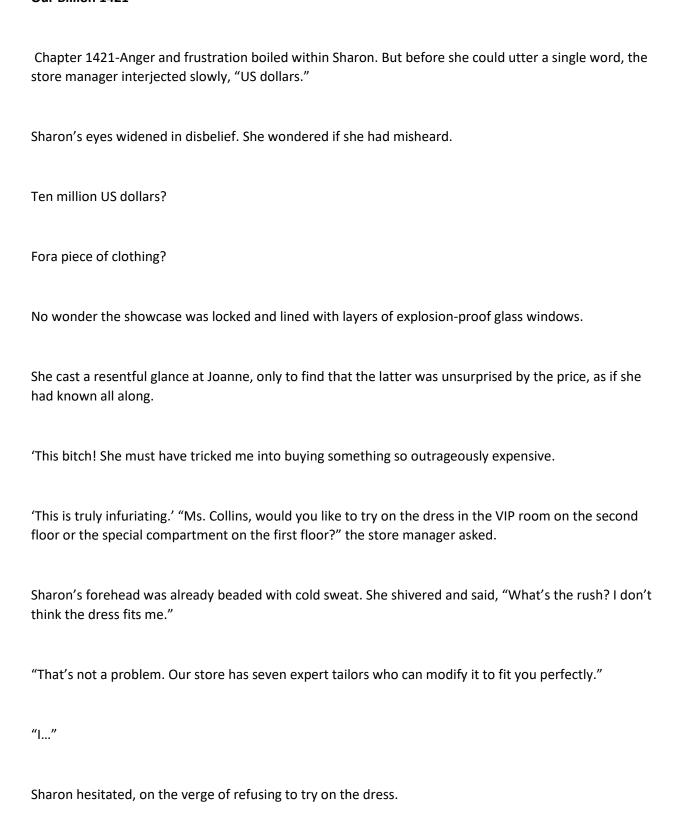
Our Billion 1421



But with so many people watching her, she couldn't afford to lose face as a big star. She gritted her teeth. "Wait for me. I'll make a phone call and try it later." "This way please," the store manager said, his doubts growing as Sharon continued to make excuses and refused to try on the dress. It was hard to believe that Sharon Collins couldn't afford the dress. What a waste of energy! Under the watchful eyes of onlookers, Sharon retreated to a corner to call Edwin. She made three consecutive calls, but each one was abruptly rejected. Sharon was about to lose her mind. She would rather beg Edwin for forgiveness and receive his punishment later rather than lose face in public now. Unable to reach Edwin, Sharon called his assistant, Lucas. Fortunately, Lucas picked it up. "Ms. Collins?" Lucas's voice was formal and distant. Rumors had spread that Sharon was Edwin's wife, but as an insider, Lucas knew that they were not married at all. It was just a fib Edwin had told Harry. But Sharon took it seriously and constantly flaunted her status as Edwin's wife.

"You finally answer the phone. I need to speak to Mr. Atherton right now! Put him on the phone!" Sharon commanded in a haughty tone. Lucas sneered disdainfully. "I'm afraid Mr. Atherton is in a meeting now. When the meeting is over, I will inform him that you called." "No, this is urgent. I can't wait! I need to speak with Mr. Atherton right now!" "I'm sorry, I really can't help you." Sharon was afraid that she had pushed too hard, so she quickly changed her tone. "Don't hang up! I'm not joking. This is about Mr. Atherton's reputation. That bitch, Joanna, set me up to buy a \$10 million dress, but I don't have so much money with me. And if this gets out, it will damage Mr. Atherton's reputation. I'm sorry for my attitude earlier. Can you please help me?" Lucas paused from hanging up the phone and asked, "Hold on! Who did you say set you up? Joanna?" Not that Joanna he knew, right? Chapter 1422-"That's it! She is Joanna, who snatched the role of Shirly from me! The bitch!" Lucas was surprised. 'What a coincidence!' After Sharon hung up and went back, she became arrogant again and held her head high.

Obviously, she had gotten a backer.

"Joanna, you bitch! You want me to lose face, right? My husband will come here soon. No matter what I want, he will buy it for me. You will be the person who loses face!" Sharon complacently humiliated Joanne. Joanne shrugged casually. "Rich people are strange indeed! Didn't you say that only you were worthy of the dress? I praised you, but you felt annoyed. Are you out of your mind?" Sharon was stuck for words and asked the waitress to take her to try the dress on. The waitress specially took an underslip for Sharon to match the dress. However, Sharon failed to put it on even though she held her breath. After she put it on with difficulty, the flab on her waist was conspicuous. Besides, her arms were flabby. Designers usually prepared sleeved dresses for her, but the dress was sleeveless. In other words, the dress didn't fit her at all. When she stood in front of the dressing mirror, the waitress even couldn't say a polite formula to praise that she was beautiful in the dress. She ruined the dress. No matter how top-end the dress was, it would be ruined by her terrible figure. Of course, the waitress didn't have the guts to say so. Sharon felt herself shining. She held her breath hard, and her face even turned ashen. She lifted the hemline of the dress and walked out arrogantly. She was an ugly duckling but acted as if she was a white swan.

She came up to Joanne. Sharon wore a luxurious dress while Joanne wore a simple white T-shirt and light jeans. However, Sharon was overshadowed by Joanne totally!
"It's strange. I feel that Miss Walters is more beautiful than Ms. Collins though Miss Walter wears basics and has no makeup."
"Me too, so it isn't my illusion."
"No wonder the dress is worthy of millions. No matter how beautiful it is, only noble and elegant women can match it.
Otherwise, the result will be counterproductive"
"I heard that Ms. Collins said that Miss Walters was also an actress, but I have never seen her on TV. I would like to follow her social media account."
When Teresa saw the complacent Sharon, Teresa curled her lips secretly.
Why is she so confident that she can master the dress?
Tm much more beautiful and elegant than Sharon, and I have made more efforts to keep fit. Why did Mr. Atherton choose her?
'I have to admit that Joanna is more elegant and beautiful than Sharon.' Sharon didn't heartheir praises as expected but heard that Joanne was more beautiful than her.
Sharon lost control of jealousy immediately.
Usually, women's jealousy was terrifying.
'I should be the center of attention.

'I have put on the most luxurious dress, but no one pays attention to me!' She became furious and couldn't hold her breath anymore. The flab accumulated on her waist gradually, and the dress was about to split...

"It's lively here." Suddenly, a voice came from the door. The voice was childish and cold.

They looked at the door. A little boy, who was about seven or eight years old, walked over with a cute little girl in a pink princess dress.

The little girl led a Husky that wore a frog hat. It was so adorable.

Chapter 1423-Ollie and Puffy were followed by four strong bodyguards. They all look terrifying!

What a lovely pair of siblings!

Ollie had tight lips and a serious face. He looked exactly like Cedrick, while Puffy had a sweet smile on her face. The two kids looked so different from each other.

The store manager's eyes sparkled as the two kids walked into the store with a dog.

'Aren't they Cedrick's kids?' Joanne's eyes lit up too.

'There they are again, my godson and goddaughter!' Puffy now saw Joanne too. Even though Joanne was not wearing her mask today, Puffy recognized Joanne's eyes at first sight. She immediately let go of the dog's leash and trotted over to Joanne. Her shoes made a crisp sound.

"Ms. Walters, we met again! You're not wearing your mask today. You're so beautiful!" Puffy said in a childish voice, and Joanne's heart melted. Although she didn't spend a lot of time with Puffy, she adored Puffy so much. She immediately took her into her arms and rubbed her cheeks affectionately.

"Puffy baby, do you like me?" "Yes!"

Puffy snuggled into Joanne's arms. She smelled a faint scent of jasmine. She liked the smell.

Ollie looked at the two and he pursed his lips.

'Puffy had never been this close to a woman she had just met. Is that because when Mummy was pregnant, Ms.

Walters was she with her all the time?' Ollie was wearing a light-colored suit. He picked up the dog leash that Puffy dropped. His face became more serious. He walked over to the two. But his voice was sweet, "Ms.

Walters, are you here to shop too?"

Unhappy to be ignored by Ollie and Puffy, Sharon immediately interrupted, "Ollie, Puffy, what brings you here? Your uncle is coming over later! What a coincidence."

Ollie's face immediately darkened, and he said in a cold voice, "Don't call me Ollie. We are not so close." Both the store manager and the shop assistants were amused.

Although Sharon was wearing a regal gown, Joanne was far more attractive than her. Now Ollie despised her. Sharon felt so angry.

She was the aunt of two kids after all! She was enraged!

She took a deep breath to calm down, and then she smiled," You grow up like a princess and prince. I understand that you look down on me. Take your time. I'll leave you to it." In fact, she was implying that Ollie was rude and arrogant.

Joanne curled her lips and said nonchalantly, "Ollie's a smart boy. He can tell if a woman is evil. I'm proud of him."

Sharon stopped in her tracks. She stared at Joanne with a sullen look on her face. 'Is she implying I'm an evil woman?

The tag on Sharon's dress hadn't been removed and Ollie saw the designer's signature on it. He frowned and said to Sharon, "You shouldn't be wearing this dress. Take it off!"

Sharon's anger swelled at Ollie's words.

"Why? I've already decided to buy it!"

Ollie raised an eyebrow and snorted, "This dress doesn't look good on you.

You're tarnishing the dress. Are you going to take it off yourself, or should I have someone take it off for you?"

Immediately, the two bodyguards behind Ollie stepped forward. They looked so intimidating that Sharon's face immediately turned pale. She cried out in anguish, "I'm your aunt! Your uncle is coming. He agreed to buy it for me. This dress belongs to me! You have no right to give an opinion!"

Chapter 1424-Sharon's face was twisted in anger and she looked frightening. She looked like a monster.

Even with two bodyguards present, Joanne spontaneously shielded Ollie and Puffy behind her.

"Ow..." The big husky wearing a frog hat seemed to sense the tension. He opened his mouth wide and wailed at Sharon, showing his sharp teeth.

Sharon was enraged. 'Why is Ollie protecting the bitch?' Just as she was about to throw a tantrum, she caught a glimpse of a familiar man at the door out of the corner of her eye. The anger on her face immediately disappeared.

She pursed up her lips. Tears welled up in her eyes. She reached out, grabbed Joanne's hand, and pleaded, "Ms. Winters, you are a smart woman. You convinced the director to give you the part of Shirly. I admire you, but Ollie and Puffy are still so young. Don't fool them, okay?"

Joanne was confused about the trick Sharon was playing, but her slap was quick- "Ahl®Sharon's scream echoed through the luxury store.

Sharon couldn't help but step backward in a rush as if she had been hit hard and then she fell to the floor.

She was holding her breath when she put on the dress. When she fell to the floor, she couldn't keep holding her breath. Her fat belly bulged out and the dress looked even more unattractive on her.

Despite her fall, she immediately blamed Joanne.

"Ms. Winters, I'm asking you to stay away from Ollie. You can't seduce him. If Mr. Mason finds out what you're up to, you'll be kicked out of Sapphire City. You didn't listen to me and you pushed me to the floor. You went too far! Ugh..."

Watching Sharon, who was lying on the floor, her knee scratched, Joanne wondered, 'My slap wasn't that forceful. Why did she fall to the floor?' "Are you done acting?" Ollie could tell Sharon had fallen to the floor on purpose.

His face darkened. "If you're done acting, take the dress off!"

Sharon was silent. 'I just fell. Ollie still wants me to take off the dress?' Sharon's face was terrible.' What did I do wrong?' Although Sharon was an arrogant woman, she had been timid all these years in the Mason family and the Atherton family. She did everything she could to please the kids.

It took her three years to get Puffy to call her Godmother.

But as soon as Puffy met Joanna, Puffy was so close to her!

Sharon felt that her three years of effort was a joke
And Ollie never liked her.
Ollie never smiled at her in the three years. If he was so indifferent to everyone, Sharon wouldn't mind it. But he was so sweet with Joanna, whom he had only met twice.
"Ollie, don't be fooled by this woman" Sharon tried to continue to smear Joanne, but she noticed Edwin walked in. She gave a stunned look. Her face froze. In a flustered tone she said, "Mr Mr. Atherton, when did you get here?
I'm sorry. I've embarrassed you again!"
Sharon remained sitting on the floor. She rubbed her eyes. She wished Edwin to pull her up.
Joanne's face changed slightly. She looked up in the direction Sharon was looking in.
Edwin was in the store.
His handsome face was somber at the moment. He glanced at everyone.
Lucas was with him.
Chapter 1425-Lucas maintained an appropriate smile towards Joanne.
"Ms. Walters, nice to meet you. I am Mr. Atherton's assistant Lucas. What a coincidence to see you again!"
'See you again? Have we met before?' Joanne thought to herself.

Joanne smiled politely, without revealing her true feelings. Upon seeing Edwin, she finally understood why Sharon's expression had changed so quickly. Sharon had been trying to play the innocent victim and even blamed Joanne for pushing and hitting her! Sure enough, Sharon was used to being arrogant and domineering, and now she was pretending to show such a pitiful look. Feeling the atmosphere was a bit tense, Edwin noticed that Joanne had hardly looked at him since he entered the store. She had even greeted Lucas! After a moment of awkward silence, Edwin suppressed his irritation and disgust, and he looked at Sharon. "Aren't you ashamed to keep lying on the ground? Get up!" Sharon didn't notice Edwin's displeasure at all, for she thought he was angry with Joanne. After all, Edwin always tried to maintain a good image in public. "Mr. Atherton, it seems that I accidentally twisted my ankle and it hurts a bit. Could you lend me a hand?" Sharon asked. Edwin smirked, "If that's the case, you can keep lying there." Sharon was dumbfounded. She had fallen down, and even had blood on her knee to make the whole thing look more real. Why wouldn't he help her up?

Feeling wronged, Sharon sat on the ground, and tears started to stream down her cheeks.

Seeing this, Teresa quickly adjusted her hair and stepped forward to help Sharon stand up. With her eyes filled with deep affection, she looked at Edwin respectfully.

"Mr. Atherton, it's been a long time. How have you been recently?" Teresa said with a smile.

Ever since Edwin returned to the Atherton family, he rarely attended events held by those involved in the entertainment industry.

Even if there were red carpet events or award ceremonies related to Eclipse Worldwide Entertainment Co., or if the organizers invited him to be a guest presenter, Edwin always declined.

Teresa had befriended Sharon just to get closer to Edwin, believing that if Sharon could win his favor, she might have a greater chance.

However, Edwin had been ignoring Teresa.

Teresa's hand was left hanging in mid-air, which was so awkward.

"Mr. Atherton, my hand is getting tired," Teresa joked, trying to ease the mood.

Sharon finally realized that Teresa was flirting with Edwin in front of her!

"Hubby, please let me introduce Teresa to you. She is an actress in the entertainment industry." By saying this, Sharon quickly distanced herself from Teresa and subtly asserted her identity as Edwin's wife.

Upon hearing "hubby" from Sharon, Edwin naturally glanced at Joanne. But she just stood there silently without obvious reactions, as if none of this had anything to do with her.

Joanne didn't seem to care whether he was another woman's husband or not!

All his expectations were completely shattered. When he thought of Joanne's intimacy with Jack, his deep eyes instantly lost any warmth, and he spat out a few words coldly, "I don't remember."

Feeling Edwin's sarcasm, Teresa looked a bit embarrassed, and a forced smile appeared on her face.

"Hubby!" Sharon interrupted Teresa's attempt at getting cozy with Edwin. She grabbed Edwin's arm and acted coquettish. "You came just in time. Ollie also falls in love with the dress you plan to buy for me. He even insisted I take it off. I told him he was insulting you by doing this, but he made the bodyguards threaten me. Luckily, you came just in time."

Chapter 1426-Sharon's voice was delicate, and it went straight to Joanne's heart.

She had never seen this side of Sharon before. It was as if the domineering Sharon from before was just an illusion.

Edwin's fists were clenched tightly at his sides, his knuckles white.

Before he could push Sharon away, he noticed Joanne's reaction. The indifference in her eyes stung his heart.

He wished that Joanne would rush over and push Sharon away, telling her that she was not worthy of him.

But throughout the entire encounter, Joanne had remained indifferent and, if anything, showed signs of hatred. There was not a trace of jealousy in her eyes.

"Ollie, why do you want the dress? It's not like you'll wear it." Edwin tried to control his anger.

Ollie frowned in disgust. Although he didn't quite understand the complicated relationship between the adults, he was determined to support his godmother.

Holding onto Joanne's hand, he said resolutely, "I don't like this woman next to you. I think Ms. Walters would look better in it. What, do you want to fight me for it?"
The boy raised his head slightly, looking a bit arrogant.
His likes and dislikes were clearly written on his face.
Sharon was almost fuming with anger. Her shoulders drooped in defeat.
"If you don't like me, that's fine. But don't be fooled by Joanna! She's always been good at pretending to be gentle and deceiving soft-hearted men like you.
Last time, I even saw her crying on Director Freddie's shoulder, trying to get an important role in the movie. I'm only saying this for your good!"
Joanne's eyes were icy as she spoke, "Mrs. Atherton, your ability to twist the truth is truly remarkable! When did I ever cry on Director Freddie's shoulder? In fact, I recall you threatening the assistant director for the role of Shirly. But your acting was so lackluster that you were left in the dust and eventually kicked off the cast."
Sharon, backed by Edwin, retorted with sarcasm, "Stop spouting nonsense! The director had already chosen me. If it weren't for your scheme, how could the role have fallen into your hands?"
"Enough!" Edwin's stern voice silenced the two.
It seemed that she could now casually address Sharon as Mrs. Atherton, as if he no longer existed in her heart.
Four years apart, had her heart grown so cold?
"Ollie, I'll take this dress. Will you do me this favor?"

Ollie felt Joanne's grip on his hand tightened. He raised an eyebrow and shook his head seriously. "Even if I wanted to do you this favor, it depends on whether the one on your side is worth it."

"That's my business," Edwin declared imposingly. "Take Puffy and the bodyguards and leave."

Joanne was now furious with Edwin. She couldn't help but laugh.

"You're quite the protector of your wife. For Mrs. Atherton's sake, do you even intend to bully the young? Aren't you afraid of being ridiculed? But since you said so, let's say we're wrong about you. Let's go."

Joanne grabbed Ollie's and Puffy's hands and said before leaving, "I wish Mr.

and Mrs. Atherton a lifetime of happiness together, and may you have children soon."

"Wait!" Edwin saw the sarcasm in her eyes, and his heart tightened. He abruptly went forward and grabbed her wrist." Since you said I'm here to protect my wife, how do you explain pushing down Sharon just now? I won't allow anyone to bully her. Apologize to her!"

Apologize to Sharon?

His grip caused pain to her bones, but his words made her laugh.

"She fell on her own, so why should I apologize? Are you blind or something?"

Joanne tried to break free from his grasp, but Edwin's grip was too tight. She glared at him and snapped, "Let go of me, or I'll sue you for harassment."

Chapter 1427-Edwin wasn't sure if he was forcing Joanne to stay because he wanted to see her give in, or because he was jealous of Jack.



Joanne took the opportunity to break free from Edwin and wiped her hands in disgust as if he were some kind of germ.

Ms. Walters, does it hurt?"

Ollie anxiously lifted up her cuff, seeing that there was actually a light-colored bruise on it.

Ollie thought, 'Uncle Edwin has gone too far!' Joanne was flattered. She rubbed Ollie's short soft hair. "No. Let's go."

"We can't go. Uncle Edwin was fooled by that woman and bullied you. I have to take revenge for you." Ollie's small face tensed up. He pulled out a black card from his pocket and handed it to the store manager. "I'll take that dress. Go and strip it from that woman."

The store manager stared at the black card awkwardly.

If Edwin were not fighting over the dress, the manager would be absolutely happy.

However, Edwin clearly wanted to buy Sharon this dress.

Both sides were aggressive, and the manager could not afford to offend either of them. He was in a quandary.

"Are you afraid I don't have enough money to buy it?" Seeing that the manager did not accept the card, Ollie pursed his small mouth, looking domineering.

The manager trembled and hastily shook his head. "No ... no.

"80 million dollars. The highest bidder can get the dress." As soon as the manager's words came out, Edwin said lightly," Ollie, you want to compete with me? I am curious about your relationship with Joanna. Why are you so protective of her?"

Ollie guessed that Edwin had bullied Joanna again and again because he still didn't recognize her.



Anyway, Uncle Edwin gave me pocket money and a birthday gift last Christmas. They are worth several hundred million dollars. Ms. Walters, I only want you to wear that dress." Ollie, after all, was raised by the Mason family. Every year, his relatives and friends sent him birthday gifts and so on. This was a huge income. Besides, his grandparents and great-grandmother gave him a lot of pocket money. Draco left a lot of property when he passed away. Ollie already had more money than he could count. Catelyn set up a private fund for Ollie to manage these assets. Ollie was worth tens of billions of dollars. Moreover, this black card was a supplementary card given by Cedrick. Ollie did not use his own money. Joanne would like to be calm, but these words stimulated her greatly. She thought, 'Ollie is indeed a wealthy young master of three powerful families!' Edwin narrowed his eyes, thinking, 'This kid is actually using the pocket money I gave him to compete with me.' Edwin said something to Lucas, and then Lucas went out to make a phone call. Ollie didn't know what Edwin was up to. No one was more pleased than Sharon. Edwin defended her for the first time in front of outsiders and acknowledged her identity as his wife.

The manager hesitated whether to swipe the black card or not.

He secretly looked at the silent Edwin, wondering if Edwin had given up bidding.
The manager was about to swipe the black card when Lucas came back with a tablet in his hand.
Mr. Atherton, it's done."
Edwin swiped across the tablet screen, flipped to the last page of the contract, and signed his name quickly.
Lucas immediately stopped the store manager and announced, "Mr. Ollie Mason and Ms. Walters, Mr. Atherton has bought the store, and now the mall is also Mr.
Atherton's property. We are not selling this dress, so you are not eligible to bid on it."
The whole store was in an uproar.
Chapter 1429-"Oh my! This store is the most expensive store in this mall. Mr. Atherton directly bought it."
"Mr. Atherton is so rich"
"I guess it's because he doesn't want to compete with the young Ollie. Mr.
Atherton is really shrewd."
"Look at the young Ollie's angry little face. Oh, he's so cute. I want to pinch his cheeks"

The situation was suddenly reversed. The store manager shivered, and the black card fell on the counter. He picked it up and respectfully returned it to Ollie. "Master Ollie, I'm sorry, but I no longer have the final say in this store."

Ollie pursed his pink lips unhappily. Edwin actually played tricks on him.

"Uncle Edwin, you won't sell it even if I pay 100 million dollars?"

Edwin smiled slightly, looking very powerful. "Do you think I'm short of money?"

Ollie's eyes turned icy. As he was about to speak, Joanne took his little arm.

Ollie was slightly stunned. He looked up at Joanne guiltily.

Joanne was so happy to be pampered by her godson.

"Ollie, don't compete with this nuisance. Even if you buy this dress at a high price, I will be disgusted with it because it was worn by Sharon. Since this adulterous couple wants it so much, just let them take it."

Ollie pursed his lips, thought deeply, and then smiled coolly.

"Ms. Walters, you're right. That dress is dirtied, so it's unworthy of you. Let's go."

Hearing this, Edwin was very upset. He watched as Joanne and the two children left the store happily and leisurely.

They didn't look embarrassed at all. Instead, they were relaxed as if the dress was nothing to them.

As they walked far away, Edwin faintly heard Puffy saying," Ms. Walters, I'm hungry."





Joanne took the two adorable children to shop nearby, buying a set of clothes for each.

She asked why Miles didn't come, and Ollie told her about the situation.

Turned out something went wrong when Summer had her hypnosis treatment a few years ago, because of which, her memory of the past nearly 30 years was lost. She was living at the age of 18 and played with Cat every day. Cat was lively and got on well with Summer.

Joanne was amused to hear that and felt happy for Cat who found her real mother.

Joanne returned to East Imperial in the evening. Before entering the villa, she looked around to make sure that Edwin was not there.

She might have looked calm back there, but it had saddened her to see Edwin so protective of Sharon.

Unexpectedly, Jack appeared in her path.

At the sight of her, Jack bombarded her with questions, which baffled her.

"What are you trying to say? I just went to the mall to buy some clothes. What's the fuss?"

"Don't tell me you don't know what happened."

Jack was in a state of panic, but Joanne hadn't heard anything about it. No wonder she was not worried at all.

He took out his phone and handed it to her. "Here, see for yourself!"

Joanne took the phone curiously and saw the video of her arguing with Sharon at the clothing store in the afternoon.

Sharon persistently slandered Joanne, accusing her of deceiving the children and making them spend a lot of money to buy clothes for her. Joanne forcefully pushed Sharon to the ground and claimed that she earned it. Apparently, the recording had been edited.

It created a false impression of her admission to trick Ollie into buying clothes for her.

Later, Edwin arrived and stood up for Sharon. Exasperated, Joanne publicly called them an adulterous couple.

Undoubtedly, this was Sharon's doing.

She had gotten the dress but continued to cause trouble.

"Ollie did intend to buy clothes for me, but I didn't accept it. And I didn't intend to push Sharon. It was her show."