Heiress 631

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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!" Chap 631 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.



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.

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

has never brought a girl home, let alone someone who truly

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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."

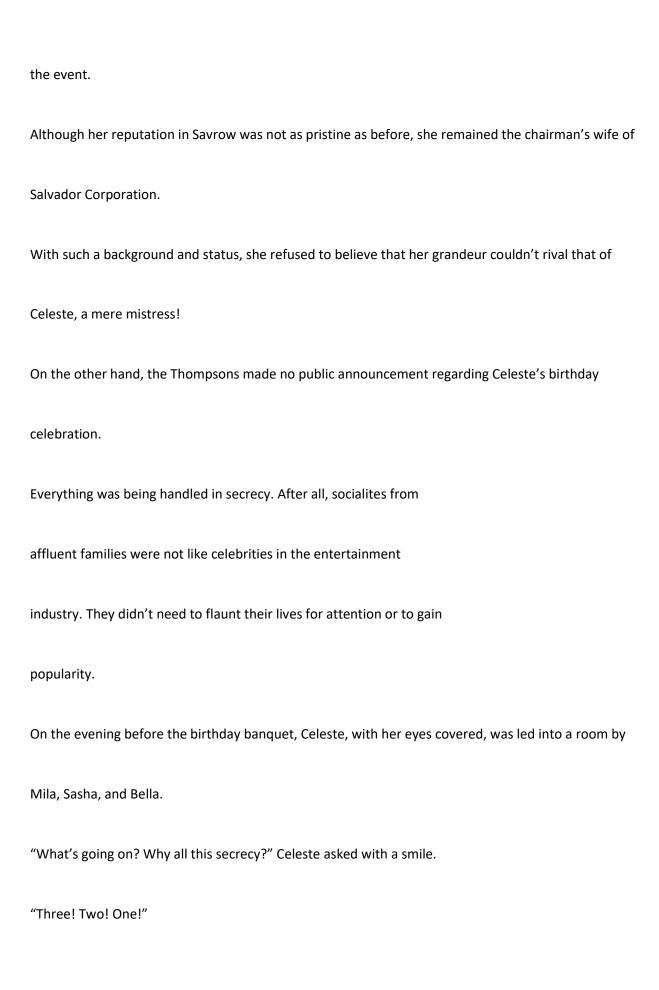
Zoe nestled in her mother's arms and revealed a sinister smile upon hearing what her mother said.

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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





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



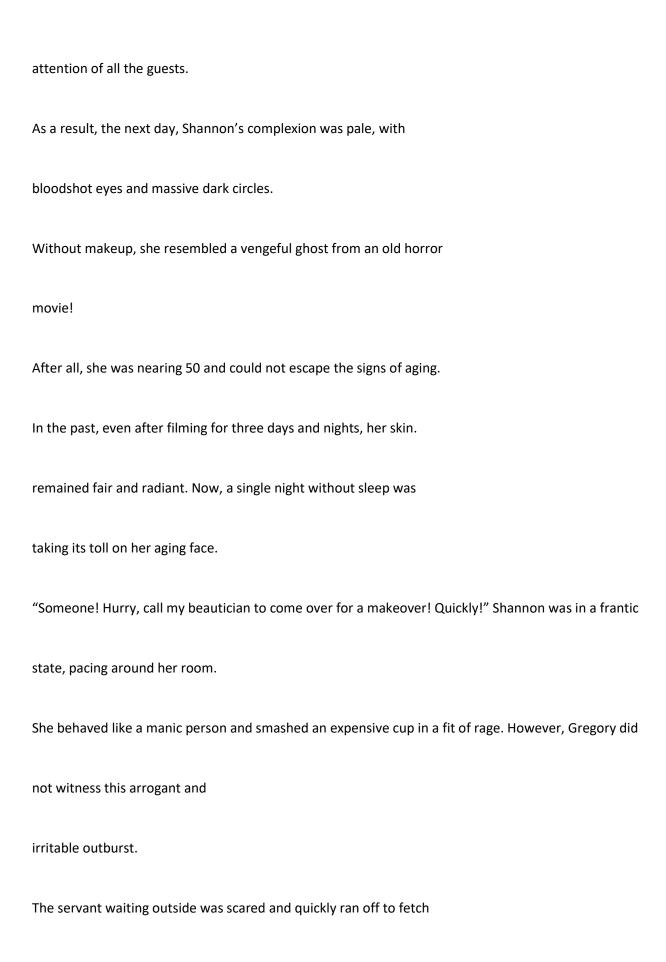
Cele	ste felt a tingling sensation in her nose as she opened the jewelry
box.	Inside was an exquisitely crafted sapphire ring that once again
capt	ivated her heart.
Char	oter 634
Fres	h and elegant, like the clear ocean under the radiant sun,
capt	ivating at first sight.
Cele	ste's eyes welled up with tears. "Bella, thank you. I really love it.
Thar	nk you."
"I pu	urposely 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 r	main stone that suits the wearer's personality and temperament. Because I am Alexa, my design
valu	e has surpassed the intrinsic value of the jewelry itself."
Afte	rward, Mila and Sasha also took Celeste to see the birthday gifts

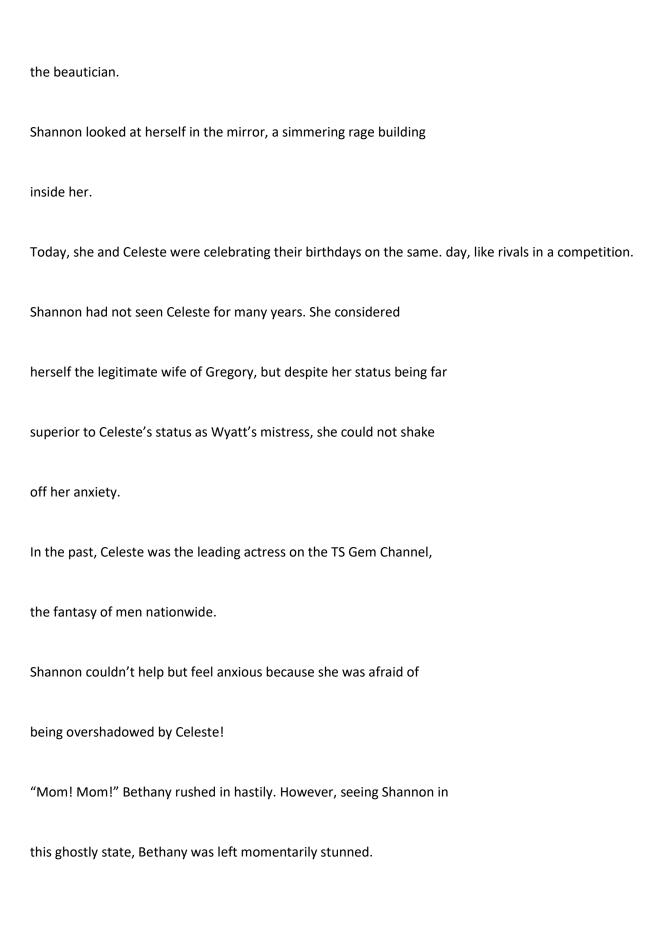












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"What's the matter? Why are you acting like you've seen a ghost?"
Shannon snapped impatiently.
"I just called Grandpa again and confirmed with him. He said he wouldn't be attending your birthday
banquet tonight."
"What's so surprising about that? I 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...'
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"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.

Chapter 636

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 Chapp to come from nowhere, Carrie dared to speak up against Bethany. Gregory listened and looked at Bethany, puzzled. 214 "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

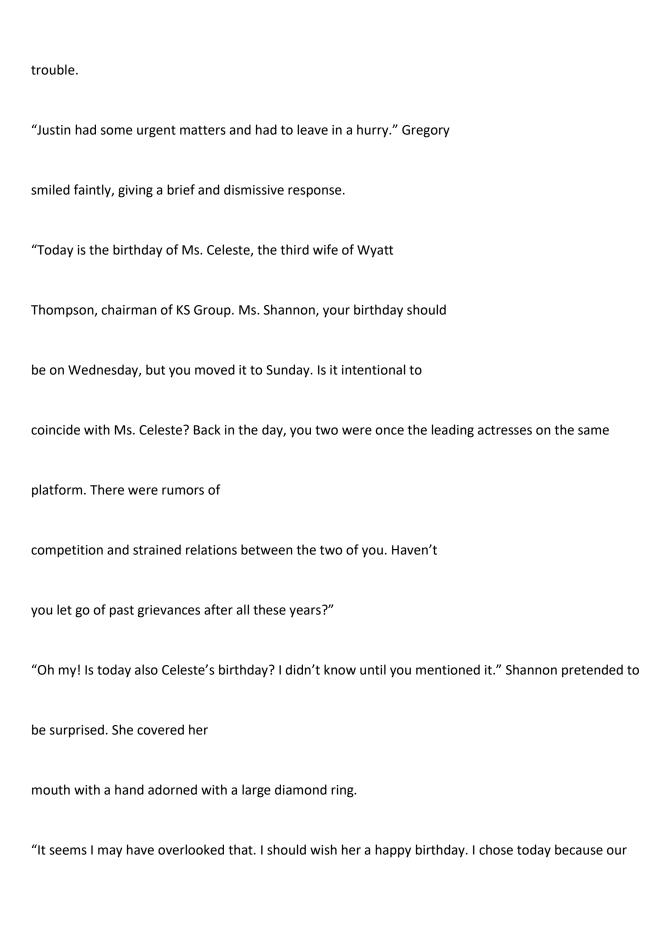
Thompson? If both Nigel and Justin are willing to attend, just let them

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

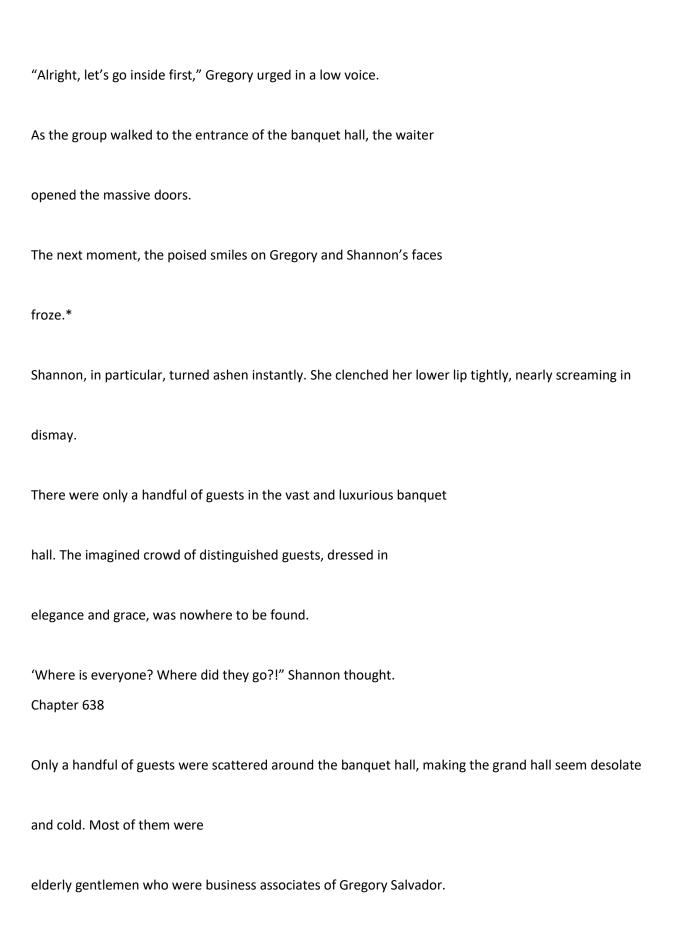
these social niceties."

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



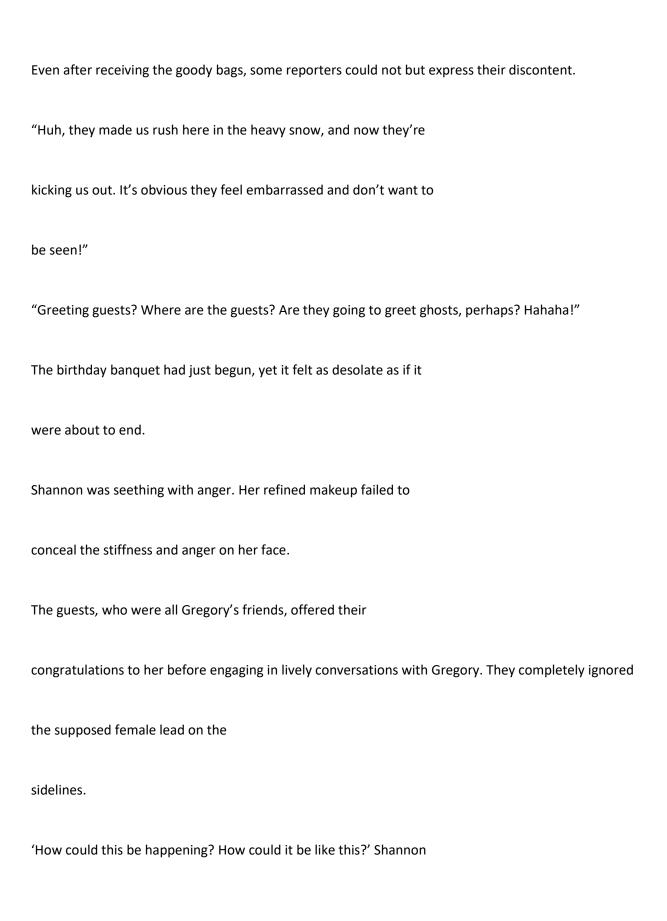


families and guests are all sy and can't spare the time on Wednesday."
Shannon continued with a smug smile, "After all, we invited many
guests this time. I also took into consideration the schedules of
guests. I made sure everyone had ample time to come and gath
with us."
"Guests? Have you invited so 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.



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.

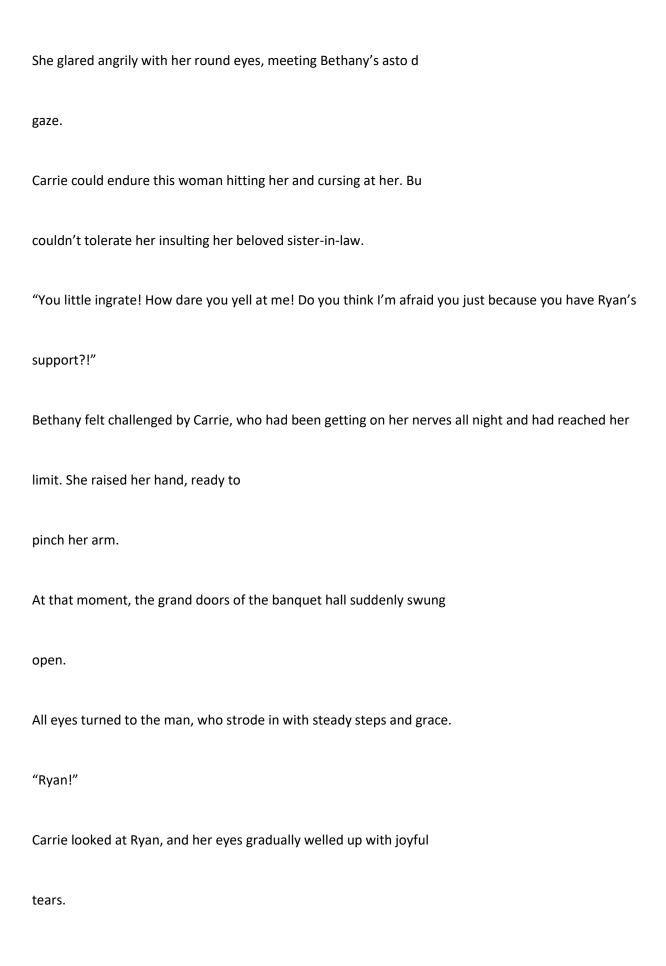


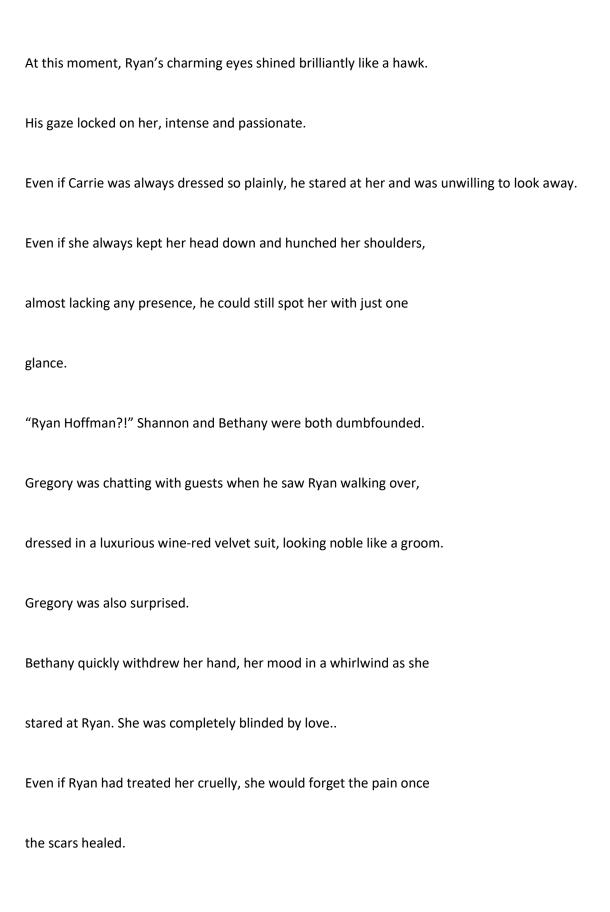
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thought.
"Mom! Mom!" Bethany rushed in, clutching her long dress.
She was panting heavily, and her face was drained of color. "I sent
someone to check, and guess what? The guests we invited have all
gathered at the KS World Hotel. Bella stole them!".
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
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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.

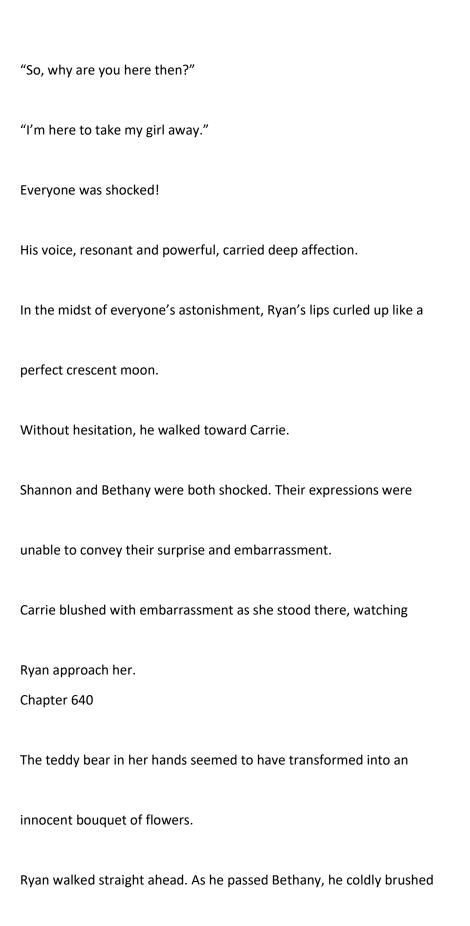
Shannon glared at her in uncontrollable anger. "Shut up! She's not

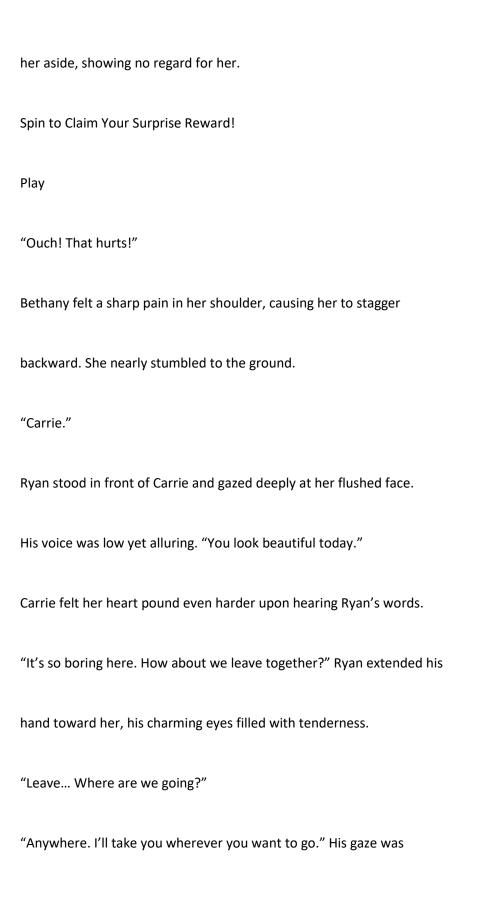


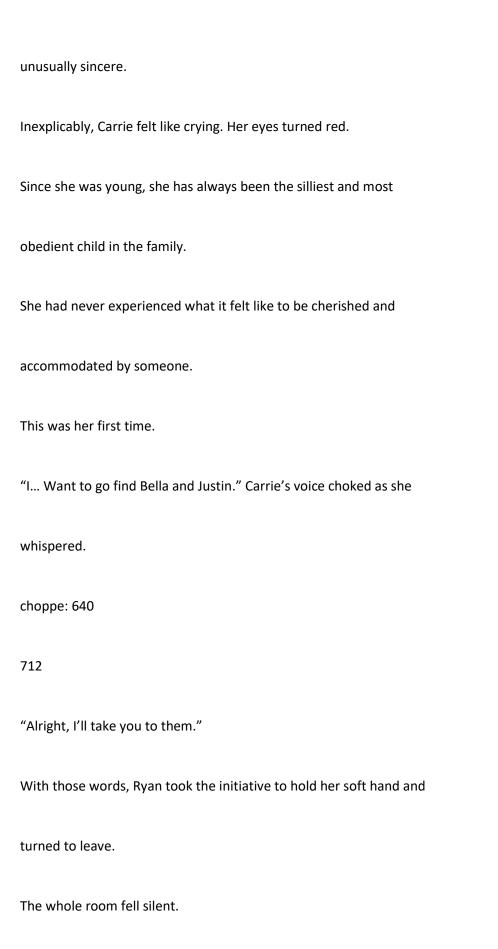












When the pair reached the doorway, Ryan remembered something and suddenly halted, causing Carrie to almost bump into his back.

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

Gregory was taken aback.

he left with Carrie.

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



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."