concern.

“And where’s Ryan? Didn’t he go to pick you up? Why isn’t he back with you?”

Zoe lowered her eyes, a look of grievance on her face, as she shook her head.

“Ryan is unbelievable! He used to dote on you so much, but now, because of that Salvador girl, he sends you off to Inalia without a care. After finally coming back, he doesn’t even bother to pick up his sister! What on earth is he thinking?” Claire expressed her frustration.

Claire gently caressed her daughter’s cheeks. “These days, Ryan hasn’t come home at all. I know he’s busy and has his own way of doing things. In the past, no matter how busy he was, he would never disappear like this without a word! He stopped coming home, and now he doesn’t even care about his own younger sister! I really don’t understand what he is thinking!”

“I know why Ryan isn’t coming home,” Zoe admitted.

“What? You know?” Claire was taken aback.

Zoe clenched her fists, her voice turning grim. "Mommy, I'll tell you something, but you must try to stay calm after hearing it."

"What happened, Zoe? Don't scare me!"

"Ryan is in a relationship with Shannon's youngest daughter," Zoe revealed through gritted teeth.

"Who? Shannon Quarry? That wicked woman's youngest daughter?!" Claire was genuinely shocked and dumbfounded.

"Yes, she is Bethany's younger sister. Shannon's daughter!"

Zoe hugged her mother's arm and shook it. "Mommy! What on earth.

is Ryan thinking? Shannon and her daughter had caused us trouble in

the past, spewing nonsense and threatening to have me jailed! It hasn't been long since that incident,

and now Ryan is already in a

relationship with Carrie."

Zoe continued, her voice filled with a mix of resentment and sadness.

"How could he do this? He no longer considers me his sister!"

Claire felt uneasy when she heard this. She could not fathom why her son, who had always been the pride of the family, would entangle himself in such a complicated situation. Although the Salvadors were a wealthy family and Ryan had a close friendship with Justin, Claire still did not understand what Ryan was thinking.

Despite that, she tried to console her daughter. "Zoe, even not fond of Shannon's daughter, your brother's temperam

known. He enjoys making friends. Most of the young ladies prominent families in Savrow have some interaction with him.

has never brought a girl home, let alone someone who truly captivated him. He's always hanging out with Justin and freque

visiting the Salvadors, so developing an interest in Carrie is

somewhat normal. I believe it won't be long before your brother

I'm

realizes and moves on from the situation. Hasn't it been like this a  
these years?"

"Mommy, no! This time, it's different!"

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Zoe's eyes burned with hatred, and she trembled with anger. "The

reason why Ryan hasn't come home for such a long time is because he's been living together with

Carrie! He even bought her a house!"

Claire felt as if she were struck by lightning-shocked and horrified!

"I hate Shannon and her daughter so much. Of course, I don't want Carrie to become my future sister-

in-law. But Ryan is obsessed with

her, like he's under a spell! For that woman, he even lost his temper at me! And he even ..." Zoe

intentionally paused, leaving the suspense hanging.

"He did what?!" Claire asked anxiously.

"He even hit me!" Zoe started crying harder, tears streaming down her

face.

“Where did he hit you?!” Claire’s voice was tight with concern

“My face... He slapped me right in front of the servants and tha

wretched woman, Carrie! My face hurts so much, Mom!” Zoe c

her face and rushed into her mother’s arms, crying uncontrollably

Claire’s heart ached. Her cherished daughter, the apple of her eye,

was in pain. Her eldest son, the one she had placed all her hopes of the obedient and filial son, had

torn his relationship apart with his

sister for the sake of that woman. What would he do next? Would he

cut ties with his biological mother as well?

“Mommy! You must not let Ryan be with Carrie! If Ryan really marries that woman, our reputation will

be completely ruined! Ryan will

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become a laughingstock in the Hoffman Group!” Zoe anxiously spoke, her voice hoarse.

“What do you mean?” Claire looked puzzled.

“Carrie is mentally disabled! She’s autistic!”

Claire's eyes darkened.

Her exceptionally outstanding son was more than worthy of marrying the Thompson family's heiress.

How could he marry someone with a mental disability?! She absolutely wouldn't allow it!

"Mom! Even if Carrie is a part of the Salvador family, aren't you afraid

that if she marries Ryan, your future grandchildren will also be mentally disabled? Who knows if her

condition is hereditary?" Every word from Zoe struck Claire right in the heart.

"Thank you for letting me know, Zoe. I know what to do now!" Claire, usually gentle and tender, showed

a trace of coldness in her eyes. Don't worry, I will protect you. I will never let my son marry such an

unworthy woman and ruin his entire life."

Zoe nestled in her mother's arms and revealed a sinister smile upon hearing what her mother said.

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The days passed by. Celeste and Shannon's birthday banquets were just around the corner.

Considering Gregory's situation these days, Shannon refrained from publicizing her upcoming birthday.

However, she discreetly sent invitations to the prominent figures in Savrow and subtly promoted



the event.

Although her reputation in Savrow was not as pristine as before, she remained the chairman's wife of Salvador Corporation.

With such a background and status, she refused to believe that her grandeur couldn't rival that of Celeste, a mere mistress!

On the other hand, the Thompsons made no public announcement regarding Celeste's birthday celebration.

Everything was being handled in secrecy. After all, socialites from affluent families were not like celebrities in the entertainment industry. They didn't need to flaunt their lives for attention or to gain popularity.

On the evening before the birthday banquet, Celeste, with her eyes covered, was led into a room by Mila, Sasha, and Bella.

"What's going on? Why all this secrecy?" Celeste asked with a smile.

"Three! Two! One!"

As the countdown finished, Bella removed the blindfold from

Celeste's eyes.

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Celeste's eyes adjusted to the lighting and suddenly widened in

astonishment.

Under the dazzling spotlight, a mannequin was dressed in a stunning

black and red evening gown. The lights made the dress shimmer. It was incredibly beautiful and

captivating.

"Wow, it's so beautiful..." Celeste stood there in awe, letting out a

dreamy sigh.

"Celeste, this is a masterpiece personally designed for you. It is designed by the internationally

renowned designer, Sharon." Mila affectionately draped her arm around Celeste's shoulder, her eyes

fixated. "Oh my goodness... I consider myself quite knowledgeable, but seeing the gown designed by

Sharon up close, I can't help but

almost scream! It's too gorgeous!"

Bella's alter ego, Sharon, had grown accustomed to countless praises in the fashion world. Yet, all those compliments still could not match the joy she felt hearing these praises from her own family.

Deep within, Bella felt extremely happy and couldn't help but let out a smirk.

"A dress by Sharon?! Oh my goodness... Bella, this is such a precious gift!" Celeste hastily grabbed

Bella's hand, her cheeks blushing with embarrassment. "Bella, you must have spent a lot of money and effort to invite her, right? You really didn't need to go through this trouble! It's too much!"

"Not a problem at all! I'm the heiress of KS Group. With my identity,

Sharon wouldn't dare refuse to make clothes for me. She wouldn't want to ruin her reputation, right?"

Bella playfully pinched Celeste's waist, looking mischievous.

"Wow, then ask her to design something for me too! I want a biker suit! A leather jacket!" Sasha's eyes sparkled with excitement as she raised her eyebrows. "I've recently become obsessed with riding motorcycles. I even joined a Hatchbay motorcycle club. We have activities every month, but I've been

lacking a stylish biker suit. Ask her to design one for me, and I'll reimburse you!"

Bella and Mila were speechless for a moment.

Sasha felt the awkward atmosphere and laughed. "Uh, well, does

Sharon not take on this kind of business? Then ignore what I just

said."

Everyone was speechless.

Sasha was approaching her forties. When will she ever grow up?

"Aunt Mila, Aunt Sasha, you can rest assured. When it's your birth I'll have Sharon make clothes for

you too. You won't be left out!" B laughed, hugging both of them with a wide grin.

She was truly a master of arranging surprises!

"Huh? Isn't Sharon supposed to be notoriously aloof, and her creations are hard to come by? How can

you repeatedly hire her?" Mila suspiciously glanced at Bella. "Bella, could it be that Sharon is also one

of your alter egos?"

Celeste and Sasha, upon hearing this, also turned their gazes toward

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to

Bella.

“Oh... How is that possible?” Bella laughed awkwardly, waving her

hands repeatedly. “I’m already Alexa. How could I also be Sharon? I’m not some mythical figure with

three heads, six arms, and magical

powers.”

The three ladies chimed in unison, “You’re even more amazing than a

mythical creature!”

Indeed, that was true.

In an attempt to divert their attention, Bella said, “By the way, there

are more surprises!” Bella ran behind the mannequin, pulled out an

exquisite red velvet box from below, and held it in front of Celeste.

“Aunt Celeste, I’m afraid I’ll be very busy tomorrow, so I wanted to

give you your gift in advance. Happy birthday!”

Celeste felt a tingling sensation in her nose as she opened the jewelry box. Inside was an exquisitely crafted sapphire ring that once again captivated her heart.

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Fresh and elegant, like the clear ocean under the radiant sun, captivating at first sight.

Celeste's eyes welled up with tears. "Bella, thank you. I really love it.

Thank you."

"I purposely chose this gemstone because I didn't want to steal the limelight from Wyatt. And also, I

feel that this serene shade of ocean

blue suits you better." Bella spoke contentedly and confidently. "When I design jewelry, I like to choose

the main stone that suits the wearer's personality and temperament. Because I am Alexa, my design

value has surpassed the intrinsic value of the jewelry itself."

Afterward, Mila and Sasha also took Celeste to see the birthday gifts

they had prepared.

The room was filled with women chattering and laughing, creating a lively atmosphere.

At this moment, Bella's phone vibrated in her pocket. She took it out when she had a moment alone and then left the room, heading to the end of the corridor.

"Hello," she answered, her long eyelashes fluttering. Her voice was cold.

"Bella, I'm feeling much better now. I called to report my situation."

In the moonlight, Justin's voice was unusually gentle, exuding a seductive charm. "In the future, if you want to know about my condition, you can call me directly. There's no need to contact Ian privately anymore."

Bella's heart trembled slightly, and she pursed her red lips.

"Or, I can call you too. I'd love to do that." The man's sultry and

mellow voice rang in her ear, actively engaging in a way that was completely different from his usual

demeanor.

“No need. I’m not your attending doctor. I don’t have time to monitor your physical condition 24/7.”  
Bella

frowned and said coldly, “As long as you’re fine now, let’s go our separate ways and wish each other well.”

“I appreciate your effort in taking care of me. If it weren’t for you, my fever wouldn’t have subsided so quickly.” Justin chuckled softly. His voice was low and hoarse, teasing her ear. “You’re more effective than medicine.”

“Justin! Do you want to die?!”

Bella recalled the day when Justin forcefully kissed her on the bed.

Her cheeks flushed.

She fiercely punched the glass window with her fists and said, “If you dare to play any silly games again, I’ll make you regret it! I’ll keep my word!”

“What else is there to regret, Bella?”



Justin laughed bitterly and humbly. "Divorcing you is the biggest

regret of my life."

Bella scoffed, "Hmph! Serves you right. Bye, I'm busy."

"Bella! Wait!"

"What now?" Bella felt frustrated and had no intention of showing this despicable man any kindness.

"Tomorrow, can I attend Aunt Celeste's birthday banquet?" Justin asked cautiously, lacking any

confidence. But at the same time, he was filled with anticipation. He was hopeful to see her again.

Bella snorted, pursing her lips. "Mr. Salvador, Aunt Celeste's birthday banquet will be attended by

members of the Thompson family. Won't you feel embarrassed to face them?"

"Alright, I understand. But as the saying goes, an ugly son-in-law must still meet his in-laws." Justin's

tone was unusually earnest.

"What is wrong with you, Justin?" Bella pounded the window again. She imagined it as if it were his

head.

"Is it okay, Bella?" He persisted.

Bella recalled the night when Gregory beat Justin mercilessly because of this, leaving Justin's back

covered in bruises.

She reluctantly said, "Fine, but remember to bring a gift."

Justin's joy was evident in his clear and bright voice. "Of course! How

can I go empty-handed when meeting the parents?"

Bella gritted her teeth and growled, "Fuck off!"

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Chapter 635

The weekend arrived, and the birthday banquet for the two affluent wives was approaching.

The night before, Shannon was so excited that she could not fall asleep. She envisioned herself

outshining everyone at the banquet, radiating beauty and charm. Lost in her thoughts, she chuckled

softly.

She had also instructed someone to edit videos of her previous acting career and retouch many

glamorous photos from her debut on

the TS Gem Channel. She planned to play them on a loop at the birthday banquet, captivating the

attention of all the guests.

As a result, the next day, Shannon's complexion was pale, with

bloodshot eyes and massive dark circles.

Without makeup, she resembled a vengeful ghost from an old horror

movie!

After all, she was nearing 50 and could not escape the signs of aging.

In the past, even after filming for three days and nights, her skin.

remained fair and radiant. Now, a single night without sleep was

taking its toll on her aging face.

"Someone! Hurry, call my beautician to come over for a makeover! Quickly!" Shannon was in a frantic

state, pacing around her room.

She behaved like a manic person and smashed an expensive cup in a fit of rage. However, Gregory did

not witness this arrogant and

irritable outburst.

The servant waiting outside was scared and quickly ran off to fetch

the beautician.

Shannon looked at herself in the mirror, a simmering rage building

inside her.

Today, she and Celeste were celebrating their birthdays on the same. day, like rivals in a competition.

Shannon had not seen Celeste for many years. She considered

herself the legitimate wife of Gregory, but despite her status being far

superior to Celeste's status as Wyatt's mistress, she could not shake

off her anxiety.

In the past, Celeste was the leading actress on the TS Gem Channel,

the fantasy of men nationwide.

Shannon couldn't help but feel anxious because she was afraid of

being overshadowed by Celeste!

"Mom! Mom!" Bethany rushed in hastily. However, seeing Shannon in

this ghostly state, Bethany was left momentarily stunned.

“What’s the matter? Why are you acting like you’ve seen a ghost?”

Shannon snapped impatiently.

“I just called Grandpa again and confirmed with him. He said he wouldn’t be attending your birthday banquet tonight.”

“What’s so surprising about that? I never expected that old man to show up from the beginning.

Whether he comes or not, it does not

matter. I’d rather not have him bring his old-fashioned gloominess

here!” Shannon sneered coldly, making no effort to hide her disdain for Nigel in front of her daughter.

“But Grandpa also asked me to tell you...” Bethany stammered,

trembling as she spoke, “He and Justin are both going to attend the Thompsons’ banquet.”

“What?!” Shannon erupted in anger, her eyes ablaze.

“He said he received a video call from Wyatt and Bella last night, and they had a pleasant

conversation. So, he decided at the last minute to

meet Wyatt and have a few drinks to catch up...’

”

“Damn it!” Shannon was furious, her eyes spitting flames. She swept the dressing table clean in a fit of rage.

“Mommy! What are we going to do? Both Justin and Grandpa are going to the Thompsons’ banquet, ignoring you completely. Isn’t this deliberate humiliation? How will you face others if they find out?”

Bethany, who had been harboring resentment toward Shannon for supporting Carrie and Ryan’s relationship, seized this opportunity to vent her anger.

“Deep down, they never truly acknowledge your status as the mistress of the Salvador family. They think attending your birthday party is shameful and embarrassing for them!”

“Stop talking! Just stop it!” Shannon was so enraged that her heart was pounding, and her blood pressure soared.

“Mom! What do we do now?” Bethany looked anxious, but she was

secretly delighted.

“Enough! That old geezer is deliberately going against me. If I let this ruin my birthday, I would be falling right into their trap,” Shannon said with a grim expression as she sat on the sofa.

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She crossed her legs and began doing Pilates. “After all, that old man. has retired now. Your father is his only heir to Salvador Corporation. Everything Nigel has will eventually belong to my husband. I

won't

care about that senile old man on the brink of death. How much

longer can he live anyway?”

At exactly 6:00 p.m., a row of black luxury cars lined up neatly outside the villa. The Salvador couple and their two daughters got into an extended Lincoln, escorted by cars with bodyguards both in the front and rear. The imposing procession headed toward the Salvador Hotel.

Inside the car, Gregory stared expressionlessly out the window. His attitude toward Shannon showed no abnormality. After all, today was her birthday.

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The situation felt calm and not as tense as in the past.

The Salvador sisters sat across from their parents. Carrie sat

hunched over, tightly embracing the teddy bear that Bella had given

her. She found comfort in its presence.

Clad in an expensive and latest Chanel suit, Bethany sat next to

Carrie, who dressed humbly.

“Oh, little sister, today is Mommy’s big day. Why don’t you make an

effort to dress up for the occasion?” Bethany sported a fake smile.

She ger

gently ran her fingers through her sister’s silky hair as a display of sisterly affection in front of Gregory.

“Don’t you know how to doll up? Why didn’t you tell me? I could’ve helped you.”

Carrie kept her back straight and her lips tightly sealed.

“Remember how great your hair looked after I permed it for you time? I told you, I can do it again for

you today.” Bethany said it w



wicked smile in her eyes.

Suddenly, Carrie raised her hand and forcefully removed Bethany grip. Both Gregory and Shannon

were left dumbfounded. They had never seen Carrie lose her temper before.

“Carrie! It hurts so much! What are you doing?” Bethany pretended to

look aggrieved, as if she were the victim.

“I... I never wanted you to dress me up. You forced me into it!” Carrie hugged the little bear, her eyes

reddened. With courage that seemed

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to come from nowhere, Carrie dared to speak up against Bethany.

Gregory listened and looked at Bethany, puzzled.

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“What... What did you say?” Bethany’s pupils widened, utterly stunned.

“Also, I hate that hairstyle... I hate it so much. Don’t ever force me to

perm my hair again, okay?” Carrie clenched her teeth, each word

carrying a deep resentment toward Bethany.

“Bethany, what does Carrie mean by this? What’s going on?” Gregory

asked with a serious expression.

“Oh, Dad! Carrie isn’t an ordinary child. She often says things out of the blue. You know that, right? I’m

just as confused as you are about

why she suddenly said such things. I feel so wronged!” Bethany spoke

in a sweet voice, feigning innocence.

“Greg, is it true that Justin won’t be attending the banquet tonight? Is

he attending the Thompsons’ banquet instead?” Shannon chand

the topic, holding her husband’s arm.

“I don’t know.” Gregory furrowed his brow.

“I don’t mean anything else. It’s just for the greater good. I still thi

Justin should attend our banquet instead,” Shannon said, trying

steer the conversation in a different direction.

Shannon put on an act and spoke with warmth and gentleness, “If it

were for Mila Larson's birthday, it would be understandable. After all,

Mila is the daughter of the Larson family. Establishing a good

relationship would benefit us in the future and add a touch of

decency. But what is the use of going to celebrate Celeste's birthday?

Not to mention, Celeste is just a commoner with a notorious past in

the entertainment industry. If Justin goes to congratulate her, the

media will surely write all sorts of nonsense."

Shannon's eyes darkened gradually. "Moreover, Celeste is the least

conspicuous of Wyatt Thompson's wives. To call her a wife is already giving her too much credit. She's

simply Wyatt's officially recognized mistress. With such an ambiguous status, does it even make sense.

for Justin, the president of the Salvador Corporation, to reach out to her? It's too degrading."

For some reason, the term 'mistress made Gregory extremely

uncomfortable. It stirred up a trace of memories about Justin's

mother.

"In the past, Celeste had no backing. But now, she has Wyatt Thompson's support, and her situation

has changed. If it weren't for

what happened back then, she would have already risen to

prominence. She wouldn't have ended up in a situation where she had

no choice but to become Wyatt's third wife."

Shannon was taken aback and cautiously asked, "Greg, did I say

something wrong?"

"I heard that not only Justin but also my father will be attending the

banquet to meet Wyatt," Gregory responded.

Gregory gazed ahead, his tone calm. "Tonight's main focus isn't just

on Celeste alone. Have you overlooked the presence of Wyatt

Thompson? If both Nigel and Justin are willing to attend, just let them

1. I'm tired, and I really don't have the mood to get entangled in

these social niceties."

'What's going on? Why has his attitude changed?' Shannon choked

back her frustration. She could only force a smile to accommodate him.

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back her frustration. She could only force a smile to accommodate him.

At this moment, Carrie found a comfortable position, and her little head nodded slowly as she dozed

off. After all, in the days spent with Ryan, he would cling to her every night, either with kisses or hugs,

making it impossible for her to get a good night's sleep.

”

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Bethany trembled with anger next to Carrie. Her lips twitched as if she wished to peel Carrie's skin off,

tear her flesh apart, and drain her

blood. 'Damn her! Does she think having Ryan to back her up makes

her invincible? The happier she is, the faster she'll meet her demise!

I'll make sure of it!

Although Shannon's birthday banquet was held in a low-profile

manner, she still leaked information to the media. She believed that

she was born to be in the spotlight. So how could she celebrate her birthday without attention?

Reporters who caught wind of the news hovered and waited inside the hotel. Escorted by bodyguards, the Salvador family approached the banquet hall.

Shannon exuded an air of superiority, adorned with jewels and radiance, embodying the style of an affluent and elegant woman.

“Mrs. Salvador!”

“Ms. Shannon!”

The reporters swarmed over, snapping photos of the Salvador family.

Gregory felt displeased, but he remained composed and faced the media alongside his wife, Shannon.

“Mr. Salvador, tonight is your wife’s birthday banquet. The whole family is here, but where is Mr.

Justin?” The reporter skillfully touched

upon the sensitive topics, showcasing their knack for stirring up

trouble.

“Justin had some urgent matters and had to leave in a hurry.” Gregory

smiled faintly, giving a brief and dismissive response.

“Today is the birthday of Ms. Celeste, the third wife of Wyatt

Thompson, chairman of KS Group. Ms. Shannon, your birthday should

be on Wednesday, but you moved it to Sunday. Is it intentional to

coincide with Ms. Celeste? Back in the day, you two were once the leading actresses on the same

platform. There were rumors of

competition and strained relations between the two of you. Haven't

you let go of past grievances after all these years?”

“Oh my! Is today also Celeste's birthday? I didn't know until you mentioned it.” Shannon pretended to

be surprised. She covered her

mouth with a hand adorned with a large diamond ring.

“It seems I may have overlooked that. I should wish her a happy birthday. I chose today because our

families and guests are all sy and can't spare the time on Wednesday."

Shannon continued with a smug smile, "After all, we invited many

guests this time. I also took into consideration the schedules of

guests. I made sure everyone had ample time to come and gath

with us."

"Guests? Have you invited so many guests?"

The journalists exchanged puzzled glances. "We've been here waiting for two hours, and we haven't

seen anyone arriving."

Shannon was suddenly alarmed. 'How could this be?'

She had invited over a hundred guests weeks in advance, and most of

Change

them had accepted the invitations, promising to attend! Why hadn't

anyone shown up?!

Shannon forced a cheerful smile, her entire body tense and her heart

pounding like a drum.



“Alright, let’s go inside first,” Gregory urged in a low voice.

As the group walked to the entrance of the banquet hall, the waiter opened the massive doors.

The next moment, the poised smiles on Gregory and Shannon’s faces froze.\*

Shannon, in particular, turned ashen instantly. She clenched her lower lip tightly, nearly screaming in dismay.

There were only a handful of guests in the vast and luxurious banquet hall. The imagined crowd of distinguished guests, dressed in elegance and grace, was nowhere to be found.

‘Where is everyone? Where did they go?!’ Shannon thought.

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Only a handful of guests were scattered around the banquet hall, making the grand hall seem desolate and cold. Most of them were

elderly gentlemen who were business associates of Gregory Salvador.

Apart from the waitstaff and the pianist, there was not a single

female guest in sight.

None of those rich housewives, who usually pretended to be friendly

with Shannon, showed up. Neither did those who had to butter up to her due to the influence of the

Salvador family turn up.

They seemed to have coordinated with each other, as not a single

one of them showed up!

It was utterly infuriating!

If it were not for the presence of a group of media reporters behi

her, Shannon might have burst into a rage right there and then.

Gregory furrowed his brows. His lips showed a restrained expressi

but not much emotion could be discerned.

Bethany was completely bewildered. She knew that her mother did

not have the best reputation amongst the social circles, but she did

not expect it to be this bad!

“Quick! Quick, take pictures! This could become a trending headline!”

The reporters stuck their heads out, frantically capturing shots of the forlorn place.

“How about the headline, ‘Birthday Banquet of Salvador Corporation

Chairman’s Wife Takes an Unexpected Turn-Is the Glitz Fading in Tough Times?’”

“She just claimed to have invited many people a moment ago, but now she practically embarrassed herself. How hilarious!”

Shannon was so enraged that her legs beneath her elegant gown trembled uncontrollably.

She shot a fierce glare at Bethany, signaling for her daughter to speak on her behalf.

Facing the reporters, Bethany forced a smile and said, “Dear friends

from the media, my mother’s birthday banquet is about to begin. We

need to go inside to greet the guests. Please feel free to leave, and

we’ll be giving out goody bags at the entrance later. Thank you and have a good day!”

The bodyguards swiftly ushered the reporters out.

Even after receiving the goody bags, some reporters could not but express their discontent.

“Huh, they made us rush here in the heavy snow, and now they’re kicking us out. It’s obvious they feel embarrassed and don’t want to be seen!”

“Greeting guests? Where are the guests? Are they going to greet ghosts, perhaps? Hahaha!”

The birthday banquet had just begun, yet it felt as desolate as if it were about to end.

Shannon was seething with anger. Her refined makeup failed to conceal the stiffness and anger on her face.

The guests, who were all Gregory’s friends, offered their congratulations to her before engaging in lively conversations with Gregory. They completely ignored the supposed female lead on the sidelines.

‘How could this be happening? How could it be like this?’ Shannon

thought.

“Mom! Mom!” Bethany rushed in, clutching her long dress.

She was panting heavily, and her face was drained of color. “I sent

someone to check, and guess what? The guests we invited have all

gathered at the KS World Hotel. Bella stole them!”.

Shannon had suspected it, but having it confirmed was a heavy blow

to her, almost making her faint. “Bella Thompson... Why is it that damned wretched girl again?!”

Seated nearby, Carrie, who was playing with the small teddy bear,

overheard her sister-in-law’s name and looked at them with a

complex gaze.

“Tonight, half of the people went for the Thompsons, while the other

half went for the Iversons. It is said that those who matter in the

Iverson family were all present at Celeste’s birthday party. The

Thompsons have joined hands with the Iversons, and those

pretentious people are trying to curry favor with both the Thompsons

and Iversons!”

Bethany surprisingly displayed a boost of intelligence at this moment.

She took another step closer to Shannon and spoke with an exasperated tone. “Also, I heard that a few

people who weren’t

initially invited by the Thompsons received invitations from Bella yesterday. So, they changed their

minds and went to the KS World

Hotel. It turns out the mastermind behind all this was Bella all along!”

“This wretched woman causes me trouble all the damn time! Does

she think she can ruin my birthday banquet this way? Does she think

that I’m a pushover?!” Shannon cursed, her features contorting angrily.

“Mom, please don’t call Bella a wretched woman. She’s not a

wretched woman!” Unable to endure it any longer, Carrie gathered her

courage, her face turning red as she retorted.

Shannon glared at her in uncontrollable anger. “Shut up! She’s not

your sister-in-law anymore!”

“Carrie! Do you even know what you’re talking about?!”

Seizing the opportunity while Shannon was furious, Bethany angr

rushed to Carrie. With a fierce jab of her sharp nails, Bethany pinche

Carrie’s cheek. Carrie gasped in pain and tried to pull away.

Chapter 639

A distinct red mark appeared on Carrie’s cheek instantly.

“Because of that despicable Bella, Mommy has suffered so much.

injustice, almost driven to death by anger! As Mommy’s daughter, it’s bad enough that you act

indifferent, but you’re actually speaking up for that despicable Bella! Mommy raised you in vain!”

“She’s not despicable!” The more Shannon spoke, the angrier Carrie became, refuting with red eyes.

“Then what is she if not despicable? What is she?” Bethany stretched

her neck and shouted, drawing the attention of some guests.

“No!”

As if a button of rage had been pressed, Carrie suddenly stood up.

She glared angrily with her round eyes, meeting Bethany's astounded gaze.

Carrie could endure this woman hitting her and cursing at her. But she couldn't tolerate her insulting her beloved sister-in-law.

"You little ingrate! How dare you yell at me! Do you think I'm afraid of you just because you have Ryan's support?!"

Bethany felt challenged by Carrie, who had been getting on her nerves all night and had reached her limit. She raised her hand, ready to pinch her arm.

At that moment, the grand doors of the banquet hall suddenly swung open.

All eyes turned to the man, who strode in with steady steps and grace.

"Ryan!"

Carrie looked at Ryan, and her eyes gradually welled up with joyful tears.



At this moment, Ryan's charming eyes shined brilliantly like a hawk.

His gaze locked on her, intense and passionate.

Even if Carrie was always dressed so plainly, he stared at her and was unwilling to look away.

Even if she always kept her head down and hunched her shoulders,

almost lacking any presence, he could still spot her with just one

glance.

"Ryan Hoffman?!" Shannon and Bethany were both dumbfounded.

Gregory was chatting with guests when he saw Ryan walking over,

dressed in a luxurious wine-red velvet suit, looking noble like a groom.

Gregory was also surprised.

Bethany quickly withdrew her hand, her mood in a whirlwind as she

stared at Ryan. She was completely blinded by love..

Even if Ryan had treated her cruelly, she would forget the pain once

the scars healed.

Upon seeing Ryan's enchanting face, she was infatuated and fell

deeply in love once again.

However, she also knew that Ryan simply did not like her. Even if she stood naked in front of him, it

would not make him change his mind.

"So, why did he come?"

"Could it be..."

"Mr. Hoffman, I'm truly delighted that you could come. We've been

eagerly awaiting your arrival!"

Shannon was pleased to see Ryan approaching and promptly greeted him, "Quick! Get champagne for

Mr. Hoffman!"

As long as he was willing to attend, even if it was for Carrie, it would

add glory to her birthday banquet.

"No need. I did not come for the birthday banquet." Ryan's hands.

were casually tucked into his pockets. A sly smile was playing on his

lips, exuding a captivating charm.

“So, why are you here then?”

“I’m here to take my girl away.”

Everyone was shocked!

His voice, resonant and powerful, carried deep affection.

In the midst of everyone’s astonishment, Ryan’s lips curled up like a perfect crescent moon.

Without hesitation, he walked toward Carrie.

Shannon and Bethany were both shocked. Their expressions were unable to convey their surprise and embarrassment.

Carrie blushed with embarrassment as she stood there, watching

Ryan approach her.

Chapter 640

The teddy bear in her hands seemed to have transformed into an innocent bouquet of flowers.

Ryan walked straight ahead. As he passed Bethany, he coldly brushed

her aside, showing no regard for her.

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

Play

“Ouch! That hurts!”

Bethany felt a sharp pain in her shoulder, causing her to stagger

backward. She nearly stumbled to the ground.

“Carrie.”

Ryan stood in front of Carrie and gazed deeply at her flushed face.

His voice was low yet alluring. “You look beautiful today.”

Carrie felt her heart pound even harder upon hearing Ryan’s words.

“It’s so boring here. How about we leave together?” Ryan extended his

hand toward her, his charming eyes filled with tenderness.

“Leave... Where are we going?”

“Anywhere. I’ll take you wherever you want to go.” His gaze was

unusually sincere.

Inexplicably, Carrie felt like crying. Her eyes turned red.

Since she was young, she has always been the silliest and most

obedient child in the family.

She had never experienced what it felt like to be cherished and

accommodated by someone.

This was her first time.

“I... Want to go find Bella and Justin.” Carrie’s voice choked as she

whispered.

choppe: 640

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“Alright, I’ll take you to them.”

With those words, Ryan took the initiative to hold her soft hand and

turned to leave.

The whole room fell silent.

When the pair reached the doorway, Ryan remembered something

and suddenly halted, causing Carrie to almost bump into his back.

He turned slightly and gave a shallow bow in Gregory's direction, then

he left with Carrie.

Gregory was taken aback.

This man was openly taking away his beloved daughter.

Initially, Gregory felt somewhat displeased. But then, before leaving,

Ryan did not forget to greet him, showing proper respect for him as

an elder. This made it hard for Gregory to harbor any resentment.

"Mom! What should we do? What should we do?" Bethany's ch

twitched as she urgently pulled on Shannon's arm. "Ryan just took

away like that! What kind of situation is this? Isn't he intentionally

causing trouble? You can't let Carrie go! You must bring her back!"

"Bring her back? Why should we bring her back?" Shannon forcefully shook off her hand, casting a

disdainful look at her. Ironically, this

sort of treatment used to be reserved only for Carrie.

“My birthday banquet is already ruined. Whether your sister comes. back or not, what’s the point?

Besides, why should I bring her back? Can’t you see? Carrie is with Ryan. Haven’t you noticed the way

he looks at Carrie? It even surpasses the way your father used to look at

Chapt/640

me in the past. Stop being delusional. Stop trying to ruin your sister’s good fortune and be quiet!”

Bethany’s heart sank. She let go of Shannon’s arm resentfully.

‘Bella, do you think that this means I’ve lost? You ruined my birthday banquet. I won’t let you have your

way!’ Shannon picked up a

champagne glass, her eyes red as she gulped the champagne down

her throat.

Outside the hall, Bethany walked to a secluded area. She took out her

phone and dialed Zoe’s number with gritted teeth.

“Well, well, how do you still have the courage to call me?” After

numerous rings, Zoe finally answered. Her tone did not hide her

annoyance toward Bethany.

Although Bethany despised this woman for plotting against her in the

past, as the saying goes, the enemy of an enemy is a friend..

Getting back at Carrie wouldn't be easy without Zoe's help. Thus, she

set aside her emotions and coldly said, "I'm not in the mood to argue with you right now. I assume you

probably won't be in the mood to quarrel with me after knowing what happened either."