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Sophia was taken aback when she heard what Stella had said. 'Oh, she's really pushing it,' she thought.

"I understand that you're not into these brands, Stella. After all, you used to wear high-end clothing from Elie Saab, but things are different now. I'm sorry that I could only afford dresses from Wendy Carlson. Even though it's not as extravagant as your previous attires, I still think it's better than what you're wearing right now," said Sophia with a smile, implicating that Stella was out of line.

Stella glanced at her and pushed her hair behind her shoulders, showing the designer dress she was wearing that accentuated her curves. A silver embroidered phoenix on the side of her dress gleamed under the light. Due to Stella's figure, the bird looked like it was about to take off.

"Why does that embroidery pattern on that dress look so familiar?"

"Is that actually embroidery? I thought it was printed on there."

"Right? I feel like I've seen that design somewhere."

"It's probably because it's mass-produced," said someone from the crowd.

Suddenly, a male voice said, "Isn't that the phoenix of Lea Sartorre, the famous embroidery designer? It was embroidered at the National Embroidery Exhibition earlier this year."

The crowd froze.

Lea Sartorre was a well-known name in the embroidery world. She was the queen of embroidery, and her work was amazing. Over the years, she restored a lot of stitching techniques that were lost in time. Some of them had even been included in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list designed to protect traditions worldwide.

Lea had represented her country in foreign cultural exchange events, shocking the nation with her skills. At this year's National Embroidery

Exhibition, she embroidered a phoenix that looked like it was flying, depending on the lighting. The design quickly went viral because people were amazed by how she was able to make the bird “move”.

The secret behind Lea’s design was the special threads she used and her technique of embroidering more than a dozen of the same phoenix taking off. From a fixed point of view, the bird looked still. However, when the fabric moved, the change in shadows and lighting created an illusion that it was flying. The sight was so shocking that many people still remembered that day.

After the crowd heard what the man had said, everyone looked at the phoenix on Stella’s dress. The more they looked at it, the more it looked like Lea Sartorre’s work.

Lea Sartorre was an inspiration to many designers across the world. The value of her work was incomparable to Wendy Carlson’s pieces.

“It looks exactly the same,” said someone from the crowd after looking up the photos of the famous phoenix embroidery online and comparing it to the one on Stella’s dress.

“If that really is Lea Sartorre’s work, doesn’t that mean Stella’s dress is expensive?”

“Forget the price of the dress. Lea Sartorre’s work is impossible to get even if you have the money. It would be heavenly just to touch one of her pieces, let alone wear it on your body.”

“No wonder Stella didn’t want to wear Sophia’s clothes.”

Sophia’s face darkened as the crowd continued to talk.

“She’s divorced from Keegan. How could she afford a Lea Sartorre? She must’ve found someone to create a knockoff. That’s so disgusting. It’s a straight-up insult to the original designer,” Xianna immediately uttered.