

Spoiled 181

Chapter 181: The Woman That Night

Such a beautiful girl with such impressive abilities, it's like a blessed life handed down by heaven.

This is the online user's comment about Charlotte Thompson.

Due to this competition, Charlotte has drawn significant attention and gained a large fan base.

This move has also seemingly laid a foundation for Charlotte Thompson in the design industry of Druarus.

Justin Battleson is not in a hurry, he patiently waits for her reply.

He is fully confident that he can get her to agree.

"I'll take the honor, and I hope my abilities can satisfy you."

Charlotte Thompson thought for a moment before agreeing.

Her initial rejection was just to annoy Evelyn Curtis. She had another reason for joining Vanguard Jewelry.

In a rush, the person in charge only prepared a contract for the signing works and did not anticipate this.

Leading to an incredibly awkward situation.

Charlotte Thompson agreed to join Vanguard Jewelry as a Design Director, but there was no HR contract to sign.

At this time, Justin Battleson's assistant walked in with a contract.

He seemed like a savior at that moment.

It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision to sign her; he had already instructed his assistant to prepare a contract.

In front of millions of spectators and the media, Charlotte Thompson became a member of Vanguard Jewelry, serving as the Design Director.

After the recording was over, Charlotte went back to the dressing room.

The moment she closed the door, she let out a big sigh of relief.

Walking to her seat, she collapsed into the chair and looked at the ceiling in a daze.

God only knows how scared she was that Justin Battleson would recognize her. His face, which was strikingly similar to his son's, had completely thrown her off.

She agreed to join Vanguard Jewelry for her motives, specifically to get closer to him and uncover the truth about the past.

That night had been recurring in her dreams.

Even though she knew it wasn't Williams Charlie, the memory still haunted her like a nightmare.

She had to investigate everything; only the truth could put her mind at ease.

Did Justin Battleson know that she was the woman from that night?

Was the whole thing a scheme by Evelyn Curtis, or did Justin Battleson participate in it?

She had to find out everything.

"Sigh..."

Charlotte took a long, deep breath, returning from her memories to reality.

She felt exhausted for the first time in a while.

The intense shooting work had drained her physically and mentally. All she wanted now was to go home and sleep.

With the competition over, Charlotte no longer needed to stay here.

Anyway, she had achieved her goal of coming here.

Besides, it was chaotic here, to avoid unnecessary complications, it would be better to leave early.

An unexpected gain; the title of Design Director at Vanguard Jewelry. It was as if her hunt had achieved success without any effort.

Knock-knock, the door sounded, and upon Charlotte's allowance, it opened.

Coco walked in, a triumphant smile spread on her face: "Miss Thompson, congratulations! Are we leaving now?"

Charlotte nodded and said, "Pack up your things, there's nothing else going on here, we'll talk more when we get back."

"Miss Thompson, you're amazing, directly securing the offer of Design Director."

As she tidied up, Coco congratulated with a smile, she was genuinely happy, especially since she never expected that her employer was the designer she had always admired – Joy.

"It's okay; it's a pleasant surprise." Charlotte was also very pleased.

"By the way, when I start working at Vanguard Jewelry, you'll come with me and continue to be my assistant." she instructed.

"Really? That's great! Miss Thompson, I promise I'll do my best and not let you down!"

Coco beamed widely, looking so excited she could jump.

Seeing her happy face, Charlotte also revealed a satisfied smile.

Chapter 182: I am Justin's Fiancee

On the other side.

Seeing Charlotte being signed on as a design director, Evelyn Curtis nearly erupted on set, but was forcefully pulled back into the dressing room by Lucy.

"Charlotte, ah—"

As soon as the door closed, Evelyn Curtis exploded.

"Damn bitch! I won't let you have an easy time!"

She let out a furious roar, smashing everything in the dressing room.

She was even crazed enough to consider going out there with a knife to kill Charlotte and end it all.

Lucy was so scared her whole body shook, and she silently shrunk back in the corner, watching Evelyn Curtis smash things everywhere like a mad woman.

She didn't want to bring more trouble upon herself, so she could only remain silent and watch, waiting for Evelyn Curtis to regain her composure.

After venting her rage, Evelyn Curtis finally calmed down a bit, her chest rising and falling with the intensity of her anger.

"The bitch! Such a bitch! An omnipresent bitch!"

The smashable items in the room had already been destroyed, those remaining were all expensive items.

Evelyn Curtis barely restrained herself from toppling them all over.

Having gulped down a glass of cold water, she finally managed to rein in her chaos.

Seeing Evelyn no longer losing control, Lucy also stepped out from the corner, timidly tidying up the mess and carefully began, "Evelyn, calm down, let's think about a way to deal with Charlotte. Getting angry only hurts you."

Lucy always ended up calming Evelyn down, sometimes she would even bear the brunt if Evelyn was in a particularly bad mood.

This, however, was her job. Lucy had no other choice but to handle the responsibility of managing Evelyn's emotions since she needed the job to support her family.

Luckily, being Evelyn's assistant paid rather well, despite her suffering indignities others couldn't endure, she silently swallowed all her woes.

"Do you think I want to be angry? That damned bitch, becoming the design director!"

"Evelyn, she is just a contracted design director, in other words, just a small employee under Mr. Battleson. You are the one who stands beside Mr. Battleson, what are you afraid of?" Lucy couldn't understand why Evelyn was infuriated.

Lucy clearly understood Evelyn's standing with Justin, almost every request she made was carried out by Justin.

Charlotte had humiliated Evelyn today, that probably made her this furious, Lucy speculated.

Hearing Lucy's words, Evelyn finally came to her senses.

"Yes, you're right! I am the woman by Justin's side! I am Justin's fiancée. Charlotte is just a little designer feeling proud, what the hell!"

Years ago, she snatched Justin right from Sophie Allen, now she certainly would not let Charlotte steal Justin away!

In Justin's eyes, she was the woman by his side, she was his life-saving benefactor.

Justin was always ready to satisfy her, if she hated Charlotte, Justin could definitely eliminate Charlotte!

Thinking about this, Evelyn wasn't so angry anymore, her rage was significantly eased.

"You're smart as always, Lucy."

A smile spread across Evelyn's face, upon which Lucy heaved a sigh of relief.

She had dodged a bullet.

Lucy had tidied up the spic and span, throwing away the damaged items leaving no sign of the previous mess.

Clearly, she was adept at covering up these incidents.

Although Lucy's comfort had reassured her, Evelyn still wasn't satisfied and was determined to confront Charlotte with a warning.

She quickly dismissed Lucy with a few words.

Evelyn was thoroughly familiar with the layout of the dressing rooms and headed straight towards Charlotte's dressing room.

She had only taken a few steps before she spotted a familiar tall figure standing in the hallway.

It was Justin.

He was smoking, the dimly glowing flame outlining his sharp profile.

Chapter 183: Right and Wrong

Evelyn Curtis thought Justin Battleson was waiting for her there on purpose, which made her heart bloom with joy.

She let go of the frown on her face, adjusted her breath, hooked the corners of her mouth, and put on a sweet smile.

She hid her emotions so well that no trace of the tantrum she had thrown in the lounge was visible on her face.

She trotted up to him and affectionately hooked her arm around his.

Suddenly being clung to, Justin Battleson's face darkened a bit.

"Why are you smoking again? It's bad for your health, can you stop smoking for me, please?" Evelyn complained, her voice dripping with sweetness.

Justin moved away subtly without a word, his eyebrows involuntarily frowning.

He obviously had a certain degree of resistance to Evelyn's intimate advances.

He snuffed out the cigarette in his hand irritably, leading Evelyn to believe she had gotten through to him.

This small gesture filled Evelyn with delight, her heart flourishing with joy again.

Indeed, Justin still cared about her, otherwise he wouldn't have listened to her like this.

However, remembering that her chances to get close to Justin were only possible because of Sophie Allen's necklace, made her feel somewhat bitter.

What was more, now there was a Charlotte Thompson who resembled Sophie...

Was fate making a mockery of her?

At the signing earlier, Evelyn had noticed Justin's behavior towards Charlotte was clearly different from his interactions with everyone else.

This subtle difference triggered a sense of crisis within Evelyn.

The more she thought about it, the gloomier her expression became.

No, she had to try to tarnish Charlotte's image in Justin's mind.

Otherwise, once Charlotte entered Vanguard Jewelry and they started interacting frequently, how could she compete?

Entertaining these thoughts, Evelyn Curtis was filled with envy and resentment towards Charlotte Thompson.

She unclenched her fist that had been balled up at her side.

"Justin, I am almost ruined by that stylist. They gave me counterfeit clothes, now everyone online is cursing me," she said, her eyes welling up with tears.

If Charlotte saw this scene, she would definitely cheer.

Indeed, after acting in the entertainment industry for five years, Evelyn had learned a thing or two about performing.

Evelyn seemed to have subtly passed the blame onto the stylist in the conversation.

"I'll have someone bring some BK clothes for you later," said Justin in a deep voice.

He was not stingy when it came to material possessions. As long as Evelyn requested something, he would try to fulfill it.

They would often say that when a man is willing to spend money on a woman, it's because he cares.

Justin's behavior made Evelyn more convinced that he still had feelings for her.

"And that Charlotte, she keeps bullying me. Why are you still signing with her?"

Evelyn whined about Charlotte Thompson without realizing that the color of Justin Battleson's face had changed.

She confidently swayed his arm, showing off her soft and adorable demeanor.

If it were another man, they would undoubtedly be charmed by her act and would do everything they could to please her.

But the man in front of her was Justin Battleson.

He watched her play out her facades coolly, his face expressionless, like a machine.

He somehow felt agitated and found her insufferable.

If she hadn't provoked Charlotte in the first place, would Charlotte have retaliated?

He had familiarized himself well with the incident that had blown up online before coming here.

He knew very well who was right and who was wrong.

Chapter 184: Utter Chaos

"She has the ability; we can't let her join another company and become a competitor." Justin Battleson uttered nonchalantly, parting his thin lips slightly.

However, the fact was that he always felt that Charlotte Thompson and Sophie Allen had some untold connections.

"Finish up and leave first, I still have matters to handle," Justin stated, his words clearly communicating an intention to dismiss.

He now only wanted to see Charlotte Thompson again to discern her identity.

There was no possibility of two people looking so similar in the world, he preferred to believe that Charlotte Thompson and Sophie Allen were the same person rather than it being a coincidence.

People's appearances could change, especially Charlotte Thompson and Sophie Allen, their faces were almost mirror images of each other.

The day of the auction, Justin felt an uncanny familiarity as soon as he saw Charlotte Thompson.

Even though her demeanour had dramatically changed since the last time.

While signing the contract on stage earlier, he noticed all of Charlotte Thompson's small movements.

Having observed for a while, he believed the person in front of him was perhaps Sophie Allen.

When this thought first struck him, there was a sudden jolt in Justin's heart.

He couldn't suppress his thoughts bubbling over.

On the stage, his hawk-like eyes could not tear away from her face.

However, until he was sure of Charlotte Thompson's identity, he wouldn't make any move, including questioning.

He endured until he stepped off the stage, barely managing to escape from the throng of journalists to the backstage dressing room, only to run into Evelyn Curtis.

Right now, he just wanted to understand the transition from Sophie Allen to Charlotte Thompson over these five years.

Yet, even when he hinted at dismissal, the person in front of him kept incessantly persisting.

"Come back home with me, I'm so tired," Evelyn Curtis didn't want to miss any opportunity to be with him, she pleaded in a soft voice.

Evelyn Curtis's face was filled with fatigue, making her look pitiful; it indeed seemed like she was exhausted.

What Justin didn't know was that she had been sitting all this while without much movement.

Her tiredness stemmed from a complete outburst she had in the dressing room.

Justin remained silent, just casting a cold glance at Evelyn Curtis.

With just one look, Evelyn Curtis felt a wave of emptiness in her heart.

A sudden thought crossed her mind, was Justin going to look for Charlotte Thompson?

As soon as the thought emerged, Evelyn Curtis was panic-stricken.

No!

She couldn't stand by and watch this happen!

"Or, you go deal with your matters, and I'll accompany you, and we can go back together later, okay?"
Under worrying duress, Evelyn chose to back down.

Given Charlotte Thompson's striking resemblance to Sophie Allen, it was unavoidable that Justin wouldn't have thoughts about her.

She was more afraid that Charlotte Thompson would try to steal Justin from her.

Somehow, a woman's sixth sense always seemed perfectly accurate.

An inexplicable panic arose in her heart; she inexplicably recognized Charlotte Thompson as her love rival.

So what if Ashton designer Joy was there?

Justin belonged to her, no one else could snatch him away.

Evelyn's hand clenched tighter and tighter, completely forgetting that she was still holding on to Justin's arm. Her eyes were radiating a terrifying fierceness.

Justin extracted his arm from her clutches silently, pulling Evelyn back to reality from her panicked state.

Lowering her gaze, she saw a few crescent moon-like imprints on Justin's muscular arm.

Those were inadvertently left by her.

"Justin, I'm sorry, I didn't realize earlier..." A hint of panic flashed through Evelyn's eyes, she bit her lower lip and apologized regretfully, remorse etched on her face.

Her long, thick eyelashes were trembling constantly, reflecting their owner's sense of panic.

Evelyn wanted to explain but didn't know where to start.

Was she supposed to confess that she was worried Charlotte Thompson would steal him from her?

Evelyn wasn't foolish enough to do that.

The two of them stood arguing in the corridor, attracting the attention of many passing by, with inquisitive eyes continuing to cast at them.

Chapter 185: Miss Curtis Wouldn't Mind, Right?

However, seeing that it was Justin Battleson, his chilly demeanor made the gazes of those people consciously retreat.

Nobody even dared to greet him, they lowered their heads and quickly left without making eye contact.

Just at that moment, Charlotte Thompson had packed her things and opened the door to the lounge, pulling her suitcase behind her.

The picture froze at this moment, and Evelyn Curtis's low-voiced and obsequious behavior was truly ridiculous.

It seemed that over the years, Evelyn Curtis was not as successful as the outside world thought.

This submissive demeanor reminded Charlotte of the time when she was part-time, Evelyn Curtis was her supervisor, and she was always polite and eager to please her customers.

Charlotte stood confidently in front of the two, her gaze traveled from top to bottom, scanning the other two.

The three confronted each other in silence, with a strange atmosphere spreading in the narrow corridor.

"What a coincidence, Mr. Battleson, Miss Curtis." Charlotte greeted them calmly, with a slight smile.

Charlotte had replaced her extravagant dress with a relaxed casual outfit, making her look even more vibrant and lively without the restrictions.

Her small face without makeup was beautiful with a healthy glow, her naturally reddish lips were charming.

Her face was pristine without a single flaw.

She was plainly appealing, with delicate features. She was not stunning, but there was an indescribable pleasing quality about her.

Charlotte looked at them with a smiling face, treating them as if they had just met, her politeness combined with a sense of distance, but without awkwardness.

She was not as domineering as she was on stage, and at this moment, Charlotte was more like Sophie Allen in temperament.

The only difference was Charlotte's self-confidence and cheerfulness.

This was a quality never seen in Sophie Allen.

Evelyn Curtis and Justin Battleson both stood still, their movements frozen, their gaze fixed on Charlotte.

Evelyn Curtis's face was becoming harder to look at, and she felt as if Sophie Allen had come back for revenge.

Thinking of this, she felt guilty, and her heart started to beat faster.

After all, it was she who had stolen Sophie Allen's necklace, which gave her the opportunity to get close to Justin Battleson and lead a life of luxury for the past five years.

If Sophie Allen suddenly returned, how would she handle herself?

Coming back to his senses, Justin Battleson withdrew his gaze from her face.

After all, staring at a girl for too long is impolite.

"Can we have a private talk?" Without paying attention to the sudden change in Evelyn Curtis's face, Justin Battleson looked at Charlotte and asked quietly.

Tired in both mind and body, all Charlotte wanted was to roll into her warm bed and sleep. She wasn't very interested in his sudden invitation.

She was about to decline and propose to do it another day when she caught sight of Evelyn Curtis's pale face out of the corner of her eye.

This is interesting, why should she choose another day?

Charlotte thought to herself, feeling a hint of joy.

Then looked at Evelyn Curtis: "Miss Curtis, you won't mind, right?"

This seemingly unintentional question was meant to provoke Evelyn Curtis.

Charlotte's eyes met Evelyn Curtis's briefly before she hooked her lips into a slight smile.

Her sincere attitude made it seem like she was really asking for her opinion.

Especially the way Charlotte acted as though she could keep a distance from Justin Battleson, made Evelyn Curtis even more uncomfortable.

Already very dissatisfied with Charlotte, now she acted so arrogantly.

Evelyn Curtis was itching with hatred, wishing she could go over and scratch her.

"It's me who wants to talk to you, so what has it to do with her?" Justin Battleson interjected at the right moment, seemingly distancing himself from Evelyn Curtis.

The tone of his voice lingered in her ear, eyes distanced, and combined with his gloomy expression, Evelyn Curtis shivered.

There was an indescribable discomfort and jealousy in her heart.

Chapter 186: How Could You Do This to Me?

Evelyn Curtis thought this was their first meeting today.

But to her surprise, the always aloof Justin Battleson, unexpectedly let his guard down in front of Charlotte Thompson.

If the two of them talked for a bit longer, would there still be a place for her, Evelyn Curtis?

"Why can't we speak here, why do you need to talk alone?" Evelyn Curtis' eyes were burning red with jealousy.

She desperately held Justin Battleson's arm, not allowing them to leave alone.

Justin Battleson mercilessly brushed off her hand from his arm.

Maybe it was because he was in front of Charlotte Thompson that he subconsciously didn't want her to misunderstand.

Evelyn Curtis was stunned, looking at his action, her face full of disbelief.

Was he in such a hurry to sever ties with her?

"Watch your status, I want to talk about Vanguard Jewelry with her, don't cause trouble."

Each word spat out from Justin Battleson's thin lips felt like a sharp knife, stabbing directly at Evelyn Curtis' heart.

Over and over, the pain was excruciating, blood flowed like a river.

His ruthless words smashed into her heart, laden with warnings towards her.

For the first time, Evelyn Curtis felt so helpless, stepping back again and again.

Previously, Justin Battleson had been cold towards her, but never treated her like this in front of others.

Is it that after Sophie Allen left, another Charlotte comes to oppose her?

Intense hatred erupted, Evelyn Curtis's eyes filled with blood, glaring bitterly at Charlotte Thompson.

Ironically, Evelyn Curtis actually hoped to hear rejection from her lips.

But Charlotte Thompson just quietly crossed her arms, adopting an "it doesn't concern me" attitude, smiling at the scene in front of her.

She didn't say a word, but that smile stung Evelyn Curtis's eyes.

"Justin, how could you treat me like this?" Evelyn Curtis lowered her gaze, her eyes full of tears when she opened them again.

She always thought that any man can resist a woman reduced to tears.

Unfortunately, Justin Battleson was not moved by her tactic.

A woman who always cries is rather repulsive to him.

He never found her so annoying before.

Continually entangled like this, did she really consider herself his woman?

After one last glance at Evelyn Curtis, Justin Battleson's eyes were full of disappointment with her.

After so many years of compensation, it should be enough to make up for her, allowing her to act recklessly under the name of his woman is a thing of the past now.

"It's just a matter of business, you should go home first." Justin Battleson replied coldly, and after these words, he walked towards Charlotte Thompson.

To Justin Battleson, Evelyn Curtis was just a person he once encountered and felt responsible for.

But that one time was just an accident, he was framed and had no choice but to defile her, he felt guilty and was very generous in terms of resources and money.

As long as she said she was short of money or wanted some resources, Justin would have someone arrange it for her.

But this does not mean she can become arrogant, deep down, Justin Battleson had no feelings for her.

The outside world was talking about how Evelyn Curtis was favored, being able to remain firmly by Justin Battleson's side, becoming his bedfellow.

But only they knew that since that accident he hadn't touched her again, they had no romantic relationship.

That he had been polite and respectful to her these past five years means he has fulfilled his duty as a gentleman.

Evelyn Curtis felt even more unsure, after all, she was not the one who had a one-night stand with him at that time, she was just an imposter.

The moment Justin Battleson walked passed her towards Charlotte Thompson, Evelyn Curtis was like a person who had lost her support.

She stared blankly as he walked away, wanting to reach out and hold him, but it was as if she didn't have the strength to do so.

Chapter 187: A Private Talk

"Can I talk to you privately?" Justin Battleson repeated the question, word for word, addressing Charlotte Thompson.

Charlotte found it difficult to understand him.

Wasn't it widely known that Justin Battleson pampered Evelyn Curtis?

Not only did he bestow abundant resources upon her, splurging on expensive gifts without a second thought, now what was this all about?

Was this some sort of show?

This question placed a large question mark in Charlotte's mind.

Charlotte suppressed all her emotions, glanced at Justin, and softly spoke, "If Miss Curtis has no objections, I certainly have none."

Having said that, she smiled with elegance and politeness.

Before she left, Charlotte didn't forget to throw a glance at Evelyn Curtis. In Evelyn's eyes, this was a silent challenge.

The two walked out shoulder to shoulder, their shadows elongated by the gentle setting sun.

Together, they made an exceptionally attractive pair.

After being sharply snubbed by Justin Battleson, regardless of her inner frenzy, all Evelyn could do was watch them walk away.

She stood in place, seething with rage, without any courage to go forward and stop them.

She was very clear about her significance in Justin's heart and feared causing his dissatisfaction once again.

From now on, she would have to rely on Justin for survival.

In the past five years, although she hadn't received his heart or his person, a wealth of resources and money were generously presented to her.

Everyone around her admired her, using the phrase "as bright as the moon surrounded by stars" was not far off point.

Evelyn could not imagine how difficult it would be in the entertainment industry without Justin's protection, depending solely on her own strength.

Charlotte and Justin leisurely walked away.

Finally, they disappeared from Evelyn's sight at a turn of the corner.

Unsure of the content of her impending conversation with Justin, Charlotte quietly followed behind him.

Looking at his firm and tall frame, Charlotte was often reminded of that night.

To avoid getting lost in her thoughts, she resorted to keeping her gaze lowered as she walked.

After a while, Justin suddenly halted. Turning around, he eyed up Charlotte's slightly peculiar way of walking.

Charlotte, unable to stop in time, ended up walking straight into his embrace, knocking her head in the process.

Charlotte's eyes met a pair of leather shoes.

Taken aback, she instinctively rubbed her aching forehead.

Was this chest made of stone? It was so hard.

Watching her stunned reaction, Justin couldn't help but let a small hidden smile slip out.

For a moment, he seemed to be transported back in time.

"Mr. Battleson, why did you suddenly stop?" Charlotte asked, a hint of annoyance in her eyes as she glared at him.

She rubbed her forehead, her fingers running through her hair continually.

Charlotte, unaware of herself, began to grumble, her mouth opening and closing, becoming more and more enticing.

Aware that his thoughts were starting to wander, Justin coughed lightly into his fist to cover up his embarrassment.

The smile on his face also disappeared.

In an instant, the smile was gone without a trace.

Justin was now restored to his usual aloof image in the eyes of others.

"Miss Thompson, have you had dinner?" Justin's voice was cold, but it held a polite undertone.

This was unprecedented. When had Justin ever been so courteous to anyone?

Somehow, seeing her face stirred up emotions within Justin, preventing him from being indifferent.

While Charlotte was rather puzzled.

Had Justin gone crazy after not seeing her for five years?

She had been participating in the competition and signing contracts all afternoon. When would she have had time for dinner?

Chapter 188: May I Have the Honor

"No, why do you ask?" Charlotte Thompson scornfully muttered to herself while automatically responding.

However, the next second, she regretted it.

Calling other people dumb, the real fool was her, Charlotte Thompson!

Justin Battleson clearly wanted to invite her for a meal, and she effectively walked right into it.

She really wanted to bite off her own tongue in regret.

But the words had already left her mouth; she couldn't take them back.

"I wonder if I have the honor of inviting Miss Thompson for a meal." The timely invitation didn't make anyone feel discomfort.

Just as Charlotte suspected, she fell into his trap and regretted it.

"I have some questions for you and thought you might be hungry... Miss Thompson, would you do me the honor?"

Justin Battleson again clarified he had no other intentions, which left Charlotte no grounds to refuse.

How many people were lining up to invite the big shot before her to a meal and get his favor!

Facing his repeated invitations, wouldn't it be inappropriate for Charlotte Thompson to disagree?

"Well, thank you for your invitation," Charlotte Thompson graciously replied, leaving no room for criticism.

Soon, the driver brought the car around.

Justin Battleson opened the car door for Charlotte, gesturing for her to enter.

Charlotte reluctantly got into the passenger seat of Justin's car, fastened her seat belt, and steeled herself to avoid any further slips of the tongue.

They left the filming site.

Suddenly, it hit Charlotte that Justin Battleson was actually driving himself.

Inside the car, Charlotte Thompson wasn't having such a great time.

In the confined space, she could clearly sense every breath the other person took.

Both of them synchronously remained silent.

Soon, the eerie atmosphere filled the car.

In an attempt to mask the awkwardness, Charlotte silently turned her head to gaze out the window.

"I heard you're Ashton's top designer, Joy, is that right?" Justin Battleson was the first to break the silence.

However, this question was a bit awkward. After this competition, most people in the design circle knew about Charlotte's hidden identity.

Asking such a question made Justin Battleson seem not very smart, even a bit foolish.

The man labeled "fool" by Charlotte Thompson was oblivious and calmly focused on driving.

"Hmm..." Brushing aside her turbulent thoughts, Charlotte didn't let her identity make her arrogant.

After getting her response, Justin didn't speak again, concentrating on driving, and soon, silence fell upon them both again.

At a traffic light, the car stopped in the middle of the road, finally giving Justin a chance to look at Charlotte.

Charlotte was looking at the scenery outside the window, oblivious that his gaze had focused on her.

Her familiar side profile caught Justin's eyes. Her petite lips pressed lightly together; she seemed deep in thought, but it wasn't clear what was bothering her.

"Why did you give up your promising future in Ashton to return to develop in Druarus?" Justin ventured to ask that question.

He increasingly felt Sophie Allen and Charlotte Thompson were the same person.

Not only did they look exactly the same, but even their small gestures and facial expressions when thinking were almost identical.

He just noticed Charlotte absentmindedly picking at her fingernails, which was a habit Sophie had when she zoned out.

The sudden question startled Charlotte, and she instinctively turned to look in the direction of the voice.

That glance collided directly with Justin's deep eyes.

Realizing the question Justin had asked, Charlotte immediately became cautious, trying to figure out the intent behind his words.

Chapter 189: She Was Deeply Affected

"Perhaps returning to one's roots is always necessary. Maybe you could have better opportunities in Druarus?"

Charlotte Thompson gave a smile and replied him calmly, but in reality, her heart was in turmoil.

No one knew she came back to uncover the truth of what happened years ago, a matter that had haunted her relentlessly for five years.

Many nights, she jolted awake from sleep, panting heavily and tears streaming down her face.

The memory of that night she was violated was etched in her mind, causing a pang in her heart each time it surfaced.

At first, the sight of her son would send her into a quiet despair.

But eventually, with the children by her side every single day, she slowly extricated herself from the psychological trauma.

She was grateful to have such obedient and adorable children to keep her company.

The persistent honking from the car behind her pulled her out of her reverie, leaving her staring blankly at the road ahead for a while.

The traffic light had already turned green without her noticing.

Justin Battleson had been observing Charlotte's facial expression and didn't notice it either.

The phrase "returning to one's roots" made Justin frown, suggesting she was originally from Druarus.

However, the information he found stated that she was from Ashton and had never been to Druarus.

The car behind him honked impatiently, urging him to move.

Shifting his gaze back to the road, Justin pressed on the gas pedal and drove across the street, while Charlotte was still lost in thought.

After a short drive of about ten minutes, they finally stopped in front of a lavishly decorated facade.

"You get off the car first and wait for me. I'll go park the car." Justin leaned in to unbuckle her seatbelt.

His sudden encroachment in the cramped space threw Charlotte into a panic.

The second her seatbelt was released, she anxiously exited the vehicle.

As if she was one step away from being devoured by Justin.

Unaware of her unusual behaviour, Justin continued to the parking lot.

Left alone at the entrance, Charlotte was regretting her actions, worried that she might have aroused his suspicion.

Didn't she remind herself to stay focused? How could she make such a mistake?

It's all because of the deep impact of that incident.

Charlotte slapped her own cheek, using this method to wake herself up, so as not to repeat the same mistake.

By the time Justin returned, Charlotte had regained her composure. She was holding her handbag and patiently waiting.

"I kept you waiting. Let's head in," he said, opening the door for her like a gentleman.

The waiter immediately came over to greet him. Justin was a regular here and had been identified as a priority customer.

"Mr. Battleson, you're here. Would you like your usual private room?" The waiter inquired as he took their coats.

With his nod of approval, the waiter led the way.

It was only then that Charlotte noticed the quiet and serene environment. The design was impeccable and you could tell a lot of effort had been put into it.

Being a designer herself, Charlotte had a habit of observing designs wherever she went, and she was no exception.

Although architectural design was different from jewelry and fashion design, they ultimately belonged to the same family. It was always a good idea to have a closer look.

At the same time, Charlotte realized that this was the highly-raved gourmet restaurant on the internet.

It was always crowded every day, with people queuing from morning till night for a reservation. If you come late, they would have run out of seats.

Plus, they didn't take online reservations. Many people queued just to have a meal.

Yet, Justin had entered so easily with his own private room.

Of course, he was Justin Battleson. With his wealth and power, who in Qiver City, Druarus didn't know him?

In his presence, all rules would give way.

Chapter 190: Acting Skills

They went to the private room and took their seats.

The room was exquisite and elegant, with a strong traditional aesthetic. Charlotte Thompson looked around and felt very comfortable.

What a nice place, she thought. Ashton certainly didn't have such unique private dining rooms.

"Mr. Battleson, here is the menu. Please order," said the waiter, offering the menu humbly.

Justin took the menu and handed it to Charlotte, saying casually, "Order whatever you like, don't be shy."

Well, when it came to food, Charlotte Thompson had always been straight forward.

Charlotte easily took the menu and began to leaf through it. The dishes were varied and eye-catching—many of which she enjoyed.

However, an idea suddenly popped into her mind, and she repressed the impulse she'd had.

Several dish names burst from her mouth, and the more she said, the deeper Justin frowned.

All of the dishes she ordered were ones Sophie Allen hated, including a fennel pork dish.

Charlotte recalled that Sophie Allen absolutely detested the smell of fennel.

Could it be that she truly wasn't Sophie Allen? She just looked similar?

Catching Justin's confusion out of the corner of her eye, Charlotte couldn't help but smile.

Heh, her plan had worked.

Charlotte had deliberately ordered these dishes to throw Justin off.

After all, she hadn't been able to find out anything she wanted to know so far.

At present, she had no intention of revealing her plan.

"I've made my choices." Charlotte was both generous and elegant. She smiled slightly and gently pushed the menu back towards him.

Watching Justin's moment of hesitation, Charlotte couldn't help but feel content, silently giving herself a mental thumbs-up for her cunning.

"The usual," Justin said, without looking at the menu, and instead returned it to the waiter.

Charlotte closely gripped her water cup. Despite her previous cunning, she still felt a touch nervous.

To hide her nervousness and embarrassment, she had already taken several sips of water.

It seemed her cup was almost empty.

"You're quite thirsty?" Justin noticed and asked.

Setting down her cup, Charlotte responded with a smile, "I was a little bit, but not anymore."

That was the extent of their brief conversation and there was an awkward silence between them.

Charlotte felt so uncomfortable she was itching to pick at her hand, but she held in her urge because Justin was before her.

Luckily, the dishes arrived quickly. The first came about ten minutes later.

Few more followed on its heels.

Before she knew it, all their dishes had arrived.

Seeing the full spread of dishes she disliked before her, Charlotte couldn't help feeling apprehensive.

She started to regret trying to prove to him that she wasn't Sophie Allen in this way.

It was truly outrageous.

"Do you not like it? Why aren't you eating?" Justin noticed her expression and asked, teasing her.

Faced with his prodding, Charlotte could only start picking up her utensils. After mentally bracing herself for a while, she finally started digging into the unsightly dishes.

The second she took a bite, her face scrunched up as if she was eating dung.

But she had to, she had to force a smile at Justin.

It tasted as if she was eating wax. Charlotte swallowed most of the food barely chewed.

Looks like hoping for a good meal was too much to ask for.

"I've heard that this restaurant has really good food, but I just haven't had the time to come. Today, I was fortunate to have the chance to dine with Mr. Battleson."

Lying so blatantly made her twitch involuntarily.

To not arouse his suspicion, Charlotte still tried to act as if the food was delicious.

With such acting skills, she could probably compete with Evelyn Curtis.