

Chapter 8

Charles listened in on the siblings' conversation and felt pleased rather than annoyed. The show had just begun, and the conversation was already flowing smoothly with interesting topics.

With a helpless expression, he spread his hands. "We have no choice; this is the only road leading to the village."

Alex was unhappy. "Can't you think of a way? Can a motorcycle get up there?"

Before Charles could answer, Elric glanced at the siblings and said, "You knew we were coming to the village to film the show, yet you dressed like this. Whose fault is that?"

He was specifically dressed in casual wear and sneakers. Apart from the siblings and Sharon, the other guests were dressed suitably for walking in the mountains. So, it was their own problem.

He then added sarcastically, "You didn't prepare before coming, so why are you being pretentious now?"

Elric's words left everyone stunned; they didn't expect him to be so blunt. The other guests thought the rumors were true; this man indeed had a sharp tongue.

In fact, Wendy and Leslie were also speechless about the trio's outfits. Dressing like that for a rural reality show was asking for trouble.

Alex's face darkened at Elric's jab. "We didn't expect to be staying in the mountains!"

He had seen other lifestyle shows where the villages were accessible by flat roads. Olivia's outfit was intended to make a striking impression on the audience, as suggested by his second brother. Who knew the production team would be so tricky?

Elric raised an eyebrow. "The production team informed us we'd be filming in the countryside. Even if you didn't expect mountain roads, is your attire appropriate? Anyone who didn't know better would think you're here for an award ceremony."

This remark made people want to laugh. The sarcastic description was quite fitting.

Olivia couldn't believe Elric was mocking and criticizing them so openly. She couldn't help but feel aggrieved. He really was an unromantic man. But the more he treated her like this, the more determined she became to win him over.

She spoke with a hint of stubbornness, "I'm fine, I can keep walking."

Lindsay saw Alex appearing upset and Olivia's eyes welling up with tears. She silently applauded Elric.

Justin, seeing the situation, said, "She probably didn't expect the mountain path. It's normal for girls to like wearing dresses and high heels. There's no use in talking about it now. We need to find a way to help the two female guests get up the hill."

Lindsay saw Justin stepping in. She knew he wasn't being chivalrous but was trying to help Olivia out of a tight spot.

Elric wasn't impressed by Justin's comment. "So, Mr. Ford, what do you suggest we do now?"

Justin couldn't answer.

How was he supposed to know what to do?

But since he had sided with Olivia, it had become his responsibility to think of a solution, and seeing Olivia's grateful look, Justin turned to the Charles. "Can we find a few motorcycles to take the female guests up?"

He mentioned all the female guests on purpose to avoid giving Olivia special treatment, which could hurt her popularity with the audience.

Charles apologized, "The mountain road here is quite steep, and motorcycles don't do well on it. Villagers can ride up alone, but with passengers, it could be dangerous. So, we can't provide that service."

If an accident happened, who would take responsibility?

For a moment, no one knew what to do.

In the live broadcast chat, fans of Elric and Alex, along with Olivia's fans, started arguing.

Olivia's fans criticized Elric for being rude, blaming their "angel" harshly and lacking gentlemanly manners.

Justin was praised by Olivia's fans as a warm and gentlemanly figure, creating a stark contrast with Elric.

However, Elric's fans fought back, saying this was a rural lifestyle show, and Olivia's outfit was inappropriate and too showy. They claimed it was dragging everyone down.

Elric was just speaking the truth. How was that rude or lacking in manners?

Olivia was indeed at fault, so why couldn't she handle his criticism?

Meanwhile, neutral viewers watching the live stream and reading the comments felt their goodwill toward Olivia fading.

On the mountain path, Charles looked at everyone and asked, "Does anyone have any ideas? With Olivia wearing high heels, it's really not possible for her to walk to the destination."

Lindsay spoke up, "It's easy to solve!"

Everyone looked at her, waiting for her to continue.

Lindsay continued, "She should have flat shoes in her suitcase, right? She can just change into those." 1

She added, "Of course, if she didn't bring flat shoes or insists on wearing high heels, she can do that too. If she can't walk, someone she knows well can carry her up the mountain."

As she finished speaking, she glanced at Alex, implying that if Olivia couldn't walk, her brother could carry her.

This suggestion made Alex's face stiffen. He found it hard enough to walk up himself, let alone carrying Olivia.

He turned to Olivia and asked, "Olivia, did you bring shoes suitable for walking?"

Olivia cursed Lindsay for meddling. If Lindsay hadn't said anything, she could have established her resilient "angel" image. After walking for a while, she would have "suddenly remembered" the flat shoes in her suitcase and changed into them.

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Now, she couldn't establish her image and could only lightly tap her head. "Oh, if Lindsay hadn't mentioned it, I would have forgotten I brought flat shoes."

Everyone was a bit speechless. How could she forget something like that?

Elric rolled his eyes, clearly not believing her. Since entering the industry, He had seen many people in the industry act one way in public but differently in private. Of course, as long as they didn't bother him, he couldn't care less.

But as for Olivia, Elric genuinely had no favorable impression. At a previous party he attended, she had pretended to be innocent, trying to attract him. Did he look like someone who would easily fall for just any girl?

Now, knowing they were going to film in the countryside, she dressed so impractically and pretended to forget her shoes. She was likely trying to establish some resilient persona. He felt wary and decided to keep his distance from her in the future.

Seeing Elric's expression, Olivia felt even more aggrieved. This guy was too much. However, she also knew the best course of action now was to quickly find her shoes and change.

She was about to ask the staff, who were helping everyone with their luggage, to get her shoes. But Alex stopped her, "I'll get them for you."

The dirt road was uneven, and he was worried Olivia might actually twist her ankle.

Seeing Alex's dotting behavior, Lindsay wasn't upset. She hoped Alex would act as an overly protective brother on the show.

Commented [Ma1]:

Commented [Ma2R1]:

After all, no one knew that Olivia wasn't Alex's real sister. This way, when her relationship with them was revealed later, the criticism wouldn't be directed at her.

If people found out he favored his foster sister over his biological sister, who got abducted by human traffickers, there would be strong criticism. This would be especially true because Alex and Olivia weren't blood-related siblings.

Their intimate actions might make people think of another kind of relationship.

Lindsay had noticed Olivia's strong possessiveness over her five brothers in the Harper family.

She habitually engaged in close physical contact with them, even though she was already an adult. She didn't shy away from hugging them or having them carry her to her room while acting coquettishly.

For instance, in the living room, Olivia would often lean her head on her brothers' shoulders or hold their hands.

Edmund was engaged, but whenever his fiancée came to the house, Olivia always tried to capture Edmund's attention, causing him to neglect his fiancée and focus solely on her, as if declaring her ownership. 1

Oliver, who had an interest in a female star, gave up pursuing her because Olivia subtly sabotaged his efforts, making him resent the star instead.

This was a live show, so Olivia and Alex's intimate gestures would undoubtedly come out naturally.

The more everyone praised their close sibling bond now, the harsher the

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criticism would be later.

Sibling relationships weren't supposed to be like that.

Lindsay thought, let those who called her a maneater see who the real one was.

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