

Chapter 9

Alex went to get Olivia's shoes and even helped her put them on.

This made the live stream fans squeal with delight, calling him the perfect, doting brother.

Other viewers and fans of the show admired the strong bond between the siblings, especially those who often argued with their own brothers. They expressed envy, wishing they had a caring brother like Alex.

After Olivia changed her shoes, they continued walking up the hill. Since it was inconvenient to change clothes, Olivia's long dress trailed on the ground.

Alex kept lifting her dress hem as they walked. While this might be normal at a party or award ceremony, it seemed out of place and awkward on the narrow, steep mountain path.

Sharon, although wearing flat shoes, found her long dress impractical for the hike and had to hold it up, making her look awkward as well.

Many viewers felt like complaining, wondering why Olivia and Sharon dressed this way for a countryside shoot.

In contrast, Lindsay and Wendy dressed appropriately for walking and working.

After half an hour, Sharon, in a delicate voice, said she couldn't walk any further and needed a rest.

Olivia was also struggling despite changing her shoes; her dress was a hindrance, and years of pampering made the tough mountain path even

more challenging.

However, she knew she couldn't show her discomfort, as it would affect her popularity, especially seeing Lindsay walking effortlessly. She gritted her teeth and kept going, relieved when Sharon asked for a break.

Sharon's impractical outfit and her current complaint caused some viewers to lose their good impression of her.

Charles allowed everyone to rest for over ten minutes. After another half hour of walking, they finally saw the village.

After entering the village and walking a bit further, the crew stopped in front of a small farmhouse.

Lindsay, who had practiced martial arts almost daily since childhood, didn't feel tired after more than an hour of walking.

Besides her, only Elric, who regularly worked out and practiced kickboxing, looked relaxed.

The others were nearly exhausted, including Wendy, who had started strong but needed Lindsay's support for the last half hour.

Olivia felt like her legs were no longer her own. If they were at home or not on a live broadcast, she would have already cried to Alex. Now, she leaned on Alex, feigning an exhausted but determined expression.

Alex, feeling sorry for her, wrapped his arm around Olivia's shoulder to support her. "Via, you're tired, aren't you? I'll give you a foot massage when we get inside."

Olivia glanced at Lindsay, who was standing not far away, before sweetly responding, "Okay, thank you, brother!"

Lindsay must be feeling hurt and jealous hearing Alex's words. If she said something out of line later, it would be even better.

Alex used his free hand to ruffle Olivia's hair. "No need to thank me; you're my sister."

After saying this, he suddenly remembered his other sister was also there.

He couldn't help but glance guiltily at Lindsay.

However, Lindsay wasn't looking at him; she was talking to Wendy.

Alex felt a strange mix of relief and disappointment. If it had been before their fallout, Lindsay would have come over to check if his legs were hurting.

He began to wonder if Lindsay's cold attitude was only for the live broadcast, and if she might approach him after they went inside for a break. Perhaps she would use her special technique to massage his legs.

He even thought about whether he should graciously forgive her if she sought reconciliation or ignore her to teach her a lesson about being willful.

At that moment, Charles opened the gate to the courtyard and smiled, inviting the eight guests to enter.

"This farmhouse is the accommodation we specially arranged for you," Charles said. "Though it may not be the best brick house in the village, it's still among the top ten in terms of living conditions."

Given that they had an award-winning actor and two top-tier celebrities, the production team couldn't afford to be too harsh with the

accommodations.

Hearing this, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

As long as the crew didn't give them the worst place, it should be fine.

They entered with a bit of hope.

Upon entering, they saw a courtyard with a small vegetable garden and a few adobe houses. The doors to the adobe houses were open. 1

Charles smiled and explained, "The center building is the living and dining area, and the corner room is the kitchen and storage. The four rooms on either side are for you to stay in.

"Each room is arranged exactly the same. You can go in and take a look."

The guests walked into the nearest room and were stunned. Although the room was relatively clean and not too small, it only had two single beds and two wooden chairs. There was nothing else.

Alex looked at Charles and asked, "Why are there only beds and chairs in here?"

Charles replied with a smile, "What else do you need?"

Alex said, "What about wardrobes and tables? Where are we supposed to hang our clothes and put our things?"

It was too basic, especially with the adobe walls. He felt quite dissatisfied.

Charles shrugged. "That's up to you. We can only provide these basics. If you want wardrobes and tables, you'll have to get them yourselves."

Alex was speechless.

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He suddenly regretted joining this show.

He cleared his throat. "This basic setup might be okay for us four men, but isn't it a bit too harsh for the four women?"

Before Charles could respond, Elric rolled his eyes. "Since when can you speak for the three of us men or make decisions for the four women?"

He added, "Don't speak for me."

What did Alex mean by saying it was okay for the men? It wasn't okay for him at all. Even though he was in the entertainment industry, he didn't want to compromise and hide his feelings, especially towards Alex, whom he disliked.

Alex was momentarily speechless. "I just didn't want the female guests to feel too uncomfortable."

Olivia gave Elric an apologetic look. "My brother was only thinking about us; he didn't mean anything else."

Then she changed her tone and said, "But if you men can stay here, we can too."

By saying this, she seemed to be defending Alex while subtly highlighting her own willingness to adapt to the production team's arrangements, portraying herself as unpretentious and capable of enduring hardship.

She knew that being seen as hardworking and adaptable on a reality show was the easiest way to gain audience approval and fans.

Despite secretly despising the room and dreading a week-long stay, she

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endured it for the sake of her image and to contrast herself with Lindsay.

At this point, Lindsay suddenly spoke up, "Please don't speak for me either."

She intended to maintain a clear distance from the Harper siblings and Justin for the rest of the show, so she decided to make her stance clear from the beginning.

Moreover, her distant attitude towards the three of them in the live broadcast might intrigue the audience, making them curious about the reason behind it.

Curiosity about whether they had personal grudges in real life would naturally lead to people digging deeper for gossip.

If Lindsay pretended to get along with the three of them on the show, it would not only make her feel uncomfortable but also likely result in backlash from viewers once her true identity and those past events were revealed.

They might scold her for not standing up for herself.

Besides, if she didn't oppose them, how could Alex jump in to protect his fake sister and target her, his real sister?

Her words left Charles and the other guests momentarily stunned. They hadn't expected Lindsay to be as direct and unyielding as Elric. Wasn't she afraid of getting criticized?

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criticism would be later.

Sibling relationships weren't supposed to be like that.

Lindsay thought, let those who called her a maneater see who the real one was.

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