

## **Spoiled 171**

Chapter 171 Identical

Jones George confirmed several times before he reported: "And, Miss Charlotte Thompson is now a participating designer in the jewelery contest."

Charlotte Thompson...

Justin Battleson was taken aback.

The woman who looks just like Sophie Allen.

She's flamboyant, gorgeous, and spirited...

Even without uttering a word, she grabs attention quickly.

Justin's dark gaze faltered, he shut his laptop, stood up to adjust his suit, and walked straight out.

"To the venue."

"Yes!" Jones George followed immediately.

...

The competition site.

Evelyn Curtis's nitpicking was only a small interlude in this round.

Charlotte Thompson and the other designers have all renewed their energy, preparing for the second round of the competition.

The second round of competition began, and the venue was still filled to capacity.

Compared to the last round, where the arena was filled with Evelyn Curtis's fans, now there was an extra professional audience who came solely for the design.

The rule for the second round of competition was to design and craft jewelry on-site, and the designer whose piece received the most votes would win.

"Now the contestants can choose materials for their own production."

With the host's command, the competition began in full swing.

Everyone rushed to the front, fearing they would be late to get the materials they want.

A designated area in the venue was stocked with plenty of jewelery materials for the contestants to choose from.

Knowing the comments about her on the internet, Evelyn Curtis was distracted during recording, forgetting to manage her facial expressions in front of the camera several times.

In stark contrast, Charlotte Thompson was focused on searching for the materials she wanted at the display stand.

A blue gemstone caught her eye, and she had the prototype of her work in mind at first glance.

She would use that sapphire as the main theme, and accessorize with some pearls and tassels to create a gemstone ruyi scepter.

With the popularity of national style, her design would surely stand out among the many works.

Just as she reached out, a fair hand appeared out of nowhere, also aiming for the sapphire.

Caught off guard, both of their hands touched the gemstone at the same time, and it was unclear who it belonged to for a moment.

"I saw it first."

The contestant stared at her confrontationally, not polite at all.

It was as if she had already claimed this sapphire.

The organizers were indeed ruthless, preparing only one of each type of gemstone.

However, it was justified to avoid repetitions in design.

"You take it, I'll look for something else."

After hesitating for only a second, Charlotte Thompson let go, generously giving up the sapphire.

The contestant didn't show any gratitude, quickly snatching the sapphire, fearing Charlotte Thompson would change her mind.

On the competition stage, no one intended to give way to anyone else, the competitive spirit was strong.

Charlotte Thompson didn't care much, it was just a sapphire, snatching it back and forth was a waste of time.

"This is the generosity a good designer should have."

"There isn't even a thank you, poorly-mannered people can't design good products."

"Poor Charlotte Thompson, you must show them."

"I'm rooting for Charlotte Thompson, others as you like!"

"+1+1"

"+10087"

Charlotte Thompson's non-competitive character appealed to the netizens, prompting another wave of supportive comments.

Time was ticking, and she was empty handed, without even a proper piece of jewelry picked out.

The audience silently cheered for her, even though she couldn't see the comments, they were still supporting her behind the scenes.

Chapter 172 Joy

Charlotte Thompson didn't let this throw her off, she kept looking at the jewelry.

Racking her brain for new combinations, she sought something that would make the audience's eyes light up.

Her eyes fell on a pair of shining white shells, and Charlotte had a new idea. She was going to take a different path.

Gems indeed showcased elegance, but it seemed no one had considered whether everyone could afford them.

If she used shells, the cost and price would decrease.

Now having an idea, her actions gained speed, and she started polishing the shell by hand.

On the stage, Charlotte's focused gaze treated it like a treasure rather than just a shell.

Meanwhile, Evelyn Curtis was staring unblinkingly at Charlotte on stage, as if fixated on prey.

Thoughts uncontrollably raced in her mind.

This woman, Charlotte, was too odd—could it be she attracted attention only because she looked like Sophie Allen?

After much thought, she still felt something off about Charlotte. Why did the massive brand BK go out of its way to defend Charlotte at every turn?

Just before the second round of the competition started, BK published another Weibo post supporting Charlotte.

[We see Ms. Charlotte Thompson's abilities and hope to cooperate with her after she triumphs in this competition. We will express our utmost sincerity.]

The words affirmed Charlotte's abilities and expressed firm belief in her ability to win the competition.

The post quickly drew public attention and once again put Charlotte in the spotlight.

Who didn't know the BK brand? When had they ever publicly requested a collaboration?

"True gold does shine indeed. BK really cashed in on this one."

"I'm in love with Charlotte's works. Hurry up with the collaboration, I'm a guaranteed buyer!"

Nobody questioned Charlotte's ability, on the contrary, they're looking forward to her future.

Some people even started watching the show through BK's Weibo post, curious to find out who this designer being singled out by BK was.

Upon seeing the Weibo post, Evelyn nearly crushed her phone in her hand. Why was BK favoring her?!

Lucy watched her phone get crushed in Evelyn's hand and felt her heart ache; it was Evelyn's second destroyed phone.

"Research it for me. I want to know why BK pays so much attention to her," demanded Evelyn.

She almost ground her back teeth to a pulp, the jealousy in her eyes flaring up.

Evelyn had tried to collaborate with BK before, but they hadn't even bothered to respond to her.



Yet now Charlotte had drawn all of BK's attention, which made Evelyn feel more unbalanced.

She couldn't let Charlotte have what she herself couldn't.

Frustration was taken out on Lucy, who didn't dare to retort, only nodding in response.

Lucy was at a loss. How could she find out why? To her, Charlotte appeared to be an ordinary person.

Maybe BK was genuinely attracted by Charlotte's works, but Evelyn didn't want to admit it.

"Charlotte Thompson is Joy, a top jewelry designer in Ashton. I never thought she'd participate in Druarus's jewelry competition," said a supposed insider on the live stream about her dual identity.

Once the reveal was made, it shocked everyone.

Joy's die-hard fans flocked to the live stream upon receiving the news, hoping to get a glimpse.

Joy had always been low-profile, never appearing in public. Everyone knew the name, but nobody knew what she looked like.

The surge of viewers made the server somewhat laggy, but the number of people watching kept rising.

After the revealing information, even those who didn't know her started search about Joy.

Chapter 173: The Eternal God!

Everyone was instantly captivated by Joy's previous designs.

Each piece was like a treasured gem, deeply impacting their hearts.

The people of Ashton took great pride in wearing jewelry created by Joy, and all her pieces sold out quickly once on sale.

People were constantly urging her to release new products, but she pacified their anxieties by insisting on creating with heart, not wanting to rush for the sake of just making money.

Many contemporary jewelry designers compromise their work because they only care about turning a profit, leading to disappointing subsequent works.

In contrast, Joy is like a refreshing current among designers.

"Is this the Joy I know?"

"I waited for so long to get her pieces but failed. Who would've thought I'd have the chance to see her create in person?"

"Honestly, I saved up for three months of salary to get Joy's new piece, but I still failed to acquire it!"

"Given Charlotte's skill level, we clearly stand a win. Charlotte will absolutely win. Joy is always my goddess!"

Everyone unanimously stood in favor of Charlotte, expressing their unwavering confidence in her abilities.

The contest continued with high tension, as most contestants had completed their pieces and were working on the final touches.

"Alright, time's up. Let's see the performances of our contestants now."

The host precisely called time.

The participants who hadn't finished their pieces wore dejected expressions, abandoning all hope of winning.

Charlotte finished her product seconds before the host called time. She stood at ease in front of her work, beaming at the camera.

All the contestants' pieces were shown to the audience under the camera's guidance, but the initial few were not satisfying enough.

"Just skip ahead, I want to see Charlotte's."

"I'm so looking forward to Charlotte's creation. I wonder if she can keep up her standards and make another masterpiece."

The audience paid no attention to the others' pieces, their entire focus was on Charlotte's.

Finally, under the watchful eyes of thousands, the camera arrived at Charlotte.

Charlotte smiled confidently at the camera and began to introduce her work:

"The sea symbolizes boundless freedom, with the seashell acting as its spokesperson. Seeing it reminds me of the scene of picking up seashells while walking along the beach, and that's where I got my inspiration."

Charlotte felt a bit nervous as she humbly disclosed the inspiration behind her creation.

She dared to take a risk and chose the unattractive seashell, uncertain of the audience's evaluation of this piece.

After sharing her inspiration, the camera zoomed in to show the audience the intricate details of her work, without missing any edges.

The sharp, angular contours of the seashell were finely polished to a smooth texture, adorned with a wave design in blue, symbolizing the sea.

The piece corresponded to her introduction, unadorned by redundant sales pitches, yet it won over the masses.

"Name your price, I'll buy it!"

"Don't fight with me, it's mine!"

"Step aside! I'll pay ten times the price!"

While all the other contestants chose fine gems and pearls, this humble seashell emerged as a shining light.

A single competition piece caused such a bidding frenzy among the audience, with some even offering high prices to claim it.

The organizers specifically directed the cameramen to give Charlotte extra coverage for boosting popularity. Still, they had to be subtle about it because there were other pieces left to showcase.

With Charlotte's stunning creation providing a high benchmark, the works that followed failed to stir any excitement among the audience.

"Isn't this the sapphire that Charlotte just discarded? How did it end up looking so tacky?"

Chapter 174: Top Designer

"She's got some nerve entering a competition with Charlotte Thompson. I can't even imagine what kind of masterpiece she would create if she were actually here!"

"Does anyone can now become a designer? I'm starting to feel quite capable myself!"

The camera pans back to the contestant who was just battling Charlotte Thompson for materials, her nervous demeanor causing the audience to frown repeatedly.

A precious sapphire is garishly adorned with cheap-looking diamonds and pearls.

It looks very tacky.

It would typically be worn by nouveau riche eager to display their wealth.

Taken together with her behaviour earlier whilst grabbing materials, it's very clear her vote count would be low.

When it came to the next designer, the audience couldn't help but gape open-mouthed. What exactly had she created? Was it a cheap pearl necklace picked up from a roadside stall?

"This is identical to the bracelet I bought in Sanya last year for ten yuan!"

This comment elicited laughter among the audience. This was just another work that wasn't worth a second glance.

It was just a pity that such high-quality pearls were wasted on this creation.

"Seriously, anybody can participate in this competition, and the disparity in talent compared with Charlotte Thompson is just too great."

"I reckon they're appealing to judges like Evelyn Curtis, fearing that superior works might be above her understanding."

Online commenters didn't just mocking the other designers' works but went out of their way to disparage Evelyn Curtis as well.

As can be imagined, Evelyn's reputation had taken a considerable hit.

Once all the contestants' designs had been exhibited, joy and sorrow were felt in equal measure as the tense voting process began.

As expected, Charlotte's work received the most votes, nearly double that of the second-place contender.

Evelyn Curtis clenched her fist as she watched Charlotte's vote count rise steadily.

In secret, she had actually voted for the second-place contestant, but her votes had made no difference in the end.

She swallowed back her rage and headed back to the green room.

The moment the door closed behind her, Evelyn couldn't hold back any longer.



With a sweep of her hand, she knocked everything off the table, sending objects clattering across the room.

Lucy silently picked up the scattered objects, handed Evelyn a cup of cold water, and waited for her anger to subside.

She gulped down the cold water, her heaving chest gradually calming down. Her frustration, however, remained unvented.

"What about the thing I asked you to investigate?" The moment Evelyn mentioned this, her simmering anger started flaring up again.

During this competition, Charlotte had risen in popularity while Evelyn had been left squirming in humiliation.

She desperately needed to find out what connection there was between Charlotte and BK!

If she could uncover some scandal, she might still have a chance to salvage the situation.

"Evelyn, Charlotte is Joy." Lucy cautiously revealed the information she'd discovered.

It was a simple sentence, devoid of any embellishments.

However, revealing this information felt like a bolt of lightning to Evelyn, causing her pupils to contract in shock.

Worried that she might've misheard, she asked, "What did you say? Who is she?"

Lucy gulped, "Joy, the top designer in Ashton."

Fearing Evelyn still hadn't understood, Lucy added, "The gown by BK, she designed it herself."

As the words left her mouth, Evelyn's face remained frozen in shock.

She then asked, "Where did you hear such a rumor?"

Her eyes were locked onto Lucy, trying to spot any trace of a lie on her face.

But Lucy remained unruffled, even handing over some screenshots from the live broadcast to Evelyn.

The online comments unanimously pointed out that Charlotte was Joy, with some even praising her.

#### Chapter 175: Not Qualified

Unable to accept the reality, Evelyn Curtis inadvertently let her phone slip from her hands, causing several cracks to appear on the screen.

Looking at her cracked phone, Lucy found it somewhat painful, already thinking about replacing the screen.

And since Evelyn wasn't going to compensate her for it, Lucy had no choice but to silently cover the cost.

"Impossible, how could this happen..." Evelyn mumbled, her face filled with disbelief.

She had heard of Joy's reputation before, and had sought to borrow one of Joy's dress designs to dazzle the crowds at an event.

After asking around, Evelyn finally managed to get Joy's assistant's contact details, and explained her intention.

"Sorry, but you're not qualified enough."

Despite asking so nicely and sincerely, she'd gotten a cold rejection from Joy's side, and was directly told she wasn't of high enough status.

Now knowing that behind all these humiliations was Charlotte Thompson, Evelyn was on the verge of bursting with anger.

Just tidied by Lucy, the table was once again swept clean by Evelyn.

Lucy, weary beyond words, squatted down to pick up the pieces again.

What had just happened was only a halftime break, to give the contestants and the audience some time to catch their breath.

The break lasted only ten minutes.

Once the time was up, all the contestants gathered on the stage again, waiting for the announcement of the competition results.

Evelyn returned to her seat on the judging panel, acting calm and elegant.

As if the person backstage who was furiously venting hadn't been her.

The number of votes was still fluctuating. Apart from the few lagging behind, everyone else's numbers were rising steadily.

The atmosphere on stage was becoming tense, as all the hard work over the past few days was to be revealed at this moment.

"There are three minutes left until our voting window closes, dear audience, please quickly cast your precious vote for your favorite contestant."

To prevent vote rigging, the organizers set a rule of one person, one vote during the voting stage.

The host was trying to elevate the atmosphere, but the tension had not diminished, instead everyone was becoming more anxious.

Everyone's faces were covered with a thin layer of sweat, with their hands tightly clasping together, their palms wet and they didn't even notice.

"I'm going to call my aunts and uncles to vote for Charlotte. Wait for me, Charlotte!"

"I've already sent a message to my class group. Wait for my good news."

"I've secured twelve votes, quickly praise me."

The audience was scrambling to secure votes for their favorite candidates, and were coming up with all sorts of methods to do so. Everyone didn't want to fall behind.

Charlotte Thompson just calmly observed the competition.

Compared to the other contestants' nervousness, Charlotte had been at ease from beginning to end.

Not because the competition wasn't important, but because the decisive power lay in the hands of the audience, and getting nervous was of no avail.

One might as well have a relaxed mindset, for adding pressure would only add worry.

"Time's up, the voting session is over. Let's guess who will be the last champion?"

The host deliberately left a cliffhanger as the camera panned over each contestant's face.

The backstage crew handed a report with the voting statistics to the host, and everyone's eyes were fixed on it.

"The voting results are in my hands. Did your vote become the key one for the champion?"

You have to admit, the host knew how to keep the rhythm, a few words stirring everyone's heart.

The cameraman also knew how to capture people's hearts. The lens zoomed in on the report in his hand, but nothing could be seen.

"The champion must be Charlotte."

"Quickly announce the result, I'm so nervous that I'm going to poke a hole through my phone screen."

"It has to be Charlotte!"

"If it's not Charlotte, I'll live stream myself eating noodles while doing a handstand!"

"Hahaha, me too, I can live stream myself kneeling down in a handstand, please vote for Charlotte."

Chapter 176: Eyes Blinded by a Fart

The barrage of comments on screen was all pushing the host to stop beating around the bush. The host achieved the effect he wanted.

But there's another important matter.

"Everyone calm down, aren't we forgetting the part where the judges give their comments? Let's hear the judges' opinions first."

If it were a general audience sitting below, there'd probably be a round of boos. Unfortunately, it was just a group of special invited designers and reporters.

The urgency to know the results was like a kitten scratching at the hearts of the audience, prompting them to start complaining.

"Can we skip this part?"

"Charlotte Thompson can only be the champion, otherwise there's a conspiracy behind the contest!"

"Right, we're just waiting for the reward now!"

These words voiced the feelings of many, but unfortunately the procedure was set like this and they could only tolerate it.

"I feel like Charlotte's work may have gone off theme a bit," Evelyn Curtis brought it up as if it was just an afterthought.



Despite what the online votes say, she didn't want to let Charlotte win a high rank so easily.

Evelyn's words immediately thickened the atmosphere.

The judges also had the power. Perhaps their few words could overturn the situation.

All eyes in the venue were fixed on Evelyn, waiting for her to elaborate.

"Our theme is understated luxury, but in Charlotte's work all I see is understated. Where is the luxury?"

You must give it to Evelyn for her knack to catch onto details.

The other designers secretly agreed in their hearts, eager to see how Charlotte would respond now.

Charlotte had guessed that she would be targeted by Evelyn and calmly took the microphone handed to her by the host.

What sort of wind and waves hasn't she seen before?

Charlotte was so calm she seemed to dismiss Evelyn's comments outright.

She had considered this problem long before.

As a competent designer, she would not make such a basic mistake as straying from the theme.

"I wonder what kind of luxury Miss Curtis envisions?" She threw the question back at Evelyn, the disdain on her face was unmistakable.

Her tone was relaxed, like she was making small talk about the beautiful weather today.

Money was not an issue.

Only Evelyn could see the playfulness lurking in Charlotte's eyes.

How could she, a layperson, understand these profound concepts? All she could judge was whether it looked good or not.

Without a doubt, Charlotte's work was perfect.

The only imperfection was that the designer was Evelyn herself.

Evelyn was suddenly left speechless by Charlotte's question, opening her mouth but not knowing where to start from.

Catching a glimpse of a sapphire work, a spark flashed in Evelyn's eyes and she plucked up the courage to retaliate.

"It should at least be like this contestant's work, perfectly embodying the word 'luxury'."

Such a vulgar work was given the label of 'luxury' by Evelyn.

All Charlotte can do right now is to control her expressions, so she wouldn't burst out laughing.

"This rural trinket is something I wouldn't give even my granny!"

"What kind of aesthetic is this?! I didn't see luxury, but I did see tackiness."

"Did the show team choose the judges with their feet? There's zero professionalism!"

"Haven't you noticed? Evelyn Curtis is just making up the numbers, she isn't even a legitimate designer."

"Everyone please disregard Evelyn Curtis's absurd comments!"

"Exactly, she blinded herself with vanity. How can someone who wears knock-offs be a judge for a major design competition?"

...

The audience was in an uproar, questioning her taste. Was this judge serious?

The other judges couldn't stand it anymore. Evelyn's actions were covertly attacking Charlotte, which would only make outsiders question the professionalism of their panel of judges.

Chapter 177: First Place

"I think designer Charlotte Thompson's work is pretty good. The surrounding jewels are all pricey, and the simplicity doesn't mean it's not luxurious. All those embellishments increase its value."

Another judge gave a standard comment.

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that Charlotte put a lot of effort into selecting her materials.

Others might not know, but professionals would be aware of the pearls used for adornment, which are of high quality.

"That's how a judge should act. Does Evelyn Curtis even understand design?"

"Did she sneak in the judge panel just to stir up controversy, can't she stop copying others?"

"It's not scary to lack understanding, but pretending to know is just ridiculous. What's up with her!"

"If Curtis is smart, she should stick to acting. Why is she even a judge on a design competition?"

Internet users were pounding on their keyboards, launching a new wave of mockery at Evelyn Curtis.

Meanwhile, people's impression of her once again plunged to a freezing point.

Charlotte had achieved the effect she desired and didn't put more pressure on her.

Knowing when to stop, she quietly handed the microphone back to the host and returned to her place without being arrogant or humble.

Being publicly slapped in the face by other judges, Curtis finally learned her lesson and sat silently in her seat.

A sinister gaze landed on Charlotte's face.

Charlotte had indeed become Evelyn's foe.

Noticing her gaze, Charlotte gave her a mocking smile.

Of course, Evelyn saw it, and while she was indeed angry, all she could do was swallow it.

The critique went on as usual. The judges gave professional evaluations to each designer's work, which somewhat redeemed their reputations among the audience.

"Alright, alright, now the moment everyone's been waiting for. I am now going to announce the competition results. Fifth place is..."

A competitor's name was announced. Her work was quite creative, so it's a well-deserved victory that everyone agreed upon.

By the time the second place was announced and her name wasn't called, Charlotte was somewhat nervous. She wasn't going to lose so badly on her first public appearance, was she?

Indeed, her choice of materials was a bit unconventional, and she was unsure whether it could appeal to the audience's taste.

She was, in fact, a bit nervous.

In order to create suspense, the results would only be revealed after the votes were counted. No one knew the rankings.

The designers who had been called couldn't help but cheer and jumped around in joy. Their eyes filled with tears, thinking they had no chance.

Underneath Charlotte's excellent performance, they all felt the pressure. It was more than enough to be among the top five.

As the first place was about to be announced, everyone's hearts were hanging.

This was especially true for Charlotte's supporters who were afraid she would be disqualified due to bias.

After all, everyone knew that behind Evelyn was Justin Battleson.

And Justin Battleson was the CEO of Vanguard Jewelry.

This jewelry design competition was hosted by Vanguard Jewelry, aiming to foster and select popular jewelry designers, and also to publicly assess designers' skills to prevent any cheating.

However, now that Charlotte had offended Evelyn, no one was sure if she could be the champion.

"First place goes to Charlotte Thompson. Let's give her a round of applause."

Soon, the host announced the results. He was the first to clap and offer congratulations to Charlotte.

Unsurprisingly, Charlotte was the undisputed first place, and no one objected to this result.

Thunderous applause erupted in the room.

Evelyn Curtis sat on the judging panel, resentment and anger flashing across her delicate face.

As the camera swept over, she quickly hid her emotions and hastily put on a congratulatory smile, looking like a totally different person than a moment ago.



Such a consummate actress.

After the applause had subsided, Evelyn pinched her inner thigh hard.

She forced herself to calm down with the pain.

Chapter 178: Encounter Again

"I knew Charlotte would be crowned the winner."

"Nicely done, I wonder if that piece is for sale. I really want it!"

"Yeah, when you're a top designer, even with standard materials, you can create pieces that are absolutely breathtaking."

"Exactly, I was attracted by Charlotte immediately, she has such a fantastic aura, I never expected her to be Joy!"

A torrent of praise for Charlotte flooded the comment section.

Charlotte won this competition splendidly.

Not only because of Joy's reputation, but also her extraordinary ability, she truly deserved the championship.

The voting data have been publicly disclosed.

Charlotte's vote count led by almost ten times the second place, making her wonder if there was a problem with the system.

Along with the data, all the comments praised Charlotte and complimented her work.

Evelyn Curtis stared at the comments scrolling past with bloodshot eyes, her face alternating between pale and purple.

She dug her fingertips into her palms to maintain a calm demeanor.

Despite her visible indignation, she forced a smile to keep up appearances for the cameras.

If only she had a mirror to show her hideous expressions.

"The most important part of all, the winner gets to sign a contract with Vanguard Jewelry! Let's welcome Ms. Cindy, the director of Vanguard Jewelry, and Miss Charlotte to the signing ceremony!"

The host announces this exciting news, causing the other contestants to gaze in envy.

Joining Vanguard Jewelry means a ladder straight to the top, allowing her to sidestep obstacles and achieve unprecedented success.

Everyone knew Charlotte was at the pinnacle already, so the real anticipation was to see this powerful alliance between Joy and Vanguard Jewelry.

"Did Joy leave BK? She even came to join the design competition held by Vanguard Jewelry."

"Vanguard Jewelry is emerging as a dark horse in the jewelry industry. Joy must see the potential and hence, make the switch."

"I can tell Charlotte is from Druarus by her fluent language skills, she must be planning to return home and do us proud!"

"Yeah, I truly admire Joy! She made it as a top designer abroad and is now starting afresh back home. She's amazing!"

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The signing ceremony was prearranged, yet Director Cindy was nowhere in sight.

The atmosphere quickly stiffened, causing the host to sweat bullet.

He shot a questioning look at the staff, who were also clueless, hastily scurrying to find her.

Under the spotlight, a tall, elegant man with a commanding air enters the stage, drawing everyone's attention.

"Oh my God, isn't that Justin Battleson, CEO of Riley Group? Oh my goodness, I've only ever seen his pictures. He's even more handsome in person!"

"He is really handsome! I want to work at Riley Group."

"Keep dreaming, do you know how high Riley Group's requirements are? But honestly, I want to join them too."

"With a boss like that, I'd be willing to work even 999 hours, not just 996!"

The man's face was hard, stern, devoid of any smile.

Upon the panel, Evelyn Curtis suddenly sat upright, a flicker of surprise and delight in her eyes.

She confidently assumed that Justin was here to support her, and would definitely make Charlotte uncomfortable.

Charlotte was also taken aback by Justin's appearance at the competition, and chose to keep her composure as she was unsure about his intentions.

Under the watchful eyes of everyone, Justin Battleson walked up to Charlotte.

Chapter 179: Pleasant Cooperation

The deep eyes glittered under the light, and his prominent features were highly distinctive.

He glanced quickly at Evelyn Curtis and then turned his gaze to Charlotte Thompson's delicate face.

"Congratulations on winning the championship." He shook hands formally with Charlotte, his cool, smooth voice expressing his congratulations.

Charlotte received it with equanimity, her elegant demeanor was flawless.

On the screen, everyone was going crazy:

"So handsome, I declare him to be my husband now!"

"This sudden fluttering feeling... My heart stopped for a moment."

"It's Justin Battleson, everyone! He actually came to sign the contract in person!"

"Ah! So handsome! Awesome!"

"Justin Battleson is so handsome, why did he fall for Evelyn Curtis?"

"Justin Battleson personally attended the event, which added prestige to Charlotte Thompson."

Being attractive does have its benefits - attracting quite a few viewers with just a little exposure.

"Now, we're honored to have Mr. Battleson, our dear friend, to present the award to our champion, Miss Charlotte Thompson!" The host wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, diffusing the awkwardness that existed at this moment.

He appeared on stage unannounced, the showrunners had not expected it.

Nothing was prepared ahead of time, not even a formal on-stage arrangement.

Evelyn Curtis misinterpreted his arrival as to vent her own anger.

She looked at Charlotte triumphantly, waiting for her to embarrass herself in public.

Initially, she just wanted him to delete the news, but he actually showed up on the spot.

This just showed how important she was in Justin Battleson's eyes.

However, the thought that she had taken Sophie Allen's place to stand beside Justin left her expression oddly distorted.

But then she thought, Sophie was no longer here, everything now belonged to Evelyn Curtis.

She held her head high, still confident and triumphant.

Justin Battleson on the other side had already taken the medal from the hand of the usher.

Under the watchful eyes of everyone, Justin leaned very close to Charlotte, putting the medal around her neck in an extremely intimate manner.

In the moment he leaned closer to her, Charlotte felt her breath seize up.

She stiffened, dared not move an inch.

His warm breath spraying on her neck sparked a shiver, there was an urge to push him away.

In front of so many cameras, Charlotte had to try her best to suppress it and silently endure the discomfort.

Thankfully, the awkward moment quickly passed.

As if nothing happened, Justin Battleson straightened the medal for her.

He waved his hand, and the HR manager, who was supposed to present the award initially, quickly came up with the contract.

"Miss Thompson, this is the cooperation contract, please go over it." He casually handed the contract to Charlotte.



Charlotte knew long ago that Vanguard Jewelry was owned by Justin Battleson.

But what she did not expect was, Justin would take time out of his busy schedule to attend an unimportant awards ceremony.

But after a moment of thought, it didn't seem so strange.

After all, Evelyn Curtis was here.

Considering the large issue Evelyn had caused, maybe Justin was here to provide her support.

With these thoughts, Evelyn Curtis' fearlessness didn't seem to be unfounded.

With such a powerful sponsor behind her, wouldn't she be well-equipped to cause trouble?

Being cautious, Charlotte read over the contract from start to finish.

After confirming there were no unfavorable terms, she signed her name onto it.

"Welcome Miss Thompson to Vanguard Jewelry, looking forward to our collaboration."

"Looking forward to it."

Chapter 180: Design Director

The two of them, with appropriate smiles, announced to everyone the completion of the signing ceremony.

The camera flash froze this moment in time.

Only Evelyn Curtis from the jury panel was unhappy with this outcome, their brilliant smiles piercing her eyes.

Without the anticipated difficulties, Justin Battleson smoothly sealed the agreement for Charlotte Thompson's designs.

The result veered drastically from her expectation, leaving her unable to regain her composure.

Evelyn Curtis racked her brains, but still couldn't prevent this "tragedy" from happening.

Now, she could only watch Charlotte transform into the center of attention.

And stand next to her man, shaking hands, taking pictures together.

Suddenly, Evelyn Curtis remembered her other identity—Joy, and became even more upset.

With Joy's reputation, Charlotte could soon get a firm foothold in the Druarus design industry with the help of Vanguard Jewelry.

Yet, she hadn't found any evidence to refute this identity and could only let Charlotte rise triumphantly.

Upon the conclusion of the contract signing, Evelyn Curtis was filled with frustration and regret, completely disregarding her image.

If she had known it would turn out like this, she should have kept Justin Battleson in the dark about the member.

"She can't sign with Vanguard Jewelry!" Evelyn cried, her eyes red with fury, the sharp sound echoing backstage as she slammed her fist against the wall.

The judges who just came off the stage looked at her in surprise.

after all, the drama between her and Charlotte had even made it onto the trends.

Her conduct today had significantly tarnished her image, leaving the crowd in disbelief.

With such an outcome, no one stood by her side.

They rather thought she was losing a lot of value as a person.

"Evelyn, there are many people here, we should go back to the dressing room if there's something," Lucy lowered her voice anxiously to dissuade her at the side.

The camera kept sweeping over, their current position could easily be caught unintentionally.

The live broadcast was still going on, once exposed, Evelyn's image would be ruined.

No matter how Lucy tried to remind her, Evelyn just couldn't control her temper.

All her attention was on Justin Battleson now.

"Would you be interested in joining Vanguard Jewelry as the chief designer, guiding other company designers," the intention of Justin Battleson's visit was clear."

He was a man who valued ability, as long as Charlotte could handle the position, he could offer a high salary.

Of course, another reason was that he wanted to ascertain if she was Sophie Allen.

Charlotte glanced at the furious Evelyn backstage, and failed to voice her refusal.

With a turn of her eye, she concocted a new plan, gracefully accepting Justin's offer.

"I am honoured by your recognition. However, I wonder if my abilities will satisfy the company?"

She modestly deflected, making a few remarks intended to provoke Evelyn.

Deliberately leading Evelyn to believe that Justin might be interested in her.

Seeing Evelyn's anxious look, Charlotte felt relieved.

"Silly Charlotte, what a great opportunity, you should agree quickly!"

"If your talent isn't enough to please them, whose will be?"

"Being a top-notch designer in Ashton, it's their good fortune to sign you, Vanguard Jewelry!"

"Oh my, this is making me anxious! Just agree, Charlotte!"

The live broadcast was still going on, and the audience couldn't help but feel anxious for her, urging her to sign the contract.

Charlotte saw the barrage of comments on the big screen and was amused into a chuckle.

The smile on her face was warm as the spring breeze, enough to melt icebergs.