

Love OT 91

Chapter 91 Her Unique Dress

Smiling, the manager said in a polite manner, “May I know to whom am I speaking?”

Vania answered, “Call me Greyson.”

“Greetings to you, Ms. Greyson,” said the manager before he led her to one of the sophisticated window displays. “Ms. Greyson is in luck today, for this dress here had just arrived recently. This is the latest custom-made dress by DD that Master Aisha designed, and the only one of its kind. I dare say that it would fit my lady very well. Would you like to try it on?”

Aisha was an internationally renowned fashion designer whose designs were highly sought after, as they would always be at the forefront of new trends. In many cases, even money alone was not enough to secure a purchase of her designs.

Vania nodded as she was also captivated by the aesthetic dress. “Alright, I’ll try it on.”

At her answer, the manager immediately called for a few attendants to carefully take the dress and accompany Vania to the dressing room.

After that, the manager then went up to Hanson and tested the waters. “President Luke, there’s a new suit that arrived recently that matches well with the dress Ms. Greyson is wearing. Would you like to try it on?”

Hanson was pleased the moment he heard the phrase ‘matches well,’ and nodded. “Yes.”

A little while later, Vania looked different when she came out of the dressing room. Without a single strand of stray hair, her tied-up hair—without any hair accessories—gave off a simple yet elegant look.

She looked magical—like a fairy from a fairy tale—as her hourglass figure was accentuated by DD’s latest sunset-themed mermaid dress.

The emphasis on her entire look was simple and clean to showcase her natural beauty, which was why she was not wearing any other accessories for her outfit.

The manager and the attendants were in awe over Vania’s appearance. Though they had received many other celebrities in the store, none of them were able to properly bring out their charm just as Vania did.

Furthermore, by pairing the unique dress with Vania’s beauty, they came to fully understand the phrase ‘feast for the eyes.’

Hanson was equally in awe over Vania’s beauty. He always knew how beautiful Vania was, but had never expected to have his mind blown time after time again. Nevertheless, with twinkles in his eyes, he walked up to her. “You look beautiful.”

“Thank you,” Vania replied as she lowered her eyes while smiling. That smile of hers captivated Hanson’s eyes. After a brief moment, Hanson regained his composure and held his arm out as a gesture for Vania to hold onto him. “Let’s go.”

Vania nodded before examining Hanson’s outfit in detail as he had already changed into a new suit. She couldn’t help but stare at his tie, for it was of the same sunset-themed design as her dress.

It was only when Hanson looked at her with his head hung low did she manage to recompose herself before politely taking his arm. “Let’s go then.”

In Hammond International Hotel.

The preparation for the selection criteria had already been completed. This time, the event would be held by way of a live broadcast.

It would generate buzz for the event this way as it would build momentum for the newcomers as well as the foundation for sales of future products.

At this point, the 50 newcomers had already arrived at the venue.

Right now, they were waiting for the appointed time for their entrance ceremony to begin.

Since they were all newcomers with neither background nor a team to their name, they did not have their own makeup artists and could only do their makeup personally as best as they could.

Few of them were from well-off families as they were dressed slightly more distinguished.

However, when Melanie entered the venue, everyone in the venue turned their attention toward her.

“Look at that dress she’s wearing. It looks like the latest product from CC. I heard it’s very expensive.”

“It’s definitely not a dress anybody can afford with how expensive it is. But, it is really pretty. I wonder when we’ll be able to wear such a dress.”

Chapter 92 Entrance Ceremony

“Plus, she’s good-looking as well. I guess there’s no hope for us in this event.”

“I’m so jealous of her.”

The participants gathered in groups as they whispered to one another with envious eyes on Melanie. However, some of the participants—whose families were well-off—felt slight discontent toward Melanie.

“It’s all thanks to her family being rich. Her beauty is nothing to look at.”

“Right? You can’t just win based on money alone in a competition by the Luke Corporation. I think her looks are just about average.”

“If she’s really good, she would have just debuted straight away. Why would she be here with the newcomers? To steal our thunder?”

Melanie was extremely pleased as she listened to the praises the others had for her and paid no mind to the malicious comments about her.

Like a model walking down a runway, Melanie walked over to the wealthy girls, who were badmouthing her, in a prideful manner before telling them off in a patronizing tone. "You girls should pay mind to what you all are saying. Though we're all here for the selection, you girls better sharpen your vigilance since not just anyone would allow you all to spout nonsense behind their backs."

Melanie's boldness startled the girls. Though they were reluctant to give in to her, the girls did not dare to retort as they could not afford to offend someone who had the capability to wear such an expensive dress.

Melanie was extremely pleased as she watched the girls stay silent with angry expressions on their faces. After taking a glance at the girls, she then went back to her spot loftily, like a peacock that came by just to show off her beauty.

By this time, the staff had already begun preparations for the entrance ceremony.

The participants would enter in turn according to their audition scores and be given a personalized introduction as they faced the cameras. Melanie was to be the 10th participant to enter.

Currently, the participants were putting on their finishing touches and waiting for the broadcast to go live with the best expression they could muster on their faces. It was at this time that Melanie felt a slight tinge of nervousness at the thought of seeing Hanson in a little while more.

With the lighting on the venue set up, the host, dressed in a tuxedo, walked professionally onto the stage and announced the commencement of the selection ceremony at the end of the countdown.

Following the host's announcement, the broadcast went live while the participants entered the venue, with the number of comments by the netizens gradually increasing.

'Was that a custom-made dress by CC? Looks like there's a lot of hidden talent among the participants this year.'

'Am I the only one who thinks she's beautiful? I can't keep my eyes off her ever since she came on stage. She looks just like a celebrity. I'm sure that the winner today would definitely be that woman.'

'Every one of them has their own charm point. It's just that her dress really stands out here.'

'Why isn't our most anticipated President Luke on stage yet?'

After the contestants had entered the stage, the host announced excitedly amid the loud drum sounds, "Next up, let's welcome President Luke of the Luke Corporation and Master Mia with a big round of applause!"

'Master Mia? Did I hear that correctly?'

'I thought Master Mia doesn't attend any events? Really looking forward to it.'

'Master Mia was the one who designed the jewelry that Luke Corporation recently launched. It's not surprising for the master to make an appearance for this event.'

'What an amazing collaboration. I'm so curious about what Master Mia looks like.'

'That's President Luke's shoes! Ah... I'm getting excited.'

After the host had announced for them to be onstage, Hanson requested for Vania to hold his arm before walking side-by-side toward the stage in a composed manner.

Hanson, who had once hated attending such events, suddenly thought that walking on a red carpet wasn't so bad after all.

Chapter 93 Matching Outfits

With him being in a good mood, Hanson's usual cold expression on his handsome face softened as he gave off a light and breezy feeling.

Amid the cheering of the audience, Vania politely waved at the audience offstage as well as the cameras. Watching the woman beside him greeting the audience, Hanson followed suit and waved his hand as well. Since the president was always cool and aloof, this action of his made the entire audience on-site and the audience online explode with enthusiasm.

'Master Mia was a woman.'

'They're just too matching. I'm gonna screenshot this and burn this image into my mind forever.'

'They're actually dressed like a couple.'

'Why does this feel like they're walking down the aisle?'

'It's so cool that Master Mia is wearing a custom-made dress from DD. There's only one of them in the entire world.'

'What a stunner. She would instantly be at the top if she was in the entertainment industry.'

'Beautiful and talented. I'm so jealous.'

The comments on Melanie's beauty were immediately buried by the comments on the handsome president and the beautiful master. Some of the netizens had even started shipping the two of them together.

Although the veteran host had hosted countless events, none of them could compare to how feverish the reception was right now just by looking at how enthusiastic the cheers by the audience and the participants were.

In an instant, the attention on Melanie shifted to Hanson and Vania, as the topic of the couple started trending online. It was unheard of for a single appearance to have taken the headlines of all entertainment articles.

Among those that were cheering for the couple, only Melanie was looking at the beautiful Vania with resentment.

She actually entered the scene while holding onto Hanson's arm? Since when did he allow someone to approach him like this? I was with him for five years and had never even managed to touch his hands. How did Vania manage to do what I couldn't so easily?!

Plus, she could see how happy Hanson was in his every expression. Why aren't you two letting go of your hands if you're already on stage? How long do you plan to hold each other's hand?!

Melanie was filled with the urge to rush over to them and break them apart. Furthermore, the design of their clothes further fueled her anger; the design of Hanson's cufflinks and tie did not escape her notice. That's obviously to match Vania's outfit! Since Hanson had never once worn anything that was fancy in color, Melanie could not understand him at all now that he had changed from the time when she knew him.

Right now, she was trying her best to suppress her anger in order to avoid the camera from capturing her discontent.

The hostess on stage then led Hanson and Vania onto the center of the stage. Immediately, the audience erupted with loud cheering as they watched the handsome man and the beautiful lady standing still together. The very image of the two standing together was truly like a well-drawn painting.

With how frenzied the audience was, the host was at a loss on how to proceed at one point.

Even the comments online were coming in nonstop.

'This is not a wedding ceremony, right?'

'Let's just ask one of the government officials to go over and officiate their wedding.'

'This is my first time shipping someone. How could I not?!'

'They really look like husband and wife.'

'Don't you know? President Luke already has kids of his own.'

Although the online comments were a mixture of good and bad, most of them were singing praises for the couple. Even the audience onsite and the participants felt that the two of them were a match made in heaven.

After some time passed, the host, Harry, seized the opening when the audience calmed down to extend his microphone to Hanson. He then said politely albeit in an excited manner, "I welcome the two of you to our event today. Please, introduce yourselves."

Hanson did not immediately answer, but took away the host's microphone and held it in front of Vania instead.

"Ladies first," said the mighty president in a magnetic voice as he acted as the microphone stand for Vania.

Chapter 94 Overprotective

“Ahh!” The venue was filled with shrieks.

After looking at Hanson, Vania smiled lightly. “Hello, everyone. I’m Mia Stravinsky, and in other words, Vania Greyson.”

Following Vania’s words, Hanson introduced himself, “Hello, everyone. I’m the organizer of this event, and in other words, Hanson Luke.”

When even their self introductions were the same, the screams under the stage grew even louder.

That gentle smile of Vania sparked Melanie’s jealousy.

‘Vania’s smile is too mesmerizing. She’s so charming.’

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‘I’m in love with the way he said “Ladies first.”’

‘President Luke, do you need a microphone? I can be one for you.’

‘Vania? That name sounds familiar. Is that the President of Galaxy Corporation?’

‘I just Googled it, and it really is Galaxy Corporation’s President. She’s only 23 years old this year.’

‘Isn’t she just like the main character of a novel? She’s won the game of life.’

‘They have a seven-year age gap. It’s just like the plot of a novel.’

‘I can already picture a CEO novel with them two in it.’

‘I’m begging someone to release a story like this.’

When the director saw the livestream’s popularity skyrocketing and even caused the server to crash at one point, he immediately handed over the program to the host, asking him to keep Vania and Hanson on stage longer.

The host, Harry, was over the moon upon receiving the prompt. Although he was extremely experienced in being a host, he was still a young man in the end. The successful Hanson was his idol, and when he saw Vania, who was so talented and charming, he immediately named her as his only goddess. Right now, he wanted nothing more than to talk to them as much as he could.

He looked at Vania and asked excitedly, “Master Mia, I’ve heard so much about you. Now that I’ve finally seen you, can you give me a hug?”

“Hug, hug!” The crowd cheered along.

Vania nodded and said with a smile, “You can just call me Vania.”

Then, she voluntarily stretched out her arms.

However, after the host said that, he suddenly felt a chill running down his spine. Though it was very hot in the venue, he was breaking out in a cold sweat. Moreover, it felt like there were a pair of eyes staring at him intensely behind him as though trying to pierce a hole through him. This sudden feeling made him afraid to step forward and hug her.

He subconsciously shifted his gaze to Vania's side where Hanson stood, only to see their president's fierce and murderous expression. Did President Luke learn how to act? Otherwise, why does he look so vicious now when he was perfectly fine before? Besides, he was pretty sure that Hanson was looking at him.

The host felt that his knees were about to give out. Under the pressure of Hanson's glowering gaze, he made use of his improvisational skills that he had gained after many years and said to Vania with a guilty smile, "I think I should just shake hands with you, or I might make your fans angry."

His words made Vania laugh, and she voluntarily shook his hand. After that, the host hurried back to his spot and secretly wiped the sweat away from his forehead. If he had hugged Vania earlier, he was certain that his career would end here. Besides, he had a feeling that if he continued talking to Vania, he could easily end up being thrown out by the man beside him.

Even though he was terrified, he had already interacted with Vania, and he couldn't just give up halfway and ignore Hanson.

Chapter 95 Rebirth

Besides, the netizens would never forgive him. Hence, even if he was worried on the inside, he still had to bite the bullet. Plastering a teary smile on his face, he questioned, "President Luke, you're everyone's idol. Even if you're not an entertainer, you've been topping the hot topic charts for ten years already. Today, can you give our contestants and your fans online some encouragement?"

Hanson narrowed his eyes at the host and asked coldly, "Don't you want to shake my hand?"

Uh... The host immediately froze, a bad premonition rising in him. However, if he rejected the President under the eyes of so many, he would definitely be flamed to hell and back on the internet.

Hence, he could only nod and smile. "Yes, I do."

Even though he was grinning on the surface, he was sobbing on the inside. This was definitely the biggest lie he had ever told in his entire career. He didn't want to shake hands with Hanson at all. However, he had no choice, so he could only extend his hand to shake Hanson's briefly.

As he had expected, this was a setup for him. His hand was clenched painfully in Hanson's grip, but he felt that Hanson was not exerting his full strength and was only using a third of it. If he had used all of his strength, he would've definitely broken Harry's hand. Still, Harry yearned to jump down the stage and flap his hand vigorously. It hurt really, really bad.

Although the others couldn't sense anything wrong about their handshake, it couldn't be any clearer to Melanie. She gritted her teeth and clenched her fists tightly, her body trembling with anger. What's Hanson trying to imply? Is Vania so important to him that she can't even shake hands with someone of the opposite gender?

As for Vania's three children, they were sitting in front of their computer and watching every move on the scene. Melanie's embarrassed expression particularly made them even more excited.

Jack ranted unhappily, "Devil obviously doesn't have any good intentions at first glance. What is Mommy thinking? Why did she wear matching outfits with him? Mommy is pretty, but the Devil is so ugly."

On the other hand, James frowned and didn't speak. He couldn't really understand what Hanson was trying to do now.

Similarly, Jacob pouted a little and said worriedly, "Is that woman, Melanie, going to hurt Mommy? I'm really worried."

Jack patted his brother and assured, "Relax, we've already prepared for that, and I don't think she can get away. Let's just sit back and watch the show."

What he wanted to see the most at the moment was Melanie's appearance, and how she could stir the plot.

Currently, Hanson and Vania had already sat by the judge's table along with several other judges. Once everything was in place, the host took to the stage and announced, "The selection of the Fantasy Daydream ambassador officially begins. In this round, each contestant must complete their performance based on the advertising design provided by us, and the one with the highest score wins. Of course, the most important vote here comes from our advertising creative director, Mr. Wright. Please read our advertisement mock-up carefully and express it with your own understanding."

The theme for the advertisement was 'Rebirth.'

In the advertisement, the environment on which mankind depended for its survival had been destroyed, and everything in the world seemed to be on the brink of collapse and demolition. The protagonist in the advertisement had lost her close relatives after experiencing great suffering, and was in great pain.

Chapter 96 The Fun Was Just About to Begin

However, she was unwilling to give up here and worked hard to study new types of transportation in order to find a new home for survival. Finally, one day, she successfully developed a vehicle that could fly in the sky and dig underground. Since then, she embarked on a journey with her new vehicle to find a new home. After dozens of years passed, she finally arrived at the end, but she was still empty handed.

Just when she was about to give up everything, an angelic figure suddenly appeared in front of her. That sincere smile, like a ray of sunshine piercing through the vast darkness, reignited her will to live again. Then, the angel waved the magic wand in their hand, instantly transforming the dark land into a colorful world with tall mountains and clear rivers, while birds sang and flowers bloomed under a vibrant sky

along with thousands of brightly-lit high-rise buildings. This beautiful scene was displayed in front of the dream seeker like a painting.

She ran with the wind excitedly, feeling the reality, and all of this had really come true. Finally, she showed a sincere smile and extended her hand, disappearing into this beautiful world hand in hand with the little angel.

Then, the advertisement stopped abruptly, and the contestants had to interpret their most intuitive feelings based on this mock-up. Although it was only an experimental version for the selection, it could already be considered a masterpiece in the current advertising circle.

Many of the netizens who were watching the competition were learning creative advertisements, and the chatroom was abuzz.

‘This mock-up can already be used as the final version. I wouldn’t have guessed that it would be for a jewelry design. It’s too unique.’

‘It can be used as a teaching material. This is probably the best among all the other advertisements this year.’

‘Did anyone notice that the creative advertising director is Vania? Could she be any more perfect?’

‘She’s not only pretty, but also talented. I’m so jealous.’

Currently, Vania’s name was topping the searches with compliments from netizens, taking over Hanson by a huge lead.

However, as she looked at the mock-up, a victorious and confident smile appeared on Melanie’s face. Particularly, when she saw Vania’s name under the advertising director column, her gaze became even more insidious. Everything was within her control.

Meanwhile, the three children were also watching the livestream with great interest. The fun was just about to begin.

The host introduced the judges one after another before announcing the first contestant to perform on stage. “Let us give a warm applause to invite our first contestant, Bella Godwin, to the stage.”

Bella Godwin was a college student who had just graduated from an acting academy. She looked pure and had a vulnerable appearance. As she walked onto the stage, she sent a searing gaze to Hanson who was beneath the stage, and after bowing deeply to everyone, she began her performance.

‘No wonder she went to an acting academy. She’s really pretty.’

‘I feel like she’s really competitive.’

‘Did anyone notice that she keeps staring at Hanson?’

‘If it were me, I’d stare at him too. After all, President Luke is so handsome and charming.’

Although Bella was beautiful and good at acting, she didn't express the protagonist's tenacity and perseverance well enough and appeared too weak. In the end, the judges only gave her a temporary sign.

The whole time, Bella's eyes never left Hanson's, but he never spared her a glance. She walked down the stage in disappointment, thinking about how much she wanted to get close to a man like him.

The competition was still in progress and going in order, but Melanie was already extremely impatient. Finally, after waiting for more than half an hour, the host called her name. "Let us invite the tenth contestant, Melanie Greyson, onstage."

Chapter 97 Reported for Plagiarism

Melanie and Hanson subconsciously shared a glance. They had already seen this name long ago, and they didn't know if there would be another issue today.

The three children were hugging their arms in anticipation as they watched the livestream.

Decked out in jewels, Melanie walked onto the stage flashily, a victorious expression on her face. Before she went on the stage, she had already seen Vania and Hanson looking at each other, which filled her heart with resentment. She wanted to see how Vania would recover from this in front of everyone. With the microphone in her hand, she first introduced herself like the other contestants.

However, after finishing her introduction, she didn't start performing immediately. Instead, she faced the audience, looking confident. "Can I ask Master Mia a question?"

She had called her Master Mia on purpose in a slightly mocking way.

Vania, who had suddenly been called out, raised her eyebrows and said into the microphone, "Of course you can."

Then, Melanie's sarcastic question followed. "May I ask if you made the advertisement mock-up today?"

Vania nodded noncommittally. This advertising idea really was her work. What's Melanie up to this time?

Meanwhile, the other contestants were all holding their breath nervously. They had been too afraid to speak when they came on stage, but now Melanie was asking questions out of nowhere. What was going on?

The netizens were also busy expressing their opinions.

'Is she trying to start something?'

'It feels like she's up to no good.'

'I feel like I've seen this Melanie somewhere, but I just can't remember where.'

'She's quite pretty, but I just can't bring myself to like her.'

'She looks kind of b*tchy. She's not that likable.'

Jack waited excitedly at home, eager to see what would happen next.

After getting a clear answer, Melanie smiled even more sarcastically. As though she was doing everyone a service, she declared loudly, "I'm reporting you for plagiarism."

The moment she said that, the venue went silent. Then, a second later, it erupted with noisy chatter.

What? Did I hear that right? Melanie is accusing Vania of plagiarism?

Plagiarism could be very damaging to a person's reputation. There were too many previous cases in showbiz and the people involved were all unable to make a comeback from this. Besides, with Vania's current status, she would suffer from heavy losses if she were caught plagiarizing.

The netizens were all expressing their shock, waiting to see how this would turn out.

Meanwhile, ever since Hanson saw Melanie enter the stage, he had been frowning throughout the whole process, and when he heard her accuse Vania of plagiarism, his expression turned dark in an instant. How deplorable.

Vania was not angry even as she was being called out, and there was still a smile on her face, but that smile was clearly disdainful. She said coldly, "Since you reported me for plagiarism, please tell me about it."

Looking at Vania's indifferent expression, Melanie sneered inwardly. Your acting is quite convincing, but you'll be crying soon.

Melanie pointed at the advertisement that Vania had designed and interrogated, "This advertisement is Mr. Wright's work, so how did it become yours?"

'Plagiarizing Mr. Wright? That can't be real.'

'Vania seems so calm. I think there'll be a twist.'

'Vania is Mia, so there's no saying that she might know Mr. Wright or she has taken inspiration from his works.'

'Isn't the person above being too polite? Just say she plagiarized.'

'Everyone, stop spamming the comments and watch the livestream.'

'What if this is part of the competition?'

Meanwhile, Vania remained calm and asked, "If you're claiming that this is Mr. Wright's original work, do you have any proof?"

Chapter 98 Where Is the Evidence

"I have the evidence, of course. How can I possibly have the nerve to talk through my hat on something so serious? A person's character matters more than anything else, right?" Melanie looked as though she was ready for anything. She raised her cell phone, saying, "I need to link my cell phone to the big screen to show it to everyone."

Vania motioned to the staff members at the scene to help Melanie link her cell phone to the screen.

Seeing how confident Melanie was and how unperturbed Vania seemed, everyone at the scene began to have doubts.

On the other hand, most of the netizens sided with Melanie when they saw this.

'She's the head of a company, after all. She can pretend to be so calm on the outside, but I reckon she's already panicking deep in her heart.'

'A talented woman? I'd say she's more like a thief. Let's blacklist such an abominable woman from the industry!'

'What makes such a woman qualified to be one of the judges? Is she gonna teach people how to plagiarize from others?'

'Boycott Vania Greyson! Boycott Galaxy Corporation! Boycott Mia Stravinsky!'

'Perhaps Master Mia achieved her status by plagiarizing from others, too.'

Josie, who was watching the live broadcast of the event in the Greyson Residence, had been helping Melanie regulate the comments on the internet all this while. Seeing how the netizens were now pulling Vania to pieces as if they wished to skin and eat her alive, Josie was incredibly pleased. When Melanie shows the evidence later on, Vania will be completely knocked off the pedestal, upon which time she'll be nothing but a public enemy left at our mercy!

Meanwhile, Vania's three kids were also following the situation on the internet at home. When they saw the netizens hurl insults at their mother, they were very angry, but they held back the urge to fight back. It's not the time yet, they thought.

At this moment, Melanie's cell phone had been linked to the big screen at the scene. Melanie opened her WhatsApp chat window with deft fingers, saying, "Mr. Wright's original manuscript is here. This is what he sent to me, and I'm now opening it for everyone."

As she spoke, the document was opened, showing the main content of the creative concept for the ad campaign as well as numerous traces of alterations and some attached pictures to everyone. Anyone could tell without scrutinizing the document that it had to be the original manuscript. After all, the traces of multiple revisions couldn't possibly be faked.

At the sight of this, everyone involuntarily gasped and looked at Vania with curious eyes.

Melanie then provoked, "I believe that everyone has their own judgment on this, and plagiarists have to be punished. What else do you have to say, Vania?"

Vania shook her head with a soft chuckle, showing no sign of exasperation or embarrassment at being exposed. "How did you get your hands on Mr. Wright's manuscript?"

As Melanie was still aggressive in her manner, she responded, "It doesn't matter. In any case, it's as sure as a gun that your ad campaign was plagiarized from Mr. Wright's work."

“How can it not matter? Who can prove that it was Mr. Wright who sent you the document? Again, where’s the evidence?”

From Melanie’s perspective, Vania was just trying to get rid of the accusation by seizing upon this point and running around in circles. Of course, she couldn’t tell anyone that she had had her men find out Mr. Wright’s contact information or that she had bought this work for 20 million. Clenching her teeth, she said, “Mr. Wright’s WhatsApp number is right here. Isn’t that enough proof?”

Compared to Melanie’s stern countenance and brusque manner, Vania remained as cool as a cucumber, giving the feeling that all the accusations laid against her were going nowhere. Just then, she said softly, “Your evidence is lacking. Even if there’s a judge here, there’s no way he can pronounce a judgment on this.”

Melanie shot back indignantly, “You’re just using lame arguments to defend yourself.”

Vania replied unhurriedly in a calm tone of voice, “Since you’re accusing me of plagiarism, you have to have the evidence to prove it, or I can accuse you of slander. Spreading false statements in public will also subject you to relevant punishment.”

Chapter 99 The Twist

Upon being interrogated in such a way, Melanie was instantly speechless; she couldn’t come up with a remark to support her statements. Now she had completely played into Vania’s hands and let the latter lead her around by the nose. With no opportunity to take the offensive at all, she had no choice but to stay on the defensive, but it was difficult for her to even defend herself against the questions Vania had thrown at her.

Meanwhile, Josie had been regulating the online comments all this while, but there were signs of tables being turned.

‘Vania is too composed, isn’t she? There’s no way she could fake it.’

‘I thought Melanie’s evidence would prove Vania’s guilt all at once. And yet this is all she’s got?’

‘Now I’m waiting for the twist.’

‘There’s quite plenty of interesting stuff to watch today, isn’t there?’

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Most of the netizens had stopped taking sides and were now sitting by and waiting for what was next.

The furrows in Hanson’s brow had eased as he was sitting there. Obviously, he had made his own judgment on what was going on.

Indeed, the document Melanie had gotten from Mr. Wright was the only piece of evidence she had. Left with no choice, she could only brazen it out, saying, “Okay, I’ll text Mr. Wright right now. Once he replies to my text message, it’ll prove that I did get the evidence from him.”

Vania still looked as imperturbable as ever. “Sure, no problem.”

How could she not even be scared by this? A hint of suspicion arose in Melanie’s mind. What makes her look so indifferent to all of this? Did anything go wrong at some point? she thought. However, now that things had developed to this stage, she no longer had time to verify anything. Right now, the only thing she could and had to do was pick up her phone and send a WhatsApp message under the eyes of those at the scene as well as everyone watching the live broadcast on the internet. ‘Are you there, Mr. Wright?’

Everyone held their breath and waited in anticipation. Then...

Nothing happened.

There was no response from the other end. The message sent by Melanie showed a single check mark indicating that it had been sent, but that was all. At first, everyone thought Mr. Wright might be taking his time to reply to Melanie’s message, and they waited patiently. However, as seconds ticked by, murmurs began to arise from the crowd, becoming louder and louder until they filled the whole room.

“What’s going on here? Does she really know Mr. Wright in person?”

“I think this matter isn’t as simple as it seems. This Melanie woman’s probably gonna be left with egg on her face.”

Melanie’s suspicion grew at the sight of the scene. All of a sudden, she had a bad feeling that things weren’t going to turn out the way she wanted. Just then, someone in the room said, “Hey, did you see that? There’s no ‘last seen’ status below the username. And besides, there’s only a single check mark next to her message. Doesn’t that mean she’s been blocked by Mr. Wright?”

The instant he said that, everyone—including Melanie—turned to look at the large screen displaying her WhatsApp chat with Mr. Wright. Indeed, there was no “last seen” status below Mr. Wright’s username, and the message sent by Melanie never showed a second check mark.

Melanie’s pupils dilated in disbelief as she fixed her eyes on the WhatsApp chat window. No way, this shouldn’t be the case. We had a nice chat before this, and he provided me with accurate information. There’s no way he’d block me on WhatsApp for no reason, right? In a panicked attempt to reassure herself, she immediately called Mr. Wright on WhatsApp. However, what she heard was a recorded female voice that said, “Sorry, but the number you have dialed is not in service...”

Her panic was witnessed by everyone. As a result, those who had been whispering to each other about Vania were now talking about her instead, and those rich heiresses who disliked her in the first place began to gloat.

“I thought she was quite something when I saw how confident she looked just now. Talk about going for wool and coming home shorn. What a disgrace!”

The tide of online public opinion started to turn against Melanie, too.

‘I waited until the end, and this is it?’

‘Don’t tell me she’s got nothing to back up her evidence.’

'But she just swore to it with such vehemence. Perhaps this isn't the only piece of evidence she has.'

'The more I look, the more I find Vania charming. Her department is simply matchless.'

At this point, Josie, who was sitting at home, started to get anxious. She immediately sent somebody to find out what was going on, but she didn't receive any reply for a long time. As a result, she was like a cat on hot bricks.

Melanie also felt unsettled, as though she had fallen into a bottomless pit. At this very moment, she had no time to think about whether she had been duped; all she could think in her mind was what to do next. After a moment, she questioned Vania, "In that case, how can you prove that the creative concept for this ad of yours isn't copied from someone else?"

"Since you can't prove that I plagiarized someone else's work, I don't have to play along with you. Let's leave it to the judge," Vania replied.

Chapter 100

"It's just that with so many people watching today, I'd better convince you of my innocence," Vania said while motioning to the staff member at the scene to link her cell phone to the big screen as well. Then, she called up a folder on her cell phone and opened it.

The folder contained dozens of files, but Vania only opened three of them randomly. The three files were her manuscript and its revised versions, where every detail was marked and introduced in detail, and every term's source and references were specified. This was something that no ordinary ad design could've done.

One of the netizens commented, 'Now I know the difference in capabilities between me and a pro at last. She even analyzed the commonly used words in detail and made a clear comparison of them before selecting the best one.'

Another netizen commented, 'If Vania did plagiarize from Mr. Wright, she's got to copy all his files, right?'

'Just how did Melanie come to the conclusion that Vania had plagiarized someone else's work? What she did was so baffling. Won't it be self-destruction if she lacks sufficient evidence?'

'Could it be that Melanie still has some hidden card up her sleeve?'

Panicked, Melanie gulped a mouthful of saliva while looking at these files in disbelief. At this very moment, she was somewhat afraid. Hanson is still here. If I can't bring Vania down, how am I gonna wind this up? Resorting to lame arguments, she said, "Who can prove that you made these files? Maybe you copied all of Mr. Wright's files."

Vania nodded in agreement. "You're right, but I've got a question for you. You're so sure that the creative concept for this ad came from Mr. Wright, so do you know him in person? You can't say you know him based on him blocking you on WhatsApp and an out-of-service number, can you?"

Melanie felt guilty upon being asked. "Does it matter whether I know him personally or not?"

“Of course it does.” Vania’s tone of voice became much sterner now. “Since you can’t show any concrete proof so far, I seriously suspect that you’ve been duped. And besides, I’m also suspecting you of selling my personal information, which I’m gonna hold you legally responsible for. Let’s report this to the police together. Perhaps the police can help you investigate how you got duped.”

Upon hearing Vania suggest that they go to the police, Melanie instantly got nervous. “Are you trying to oppress me with your clout? You’ve got no way of proving that these files are yours. What gives you the right to accuse me of selling your personal information? The way I see it, I’m the one who should call the police. There’s hard evidence that you plagiarized someone else’s work and threatened a citizen who was trying to report it to the authorities.”

Vania sneered. “If there’s hard evidence like you said, shouldn’t you get Mr. Wright here? Since you’re defending his rights, I believe he must be willing to prove the truth of this matter. Don’t tell me you actually don’t know him personally.”

Melanie straightened up her neck. “Who said that I don’t know him personally?”

Vania dared her, “Alright then, just call Mr. Wright now. Either giving him a video call or getting him here is fine by me; I’m okay even if we have to go to him.”

Melanie could tell from Vania’s uncompromising attitude that the latter was going to fight her to the end. Could I really have bought false information? Are these files not Mr. Wright’s at all? In that case, how am I supposed to find him now? Isn’t that out of the question? She made up an excuse. “Mr. Wright prefers not to show himself.”

It was right of her to say this. Indeed, Mr. Wright had never shown his face in public since his debut in the industry.

Vania gave her another suggestion. “In that case, you can get Mr. Wright’s assistant here too. His assistant has appeared before the public before and was present during many business meetings that had to be done face to face.”