

Spoiled 721

Chapter 721: The Immortal's Leap

Night.

Ryan Richard was sitting on the sofa when he heard the sound of keys unlocking from the entrance hall.

"You filmed a video and used it to blackmail the director and producer of the film crew?"

Emily Allen dumped her bag onto the sofa, her beautiful eyes full of coldness as she looked at Ryan Richard.

"Does this concern you more than your own scandal being exposed?"

Ryan Richard sneered at her, noticing the impatience on her face.

Emily Allen's eyebrows knitted slightly, she extended her fair hand towards Ryan Richard. "This video concerns me, you should give me half."

With this, he blackmailed all the directors and producers involved.

In less than half a day, he got no less than tens of millions!

"Emily Allen, do you have no shame!" Ryan Richard grabbed her wrist tightly.

"Let go!" Emily Allen looked at her slightly reddened wrist, twisting her arm in pain.

"You bitch, you cheated behind my back, insulted me, I must be out of my mind to give you any money!"

Ryan Richard grabbed Emily Allen's hair, flinging her onto the sofa.

The veins in his neck bulged, his eyes bloodshot.

Emily Allen's cold sneer was more pronounced, looking unconcerned about Ryan Richard's actions.

"What, I'm not breaking any law by fooling around behind your back. But murder, that is illegal!"

Ever since she discovered that Ryan Richard had obtained the video of her with someone else, she no longer harbored any hope of living peacefully with him.

If they were to fall out completely, then she would make a total mess of it!

"You think I won't dare?" Ryan Richard grabbed Emily Allen by the neck.

"You shameless creature, even if I strangle you, it would be a service to the world!"

Emily Allen kicked him hard.

Ryan Richard hadn't expected her to pull a stunt like that, he fell to the ground in pain.

Emily Allen got up from the sofa, smoothing her messy hair and kicked Ryan Richard, spitting at him.

"I think, crippling you for life would truly be a service to the world!"

She picked up her bag and left, slamming the door loudly on her way out.

The moment she stepped out, her phone, which was in the bag, rang.

She picked it up, her voice shifting into a sweet tone: "Hello, director, why are you calling me now?"

"Emily Allen, I didn't expect you to play tricks. You've really stepped on my toes!"

The harsh voice left Emily Allen startled.

"No, director, it's just a misunderstanding!"

As she tried to explain, she was rudely cut off by the director: "Emily Allen, do you think you're that important? From today onwards, you will no longer exist in this industry!"

Then there was the sound of the line being cut off.

Emily Allen was stunned, she quickly called her agent, only to be told through sobs.

All her gigs had been cancelled, many people clearly stated they won't work with her.

She was essentially blacklisted!

Emily Allen looked in shock as all her posters were taken down from the internet.

She was anxious but helpless!

After all, the directors and producers Emily Allen had offended were all heavyweights in the industry, very few would dare to oppose them.

But every cloud has a silver lining, her agent eventually made contact with a bigwig in the film industry.

They had a film in the making and needed a supporting actress.

The agent hurriedly told Emily Allen to meet the fifty-year-old bigwig privately.

Emily Allen looked at the fat and greasy man, suppressing her discomfort and plastered a smile on her face.

Every trick she knew was employed that night.

The next day, the middle-aged bigwig half-naked on the bed, squinting at Emily Allen getting dressed, finally agreed to give her the gig.

Chapter 722: Help Me Blend the Fragrance

When their memories were all visited, Ryan Richard looked at Charlotte Thompson as she fell into the rhythm of reliving their past. The distant look on her face was no more.

Believing the moment to be opportune, he seized the opportunity to hold Charlotte's hand tightly.

"It was my fault back then, but I have paid the price. Emily Allen betrayed me, so Sophie, can we...?"

However, looking at the naïve expression on Ryan's face, Charlotte could only feel revulsion.

Without hesitation, she shoved him away. "Whatever retribution you've met, what has that got to do with me! That is your punishment!"

Charlotte's cold demeanor struck Ryan deeply. He remembered Sophie as a different person, a little girl who could only cry when she knew she was betrayed.

But that did not deter him from seeking her out. "It's okay, Sophie, it's okay if you still hate me."

Ryan forced a smile.

"Security, take him away!"

Charlotte called out. She no longer had the time to deal with him.

The security guard was polite, only gesturing for Ryan to leave. "Sir, please leave."

"I can walk myself out."

To retain his dignity, Ryan shot the security guard an angry glance before shifting his gaze back to Charlotte.

"Sophie, will you forgive me? Sophie, I've realized my mistake!" Ryan cried out loud as he trailed after her.

It felt like a century for Charlotte to walk the short distance. Were it not for Coco's support, she would have been unable to stand on her own feet.

Thinking that Ryan would finally distance himself after being intimidated by the security guard, she gathered herself up to mask her agitation. She knew that what was in the past should stay in the past, and it should not disrupt her life anymore.

The passing crowd stopped and wondered why Ryan was calling Charlotte 'Sophie'.

Charlotte could only quicken her steps, even though she knew that she couldn't solve some issues simply by avoiding them.

Just as she least expected it, Ryan broke away from the security guard and fell to his knees before her.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I was wrong. Sophie, will you forgive me?"

As soon as he grabbed his shirt, Coco immediately tried to pull him away. The crowd of onlookers grew bigger and bigger. Worried about affecting others, Charlotte finally snapped back at him.

"You come with me."

She led the man to the fire exit. Unhesitant, Charlotte shoved him hard onto the ground.

"Ryan Richard, what exactly do you want?"

Seeing Charlotte's anger, Ryan knew that he was finally getting to her. He abandoned all pretenses. Slowly, he rose to his feet and approached Charlotte.

She instinctively stepped back, and this gave Ryan a sense of triumph. Dusting his hands, he bore a malicious grin on his face, just as revolting as he was in the past.

He showed a high-five hand gesture. "Five million, and, you have to help me create a fragrance, plan the perfume until it officially launches."

Charlotte found it laughable.

Ryan Richard was simply shameless, daring to imagine that he could extort such a huge sum from her.

She remembered that back then, Ryan Richard and Emily Allen had kept their relationship a secret to use her to create a fragrance, deceiving her into planning the perfume series for Richard Corporation.

However, because of Ryan and Emily's betrayal, coupled with her marriage to Justin Battleson of Windflower Garden, she managed to regain the perfume planning scheme from Richard Corporation with his help, hence preventing their further development in the perfume industry.

Only when Ryan expressed his motives did Charlotte fully understand from the beginning to end, he had been despicably the same.

Seeing Charlotte hesitate, Ryan was hopeful. "So what do you say? Is it okay, Sophie?"

Charlotte scoffed, "You're crazy. Why not rob? That way would have been quicker!"

Ignoring Ryan's change in expression, Charlotte turned and left, leaving behind only a sentence: "By the way, I'm not your Sophie, and I don't know how to design fragrances. Stop dreaming!"

Chapter 723: You All Deserve It!

"Coco, let's go."

Before they could leave, Ryan Richard rushed to catch up with them. It seemed his preparation for this meeting wasn't comprehensive. After Charlotte Thompson's sarcasm, he seemed ready to accept defeat.

"Sophie Allen, you cannot leave, you owe me an explanation."

Looking at the man before her with a desperate demeanor and eyes full of longing, Charlotte suddenly felt a pang of pity. She wanted to hear about how miserably he had lived these past few years, just to amuse herself.

Embracing Coco, she reassured her that everything was alright. Then with an ironic gaze, she turned to Ryan, "Explanation? What do I owe you?"

She found it amusing. Her youth, her time, her love, and her trust, she once gave it all to the man standing in front of her unreservedly.

But what did she receive in return?

His and Emily Allen's blatant betrayal, nauseatingly absurd.

And now, he dared to unashamedly appear in front of her, presuming to demand her forgiveness and an explanation?

She really couldn't believe anything could be more preposterous than this.

Ryan firmly caught hold of her hand, "When you suddenly disappeared, the perfume project could not be handed over, do you know how much pressure I was under..."

Ryan never really understood the perfume business; the Richard Corporation didn't have the resources to hire a top perfumer. He solely depended on Charlotte for everything, hoping that with her help, he could establish a firm hold in the Richard Corporation and lead it to new heights.

However, not only did the plan fail, but Richard Corporation was also on the brink of bankruptcy due to poor management. He was now desperate to overcome his current predicament, which was why he set his sight on Charlotte.

At that time, the Richard Corporation was being bombarded daily with calls from creditors. Ryan and his father were drowned in the shareholders' abuse, pressure from banks, and demands from all kinds of

partners for their debts. Ryan was almost driven mad in his office, his phone continuously ringing, a pile of documents that needed to be reprocessed... all the pressure almost suffocating him.

At that time, he desperately needed to implement Charlotte's project plan, kickstart the new perfume project. However, he continuously dialed Sophie Allen's number on his phone.

"Answer your phone Sophie! Answer your phone!"

But no matter how many calls he made, Sophie Allen never returned.

Later, Sophie Allen's student information at Emperor University was also cancelled, and everyone believed Sophie Allen was dead.

Without Sophie Allen, Richard Corporation couldn't use Sophie Allen's hard work. They even encountered a commercial blow, leaving them barely surviving till today, on the verge of bankruptcy.

At that time, Ryan, in a foul mood, got drunk in a bar and ended up getting in a car accident.

He has tried other jobs over the years, but with his abilities and willpower, he has not been successful at anything.

Until now, when he came looking for Charlotte Thompson.

After hearing his story, Charlotte sneered. Surprisingly, the story was quite compelling but it did nothing to evoke any sympathy from her.

Ryan spoke passionately, the subtle shifts in his emotional state were apparent on his face, depicting the difficulties he faced over the years. However, none of these could stir any feelings within Charlotte.

"Get lost!"

Charlotte spoke again, completely unwilling to see this man.

It seemed as if seeing him for even a second longer would make her throw up the food she had consumed.

She tried to leave with Coco but Ryan, with no self-respect left, clung to her legs and made her uncomfortable in public.

Even as the man at her feet continued to state his woes as if howling like a dog, she could only feel a sense of revulsion, "Ryan Richard, you deserved it! You all deserved it!"

Coco tried to help her by pushing the man away, but the man was stubbornly terrifying.

Chapter 724 Threat

Seeing that pleading achieved nothing, Ryan Richard decided to reveal his true, ugly colors, ready for a head-on confrontation with Charlotte Thompson.

"Indeed, I deserve it. However, don't blame me for being heartless if you choose this path. I gave you a chance."

Ryan Richard rubbed his hands together in glee, his vile smirk perfectly suited his face.

Charlotte could not help but let out a cold laugh, realizing she was understanding him less and less.

Thinking about it later, she realized she never truly knew him after all.

The man leaned closer, whispering into her ear: "Justin Battleson doesn't know about your past, does he?"

The repulsive scent of his personality made Charlotte shudder, but she remained silent.

However, her silence mistakenly led Ryan to believe she was guilty, which emboldened him to provoke her further: "What if I spill all your secrets and paint myself as a heartbroken ex-lover? I bet numerous television stations would love to interview me. Do you think I'd be poor then?"

With that, the man burst into a hearty laugh, causing Charlotte's heart to ache.

Despite this, she did not expose him and just quietly watched Ryan's performance.

Coco wanted to intervene, but Charlotte stopped her. She was intrigued to see how much drama Ryan could create.

Ryan, assuming his threat was working, confidently hovered around Charlotte.

"If you hadn't married Justin in Emily Allen's place back then, you wouldn't be leading such a luxurious life now. Actually, you're quite lucky, having given birth to several kids for him. Your life must be pretty comfortable. But if he knew about all this, what would happen..."

Ryan seemed lost in his fantasy, assuming Charlotte Thompson was trying to appease Justin Battleson. He was entirely oblivious to the fact that her expression hadn't changed, and she didn't seem to care at all.

Once he finished, he found it strange that she remained indifferent. However, he assumed she was trying to appear calm. It's been a long time, and not only had she changed her name, her temperament seemed to have changed significantly as well.

Regardless, it didn't matter to him since he still held a trump card over her head.

"So, have you made a decision? Will you give me money? Or will you give me money?"

Ryan was shameless, firmly believing that Charlotte would prefer to pay him off. He understood women like her, who aspired to marry into wealth, all too well. And even more so for Charlotte, who was willing to change her entire identity for it.

Charlotte merely gave him a cold laugh, maintaining her composure: "As I've said, I'm Charlotte Thompson, not the Sophie Allen you speak of. As for furnishing money or perfume, that's out of the question."

Listening to this, Coco couldn't help but admire Charlotte for her courage and decisiveness.

"Coco, let's go."

Charlotte took Coco's arm, intending to leave by sidestepping Ryan.

Seeing that his threat wasn't working, Ryan was suddenly at a loss.

"Sophie Allen, you'd better think carefully. If you don't agree to my terms, providing me with a perfume formulation and money, I won't let you off easy!"

Charlotte was already at her wits' end, having lost count of how many ridiculous statements Ryan had made just today. She stopped and prepared to deliver another blow to him.

"Sister Charlotte!" Coco grabbed her, not wanting her to get tangled up with Ryan again.

Seeing Charlotte turn around, a satisfied grin spread across Ryan's face.

"So, you've made up your mind?"

Charlotte shook her head, "No, I just wanted to ask how exactly you plan to make my life difficult?"

Ryan didn't expect Charlotte to remain so defiant. He blurted out: "...I'll expose all your secrets to the media and make you famous. How does that sound?"

Chapter 725: Utterly Defeated

Charlotte Thompson scoffed, "So, for money, you're willing to throw away your dignity?"

Because if Sophie Allen was exposed, it would inevitably lead to the discovery of his affair with Emily Allen years ago. Ryan Richard, a man she knew all too well was conscious about his reputation. She never imagined he would stoop so low.

Ryan Richard chuckled arrogantly, "It's been so long, you clearly don't understand me anymore."

Charlotte gave a bitter smile, mentally questioning when she ever truly understood the man standing before her.

Even when they were both recent graduates, struggling together, he had never truly opened up to her. So what was there to talk about now?

However, she felt a sudden relief. Being glad that although she'd endured some bitterly desperate times, they were experiences that time had given her. They saved her from falling for him completely.

Ryan Richard began to speak earnestly, listing Charlotte's numerous 'crimes'.

"Initially when you left without a word, creating chaos in the company without a plan. Do you know what I went through? Afterwards, Emily also betrayed me..." Ryan Richard sneered, each time he thought of these memories, he felt ridiculous.

Even though he had Sophie Allen, the talented fragrance developer who was dedicated to him, he was infatuated with the flirtatious Emily, which led him to lose everything and hit rock bottom.

Perhaps if he had another chance, Sophie Allen would always be his first choice, but that would just lead to another tragedy for Sophie.

Listening made Charlotte's skin crawl. She had no energy to argue with him, "Enough, I don't want to hear about your sob stories with whoever. I don't have time. Please, step aside!"

"Sophie, don't you get it yet? Why do you think I'm here? Stop playing dumb!"

Charlotte fixed him with a steady gaze. Looking at the man before her, both strange and familiar, she said, "I don't understand."

"Sophie, I'm giving you a final chance. Five million, plus you help me complete the perfume plan to revive Richard Corporation. Then I will leave you alone completely, I promise not to interfere with your life again!"

Ryan Richard made another outrageous demand, seemingly oblivious to reality.

Charlotte promptly refused, "Forget it. I am curious to see, who would believe what you're saying. As for whether Sophie Allen still exists, you may go ahead and check all you want."

Charlotte was confident that she had cleaned up every trace of Sophie Allen very meticulously. Even if, one day, Ryan Richard decided to expose her completely, worst case scenario would be him falsely accused while she, as Charlotte Thompson, would remain unaffected.

"So, continue spreading your rumors. Coco, let's go. It's time to start shooting."

But dealing with Ryan Richard wasn't a walk in the park, this time he didn't chase after her, he coolly stood behind saying, "Do you remember the photos we took?"

In fact, before seeking out Charlotte, Ryan Richard had done his homework. He knew that if he was going in with a blackmail mindset, he ought to have the evidence that Charlotte was Sophie Allen.

For that, he went back to Sophie's old school.

He parked his car outside Ashford University, waiting as students walked out one after another.

Most of them were brimming with youth and Zest. Occasionally seeing students decked in fashion labels walking by, he couldn't help but smile.

There was a time when he was careless and free, just like them, laughing heartily every day.

"Hey, roll down the window!"

He rolled down the window to find two traffic policemen standing outside.

"Don't you know you can't park the car near the school gate?"

Ryan Richard quickly took out a pack of cigarettes, handing them two, while promising between words, "I'll move right away, immediately."

Chapter 726: You are Sophie Allen

"We don't want it, just drive away!" The traffic cop refused, and Ryan Richard promptly accelerated and drove off.

He felt disappointed, looking at the two cigarettes he couldn't give away earlier. They couldn't be returned in one piece, and were instead bent in the middle.

He lit another cigarette and continued smoking.

The security guard at the school gate, who has seen too many shifts, looked at Ryan's casual demeanor and hesitated, "Are you really a student of our school?"

Ryan nodded repeatedly: "Really, my name is Ryan Richard, the school must have a record, you can check."

The security guard didn't have the strength to argue with him. After hesitating for a moment, he opened the gate, "Hurry up and leave, I need to lock the gate."

"Thank you, uncle." Ryan waved his hand quickly and ran in.

The security guard locked the door and mumbled to himself, "What uncle, at most I'm your elder brother."

Once inside, Ryan went directly to find Sophie Allen's form teacher from those days, only to learn that all information related to Sophie had been erased from the school records. Even her test papers and homework were nowhere to be found.

Ryan didn't give up and personally went to the place where the school stores the work of graduated students, but still couldn't find anything.

Upon leaving the teacher's office, he felt even more puzzled. Had Sophie really left nothing behind?

Right after, he got a call from his assistant, "Boss Richard, I couldn't find any of Sophie Allen's travel records like you asked."

"Nothing?" Ryan was skeptical, how could there be nothing?

Sophie was a real person, how could all her records be erased?

And even if someone could do it, the scale of operation involving schools, airlines... was too huge, he didn't believe Sophie could achieve it.

"Can't find it."

The assistant's answer was still the same.

Ryan felt a little desperate. He sat on a stone bench by the school lake, feeling completely hopeless.

He held his face in his hands, thinking about the Richard Corporation on the verge of bankruptcy and grew more irritable.

"Ah!" He yelled towards the lake, "Ryan, try shouting, it really relieves stress."

Sophie's voice suddenly appeared in his ear, "Sophie, you didn't disappear, did you? You just changed your identity, right?"

"Ryan, let's take a photo, as a remembrance."

He remembered in the photo studio, the day when Sophie persuaded him to take photos with various beautiful backgrounds.

"Right, photos!" He stood up from the bench all of a sudden, running out quickly as if a burden had been lifted.

"Hey, young man, carry your ID!"

Once home, Ryan quickly rummaged through the dusty junk in the cabinet, "Photo album, photo album."

He muttered to himself.

Soon, a yellowing vintage photo album was found, opened to reveal various memories with Sophie.

He finally breathed a sigh of relief, hugging the photo album, he thought to himself, "Sophie, long time no see."

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Ryan looked at Charlotte Thompson, and said with a grin, "Sophie, I have a whole stack of photo albums we took when we were dating."

"What photos?" Charlotte pretended not to understand.

Ryan was triumphant, "Our photo albums, it's such a coincidence that I was tidying up my home a few days ago and stumbled upon them. When I saw them, I thought, 'hey, this is Sophie! How come she looks exactly like Charlotte? Oh, it turns out they are the same person."

Charlotte froze. She didn't dare to speak. She didn't expect Ryan would still keep that photo album.

Seeing this, Ryan became even more smug. "I'm certain, you are Sophie. So, are you not going to keep pretending to be Charlotte?"

Chapter 727: Take Away

On the other side, Justin Battleson receives the news, his face changes immediately.

"Ryan Richard?"

His subordinate reported, "Yes, the young master of Richard Corporation, who used to be Miss Thompson's ex-boyfriend, is currently pestering Miss Thompson. We have been observing for a while, not knowing whether to take action or not, so we came to ask you."

"Slam!"

Justin Battleson stands up from his chair, slams his hand hard on the table, the sound startling his assistant nearby.

Justin Battleson's face turns cold, his deep eyes resembling deep, dark pools, rarely are his emotions so outwardly displayed.

Ryan Richard? The man who once hurt Charlotte Thompson badly, when he learned about Charlotte's past, he wished he could flay that man's skin off right there and then. Now that man dares to approach her again.

He clenched his fist tightly, rubbing it hard against the solid wooden desk, "Since you've presented yourself, don't blame me."

The murderous intent gleaming in his eyes is unprecedented.

Immediately afterwards, he got up from behind his desk and walked directly to his subordinate, "Go, bring him here."

"Yes!"

The subordinate takes the order and quickly leaves.

The assistant hesitated a bit and Justin noted it, "What do you want to say?"

The assistant cleared his throat, lowering his head, "Mr. Battleson, there's no need to sully your hands for such a person."

Justin Battleson sneered, thinking of that man's repugnant face and all the things he did to Charlotte, countless times he wished he could annihilate him.

But he also knew clearly that Ryan Richard was a pathetic man who isn't worth his effort, however, if he wants to easily get away from him, he will still have to suffer a bit.

Justin Battleson slowly sat down on the sofa, no longer in the mood to work, "I know, he's unworthy."

He had already thought about how to warn him, killing him would be too easy, living a life worse than death is the punishment he truly deserves.

On the other side, Ryan Richard, still seemingly pleased with himself, is waiting for Charlotte Thompson's reaction when suddenly, a group of men in black appear.

Ryan Richard repeatedly steps back, hiding behind Charlotte Thompson, "Are they here because of you? Tell them to leave now!"

Charlotte Thompson was also stunned until she was certain that those men were not after her but are after Ryan Richard, she dared to believe they are not enemies.

"What are you doing? Let go of me! Sophie Allen, tell them to let go of me!" Ryan Richard continued to yell, then was roughly beaten up and finally quieted down, he was then taken away by the men in black.

Coco and Charlotte Thompson had never seen such a spectacle, they quickly comforted each other, and finally regained their composure, after seeing Ryan Richard knocked out and carried away.

Coco, supporting Charlotte Thompson, expressed her confusion, "Sister Charlotte, are you sure you didn't call those men?"

Charlotte shook her head repeatedly, she was also trying to figure it out.

However, now that Ryan Richard was taken away, they finally felt at ease and hurried back to the office.

Inside the car, Ryan Richard came to his senses, seeing himself tied up and not knowing where the car was heading, he instantly panicked.

"Who are you? Why are you kidnapping me? Let me go!" Ryan Richard shouted and struggled.

The bodyguard beside him, having no choice, landed a couple of heavy punches on him, yelling, "Shut up!"

Ryan Richard spat blood, he looked up at his captors with resentment and stubbornly stated, "I'm telling you, do you know who I am? You have the audacity to kidnap me, I'm telling you ..."

Ryan Richard was making too much noise, which irritated the bodyguards, finally one of them landed a heavy punch on him, "Finally, peace."

The punch was strong enough to knock Ryan Richard unconscious immediately.

Chapter 728: Teach a Lesson

A few bodyguards breathed a sigh of relief, successfully bringing him before Justin Battleson.

This was a shabby old warehouse on the outskirts of the city, long forgotten and rarely visited, except for the occasional sound of distant dog barks from the villages.

"Mr. Battleson, we've brought the man in," they reported.

The bodyguards gestured, ordering men to bind Ryan Richard to a chair.

Justin stood, toying with a knife in his hand, his face unreadable.

He walked right up to Ryan, observing him closely.

Ryan hadn't woken up yet, his head drooping, his face still bruised. A bodyguard immediately started to explain, "He was making too much of a fuss on the road here, so we..."

Justin signaled for him to be quiet. The bodyguard looked panicky, thinking he had done something wrong and was preparing to accept the punishment, only to hear Justin say, "You hit him lightly."

The bodyguards were surprised. The next second, Justin delivered a fierce kick, sending Ryan and his chair crashing to the ground.

Justin did not continue, he glanced at the bottom of his shoe, a look of impatience on his face.

Next, he dusted off his hands and signaled to the bodyguards, "Wake him up."

Following his orders, the bodyguards stepped forward, and with a few punches, Ryan was jolted awake.

"Damn!"

Blood spewed from Ryan's mouth, his words foul, but he was still fearless: "I'm telling you all, I am the young master of the Richard family. You guys are messing with..."

"Move."

Justin appeared with a scrutinizing gaze, his presence unstoppable.

Ryan was unsettled, stammering but trying to feign calm, "Justin Battleson—you..."

Before he could finish, Justin landed another fierce kick, "You think you have the right to address me by my name?"

This time, Ryan kept quiet. However, there was a fierce look in his eyes that actually made Justin wonder if he was capable of something.

Spitting out more blood, Ryan continued, "You're doing this for Sophie Allen, no, Charlotte Thompson, right? Do you know about her past?"

After finishing, Ryan looked like he was privy to some secret, extremely smug about it.

Justin didn't mind indulging him in this game, especially if it was an exciting one.

"Do you think crushing the Richard Corporation would be hard for me?"

Ryan's face changed immediately, "I was wrong, Mr. Battleson, I was wrong. Please, have mercy and let me go."

Tired, Justin suddenly lost interest in playing along.

"Throw him out."

"Yes, sir."

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Meanwhile, on set, things weren't so smooth either.

Because of Ryan's appearance, Charlotte's mood was also fluctuating, making her a bit absent-minded.

Especially during intermission, instead of going back to the dressing room, she stayed on set to get some air with everyone else.

"Sister Charlotte, come and have some water." Coco handed her a bottle of mineral water.

Charlotte took it, her gaze still vacant.

Unable to bear the sight, Coco hurriedly comforted her, "Sister Charlotte, don't think too much. You weren't in your best state during the previous segment. Don't let it affect you."

Charlotte was still in a daze, "Ah? I know." She put on a smile, but only Coco knew her mind was elsewhere.

Just then, there was chatter from the extras.

"Did you hear? They called Charlotte Thompson 'Sophie Allen'."

"Sophie who?"

"You don't know? Sophie Allen is the little sister of Emily Allen, who was extremely popular back in the day."

"Gosh, they must've gotten the names mixed up. It's nothing unheard of."

"Hey, that's unlikely. Both names contain the character for 'joy'. Do you think there might be a connection?"

Chapter 729: No Giving Up Until The End

"Cough cough —"

"Hello, Sister Charlotte." As soon as Charlotte Thompson approached, the gossipy crowd hastily sealed their lips and awkwardly greeted her.

Charlotte glanced around, uncertain of what to say, when a girl eagerly grabbed her and asked, "Sister Charlotte, do you know Ryan, the young master of Richard Corporation?"

Charlotte remained silent, her face grim.

Coco swiftly intervened, "Why are you guys so nosy?"

"What's the big deal? Ryan is Emily Allen's ex-boyfriend. Speaking of, Sister Charlotte, do you know Emily?"

"I don't." Charlotte denied.

Just then, the director started filming. Spotting the moment, Charlotte signaled the group: "Let's get to work."

After the shoot, Coco walked over with her phone, saying someone had sent Charlotte an email.

Charlotte was taken aback, wondering who would still send emails in this era? With a sense of unease, she opened the email and was greeted by photos of herself.

Coco stared in surprise, snatching the phone: "Who's this? How did they manage to sneak photos?"

The email contained all the photos of Charlotte and Ryan Richard from their escapade that day, from the coffee shop to the film set.

After flipping through them, Coco couldn't help but exclaim, "These people are really something. They didn't miss a single shot, they're like detectives!"

Trying to hold back laughter, Charlotte asked Coco to look for a bank account number.

Sure enough, upon scrolling to the bottom, Coco gave a surprised gasp: "Hey, there really is one! How did you guess?"

Charlotte only smiled. The only possible reason for someone to capture these photos and email them instead of posting them on social media would be to extort money.

"A million? Are they insane?" Coco added promptly: "They actually ask for a million, threatening to expose these photos otherwise."

Charlotte nodded, showing that she understood. Coco started to conjecture, "Could it be that Ryan Richard was behind this? Was it all part of his scheme?"

Charlotte had considered that possibility, but she then dismissed it.

She had just experienced repugnance from Ryan's actions and was in no mood to entertain such games.

"Coco, get Jack Bryant and Liam Bryant here."

Soon enough, the two bodyguards brought the "perpetrator" to her. He was an entertainment reporter who made money by invading people's privacy.

Charlotte had no patience to play games with him, so she went straight to the point: "Where are the photos?"

At first, he denied any knowledge, feigning ignorance: "What photos? I don't know."

Charlotte gestured, and the two bodyguards landed a few punches on him. That's when he admitted, "It's me, I took the photos and sent them to you."

"Great."

Charlotte circled around him before threatening, "Delete them all, or else you won't be able to stay in Druarus."

The entertainment reporter wasn't scared, instead retorting venomously, "Don't threaten me. If I release these photos, you won't get off easily either, right?"

Charlotte sighed in exasperation, some people just don't respond to kindness. They only back off when threatened with firm action.

"Take him away."

At her command, Jack walked forward and fiercely kicked him a couple of times, causing him to scream in pain.

Before he was dragged away, Charlotte once again halted him, "Wait, I'll give you another chance. Are you deleting the photos or not?"

The man was a tough nut to crack. Trembling, he defiantly raised his head, "What can you do to me?"

"Ah!" Jack landed another punch.

Charlotte sighed helplessly. She had given him plenty of chances, but some people just wouldn't learn until they faced severe consequences.

"Take him to the police. Say he's invaded someone's privacy."

Chapter 730: Inquiring

Charlotte Thompson bought a cappuccino at a nearby coffee shop and set it on a chair nearby.

Watching the wild entertainment reporters being handled, Charlotte finally felt refreshed and her mood improved significantly.

"Sister Charlotte,"

Coco came up with a distressed look. Seeing Charlotte's smiling eyes, she hesitated for a moment before softly calling out to her.

If it were not for this thorny issue, she would not have bothered to disturb Charlotte's good mood.

After all the frustrating things they had gone through, it was rare for Charlotte to be so relaxed.

"What's up?"

Charlotte asked, lifting her eyes to look at her with concern, both hands around her mug.

"What kind of person is this Ryan Richard?"

Coco scratched her head, clearly noticing Charlotte flinch.

"What happened?"

Charlotte knew Coco was not a gossip monger, presenting her with such a question, something must have happened.

"A lot of people have been asking me. I don't know the situation and I don't know how to respond."

Coco was nervously fiddling with her clothes hanging at her side.

Taking a sip of her coffee, Charlotte answered nonchalantly, "You don't need to deal with them, just say you don't know."

"Okay."

Coco nodded without any doubt.

Since Charlotte had given her an answer, she would take her word for it. It was best not to indulge in curiosity over matters that she should not inquire about.

Charlotte looked at her, smiled leisurely, and gently tapped her hand.

"I'm counting on you to handle this."

She knew how challenging it was to deal with people who feed on rumors."

Coco felt a warm stirring inside. Shaking her head, she said, "No issue, it's just what I should do!"

As soon as she left, she was stopped by two people.

They looked at her with blatant curiosity, like hungry wolves eyeing a lamb.

"You're Charlotte Thompson's assistant, right?"

Coco nodded, and before the guy could finish speaking, she guessed what he was about to say, "Ryan Richard and Charlotte Thompson..."

"I'm sorry, even though I am Charlotte Thompson's assistant, I don't know about this."

These past few days, she had lost count of how many times she had faced such questions.

The two people did not believe her at all, doubting skeptically, "How is that possible? You are her assistant, you should know this better than anyone else!"

"Right, Charlotte wouldn't do this without telling you."

An assistant is the best channel to get such information, right?

Coco didn't like their presumptuous attitude.

But she didn't show her displeasure, and continued to smile faintly.

"I know to keep work and personal life separate. I understand and adhere to this basic professional ethics."

Coco shrugged, looking innocent.

Her nonchalant tone sounded polite yet distant.

The guy touched his nose, awkwardly smiling, "Oh, I see."

The other person also laughed awkwardly, wrapping his arm around his companion, "It seems we oversimplified things, sorry to bother you!"

The implication of Coco's words was quite clear. They were not people who couldn't take a hint, and they understood that no further questioning would yield any information.

Coco looked calm and composed, but she was relieved inside.

She smiled politely, "If there's nothing else, I'll be on my way."

Charlotte finished all the work at hand and sat down for a while.

Seeing that no one was calling her and she had nothing to do, feeling that she was wasting time, she decided to find the director.

The director was talking details with the heads of various departments via walkie-talkie. Seeing Charlotte approach, he quickly set aside his work.

Charlotte knew he was busy and didn't want to disrupt his work.

After confirming with him that there were no arrangements for her, Charlotte left the set.