

CHOSEN 1671

Chapter 1671

Grace's knees buckled as she crumbled to the ground in shock. Cole shuffled out, appearing worn and aged in just a few days. His hair was almost completely gray.

"Damon, was it this woman who killed Wendy?" Cole asked, his eyes filled with despair.

Damon looked up at Cole, his face expressionless. "No, she died at the hands of the mob."

Chloe bit her lip, looking on silently

Cole stared at Damon for a long moment before he burst into bitter laughter. "She just admitted it and you're still defending her? My daughter was a kidnapper, but she's a murderer!c2

Damon smirked, and his voice was laced with sarcasm. "Feel free to tell the media and see if they believe you"

Cole's face contorted with anger and frustration as he realized the harsh truth, He had no evidence. Without proof, no one would believe that Chloe had killed Wendy Especially since Wendy had kidnapped Yasmine, a fact witnessed by many in the city center

In the face of these undeniable truths, anyone who heard that Chloe had killed Wendy would probably applaud her for it. The area where it happened was a notorious crime zone, after all. Even if she had killed someone there, what could they do? Without evidence, the law couldn't touch her

Damon was banking on this.

Cole took a deep breath. His disappointment in Wendy was evident, but she was still his daughter, his little girl. The thought of her death was unbearable "What about Wendy?" Cole asked, as his voice choked up with sorrow "Even if she did didn't you bring her back. for old times sake?"

Damon stood unmoved. "Any affection I had for her was used up long ago. I didn't have the energy to bring back a burden from that place!

"Damon!" Presley, who had been silent till now, finally exploded. "Have you lost your humanity? Look at the woman you've chosen! She's a murderer

"Enough" Damon's voice was ice-cold.

"No one here has the right to judge her. Perhaps only you could remain indifferent upon hearing of your own son's death."

At these words, Presley swayed, his face turning deathly pale. "You what are you saying?"

Damon's gaze was icy, devoid of any warmth. "I know what kind of woman she is. You don't need to interfere. If you don't understand her, keep your

mouth shut

"You"

"Damon, watch your language! The man standing in front of you is your grandfather, not just anybody! Is this how you should talk to him? You're being absolutely unreasonable, all for the sake of a stranger Robin's voice was heavy with disappointment as he chastised Damon.

"A stranger?" Damon's lips curved into a mocking smile. Since when did the Alonso family become so close to the Harper family? He was referring to the time when his grandfather had stripped him of his management rights over the Harper family for the sake of the Alonso family.

Robin was left speechless That was for your own good"

“That’s not for you to decide. I know what’s good or bad for me. If you’re here because of Wendy, I’ve made it clear. The whole incident started with her, so stop trying to shift the blame Not pinning her crimes on you is already showing you respect.”

Grace suddenly burst into sobs again. Wendy, my baby girl, give me back my daughter! Damon you.. you Harpers. you’ll get your comeuppance! Chloe is a murderer, and you’ll pay for this!”

Damon’s brow furrowed “Nate”

Nate immediately stepped forward, directing the bodyguards to escort Grace and Cole out without hesitation.

Afterward, Damon and Chloe turned to leave

“Stop right there!” Presley’s voice, filled with anger, echoed through the room. Seeing Damon ignore him, he roared, “The Harper family raised you. Is this how you repay us? Damon, think about all the effort and expectations I had for you What’s so special about this woman that you’re willing to abandon the Harper family, and even lose your humanity for her?”

Chloe glanced at the man beside her, only to see his face remained cold as he continued to walk away, her hand in his

“If your investment in me only requires unconditional repayment, then you’ll be disappointed Don’t keep bringing up the Harper family. What you value. may not.”

“Everything you have now is thanks to the Harper family!

Then, when the Harper family is gone, we’ll see if I’m left with nothing”

“You arrogant fool Presley seethed His anger was palpable, but Damon merely left him with a calm, indifferent silhouette

As Grace and Cole were escorted out, Grace's cries filled the air echoing throughout the room Nate shook his head, saying, "Mr Alonso, Mrs. Alonso, rather than causing a scene here, perhaps you should consider bringing her back for a proper burial"

Grace's sobs abruptly stopped. She grabbed Nate's hand, pleading, "Nate, tell me, Wendy isn't really dead, is she? They were lying, weren't they?"

Nate shook his head. Those places are inherently chaotic, the kind that everyone gives a wide berth. The frequent upheavals and innocent bystanders getting caught up are all part of the package My condolences, though"

Resigned to her fate, Grace let go of Nate and collapsed onto the floor Emerging from behind, Damon and Chloe skirted around them and got into the car. With a resigned sigh, Nate took one last look at Grace, and his expression was filled with pity.

"Regardless, you should first focus on retrieving Ms Alonso. Her body is in a warehouse there. If we act promptly, you should be able to locate it.

Otherwise, you may not be able to find her anymore. That place gets piled up the bodies, and... they get rid of them in a bonfire..."

Finishing his sentence, he quickly climbed into the car, took the driver's seat, and started the engine. He glanced at Damon through the rear-view mirror. "Sir, are we really going to do this?"

Damon responded with a nonchalant, "Hm. If not, we'll never find peace. I don't have the patience to deal with them."

Chapter 1672

Chloe, sitting beside Damon, furrowed her brows at his words. "What are you guys talking about?"

Damon remained silent.

However, by the next day, Chloe had her answer.

Having returned to the city the day before, they rested for one night in their apartment, only to be summoned to the Harper's Mansion because of the presence of Cole and Grace. Afterwards, Elizabeth's insistent calls had them head straight for Greenfield Village.

Back at Greenfield Village, Elizabeth once again scrutinized Chloe thoroughly, ensuring she was indeed unharmed. Only then did she put on a stern face and give Chloe a good scolding.c2

Because of Chloe's obstinacy and her decision to leave without informing Elizabeth, she silently accepted the reprimand, occasionally nodding in

admission of her mistakes

Yasmine, who was also present, remained indifferent despite Elizabeth's scolding towards her daughter

After Chloe's acceptance of her mistakes, Elizabeth finished venting her anger. With no new words to express her frustration, she finally turned her gaze to Damon, who had been silent all the while You! You're always leeching off Chloe, acting like a kept boy, and disappearing when you're needed the most! Such a major incident occurred, and you didn't even come back to help Chloe. Where's your professional ethics?"

Chloe couldn't help but twitch at her words.

Professional ethics? Did a kept boy need to possess professional ethics?

Besides, he hadn't taken anything from her. This time her mother was kidnapped, she got to realize his position at the border and his status in the world She really didn't have the ability to maintain such a top-tier pretty boy

Facing Elizabeth's reprimand, Damon remained silent, enduring any and all accusations without a word or retaliation

Because Damon was her son, Elizabeth was more harsh towards Damon than Chloe.

“You’re so lucky to have Chloe as your wife. You have her to provide for you and even bear your children. Look around the world, and tell me, which man is more lucky than you? You don’t know how to cherish what you have, do you? Do you have to wait for another man to take your place before you regret it? Men. You’re all the same!”

Elizabeths words seemed to hit a nerve with Damon because his expression was gradually darkening. Chloe watched anxiously from the side. Damort... is not that kind of person. He has his matters to deal with, besides, none of us could have expected such a thing to happen. He still came over in the

end

“Don’t speak for him. The fact that I didn’t hit him today is because I’m kind I don’t want any excuses. If he wasn’t by your side when you were sad and lonely, it’s his fault! With all these excuses, all the men in the world would be good guys! And don’t interrupt when I’m scolding him. If you keep spoiling him like this, be careful, because you’ll regret it someday!”

Chloe closed her mouth. Not because Elizabeths words threatened her, but because her tone and expression at the moment were serious

Elizabeth was seriously angry

The look on Damon’s face was enough to tell that he was not in a good mood Everyone was wary, but Elizabeth was the only one who could freely scold him Damon’s enduring silence was a testament to Elizabeth’s stern position.

Finally, lunchtime came, and the scolding ceased. Elizabeth waved her hand and shouted for everyone to eat. This marked an end to the matter.

Due to Elizabeth’s temper, Chloe ended up eating whatever was served to her. Seeing her eat so heartily, Elizabeth’s mood improved slightly. She no longer targeted the couple but turned to Yasmine, who was eating elegantly beside her. With a bright smile, she moved closer to her

She served a bowl of chicken soup and placed it in front of Yasmine "Enjoy the soup, there's absolutely nothing wrong with it today I guarantee you'll

love it

Yasmine glanced at the bowl of soup and continued to eat her meal. "Thank you"

These two words instantly lit up Elizabeth's face. 'Don't mention it, we're family after all. You've been worried and scared these past few days, eat more drink more, and replenish your energy

Yasmine nodded gently

Elizabeth served her more food "Eat up

Chloe felt a sense of relief, because finally, the attention was off her

Yasmine looked at the mountain of food in her bowl, then lifted her gaze to meet Elizabeth's Elizabeth's eyes widened slightly, and her face looked innocent as she smiled at Yasmine

Yasmine moved her lips, and after a long pause, she managed to say I can't eat this much"

Elizabeth looked at the food in her bowl, clearly not convinced "Are you feeling unwell? You can't finish this little amount of food? Try your best to eat, won't be mad if you can't finish it"

Yasmine raised her brow and glanced at Chloe Her expressionless face showed a hint of sympathy for Chloe

"By the way, how about we watch a movie after lunch? There's a highly-rated film that's been doing really well recently. The ratings on various websites are high Let's watch it together. The kid in the movie is so cute! Chloe, you should join us! It would be great if you could give me a grandchild as cute as him"

Yasmine sighed. They're not in a position to be seen in public right now. Let's forget about the movie.

"No, I've already bought the film, we'll watch it at home. We have a home theater."

Yasmine sighed.

Elizabeth was indeed persistent, so after lunch, Elizabeth practically forced them to the home theater.

Having watched a movie for nearly two hours, Elizabeth was absolutely thrilled. She repeatedly mentioned the great parts of the film to her companions, eventually clapping her hands in delight.

I'm off to knit some sweaters for my two grandsons!" With that, she bustled off, leaving the others to heave a sigh of relief.

Yasmine's expression had improved somewhat since the start of the day, but her mood still lingered in the doldrums. Chloe approached, gripping the handles of Yasmine's wheelchair, and they slowly made their way outside.

The sun was shining just right, the wind was still, and the temperature was perfect. Chloe pushed the wheelchair aimlessly around the park.

"Mom..."

She started softly, but before she could say anything else, Yasmine's chilly and distant voice cut her off.
"Bryson's in the hospital

Chloe halted in her tracks, and they stopped under the sunlit gazebo. She noticed that Yasmine's hands, resting on her lap, had clenched into fists, and were trembling slightly

Her heart skipped a beat.

Chapter 1673

It was the first time she had seen Yasmine in such a panic since the last time she had been rushed to the hospital

“A bullet has gone through his leg. Given his age, there’s no chance he’ll ever stand again” Yasmine continued, her voice sounding calm, but the quiver in it was too obvious for Chloe to miss.

She knew her mother’s affection for Bryson. From childhood, Bryson and Yasmine had depended on each other. If it wasn’t for Bryson, there would be no Yasmine today, and there would be no Chloe. To her mother, Bryson was as important as a father.

Chloe’s current feelings were even more intense than when she found out that Wendy had taken Yasmine away.

Bryson and her mother had a bond of over forty years. Her relationship with her mother barely exceeded three decades.

Maybe she couldn’t really understand Yasmine’s feelings right now.

Yasmine’s voice was trembling more and more. “He’s always been there for me. Chloe, in all the years of my life, all the painful days, it was Bryson who stood by my side. His leg was broken on the way home from my rehab.”

Chloe reached out and put her hand on Yasmine’s shaking shoulder. Her eyes were looking slightly red. She didn’t know what to say, to make her not feel so sad, not so upset. She didn’t have the right to say anything. The fact was, she couldn’t change anything.

The only thing that could console her mother now was if Bryson could get better. But that was impossible. With his age, there was no chance of recovery.

She simply patted Yasmine’s shoulder, and after a long pause, she only had one thing to say, “We owe Bryson an apology.”

Yasmine's voice choked. "Yes, I've let him down. I've been dragging him down all these years."

Chloe's expression gradually turned cold.

Dragging down

She suddenly thought of the moment when she shot Wendy dead. There was no fear, no panic, and even no hesitation. She never thought about what would happen next.

If she really had to say, she only had one thought at that time, and that was relief

Yes With Wendy's death, she felt relief because there would never be a ticking time bomb threatening her at any time and affecting her life. But the ticking bomb wasn't just Wendy Her mother was forced to jump into the sea back then, and now Bryson's leg was ruined

Old grievances and new hatreds, she had to count them.

Aval

Yasmine was exhausted, and her spirit was already weak. They didn't talk for long before Chloe took Yasmine back to rest

Chice asked Damon to accompany her to the hospital.

Winston was staying at the hospital. He nodded when he saw them. Chloe approached the bed. The elderly man, who was already advanced in years. was now lying in bed, fast asleep

For the elderly, even a common cold could be life-threatening, not to mention being shot The bullet went straight through his bone. it had only been a few days, but Bryson's condition now looked frail and

weak His hair, which used to have some black strands, was now completely white. His face was pale and looked extremely haggard Having gone through a life-and-death struggle, he had exhausted all his remaining energy

This sight made Chloe's heart tremble Not to mention her mother, who regarded him as a father

Bryson had been by Yasmine's side for so many years and was always on guard Even though he was asleep, he was aware the moment the door to the ward opened it was just a matter of whether the person who came was worth him opening his eyes to deal with

Right now, he didn't have any extra energy to deal with people who didn't really matter to him. Since the person came in and didn't say anything, an stood by his bed, it couldn't be just anyone

He slowly opened his eyes, and sure enough, he saw Chice

"Miss His first reaction was to sit up from the bed, but Chloe was faster and lightly pressed down on his shoulder. Then she shook her head gently at

Furn

Bryson didn't insist anymore. The sharp pain in his leg made him gasp

Bryson, I hope you can take good care of yourself My mother feels very guilty about this. I'm sorry, you got hurt because of us.

Bryson shook tus head failed to protect Yasmine I cant escape the blame for her misfortuneI

"Bryson, my mother has long considered you as family You dont need to be so humble We are the cause of all this. We've let you down, and there's no doubt about that But im sorry besides an apology, I cant compensate you

“Chloe, I’ve never thought of blaming anyone Not being able to protect Yasming is something (ant let go of What’s done a done, and TM’m luckily, alive. I’ve been running around all my life, but i can’t let go. Now I have to retire it’s just regrettable that I cant protect Ms. Yasmind and you anymore”

Chloe gave a smile, but it didnt look very convincing Nothing will happen in the future, you can est assured

Brysons expression gradually became serious The root of the problem has not been solved it’s not easy to say that

assured.”

“I understand your concerns Chloe said softly her voice gentle

Bryson looked at her blankly, his eyes probing

Chloe gave a slight smile again. T’ll settle this matter. Our life in the future will finally be peaceful.”

Although her words were understated, the meaning was clear. Everyone in the ward understood it.

Bryson looked at Chloe for a while before he let out a deep sigh. “Please be careful. After all these years, she has laid a solid foundation. The Queen is a sentimental person, and she has been by the Queen’s side for so many years...”

“Ho, my grandmother has been in a high position for a long time, above everyone else. Right and wrong are far more important than sentiment. Besides... if it really comes down to sentiment, she can’t compare to my mother, nor to me.”

When they were leaving, Chloe noticed that Damon’s face was off. She took the initiative to hold his arm and looked up at him. “You need to help me.”

Damon looked at her. “Okay”

Yasmine decided to continue her rehab, and Chloe planned to accompany her for a few days. When she got up the next morning after a good night's sleep and went downstairs for breakfast, she felt the atmosphere in the living room was off.

Elizabeth's brows were furrowed, and her expression was a mixture of regret and complexity. The household staff huddled together, and their

expressions varied.

Chloe furrowed her brow "What's going on?"

Yasmine was off to the side, engrossed in a newspaper. Elizabeth glanced up at her, ultimately heaving a sigh. "Cole and Grace are dead."

Chloe froze at the news

They were killed in the uprising at the border, Elizabeth added

The first thing that popped into Chloe's mind was the conversation between Damon and Nate when they were leaving the Harper's Mansion just the day

before.

There would be no peace until...

This must have been it.

Chloe remained silent

Chapter 1674

Damon was the ruler of that place, where riots did occur. The existence of such chaos was entirely at his discretion.

Cole and Grace had perished in a border not Clearly, it was all part of a sinister plot

She had thought that by eliminating Wendy, her life would finally attain some semblance of peace. To harbor the intent to kill, and then to act upon it, required a certain ruthlessness However, she suddenly felt that she was nothing compared to Damon He had never mentioned it, not even the slightest hint And just like that, two lives were extinguished

She hadn't brought back Wendy's body back, and now she understood why Damon had intended to wipe out the entire Alonso family from the start.c2

Presley instructed Robin to help Phoebe prepare a funeral for the Alonso family. Hardly anyone attended the funeral, and the bodies had not been

recovered

Azriel had greeted Damon and requested the bodies as a form of closure for Phoebe.

With the deceased gone, everything seemed to fade like dissipating clouds, Chloe gave her consent, and Damon did not object.

When Azriel handed over the urns to Phoebe, Phoebe accepted them with a calm demeanor, but her eyes were still tinged with an unshed red.

Despite their cruelty, they were still her family, and had caused her pain, injustice, and unrest. They had always revolved around Wendy, and in the end even in death, it was because of her.

Azriel gently tousled her hair, biting his lip, at a loss for words. Some things, he would have to keep buried within him. He would never reveal the truth to her in this lifetime

Phoebe placed the urns in their final resting place, and the few attendees of the funeral couldn't help but shake their heads in sorrow. At least the ashes had been retrieved

They offered Phoebe words of solace and gradually dispersed

Ava had asked Barbara to attend the funeral. After all, their kinship was common knowledge.

Barbara and Phoebe were not on good terms, and she thought they wouldn't exchange more than a few words throughout the entire process. However, Barbara remained by her side until the very end.

As people came and went, Phoebe stood at the entrance. Her gaze was steady.

"Did anyone from the Harper family come? Barbara suddenly asked, her tone dripping with sarcasm.
"I'm referring to Damon and that woman, Chloe

"They have no reason to come. Everything Wendy did was disgusting, enough to make anyone sick. Why should they mourn for her?"

Phoebe's words elicited a cold laugh from Barbara "Do they have no reason to come, or do they not dare to?"

"What do you mean?"

Barbara was clad in a khaki winter coat Her makeup was subtly applied, and her red lips curved into a cynical smile

"Chloe killed Wendy Cole and Grace were said to have died in a riot, but even if that place was chaotic, it couldn't be in a state of constant upheaval, How unlucky would they have to be to encounter a riot the

moment they arrived? Everything was a setup. Their real intention was to eradicate the Alonso family completely Phoebe, I understand if you feel nothing for Grace and Wendy, but wouldn't you resent the person who murdered your father?

Phoebe remained silent for a moment before breaking into a smile "Don't provoke me. Accusing someone of murder without any evidence is rather blatant Moreover, even if what you said is true, they brought it upon themselves. No one knows what kind of people they were better than do They got what they deserved If Wendy hadn't harbored the intent to kill in the first place, none of this would have happened. It's simply karma. Besides, I'm powerless Even if I wanted to seek revenge, I wouldn't be able to You should give up on that idea"

Barbara narrowed her eyes. "You lost your family and your home, yet you're content with your situation You're truly worthless

Phoebe was unperturbed "Wendy wasn't worthless, yet she's dead now it's important to know your place Unfortunately, she didn't. She pursued things that weren't hers, so she deserved her fate. Let me give you a piece of advice, don't be too greedy, or you might lose what you already have."

She had once accompanied Cole and Wendy to a state banquet in Y Country, and she could easily see through Ava and her daughters' intentions. Just like Grace and Wendy their insatiable greed made them covet things that didn't belong to them

Barbara hadn't expected the seemingly frail and helpless Phoebe to be so sharp-tongued She was caught off guard and ended up being infuriated. "You're a lost cause What a pity for Cole to have a daughter like you"

"He was pitiful, to begin with, Phoebe retorted The heir he devotedly groomed turned out to be the one who led the Alonso family to ruin and brought about his death. With his business gone and his life taken, who could be more pitiful than him?"

Barbara sneered, and her composure was shattered She chose to leave

Not long after her departure, Damon and Chloe arrived Barbara's words had indeed affected her, but everything she had retorted was also true Her family had brought it upon themselves. However, when she found herself face-to-face with Damon and Chloe, she couldn't help but feel a bit uneasy.

“You’re here”

It was already dark, and the funeral had quieted down.

Chloe stood at the entrance without entering. Instead, she took out a document from her bag and handed it to Phoebe “Here are the shares you asked me to keep, as well as the ones I obtained The Alonso family is now yours Take care of it.”

Phoebe stared at the document in front of her, unsure of what to do. I have no experience in managing a company You know I can’t run a company

Chloe nodded. “If there’s anything you don’t understand, you can come and ask me. If you trust me, that is”

Phoebe managed a smile. The Alonso family was in your hands, and now you’re giving it back to me without any conditions. Why shouldn’t I trust you? | really don’t have the ability to manage such a large business. My father never let me touch these things. I’m not up to it.”

Take your time

Chloe stuffed the documents she held into Phoebe’s hands. Taking a final glance inside, she gently patted Phoebe’s hand.

Take good care of yourself”

Phoebe noticed Chloe had no intention of going in. She nodded without saying much. There were too many reasons for her not to go in. Going in was contrary to her style.

Regardless of the reasons, she watched as they slowly faded into the distance. Phoebe slowly clenched the documents in her hands

In the end, the Alonso family was back to her hands. She thought, perhaps, this was what Cole had desired.

If he were alive, the Alonso family would never come back in this lifetime

When Chloe entered the Alonso household, she actually saw Barbara Phoebe's slightly awkward demeanor upon seeing her didn't go unnoticed.

Chapter 1675

If Ava and her allies had the power to hire outlaws to do their dirty work, then surely they knew about the deaths in the Alonso family. They were here not only to attend the funeral and deal with the media but also to sow discord.

If Phoebe had one more enemy, it would save Ava and her mother a lot of trouble.

When it came to ruthlessness, Ava was a master at it. She had too advantage of Wendy till she died, and was now considering using Phoebe.

If Wendy couldn't handle Ava, what hope did Phoebe have, being so innocent and guileless?

Was Ava still plotting to find people to deal with them?c2

Chloe was three months pregnant, and her belly was just beginning to show. After confirming that she wasn't simply gaining weight, Chloe found her growing belly fascinating

During her video calls with Rose, she'd spend ages just pointing her phone's camera at her belly. "Look, my belly's popped What about yours? Show me

Rose lifted her shirt to reveal her belly, but there was no significant change. "That's strange, I'm a few days ahead of you. Why is your belly showing and mine isn't?"

Chloe grinned smugly. "I'm carrying twins."

"Get lost! So what if you're having twins? Your daughter will marry my son anyway."

Chloe accepted this without argument and looked at Rose through the camera, reminding her, Take care of yourself. Nothing is more important than your child

"You've got some nerve saying that! Rose retorted. "Who was it that insisted on going to the border? Do you have any idea how dangerous it is there?"

Chloe sighed, Rose always knew how to hit where it hurt.

After enduring Rose's scolding, the call ended. Chloe had wanted to tell Rose about her plans to go to Y Country but ended up keeping it to herself.

In order to make her departure seem natural, Chloe stayed with Yasmine for a few days. Yasmine had been kidnapped not long ago, so if Chloe left immediately, the sharp-minded Yasmine would likely guess her reasons for going to Y Country

As the weather grew colder and New Year's Day approached, Chloe finally used the excuse of needing to try on her coronation dress to tell Yasmine and Elizabeth about her plans to visit Y Country

Since Damon, the "kept boy was accompanying her, Elizabeth didn't object. She watched Chloe with a detached expression. Her thin lips were holding back many words.

in the end, she simply told Damon to, "take care of Chloe."

For Damon, this was a given Chloe didn't say anything further.

Ever since Yasmine's kidnapping, Boyd had been even more protective of her. Despite Greenfield Village already being heavily guarded, he still had a large number of men stationed around the area Whenever

Yasmine left the house, Boyd would arrange for at least ten men to follow her overtly. He himself was always by her side.

Even when Yasmine got angry several times, he didn't back down. The previous incident had clearly left him shaken. So with Boyd there, Chloe didn't need to worry about Yasmine's safety.

Chloe's sudden return to Y Country, without any warning, had Ava on high alert. She had always kept an eye on Chloe's movements, but she had no idea Chloe was returning to Y Country

Clearly, Chloe had managed to evade her surveillance. This suggested that Chloe was up to no good this time

Queen Julia, however, was delighted by Chloe's arrival. She took Chloe to the royal designer's studio

The dress was still incomplete, but knowing about Chloe's pregnancy, the designer had raised the waistline slightly and added a layer of thin gauze over the belly area, with a golden phoenix soaring on it.

Even having seen many designs, this dress still took Chloe's breath away

"We know your body will change, so we've made the dress adjustable. You don't need to worry about that" The royal designer certainly knew how to handle details

Chloe hadn't planned to try on the incomplete dress, but when she saw Ava, Barbara and Becky, she changed her mind. Especially when she saw the jealousy and anger on Becky's face, which had clearly been surgically enhanced and was still healing

The easiest people to manipulate were those like Becky, whose intentions were transparent

Barbara hadn't expected to see Chloe, whom she'd just met a week ago in P City, suddenly appear in Y Country Seeing Chloe take the dress into the changing room, her usually impassive face cracked

Ava quietly took her hand. As Barbara's mother, she knew exactly how her daughter was feeling. Barbara had been currying favor with the Queen for years, hoping for a coronation ceremony. But Chloe, who had just met the Queen and hadn't even been confirmed as a relative, had been promised

coronation.

Even if Chloe was a true granddaughter, how could she compare to their years of genuine companionship? Some people, it seemed, were wolves in sheep's clothing.

The three women all had their own thought, but none of them were willing to leave early. Chloe was their biggest threat right now, and their only remaining card was the bond they had built with Queen Julia over the years. They couldn't afford to give Chloe the chance to replace them.

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Even though the dress was only half-finished, when Chloe came out wearing it, everyone present was thoroughly dazzled.

Queen Julia was the happiest of all—pulling Chloe in for a closer look. Her eyes were full of love. “You look beautiful.”

The designer also nodded in agreement, clearly satisfied with his design.

“If the dress looks this beautiful when it's only half done, it will surely amaze the world once it's finished.” Queen Julia couldn't help but express her admiration.

The designer chuckled. “Of course. The princess' aura is simply stunning, and she shares such a striking resemblance to the queen. It truly is a testament to the royal bloodline. Once we add the crown and jewelry specifically designed for the princess, she will undoubtedly dazzle the world.”

Chloe had a small smile playing on her lips. She played with the hem of her gown and listened to the praises without uttering a word, seemingly full of anticipation for the future. Her silent, smiling demeanor was like a thorn in the eyes of the three women.

Becky couldn't hide her anger. "What are you doing here all of a sudden? Without even a courtesy call?!"

Chapter 1676

Queen Julia's smile faded as she noticed Becky's displeasure.

Ava rapidly stepped forward, pulling Becky behind her as she addressed Queen Julia, "Becky means that if Chloe had given us a heads up, we could have arranged a proper welcome. Now we're caught off guard unprepared."

"I'm returning to my home, so why would I need to be received? Princess Ava, are you treating me like a stranger?"

Ava's face hardened, and her eyes darkened as she glanced at Chloe. However, this was only temporary. She summoned an effortless, helpless smile, speaking in a soft, comforting voice. "Since Mother has already accepted you as a true princess, how could we treat you as an outsider? We're just a bit caught off guard; you've only been back a short while, and we were worried you might find it unfamiliar. We didn't want to neglect you. Don't overthink it."

it

Chloe's lips curled into a faint smile. Is that so?

She examined herself in the mirror, adjusting the royal dress she was wearing. As expected, it was regally extravagant, but beyond that, the design was unique and innovative. There was absolutely nothing wrong with the dress.

Who wouldn't have liked such a dreamy, luxurious outfit? Moreover, the dress she was wearing was certainly not something just anyone could afford to

wear.

As for the price, it was impossible to estimate a figure. After all, it was a dress meant to represent the esteemed status of the royal family of Y Country, a symbol of their prestige

And how could Queen Julia possibly skimp when it came to her own granddaughter?

Just moments ago, they had deliberately ignored the dress Chloe was wearing But Chloe's indifferent attitude and current behavior, in the eyes of Becky and Barbara, came off as flaunting her status. They knew very well what the dress represented. Every glance at Chloe felt like a razor-sharp knife slicing through them, causing searing pain

I'm indeed unfamiliar with this place. After all, you grew up here. If I make any mistakes, I hope you'll be understanding."

Chloe spoke, turning her head to reveal a gentle, harmless smile. Her long hair swept through the air, creating a beautiful arc

Ava frowned slightly at Chloe's current demeanor Believing in this woman's gentleness now would be more painful than a direct stab

They had never interacted before, but Ava had done her research. If Robin could fall for her tricks, how could she let her guard down? Was she really playing the fool with her?

She was carefully crafting the perfect response when Queen Julia reached out and took Chloe's hand. This is your home. You can do whatever you want here"

Queen Julia spoke with tender love, and her expression was filled with guilt and affection as she looked at Chloe.

Ava's face rapidly changed. It turned out that Chloe's words weren't meant for them. This just deepened the queen's guilt towards her and solidified her position in her heart.

Becky was seething with anger Her eyes almost popped out of her sockets Barbara wasn't faring much better, but she had a bit more restraint and patience She stepped forward, linking arms with Queen Julia in a playful manner.

"Grandma, understand that you're thrilled to have found Chloe, and there's nothing wrong with spoiling her. But people talk, and Chloe's actions will reflect on our royal image. If her action is not proper, people will mock us in the future. If rumors reach her ears, I think she is someone who values appearances and won't take it well, don't you think?"

Queen Julia's brow furrowed "She's a person of integrity. How could she do something that'd make us a laughingstock? I trust her to know her boundaries"

Her favoritism was blatantly obvious Oh actually, she had only one biological granddaughter, who else could she favor?

Barbara's eyes gleamed with malevolence. She glanced at Chloe, and her gaze was now filled with bitterness.

Chloe simply smiled without saying a word and turned to the designer. "I really love this dress. Thank you for designing such a beautiful outfit for me

The designer was overjoyed it's my honor to design for a princess.

Chloe nodded, smiled at Queen Julia, then turned and walked into the changing room. When she reemerged, she had taken off the extravagant dress

All of Chloe's clothes were carefully chosen by Damon, they were high-end brands. Some were even custom-made, and their designs were exquisite But after wearing the royal dress, her casual clothes seemed a bit bland That dress was adorned with platinum accessories and diamonds after all

This contrast, however, added a hint of disdain in Becky and Barbara's eyes She was just a country bumpkin who had been abroad for too long Compared to them, who were raised in the palace, she was leagues behind

In reality, years of superiority and insincere flattery from others had caused them to lose themselves. Those who were blindly confident always believed they were the most beautiful and outstanding.

As Chloe completely disregarded Barbara's arrogant speech, who had already harbored resentment towards her, now, she held an even deeper grudge. Chloe's most recent acquisitions were probably these hostilities. She was already used to it, and how could she not notice their glaring animosity?

But...

She smirked, following Queen Julia out. What she feared was them not being hostile towards her.

These people were a bunch of hypocrites. Even though they clearly disliked each other, they still pretended to be amicable and innocent.

There was a Kewa before, followed by a Wendy who, thanks to her status, didn't bother to be fake towards Chloe. Now, this mother-daughter trio could be added to the mix.

"Chloe, you're not planning on leaving again, are you? New Year's Day isn't for another couple of weeks, and there's nothing pressing on either side. The back-and-forth is exhausting. You really should stay, alright?"

Queen Julia took Chloe's hand, guiding her through a leisurely stroll around the castle.

Chloe nodded. "I'm not leaving. Everything at the company has been taken care of. I'm here to stay until New Year's Day."

The expressions on the faces of Ava and her two daughters nearby were anything but pleased.

Chapter 1677

Why did Ava and her daughters, Barbara, and Becky, feel such strong resentment towards Yasmine and Chloe?

Their presence threatened the luxury and opulence Ava and her daughters were currently enjoying

Even if Ava were to plead with Yasmine, expressing how she was forced into her past actions and had been led astray, and even if Yasmine were to forgive her, their lives would still change. They could continue to reside in the palace and enjoy a life of extravagance, but with Yasmine and Chloe in the picture, their status would inevitably decline.

That was because, in Y Country, social hierarchy was deeply ingrained. Positions of authority were clearly distinguished. Those of lower rank were inevitably inferior to those of higher rank, and always expected to flatter and ingratiate themselves.

Once such a concept took root, it naturally influenced every aspect of life. For example, the eldest son in a family was always respected more than the second son in socialite gatherings, only the eldest daughters were invited, not the younger ones. This applied even if they were born of the same

mother.

So, it was no surprise that Becky, who was blissfully ignorant, despised Chloe, the sudden new arrival. She had watched Barbara attend numerous socialite gatherings, and on good days, she might have even been invited to join. Some privileges of being the eldest daughter were extended to her by their mother to appease her.

But Chloe's arrival meant that even Barbara could no longer enjoy the prestige of being Y Country's eldest princess. Becky's situation was even worse. So how could she possibly like Chloe?

Becky's thoughts were rather superficial.

Barbara, on the other hand, was fixated on the dress Chloe was wearing that day. The dress, adorned with diamonds and jewels, and embroidered with a phoenix made of exquisite rubies and sapphires, made Chloe look like a majestic bird ready to take flight.

Barbara knew that Queen Julia was a woman of elegance who had a fondness for different cultures. She understood what the phoenix represented and was well aware of what was coming.

Soon, Chloe would be standing before the world in that dress, flaunting her authentic royal status in Y Country. At that time, Barbara would become the laughingstock of everyone.

In Y Country, where class consciousness was deeply rooted, Barbara used to become a target of ridicule. The once untouchable socialite would become the subject of gossip and derision.

In this world, you could claw your way up from nothing, but you couldn't stand being second when you'd been at the top. It felt just like a fall from grace.

Was she at the top now? No, she wasn't. She didn't have the princess' coronation, and the throne was getting farther away, all because of Chloe.

Ava, even more so, had her eyes on the throne, which was her ultimate goal.

Why couldn't a person be ambitious? Because she was ambitious, she'd lived a life of prosperity and luxury for over thirty years. She'd been a princess for so long, so why couldn't she dream of ascending to the throne? If it weren't for Yasmine and Chloe, she would have had the throne within her grasp.

The three women harbored their own thoughts, yet their common enemy was Yasmine and Chloe.

Chloe had been touring the palace for a few days, receiving top-notch treatment. Queen Julia's affection for her was unhidden. Anything Chloe showed interest in was hers without question. She was

given the best room in the palace, the closest to the queen's. The best royal chefs prepared her meals. Anything new or exciting was always offered to Chloe first, and Chloe accepted all of this without hesitation.

Her attitude was one of a true princess, and it infuriated Ava and her daughters. Days went by, and their patience wore thin, but Chloe continued to do as she pleased, not giving a thought to their feelings. If it weren't for Ava and Barbara holding her back, Becky would have confronted Chloe multiple times by now.

“Why are you stopping me? I’ve had enough of that little brat! Look at how grandmother is spoiling her! She always gets the best of everything, and she gets it quick It wasn’t like this before Now, we either get nothing or have to pick from her leftovers. Why? Because of some lowly woman who’s been gallivanting around outside? Why does she get to lord over us?”

What was most intolerable was the fact that Chloe had once broken her nose if it weren’t for their grandmother taking her to have it foed, she would still be ugly Thinking about it, the grudge between her and Chloe was irreconcilable

“You know that grandmother is pampering her so whats the fuss about?” Ava was frustrated, having to keep an eye on her simple-minded daughter was getting on her nerves

Becky was fuming, and her eyes were red from anger “What is grandmother thinking? She recognizes an outsider as her granddaughter because of silly song? She must be stupid! Even a fool wouldn’t believe that Mom, can’t we just have Chloe and grandmother do a DNA test 79”

Ava’s face turned sour A DNA test would only make things worse Suddenly, her eyes flickered and her expression slowly improved

If you dare to speak ill of your grandmother in public, don’t blame me for not protecting you Do you have a death wish or something?”

Becky pursed her lips, knowing she had overstepped, but she still felt indignant. Wasn’t it true that their grandmother was dumb? But eeing Avas stern look, she didn’t dare to say another word. She had to swallow her anger if things continued like this, she would go crazy in a few days.

However it didn’t take a few days

The next day, when they entered the palace and heard what Queen Julia said to Chloe, their patience had nearly reached its Hersit.

“The day after tomorrow is Fionas birthday. the granddaughter of the Grand Duke Dubonnet An invitation has just been specially delivered for you. Many children of high-ranking officials will attend

the event. You should go and get acquainted with them. After all, these are the people you'll be frequently associating with in the future"

These words instantly stirred a storm in the hearts of the three women Barbara's teeth clenched together so tightly, they were nearly ground to dust She was supposed to attend this banqueti

The look on Ava's face couldn't hide her displeasure.

For those who didn't know, Duke Dubonnet was the highest-ranking official in the Y Country, excluding the royal family. At his granddaughter's birthday. the attendees would no doubt be the majority of the high-ranking officials and their families from the Y Country

When the Queen mentioned that these were the people Chloe would be frequently associating with, did that mean her mother intended to pass the throne to Chloe?!

Although she had speculated it before, the reality of it now was quite unsettling

Did she really make that decision?

Chapter 1678

Ava clenched her teeth bitterly. The princess' coronation hadn't even taken place yet, and she was already considering passing the throne to Chloe?

Her eyes were filled with evilness as she furrowed her brow in deep thought. After a moment, her eyes widened, and she suddenly looked up at Queen Julia

Could it be... Was her mother planning to pass the throne to Chloe during the princess coronation?!

Chloe stood beside Queen Julia, her peripheral vision capturing Ava's expression. A small smile curled at the corner of her lips.c2

“Alright, I understand.” Chloe responded.

Queen Julia smiled satisfactorily Duke Dubonnet is the highest-ranking duke in our Y Country Talk to him more during the event. I believe he would be happy to share some things with you However, remember to respect him as he is an important figure in our country. Don’t neglect him”

Chloe nodded Yes, I will be careful.”

“Good That’s settled then

From beginning to end. Ava, Barbara, and Becky remained on one side, unnoticed. Barbara’s face turned pale with anger

At a moment when Ava was not paying attention, Becky charged forward, arguing loudly. “Grandma, what about us? It was always my sister who was invited before. Why is Chloe the only one invited now? Duke Dubonnet’s residence is an important place. She’s so ignorant. What if she annoys him? We can’t afford to get embarrassed”

Ava couldn’t stop Becky in time, and her face turned pale as soon as the words were spoken.

This troublemaker!

Queen Julia’s expression indeed darkened Her gaze on Becky was stern and grim. “Do you think you haven’t embarrassed yourself enough?”

“1 “Becky’s face turned pale, and she realized that Queen Julia was not pleased. She shrank her neck and instinctively moved backward

Ever since the last state dinner, her grandmother’s attitude towards her had sharply declined

Talk about embarrassment, even thinking about the state dinner made her wish she could crawl into a hole.

But but why does Chloe get to go alone? She's just a commoner. What gives her the right to represent the royal family at the duke's granddaughter's birthday party?

"On what grounds? On the grounds that she's my granddaughter! You're asking on what grounds?! Have I spoiled you too much with your luxurious lifestyle that you've forgotten your place?!"

Queen Julia rarely gets angry, usually maintaining a calm composure even during serious discussions. It was evident by her current appearance how furious she was this time

"But grandmother, don't you think you're being too biased? We've grown up by your side all these years, dutifully serving you. What has Chloe done to deserve your favoritism? Don't you realize what kind of position this puts us in? Aren't you afraid of hurting us?"

"You Queen Julia's complexion stiffened, and for once, she found herself at a loss for words.

Becky was spoiled and concerted, known for her loud and arrogant ways. She was quite transparent, lacking the ability to hide her true thoughts or emotions Straight forward to a fault, her words often incited anger in others. But, it was because she was like this, that when she furiously voiced her complaints with teary eyes, no one could accuse her of being insincere She was clearly unhappy about the favor the Queen had shown to Chice

As her granddaughter who she had watched grow up, Becky's complaints instilled in her a sense of guilt. But if guilt was in question, she owed Chloe and her mother so much more

"How long have you been in the royal family? What kind of life have I given you? How long have Chloe been in this palace? As soon as I do something nice for her, you become consumed with jealousy. So does that mean I can only dote on you in the future? Whenever I want to do something for my biological granddaughter, do I have to consider your feelings first? Is she the unworthy one because she's just a wild girl and you're the regal princesses? Good. very good indeed

Queen Julia's words were harsh, and Ava felt so scared as if her heart was going to stop She was the adopted daughter brought from outside by the queen Bringing this up now was like reminding the queen who gave her the wealth and status she has now.

Her real daughter and Ava, the substitute, were incomparable in the eyes of their biological mother

Seeing Queen Julia's increasingly furious expression, Ava quickly said, "Mother Becky doesn't understand. She just speaks her mind. Please don't take her words to heart She's just not used to the change yet, Chloe, you don't hold it against her

Queen Julia had just reacted to Becky's words, and Chloe had noticed, but she also understood that Ava, Barbara, and Becky's companionship over the years was an unbreakable bond She and her mother had missed out on too much

Don't hold it against her? Chice slowly began looking straight into Ava's eyes "When have i ever truly held anything against her? But even with the biggest heart, I cant tolerate her making my life miserable every day with side comments. She's right, compared to you, who were born with a silver spoon in your mouth, i am indeed a commoner'

Becky saw Chloe admitting it and couldn't help but mumble. At least she knows

Chloe chuckled coldly If Ms Ava had some self awareness, you would keep her daughter in check) Otherwise why would I become the commoner your daughter speaks of and why was your daughter born into the luxurious life of a princess? This completely reversed life of ours, i don't mind having a good talk with you or grandma about it!"

Ava's face changed dramatically, and her body shivered with cold She glanced at Queen Julia, whom she had tearfully apologized to after the banquet had ended Her mother didn't say she wouldn't forgive her, but there was an undeniably cold detachment in her

You're right. Today it was Becky who spoke out of turn, and I apologize on her behalf."

I don't forgive anyone for any mistakes." Chloe stated bluntly, leaving Ava at a loss for words.

You... you're just too arrogant, Ava stuttered. "You've only been back in the palace for a few days, and you're already stepping out of line..."

Chapter 1679

Becky was fuming as she took in the sight of Chloe's unyielding, stubborn demeanor. She was about to explode with rage.

Ignoring Becky's fury, Chloe turned to her grandmother Queen Julia, and said in a calm, collected tone, "Grandma, I think we should call off this princess coronation ceremony"

At her words, Barbara and Becky turned to look at Chloe, their faces a mix of surprise and probing.

*Since Princess Becky finds me so distasteful, I believe I have no place in this palace anymore. It would be best if we just let this be. I am still your granddaughter, coronation or not. I am feeling a little tired today, so I will retire early..."

Chloe finished speaking without any hint of emotion and turned coldly to leave c2

Ava's facial muscles twitched in anger This little brat! How dare she pull such a shallow stunt!

As Chloe was about to leave, Queen Julia suddenly stood up and called after her. "Chloe! Stop this nonsense! What do you mean you have no place here? This is your home!

Chloe gave a small smile. Her eyes met Ava's as she stood below. "I know, but after all, I am an outsider. I just don't fit in here. I am not cut out for palace

life

If you don't fit here, then no one does!" Queen Julia's gaze moved from Chloe to Ava and her daughters. If Becky can't control her temper, she can stay out of this palace for good! All of you, leave!"

Ava bit the inside of her cheek and the bitter taste of blood was spreading through her mouth.

Tears welled up in Becky's eyes as she said, "Grandma, don't you care at all... before she came, it was just us..."

A sharp slap cut off Becky's words. She stumbled back, clutching her cheek, looking at Ava in disbelief "Mom, you hit me.."

"Shut up!" Ava advanced and harshly grabbed Becky's shoulder. She was fed up with her daughter's failures. "Get out!"

With tears streaming down her face, Becky mumbled, "Why should I shut up..."

Ava raised her arm again, and her eyes were full of warning. Becky quickly closed her mouth and shrank back. She gave Ava a tearful look before running

out of the room.

Ava turned to say goodbye to Queen Julia, but her gaze met Chloe's amused eyes. She gritted her teeth and swallowed her hatred, leaving the palace with

Barbara

The princess coronation ceremony was a public declaration. It couldn't just be called off on a whim, and Chloe knew the consequences very well. She was clearly provoking them.

It seemed her initial thoughts were correct, that Chloe was targeting them.

Yasmine wasn't killed, neither was Chloe.

She had thought that Wendy's hatred for Chloe was enough for her to want to cut them into pieces, but in the end, they were all unharmed, while Wendy lost her own life, and even dragged Cole and Grace down with her

She had suspicions that Chloe might have plotted and killed them

Wendy died in an abandoned factory, shot in the head. It was indeed rumored that Cole and Grace died during a riot on the border, caught in the crossfire

in the gray zone

There was no evidence to pin Chloe, and Ava could not get any other specific information beyond this news.

No matter how much she checked, she could not find out anything, and her former contacts with the desperadoes were utterly severed. In that region, someone had deliberately concealed all the news they did not want to leak.

As for the news she received, how much is true and how much is false? Even the fact that Chloe could come and go freely there, yet others fell victim to the riot, was too much of a coincidence

Chloe must have found out something, which is why she came to Y Country almost immediately after that incident ended.

And her target was very clear it was them.

Ava's brow furrowed deeply reflecting her current mood. This time, Chloe struck with tremendous momentum, and in many ways, Ava didn't have much advantage

This can't be

Ava clenched her fists. Since Chloe dared to provoke her in her own territory, she wouldn't stay polite then.

Her eyes narrowed, and a cold laugh escaped her lips.

Once everyone had left, Queen Julia slowly sat down in her chair. She sighed softly. "Becky really should think before she speaks she's been spoiled for too many years

She paused, taking a deep breath Her eyes turned serious as she looked at Chloe Why did you say those things earlier? You should know that the coronation ceremony cannot be canceled I know you weren't saying those things to me tell me, why are you targeting them? I don't believe you're doing this just because of what Becky said You wouldn't put me in such a difficult position unless you had to, right?

At her words, Chloe turned to face her. A moment of confusion showed in her eyes

Queen Julia frowned, and her curiosity deepened, but after a few seconds, Chloe's eyes cleared, and she let out a cold laugh.

Queen Julia stood up. "Chloe?"

Chloe brushed a strand of hair from her face. She gave a faint smile before sighing. When she looked back at Queen Julia, her smile had faded. "My mother was kidnapped recently"

Queen Julia's face went pale She stepped forward and grabbed Chloe's i

"What did you

Chloe offered a thin smile. She was taken to the lawless outskirts of P City. They used my mother to lure there then planned

so-called not

both in a

Chloe felt the grip on her wrist tighten. The trembling hand holding hers was growing more intense. With a soft sigh, she gently grasped the shaking hand in return. Don't worry Mom's fine and so am i

Chloe noticed Queen Julia's hand trembling unc

7m tired (1) go rect in my room. She lowered her head carefully removing Quten. Adda's hand from her ariet. the gave her a gentle smile before she turned and let

Queen Julia and the maid i en were left in the large room

"Your Majesty

Queen Julia raised her hand to silence (ex using her trembling hand to steady herself against the armrest

before slirely offung dien

had absolutely no idea about this

Chapter 1680

Lea stood by Queen Julia, and a look of heartfelt sympathy had spread across her face.

I've been keeping an eye on them, but something this big has happened, and I was kept in the dark... Who kept this from me? Lea..."

Lea slightly shook her head with her eyes half-closed. Maybe we should summon those who were arranged to look into it"

Queen Julia, looking exhausted, shook her head. "If they wanted to pull something under my nose, they wouldn't make it too obvious. If she could hide it from me, she could surely hide it from my people.

Pausing her words, Queen Julia continued, "But why would she do that?"c2

Lea quietly accompanied her, not uttering a word. She knew what was going on but these were merely speculations, and they couldn't come from her mouth.

Princess Ava had been by the queen's side for many years, and Lea knew exactly what place she held in the queen's heart. There were certain things she couldn't just blurt out, even if she was sure about them. Moreover, the queen knew what was happening. Otherwise, she wouldn't be in this state

"All these years. I don't know what she has been hiding and doing

Lea sighed softly Your Majesty, perhaps you should speak to the princess again. Her current attitude is probably due to what she's been through

Queen Julia remained silent for quite a while before finally taking a deep breath, gesturing for Lea to stop talking

"I should indeed ask her. All these years, what have I missed."

But given Chloe's demeanor, it wasn't the right time to sit her down for questioning

Lea nodded, glanced at Queen Julia, hesitated for a moment, and then whispered. "I believe the princess must have her own plans. Given her nature. I don't think she would want to involve others in her affairs Your involvement might lead things to an irreversible state. After all these years.

Queen Julia looked indifferent. A cold aura was encircling her features. Her eyes were deep and dark, glimmering with a cold light.

"If she has indeed done something else, I will never forgive her."

On the other hand, the mother and daughters who left the palace maintained their silence all the way home. Becky was still shaken by the slap Ava had given her at the palace The moment they stepped inside, she couldn't help but burst into tears.

Ava looked extremely displeased. Hearing her cries made her headache even more unbearable. She sat down on the sofa, rubbing her temples, only to be startled by a loud crash. She looked up to see a vase smashed near Becky's feet

Barbara yelled, "What are you crying for? Can't you do anything but cause trouble and cry?!"

Becky's crying was instantly silenced. Tears still lingered on her face, but she stared incredulously at Barbara, who was emitting a fierce aura.

Becky was stunned. "You you've gone mad!"

Barbara's face turned pale with anger. After a while, she managed to shift her angry gaze, closed her eyes, took a couple of deep breaths, and then slowly sat down on the sofa. She picked up the glass of water that the trembling maid had placed before her and drained it in one gulp

Once she put down the glass, she appeared somewhat calmer. Her tone also softened a bit.

"Even if grandma is our grandma, her status is different. You can do however you want at home, but you need to know how to behave in front of her We all don't like Chloe, but she is now acting as Grandma's real granddaughter She's just been found after all these years, Can you imagine how Grandma feels about her right now? You persistently belittle her in front of Grandma, so how do you think she views you? You still haven't learned your lesson after being punished once or twice! You even dared to call Chloe a wild girl in front of Grandma if it wasn't for Mother slapping you, I think you might ve been stripped of your princess title on the spot!"

Becky's face turned pale at Barbaras words. "How could that be possible? I've been by Grandma's side since i was a child. How could she strip me of my title? Even though we havent had a princess coronation ceremony, everyone in the Y Country knows we are the princesses. Even if Grandma is angry, she couldn't just strip me of my title! Who the hell is Chloe?"

Barbara sneered, "What do you think? What is she?"

Becky opened her mouth, but only managed to stutter, 'She's just an imposter Grandma must've been tricked into believing her!'

Barbara took a deep breath and decided not to engage with this fool anymore

Ava was glad that she at least had Barbara, a relatively rational daughter if she was like Becky, Ava would have died out of frustration

Becky felt wronged, but once she calmed down, all she could think of was the way Chloe looked in that gown, how she was about to attend Fiona's banquet, and her upcoming coronation ceremony. Each thought fueled her envy and jealousy.

"Mom, what should we do? Are we just going to let her get away with this? Today she's taken my sister's place, who knows what she'll say to Grandma next. I don't know how Grandma will treat us now because of Chloe, she's treating us coldly."

Becky's words made both Ava and Barbara's expressions turn grave. Ava's brow furrowed even deeper. She had initially thought that eliminating Yasmine and her daughter in the P City would solve all problems, but now that their plans had failed and Yasmine had become alert, it was difficult to make a move. Now, her only option might have been to target Chloe.

The living room fell silent.

After a good ten minutes, Barbara was the first to stand up, calmly saying, "I'm a bit tired. I'm going up to rest."

increasingly

Ava watched her leave, and her eyebrows were twitching slightly. Becky was even more confused. Not wanting to be alone with Axa, she made up

excuse and left as well.

Athen went upstairs herself, directly entering Barbara's room

Barbara had just changed her clothes, and seeing Ava, she didn't seem surprised. Ava got straight to the point. "Are you planning on doing something to Chloe?"

Barbara was sitting in a hanging chair by the bedroom window, gently swaying. "Do nothing, and just watch as they strip away everything we have bit by bit?"

Ava furrowed her brow 1ll figure something out.

Barbara let out a cold laugh. "Figure it out? How many years have you been trying to figure it out? And what has been the result? You should focus on keeping a closer eye on Becky. Otherwise, our standing in Grandma's eyes will soon be ruined by her!"