

Spoiled 1281

Chapter 1281: Trending Again?

Right after Charlotte Thompson had left, a wave of discontented murmurings finally erupted in the designer's office.

"It's not as if it's a completely independent design, just the final garment presentation. Why so many demands?"

"Right, the constant back and forth with task reminders, one would think she's the president of our company!"

"Well, she is the president's wife, isn't she? What can we corporate drones even say!"

"Sigh, it's really annoying. Ever since she parachuted in as the Director, we haven't had a single good day."

"If we offend her now, won't our days get even worse? After all, she is the president's wife!"

"I feel like she has firmly remembered all of us, what if she seeks revenge later? Do we still want this job or not!"

"What kind of president's wife is she?"

At that moment, from a corner came a contemptuous snicker, drawing everyone's attention.

"Just a woman who plays the field."

Upon these words, everyone's expressions changed dramatically.

"Cloud Taylor, what are you saying?" someone peeked out, then suppressed their thoughts, and addressed the person who had just spoken.

"Hey, hey, guys, quickly check your phones, our Miss Thompson is trending again!"

With these words, several people gathered together to check out the hot search on their phones.

"What's this about now?"

"Isn't this man Charlotte Thompson's ex-boyfriend?"

"When did this happen? Our president isn't being cuckolded, is he?"

And at this moment, what was pushed to the top of the Weibo hot search was a video. Though it was blurry due to being a secret recording, one could roughly make out the protagonists in the video.

A man and a woman, the man merely showed a side profile, but the woman's face was clearly visible - it was Charlotte Thompson.

The content of the video was also very straightforward: the two entered a room and closed the door, leaving the rest to netizens' wild imaginations.

Then, out of nowhere, an anonymous account appeared. Although it didn't name names, netizens could guess from its insinuations that it was indeed referring to Charlotte Thompson.

Charlotte Thompson had caused his family to go bankrupt, left him penniless, and even facing the threat of prison, while Charlotte Thompson herself seemed to be living a very cheerful life now.

This little article was packed with enough drama to fill several soap operas.

But contrary to the previous days when netizens eagerly followed every update, the reaction to this article and video was unusually calm.

One might even say it was unexpectedly harmonious.

"Why is it Charlotte Thompson trending again?"

"Hilarious, Charlotte Thompson as a designer never appears in the entertainment circle, yet she tops the trends more than some trending queens."

"I really don't understand those media outlets, why keep shearing a sheep's fur? Over and over again, this stuff about Charlotte Thompson is endless."

"I'm dying of laughter. Do marketing accounts dare to set this narrative? Aren't they afraid of Justin Battleson sending a lawyer's letter to take you away?"

"I think Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson are viciously happy!"

The strong measures previously taken by Justin Battleson were having an effect at this moment.

All the marketing accounts looking to catch the trend have now fallen silent, and the anonymous account that posted the video and the subsequent article has a pitifully low number of shares.

Chapter 1282: Eyewitness?

And just as suddenly as a night-blooming cereus, the Weibo trending topics vanished in the blink of an eye.

However, some netizens still analyzed the video and the short essay.

Of course, the ultimate truth turned out to be beneficial for Charlotte Thompson.

Because the video was indeed edited, with some very important parts cut out, but some tech wizards managed to restore it and discovered that there was likely a third person present at the time.

And that anonymous account that published the short essay is speculated to indeed be Charlotte's ex-boyfriend, the young master of the Richard Corporation, Ryan Richard.

Back then, the Allen family's case was a big scandal, and Ryan Richard was even sentenced to prison for blackmailing Charlotte.

Although it was unclear why Ryan suddenly became active at that time, the fact remained that Charlotte was always the one being maligned.

So the matter faded away before Charlotte even had a chance to clear her name.

It was Coco who informed Charlotte of the news.

"Couldn't wait to make a move after all," Charlotte glanced briefly at the essay and the video, her eyes cold.

What Charlotte absolutely did not expect was that someone had recorded the video at that time.

It was when Zoe Anne and Ryan Richard conspired against her.

Charlotte furrowed her brows.

Considering the filming angle of the video, the person shooting it seemed to be just around the corner in the corridor.

"An eyewitness?"

Charlotte murmured to herself, but what she didn't expect was that this video would not surface until now, after Ryan's release from prison.

Their target was herself.

But in the end, the result was all smoke and no fire.

Charlotte casually scrolled through the comments under her Weibo and even found someone who had actually listed the number of times Charlotte had trended on Weibo in just half a year.

"Really..." Charlotte let out a helpless sigh.

Just then, there was a knock on the office door. "Come in," Charlotte said, and saw Justin Battleson enter.

"What happened?"

Justin Battleson had just left the board meeting and heard from Joyce Richard that Charlotte had been looking for him, so he didn't go to his own office but went straight to see Charlotte.

When he entered, he saw an indescribable expression on Charlotte's face, which made Justin Battleson worry.

However, Charlotte shook her head with a sense of helplessness and informed Justin Battleson about the trending topic that had vanished just as quickly as it appeared.

"Ryan Richard?"

Hearing this name, Justin Battleson's face immediately darkened.

After all, the title of Charlotte's first love was still held by Ryan Richard.

"He's out of prison? Who paid his bail?" Justin Battleson glanced at the information Charlotte had found and couldn't help but snort coldly.

"No matter who the mastermind behind the curtain is, his or her intention is nothing more than to stir up some sensation online to slander me," Charlotte said and lightly tapped on the documents on the desk.

"As for this Ryan Richard, he is nothing but a tool being used."

"Now even if Ryan Richard comes forward, he cannot cause much of a stir, and the matter of him going to prison has already been dug up."

Ryan Richard now could only be regarded as a discarded pawn.

Justin did not respond to Charlotte's words but there was a meaningful depth in his eyes, as if he was pondering something.

"Justin?" It was only when Charlotte called out his name that she recaptured Justin Battleson's gaze.

Chapter 1283: Fool

"What are you thinking about?"

Redirecting his gaze from Ryan Richard's information, Justin Battleson gave Charlotte Thompson a gentle smile: "Nothing much."

He was thinking about how to make the annoying Ryan Richard disappear from this world forever.

"However, I think starting from Ryan Richard might also lead us to some clues about the mastermind behind the scenes."

Charlotte picked up a pen nearby and tapped it on the table, producing a crisp sound.

"Alright, leave this matter to me to investigate," Justin Battleson nodded to Charlotte.

Their gazes met mid-air, each interpreting the other's thoughts.

"I always feel like Ryan Richard's issue could possibly be connected to the missing Evelyn Curtis."

The only person who still haunts Charlotte Thompson is probably Evelyn Curtis.

After all, she vanished silently in prison many years ago.

If Evelyn Curtis is indeed lying in wait in the shadows, then Charlotte feels that the issues she will face in the future might not be so simple.

"No matter what happens, I will always be by your side," Justin looked up at Charlotte and gave her a reassuring smile.

Charlotte couldn't help but hold Justin Battleson's hand, a warm and ambiguously tender affection flowing in the air, as if the early autumn evening breeze carried the last vestiges of late summer's gentleness.

However, unlike the warmth and harmony on Justin's side, the atmosphere on the other side had already reached a freezing point.

Snap!

A noise echoed in the secret room, as Leon Battleson, looking down from above, gazed coldly at Evelyn Curtis, who was lying on the ground.

"You fool, didn't I tell you not to act recklessly before? What a mess you've made," he said.

Leon swung the whip in his hand, then took a square cloth from his pocket and carefully wiped his palm, which was somewhat reddened from gripping the whip.

He took a deep breath and barely managed to suppress the anger in his voice.

"I'm sorry, Master... It was just..." Evelyn Curtis kneeled before Leon Battleson, her whole body curled up, and a vicious scar visible on her back.

She clenched her teeth, holding back the tears from spilling out of her eyes, knowing well that if the person in front of her saw her crying, she might face even harsher punishment.

The burning pain on her back instinctively made her body tremble.

"Fool."

Leon Battleson disgustedly threw the whip aside, then turned and sat down on a chair.

Indeed, it was he who had posted the bail for Ryan Richard.

And the only use this person had for him now was some past connection with Charlotte Thompson.

The video on the internet was secretly recorded by Zoe Anne in the corner, but these things weren't so important to Leon Battleson.

He initially wanted to find a suitable opportunity to release the footage along with the photos he held in his hands, to create a huge impact.

However, what he didn't anticipate was that Evelyn Curtis, this fool, would release the most useless evidence while Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson controlled the media narrative.

This completely disrupted his plans.

"Master, I know my mistake, it was unintentional, please forgive me," Evelyn Curtis, enduring the pain on her body, knelt down and slowly crawled to Leon Battleson's feet, her voice choked with sobs.

Chapter 1284: A Fake is a Fake.

That's right; she was indeed too impatient.

She originally thought that since Ryan Richard had been released from prison, she could definitely use him to create some trouble for Charlotte Thompson.

However, she didn't anticipate at all that both the Battleson Family and Thompson Family had alerted the online marketing accounts beforehand. Regarding Charlotte Thompson, whether the news was true or false, they didn't dare to report it excessively anymore.

After all, not just anyone could afford to provoke the alliance of these two powerful families.

Evelyn Curtis was really impulsive at that time, and upon seeing Ryan Richard, she completely forgot Leon Battleson's admonition.

"No wonder you ended up in such a plight back then. A person without a brain can only end up like this," Leon commented with an unmistakable sneer after casting a glance at Evelyn Curtis, who was tugging at the hem of her pants.

"I'm sorry, Young Master, I won't dare to do it again. This is the last time, please forgive me," Evelyn Curtis said, her voice somewhat hoarse. The words said by Leon Battleson, utterly merciless, were akin to violently ripping open the scars Evelyn Curtis had tried so hard to conceal, making her acutely aware of the extent to which she had fallen.

"I didn't want to hurt you initially."

Leon Battleson leaned slightly forward, lifting Evelyn Curtis's chin, "After all, you're about to go see them soon, but this time you've really angered me."

"As long as it doesn't damage the face... anything is fine," Evelyn Curtis clenched her teeth and said slowly.

"Looking at your current wretched appearance, you don't look the least bit like her."

"Young Master, I've known Sophie Allen for so long, no one understands Sophie... better than I do," Evelyn Curtis paused before speaking slowly.

Leon Battleson let go of his hand, his fingertips gently tracing the red marks left on Evelyn Curtis's skin from the pressure he had just applied, gliding down little by little, coming to rest on her neck.

There, at the spot where he stopped, was a very long scar. Although it was thin and had been concealed by certain means, it still had a rough texture when touched.

"A fake is a fake."

Leon Battleson briskly pushed Evelyn Curtis away and stood up to straighten his slightly disheveled suit, walking out of the room, leaving Evelyn Curtis alone seated on the cold floor.

"Charlotte Thompson, I will make you pay the price..."

Evelyn Curtis pressed her palm fiercely against her cheek, thinking about the face she was currently wearing, she desperately wanted to take a knife and slash it apart.

"The suffering I've endured, I will make you repay it a thousandfold!"

...

"Okay, I have an interview here and will head to your studio right after it ends."

Charlotte Thompson said a few more words and hung up the phone with Zara Ward. Coco was currently doing her makeup and handed her the script that was prepared on the side.

"So many questions?" Charlotte Thompson glanced at the content on the script and paused for a moment.

"After all, the collaboration with XTZ for the linear product has already been launched, plus the new products our company is introducing are really good. The media also wants to know more about the brand, which is very beneficial for the company's promotion," Coco explained.

"Are you sure that questions like where I and Justin Battleson have dated are related to company promotion?" Charlotte Thompson looked at some of the questions at the back, which were all gossip about her and Justin Battleson, and her gaze shifted subtly towards Coco.

Chapter 1285: Mr. Battleson Comes to the Livestream

"Who doesn't know that you and our Mr. Battleson are the model couple in the entertainment industry? Your CP is super trending, and so many people follow our brand's channel just because of you two!"

Coco looked at Charlotte Thompson and raised her eyebrows slightly.

"Tell the PR department they've got to pay me for endorsements, oh, I can't be promoting for free."

Charlotte Thompson took note of some important questions ahead of her, along with the responses above, and memorized them seriously.

"Got it, superstar Charlotte," Coco said to Charlotte Thompson with a smile.

It wasn't long before a staff member signaled that Charlotte Thompson could go on stage.

This time, the company was introducing its new products through a live broadcast, featuring a simple interview with Charlotte Thompson as well.

Charlotte Thompson had done many such videos before, so she was very familiar with introducing product concepts and promoting them.

While interacting with the host, Charlotte Thompson was also watching the real-time comments in the live broadcast.

As expected, apart from praising the products, Charlotte Thompson noticed that many people were focusing on the gossip about her and Justin Battleson, especially since she had recently been crowned the "Hot Search Queen," a title that was firmly placed upon her.

After some simple professional Q&A, the host finally steered the conversation back on track.

"Regarding Miss Thompson and Mr. Battleson's affairs, I believe many people are as curious as I am. Could Miss Thompson share some news with us?"

"News?" Charlotte Thompson's eyebrows twitched slightly, then the host revealed a perfectly timed smile.

"There isn't any news, but there is a clarification to make," she said.

Charlotte Thompson crossed her arms and gently tapped on her forearm, speaking coldly:

"Regarding the video on the internet and some rumors, they have been dealt with a long time ago. The specifics of the matter, I believe netizens are now more aware of, and I haven't intentionally hyped anything up. I'm just a designer, and ultimately, I want my work to do the talking, not some meaningless hype."

Although Charlotte Thompson's words were somewhat implicit, the meaning was clear enough for people to guess and understand.

After the heroine had spoken, the speed of new comments in the live broadcast started to increase.

"Everyone knows that making wild rumors definitely doesn't end well."

"Nicely done, finally shutting some people up."

"Charlotte is a designer, she doesn't need popularity like some stars who buy their way into hot searches every day."

"A petition from tens of thousands for Mr. Battleson to also make an appearance, please."

"Tens of thousands petition plus one, life has been too hard recently, I need a bowl of 'dog food' (affectionate moments)."

"Tens of thousands petition plus two..."

Not knowing since when, but the whole conversation had tilted, with everyone calling for Justin Battleson to show up and display affection with Charlotte Thompson.

Charlotte Thompson, seeing the real-time comments, couldn't help but curl the corners of her mouth with a touch of helplessness.

Cradling a bowl to feed on 'dog food', such demands are indeed quite bizarre.

But surely Justin Battleson must be in his office dealing with documents now.

Thinking this, Charlotte Thompson started to say: "Mr. Battleson is quite busy right now, he probably can't come..."

"Is that what you think of me, Charlotte?"

Before Charlotte Thompson could finish speaking, a voice came from behind her.

Charlotte Thompson turned her head and saw Justin Battleson, who was standing not far away, stepping towards her.

Although Justin Battleson's figure had not yet appeared on camera, the live broadcast's comments had already exploded.

Chapter 1286: Versailles Mr. Battleson

"Why did you come?"

Charlotte looked at Justin Battleson and blinked.

"Don't you welcome me?" Justin murmured with a hurt tone.

"I've been watching the live stream all along, and even sent you bullet comments."

Justin Battleson walked behind Charlotte, his palm resting on her shoulder.

As the live stream camera was positioned at a distance, though Justin stood behind Charlotte, his entire figure was still visible.

Sure enough, as soon as Justin showed his face, the screen was flooded with numerous adoring comments.

After all, Justin's face once dominated over many celebrities on the 'World's Most Handsome Faces', so his fans are countless.

"Help, how can someone be this handsome?"

"I'm begging Mr. Battleson to act in a TV drama, please satisfy us fans!"

"Charlotte isn't worthy of Mr. Battleson!"

"The person above, celestials dating celestials, where do you, a mere goblin, get off pointing fingers?"

"Incredible, I finally understand the use of the term 'celestial couple'."

While the internet friends were chatting on one side, Charlotte and Justin fell into their own little world.

"Bullet comments? What did you send?"

"You didn't find it?"

Justin blinked his eyes, then heartbrokenly clutched his chest, "I sent so many, and you didn't see them, I'm so heartbroken."

"The comments were too fast, I really couldn't make them out," Charlotte muttered.

"It's okay."

Justin leaned in closer and, looking at the screen's bullet comments, chuckled softly to Charlotte: "I can tell you personally."

Charlotte elbowed Justin's side, and he, seizing the moment, grabbed her hand, interlocking their fingers.

"Help, my OTP is real!"

"Miss Thompson and Mr. Battleson, look at us. Showing off your love like nobody's watching in a live stream, isn't it?"

"The whole nation is watching!"

Seeing the mournful bullet comments on the screen, Justin straightened up, playfully twirling a strand of Charlotte's hair as he spoke:

"This is showing off love? It's just very ordinary interaction."

Justin's tone was very casual, but the vast number of online viewers could interpret a certain ostentatious undertone in it.

Hearing Justin's words, Charlotte couldn't help but look up at him.

How did she not know Justin also had such a childish side?

The next moment, Justin seemed to notice something and then lowered his head, softly asking, "Charlotte?"

"Hmm?" Charlotte instinctively responded, turning her head towards Justin.

However, what Charlotte did not expect was a gentle kiss landing on the corner of her lips, leaving her completely stunned.

"Thank you all for your concern, Miss Thompson and I are in a very stable relationship, and perhaps... soon, there will be good news."

But Justin spoke calmly, his clear eyes carrying a slight hint of depth.

After a second of silence, the entire screen began to explode with various exclamations, so intense that even the system seemed to lag.

"You!"

Charlotte finally snapped out of her daze, belatedly covering her mouth and blinking at Justin, her voice muffled.

Chapter 1287: Showing Off Love

"What are you doing?"

Although Charlotte Thompson and Justin Battleson had shown affection before.

But this was the first time she did it in a live stream in front of millions of viewers.

Charlotte tried to appear calm, but her slightly reddening ears betrayed her.

"Of course, I'm fulfilling the viewers' wishes to show off our love," he replied.

Justin watched Charlotte's reaction with amusement and then signaled that the camera could stop streaming since all the important parts had been covered.

However, Justin's move to show affection and then immediately cut off the live stream garnered a lot of resentment, leading to our 'search trending queen' Charlotte once again topping the trending searches within a mere hour.

#WhenWillJustinAndCharlotteMarry#

In fact, before Justin had appeared on the live stream, there were already some rumors online speculating whether Justin and Charlotte had drifted apart due to some of Charlotte's comments.

However, Justin's actions just now obviously slapped those people's faces rather hard.

After the live stream was over, Charlotte nestled on the sofa in Justin's office, scrolling through her phone, before looking up at Justin with a bit of complaint in her eyes.

"Look at you, causing such a stir."

"I didn't do anything," Justin defended himself while sorting the documents next to him, maintaining an innocent demeanor.

"You say you did nothing, but you..." Charlotte sat up slightly and stopped talking when Justin looked at her.

"What did I do?" he asked.

Justin, harboring some naughty intentions, stood up from his office chair and walked over to tease Charlotte.

Seeing this, Charlotte was about to make a quick escape, but Justin's movements were quicker and more direct, hooking her back into his embrace before she could flee.

"You didn't finish your sentence; why are you thinking of leaving?"

Justin held Charlotte from behind, resting his chin on her shoulder, his voice tender and affectionate.

"So, what did I do?"

"You do whatever you want," Charlotte muttered, feeling his warm breath tickling her ear and shrugging her shoulders because she was ticklish.

"Hm?" Justin picked up on the rising inflection of her words, "Miss Thompson, does this mean you agree to let me do whatever I want?"

"You're talking nonsense!"

Charlotte reached back and twisted Justin's hand on her waist, trying to push his arm away.

"You just said I could do what I want, and now you're going back on your word?"

Justin's hand started to mischievously wander over Charlotte's waist.

"Stop it..."

Charlotte's cheeks flushed red, but with her modest strength, she wasn't able to break free from Justin's hold.

"This isn't playing around; this is punishment for someone who goes back on their words."

As he spoke, Justin's fingers bent slightly and started tickling Charlotte's waist.

The back and waist were particularly sensitive areas for Charlotte, and Justin's intentional teasing made it unbearable for her. She curled up in his arms and giggled helplessly.

"Justin Battleson! Stop it..."

Charlotte laughed with her eyes curved in mirth and her cheeks tinted with an attractive blush.

Justin then pressed her down on the sofa, allowing Charlotte to catch her breath, finally safe from the tickling.

Chapter 1288: The Love between the Gentleman and His Lady

"Haha..."

Charlotte curled herself into a ball, with both hands protecting her stomach, her eyes slightly reddened, a sight that could not help but inspire feelings of tenderness.

Justin Battleson lowered his head to kiss Charlotte's brows and eyes, his movements gentle and affectionate.

"Childish."

Charlotte pushed Justin's cheek away with her hand, her fingertips playfully poking at his soft skin.

"It seems someone still hasn't learned their lesson."

Justin tilted his head slightly to catch Charlotte's fingertip in his mouth, not biting hard, yet it made Charlotte quickly withdraw her hand with a ticklish sensation.

"You just know how to bully me!" Charlotte looked up at the face of Justin, which was inches away from hers, and muttered under her breath.

"I couldn't bear to."

Justin's voice grew even deeper, as he gazed downwards, his eyes sliding from Charlotte's eyes to her brows and then finally resting on her bright red, juicy lips.

Justin's throat moved up and down, he propped himself up on both sides of Charlotte's body, slowly leaning closer.

Just as their lips were about to meet, Charlotte's cellphone lying on the table suddenly rang.

Startled, Charlotte raised her head unconsciously and bumped into Justin's forehead.

"Ouch."

Charlotte winced in pain, she pushed on Justin's chest to signal him to rise, and she climbed up from the couch and picked up the phone from the table to answer it.

"Wow, you two are really going all out showing off your love on the company's dime, making sure all the single dogs in the world don't have a good day, huh?"

The voice on the phone was none other than Zara Ward, teasingly reminding Charlotte of the scene that had just occurred in the live broadcast, which made Charlotte feel a bit embarrassed.

"You always make fun of me every single day," Charlotte couldn't help but retort.

"The outfits have all been finished, and Elijah Walker and I are so free now we've started brewing tea. If I don't tease you, what else can I do? Tell me, big-shot designer Charlotte, when do you plan to come over and check the final products? Didn't you say you would come right after the live broadcast? Why are you still lost in lovey-dovey land?"

After hearing Zara's words, Charlotte suddenly realized that she had indeed said she would go to Melissa Tanner's studio right after the interview to look at the final results but then completely forgot about it.

Charlotte gave a glare to Justin, the culprit sitting next to her, promised Zara that she would be there soon, and hurriedly prepared to head to Melissa Tanner's studio.

"I'm going to Melissa's place now."

Charlotte stood up and instructed Justin, but Justin looked at her with raised eyebrows and his voice began to sound forlorn.

"You're leaving so soon? I haven't had much time with you yet..."

Seeing this, Charlotte quickly stepped in front of Justin and left a kiss on his cheek.

But how could the big bad wolf let the little white rabbit go so easily once she approached willingly?

He hooked Charlotte's chin directly and captured her lips in a kiss, only letting her go after a long while, satisfied.

"Be careful," Justin said with a smile brimming on his face.

With her lips slightly reddened, Charlotte glared at Justin, but it was more coquettish than anything.

Then, she walked out of Justin's office.

The distance between Riley Group and Melissa Tanner's studio wasn't too far; Charlotte didn't take long to reach her destination by car.

As Charlotte arrived upstairs, just as Zara had said on the phone, she and Elijah Walker were indeed facing each other, savoring tea and playing chess.

Chapter 1289: Satisfaction with the Finished Product

This scene simply incarnates the two designers as reclusive masters of their craft.

"Finally decided to show up?"

Zara Ward teases Charlotte Thompson quite naturally as soon as she begins to speak.

"Stop your jabbering and hurry on to check the final product. If it's completely okay, we can send it to Mr. Carter at XTZ first."

Charlotte Thompson lightly hooks Zara Ward's arm.

Zara Ward looks at Charlotte Thompson with a beaming smile and then escorts her to the clothing storage area in the back.

Throughout the design period at Melissa Tanner's studio with Elijah Walker, Charlotte Thompson has made countless trips back and forth, effectively becoming the third participant in the design process, discussing iterations from the initial draft to the final version many times over.

Charlotte Thompson had a rough idea in her mind of how the final garments would look like, but when she actually saw them, she couldn't help but be stunned for a moment.

Among those few pieces of clothing, Charlotte Thompson even found herself unsure as to where to rest her gaze first.

"They are really amazing."

A smile forms on Charlotte Thompson's lips, and as she looks at Zara Ward and Elijah Walker, their eyes all shimmer with excitement in unison.

Charlotte Thompson turns around and bows deeply to Zara Ward and Elijah Walker.

"Thank you all for creating such perfect works."

Zara Ward and Elijah Walker both didn't expect Charlotte Thompson's sudden gesture, and both try to rush to support her in surprise.

"Every time you inspect the clothes you thank us – I'm practically getting calluses in my ears from it."

In front of Charlotte Thompson, Zara Ward is merely suppressing the joy in her words.

All three present know how much effort and hard work went into these few pieces of clothing, and they are all growing more eager to see the stunning debut of these designs.

"I'll get in touch with Mr. Carter at XTZ first. I believe they will be extremely satisfied with this design."

Charlotte Thompson breathes a sigh of relief and eagerly contacts XTZ.

While waiting for their reply, Charlotte Thompson again meticulously reviews the several finished design pieces inside and out.

"Elijah Walker, once you're back at the company, I'll make sure you get a promotion and a raise."

Charlotte Thompson turns her head and gives Elijah Walker a thumbs-up, expressing her appreciation for his work.

Elijah Walker somewhat embarrassingly scratches his head.

Then, Charlotte Thompson turns her gaze to Zara Ward, who is standing aside. But before Charlotte Thompson can speak, Zara Ward raises an eyebrow and watches her warily.

"You're not thinking of integrating our Melissa Tanner studio directly into Riley Group, are you?"

Hearing this, Charlotte Thompson blinks and asks, "What do you think about that, Miss Ward?"

Most people would jump at the chance to merge into a large company like the Riley Group, but Zara Ward doesn't hesitate to refuse.

"Of course, I wouldn't agree. My brand is niche, but I do whatever I want, that's my freedom. If I really joined Riley Group, who knows what it might become, plus, I'd be micromanaged every day—how uncomfortable that would be."

Zara Ward makes an 'X' with her hands in front of her.

"So, Miss Thompson, I'm definitely rejecting your integration offer."

But Charlotte Thompson smiles and arcs her brows, "Just kidding, I know how you feel."

Chapter 1290 Wedding Dress

"As for acquiring your studio into the Riley Group, I'm afraid I have no say in the matter. I'm just an ordinary fashion director with no authority in these decisions. Besides, how could I possibly let someone like you, a wonder of the design world, fall into Justin Battleson's hands cheaply?"

"The term 'wonder' doesn't suit me at all. The best description for me would be 'a rare treasure'."

Zara Ward, with her arms folded, looked at Charlotte Thompson and suddenly, as if something had just occurred to her, quickly walked to a nearby table and took down a measuring tape hanging on a mannequin.

"Charlotte, don't move, stand straight."

As she spoke, Zara started measuring Charlotte with the tape in her hands.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Charlotte looked at Zara confusedly, but despite what she said, she obediently allowed her to take measurements.

"Didn't we agree last time? I said I was going to make you a qipao."

Zara slightly lifted Charlotte's arm, her hands meticulously at work while her words seemed a bit nonchalant.

"Really?" Charlotte blinked her eyes in surprise, turning to look back at Zara.

"Why do I hear a hint of doubt in your tone, as if you think I'd deceive you?"

"Of course not, I'm really looking forward to the qipao you'll make for me," said Charlotte with a smile and pursed lips.

"What style and design would you like?" After measuring Charlotte's figure from the side, Zara gave her another look and asked.

"Style and design, huh..."

That question was a stumper. Charlotte thought about it earnestly with her eyes lifted, but still couldn't come up with an answer.

"I've seen the handmade qipaos in your studio, and I think every single one of them looks incredibly beautiful. I like different styles," said Charlotte, praising genuinely from her heart.

Charlotte herself was a designer and had no difficulty in making clothes, including qipaos.

But to achieve the exquisite beauty that Zara did, Charlotte would have to admit defeat.

Charlotte had previously mentioned to Zara that she wanted to learn some embroidery techniques, and Zara simply taught her a few. Charlotte ended up practicing them for quite a while.

Charlotte had always thought she had talent in making clothes, but it wasn't until she met Zara that she realized what a true genius was.

"How about... I make you a wedding dress?"

Suddenly, as if an idea had struck her, Zara snapped her fingers at Charlotte.

"Wedding dress?" Charlotte was completely taken aback by Zara's suggestion, her voice rising a few notches.

"I remember you and Justin Battleson haven't remarried yet, right? Wearing a wedding dress would be quite fitting," Zara said.

Zara had already moved to a table not far away, taking out a stack of papers from above it.

Her qipao, emblazoned with peacock tail feathers, fluttered and spread with her movements, shining dazzlingly beautiful today.

"Of course, the wedding dress wouldn't be a qipao—it would be that type of traditional Chinese bridal attire. I believe you'd look absolutely stunning in it," Zara commented.

"No, no," Charlotte immediately shook her head in refusal.

Surprised by Charlotte's direct rejection, Zara asked, "What, are you doubting my skills?"

"What are you talking about? I'm well aware of your skills. You couldn't find many in Druarus who are better than you," Charlotte obviously caught the tease in Zara's tone but still chose to explain seriously.

"A wedding dress is much more complicated to make than a qipao. Just a simple qipao for me will be fine."