

Zillionaire 481

Chapter 481 It's Just Baseless Gossip

Carol listened as Jeffery defended Alexa, and in that moment, she recalled what Alexa had told her earlier.

So, Alexa really was following his instructions.

Since that was the case, there was no point in arguing with a mere servant..

"I knew it! You never take my side! I'm upset, and you haven't even tried to make me feel better! Can you believe the nonsense people are spreading? Doesn't it bother you? I refuse to believe Dad has some illegitimate child!" Carol huffed, crossing her arms.

Jeffery gently patted her head, his tone calm. "I don't believe it either. You shouldn't let it bother you. People love to stir up drama for no reason."

Then, his expression darkened slightly. "If anyone keeps running their mouth, they'll be thrown out and banned from our events going forward."

Hearing that, Carol finally relaxed a little. "Now that's what I like to hear!" She tossed her hair over her shoulder but was still visibly annoyed. "Everyone here tonight is someone I know. If there really was a woman who looked like you, how could I not have noticed?"

Nearby, Alexa tensed as she silently cleaned up.

If Carol ever learned the truth-that Linsey was the real daughter of the Lawson family-she would never accept it

Jeffery chuckled softly but didn't argue. His sister had always been terrible at recognizing faces..

She would never admit it, though, and Jeffery didn't see the point in pressing the issue.

Instead, he gave her a reassuring pat. "It's just baseless gossip. Don't let it ruin your night. And your makeup's smudging-go have someone fix it."

Carol finally let the matter drop.

Her parents had always been devoted to one another. There was no way an illegitimate daughter existed. Feeling better, she sat in front of the mirror, letting the makeup artist touch up her face.

Jeffery lingered a moment before heading for the door.

Just as he reached it, something crossed his mind. He turned back. "Alexa, come

with me for a second." Alexa stiffened. Why was he calling her out all of a sudden?

Carol, however, completely misread the situation. To her, it simply looked like Jeffery was sending Alexa off to

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keep an eye on Linsey

Smirking, she waved Alexa away. "Go on, then. There's nothing left to clean up here anyway."

She shot Alexa a subtle look, silently telling her to find her later.

Alexa, understanding the message, forced a polite smile before following Jeffery out.

He led her down a quiet hallway and stopped in a secluded corner.

Alexa's heartbeat quickened. Something felt off. Then, Jeffery turned to her and asked, "Did you see the woman at the party tonight? The one who looks like me?"

Alexa's face drained of color.

What did he mean by that?

Why had he pulled her aside just to ask this?

Had he already noticed something?

Panic surged through her. For a moment, the sounds around her blurred into nothing

She was running out of time.

If Carol lost her place in the Lawson family, what would become of her future?

Chapter 482 Politely Ask Her To Leave The Party

The thought of Carol losing everything sent a chill down Alexa's spine She had to get rid of Linsey-

immediately.

That was the only way to keep Carol's true identity from ever being exposed.

A buzzing filled her ears, drowning out everything until Jeffery's voice finally cut through.

She blinked and looked at him blankly. "Mr. Lawson, what did you say?"

To Jeffery, her dazed expression seemed like illness.

With a sigh, he said in a steady voice, "Alexa, if your health is deteriorating, you should consider getting checked into a hospital before it gets worse. Do you have enough from the last transfer? If not, I can send more."

Alexa quickly shook her head. "No, no, I'm fine, Mr. Lawson. I don't need a hospital. I'd rather keep working to

cover my expenses.

She couldn't leave now. Carol still needed her.

That thought alone strengthened her resolve.

Taking a deep breath, Alexa refocused. "Mr. Lawson, earlier you asked about that woman who looks like you. Do you need me to do something about her?"

She had been too flustered before.

Now, she could see things clearly-Jeffery wouldn't have been so calm with Carol earlier if he truly suspected anything

For now, he still believed Carol was his real sister.

That realization steadied her nerves.

Sure enough, Jeffery spoke thoughtfully, "I don't know who she is or why she was at Carol's birthday party. But I don't want her anywhere near my sister again."

Alexa hesitated. "Mr. Lawson..."

"Carol isn't great with faces, but she's not blind. If she sees me standing next to that woman, she'll definitely notice the resemblance," Jeffery said slowly. "Carol is sensitive. She has a heart condition. I won't let anything ruin her birthday."

Alexa smiled lightly. "Mr. Lawson, it's obvious how much you care for Miss Lawson"

As long as Jeffery remained by Carol's side, Alexa was confident no one could take her daughter's place.

"What's your plan?" she continued

Jeffery's voice was calm, decisive "Send a few people with some nice gifts to find her. Politely ask her to leave

the party. Our family has a reputation to uphold we can't be seen

her with respect. If she wants compensation, I'll take care of it"

Alexa could hardly hide her satisfaction

So, Jeffery was going to have Linsey removed after all.

Everything was falling into place.

"Understood, Mr. Lawson. I'll handle it."

Jeffery gave a nod. "Go ahead.")

unable to manage

He didn't want his usual people taking care of this-too many eyes, too much risk of rumors.

Instead, he trusted a few staff members to discreetly show the Lawson family's stance.

Alexa bowed her head in agreement and turned away..

Her eyes, once clouded with anxiety, now glowed with something else excitement.

Jeffery wanted her to be polite to Linsey.

But Alexa had a much better idea.

Chapter 483 What's Your

Connection To The Laws...

Standing in a quiet corner of the banquet hall, Linsey absentmindedly nibbled on pastries, sipping her drink

out of boredom

Ever since her pregnancy, her taste buds had shifted. Foods she once loved no longer appealed to her, while unexpected cravings took over

What surprised her most was her sudden fondness for sweets. She had never cared much for them before, yet now, she couldn't seem to get enough.

Her gaze instinctively dropped to her belly, as if she could somehow see the little life growing inside her

It seemed their baby-Collin and hers-had a sweet tooth.

The hall buzzed with chatter, Carol's birthday party as grand as expected.

Linsey had been content keeping to herself, but before long, a small group of well-dressed guests approached

her.

"Hello," the woman leading them greeted with a polite smile.

Linsey gave a slight nod, assuming they were just looking for a place to chat.

"If you need a seat, I don't mind moving," she offered softly.

Before she could step away, the woman gently reached out to stop her, still smiling warmly. "No, we actually

wanted to talk to you."

Linsey hesitated, studying their faces again. She was certain she had never met them before.

"What about?" she asked cautiously, a hint of wariness creeping in.

"Relax," the woman reassured her, though her curious gaze told a different story. Lowering her voice, she asked, "What's your connection to the Lawson family?" Linsey blinked in confusion.

She had no connection to them.

"Sorry, I don't understand. I'm just a guest at Miss Lawson's birthday party. I don't have any ties to her family," she replied hesitantly.

The group exchanged skeptical glances.

The woman who had spoken seemed especially unconvinced. "You look so much like Jeffery. That can't be a coincidence."

Linsey stiffened. The man she had accidentally bumped into earlier the one who had been rude was the son

of the Lawson family

Now that they mentioned it, she had to admit there was a resemblance

Still, she shook her head "I'm sorry, but I really have no connection to them. You must be mistaken

Sensing their persistence, she added more firmly, "We just happen to look stike Tonight in the Lawson birthday. If you keep saying things like this, she won't appreciate in

The group chuckled, their expressions tinged with amusement and disdain. "Carol acts like Grester's queen just because her family spoils

"We've been sick of her for a long time. We came tonight hoping to stir up some trouble

"We thought we'd have no chance, but after seeing you, well. You might be the perfect opportunity"

Linsey frowned. "What exactly are you planning?"

Had Carol made this many enemies without even realizing it?

One of the men studied her intently before speaking "We could help each other. If you're hiding your identity, we understand your caution. But if you don't step up and claim what's rightfully yours, Carol and her brother will take everything. And trust me, her brother dotes on her like no other."

Chapter 484 Seize Her!

Linsey breathed out a quiet sigh of frustration.

Why did they think that she was related to the Lawson family? She had made it abundantly clear she had no

ties to them

She was about to set the record straight once and for all.

However, her explanation was cut short by the sudden arrival of a group of imposing bodyguards. another servant from the Lawson family were in tow.

Alexa and

"There!" Alexa's voice was sharp as she pointed at Linsey, her face twisted with hostility. "Mr. Lawson's orders are clear severe punishment for anyone who dares steal Miss Lawson's birthday present! Seize her!"

As Alexa's command echoed, the bodyguards quickly moved to encircle Linsey.

The curious onlookers who had been pressing Linsey for details were abruptly pushed aside.

"What is this?" Millie Burke, the guest who had engaged Linsey, called out indignantly.

She was frustrated; she hadn't even heard the entire story from Linsey yet..

The arrival of the Lawson family's bodyguards enveloping Linsey in a tight circle left the room in shock; the guests were baffled by the unfolding drama.

Linsey calmly put down her plate and faced the approaching bodyguards with a steely look.

"As a guest here, what do you think you're doing?" she asked sharply.

From the crowd, Alexa advanced, scanning the bystanders before saying loudly, "Moments ago, a dress meant

as Mr. Lawson's gift for his sister vanished. Surveillance footage revealed this woman as the thief!"

Pointing accusingly at Linsey, Alexa made her claim clear.

The shock rippled through the room immediately.

"Can you believe someone would actually steal at Miss Lawson's birthday event?"

The murmurs grew louder. "This is starting to get good."

"There, that woman, isn't she the one rumored to be Jeffery's lookalike? I've

heard whispers all evening."

"Five bucks says she's Cruz's illegitimate daughter!"

"I agree. She was probably jealous and stole Miss Lawson's gift."

In less than thirty seconds, without Linsey uttering a single defense, the assembly

had labeled her both an illegitimate daughter and a criminal.

Linsey nearly chuckled at the absurdity.

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Steal something? She had been at this spot in the banquet hall all evening. How could she have possibly taken Carol's present?

Her face remained stoic as she turned to Alexa

It hit her then this was the woman who had attempted to shove her down the

stairs at a previous Lawson

family's event.

Clearly, this woman was in the Lawsons' employ

Linsey observed Alexa quietly, her thoughts swirling

Under Linsey's scrutinizing gaze, Alexa's earlier confidence wavered slightly.

This plot was Alexa's creation, devised without Jeffery's knowledge

She knew she needed to make a move quickly.

Utilizing the gossip that was rampant at the party, Alexa aimed to pin the theft directly on Linsey

Her plan was clear: by the end of the night, Linsey's reputation would be in tatters.

"Why are you looking at me like that? You had the audacity to steal Miss Lawson's gift, yet you lack the courage

to confess?" Alexa, adept in deception, effortlessly accused Linsey of theft.

Chapter 485 Show The Footage Then

Alexa leveled her accusation and swiftly faced the gathered crowd, exuding a poised certainty.

"Ladies and gentlemen, consider the Lawson family's standing in town-our extensive business portfolio speaks for itself. What benefit could possibly be derived from slandering a guest? We have scrutinized the security recordings from the event and have clearly observed this individual appropriating Miss Lawson's gift returns it willingly, we may consider resolving this matter quietly

Her statement stirred immediate reactions among the attendees.

"Indeed, why would the Lawson family need to fabricate such claims?"

Voices from the crowd then turned to Linsey. "Can you clarify your actions? Why remain silent up till now you actually guilty of the theft you're accused of?"

"Speak up if you're innocent!"

Some muttered disparagingly, "I've never before seen someone accused remain so tight-lipped."

"Has she lost her ability to speak?"

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Amidst the whispers and stares, Linsey maintained her composure, then unexpectedly, she chuckled-a low, cryptic sound that shifted the room's focus to

her.

Despite her soft laughter, she drew all eyes, momentarily overshadowing the event's supposed honoree, Carol Alexa, visibly annoyed by Linsey's reaction, asked, "What's so funny?" Her expression one of marked annoyance. Alexa felt confident accusing Linsey so publicly, convinced that Linsey wouldn't manage to defend herself effectively.

Under such pressure, Linsey might only end up further humiliating herself.

At this juncture, the truth of the theft was irrelevant.

Linsey gave Alexa a cold look. "I'm amused by the sheer audacity of this sham. Do you really think you can pull off such a clumsy trick against me?"

Alexa momentarily felt a shiver of fear, panic flashing across her eyes, but she quickly recovered and raised her voice. "Audacity? How so? I plainly stated we've reviewed the footage and it shows you taking the gift-"

Linsey interrupted her by holding up her hand. "Show the footage then."

With a dismissive snort, Alexa replied, "Follow us, and you'll see the footage of your indiscretion yourself." Linsey raised an eyebrow in response. "Strange, isn't it? Why not display it here for everyone to see?"

Alexa was ready with her retort, saying. "The guests present are distinguished.

We can't squander their time. over a matter concerning someone as trivial as you

Her gaze hardened as she continued, "Stop causing a disturbance. Just come with us."

She signaled the security with a wave of her hand to apprehend Linsey. Linsey's smile turned cold.

Clearly, they were determined to make her admit to a crime she hadn't committed.

As several large bodyguards approached, Linsey swiftly retreated, grabbing a wine bottle from the table. Without a second thought, she hurled it to the floor.

The sound of shattering glass echoed loudly.

Wine splashed wildly, and shards of glass skittered across the sleek floor..

The sudden commotion turned every head in the room, with guests staring at Linsey in shock.

Chapter 486 You Have No Right To Search Me

"Oh my God!" Alexa's breath hitched as she stared wide eyed at Linsey, her voice trembling slightly. "Are you

out of your mind?-

Linsey had smashed a bottle of wine, yet her expression remained disturbingly calm Brushing off the lingering shards from her hands, she lifted her gaze lazily "If I didn't do this, would you still think I'm just some spineless pushover?"

She let out a cold short, cutting Alexa off before she could spew more nonsense. "The mighty Lawson family resorting to publicly framing an innocent guest? Now that's a real shocker."

Without another word, Linsey pulled a chair over and sat down, completely unfazed "Go get whoever's charge of the Lawson family. I have no interest in wasting my breath on unreasonable people like you"

Alexa was momentarily speechless, thrown off by Linsey's sudden demand.

She hesitated, then quickly regained her composure. "They're busy! They don't have time for petty matters like

this

Her mind raced. There were barely thirty minutes left before the birthday banquet officially started.

She couldn't afford to let Linsey stall things any longer.

Alexa's expression darkened as she gritted her teeth. "Since you refuse to cooperate, then we'll have to search you and check your bag-to see if Miss Lawson's missing gift is in your possession."

She had already prepared a necklace in advance. Once Linsey's bag was opened, slipping it inside would be easy. But Linsey didn't react as expected. Instead of complying, she clutched her bag tightly to her chest.

Her gaze turned sharp, her voice edged with defiance. "You have no right to search me. And trying to force a search based on nothing but a few words-don't you think that's a bit much?"

She hadn't stolen anything, and she had no intention of proving her innocence under false pretenses.

That would only give them control of the situation.

The real move was to turn the tables on them.

Taking her time, she continued, her tone even. "And if you 'coincidentally' find the stolen item in my bag during the search, who am I supposed to turn to then? There's no way I'm letting you touch my things"

Alexa's face went pale with anger. She opened her mouth to argue, but Linsey was faster.

This time, she turned to Millie-the woman who had approached her earlier for gossip.

With a knowing smile, Linsey asked, "This lovely lady, wouldn't you agree that what I'm saying makes sense?"

Millie blinked, briefly caught off guard. But she quickly nodded. "Of course! The Lawson family may be rich and powerful, but that doesn't mean they can just accuse someone of theft without proof. At the very least, they should show us surveillance footage Otherwise, why should we believe them?"

Alexa stiffened. She hadn't expected Linsey to drag someone else into this-let alone Millie, the daughter of prominent family in Grester.

This was bad. Forcing a smile to mask her rising panic, Alexa tried again. "Miss Lawson's birthday party is about to start. We really can't afford any delays."

But Millie simply gave her a sideways glance. "Why should I care? You keep

insisting there's no time to waste, yet you're the one dragging things out instead of showing us the surveillance. What exactly are you up to?"

Chapter 487 There's Been A Theft At The Party!

Millie cast a pointed glance at the bodyguards Alexa had brought along, then suddenly gasped. "Oh! I see what's happening here. You're trying to gang up on a woman, huh? Unbelievable. I never thought I'd witness such shameless behavior from the Lawson family's staff."

Her words struck like a whip, making Alexa's face flush with anger. "Please, don't say that. We-"

Millie had no patience for excuses. "Enough. Just call your supervisor. If you can't, we'll go straight to Jeffery." "Exactly! What's the holdup? As guests at this party, don't we have the right to ask the Lawson family's staff to handle something properly?" one of Millie's friends cut in.

"The e

event hasn't even started yet. Just get someone in charge to deal with this."

"I agree! If I were the one being falsely accused of theft, I wouldn't stand for such nonsense either."

One by one, Millie's friends backed her up, leaving Alexa with no room to argue.

Linsey's lips curled into a smirk. She had only brought Millie into the conversation to deflect pressure, never expecting her to be this outspoken-or so eager to stand up for her.

Then it clicked,

Earlier, when Millie and her friends had approached her, their words had carried a clear distaste for Carol.

That must be part of the reason Millie was willing to step in now.

en more at ease.

With Millie and her friends in her corner, Linsey felt even

Linsey lifted her chin slightly and repeated, coldly. "Call your supervisor. I'd like to see if there's anyone in the Lawson family who actually knows how to communicate."

Meanwhile, in the lounge, Carol remained focused on perfecting every last detail of her outfit.

Suddenly, one of her friends, checking her phone, let out a shocked gasp. "Oh my gosh! You won't believe this!" Carol frowned in annoyance. "What happened?"

"There's been a theft at the party!"

Carol, seated at the vanity, narrowed her eyes. "Someone dared to cause trouble at my

event?"

"Carol, look at this video. Someone secretly recorded it."

Carol turned, taking the phone handed to her. As the video played, Alexa's shrill, hysterical screams filled the

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air. The chaotic shouting made Carol's expression twist with disdain.

How did Jeffery end up hiring such an unrefined servant? Her behavior was a complete disgrace to the Lawson

family's image.

If Alexa weren't under Jeffery's orders to keep an eye on Linsey, Carol would have fired her ages ago.

Then, Carol's expression shifted again.

In the blurry footage, she spotted a familiar dress.

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Carol had personally arranged for that dress to be sent to her. There was no mistaking it.

So Alexa was accusing Linsey of theft?

Carol's voice remained calm, but there was a dangerous edge to it. "What exactly was stolen?"

Her friend hesitated before answering, "I heard it was the necklace Jeffery planned to give you. And that

servant causing all this commotion-wasn't she the one your brother sent out earlier?"

Chapter 488 How Could

You Do Such A Thing

Carol understood immediately

Jeffery must have given Alexa instructions when he called her out earia

A faint smile curled on Carol's lips as she pieced it together

But Alexa clearly hadn't prepared well enough.

Carol rose gracefully, her movements unhurried, and said with amusement, since this inches me, I should see for myself."

It might also be the perfect chance to stir things up for Linsey

Her friends hesitated. "But the party hasn't even started yet

Carol dismissed their concerns with a casual wave. "So what? If I make an early appearance, the night might

become even more interesting."

With that, she lifted the hem of her gown and strode out, unconcerned about what others might think.

Just as she reached the door, she suddenly paused, calling a servant over and whispering a few words

"Hurry it. If you get it done, I'll make sure you're well rewarded," she continued. The servant's eyes widened slightly. "Yes, Miss Lawson."

What exactly had Linsey done to provoke Carol this much? Was it really worth all this effort just to reputation?

But questioning orders wasn't a servant's place.

Carol's friends exchanged curious glances, unsure of what she was planning, but as her loyal entourage, they followed her without hesitation.

By the time they arrived at the banquet hall, a crowd had already gathered in the corner-just like in the video "Miss Lawson, why are you here?" Someone spotted Carol first, their voice laced with surprise

The crowd instinctively parted to make way for her.

Carol sighed dramatically. "I heard someone was stealing at my birthday party, so I came to check it out

She made her way to the center, her gaze landing on Linsey. Feigning shock, she gasped "Linsey, you're the thief? I'm truly surprised! How could you do such a thing?"

Alexa's emotions wavered at Carol's unexpected arrival.

She had acted on her own tonight, unsure if Carol would support her or expose her instead

Not far away, Millie and her friends rolled their eyes in unison at Carol's overly dramatic entrance. Their

disdain was obvious

Here came the pretentious Miss Lawson.

But Linney remained unfazed, utterly calm in the face of Carol's presence "Miss Lawson, mind your words I didn't steal anything your people are twisting the facts."

Carol's eyes narrowed slightly, a flicker of malice flashing through them.

Of course, she knew Linsey was innocent. But why waste such a golden opportunity?

She had already planned to humiliate Linsey at tonight's party-Alexa had simply handed her the perfect setup

Carol almost wanted to thank her dear brother again.

She was convinced this was his doing, and that suited her just fine.

Alexa, catching on, hesitated for only a moment before quickly regaining her confidence.

Chapter 489 I'll Call The

Police

Carol showed no trace of panic. Instead, as if troubled, she let out a deliberate sigh and said slowly, "Linsey, I truly see you as a friend. That's why I invited you to my birthday party tonight. But you look at you. You're the design director at CR Corporation-why would you do something like this?"

Linsey took a deep breath. She knew Carol had only come over to make things difficult for her.

Murmurs rippled through the crowd before she could respond.

"So she's the design director at CR Corporation?"

"Now that you mention it, I remember! She's the designer, Linsey-the one who caused a huge stir online!"

"That's right! Wasn't she accused of plagiarism before?"

Linsey felt her heart tighten on hearing the unfiltered whispers.

She had already cleared her name, but the shadows of those rumors still lingered.

No. She wouldn't just stand there and take this.

Straightening her posture, Linsey said with conviction, "I have never plagiarized, and I haven't stolen anything tonight either. If you claim I took something from the Lawson family, show solid proof! Otherwise, you're slandering me, and I won't stand for false accusations!"

She forced herself to steady her breathing before adding, "If you continue spreading baseless claims without evidence, I'll call the police."

A wave of shock rippled through the guests.

"Calling the police at Miss Lawson's birthday party? Now, this is turning into a real scandal."

"Well, coming here tonight wasn't a waste of time after all."

Carol's gaze darkened slightly. She hadn't expected Linsey to push back so firmly.

Fine. If Linsey wanted proof, she would give her proof.

After all, there

e was no one left to save her now.

Just then, Carol's phone chimed with a message.

A triumphant smile spread across her face as she glanced at the screen.

"Alright, you want evidence? Perfect timing-everyone's here. I'll let them see whether you stole my jewelry

necklace for themselves!"

After saying that, she held up her phone and, in full view of the crowd, played the video she had just received

All eyes turned to the screen. The footage showed surveillance from the hotel's lounge

A familiar figure appeared within seconds-Linsey, standing right there in the video.

Even Linsey herself froze

How could that be? She had never been there.

in the footage, "Linsey" looked around cautiously before opening a gift box on the table. She took out a jewelry necklace and quickly stuffed it into her purse.

Gasps filled the room.

"So she did steal the necklace!"

"And after all that righteous talk just now! I even believed her!"

"This is disgusting. I never thought a design director from CR Corporation would do something like this."

"Her name is Linsey, right? What a shame. Looks like she'll be banned from every event from now on."

"And she was the one threatening to call the police. Now, it looks like the police should be involved!"

"Miss Lawson, you did the right thing! Have this thief arrested immediately!"

Chapter 490 Should I Really Believe Linsey's Empty...

Millie, who had fiercely defended Linsey just moments ago, suddenly found herself at a loss for words.

She

stole a glance at Linsey, her expression complicated. Had she really misjudged her so badly?

Had Linsey truly stolen Carol's stuff?

A wave of regret washed over Millie.

She couldn't help but feel frustrated.

She had hoped to use tonight's incident to stir up trouble for Carol, yet all she had done was make Carol look

like the righteous one.

Her friends felt the same unease.

Was it too late to take back everything they had said in Linsey's defense?

Carol silently took in the shifting atmosphere, satisfaction flickering in her eyes.

In just minutes, the crowd's perception of Linsey had changed-from wary skepticism to outright disdain.

That was exactly the outcome she had wanted.

The effort she had put into fabricating that surveillance footage had been well worth it.

As a member of the Lawson family, she had access to the best resources-skilled technicians who could alter surveillance videos so seamlessly that no one would ever notice. And with the right price, there was nothing she couldn't manipulate. Carol arched a perfectly shaped brow and said coolly, "Linsey, didn't you demand proof? Well, here it is. What do you have to say now?"

Then, as if granting Linsey one last chance, she added, "If you know what's good for you, hand over the necklace.

herwise, I won't be so kind."

Linsey's hands curled into fists at her sides.

the so-called evidence, she knew. This was a setup. Carol had conspired with her. From the moment she saw family's servants to frame her.

And now, when Linsey met Carol's gaze, she was stunned to find a flicker of smug amusement lurking beneath her composed expression.

Linsey took a slow breath, steadying herself. Her voice was firm. "That video is fake. I have never entered that lounge or seen that necklace before."

Alexa seized the moment, her eyes gleaming with false righteousness. "Linsey, are you still trying to deny it? Well, when we hadn't shown the footage, you accused us of making baseless claims. But now that we have proof, you're saying it's fake!"

She let out a mocking laugh, dragging out her words. "So, you're just never going to admit your wrongdoing, is

that it?"

Linsey's jaw tightened. "I swear, I have never stolen anything from the Lawson family!"

Carol scoffed, "Swearing? What good is swearing? If criminals could just swear their way out of things, why would we need police and judges? How ridiculous!"

Then, turning toward the guests, Carol raised her voice so everyone could hear. "Each of you is here tonight because I invited you to my birthday party. Now, I ask you-how should this situation be handled? Should I really believe Linsey's empty words? And more importantly, where is my missing necklace?"

A ripple of murmurs spread through the crowd before several guests eagerly voiced their opinions. "Linsey must return the necklace! And she should compensate Miss Lawson appropriately!"

"I agree! Miss Lawson's birthday has been ruined because of this disgraceful thief. It's shameful!"