

CHOSEN 1681

Chapter 1681

"I'll keep a close eye on her, but if you don't show up at this year's shindig at Dubonnets Manor, there will be talk."

Barbara pursed her lips. Indeed, she had always been the one invited to all the parties. Being the eldest princess of the royal family, she was always treated with high regard. She was the center of admiration, with envious looks constantly cast in her direction.

Although people usually fawned over her, she had often heard them gossiping about her behind her back. If she didn't attend Fiona's birthday bash this time, who knew what they would say behind her back. Would they say that her past grandeur was a joke, and that her replacement was a cause for celebration?

Nowadays, people love to kick others when they are down. She hadn't experienced it, but she had seen it happen. Seeing it often, she knew that in this world, only power and status truly mattered, so she couldn't give anyone the chance to make fun of her.

She had to attend this birthday bash. Even if she couldn't, Chloe certainly couldn't have that opportunity.

Chloe returned to the hotel from the palace. In the luxurious suite, Damon was in the study dealing with work. The room temperature was just right. Damon was wearing a grey shirt. He casually put on a V-neck sweater on top, very casual.

Chloe leaned against the door frame of the study, arms folded, quietly watching Damon work diligently.

She saw him by her side every day but never saw him go to the office, even Elizabeth was always calling him a kept boy, a do-nothing young man of a wealthy family. But who could have imagined that

the power he held, was truly terrifying. Just being the world's largest arms dealer was enough to shock everyone.

No wonder he didn't take the Harper family seriously. No wonder he didn't mind being labeled a kept boy, In this world, there were probably no other kept boys like him

The man sure looked fine when he was working.

A few minutes passed, and Damon finally put down his pen, leaned back in his chair, and looked up at Chloe

"Seen enough?"

Chloe raised her well-groomed eyebrows, walked into the study, came to his side, leaned on his desk, and faced him. "You're not focusing on your work. I didn't make a sound"

Damon lightly curled his lips Your presence is so strong even when you're silent, what can I do?"

T'll leave then. I don't want to disturb your work"

Her hand was gently held 1 don't want to work anymore."

Chloe blinked "How can you not work? You have dependents both old and young, and they all count on you for living"

He pulled Chloe into his arms Indeed, I need to work hard to support a prestigious princess. But not now, I'm too distracted by beauty, so I can't focus

on work"

Chloe sighed and caressed the collar of his sweater, but her eyes seemed a bit absent. It was as if she was completely immersed in her own world, not knowing what she was thinking about

Damon narrowed his eyes and grabbed her hand. His voice was low and husky "What happened?"

Chloe sighed lightly, leaned closer to him, and began to fiddle with the hem of his sweater again. "Granny said the day after tomorrow is Duke Dubonnet's granddaughter's birthday party and asked me to attend."

Damon raised an eyebrow. "And then?"

Chloe let go of his sweater. Her slender fingers gently slid on the pattern of his sweater. Those three are almost furious"

She sighed again and said. They looked like they wanted to tear me apart. Their looks were even worse than Wendy's"

Damon's deep voice rang out, 'Don't make trouble."

Chloe's fingers, which had been wandering on his sweater, paused. "We're in the palace. How can I make trouble?" Her fingers tapped on his clothes to express dissatisfaction and protest

The next second, he held her hand I told you not to make trouble here"

Chloe's eyes flashed, and Damon's husky voice carried a clear undertone, making her understand something instantly

She looked at him, saw his eyes full of hidden lust staring at her, and her fingers curled slightly. "Can't you think of something else?"

What did she do? Why did he suddenly change like this?

She moved her body, and her face flushed as she tried to get away from him, but the next moment, she was lifted up and landed on the desk.

Two long arms circled her into his chest. Damon's face was close at hand. The warm breath hit her face, and the low, husky voice almost grazed her "The pregnancy check before you came, Jane said it's already been three months"

Chloe's eyelids twitched Her fingers involuntarily grabbed his sweater. Yes congratulations, it's been three months."

A warm hand suddenly rested on her abdomen, and gently stroked it. "Yes, congratulations to us both"

Chloe swallowed, unable to help but feel a bit nervous This 'congratulations made her feel a bit frightened.

Was he congratulating them for becoming parents in seven months? Or was he saying that because after the three-month pregnancy period, he could finally do as he pleased?

Although she didn't agree with him, she thought, given the situation, it was probably the latter. She tried to bring his attention back.

"I have to attend a birthday party the day after tomorrow.

"Right, you can rest well tomorrow."

Chloe was flabbergasted. Was that what she meant?!

"Damon, you should be thinking about how to make money and support the family now! Work is important..."

I can't now. Beauty is in front of me, and I can't help but waver"

His hand began to wander upwards

Chloe's scalp tingled, and she clung to Damon's clothes. Her eyes were trembling, and Damon's tight expression reflected in her eyes.

The hand on her body didn't stop. Her face suddenly turned red, and her breathing rhythm changed. Just because it's been three months doesn't mean you can mess around

Damon chuckled lowly "Mhm"

Chloe lowered her eyes, her face all red.

"I'll go with you to the party."

"Mhm" Chloe responded weakly, lying in the soft bedding, not wanting to move at all.

It had been a while, and although she felt that Damon had been careful this time, the afterglow hadn't passed, and she didn't have much strength left

Damon gently squeezed her shoulders. "What's your game, Chloe? You've been stirring the pot these past few days. What are you hoping to achieve. huh?"

Chloe slowly opened her eyes, and a subtle smile played on her lips. "Obviously, I want them to slip up. Nothing says 'guilty like catching someone red-handed'"

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Damon raised an eyebrow, an agreement with Chloe's words evident in his swift nod

Ava had spent decades in Y Country, and her roots had deepened over the years. If Ava's misdeeds were to be unveiled, Queen Julia would likely side with Chloe, going as far as to punish Ava unilaterally

But Ava had two daughters who held significant places in Queen Julia's heart. Having grown up by her side, it was inevitable that Julia would be lenient towards Ava because of her daughters. Moreover, if she were to punish Ava, the royal family's reputation would be tarnished among political circles

Preserving the royal family's honor was no trifling matter.

Whether considering the situation from a personal or public perspective, Queen Julia was in a dilemma. Instead of putting the Queen in an awkward position, it would be better to catch Ava in the act. Then, everyone could see for themselves, leaving Ava and her daughters no room to wriggle out.

From the looks of it, the mother-daughter trio was slowly falling into the trap Chloe had set

Damon smirked, and his grip was tightening slightly. Chloe hummed in satisfaction.

That Miss Fiona, she's a bit Damon paused, and an indescribable emotion flickered across his face

Chloe slowly opened her eyes and turned to look at him "A bit what?"

Damon glanced at Chloe before he replied nonchalantly, "A bit. voluptuous"

Chloe's mouth fell open, and a second later, her eyes were filled with obvious anger. She pulled the blanket over herself, covering her body completely

She glared at him, obviously upset. "You've seen her?!"

Damon pursed his lips. "I suppose many people have."

Chloe tightened her grip on the blanket, dragging her weary body towards the pillow. She turned her back to Damon, refusing to face him.

Damon had never been one to gossip about others, let alone about a woman

'So, when you meet her the day after tomorrow, be a little careful with your words and actions, but don't be too deliberate. She's sensitive, and if she senses anything unusual, she may give you a hard time in the future.'

After all she was part of the Y Country's nobles. Although Chloe was a princess, there was no ruler in history who did not fear court officials

"What does her being voluptuous have to do with me?!"

Chloe pulled the blanket over her head in frustration. She was already in a bad mood, and now she had to be reminded to be extra cautious about another woman's feelings. Regardless of how the other woman would feel, Chloe was extremely upset at the moment.

Her childish behavior caused Damon to raise an eyebrow. He tugged at her blanket, which she was clutching tightly. What's wrong? Come out, don't suffocate yourself

Chloe didn't budge.

'Don't suffocate our son and daughter,' Damon added.

After a few seconds of silence, the blanket was suddenly lifted. Chloe turned around without opening her eyes.

Damon laughed helplessly. "Why so angry?"

"Who's angry? I'm just tired and need to rest. Chloe retorted. Was she the type to get angry easily?"

Damon raised an eyebrow but didn't say anything. He got out of bed and started to get dressed

The sound of clothing rustling filled the room for a while, followed by the opening and closing of the door.

Chloe released her grip on the blanket, turning to look at the empty room. Her bright eyes flickered and were filled with an unspoken emotion. Afterward, she turned back around, closed her eyes, and truly fell asleep

When Damon exited the room, a group of people was already waiting downstairs. Among them was Jane, standing near the sofa.

“Have you decided on this month’s menu?”

Jane nodded “Yes. These people are all from the hospital, they will handle all the food procurement and cooking from now on. However, for safety reasons, I hope the news of the madam’s pregnancy remains absolutely confidential”

Damon glanced at her

Jane stood her ground, unafraid “if anything goes wrong, it will be blamed on me I think my request is not unreasonable Both you and her are not easy to deal with Who knows when an enemy might suddenly appear? She’s already a top priority here, and now that she’s pregnant, she’ll be treated like a queen if anything goes wrong, I can’t bear the responsibility Therefore, keeping this news confidential is good for you, me, and her

Damon took a seat on the sofa, rubbing his forehead at Jane’s words.

“I didn’t say I disagree

Jane simply responded with an ‘Oh”

‘Since you understand her status now you’d better stay with her at all times from today. If she so much as frowns, you should check on her carefully

Jane didn’t respond. He really was full of himself, wasn’t he?

What had this turned into? Maybe she should just lock her up at home until she gave birth

“Do I have to stay with her when she sleeps?”

Damon’s brow twitched, and this time, when he looked at Jane, the chill in his eyes was clear.

Jane arched an eyebrow, keeping her lips sealed.

The next day, Chloe greeted Queen Julia and stayed in the hotel without going out. The gowns, jewelry, and shoes for the banquet were all delivered by Julia’s people. Damon looked at the gowns for a long time with a stern face before finally waving his hand.

These won’t work. Take them back”

The person who brought the gowns looked a bit embarrassed. “Mr Harper, these gowns were specially chosen by the Queen for the Princess. It’s not right to return the Queens gifts without even trying them. These gowns were designed by royal designers and are absolutely suitable for the princess’s

body shape and temperament

Chloe checked the gowns. They seem alright. Why can’t I wear them?”

Damon glanced at her, and Chloe inexplicably felt a hint of melancholy in his gaze. I’ve already prepared something for you”

Ah So that was it.

But it was just a gown, was there really a need for him to be so particular?

Chloe was silent for a moment before she turned to the person who brought the gowns and said, "Leave the gowns here for now I'll compare them and decide which ones to wear later."

The person nodded. "Alright"

Once the person had left. Chloe turned to Damon with a disgruntled expression "What kind of gown have you prepared?"

Damon led her into another room in the hotel, which, to her surprise, turned out to be a walk-in closet filled with clothes, jewelry, and accessories of all kinds Chloe was a bit taken aback at first, but she quickly regained her composure. She watched as Damon sifted through the items, finally selecting a caramel-colored knee-length sweater for her

Chapter 1683

Chloe didn't know what to say. She held the dress up uncertainly to him for confirmation. "Are you sure you want me to wear this to the Duke's granddaughter's birthday banquet?"

Damon nodded without changing his expression, his tone very affirmative. "Mm. It suits you"

Chloe turned to leave, but Damon caught her wrist. "Where do you think you're going?"

"I prefer the one grandma gave me. Let go of me

Her words only made Damon tighten his grip, finally pulling her into his arms. You can't wear that. It's too thin for the cold weather right now. c2

"But the banquet is indoors and this dress Chloe sighed helplessly. I can tell Grandma places great importance on Duke Dubonnet, and there will be many important people there isn't this dress a bit too casual for the royal family's image?"

The significance of clothing and jewelry now was not merely for warmth and cleanliness. It represented status, a symbol of the royal family's dignity. The dress in front of her, although expensive and of top quality, was too simple for tomorrow night's banquet, wasn't it?

"You're just lacking confidence in yourself," Damon spoke lightly, twirling her hair, his eyes downcast, looking straight at her face. "You look good in anything."

Chloe glanced doubtfully at her figure. There were plenty of women with better figures than hers. Looking good in anything was something that would typically come out of a smooth-talking man's mouth. It was hardly credible. Especially since her belly was slightly protruding now, looking good in anything was simply not possible.

Chloe's puzzlement was all seen by Damon, and his attitude became more assertive. "Don't like this one? You can pick another one from over here."

He pulled her over to the wardrobe he had just chosen from. Chloe glanced at it briefly then looked back at Damon.

"Are you serious?*"

Damon raised an eyebrow, "Do you think I bought them just for show?"

Chloe sighed. She looked back at the clothes, wondering if Damon had bought them as maternity wear for her. These oversized, loose-fitting clothes were so different from his usual taste.

In the end she failed to alter Damon's uncompromising attitude. She still chose the dress he initially picked out for her.

Chloe called Queen Julia to inform her about the dress situation, and promptly told her about the role that Damon played in it.

Queen Julia just smiled warmly. "That's alright, I'm sure the dress Mr. Harper prepared for you is just as beautiful as the one I picked."

Chloe hesitated, then chuckled awkwardly. Ah Uh it's nice."

What else could she say?

T'll send a car to pick you up from the hotel tomorrow afternoon. He won't fight me on this, will he?"

Chloe shook her head, "He won't

"Good"

Queen Julia murmured in response, falling silent for a moment before speaking again, "Chloe, I am your grandmother, we are bonded by blood, and I love you and your mother very much. So remember, grandma is part of your family, okay? Don't think about leaving anymore. It took me so long to find you know you're an excellent child, and I trust you completely, so go ahead and do what you need to do You don't have to worry about anything

Chloe furrowed her brows, sensing an underlying message in Queen Julia's words Thinking back to the conversation they had yesterday, everything fell into place. "I may have said something that I shouldn't have yesterday, but I never intended to cut ties with you. My mother misses you a lot and is trying to be in the best state to see you. We won't leave you anymore. Please rest assured"

Queen Julia's tense expression gradually relaxed "That's good, get some rest now, and I'll send a car to pick you up at seven tomorrow evening."

"Yeah"

After hanging up the phone. Lea took the receiver and placed it back down. She looked at Queen Julia, who was sitting on the chair Although her expression had relaxed, it was filled with more heartache and sadness

She was taken aback, she should have just heard Chloe's assurance that they wouldn't leave her, so why was her expression suddenly like this? "Your Majesty, what's wrong?"

Queen Julia bit her lip, her hands clutching her chest, the strong woman was now on the verge of tears
Lea had only seen this state when the Queen was missing her daughter

“Chipe said her mother is trying to see me Lea. I owe her so much if i had protected her properly, she wouldn’t have had to suffer”

Lea comforted her. This is everyone’s fate Without these things, you wouldn’t have your little princess now.

Queen Julia nodded, currently in a very conflicted state

Heartache, guilt, yet also relief mixed in her heart

At this moment. Ava was standing quietly at their door, listening to their conversation. She was looking down, lost in thought.

When Queen Julia’s emotions had somewhat stabilized Ava raised her hand, lightly knocking on the door before entering

Queen Julia’s eyes were still red, and Ava was surprised to see her like this “Mother, what happened?”

Queen Julia looked at her, her eyes cold. “Do you need something?”

“No, I just wanted to keep you company

Julia frowned, “If nothing’s wrong, I’d rather you tend to your husband, Ava. That’s where you truly belong”

It was because of Ava’s companionship that Queen Julia had chosen Ava for her nephew. But within a few years, her nephew had brazenly betrayed her

Queen Julia felt somewhat guilty about this, and several times Ava had cried in front of her just to deepen her guilt. Even when her nephew had expressed his desire to bring his mistress home, Julia had firmly rejected him

But now thinking about it, he had lived with Ava for years, and no one knew her better than him. Why would he rather live with other women all year round, even ignoring the feelings of his two daughters, than stay home?

Her nephew, she knew him well enough to know that he would never have done something so out of line unless he was pushed to the limit

Now that she thought about it, perhaps Ava wasn't as benign and kind as she appeared on the surface

At these words, Ava's expression froze instantly. Her husband was where she truly belonged? Did this mean to completely separate her from the royal family?

Chapter 1684

William has been spending all his time with that woman. He barely comes back to the palace, and I don't even get to see him. How am I supposed to pay my attention to him, Mother? He "

Queen Julia extended her hand to stop her words, feeling a bit of a headache as she held her forehead if she didn't intervene, Ava would undoubtedly vent her grievances, and Julia simply did not have the energy to deal with her at the moment.

Ava paused, her expression frozen in the midst of almost crying, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

That's between you and your husband. Ava. No matter how much I say, it won't help. William has repeatedly expressed his intention to bring that woman home, and each time, I've refused him. But his resolve hasn't wavered if you don't fight for what you want, I don't know how long I can refuse him for you. "He is your husband after all. Here in Y Country, we've never strictly adhered to monogamy Most duchesses and countesses have sister wives, and they all live harmoniously William is my own nephew,

and yet, out of consideration for your feelings, I've never allowed him to bring that woman home Ava, you can't always rely on me to preserve your family."c2

Ava clenched her teeth, a surge of humiliation and anger welling up within her. She had always been sheltered, but now, somehow Julia had suddenly changed her tune

I understand I'll find a chance to talk to him"

"Good if you're free, take Barbara and Becky to see him more often. Don't always keep your distance, waiting for him to take the initiative to compromise

Ava remained silent, her lack of respect evident. But she didn't have the energy or mood to appease Julia at the moment. As she left the room, she leaned against the hallway wall, her head spinning from

the anger

Everything had changed. Everything. Everything was subtly shifting against her, and all because of Chloe.

Her eyes flashed with a deep resentment and ruthlessness. She could never tolerate this woman.

Barbara and Becky were waiting for Ava in the garden outside. They had seen their grandmother's attitude yesterday and wanted their mother to test the waters. If things were fine, they'd go in, if not, there was no need to walk into an unpleasant situation

Occasionally, a group of young maids would walk by their conversations all revolving around the recently returned Chloe.

"The princess who just returned is no ordinary person. I have been paying attention to her, and many of the legends about her are true."

“Yeah, I just commissioned someone to buy the perfume designed by her. I truly love it. She is talented and capable. Now, she has suddenly become the official princess of our royal family. What a life! It’s absolutely enviable.

“Did you forget the most crucial point? Her boyfriend right now is Mr. Harper, who is held in high esteem by our entire royal family. Although we don’t know his exact background, this treatment is sufficient to prove that he is definitely not common. He was once the notorious CEO of the Harper Group internationally. He has the looks, body, and aura that makes women’s hearts flutter! What woman wouldn’t like him? Even our royal family’s other two princesses, anyone with keen observation would notice they are interested in him!”

“Do they still stand a chance? Mr. Harper and Ms. Chloe are already in a relationship. It’s utterly impossible for them to break up for these two princesses Moreover, the princess is of the real royal

lineage. Anyone would not consider other options.”

“Pfft! If those two princesses heard these words, they might want to kill you!”

“Stop talking about it now. If these words reach the ears of those two princesses, it really wouldn’t be good.”

The girls sat back-to-back on a bench, wishing they could silence those gossiping maids

“Chloe, that bitch. How much more does she want before she’s satisfied?” Becky, the most easily provoked of the two, spat out

Barbara’s eyebrows furrowed, her hands unconsciously clenched into fists. Chloe had the most prestigious status and the best man. Everything she had was something to be envious of

No, not envious. She was a princess of the royal family, why would she envy anyone?

At this moment, Ava also walked over, and Barbara, seeing her expression, immediately knew the answer

The ride home was quiet. However, when they were almost home, Ava suddenly spoke up. "Do you know who's driving the royal ear to the hotel tomorrow?"

The driver thought for a moment. "It's Otis."

"So he's off today?"

"Yes, ma'am

"Where does he live?"

The driver gave her an address.

Ava nodded, Becky looked at her in confusion. Just as she was about to speak, Barbara pressed her hand, clearly reminding her of something. Therefore, she didn't dare say anything further and opened the car door to step out.

The next evening at seven, Chloe, under Damon's supervision, donned the outfit he had chosen for her.

The loose dress concealed her belly perfectly. The caramel color highlighted her skin, the long, loose sleeves concealing her hands. Damon helped fold up a bit of the sleeve, revealing her delicate wrists.

Ignoring her figure, her unique aura made the dress exhibit a different style on her. There was an inexplicable sense of elegance.

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09:57

Chloe was surprised at how well the dress fit. Its simple design was actually filled with intricate details. It was definitely a dress that could be worn as an evening gown

Her previous doubts about Damon's taste were silently retracted. Not many would wear a knit dress to a banquet though.

Damon finally helped her put on a coat, wrapping her up tightly before they descended the stairs.

Downstairs, a driver in royal uniform was already waiting for her by a luxurious car adorned with the Y Country flag. Seeing her approach, he bowed politely and opened the door for Chloe to get in.

Damon escorted her into the car, and once she was settled, the driver closed the door, bowed to Damon, and then got into the vehicle. These actions, while appearing respectful, effectively denied Damon the chance to get into the car

Realizing the driver's intention, Chloe frowned and tried to speak, but the car had already started moving. She squinted, looking at the driver through the rear-view mirror "Aren't we missing someone? Didn't you notice?"

The driver looked up to the rear-view mirror, his gaze meeting Chloe's "I'm sorry but the Queen only instructed me to take you to Miss Fiona's birthday banquet. She didn't mention anyone else. You may not know, not everyone is entitled to ride in the royal coach. I'm simply following the rules."

Chloe looked at him for a moment longer, "Pull over."

The driver showed no signs of stopping. These are the royal rules. Even stopping the car won't change a thing, I beg your understanding, princess"

Chapter 1685

Chloe's eyes narrowed, "Are you schooling me in royal protocol? Are you implying that my words carry no weight?"

“Princess Chloe,” the driver started, “we have our own rules to abide by in our line of work. If I fail to follow them, I might face reprimands from the Queen tomorrow. I’ve always taken pride in serving the royal family, and losing this job would have serious consequences for me. I hope you understand

Chloe listened patiently, her lips curling into a cold smile after he finished speaking “Do you think your current attitude is up to par? Are you more afraid of the Queen’s reprimands, or is there someone else you fear?”

The driver fell silent for a few seconds, “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Chloe’s hand rested on her belly, her expression growing grim. If anything goes wrong or if we deviate from our course, believe me, you’ll be in for a world of trouble“c2

The driver nodded, “Please rest assured, princess. All royal vehicles are equipped with a tracking system. I’ll make sure to get you safely to Dubonnet’s Manor

Chloe pursed her lips and leaned back in her seat without saying a word. Her nerves were on edge, keeping a close watch on the driver’s actions.

The car continued on a smooth journey for over ten minutes without any peculiarities. Chloe’s nerves slightly relaxed, and her phone buzzed in her bag She took it out and saw a message from Damon. After reading the text, she let out a sigh of relief and quickly replied to him.

But barely a minute later, the car suddenly sped up. It was no longer following a straight path and seemed to be swaying from side to side, causing the car to shake violently

Chloe grabbed the armrest, her face turning ashen. “What’s going on?!” she asked.

“I’m sorry, princess,” the driver quickly explained, “we’re in the countryside, and sometimes wild animals cross the road. I was just trying to avoid hitting

one

Despite his explanation, the car's speed didn't slow down, and it continued to shake violently

Chloe, who couldn't even sit still due to the jolting, felt nauseous and dizzy from the moving scenery. She knew there was something off about the driver and that Ava had something to do with it. It was just so blatant that it suddenly kindled a surge of anger within her.

"Slow down" she barked, her voice trembling from the jostling.

The driver continued to navigate the winding path, bumping along. The road led through a mountainside, with an endless expanse of sea below the cliff

"Princess, the driver started, "I think we're being followed. Our royal vehicles are quite noticeable, and I'm worried those people might pose a threat to you. We should speed up so we can get to Duke Dubonnet's manor as soon as possible. Please bear with it for a while."

Chloe was livid. She clenched the armrest with one hand and placed the other on her stomach, trying to calm herself down

Taking a deep breath, she said in a steady voice, "It is my husband's car behind us. It's not a threat to me. Stop the car!"

The driver's grip on the steering wheel tightened, but the car sped up instead of slowing down

Chloe gasped as she was thrown back against her seat.

"What has Ava promised you in return for this blatant attempt on my life? told you to stop the car Didn't you hear me?!"

The driver didn't even bother coming up with an excuse this time, "We're being chased, princess. Please bear with it."

As he spoke, he pressed the accelerator all the way down, and the car shot forward.

Chloe, who had just straightened up, was thrown back against her seat again. Feeling nauseous, she realized that pleading with the driver was futile. She suddenly got up, grabbed the passenger seat, and clutched the driver's shoulder "Move over!"

Startled by Chloe's actions, the driver swerved the car, causing it to veer dangerously close to the cliff. He quickly turned the steering wheel back, and the car swerved towards the mountain on the other side. "Princess, let go! This is really dangerous!"

"If it's dangerous, then stop the car"

The driver didn't respond, and the car didn't slow down.

Nate, who had been following behind, was frightened by the sudden change in the car ahead. He gripped the steering wheel tightly, trying his best to follow at a safe distance.

As the car ahead showed no signs of stopping, he realized something was amiss. Considering Ava's influence over the years, it all made sense. However, the winding mountain road with a high cliff on one side and the vast sea below posed a great danger if the car fell, the chances of survival were almost nonexistent, especially since Chloe was pregnant.

"Give me the car" Damon's voice suddenly rang out from the backseat, cold and stern.

Upon hearing this, Nate quickly slowed down, preparing to stop the car.

"No need to stop"

Nate paused and looked at the roughly several dozen meters of straight road ahead. He hesitated for a moment. "Sir."

Switching drivers at high speed on such a road was extremely dangerous. Any slight mistake could lead to disaster.

“Give it to me” Damon’s voice echoed again, causing Nate to flinch. Without any hesitation, he quickly moved to the passenger seat

In the meantime, Damon moved to the front from the back seat. In a split second, Nate had handed over the steering wheel to him

Just ahead was a sharp turn, and it seemed like the car was about to plunge off the cliff. Nate’s heart froze. The thought of witnessing death flashed through his mind

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Just then, the car gave a sudden jolt. Accompanied by the shrill, grating sound of tires braking, the friction between the front left wheel and the asphalt caused the car to fishtail. The rear whipped around, and the vehicle skidded sideways for a distance. In the process, the entire car pirouetted on the freeway, with the hood facing forward before it suddenly accelerated again, not stopping for even a second.

When Nate felt his back pressed firmly against the seat, he knew he was not meeting his maker today

Chapter 1686

Without thinking, he glanced at the man who was now securely seated in the driver’s seat. Damon’s face was expressionless, but his eyes were so dark and brooding that they seemed like they might drip water. The look gave him a feeling similar to the chilling sensation he’d felt at the brink of death just

moments ago.

Silently, Nate took his gaze away, realizing that having witnessed the man’s driving skills in his lifetime was something he could die without regretting

Meanwhile. Chloe in the front was fixated on taking over the controls of the car, her voice assertive and icy

“Either stop the car, or hand me the wheel”

The driver’s face was filled with nervousness and fear, but he still clung to the steering wheel, refusing to relax his grip. “How could I allow the princess to drive herself? If the Queen were to find out, I would surely be heavily punished ‘c2

The excuse was full of holes. Even he probably didn’t believe it himself.

Claiming fear of the Queen’s punishment, while simultaneously placing Chloe in danger, wavering between life and death, was utterly ludicrous

Worried about her driving, but not worried about her safety. What kind of logic was this?

But one thing was clear. Despite his constant references to her as princess, he had never taken her seriously

Maybe in his eyes, Ava was the only princess of Y Country, her two daughters were the beloved granddaughters of the Queen, and she, this suddenly emerged princess, was nothing more than some girl trying to cling to royal power. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have always used royal rules to suppress

her

“I am warning you that I am the Queen’s real granddaughter, and Ava, Barbara and Becky are merely the Queen’s adopted daughters. If you are really acting on their orders this time, and it reaches the Queen’s ears, Ava will be left with nothing, and your fate will be even more miserable Do you hear me? The driver’s expression was somewhat hesitant, his eyes filled with struggle. This is against the rules.”

Chloe looked at his expression through the rearview mirror and continued, “Even if I am a princess who came halfway, I still have a solid blood relationship with the Queen of Y Country. The importance she places on me should not be less than that of Ava. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have let you persecute me at this time. Anyone can understand the meaning of this, and you better think clearly. Don’t talk to me about rules. I am the princess of Y Country. I am the rules. If you insist on this, you better make sure I don’t survive this time, otherwise...”

The driver's expression was changing drastically, his hesitation deepening. However, he was momentarily distracted. The sharp turn ahead didn't give him time to brake or steer. Startled, he tried to turn the steering wheel, but something was suddenly pushing against them from the side.

He glanced in the rearview mirror only to discover that the car behind had caught up.

The car was going straight, the sharp turn had a certain curvature, and at this moment, the car behind them aimed perfectly at this gap. With its front end against their car, it forced their car to the inside of the road.

Chloe immediately understood that Damon had caught up and saved them from the crisis of crashing off the cliff. Just as she breathed a sigh of relief and looked over, she saw that Damon's car had two

rear wheels hanging over the edge of the cliff. The blood drained from her face instantly, leaving her pale as a ghost.

However, Damon had already hit the brakes in the nick of time. Chloe only saw the rear wheels hanging in the air for a moment. Then she watched the car swinging around in the air, landing safely in the middle of the road.

The driver had already quickly hit the brakes, and Damon's car swerved, facing them head-on.

Everything happened so fast.

Chloe sat back in her seat in a daze, her hand still clutching the driver's seat, her slender knuckles white, her fingers almost buried in the seat cover. Her face was still pale, her expression vacant.

The car in front had barely stopped when the driver's door was flung open from the inside. Damon, dressed in a black suit, looked neat and impeccable, as if he had just walked out of a hotel, as if the person who had just experienced a life-and-death situation wasn't him at all.

There was no sign of dishevelment, only a sense of nobility and dignity But now, there was a strong resentment that was rarely seen in his usual demeanor in the dark night, he seemed like a supreme ghost trampling on stark white bones, gradually approaching with a powerful aura that almost froze people in place, not daring to move, only to wait for him to claim their lives.

Chloe's gaze followed him, but there was no emotion in her eyes. The car door opened, and the overwhelming aura enveloped her, but she still showed no

reaction

Damon pulled her out of the car and sensing her current state, kissed her on the forehead. Despite his tense and cold expression, he spoke in the gentlest tone "it's okay"

Chloe looked up at him, the scene of the rear wheels hanging in the air still playing in her mind

Damon placed her directly on the warm hood of the car, the heat from the engine seeping through her clothes

"Chloe, it's okay"

Chloe's eyes moved a bit

Damon pressed against her forehead, his arms encircling her, kissing her lips fervently. The familiar touch, warmth, and his scent became even clearer and Chloe's eyes finally flickered. Then she suddenly let out a breath

Damon released her, and she leaned on the hood of the car, clutching her chest, panting heavily She had been genuinely terrified just now

Damon held her in his arms, continually kissing her hair "It's okay, it's okay"

"Snap!" The sound rang out

1/2

Damon's voice stopped abruptly after the slap. Nate, who had just gotten out of the car and was standing nearby, was startled, and now it was his turn to gasp for breath.

Damon paused for a moment, staring at Chloe for a few seconds, but still held her in his arms. "It's okay."

Chloe pushed him away, tilting her head slightly to glare at Damon. Her eyes were already thoroughly red. Tears circled her eyes, then fell.

"Do you know how dangerous you were just now. I don't need you to save me. If you if you I don't need you to save me..."

Chloe was incoherent in her speech, but Nate on the side breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed she was genuinely scared.

In fact, he was also scared half to death just now. Even now, his legs were still shaking.

This man, he really was something. For his wife, he was willing to risk his very life.

Chloe's sentences were fragmented, with some "ifs" that she didn't even dare to utter, but everyone understood.

Even from the start when she hadn't said anything. Damon understood. After taking a slap to the face, he still pulled her into his arms, comforting her.

Chapter 1687

"It's okay now."

Images still swarmed Chloe's mind. Her complexion hadn't regained its color, and her body shivered uncontrollably. The thoughts in her mind would occasionally make her shudder violently. Quickly, she clung to the front of Damon's shirt. Her face buried deep into his chest.

Damon's expression was chillingly cold, but right now, he just held her tightly, rubbing her shoulders, trying to calm her down.

"It's okay, Chloe. I'm fine now."

Chloe opened her eyes, silent in his arms for a while, before slowly lifting her head, her hand reaching up to touch Damon's handsome face. Her hand was ice cold, covered in cold sweat. Her trembling fingertips slowly rubbed the face under her palm, her fearful eyes trembling slightly. Perhaps it was the warmth from his skin or the reality of the touch, her expression gradually returned to normal, and her eyes cleared. But the tears on her face flowed more fiercely. The emotions of grievance and fear were still there.

Her fingers rubbed the spot where he had just been hit, adding a touch of guilt and pity

"Don't do this Please don't." Her voice choked, the tears flowed even more. "My heart, it's about to break"

She truthfully described the feelings of that moment admitting that she was truly close to being scared to death.

"What if something had happened, how could I face your parents? They would hate me forever... their favorite son..."

Her words stopped again, she shook her head, continuing. "No. I can't I can't imagine anything happening to you. I can't imagine a world without you. Damon, how could you..."

Chloe's heart ached, almost suffocating

In the past, he had given her enough affection, she had never experienced what it was like to have a heart-wrenching pain.

The coldness of the Summers family wouldn't affect her like this. As for Lance's betrayal, after feeling regret and a brief loneliness, she let go resolutely

All, absolutely everything, in comparison to the present moment and that split second just now, felt utterly insignificant

Damon took her hand and placed a kiss on it near his lips. A deep, husky voice sounded from above her head. "Do you think I could just stand by and watch something happen to you?"

She didn't want to, because she knew he couldn't. He would feel guilty, he would suffer, he would doubt himself, and even in the future, she would become a knot in his heart that he could never untie. At that moment, she finally understood that the two of them, neither one could live well without the other

She thoroughly understood and accepted the phrase Vitality Alliance.

She quietly looked at Damon, her expression gradually calming down. "It's okay as long as you're okay"

She herself was stuck in a vicious cycle with this accident, and there was no point in pursuing it further. She slowly lowered her hand and, feeling somewhat drained, buried her face in his embrace

"It's okay, as long as you're okay"

Damon comforted her, looking at the fog rising in the dark night ahead. His dark eyes were icy cold

"Come out." Nate's voice suddenly rang out, the driver who had been hiding in the car had been pulled out by Nate with one hand, and was directly thrown

to the ground

“What what are you doing? I’m the royal family’s designated driver. You can’t just...”

“A royal chauffeur trying to harm a royal princess, it’s as if you’re tired of living!

Nate was filled with rage at the stupidity of this driver. What kind of people were Mr. Damon and Ms. Chloe? They had experienced so much, and how could they end up being ruined by such a nobody?

The driver’s face was full of fear, his lips trembling in denial. “I could never harm the princess. I have no grudge against her. Why would I do such a reckless thing? Just now you were chasing us. I thought someone wanted to harm the princess, so I hurriedly took the princess away. Moreover, it was the princess who insisted on grabbing the steering wheel in that situation, which almost caused a big disaster.”

“You’re full of shit Nate cursed, kicking the driver hard in the waist

The driver cried out in pain, clutching his waist and writhing on the ground.

Chloe lifted her head from Damon’s chest, her teary eyes now clear

“Princess I really didn’t mean to harm you I couldn’t do such a thing”

Chloe looked coldly at his unconvincing excuse, her expression stern. “Well, let’s see who gave you those guts, and how much they’re worth?”

The drivers expression changed drastically. “No, princess, you really misunderstood me

Chloe squinted at him. She was just about to say something, when two beams of high beams came over She squinted and looked up. Two high beams were driving straight towards them in a fast speed, finally stopping behind the royal car she was in

Then she vaguely saw the car door open, and two familiar figures walked out one after the other

Two slim figures slowly walked towards them through the light

“What happened?” Barbara’s figure appeared almost simultaneously with her voice, then when she saw the driver thrown to the ground, her eyebrows twitched imperceptibly

“What’s wrong, what’s wrong? Is it Becky followed and ran to the front, her cheerful voice suddenly stopped when she saw the situation, her expression instantly darkened

Perhaps sensing that her expression was revealing too much, she continued, “Did something happen?”

No one spoke

At this point, Barbara took another two steps forward, her gaze moving from the driver to Damon’s back, then settling on Chloe. With her aloof and elegant demeanor, she asked Chloe softly, “Chloe, are you okay? What happened?”

Becky also came forward to join the conversation, “Yeah, weren’t you going to Fiona’s birthday party? Why are you stopping here? Are you enjoying the view?”

Becky’s words didn’t elicit any reaction from Chloe and the others, but caused Barbara to frown in displeasure.

Chloe’s gaze lingered on Barbara for a while before she suddenly burst into laughter. The sound of her laughter deeply irritated Becky

“What’s so funny? Becky snapped

With a slow push, Chloe managed to disengage herself from Damon. However, Damon was persistent, wrapping an arm around her waist and helping her out of the car. The intimate gesture made both Barbara and Becky grit their teeth in an uncontrollable burst of jealousy.

Chapter 1688

Not until Chloe's shaky legs found their grounding did Damon let her go. Damon lowered his head to look at the wrinkled front of his shirt and pursed his lips. Had she not clung to his shirt from the moment those two women appeared, he would have seriously considered throwing them, along with that driver, off the cliff nearby

Chloe slowly approached Barbara and Becky, swaddled in a cozy down jacket that seemed warm even to the naked eye. Yet, her slightly bulky figure, inching closer to them, stirred a sense of unease within the two women.

"What are you up to?" Becky leaned towards Barbara for support

Chloe stopped a few steps away from them, wearing a smirk that didn't quite reach her eyes. An icy glint in her eyes was impossible to hide.

"What brings you here?" Chloe retorted, her gaze sweeping over them with a clear hint of mockery

"Of course we "Before Becky could finish her sentence, Barbara suddenly grabbed her wrist and pulled her back, causing her to stagger.

"Nothing. Becky has a bad temper and it gives our mother headaches, so I brought her out for a breather"

Chloe let out a scoff, nodding slightly. "Is that so"

She took a look at Barbara and tightened her grip on her jacket. You two sure know how to have a good time, coming to the middle of nowhere for a

stroll

Becky failed to understand Chloe's sarcasm, "What, we can't? What does our stroll have to do with you?"

In that case, why ask me what happened?"

Barbara was taken aback. You you are really ungrateful

Chloe took a deep breath, her face relaxing into an indifferent expression. "After all these years, you two have been taking care of Grandma I should be thanking you I have no right to question where you go for a walk. I'm just curious. You came to such a place for a stroll in the evening, and dressed so lightly. You should take care to keep warm"

Upon hearing this, both Barbara and Becky stiffened, their faces turning red in embarrassment. They both instinctively hugged themselves, their eyes darting around nervously

Nate, standing beside them, scanned them with a glance before letting out an undisguised chuckle.

"You...you dare laugh at us?" Becky flared up.

Nate replied nonchalantly "You're overthinking. I was merely admiring how beautiful you two princesses look tonight."

Barbara bit her lip, her face tensed

Both Barbara and Becky were dressed in elaborate gowns, their makeup perfectly done, and their hair carefully styled. Their jewelry was clearly hand-picked from a selection of the finest. Under the headlights of several cars, the jewelry sparkled and shone as brightly as the stars twinkling

overhead, extravagant and luxurious

Given the winter season and their location by the sea, no person in their right mind would choose to wear such thin gowns to such a place for a stroll Even if they were in the car, no one would dress like this Unless they had been prepared all along.

Chloe didn't buy their excuse of going for a stroll. As for their actual intention.

She let out a cold laugh. Even if she hadn't died in the accident earlier, she would have been injured to some extent, or at least been left disheveled. Appearing at the Duke's banquet in such a state would have made her the laughingstock of the evening. This would have brought disgrace to the royal family

They had dressed up like this to come here, clearly expecting her to have been injured or even killed in the accident. Their real aim for tonight was to replace her

A stroll How ridiculous

"We're not cold. Mind your own business."

Chices words had made even Becky realize her underlying meaning

Chloe responded with a faint smile, Fair enough. In that case, I won't disturb your stroll. It's getting late and I need to attend Ms. Dubonnet's birthday party Goodbye"

Upon hearing this, both Barbara and Becky's faces darkened significantly, looking indescribably unpleasant and grim. Seeing the two cars in front had stopped, they both assumed that Chloe had met with an accident as per their plan

Excited, the two of them got out of the car without thinking, not even noticing the cold air that hit them. When they saw Chloe standing there unharmed, they were disappointed and couldn't accept the reality

Now that Chloe had pointed out their inappropriate attire they realized how conspicuous they were

Chloe had seen through their scheme, and Barbara felt extremely embarrassed She spoke nonchalantly, the smirk in her eyes making Barbara feel more humiliated

Ignoring Barbara and Becky, Chloe turned to Nate and said, "First, get the driver under arrest for me. After i attend Ms. Dubonnet's birthday party, i take him to have a serious conversation with Grandma about his misconduct

At this point, the driver finally reacted, looking towards Barbara and Becky with a panicked expression. His plea for help was notably apparent.

Barbara clenched her fists, hesitated for a moment, then said to Chloe, "The driver is after all a dedicated driver for the royal family. He is still wearing our royal uniform. Only we, the royal family members, have the right to punish him."

"If he has done something wrong or his skills are not up to par, we can retrain him or terminate his employment."

"Besides, he's just a driver. There's no need to bother Grandma and upset her over such a minor issue. Let's do this instead, if you trust me, hand him over to me. I will question him thoroughly. If the situation is indeed serious..."

"Sorry," Chloe cut her off, "I don't trust you."

Barbara didn't know how to respond.

Becky had always seen Barbara being admired and idolized since they were kids. Barbara was used to hearing praises and compliance. Never had she seen Barbara being left speechless by someone's retort like today. That was brutally blunt.

Even without looking at Barbara's expression, Becky could gauge just how grim her face had become at this moment.

Ever since Barbara showed up, the driver had gradually calmed down. He knew Barbara would do everything within her power to save him.

Although Chloe was the true princess, the two youngest princesses here had been the Queen's favored ones in Y Country for many years. Chloe should at least respect that. Regardless of the circumstances, she should extend some courtesy to Princess Barbara. But to their surprise, she didn't give an inch.

Chapter 1689

Chloe's frankness left Barbara momentarily speechless, and the driver wore a look of sheer panic, his eyes pleading for help.

Seeing Chloe about to leave, Barbara stepped forward hastily. "But there's no need to involve grandma in this. Do you know how busy she is every day? If she has to deal with every little thing, don't you think it's too much?"

Chloe paused in her tracks.

Relieved, Barbara continued, "You've been away for so many years and now that you're back, are you really going to cause her all these problems? Chloe, don't be so selfish. Everyone knows grandma adores you, but you can't just want her to stand up for you whenever you face a little difficulty. Can't you consider her feelings for once?"

Chloe turned around slowly, her face calm and composed. Her voice was light as she replied

"You're saying everything that happened today is trivial? If such a life-and-death matter is trivial, then in your opinion, what qualifies as a big deal?"

"Today's incident was just a misunderstanding, and the driver was only concerned about your safety. Besides, he wouldn't risk his own life, would he? Moreover, you're perfectly fine now, why bother grandma and scare her?"

Chloe raised an eyebrow and muttered, "Misunderstanding."

A cold smirk appeared on her lips, "1, the victim, don't think it's a misunderstanding, yet you, someone who weren't there claim it is? Sounds like you know more about what happened than I do."

Barbara's relaxed expression tightened instantly. "I just think the driver wouldn't do something so stupid."

Chloe chuckled and slid her hands into the pockets of her down jacket, her gaze on Barbara light and smiley

don't care what you think. It's about what I think. I believe someone is deliberately targeting me. So how we proceed and resolve this is up to me. Got

117-

"Uh "Nate, standing by, took a second to digest Chloe's words before his emotions got the better of him.

Well, very well. This was so Chloe. At times, she can be just as blunt as Damon

Barbara was once again speechless.

This woman was like a steel wall that no weapon could penetrate. Her arrogant attitude was annoying

Barbara couldn't come up with a response, her anger growing with each passing moment She had a feeling that if she spent more time with this woman, she'd end up dead from frustration.

Becky stared in disbelief at Chloe, her face full of confusion. How could this woman be so annoying?

"You you

The atmosphere was awkward as Barbara fell silent, clearly overwhelmed by Chloe's confidence and eloquence. Becky was unwilling to back down, but found herself at a loss for words.

Nate found the situation amusing, it was rare to see Chloe being so serious yet adorable He glanced at Damon, whose expression didn't look too good. He quickly hid his smile.

Seeing no changes in the situation, Chloe gave Barbara and Becky a faint smile and walked towards Damon.

The driver was truly scared now. If things got escalated to the Queen, he would lose his job for sure. Moreover, he was likely to be blacklisted in the Y Country. Even survival would be a problem by then.

“Princess Barbara, you must help me.”

Barbara clenched her teeth, shooting him a cold glance full of warning. “What’s the rush? If you’re innocent, it doesn’t matter if the matter goes to the Queen. Are you doubting the Queen’s judgment?”

The driver held his tongue, realizing he had revealed too much panic. He bit his lip and fell silent.

Nate hoisted him up and shoved him into the so-called royal private car.

“Sir, I’ll take him away first. After reporting to Damon and receiving his approval, he got into the driver’s seat and started the car.”

The driver, looking utterly hopeless, had long discarded any royal etiquette.

After turning the car around, Nate glanced at the car parked on the side where Barbara and Becky were, a hint of mild sarcasm appearing on his face. It was truly unimpressive.

Damon and Chloe got into the car and drove back towards the Duke Dubonnet mansion.

The highway was left to Barbara and Becky. There was nothing but the sound of the waves. A gust of cold wind blew by, causing Becky to shiver. She hugged herself and rubbed her arms vigorously.

“Barbara, what do we do now?”

Barbara’s face was icy, her hands clenched into fists at her sides. Becky’s lips were turning pale from the cold. She stomped her feet and said in a trembling voice, “It’s so cold. Let’s get in the car!”

Barbara didn't respond but turned and walked towards the car. Becky hurriedly followed.

The car was warm from the heater. Becky sighed. "It's so cold outside."

Barbara's lips were also pale from the cold, and her body was slightly trembling. After a while, she finally spoke, "Drive"

The driver hesitated, "Where to?"

Barbara was inexplicably angered by his question, "You... cough... cough..."

Just as she opened her mouth, tickle in her throat triggered a severe coughing fit. Becky was about to tease her about her delicate constitution, but then she herself started sneezing.

The driver silently turned up the heater. He had met Barbara's gazes and understood her intention. He started the car and drove on.

Barbara didn't say anything else

"That little bitch Chloe is totally fine right now. Will Granny be upset if we go to the banquet then?"
Becky asked.

Barbara retorted in a chilling tone, "She represents the royal family 1 represent myself. It's just a birthday celebration for a friend. What can she possibly say?"

Becky's gloomy eyes instantly lit up. Exactly. We've known Fiona since we were kids, and it's only natural for us to celebrate her birthday. Barbara, you're

the smartest. I didn't even think of that."

Barbara curled her lips into a smirk, "Chloe is a crafty one. If you don't start using your brain, you won't even know what hit you in the end."

Chapter 1690

Becky huffed, not willing to admit she was not that bright.

"But that woman, she's just infuriating. Clearly something happened earlier, but she just carried on as if nothing happened. What's the driver thinking? On roads like these, the slightest thing could have you jumping out of your skin. She's got some nerve."

Barbara, who'd been maintaining a poker face, finally frowned at this. That woman was indeed as tough as nails. No doubt about that.

The driver was clearly flustered, so something serious must have happened. Chloe had even mentioned a matter of life and death, but her demeanor suggested nothing of the sort. Was it because she was mentally strong, or was she just putting on a show? If it was the latter, then this woman was truly a master of deception.

"Drive a bit faster Her expression darkened, and surprisingly, she urged the driver to speed up c2

Becky was puzzled. "What will we do if we catch up with them? That woman, Chloe, will probably irritate us again. I don't want to see her anymore. She's just too annoying

Barbara shook her head, "No, we need to not only catch up with her, but surpass her"

Becky furrowed her brows, unable to grasp Barbara's plan.

Damon wasn't driving too fast.

Chloe, sitting shotgun, initially thought he was giving her time to recover from the recent incident, allowing her to adjust her emotions as much as possible. But after a few minutes, he showed no sign of speeding up.

She took a deep breath, turning to Damon, and said, "I'm fine now. You can speed up."

Damon's brow furrowed slightly and after a few turns, he pulled over "What's wrong?"

Damon got out of the car, retrieved a beautifully wrapped black box from the trunk, and handed it to Chloe. "Hold this."

Chloe examined the box. The car's interior light was dim, but the box was clearly fancy, with two holes on each side, each about an inch in diameter.

It was pitch dark inside, and she couldn't see what was in there. She looked at Damon with curiosity and asked, "What is this?"

"A gift"

Chloe was even more confused. "How come you suddenly thought of giving me a gift?"

Damon glanced at her, replying nonchalantly. "It's not what you think"

"Huh?"

"It's not for you."

Chloe didn't say anything. She paused in the act of opening the box, and a slight hint of displeasure crossed her face. If it's not for me, then who is it

for?

“Miss Fiona.”

Upon hearing this, Chloe shoved the box back into Damon’s hands. “Why would I hold a gift you’re giving to her?”

Damon looked down at the box, a hint of discomfort flashing across his gaze.

Chloe was furious. The recent incident was too heart–stopping. If they didn’t do something to distract themselves, they couldn’t escape the emotional turmoil. And today was Fiona’s birthday after all. Damon giving her a gift wasn’t unreasonable. However, his previous flattering remarks combined with this gift made Chloe feel uneasy.

Damon picked up the box and was just about to hand it back to her when a light flashed outside. After a short while, another car pulled up parallel to theirs, with a honk of the horn.

Chloe hesitated, Damon made no move, so she lowered the window. The window on the other car rolled down, revealing Barbara’s face, full of concern. “Is everything okay? Do you need help?”

Chloe didn’t respond to Barbara, instead, she looked at Damon.

Without a word, Damon raised the window again. Barbara was left hanging, a mix of emotions playing across her face. This was akin to a slap in the face. In these past few days, her dignity as a princess had been repeatedly suppressed and insulted, leaving her with very little patience.

Raising the window and instructing the driver to drive on, they managed to reach their destination before Chloe, as planned.

Watching their car drive away, Chloe finally spoke to Damon. “You knew they were going to follow us, didn’t you?”

Damon gave her a look. “Didn’t you?”

Chloe pursed her lips. "Then why did you deliberately slow down and even stop here, allowing them to go ahead of us?"

Damon placed the box back on Chloe's lap "Remember to give this to Miss Fiona personally

Chloe frowned "I thought it was your gift?"

Damon. "I only gift you. This is for you to give to her"

This made Chloe feel better, but it was still prepared by him

"My grandmother already prepared a gift for her You can give her this as your gesture."

"No need to give her that gift."

Chloe's eyebrows furrowed. "Why not?"

"Because she doesn't need it, and isn't special to her. Besides, no one wants to receive the same gift twice on their birthday."

"The same?"

Damon glanced at her, not saying anything. Chloe looked ahead through the car window, and she suddenly realized something. "You mean.."

Damon smirked. His wife was so smart and adorable.

Chloe's expression was conflicted. She had suspected that Barbara and Becky wouldn't easily give up on attending the Duke Dubonnet family's banquet, but she hadn't expected them to know about her gift.

Well, the gift was prepared by her grandmother, representing a gift fit for royalty. But aside from being luxurious and noble, there was nothing particularly special about it. It was a set of ruby red jewels, crafted by a royal jeweler, exquisite in every detail. Even for a young miss, it would be fitting to wear

As Damon mentioned, Miss Fiona did not lack that.

The esteemed Duke Dubonnet graciously hosted more than twenty birthday celebrations. In fact, the presents that were received over the years were

limited to certain kinds

Chloe shook the gift box in her hands with a puzzled look. "So, what exactly is this?"

Damon's face tightened slightly, his lips pressing together. "Be careful with it."