

A Thousand Faces Hide The Genius Heiress' Wrath

Chapter 16:

Seizing the tumultuous moment, Layne interjected sharply, "Miss Edwards, are you insinuating that Delilah's design isn't her original work but rather stolen from someone else?"

"Yes!" Janice declared, firm and unwavering.

"Janice, how could you accuse me so?" Delilah's voice cracked under the strain, her eyes brimming with tears. "I poured my soul into this design, sacrificing countless nights to perfect it. Are you really going to tarnish my efforts with such a serious accusation? I know you're jealous of me, but that doesn't give you the right to falsely claim I stole your design."

As Delilah spoke, her tears cascaded freely, stirring a wave of sympathy among the onlookers. Yet, amidst the emotional turmoil, a few remained detached, watching the scene with skeptical eyes.

They found it hard to believe that Janice, known to be a friend of JE, would make such grave accusations without substantial grounds.

“Janice, you’re accusing Delilah of stealing your design. Do you have anything to back that up?” Laurie exchanged a knowing look with Delilah, who nodded slightly—both clearly braced for the accusation.

They had meticulously erased every trace of Janice’s involvement from her design drafts, the home surveillance system, and her laptop. They left Janice without a shred of evidence to support her claims.

Suddenly, Janice erupted into a fit of sharp, mocking laughter. “How funny! Have I ever said that Delilah stole my design? Oh, what’s this? Are you perhaps confessing out of guilt?”

Delilah’s face fell as she processed Janice’s words. True, Janice had never said the design was hers. The realization struck her like a cold wave. Janice had cunningly set her up.

“Janice, out of nowhere, you accused me of stealing. I thought you were wrongfully accusing me of taking your design.” Delilah quickly defended herself, her hands clenched tightly. “At home, you’re always accusing me of taking your things. If not for our parents’ fair judgment, I would have been falsely maligned. Ah, so that’s what this is about! You’re trying to get back at me for taking your place for so long! But it wasn’t on purpose! I didn’t even want it myself!”

I@te\$t ¢#@pter\$ In g@!novel\$.com

Seeing the crowd’s compassion deepen, Delilah buried her face in her hands, her tears streaming in a heartbreaking display.

“Janice, apologize to your sister now!” Laurie commanded firmly, seizing the moment to admonish Janice. “If you still recognize me as your mother, then offer your apologies to Delilah. Otherwise, forget about returning to the Edwards family.” The bystanders were quick to judge, pointing their fingers at Janice, convinced that her behavior was retaliatory—payback for Delilah usurping her role in the Edwards family for more than ten years.

But really, who could be held accountable for the unfortunate mix-up of the two girls?

Ultimately, Delilah was a victim too.

“Come on, Janice, just say you’re sorry. Maintaining harmony in the family is what’s truly important.”

“You’re both caught up in this mess. There’s no point in harboring resentment, right?”

“Janice is downright cruel to bully her sister like that. It’s no surprise Laurie comes down hard on her. If it were up to me, I’d go even further.”

“Are all of you really that foolish?”

.

A Thousand Faces Hide The Genius Heiress' Wrath

Chapter 17:

A calm, authoritative voice cut through the murmuring crowd, bringing a sudden silence.

It was Aiden, his casual yet firm tone demanding attention.

As he played with a bracelet in his hand, Aiden continued, "You claim to be leaders in your respective fields, yet here you stand, not thinking straight. If I messed up and then pretended nothing happened, would you let me off the hook so easily?" With those words, the crowd was jolted into realization.

It became clear that Laurie and Delilah had been the loud and assertive ones all along, while Janice barely uttered a word in her own defense. Yet, everyone had sided with Delilah by default, quick to assume Janice was the instigator.

Aiden's intervention opened their eyes to the deceitful tactics of the mother-daughter pair.

Janice turned to Aiden, her face marked with surprise. She had always thought of him as just a mere spectator, but now he was defending her.

"Janice, aren't you going to say anything? You can't just watch the whole spectacle unfold, can you?"

Janice flashed a smile and responded, "You're absolutely right. These two have indeed put on quite a show, but when confronted with the hard truth, their performance falls flat." Shock registered in Delilah's eyes, her heart throbbing with discomfort. The thought of Aiden siding with Janice—and Janice's composed demeanor—unsettled her. Did Janice actually possess evidence to substantiate her accusations of theft?

"Janice, while Aiden may be under your spell, the truth will come to light. I would never stoop to theft," Delilah retorted, her voice tinged with defiance as she fought back her rising panic.

"You sure know how to bask in the attention," Janice remarked, her eyes twinkling mischievously. "What do you say we make this interesting with a bet?"

"What do you mean by that?" Delilah asked, her voice faltering as she gazed at Janice, bewildered.

Every tale finds a home at gVlnovels.com

“If you’re truly not guilty of theft, I’ll personally ask JE to mentor you,” Janice said, crossing her arms as she cast a pointed look at Laurie. “And I’ll ensure Mrs. Edwards’ company receives resources that could catapult her to the forefront of the design industry.”

Both Delilah’s and Laurie’s faces brightened at the mention of JE, a titan in the design world whose endorsement could unlock a torrent of opportunities. Suppressing her rising excitement, Delilah responded in a calm, steady voice, “What makes you think you can persuade JE to do that?”

“Because I’m her best friend. Mr. Morris will back me up on that.” Layne quickly nodded, a grin spreading across his face. “Absolutely! Miss Edwards and JE are practically inseparable. Just a word from her, and JE will agree without a second thought.”

Since Janice and JE were the same person, the decision ultimately rested solely in her own hands.

“Fine, I agree...” Delilah gave in.

“Wait!” Janice interjected, raising her hand to pause the proceedings. “I’ve laid my cards on the table. It’s only fair you do the same, don’t you think?”

Delilah's brow furrowed, a hint of irritation flickering across her face. "And what exactly are you suggesting?"

"If I can provide concrete proof of your theft, you must eat five kilograms of mangoes in front of everyone. How does that sound?"

Delilah's expression changed momentarily. The proposition seemed too lenient, almost playful.

.

.

.

A Thousand Faces Hide The Genius Heiress' Wrath

Chapter 18:

“Fine, I accept.” Delilah pondered for a brief moment before agreeing, convinced that Janice couldn’t possibly escalate the situation over such a trivial challenge. Did Janice still think she was allergic to mango? Actually, mango was her favorite fruit. A chuckle escaped Janice’s lips. She had anticipated a bit of resistance, but Delilah had capitulated far more easily than expected. With a sly grin, she muttered under her breath, “Let the show begin.”

“So, Janice, where’s that proof you’re talking about?” Delilah pressed, her voice soft yet her eyes piercing with determination. She was confident Janice’s challenge was nothing more than a ploy. After all, she had meticulously covered her tracks, leaving no evidence behind.

“Ladies and gentlemen, surely you all know me as JE’s best friend, correct?” Janice scanned the room, her query hanging in the air. Heads nodded in agreement around the room, a silent testament to her claimed bond—even Layne had endorsed it.

“Janice, are you exploiting your connection to JE to wrongfully accuse me of stealing your design?” Delilah’s voice carried a touch of indignation. “Though JE is esteemed by all here, I trust that doesn’t blind them to the truth. And just because you’re JE’s friend doesn’t give you the right to oppress the innocent.”

Janice shook her head. “Let me ask again—when did I ever claim you stole my design?”

Caught completely off guard, Delilah let out a sharp scoff. “What then? Are you insinuating that I stole JE’s design? Ha-ha!” The tension broke momentarily as Laurie chuckled alongside her. “Enough of this charade, you ungrateful girl! Apologize now, and perhaps I can convince Delilah to overlook this debacle.”

“That’s right—you’ve stolen JE’s design.” Janice’s abrupt accusation cut through the air like a blade.

“Delilah stole from JE? How can that be?”

“Everyone knows JE is famously elusive and never shows her face. So how could Delilah have stolen her design? That’s impossible!”

Let your mind wander with [gVlnovels . com](http://gVlnovels.com)

“No way! Delilah’s design, though impressive, doesn’t mirror JE’s signature style. Known for her meticulous perfection, JE would never endorse such a piece.”

The room buzzed with wild speculation and theories.

Janice remained poised, a hint of amusement flickering across her face as she watched Delilah, who stood there bewildered.

Delilah racked her brain, trying to understand how Janice could brazenly accuse her of such a deceitful act. She knew well that JE’s devoted followers in the room would defend their idol fiercely without her needing to utter a single word.

“Ladies and gentlemen!” Janice suddenly called out, silencing the room as she brandished a USB drive along with a document in the air. “Here, I hold the original drafts and the patent certificate, courtesy of my friend.”

“Janice, haven’t you had enough already?” Laurie snapped, her patience finally wearing thin. “By making these baseless accusations against Delilah, you’re not just claiming she stole JE’s design—you’ve even gone so far as to fabricate evidence. Are you seriously aiming to get locked up?”

“Mom, please, calm down. Janice—”

“Could you both just shut it for a second?” Janice interrupted, her tone laced with irritation. “Must I endure your endless bickering? Believe me, it’s hardly music to my ears.”

Janice’s harsh retort caught everyone off guard. For someone graced with such striking beauty, her brusque speech seemed at odds with her pretty features.

Aiden, however, found this bold, outspoken woman much more captivating than her formerly meek demeanor.

.

A Thousand Faces Hide The Genius Heiress' Wrath

Chapter 19:

“The truth will out once we examine the evidence.” Janice’s eyes sent a silent message to Layne.

Layne quickly retrieved the USB drive and the patent document for inspection.

As Layne’s face turned solemn upon examining the document, a wave of tension swept through the onlookers.

“Mr. Morris, can you confirm whether it’s genuine?”

“Everyone, I ask for your patience. Let me verify the details first,” Layne announced, slipping the USB drive into the laptop to reveal the design to the waiting crowd. As the design materialized on the screen, a wave of astonishment swept through the room.

“This is identical to Delilah’s design.”

“Could it be possible that Delilah actually stole JE’s design?”

“No, that can’t be right. This must be a counterfeit. JE’s designs are usually much more sophisticated.”

Meanwhile, Delilah’s expression changed. Had she not thoroughly eradicated all evidence? Why then did an original still exist? Had Janice meticulously set this cunning trap from the very beginning, luring her straight into it? No, losing her composure over this wasn’t an option.

Taking a deep breath, she steadied her nerves. It was only an original copy—not enough to thoroughly implicate her.

“Janice, you’ve gone to elaborate lengths, fabricating this so-called original just to ostracize me from the Edwards family. If this vindicates you, then so be it...”

“Delilah, what nonsense are you talking about?” Laurie exclaimed, rushing to Delilah’s side to bolster her faltering spirit. “Regardless of her schemes, you remain my daughter. If anyone should be ousted from the Edwards family, it should be her, not you.”

“Mom, I regret coming here. I’ve spent countless nights perfecting this design, only for Janice to...”

Janice inhaled deeply, her gaze sweeping over the tear-streaked faces of the mother-daughter pair who had mastered the art of theatrical distress.

Their sorrowful display successfully swayed the audience, who began to view Janice with skepticism and disapproval.

“Everyone, do you think this design falls short of JE’s renowned standards?” Janice asked, her voice a calm anchor in the storm of murmurs.

“That’s correct,” Aiden chimed in, his posture relaxed and his eyes fixed on Janice with an air of casual critique. “JE is known for her meticulousness. While this design is impressive, it certainly doesn’t showcase her best work.”

“Mr. Green, I’m surprised you’re so well-acquainted with JE’s work.”

“Considering JE’s stature in the design industry, it’s only natural I keep informed,” Aiden replied, his tone a blend of earnest admiration and calculated flattery.

Janice remained unfazed by the insincerity in Aiden's remarks. She was focused on steering the conversation forward.

“Indeed, JE is a stickler for perfection. It's unthinkable that she would approve this design for public viewing. However...” Janice let her voice trail off, injecting a dramatic pause that sent a ripple of tension through Delilah and Laurie. “This is genuinely JE's design. But it's half-finished.”

Janice gave Layne a wink, who nodded in understanding and stepped forward with a document in hand.

.

.

.

A Thousand Faces Hide The Genius Heiress' Wrath

Chapter 20:

“This is the certified patent document JE applied for. The patterns and details match flawlessly with the design. This proves without a doubt that the rightful creator of this design is...”

This revelation struck Delilah and Laurie like a bolt of lightning. The weight of the patent was undeniable—it overshadowed any arguments they could make about the modification timestamps on the USB drive’s design.

“Oh my God! Did Delilah actually steal JE’s design?”

“But how? JE and Delilah don’t even know each other. How on earth could she have stolen it?”

“Don’t you get it? Janice and JE are friends. JE showed Janice the design, and Delilah ended up stealing it. Tsk, thinking back on Delilah and Laurie’s charade earlier, it’s just utterly disgusting.”

“Disgusting barely covers it. It’s downright infuriating. To think they painted themselves as the victims. I actually pitied them before. Now, I feel like slapping myself for believing their story.”

“Watch Delilah putting on that innocent act. What a master of deception!”

Janice, overhearing the chatter, reveled in a quiet sense of triumph, sparing her the hassle of outing Delilah’s misdemeanors herself.

“Delilah, you stole JE’s design and passed it off as your own creation for this contest. Given your knack for feigning innocence, I might have overlooked it. If you’re going to steal, at least take the finished design. Why grab something that’s only half-done?”

Janice’s accusation left Delilah exposed and ashamed.

“Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to present the final version of this design,” Janice declared, snapping her fingers.

Layne promptly projected the completed design, capturing everyone’s attention.

Latest chapters in *galnovels.com*

When the final version of the design was unveiled, the room fell into awestruck silence. The gap between the initial version and the final was stark and undeniable. The flamboyance of the earlier design had been tempered, resulting in a more subdued elegance that carried a distinct charm. The garment’s craftsmanship was impeccable, leaving an indelible impression on all who viewed it.

“This is precisely where JE’s talent should position her!”

“After all my years in the industry, achieving even a fraction of JE’s skill would be the pinnacle of my career.”

“Delilah, you despicable thief, get off the stage! You’re a disgrace to the fashion industry, a parasite. You have no business calling yourself a designer.”

In a flash of anger, an audience member flung a bottle of mineral water at Delilah. It struck her, dousing her face and ruining her polished look.

“Stop it!” Laurie bellowed, stepping in front of Delilah with fierce protectiveness, her voice booming through the chaos. “If you want to get to my daughter, you’ll have to go through me first!”

“Mrs. Edwards, you’re a disgrace as well. You shield your daughter, knowing full well she stole JE’s design. You bring dishonor upon our profession!”

“Oh, the irony. Mrs. Edwards must be delusional. She has such a strong affection for her adopted daughter that she is willing to sever ties with her real daughter, disregarding her bond with JE. It’s like she’s gone completely insane.”

“I’ve heard that Mrs. Edwards’ company is failing to deliver on a project. If her biological daughter had simply reached out to JE for help, all of this could have been avoided.”

These words resonated deeply with Laurie, leaving her momentarily speechless. Indeed, Janice and JE shared a bond akin to that of sisters. If Janice were to ask JE for a favor,

wouldn't the problem be solved effortlessly? Yet, how could she have guessed that Janice, who typically sought only her approval, would form such a close connection with JE? Now that the truth had dawned on her, it felt almost unbelievable.

.

.

.