

## Masked In Nobility: Secrets Of Mrs. Chavez Chapter 131

Outside the Chambers residence, a seemingly endless line of cars were even custom-made and could be found on

For this banquet, the Chambers family had invited almost all the celebrities in received an invitation. Some small-time celebrities were eager to come and i invitation, but most of them failed

Even the few small-time celebrities and models who got invitat

personally overseeing this to ensure that women like them didip in. He had persona everyone's background, making sure none of these

In the Chambers family's garden. Zachary and Nellie greened wave after wave of green, witle wealthy second-generation elites. Amidst the clinking of gasses and siran igins, the "money."

"Mr. Chambers. I've heard that your newly reunited sister is quine the beauty & sme and lecherous, with an ugly mole by his left eye. He was coronde a Sec

a chain of hotels. Though his family had some weath fine was bo

Seeing the lustful look on Jamie's face, Zeke knew

he had already given up on Yvette, in his mind, the

However, seeing everyone around waiting for his response wih

"My sister is indeed stunning, but she's got a bit of a temper, so you guys should be inte Zeke subtly spread rumors about Yvette among the group of worldlys hers.

The rich heirs around them, upon hearing this, thought. A bad semper. That's putting in some unknown rural place; she's probably a rough uncultured person who ducati being Yvette immediately diminished.

At that moment, a maid led Victor's family into the garden. Thatine. Deze ment Robert, Victor, and Yulia. Rebecca was abroad on a busines break off the engagement with Yvette. Robert had bribed Chambers family banquet from him. He intended to sende prominent families in Seacriy as witnesses. Once it's sente

Robert, not putting on airs, approached the Chamber family with a broad a

following behind. "Ah, Zachary, congratulations, congratulant Winona s maly something-she

have another international artist”

Though it was a party for two people, Robert only mentioned Wine Everyone get intermoč na De Care Fami was here to support Winona.

Zachary caught on to this as well, his tone cooling shighch

After Robert finished, he gave Victor a look. Victor oberently bed to Zachary and if “We Comes. Wiss Chamber

hello.

After all, it was a happy occasion today, and everyone!

though Zachary was still bitter about how Victor had criticised Tee in one of hard a few embarrass Victor in front of everyone. Still, there was a hint of

Nellie, of course, couldn't let Victor lose face-after all he was the son-

need to protect him a bit. Nelbe warmly greeted Yale and the

at Victor, her tone doting “Victor, you look so handsome today armor later

Hearing this, the onlookers all understood. This is the future mache seems the two families will he sealing the deal today! For businesses that had conflicts with the Carter and Chambers families, this alliance would be bad news.

Robert had been a little annoyed by Zachary's earlier attitude, but after hearing Nellie's words, he could no longer say anything. With both families standing together, it looked to outsiders like they were having a lively chat, but in reality, only Nellie and Yulia were keeping the conversation going to avoid awkward silence.

By around 3:30, almost all the guests invited by the Chambers family had arrived. The only ones missing were the two leading ladies of the night. Aside from Zachary, everyone was more excited about Winona's apprenticeship ceremony,

Just then, at the garden entrance, one of the stars of the night, Winona, made a grand entrance arm-in-arm with Richard, fashionably late. Winona knew exactly how to draw attention to herself. She was well aware of her assets, and today she had instructed her makeup artist to give her a bold and radiant look. She wore a long, red strapless gown with a seven-foot train that required two servants to carry.

As soon as Winona entered, she indeed made a stunning impression. Usually, Winona wore white to banquets, and most of the guests were familiar with her in that style. No one expected her to dress so differently today.

Even Victor, who usually preferred the innocent “lily-white” type, was momentarily stunned, his face filled with admiration, his eyes gleaming with desire, and his heart racing.

“Wow, Winona looks absolutely gorgeous today! That outfit must have cost millions!”

“Yeah, I bet it’s at least 10 million. Just the onyx necklace around her neck must be worth over 3 million alone.

“The Chambers family really spares no expense. No matter what happens with Ms. Zeller, who they recently found, can you really compare her to someone like Winona?”

“Winona really played her cards well today. If Ms. Zeller makes an appearance later, the contrast is going to be brutal.”

“Exactly. If I were that Yvette, I wouldn’t dare show my face. I’d just hide inside and avoid the humiliation.”

“Agreed. Besides, ever since she returned to the Chambers family, she hasn’t made any public appearances or attended any banquets. It’s obvious the family doesn’t care much about her. This banquet is just a formality—clearly, it’s all about Winona

“I think so too.”

“That must be Mr. Griffin next to her. Winona really knows how to make an entrance—she hasn’t even officially become an apprentice, and she’s already getting this kind of treatment!”

As Winona made her way through the crowd, she heard all the comments she had hoped for, feeling immensely satisfied inside.

Beside her, Richard also felt a sense of pride. ‘Winona is about to become my last student, after all. Complimenting her is as good as complimenting me.

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Winona gracefully walked to the center of the garden, where Zachary and the others were standing. She greeted Zachary and Nellie sweetly, then turned to Robert and his wife. “Mr. Carter, Mrs. Carter, hello”

Although Richard didn’t need to show too much deference to the Carter family, since Winona was soon to marry Victor, he still maintained a cordial attitude.

Yulia stepped forward, took Winona’s hand, and showered her with praise. “Winona is my ideal daughter-in-law—good family background, talented, and now with Richard as her mentor. She’s perfect in every way. Any lingering guilt Yulia had about Yvette

disappeared with everyone's compliments for Winona. Only a girl like her is worthy of being our future daughter-in-law

Robert, equally pleased, nodded and smiled at Winona, but he didn't immediately respond. Instead, he extended his hand to Richard with a fawning expression. "Ah, Mr. Griffin, you're as vigorous as ever! The last time I saw you was at the Betrica auction, where one of your paintings sold for 660 thousand dollars. That event is still vivid in my memory! It was such a shame my company had an issue at the time, or I would've gone for 3.3 million, maybe even 7 million-I regret it so much Robert's tone sounded genuinely regretful.

Richard enjoyed hearing this, and his attitude toward Robert warmed. "Mr. Carter, you're too kind. That painting only fetched such a price because the elite of Betrico were being generous. It's nowhere near as great as you say. But with Winona soon to join the Carter family, we'll all be family soon. I happen to have an earlier piece of mine. If you don't mind, Mr Carter, you can come by Betrico and pick it up whenever you like."

Robert was overjoyed. As expected, Winona is the bridge that's changed Richard's attitude toward me. A few years ago in Betrico, Richard wouldn't have even looked at him. But now everything was different. This shift in attitude strengthened Robert's resolve to announce the engagement today. To make sure nothing could go wrong, he had already had Yulia finalize the engagement details with Nellie before coming.

Victor's lecherous eyes were fixed on Winona.

From the moment Winona entered the garden, she could feel Victor's gaze on her. She deliberately pretended not to notice, teasing him by keeping him on edge. Once she felt he had waited long enough she shot him a shy, fleeting glance before quickly looking away. This whole act had Victor completely hooked, his eyes glued to her.

All this time, Zachary, who had been standing silently, glanced toward the garden entrance. Not seeing the person he was waiting for, he furrowed his brows. Ignoring the ongoing conversation, he called Lucas over. "Go check upstairs. Why hasn't Yvette come down yet at this time?"

Lucas nodded and quickly walked out of the garden to look for Yvette.

Nellie overheard Zachary's words and smirked coldly from a spot where he couldn't see. Come out? Yvette's face is probably ruined by now. How could she have the nerve to show her face to the guests?"

Winona, Zachary, Nellie, and the Carters greeted Richard, and then she and Victor joined the younger group.

The Chambers family and the Carters dispersed, while Zachary and Robert each went off to chat with acquaintances in

business.

Nellie and Yulia stayed by Richard's side, one on each side, looking very much like his guardians.

"Wow, Winona, you're stunning today! Who are you trying to charm?" one of the girls, decked out in luxury jewelry, said while glancing at Victor-it was obvious what she meant. Everyone in their circle knew about the engagement between the Carter and Chambers families. Winona and Victor had long been recognized as a couple by them.

"Exactly" The moment you walked in, you could see everyone's eyes light up That dress is Louis Vuitton haute couture, isn't it? Must have cost at least 2 million dollars- absolutely gorgeous!"

Compliments were flying around nonstop like free gifts, and though Winona appeared shy on the surface, she humbly replied to everyone's praise, Come on, you guys, stop teasing me. She even blushed and hid behind Victor.

At this moment, Victor's macho pride was fully satisfied, and he quickly stepped in to speak for Winona. "Winona's shy, you all know that. If you keep going, my wife might just run away, and then what? You'll have to find me a new one!"

Winona blushed even more at his words, and the crowd burst into cheers again, praising the couple as a perfect match. But amidst the excitement, someone suddenly mentioned Yvette's name, and the whole scene fell silent, becoming awkward The girl who brought it up instantly regretted it and didn't dare to speak anymore.

Victor gave the girl a sharp look, his tone disdainful. "Why bring her up?"

The crowd exchanged glances and started speaking.

Yeah, yeah, everyone knows this party is for Winona. That Yvette is just an extra."

"Exactly, Winona, you're the star today. Besides, it's getting late, and we still haven't seen your sister. She's probably hiding in some corner, never been to a party like this."

"I bet she hasn't even tasted the desserts or wine here before!"

"She's a country bumpkin. Aren't you giving her too much credit by even discussing her?"

"Yes, yes, let's raise a glass to Winona. After tonight, Winona will officially become Mr. Griffin's last student! When you make it internationally famous, don't forget us!"

Hearing everyone belittle Yvette made Winona feel much better inside. This is exactly what wanted-to show Yvette the difference, the insurmountable gap between us today!" "My sister is actually really nice, so please don't have any prejudice against her."

The more Winona defended Yvette, the harsher the crowd became, saying even nastier things about her.

Winona picked up her glass of wine, watching the group's heated discussion, where every comment was a put-down of Yvette. She briefly curled her lips into a sinister, satisfied smile, but when she looked up again, her face was innocent and harmless.

In less than ten minutes, Lucas, whom Zachary had sent to find Yvette, stiffly walked back into the garden.

A few people close by had overheard Zachary's instructions earlier, and soon, word spread-everyone in the garden knew that the Chambers family's Lucas had gone to fetch the rumored Yvette from the countryside.

Now, seeing Lucas return alone, with a strange expression on his face, people felt puzzled. "Isn't he just fetching someone? What's with that look? Most of the guests figured Yvette must have chickened out, overwhelmed by the event, making them take her even less seriously.

Zachary was distracted while chatting, frequently glancing toward

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Lucas bent slightly, dazed, and under everyone's expectant gaze, said one sentence. "Mr. Lewis, I think I just saw a goddess"

Zachary's face darkened, his lips tightening into a straight line. What kind of occasion is this? How could Lucas, a representative of the Chambers family, speak such nonsense? A goddess? What on earth?

Lucas, seeing Zachary's expression, suddenly snapped back to reality, realizing what he had just said. Glancing at the perplexed faces around him, Lucas blushed slightly and quickly added. "Mr. Lewis, Miss Zeller is almost here-she's at the second gate now

Zachary nodded, his expression easing. Now that Yvette was arriving, it meant nothing had gone wrong, and his mind finally settled. "As long as Yvette's here, that's fine. What nonsense were you talking just now?"

Lucas didn't explain his earlier words but looked like he had more to say. "Mr. Lewis, you'll understand in a minute. I really can't describe it."

Zachary was completely baffled, but he didn't think Lucas had lost his mind-he'd been perfectly fine just ten minutes ago.

sago.

As they spoke, Nellie, helping Richard, along with Robert, Yulia, Winona, Zeke, and Victor, all gathered around Zachary. They had overheard what Lucas said and were just as confused.

Nellie had only caught that Yvette had reached the second gate, and she knew right away that Tony must have messed something up. That incompetent fool-useless as always! He couldn't even handle such a small task. But it's fine. I'll take over from here, and I'll succeed for sure."

The next second, some people started noticing that everyone around them had suddenly frozen, all staring toward the garden entrance. Confused, they followed suit, and soon they, too, were left in shock, their eyes filled with awe and disbelief. It really does seem like we're seeing the "goddess" Lucas was talking about

The night was as cool as water, with moonlight spilling across the ground. The trees and flowers, shadowy and indistinct, were like they'd been draped in a veil of mist. Roses danced in the air, chasing one another in the breeze, their branches swaying, casting shifting shadows that twirled in the wind.

In the midst of this play of light and shadow, a woman slowly approached, walking under the moonlight. Her eyes sparkled with a crystalline clarity, her slightly curled lashes resembling a wisp of fog drifting from the mountains. There was a hint of coldness in her gaze, commanding both respect and fear. Her white fringed gown swayed gently in the breeze, and with every step she took, the dress seemed to change with the light, emitting a rainbow of colors-brilliant, like the stars. The thousands of roses in the garden had now become mere ornaments to her presence.

As she drew closer, everyone realized her white fringed dress was adorned with hand-sewn diamonds. Those with a discerning eye immediately recognized that they were real diamonds. There must be at least a hundred diamonds on that dress, right? And the price? Astronomical

The woman furrowed her brows slightly, like a stone dropped into still waters, rippling with a touch of impatience. Just then, Zachary's voice, calling "Yvette, snapped everyone's thoughts back to reality.

"Yvette?" The people present stared at the girl in disbelief, their faces transforming as if waking from a dream Yvette! Yvette? So this is the rumored country girl, rough and uncouth, the supposedly plain and rustic Ms. Zeller from the Chambers family? Who started that rumor! If this is what they call ugly, then what are we? And they call that

rustic? Might as well let a lightning bolt strike us! The crowd that had surrounded Winona earlier fell silent.

Winona stood there like a statue, her face drained of color, her expression ashen. The dark, twisted look in her eyes sent a chill down anyone who saw it. Her pale lips trembled slightly, and her left hand was clenched so tightly that her nails dug painfully into her palm. Winona lowered her head, saying nothing. She had already noticed the crowd's enraptured and mesmerized gazes directed at Yvette-even Victor had been momentarily stunned. She knew she couldn't compete with Yvette in terms of beauty, so when Nellie's plan was revealed to her, she had felt a secret thrill. Now, can someone please explain to me why Yvette's face is still perfectly fine?

Nellie, always keeping an eye on Winona, knew that at this moment, she couldn't allow Winona to falter in any way. When no one was paying attention, she walked up to Winona, pulling her aside and, with a stern expression, whispered coldly. "Winona, you better pull yourself together. Don't make a fool of yourself. Tonight is your moment. You may have lost in the looks department, but if you don't put up a light now, you'll lose everything. As long as you're accepted by Mr. Griffin as his student later, you'll still be the center of attention. Stop sulking here. I've already dealt with Yvette's situation-you don't need to worry about it. I'll make sure she pays later."

Winona kept her head down, silent, no longer trusting Nellie. In the end, I can only rely on myself. After a long pause, she finally looked up and said, "I understand, Mom. Don't worry

Seeing that Winona had calmed down. Nellie relaxed and returned to Zachary's side.

The crowd was buzzing, and the chatter grew louder.

Zachary saw this and stepped forward to speak to Yvette in a soft, gentle tone, his elegant face full of affection, completely ignoring the stares of those around him. "Come on, Yvette let's go sit over there with Dad. The banquet will start soon. Have you eaten anything yet? Are you hungry? Don't skip meals to maintain your figure-your health is the most important thing for a young girl."

Zachary's attitude said it all. The people present were all businessmen-they could read between the lines. The rumors. outside couldn't be further from the truth. Zachary hasn't shown this much affection even toward Winona, who's about to become Mrs Griffin's student. Yet, with his newly found daughter, he's completely doting and attentive. Doesn't that tell us everything we need to know? If they still didn't get it, they might as well be blind.

Standing behind Zachary, Winona felt utterly crushed by his affection for Yvette. What does Yvette have that I don't? In such a short time. Dad only has eyes for her. On a night as important as this, does he really have to make me look this bad? The hatred inside Winona was growing uncontrollably, twisting her expression even further.



But now, no one was paying attention to Winona anymore-the focus was all on Yvette. Compared to Yvette, Winona's earlier moment of glamour seemed insignificant

"Did you notice something?" A girl who had been hanging around Winona earlier stared at Yvette, her breathing becoming slightly labored, her voice filled with surprise and disbelief.

The crowd turned to look at her, puzzled, even Zachary and Richard glanced her way. Someone asked, "What did you notice

The girl first nodded in certainty, then shook her head as if in disbelief, her eyes conflicted. After a few moments, as the crowd's patience was running thin, she finally spoke again, "I've seen that white gown Ms. Zeller is wearing before."

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The woman who was speaking was named Lana. Her family owned an art gallery, and they were fairly well-known in Seacurity.

Everyone else was confused, not sure what Lana meant by her comment. Although the dress Yvette from the Chambers family was wearing looked expensive, the people present were no strangers to luxury. Sure, the dress was beautiful, but without this girl wearing it, it wouldn't have looked so stunning.

Some of the women present had already started to feel jealous and hostile towards Yvette. 'Who'd want to be outshone by a girl who was just found in the countryside?' Most of the women in the garden were seething with jealousy. 'Didn't you see how the men couldn't take their eyes off her? They were practically drooling!' When Winona stepped out earlier, the women only felt a little uncomfortable, but Yvette's appearance had magnified their jealousy and darkness.

Some girls saw an opportunity in Lana's words, and their intentions weren't good. "Hey, you said you've seen this dress before, right? Does that mean Ms. Zeller's dress was worn by someone else? That wouldn't be good, would it?" –

Wearing a previously worn dress was a huge embarrassment in high society. If it were true, the reputation of the Chambers family's Yvette, who had just been found in the countryside, would be ruined, and she'd be utterly humiliated.

Nellie and Winona stood by eagerly, watching Lana. 'It'd be great if she really had seen it before. That would mean Yvette is just wearing a hand-me-down dress, and there'd be some real drama to watch!

Winona's lips curled into a mocking smile. Her previously gloomy mood had lifted. She thought maybe Sienna had just grabbed a second-hand dress to deal with Yvette: 'If that's the case, today... Yvette will be the biggest joke!'

All eyes were on Yvette, who stood in the center of the garden.

Yvette looked up slightly, her expression calm. Her deep eyes were cold and mysterious, like dark ink hiding a vast whirlpool. Her long, veil-like lashes cast shadows, and she swept her gaze lightly over the crowd without saying a word.

Once again, her beauty stunned everyone. However, some thought her silence meant she was admitting the girl's accusation, that the dress really was second-hand.

Holding back her excitement, Winona stepped forward. "Wearing a second-hand dress is a big taboo at our high-society events. How about this, I have an unworn dress in my room. Why don't you come with me and change into it?" Winona spoke with sincerity, acting as if she was doing Yvette a huge favor.

Yet, the people around her found her words odd. She claimed to be helping her sister, but if Yvette wore one of Winona's dresses, she'd be even more humiliated, always a step behind Winona. The girls who usually got along with Winona knew who to help, urging Yvette to go change.

"Winona is so kind, being so thoughtful of her sister at a time like this."

"I think you should go change, Ms. Zeller."

"Yeah, go on, change."

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Some people, afraid of offending the Chambers family, muttered quietly.

Zeke looked at Yvette, standing there alone, and felt proud. 'If I don't take a shot at her now, when will I?' So, he stepped forward and joined in. "Go change with Winona. The banquet's about to start, and we're running out of time."

Nellie didn't say anything this time, seeing that Zachary was growing more and more upset. "There's no need for me to get involved when these people are doing it for me. I don't want to make him mad"

No one noticed that Lana, who had started all of this, was sweating profusely, trying to speak but unable to get a word in.

Richard was also watching Yvette with a smug grin, as was Robert. 'It's a good thing I was smart enough to break off the engagement with Yvette early and switch to Winona. Otherwise, our whole Carter family would've been humiliated today!

Yulia couldn't help but feel a little sorry for Yvette, but then again, she thought it was Yvette's own fault. 'She's been back with the Chambers family for so long, how does she still not understand the rules?'

Zachary's face had darkened considerably, feeling suffocated by the scornful looks around him. He also believed that Sienna might've just grabbed some dress that had been worn before to deal with Yvette. 'If it weren't for me, Yvette wouldn't be so humiliated. "Enough! My daughter from the Chambers family can wear whatever she likes! There's no need for everyone to be so judgmental!"

Winona's eyes grew fierce. 'Dad is siding with Yvette again, even at the cost of offending so many people!

Seeing that Zachary was genuinely angry, people began to feel uneasy. Though the Chambers family had declined, they were still one of the four major families, and not someone these small families could mess with.

Yvette looked up at Zachary, her face composed and calm, seemingly unaffected by the people around her. She slightly furrowed her brows, then turned her blank expression toward Lana, who had claimed to have seen the dress before. Her voice was cold and distant, like a feather brushing over a mountain stream. "Where did you see it?"

Everyone's attention shifted to Lana, who was drenched in sweat and looking nervous.

Winona purposely walked over to Lana and said gently, "Lana, right? I remember you. You said you've seen this dress before, so who wore it?" She gave Lana an encouraging look.

Finally given a chance to speak, Lana thought to herself, 'If I had known one comment would cause such a misunderstanding, I wouldn't have said anything!' Fearing she might be interrupted again, Lana took a deep breath and blurted out everything in one go.

"You've misunderstood me! I said I've seen this dress, but I never said I saw someone wear it! I saw this exact dress last year at the Mysonna Art Gallery exhibition. It was one of their collection pieces. At the time, I thought it was so beautiful that I asked if it was for sale. The gallery staff told me it wasn't, because it was a unique piece designed by Sienna, the designer from 'Vibe, for her muse. The gallery's director had to beg Sienna to display it for two days. Since I loved the dress so much, I asked about it in detail. The fabric is pure silkworm silk, and it took 135 hours to make, all by hand, with over a hundred workers. Did you notice the diamonds on the dress? They're the world's purest diamonds, privately owned, and each one alone costs over 3 million. And even if you wanted to buy it, you couldn't\*\*it's only available at auctions..."

Lana paused, her eyes filled with envy. "The gallery staff told me Mrs. Mith from Mysonna offered 70 million for it, but Sienna refused to sell. So this dress isn't just

incredibly expensive, it's one of a kind in the world." Lana let out a deep breath after finishing her explanation. 'Finally! That was exhausting. Huh? Why's it so quiet?' She cautiously looked around.

Everyone was staring at Yvette in the center of the garden, mouths agape. The place was dead silent, with only the sound of the wind rustling through the thousand-square-yard garden.

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With the situation spelled out so clearly, if Richard still kept assuming it was about him, he'd only further humiliate himself. No... to be precise, when Wyatt and Simon said in unison that they weren't here for his apprenticeship ceremony, his dignity had already been shattered. Richard didn't speak again, but the trembling of his hands revealed the turmoil and anger within him.

The crowd watched as Richard, clearly furious yet forcing a smile, stood there, while Winona beside him looked utterly embarrassed and unsure of what to do. 'So what's really going on? If these two important figures aren't here for Winona's apprenticeship ceremony, what could it be?' Everyone was baffled. 'It couldn't possibly be for this recently-returned Ms. Zeller from the Chambers family's welcome home party, could it? That would be absurd!'

Simon wasn't concerned about Richard's expression. He had rushed to the banquet for one person only. His gaze swept across the garden, and finally, in a small corner, he spotted Yvette eating dessert. There was another girl sitting beside her, and from their proximity, they seemed close.

At the same time, Wyatt also noticed Yvette, a flash of admiration crossing his eyes. This was the girl he'd once briefly encountered at a steakhouse. What had struck him most about her, aside from her beauty and cold demeanor, was her rebellious attitude, so different from other society girls. Seeing her today again, 'No wonder Jeremiah, that iron-blooded king, treats her so differently. Such a stunning beauty-there's no match for her among the women of Betrico's noble families.'

Having found the person he came to see, Simon had no time for small talk. He greeted Wyatt and Zachary briefly before heading straight toward Yvette.

Winona, who had remained silent, saw Simon leaving and, as if suddenly struck by an idea, stepped forward to block him. Her voice carried a hint of plea. "We've prepared seats for you and the mayor at the head table. Please, join me."

Zachary frowned slightly, but Wyatt said nothing. His expression, however, darkened. "This Winona is playing a little game here, trying to publicly guilt Simon into sitting with her.'

Simon paused and glanced at the pitiful-looking Winona. His voice, old and cold, replied, "First of all, congratulations, Winona. But I won't be sitting at the head table." With that, he brushed past her without a hint of politeness, leaving Winona standing there, face flushed with embarrassment. Simon walked straight up to Yvette in front of everyone and stopped. "Finally found you."

Yvette leisurely raised her head, her demeanor lazy and casual, with a gleam in her beautiful eyes. Her upturned eyes carried a rebellious air, and even though she was wearing a gown, she couldn't hide her roguish attitude. Still, she greeted Simon politely. "Hello."

Simon nodded cheerfully, ignoring the curious glances and stares from others, and sat right down next to Yvette, engaging her in friendly conversation.

The scene was nothing short of shocking. Yet, the two people involved seemed completely unaware of how out of place it looked. 'Is this really the same serious and stern Simon of Argrol University that we know? Unbelievable!'

Winona was grinding her teeth so hard they were about to break. Her expression darkened further, radiating a cold, hostile air. She forced herself to endure the odd looks and whispers from those around her and turned her gaze to Wyatt. 'Right, there's still Wyatt... compared to him, Simon is nothing. "Mr. Langford, would you like to..."

Before she could finish, Wyatt, as if knowing exactly what she was about to say, interrupted her. "Ms. Chambers, I'm afraid I'm here for Ms. Zeller of the Chambers family. I won't steal the spotlight. Please, let Mr. Griffin take the head seat."

Once again, the crowd erupted in shock. No one could remain calm. 'Are both of these elusive, high-status men here for the recently returned Ms. Zeller from the Chambers family?' The entire crowd was buzzing!

Winona finally couldn't hold on any longer. She staggered back a step, her ears buzzing, her hands trembling uncontrollably. "How have you been, Ms. Zeller?" Wyatt's tone, attitude, and the kind expression on his face all conveyed one message: respect. He placed Yvette on equal footing with him.

Wyatt had no idea what was going through everyone's minds. If he did, he would've told them, 'You're overthinking it. Why would I consider myself on the same level as the woman Jeremiah has set his sights on?'

Yvette simply nodded casually in response, treating Wyatt with no more warmth than she had shown Simon earlier.

The difference in treatment was clear as day, 'Wow, she really is something! I wish I could be as nonchalant as her, not even caring about the mayor!'

Wyatt didn't seem to mind. After greeting Yvette, he also sat down nearby, instantly turning the once-empty corner into the center of attention in the garden. As he sat, Wyatt seemed distracted. 'Is he coming or not?'

Zachary sighed. At this point, he had to step up and take control of the situation.

Nellie invited Richard to take the head seat and, seeing that there were fewer people around, led Winona aside. Victor noticed and followed them.

Sienna was a little curious but chose not to ask questions given the situation. 'It's not surprising who the boss knows!'

From afar, Robert stared at Yvette and the others, his expression dark and suspicious. He turned to Yulia, who seemed stunned, and asked, "Did Yvette make a fuss when you called off the engagement?"

Yulia, watching Yvette chat with Simon and Wyatt from a distance, shook her head. "No, she... she was very straightforward about it. And... she didn't seem upset at all. I think Yvette..." She hesitated.

Glancing at Robert's grim face, Yulia continued cautiously. "Yvette didn't seem to care about the engagement with Victor."

Robert clenched his teeth but said nothing. 'Maybe Yvette just accidentally got close to these two. Yeah... that must be it. Otherwise, what kind of reckless decision did I make?'



Meanwhile, Wyatt, sitting off to the side, was restless, frequently checking his phone. Finally, the ringtone broke the silence, and Wyatt answered immediately. 'The person I've been waiting for has finally arrived. Wyatt stood up and headed out.

Everyone noticed his sudden movement. 'Why is he leaving so abruptly?'

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As Wyatt stepped outside, he saw his secretary leading Jeremiah to the entrance. Jeremiah, dressed in a black shirt, had sword-like brows and starry eyes, his prominent Adam's apple adding to his appeal. His dark, cold eyes narrowed slightly, his expression wrapped in a chilling frost. His gaze was as still as a frozen lake, his calm demeanor terrifying. One hand in his pocket, his movements casual yet commanding, he walked at an unhurried pace.

Wyatt quickened his steps and approached Jeremiah. To everyone's astonishment, Wyatt bowed respectfully and greeted him. "Master Jeremiah."

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Just that single "Master" from Wyatt was enough to reveal the terrifying status of this man. What kind of power could compel Mr. Langford to address someone as "Master"?

Jeremiah nodded, his voice cold, making everyone present shudder inwardly. "Yes."

"Who is this mysterious, powerful man? When did someone like him appear in Seacity's high society?" thought everyone.

Jeremiah scanned through the crowd in the garden and immediately spotted a young girl enjoying her dessert. The next second, his lips curled into a world-stopping smile.

## **Masked In Nobility: Secrets Of Mrs. Chavez Chapter 137**

With long, straight legs, Jeremiah strode toward Yvette, while Wyatt hurried to follow. The crowd's gazes followed him the entire way—some amazed, some suspicious, others shocked, and some deep in thought.

Jeremiah approached Yvette just as she finished a piece of dessert.

Yvette lifted her head, her long, pale neck gleaming, the hint of her collarbones showing through, her flawless face meeting Jeremiah's eyes.

Jeremiah looked down, his brows carrying a hint of a smile, his voice magnetic and pleasant. "You look beautiful today."

Yvette leaned back lazily, raising her eyelids slightly, her expression still somewhat indifferent. A faint cold mist seemed to linger in her eyes, with a touch of wildness. She said casually, "Only today?"

Jeremiah was clearly stunned for a moment when he heard that. Did she just tease me?' But a hint of joy rose in his heart. He gazed at Yvette, serious and focused, raising his eyebrows slightly. "You've always looked beautiful."

Yvette rested her hand on her chin, her voice light and slow. "I know. I've always been beautiful."

Sienna rubbed her forehead, glancing around at the ladies, all glaring daggers at Yvette. She really wanted to say, "Boss, you're not just good-looking, you're drop-dead gorgeous. But could you tone it down a little? Can't you see all these women are practically ready to eat you alive?" But given the overwhelming presence of this man who had just appeared, she kept her mouth shut. She's not dumb. She could clearly see that the two of them were flirting, commonly known as "dog abuse," and she was the dog closest to the action.

Simon, sitting nearby, never expected Yvette to say something like that. He coughed awkwardly. "Well... I didn't realize this kid had a slight narcissistic streak. But I guess it's not really narcissism, more like speaking the truth. After all my years of living, Yvette is indeed the prettiest student I've ever had. No argument there!

The corner of Jeremiah's mouth remained upturned, but this expression was reserved only for Yvette. His gaze briefly swept over Sienna, who wore a nosy look, making his meaning abundantly clear.

Sienna shot

up

and excitedly said to Jeremiah, "I'll be back!" She then stormed off to sit at a seat farther away from Yvette. Jeremiah naturally took Sienna's former seat, nodded politely at Simon, and then focused solely on Yvette. Yvette glanced at him with her pretty eyes, pressed her lips together, and said nothing.

To those around them, this was as good as Yvette giving tacit approval to his actions. 'So, are they a couple?"

"I've heard that the Carter family broke off their engagement with Yvette and switched to Winona. Looks like it's true. Otherwise, how could she be sitting so openly with another man?"

“Yvette really has it made, huh? First, she was found by the Chambers family, and now she’s got this handsome, amazing boyfriend. And on top of that, she looks like that? Life sure is unfair.”

“I used to think Victor was pretty handsome, but compared to this guy, the difference is just too much.”

Victor had just walked into the garden with Nellie and Winona when he overheard this. He was instantly fuming, but when he saw the man sitting next to Yvette, his anger deflated. The most frustrating thing was that they weren’t wrong—he knew he couldn’t compare, so all he could do was sulk in silence.

Winona already knew that after the apprenticeship ceremony, the two families would officially announce her engagement to Victor, so she had given up on Jeremiah for now. She wasn’t foolish. Her mother was right—her priority now was to secure Victor. As for Jeremiah, I won’t give up on him in the future if the chance arises. For now, I’ll just put it aside.

At the center of the garden, Cyanbird’s painting, gifted to Winona, was prominently displayed on the faux wall.

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10:39 Fri, Oct 11 B

Chapter 137

Richard had taken the main seat, with Zachary, Nellie, Robert, and Yulia beside him.

Everyone had tacitly agreed to drop the earlier incident, and Richard had returned to his usual arrogant self.

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Zachary had just announced to everyone that the apprenticeship ceremony would be held first. This decision brightened Winona’s mood considerably, as it showed Zachary still valued her and understood what was important. That’s why he put her apprenticeship ceremony ahead of Yvette’s recognition event. Winona paused deliberately as she passed Yvette, a hint of smugness on her face. “Sis, I’m going up first.”

Yvette didn't even acknowledge her, not bothering to open her eyes, just curling her lips coldly.

Winona was furious at her reaction but didn't dare lose her temper in front of Jeremiah, so she gritted her teeth and walked

away.

The apprenticeship ceremony went by quickly, the whole process taking just twenty minutes.

During that time, Yvette kept her eyes closed, resting. Everyone assumed she was jealous of her younger sister and didn't want to watch, but those nearby could hear her soft, steady breathing...

Jeremiah shifted slightly, blocking the breeze blowing from afar. From a distance, it looked like Yvette was cradled in his

arms.

Wyatt noticed the subtle gesture, his eyes darkening. 'Looks like Jeremiah has truly fallen for her. But can Yvette pass the test set by the old chief?'

After the ceremony, Winona officially became Richard's last student. With this title, she gained significant confidence, knowing she now had the strongest backing in the field of oil painting.

Everyone raised their glasses to congratulate Winona, seemingly having forgotten the earlier events, and she quickly returned to her initial air of triumph.

At that moment, a man in his forties, wearing glasses and ordinary clothes, walked into the garden and shouted, "Hold on! I've got something to say."

The crowd turned to see the stranger who had just barged in...

It was none other than Richard's nemesis, Cole Paben, the current vice president of the Art Association. He despised Richard's corrupt, nepotistic ways, using his power for personal gain and running the association into chaos. Back when the previous president was in charge, the Art Association had always been fair and just. But Richard had used underhanded tactics to drive the old president out, and now he was trying to elevate his new last student within the association. Cole could not tolerate this, so upon learning about it, he rushed to Seacurity overnight.

He had already heard a secret about Winona from the former president. 'How could a little girl tell such an outrageous lie and fool everyone? I absolutely cannot let someone like Winona enter the Art Association.'

Richard's murky eyes glared at Cole. 'Why is he meddling in this? What does my taking on a student have to do with him?' "Mr. Paben, why aren't you overseeing the Art Association in Betrico? What brings you to Seacriety?"

Some people only now recognized him—Cole Paben, the Art Association's vice president and one of the most internationally awarded national oil painters. Word spread quickly, and soon the whole garden knew his identity.

Ignoring Richard, Cole fixed his gaze on Winona, standing next to the painting in the center of the stage. His eyes narrowed, sharp and cold, as he asked, "Winona, right?"

Winona panicked under his gaze. "Yes, Mr. Paben."

Cole took a step forward, his presence imposing as he pointed to the painting behind her. "You said this was a gift from Cyanbird?"

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## **Masked In Nobility: Secrets Of Mrs. Chavez Chapter 138**

Winona bit her lip, her fingers gripping the frame tightly, turning white with tension. She forced herself to lift her head, her voice trembling slightly, with a hint of tears. “Mr. Paben, I don’t understand what you mean by asking this. Everyone knows the truth. Why are you going out of your way to ask again? I know you’ve always had issues with my teacher, but you shouldn’t come here to stir trouble and embarrass him. You’re being too much.”



Winona's tactic of redirecting blame worked perfectly. Upon hearing her words, Richard shot up from his seat, furious, and began to accuse Cole. "That's enough, Mr. Paben! If you've got an issue, take it up with me. What kind of man takes it out on a student?"

Winona lowered her gaze, hiding the triumph in her eyes.

Cole's brow furrowed slightly, displaying no concern for Richard's anger. He maintained his unwavering gaze on Winona and spoke with conviction, "Allow me to inquire once more, are you absolutely certain that Cyanbird gave you this painting?"

Everyone turned to look at Winona on the round platform. Winona silently cursed Cole in her heart. She had encountered Cole before during her exams at the Art Association. All the judges had passed her, except for him, who gave her the lowest score, preventing her from passing level five. And now, out of nowhere, he was questioning her about this painting.

'Could it be... that he's really discovered something? No, that's impossible. Back when I was in Mysonna, the underground seller assured me that no one would ever find out. Could it be that Mr. Paben is just trying to trick me? Yes... I need to stay calm... Everything's fine... It'll be fine. By this time, she had no way out. "Yes, this painting was a gift from the master Cyanbird a few years ago when I was in Mysonna. He greatly admired my work and character and gifted it to me specially."

Winona's firm response made everyone present feel that Cole was being unreasonable. Even if he had conflicts with Richard, he shouldn't be taking it out on a young girl. Many people began to speak up for Winona.

The first to speak was Robert. "Mr. Paben, you heard Winona's answer, didn't you? The whole of Seacriety knows that master Cyanbird gave this painting to her, and the private seal on the painting can't be fake, right? Are you being so aggressive to bully the Carter and Chambers families? Winona is already engaged to Victor and will be my daughter-in-law of the Carter family, so we won't let you slander her like this!" Robert's words were a clear announcement of Winona and Victor's engagement to everyone present.

Zachary frowned slightly. 'Who Winona is engaged to no longer concerns me as her "father."

Nellie, her eyes reddened, also stood up to reproach Cole. "Mr. Paben, Winona is still just a child. How can you question her like this in front of so many people? This is the Chambers family, not the Art Association, and you're not one of our invited guests. I hope you leave immediately."

Upon hearing this, the crowd below started to act as righteous defenders again.

"Mr. Paben, you'd better leave quickly. It's not right to ruin their happy day like this."

“Exactly, you’re not young anymore. What’s the point of bullying a young girl?”

“Leave... just leave, no one here wants you...”

In the corner, Yvette opened her eyes. She first glanced at Jeremiah, who was closest to her, then looked towards the noisy round platform in the distance.

Jeremiah immediately looked down at Yvette, his eyes dark and bright, his voice soft and unusually tender. “Did I wake you?”

Simon, Wyatt, and Sienna also turned to look at Yvette at the same time... Wyatt got goosebumps from Jeremiah’s voice. “That can’t be the iron-blooded Major General anymore, right? In front of Yvette, Jeremiah is like one of those so-called cute puppy types? A cute puppy? Oh my... I can’t even imagine. That’s too terrifying!”

Sienna from Argrol University casually sat down beside them. “Hey... Yve... you slept soundly, didn’t you? It’s been a lively scene up here. Some guy barged in just now, claiming to be the vice president of the Art Association, Cole. He’s questioning Winona about that painting. From what he said, it seems like there’s some issue with it.”

Yvette’s beautiful eyes were still slightly lazy, though there was a coldness deep within them. Her upturned eyelids carried a wildness as she stretched and lazily glanced at Cole, who was being surrounded by the crowd. Her voice had a bit of drowsy languor. “The painting is fake.”

Sienna exclaimed in shock, “The painting is fake?”

The power of that shout silenced the bustling garden once again. The crowd had been so focused on criticizing Cole that they had forgotten about the line of big shots seated there. What had Sienna just yelled? “The painting is fake?” “What’s going on? Could it be that Sienna knows some inside information?”

Cole turned to look at Yvette’s side, his eyes suddenly shining brightly, and his hands trembling with excitement. However, everyone was too focused on the other side to notice Cole’s strange behavior.

Sienna realized her voice had been too loud. ‘But it’s not my fault! The boss made such a shocking statement! I could believe if someone else were making stuff up, but if the boss says the painting is fake, then it must be fake! If that’s true, then this is a big deal...

“Sienna, why did you say the painting is fake? Do you have any evidence? You can’t just make claims like that.”

“Yeah, I think you’re only accusing Winona because you’re close to Yvette. Did Yvette put you up to this? Don’t let yourself be used as someone’s pawn.”

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Egged on by these comments, the crowd turned their eyes to Yvette, now filled with suspicion. 'Could Yvette really have prompted Sienna to step in and frame Winona?'

Winona stepped down from the platform, her expression showing she'd clearly suffered a major blow. Tears streamed down her face as she cried sorrowfully. "Why are you helping outsiders bully me? Why? Ever since you came back to the family, have I done anything to upset you? I've always made concessions for you and never dared to make you angry because you're my half-sister. I've always wanted to get along with you, but you've never given me a chance. Today is the most important day of my life, and you had Sienna speak up for you. You're going too far!"

Winona's words evoked deep sympathy from the crowd, especially from Victor, who rushed to her side, glaring at Yvette as though they had some deep-seated grudge.

Yvette, her legs crossed, rested her hands on the chair, tapping rhythmically with her left hand. Her gaze was calm and deep, with a mischievous smirk on her face, her features so stunning that people couldn't look directly at her-both seductive and untamed.

Yvette's demeanor left the crowd breathless. 'She... she's just too beautiful. Her breathtaking beauty captured everyone's hearts, and even those who had just been accusing her were now left speechless.

Sitting beside her, Jeremiah casually handed Yvette a glass of orange juice he had poured. Yvette took it without hesitation, took a sip, and then, amidst the stunned gazes of everyone, finally spoke.