

274: She's Not Qualified

"I know."

As a board member of Luminary League, Ximena had the power to approve or reject any new members.

If Caitlin thought she could just walk into their circle, she was gravely mistaken.

There was no way Ximena would allow it.

As Caitlin gracefully walked in, whispers rippled through the crowd.

"She's not a member, is she? I don't remember seeing her name on the invitation list."

"That woman is always trying to climb higher. She's probably here to force her way into Luminary League."

"She's already divorced, and yet she still flaunts herself everywhere. We should all keep an eye on our husbands."

The moment someone mentioned this, married women instantly became alert.

A single, breathtakingly beautiful woman like Caitlin?

A threat.

Women like Leah, Yasmin, and Madison—who already disliked her—were even more irritated.

Why was she everywhere?

Caitlin Faces Hostility

Caitlin remained unfazed, but Yasmin was the first to step forward.

"Caitlin? What are you doing here? You must've come to the wrong place."

Caitlin smiled lightly. "I heard today was Luminary League's charity event. Am I not allowed to attend?"

Madison's expression turned cold. "You're not one of us. Outsiders aren't welcome."

From a short distance away, Ximena and Zora watched in amusement.

There was no need for them to step in—others were already handling Caitlin for them.

But Caitlin didn't react the way they expected.

She simply said, "I came to ask Zoe how I can join."

Leah, as one of the board members, scoffed.

"Caitlin, Luminary League isn't just some club anyone can join. Even if you have money and status, you need the board's approval. Ask around—who here would agree?"

She turned to the crowd.

"Would anyone here support Caitlin joining us?"

"Absolutely not." Madison was the first to respond.

"I object as well." Yasmin followed.

One by one, more voices joined in, rejecting Caitlin outright.

Even Zora raised her hand.

In the span of a few seconds, the entire gathering had united against Caitlin.

Yasmin, smug, lifted her chin. "There you have it. No one wants you here. So why don't you leave?"

Madison smirked. "That's right. Get lost."

From the sidelines, Ximena and Zora watched with satisfaction.

Seeing Caitlin being publicly humiliated was absolutely delightful.

They didn't even have to lift a finger—the socialites were doing all the work for them.

Unbothered, Unshaken

Despite the blatant hostility, Caitlin remained unmoved.

She stood tall and serene, like an unbreakable statue standing against the storm.

She wasn't leaving.

She didn't need their approval.

Who here had the authority to make her leave?

"Is she seriously just going to stand there? So shameless!"

"Even if Zoe comes, she won't have a chance."

While they continued whispering, a sleek black car arrived at the venue.

Someone gasped.

"The president is here!"

All eyes turned toward the entrance as Zoe stepped onto the red carpet.

Dressed in an elegant black evening gown, she exuded power and confidence.

"President!"

As she passed, members instinctively greeted her with respect.

Zoe smiled warmly, exchanging brief greetings as she made her way into the crowd.

She finally came to a stop, noticing the tension in the atmosphere.

"Why is everyone gathered here? Hasn't the event started?"

Madison immediately stepped forward.

"You arrived just in time. We have an uninvited guest who refuses to leave."

She gestured toward Caitlin.

Zoe's gaze landed on her. "You're referring to Caitlin?"

"Yes!" Madison said, exasperated. "She wasn't invited, and everyone

here agrees she shouldn't be allowed in. But she's refusing to leave."

Leah chimed in. "Not only that, but she has the audacity to think she can join Luminary League. But someone like her? She's not qualified. She doesn't belong here."

Yasmin added, "Exactly! A woman with such a bad reputation has no place in our league. She should be removed immediately."

The crowd waited eagerly—they were certain Zoe would publicly reject Caitlin.

After all, Zoe was the president.

If she personally ordered Caitlin to leave, she'd have no choice but to go.

Zoe glanced at Yasmin, her expression unreadable.

But in her eyes, there was a flicker of irritation.

Then, she spoke.

"Yasmin is right."

"People with bad character don't belong here."

Yasmin smirked triumphantly.

Madison and Leah looked pleased as well.

But then—

"Come here. Remove them."

Two security guards stepped forward.

They grabbed Yasmin by the arms.

Her smug expression vanished instantly. "W-What? Why are you grabbing me? You've got the wrong person!"

Madison turned pale. "President, you must be mistaken! You're supposed to remove Caitlin!"

Leah's voice sharpened. "This is ridiculous! I am a board member of Luminary League! The Xenos Family has power in New York! You cannot treat us like this!"

Zoe's voice was cold and unwavering.

"I know exactly who I'm removing. From this moment forward, you are no longer part of Luminary League."

More guards appeared, taking hold of Leah and Madison as well.

"Wait! Stop! This isn't right!"

"You can't do this to us!"

Their pleas fell on deaf ears.

Leah, Yasmin, and Madison were dragged out of the venue — stripped of their status in Luminary League.

The entire gathering was left in shock.

Who could have imagined Zoe would expel them instead?

For Caitlin?!

This was unprecedented.

Even though many in the crowd were displeased, no one dared to question Zoe's decision.

She had sent a message.

Challenge her authority, and you will face the consequences.

A Historic Announcement

Zoe then walked up to the stage, taking her place at the microphone.

"Ladies, welcome to Luminary League's Annual Charity Gala. I appreciate all of you for being here today."

She paused, letting her gaze sweep over the audience.

"Now, I have an official announcement to make."

The room fell silent.

Zoe smiled.

"I am pleased to welcome our newest member to Luminary League—Caitlin Lewis."

She began clapping.

But the response was weak.

Most of the audience barely reacted.

They weren't happy about this decision.

Then—Ximena spoke up.

"President, as you know, all new members must be approved by the board. How can Caitlin be accepted without our vote?"