

KINDA SWEET 41

Chapter 41 Old Acquaintance Met

Brian had already opened the door for her and asked respectfully, "Mrs. McCarthy, where are we going now?"

Natalia turned her eyes and glanced at the safe in the backseat.

A moment later, she answered in a gentle voice, "Let's go home first!"

After returning to McCarthy Mansion, Mrs. Dottie saw Brian carry a large safe, and thought that Natalia must have bought some precious jewelry.

Mrs. Dottie came to greet them happily. However, she didn't expect to see a very ordinary necklace when they went upstairs together and opened the safe.

Although the design was exquisite and the shredded emeralds on it looked nice, it didn't seem valuable enough to be kept in a safe.

The result was quite unexpected, and Natalia was quite embarrassed.

Brian prepared the safe in case there were valuable items that would be difficult to transport. Anyhow, they were passed down from her mother.

To their surprise, it was just an ordinary necklace.

Natalia could not help but laugh. She was happy to get what her mother had kept for her finally.

She stood by the window and studied the back of the necklace in the sunlight.

There were some engravings on it, the initials of her mother's name, M-C-W.

Her mother had died suddenly, and everything in the house had been taken over by her stepmother and half-sister. The items in the safe were the only items that left to her.

Thinking of this, Natalia feel her heart burning with nostalgic emotions.

She went to the mirror, took off a silver collarbone chain she usually wore, and put on this antique necklace.

Fortunately, the necklace was exquisitely crafted, and even though the style was a bit old-fashioned, it didn't look strange on her.

She smiled, put the necklace into her dress and covered it with her collar. Then, she patted her chest with satisfaction, and then turned around to walk out.

In the afternoon, Natalia went to Star Entertainment.

The company, Star Entertainment, had been transferred to her for several days. She was very busy

then, and could hardly spare any time to visit the company in person.

Before she came, she had called the person in charge by phone and informed them about her schedule today.

When she arrived at the company, it was 2 p.m. sharp.

The person who received her was a deputy manager surnamed Norris.

Entertainment companies were different from other companies, because artistes made up the majority of the employees. Compared to companies in other industries, there were not many employees working in the office on a daily basis.

This was especially true for Star Entertainment, a company on the verge of bankruptcy. No one was willing to sit there and wait for death, not to mention that Star Entertainment was acquired by another company and the boss had changed as well. This was something every employee knew.

How the new boss intended to handle the company remained a mystery. Anyone who had a plan or had some connections had already left, or secured another job before the acquisition was finalized.

Those stayed were just newbies who were still dazed and had no idea what to do.

Dennis Norris, the deputy manager brought Natalia to her office and gave her a brief introduction of the

current situation in the company.

Natalia analyzed it carefully and found that it was similar to the information she had gathered.

There were only ten artists in the Artist Department right now. There was a five-member male group signed last year.

Although it was called a group, it would be more appropriate to call it a forced binding of a bunch of artistes whose talents were not that obvious.

The rest were just a few yet-to-be-famous artists. Their best works up till now were only roles as eunuchs or courtesans in period dramas, etc.

As for the Agency Department, the few capable agents had left long ago, and those who stayed were fresh graduates whose abilities were no better than the artists.

As for the Public Relations Department, it was simply good for nothing.

Was it a joke? What was the point of doing PR when the artists were not popular at all?

Why not just make something happen so that they could get more exposure in the public?

Even if they became infamous, at least they would achieve some fame!

Natalia carefully went over issues in other departments. They were also in terrible conditions.

Dennis reported to Natalia, with an awkward but polite smile.

“President Natalia, this is the current situation of our company. All the reports are here. Do you want to go through them again?”

Natalia shook her head.

What was the use of going over them again?

It did not change the fact that they had 10 artists but was lack of resource.

She sighed helplessly.

Dennis also knew that the company's situation was difficult.

But the fact was that he was just a temporary manager. He was working as a secretary before.

As the company was about to close down and everyone ran away, he was temporarily appointed as the deputy manager.

It was not easy to keep the company the way it was now.

“At the moment, our company is suffering from a shortage of resources due to a lack of working capital.

If we don't have enough capital, we can't pull resources we required. Without enough resources, we

can hardly sign any artist we'd like to work with. This had led to a vicious cycle to the point today."

Natalia understood it was not easy for him. She remained silent and waved her hand.

"Alright, just leave the reports here for now! I'll find a way to solve the capital problem. Thank you so

much for your effort. You can leave now!"

Dennis nodded and left.

After he left, Natalia went directly to the Artist Department.

Artists were the core of the business for an entertainment company. Natalia had only gotten a rough

idea of them in the documents, but had not met them in person.

At this time, several others had already gone out for auditions, and only the male group remained in the

company.

There was a very hot online talent variety show scheduled next month. The boys group's chance to

stand out was slim, and the company was fully aware of it. So in such a desperate situation, they just

wanted the group to have a try anyway.

Therefore, they were practicing dancing in the exercise room now.

When Natalia arrived, they were practicing vigorously.

She did not go inside to disturb them, and only observed them outside through the glass windows.

To be honest, even as the boss, she could not go against her conscience to say that they were great.

The competition in the domestic idol market was fierce. As far as the male singing and dancing group were concerned, these guys had neither amazing appearances nor amazing talent. Their qualifications were indeed at an average level.

It seemed like all that was left was to put into more efforts.

It was a pity that in a place like the entertainment industry, effort was the least worth thing.

Natalia watched them for a while, and then left.

The few artists going out for audition, two men and three women, returned in the late afternoon.

Natalia unexpectedly discovered that one of the girls she actually knew.

Laura Davies.

Natalia had met her several times when she held the position of PR manager at Century Entertainment.

Laura graduated from a renowned drama school and was considered to have a professional background.

Although her looks were not the currently popular V- shape face, she was still quite cute and clean.

Among the newcomers, her acting skills were outstanding.

But perhaps due to the limitations of her round face, she was not able to secure any good resources.

Later, when her contract expired, she terminated her contract with Century Entertainment.

Natalia never expected that she would end up in Star Entertainment!

Chapter 42 Pick Her up for Dinner

Natalia had a very positive impression of Laura.

Although there were many newcomers nowadays, most of them were trapped by the lure of fame and fortune. Most of them were impetuous, and only a few were able to work hard on improving their acting skills.

Laura came from a poor family and had a rough childhood, but thanks to her miserable childhood experiences, she had seen the world early in her life and had a deeper understanding of many things than her peers.

It was precisely because of this that she understood that acting was the basis of a performer's life, and the rest was just momentary glamour.

Seeing her in Star Entertainment was like finding a piece of beautiful jade in a pile of rubbles.

Natalia was very pleased, and coincidentally, the agent who brought them back immediately called

Laura into the office.

Laura was also surprised to see Natalia.

Although there were not many interactions between them, everyone in the company knew Natalia was

the PR Ace in Century Entertainment. There was no case that she could not handle properly.

A few days ago, she heard that the company had a new boss, but she never expected it to be Natalia!

However, as a saying goes, a dragon will not stay in a pond for long. Sooner or later, it will soar to the skies.

Thinking about Natalia's abilities, Laura could not help but feel relieved.

She walked into the office with a smiling face. "Miss Natalia, you are looking for me?"

Natalia looked up and smiled upon seeing Laura's face.

"Yes, come in and sit down!"

When Laura sat down on the chair opposite her, Natalia started an in-depth discussion about the vision of the company as well as her current plan on artists like her.

The company's Strategy Departments and Advertising Departments were basically not working now.

Therefore, some important planning regarding artists had to be done by her personally.

After two-hour discussion, they finally worked out a rough plan.

Laura graduated from a renowned drama school and loved acting, so her main task at present was

filming in TV and films.

Natalia planned to send her to two more popular variety shows first to raise her popularity.

After Laura left, Natalia called other artists in and chatted with them.

Several artists were not very satisfied with the company, so she did not force them to stay.

However, Natalia mentioned that if they were willing to stay, she would treat them equally, and the

resources they required in the future would be won by themselves according to their own capabilities.

If they were not willing to stay, she understood and would not force them to.

All liquidation damages specified in the contract were canceled, and they didn't have to pay a penny if

they decided to leave.

Natalia knew that these artists did not have much choice when they signed the contract with Star

Entertainment.

After becoming a member of Star Entertainment, they did not make any achievements, much less money.

Some of them were in a dilemma, but Natalia did not urge them. She asked them go back and think about it thoroughly before giving her a reply tomorrow.

After they left, she stayed in the office alone and went over their profiles carefully again.

Then, according to her impression from their previous talks, she noted their strengths and weaknesses carefully, as well as their suitable development directions in the future.

After finishing everything, it was already very late.

Natalia stretched her arms, raised her wrist to check the time, only to find that it was already eight o'clock in the evening.

Her stomach rumbled with hunger.

She stood up and was about to get something to eat when she suddenly thought of something, and her face changed.

She hurriedly pulled her phone out and saw that there were indeed several missed calls on the screen.

All of them were from Archie.

Oh, OMG!

She was used to mute her phone while she was working, and she lost track of time when she was totally occupied.

The man must have returned home and found that she was not there. Archie called to ask her whereabouts.

Natalia wondered if he was angry when she did not answer his calls.

Natalia packed her belongings and called him back on her way out.

The call was answered as soon as it was connected.

“Have you finished your work?”

The man's voice was low and deep. She could not tell if he was angry or not.

Natalia laughed awkwardly and said sheepishly. “Uh... I'm sorry! I muted my phone and didn't hear your calls.”

The other side was quiet for a couple of seconds.

“Come downstairs when you're done!”

“Huh?”

“I'm waiting for you downstairs.”

Natalia’s eyes widened with surprise, and she was just about to say something when the call ended abruptly.

She could only go downstairs in a hurry.

As expected, she saw a black Rolls-Royce parked by the entrance.

The smooth outline flashed under the streaks of light from cars passing by, attracting the attention of many people.

From time to time, the passers-by cast envious glances, or pointed at it quietly, or whispering something.

Natalia covered her face in embarrassment.

'Big Boss, couldn't you just find a more inconspicuous place to park the car? Why are you making a scene blocking the entrance?'

The “Low-Profile” Natalia quickly ran over and whizzed into the car before others could react.

In the driver's seat, Brian was startled by her.

If Brian did not know her better, he would have thought that she was chased after by someone!

Archie was as calm as ever. After Natalia got inside the car, he told Brian to drive to the restaurant he booked earlier.

Natalia was a little surprised to hear the address.

“Don't you want to go home for dinner today?”

Archie was flipping through a financial magazine, and said in a low voice, “Mrs. McCathy, do you know what time it is now?”

Natalia was stunned and only then did she remember that it was already past 8 pm.

When she first arrived at McCarthy Mansion, Mrs. Dottie told her about the rules in the family.

No dinner would be served after 8 pm. That was the rule the Old Mr. McCathy set when he sent her to take care of Archie.

This was to prevent his grandson from working overtime. Besides Archie, everyone in the McCathy family had to follow this rule.

Natalia smiled awkwardly.

“Sorry! I was so focused in my work that I lost track of time! Um... to make it up to you, the dinner tonight is on me.”

Archie finally raised his head.

His dark eyes looked at her, with a hidden trace of laughter.

“Really?”

“Of course.”

“Fine”

The car soon arrived at the entrance of the restaurant.

When they got out of the car, Natalia looked up and saw two large words in front of her.

Mountain Club

What kind of place was this?

Natalia thought she was a native of Julio, since she had lived here for twenty years. How come she had never heard of this place?

Nevertheless, she did not think much about it.

It was a good thing that she hadn't been here before. Now, she came to know a new place.

Archie took her hand naturally and they walked inside together.

There was a professional doorman standing at the gate. After asking about the private room they

booked, he led them inside politely.

The club was spacious, with green hills and lush plants, and fine gravel paths that gave her a feeling of

being in the countryside.

The scenery was also unique, especially during night. Natalia could see that every stone and tree had

been carefully decorated.

Natalia quickly thought that for the club with such an elaborate arrangement, it had to be privately

owned and only open to designated guests.

That was why she never heard of it before.

Chapter 43 The Youth

Both Natalia and Archie entered the club, and were greeted with a wide lake after passing the rockery

garden.

Under the night sky, sparkling ripples on the lake reflected the street lights and the moonlight. At one

glance, the edges of the lake were not visible.

The doorman led them up the stairs into the lobby, and took the escalator to reach the private room they booked.

Watery Moon was the name of the private room, and it quite in line with the artistic atmosphere at that moment.

Inside the private room, it was finely decorated with antique design, but some details were blended with

modern scientific looks, so as to give customers a pleasant and comfortable experience.

On the south, there was a large window facing the lake. Standing here, one would have a broader view of the lake than that from downstairs.

In fact, the lights on the stone arch bridge far away could also be seen. The dazzling lights and elegant scenery were simply creating a unique flavor.

Natalia commented with a smile, "The scenery here is so beautiful. I like it a lot."

Archie curled his lips into a smile.

He picked this place because he had investigated into her preferences.

Then, the two of them sat down and ordered the dishes.

Again, the flavors of the dishes were Natalia's favorite.

Thinking of how considerate Archie was, Natalia was shy, and always felt like she was taking advantage of him but could not repay him.

Suddenly, Natalia thought of Stephen's case. She had searched it on the internet in the afternoon when she was waiting for the artistes to return.

Stephen released a post on Weibo according to Natalia's instructions, and the response was great.

Although there were no definite results yet, Natalia was confident that the case would be resolved successfully as long as her plan was implemented smoothly.

Therefore, she said to Archie. "You don't have to worry about Stephen's case. I've already started handling it, and it won't be long before it is settled."

Archie looked at her with a smile and said in a soft tone, "Why do I feel like I not only found a good wife, but also a great helper?"

Natalia was startled.

In that instant, a thought flashed through her mind.

She glanced at Archie, and did not say anything, but in her heart, she secretly made up her mind.

Once they were done eating, Natalia excused herself to go to the restroom.

There was actually a toilet in the private room, but she was embarrassed to use it because of poor sound-proof.

The restroom was located at the end of the corridor, next to the elevator. After leaving the private room,

Natalia headed to the female restroom with help from a waiter, who showed her the direction.

As soon as Natalia came out of the restroom, she noticed some familiar figures walking in her direction.

Stunned for some reason, Natalia took a step backward ghostly.

It just happened that she hid behind a dragon-patterned pillar at the entrance of the restroom.

Shawn Miller and Jessica Dawson were the ones who were walking toward her, and they were

accompanied by a middle-aged man in a pair of black-rimmed glasses.

Natalia recognized the man right away. He was their country's famous A-list director, Nathan Hale.

The three of them were talking happily.

Nathan laughed and said, "Mr. Miller, I previously heard that you have a beautiful wife, but I didn't know

who she was; I finally know that it's Jessica.”

Shawn replied to him with a smile, “Director Hale, thank you for looking after Jessica all these years. I look forward to a pleasant cooperation with you this time.”

”Of course. I watched Jessica grow up, and she has great potential. She'll surely become the youngest best actress in this generation.”

Jessica grinned. “Thank you for your compliments and blessings, Director Hale.”

“I worked on the script of 'The Youth*' for years and I have very high expectation for it. You must not let me down, Jessica!”

“Director Hale, don't worry. I'll definitely try my best to interpret this role, and won't disappoint you.”

Jessica nodded obediently.

“That's great... and I am relieved.”

The group of three eventually walked past Natalia.

Because of Natalia's slim figure, she wore a black outfit today, thus not a single person noticed her when she hid behind the pillars.

Only when the three entered the elevator, she came out from behind the pillar.

As Natalia watched the direction they headed to, her eyebrows furrowed.

She had read the script of 'The Youth' before by chance, and immediately attracted by it.

In today's male-dominated world, even if there was a heroine in a period drama, her parts would be mainly limited to her role as imperial concubine.

From the beginning to the end, the story would revolve around a few ladies fighting over a man.

However, 'The Youth' was quite a different drama. It was definitely an epic of women, and the stories about war, peace, and alteration of dynasties were fully depicted from a woman's perspective.

Natalia's blood was burning with passion when she finished reading the script.

From the drama "The Youth", she saw entirely different values from the drama.

Women were not merely bound to petty love. If given the same resources and status, women would not be inferior to men.

Unfortunately, the structure of the script was too complex, as it involved six countries. Huge investment was required to fully demonstrate the story, and it would take lots of efforts to shoot the whole drama.

Just because of this, the drama was stranded in the end, even though there was a heated discussion

about it. Mostly importantly, no investor was interested in it.

During these years, Natalia never heard about any progress about the shooting.

She couldn't believe that the drama was finally pulling together for shooting.

It seemed like Jessica was going to be the leading actress.

Natalia looked down as she was struck with an idea.

When she returned to the private room, she found that Archie had already paid the bill.

Natalia was embarrassed.

It was clearly agreed that she would treat him to dinner, but he ended up paying for it behind her back.

Archie took her hand as they walked out, saying as he walked, "Mrs. McCathy, did you forget that we're married? What's mine is yours, so which one of us pays the bill makes no difference."

Natalia's face blushed upon hearing his words.

She cooed, "Are you suffering a big loss?"

Archie chuckled. "Well, since you're aware of it, you should make it up to me tonight."

As he spoke, he gave Natalia a hint by pinching her palm.

Natalia's spine stiffened instantly.

Turning her head to look at him, Natalia gritted her teeth and said, "Don't even think about it!"

After saying that, she quickly shook off his hand and went into the car. Archie followed behind her with a faint smile.

Once he was also in the car, he asked cheerfully, "I meant to ask you to fill the bathtub for me later, why are you so agitated? Were you thinking about doing something else?"

Natalia was lost for words.

She knew how bad the man was!

He always liked to tease her!

Once they returned home, Natalia quickly searched for 'The Youth' script on the internet.

She saw the script two years ago, so she remembered the general framework, but not the details.

Fortunately, there was plenty of information about it on the internet, because it was extremely popular two years ago.

If she gathered all the information, she could get a rough idea of it.

Natalia arranged the pieces of information in a file, and sent one copy to Laura Davies.

After a while, Laura replied to her message.

“Dear Natalia, are you asking me to accept a role in this drama?”

Natalia could not be bothered to keep her in suspense, so she cut to the chase. “Well, take a look at it, and see if you like it. Then tell me about your thoughts.”

It only took a second for Laura to respond excitedly through a voice message.

“Dear Natalia, I don't have to look at it. I read the script two years ago, and I like the drama very much!

Are you asking me to take the role as the female protagonist, Alanna Nelson?”

Natalia was caught off-guard.

Seconds later, Natalia replied three words, “You can dream!”

Laura thought to herself,

“It hurts! But I must keep smiling.”

Chapter 44 Pursued Him For Six Years

Natalia typed quickly. “Take a look at the second supporting role. I think it fits you. Although she doesn't have as many scenes as the first female supporting role and the protagonist, she has a distinct personality, and her role is eye-catching. If you act well, the effect would be as stunning as that of the

first two roles.”

Then, Laura took a more detailed look at the scripts for the second supporting role.

She replied to Natalia's message in ten minutes.

“Natalia, I just go over it quickly, and I like the role. Can I secure a spot given that it's a big production?”

Natalia curled her lips into a smile.

“You just need to dig into the script intensively. I will take care of the rest.”

“Okay, thanks!”

Once Natalia finished chatting with Laura, she put down her phone, and sat on the sofa for a moment

in contemplation.

After a while, she opened her laptop and entered Nathan Hale's name.

She was not very familiar with him, and her understanding of him was only limited to his works as a

director.

Although it sounds a bit unreliable to get information about a person from the internet, Natalia didn't

have much choice.

Fortunately, Nathan was so famous that there was lots of information about him on the cyberspace. As

Natalia filtered the information she needed, her understanding of the director almost reached to 70 to 80%.

While Natalia was browsing through the details, her phone rang suddenly.

She picked up the call, and it was from Victoria Kaur.

“Natalia, are you available tomorrow night? Can you go somewhere with me?”

Natalia grinned. “You're not filming a movie? Where are you going?”

Victoria paused for a while before she answered with guilt, “I asked for leave tomorrow; there's a car race in the eastern suburbs tomorrow, and I want to go there and have a look.”

Natalia's finger paused on the touchpad.

“Car race?”

“Yeah!”

Natalia looked at the column about Nathan's hobbies, and then she smiled and responded quickly,

“Okay!”

The next day.

Natalia left the office as soon as she finished her work at hand.

Victoria had already arrived, and she was waiting for her in the car.

Natalia went to the underground parking lot to get her car. When she drove out, Victoria got off a black sedan like a thief and got into her car.

After Victoria entered Natalia's car, she kept checking the surroundings to ensure that nobody noticed her. After that, she waved her hand at her assistant, who was standing outside the car.

“Dear, if you're so afraid, why are you going to watch the car race? Wouldn't it be better if you carry on with your shooting?”

Natalia could not help but laugh.

Victoria took a small mirror out of her bag, and murmured unhappily while she checked her make-up,

“Who said I was afraid? I am trying to avoid the paparazzi, so they won't comment that I'm not dedicated to my work? Your younger sister, just like a lotus flower is on the trending list almost every day, either because she stood in cold water for a shooting regardless of her body condition, or because she passed out due to exhaustion from work. Ugh!”

She made a disgusted expression and added, “The standard for a dedicated actress has already been

set like that. Given that I'm her opponent, how can I not protect my feathers?"

Natalia could not help but laugh.

Nonetheless, Jessica had always been like that. No matter how she was on the inside, she always

showed the gentle, beautiful, and dedicated side of her to the public.

Natalia had long been used to it.

The car drove all the way to the suburbs.

When they were almost at the racing venue, Victoria suddenly tugged her sleeve.

"Natalia, take a quick look at me. Is my make-up Okay? Is my outfit pretty?"

Natalia stared at her, dumbfounded.

"Have you... taken the wrong medicine? Victoria."

A few seconds later, Natalia finally understood what was wrong with Victoria.

From the moment Victoria called her, Natalia could tell that she was anxious.

Victoria was usually confident about her appearance, but she had been working on her make-up

throughout the journey.

Natalia wondered, "She even asked me if she looks pretty?"

"Oh my God! Victoria, a natural beauty, is actually asking someone else's opinion about her own looks?"

Is this a distortion of human nature or a moral degeneration??'

Victoria seemed to be aware of her own perversity, and smiled awkwardly.

After a while, she tugged at the corner of Natalia's shirt, squirming, "He will come today."

Natalia's eyes were widened in shock.

There was no need for Victoria to explain who the "he" she was talking about, because Natalia understood naturally.

After all, the two were sharing the same desks since high school, and they eventually became BFF (best friend forever). Over the years, they have shared their views practically on everything, and rarely kept secrets from each other.

Besides, the fact that Victoria had a crush on their high school senior Charlie Peck had become a hot topic for discussion six years ago, so everyone was well aware of it.

Over the years, she had slowly changed from that open and enthusiastic, arrogant and domineering young girl of an influential family into a silent and introverted, noble and elegant lady. Others thought

the gossip about her was only an impulsive act during her youth, so it ebbed away with the passing of time.

But, only Victoria's best friend, Natalia, knew the guy still had a place in her heart, and it had always been there.

It is said it was difficult for a guy to pursue a lady, but easier for a lady to pursue a guy.

However, after pursuing him for six years, Victoria did not get any closer to Charlie, and the distance between the two seemed more distant.

Thinking of this, Natalia could not help but swallow a mouthful of saliva.

They reached at the parking lot soon.

Natalia parked her car then turned her head to Victoria, reaching out to straightened her slightly messy hair, and set the collarbone necklace on her neck.

Then, she examined Victoria carefully with a serious face.

Once she was done, she took the lipstick from her bag and passed it to Victoria.

“Change the color now! You'll look tender in this color.”

Victoria was dissatisfied. "I look tender now!"

"Well, you do, but this color should be more to his liking."

Victoria was dubious.

She asked in doubt while she accepted the lipstick.

"Really?"

"Well, trust me, I promise!"

Victoria didn't doubt it. She wiped off the original lipstick with a wet tissue, and then applied the new color on her lips while looking in the mirror.

When she was done, she realized that the color really complemented her makeup and dressing today.

She immediately smiled brightly and leaned over to hug Natalia.

"Natalia, thank you."

Natalia smiled and clenched her fist to cheer her up, "Wish you all the best! Let's go!"

"Well, I'll definitely try my best to win over my handsome guy back ASAP!"

Afterward, the two of them got off the car.

The venue was already packed with people.

There were eight teams competing tonight, so there are more people at the venue than usual.

At his time, the cheerleaders and the judges had already entered, and many fans, mostly young men and women, holding small flags or banners in their hands, clamored while standing in their respective zones.

However, the car racers had not yet shown up, probably waiting for the race to start before they would come out.

Victoria was fully equipped as she wore a mask and a peaked cap. She lowered her head as she pulled Natalia into the crowd, and quickly found her way to the zone behind one of the car-racing teams.

“Natalia, this is Charlie Peck's team, and he was the one who established it. They've won many championships these few years both at home and abroad. They are marvelous!”

Natalia nodded at her.

A girl turned around and noticed them and asked in a friendly manner, “Are you Charlie's fans too?”

Natalia was stunned, and was thinking how to answer the question appropriately so that she wouldn't

be exposed.

Unexpectedly, Victoria beat her to it and answered, "Yes, yes! Did you bring extra flags? Can you give me one?"

Chapter 45 Incredible Result

The girl generously gave each of them a small flag with the name of Charlie Peck's team on it.

Afterward, she even reminded Victoria, "For the sake that we are all fans of Charlie, let me kindly remind you. You don't need to cover yourself like this here, as it is easy to be mistaken for a spy sent by the opposing team."

"But don't worry, I believe you. You look familiar at a glance, so I am sure you are not an undercover!"

Natalia could clearly sense Victoria stiffened for moment.

Victoria smiled embarrassedly. "Is that so? Then thank you for your trust!"

Natalia really couldn't hold back her laughter and hurriedly changed the topic, "How much longer we have to wait before the game starts?"

"8 p.m." The girl looked at her watch, "It's almost the time."

As soon as she said it, a loud whistle was heard coming from across the street.

Following that, thunderous cheers were heard as racers from the eight teams came out!

Victoria went crazy all of a sudden!

“Ahhhhh...He's out! He's so so so hot and handsome! Natalia, did you see him? In that blue car; his eyes are so deep, and his skin is so delicate and fair. I haven't seen him for a while, but he seems to have become more attractive! Ooooh, he's really cool and stylish! Oh!”

The racers wore helmets sitting in their respective driver's seat. Victoria glanced at them, but was only greeted with blindingly reflecting lights. How could she see whether Charlie was handsome or not?

Feeling speechless, Natalia tugged Victoria's sleeve, whispered, “Victoria, calm down!”

“I can't!”

“Don't forget your identity.”

“Woo, an actress needs love too!”

Natalia was speechless.

She really could not stand her best friend's nymphomania, so she gritted her teeth and whispered, “No matter what, you're the eldest young lady from the Kaur family, and the No.1 beauty in the entertainment industry. You've chased after him for six years. Now you're waving a flag and screaming

with a bunch of fans. Aren't you ashamed of yourselves?"

Victoria turned to glare at Natalia.

"You always manage to say the wrong thing!"

As Natalia smiled triumphantly, her gaze past Charlie's team and landed on a black racing car on the opposite side.

The small flags and banners over there had Nathan Hales name on them.

When Natalia looked for information related to Nathan on the internet last night, she inadvertently stumbled upon Nathan's other identity, a top-notch car racer in Black Horse Racing Team.

Although Nathan was already a well-known director in the country, he normally kept a low profile; hence few people knew his hidden identity.

Besides, the car-racing circle had always been relatively closed. People who did not pay attention to it would not follow its news, so only a bunch of people knew it.

Natalia lowered her head slightly to ponder, and then told Victoria that she was going to the restroom.

On the racing track, the whistle sounded, indicating that the race had begun.

The 4-kilometer-long rallycross was divided into a qualifying round and the finals, making a total of

three rounds!

Among the eight teams, only the four teams that successfully passed the qualification round had the chance to enter the final.

The final consisted of two rounds. The forced ranking system would be adopted. In the final round, the racers would compete with each other and the first to reach the finishing line would be deemed the winner.

Prior to this, Charlie had been the champion for four consecutive years.

However, before Charlie, the championship had always belonged to Black Horse team.

This time, Nathan personally represented Black Horse team, so the morale of its members was greatly boosted, and they were determined to reclaim the title this time.

Soon, the qualifying round was over.

The Black Horse was not surprised to advance into the next round.

Together with Black Horse, Flying Eagle, with Charlie as its representative, and two other teams were qualified too.

The finale was about to begin.

In the Lounge, Nathan's teammates were helping him to relax when one of them suddenly came over

and said, "Bro, there's someone outside looking for you."

Nathan was surprised.

"Who?"

That person scratched his head, not knowing why his face blushed.

"I don't know, but she's quite pretty."

Nathan was even more surprised.

"A female?"

"Yes."

"Let her in!"

Natalia was led into the Lounge, and saw Nathan, who was sitting on a chair at a glance.

Compared to his appearance when he was a director, Nathan looked sharper at the moment. Even

though he was in his forties, he looked as quick-witted as a hot-blooded teenage.

Natalia smiled, calmly walked up to him and extended her hand. "Director Hale, long time no see."

"It's you?" Nathan was taken aback.

He knew Natalia.

Five years ago, at the entrance exam of the Royal College of Art, he had seen her work as an examiner at that time.

Nathan was amazed by her performance, only after Natalia was exposed for plagiarism, stealing her sister's work, and she was disqualified in the end.

In Nathan's opinion, it was such a pity. There was nothing he could do because of the rules. Later on, he became busy with work, and didn't pay attention to that matter.

He was not expecting to meet Natalia here.

After a brief moment, Nathan showed a polite smile and stood up to shake her hand.

Natalia smiled, "Director Hale, It's such an honor for me to meet you again."

Nathan forced a smile.

"Did you come to see me today for something??"

"Don't worry, I'm not looking for you because of what happened five years ago. I indeed felt wronged,

but the past is the past. Besides, no one wants to hold on to those boring old stuff, right?"

Nathan frowned slightly and was about to say something.

Natalia had already spoken in advance.

"I heard the Black Horse is fighting for first place this time?"

The moment she brought it up, everyone around her was instantly lifted.

Natalia successfully attracted Nathan's attention too.

Nathan stared at Natalia and asked with a deep voice, "So what if that's the case?"

Natalia grinned.

"Director Hale, maybe it's not polite of me to say this, but it's true. Black Horse has a slim chance of winning the championship."

Once these words came out, everyone's face had sunk.

Someone said angrily, "How can you say that when we haven't even competed yet?"

"That's right! I think you are deliberately come to pick a fight! Believe it or not, I can kick you out now!"

Natalia curled her lips, and remained composed as she looked around the crowd.

Next, she shared her analysis, "Director Hale's last competition was four years ago, when he lost to

Charlie by 0.5 second. In the end, he lost his title as the car racing god, and he hasn't participated in any competition ever since."

"Charlie has been the champion for four consecutive years, whereas Black Horse has been trying to reclaim the title. Director Hale has been practicing hard, and his speed has been reduced from 2 minutes and 3 seconds four years ago to 1 minute and 54 seconds.

"I have to say, this is indeed an astonishing achievement in the 4 km rally, but do you know Charlie's result when he participated in a foreign competition last month?"

Nathan's face changed slightly.

Natalia smiled and said word for word, "1 minute and 48 seconds."

Everyone in the room drew a cold breath.

Though it was only a 6-second difference, everyone knew how tough it was to close the gap.

At such a high level, almost everyone had unleashed their potential to the limit, and it was nearly impossible to advance further.

However, 1 minute and 48 seconds was such an incredible result!

Chapter 46 Make A Bet

Be it in domestic or international competitions, nobody had ever achieved this result in a 4- kilometer rallycross!

Everyone's faces changed once more, but Nathan seemed calm and collected.

He looked at Natalia with a sober face.

“So what? If you're telling me this just to get me to give up this game, then I am telling you, it's never going to happen!”

Natalia chuckled. “You misunderstood me! I don't mean to ask you to give up. I'm just telling you very objectively that with the current strength of Black Horse, it's simply impossible for you to regain the championship.”

“You!”

A hot-tempered member could not hold back anymore, and made a move to lunge at Natalia.

However, he was stopped by Nathan.

He looked calmly at Natalia. “Then what do you mean?”

Natalia smirked spontaneously. “I can help you win the championship.”

“What?”

Everyone showed an expression of disbelief.

Natalia continued, "As long as you promise me something, I guarantee Black Horse will be the champion this time."

Nathan sneered, "I understand what you mean, but I'm sorry, I'm not interested in your offer and I don't believe what you're saying. I admit that Charlie is indeed a worthy opponent, but he's not strong enough to make me shrink."

Natalia wanted to say something else, but was interrupted by him raising his hand.

"Alright, you may leave if there's nothing else you'd like to say. I'm going to prepare for the race."

Natalia frowned.

Seeing that Nathan was determined, she could only leave for now.

The finale started very soon.

Race cars from four teams entered, and then a whistle sounded, indicating the start of the race.

With that, the cars zoomed away like arrows leaving their bows.

The cars rushed out like arrows from the string.

The racetrack was abuzz with excitement while Black Horse members kept their eyes locked on their car.

At this moment, someone behind him suddenly tapped his shoulder.

The man turned his head back, and when he saw the person standing behind him, he immediately frowned tightly.

“Why are you here again? You haven't left yet, huh?”

Natalia smiled, pointed at the screen on the racetrack. “Look, your boss is already in third place now.

Even if he barely passes this round, he'll only end up in second place, no matter how hard he tries in the next round. He can't finish first.”

The man was furious with her, but Natalia was telling the truth, and he couldn't say a word to refute her.

It was undeniable that Nathan was very capable four years ago, but there were always newcomers in this circle and car racing was a sport that tested racer's reaction and physical coordination.

Nathan was... getting old.

Situations from various road sections were shown on the screen. Nathan was constantly in third place, and was clinging to the second place. He was left behind by Charlie, who was in first.

Nathan's teammates were slowly becoming dispirited.

Black Horse had been preparing for four years so as to avenge the shame in the past.

During the past four years, they suffered endless ridicule and snobbish looks and endure them silently.

It was so that they could win this competition in the right way, and reclaim their glory!

They wanted to convince those who belittled them that the championship belonged to Black Horse! As

always!

But now the situation.....

Was it really not possible this time?

Eventually, the excited team members gradually become worried and uneasy.

The result was announced when the first half of the race was over.

Charlie was ranked first with a time of 1 minute and 48 seconds; the next racer came in second with a

result of 1 minute and 54 seconds; Nathan ranked third with a result of 1 minute and 55 seconds.

The result was quite obvious.

Following that, the referee announced that the three teams would enter the grand finale, which would

begin in half an hour.

Although Black Horse managed to qualify for the final round, the team members were depressed as they surrounded Nathan heading to the Lounge.

Inside the Lounge, everyone glanced at Nathan.

One of the team members probed carefully, "Bro, what are the chances of us winning the championship this time?"

Nathan glanced at him.

His face was gloomy for a moment before he said in a deep voice, "I'm sorry, I might have to let you guys down this time."

Just now, he had tried his best, but he only managed to finish third.

He did not want to admit it, but he was indeed getting old.

Even though Nathan's skill was still top-notch, the reaction speed of his hands and feet was unable to keep up. Besides, he could hardly compete with the top-notch racers in their twenties.

When the team members heard him say this, they were all a bit overwhelmed for a while.

"Bro Nathan, don't say that. We believe in you. You can definitely do it!"

“Yes, even if you don't win the championship, it doesn't matter. You will always be our boss!”

Nathan smiled.

He knew his teammates were sincere in saying these words, but it was unavoidable for him to feel regretful.

After all, Nathan was already 42 years old. If he lost again this year, he would basically never be able to return to the racetrack to witness Black Horse regain the championship.

At that moment, there was a sudden knock on the door.

A beautiful figure flashed in.

“Director Hale, what do you think? After experiencing it first hand, did you realize that what I said is true?”

Nathan held his forehead as his head ached when he saw Natalia.

'Why is this girl here again?'

“Natalia, what exactly do you want?”

“I said, I want to help you guys get the championship.” Natalia said confidently.

Nathan looked up at her and frowned. "Racing is not a child's play. Not to mention the result, given that you're inexperienced, there is also a high risk of injury. Are you sure you still want to go?"

Natalia smiled and leaned forward slightly.

She stared into Nathan's eyes and uttered word by word, "I'm sure. If you don't believe me, we can

make a bet. If I lose, you can do anything you want; if I win, reserve Kallie Franklin's role in 'The Youth'

for me. What do you think?"

Nathan's pupils shook slightly.

"You're here for The Youth?"

"Of course!"

The atmosphere suddenly quieted down.

Nathan and Natalia stared at each other, but neither of them was willing to give way.

It was only after a while that Nathan fiercely gritted his teeth.

"Okay, I agree."

"Bro Nathan!"

"Nathan, you can't do it!"

The others tried to change Nathan's mind, but he raised his hand and stopped them.

"But I also have a condition, that is, if you win, you have to join the Black Horse from now on, and for at least five years, you cannot leave!"

Everyone around was taken aback.

Sure enough, Nathan really cared about his team.

In the past few years, he watched as Flying Eagle, Heavenly Hunter, and a few other teams growing stronger and stronger. More and more talents emerged, and Charlie, who was as an underdog, had become the champion for four years consecutively. The young man was incredibly capable, and he could not be easily challenged.

On the contrary, the Black Horse had declined slowly over the past four years.

It used to be an outstanding team in the country, but they ended up failing to defend their title.

One could imagine how concerned and dismayed they were.

Chapter 47 Battle To Defend The Title

According to Nathans condition, if Natalia lost, it would just be another year of defeat for the team.

If she won, Black Horse was able to defend the title, and get a new superb racer.

And for at least five years, Black Horse would not have to worry about its situation.

After five years, new blood and fresh talents would naturally fill the vacancy, so it did not matter if

Natalia was staying or not.

Needless to say, the older, the wiser!

What Nathan proposed directly blocked Natalia's way back.

Nonetheless, since Natalia had the guts to propose the bet in the first place, why would she flinch?

She smiled and reached out her hand. "Okay, it's a deal!"

"Deal!"

As they high-fived each other in the mid-air, the bet was set.

Half an hour later, the final round was about to start.

Racers from the three teams made their way to the racetrack one after another. However, when

everyone saw a new female face in Black Horse's racing suit instead of Nathan, they were startled.

"Who is she?"

"Why is she wearing the suit of the Black Horse Team?"

"Did the Black Horse change their racer?"

Charlie was slightly stunned when he recognized Natalia.

He furrowed immediately after.

Natalia approached him and waved her hand with a smile. "Charlie, long time no see! How are you?"

Having studied together for three years, Charlie naturally knew Natalia.

Not only did he know her, but he also knew that she was that woman's best friend.

Charlie frowned and looked around him, then he asked with a deep voice, "Why are you here?"

Natalia shrugged, and said with an innocent expression. "To race, of course!"

Charlie face immediately sank.

Not far away, Victoria noticed Natalia too.

Her eyes widened in disbelief and she hurriedly trotted over through the crowd and ran toward Natalia.

"Natalia, what are you doing? Stop fooling around, and come back with me quickly!"

Victoria was so anxious that she shrank from behind and tried to pull Natalia back.

When Charlie saw Victoria, he recognized her at once, although she was wearing a hat and mask and

hiding behind Jing Ning, he recognized her at once.

His already cold and sullen handsome face instantly turned colder.

Natalia secretly tugged Victoria while she looked at Charlie calmly.

“Why? Are you surprised to see me, Senior Charlie? You're not afraid to compete with me, are you?”

Charlie sneered, turned around and walked away.

“Mr. Charlie Peck, where are you going? Are we not going to compete with me?”

Charlie replied coldly, “She’s not from Black Horse. Since Nathan doesn't have the guts to take part,

this round becomes invalid.”

“What?”

Everyone else was baffled.

Natalia frowned but said loudly, “Charlie, who told you that I'm not a Black Horse member? Can't I join

it at the last minute? On the other hand, aren't you afraid of being embarrassed if word about you

running away from a competition spreads out?”

Charlie halted.

He turned to cast a cold look at Natalia.

Natalia continued in a hurry, “How about we make a bet? If I lose today, Black Horse will quit the race

and will never participate in any future rallies in the country' but if I win..."

She paused and suddenly yanked Victoria toward the front.

Following that, she smiled with her eyes squinted. "You can have a meal with my bestie here. What do you think?"

The moment these words came out, there was laughter and whistling all around.

Victoria's face blushed right away.

She lowered her head and tried to cover her face with her cap as she uttered, "Natalia, I'm not going to dine with him. Stop it, and let's go!"

Natalia gritted her teeth and whispered, "Can you be more mature? Having a chance to have a meal together is better than always being a backdrop among a bunch of fans. If there happens to be a spark of love between you, your long-cherished wish will be achieved! Victoria the beauty!"

Victoria's face changed.

Her face turned vaguely pale when a thought crossed her mind.

Behind them, members from the Black Horse felt nonchalant when they heard that they might have to

withdraw from the tournament from now on..

Someone stepped forward and tried to stop Natalia, but Nathan blocked him.

Nathan said as he looked at Natalia's back and said in a deep voice, "I trust her; I believe she won't

joke about the future of the whole team."

The team members had to hold down the dissatisfaction in their hearts and retreated.

With that, the other members could only hold back while they suppressed their dissatisfaction.

On the other hand, Charlie took a quick look at Victoria after he heard Natalia's suggestion.

His eyebrows made him look indifferent, and he gave off a feeling of contempt as he spoke, "You want

to have dinner with me?"

Victoria trembled gently.

Natalia did not notice Victoria's unusual behavior. She encouraged her best friend while she tugged her

arm, "Victoria, this is a crucial moment, don't be a wimp!"

Only then did Victoria finally raise her head.

She stared at the man in front of her.

His dark blue race suit complemented his tall figure, lean legs, and wild eyebrows, and it emitted a cold

and domineering feeling.

Victoria pursed her lips.

It took her a while, but in the end, she still had the courage to stand out and said loudly. "So what if it

is? Do you dare to compete with me or not?"

Although she had plucked up her courage, she stammered because she lacked confidence and was

nervous.

Charlie reacted like he had heard some funny joke.

He sneered suddenly and glanced over Victoria mockingly, and then he walked toward his car, holding

his helmet in his hand.

This meant that he agreed to the bet.

The people around them jeered.

Even though Victoria wore a hat and a mask, based on her eyes and her great figure, it was not difficult

to imagine that the face under the mask must be beautiful.

On the racetrack, it was always a war of hormones.

Women were like good race cars, and they were targets for men to conquer.

Victoria held onto Natalia's hand tightly, trembling badly due to tension.

When the man walked past her, a light and low and cold voice came from overhead.

"You'll never have this chance again!"

Victoria's face became as white as a sheet of paper.

Due to the cheers and loud noise in the venue, and the fact that Charlie lowered his voice deliberately,

Victoria was the only one who heard him.

Seeing that her face was a little off, Natalia asked with concern, "What's wrong with you? Is everything okay?"

Victoria shook her head.

"I-I'm fine. Natalia, you've never raced before, is it really okay??"

She was concerned.

Natalia patted her shoulder with a smile.

"Don't worry, just wait for the candlelight dinner with your Mr. Perfect!"

After saying that, with a confident toss of her hair, Natalia put her helmet on and headed for her race

car.

Once the racers took their positions, the whistle was blown, and the race started.

Three cars rushed out at the same time, but Charlie was soon ranked first for the time being.

Natalia followed steadily behind Charlie, and she went past a few obstacles smoothly while she constantly stayed closely behind him.

The two of them quickly grew far ahead of the racer in third place, but when Charlie noticed through the rearview mirror the car behind him, he could not help but frown.

The third place was soon left behind by the two, Charlie saw the car behind through the rearview mirror, frowning.

Chapter 48 Win the Championship

Charlie had always thought that Natalia could not drive a racing car at all.

That was why he rejected her request without hesitation when she first brought it up.

Later, although he agreed to the bet, he didn't expect too much in his heart.

Who knew, Natalia was really good at car racing!

When Charlie looked at the car that was tailing him, he naturally thought about the lady who wore a

mask and hid shyly behind Natalia a few minutes ago.

Her eyes were like a pair of hooks made of aged wine, and it easily evoked complex and painful

emotions from the bottom of his heart.

“Damn it!”

“How dare she show up in front of me!”

Charlie punched the steering wheel, and his face was gloomy as hell.

“She wants to have a meal with me?”

“Hah! In her dreams!”

He curled his lips into a grim smile as he looked into the rearview mirror once more.

The car behind him continued following him closely, which made it evident that the racer was rather skillful.

Nonetheless, so what if Natalia was skilled?

He would not lose!

Charlie was determined not to give that woman the chance to get close to him again and hurt him!!

Thinking of this, Charlie’s foot hit the accelerator to speed up.

In the car behind, Natalia looked at the car that suddenly picked up speed in front of him with a calm face.

'Tsk, buddy, you seem very agitated. Looks like you're set on winning!'

'Sadly, you're unlucky to meet me today!'

Soon, there would be a 90-degree sharp turn ahead.

Since Natalia had been keeping track of the time, she figured that it was about time.

A stern look could be seen on her face as she suddenly stepped on the accelerator and swished to the side of Charlie with a beautiful drift turn.

Inside the car, the man was obviously surprised.

The grave expression on his face seemed colder than before.

Charlie pressed his foot on the accelerator to speed up again.

Natalia followed suit.

Outside the track, members from both teams were stupefied when they watched the game through the big screen.

“Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god!”

Finally, someone's on par with Charlie!

It was so frightening! It was so exciting!

Although there was no winner yet, at least someone had broken the myth that Charlie was an unsurpassable racer.

Of course, the members from the Black Horse were the most excited.

Originally, they were not optimistic about Natalia's performance, but they didn't expect that they would be given such a huge surprise!

“Oh my God, the speed of hand movement, her calmness! Even Bro Nathan four years ago wasn't this great, okay?”

“Ah, Bro Nathan is forever the best... Mm... Although that's only what we think.”

The two racers were near the finishing line, but they were still next to each other, neither of them willing

to give way to the other.

Charlie secretly picked up his speed again to make a final spurt.

However, the car beside him suddenly rumbled, and his opponent moved faster and swooshed past him.

Charlie widened his eyes.

“Damn it!”

“That woman beat me to it!”

It was too late for him to further speed up, and they passed the finishing line almost at the same time.

In the end, Black Horse Team won with a 0.04 seconds lead!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Unbelievable

The car-racing god, who had been the champion for four consecutive years, was actually surpassed by a girl!

“Oh my god! What breaking news is this? It's so exciting!”

The crowd fell silent for a few seconds before cheers and screams flooded the venue.

It happened so fast that everyone could not react to in time.

Once the crowd realized what happened, they saw Charlie exit his car with a dark face.

Natalia also got off the car, wearing a smile. She removed her helmet, flipped her long ponytail in a cool manner, causing countless men to be enchanted by her heroic charm.

Holding the helmet, she went to the Black Horse Team and said to Nathan with a smile, "How was it? I did not lie to you, did I?"

Nathan looked at her with a complicated look.

As for the other team members, they were more exhilarated.

A group of people surrounded Natalia. If it was not because the gender difference, they would have raised her up and hurrahed.

The awards ceremony took place after the race ended.

Natalia, the well-deserved champion, was pushed onto the stage by her teammates.

Despite that, the participants joined the competition as a team; hence the glory naturally went to her team.

When Natalia received the award, Charlie and his teammates had already left.

"Director Hale, will you fulfill your promise?"

Nathan looked at her and nodded firmly.

"You made it, and I'll keep my word too, but I have been working on The Youth for many years. If the second supporting female role acts not well, it may ruin the whole play."

"So I only give you a chance for a fair competition. If you have the talent, you will have the role.

Otherwise, I won't let you have it even if I'll be accused of eating my own words."

Natalia chuckled.

"Of course, I didn't expect to win the role with a single race anyway. You can rest assured. I just want a fair chance to compete. When will you be available? I will bring someone to the audition."

Nathan nodded, "Let's do it tomorrow morning! I'll wait for you at my office."

"Okay, deal!"

After making the appointment with Nathan, Natalia finally remembered Victoria.

Nevertheless, she could not spot her best friend no matter how many times she looked.

Natalia thought Victoria was with the Julio Eagle team.

But she only saw Charlie with a gloomy face went inside, surrounded by his teammates. there was no sign of Victoria.

Natalia could not help but frown.

Where did Victoria go?

Natalia took out her phone to call Victoria, but nobody picked up. Feeling helpless, she could only ask

the Black Horse members to help look for her best friend Victoria.

After all, the racetrack was at a rather remote place. Victoria was a young female celebrity, so it would

be difficult to manage if something happened.

Natalia and the others were looking for Victoria everywhere...

In the parking lot.

Victoria bent over as she quietly made her way to her car.

She took the key out of her pocket and unlocked the car so that she could get in.

All of a sudden, an arm reached over the top of her head as someone slammed the door down.

Victoria's heart skipped a beat.

Sure enough, when she turned around, she saw the man standing behind her with stern eyes.

It was silent around them. Compared to the clamorous scene at the racetrack, the parking lot was

desolate.

The dim street lamps shone from afar, like a few cooked egg yolks in the pitch-black night sky. Instead of being bright and warm, they gave off a cold and lonely feel.

Victoria forced a smile and straightened her back.

“Why did you come out?”

She lowered her head to avoid Charlie's eyes. Though she was trying hard to stay calm, the tension in her body and the quiver in her voice showed her nervousness.

Charlie withdrew his hand and put it into his pocket. He looked down at her from above in a domineering manner.

The handsome man did not seem gentle at all; a cold and wild look could be seen on his craggy face.

When he kept a straight face, he seemed indifferent and chilly.

“Don't you want to have dinner with me? She won the champion, why are you running away?”

Chapter 49 Have Dinner Together

Victoria was stunned.

She wanted to say it was not her who made the bet!

But Natalia was her bestie and she did it for her sake so that she could have a date with Charlie.

Besides, when the bet was made, she had stood out earlier herself, so she could not go back on her words now.

Victoria tucked her hair behind her ears and cleared her throat..

“Uhm... I wasn't running away! I j-just came to get something. Yes, I came to get something?”

She even repeated herself to confirm what she said.

Charlie sneered in disdain.

Since the door was unlocked, he pulled the door open and got into the passenger seat.

Victoria was baffled.

Seeing the woman still standing there, Charlie stared coldly at her and asked impatiently, “Why are you still standing there? Where are we going to eat?”

Victoria didn't know how to answer his question.

“Oh,” she responded as soon as she regained her senses. Nonetheless, just as Victoria wanted to enter the car, she remembered that the car belonged to Natalia

If she drove her car away, how could Natalia go home later?

Therefore, Victoria could only ask softly as she looked at the man, sitting in the passenger seat and closing his eyes, "This isn't my car. Can we go in your car?"

Charlie didn't reply.

Then Natalia received a phone call from Victoria.

Victoria told her she had to leave first and that she had given the car keys to the security guard in the parking lot. Then she hung up the phone.

Natalia initially wanted to ask if Victoria wanted to wait for Charlie so that he could fulfill his promise, but Victoria hung up so quickly that she could not say it in time.

However, she later heard that Charlie left right after the competition ended. She took a look at her watch and realized the timing matched, so she immediately figured out what happened.

Hence, she did not bother her again. She went to get her car after she set a specific time for the appointment with Nathan, then she left.

When she got home, it was ten p.m.

Surprisingly, Archie was not home.

Considering how Archie drove to her company to pick her up when she forgot to inform him about

having to work overtime, Natalia sent him a text in advance.

But she did not expect that she was not the only one who arrived home late.

Natalia looked for Mrs. Dottie, who explained to her with a smile, “Mr. Archie called at dinner time, saying that there is a very important video conference in the company, so he won't come back so early.”

Natalia nodded.

She went straight upstairs without saying anything else.

After a long and tiring day, Natalia wanted to take a bath and have a good rest.

She entered the restroom with her pajamas.

On the other side, Victoria and Charlie arrived at the restaurant.

It was an open-air candlelit restaurant.

The restaurant was situated on the second floor, with bright moon and cold wind overhead and vast river in a distance. It was surrounded by romantic candlelight. An elegant cellist was seen playing a melodious and graceful piece on a small stage.

If Victoria ignored the cold-faced man in front of her, the restaurant was indeed the most suitable place for a romantic date.

When the waiter came with the food they ordered, Victoria expressed her thanks in a low voice.

At the restaurant, she didn't need to fully disguise herself anymore. She removed the mask but was still wearing the cap.

The broad brim covered her eyes, leaving only her straight nose and pink lips exposed, and her graceful chin raised slightly. Without saying a word, she had a noble and sophisticated look, as if she was above all beings.

Charlie's eyes were dark and hollow, and a hint of coldness could be seen deep inside them.

All the way from the racetrack, Victoria had gradually eased down from the tension.

Even so, she felt uneasy.

They were dining outside, but she felt the pressure of the air around her. It seemed that even the space was cramping and suffocating.

The atmosphere was silent and awkward.

However, it was worth noting that many couples dined at the open-air restaurant.

In contrast with the affectionate couples, Victoria and Charlie looked even more estranged from each other.

A waiter with roses in his hands approached them. He bent slightly and smiled respectfully, "Sir, would you like to buy a bouquet for your girlfriend, as roses symbolize always and forever?"

Charlie cast a cold look at the waiter. "No!"

The waiter felt they were indeed a strange couple. They were dining together, but seldom talked to each other. The man seemed extremely fierce.

To lighten the mood, the waiter smiled and said, "It doesn't matter. Sir, how about you request a song for your girlfriend! Given the environment that you're in, it's romantic to listen to a song requested by your lover!"

Charlie raised his head and glared at the waiter.

That look, like a wolf in the wilderness, shed faint cold light in the darkness of the night.

The waiter shivered and felt a chill down his spine.

Following that, Charlie uttered slowly word by word, "She's not my girlfriend. How many times do I have

to tell you? Get lost now!"

The waiter finally realized that the man in front of him was not only fierce, but also had a bad temper!

The waiter's face changed and he hurried away with the roses.

Victoria was embarrassed about what happened.

She informed Charlie softly, "I'm going to the restroom."

Then, she got up and left in a hurry.

Looking at her back, Charlie did not say a word, but his eyes darkened.

In the restroom, Victoria desperately took deep breaths.

It seemed that only in this way could she temporarily ease her heart, which had been suppressed for a

long time.

Suddenly, her cell phone in the bag rang.

When she reached for it, she noticed that Natalia was calling her.

Victoria's eyes were sour and she forced back her tears, which were about to roll down her cheeks.

"Hi, Natalia."

"How is it, Victoria? Is it fun to date the man in your dreams?"

Victoria forced a smile.

Fun?

Maybe!!!!

Unfortunately, he looked so unhappy!

“Perhaps in this life he hated me the most. I promised to stay out of his sight forever, but now I broke the promise, and forced him to have a candlelight dinner with me. He must hate me to the core now!”

Victoria felt that her eyes get sour again.

She held back her tears quickly once more.

She could not cry. It took her more than two hours to finish her makeup. If she cried, it would be ruined, right?

She looked up and it was several seconds before she could hold back the tears.

On the other end, Natalia thought something had happened to Victoria because she did not say a word.

"Victoria? Are you all right?"

Victoria replied at once, "I'm fine, I am in the restroom!"

"That's great. Then, how are you getting on?"

"Nothing much. You know he can be quite cold, and sit for hours without saying a word, so what can I do?"

Natalia scoffed disdainfully.

"You can break the ice first!! You are the most popular star in J City, aren't you always good at starting conversations? Think about the men who've desperately pursued you; believe in your charm! As long as you show a bit of your charm, you will make it!"

Victoria was amused by her and burst into laughter.

Chapter 50 It's a Long Story

Eventually, Victoria became less depressed.

"Well, you're right, but I've forgotten how to use my charm. Why don't you teach me?"

Natalia was not afraid of being stimulated by her and responded, "OK, I am doing this for your happiness. Wait, Let me hang up and make a video call."

She hung up the phone, clicked on the video and it was soon connected.

Victoria holding her arm leaned on washbasin and watched at her with a smile.

"Come on, Natalia! Start your show."

Two people had grown up together, and in private they did not care much about their images in the front of each other.

Natalia put the phone on the bookshelf, and began her performance in front of her phone.

She started with some disgusting and exaggerated lines from prime-time shows, as well as some pickup lines.

“I haven't seen you for years. I miss you so much.”

“They think there are many people in my world, but I'm the only one who knows that you're my world!!”

“You are the white moonlight in my heart, and the colors in my life.”

“Without your permission, I have liked you for so many years, I'm sorry!”

“A man falls in love with a stream, because he has never seen the sea. And now I've seen the Milky Way, but you are still my only star.”

When Natalia recited these lines, she did not notice that the door to her room was slowly opened behind her.

When Archie came back from work, he heard that Natalia was already home. So he untied his tie and

went upstairs.

Unexpectedly, he opened the door and was greeted with such a scene.

Under the dim yellowish light, a woman in pajamas was caressing her body in front of the bookshelf.

While twisting her delicate waist while touching herself, she was murmuring some lines.

“You are my dearest, you are my darling, and you are the three-quarter of my life.”

“Without you, it is like the darkness losing light, or fish out of water; my life is meaningless.”

“I love you like a flying moth darting into a flame, your heart is where I want to go to the most...”

Uhm...

All in all, it was hard to explain in a few words.

In the video, Victoria was fully immersed in Natalia’s show at first.

But then she started to look a bit strange.

Noticing her distraction, Natalia stopped and said, "Hey, Victoria, I've been acting so hard. Could you

give me some attention and respect my performance?"

Victoria smiled awkwardly.

"Natalia, do you...have you got a new boyfriend?"

"How do you know?"

Victoria pointed behind her.

Natalia froze at once.

She looked at bottom right corner of her phone screen.

In the next second, her pupil enlarged, and she became stiffened on the spot, as though she was struck by lightning.

Archie holding his coat and his tie in one hand stood behind her with his straight figure.

The man smirked and teased her with his eyes. He simply stared at her without moving an inch.

Natalia suddenly had an urge to die!

She immediately ended the video call and turned around to glare at Archie.

Archie forced to hold back his laughter, then put his coat and tie on a nearby chair before he approached Natalia.

"Honey, I really did not know you miss me so much when I am not at home."

Natalia pouted her lips and almost cried because she was too mad.

"Archie, why didn't you knock on the door before you enter the bedroom?"

"This is my house, and we are married. There is nothing I can't see. Why should I knock on the door?"

Archie raised his eyebrows.

Natalia was so mad!

"But his words seemed to have a point. What should I do?"

She wanted to cry but had no tears, whereas the smile in Archie's eyes was growing deeper.

"Honey, in fact, if you really have your needs, just tell me. Don't be shy, I will definitely satisfy you. It

you lock yourself in a room to relieve yourself, the effect is not good and it is bad for your body."

Natalia blushed right away.

Realizing he had misunderstood her, she tried to explain.

"I, No, it's... It's not what you think!"

"So, what is it then??"

Archie walked slowly towards her, step by step.

In a few steps he came up to her.

When Natalia sensed the strong male hormones and the cold breath that belonged to Archie, Natalia

flushed.

She hemmed and hawed, not knowing how to explain herself.

"I am not, I didn't. Don't talk nonsense." She blabbered

"Nonsense?"

Archie chuckled and suddenly leaned over. He touched the side of Natalia's face with one hand and retrieved a photo beside her phone with the other hand.

"In the middle of the night, you stayed in the bedroom by yourself to say such cheesy words while looking at my photo. How dare you say you didn't miss me? Huh?"

His voice was deep and slightly husky, which was incredibly sexy.

Natalia was flushed from cheek to neck.

Just now she found a place to put her phone randomly.

She did not notice his picture was there.

Nonetheless, it would not matter if she explained herself. For all she knew, the narcissistic man was already imagining things!

She could only back off and change the subject.

"I, I don't want to talk to you anymore. I'm going to bed!"

Following that, she turned to leave.

However, her wrist was suddenly grasped by the man.

Natalia was startled, and noticed that she had finally retreated to the side of the bed.

Her leg bumped against the edge of the bed, which hurt so much that she screamed. As soon as her

knees went weak, she fell backward onto the bed.

Archie originally wanted to catch her, but Natalia grabbed his collar out of panic.

As a result, his center of gravity was suddenly changed, and fell onto the bed with her.

The two of them fell heavily on the bed.

Before either of them could react to the situation, Natalia widened her eyes because she felt something

soft on her lips.

When feeling a soft and tender touch, Natalia immediately widened her eyes.

The room was dead silent. Under the dim light, Archie was on top of her.

Archie was stunned too. His lips were on hers. The warm and tender touch sent an electric current to

his brain.

At that moment, the bedroom door was not closed, and footsteps were suddenly heard.

“Sir, you have a call from the capital... Ah!”

A short scream was heard.

When Natalia finally regained her senses, she pushed the man away, stood up and saw Mrs. Dottie

waving her hands nervously.

“I’m s-sorry. I came in because the door was left ajar, I-I... Sir, Madam, please go on! I’ll go downstairs!”

Mrs. Dottie fled as fast as she could.

Natalia closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

Next, she turned to stare at Archie in a vicious and merciless way.

“You!”

Archie shrugged his shoulders innocently, indicating that it was not his fault and he did not expect it too.

Natalia was so furious that her stomach hurt.

In the end, Natalia went downstairs to explain to Mrs. Dottie.

Archie was not bothered. Natalia could explain all she wanted, but in any case, they were husband and wife, a married couple.

Besides, Mrs. Dottie was someone who had the experience, so she would probably not believe what Natalia said.

Thinking of that kiss, Archie reached out and touched his lips. The tender touch was still there, as sweet and wonderful as ever.

He curled his lips into a smile as he made his way to the study.