

The Tide 301

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A university was a place that many people yearned for and pursued. This place carried the dreams, hopes, and longings of young people. It was the filtering point for the future.

It was a sacred and pure place. As soon as one walked into the school gate, one could smell the fragrance, refreshing and cheerful

Returning to school, they were deeply moved. Although this was not their alma mater, it was very atmospheric. As soon as Sherri entered, she was attracted by the environment inside. She could not help but praise. "Oh, my god! This is my first time at Ava's school during the two years I've been in Sapphire City, I didn't expect it to be so beautiful How is this a university? This is a dreamland. It's too beautiful. I don't even want to go out. This place has magic. I can't leave here once I come in."

Sherri was attracted by the beautiful scenery and kept talking to herself. looking left and right.

Hackett put his arm around Sherri's shoulder. The two of them did not look like husband and wife. They looked more like friends. "Sherri, you're right. It's indeed beautiful. This university is way better than the universities in Athana. I think we can change its name. We don't have to call it Sapphire City University. We can call it the prince and princess's palace."

Sherri reached out and high-fived Hackett tacitly. The high-five was unusually loud and attracted the attention of the surrounding university students, winning lots of attention.

Trevon followed behind them and said in disdain. He felt that Hackett was embarrassing and teased, "We know you are husband and wife, but those who don't know you will think that you're besties"

Hackett turned around. "Who do you suspect is not manly enough?"

As he spoke, he kissed Sherri on the cheek, indicating that he had a wife and that he was manly

After kissing, Hackett suddenly remembered that one person was missing. He looked around and said to Rose, who was taking photos, "Hey, stop taking photos. Are you guys country bumpkins or what? Don't embarrass yourself Where's

Frank?"

Rose shrugged and spread her hands. Her phone was still in her hand. "How would I know? He disappeared early in the morning. He promised to bring me a night snack, but I didn't get to eat anything last night. He wasn't familiar with Sapphire City either. I don't know which corner of the city he is in now, so don't ask me. If you're curious, call him yourself."

As soon as she finished speaking. Rose continued taking photos. She didn't care where Frank had gone for fun.

Natalie was also curious about what Frank was here for. He had no movement for two days, so she could not help but wonder if he was here to chase Ava

However, Trevon told her not to worry. Noticing the reaction of the woman beside him, Trevon interlocked his fingers with hers and tightened his grip to comfort her.

She looked up and Trevon gave her a reassuring look.

They followed Ava's location to the multimedia classroom, which was already filled with people. The five of them could only sit at the back. It was a little far from inside. They did not know that so many people would come to watch.

However, it made sense. There should be a lot of people watching this kind of duel. Everyone was curious.

It was a staircase-style classroom. Each floor was higher than the last. They were sitting at the back, so although they were far from the stage, the view was good.

Hackett carefully took the binocular out of Sherri's bag and handed it over. "Darling. I was just afraid that there would be too many people, so I prepared a treasure for you in advance."

Sherri was overjoyed. She openly showed off her affection and kissed Hackett beside her. The university students sitting behind were envious.

They asked, "Which faculty are you from? You two are so compatible"

Another one said, "I'm envious of you guys, but can you show us bachelors some mercy?"

Hackett pretended to be embarrassed and made a salute. "Sorry, we'll continue when we get back tonight."

Others had a look on their faces that said, "You don't have to say that."

Rose raised her phone and zoomed in on Ava on the stage. How could she not record such an exciting moment? Besides, Frank was not around, so she had to record it well.

She believed in her sixth sense. Frank must have feelings for Ava. This video might even help her make money. What a good business opportunity. She could not miss it.

The competition began, Both Natalie's and Trevon's visions were okay. They could see the picture on the stage. In addition, the specific attack content of the two computers was projected on the big screen, making it clearer to be seen.

The screen on the stage was large and high-definition. There was a desk on either side of it, and on the desk was the

computer provided by the unit. On one side was written Sapphire City University, and on the other side was Northview University.

Students who had yet to participate in the competition could not stand on the stage. Ava naturally got off the stage and stood at the side of the stage with her arms crossed.

The student representatives of the two schools on stage checked each other's computers. After confirming no problems, they nodded politely and switched positions to the designated computers.

The hostess on the podium was the president of the student union. She was wearing a dark blue evening gown. The hem of her dress was dragging on the ground. She held the microphone and thanked them slightly before announcing the start of the game. "It is an honor to see the friendly match between Sapphire City University and Northview University today. Everyone present is an expert in the computer world and a top student in school. Let's cut to the chase. I can see the anticipation in your eyes. I won't take up your time. The exciting competition is about to begin..."

The president of the student union was very embarrassed. Before she could finish her sentence, the person from Northview University had already begun to attack the person from Sapphire City University. He did not even notice the other party in advance. It was very disrespectful. The subtitle displayed on the big screen was even more disrespectful. It was "Rubbish" in Arillion

One by one, the attacking subtitles were all the same, and the computer of the person from Sapphire City University was filled with this word. The student of Sapphire City University was working hard to remove the obstacles. He looked solemn, and his face turned pale.

People of Sapphire City University were furious when they saw this Arillion word. What kind of people was he? Why did he call others rubbish during a competition? The competition was not over yet. He was too arrogant

Trevon saw through the mystery and whispered to the nervous Natalie beside him, "Don't be nervous. It might be a strategic problem.

Natalie also saw the problem. According to the performance in the first round, Sapphire City University was not on the same level as Northview University. As for why they used such a strategy, if she had to guess, it might be to lower the mental defense of the other party and make them proud.

There was no doubt that Sapphire City University had lost the first round. They used 15 minutes, while Northview University used 10 minutes. There was a 5-minute difference.

The other party was very proud. Before leaving the stage, he even made an impolite gesture, angering the student who had lost so much that he wanted to hit him.

The president of the student union stopped him with a look. Then, the second round began. It was the same scene. The duel began.

The person from Northview University was very proud. Because they had won the first round, he felt that the other party was trash. He still used the Arillion word Rubbish as an attack word. The large display screen was filled with the word "Rubbish."

However, this time, the student from Sapphire City University was very calm. He curled his lips and operated calmly. He was focused and was not affected at all.

Sherri's fingernails dug into Hackett's arm. She was extremely nervous. Hackett could not help but remind her. "Sherri, I'm going to be pinched to death by you."

If he did not stop her, he suspected that when Ava's match ended, he would also die.

Trevon originally wanted to say that Ava's team would win this round, but when he saw Hackett giving Sherri the binocular, he did not want to say anything. The more Hackett was pinched, the more pleased

he was.

After five minutes, Sapphire City University won. The time difference was 1 minute and 8 seconds.

The current situation was one-to-one.

In other words, the final fate was determined by the last person to go on stage.

Ava wore gray pants and a light blue chiffon shirt. A black belt at her waist seamlessly connected her clothes to her pants, and her hair was tied into a half-tied and gentle princess hairstyle.

Her well-ironed gray trousers lengthened her slender legs, making her look more attractive. The belt around her waist revealed her tiny waist, and her entire body was eye-catching. The boys below cheered, and some could not help but shout Ava's name. What was even more ridiculous was that someone said he loved her

She put on a little makeup to make her exquisite facial features look more perfect. Her lipstick was pink and not too much. At first glance, she looked like she didn't put on any makeup, which was super gentle and pleasing to the eye.

Listening to the fanboys from behind, a man wearing a mask and sunglasses, sitting in the third row, frowned. His entire body was in contrast to the people around him, and his face was so cold that it was freezing.

"Bro, which faculty are you from? Let me tell you, the name of the person on stage is Ava Turner. This girl is very hard to woo. Many boys from our faculty have wooed her, but they all failed. I heard that she became even more womanly, and her

dressing style became more mature after a trip recently," A reckless man said to him.

After a while, the man wearing sunglasses asked suspiciously. "Why?"

That man was a talkative person. He continued to share information and lowered his voice. "We suspect that she had a failed relationship. The clothes she wore before were very fresh and pure. Look, isn't she much more mature and womanly now? There must be something wrong with a woman if she suddenly changes.

"Don't look at me like that. I don't like her. A girl like her is beyond my level. How can I afford to raise her?"

Hearing this, the man beside him looked better, but his face was still cold as he fell into deep thought.

The man was still nagging. I guess they broke up because the other party thought she was too young. Don't think that I'm wrong. I like to study psychology when I have nothing to do Although I like computers and from the computer science. department, it doesn't stop me from exploring things other than computers. I'm studious, after all. Bro, don't you think so?"

After saying a lot, he saw that the person beside him did not react and still kept a long face. It appeared that he was not easy to get along with. So the man fell silent, not wanting to find trouble.

The student coming up from the other side of the stage was also quite good-looking. He was dressed appropriately in a white shirt and black pants, showing respect for today's occasion very much. Also, it matched Ava's outfit well.

very

They were not as hostile as those in the previous two rounds. The man politely walked toward Ava and reached out to shake her hand. Ava's hand touched his politely before she retracted it. The man's hand was still in midair. Then, he awkwardly retracted his hand.

In front of all the classmates and teachers, the student from Northview University smiled. "Ava, what we're wearing today is a good match."

This sentence made the people below the stage fantasize. They were indeed very tacit. They were both wearing shirts and trousers, only the colors were different.

Ava smiled politely. This smile shone through the student's heart. She turned around and glanced at the audience. Then she turned to him. "There are also many people in shirts and trousers below the stage. We all have a tacit understanding."

This was not a tacit understanding, but a preference for clothes.

The man in the third row curled his lips into a smile. However, he was wearing a hat, a mask, and sunglasses, so his real expression could not be seen.

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The third round began.

The boy from Northview University was very gentlemanly. He asked Ava to go first. Ava did not refuse and sat on the chair. Her slender and fair fingers nimbly operated the computer. With a focused expression, she hacked the boy's computer soon. However, the caption and the picture on the big screen were thought-provoking

The caption read "Harmful Trash," and a trash can was at the bottom of the screen with the recycle bin, which was quite insulting

The boy's face darkened, but he looked at the screen disdainfully and began to solve the problem. As time passed, the boy's confidence turned into anxiety, and he was sweating profusely.

Half an hour had passed, but the student of Northview University still had not solved it. He would lose if he could not solve it in another half an hour.

Some spectators jeered, "Can you do it? It's been half an hour. You're wasting our time, and it's almost dinner. If you can't solve it, admit defeat. We can give you a trash can as a gift."

"That's right. It's not a big deal to admit that you're trash. Men up and be brave."

"Hurry up."

The man in the third row below the stage was in a good mood when he saw the caption and the picture on the big screen. The corners of his lips under the mask had been curling up slightly the whole time.

He thought that Ava always knew how to hold a grudge

The host came out to smooth things over. "Everyone, please be quiet. Perhaps Ava from our university has dealt him a heavy blow, and he needs more time. The competition rules state that it's a defeat if one can't solve the problem in an hour. Please, let's wait patiently for another half an hour."

These words were blatantly saying that the student of Northview University had lost. The host was the president of the student union and was supposed to be low-key and polite. After all, she still needed to host.

After finishing her words, the host walked to Ava's side and said softly, "You're just awesome. I'll treat you to a milkshake tomorrow. Those people are rude and need to be taken down a peg. You're impressive."

Ava turned sideways and smiled mischievously. "I'll wait. I want a big portion"

While the student of Northview University was still trying his best to solve the problem, the two were already chatting about milkshakes, which was even more insulting.

Time was up.

and the student of Northview University still could not solve it. The boy finally admitted defeat. The spectators were all chanting Ava's name as if she were a favored celebrity

She was enjoying the honor she deserved on stage. She was shining like the most dazzling star. Who could resist such a girl?

There were already many rich boys itching to profess feelings for Ava tonight. The man, who had always had sharp ears, kept a cold expression when he heard the others.

The corners of his mouth curled up in mockery and disdain.

Suddenly, the boy from Northview University raised his hand on the keyboard and stood up.

He walked to the podium and snatched the host's microphone. He looked at Ava affectionately and smiled, "I'm willing to lose to Ava. Since I'm lucky enough to come to Sapphire City University today, I want to borrow your stage to tell the person I like about my true feelings for her."

The next second, the expected confession followed. "Ava, I adore you. I've liked you since the first time I saw you. Can you be my girlfriend"

The spectators had been cheering for Ava's victory. After hearing what Neal said, some wowed while some booted.

Rose had already stopped filming. She muttered, "Where the hell is Cranky Franky? That guy told Ava he liked her in public! Damn it! That is infuriating!"

As she spoke, she called Frank. The call got through, but Frank hung it up. Rose called again, but the call was still cut off. She was furious and texted Frank, [Where are you? Let me tell you this. I watched Ava's competition at Sapphire City University. She won, but her opponent confessed his affection to her in front of all the people here at the university. It's a public statement. Can you believe it?]

Rose hoped Ava would not be tempted and agreed to the student from Northview University.

Sherri only glanced at the boy on stage and resented him. She said dissatisfiedly. "That one is scheming. He could've just admitted his defeat, but instead, he said that he was willing to lose to Ava. It sounded like he let Ava win. Ava won because of her strengths, alright? Do you think Ava will say yes to him?"

Natalie did not like that boy but believed Ava had her considerations. "Don't worry. Ava won't agree. That boy might be

afraid of the embarrassment of losing the competition, so he uses this trick to confuse everyone about his relationship with Ava. This way, everyone will think he did it for Ava deliberately, and it won't look so embarrassing"

Rose was so shocked when she heard this "What the hell What a sly jerk! He can't afford to lose, can he? How fucking disgusting Someone like him wants to compete with my brother What's he thinking?"

It was rare, but Haskett praised Frank, "This kind of trav worlds t from Frank. He's nothing compares to Frank."

Rose turned around and ligh-lived Hackett tacitly, earning enough attention.

Trevon, on the other hand, glanced at the foremost seat. He then picked up. so tolerant not to make a move |

phone and sent a message to Frank, You're

As expected. Frank dud not reply Trevon did not care. He secretly hid his phone in his pocket and continued to watch the show He wanted to see what Frank would do

On stage. Ava maintained a polite smile. It was impossible to tell if she was touched or not. She reached out her hand and asked the host for the microphone. The host quickly handed her a whate microphone

Ava took a few steps hack. Her opponent frowned in surprise when he saw this, but he still maintained his gentlemanly manners and smiled slightly

This boy's name was Neal Becker. He had a sunny disposition and was always ready to help people. This was how the teachers and students from Northview University usually spoke highly of him. Apart from these, he was from the Becker family, the second most wealthy Lamily in Sapphire City,

Neal had been surrounded, praised, admired, and envied since he was young. His halo shone on his head every moment. He also had been perfecting his public persona all the time. No one had ever

spoken ill of him. Well, at least, for the money's

sake

Ava held the microphone with both hands and smiled. She said, "First, I'd like to thank you, Neal Thank you for your feelings for me, but you're not my type. I'm sorry"

Ava had to repeat such a rejection countless times in a year, and she had gotten pretty good at telling it.

Her words were direct and polite.

“Second, let me correct what you said just now. You said that you were willing to lose to me, but that was not true. Those words will lead to misunderstanding. It lunts that you’re being modest. You lost fair and square. A loser is a loser. If you have questions about this match, we can have an extra round until you accept your failure.”

Ava suddenly had a powerful vibe. She was no longer the usual clever little princess but became aggressive and left no way out for Neal. Neal’s expression changed. He never expected Ava to say so. He was the eldest son of the Becker family and had never been embarrassed like this.

“Ava, that’s not what I meant. But if you want me to say I’m a loser, I’ll say it. It’s not a big deal. It’s supposed to be a friendly

match”

He played his trick again.

Rose and the others were already amazed by Neal’s cunning actions. “Do you think there’s something wrong with this guy? He shouldn’t have come here if he couldn’t afford to lose.”

Natalie was also blown away. This kind of man was a real turn-off. However, Ava’s performance shocked Natalie. The gentle little girl who had always been protected also had an aggressive side.

The man in the third row below the stage clenched and then unclenched his fists. His gaze was fixed on Ava’s face without moving away for a moment

Ava reached out to brush a lock of hair in front of her chest to behind her shoulder and continued, “Neal, after hearing your words, I think we must have an extra round. Come on, don’t waste time. This time, it’s your turn to attack my computer.” Neal did not expect Ava to be so persistent. He knew he did not want to accept his failure, but he needed a decent excuse so that he would not feel so humiliated. He rejected her “Ava, there’s no need to be so serious about a friendly match.”

It was Ava’s turn to reject him without hesitation. She said sarcastically. “Neal, are you afraid of losing again? Either you compete with me agam or stop using such confusing words to make others misunderstand. Let me tell you once more. You are not iny tyjer”

Now that Neal knew Ava’s persistence, he would be more embarrassed if he continued to say that he was willing to lose. He could only admit “Your skills are indeed better than mine, Can you analyze the sections you’ve learned with us if you have time? Also, can I take the liberty to ask what kind of boy you like?”

Frank’s handsome fare suggested itself to Ava immediately. It was so clear that he seemed to be standing right in front of her. Ava mocked herself for a second. It turned out that she remembered Frank’s face so clearly. A hint of sadness appeared on Ava’s face, and her eyes turned a little red. “The person I like should be handsome, mysterious, direct, daring, and responsible. He should be loyal to love. If he doesn’t like a girl, he will never flirt with her or leave hope for her. In many people’s eyes, this looks heartless and indifferent. For me, I think he does justice to himself. This kind of love will provide him and the girl he likes a sense of security”

As soon as she finished speaking, the smile on the lips of the man in the third row below the stage widened. The competition ended, and he bent down and left. He even dragged the talkative man beside him away.

The talkative man was confused. "Why did you bring me along with you?"

"There's something I need you to do."

The talkative man was speechless. He wondered if the man was taking a fancy to him.

The kind of boy Ava talked about was nothing in common with Neal. Neal had a feeling that Ava was making caustic comments about his personality. He was about to say something else when a delivery man walked onto the stage. No one knew how he got into the room.

The delivery man held a bouquet of red roses in his hand. There were about a dozen of them. "Miss Ava Turner, please sign your name. This is a gift from your future boyfriend. He said if the distance between you is 100 steps, you've made one step. and he would finish the remaining 99 steps for you"

"There are 11 flowers in this bouquet, which means you're his treasured one. Also, he said he didn't want you to hold. something too heavy"

There was another round of envious exclamations below the stage.

Ava was totally at a loss. Her future boyfriend?

Since when did she have a future boyfriend?

No matter how hard she racked her brains, she could not think of who the man was. She had only declared her love for one man, but that man would not do such a thing

Ava subconsciously looked below the stage for the man she was thinking about. There was only one empty seat, but it should not be him. He was in Athana, not in Sapphire City. If he came, Rose would surely tell her.

She finally accepted the bouquet under the curious gazes. She was curious as well. Everyone from Sapphire City University walked out of the multimedia classroom with their heads held high, while the students from Northview University were dejected.

Northview University proposed the competition, and Sapphire City University accepted it passively.

Yet, Northview University lost it.

It was more or less a slap in the face.

Natalie and Sherri had planned to buy flowers for Ava, but Trevon found a good excuse. He said, "I don't think you should buy flowers. This is a one-on-one competition. Ava will surely win, but it doesn't mean that her teammates will too. If you buy flowers, it will add to Ava's psychological burden."

Ava held the fiery-red roses that did not even have a card. She was puzzled. Rose took the roses from Ava's hand, trying to find out which man wanted to steal Ava from her brother. "Who is this? Why didn't he leave his name? Do people nowadays. like to do good deeds anonymously?"

Rose examined the roses thoroughly but found nothing wrong with the bouquet. She returned the flowers to Ava in frustration and took out her phone. She took a stunningly beautiful photo of Ava smiling with the roses and sent it to Frank.

She texted. You're toast. You're gonna die alone.]

Frank replied. I won't, but you? Not so sure. How about you think of how to find yourself a date?]

Rose replied, [Dammit. What's wrong with you?]

She reminded him out of kindness. Well, her brother deserved to be single.

Rose put the phone in her pocket and took a few deep breaths to calm herself down. She kept reminding herself that Frank was her biological brother and not to be mad at him.

Natalie felt the bouquet was weird. She put her arm around Ava's shoulder. Four women walked in front, and two men escorted them behind.

Natalie asked, "Do you know who sent you the flowers?"

Ava shook her head.

"Then why did you accept them?"

"I'm not saying that you shouldn't have accepted them. I support all your decisions. I know you've thought it through," Natalie said with a smile.

Ava looked at the gorgeous flowers and got carried away. "I don't know. It's as if I was possessed and just wanted to accept them. If I could do it again, I'd still make the same choice. It's like something is urging me to do this."

Natalie was speechless. She thought Ava had thought it over.

Sherri and Rose were still praising Ava's dominance, wiring the competition hands down.

Ava proudly accepted the praise. She did win. It would be pretentious and hypocritical if she acted modestly. "Girls, I've prepared school uniforms for you tonight. I'll bring you to our school's mask party. It's once a year, and it's fun."

Sherri was thrilled. "I'm so looking forward to it. I'm going back to school!"

Rose now totally forgot about the disappointing Frank. "Let's have fun tonight."

Hackett said, "Ava, get me a school uniform too, Will you?"

Ava turned to ask Trevon, "How about you, Trevon? Want a school uniform?"

Natalie did not force him. She just smiled at him. However, this smile was somehow meaningful. Trevon smiled faintly. "Sure, why not?"

It never occurred to Hackett that Trevon was now capable of doing anything. Trevon wanted a school uniform as well! That was hilarious. Hackett wanted to share it with Frank. He could not laugh at Trevon face-to-face, but at least he could do it behind Trevon

Hackett texted Frank, [You know what? We're attending the mask party at Ava's school tonight. I suggest you come over and see Trevon in the school uniform. You must be there. It's now or never.]

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The vast dance studio was filled with colorful lights, captivating music, and people with a variety of masks and matching

allure.

A young boy stood in the center, holding a microphone and explaining the rules. He pointed toward the display screen on the wall.

Initially, this screen played dance videos, but now it was being repurposed for a different use, making the most of its

utilization.

The boy said, "Today is our annual mask party. I'm thrilled that we can get together again. Let's cut to the chase. I'll explain the rules. The students who participated in the past years know the rules, but our new juniors don't. For those participating for the first time, we welcome you to join our faculty's big family!

He continued, "Currently, the lights are on. The entire dance studio is very bright. Our principal has spared no expense. He bought the best lights for this studio. First of all, thanks to the principal's generosity. Okay, I stop the flattery now. Let's continue with the main topic. You all have to wear the mask you like now, and you can't see each other's faces. Then, there's a blank name tag on your chests. Before the game starts, pick a name from the screen you think you'll meet when the lights are off. After the lights come on, we'll reveal the answers. Check if the person you're holding hands with matches the name on your tag. When the time is up, take down masks and let everyone witness."

He added, "Rules are laid out. Let's talk about some key points. No cheating is allowed. You can't secretly remove your mask and no sneaky actions.

"Now, onto the prizes. The first prize is a Tesla Model 3. You can choose the color you like. Of course, this game doesn't have second or third prizes, nor participation prizes. So don't hold onto any hopes for those. I've covered the rules, the prizes, and the key points. Any questions? I suppose not. Then, let's start writing down the names."

His voice was loud, filling the dance studio. As his words faded, they carried a lingering echo. "Are you all done writing? Then, I declare the mask party begins."

With a resounding announcement, everyone in the room became excited, enthusiastic, curious, and hopeful about winning prizes. They were also curious about who they would see when the lights came on later. This kind of game was full of unknowns. It ignited a strong sense of curiosity and exploration in people.

Ava, Rose, and Sherri stood together. They even added Alex, Natalie, and Trevon did not take off their name tags or write down names because their names were not on the screen. They were here to experience the atmosphere of Ava's school.

Sherri pursued a sense of ceremony and wrote "Hackett" on her name tag, while Hackett wrote "Sherri" on his

Rose randomly picked a name from the screen. It was Alex.

Ava neatly wrote "Alex" on the blank name tag, and Alex also wrote "Ava" on the name tag.

After five minutes, the bright lights dimmed, casting a dim atmosphere in the dance hall. In the darkness, one could not see other people clearly. They were all in the same school uniforms but with different masks, making it impossible to distinguish one person from another.

Trevon felt uncomfortable in his school uniform. Everything felt strange to him. However, Natalie was quite happy as she held his waist and hugged him tightly. He asked, "Honey, are you having fun?"

Natalie smiled in the darkness and replied, "Yes, does this count as a campus romance?"

Trevon chuckled and mischievously pecked her ear. "Maybe."

The damp sensation on her ear made her body tingle, and her ear turned slightly red. Fortunately, the lights were off. She warned, "Behave yourself. We are in a school"

Trevon replied, "Alright, I'll behave now, but I won't let you off when we are home."

Natalie went speechless.

Suddenly, a group of burly people disrupted the atmosphere and scattered the clustered crowd. Only then did the dance begin. Ava and Alex were naturally separated by the crowd.

Amid the confusion, a pair of large hands firmly encircled Ava's waist. Their warmth transmitted through her school uniform to her body. One hand rested on Ava's shoulder, providing a protective touch. She knew this person was not Alex, but she had no choice. After all, this was the game's rule.

In the subdued light, Ava lifted her gaze. Her hands dangled loosely on the man's arms, giving off an air of detachment. Behind the mask, the man's eyes were as deep and bottomless as the sea. They were pitch-black and profound, yet there was a hint of restrained tenderness. His gaze looked very familiar.

Ava's immediate thought was of Frank's eyes. They were very similar. Lately, due to the arrival of Rose's group, she found herself constantly reminded of Frank.

As time passed, these thoughts grew more frequent, almost overwhelming her.

She looked up for quite a while, her neck getting sore. Her steps followed the rhythm, and the man's steps coordinated with hers. Their dance was precise, without any foot-stepping mishaps.

Sherri's voice came from nearby, scolding Hackett, "You stepped on me. Hackell, can't you be more careful?"

Hacken quickly apologized, "Sweetheart, I'm sorry, it's too dark. I can't see. I'll be more careful"

Ava's eyes were transparent and clear as crystal. Her voice was soft and sweet as she said, "Mister, have we met somewhere before? Your eyes feel very familiar to me"

The man remained silent and just danced quietly. Ava asked again, but since he didn't respond, she assumed he wasn't interested and stopped asking. She loosened her grip on his arm, but her hand on her waist tightened even more.

This feeling puzzled her. She reminded him, saying, "Excuse me, can you loosen your grip a bit? We're dancing, not hugging"

After a pause, the man's hand indeed loosened a bit. Ava didn't say anything more and continued dancing. She had to endure it until the end of the dance. After all, she wasn't going to be the first-place winner. Today was just about bringing her friends along to join the party.

Half an hour later, the lights came on. Ava voluntarily pulled away from the man's chest, creating a bit more distance between them. The sudden brightness caused everyone present to shield their eyes from the light.

When one got used to darkness for a long time, they would become less adapted to brightness. It took time for them to adjust

The man wasn't wearing a school uniform. He wore a jet-black suit with matching trousers. A pure black custom-made belt was fastened around his waist. He wore a white cotton and linen shirt with the top button undone, and his sexy Adam's apple stood out.

His black fox mask added a touch of wildness and rebellion, as well as a hint of innocence and allure. As Ava looked at the man in front of her, her heartbeat skipped a beat. An incredible thought popped into her mind.

Her heart raced faster, almost to the point of suffocation.

Even the lace mask she wore couldn't hide the surprise, panic, and astonishment in her eyes. She tightly clenched her school uniform, almost forgetting to breathe.

Just as she was in a daze, a commanding voice rang out, "Now, let's remove our masks and see who's beside us. But don't be surprised. The matches might not be opposite genders. It could be male-male or female-female pairings. It's normal to pick someone of the same gender accidentally in the dark."

Laughter filled the room, but it didn't affect Ava in the slightest. She continued to stare at the person before her. She really wanted to see the hidden face behind the mask, but she was also afraid at the same time.

Her emotions were in turmoil.

The lights were on, and everyone started removing their masks. Natalie and her friends had also taken off their masks, finding themselves surrounded by familiar faces. Rose had managed to catch Alex, but she did not know about it yet.

They gathered around Ava, who still had her mask on. In a silent exchange, the scene became quite strange. From the stage, someone announced, "There are two people who haven't removed their masks yet. Let's see if they match the names on each other's name tags, shall we?"

Upon hearing this, Ava's clenched fist relaxed. She had mentally prepared herself. Then, she reached out to take off her mask slowly. She held her breath as she waited for the man to reveal his face.

Her feelings were conflicted. She hoped it was Frank, yet she didn't want it to be. She hoped because she missed him. However, she also hesitated because she wasn't ready for a reunion.

She didn't even know how to face him.

In his school uniform. Trevon pulled Natalie and urged the man with the mask. "Take it off now. The sooner, the better."

As Trevon finished speaking, the man lifted his well-defined fingers and slowly removed his mask. For a brief moment, the air grew silent. Everyone was astonished, except for Rose, who had the biggest reaction. 'Shit, Frank. You're such a show-all.

"When did you arrive here? Why didn't you say anything?"

Frank was indeed something else. He had this idea from the start, and Rose had been encouraging him all along, getting worried for him. It turned out she was worrying for nothing.

Damn, he had planned it all along. No wonder he went missing. He was waiting here. What a cunning guy.

As Rose analyzed all the details, everything connected. Frank's annoying smile on the plane must be because of Ava

She cursed Frank many times in her heart, and the words she used were quite explicit.

were

Meanwhile, Ava's expression showed that she probably didn't know Frank would show up at the mask party.

What was Frank up to? Surprise or shock? Pursuing someone wasn't supposed to be this complicated.

Judging by Trevon's tone, he clearly knew Frank would be here, but he hadn't expected Frank planned to reveal himself in such an unexpected way.

No one was prepared. Perhaps Ava was not mentally prepared too. It was all so sudden.

Well, it was still a little bit romantic.

Natalie gave Trevon a light pat and shot him a stern look. He responded to her warning gaze with a pleading look, saying, "Honey, I'll explain everything tonight when we go home. I was also forced to cooperate with him."

Natalie said. "You can't come up with better lies? You two are really scheming together."

As outsiders, both Natalie and Trevon refrained from intervening in Ava's decisions. This was something she had to handle on her own. Besides, it was also a crucial step in Ava's growth.

The only thing they could do was to be there for her when she was sad and provide guidance when she was lost. Nothing

more.

Unconsciously, a clear teardrop rolled down from the corner of Ava's eye. Her throat felt right, rendering her speechless. She had already thought about that bouquet of flowers.

The delivery person had said. "You've taken one step toward him, and he will take the next 99 steps toward you."

This phrase kept replaying in Ava's mind over and over again. And the eleven flowers, what did they signify? Complete

devotion?

Yesterday, she had racked her brain trying to figure out who the "future boyfriend" mentioned by the delivery person could be. It turned out he was right here.

All the arrangements, the words... were they all Frank's doing? Did he ask the delivery person to say that?

Was this a public confession?

Ava thought, "Stay calm, Ava. Your image as a little princess mustn't crumble. Keep steady"

She desperately searched for words in her mind, but in the end, she didn't say anything. She looked up, gazing at Frank's handsome features, especially his sharp contours. His face was still the attractive one from her memory. It had not changed at all.

If anything, he looked even more handsome and charming now,

Children would say goodbye, but adults would plan reunions.

Ava wasn't foolish. She knew this reunion was Frank's plan.

Frank held the mask in his hand and took a step forward. With his long brows and deep, bright eyes, he gazed at Ava directly. He reached out, gently wiping away her tears, and put on a faint and charming smile. "Is it too late for me to answer your question NOW?"

Ava tried to control her emotions, but her quivering lips betrayed her. Tears continued to fall onto the polished floor. She asked in a hoarse voice, "Didn't you reject me?"

Frank's eyes deepened, locking onto her. He continued to wipe her tears away gently. Ava didn't resist. She cried because of him anyway. What was wrong with him wiping her tears?

There was no one else in Frank's eyes at the moment. He ignored the curious gaze around them. He lowered his voice with his tone laced with a captivating allure, saying, "I don't recall ever expressing an opinion from the beginning until now. So, I have never rejected you."

He was right. He hadn't agreed or refused, and he had just remained unresponsive. Did it count as a rejection?

Ava's emotions at this moment were complex. Alex couldn't bear to see her friend being so sad. When she remembered Ava crying last time, she felt uncomfortable.

Given the situation, Alex could also guess that this man was the one who had rejected Ava. Feeling indignant, she stepped forward and reached for Ava's shoulder. She then pulled Ava into her embrace. "What are you doing? She's my honey. Get lost!"

Only the people from the same faculty knew that Alex was a girl, but the freshmen didn't know. At this moment, a love triangle formed in everyone's minds, creating a vivid mental drama.

Where there were many people, there was always gossip.

[Chapter 304](#)

With Alex holding Ava's shoulder, they left the dance studio under the gaze of countless eyes. They did not participate in the following activities of the mask party.

An unspoken confession came to an end.

After being best friends for so many years, Alex understood Ava well. Every time Ava cried, it was when her emotions were most complex, making her prone to making wrong decisions. But after a few minutes of calming down, leading her away from the scene, and clearing her mind, she would quickly recharge and become clear-headed again.

She would come up with plans and thoughts one after another.

She was quirky and clever.

After Ava left, the dance studio was filled with discussions. Meanwhile, Natalie and her group left the studio and headed toward the field.

The sides of the field were shaded by green trees, with thin moonlight draping over the treetops. The moonlight filtered through the branches, kissing the ground and leaving a thin layer of moonlit glow.

Some people said that the shade on both sides of the field was to help the students block the sun, while others said it was for aesthetics and greenery.

Several people strolled along the track slowly, their thoughts complex. Natalie really wanted to go after Alex and Ava, but she was held back by Trevon.

Hackett had witnessed an incredible scene this evening. He followed behind Frank, who had a cold expression. He couldn't hold it in any longer and grabbed Sherri's shoulder, asking Frank beside him.

"Are you just going to let a guy take Ava away like that? Are you spineless or what?"

"That guy is going to win Ava's heart. You better watch out and do something."

Hackett continued to speak his mind.

Wasn't that right? How could Frank not see the threat?

Hackett felt a mixture of smugness and sympathy in his heart. The man with a sharp tongue and arrogant demeanor watched her woman taken away by another man, Halia, it was so amusing.

He chuckled to himself countless times inwardly.

Sherri also found it strange. How could Frank let another guy take Ava away right before him? Didn't that make him seem too weak? But she couldn't voice her thoughts, so she signaled Rose to ask.

Before Rose could ask, Frank unexpectedly retorted, "Go see an eye doctor. You should get your eyes checked."

After that, he kindly handed Hackett 20 dollars, saying, "No need to thank me, it's for the registration fee for the eye examination. Consider it a gift."

Hackett held the 20 dollars in a state of confusion, unsure whether to accept or return it,

Hackett said, "What the hell are you thinking? I can't believe you're still so calm after your woman left with another man. Are you an idiot?"

Receiving Sherri's encouraging gaze, Rose bravely stepped forward as the scapegoat. It was partly because she was curious herself. "Frank, you've planned all this out. But how did you manage to let Ava be taken away by another guy? I'm telling you, that guy just now has abs. He was the one who danced with me in the dance studio."

She accidentally touched Alex's abs. They were quite impressive and very manly.

Frank stopped in his tracks and pinched his brow. He couldn't help but wonder what was wrong with everyone's eyes. He said, "Let Hackett share 10 dollars with you for an eye examination."

Rose was left dumbfounded and could not say a word.

She wanted to give Frank 20 dollars for a neurology examination. Natalie could give him a brain test, which was reliable and

free.

As Sherri, the embodiment of the gossip queen, how could she let such juicy information slip away? She signaled Natalie to

ask.

Naturally, Trevon noticed their exchange of glances as if they were passing the chance to ask more.

Trevon had his arm around Natalie's waist, almost pressing her against his chest. He looked at the group with a headache and kindly said, "Ladies, you're all doctors. Can't you tell that that person doesn't have an Adam's apple?"

If that person was a man, how could Frank be so composed? What were they thinking?

Their collective intelligence genuinely worried him.

Natalie suddenly looked up, meeting Trevon's half-smiling eyes. He smirked, reaching out to lightly flick her delicate, small nose. "You didn't notice either, did you?"

Natalie shook her head truthfully. Indeed, she hadn't noticed. The person who took Ava away seemed to be dressed like a boy, with a buzz cut, wearing men's clothes, and seemingly not even wearing a

bra. Something was off. Their chest appeared to be flat. Could it be that they were binding their chest?

Usually, even a slight prominence would have been noticeable.

The expression on her face had moved beyond surprise. She was shocked now. How could a girl like to dress like that? Natalie could understand Rose's ripped jeans. Sherri's bold clothes, and Hackett's pink shirt. But a girl with a buzz cut, black suit, black T-shirt... She needed a moment to digest the information.

Considering everyone on the scene was shocked back then. Who would pay attention to whether the person had Adam's apple or not?

They were too careless.

Natalie remained relatively composed, and her ability to accept things was quite strong.

In the next second, Sherri, Rose, and Hackett simultaneously turned to Trevon and exclaimed in unison, their voices almost deafening "That's a girl

Following thus, the three of them gaped, their mouths wide enough to fit a tomato. They stared at Trevon dumbfoundedly, seeking an explanation.

Trevon glanced sympathetically at the three. He nodded slightly to indicate that they were indeed "blind."

Frank already knew it. It was why he jokingly gave them 20 dollars to see an eye doctor.

Frank had his hands in his pockets, his gaze as deep as the sea. It was impossible to tell what he was thinking. He could have just confessed to Ava right then and there, so why did he let such a great opportunity slip away?

Natalie wanted to ask, but she remembered what Trevon had said. Frank had his own set of rules and plans. She now fully believed it.

The swing swayed in the air, rising and falling, much like Ava's current mood. She suddenly lifted her toes off the ground and pushed against the surface, causing the swing to soar

Amidst the blooming spring and gentle moonlight, this land exuded a sense of tranquility, with gauzy veils partially covering its face, creating a poetic and beautiful atmosphere.

Alex stood quietly to the side, hands in her pockets, like a guardian watching over a lonely princess.

Ava gradually stopped swinging and looked up at the sky. The deep blue sky held a bright moon surrounded by twinkling stars as if they were chasing after it.

Blinking as if winking, it was as though the stars were telling her the answer, mischievous yet adorable.

After a few minutes of silence, Ava thought it through. She grabbed both sides of the swing with her hands and lifted her feet off the ground. Then, she turned to Alex and smiled gently. "Alex. Ive figured it out. I still like him*

She had a firm gaze and a hint of newfound confidence in her eyes,

Alex, standing on the side, wasn't surprised. She sighed quietly, walked over to an empty swing beside Ava, and looked at her face. "I guessed it as soon as you saw him. Your eyes were filled with affection for him"

After a moment of silence, Alex continued, "So, what's your plan? You're just going to forgive him like that, even after your confession was rejected?"

Although Alex had never been in a romantic relationship, she had heard plenty of talk about it from her classmates. Things that were too easily obtained were often not cherished.

She was a girl, but she dressed like a boy. In fact, many people in the class would talk behind her back, questioning her gender. Some would hang out with her. But she could still see the peculiar look in their eyes.

Only Ava treated her sincerely, with eyes as clear as water, without a trace of ulterior motives.

Alex's family situation wasn't pleasant. With an older brother and a younger sister, the traditional mindset of valuing males over females was deeply rooted in her family. She had been trying to prove that girls were no less than boys and that girls could be just like boys.

Alex transformed herself into a boy's appearance. At first, Alex tried hard, and she worked hard to get into Sapphire City University. But after entering university, she gradually realized that it wasn't easy to change the deep-seated mindset of her family, no matter how hard she tried.

Once she understood and was disappointed, she began to slack off, lay low, sleep in class, wear men's clothes, and even shave

her head.

Ava understood the reason behind Alex's actions, Alex wanted her parents to pay attention to her at home. Even if it meant being scolded, at least they would notice her. Since becoming better every day didn't catch her parents' eyes, Alex chose to

become worse to attract their attention.

Everyone had a story, a secret that couldn't be told. Every person carried a fire within them, yet passersby only saw the

smoke.

Just like Alex, everyone only saw her appearance and started to despise and judge her. Who would delve deeper into why she liked to wear men's clothes?

After a pause, Ava tilted her head back, gazing at the twinkling stars, and slightly parted her lips. "No way. I've been chasing him for about three days, so I want him to pay me back twice as much. I have my own temper."

Ava spoke resolutely

Alex glanced at her, then suddenly chuckled "Well, it seems my role as your pretend boyfriend is coming to an end."

Ava was quite clever. She could guess that this kind of trick wouldn't last for long. If she got exposed later, it would be her loss. Maybe Frank would even tease her about it. She said, "Don't underestimate Frank. He's smart. Maybe he saw through it a long time ago."

Alex replied, "Tsk, you haven't even agreed to be with him yet, and you become so protective of him. Your attitude changed. 100 quickly Let me tell you. When you meet him next time, you need to maintain the princess vibe. You can't let it slip, got

Alex reminded her, fearing Ava might forget.

"Okay, I promise to always have my crown on."

After saying that, Ava playfully put an imaginary crown on her head, and they both chuckled. Even the moon seemed to join in the light laughter.

Under the moonlight, two swings continued to sway. They went high, then low, occasionally accompanied by the delightful, melodic laughter of the two girls.

"Hey, take it slow, or you'll fly up to the sky."

"I want to shake hands with the moon."

"You want to go to the sky?"

"No, I just want to be friends with the angel in heaven."

Amid their playfulness, it was hard to distinguish their voices. Only the sound of giggles and laughter gave it away. Ava's voice was sweet, while Alex's was deep and husky, carrying a hint of magnetism.

Maybe the creator had made a mistake when shaping Alex's body, leaving behind her "third leg" and retaining other masculine features.

[Chapter 305](#)

The night took over. A black curtain spread across the sky, leaving only a drowsy moon while the stars seemed to be taking a break, hiding away.

Or maybe they were on a shift, waiting for the moon to sleep before they took their turn on duty.

The stars would brighten the sky once the moon fell asleep.

On the balcony, one girl had her legs curled up on a diamond-patterned swing chair while another girl lazily reclined on a beanbag. Both were dressed in pajamas with face masks on their faces,

The face masks they wore were priced at 560 dollars for a pack of 6. They chose to stay the night and use the most expensive face masks.

"Natalie, how do you think Frank will pursue me? Will it be as romantic and thrilling as it is in TV shows?"

Ava looked at Natalie with an eager expression, her excitement barely concealed even under her face mask, causing it to wrinkle slightly

Natalie sat up slightly, reaching over to smooth out Ava's face mask, and said in a calm tone, "How do you want him to pursue you? You left abruptly tonight. Aren't you afraid he will give up on you?"

Ava tore off the freshly applied face mask with a burst of excitement. "No way!"

Her sudden excitement startled Natalie, causing her to sit up as well. She grabbed a tissue and handed it to Ava, saying, "You're getting too worked up

Natalie continued. "I'm just kidding with you. But from what I've seen, Frank won't give up easily. Your brother-in-law said. he's not the type to play with others' emotions. It's not easy for someone to come all the way from Athana to chase you. It means that you have quite a charm. Now, can you tell me your thoughts?"

Natalie was pretty sure Ava wouldn't have rejected Frank that easily.

The look of someone in love couldn't be hidden. One glance was enough to reveal it. And from the way Ava had looked at Frank tonight, there was evident affection, longing, and surprise in her eyes.

Ava's worries seemed to ease after hearing thus. She lazily reclined back onto the swing chair, legs crossed, using her elbow to prop up her chin. She let out a drawn-out "Well..." before continuing, "I plan to make Frank chase me for three months. I was the one pursuing him before, so now it's his turn to pursue me. That way, it's fair, right? Once the time is up. I'll give him

my answer.

That was how Ava saw it. With love now in her life, she wanted to cherish it. She didn't want to wait until it was too late to regret it. She didn't want to add any regrets to her future.

Moreover, she genuinely liked Frank. If he didn't like her, that would be okay. But Frank seemed to have feelings for her too. Why should she hold back?

Mutual affection was a beautiful thing. Love was a luxury in life, so why would anyone push it away? And why made it more complicated than it needed to be?

However, she still needed to maintain her dignity. After all, Frank had kept her hanging for a while. If, by any chance, he really gave up chasing her, then she would decide what to do. After all, who could predict things that hadn't happened yet?

Natalie sighed inwardly. Ava might be young, but she had a clear head on her shoulders. She didn't hesitate in what she wanted, including love. She had everything planned out.

This kind of approach was likely something only Ava would think of.

"Since you already set a time limit for Frank, it seems you've already accepted him in your heart. So, does it matter how he pursues you?"

Natalie asked curiously.

Ava shook her head. "No, it's not like that. He can't just take advantage of the fact that I like him and pursue me half-heartedly. I'm not some cabbage he can pick up and take home just by quoting a price. I won't be easily won over."

Natalie chuckled at Ava's expression. I support you. Go for it.

Ava pouted and spoke with an air of pride, articulating her genuine thoughts.

People with hope in their hearts shone like stars in the night sky, radiating their light, and were never alone.

Nearly an hour passed as Natalie and Ava had their conversation. They discussed Frank extensively, and Natalie also told Ava about Frank's family situation.

She relayed everything Trevon had shared with her. Ava listened attentively, sometimes frowning her brows, other times daydreaming, and occasionally breaking into a silly grin

Meanwhile, a few night owls from Fairy Fortress started becoming active.

Both Natalie's and Ava's phones lit up with multiple messages at the same time, creating a constant chiming sound that did

not stop.

Under the quiet night sky, a lively atmosphere was set

However, all of this was happening inside their phones.

Rose was the first to send a message, Ava, Ava, calling Ava, are you there?]

Seeing this message, Natalie inexplicably thought of soldiers calling their headquarters.

She sighed and remembered her friends were all night owls. Just looking at the constant stream of messages pouring in, she could tell how excited they all were.

Sherri wrote, Ava, have you gone home!]

Rose chimed in again, [Calling Ava, Ava. Natalie, hurry and share what happened next.)

After they were told that Alex was a girl, Frank left in a hurry as if tonight's visit was just a brief appearance, no follow-up

whatsoever.

Rose had sent many messages to Frank, but it was as if he was dead. He had not responded at all. She started to wonder if he got so shocked that he hid himself.

For avid gossip lovers like Sherri and Rose, stopping midway amidst the juicy details was the most frustrating. If they could not find out what happened after tonight's event, they would not be able to sleep. They might toss and turn all night until morning

The next second, Rose's message was quite explicit. She wrote, [Sherri, why are you staying up so late in such a beautiful environment? Why not have a deep conversation with your little Hackett:]

Sherri quickly replied. [Well, we've already had a wonderful conversation. I do care about my little Hackett. I keep the frequency in moderation, like once a day.]

Natalie and Ava looked at the messages on their phones, both facepalming. What kind of conversation had just happened here?

Even though Ava was young, she understood the implied meaning behind those words.

How could they discuss something so sexual openly? Judging from Sherri's tone, did she think that this frequency was too little?

She was practically like a lustful woman.

Rose laughed heartily and replied, [Ilaha, Sherri, you're so real. I like you this way.]

Natalie didn't immediately reply. She reminded Ava, saying, Ava. I suggest you keep the three-month time limit. confidential and not share it with them."

Ava caught Natalie's gaze and looked at messages on the phone. She understood and said, "I think so too. We need to put locks on Sherri and Rose's mouths."

Natalie typed on her phone, [Don't lead my Ava astray. Be careful with your words.]

Sherri responded, Oh well, we're all women. Don't be too restrained]

Rose sent a laughing emoji.

Ava followed up. [I'm here, Im here.]

Rose successfully 'summoned the main character. She was excited and quickly typed on her phone, [I knew you weren't asleep. Tell me, how do you feel now that you've met my brother? Do you still like him?]

Sherri chimed in. [Yes, yes, yes! Ava, hurry up and tell us. Frank looked quite handsome tonight.]

He was super handsome. He unexpectedly made an appearance at the mask party.

Ava lifted her head, once again catching Natalie's gaze. She nodded and then typed on her phone, (I don't know either. I need to think about it carefully.)

Actually, it was not that they didn't consider Sherri and Rose as friends. Ava just wanted her relationship to be secure. Sherri and Rose weren't scheming and were quite candid. They were just a bit outspoken. What if they accidentally mentioned the

time limit in front of Hackett or Frank?

Natalie was afraid that Frank might not take it seriously. Once a certain situation was given a time limit, people tended to count the days and put in effort accordingly. This might decrease the genuine enthusiasm from the heart.

If Frank truly liked Ava, he'll put in a lot of effort regardless of whether there was a set time limit or not.

Sherri agreed and replied, [Yes, Ava, your idea is right. Rose, I'm talking about the matter, not targeting you. It's just that

your brother owes Ava.]

Sherri continued, [Ava needs some respect too. When we were helping Ava to get Frank's attention, he showed no response. But now that he's interested in Ava, she doesn't need to respond enthusiastically.]

Sherri emphasized, [We can't have double standards just because he's handsome. Ava is also very good-looking I

Rose quickly responded, [Sherri. I'll add on to your wordy messages. I totally agree with what you said. Ava, whether you like my brother or not, you have to play hard to get. Tease him a bit.]

Rose started to complain, [He acts like a lord every day, and his words are even more venomous than a cobra's poison. No one could rival his arrogance.]

Sherri meekly typed, [Rose, can I ask if you and Frank share the same mother?]

Rose responded, [Stop talking nonsense. We do share the same mother. Good luck, Ava. I support you.]

She then sent an emoji of a helpless expression.

Natalie typed silently. [Dear Rose, you're tough. Friendly reminder, delete the chat history before you sleep tonight. Im afraid you won't see the sun tomorrow.]

Rose retorted, I'm not afraid. Cranky Franky can't get rid of me.]

Sherri wrote. [I'll pray for you. Rose.

Ava replied, [Sisters, I have class tomorrow morning, but I'm free in the afternoon. So, I can't stay up late with you guys.] Sherri and Rose said they had to sleep in the morning, so it was okay. Prioritizing studies was crucial, and a hardworking girl was the most beautiful.

Rose also mentioned she won first prize, but since she was not a Sapphire City University student, she returned the prize. She had not reached the level of using university resources to her advantage. If she really liked something, she could use Frank's card to buy it, no big deal.

If Frank managed to win Ava's heart in the future, she might not be able to splurge his money recklessly anymore. So, she should take advantage of the current opportunity.

Without further ado, Rose opened an online shopping site and placed orders Late into the night.

Impulse buying was a thing. An hour later, she had unknowingly placed 28 orders. Worried that Frank might scold her, she kindly ordered two pairs of shoes for him.

Rose quickly rounded up to a perfect 30 orders.

Then, she remembered Natalie's advice and promptly deleted the chat history. She had to be careful.

After all, she had just spent her brother's money

[Chapter 306](#)

The next morning. Ava came to the school as usual, carrying her books and taking a seat in the fifth row of the multimedia

classroom

Dressed in a white dress, her hair tied up high in a ponytail, she exuded a pure and ethereal charm. Her exquisite figure was perfectly proportioned, drawing the attention of many boys around her, along with hushed whispers. The scene from last night must have been unforgettable for many, especially since they were in the same department.

Gossip was never in short supply, and that was something that could not be changed. People were naturally curious, which was understandable.

Ava paid no mind to the probing gazes around her, while Alex, her drowsy body dragged along by Ava's successive calls, made her way to the classroom.

With crumbs from her hurried breakfast stuck to her mouth, nearly choking, Ava noticed Alex's struggling red face and handed her a bottle of soda water at once, saying, "Take a sip quickly. I told you to get up early. Why did you have to linger in bed for another five minutes?"

Alex took a big gulp of soda water, finished half of the bottle, and finally brought herself back from the brink. "Ah... that's refreshing. Why did you insist on dragging me to your graduate class? It's not easy for me as an undergraduate, you know?"

The lecture today was given by the strictest professor in the Computer Science Department at Sapphire City University. He was ruthless in his teaching methods. Any lateness or absence in his class would not only result in failing the course but also facing penalties that make you cynical.

In the computer science department, the professor's penalties for students were not trivial, like standing outside the classroom or copying texts. His methods were much more creative.

He would ask the punished students to write a certain amount of code for the day and expect the students to express their attitude of admitting the mistake through coding, continuing until they genuinely felt to acknowledge it. However, the true state of admitting one's mistake through coding was something needed to personally comprehend, and this was precisely what made students fearful, as there was simply no way to grasp it.

A girl from the back row had attended the masquerade party the previous night and had witnessed the scene between Ava and Frank. Curious, she leaned forward and asked, "Hey, Ava, was that your ex last night? He's really cute. Why did you break up? Did he initiate the breakup last night?"

The girl was full of gossip, hoping Ava's answer would align with her assumptions that Ava was the one who got dumped

Alex, who knew the inside story, was displeased with these questions. Ava had a failed crush, and she cried so sadly that day. Such questions could be kept in mind without needing to be spoken aloud. Asking the person involved was crossing a line, like rubbing salt in the wounds.

Alex gave the girl from the back row a disdainful look. "Is it any of your business?"

The girl was annoyed. "Did I ask you? I'm asking Ava. Do you have any problem? Ava did not even say anything" Then she continued with a mutter. "Such a queer."

Alex had always been straightforward. She liked what she liked and disliked what she disliked. She would not cater to anyone except Ava. "It does concern me. Any issues with that? Your parents must be great scientists to create such a failure like you"

Their argument started, and the girl from the back row was not a pushover "Hey, who do you think you are! Take some meds to treat your madness. You're just a flatterer who keeps trying to please Ava, following her everywhere"

Everyone at school knew Ava had a good relationship with Alex, a tomboy-like student

Upon hearing this, Ava felt uncomfortable. While arguing was one thing, resorting to insults was a matter of character Besides, what Alex wore was her own choice. "And what about your behavior? Are you a paparazzo? My business seems to have nothing to do with you. Do you need me to explain the word 'privacy' to you? It's impolite to excessively pry into others' matters. I'm educating you now since I believe your parents never told you that. No need to thank me

"Plus, Alex is my friend, please respect her."

Ava rarely got angry, especially in public. Everyone had limits, and if one crossed the line, one could not blame them for getting angry.

The girl in the back seat sat down discontentedly and muttered to herself, "What's so special about your You are just desperate. My guess is you either got dumped or failed at pursuing him

Alex picked up a book and slammed it onto the desk behind her "Enjoy being a bitch, huh? If you think you're not ugly enough now, I don't mind helping you with a fight"

Alex's irritation quickly flared up, and Ava was not pleased either Does it concern you whether I succeeded in pursuSING someone or not? Your current behavior is truly embarrassing your parents"

"You..."

During the argument, a male classmate sat down next to Ava, causing a gust of wind with his naklen movement. Because of

his arrival, the attention of the girl who had been ready to argue was diverted.

The guy wore a white T-shirt, layering with a white base pattern, and a light black striped shirt. The slender long legs wrapped in a pair of light blue jeans, sparking imaginative thoughts.

The brim of lus black cap pressed down low, while a black mask covered the entire face. He looked like a star who had made

an entrance

The buttons of his striped shirt at the wrist were undone and folded twice to his elbows, revealing tanned skin, firm muscles, and a strong sense of vitality. It was simple, comfortable, fresh, alluring yet wild, with a touch of mystery.

Ava and Alex's moods were not very pleasant due to their argument with the girl behind them. They did not notice the guy who had sat down beside them. Before long, the professor entered the room, carrying a few books under his arm, and walked towards the lectern with confident strides.

There were white strands of hair, and the traces of time were visible in his eyes. The professor gently placed the books on the table, opened the computer, and prepared to start the lecture.

Alex saw that the guy next to Ava had no textbooks and was wearing a mask and a cap. Out of goodwill, she leaned over and whispered. "Hey, buddy, let me tell you, this professor can be quite strict. Don't be fooled by his gentle appearance. He's got a lot of strict rules.

"This is a piece of good advice. If you don't want to struggle yourself to death with coding, I suggest you take off your cap and mask now. No need to thank me."

Ava was not as nosy, and she did not even look to her left. She calmly opened her book, ready to take notes in class.

The guy in the fifth row at the back, take off your 'cool' gear while my mood is still good now." The professor reminded the male classmate.

Upon hearing this, the guy extended his slender hand to remove his cap and then took off his mask. As the mask came off, Alex was left dumbfounded.

With a mechanical movement, her elbow bumped several times into the side of Ava, who turned her head with a puzzled expression "What are you doing? I'm getting ready for class"

Alex remained silent, merely lifting her chin and gesturing with her eyes toward Ava's left

Following her guidance, Ava turned her head slightly to the left and was greeted by an extraordinarily attractive face. She froze in place, her throat instinctively swallowed, and her heartbeats suddenly off rhythm.

The professor's praise could be heard once again from the lectern. It seemed that he was indeed in a good mood today. "Quite a handsome young fellow. Why are you hiding such an advantage? Are you afraid of attracting too much attention?"

"Pay attention in class. Don't wear masks or caps

my

class"

The guy responded with a polite smile towards the professor, saying. "Understood, professor. I'm just afraid my future girlfriend would get mad, so I am acting decent."

Acting as a decent guy.

Upon hearing this, Ava remained silent, slightly furrowing her brows as she looked at the guy. A sudden chill ran down her spine. Did those words really come out of his mouth?

In the next second, she swiftly averted her gaze, covering half of her face as she explained to Alex with her eyes. "I really did not know"

The girl in the back seat was intrigued. She already found the guy attractive when she first saw him, and now he looked even more dashing. She thought to herself, "Future girlfriend? Well, that means he doesn't have one yet."

Who would care about his relationship with Ava? As long as they were not together, there was always a chance for her. With that thought in mind, she reached out and tapped the shoulder of the guy in front. "Hey, handsome, can I have number?"

your

He did not answer, but instead took out a tissue from his pocket and wiped the spot where his shoulder had been touched. He lightly tapped his shoulder a couple of times in disdain and then wiped his hand, revealing clearly defined bones and strong tension in his long fingers.

Ava could not help but turn around with curiosity and watch his series of actions. The look of disdain on his face was apparent. Ava made her look away after a moment, telling herself to stay calm.

Without even turning his head, the guy addressed the girl behind him "Are your parents in the business of home-wrecking" The girl did not understand. What did he mean? Did he want to know about her family? Her mother ran a training center, and her father was a construction contractor. Her family's financial situation was quite good. "Well, my mother is..." Of course, Alex was familiar with this guy. She was satisfied with his move just now, earning a few favorable impressions. Before the girl in the back could finish introducing her family, Alex interrupted, kindly addressing the girl who had just argued with her. "You don't even understand the term 'home-wrecker. How clueless can you be?"

In response, the girl at the back stomped her foot in frustration.

Meanwhile, Alex pinched Ava's soft and smooth leg under the desk. Ava's tender skin bore a red mark instantly, and the pain caused her to frown. She leaned in and whispered with a lowered voice, "Hey, what are you doing?"

"I'm helping you stay clear-headed I'm afraid you'll get lured by him"

Alex thought to herself. "This guy is too fucking attractive and even his teasing is so charming. He's dangerously captivating"

Ava continued in a hushed voice "You used too much force. It hurts"

Alex retorted, saying. "If I don't use force, you won't learn."

Ava did not reply but thought to herself. "But I don't have to torture myself if I want to learn from previous mistakes."

Both of them thought they were speaking in low voices and forgot that the guy next to them could hear them. They continued their hushed conversation.

The guy casually leaned to the side, exuding a vibe of nonchalance. One hand supported his face, and he gazed at Ava, who did not dare to look back. He found her particularly adorable. He slightly swiped the corner of his lips with his tongue, adding a hint of roguishness, and lowered his voice, saying, "You still have not answered my question from last night yet. Avoiding won't solve anything."

This was not something Ava wanted to hear, and Alex could not restrain her following reaction. Ava took a deep breath, imitated the guy's posture by leaning sideways, and reminded herself to remain composed. With a steady gaze, she looked at

harr

They shared the same posture, locking eyes with each other. One gaze was filled with affection, the other brimming with playfulness.

Ava, though slightly annoyed, managed to sound tender. "You're being too inconsistent. You did not react when I pursued you, yet you expect me to answer your questions. By that logic, aren't you avoiding me too? Hmph."

The young lady's determination was evident in her eyes. Even if her voice was soft, she exuded confidence and determination, just like a warrior ready to confront her enemy.

Instead of getting angry, the guy, Frank, seemed amused by her efforts. His eyes were tinged with affection, and he responded gently. "Mmm"

Ava thought to herself. I said that much, and you only reply with a single sound?"

"Let me ask again. Is there still time to answer the question from before you returned to Sapphire City? Frank asked once more, a smile playing at the corners of his eyes.

Holding her breath, Ava suppressed her inner agitation. She was once again captivated by Frank's handsome appearance, feeling her composure slip away. Strengthening her determination, she tried to sound more assertive and replied, "It's too

late"

As the words left her mouth, she quickly averted her gaze. His eyes were as deep as the ocean as if trying to pull her in. If their eyes met for just another second, she might have changed her mind and said it was not too late.

Frank continued to keep it simple, his expression showing no emotions. "Mmm"

Alex thought to herself, "Does this guy ever read? He seriously lacks vocabulary."

How would he communicate with Ava in the future? Would it only be phrases like "Mmm" and "Oh"?

"Those in the fifth row at the back, no dating or public displays of affection in my class. Focus on your studies." The professor reminded them without turning to his front.

Today, the professor's demeanor was quite good, and he was patient as well.

His statement just now did not single anyone out by name. As long as no one spoke up, no one would know who it referred to. After all, the fifth row was not occupied by just two people, it was an entire row.

A deep and magnetic voice resonated throughout the spacious classroom. "Understood, professor."

The professor nodded upon hearing this, expressing satisfaction. This student was indeed a good one.

Ava was dumbfounded. Did this statement imply that they were a couple?

When did she agree to this? She had not, not at all.

With a pout, she turned her head, visibly annoyed, and asked, "When did I agree to this? I didn't." Her irritation was clear.

Frank still rested his head on his hand, tilting his head to gaze at her petite face. He tugged at the corner of his lips, forming a subtle smile, and let out a soft "Mmun."

Ava was helpless and remained silent

Alex thought to herself, "Ava is in serious trouble. She can't outwit this sly fox. During just one class, he's cunningly asserted the dominance."

And that was witnessed by the professor.

Impressive.

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As the bell rang for the end of class, Ava quickly pulled Alex along, her steps quick and almost like being pursued by a wolf behind her. But indeed, there was a wolf chasing after her.

Ava's nervous heart raced irregularly, and she did not dare look back. She walked ahead desperately, causing Alex to stumble slightly as she pulled her along. "Sweetheart, where are you planning to hide?"

In the dorm, she needed to ease her mood and regain her composure.

A captivating and magnetic voice with a sense of security came from behind, saying, "Hey, buddy. I need your sweetheart. for a few minutes."

At those words, the two people hurrying ahead suddenly halted, and Alex lowered her voice to remind Ava. "Sweetheart, I think you can avoid him this time, but not next time. Why not face it head-on? You can confront him with your confidence and address the injustices you have faced"

After saying that. Alex nodded earnestly and encouraged her.

In Alex's opinion, Frank was quite impressive. Apart from being exceptionally handsome, he also exuded a strong sense of decency. It was not surprising that Ava was attracted to him.

After a moment of contemplation, Ava finally agreed. Alright, she would face it directly then. "You go back to the dorm first."

Alex replied. "Okay, then I won't have lunch with you. You probably won't be able to make it back."

Ava still had feelings for Frank, but after the last time he rejected her, she felt embarrassed and hurt. She had even deleted his contact on WhatsApp, intending to erase him from her memory. Yet, here he was, coming back to ask for answers. What about the tears she shed earlier? She felt quite unfair about it.

Mentally preparing herself. Ava turned around, but her small hands were nervously clasped behind her back.

Frank had his hands in his pockets, exuding an explosion of masculine charisma. His cap was reversed on his head, and his mask had been put away in the pocket.

His chiseled features were captivating, making it hard to resist his charm. Ava scolded herself for lacking self-control and trying not to be swayed by his looks. She pretended to remain composed and emotionless as she spoke, "Tell me your motive."

Ava wore a white off-shoulder dress with thin straps on the shoulders and a high ponytail adorned with a bright and eye-catching hairband, which seemed to be custom-made.

The earrings were shaped like maple leaves, reflecting autumn colors. They contrasted beautifully with her exposed collarbones, where the skin appeared delicate and tender.

A subtle touch of makeup adorned her peachy cheeks, making her appear like a budding flower. Her facial features were well-defined and captivating, exuding a fresh and charming allure, and strands of hair gently danced around her head. Frank pressed his hand against the cap on his head and spoke in a low, magnetic tone, "To pursue you." His voice carried a hint of amusement as he slightly raised his voice in the last word.

With just a few simple words, Ava's fidgeting hands behind her back began to intertwine. She took a deep breath and finally managed to utter a single word with all her strength. "Alright."

The visible happiness appeared at the corner of her lips. Even Ava herself did not realize that she had unintentionally revealed her true feelings.

Frank naturally noticed, but he was willing to play along with his princess. "What do you say?"

What? Ava was dumbfounded.

Seeing her puzzled expression, Frank found it adorable. They were basking in the sunlight together, and he noticed the faint sweat on her forehead. He took off his cap and took a step forward.

Startled, Ava instinctively stepped back. In the next moment, the black cap was placed on her head, casting an instant shadow over her face. It turned out that he wanted to shield her from the sun. She had thought...

"Wear it. My princess can not be hurt by sunburn" Frank explained.

Ava's mind briefly conjured an image of her being sunburned. She burst into laughter in the next second, and her smile was as refreshing as a breeze in spring.

Ava laughed for a while, but seeing that Frank had not continued the previous conversation, she felt awkward. She cleared her throat and asked, "Didn't you say I should focus on studying and avoid relationships at the moment?"

She was referring to her phone conversation with her mother on the island that night, which Frank overheard. He then told her the school did not allow students to have relationships and advised her to concentrate on her studies.

As Frank often said these things, Ava felt that he looked down on her age. So, on the second day after returning to Sapphire

City, she bought some suits, chiffon blouses, and elegant dresses to show her feminine side.

Wasn't be concerned about her young age? Didn't he know that women relied on their outfits to appear mature?

Frank was not offended. Instead, he chuckled. He knew that she was irritated. He used her previous words to retort, saying, "Your memory is quite good, so you remember every word I have said."

If Ava admitted to remembering, that would mean she missed him a lot. This was something she could not admit. "I don't remember. I just thought of it suddenly."

Ava thought to herself, "Exactly, I must not admit it."

Frank glanced at her delicate little face, slightly flushed from the sun. He said softly. "Let me take you back home."

Ava lied. Tm going back to... the dorm.

"You don't have classes this afternoon" Frank revealed her lie right away.

Ava looked at the handsome man next to her with surprise. "You checked my class schedule?"

"Yeah," he responded calmly, openly admitting it without hiding.

Frank continued expressing his intentions. "I'll keep pursuing you." Whether you agreed or not, he left the latter part of the sentence unsaid.

Ava suddenly changed her opinion of the man walking beside her. The previously reserved guy was now being direct. "Have you pursued any girls before? You seem so straightforward."

Ava was genuinely curious but also anxious. She regretted asking the question as soon as it left her mouth. She was afraid he would say yes. It was the paradox of being a woman, torn between wanting to know and fearing the answer. Women were creatures of paradox.

One second passed, then another. Frank still had not answered. Just as Ava thought that Frank would not respond, a soft voice echoed in her ears. "I learned it from you."

Before Ava could refute it, the next sentence quickly followed. "I have never pursued a girl before. You're the first. My experience comes from you."

Ava's words were stuck in her throat by the reply.

In the beginning. Ava had aggressively pursued Frank with great momentum, but now the tables had turned. It was his turn to be assertive.

Thinking about it, she still felt satisfied deep down. He said he had never pursued girls before. But was it because he had never pursued, never had a girlfriend, or never liked anyone?

Frank, always keen and observant, had already noticed the contemplative expression on Ava's slightly furrowed face. He lifted the corner of his lips, smiling, and said. "Never had a girlfriend, never pursued anyone."

Ava lifted her gaze in a sudden movement, looking at his composed face. Her thoughts spilled out involuntarily. "Can you read minds?"

Frank looking down at her with a smug smile, replied, "No."

This young lady's emotions and thoughts were written all over her face, plainly visible. What use was there for mind-reading?

"I guessed it."

Ava lowered her gaze, looking at her shoes, and walked alongside him toward the parking lot. "Alright."

Frank drove Ava to the manor entrance of the Turner Manor, then made a call to Trevon, asking him to come out and pick her up.

Throughout the car ride, Ava sat in silence in the front passenger seat. Frank did not disturb her, and the atmosphere was quiet and tense, almost unbearable. Her nails were almost clawed off

Frank remained focused on the road ahead, driving attentively, without any intention of disturbing her. His thoughts were inscrutable, leaving people guessing.

Ava unfastened her seatbelt, opened the car door, and got out. Within moments, another car appeared from inside the manor. One of the doors opened, clearly indicating no intention to avoid Frank.

Frank furrowed his brow as he looked at the six doors. His gaze deepened. He reached over and opened the rear door of Trevon's car. Once Ava had settled inside, he said to no one in particular, "Go."

Trevon did not get out of the car. He rolled down the window, leaning on it casually, and asked with a hint of strugness, "Why not come in and sit for a while? The manor is quite large. You have come all this way, at least enjoy a day out."

How could Frank not detect the smugness? He chuckled and replied, "Maybe next time. You can take a longer stroll around first to refresh your memory of the manor."

"Did you buy this car or rent it? Trevon raised his chin slightly as he glanced at Frank's new car and brand-new license plate Frank did not respond to the question, automatically avoiding it. He started the car and drove away

Ava subconsciously looked at the Porsche speeding away, kicking up dust, and felt a hint of disappointment.

Trevon in the driver's seat was full of subtlety and scheming Before, he had nothing to leverage, but now he did. Through the rearview mirror, he brainwashed Ava "Ava, let me tell you, you can't forgive Frank so quickly, or else he won't cherish you in the future"

Ava, who was sitting in the back seat, sat forward and asked, "Trevon, do you feel the same way? But you know, whenever I see him. I waver in my decision. He is exactly my type"

Trevon believed that Ava had been lured by Frank's appearance and was easily swayed. He continued to influence her. "Ava, is he pursuing you now!"

Ava recounted the events of the day to Trevon. At this point. Trevon was practically a family member to her. There was no need to hide anything Moreover, he was Frank's best friend, so he must understand Frank better and offer sensible advice.

After listening to Ava's explanation. Trevon had to admit that Frank handled things swiftly and cleanly. He had first dealt with Joseph, and now he had gone straight to the school for Ava, openly stating his intentions

Trevon had to admit that Fr

the disguise was revealed,

cas scheming, but very impressive In Athana, Frank was a wolf in sheep's clothing, and now

Ava reminded. Trevon in the front Trevon, tell me Did Frank ever like any girls before?"

Trevon maintained a hint of moral integrity and carefully selected his words. He never had a girlfriend, but many girls liked hum

Trevon did not mention that Frank had rejected all those girls and kept himself clean Considering how challenging it was for him to pursue his wife, he wanted Frank to share hardships with him as his best friend.

In the next second. Ava as deep in the tht in the backseat, not saying a word. Trevon was quite satisfied with her reaction, his scheming smule hidden from

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The car stopped in the manor's parking space. Trevon unbuckled his seatbelt and got out of the car. He opened the backseat door for Ava, acting like a gentleman.

Ava slowly got out of the car. After stepping out, she walked quickly towards the entrance of the villa. After a few steps, Ava paused and asked Trevon, who seemed to be in an unusually good mood, "Trevon, is Natalie in her room?"

Trevon pondered for a moment and replied, "Natalie should be awake. You can go and take a look"

As she entered the villa, she came face to face with Emma Emma was dressed in a deep green sheath dress, wearing a pair of indoor shoes on her feet, and holding a toy in her hand. Inside the living room. Jasper was munching on a cherry tomato with one hand and playing with a toy with the other. Jasper was truly displaying the demeanor of a master.

Emma Turner's hair was elegantly updoed, secured with a jade hairpin, exuding an air of grace and prestige. When she saw the black hat atop Ava's head. Emma's eyes squinted slightly, yet she refrained

from saying anything. Instead, Emma put on a tender smile, brimming with affection. "Welcome back, Ava. Did Trevon fetch you?"

Ava was in a hurry to find Natalie. Then, she quickly replied. "Yes, Mom."

Trevon, who was following behind Ava, did not refute. He only smiled slightly and meaningfully. Then, he politely addressed Emma and sat down on the sofa. Emma turned around and looked steadily in the direction of the stairs. Emma shook her head helplessly and sat down on the sofa.

Trevon naturally noticed Emma's concern. He casually picked up one of Jasper's toys and handed it to Jasper. Although Jasper was quite puzzled by Trevon's behavior, he still accepted it without much thought

"Emma, did Joseph tell you about Frank?"

Emma handed the toy she was holding to Jasper. Jasper took it and in a sweet and childish tone said. "Thank you, grandma, dad."

"Well. Trevon responded in a subdued tone.

Emma extended her hand and affectionately ruffled Jasper's hair on top. Crossing her legs, she sat gracefully, her hands folded on her lap "Joseph told me this morning that Frank's approach is quite straightforward, and Frank doesn't have any undesirable habits"

After Ava left in the morning. Joseph informed Emma about everything that happened last night. He also shared the information he had gathered, including Frank Roberts's character and personality.

After listening to it. Emma had a favorable impression. The details would still depend on Ava's thoughts. She repeatedly advised Joseph not to meddle in Ava's relationship matters. Joseph could protect Ava, but not intervene. All decisions should still be made by Ava herself.

Trevon didn't lie to Emma. He spoke truthfully. "Frank is reserved, but he's good in all other aspects, especially when it comes to relationships. Frank maintains a clean approach and always adheres to his principles. Emma, you can be reassured about this. I've spent many years with him, and I can vouch for his character."

Frank wasn't someone who acts recklessly. Otherwise, their years of relationship wouldn't be as pure as a blank sheet of paper.

Just Lither Club's leading lady had admired Frank Roberts for years, yet he never allowed her to get close. Aside from their professional relationship as superior and subordinate, there was nothing else.

Just as Frank said, she's here to recruit the headliner, not to be the headliner.

Emma nodded after listening. She was also satisfied with the present Trevon, as he treated Natalie well. Their primary concern was Natalie's happiness. Material matters were of little importance to them.

Upstairs, Ava pushed open the door to the room and found that Natalie was no longer on the bed. Ava's gaze swept around, and the sound of rushing water echoed from the bathroom

Following the sound, Ava walked toward the bathroom and called out sweetly. "Natalie, you're awake."

Natalie's mouth was still filled with toothpaste and foam. She removed her toothbrush and asked unclearly. "You're back." Ava had mentioned to Natalie last night that Ava had classes in the morning. So, she should be back from class by now.

Natalie's sleepwear was a dress with a slightly low neckline, revealing the faint marks on her fair skin. Ava felt a bit embarrassed even looking at it. She glanced at the doorway and asked playfully, "Natalie, it looks like those hickeys on you are having a hard time staying put."

After saying this, Ava playfully pointed at Natalie's chest and neck with her fingers, indicating that there were quite a few of them

Natalie squinted her attractive eyes, her face stiffening. She turned to look at her reflection in the mirror, giving herself a one-second glance. Inside, Natalie cursed Trevon countless times, closed her eyes tightly and took a deep breath.—

Initially, Natalie had intended to find a reason to help Ava forget about this awkward moment. However, as Natalie turned around, she saw the black baseball cap atop Ava's head. Natalie raised her hand and gestured toward the cap, asking, "Did Frank Roberts come to see you?"

Natalie did not notice it just now. Now, he finally noticed that it was clearly a boy's hat.

Natalie quickly added. "Or it belongs to your good friend?"

After pondering for a moment, it made sense that Alex would wear this hat. Nothing about him was girlish, let alone a pink hat

Ava finally realized that she still had Frank's hat on her head. Ava's cheeks turned slightly red as she delightedly and shyly took off the hat, murmuring. "Frank's"

Natalie had finished brushing her teeth and rinsed her mouth. She wiped her mouth with a towel and came out of the bathroom without any makeup. Ava moved to the side to make space, following Natalie.

Natalie understood, "Did he bring you back and then leave without entering the manor!"

There was a slight trace of disappointment in Ava's voice. "Yes, Frank told Trevon that he will come next time."

"But you still want Frank to come, right? Didn't you say you wanted him to pursue you in doubled time? And now you're having second thoughts?" Natalie asked, firing off a series of questions as she searched for clothes in the closet that Emma had prepared.

Ava sat on the edge of Natalie's bed, toying with Frank's hat in her hands. Ava unbuttoned it and fastened it back, her gaze drifting up to Natalie. Ava's eyes shimmered, and she began to speak in a gentle tone. "Natalie, I really lack self-control. You know, today he came to school to accompany me to class. I lost my composure and almost couldn't resist agreeing to him."

"Why does he perfectly match my aesthetic preferences? He's just so handsome, you know..."

Ava continued to chatter on, wanting to share with Natalie the details of what happened between Frank and that infatuated girl.

Natalie turned around abruptly, her face showing astonishment. She interrupted Ava's rambling and exclaimed, "What did you say... Frank went to your university to accompany you to class?"

This time, Natalie stopped looking for clothes and sat directly beside Ava. Natalie had initially assumed that Frank was just going to pick Ava up at the entrance, but to think he actually accompanied her to class. Was he that efficient?

Thinking about Damon, this platform belonged to Frank. The efficiency was also extremely high. With such a comparison, it didn't seem strange for Frank to be so efficient.

Damon, making Natalie slightly suspicious. Didn't wait for Ava to answer her previous question, Natalie asked again. "Ava, what's the online username of the guy who taught you about computers?"

Ava answered without any hesitation, "Damon"

This name was so familiar. She'd been seeing it every day recently. It was already imprinted in her mind. She didn't even need to think to answer.

Natalie was speechless.

If she had to give Frank Roberts a nickname, "Big Bad Wolf" seems to be quite suitable.

However, it was obvious that a big bad wolf could not describe his actions at all.

"The big bad wolf" and "the scheming man" were all very fitting

Ava was like a little white rabbit, willingly walking into the tiger's den and seeming quite content about it.

Ava was curious about Natalie's reaction. In addition to being surprised, Natalie also seemed astonished "Natalie, do you know him?"

"I might not personally know him, but this platform was created by Trevon and Frank. As for Damon, I believe Trevon is acquainted with him. Just give me a moment."

Natalie confidently affirmed her analysis results.

This time, it was Ava's turn to be surprised. Her voice suddenly rose. "Damon is Frank's man?"

The level of surprise didn't skyrocket because the connection between Damon and Ava was established through Rose Roberts. Natalie had already swiftly analyzed this in her mind. Considering that Rose is Frank's sister, it's quite reasonable for them to know each other, and that explanation makes sense.

So she wasn't very surprised.

Natalie nodded as she took out her phone and sent a message to Trevon. [Are you downstairs?]

Trevon quickly replied, [Yes, are you awake?]

Natalie got straight to the point. [Come upstairs for a moment. I need to talk to you about something.]

Trevon replied obediently. [Sure, honey 1

Not long after, Trevon strode into the room. With one hand casually in his pocket, he strolled in and nonchalantly asked. "Honey, what can I do for you?"

"Ahem, ahem, ahem. Let me ask you something. Isn't there a person named Damon on the platform you and Frank are involved in? Do you know him? Who is he?"

Natalie asked directly.

Trevon glanced at Natalie and then at Ava, meeting their expectant gazes. Trevon felt somewhat awkward and lowered his eyelids as he pondered.

Trevon couldn't keep it a secret anymore today. If he lied, he might end up being scolded by Natalie. The plan they had, discussed about having a second child couldn't be compromised. Trevon thought about the consequences.

After carefully considering the pros and cons. Trevon, with one hand in his pocket and the other gently touching his nose. leaned against the door. After a moment. Trevon looked up, meeting the two pairs of hopeful eyes Succumbing to the situation, he revealed. "Well.. Damon is actually Frank Roberts"

"What?"

Natalie and Ava were both left in shock, their mouths agape and their expressions frozen. For a moment, they couldn't seem to grasp the reality of the words they had just heard.

Silence hung in the air, a brief yet profound stillness that enveloped the room. For that moment, no one uttered a word.

The tension in the air even made Trevon, who was typically composed, feel uneasy. Trevon attempted to break the silence. saying. "Frank might have wanted to do a good deed without seeking recognition. You can ask Rose, she might have a better understanding of the situation"

Trevon passed the buck to Rose.

"Exactly. I had no idea about this. It had nothing to do with me," said Trevon. Trevon signaled with his eyes to show Natalie his innocence.

Trevon's statement was directed at Ava. The extent of Ava's surprise indicated that it wasn't Frank who approached her on his own, which meant someone else introduced them. Upon further thought, it was undoubtedly Rose Roberts.

However, Trevon was unaware that he had misinterpreted the situation. Frank had actually volunteered for this operation. using Rose's name as a cover.

Natalie snapped out of it and bumped Ava's shoulder, who was still in a daze. "Yeah, ask her. Rose might know the reason."

Whether this was a carefully planned move, love at first sight, or a delayed realization, only Frank Roberts himself probably knew.

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Ava did not send Rose a message immediately. Ava sat on Natalie's bed and recalled her conversation with Frank over this period.

Ava couldn't remember what day it had been but remembered the exact message. It was a message sent by Rose. The language was concise and simple, [Let me introduce you to a computer genius. |

When Ava heard the words "computer genius", Ava didn't turn Rose down and quickly replied to Rose, [Okay.]

After a while, a WhatsApp contact card was sent to Ava. The name on the contact was Damon, and his profile picture was of a cool, black keyboard. At that time, Ava was attracted by this profile picture and immediately replied to Rose, [Thank you, I love you, xoxo

After that, Ava added Damon's WhatsApp account and started learning from him.

Out of courtesy. Ava sent a polite message to Daron, Hello, Rose sent me your number. I heard that you're a computer genius. Can I ask you some things once in a while?|

Ava's tour was polite and cautious as she asked for help.

Damon replied. (Yes, sure)

This reply made Ava roll around on her bed happily before she sent a reply. [Then I'll look for you if I have any questions in the future 1

Damon responded, [Okay |

When Ava first started interacting online with him, Ava felt that this person was aloof and cool. Damon didn't say much, but everything he said was straight to the point, and he didn't say anything else.

[Sure]

Let's begin]

[Again. This time, hack my computer the way I did it just now.)

[There's progress. You did it five minutes faster.]

[Keep going]

[I'll teach you three points tonight |

Do it the way I taught you yesterday.)

These were all Frank's recent messages to Ava. None of them contained any extra information. This was also the reason why Ava had never suspected his identity.

Ava had asked him questions other than studying, such as, [Genius, where are you from?]

Since the so-called genius didn't reply. Ava didn't ask any more such questions.

Ava couldn't hold back her curiosity, so after being praised for being faster, Ava was very happy and started asking again, [Genius, are you a student?]

Damon answered, [No.]

Ava asked. [Are you working in the computer industry?]

Damon answered, [No.]

From Damon's replies, it was obvious that he didn't want to talk about anything other than teaching Ava. At that time, Ava thought that Rose might have asked him for help, or he might have been unwilling. In order not to put him off, Ava didn't ask about anything other than what she needed to learn.

After recalling all their previous chatting history, there were clues to follow. It was just that Ava didn't think much about it, and her impression of Damon remained within the boundaries that Rose had set when she had introduced Damon to Ava.

After regaining her senses, Ava sent a message to Rose and waited.

In Sapphire hotel, Rose felt that all the muscles in her body had relaxed, and her entire body was comfortable. Rose stretched her feet out of the blanket and raised them in the air in a high-leg movement. Rose's silk pajama pants fell to her thighs as she raised her legs.

Rose was happily exercising while lying on the bed when the door opened with a bang. Rose looked at the door and saw an energetic man leaning against the door frame.

"Oh, you've changed your style today. Is this some sort of student or young man fashion style? Rose sat up and sized up the person at the door.

Frank was still leaning lazily against the door and had no intention of entering. "Rise and shine. Are you going to stay in bed

all your life?"

"Leave me alone. Ava has classes in the morning, so I have nothing to do. I can't go to class with her, right? Besides, I have to inform her in advance if I want to enter their school. It's so troublesome."

Rose remembered that Ava had said that it wasn't easy to enter through the main gates of Sapphire City University. They had to report to the principal in advance and then tell the guard and show him a photo before they would let someone in

That night, Rose could go to the party because Ava had already done the necessary for her. However, Frank probably had not done so. Rose was curious about how her brother had gotten in Rose asked, "How did you get in that night when you went to look for Ava? Did you climb the wall?"

After saying that, Rose looked at Frank's slender legs, thinking that with such long legs, it shouldn't be difficult for Frank to climb in

Frank was disgusted by the way Rose was sizing him up, so he turned his body away to avoid her gaze. "Rose Roberts, why don't you change your surname to Wild? Seriously, no one is as wild as you.

Just because you can't get in doesn't mean I can't"

Rose sighed before she retorted. "If you're so great, why don't you try entering Ava's house? Show off"

Seeing that Frank was ignoring her, Rose wondered why Frank was standing at the door but not talking to her. Did Frank think he was a bodyguard? "Where did you go dressed like that this morning" Rose asked.

Frank thought of the scene from that morning and felt inexplicably happy. However, his expression remained indifferent as he spoke, "Class."

"Class?" Rose wondered what class Frank had gone for

"Are you getting up or not? Hurry and get up to eat. It's already 11" While his sister was still pondering. Frank urged again.

Rose picked up her phone and looked at the time, realizing that there was a message from Ava Rose opened the message with one hand and said. "I'll wait to eat with Sherri and the others. If you're hungry, you can eat first. You don't have to wait for me. Besides, how is my food supposed to digest properly if I eat with you?"

"Do you think everyone else is as free as you are? They're all busy"

Frank looked at Rose as if she was an idiot.

"What could they be busy with..."

Halfway through her sentence, Rose remembered that Hackett and Sherri were indeed a little busy. Rose decided to drop it and force herself to eat with Cranky Franky.

It was better than eating alone.

Rose lowered her head and looked at Ava's message, [Rose, where did you find the computer genius who you introduced me to? Did Frank introduce you to him?

Ava didn't directly expose that she thought this genius was Frank. Ava wanted to see if Rose knew about this.

Seeing that Rose had lowered her head over her phone, Frank was not in a hurry either. Frank walked in from outside and sat on Rose's bed, scrolling through his phone.

Frank would give Rose half an hour at the most. If Rose didn't get up by then, he would take action.

Rose knew Ava was referring to Frank but she refused to admit it. Instead, Rose used her brother. "I didn't introduce him to you. How would I know some genius? I'm just a pediatrician. My brother used my phone to send it to you. I guess you blocked him, and he couldn't send you a message, or he might have been afraid you would reject him if he was the one who made the introductions.

"That's it." Rose thought with certainty.

Ava replied, [My brother-in-law said that the person who taught me about computers is actually your brother.]

Ava's reply came as a huge shock.

Rose did not reply to Ava's message immediately. Instead, Rose raised her head and looked at Frank, wanting to find a new definition to describe him. After searching in her mind, Rose finally found an appropriate word, and said disdainfully. "Passionate on the inside."

Upon hearing this, Frank held his phone with one hand and placed the other on the edge of the bed. Frank glanced at his sister with a cold and warning gaze. "Rose Roberts, you're acting up because I haven't taught you a lesson in three days, right? If you're itching for a beating, just tell me."

Rose could not be bothered to waste her breath on Frank. Without another word, Rose handed her phone to Frank, the screen still showing her conversation with Ava. Rose held her phone in front of Frank for a few seconds before retracting her hand. As if Rose had caught her brother in a lie, she asked complacently, "Can you accept me saying you're passionate on the inside now? Even that term is polite for someone like you. You're a big bad wolf, a wolf in sheep's clothing. To think that I was worried for you. Meanwhile, you're just doing great things quietly."

Rose stretched out her leg and kicked Frank from behind. When Frank didn't react, Rose did it again. Frank raised his hand and slapped her leg. Even through the material of her pants, Rose felt that Frank had used too much strength. "Are you trying to silence me?"

"Don't get involved in this matter. I'll handle it myself," Frank instructed.

Rose, who already knew everything that had happened, sat down and prepared to interview Frank. Rose held her phone like a microphone and pointed it at Frank's lips, "Here, let me interview you on behalf of the Roberts family. How did you do it? Use my phone and promote yourself."

As soon as Rose finished speaking, Frank immediately raised his hand to hit Rose again. Rose reacted quickly and retreated, her phone still raised in her hand. Rose said carefully. "Don't be so petty. Tell me. I won't tell anyone. I promise."

Rose raised her index and middle fingers in the air to make a gesture of promise, doing almost everything but actually swearing

Seeing that Frank was not angry, Rose continued. Then let me put it another way. What do you like about Ava? Go ahead and chat. It's easy to get sick if you hold everything back."

Unexpectedly, Frank started talking. There's something about her that shines. She's innocent and kind. There's even a hint of maturity in her innocence. She's also highly skilled.

Rose almost dropped the phone in her hand. Were these words really from her brother Frank, the man of few words? "So you know how to praise people? I thought you only knew how to say savage things. You indeed have a hidden side to you."

Frank leaned back and lay down on the bed. Frank said to Rose. "There won't be a next time."

"Then I'll ask you now. Will you despise Ava for not having achievements in the future?" Rose asked.

Frank answered, "Do you think I need a strong woman? I don't plan to be like WilliamTM

Rose thought about it and agreed. Grace was a strong woman, and her aura could suppress William. At the same time, William and Grace were very happy. In a marriage, one party would have to give in. It would be difficult to get along if neither party was able to compromise.

While Rose was still lost in her thoughts, Frank spoke again. Frank crossed his hands behind his head and looked at the ceiling. "Ava has a lot of potential in computers. She's not just a delicate young woman. When she graduates, she can handle working in our technology company,"

It wasn't as if Ava had nothing. Other than the fact that she was artistic, many people in their technology company were not as skilled as her in computers. Ava had the pampered aura of a little princess, but she didn't behave like she was pampered. Most such girls would be insufferably arrogant and look down on others, but Ava did not seem to have that problem. If anything, it might just be that Ava was a little delicate and would cry easily.

However, judging from Ava's skills, her mind was not fragile. If Ava wanted to blacklist someone, she would blacklist them. If she wanted to stop chasing, she would. Ava didn't drag her feet along.

Ava was so sharp and decisive that even Frank was speechless.

children.

The Turner family did not raise Ava for her to do nothing in the future. Instead, they took good care of Ava and guided her carefully. It was easy for such a family with both power and wealth to have arrogant and domineering

However, neither Joseph nor Ava were such people.

There was no way to explain one's feelings for someone. Some people fell in love at first sight, while some developed feelings over time. There was no way to explain why they liked someone. There was no rule that a certain person had to be paired with the same kind of personality or type of person.

There was no need for them to be compatible, either. Love is based on self-awareness. Sometimes, complementing each other might not be a bad thing. The probability of a career man arguing with a career woman was very high. Frank knew what he wanted and what kind of life he did not want.

Grace's marriage to William was blissful, but it was not what Frank wanted.

In Frank's eyes, Ava was already great, and she would only become more mature in the future.

Waiting was a good thing, too.

Rose was stunned. How was this a man who was shy on the outside but passionate on the inside? Frank was a scheming man who had already planned out the future. "Frank Roberts, you're horrible. You've already thought about Ava's future. How are you so confident in winning her back? You were the one who ignored her back then."

After saying that, Rose even started stinging, "My passion is burning like a fire, extinguished by your merciless attitude, my passion..

A pillow smashed into Rose's face. Rose's made-up song abruptly stopped and the pillow fell from her face to the bed. Rose glared at Frank. "What are you doing?"

"I'm warning you. Don't tell Grace nonsense."

Rose lay down by Frank. Frank pushed Rose aside in disdain and said, "Move over a little. You haven't even brushed your teeth"

Rose covered her mouth with her hand and exhaled. Rose took a smilf and said, "There's no smell anyway. You're lying on my bed, but you're behaving this way? Indeed, your love for your sister has dwindled now that you have a future girlfriend"

When Rose said that, Frank spoke, "Return me my supplementary card."

Rose clutched her chest. That's brutal "

"Miss Rose, do you think it's suitable for you to have this card Thurry up," Frank reminded her

Things were different now. It was indeed a little inappropriate, but this was not the way to do things. Rose could return it, but she needed to gains a little something Rose lay down agam and in hed closer toward Frank "Don't be so far away. I'll show you Ava's house. It's very beautiful "

As Rose spoke, she opened her phone's photo album and showed Frank the photos and videos, introducing Ava's house carefully "See? It looks good, right? Listen, I originally thought a little princess like Ava would have a pink room, but she doesn't. It's all white or cream colors Only her bedsheets are green. Look at this cradle chair. Isn't it very nice? I was

shocked"

Frank's gaze was attracted by the image of the diamond cradle chair on Rose's phone. The Turner family had no limits when it came to doting on their daughter Frank pursed his lips and pondered. Frank didn't hear Rose's subsequent words but said, "Send the photo to my phone and send me her WhatsApp number"

Rose scoffed. "Stop pretending Aren't you a computer expert? Aren't you an invisible big shot? Do it yourself"

Rose continued, "Oh, I know. You're afraid that Ava will find out if you hack her computer, so you want to take a step-by-step approach"

"I think I've found information on Edward Landor. I don't know if it's still useful" Frank spoke, schemingly using something Rose would be interested in

"Fuck. Frank Roberts, you're too much. You're threatening me."

Rose gritted her teeth and heaved a sigh. "I'll give you everything. Tell me."

Rose pouted, and her cheeks puffed up like a little dolplan. Rose pressed her phone and sent all the videos and photos to Frank Then, Rose sent Ava's contart card to Frank as well

Rose scoffed Tm going to tell Ava all your bad habits every day"

“Do you still want the information?” Frank’s tone was calm, but it had a threatening tone.

Rose’s expression changed in a second. Of course. I was too sharp-tongued just now. I promise to say good things about you. to Ava every day and praise you to the skies”

After receiving the photos and Ava’s contact card, Frank said in satisfaction, “Edward is the person who saved you. You can thank him but don’t do it at your own expense. Do you hear me? He’s not your type.”

Hearing the results of the investigation, Rose already had a plan. Rose waved her hand to chase her brother away and said. disdainfully, “I know, I know. Hurry up and leave. I need to change.

Rose cursed to herself. “What a loss. “Edward is the person who saved you’ Seven words in exchange for so many photos and indoor videos of Ava. Plus, her contact card as well” Rose thought.

It was a classic case of forgetting one’s biological sister after having a future girlfriend.

Rose was thinking about Frank’s actions.

Frank, who was at the door, stopped in his tracks and said, “I transferred 600 thousand dollars to your card. Use it prudently. I’m earning money, not mining treasure.”

“Thank you, Frank. I love you!” Rose made a kissing sound at him.

Frank ignored Rose’s sickening flattery and left,

Just as Rose had said, Frank could use technology to add Ava as a friend, but Ava had used computer technology to delete her information. Frank no longer had Ava’s contact in his phone.

It wasn’t nice to forcefully attack Ava’s computer either. Ava would know immediately, especially since she was good with computers.

After Frank left, Rose didn’t forget to reply to Ava’s message. Rose wrote a long message in their chat, [Dear Ava, that computer expert is indeed my brother. He introduced himself to you using my phone. Just now, I sent your contact card to him, and he said he would explain it to you himself. It’s up to you whether you want to add him or not. You don’t have to consider me.]

Rose then added another message, [Although I also think Cranky Franky is quite shameless, I can tell he still cares about you

Since he was doing such things quietly, it was clear that Frank was concerned about Ava,

Frank hadn’t even managed to win Ava over, and he’d already taken away Rose’s supplementary card.

This was a clear message that Frank was planning to give his supplementary card to his future wife.

[Chapter 310](#)

At the Turner family, Natalie remained sequestered in her room. Meanwhile, she had already ousted Trevon downstairs, Girl talk, at times, simply didn’t necessitate the presence of boys.

A real nuisaTICE.

Once she received a message from Rose, Ava had completely sorted out the ins and outs of the situation, and it was simply unrealistic for her heart not to be shaken and stirred.

The exchanges with Frank these past days played out vividly in her mind, flickering like scenes in a slideshow.

After a brief moment of being lost in her thoughts, Ava finally opened up to Natalie, saying, "Natalie, Rose spilled the beans. That the genius is Frank. But what should I do? He's sent me a friend request, and I haven't hit accept."

Despite replaying her chat history with Frank over and over during this stretch, the shock lingered. Who would have thought that the hours spent chatting and staying up late to debug were with the guy she fancied? Now, that was a surprise,

WINDIT IN

Oh, it had been a surprise and quite the jaw-dropper.

"Frank was the undercover powerhouse, oh my gosh," thought she. She felt a rush of excitement.

Natalie quipped. No wonder Ava always sensed something was off when Frank played down his tech prowess. It turns out the bugs were his game."

Natalie gently tousled Ava's hair, looking at Ava with a moved expression. She gave a soft smile, "Don't dwell on it. Follow your heart's lead. If it strikes a chord, accept the friend request, and, in a friendly manner, say thank you"

"I'm on the same page. Emotions are one thing, and gratitude is another. Sure, he might have been aloof emotionally once, but his academic guidance made a real difference. Let's call it what it is. Basic courtesy matters."

She couldn't afford to be rude. Regardless of whether he was an expert, expressing gratitude was a fundamental gesture.

Since childhood. Emma had emphasized the art of being human, learning to act like a person before anything else. Simply appearing human wouldn't suffice if her actions weren't attuned to human

Following her instincts, Ava tapped the "accept" button on her phone, gazing at the chat interface that had been out of sight for so long. Her heart clenched

Previously, she had pursued him with determination, unburdened by emotional baggage, and an exit plan in hand. If things didn't work out, she'd gracefully bow out. Later, their chats took on a mentor-student tone, with him as the expert-no emotional strings attached. But now, it was real-a genuine person. And yes, she felt a twinge of nervousness.

It was as if everything suddenly slipped away from her

She wondered if there would be a message popping up on the screen later.

What should she even write?

How was he doing?

Or perhaps, did he grab a bite yet?

Natalie stayed seated, not bothering to change her clothes. Seeing Ava lost in thought, phone in hand, she reached over and gently tapped her shoulder. "Don't overthink it. Just go with the flow. What do you feel like doing this afternoon?"

Natalie changed the subject, steering the conversation away. One couldn't keep fixating on one problem. It was a sure way to get stuck.

Ava had an aha moment within seconds, flipping her phone over and clutching it. "I've made up my mind. I'll stick to the original plan. I've got my temper too. Yes, that was the decision-three months."

Natalie chuckled, amused by the way she was acting. "Well then, let's see how Frank is going to chase after you."

"I was afraid you'd be head over heels in love just a few days into his pursuit. Once Frank was back, you might be in tears. Sigh, thought Natalie.

Ava propped up her chin, pondered for a moment, then cast a glance at the hat in her hand, her eyes gleaming. "Hey Natalie, how about throwing a gathering or a party at home this afternoon?"

"Follow your taste, but be prepared for Sherri and Rose to come racing over if they catch wind of it," Natalie pondered, tapping her foot in thought.

Ava swiftly made up her mind. "Then it's settled. I'll give them a heads-up, and I have the servants prepare. I'm thinking of bringing Alex along too."

"Is the the girl you left arm in arm with that night?"

Natalie asked, feeling a bit frustrated herself. As a doctor, she was less observant about someone's gender compared to Frank

and Trevon. It was a bit of a flaw

"Yeah, that's her Alex prefers a more masculine style of dress. She's quite a unique soul. Loyal and principled, she even got into Sapphire City University through her hard work and paid her tuition fees by working, Ava said with a touch of sympathy

"Your friends, your call I can tell Alex cares about you a lot and genuinely looks out for you. But what if Frank and Rose decide to drop by this afternoon?"

"If they decide to show up, well, I'm ready for whatever comes. Once they stepm, they're guests, and I'll extend a warm welcome. Ava said confidently, giving off an air of self-assurance as if she'd had it all planned out.

After finalizing the decision, Wa contacted the group and shared the news about the afternoon gathering. It was a rare chance to hang out, and heading out would likely result in Joseph assigning a bunch of bodyguards to tag along, making it awkward Their home had plenty of room for everyone to relax and have a good time.

Ava chimed in. [Have you all finished up with lunch? We're having a gathering at the manor this afternoon. Quick, put your heads together and brainstorm how to dress up 1

Natalie retrained from chatting in the group. Witnessing Ava's cheerful mood, a broad smile lighting up her face, Natalie followed suit, curling her lips. She selected a short black dress from her wardrobe and draped a pure white silk shawl over it.

Rose responded. (Give me an hour I'll be there]

Sherri chimed in. On my way Delay even by a minute, and you're a goof. Ava. I've given up on my tasks entirely]

Rose playfully teased (Sherri, didn't you say it's about finding balance? What kind of balance are you striking in broad daylight'

Sherri defended herself [Is't it because emotions got the best of me? Just a few more minutes, don't rush me.]

Rose sent. You're texting even in this state. You're pretty damn impressive.]

Ava sent a question mark and added a personal touch with a crafted emoji hinting. "Don't lead me astray."

Rose burst into laughter Avas putting up a protest. Be careful with your wording, or Natalie might reprimand you.]

On the other side Sherri prodded Hackett, "Hackett, feeling better now)

Hackett was panting heavily sweat dripping down his forehead in beads, falling onto Sherri's collarbone. "Sherri, you're driving me crazy with this pace It's draining

"Well, I didn't want you to get too exhausted. How about picking up the pace a bit?"

Hackett was exasperated. Having chosen his wife, he had to endure her teasing. He couldn't text right now but would get back to her later T deal with you Later tonight Let's see if you can still be clear-headed enough to play with your phone." In the next moment, Sherri let out a howl akin to a distressed creature, begging for mercy, asking him to slow down, to take

Meanwhile, Rose was busy coordinating her outfit in the room. She thought that showing up at the manor in ripped jeans might not be the best idea, especially considering Emma had a certain level of sophistication. After a moment's consideration, she rummaged through her wardrobe and picked out a knee-length emerald green dress made of faux silk with a cinched waist.

Once dressed, she stepped into the bathroom and used a hotel's curling wand to wave her collarbone-length hair. After she was satisfied with her hair, she nodded approvingly at her reflection in the mirror.

After all, who wasn't a beauty!

She was indeed.

She then applied a delicate touch of makeup and a simple rose-pink lipstick.

With her makeup done, she walked out of the bathroom and retrieved a jewelry box from her suitcase. Choosing an emerald gemstone pendant necklace, she delicately secured it around her neck. She also opted for a pair of circular earrings.

Her overall presence was instantly elevated. Not everyone could pull off the emerald. It could either radiate elegance or look gaudy. At that very moment, Rose carried the look with effortless grace.

The dress's cinched waist design showcased her slender, curvy figure to perfection, exuding feminine elegance and sensuality, all while blending seamlessly with the current trend.

Just as she finished putting on the outfit, the door swung open.

Urgent voices followed closely. "It's been a few minutes, and you're still not ready. Hurry up."

It was Frank again, reminding her to grab a bite.

When Frank caught a glimpse of Rose in her ensemble, his eyes lit up with surprise. She seemed transformed, bearing a striking resemblance to Grace. "You're looking put-together."

"If you're not up for handing out compliments, you can always opt for silence. I won't hold it against you," Rose quipped,

shooting a playful glance at Frank, who was known for being straightforward. She had ended up being driven mad by frustration.

Three seconds of sympathy for the endearing Ava.

Continuing the conversation, Rose inquired, Sherri and are heading to Turner Mantu. Are you able to participate?

tergelt

She couldn't just blurt that they were going together. What if Ava didn't like the idea? After all, the apology for their earlier disagreement.

all wowed A

"I can give you a ride, Fran"

"Ava will send"

To pick you up. So, are you up?

your mul

Frank still didn't provide a clear answer. "You've got one minute, Fran."

Rose retorted. "Are we on the same page? Can't comprehend plain words?"

Had she posed so many

questions? It felt like there were answers given, yet it also felt like there were none at all.