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"Grandma, you can relax now that Vaenna is getting back on track."

"How could I not relax? Vaenna is in your hands now." Madam Vanderbilt happily smiled while holding her hand.

Leila took the chance to say something. "Of course. Willie is the lucky star of our family. When she becomes well known, you will be able to enjoy the rest of your life peacefully." 3

Madam Vanderbilt was enjoying it all. Who wouldn't wish that their family would one day become successful so that they could enjoy life?"

The business wasn't doing well, so she had to rely on her grandson, but the latter was a disappointment. Hadn't she come to Bassburgh because of Vaenna? 1

She wasn't disappointed after coming to Bassburgh. Even if it was because of her granddaughter instead of her grandson, it was worth it.

"It would be great if Lynn was half as capable as Willie." Madam Vanderbilt moved the topic to Linda, who was sitting on the couch.

Linda had been staying in the city for a while now, but Willow never brought her out to socialize. with the affluent families. She wasn't happy about it, but now that her grandmother was comparing her to Willow, she was even more upset.

But no matter how bad she was, she couldn't do worse than her cousin, Maisie, right?

That cousin of hers never showed up after the first time they met because she had been kicked out of the family. Linda wasn't as great as Willow, but she would be better than Maisie.

"Grandma, I knew you would bring me into this. I'm not as good as Willow, but I'm a lot better than Maisie, right?"

Linda's statement put Leila and Willow to shame. She didn't mean to insult them, but they felt it

anyway.

It would have been alright if she had just insulted Maisie, but it turned bad when she used her as a comparison.

Only Leila and Willow knew that they had only gotten the money by pretending to be Maisie, but she just had to mention that Maisie wasn't as good as Linda. Didn't that hint that Willow was nothing compared to Linda without the bracelet and status?

Madam Vanderbilt didn't say anything. She would rather have Linda, the useless granddaughter, over Maisie. At least, she was obedient.

At that moment, Freddy called, and Willow went to the balcony to answer.

Something that Freddy said made Willow happy. "Are you serious?"

Maisie had said that she was going to auction off her designs at the Summerton auction three

days later and even said that she would make the highest bid?

Willow's eyes shone when Freedy confirmed the news.

She gave Freddy \$1,600,000 to design for her. If it wasn't because of Pearl and Maisie's' collaboration' to bring her down, she would have made it in the business already.

But she was lucky. Even when she couldn't get into the jewelry business, she had the chance to become a noble!

Maisie was going to become the highest-paid during the auction? Haha, why would Willow let this opportunity slip away?

It was time for her to fight back!

She thought of something and said, "Freddy, go find out what she's auctioning and find a way to get something that looks exactly the same!"

She was going to put an exact replica before Maisie's item went up for auction and call her out for plagiarism when she presented hers.

Willow was excited to see how the international jewelry designer would survive in this business after that!

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Three days later...

The Summerton Auction started at 7:00 p.m.

The buyers entered the auction hall with masquerade masks given out by the ushers.

On top of high-valued jewelry, the Summerton Auction also auctioned antiques, and all the transactions were legal.

The auction hall was shaped like a circle with traditional wooden structures. It was vintage and classy and made up of the grand hall and the VIP rooms on the first floor.

There were eight VIP rooms on the first floor with ceiling-high windows. The people and auction stage in the grand hall were fully visible from the rooms.

To get into the VIP rooms, one had to have outstanding social status and a net worth of at least \$ 150,000,000. Anyone who would be a patron of Summerton Auction would need to have deep pockets.

Maisie and Kennedy put on the masquerade masks and entered the hall. She was wearing a high collared white dress with her hair up in a bun for a sleek look.

Tassel earrings made of sequins went well with her collar, and the fitted waistline showed off her slender waist.

She walked with Kennedy to their designated seats in the grand hall. Kennedy looked around at the people in the masks and asked, "Are you sure that Willow is going to show up tonight?"

"She will."

Freddy had leaked the news to Willow, and Maisie had even given Freddy the design for the item she was going to auction so that she could take Willow down, once and for all.

If Willow wanted someone to be a plagiarizer, it was going to be her.

Unsurprisingly, Willow showed up.

Even with a masquerade mask, they both instantly knew who each other was.

Willow happily walked toward her. "You're really here."

Freddy hadn't lied to her.

"You're here for the fun?"

Seeing that Maisie was still smiling, Willow crossed her arms and scoffed. "I'm here for the auction, but I'd also like to remind you that you still have time to withdraw from the auction if you don't want this to end too badly."

Maisie scoffed and said, "We don't know who'll end up badly yet." She let her speak, but it was time that ended.

"Maisie, don't be too proud just yet." Willow gnashed her teeth.

'Why would this woman still look so arrogant? Wait and see!'

Maisie was going to end up crying!

A bodyguard in black walked toward her. "Ms. Willow, Mr. and Madam Lucas are waiting for you in the VIP room upstairs."

Willow confidently tossed her hair when she heard that and smiled at Maisie. "I need to excuse myself. I'm going to the VIP room upstairs. Enjoy your seats here."

She hummed while she strutted away in her high heels after the bodyguard.

Maisie frowned.

Kennedy snapped around. "Mr. and Madam Lucas? How is that possible? The Lucas family is the one helping them?"

Why would the Lucas family know them?

Maisie was curious too, but she would take everything back from Willow tonight, no matter who was supporting them.

A hostess in a long gown walked over. "Dear guests, someone from the VIP room has invited you to join them."

Maisie and Kennedy looked at each other.

She asked, "Who is it?"

The hostess gave a professional smile and patiently answered, "I'm sorry, the VIP told us not to disclose that information. You will find out if you come with me."

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Maisie and Kennedy stood up and left with the hostess.

Willow's face dropped when she saw them going to the first floor.

She heard that the first floor of the auction hall was only for people with a great social standing. Was it... Nolan?

Willow bit her lip when she came to that realization. She was going to tear Maisie into shreds in front of Nolan that night!

The hostess brought them to the Stork Room and saw four bodyguards standing behind the door.

Maisie was thinking if it was Nolan who was there, but the silhouette didn't match.

Maisie was surprised when the man slowly turned around

The man wasn't wearing a mask. His warm smile narrowed his pretty eyes. "Looks like I have a good enough eyesight to recognize you."

Maisie smiled. It was Helios Boucher!

Maisie walked to the window and looked at the crowd below, curious. "Why are you here? Are you interested in jewelry auctions too?"

This bigshot rarely appeared in public except for that one time at the party. He wouldn't even be seen by people in the industry, let alone attend events like these.!

His sudden appearance at the Summerton Auction was indeed a surprise!

Helios smiled. "I just received a script about jewelry companies, and I wanted to learn a thing or two. I heard that you're a jewelry designer too, so I came to see if I could meet you and if I could take something back."

"Thanks for the compliment, Mr. Boucher."

Helios laid his arms on the railings in front of the window and looked at her. "There's no need for formalities. Just call me by my name."

Maisie smiled but didn't reply.

Her eyes were on him. He was indeed the idol of the nation. He had a charm that was better appreciated from afar.

Only he could rival Nolan Goldmann when it came to looks or background in Bassburgh.

She had watched some of his movies. He was a natural actor with impeccable skills and could carry any character, be it the protagonist or the antagonist.

He had had zero bad publicity after years of being in the industry, and the only pieces of news about him were all about the characters he portrayed.

"Are you here to get some jewelry?" Helios looked toward her.

Maisie shook her head. "The opposite. I'm here to auction off my designs."

"So you're a seller." Helios was interested. "I'm looking forward to your designs."

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Maisie was stunned,

She wouldn't call herself his friend. They had just shared a dance during the party. If his 'fans' found out they would probably skin her alive.

The auction began.

The auctioneer on the stage rang the bell.

The first item to be auctioned off was a pair of fan-shaped earrings made from pigeon blood rubies. The seller was Taylor Jewelry.

The guests only needed to bid through their devices, and the prices would reflect the bids on the giant screen of the auction hall.

Pigeon blood rubies were the prettiest of rubies. There weren't many that could be classified as pigeon blood rubies, and they were extremely expensive.

The price on the screen rose quickly to \$70,000,000 and was still rising. It finally stopped at \$ 97,000,000.

The auctioneer rang the bell. "Congratulations to the guest in the Marble Room for placing the winning bid."

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Applause erupted.

The next item to go on auction was still from Taylor Jewelry. After a few items, the highest price for jewelry from Taylor was \$263,000,000, far more than any other item.

The screen showed a peacock blue necklace next.

When Kennedy saw it, he nervously looked toward Maisie. Helios, who seemed to have noticed his

gaze, looked toward Maisie through the corner of his eyes too.

Seller: Willow Vanderbilt

The crowd booed and whispered among themselves. The sellers here were either well-known companies or famous jewelry designers. Willow was a name that many did not recognize.

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Only a few people had followed the 'drama' on Twitter and learned about her fiasco with Ms. Santiago.

However, the item on the screen was pretty unique.

The peacock blue necklace had a brilliant teardrop-shaped sapphire. The melee blue diamonds on the tail of the peacock were a beautiful addition.

This item was 'Peacock's Pride' that Maisie had designed.

Too bad Willow just copied the design from Maisie's sketch but didn't know that the main stone should be tanzanite, which would bring it to a new level.

Willow was secretly delighted in the Blossom Room. Her heart was filled with excitement as she

saw the price on the screen increase.

Larissa turned and looked at her. "This is your design?"

Willow smiled and nodded. "Yes."

She was lucky to have been able to put her design out before Maisie's. So what if Maisie designed it? It was hers anyway.

Larissa didn't say a word but frowned while looking at the design on the screen.

It was beautiful, but something was missing.

The price finally stopped at \$42,000,000, almost \$50,000,000 less than the pigeon blood rubies by Taylor.

Willow was happy nonetheless. She didn't expect that item to fetch \$42,000,000, but she thought to herself that Maisie's design was not that great after all.

Maisie crossed her arms while her red lips curled. "\$42,000,000 was too much."

Helios smiled, "You seem to know this item?"

She looked at Helios and smiled. "It's my design."

Helios was stunned, and suspicion showed through his eyes. "Why is your design owned by someone else?"

Her own design was auctioned by someone else before her actual item, but she was still calm. She was indeed an impressive woman.

But wait, after the next item was shown on the screen, there was confusion in the crowd, and the discussion was even louder.

"Isn't this the same item?"

"What is happening? Are they auctioning two of the same item? That's just robbery."

Larissa looked at Willow, reserved. "What is this?"

Willow feigned ignorance. "I have no idea. I think my design has been plagiarized."

She thought that this would be the end of Maisie!

However, when it was shown that the seller for this 'Peacock's Pride' was Zora, everyone was astonished.

The international jewelry designer Zora's design was the same as the new designer Willow Vanderbilt!?

The crew scurried to check if something had gone wrong with the computer, but the diagnostics showed that it wasn't an error.

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That meant that there were two 'Peacock's Pride'.

That was the first time a situation like this had occurred at Summerton.

"Would the international designer copy someone's work?"

"They're a world-renowned designer. Why would they plagiarize? It was probably the new designer Willow who plagiarized."

The discussion grew louder and louder.

Larissa waved for one of the bodyguards to approach, whispered something to him, and he left.

The bodyguard said something to the crew, and the crew made an announcement. "I'm sorry, we are facing some technical issues. I'm afraid we need to put the auction on hold. We suspect that one of the items has been plagiarized, so we'll launch an investigation immediately."

"So it really was plagiarism?"

"It's so rare for plagiarized items to show up at an auction," someone said out loud.

The two items were placed on stage, and an appraiser was asked to do an appraisal. If there really was plagiarizing, it would be a huge problem.

Helios looked at Maisie, who was still smiling. "You're not afraid?"

Maisie smiled. "I'm in the right."

The appraiser said something to the crew, and the crew confirmed, "They're all real jewels?"

The appraiser nodded.

As to why this happened, it was most likely due to plagiarism.

"Sir."

A clear voice came from the first floor.

Everyone looked up at the woman in a white dress with a masquerade mask on speaking calmly," You probably would be able to tell the difference between the two jewels used, right?"

Willow looked at Maisie, who was across her, gnashing her teeth. What game was this woman playing?

The appraiser took a few good looks and suddenly found the difference. "They're using different stones. The first one is just using a normal sapphire, but this one-"

The appraiser exclaimed, "This... This is tanzanite!"

When Madam Nera, who was in the Peach Room, heard the word tanzanite, the hand that was holding a teacup froze. She remembered something and turned to the female bodyguard next to

her.

The bodyguard nodded and walked toward the window. "Our madam would like to see both items on the large screen."

The crew knew who was in the Peach Room, so they didn't dare to object.

The two identical peacock blue items were projected on the giant screen.

Everyone was in awe.

The items looked exactly alike, but they could see that the second Peacock's Pride had a hint of purple in the blue gem when they looked closely. It was a rich and elegant color. The melee diamonds on the tail feathers were aquamarine gems that came in gradient shades of blue.

The open tail didn't clash with the brilliance of the main stone but instead perfectly brought out the soul of the item-tanzanite blue.

When the crowd learned that it was tanzanite, the price on the screen zoomed upward.

Willow was flustered. 'What, what's going on? Didn't sapphire work just as well?'

She chewed on her nail. 'No, did Maisie frame me?'

She turned around, but Louis was staring straight at her, his eyes filled with confusion.

She shuddered and tried to speak. "I—".

"To be honest, I wouldn't believe it if you said that Zora copied your design." He had no idea why, but he really couldn't feel any love for this cousin of his.