

Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes Chapter 216

Chapter 216

Joseph glanced at the photo and clicked his tongue. “Isn’t this Charlie?”

Charlie was Ashley’s second brother. Joseph was surprised that Cara knew him.

Ashley took a quick look and expressionlessly averted her gaze.

“Ashley, are you okay?” Joseph observed her expression and cautiously inquired.

Ashley chuckled softly, “I’m not that fragile. Don’t worry about me. I’m fine.”

If it always weighed on her heart whenever she encountered someone from the Ramos family, she was simply looking for trouble for herself.

“That’s good!” Joseph patted his chest. Just as he was about to say something, he suddenly saw Valentin hastily walking into the living room, even running to Ashley without caring about his image.

Joseph was stunned. “Valentin, why are you in such a hurry? What happened?”

Valentin swiftly reached Ashley before she could react.

Seeing the phone in her hand, his brows furrowed, a rare hint of panic in his eyes, and his voice low. “It’s fake, it’s not me.”

After a moment of contemplation, Ashley understood.

He was explaining that the rumor had nothing to do with him and that the man in the photo wasn't him.

"I know." Ashley blinked her beautiful eyes and spoke softly. "I know it's not you."

Upon hearing her words, Valentin's expression eased a bit, relieved that she didn't misunderstand.

Suddenly, Joseph burst into laughter.

"Why are you laughing?" Ashley looked at him, puzzled.

"Ashley." Joseph laughed meaningfully. "Except for when Andrew took you away, Valentin has never been in such a hurry. He's afraid of being misunderstood by you. All his urgency is related to you."

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Ashley was at a loss for words.

She did see Valentin running just now. It was scarce!

Her heart skipped a beat, and she pressed her rosy lips. "You don't need to be in such a hurry. I know it's not you."

"Yeah, Valentin!" Joseph grinned, reliving the moment. "Ashley recognized it wasn't you right away and even threw in a compliment about your killer physique!"

Ashley was speechless.

She glared threateningly at Joseph.

Looking confused, Joseph scratched his head. “I didn’t say anything wrong. You just said Valentin has a good physique!”

Ashley really wanted to hit him now.

Turning her head, she met Valentin’s teasing gaze.

Ashley clenched her fist and glared at Joseph again.

Seeing Ashley about to lose her temper, Joseph immediately bolted. “Well, it’s getting late. I have to hurry home! No need to see me off, not need to see me off!”

As his voice faded away, he disappeared in seconds.

Now, only Ashley and Valentin were in the living room.

She remembered his flustered appearance and cleared her throat. “You don’t need to be in such a hurry, and Cara just clarified the rumors on Twitter.”

Valentin loosened his tie, his voice low and attractive. “I don’t want you to misunderstand.”

When he saw this rumor at the office, he immediately dropped his work and rushed back, not wanting Ashley to think he had relations with other women.

“When did you see it?” he asked.

“About half an hour ago,” Ashley walked to the sofa and sat down, casually answering, “Joseph said he saw rumors about you online, so I took a look.”

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The man walked to her, bending down slightly, one hand supporting the sofa beside her. His eyes stared at her without blinking.

“Seeing rumors about me, did you feel...even a bit jealous?”

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Valentin suddenly leaned closer to Ashley. Her eyelashes quivered, and her eyes filled with tears. “I recognized it’s not you in the photo, so there is no need for me to be jealous.”

“And before you recognize it?” Valentin stared into her eyes and asked.

Ashley thought about it for a moment. When she first heard about Valentin’s scandal with someone else, she indeed felt confused, but she didn’t become suspicious of him.

“I believe you.” Ashley raised her hand and patted him on the shoulder. She even nodded solemnly with sincere eyes.

She thought Valentin would be impressed by the answer.

After all, everyone wanted to be trusted.

As a result, Valentin glanced leisurely at her hand patting his shoulder, then looked at her face and said meaningfully, “But I hope you discipline me.”

Ashley choked on his words.

She asked blankly all of a sudden, “What should I do?”

Valentin raised his eyebrows and said in a flirty tone that sounded like joking, but he looked very serious. “I want at least five checking calls a day.”

Ashley was shocked by his words.

“Five phone calls? You’ve gone too far. Do I have to check you for hickeys or hair?”

“Sure,” he answered without any hesitation, even looking forward to it.

Ashley couldn’t utter a word to reply. Valentin suddenly leaned down, put his hands under her armpits, and picked her up face to face.

Ashley was picked up by him with a sudden startle. She subconsciously wrapped around his neck with both hands. “What are you doing?”

After speaking, she distinctly felt Valentin pull her legs apart and loop them around his waist.

He said leisurely, “Upstairs, so you can check me for hickeys.”

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“I won’t check you. Just put me down.”

She found the embrace ambiguous.

Her legs were wrapped around his waist, hanging on him like a koala.

Valentin didn’t let go. He just held Ashley in his arms and walked upstairs.

At this time, Gavyn led several servants from outside into the living room to clean up. When they noticed Valentin and Ashley, they suddenly dropped their heads.

Ashley immediately felt awkward and shy. She struggled in Valentin's arms and complained in a low voice, "Put me down. Hurry up!"

Her struggle fueled Valentin even more. He suddenly stopped and raised his hand to slap her on the butt. "Don't move."

Ashley was startled and blushed all of a sudden. She suddenly felt numb, didn't dare to struggle anymore, and buried her whole face in Valentin's shoulder in embarrassment.

Valentin glanced sidelong and found Ashley shyly buried her face in his neck. Her soft long hair fell down, causing strands of itching on his neck.

He couldn't help but chuckle, "How lovable you are, Ashley!"

Ashley gritted her teeth in anger and then bit him on the shoulder.

Valentin seemed to feel no pain. He glanced at her casually and continued to carry her upstairs. "Whatever. If you want to bite me, go ahead."

Hearing this, Ashley felt unmoved but bit him again harder.

Valentin raised his eyebrows slightly and spoke slowly with a casual and indulgent tone. "You'd better bite a tooth mark that matches the one on my wrist."

Hearing this, Ashley stopped biting.

She blinked and looked up in realization.

She had just buried her face in Valentin's neck, so a few strands of hair stuck to the side of her face in a mess. She suddenly realized Valentin's intention.

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“Did you deliberately keep the scar from the tooth mark I bit on your wrist when I was a child?”

She had her suspicions before, and if Valentin had applied scar cream, the toothmark couldn't have remained until now.

Valentin looked distressed and replied, “You hated me but loved Kevin so much. You even broke up with me over him. I found myself annoying and had to sneak one mark about you.

Ashley couldn't utter a word to reply.

“Watch your language.”

Valentin couldn't help but chuckle and just carried her to the bedroom door on the second floor.

He stopped and looked at her with sincere eyes.

Ashley buried her face in his neck just now, and beads of sweat appeared on her forehead. The red circles of her eyes showed her to be particularly charming and attracted Valentin all the time.

Valentin lowered his head, gently rubbed her cheek with the tip of his nose, and his low but serious voice sounded.

“Yeah, I left your bite mark on purpose.”

Ashley could hear his sexy voice and sense his hot breath. Her heart suddenly skipped a beat, and she felt touched with her fingertips curled up slightly.

She raised her head and met Valentin's soulful eyes. For a moment, she absorbed in his tenderness and couldn't extricate herself.

At this time, the atmosphere between them was extremely ambiguous.

Valentin's magnetic voice sounded in the quiet atmosphere. "Do you want to check my hickey right now?"

Ashley blinked several times before catching a glimpse of them at the bedroom door.

She immediately jumped off Valentin, turned quickly, and ran into the bedroom. Then, she slammed the door and locked it from the inside.

Valentin, who was locked out, felt helpless.

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He twisted the handle but couldn't open the door.

He then took out his phone and sent her a message. [Why did you run away? Open up!]

In the room, Ashley sat before the dressing table and looked at herself in the mirror. She found herself blushing due to shyness, and she couldn't help but raise her hands to pat her cheeks.

Then, her phone rang, and she got a message from Valentin.

Ashley snorted arrogantly and didn't intend to open the door.

Valentin sent another message within a few seconds. [Ashley?]

Ashley still didn't open the door.

She didn't want to check for hickeys.

After a while, there was another message from Valentin. [If you don't open the door, you will suffer a lot later.]

Ashley got angry.

How dare he threaten her?

She expected Valentin's next move then.

In less than two minutes, Valentin opened the door with the spare key.

Ashley sighed helplessly, and she even forgot the spare key.

"Well, since you just came back from the company, are you tired now? Have you had dinner? Do you want something to eat?" Ashley quickly changed the subject.

Valentin stepped up to her and smiled meaningfully, showing a sense of danger, "How dare you shut me out, Ashley?"

Ashley noticed his emotions and decided to compromise now. She smiled sweetly, "Are you hungry, Valentin? How about I cook something for you myself?"

Valentin fell into silence.

"Why aren't you talking? Are you sick of my cooking?"

Valentin raised his hand helplessly and pinched his eyebrows. Then, he turned around and walked to the bed to sit down.

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Ashley followed closely, blinking at him with fluttering eyelashes. "Are you really angry? I didn't mean to shut you out just now."

Before she could finish speaking, Valentin suddenly took her wrist.

When he pressed, she was pulled into his lap.

Ashley blushed again.

Valentin put his arm around her waist and said indistinctly, "Well, I'm really angry."

“Then you...”

“Hence,” Valentin interrupted her and approached her closer. “Kiss me and calm my nerves.”

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Ashley’s eyes suddenly widened in shock.

How could she take the initiative to kiss him?

“Nope.” Ashley blushed and turned away.

“Really?” Valentin raised his eyebrows slightly and pinched her waist several times on purpose.

Ashley was particularly ticklish on that spot and immediately wriggled out. “Sorry, sorry, my fault. Stop it!”

She realized she had been wrong to shut him out.

Ashley made up her mind, licked her lips, and took a deep breath. Then, she leaned over, kissed Valentin on the cheek, and hurriedly backed away.

“Well, I did it.”

But Valentin smiled meaningfully. He lowered his head, and his sexy chuckle sounded.

“I want you to kiss my lips, not my cheek.”

Hearing this, Ashley blushed all of a sudden.

Valentin stared at her, who widened her eyes in shock, grinned, and pinched her chin with his fingers. “Kiss me.”

She was drowning in his husky and magnetic voice and couldn't help it. His voice captivated her, and she felt nervous.

Ashley clenched Valentin's white shirt tightly as if there was a stumbling deer in his chest.

Her finely curled eyelashes trembled slightly, with heart thumping.

Just when she hesitated and wanted to retreat, Valentin suddenly raised his hand, grabbed the back of her head, and lowered his head to kiss her directly.

Ashley was stunned for a moment.

The next moment, she felt Valentin's sweet breath.

The flirtatious and lingering kiss drained Ashley of her strength.

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She lay limp in Valentin's arms, her mind blank, and could only accept his kiss.

After a long time, Valentin hugged Ashley's waist with one hand and clasped the back of her head with the other hand. Then, he reluctantly stepped away and gently bit Ashley's juicy lips.

Ashley felt as if she couldn't breathe, and her eyes filled with tears. The end of her eyes was flushed, and her sights looked extremely charming.

Feeling dizzy and weak, she leaned on Valentin as a support.

Valentin enjoyed her compliance. He kissed her eyebrows, the tip of her nose, and her lips gently as if to kiss her all over.

"It's a bit itchy." Ashley tilted her head and avoided his lingering kiss.

Valentin chuckled and hugged her hard. He stared at her obsessively and lowered his voice. "I'm sorry. I just love you so much."

Ashley was touched, and she looked at him in confusion. "Why do you love me?"

He naturally asked back, "Why don't I love you?"

Judging by his tone, he treated his affection toward Ashley as a matter of course.

Ashley said, "I'm serious with you."

Valentin replied, "So did I."

Ashley choked on his words.

She couldn't utter a word to refute.

"By the way, Cara, who had an affair with you today, me." Ashley suddenly remembered this coincidence.

looks a little like

"I didn't pay attention to it." After he found out he was involved in a scandal, he immediately dropped his business for fear of being misunderstood by Ashley.

He didn't care about Cara's identity.

Ashley took out her phone and found Cara's photo. "Take a look."

Valentin glanced at it casually. "She is not as pretty as you."

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Ashley said, "I'm not asking you to compare her to me."

Valentin replied, "A little bit, with few similarities."

Ashley flipped through a few more photos. Cara grew up in an orphanage, and Ashley wondered if she had something to do with the Pliskin family.

But she didn't expect Cara to cross paths with Charlie.

Valentin frowned slightly. He discovered his name would be linked to any online search because of the scandal with Cara.

He immediately got furious and called Tom to deal with the online gossip.

"Well, Mr. Kingsley. I got it." Tom understood Valentin's mind and even advised, "I'll have your name associated with Ms. Ramos."

Valentin said, "Well."

He only wanted to be associated with Ashley, not anyone else.

Hearing this conversation, Ashley found Valentin's behavior ridiculous.

Ashley immediately said to Tom on the other end of the phone, "Just deal with your business. Don't involve me in it."

Tom was stunned for a moment and greeted. "Hello, Ms. Ramos."

He then realized Ashley had stayed with Valentin.

It meant the scandal hadn't affected the relationship between Valentin and Ashley.

Valentin's mood was always affected by Ashley. If Ashley felt displeased, Valentin would be in a bad mood, either. In that case, Tom and other colleagues would fall into panic.

Early the next morning, Joseph came over cheerfully. "Good morning, Valentin and Ashley."

Ashley still sat at the dining table, having breakfast.

Valentin expertly picked up a shrimp and fed it to her.

Ashley felt awkward and refused to have it at first, but she noticed

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Valentin kept the move and didn't withdraw his hand.

Ashley had no choice but to take it in one bite.

"Ouch! What do you mean by it?" Joseph pretended to cover his eyes but peeked through his fingers.

Ashley swallowed the food and said, "Why are you here so early? We haven't even finished breakfast."

Joseph directly sat down at the dining table. "I came to join you for breakfast. Can you feed me a shrimp, Valentin?"

Then, Valentin glanced at Joseph coldly.

Joseph had already guessed the result.

But he enjoyed teasing Valentin.

After breakfast, Joseph proposed excitedly, “Valentin is off this weekend. Why not we go for an outing together, Ashley?”

Ashley replied, “How childish you are! I can’t believe you like outings.”

“Do you want to go, Ashley?” Joseph asked.

“Nope.”

“What about you, Valentin?” Joseph asked again.

“Nope.”

Joseph nodded understandingly. If Ashley refused, it was impossible Valentin to agree with it.

Ashley chatted with Joseph for a while and then got a call from Noah of StarGavel Auctions.

Joseph noticed the caller and basically guessed Noah’s purpose. He hurriedly asked Ashley to turn on the speakerphone.

“I’m sorry to bother you so early, Ms. Ramos.”

Ashley replied, “Never mind. Go ahead, please.”

“Well, Ms. Ramos.” Noah said excitedly. “Today, a client brought in a painting for me to auction, and I found it was a painting named Territory from contemporary artist Aurora Easel.

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‘Aurora’s painting has been sought after by many people, who are willing to pay a high price for it, and if it can be successfully auctioned, we’ll surely make a handsome commission. I’d like to take Territory for your inspection if you’re free now. Are you available?’

‘No need.’ Ashley smiled and replied, “Your Territory is a fake.”

Noah was stunned. “How can you tell it’s fake when you haven’t appraised it, Ms. Ramos?”

Joseph also felt confused. He didn’t expect Ashley to authenticate it without an observation.

After a while, Ashley said, “The original Territory is in my house.”

Joseph choked on her words in shock.

Noah was surprised and expressed his gratitude.

After Ashley hung up the phone, Joseph immediately turned to look at Valentin. “Where is the original painting? Is it in the study?”

Valentin grinned, raised his chin slightly, and gestured in Ashley’s direction. “In the place where her grandparents used to live.”

“It’s in Ashley’s former house.” Joseph turned to look at Ashley and said excitedly, “Aurora is very mysterious. She only paints and never shows her face. Did you meet her when you bought the painting, Ashley?”

Ashley blinked and said nothing.

Joseph looked at Valentin again. “Since you know where Aurora’s painting is, were you there when Ashley bought it? Have you met Aurora?”

Valentin sat on the couch with a casual attitude. “What do you say?”

Joseph scratched his head in confusion, and suddenly, a bold guess came to his mind.

He turned to look at Ashley dumbfounded.

“Is the artist Aurora you, Ashley?”

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Before Ashley could speak, Joseph said firmly, “It must be you! I asked you yesterday if you could paint, and you admitted. But I’ve always suspected you have been hiding your abilities. You’re Aurora, aren’t you?”

He found out he had underestimated her before.

Ashley no longer hid it and nodded calmly. “Yeah.”

Joseph even stood up in excitement. “How awesome you are, Ashley! Even if I had no idea about landscape oil painting, I had heard the name. Aurora. Many people thought she was an elder with high artistic attainments, but I didn’t expect you to be so young.”

Joseph kept talking excitedly, “How close our relationship is! I wonder if you could paint a picture for me when you’re free. I’ll frame it and hang it in my home to cultivate my artistic temperament.”

Then, he turned to look at Valentin. “Please intercede for me, Valentin. I want a painting from Ashley.”

Valentin directly refused. “Don’t overwork Ashley.”

Ashley shrugged helplessly.

Joseph found Valentin partial toward Ashley.

He just asked for a painting but was targeted by Valentin.

Ashley coughed lightly. “Actually, I’m not tired. What do

you want?”

Joseph immediately raised his hand like a well-behaved child. “I want a painting of a starry sky. Every star should be extra bright. In that case, my mood will be better when I enjoy it.”

Ashley replied, “Okay, great idea.”

“You’re a peach, Ashley. I can’t believe you don’t think my idea is naive.” Joseph was moved to tears.

Ashley glanced at him. “Just a bit naive.”

Joseph choked on her words and couldn’t come back to his senses.

Ashley’s attitude toward him distressed him.

Joseph glanced at Valentin and found him staring at Ashley all the time.

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Then, he glanced at Ashley again.

He felt like he had interrupted their time together.

Hence, Joseph quickly ran away without looking back in order to leave there.

Ashley blinked blankly, looked at Valentin on the couch, and asked, “What is he here for? Just for breakfast?”

Valentin raised his eyebrows and replied, “He got a painting of yours.”

At that point, Ashley walked up to him and complained in a low voice, “You just talked nonsense again. A painting doesn’t burden me with anything.”

Valentin said, “I don’t want you to paint for him.”

Ashley asked, “Why?”

“You haven’t even painted for me,” Valentin replied.

Ashley refuted, “Nonsense! I’ve painted it for you before.”

“Yeah, you drew me a dog.” Valentin raised his eyebrows, looking at her leisurely.

Before Ashley could reply, her phone suddenly rang, and it was called by a strange number.

When she got a strange call now, she became wary and suspected the call had come from anyone in the Ramos family.

But if she didn’t answer the call, what if someone else called for urgent business?

Ashley thought for a while and then simply answered it.

“Hello?”

After speaking, Ashley waited for the one on the phone to reply.

However, she could only hear the faint sound of breathing but no words.

Ashley frowned.

She suspected it was Frankie calling.

She looked indifferent and directly hung up.

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Valentin noticed her reaction and figured out the situation. He said in a low “Is it Frankie calling?”

Voice

“He is out

out of his mind. He always called me from different numbers, but he never talked when I picked up the calls.” Ashley, indeed, couldn’t understand his mind.

Valentin raised his hand and pulled her to sit down on the couch. “I’ll help you find out his location now.”

“There is no need to investigate him. I don’t care about it.” Ashley showed no interest in Frankie’s whereabouts at all, nor did she care about his behavior.

After all, she had nothing to do with the Ramos family now.

Suddenly, the cell phone rang again.

Ashley thought it was Frankie on the phone again, and when she intended to hang up, she glanced over and realized it was Laura.

“Laura,” Ashley answered the call and greeted energetically.

Laura had always been serious, but when she heard this energetic voice, she was moved to laughter. “You’re invited to participate in a variety show recently held by the Traditional Culture Association of our country, which aims to announce the traditional culture through the influence of celebrities.”

“Traditional culture? It is neat. I’m interested in it.”

“Well, I’ve sent the recording process to your email. You can check it later.” Laura added, “Bryce has been invited to participate either. The recording time will be three days later. However, I heard Charlie was also invited.”

As a well-known restorer of cultural relics, Charlie would be on a show like it as an authority.

Ashley replied calmly, “Never mind, Laura. He won’t affect me.”

“Well, by the way, have you noticed a new celebrity named Cara?”

“Yeah, what’s wrong?” Ashley asked.

“She looks a bit similar to you. The netizens now treat her the way they treat you. We’ll just sit back and wait for the popularity to fade.”

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Ashley didn’t like to be compared.

“Well, Laura. I got it.”

Ashley chatted with Laura for a while before hanging up the phone.

In the afternoon, Ashley found her account had been added to a WhatsApp group by Miranda.

There were only three in the group, who were Ashley, Miranda, and Bryce.

Bryce asked: [What do you mean by it?]

Miranda replied: [We can chat in this group then.]

Bryce didn’t reply.

Miranda asked: [Is Ashley online?]

Ashley replied: [Yep.]

Miranda continued: [Check out Twitter. Cara has just responded to the comparison to you.]

Ashley was surprised for a moment. She clicked on Twitter and found Cara’s post.

[I indeed hold respect and affection for Ashley. Maybe fate make us have something in common with her.]

[But I am what I am. I'm not someone else, and I don't want to

[I hope that you will not compare me to Ashley in the future, which is also disrespectful to Ashley. Thank you for your attention, and let me show you an oil landscape painting of mine as a little present.]

Cara posted a landscape oil painting.

The netizens read this response and instantly became her fans.

[Cara said she was unique in the world. How awesome she is!]

[She even considered the disrespect toward Ashley. How gentle Cara is! I indeed admire her.]

[How beautiful the painting is! This shows the high standard of Cara's painting.]

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[I read about Cara. She graduated from a prestigious university and specialized in many art forms. She is pretty and talented, with a gentle personality.]

[Let's not compare Cara with Ashley in the future. Cara is not worse than Ashley. It is indeed disrespectful to others.]

Ashley glanced at it casually and found Cara's painting to be of high quality with a solid foundation.

In the group, Miranda typed and sent a message. [There's been a lot of attention on Cara lately. You stayed with her from the airport that day. Did you pay attention to her, Bryce?]

Bryce replied: [I don't have to pay attention to her.]

Miranda typed. [So did I. I am still keen on Ashley.]

Ashley couldn't help but smile and sent her a sticker.

Bryce added: [By the way, don't be late for the variety show in three days, Ashley.]

Ashley replied: [Don't worry. I will definitely not be late.]

Three days later, Ashley and Bryce went to the variety show recording site together to participate in it.

After arriving at the scene, the staff led them to the guest lounge first.

Ashley pushed the door open and walked into the lounge. Then, she immediately noticed Charlie and Cara chatting with each other.

Ashley met Cara at this moment, and she subconsciously observed her appearance for a while.

Ashley then realized Cara's features were similar to hers.

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As soon as Ashley walked into the lounge, Charlie noticed her. He looked at Ashley calmly, moved his lips, and then finally fell into silence.

Sensing Charlie's gaze, Cara looked towards the door of the lounge and found Ashley and Bryce coming in.

Cara was stunned for a moment, and then she smiled gently and generously, "Ashley, Bryce."

Bryce frowned and replied indifferently, "I'm not familiar with you."

Bryce had always been rebellious, and many people knew his character.

But anyone would get awkward by his frank words.

However, Cara still smiled gently, "No offense."

Bryce ignored her and glanced at Ashley. He slightly raised his chin and gestured forward. "Let's go sit over there."

They went to the left chairs and sat down.

Cara stared at Ashley's graceful figure with mixed emotions in her eyes. Her sights stayed on Ashley for several seconds before looking away.

The lounge was quiet, so the sound of Cara talking to Charlie was noticeable.

Ashley could hear it clearly. She didn't expect Cara to be familiar with Charlie.

But it had nothing to do with her.

After a while, Haton poked his head and pushed open the door. He looked handsome and young, with full of innocence in his eyes, which made him lovely.

He pushed the door open and came in. When he saw Ashley's direction. clearly, he cheered up with joy and immediately ran over.

"Hello, Ashley. I'm Haton Lance. I like you very much, and I am a fan of yours."

Haton stretched out his hand. He looked young and shy, and his ears even slightly blushed.

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Ashley was shocked by the enthusiasm. She smiled slightly and reached out to shake his hand. “Thanks for your fond.”

Haton felt excited to shake hands with Ashley, and he couldn’t speak coherently. He raised his other hand and scratched his head naively. “Don’t mention it, Ashley. I am your biggest fan.”

Bryce, on the side, glanced at him.

Haton hurriedly greeted him. “Hello, Bryce. Your newly launched song is so beautiful. It is worthy of Ash’s melody. How awesome Ashley is!”

Bryce was speechless.

He thought Haton complimented him, but Haton steered the subject back to Ashley.

Haton deserved to be Ashley’s die-hard fan.

Only then did Haton notice Charlie and Cara in the lounge. He greeted them politely and then sat next to Ashley excitedly and nervously. He wanted to look at Ashley but was afraid to do it directly, so he finally stared at Ashley secretly.

He finally had the chance to get up close with Ashley.

Haton felt nervous, and his heart beat faster.

He wondered if he could get an autograph from Ashley, hug her, and take a photo with her.

At ten in the morning, the program officially started and was broadcast live.

Except for Charlie, the other four guests were all celebrities.

Fans in the livestream room had been impatiently looking forward to their idol's appearance.

When the program officially started and the livestream broadcasted, fans began to extol their favorite celebrities.

Although Cara was a newcomer who had just debuted, her character had attracted many fans recently.

Earlier, netizens compared her to Ashley, so viewers paid extra attention to her.

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[Look! Ashley and Cara are on stage together. Cara's features are similar to Ashley's, but Ashley is prettier.]

[Actually, Ashley's features are flawless, I admire her appearance.]

[Her looks are not worth showing off, and it means nothing. I prefer Cara. How gentle she is!]

[I am fond of Cara either.]

Verv

When the host introduced Charlie, netizens respected him much. As a cultural relic restorer, he made great contributions to the protection of cultural relics.

However, someone found out about Charlie's background and felt shocked.

[Damn it! Charlie is Ashley's brother. They both come from the Ramos family.]

[Well, Cara posted a picture of her and a cultural relic restorer the other day. Is that Charlie? They seem to have a close relationship.]

[I heard Charlie never abused Ashley, and Cara is willing to be friends with him, which proves his gentle character.]

[Since he is a friend of Cara, I choose to believe him. I won't question the integrity of Cara's friend.]

[I agree with it.]

After introducing the guests, the host made an opening statement.

After all, this program mainly promoted traditional culture, so each guest would explain relevant knowledge to the audience.

Ashley told interesting anecdotes about classical dance.

At the mention of classical dance, the audience recalled the competition named Show Your Dance that Ashley once participated in. A grand jeté she performed in the final was particularly impressive.

Bryce talked about chess, which he had studied under the pressure of his parents in childhood.

When it was Cara's turn, she smiled gracefully, "I am good at landscape oil painting, and my favorite is Van Gogh's Sunflowers."

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Cara had posted her painting on Twitter before, and netizens all praised it. When she said she was good at landscape oil painting now, she gained the praise of netizens again.

When it was Haton's turn, he touched his hair and smiled shyly, "I can play cymbals."

Hearing this, netizens immediately burst into laughter.

The host specially prepared cymbals for Haton and had him play on the spot.

Netizens still kept laughing. After all, they had never witnessed a handsome celebrity play cymbals, which looked novel and contrasting.

But netizens couldn't laugh any more after a while.

[This performance woke me up.]

[I almost cheered up by the sound of cymbals.]

[Cymbals deserve to be our country's classical instrument.]

After Haton finished playing, he looked specifically in Ashley's direction with expectation in his eyes, as if he looked forward to Ashley's approval.

Ashley didn't expect him to look toward her. She was

stunned for a moment and immediately applauded. "You played it very well. I can tell you've been studying it for years."

Hearing Ashley's compliment, Haton's ears blushed, and he almost stuttered in excitement. "Thank...thank you, Ashley."

Netizens in the livestream room immediately sensed the unusual.

[What's going on? Is Haton a fan of Ashley? Does he like Ashley?]

[How normal it is! I am also a fan of Ashley.]

[How shy Haton is! Ashley complimented him, and he blushed. I indeed like the way they get along.]

At the show, Cara watched the interaction between Ashley and Haton, and then she stared at Ashley with complex emotions in her eyes.

She looked at Ashley for a long time before looking away.

Cara clenched her fingers and recited Ashley's name in her mind. When she faced the camera, she gave a gentle smile again.

09:26

Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes Chapter 221

Chapter 221

After Haton played cymbals, the host continued with the next session.

“Dear audience and guests, we’ll play a game now.

“Our team received some antiquities. Some of them are real and the rest are fake. Now we’ll put them on display, and for those that are real, we’ll donate them to the National Museum for free.”

Hearing this, several guests applauded

Then, the staff presented those items to the stage.

The host went to the far left first and took out an ancient framed painting.

was

The host introduced, “This is the painting named Frameless, drawn by the famous ancient painter Rembrandt van Rijn. But the painting passed around too long and not well preserved. The lower right corner was soaked with water.”

In the lower right corner of the painting, there was a mark where the ink had been smudged, which destroyed the beauty of the entire painting.

The host looked in the direction of Cara and asked with a smile, “Cara, since you are an expert at landscape oil painting, is this painting authentic or fake?”

Cara walked to the painting, looked at it carefully for a few minutes, picked up the microphone, and replied, “The Frameless should be a fake.”

Netizens in the livestream room were instantly stunned.

[Damn it! A fake? How could she tell it?]

[Why do I feel like it’s real?]

Then, the host looked in Ashley’s direction. “How do you think it, Ashley?”

Ashley nodded. “It’s a fake.”

[How come Ashley repeats Cara’s words?]

[Ashley jumped to conclusions without even walking over to observe it. How hasty it is!]

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[Take it easy. As a renowned restorer, Charlie could tell the difference.]

As expected, the host looked at Charlie next to him and asked, “Mr. Ramos, you have restored many cultural relics, including some ancient paintings. Can you help us identify the authenticity of this painting on the spot?”

Charlie stared at the painting for a few seconds, then raised the microphone. “This painting is a fake.”

Hearing this answer, the host was surprised for a moment. The program had asked professionals to identify it in advance, and the host had already got the result.

It was normal for Charlie to tell it, but he didn’t expect Cara and Ashley to authenticate it.

The host immediately looked at Cara, who was the first to identify the fake, and asked curiously, “How did you identify it, Cara?”

Cara smiled softly and elegantly, “I am good at landscape oil painting and have a certain understanding of it. Rembrandt van Rijn’s painting focuses on the contrast of light and shade, and he always uses light to shape the three-dimensional sense of scenery. However, the light in this painting is simple, and there is no obvious contrast between light and shade.

“Moreover, Rembrandt van Rijn is one with perverse behavior, which leads to a rich level of his paintings. He always used bright colors to vent his emotions, and his paintings can present a strong conflict of basis. But while this painting does its best to imitate his brushstrokes, it still falls short of his maniacal state of painting.”

After hearing this, the host looked at Charlie for confirmation.

Charlie nodded, indicating that what Cara said was correct.

Netizens were immediately shocked.

[She actually explained it well. How awesome she is! Cara knows a lot, and I have never heard the terms she mentioned.]

[I couldn't resist the gentle and talented Cara. I finally understand the reason netizens supported her, and I almost fell in love with her.]

[Ashley said the same as Cara. She answered right, either.]

[Don't be kidding. Ashley didn't even check the painting. She must talk

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nonsense causally, and she even repeated Cara's words.]

Netizens talked enthusiastically, and the show continued.

The second one was Voynich's manuscript.

Cara could identify authenticity and even explained the reason, so the host looked at her first. "Do you think this Voynich's manuscript is real or fake?"

Cara still walked up to it, stared at it carefully for a few minutes, and then shook her head. "It must be a fake."

Bryce and Haton had no idea about it, so they just made a casual guess.

Then, the host looked at Ashley. "What do you think, Ashley?"

Ashley answered concisely, "It's fake."

The host finally looked at Charlie.

Charlie's answer was the most authoritative at present for them. He raised the microphone and replied, "Cara is right. It is a fake."

He only mentioned Cara, which meant he only took Cara's answer seriously.

The host exclaimed in admiration, "The program had asked professionals to identify it in advance. Everyone answered correctly. Voynich's

manuscript is a fake.”

[Damn it! Cara was right again!]

[I am indeed fond of Cara. She knows too much. How elegant and talented she is!]

[Ashley answered without checking carefully. Did she really copy Cara’s answer?]

[Ashley is good at dancing, composing, designing, and car racing, but cultural relic appreciation cannot be learned overnight. If she doesn’t understand, there is no need for her to copy someone else’s answer. I’m disgusted with her behavior.]

[Don’t go too far. What if Ashley came up with it on her own?]

[How funny it is! I bet Ashley’s next answer is the same as Cara’s. Otherwise, I’ll pay for my words.]

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09:02

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Then, the host presented a porcelain dish.

The host still asked Cara to answer first.

Cara looked at it carefully for a while and smiled modestly and gently, “I have no idea about porcelain. But I feel it should be real after checking it.”

Bryce and Haton still answered casually, and they gave different answers.

When it was Ashley’s turn, she nodded slightly. “It’s real.”

Finally, Charlie gave an authoritative answer. “Cara is still so humble. You are right. The porcelain dish is real.”

After speaking, Charlie turned to look at Ashley and frowned slightly. He wondered why Ashley always copied Cara’s answer.

If Cara said it was a fake, Ashley said the same. If not, Ashley still repeated Cara’s words.

Charlie didn’t understand why Ashley copied Cara’s answer.

Hearing Ashley’s answer, the netizens began to weigh in.

[I guessed it right. Ashley gave the same answer as Cara. She obviously copied Cara.]

[Why did she have to copy Cara’s answer when she didn’t understand it? How excellent Cara is! I have never seen such a talented celebrity before. I have been obsessed with her.]

[Host, can you ask Ashley first? I look forward to her answer. If she can’t others’ answers, she will show her true colors.]

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Next was a jewel.

The host said, “A collector gave the jewel to us, which was designed by the famous designer Jean Schlumberger. This jewel is of high artistic value. If it is real, we’ll donate it to the National Museum for free.”

Hearing the name of Jean Schlumberger, the audience all looked over attentively.

But the host didn’t go as the netizens wished and still asked Cara to answer first.

Cara put on the specific gloves prepared by the program and put on two layers of gloves with different materials. Then, she picked up the jewel

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and observed it carefully several times. Finally, she shook her head regretfully. “What a pity! It’s a fake.”

Bryce and Haton didn’t understand, and they still answered casually.

The next one was Ashley. She didn’t stand still this time but put on gloves, picked up the jewel, and looked up and down.

[She finally pretended to observe it. But it’s too late. She didn’t understand it, so her answer is of no value.]

[She seems to be professional. Did she copy Cara’s posture just now?]

[Again, I bet Ashley will give the same answer as Cara’s after she pretends to observe it. Otherwise, I’m at your mercy.]

At this moment, Ashley put down the jewel in her hand and said calmly, “It’s real.”

When she finished speaking, the host looked shocked.

Netizens in the livestream room fell into confusion.

[Did I hear it correctly? Why is it different this time?]

[She must do it on purpose. She didn’t dare to copy Cara’s answer, so she deliberately gave a contrary answer.]

Cara was stunned for a while, then looked at Ashley with a smile and said gently, “You are wrong, Ashley. The jewel must be a fake.”

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Comment

Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes Chapter 222

Chapter 222

Upon hearing Cara assert so definitively that the jewel was a fake, Ashley turned to look at her. Ashley turned to look at her.

Meeting Cara's smile, Ashley also smiled faintly, "Is that so? I think it's genuine."

Cara continued to smile gently, "Ashley, this jewel really is a fake."

Bryce and Haton exchanged glances and wondered, 'Cara sounds so certain. Does she have solid proof?'

The online viewers of the livestream, seeing the disagreement between the two, almost unanimously sided with Cara without a second thought.

[Although I don't understand much about this, I'm following Cara's lead!]

[Cara hasn't been wrong since the start. If she says the jewel is fake, then it's almost certainly fake. Why is Ashley stubbornly insisting it's real?]

[See? Once Ashley stops copying Cara's answers, she knows nothing!]

At this point, the show's host glanced at the card in hand, which indicated the jewel's authenticity, verified by professionals arranged by the show.

After reading the experts' verdict and hearing the differing responses from Ashley and Cara, the host looked at Ashley in utter astonishment. The host glanced at Ashley in great surprise.

The host thought in disbelief, 'The experts' evaluation matches Ashl claim! The jewel is authentic! Ashley...has got it right this time? Did s just guess correctly?'

The

host's first instinct was that Ashley had guessed, then turned to Car lifting the microphone to ask, "Cara, how did you determine this jewel is a fake?"

Looking at Ashley and speaking slowly as if teaching a student, Cara explained to Ashley, "In ancient times, subjects had to avoid using the king's name. However, this jewel has 'CL' engraved in the upper right corner. If it belonged to Jean Schlumberger, his king at the time was Charles Lancaster the Third. To avoid using the king's name, Jean would never have carved 'CL' on it."

After a pause, Cara added, "A jewel with the king's name is undoubtedly a fake."

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As she explained, the show's camera zoomed in on the jewel, clearly showing the engraved "CL" in the upper right corner for the livestream audience to see.

After hearing Cara's explanation, the host turned to Charlie and asked, "Mr. Ramos, what do you think?"

Charlie, usually calm and collected, showed evident admiration. "Indeed, Cara is right. A jewel with the king's name must be a fake."

Hearing Charlie's agreement, the livestream's chat erupted.

[I've heard of this rule too! Ancient subjects always avoided using the king's name. Cara's logic makes sense!]

[Even Charlie agrees with Cara's assessment, and he's a professional art restorer. He wouldn't make a mistake, so this jewel must be fake!]

[Wow, Cara is so impressive. She hasn't been wrong at all since the start!]

[Tsk, Ashley just had to give an opposite answer to Cara, and she's wrong again. Oh well, she should just copy Cara's answers. Let's not be too hard. on Ashley!]

After hearing Charlie's response, the host looked again at Cara. "So, Cara,, you're certain this jewel is a fake?"

Cara nodded with a faint smile, replying, "Yes."

The host then asked Ashley, "Ashley, do you still believe it's auther

Ashley hummed in affirmation.

Bryce, growing anxious, subtly tugged at Ashley's sleeve and whispe know you don't like the Ramos family, but Charlie is an expert in thi field. If he says the jewel is a fake, it's almost certainly a fake..."

Ashley raised her eyebrows slightly. "No, it is genuine."

Bryce was left speechless and thought with resignation, 'Alright then. I knew Ashley was stubborn. But what can I do other than support her?'

Meanwhile, Haton watched Ashley with his worried puppy-dog eyes.

He pondered, "This is unbearable! I don't want to see my idol get outdone by someone else!'

Upon hearing Ashley's insistence that the jewel was genuine, the online

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viewers felt helpless, thinking, ‘Why is she so stubborn?’

[Are you kidding me? How can she still think it’s real? Charlie already said it’s fake, and Cara just taught Ashley so much for nothing!]

[No way around it. Ashley deliberately gave an answer opposite to Cara’s. Even if Ashley’s wrong, she’s got to stick to her guns now.]

[Stubbornness is truly a pain!]

At this moment, the host, looking at the card in his hand, announced, “Unfortunately, only Ashley got it right this time! This jewel used by Jean. has been authenticated by professionals, and it is indeed genuine!”

The chat instantly erupted and was filled with exclamation and question marks.

They all then thought incredulously, ‘What? Genuine? Ashley was right? Are you kidding me, host?!’

Upon hearing the host’s announcement, Cara’s brows suddenly furrowed, her smile fading into a sullen expression.

She pondered irritably, ‘Ashley got it right? How is that possible?!’

Charlie also furrowed his brow with a hint of confusion in his eyes.

Bryce and Haton, after their initial shock, felt a sense of relief as if they had narrowly escaped a disaster.

“Ashley, you really got it right! It is genuine!” Bryce said proudly.

“Ashley, I knew you were the best!” Haton exclaimed. He had a fanboy expression as if saying, “My idol is number one.”

The host eagerly turned to Ashley and asked, “Ashley, how did you determine that this jewel is genuine?”

A viewer who had bet to do something absurd on the livestream if Ashley was right immediately commented: [She guessed it! She must have guessed it! Otherwise, I'll do a handstand and wash my hair on the livestream!]

With a clear and melodious voice, Ashley explained, "Indeed, this jewel has a king's name, but the 'CL' isn't directly engraved on the jewel. Instead, later generations applied a thin layer of sealing wax on the outside of the jewel, and the 'CL' was engraved on that sealing wax. Later individuals did it as a deceptive measure to protect the jewel. The sealing

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was

a faint crack near this 'CL, and the color appears unusual. If you look closely, you can notice it."

After Ashley finished speaking, the camera immediately zoomed in on the jewel for a close-up.

Charlie squinted to take a closer look and indeed spotted the fine crack and the slight color difference that was hard to notice.

He pondered. "Even I, a professional art restorer, had overlooked this. How could Ashley have noticed with such precision? When did she learn all this? How does she know so much about jewel artifacts?"

Ashley continued. "The outer layer of scaling wax can be removed. This jewel is one of the four famous jewels from ancient times, owned only by royalty or the contemporary literati and wealthy merchants. Plus, being used by Jean adds to its historical value."

The host, delighted by Ashley's explanation, said. "Ashley, you are absolutely right! Our show had this verified by professionals, and it is indeed one of the four famous ancient jewels!"

After listening to Ashley's calm explanation, the viewers were silent for several seconds before they came to their senses and started flooding the chat.

[Wow, Ashley actually got it right! Seems like she didn't just guess, huh?]

[Of course not! She was so logical and consistent with the professional assessment. How could it be a guess? Can you guess something like that?!]

[So, Ashley wasn't copying Cara's answers in the previous rounds. Instead, she actually knew?]

[Especially during the painting appraisal, Ashley didn't even look closely. She just glanced and recognized the authenticity. She's even more skilled than Charlie and Cara! Does Ashley also paint?]

[Hah, I said earlier that Ashley figured it out herself, and you all laughed at me. Now you see who's the fool! To the one who bet on doing that absurd thing, you better not chicken out!]

[Hmm, when Cara was explaining about "a jewel with the king's name is undoubtedly a fake" like a teacher to Ashley, it turns out Ashley knew more than her...]

Cara then clenched her fingers tightly, but when she looked at Ashley.

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she still smiled, "Ashley, you really know a lot, and you got it all right."

Ashley responded with a smile, "It was okay."

As Charlie sized up Ashley, his eyes filled with a hint of puzzlement, wondering, ‘When did she become knowledgeable in artifact appraisal? And to such an extent?’

Three hours later, after the recording of the episode ended, Ashley had just reached backstage when she received a call from Lester.

She wondered if he had found out whether Cara was indeed the lost heiress of the Pliskin family.

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Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes Chapter 223

Chapter 223

Ashley stepped into the corridor to answer Lester’s call.

“Hey, Ashley, I just watched your variety show livestream. It was brilliant, and I had learned a lot from you.” Lester’s voice came through, tinged with amusement.

Ashley had a moment of realization. “No wonder you called right after I finished the show. You were watching the livestream and timed your call perfectly?”

He confirmed, “Of course, I had to watch your show.”

“Thank you.” Ashley scratched her head, feeling somewhat embarrassed, and then asked, “By the way, does Cara have any connection with the Pliskin family?”

Lester didn’t hide anything, replying truthfully, “I checked Cara’s background. She grew up in an orphanage, and her age matches my sister’s, but we haven’t done a DNA test yet.

“Besides, when I saw Cara, I didn’t feel that kindred familial connection...”

So, he was inclined to think that Cara probably wasn’t related to the Pliskin family and not the sister he lost in his childhood.

“I see.” Ashley paused and continued sincerely, “Regardless, I hope you find your sister soon.”

Lester chuckled, “I’ll take that as a good omen from you.”

Ashley also chuckled. She then chatted with Lester for a while longer before hanging up.

Just as she ended the call, Joseph’s call came through.

Ashley swiped the screen to answer, asking, “Hey, what’s up?”

“Ashley, who were you talking to? I tried calling you, but your line is busy!” Joseph sounded like a know-it-all. “My sixth sense tells me you definitely weren’t talking to Valentin. Am I correct?”

Ashley was genuinely surprised, her eyes widening slightly. “Your sixth sense is that accurate?”

Joseph smiled smugly, “Ashley, just admit how accurate I am! Am I not

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like a clairvoyant?”

She sighed, “Alright, alright, you got it right. But how did you know I wasn’t talking to Valentin?”

“Because Valentin has been right next to me since a while ago, and his phone hasn’t rung once!” Joseph laughed so hard that his mouth almost reached the back of his head, and if he had a tail, it would definitely be wagging joyously.

Ashley was rendered speechless and almost rolled her eyes, thinking, ‘Darn it, I fell for such a simple trick! And here I thought Joseph’s sixth sense was really that sharp!’

Joseph was laughing uproariously, his stomach nearly aching from it. “So, Ashley, who were you talking to just now? I have the speaker on. Let Valentin hear, too.”

Ashley sighed and pondered, ‘I can’t believe this guy.’

“It was nobody special, just Lester calling to chat,” Ashley replied, seeing no reason to hide it from Valentin.

We’re

“Oh, so it was Lester,” Joseph said cheerily. “Now that you’re done with the show, come on out. Valentin and I are here to pick you up. waiting outside the studio.”

Ashley was shocked, pondering, ‘What? Valentin came to pick me up? There are so many people here right now. What if we get seen?’

“Why did you guys come?” Ashley asked while hurrying to the dressing room to gather her things before heading out to meet them.

“Oh, you know, Valentin wanted to come pick you up. He’s been missing you...” Joseph began but was cut off mid-sentence as the phone seemed to

be taken away. Then, she heard Valentin's low, magnetic voice saying, "Joseph and I are waiting for you outside, Ashley."

"Okay, I got it. I'll be right out," Ashley replied before hanging up.

As she reached the dressing room door, she encountered Cara smiling warmly.

"Hello, Ashley."

"Hello." Ashley was a bit puzzled. She wasn't close with Cara, yet Cara always addressed her so familiarly.

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Cara gracefully brushed & locked her hair behind her ear, continuing, "Ashley. I've seen your stuff online before. I must say, you're very impressive and knowledgeable."

"Thank you, you're quite knowledgeable yourself," Ashley responded, understanding the obvious mutual flattery. "The landscape painting you posted on Twitter the other day was very well done."

Cara then lowered her gaze as she smiled gently. Then, she suddenly looked up and asked, "Do you dislike me because of my relationship with Charlie?"

Upon hearing this, Ashley smiled with a hint of amusement, "Your relationship with Charlie is your business. I don't concern myself with it."

Cara remained smiling even as she heard her.

Only after Ashley went into the dressing room did Cara's smile gradually fade. Cara then took out her phone and dialed a number.

The call connected quickly.

Cara softly said. "Mr. Morgan I have engaged Ashley in person today."

A middle-aged man's voice came through the phone, asking, "So, what do you think?"

Cara's eyes lingered on the direction of the dressing room, recalling Ashley's performance on the show today, as well as her past deeds and various secret identities.

"She indeed knows a lot but..." Cara's voice came out enigmatically. "This just makes me more interested in her."

The middle-aged man said, "Cara, I've trained you for many years no less than Ashley. It will be easy for you to surpass her."

"Let her pay the price she deserves."

"Foto 14. Mr. Morgan."

As Erica hung up, Cara glanced at the screen and saw a single female name

displayed as the contact Morgan.

After waiting for a while, Cara put her phone back into her pocket and resumed smiling gently.

While waiting in the dressing room, Bryce saw Ashley and sighed wearily, tired to even banter. "I have an ad to shoot in a bit. I need to deliver

Chapter 223 now."

Knowing his schedule was always packed, Ashley waved him off. "Go on then."

“Are you going back alone?” Bryce asked.

“Someone’s coming to pick me up,” she replied.

Bryce intended to ask who it was but stopped himself, guessing it was either Joseph or Valentin.

Bryce looked at Ashley intently, turned, and walked away, casually waving his hand without looking back. “I’m off now.”

“Okay.” Ashley responded, quickly packing her things before hurrying out to the broadcast building.

Just as she found Joseph’s car in the parking lot, Haton caught up to her.

“Ashley!”

He called out, running over with his ears slightly reddened and his clear puppy-dog eyes looking at her with admiration. “Ashley, can I have your autograph?”

“Of course!” Ashley said cheerfully, smiling radiantly, “Where would you like me to sign?”

“On this photo, please!” Haton carefully produced a picture.

Ashley took it and saw that it was a shot from the show they had recorded, probably taken by Haton’s assistant.

She wondered, “They have printed it out this quickly?”

Haton scratched his head sheepishly. “Ashley, this is our first photo together... I brought a pen. Just sign directly on it!”

Ashley took the pen and signed her name in the lower right corner, followed by a heartfelt note. “May each day bring you joy.”

She thought of it as a sweet blessing for her beloved fans.

Haton's eyes lit up at the words. "May each day bring you joy." He was as excited as a puppy seeing a bone.

"Thank you, Ashley! I will always like you!!"

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Haton thought excitedly, 'My idol is the best in the world! I must protect the world

greatest Ashley!'

"Thank you. I'll keep an eye on you, too," Ashley said with a smile.

As they spoke, she suddenly felt a dark, resentful gaze on her back.

Turning sharply, Ashley saw Joseph running toward her while anxiously wiping sweat from his brow. "Ashley, what are you doing? Why are you talking so much to that handsome young man? Hurry up, get in the car."

He pondered nervously, 'Valentin's going to be jealous!'

Ashley glanced toward the car's back seat, and even though she couldn't see through the window, she could almost picture Valentin sitting inside.

She wondered in disbelief, 'Really, he's jealous over this?'

Haton, of course, recognized Joseph as the CEO of Royal Entertainment and Ashley's boss, but Haton didn't expect Ashley's boss to come pick her up personally.

'She truly lives up to the expectation as my idol. Even the boss values her so much!' Haton innocently thought.

Turning to Haton, Ashley said, "I have to go now."

"Okay, Ashley, take care on your way!" Haton waved reluctantly, and his innocent puppy-dog eyes filled with longing.

“You take care, too,” Ashley replied politely.

Once they said their goodbyes, Joseph hurriedly pulled Ashley away.

After Ashley got into the car, she sat next to Valentin and immediately felt his cold, resentful gaze, making her swallow nervously.

Tom drove while Joseph, in the passenger seat, craned his neck to look back, asking, “Ashley, what’s going on with you and Haton? Why were you talking for so long? Valentin was watching the whole time when you guys were chatting.”

Ashley was at a loss for words after hearing that.

Meanwhile, on the road outside, Jeremy, Ryan, and Matthew, who had been hiding in a corner and saw Ashley and Joseph get into the same car, quickly got into their own vehicle.

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Jeremy drove stealthily, following the car Ashley was in.

Feeling conflicted, Matthew asked, “Jeremy, is it really okay for us to secretly follow Ashley like this?”

Ryan responded, “This way, we can find out where she’s living now.”

While keeping his eyes fixed on the car Ashley was in, Jeremy followed it stealthily. “Yeah, since Ashley isn’t fond of us, this is the only way to find out where she lives.”

6/6

Send Gift

Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes Chapter 224

Chapter 224

Jeremy was driving, with Ryan seated in the back.

In the passenger seat, Matthew kept watching the car ahead, which was carrying Ashley and Joseph. He cautioned uneasily. “Jeremy, don’t get too close, Ashley might notice.”

“Like I need you to tell me that.” Jeremy maintained a steady speed, not too slow to lose them, yet not too close to be discovered.

“Jeremy, what do you think makes Joseph value Ashley so much? Sure, he’s the CEO of Royal Entertainment, but picking up Ashley himself seems a bit unreasonable, right? Why didn’t he pick up other artists from his company?” Matthew asked with suspicion.

Jeremy turned the car onto another road, explaining, “Joseph has always been protective of the artists in his company.”

“It’s not that simple. This is clearly out of line,” Matthew retorted, looking at Jeremy as if he were clueless. “Jeremy, seriously, use your mind.”

Jeremy was at a loss for words, gritting his teeth in frustration. “Shut up if you don’t want a beating!”

At that moment, Ryan spoke up. “Jeremy, Matthew is right.”

“You shut up too!” Jeremy’s forehead throbbed with veins, thinking everyone was starting to go against him.

He was annoyed at how his little brothers dared to talk to him like that.

Ryan habitually wore a black jacket. “Think about it, Jeremy. Today’s reality show was recorded by Ashley and Bryce together, and Bryce is also from Royal Entertainment. Why would Joseph pick up Ashley but not Bryce?”

Hearing Ryan put it that way, Jeremy furrowed his brows. “Huh, that’s actually true...”

Sitting in the passenger seat, Matthew suddenly made a startling connection, his voice rising in alarm. “That Joseph, he couldn’t be interested in Ashley, could he?”

As he said this, a sudden silence fell over the car.

One could hear a pin drop at that moment.

09:03

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After a while, Jeremy, grinding his teeth in anger, exclaimed, “No way! Absolutely not! Joseph, that playboy, won’t take Ashley seriously even if he likes her. Ashley will end up getting hurt!”

Ryan frowned tightly, his face showing hostility and fierce. “Right, absolutely not.”

His sister couldn’t be dragged down by such a brat.

With a regretful look, Matthew sighed, “We must protect Ashley at all costs. We can’t let Joseph get his way!”

Jeremy nodded firmly, and Ryan did the same.

The three of them were in agreement.

Meanwhile, Ashley sat in the backseat of the car ahead, glancing at Valentin beside her. She blinked. “Why did you suddenly come to pick me up?”

Valentin took her hand, fiddling with her fingers, casually saying, “Came to pick you up for dinner at Grandpa’s house.”

Ashley quickly gave him a look. There are others in the car, don’t touch my hand like that!”

Valentin seemed to know what she was thinking and smirked. “It’s fine.”

Ashley fell silent.

Tom knew that being an assistant meant being Valentin’s right hand and made sure not to pry into things he shouldn’t.

So, he kept his eyes strictly on the road ahead as he drove.

In the passenger seat, Joseph didn’t care about that. He turned around, seeing Valentin holding Ashley’s hand, and chuckled, “Ashley, going to Kingsley Manor for dinner is just one reason. More importantly, Valentin has been missing you. That’s why he came to get you even before. show was over.

your

“Actually, Valentin wanted to go inside the broadcast building to find you, but he couldn’t just show up like that. The moment he steps out, the TV station’s leadership and a whole bunch of people would come out to greet him. It would be a big hassle.

“So he had to sit in the car and wait for you. And after finally seeing you. come out, he saw you chatting and laughing with Haton for so long...

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Speaking of which, what were you and Haton talking about, Ashley?”

Ashley cleared her throat. “Nothing much, he’s a fan. He asked for my autograph.”

Valentin looked at her. “A fan?”

“Yes!” Ashley nodded firmly, not understanding why there was any reason

for jealousy, and argued. “There’s nothing wrong with signing an autograph for a fan, right?”

“I’m a fan of yours too,” he said, as if claiming a title.

Ashley was speechless.

She quickly glanced at Joseph in the front row. Sure enough, he was grinning hard, flashing his bright white teeth like a fool.

Tom, however, remained composed as a highly-paid top-tier assistant should be. He acted as if he hadn’t heard a thing, his expression unchanging.

In reality. Tom’s grip on the steering wheel tightened as he fought to keep his lips straight.

He had worked for Valentin for so many years and never heard him claim to be anyone’s fan. Only Ashley seemed to have this effect on Valentin.

Suddenly, Tom’s face turned serious, staring at the rearview mirror. “Mr. Kingsley, Ms. Ramos, a car has been following us.”

“What the heck? What car?” Joseph peered into the rearview mirror. “What’s going on?”

Valentin narrowed his eyes with a sense of sharpness.

Tom quickly asked for instructions, “Mr. Kingsley,

Should I call our head

of security, Clark, and have him come over with the team right away?”

Today was a personal day for Ashley, and she hadn't brought her bodyguard. It would be safer to call her bodyguards, considering the car following her might have ill intentions.

Sitting in the backseat, Ashley glanced rearward and spotted a familiar car amidst the traffic.

‘Isn't that Jeremy's car?’

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She saw Jeremy driving this car back when she was in Ramos Villa

Ashley frowned, double-checking to make sure she wasn't mistaken. She looked at the license plate. Indeed, it was Jeremy's car

“No need to call the bodyguard Ashley stopped Tom, meeting Valentin's questioning gaze, and sighed. The car following us is Jeremy's.”

Joseph couldn't help but curse. “Is he out of his mind? Why is he following us?”

Tom, find a place to pull over Let's stop for a bit. Ashley said.

Tom glanced at the rearview mirror. Seeing Valentin give a nod, he responded, “Alright, Ms. Ramos, there's a spot to park just up ahead.”

Soon, the car came to a stop

Ashley pushed open the door on her side, ready to step out, when suddenly Valentin grasped her wrist.

Ashley turned back, puzzled

Valentin stared at her, his eyes deep. "Ill go with you"

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Joseph agreed as he pushed open the car door, eager to follow suit. "Yeah, Ashley, let Valentin come with you!"

Who knew that lunatic Jeremy was thinking?

Thinking back to Jeremy's past behavior in the Ramos family, his attitude, and his mistreatment towards Ashley, Joseph felt he must get out of the car, too, just to be sure Ashley was safe.

Ashley caught the worry lingering in Valentin's eyes.

Her heart skipped a beat. She felt a warmth inside her heart, feeling like she had been cherished.

Her nose tingled, and she smiled, "Don't worry, I'll be fine. Jeremy wouldn't dare do anything to me now. You guys just wait for me in the car.

Valentin frowned.

Ashley gripped his hand, gently soothing over the back of his hand. “Really, I’ll be back soon. And you guys are in the car, so if anything happens, you can always come to me.”

Valentin pondered, and his eyes cast down.

Given the current situation with Jeremy, he probably wouldn’t dare do anything to her.

Reluctantly, Valentin let go of her hand and reminded her, “Make it quick.”

“Sure!” Ashley obediently responded and then got out of the car.

In Jeremy’s car behind them, seeing the car ahead suddenly stop, Matthew looked completely baffled. “Why did they suddenly stop? Should we stop too?”

Jeremy parked at the sideway. “Yeah, let’s stop for a bit and see if Ashley needs anything...”

Before Jeremy could finish, Matthew immediately shouted, “Jeremy, Ryan, Ashley’s getting out of the car! Why is she walking towards here?”

Ryan was surprised, wondering if Ashley spotted them or if she was just

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heading to the nearby supermarket.

As he pondered this, Ashley walked straight to their car and tapped on the window impatiently.

Jeremy was taken aback, then he quickly rolled down the window, his face lighting up with excitement. “Ashley! Did you come to see us?”

Ashley almost laughed out of frustration. That was ridiculous.

She peered through the window and saw Jeremy, along with Matthew and Ryan, all gathered.

“Why are you following me?” Ashley’s voice was cold, devoid of any emotion.

Now that they had been discovered, Ryan decided to get out of the car and quickly approached Ashley. “Ashley, we... We just wanted to see you. You’ve been avoiding us.”

Matthew quickly followed, stepping out of the car. ‘Damn, Ryan’s already got a head start chatting with Ashley!’

Jeremy also wanted to get out, but Ashley was standing right outside the driver’s side window. He couldn’t open the door without risking bumping into her. What if he accidentally hit her?

Jeremy’s palms started to sweat in frustration as he couldn’t get out of the car. Finally, he bit the bullet, climbing over to the passenger side and getting out from there.

“Ashley, don’t stand by the road. It’s not safe,” Jeremy said as he ran over, standing between Ashley and the passing cars on the road.

Ashley didn’t want to be protected in this way and moved under a nearby tree.

The three Ramos brothers immediately followed her.

“So, what do you guys want?” Ashley asked again, her voice indifferent.

Ryan looked at Ashley almost in a greedy way, as if he hadn’t seen her in a very long time, his throat tightening, “Ashley, we want to make for our past mistakes. Can you give us a chance?”

Ashley furrowed her brows tightly.

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Jeremy quickly spoke up. “Ashley, I don’t want to lie to you. I followed

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you secretly in my car to see where you’re living now. We want to move there too, be there for you every day, make amends, and seek your forgiveness!”

Matthew nodded, affirming that Jeremy was telling the truth.

Ashley sneered, her eyes filling with irony. “You’ve followed me and used such a trick to find out where I live without my consent. Keep that kind of amends to yourselves. I don’t want it.”

Matthew’s face turned pale, showing panic and embarrassment.

Indeed, they completely disregarded her wishes and used this sneaky way to find out her address to ease their guilt.

“Ashley, please don’t be angry, we were wrong. We should have considered your feelings!” Jeremy realized his mistake and apologized.

Ryan pressed his lips. “It was me. I told Jeremy to do it. Ashley, if you’re angry, be angry at me alone.”

Ashley looked at the three of them indifferently, not wanting to utter another word, and turned to leave.

Just then, Ryan suddenly noticed a kid learning to skateboard behind Ashley. The kid’s skateboard had gone out of control and was speeding towards them.

Ashley didn't see it coming with her back turned.

Ryan saw the whole situation clearly.

The kid on the runaway skateboard yelled in panic, "Ah! Watch of

Seeing the kid about to collide with Ashley, Ryan frowned and read out decisively, swiftly pulling Ashley out of the way.

The kid rushed past like a small cannonball, missing Ashley but hitting Ryan with a loud crash..

Tac impact was so strong that Ryan was knocked to the ground.

The skateboarding kid also fell and got up crying. He kept apologizing, "Tinocory, I'm so sorry..."

Ashby furrowed her brows and glanced at her arm, where Ryan had just pulled leenaway, pondering.

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Jeremy and Matthew snapped out of their shock and quickly helped Ryan to his feet.

At the same time, they were frustrated. It was a great opportunity to show off, after all. But they hadn't seized it. 'Damn it!'

Ryan endured the pain and looked at the crying kid, saying coldly, "It's okay. Just be more careful next time." Then, he let the kid go.

"Ashley." Ryan looked at Ashley, his stern face softening. "Don't worry about what just happened. I just didn't want to see you get hurt. Besides, you have helped me get back to my racing by finding doctors to heal my leg. Anything I do for you is only right."

Ashley glanced at him indifferently and turned to leave.

It wasn't until Ashley was out of sight that Ryan could no longer hide his pain. He grimaced, almost collapsing to the ground.

"What's wrong?" Matthew supported him. "Ryan, are you okay?"

Ryan's face was pale. He spoke through the pain. "I hit my head on a stone when I fell. It's really hurting..."

It felt like his head was about to explode.

Jeremy took a look at the back of Ryan's head, and his face turned pale immediately. "You're bleeding! Your head's cut open!"

Matthew hurriedly said, "Get to the hospital now! Ryan, let me take lead in these stunts next time. I'm tougher and can handle the falls better!"

"You wish!" Ryan retorted with his head spinning with pain, "This wound is for Ashley. I'll bear it forever!"

"Alright, let's get to the car and head to the hospital!" Jeremy said, helping Ryan to the car.

But just then, he saw someone approaching and froze.

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