

Chapter 28 Speech Competition

Alyssa had a long day. Although she was exhausted when she got home, she forced herself to prepare dinner.

Previously, she registered for a cooking training class, from which she indeed learned something.

Alyssa worked on dinner before Leon came back, and the dishes were ready when the man entered the house.

"You come back just in time. The dinner is ready." Alyssa said with a smile while serving the table. "Come on and try the sweet and sour pork ribs I made. I'm certainly no good as professionals. But your advice will be modestly accepted so that I will do better."

Alyssa, still wearing a mask, sat down and looked at Leon with a smile.

Leon glanced at the woman with a mask and smelled the dishes. They might not be as good as those in a restaurant, but they smelled delicious at least.

He took a piece of pork rib and tried it. In his opinion, it was great.

While the man was tasting the pork rib, Alyssa placed a glass of orange juice before him, saying, "Try this too."

Leon followed the woman's advice and found the orange juice quite tasty as well.

He lifted his head to look at the woman's face, which was covered by the mask, and asked in a soft voice, "You're not eating?"

"Don't worry. I didn't put poison in it." Alyssa smiled, adding, "I've eaten something after I came back."

Leon nodded and handed Alyssa a set of keys. "This is for you. It'll make it easier for you to go around."

"But I have a car."

"You got that vehicle about two years ago, and many functions of it are not good enough, especially the air conditioning."

"Well, then I'll take this. Thank you very much."

Alyssa took the car keys over.

When their hands touched each other, Leon felt that Alyssa's was cold.

"The weather is cooling down. Keep warm."

"I will." Alyssa stared at Leon with a smile.

Leon shook his head slightly at the oddly well-behaved woman, then continued eating.

With her head propped up, Alyssa gazed at Leon's face quietly.

The man looked extremely handsome when he concentrated on food.

The bridge of his nose was high.

Staring at the man's nose, Alyssa intuitively touched hers, hoping to own a high-bridged nose too, which would make her features more clear-cut.

Leon's eyes were shining diamonds.

His lips were thin. Alyssa heard that thin lips were a sign of a standoffish temperament.

No wonder Leon was an iceberg.

Fortunately, he cared about her.

Staring at the man's side face, Alyssa flashed a hearty smile and felt lucky to have him enjoying the dinner she made.

When Leon lifted his head, Alyssa hurriedly lowered hers in embarrassment. "I have some school work to do and will leave you to your meal. Leave the dishes where they are when you finish, and I'll clean them up later."

She hurried back to her room. Instead of studying, she continued to tidy up the belongings she brought back from the Grahams.

There were not many of them. Alyssa sorted several clothes she might wear recently and filled the empty wardrobe with them.

After tidying her bedroom up, she went out to make tea for Leon, brought it to him, then went to bed.

She could not bear to fall ill at this moment.

For the next few days, Alyssa was busy.

She attended classes at university on time and listened to lectures carefully. Meanwhile, the online piano class and cooking sessions continued.

Once Aunt Flo left her in peace, she started to learn taekwondo in her spare time.

Leon was busy as well. Alyssa managed to make meals regularly for him. Every dinner went with a glass of orange juice, and a cup of hot tea would be served in the evening when Leon was busy in the study.

The two of them lived in peace.

One day, Ella walked up to Alyssa after the classes were over. "How is your preparation for the speech competition going?"

"Speech competition? What is that?" Alyssa asked while tidying her belongings. "I haven't even heard of it."

"The university requires the top twenty of each department in the last round of exams to participate in it."

"So, both you and I have to participate?"

Ella nodded. "You didn't check your emails, right? There must be a notification."

Alyssa took out her mobile phone to check and found the notification. "It'll be held on the fifth of next month?"

"Correct." Ella nodded.

Alyssa asked with surprise, "Just five days to go?"

"Exactly. Just five days left!"

Five days later...

Alyssa sat in the waiting area for the competition, staring at the cue card.

Ella, sitting in front of Alyssa, turned to look at her nervous friend, patted her on the shoulder, and said, "Calm down. You look so pale."

"I'm not good at speech!"

"No one is born good at public speaking. Just relax. You'll be alright. Try to pretend this is a performance like we had when we were kids. You'll ace it!" Ella encouraged Alyssa.

They used to attend a speech training class together when they were kids. Back then, Alyssa even outperformed Ella.

Alyssa had unlimited potential. However, she was then distracted by romantic relationships from schooling.

Alyssa looked at Ella, saying, "I've almost forgotten the class we had when we were young."

"I always remember that John, our teacher back then, praised you as the most lovely student he had. And he also said I'm the most industrious one. Do you feel more confident now?"

Alyssa nodded, feeling more confident indeed.

Actually, from the moment she learned about the competition, she worked hard on it.

She was objectively well-prepared.

Ella's encouragement made Alyssa subjectively prepared too.

She nodded at Ella, saying, "I feel better and will perform well."

Alyssa looked at the cue cards, which were given to them the day before.

In addition to them, they would be required to have a speech on a random topic too.

Those topics would be open-ended, expository ones.

Alyssa had practiced many times following the cue cards and adjusted details carefully.

She told herself not to magnify the other candidates' abilities and stop worrying about her own performance.

"The competition is about to begin. Get yourselves ready." An organizer began to instruct the contestants to enter the room.

Alyssa walked forward and suddenly tripped on something. Knowing that someone behind her was playing a trick, she hurried to grab the chair on one side with a gloomy expression on her face. While she was falling, she quickly threw the chair out to hit the person behind her.

As the chair flew backward, Alyssa fell heavily to the ground.

Bang!

The person behind Alyssa also fell to the ground.

"Ouch!" A familiar shriek reached Alyssa's ears.

Alyssa turned her head to see Emily.

She knew it! It could be no one else but Emily.

How naive Emily was to want to harm her in this way.

Although Alyssa was injured, Emily was hurt even more badly due to the flying chair's impact.

She rose to her feet and followed the line to enter the room.