

Chapter 801

The man lifted his head and got up from the ground. Touching her shoulder lightly, he said, "I'm sorry, Jan. Does it hurt?"

His powerful heartbeat pounded in her ears. It was hard for her to push him aside even if she wanted to. Hence, she simply turned her head away and quietly said, "It doesn't hurt."

When Mason heard her reply, he pressed his thin lips against her ears and whispered, "Jan, I deserve to die. Why didn't I recognize you earlier? If I did, then you wouldn't have to suffer this gunshot wound. I'm willing to give you everything I have, including my life."

Every word Mason said came from the sincere emotions in his heart. Thus, it caused Janet's heart to tremble slightly in response.

"I willingly took this shot in your place." Janet lightly lifted her gaze and wrapped her hands around the man's waist. Even if he dispatched ten fighter jets to deal with me, I still can't bear to watch him die in front of me.

They left Royal Garden; Mason carried Janet into the car. As soon as they were seated, he couldn't wait to kiss her. Jan; my lovely Jan. Who cares if Rose is Jan? Jan is still Jan; she is the only love of my life.

Janet's heart trembled slightly. She did not refuse him and simply accepted his kisses.

"You can't get mad at me or ignore me when we return. You have to treat me as nicely as you used to, okay? I will do whatever you ask in the future. I will tell you everything about Black Rain. I'll take out the fighter jets for you to play with too. Or, I could get shot too. That way, it'll be fair." The man's voice was hoarse and deep. Moreover, every word seeped into her heart. She whispered, "Okay."

Pushing open the door, the man entered the master bedroom of the Lowry Residence. Janet opened her eyes slightly. A surprised expression came over her face when she saw Mason holding a gun in his hands.

He placed the gun on the bed with a slight smile at the corner of his lips. He self-deprecatingly said, "Jan, you can shoot me in the shoulder right now."

For a moment, she felt rather speechless inside and said nothing to him.

"It's not like you shot me in the arm." She felt very exasperated. Why is he so caught up with this idea? Does he have to get shot before he is satisfied?

"It's not entirely your fault. I'm partly responsible too." Although she didn't want to admit it, that was the truth.

The man's gaze was solemn as they stared at each other for a moment. A short while later, he finally said, "I nearly forgot that a cheeky brat has been deceiving me all this while."

"Are you going to punish her?" She blinked; her eyes were filled with a teasing look.

"I won't hurt her, but I'll use another method to punish her!" His eyes flashed. He deliberately made his tone very serious, acting as if he were really going to do so.

She looked away, feeling guilty. "The cheeky brat is injured. She can't take any punishment."

The man felt anxious when he heard those words. Then, he leaned over and planted a kiss on her forehead. "I'm sorry."

"By the way..." She narrowed her eyes as her fingertips lightly brushed across the man's palm. "When did you notice that I was Rose?"

A slight blush crept across the man's cold and handsome face. "The touch of your lips..." He was convinced the moment his body did not reject her touch. However, he was in too much of a panic at the time to calm down and reflect on it.

Upon hearing those words, Janet couldn't help pursing her lips. "Then, when did you become certain about it?"

"When Mr. Goldstein called me this morning to tell me that your essay plagiarized Rose's novels."

Chapter 802

Mason knew her personality. Therefore, he also knew that she would never do something like plagiarism. The moment he heard about it, he was 100% convinced. That was why he went to Royal Garden to look for her!

Plagiarism? Janet only heard that one word out of everything else he said. "Has this reached Mr. Goldstein's ears?"

He nodded in response. The situation at the time had been too pressing. Thus, I hung up on Mr. Goldstein without even thinking about it. Now that I think about it, it might have been too reckless. "Jan, I'll send Sean over to take care of things over there. You should rest for a while. I'll make a nutritious soup for you later, okay?"

She frowned, her eyes flashing slightly. Then, she grabbed the man's arm. "Don't trouble Sean with this. There is zero tolerance for plagiarism at Woodsbury University. Don't trouble Mr. Goldstein either. I will go to school tomorrow to clarify the matter myself." If my guess is correct, this is something Hazel and Madelaine cooked up together.

Seeing her preoccupied look, he frowned unhappily. He reached out and tucked her back into bed. "Get a good rest first. You can think about tomorrow's matters tomorrow."

She felt helpless. Pulling at her blankets, she inadvertently glanced at his hand on her shoulder. After that, she intentionally blinked at him and teased him using Rose's manner of speaking, "Boss, it hurts..."

The man looked at her, feeling both annoyed and amused. "Are you doing this on purpose?"

"Uh-huh." Janet made no secret of her intentions. Her eyes were provocative and wicked.

At 8 AM the next day, Janet walked in through the gates of Woodsbury University as usual. Her presence attracted many gazes from the field toward her. She was wearing a hat and carrying a black backpack. Moreover, her half-open eyelids could not conceal the evil aura around her.

Only after Janet left did everybody dare to continue talking behind her back.

"I can't believe Janet still has the guts to come to school. I thought she dropped out of school on her own initiative."

"That's right. How dare she so shamelessly plagiarize Rose's novels?"

"Rose's writing style is so unique. I can't believe she plagiarized it so brazenly. It's way too shameless of her. Did she think the teacher wouldn't notice it when marking her papers?"

"Yeah. Nina Hogan seems to be trying to protect her. If not for the fact that somebody reported it to the principal, this matter might have gone unnoticed!"

"Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. I wonder what kind of background Janet is hiding. Even Miss Hogan, who has always proudly upheld her principles, would actually cover for her. It's unbelievable!"

Janet was too far away. So, she naturally did not hear their comments. She simply went about her business and walked to her classroom.

Inside the classroom, the students had all sorts of expressions on their faces. Moreover, the atmosphere was incredibly awkward.

Chapter 803

Abby and Sharon walked over from outside, looking panicked. "Janet, quickly come out and have a look! Your test paper is being posted on the school's bulletin board!"

Janet was expressionless when she heard those words. She stood up and lazily walked outside. At the moment, a group of people was surrounding the school's bulletin board. Moreover, most of them were students from the department of literature.

"Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. So, the person who was accused of plagiarism a few days ago was Janet indeed!"

"I'm so shocked. How could she even dare to plagiarize Rose's works?!"

"She even managed to copy it so accurately. It's such an insult to Rose."

"Does she think that there are no fans of Rose in the university? Is that why she thought we would have kept quiet about this?"

For many in the department of literature, Rose was their idol—many of them studied literature because of their admiration for Rose.

Abby, Sharon, and Summer were dumbfounded. A few days ago, they had been defending Janet. However, the similarity between the writing style and content was indeed very high. Therefore, they were at a loss for what to say for a moment.

Abby strongly believed in Janet's character. Even so, she didn't know how to explain the similarity between Janet and Rose's works. Thus, she didn't know what to say so as to not hurt Janet's pride. "Janet, this—"

Janet glanced at their cautious behavior. Raising her eyebrows, she very casually asked, "What's this? Even you guys think that I'm plagiarizing?"

"No! Of course not!" Sharon and Summer practically denied it at the same time.

"That's right. We've been friends for such a long time. Do you think I still don't understand your nature?" Abby lowered her head, looking slightly aggrieved. Besides, a top scorer with perfect scores does not need to plagiarize anybody.

Janet's red lips curved slightly. With a lazy look in her eye, she reached up and patted Abby's head. "You'll know soon."

At the performance arts school, a small group of people was huddled in a corner and gossiping about Janet.

"Madelaine, I was still supporting Janet a few days ago. I can't believe she turned out to be this kind of person."

"She even dared to plagiarize Rose's works. She is way too shameless."

"No wonder you hate her so much, Madelaine. It turns out there's a reason for your hatred. I almost misunderstood you."

"This has become such a big deal. Do you think Mr. Goldstein will expel her?"

"Who knows? After all, she is the university's poster girl. Now that she is involved in such a huge scandal, Woodsbury University's reputation has been ruined because of her."

Madelaine listened to everybody's comments. Then, the smile on her face grew wider. "Oh, my. Although I hate her, please don't speak ill of her behind her back. It might turn out to be just a misunderstanding."

"What do you mean by misunderstanding? Her test papers have been posted in public. If she dared to plagiarize, then why is she afraid of being criticized? How shameless!"

"That's right. If she dares to do it, then she should accept the consequences of her actions. Why is she hiding at home like a turtle hiding in its shell?"

"Yeah. She didn't come to school today. It's most likely that she was going through the paperwork to withdraw from the university."

"Madelaine, stop defending her. These are the consequences of her own actions. She can bear them herself."

Madelaine deliberately curled the corners of her lips and sighed. "Say; do you think Janet may be Rose? After all, we've never seen Rose in person before."

"Stop joking, Madelaine. Rose can't be this young."

"Yeah. Rose's writing style is so unique and sophisticated. How could she be such a young girl?"

"That's right. If Janet is Rose, then she wouldn't have taken a leave of absence yesterday. That's a clear indication of her guilty conscience."

Chapter 804

"Mm-hmm." Madelaine was grinning so widely that she couldn't hide her smile anymore. "Let's wait and see how Mr. Goldstein will resolve this matter."

To be honest, that last sentence was simply said out of politeness. After what happened this time, Mr. Goldstein will surely expel Janet without a second thought. Just thinking about it made Madelaine incredibly happy inside.

In front of the bulletin board, Hazel took out her phone and gave Emily a call. The call quickly connected, and a high-pitched female voice came from the other side of the phone. "Hello."

She pursed her lips with her eyes curving upward in a smile and triumphantly said, "Janet came to school today. I'm sure she will be called to the principal's office soon."

On the other side of the phone, Emily instantly became delighted upon hearing those words. Even her voice trembled from joy. "That's awesome! Hazel, you're brilliant!"

Hazel lowered her head and smiled at the praise. "It's all because you introduced me to Madelaine. All of these were her ideas." If not for Madelaine, I wouldn't be able to deal with Janet alone.

"I knew Madelaine would be able to give you a hand." Emily's triumphant smile was filled with expectation. I wish I could see Janet being kicked out of Woodsbury University myself. Not only is she somebody's mistress, but she also plagiarized Rose's works. And now, she still dares to act as if nothing has happened! How shameless can she be?!

Inside the medical school, Janet, Abby, and the others returned from the outside. Before they even took one step into the classroom, they instantly became the targets of their classmates' criticism.

"Hmph. I thought she wasn't coming anymore."

"She is so shameless. How could she not come?"

"Does she think that she can plagiarize Rose's works just because she thinks Rose doesn't have fans here?"

"Does she take us fans for fools?!"

"It's too bad she is not using it for commercial purposes. Otherwise, I'd ask Rose to sue her."

"What are you talking about? Janet will not plagiarize anybody. There must be some sort of misunderstanding going on."

"That's right. Janet hasn't said a single thing. Isn't it unfair of you to accuse her of plagiarism?"

"What is so unfair about it? Didn't she write that test paper herself? Or, are you saying she is Lady Rose herself?! What a joke!"

The medical school was split into two factions. One side was supportive of Janet while the other side was criticizing her badly. Both sides were not willing to back down at all.

"That's enough. Stop arguing." At that moment, Nina walked inside. A look of admiration and respect flashed across her face the moment she caught sight of Janet.

Upon noticing Nina's expression, everyone couldn't help feeling shocked by the sight. Did Janet drug Miss Hogan or something? Why is Miss Hogan looking at her with such admiration and respect? For a moment, nobody could understand her reaction.

"Miss Hogan, I don't want to be in the same classroom as somebody who plagiarizes," somebody said. The person who spoke up was one of Rose's loyal fans.

Nina frowned. She didn't know how to explain the situation. Thus, she looked at Janet and calmly said, "Miss Jackson, please head to the principal's office. He wants to see you."

Janet nodded in response to those words and expressionlessly replied, "Okay."

Following that, her classmates immediately smiled.

"Well, well, well. Somebody has reported it to the principal."

"Hahaha. Mr. Goldstein must have gotten to the bottom of the matter. That must be why he is calling her over."

"Looks like it."

"This is great! In any case, I will curse anybody who dares to plagiarize Lady Rose's works."

On the other side, the principal, Hazel Fuller of the medical school, and Madelaine Yates of the performing arts school were gathered in the principal's office. As Hazel and Madelaine had blown the whistle on Janet using their real names, it was only natural for them to be called to the office to explain the situation too.

Chapter 805

Robert looked at the document on his desk that Hazel had printed out with a slightly troubled expression. I explained the situation to Young Master Mason yesterday, but he hung up on me before I could finish. I don't know how I should deal with this situation. And now, Hazel and Madelaine are here to pressure me again. He could feel the heavy pressure bearing down on his shoulders.

The corners of Hazel's mouth were slightly curved upward. "Mr. Goldstein, I told you about Janet's case of plagiarism yesterday. How do you plan to resolve this matter?"

Hazel was the daughter of the president of Yobril's National Council. She wasn't somebody he could afford to offend. Thus, he had a difficult expression on his face. "I've asked Miss Hogan to call Janet here. She should arrive soon."

Madelaine didn't have a powerful background backing her. Therefore, she did not dare to upset him and could only hide behind Hazel. "Mr. Goldstein, this plagiarism issue is beyond a shadow of a doubt. You cannot cover for Miss Jackson's misdeeds."

He pursed his lips slightly and adjusted his glasses before coldly replying, "If it is confirmed that Janet is involved in plagiarism, then I will deal with it impartially."

She narrowed her eyes slightly and smiled sinisterly.

A few minutes later, a series of knocks sounded on the office's door. Robert pulled himself back to the present. With an ugly expression, he calmly said, "Enter."

Janet pushed open the office door. Pulling her cap lower, she slowly walked inside. Her voice was cold and distant as she looked at the man sitting in the main seat. "Mr. Goldstein, were you looking for me?"

He pushed the document on his desk that Hazel had printed out over to Janet. Then, he sighed. "Right now, there are students who have reported you for plagiarism in the essay portion of your test. This is the evidence."

She picked up the test papers on the desk and glanced at them expressionlessly. "I see."

Her offhanded reply of 'I see' utterly enraged both Hazel and Madelaine.

A slight livid expression appeared on Hazel's delicate face. She sneered, "Janet Jackson, the evidence is right in front of you. Aren't you going to explain yourself?!"

"That's right. How shameless can you be?! You ruined the reputation of Woodsbury University because of your act of plagiarism!" Madelaine supportively added while hiding behind Hazel.

Janet narrowed her eyes slightly in response. She swept her gaze over Hazel and Madelaine, emitting a terrible chill from her eyes.

Hazel held her head high and countered without showing any weaknesses. "Janet, you have done worse things than this. So, don't look at me with those eyes. I'm not afraid of you." Miss Hogan is covering for her out of fear. But, I am the daughter of the president of Yobril's National Council. I'm not afraid of her at all.

Janet scoffed slightly. The look in her eyes was as sharp and piercing as a knife.

As a result, Madelaine didn't dare to look straight at Janet's eyes and hurriedly shifted her gaze away.

Janet smiled slightly. Without getting consent from Robert, she sat down on the sofa and crossed her leg over her knee. She looked rather cocky.

Robert felt a chill going down his back. At the same time, his palms were covered in cold sweat. Why do I feel that Janet is becoming more and more like Mason? It's terrifying! He spoke up suddenly. "Miss Jackson, do you have anything to say in your defense? Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you have no evidence to prove otherwise, I have no choice but to act in accordance with the university's regulations."

The corners of her eyes lifted slightly as she calmly replied, "This isn't plagiarism."

Madelaine burst into laughter at those words. She stepped forward, grabbed the test papers, and threw them at Janet. "Look at the contents and the writing style! The similarity is 60%! How can you so shamelessly claim that you did not plagiarize? Have some shame!"

Janet caught the test papers that were thrown at her and crushed them in her hands. Then, she got up slightly. The smile at the corner of her lips was very shallow; her eyes seemed to be covered in a layer of ice. "What right do you have to post my test papers on the bulletin board?"

Chapter 806

Robert was frightened by Janet's aura. I've never experienced this kind of pressure around Young Master Mason before. To think my first experience of such a powerful aura would

come from her. Cold sweat broke out on his palms. He wanted to step forward and say something. "Ja—"

"Try and throw this in my face again if you dare. I'll let you have a taste of what regret means." Janet's voice was icy. She crumpled the test papers and threw them into the trash can.

Interrupted before he could even speak, he looked embarrassed. Then, he swallowed with some difficulty and did not dare to say another word.

It was clear that Madelaine had been frightened by Janet's words too. She hurriedly hid behind Hazel and stubbornly said, "I'm speaking the truth!"

Hazel squeezed her hands and pretended to be calm. "Miss Yates is speaking the truth. If you didn't plagiarize, then are you saying that you are Rose?"

Janet did not reply to that. However, the air around her body was frosty and terrifying.

Hazel hurriedly turned to Robert. "Mr. Goldstein, I believe the truth is as clear as day. Are you still going to cover for Miss Jackson? How will your actions impact Woodsbury University's reputation if you publicly defend her today? Have you considered that?"

Janet raised her beautiful eyes. Her eyes were brimming with a rakish and self-confident aura, and the corners of her mouth lifted slightly. "What if I am Rose? Would this still count as plagiarism?"

"Rose?" When everybody heard that name, they thought they were experiencing auditory hallucinations.

The corner of Hazel's mouth curled into a sneer. She had a scornful look in her eyes as she mockingly said, "What? Did you say that you are Rose? If so, I'd be the chairperson of Yobril's Writers Association!"

When Madelaine heard Janet's reply, she also began to double over in mocking laughter. "Hahahaha! You sure dare to claim just about anybody's name, don't you?! What nerve you have!"

Robert looked very embarrassed listening to the conversation between them. Janet is indeed overdoing it a little. If she were Rose herself, then she doesn't need to study

medicine anymore. She is more than qualified to be a lecturer at Woodsbury University's department of literature!

Before Hazel could say anything again, Janet smiled lazily. "If you don't believe me, you can contact Eric Lawson of the Writers Association to confirm it."

The Tenth National Writers Association Meeting was being held in Sandfort City recently—it was something Eric had constantly been trying to invite her to attend. Since she did not allow Lee to reveal the fact that she was studying at Woodsbury University, both the Writers Association and Eric were fervently searching for her over the past few days in hopes that she would attend the Writers Association Meeting.

As for who Eric Lawson was... He was none other than the director of the Online Literature Committee of the Writers Association, also revered as 'Secretary Lawson'. Everybody in the department of literature knew of him. Just from that, one could see how convincing his testimony would be!

Hence, Madelaine touched her chin and smilingly said, "Janet, have you gone crazy after fantasizing a little too much about being Rose? Even the lecturers at Woodsbury University's department of literature are not qualified to participate in the Writers Association's events. Nevertheless, you are very well-informed. You even know the work schedule of the political bodies."

Janet coldly glanced at Madelaine and blatantly ignored what she just said. She glanced at the man sitting in the main seat instead. "Mr. Goldstein, if you don't believe me, you can call Eric to verify my words."

"Uh—" Robert looked troubled when he heard her words. The National Writers Association and Secretary Lawson are important figures. It's hard for me to even get a meeting with them, much less have their contact information. Where am I supposed to get their contact information? Isn't this simply making things difficult for me? He felt a headache coming over him.

Hazel pursed her lips before standing up and walking to the front. "Mr. Goldstein, I agree with Miss Jackson's suggestion. It's best if we contact the Writers Association to ensure the truth of the matter."

I can't believe Janet wants us to contact the Writers Association. That's like offering her cheek for us to slap! How foolish!

"But, how do we contact them? It's not like we know anybody from the Writers Association." Madelaine looked distressed. Turning around, she changed her expression. She scolded Janet while pointing at her. "You're doing this on purpose!" Janet knows that we don't know anybody within the Writers Association. That's why she gave this excuse to avoid being exposed. What a cunning girl.

Janet lifted her charming eyes slightly. Her voice was low and cold as her black eyes stared at the man in the main seat intently. "Why don't you ask the lecturers of the department of literature? They might know somebody within the Writers Association."

Upon hearing those words, Robert's tightly furrowed eyebrows relaxed immediately. He nodded in agreement. "Alright. That's a great suggestion, Miss Jackson." After saying that, he quickly picked up the phone beside him and swiftly called one of the lecturers of the department of literature. "Please come to my office."

Theo Richardson was teaching a class at the department of literature when he suddenly received that phone call. Therefore, he had no choice but to drop everything he was doing at the moment and head toward the principal's office. Consequently, everybody in the department of literature learned about the matter. The news spread across the campus like wildfire, and soon, the entire Woodsbury University knew about it.

"Janet personally claimed that the Writers Association would confirm her identity."

"No way! How shameless can Janet get? She must be addicted to masquerading as Rose."

"Back when Rose's first book, 'Warm Blade', sold out, she somehow got her hands on more than 30 copies of the book and gave each person in Class F of Star High School a copy of the book."

"What?! Something like that happened before? Could those books be pirated copies?"

"Hehe; that's probably it. She has already started impersonating Rose since she was in high school. She just has to be so pretentious."

"Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. How shameless of her. Now, I'm curious to see how the Writers Association will punish her."

"Isn't she afraid of being sued by Rose?"

"People like her are delusional. I think the mental hospital is the best place for her."

"Haha. Once Mr. Goldstein questions the Writers Association himself, they will surely expose her lie."

"Hahahaha! That's right! Let's just wait for the excitement to unfold."

Nobody was in the mood to study anymore after witnessing such a disturbance. Hence, they hurriedly went to the principal's office to join in on the fun. In less than ten minutes, a large crowd had gathered outside the principal's office.

At the same time, Theo Richardson of the department of literature arrived outside the principal's office.

Not only was he familiar with the name 'Rose' prior to this incident, but he also admired her works very much. In his mind, he imagined Rose to be a middle-aged woman in her forties or fifties. He had never expected her to be a student studying at Woodsbury University.

Needless to say, he did not believe that Janet was Rose. After all, she could replace him as a lecturer at the department of literature if she were Rose. Why would she study medicine instead?

Upon learning that Janet was impersonating Rose, he found her actions to be inconceivable and absolutely absurd. Thus, he felt quite displeased to see the person who was impersonating somebody he admired! His expression was dark, and his voice was chilly. "I know the people in the Writers Association. However, they have been busy hosting the Tenth Writers Association Meeting recently. I'm not sure if they have the time to come and verify your statement."

The meaning behind Theo's words was clear. He was warning Janet to come clean about her identity, quit before things got more complicated, and stop impersonating Rose—so that she didn't embarrass them in front of the Writers Association.

Janet's jaw tightened slightly. She languidly said, "It's okay. Eric Lawson of the Writers Association, also known as Secretary Lawson, knows who I am. I think he will be able to recognize my voice too."

Chapter 808

Janet had Eric's contact information since the beginning. She only asked Theo to make the phone call to prove that the person on the other end of the line was undoubtedly Eric Lawson himself. As soon as her words rang out, the people outside the principal's office began exchanging glances among themselves.

"I can't believe Janet is stubbornly keeping up her pretense. Is Eric Lawson's name something she can utter with that mouth of hers? That's so insulting."

"Knows who she is? Can recognize her voice? Doesn't she feel embarrassed saying that? She is so shameless!"

"I don't think we should waste time talking nonsense with her. Mr. Goldstein, hurry up and announce how you plan to deal with her!"

"That's right! She is just trying to buy time and stubbornly refusing to leave Woodsbury University. She makes me speechless."

All of a sudden, gossip sprang up everywhere. However, Janet simply sat on the sofa with one leg crossed over her knee. She was turning a deaf ear to their discussions.

Robert turned to look at Theo. Clearing his throat, he said, "Mr. Richardson, can you please contact the Writers Association? If Miss Jackson isn't Rose, then I will announce my final decision." If it is proven that Janet is not Rose and that she plagiarized Rose's works, then I can only contact Young Master Mason to settle this matter himself so that I can remain impartial in this matter.

When Theo heard those words, his expression darkened slightly. Even so, he nodded and took out his phone to dial a number. The phone rang for a short while before the other party answered. He was so overjoyed that even his attitude became respectful. "Hello, is this Mr. Eric Lawson?"

"May I know who this is?" The person on the other end of the phone sounded doubtful.

He smiled. "I am Theo Richardson from the department of literature at Woodsbury University. Do you remember me, Mr. Lawson?"

"Oh. So, it's Mr. Richardson from Woodsbury University's department of literature." It took Eric a moment to realize who Theo was. However, he still didn't know the reason why Theo contacted him out of the blue.

Theo politely asked, "Do you remember Rose, Mr. Lawson?"

Eric glanced at the Writers Association Meeting that was about to begin and nodded. "Of course. As you know, Sandfort City is hosting the Writers Association Meeting here for the next few days. Since Rose's 'Warm Blade II' is about to be launched officially, I originally wanted to invite her to attend the Writers Association Meeting. Unfortunately, I can't seem to get her to agree to it. It's really saddening." When he didn't hear a reply from the other party for quite a long while, he suspiciously asked, "Do you know where she is right now, Mr. Richardson?"

Theo glanced at Janet before replying in a deep and steady voice, "Are you unaware that she is studying medicine at Woodsbury University?"

Upon hearing those words, Eric immediately jumped up from his seat. "What?! Rose is studying at Woodsbury University? Moreover, she is studying medicine?! Why didn't I know about that?!"

Listening to what Eric said confirmed Theo's initial suspicions. From the way Secretary Lawson is speaking, he doesn't have a single clue. If Janet is truly Rose, then why is Secretary Lawson unaware that she is studying at Woodsbury University?

Janet watched as Theo hogged the phone; she couldn't even get a single word in. Thus, she narrowed her eyes and stared at him without saying anything.

A short while later, Theo spoke to the person on the other side of the phone. "Secretary Lawson, I'm afraid I have something urgent to deal with here. I will treat you to a meal on another day." After saying that, he immediately hung up.

Janet's pink lips moved slightly. She said in a speechless tone, "Mr. Richardson, you didn't even let me say a single word. How was Secretary Lawson supposed to recognize me?"

As soon as the words left her mouth, Theo sneered. He pointed at Janet and mockingly said, "Secretary Lawson said it himself; he has no idea that you are studying at Woodsbury University. Moreover, he doesn't even know that you are studying medicine! If you really were Rose, then why doesn't he know about it?"

Chapter 809

Janet raised her eyebrows slightly. At the same time, she lifted the corners of her mouth and languidly said, "Of course, he wouldn't know about it. I didn't tell him." If I told those people that I'm studying at Woodsbury University, I don't know how long I'd be stuck communicating with them. Moreover, they will surely invite me to attend whatever events they hold. Then, I won't have time to study anymore.

"Nonsense!" At that moment, Madelaine stepped forward. She pointed at Janet and said, "If you really were Rose, you would have bragged about it in front of me a long time ago. Who doesn't know what kind of person you are?"

Janet narrowed her eyes, looking disdainful.

Janet's acting skills are on the level of an award-winning actress! Not only is she still pretending even though things have come to this point, but she is also behaving so nonchalantly. She is acting so naturally that it's almost as if nothing has happened!

"Then, how do you want me to prove my identity?" Janet lifted her lovely eyes. Her eyes were full of self-confidence and conceit. Looking at the fountain pen on the desk, she glanced at her audience. "I'm sure you've seen Rose's signature before, right?"

"What are you trying to do?" Hazel held her breath and stared incredulously. "Are you trying to prove your identity with a signature?"

Janet did not reply. Walking over to Robert, she picked up the fountain pen on his desk. Then, she skillfully and beautifully scrawled a large word on the blank page—'Rose'.

Somewhere else, Eric stared at his phone with a dazed expression. He was stunned for a few seconds after Theo hung up on him. If I heard correctly, Mr. Richardson mentioned that Rose is studying at Woodsbury University. What a cheeky brat. Not only did she keep quiet about studying at Woodsbury University, but she also refused to make an appearance at the event despite my numerous invitations. Moreover, she is studying medicine?! Why isn't she studying literature?! Will such a strong literary talent be wasted?!

Due to the popularity of 'Warm Blade II', the committee had recommended Rose to take over as the tenth chairman of the Online Literature Committee. Unfortunately, she refused to join the committee, and they had no choice but to recommend somebody else. But, if I can kidnap her and bring her here, then we can recommend her for the position again. He

ruminated on the issue for a bit and decided to halt the event for now. Beckoning with his hand, he called his assistant over to him.

"What is it, sir?"

He didn't give himself any time to hesitate over his decision, hurriedly saying, "Stop the event immediately. I'm going to bring Rose over in a bit."

His assistant couldn't believe what he was hearing. "Rose? Didn't Rose refuse to attend? Why would she come? Besides, the event is about to start. It can't be good to stop the event so suddenly, right?"

Eric waved his hand dismissively. "I don't care!" Before this, I had no idea where Rose was. Therefore, I had to reluctantly continue with the event. But, I now know that Rose is in Woodsbury University. I'm not going to let her escape. I will definitely bring her here to attend the event!

Before his assistant could recover from his shock, Eric had already left.

On the other side, Hazel, Madelaine, Robert, and Theo were staring fixedly at the signature Janet had drawn. They stared at the word 'Rose' with various expressions on their faces.

Madelaine clenched her fists tightly and glared at Janet. She was extremely unconvinced. "So, you can sign Rose's name. Is that so amazing? How does that prove that you are Rose? This is so ridiculous!"

"That's right! Who knows whether this signature is genuine or not?" Hazel agreed.

Meanwhile, Theo looked contemptuous. When he saw Janet signing her name, he nearly thought that Rose had truly appeared before him. Hmph. What a pity. No matter how good you are at impersonating a person, it's still fake!

In response, Janet raised her delicate eyebrows slightly; her action carried a hint of coldness to it.

"If you don't believe me, you can compare it with the signed copy of 'Warm Blade' to see if it is genuine or not." Janet took several steps back and lazily slumped down on the sofa. She quite liked seeing their ignorant expressions. Is it so hard to admit that I am Rose?

Madelaine's tone was aggressive, contemptuous, and mocking. "Who knows if you secretly practiced how to imitate Rose's handwriting just to impersonate her?" Janet is a b*tch who would do anything to obtain her goals!

"Huh? Why does she need to imitate Rose's handwriting?" At that moment, a deep and calm male voice rang out.

Everybody subconsciously turned back to look in the direction of the voice. They were greeted by the sight of a man wearing a black trench coat and a pair of glasses. He made his way through the crowd and stopped at the door of the office. When everybody saw the middle-aged man wearing a trench coat paired with glasses, they couldn't help feeling startled. Their ruddy complexions immediately turned pale.

Robert and Theo stood up at the same time. Their eyes were slightly widened in shock, and their bodies stiffened. "S-Secretary Lawson." Isn't the Tenth Writers Association Meeting about to begin?! Why did he appear at Woodsbury University? Did he come here because of Mr. Richardson's phone call just now? Is he here to expose Janet's true colors?

For a while, everybody was overwhelmed by their shock and suspicions. Eric remained silent as he walked into the principal's office.

When Madelaine saw Eric's stern expression, she knew that Janet was in trouble. Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. That's what happens when you impersonate Rose! Look; even a committee member of the Writers Association has come knocking on your door! Looks like she won't be able to continue studying at Woodsbury University. Since she dared to impersonate Rose, she will surely be condemned to death by Rose's fans.

Hazel's clenched fists gradually relaxed with Eric's arrival. Janet; oh, Janet. I didn't want to make this into such a huge deal. But now, even Secretary Lawson of the Writers Association is here. You did this to yourself, Janet! She secretly laughed in her heart. Exchanging a glance with Madelaine, a triumphant smile appeared on her face.

When Theo saw his senior standing before him, he hurriedly went forward and respectfully greeted him. "Mr. Lawson, why are you here?"

Eric was just about to speak when Janet stood up. In a wicked yet nonchalant manner, she said, "You've gotten more handsome, Old Man Lawson."

Everybody was instantly taken aback by those words. Janet knows Eric?! Moreover, she called him 'Old Man Lawson'?! Is there a mistake?! Putting aside the question of whether Eric is old or not, isn't that manner of addressing him rather affectionate?! It's as if she is talking to an older family member!

"I'm not old!" Eric sounded recalcitrant. He obstinately raised his eyes and stared at Janet defiantly.

Janet curled her lips and raised an eyebrow at him without speaking.

That action of hers left everybody frozen in place—nobody knew what to say in response. Secretary Lawson, who is normally stern and serious at all times, actually joked around with Janet?!

Madelaine and Hazel exchanged a glance, their eyes revealing a sense of incredulity and disbelief.

Eric's gaze landed on Theo. He smilingly said, "Mr. Richardson, didn't you tell me Rose is here? Why else would I come here?"

Janet smiled. I know what that sly old fox is planning. I'm sure he wants me to run for the chairman position of the Tenth Writers Association Meeting.

As soon as the words left Eric's mouth, the crowd exploded in frenzied discussion again.

"I can't believe it! Janet really is Rose?"

Chapter 811

"No way! Am I dreaming?"

"It turns out that what Janet was saying is true... B-But... shouldn't Rose be quite old?"

"No wonder Janet gave more than 30 copies of 'Warm Blade' to Class F of Star High School when the book sold out!"

"I recall they were signed copies too!"

"That can't be! How can there be such special treatment?!"

He came because of Rose? Theo was frozen in place. He felt a chill running down his back, and his palms oozed with cold sweat. His head was completely blank from the shock. In other words... this girl standing in front of me is really Rose! Janet really is Rose?! He felt dizzy. For a moment, he couldn't comprehend the shocking events taking place. Eric also mentioned that he wouldn't have come unless it was for Rose. Why is he so partial to her?

Meanwhile, Eric glanced at the man sitting in the main seat, which was none other than Robert. Smiling, he faintly said, "What was that I heard about plagiarism and imitating Rose's handwriting? I don't understand what is going on!"

Upon hearing those words, Madelaine and Hazel lowered their heads and pursed their lips. They looked very embarrassed.

Janet lifted her eyes, revealing a chilly gaze. She smilingly explained, "I got full marks on my essay during my test. So, some people were upset with me and accused my writing style to be an imitation of Rose's works. Old Man Lawson, what do you think?"

"How can it be plagiarism when it's your own writing style?" At the moment, Eric was cooperatively playing along with Janet. They complemented each other very well.

Robert finally came back to his senses after hearing those words. He sighed, feeling like he just had a close call with danger. "It's just a case of misunderstanding. Right now, we have confirmed that Miss Jackson is Rose herself. Thus, this misunderstanding has naturally been resolved." As he spoke, he fixed his gaze on Janet. "Right, Miss Jackson?"

He was at his limit; he couldn't take any more of the surprises that came at him, one after another. He felt as if he was about to have a heart attack. Therefore, all he wanted was for Janet to reply with a 'yes'.

Contrary to his expectations, Janet looked up with a gaze as cold as ice. It was as dark as a bottomless pit. "A misunderstanding? The misunderstanding has been resolved?" She

smilingly shook her head. "The misunderstanding might have been resolved, but that doesn't mean things will end so easily!"

Madelaine thinks that I'm an easy target. I've forgiven her, time and time again. Yet, she continues to pick a fight with me, over and over again. On the other hand, Hazel is a stupid pig. She is no different from a wooden string puppet. She is simply being controlled by Emily and Madelaine.

Robert moved his lips soundlessly. He seemed afraid to upset her as he cautiously asked, "Miss Jackson, what do you plan to do?"

She leisurely walked over and stopped in front of Hazel and Madelaine with a smile. "You are very good at posting online, aren't you? It must have taken quite a lot of effort too."

Hazel and Madelaine both clenched their fists tightly at the same time while looking away guiltily.

"If you think you can get off easily after posting so many slanderous posts accusing me of plagiarism, you must be dreaming!" Janet's voice was frosty and evil. Moreover, she greatly emphasized the words 'you must be dreaming'.

Madelaine and Hazel were so frightened by Janet's words that they took half a step back in fear. Meanwhile, Hazel gripped the hem of her skirt tightly and glared at Janet furiously. Even my brother has never been so fierce to me. What right does Janet have to pull such an attitude on me? Besides, even if Madelaine and I made an error of judgment and wrongly accused her of plagiarism, won't it be fixed if we just deleted those posts? Why is she refusing to forgive us? Can she achieve success if she is always so petty?

At present, nobody said anything. Thus, the atmosphere in the office was at its heaviest. Then, Janet's black eyes shifted toward Robert, who was sitting in the main seat. The corners of her mouth curved upward in a wicked arc. "Mr. Goldstein, don't you think they owe me an apology?"

Chapter 812

Robert was shocked when he heard that. He looked at Janet and nodded. "Indeed. This has affected you badly, Miss Jackson. Miss Fuller and Miss Yates ought to apologize to you."

Upon hearing that, both Hazel and Madelaine looked at Janet simultaneously.

She wants us to apologize? Is Janet crazy?

Wasn't it just an insult to Hazel, the little princess of Yobril's National Council, to have to apologize to a liar?

If the people in Yobril found out that she apologized to a liar, how much shame would it bring her?

Would she still be able to return to Yobril?

"This request..." Clenching her fists tightly, Hazel spat, "This request is simply unreasonable."

Janet chuckled. Her arched eyebrows gave her a sinister look as she glanced over at Hazel. "Unreasonable? Then apologize to me in front of everyone now. You also have to pin your apology post up for thirty days. Make it public!"

Hazel's facial expression changed in an instant. On top of giving her an apology, she even wants me to make an apology post on the online forum and keep it pinned for thirty days? Thirty days? What sort of idea is that? It was a whole month. Why should she, the little princess of Yobril's National Council, apologize to a liar for thirty days? Janet Jackson is out of her mind.

Hazel squeezed both hands so tightly that she had lost feeling in her palms.

Meanwhile, Janet was standing sloppily as she waited for an answer.

It was as if she was not going to leave until Hazel and Madelaine answered her.

Even though they were standing in the middle of the office, the cold draft had reached the corners of the room and made everyone who was present feel suffocated.

Robert stole a quick glance at Janet. She's not one to be messed with! Neither is the Lowry Family who has her back!

Previously, both the Shields Family and the Leonard Family were destroyed by them. The same fate would befall Yobril.

If Janet wanted to ruin Yobril, she could do so whenever she wanted to.

After all, J'Adore also held power throughout Europe.

Robert turned his gaze to Hazel and Madelaine. "You two. Write a thousand-word apology letter and put it on Woodsbury University's online forum. You will only be allowed to take it down after a month."

Madelaine hesitated for a few seconds but eventually nodded in agreement.

She knew she could not outdo Janet with her family background and power. Knowing when to back away in times of difficulty was also a wise act.

On the other hand, Hazel could not accept it. After dawdling for a while, she was still not willing to agree.

Janet looked at her blatantly and saw right through her. She joked, "A thousand words gives your imagination a lot of room to run free."

Although she said that as a joke, everyone found it especially terrifying.

Eric rubbed his arm and said, "We have to go, Rose."

"Go where?" Janet treated the principal's office as her own place, sitting with her legs crossed on the couch. "Old Man Lawson, do you really want me to go to The Tenth Writers Association with you?"

The students that had gathered outside the principal's office were all shocked by what they heard and were unable to speak.

A while later, someone finally spoke. "F*ck. Secretary Lawson personally came to invite Janet!"

"F*ck. Who else would get this honor except for Janet?"

"Tsk, tsk. This is simply shocking! It must be the first time in history!"

At this moment, Eric did not try to conceal anything either and went on, "Just as everyone has said, even if I have to kidnap you, I will take you there today. I even delayed the meeting just for you. Right now, over a thousand authors and committee members are all waiting just for you. If you don't show up, who is going to become the next chairperson of the Writers Association?"

Chapter 813

The banter between the two left everyone both inside and outside the office in shock.

While Hazel was listening to their conversation, she had her fists clenched so tightly that her nails were digging into the palm of her hands. Even Secretary Lawson of the great Sandfort City is pleading with Janet? How is she worth all this respect she's receiving from everyone? Although she is a good author, she has a lousy character. No amount of talent can make up for that!

Meanwhile, Madelaine was unable to comprehend the situation and only kept her head lowered while biting down on her lip. She was stunned by how high and mighty Janet was now that even the daughter of the president of Yobril's National Council could not win over her. Who else could defeat her now? Emily might be the only one left.

The people outside the office expressed their shock.

"Tsk, tsk. As someone with such strong principles, Eric even delayed the event for Janet? What is happening?"

"F*ck. That means that as long as Janet doesn't show up, the hundreds of authors and committee members are just going to be dawdling away?"

"Oh, sh*t. But there are hundreds of authors there. Are they all just waiting for Janet?"

"Mr. Lawson is saying that he wants her to take over as chairperson for The Tenth Writers Association, isn't he?"

"That can't be. All this time, the chairperson of the association was always older artists in their forties or fifties. Don't tell me he's going to break the custom for Janet this time?"

"What? I didn't hear that clearly. The chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association?"

Eric did not avoid the topic. He was blunt and biased as he said, "Yes, Rose has to be the next chairperson of the Writers Association."

Janet raised her eyebrows. Knowing that she was unable to hide from it, she said, "You've witnessed this yourself, Mr. Goldstein. I won't be able to attend class for today."

Robert pushed his glasses up. "You may go."

After he said that, Janet looked sideways and raised a brow at Eric. "Are we still not leaving yet, Old Man Lawson?"

Eric nodded with a smile. Before he turned around, he swept his eyes over Hazel and Madelaine coldly.

Madelaine kept her head down and did not dare to meet his eyes, but Hazel had her fists clenched and was gritting her teeth with a menacing look on her face.

After letting out a light scoff, he followed Janet at her heels.

Watching them walk out one after the other from the back, Hazel stomped her foot aggressively and almost broke into tears from the rage.

Throughout her life, no one had ever dared to push her around this way before. She never thought that she would be put in her place by Janet today.

She wanted more than anything to leap at Janet now and rip off the hypocritical look on her face.

This was impossible for her to bear!

Meanwhile, at the Lowry Family Conglomerate, a man was sitting at his office table with Reddit opened on his screen.

He had kept a portion of the negative posts under control.

Rubbing his brows in frustration, he wondered how Janet was handling the situation.

Just then, a few knocks came from outside.

He looked up at the big door and said, "Come in."

Sean pushed the door open and came inside. Coming forward, he said respectfully, "Young Master Mason, Mr. Goldstein called to inform you that Miss Jackson has dealt with the matter at hand, so you don't have to worry."

Upon hearing that, the deep crease between his brows relaxed a little.

"That's good." Jan is becoming more efficient at getting things done.

Sean glanced up at him and added, "Mr. Goldstein also said that Miss Jackson has gone to The Tenth Writers Association Meeting."

"The Tenth Writers Association Meeting?"

"Yes. She was also nominated for some chairperson position. It sounds quite honorable."

"Okay, I got it." The man turned off his screen and sighed. She is truly becoming more outstanding and a little too good for me.

Chapter 814

In Yobril, Emily was waiting to hear good news from Hazel and Madelaine with her phone in her hand. If my guess is right, Janet must have gotten expelled by Mr. Goldstein by now.

After pondering for a moment, she brought up her phone and gave Megan a call. "Mom," she called obediently. She was known all over Sandfort City now, so Megan treated her even better.

As soon as Megan picked up, she was both taken aback and pleasantly surprised. "Emily, what's the matter?"

Emily giggled. "Mom, can't I call even if nothing is wrong?"

Megan laughed. "Of course, you can. I missed you so much. Did Hilbert tell you when you can come back to Sandfort City?"

She thought for a moment then said, "The World Piano Competition is coming up soon. I can go home when it ends." This major competition was very important to her. It was also the main reason she went to Yobril to study piano. As long as she won the trophy, her value would shoot up. She would then be able to break through the music industry and gain a foothold as a pianist. Thus, she had to win this trophy.

"World Piano Competition?" Megan marveled. "It must be very important."

Nodding, Emily boasted, "Mr. Hilbert says that with my current level, I'll probably be able to get top three, but my goal is to be the champion."

"You're doing a fantastic job, Emily. I knew I wasn't wrong about you." Megan felt extremely excited. If Emily was truly able to become the overall champion of this global competition, the entire Jackson Family, and not just herself, would gain high prestige in the art circles.

Emily chuckled bashfully then said, "Mom, stop flattering me. No matter how skilled I am, I still can't beat Janet!" She then pretended to show concern for her sister. "How is Janet doing these days? I miss her."

The mention of Janet made Megan hesitate for a few seconds. Ever since Janet moved out, she only came back once when Jade returned from her trip. Nonetheless, Janet was an independent girl. The money Megan sent to her was always returned in full.

"Your sister? She's doing quite well."

Emily was slightly taken aback. Based on her tone of voice, it did not sound like she hated Janet as much as she used to anymore.

Ever since Janet got perfect scores on her college entrance exams and became the top scholar, Megan's attitude toward her improved drastically, but that was exactly what Emily feared the most. She feared that once Brian retired, the Jackson Enterprise would be passed to Janet, his biological daughter.

For Emily, did that imply that she would no longer be able to stay in the Jackson Family? Feeling anxious all of a sudden, she immediately blurted, "Mom, Janet got a perfect score on an assessment again recently."

Megan hesitated briefly but quickly regained her composure. "Well, it's quite normal for her." After all, she did enter Woodsbury University with perfect scores on her college entrance exams. Attaining a perfect score on an assessment was hardly unexpected.

The calmer Megan sounded, the more frantic Emily became. "But it seems like she got into a bit of trouble this time. A friend of mine from Woodsbury University told me she plagiarized Lady Rose's novel in her paper during the recent assessment. I don't know if it's true or not, but it wouldn't be strange even if she did. Since she got perfect scores on her college entrance exams, it would be awkward if she didn't get a perfect score again this time."

Megan was quite reactive. As soon as she heard the word 'plagiarized', the smile on her face stiffened, and her voice fell. "Plagiarized? That's not possible. She was a top scholar with perfect scores on the college entrance exams. She is capable enough."

Chapter 815

Emily narrowed her eyes upon hearing Megan defend Janet. "I don't know, but I heard she got called into the principal's office today. The details of the outcome are not known yet. Mommy, keep an eye on the university's online forum; the outcome will be released there."

Mr. Goldstein is also involved now? Feeling shocked, Megan clenched her fists as a conditioned reflex. "Okay. I got it," she answered. She did not think too deeply about how Emily knew Janet's every move, but she did not have any definite answers to the validity of the matter at hand either.

If Janet actually plagiarized the work of that author called Rose and got expelled by Robert, then our family's reputation would be ruined.

At that moment, she could only hope that what Emily told her was false!

At the same time, news that Eric delayed the event quickly became the most trending topic on Twitter.

'Eric Lawson personally halted The Tenth Writers Association Meeting!'

'Why did Eric Lawson show up at Woodsbury University?'

'Eric Lawson extended a personal invitation for Rose to join the meeting!'

'Inside information stated that Eric wanted to nominate Rose as the chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association!'

Before Janet and Eric even made it to the venue, the news had already spread to the public.

Moreover, the number of authors that were there went from being in the hundreds to over a thousand.

Their purpose was simple: to see Rose's real appearance with their own eyes!

Meanwhile, after Megan hung up the call, she downloaded Reddit according to Emily's instructions and entered Woodsbury University's forum.

Initially, she only wanted to take a look at the school's final decision, but Reddit also sent her a notification of the live broadcast from the venue of the meeting.

Filled with curiosity, she tapped into it.

At that moment, the online live broadcast had already started.

She only saw Eric go on stage and say into the microphone, "The meeting will officially begin now."

After that, a thunder of applause resounded below the stage.

Eric's expression was serious and stern. "As usual, raise your hand if you have a problem."

As soon as he said that, the dull meeting immediately buzzed to life.

Some people raised their hands and stood up, but Eric randomly picked a committee member who was participating in the meeting.

"Secretary Lawson, I wanted to ask you about something. I heard you intentionally halted this meeting to personally invite Rose. Is that right? But Rose wasn't participating in the run for the chair of The Tenth Writers Association, right? If she comes here so suddenly to join in the election, wouldn't it be unfair to the rest of us?"

"The chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association in my heart is Rose. I don't have a second person in mind. Previously, I did not know about her whereabouts so I had no way of forcing her to run for chairperson, but I happened to find out this morning that she was studying at Woodsbury University. I decided I was going to bring her here no matter what. Regarding the issue of fairness that you mentioned, it is definitely fair. After all, you have all used your capabilities to be in the running for chairperson. The official chairperson for The Tenth Writers Association has not been finalized yet. What difference does it make to add one more person? If the people here are better than Rose, then why should they be afraid of her?" When he finished talking, he looked below the stage at a girl in a black long-sleeve shirt and a black cap.

The video cameras at the venue captured his gaze and immediately focused on the girl below the stage.

The girl looked sluggish as she sat with her legs crossed and her fair hand supporting her temple.

Megan was stunned when she saw that scene on her phone.

The girl did not look old. She was probably in her early twenties. Her eyes were covered by her black cap, but her small and delicate lips gave Megan a sense of familiarity.

Chapter 816

Megan had to admit: that girl looked a lot like Janet.

If it really was Janet, how did she end up participating in that meeting?

Thinking that it was absurd, she quickly shook her head.

Not long after, the camera cut to Eric once again.

"If no one has any more questions, I will announce the start of the election."

A round of applause sounded below the stage.

Eric walked down and sat beside the council which was also next to Janet.

Following the start of the election, the committee members started to go on stage to vote.

While Eric was beside Janet, he murmured with his hand over his mouth, "Do you think you have a high chance of winning?"

She shrugged. "Are you talking about the voter turnout?"

He nodded and chuckled. "With how well 'Warm Blade II' is doing right now, there's no way you would lose."

She seemed helpless. "You already know I don't want to win." If she won, she had to go on stage and take photos which would expose her.

"What you want is not important." He smirked. "The point is I would feel uneasy if the title of chairperson went to someone else."

Tsk. She leaned against her chair in frustration. This crafty old man!

Aside from Janet and Eric's calm demeanor, the rest of the place, both on and off stage, was bustling with activity.

A total of ten authors participated in the election this time. All of them were elderly artists who had their own distinct styles and were skilled writers. According to the past selection criteria, the chairperson for the association would be among them.

More than half the votes had been cast, but Janet was way ahead in the lead.

From below the stage, the voices of committee members and other authors continued to pour in.

"I have to say; the winner this time will be Rose."

"You're right. The book, 'Warm Blade II', she released a few days ago is even more exciting than the first one."

"I must admit; even though she doesn't have a lot of publications, she releases fine works every year. Each book is a bestseller. It's just a bit disappointing that she only releases one book a year."

"Hey, I heard that she's already at an old age and isn't able to write anymore. One book a year is already pretty fast."

"What? She isn't able to write anymore? She must probably be an old granny in her seventies or eighties."

"But didn't Secretary Lawson go to Woodsbury University to invite her? How can she be an old granny?"

"Oh, those are just rumors. Her writing is so refined. How can she be that young?"

"Huh. That does sound quite reasonable!"

"We shall see in a bit!"

Eric couldn't help but laugh to himself as he listened to their conversation.

On the other hand, Janet remained quiet beside him.

The Tenth Writers Association Meeting was now in full swing.

Meanwhile, Emily was trying endlessly to call Hazel but no one was picking up.

She kept traipsing about anxiously.

Right now, she was looking forward to hearing news about Janet's expulsion from school and could not wait another second longer.

After waiting for almost an hour, she was finally able to get to Hazel and put her mind at ease.

In high spirits, she asked, "Hazel? How did it go? Did the principal take disciplinary action?"

Rubbing her hands together, Hazel affirmed while biting down on her lip, "Mm-hmm."

Emily became overjoyed in an instant. Janet, that wench, is finally being punished! The one hour she waited had not been in vain.

Because she was so excited, she missed the disappointment in Hazel's voice. She was about to ask about the type of disciplinary action the principal had taken when Hazel cut her right off.

"He did take disciplinary action, but against me and Madelaine!"

Emily's brows quickly furrowed together in confusion. "What? You and Madelaine are being punished? What about Janet?"

Chapter 817

Hearing Janet's name being brought up made Hazel furious. She ranted, "Janet is the real Rose. Rose is Janet. Do you get it now?" Once she finished speaking, she immediately massaged her small hand pathetically. After spending an hour writing a thousand-word self-reflecting letter, her hand felt like it was about to fall off.

When Emily heard those words, she chuckled while shaking her head. How is that possible? Hazel is quite the jokester now! Janet is the real Rose? Rose is Janet? What kind of joke is that? It's not funny at all! I won't fall for that! "Stop teasing me, Hazel. How can she be Rose?" Emily laughed. Her expression turned dark soon after.

"Why would I lie to you? Even Eric Lawson, the person who is running The Tenth Writers Association, came to Woodsbury University to escort her. It already proves that she's Rose. Also, she's now at The Tenth Writers Association running for chairperson!" Hazel seethed.

Emily kept clenching her fists tighter at every word Hazel said. Eventually, both her hands were tightly clenched and a look of disbelief appeared on her face. Eric Lawson went to Woodsbury University himself to escort Janet to the Writers Association? And she's even running for chairperson? She scoffed. That can't be true! Shaking her head, she smirked. Her originally fiery gaze turned hollow and weak.

"Are you still there?" Hazel massaged her hand. It was so sore that it was hard for her to hold the phone properly. "If there's nothing else, I'll contact you later—"

Before she finished speaking, the line got cut off.

Clearly, Emily had hung up the phone already.

Gritting her teeth, Hazel went back to the classroom while massaging her hand. I have to tell Sheldon about this. I can't stand Janet anymore!

Meanwhile, after Emily hung up the phone, she opened Twitter with her stiff hands and followed the prompts to enter The Tenth Writers Association Meeting's live broadcast.

At the same time, the voting at The Tenth Writers Association Meeting had ended. Staff members were currently counting the final votes backstage.

Eric looked confident. "You should be going on stage in a bit."

Janet smirked unenthusiastically. "Are you that sure it's going to be me?"

He covered his mouth as he chuckled. "If it isn't you, then someone must have meddled with the votes."

"Alright." She crossed her legs and pushed her hair back. "Go on stage in my place later. I don't want to be in the limelight!"

He smiled without saying anything; he did not want to agree.

Among the staff members backstage, one of them joked, "Do we still need to keep counting? Rose is surely going to win!"

Someone chimed in, "Exactly. Since she's in the running, it's a no-brainer that she would have the most votes."

"Hahaha! Many of the authors here are fans of Rose as well!"

"If she doesn't win, everyone will surely think the votes have been messed with."

They talked as they counted the votes.

After counting precisely for several minutes, they handed the figures to the host who passed them on to Eric to make the announcement.

Before Eric went on stage, he said, "Rose, you should go on stage later."

She shook her head reluctantly with a smile.

Once on stage, he took the draft from the host's hands. The moment he looked at the vote count, his narrowed eyes widened faintly.

Slowly, his face turned white, and he struggled to breathe.

His facial expression showed his bewilderment. This is impossible!

When the audience saw him, they started to whisper among themselves. "Why does Secretary Lawson have that look on his face?"

Chapter 818

"Don't tell me he's upset?"

"Did Rose lose?"

"Judging by the look on his face, that seems highly likely!"

"No way. Who could beat Rose in this election?"

While Eric was holding the draft, his hands shook uncontrollably. It left everyone in the audience and those who were watching the live broadcast dumbfounded.

He only recovered from his shock after some time. Squinting his black eyes under his glasses, he started to move his lips to speak. In a trembling voice, he said, "The chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association Meeting is here! Let us congratulate Rose for winning the election with ninety-five percent of the votes. She has received the most votes as chairperson of the Writers Association in history!"

Soon after it was revealed, the audience broke into an uproar.

"What? Ninety-five percent of the votes?"

"Did I hear that right? Among ten people, she got ninety-five percent of all the votes?"

"Sh*t. How is that possible?"

"The highest record in the past is fifteen, but she got ninety-five?"

That meant that among a hundred people, ninety-five of them supported Rose.

Megan, who was currently watching the live broadcast, did not know the significance of the Writer Association's chairperson position, but she was still shocked when she heard about the ninety-five percent win.

This Rose person is quite extraordinary! Even though Janet is a top scholar in the college entrance exams and has attained a perfect score in languages before, Rose is an artist; it's not uncommon for her work to get plagiarized. Was everything Emily said true then? Her face fell slightly as she kept her attention on the live broadcast that was playing on her phone.

All the way in Yobril, Emily had witnessed everything. Despite having a slight smirk on her face, her expression was grim. The look on her face showed that she was feeling conflicted. This person who won ninety-five percent of the vote is Janet? She chuckled. How far is Hazel planning to take this joke?

They were all getting fooled. How could someone like Janet be Rose? How could she be the chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association? It was a joke!

As she watched the live broadcast on her screen, she told herself repeatedly that Janet could not be Rose, and that Rose could not be Janet either.

At the moment, the Writers Association was in an uproar. It was a lively scene that had never been seen before in history.

Standing on stage, Eric held the microphone and said, "Now, I would like to invite Rose on stage."

Another deafening round of applause followed.

Below the stage, Janet opened her eyes lazily and looked at the old man on stage with a helpless expression.

Because no one knew who Rose was, they could only look around at each other's reactions.

Janet slowly stood up with her cap on. In an instant, the camera focused on her and so did everyone else.

Due to her youthful appearance, they all looked at her in astonishment.

"Why did this girl stand up?"

"Could she be Rose?"

"That's not possible. Rose can't even write anymore. How can she be so young?"

"Yes, Rose is already in her seventies. This girl looks like she's around twenty at most."

Turning a deaf ear to them, Janet walked away from her seat and went up the stage.

Hundreds of cameras pointed toward her at the same time.

Once she made it to Eric's side, she accepted the microphone that he had handed to her.

Holding the microphone in her hand, she stood in a lazy stance with her cap still on. The audience could not see her face clearly, but they were able to see a pair of pink lips. "Hello, everyone. I'm Rose."

Her chilly and indifferent voice flew straight into the ears of the audience below the stage and those watching the live broadcast. It was easily recognizable and sounded incredibly young.

Chapter 819

"How can this be? Rose can't possibly be this young. Did you come here in her stead?"

"Sh*t. Why aren't you saying anything, Secretary Lawson, is that really her?"

"But if she's only a young woman in her twenties, how can her writing be so refined?"

"Could it be that Rose has passed away and now they've just found some random person to take her place?"

Eric smirked. Taking the microphone from the girl's hand, he said in a stern and serious voice, "She is indeed Rose, but she doesn't want to reveal her face today. We ask for your understanding."

At the Jackson Residence, Megan felt her hands and feet go cold as she watched the girl who called herself Rose walk up the stage.

The silhouette, dainty mouth, and voice all showed that there was a high chance it was Janet.

They look too alike! If this really is Janet, does that mean that Janet did not plagiarize Rose? Because she is Rose! Aside from feeling nervous at this moment, Megan also felt a strange sense of excitement.

She only wished she had a pair of x-ray glasses that could allow her to see the girl's face underneath the cap.

In Yobril, Emily was glaring at the girl on stage with the cap on and a microphone in her hand. Her nails were digging into her palm as she clenched her fists, but she could no longer feel the pain.

All she could feel now was unease. That can't be Janet. That can't be her.

Even though they had a very similar silhouette and voice, it could be a mere coincidence.

If Janet really was Rose, how else could Emily contend with her?

No! This must not be true!

Her eyelids were twitching uncontrollably. For some reason, she had a bad feeling.

The audience at the scene was also on the edge of their seats.

If Rose was not going to reveal her face, then was there still a need for them to be there?

"This is pointless then. Why doesn't she want to reveal her face? We came here for nothing!"

"Is she really the rumored old lady in her seventies? Why on earth was there such a rumor?"

"Could she be so ugly that she's afraid she might lose fans?"

"That's nonsense. We're all fans because of her talent, not her appearance! Even if she looks like an ugly creature, I'll still support her!"

Seeing the situation getting more and more out of hand, Eric walked up and said, "I don't think you can hide from this anymore, Rose."

Even if she didn't reveal her identity today, she would have to make an appearance at The Eleventh Writers Association Meeting next year as the previous chairperson.

She let out a reluctant sigh.

Reaching up, she slowly took off the black cap she was wearing and revealed a clean and fair face.

All eyes slowly shifted toward her face.

Suddenly, they all became stunned.

Rose!

This is how she looks.

Not only was she not the elderly person she was rumored to be, but she was also very attractive.

The people at the scene were going crazy; looks of shock and wonder filled their faces.

At one point, they all thought they were hallucinating, but the scene before them was very much real.

One of the committee members stood up abruptly and pointed at Janet with a startled expression. "Isn't she Janet Jackson?"

Janet Jackson?

Below the stage, cries of alarm sounded at once.

"Janet Jackson? The artist? The one that's also the top scholar?"

"Rose is Janet?"

"Holy sh*t. How does Janet have so many identities?"

Everyone was finding it hard to believe. Wasn't it said that the long-lost daughter of the Jackson Family was inferior to their adopted daughter?

Chapter 820

The daughter they brought home from the countryside turned out to be the famous author, Rose.

She was also the chairperson of the Writers Association with the most votes!

"Holy sh*t! No wonder she kept her identity hidden. She's already well-known!"

"Oh my God. Who knew Rose was this beautiful? Her beauty is magnificent!"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. I've fallen for her. I went from being a fan of her work to being a fan of her looks!"

"This is surely going to make headlines in the news tomorrow!"

"What an odd woman. She's so versatile!"

Everyone was extremely thrilled. No one could have imagined that the mysterious artist was also known for so many other things and excelled in everything that she did.

Aside from the committee members and authors at the scene who were going frantic, the online live broadcast was also being covered with shocked reactions like, 'she's so beautiful', 'how talented', and 'holy f*ck'.

Hundreds of camera shutters went off as people captured one of the possibly most shocking moments in history.

Countless camera flashes were all aimed in Janet's direction.

At the Jackson Residence, Megan immediately jumped up when the girl took off her cap.

Her hand in which she held the phone was shaking violently. Janet really is Rose! That means Janet did not plagiarize anyone! The Jackson Family won't be dragged down because of her either! For the first time in a long time, she had a look of excitement and eagerness on her face. How did I not know how talented Janet was?

Despite not knowing the significance of being the chairperson of the Writers Association, she figured it was quite amazing based on the responses of netizens. No one will talk about Janet being inferior to Emily anymore. After all, I did give birth to her; she wouldn't disappoint. Where else could she have gotten her skills from?

At the moment, she was excited but also baffled.

Quickly pulling up her phone, she sent Emily a text: 'Your sister didn't plagiarize anyone. She is Rose herself. Now, our family won't get dragged down either. This is amazing!'

After sending out the text, she gripped the phone tightly in her hands with an elated expression on her face.

In Yobril, Emily had also watched the moment the girl took off her cap and froze on the spot right away.

She kept rubbing her eyes and repeated, "No. No. This can't be right. There must be something wrong with my eyes. How can Rose be Janet?"

Rose is definitely not Janet. There must be something wrong with my eyes!

She scoffed. If Janet really was Rose, she would have flaunted that in front of me a long time ago. How could she have kept it hidden for this long? Yes, that's it. I know Janet too well!

There must be something wrong with my eyes now since I'm always thinking about that wench.

"Go for an eye checkup at the hospital immediately," she mumbled to herself, but her legs were rooted in place and completely immovable.

Suddenly, a notification popped up. Tapping it with her shaky hands, she saw Megan's text on the screen. 'Your sister didn't plagiarize in her paper. She is Rose herself. Now, our family won't get dragged down either. This is amazing!'

As soon as Emily saw the text, she lost her grip on her phone. It fell to the ground, causing the screen to shatter to pieces.

Even though the screen was destroyed, Janet's voice from the live broadcast still came through.

Emily collapsed with a crash; both of her legs were quivering violently.

She lay on the ground with her eyes closed, but her eyes continued to twitch.

A while later, she finally got up from the ground, opened her eyes, and exhaled. "I knew it. It was a hallucination."

Chapter 821

"I knew it. How can that wench Janet be Rose? There's no way Rose is that wench either."

The corner of her lips twitched faintly, then she walked out the door.

In the corridor, the staff at the Royal Academy of Music were all staring at their screens. They all looked like diehard fans as they talked excitedly. "I didn't expect my favorite author to be this pretty."

"Yes, I didn't think she would be this young—she's still a student. She's even the top scholar in Sandfort City! I never would have imagined."

"I really want to go to Sandfort City to catch a glimpse of her!"

When Emily heard them, she froze right away.

All of that was true! How can this be? The last pillar she was relying on also crumbled. Not wanting people to see the terrible state she was in, she quickly ran into the restroom to hide.

What else did she have to compete with Janet now? She scoffed. What else is there? How did this happen? She had been studying piano diligently in Yobril this whole time. How could Janet be getting all the fame in Sandfort City?

How was the world so unfair?

While she was resenting Janet, Janet was getting off the stage after finishing her short introduction.

The scene was a mess. A swarm of authors and fans quickly surrounded her.

"Rose, I really love your work. I never imagined you were this beautiful."

"Rose, can I get your autograph? Sign it on my chest."

"Rose, sign your autograph on my chest, too. I won't ever take a shower!"

"Rose, I read both 'Warm Blade' and 'Warm Blade II'. I love your style. Can I get your contact details to keep in touch with you?"

Currently, it was no longer a Writers Association meeting but Rose's autograph signing event.

The corners of her lips twitched slightly as she glared at Eric.

With an awkward look on his face, he quickly called for security to escort her backstage.

The audience watched her leave then eventually quietened down a bit.

Outside the venue of the meeting, a black Maybach was parked at the entrance. Inside the car, the live broadcast of The Tenth Writers Association was being played.

The man sitting in the backseat of the car had a smirk on his face. His black eyes were trained on the screen at the girl's back as she made her way backstage.

Raising his hand, Mason massaged his temples and let out a sigh. What should I do?

Because of how outstanding his girlfriend was, he gained several rivals all of a sudden. It was truly frustrating. Did they really ask her to sign her autograph on their chest? Are they out of their minds? How daring of those lowly peasants to make such demands when her actual boyfriend hasn't even done so?

Luckily, she did not agree with that person's request. Otherwise, he was going to teach her a lesson when they got home!

"Young Master Mason." Sean stared at him and gulped. "Aren't you going to go in and get Miss Jackson?"

They had rushed from the Lowry Family Conglomerate to the venue within fifteen minutes, but now that they were here, Mason simply remained silent. Sean couldn't understand him.

"I'll wait for her to come out." Mason sighed.

If he went in there now, it would certainly cause a great stir. After all, they all knew that he was a married man, but they just did not know that his wife was Janet.

At that moment, however, more and more cars were starting to gather outside the meeting venue.

The once quiet entrance was suddenly filled with over a dozen cars.

He saw people with cameras in their hands pouring out of the cars. If my guess is right, these reporters have come from television stations to interview Janet.

Sean glanced at the rearview mirror and reminded, "Young Master Mason, if Miss Jackson doesn't show up now, once more people start to gather later, she might not get to leave the place so easily anymore!"

Chapter 822

Mason's face grew serious at his words.

In the next moment, he was reaching for his sunglasses and cap in the backseat. After he put them on, he took off his suit and quickly got out of the car.

Seeing that, Sean also followed after him.

Once Janet returned backstage, she was about to sit down and rest when a whole crowd of reporters came out of nowhere with cameras pointed at her face.

Some of them even went as far as to hold their cameras in one hand and a pen and paper in the other to get her autograph.

"Rose, I love your book, 'Warm Blade'. Can I please have your autograph?"

"Rose, please tell us your thoughts about being the youngest chairperson in the history of the Writers Association."

"Can you reveal how you feel at the moment?"

"Can you give us a teaser for other spectacular works you will be releasing next year?"

The corner of her mouth twitched. She could not get herself out of the situation.

If she had known the aftermath of her appearance would be this intense, she would have hired a group of bodyguards beforehand.

At that moment, however, a path was suddenly made between the reporters who were standing in front of her.

She looked up automatically.

When their eyes met, her expression stiffened.

Mason is here too!

The reporters pointed their cameras at the man who had walked over. "And you are?"

But Mason did not give an answer and only walked straight toward Janet. Stretching a hand out, he said, "Come with me."

Even though he was wearing a cap and sunglasses, she was still able to recognize him. Nodding, she put her small hand in his and was taken away.

The reporters were all dumbfounded.

"What is happening? Why is this guy taking Rose away?"

"Sh*t. Could he be Rose's boyfriend?"

"No way. Does she already have a boyfriend?"

"Follow them. Hold them back!"

They all knew that if the man who showed up suddenly was really her boyfriend, it would become breaking news today.

As reporters, none of them wanted to miss the chance to report breaking news.

The man grasped Janet's hand tightly and took one step after the other out of the building.

When they got to the car, he opened the door to let her in.

Once they were all set, Sean drove off.

By the time the reporters came out, only the shadow of a car was left behind.

The group of reporters remained frozen in place for having missed the chance to take pictures.

"F*ck! They're gone!"

"I'm certain that's Rose's boyfriend!"

"Although he had sunglasses on, he looked quite decent just by looking at his physique and face shape."

"Release the news quickly. It will definitely make headlines."

"Sh*t. I'm heartbroken!" One moment they were in love, and the next they were heartbroken.

Barely a few seconds after pictures and videos were released, it became a trending topic.

'Rose revealed to be Janet Jackson!'

'How many identities does Janet have?'

'Photos of Janet!'

'Rose was named the youngest chairperson in the history of the Writers Association.'

'Rose received the most votes in history!'

'Rose's boyfriend!'

'While backstage, Rose's boyfriend came and took her away!'

The top ten trending searches online were all about Janet.

Inside the black Maybach, Janet asked, "How did you know I was here?"

Mason smirked. "Mr. Goldstein told me you got taken to the Writers Association Meeting, so came here right away."

She let out a smile then took off her cap and sunglasses.

His face grew serious as he hinted his jealousy at her. "A male fan asked you to sign on his chest earlier. What did you think about that?"

Chapter 823

Janet lifted her head awkwardly and stammered, "Did you watch the live broadcast?"

Mason scoffed at her. "I was so close to rushing in and grabbing you out of there without a disguise just to see who would still dare covet you." Who would still dare covet my woman?

She couldn't hide her smile. "They didn't mean anything behind it. If I had actually agreed to it, they wouldn't necessarily dare to lift their shirts for me to sign!"

Under her identity as Rose, she did not have many male fans compared to her identity as Sweet Tune.

Ninety percent of Sweet Tune's fans were male. Mason would ooze with jealousy if he found out!

"I won't allow that. Now that they know you have a boyfriend, I will burn anyone who dares to ask for such a request again." His face was serious, and his voice didn't sound happy.

Rolling her eyes at him, she reached out to squeeze his big palm and draw circles on it with her fingertip. "Don't be jealous now."

Wasn't it clear who she belonged to?

"Hmph." He kept his eyes on the barrage of comments on the live broadcast playing on the screen inside the car and ignored her.

Sean who was driving seemed to have noticed. Casting a side glance at the comments on the live broadcast, he only saw comments such as 'I want to marry you, Rose' and 'I like you, Janet' on the screen.

It was no wonder the man in the backseat was furious.

With a smirk, Sean quickly stretched out and turned off the screen inside the car.

Noticing his action, Janet slid her finger across Mason's chest lightly. "The live broadcast is turned off now. Are you still jealous?"

"Comfort me," he said shamelessly.

Getting up, she held his neck and whispered, "How should I do that?"

There was some movement in his throat. He grabbed her small hand and pressed it against his sturdy chest. "What do you think?"

Inching closer toward him, she placed her warmth against his neck and sighed. "Like this?"

With a snap, the last restraint in his mind broke.

Her warmth traveled from his neck to his limbs. Not only was his upper body heating up, but his lower body was in even more agony. At that moment, his stone-cold heart was also starting to boil.

His gaze fell on her playful pink lips, and he could not help but want to ravage them.

After placing a light peck on his lips, she moved away as quickly as a dragonfly.

His eyes lit up. Squeezing her waist, he put her on his lap and kissed her slowly from the corner of her lips down to her neck.

Meanwhile, at the Royal Academy of Music in Yobril, Emily was standing in front of the restroom mirror and staring at her miserable face.

Slam! Out of frustration, she drove a fist into the mirror violently.

No wonder Janet generously gave out over thirty autographed copies of 'Warm Blade' when we were still in Star High School. When it was sold out all over the world, she was able to give out over thirty signed copies. Why... Why didn't it occur to me at the time that Janet was Rose herself? But why did Janet have to pretend that she was not Rose? Had it been her plan all along to make a grand surprise? Did she want to give me a big slap across the face? A woman like her is just too f*cking calculating. She is the definition of a b*tch!

Moreover, Megan must be beyond delighted to find out that Janet is Rose.

What did it mean to be the chairperson of the Writers Association? In the world of literature, it was similar to being the president of the Music Association.

Emily, however, was still a student under Hilbert. Who knew when she would become president!

Chapter 824

Emily did not want to admit it, but it was the truth. Therefore, she was even more frustrated. She was also the Jackson Family's daughter, so why was Janet able to bask in glory in Sandfort City while she had to suffer in Yobril?

Just then, a staff member walked into the restroom and said, "Emily, Mr. Hilbert asked to see you. He wants to talk to you about something."

She hesitated for a moment, then gathered herself and nodded. "I got it."

"Did you cry? Your eyes are red." The staff member handed her a piece of tissue paper.

Emily shook her head and walked past the person without accepting it. "I'm fine. Thank you."

Watching Emily leave arrogantly, the staff member scowled. "I was just being nice. How ungrateful."

When the voice sounded from inside the restroom, Emily clenched her hands and gritted her teeth. Why don't you take a look at yourself? What right do you have to talk behind my back? I'm one of Hilbert's students. How qualified are you to criticize me? What a joke. Taking a deep breath, she pushed open the door to Hilbert's office.

Not long after, the mature and steady voice of a man came from inside. "Come in."

Once she opened the door, she kept her temper under control and put a smile back on her face. "Mr. Hilbert, did you want to see me?"

Hilbert's green eyes moved from the screen to look at her. "Yes. Have a seat and we can talk."

"Okay," she answered politely before taking a seat.

He rubbed his eyes and started with a somber expression, "The global competition I told you about last time is happening next week."

Hearing those words made her spring to her feet. She exclaimed, "What?" It's happening next week?

He nodded. "I will also ask Hazel to return and take part in this competition."

Hazel is coming back too? She clenched her hands nervously. Pressing her hands together until her fingernails turned white, she asked, "Is it taking place in Yobril?"

He pursed his lips. "If nothing goes wrong, that should be the case." Currently, he had yet to receive the list of contestants and did not know the details about Emily and Hazel's places. Since they were already competing, however, he was surely hoping that one of them would win the competition.

"In that case, Mr. Hilbert..." She gripped the hem of her skirt tightly. Feeling extremely nervous, she asked, "Is there a high chance that Hazel and I can win the competition?"

"I can't say for sure. If you're able to keep your style consistent, and if the contestants are at the same level as the contestants from the previous competition, then there is quite a high chance." He did not hide anything from her and spoke to her frankly.

"The contestants from the previous competition?" She frowned. "Can you tell me who the champion was last year?" With a reference, she would know the level she was at in comparison.

Squinting his eyes, he said in a normal tone, "There were two champions last year. One was Gordon Yalaman from Sandfort City, and the other was a contestant from Chestshire. But those who won last year are not allowed to take part in the competition again this year." That was a rule in the competition. The existence of this rule was to give newcomers a chance to win the title.

Emily was stunned when she heard that. If Gordon can't take part in the competition, then who is the Music Association in Sandfort City going to send out this year? That completely baffled her. If she met a contestant who was better than her, then wouldn't it be the end for her? But she thought, Other than Walter and Gordon, Sandfort City probably doesn't have any more skilled contestants to send out.

Chapter 825

The news that Gordon was unable to take part in the competition was nothing but a sedative to Emily.

The redness in her eyes faded and was replaced with a gloomy smile.

Nothing was more important to her than this global competition. She had to be the winner in order to beat Janet.

Seeing the confidence in her eyes, Hilbert sighed and said, "You've been in Yobril for three to four months now. Logically speaking, you should be better than the other contestants, so I trust you won't have a problem."

Upon receiving a compliment, she lowered her head bashfully. "I'm completely relying on your guidance. I will not let you down in this competition, Mr. Hilbert."

Moreover, she was not going to let herself or Megan down. She had to make Megan proud. That way, she would be able to contend with Janet.

Otherwise, she would have nothing left.

"Okay." Hilbert lifted his gaze again. "You can work out your own schedule during this time. You can also return to Sandfort City to see your parents. Remember to come here on time next Saturday. I will take you to the venue."

She paused for a few seconds. Widening her eyes, she asked, "Mr. Hilbert, are you saying I can go back to Sandfort City?"

At the thought of Megan and the other wealthy women looking at her with looks of admiration and envy, she was overwhelmed with excitement.

She wanted all her close friends to come to Yobril to watch her at the World Piano Competition, and Janet to see her become the champion for herself. I'm going to crush that wench's power and prestige for good this time!

While Hilbert was busy sending out invitations on his computer to masters in the music industry from various countries, he said, "That's all, Emily. You may leave."

Pulling herself back, she nodded politely and said, "Okay, Mr. Hilbert." Then, she walked out of his office with pride and confidence.

He was watching her leave from the back when a thought suddenly occurred to him. "We will only get the list of contestants the day before the competition. I'll let you know when you return to Yobril."

Without pausing to listen, she held the door handle and simply murmured a response in return before leaving.

It did not matter to her who was taking part in the competition now because, in the end, the champion could only be her.

She had to return to Sandfort City quickly and make a good appearance in front of the Jackson Family.

Meanwhile, inside a black Maybach in Sandfort City, Mason was getting more aroused and had kissed Janet's lips until they were red.

A woman's glossy red lips could easily make a man lose control of himself.

As he reached down to touch her, he was about to tug at what was in his way when he unexpectedly found a thick cotton object secured inside.

At that moment, his entire face turned dark, and his expression looked awkward.

On the other hand, Janet laughed to herself and pushed him away gently with her hands.

Then, she grabbed a pillow from inside the car and put it over him. "Calm yourself down first. It's not good for you."

His eyes were red, and his body felt like it was about to burst.

Because it was that time of the month for her, he couldn't do anything except bite his lip to hold back. Using the pillow to block her view, he unbuckled his belt and started to move his hand rapidly.

When she heard his low moans, her body started to feel hot. Very quickly, she opened the car window for some air.

With a partition inside the car, Sean could not hear a thing but seeing the opened car window, he figured something indescribable must have happened.

Letting out a sigh, he stepped on the gas pedal even harder.

At Woodsbury University, the medical students were dumbfounded after they finished watching the live broadcast on their phones.

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Chapter 826

Ninety-five percent of the votes?

Janet became the chairperson of The Tenth Writers Association just like that?

Not to mention, all the trending topics on Twitter were about her and Rose.

What's happening?

Everyone in the medical school had a look of disbelief and confusion on their faces.

"F*ck. Do you think she's holding a grudge against us for how we yelled at her last time?"

"Oh no. I even told her she was petty and jealous of Rose."

"Sh*t. I even talked bad about her behind her back!"

All those people who hated Janet based on their assumption that she hated Rose were rather taken aback. As it turned out, the person they hated was their beloved author, Lady Rose.

They were unable to process their thoughts all of a sudden.

"We only hated Janet because we thought she did not like Rose. Who would have thought that she was Rose herself?"

"Exactly. I only hated Janet for that reason too."

"But why didn't she defend herself even when we yelled at her?"

"She might be keeping a low profile. After all, many of the students in the department of literature are fans of Rose. If she exposed herself, it would have caused more problems."

"Sigh. I feel so remorseful and ashamed. What should I do?"

"Will she hate us because of this? After the way we yelled at her, it feels like we don't deserve to be her fans anymore!"

A few of them were Rose's diehard fans and were close to tears from the panic.

They were all blaming themselves for being senseless. While Janet was being criticized, they only added fuel to the fire to join in the fun.

It was their biggest regret!

Sitting in her place, Abby rubbed it further into their faces. "I told you guys to trust Janet, but you just..." Hmph! They deserve it!

Sharon was also standing up tall and proud at the side. She gloated, "But you guys just didn't trust her and even scolded her."

Summer added, "That's right. You've all hurt her badly."

As they listened to the three of them, one of Rose's diehard fans broke into tears. Through her sobs, she lamented, "It's all your fault for not telling me and letting me say all those hateful things!"

Abby scoffed. "We didn't know that Janet was Rose either, but we trusted that she would not plagiarize."

Both Sharon and Summer nodded. "That's right."

If Hazel and Madelaine hadn't joined hands and reported Janet for plagiarism, they still wouldn't know that Janet was Rose and that Rose was Janet.

After that, a lot of people walked up to Hazel and said, "Hazel, once Janet comes back later, we hope you will go up to her personally and apologize."

Apologize? Hazel looked bewildered.

I've already apologized to Janet on the online forum, but now they want me to lower my head and apologize in person too? Based on what?

Moreover, she was not the mastermind behind this issue.

From start to end, Emily and Madelaine were the ones who instigated her. Did it make sense that they wanted her to apologize now?

However, she did not say that out loud. With a calm expression, she said indifferently, "I've already apologized to her on the online forum. None of you should bother about matters between me and Janet."

She was the daughter of the President of Yobril's National Council. How could she lower her head that easily?

If Janet wanted her to lower her head and apologize later, she was definitely going to tell Sheldon and make Janet return the billions she stole from them in the past.

No one could have imagined that despite coming from a family of scholars and being the daughter of a wealthy family, Hazel was a coward in the face of conflict and did not even dare to say sorry.

Chapter 827

"But, you didn't understand the situation before you accused Janet of plagiarism. That's not right either..."

"Why isn't that right? If she hadn't kept it a secret, would I have reported it? All she can do is blame herself for hiding it like a liar." Hazel was agitated that she nearly exposed the fact that Janet was a quack divine doctor. She knew this was not the time yet!

"How... How can you be like this?" The crowd looked at her in disappointment. They weren't expecting the young lady of Yobril's National Council to say something like that.

"It's not your turn to order me what to do. If anyone dares to tell me what to do, I'll tell my brother." Hazel crossed her arms across her chest. The way she broke out in fury was ridiculous.

"You..." The crowd felt that they really couldn't communicate with her, so they could only return to their seats.

Hazel stared at their backs, and she couldn't stop nagging, "All of you are lackeys of a liar!" They are as blind as a bat. How can they still stand up for Janet in such a situation? With her arms still folded across her chest, she got angrier the more she thought about Janet. In the end, she simply took out her phone and called Sheldon.

The call was finally connected after ringing for a long time. "Hello." A low, steady voice rose from the other side of the line.

The moment Hazel heard the voice, she was overwhelmed by aggrievedness, and she couldn't speak. Her tears kept running down her cheeks. "S-Sheldon. Sheldon, I can't stay in Sandfort City any longer. The students at Woodsbury University are trash. All of them only stood up for Janet Jackson and no one cared about my feelings."

Hazel thought her hysterical complaints would trigger her brother's sympathy, but the man on the other end simply demanded in his low and cold voice, "I know what you did in Woodsbury University, and I need you to apologize to Janet Jackson now!" Although what Hazel did had not caused too much of an impact on the Fuller Family, however, she had offended Janet, the one who had saved their father. Sheldon knew better than to bite the hand that feeds them.

As soon as Hazel heard her brother, she nearly cried out at his words. Immediately, she screamed, "Sheldon, even you're protecting Janet Jackson too? You don't know what her lackeys say about me." She rubbed her eyes and felt terribly wronged.

"I'm not defending her." Sheldon remained indifferent. "But, you have to apologize when you've done something wrong. By the way, the World Piano Competition is around the

corner. Hilbert said you have to come back next Saturday to participate!" Before today, Sheldon could put up with all the troubles she caused, even when she gave up her piano to go to Sandfort City. However, if what she did was going to ruin the Fuller Family's reputation, he would never sit back and do nothing.

When Hazel heard the two words 'Piano Competition', she immediately set aside her dissatisfaction and wiped her tears. "I got it." Then, she ended the call immediately. She didn't agree with what her brother said, but she couldn't afford to let him down. If he was disappointed in her, she wouldn't be able to come back to Woodsbury University after the piano competition to expose Janet as a liar. Gripping her arm tightly with her other hand, she bit her lip fiercely. All the compromises she was making and the grievances she was suffering were to make sure that she could send Janet to prison one day by her own hands. For that reason, she could only reluctantly send Janet a message on Messenger. 'I'm sorry.' However, this was an apology Janet owed her, and she would get it back from her one day!

Meanwhile, a phone in a black Maybach chimed. The tone pulled Janet back from her thoughts. Her gaze fell on the glowing screen, and the corners of her mouth couldn't help but raise upward as she let out a sneer.

Chapter 828

The man's phoenix eyes that were originally closed lifted slightly. He turned and looked at Janet. "What's wrong?"

She gave him her phone and said with a smile. "Read it."

The man's gaze fell on the screen. Upon seeing those two words, his pupils shrank slightly. "She's the one who accused you of plagiarism?"

"Uh-huh." Nonchalantly, Janet went on, "And she's from Yobril. I cured her father's illness too. Maybe my appearance doesn't match my capabilities, or she might have heard some rumors about me, so she thought I'm a liar and came to Sandfort City to expose me." As she said that, she noticed the emotional changes of the man next to her. Quickly, she added, "Don't worry. I can handle her."

After that, the man's slightly clenched fists slowly relaxed. He reached out and swiped away the hair on her forehead. "If you really run into trouble and I can help, you have to tell me, okay?" He knew his girl was strong enough, but he still couldn't help worrying about her. His love bound him to her. Therefore, his worry for her was inevitable.

Janet looked up at Mason. Arching her brows slightly, she hummed faintly in response. She then asked, "Do you have a laptop? I want to play!" When he heard her request, he reached out to the back seat, grabbed his laptop, and handed it to her.

As if she had done it a thousand times, Janet turned on the laptop. When the screen lit up, she asked without looking at him, "What's the password?"

Mason made no attempt to conceal it. Calmly, he answered, "Your name in lower case."

Tsk. She hissed at his reply in a profound tone. After logging into the laptop, she logged into her account, and her fingers quickly tapped away on the keyboard.

Curious, Mason leaned in and looked. This time, Janet did not flinch nor hide. Her account was completely exposed to him.

"When did you learn how to hack?" Mason's breath skipped, and he sounded impressed.

She looked up and grinned slightly. "Three years ago."

If one were to ask how good her hacking skills were, she would probably say that she came in first or second on the Hacker List. The first place was either her or him.

"What do you think about the Black Rain's defense system?" Mason's charmingly low voice carried a hint of helplessness and indulgence.

Janet had hacked into the Black Rain's system twice. Though she succeeded the first time, she couldn't hack into the system after they upgraded the system with a new defense system. Mischievously, she raised an eyebrow. "The defense system you guys installed on the second time worked well."

At her remarks, Mason ruffled her hair helplessly. "Do you know how long it took me to restore Black Rain's system?" Every time he recalled that incident, he wanted to torture her in bed so badly.

Nevertheless, it seemed like Janet was really taking her time to think about his question. Her head ducked down as she thought seriously. "Based on your ranking on the Hacker List, one week should be enough to settle the problem."

The man beside her was embarrassed by her response. One week? Then, babe really overestimated me. Mason was about to say something when he suddenly heard a phone ring.

Janet looked down at her phone and saw that it was Gordon. She paused for a few seconds before she retracted her gaze and answered the call. Her voice was cold and distant. "What's wrong?"

The young man's calm voice was heard on the other side. "The World Piano Competition will begin next week. I'm afraid that you'll have to participate this time."

When Janet heard that, the corners of her mouth were raised slightly. "Isn't there you and Walter?"

"Walter and I have participated before, so we can't join this time." He seemed to be gloating.

Immediately, Janet was slightly distressed. "If you guys really can't make it, I'll have to ask Roxy to represent me in the competition." Roxy was a Markovian and couldn't represent Sandfort City, but Janet came from Markovia, and he was her student.

Chapter 829

When Gordon heard her, he hissed and said, "Unfortunately, Roxy is going to represent Markovia this time. I don't think he can help you."

Speechless, Janet thought, So, I have to participate this year? But... didn't Emily go to Yobril's Royal Academy of Music earlier this year because she wants to represent Yobril? If I were to join, I might run into her, right? Besides, Hazel also came from the Royal Academy of Music. She might go back to Yobril for this competition. Janet got a terrible headache thinking about Emily and Hazel. "Just leave it aside first. I'll decide depending on my mood." Then, she ended the call.

"Who made you mad?" Mason looked at her from the side and smiled. She's got a really bad temper!

Propping her chin in her palm, Janet said indifferently, "There's a competition, and I might have to participate."

Mason's pupils shrank slightly at her words, and he was curious. "What competition?"

Seeing his curiosity, Janet deliberately arched an eyebrow and teased, "Dance competition. So, I'm still considering it." As soon as she said that, she noticed that the temperature in the car was dropping. She snorted at his reaction and wanted to explain, but the car came to a stop. Looking out the car window, she saw the two words 'Woodsbury University'. "I've got to go." Immediately, she opened the door, got out of the car, and walked toward the university entrance without looking back.

Mason stared at her slender figure, and his fists clenched slightly. It was hard for him to not be jealous when he saw his little girl becoming more and more outstanding.

The moment Janet set foot inside the gate of Woodsbury University, countless eyes fell upon her. Nonetheless, there were no curses and criticism; it was only envy and admiration.

"Look; Janet Jackson is back!"

"It's really her! Did she just come back from the meeting?"

"Wow! I had no idea that Janet Jackson was Rose. I misunderstood her."

"With her sudden change in identity, she's become the youngest ever chairperson of the Writers Association."

"Yeah. I even accused her of plagiarism behind her back."

"Now that's a slap in your face, then!"

"Will I look bad if I go up to ask her for an autograph?"

"I doubt it. The guys at the medical school told me that she's very nice!"

"Anyway, I'm embarrassed to look at her now. I don't have the guts to go up to her!"

Janet remained cold when she heard those words. Unconcerned, she walked straight to the medical school. As soon as she entered the classroom, a few people approached her and bowed. With their heads down, one of them said with a great sense of guilt, "Janet Jackson, we're sorry. We've misunderstood you."

The scene left Janet speechless. Twitching the corners of her lips, she said nothing and went back to her seat. Those students thought that she didn't want to forgive them when she kept quiet. So, they kept bowing and didn't get up.

Looking at them, Hazel bit her lip and rolled her eyes at Janet. Huh. They've already apologized, but she still doesn't want to accept it. How arrogant! But, this makes sense, though. Now that she's Rose,

the youngest chairperson of the Writers Association, it's normal to be inflated. If we're in Yobril, I'll probably tear down her pretentious face in seconds!

"Janet Jackson, can you forgive us? We're truly sorry. We said those things because we had no idea you were Rose. We said that because of the rumors!" Those students continued to stand there and apologized to Janet in unison. They were sincere, and their voices were so loud that Janet's ears hurt, so she moved her lips slightly. "Don't stand there anymore. Just go back to your seat."

Post navigation

C

Upon hearing Janet's remarks, those students quickly looked at her. They were slightly relieved when they saw her in her usual state. Standing up, they went back to their seats. Meanwhile, Hazel let out a hiss at the sight, and it reached the ears of those students from earlier. They nearly forgot that Hazel had not apologized yet!

"Hazel, if we weren't mistaken, you haven't apologized to Janet." They went to her and reminded her.

Hazel sat in silence for a long moment. Then, she looked at them coldly. "I've already apologized." I've apologized to Janet on Messenger. Why should I do it again? This is ridiculous!

"But ever since Janet came in, you haven't told her you are sorry!" After they learned that Janet was Rose, they naturally wanted to save face for their idol.

"That's right. If you and Madelaine hadn't posted on Reddit accusing Janet of plagiarism, we wouldn't have misunderstood her."

"Yeah. Had Eric Lawson not been here to clarify for Janet, she wouldn't be able to prove her identity even at this point."

"No matter what, you have to apologize to her in person."

Standing beside Hazel, those students kept nagging at her.

Although Hazel found them unreasonable, she could only choke herself with silent fury. Keeping her wrath to herself, she went to Janet bitterly. Then, she took a deep breath and apologized reluctantly, "Janet, I've misunderstood you. I'm sorry."

When Janet heard her voice, she lifted her eyelids lazily. Glancing at her, she said nothing and continued to play with her phone. Her attitude nearly set Hazel's lungs ablaze with rage.

What's that supposed to mean? I already apologized to her. Is she still going to hold a grudge against me? Huh. I really have to let Sheldon come to see for himself that the woman he likes is someone like this. How disgusting, thought Hazel. But the moment she recalled her brother's words from earlier, she could only swallow her thoughts and return to her seat with clenched fists.

Janet's fame is only momentary. After winning the first prize in the World Piano Competition, I'm sure there'll be a lot of fans defending my reputation. How can Janet Jackson be my match? This is foolish.

It was ten minutes before the bell rang. Hazel had picked this time on purpose to put up her hand.

Nina raised an eyebrow at the sight of her. "Miss Fuller, what's wrong?"

Hazel's eyes flickered in response. Tucking her hair behind her ear, she said, "I may have to take a few days off next week to go back to Yobril."

"Take a few days off?" Nina was startled for a moment. "You guys must be busy with homework recently. If it's no big deal, you shouldn't be running around."

Hazel raised her chin slightly at her teacher's words before she ducked her head down shyly. "Miss Hogan, this is not a trivial matter. The World Piano Competition will take place in Yobril, and Mr. Hilbert insisted that I have to go back and participate."

As soon as she said that, the crowd was astounded.

"What? World Piano Competition?"

It was a well-known fact that there would be a lot of star pianists and musicians at the scene of the World Piano Competition. This kind of competition could be considered a global competition, and whoever won the championship would obtain glory for their country.

"I see. Then, you can send me the specific dates through Messenger." Nina knew whoever participated in this sort of competition represented the country, and the competition was prestigious; she had to let Hazel go.

Noticing the envious gazes coming from her classmates, Hazel couldn't help but look up at her teacher when she hummed gently in response. Her gentle, ladylike manners transformed her into someone different compared to her earlier ill-tempered behavior.

Chapter 831

If Hazel were to represent Yobril, Emily might participate too.

"Hazel, if you're participating in this competition, then Emily Jackson, who's in the same school with you, will be going too, right?"

Bewildered for a few seconds at the question, Hazel nodded.

"Emily and I were classmates in high school. I wonder what she has become now."

"Back then, Hilbert took the time to visit Sandfort City to recruit her. It was quite a big deal at that time."

"Yeah. I heard that she's very talented. Everyone is hoping that she can become the next Hilbert."

"But, she seemed to have a bad relationship with Janet back then."

"No way! They're both Jackson, and they're pretty. I can't believe that they don't get along with each other."

When the others were engaged in conversation, one of the corners of Hazel's mouth lifted slightly. From time to time, her gaze would fall on Janet even though she was talking to them. Seeing Janet, who was sitting calmly, she couldn't help but smirk. How can she still be so calm when she knows that I'm going to participate in the World Piano Competition? She must be acting, right? I bet she's very nervous right now! After all, everyone's attention will be on me after the competition! I wonder whether Emily has returned to Sandfort City. It's been quite some time since we met. I really miss her!

When the class was dismissed at 5 PM, a black Rolls Royce pulled up in front of the university entrance on time. Janet walked toward the car and got in. Then, her phone vibrated just in time. Looking at it, she hesitated for a moment and answered the call. After a while, her cold voice rose. "Okay. I'll go there now."

Sean took a glance at the rear-view mirror, and he said in a low voice. "Miss Jackson, where are we going?"

"Jackson Residence."

"Okay." Instead of asking further, he was ready to make a turn toward the direction of Jackson Residence. However, at this moment, her indifferent voice rose behind him again. "Wait a second. Let's go back to the Lowry Residence first."

"All right."

After Janet got out of the car at the Lowry Residence, she hurriedly found the butler.

"Do you have the key to the basement?"

The butler was doing his work when he was suddenly interrupted. Surprised, he asked, "Miss Jackson, why do you need the key to the basement?"

"To grab something."

Janet was a bit irritated earlier because she didn't know what gift she should prepare for Jade. Luckily, the thousand-year Saussurea Involucrata and thousand-year Ginseng she had given to Mason back then came to the back of her mind; he hadn't used them and had been keeping them in the basement.

Although the butler knew where they were, he didn't have the right to speak about the matter. He said, "I'll have to ask Young Master Mason."

In response, Janet nodded and took a seat on the sofa to wait for Mason's permission.

After a while, the butler came back with a key and said respectfully, "Here you go, Miss Jackson."

Janet looked up at him and took the key. "Thank you."

Staring at her petite and slender figure, the butler couldn't help but remind her, "Miss Jackson, be careful." Everything kept in the basement was a priceless treasure, so she had to be careful.

Without looking back, Janet made her way straight to the basement. The moment she opened the basement door, she finally understood why the butler told her to be careful. In the several-hundred-square-meter basement were various kinds of treasures: there was china from the Song Dynasty, blue-and-white porcelain, gemstones from different countries, and invaluable paintings. Each of them was the finest of the finest.

Janet looked around the room before walking to the furthest end of the room. Her cold gaze was fixated on the innermost room, and she was slightly stunned—she felt strange. Even though this was a basement where things were kept, this room looked like a conference room, and it seemed mysterious.

Chapter 832

Glancing at the room, Janet noticed a map on the table. She walked closer to take a look and it turned out to be a map of a country. "Hawke Kingdom?" she murmured. Is the Lowry Family investigating the Hawke Kingdom too? I haven't found anything about the country so far. With Mason's hacking skills, I wonder if he can find any information. As the thoughts crossed her mind, she suddenly heard footsteps from outside. Immediately, she knew who the footsteps belonged to. Forgetting about it, she took the box of the thousand-year Ginseng and left.

When Janet came out, she closed the door lazily, and she bumped into Mason, who was about to come in. The man stared at the box in her hand. After a moment of silence, he said, "I heard from Sean that you're going back to the Jackson Residence?"

"Yeah," Janet answered softly.

"Isn't this the thousand-year Ginseng you gave me? Who are you giving it to?" He raised an eyebrow, and mischief was evident in his deep voice.

"You don't want to give it to me, Mr. Lowry? So stingy?"

Mason laughed at her question before he said softly, "Let me help you."

In response, Janet walked toward him. He took the box from her arms and held her in his embrace; she ended up leaning against his chest.

Mason held her by her waist and buried his face into her neck. "Why am I stingy? You gave it to me, and I don't want to give it to anybody else. But, if you kiss me, you can have it."

His words elicited a chuckle from Janet. "You're a rascal."

When Megan opened the door of the Jackson Residence, her pupils shrank at the sight of Janet. "Janet, you're back?"

"Yeah, Mom," Janet answered politely.

"What's that in your hands?" Megan's attitude was much better than before.

"A gift for Grandma Jade."

Jade, who heard her voice from the second floor, was touched. Hurriedly, she yelled, "Jan, I'm on the second floor."

Upon hearing that, Janet walked past Megan and went into the house. When she saw Emily, who was sitting on the sofa in the living room, her brows went up a little. She looked frosty yet nonchalant.

Sitting on the sofa, Emily threw her a glance. She then stood up on her feet and faked a smile. "It's been a long time, Janet."

"It's been a while." Janet did not slow down her pace; she walked past Emily and went upstairs.

Staring at her distant figure, Emily said aggrievedly, "Mommy, why is Janet so cold to me? I shouldn't have come back, right?"

Megan walked up to her and held her hands before she reassured her, "Emily, you're thinking too much. Janet has always been like this. You guys will get along with each other after a few days." Since the girls hadn't seen each other for three to four months, it was normal for them to feel distant. Megan thought they would be fine after they talked for a while.

Now that Megan had already said so, Emily knew she had to stop saying any more. As though she was very understanding, she said, "Okay, I got it."

"Grandma Jade, can I come in?" Upstairs, Janet knocked on her grandmother's door, asking for permission.

"Of course. Come in, my darling." Jade quickly got up and opened the door.

The moment the door was opened, their eyes met. Although Jade was smiling, her eyes were brimmed with tears. "Janet, come on in. Let Grandma take a good look at you."

Janet's glance swept across the room before she went to take a seat on a stool. "Grandma Jade, your complexion is getting better," she said sweetly. She had to admit that the thousand-year snow lotus was very effective.

Chapter 833

Jade caressed Janet's face. "It's all thanks to you, my darling. Let grandma see if you've gained weight or not." She pulled her toward her and spun her around, but she couldn't notice any difference. Despite that, her eyes caught the thing Janet held in her hand. Curious, she asked, "Jan, what are you holding?"

"Thousand-year Ginsengs." Janet opened the box and showed her the gift. "Do you like it?"

Instantly, Jade was surprised. "Janet, thousand-year Ginsengs? They're probably worth tens of millions in the market!"

The Ginsengs in the box were the finest Ginsengs available in the market, and they cost much higher than the market price. To be precise, this box of Ginsengs probably cost far more than ten million.

Janet smiled at her grandma and said, "If Grandma Jade likes it, I'll buy it for you no matter how expensive it is."

"Fine. Since my darling says so, I have a gift for you too." She took out a wooden bracelet from the brocade box on the table and handed it to Janet. She said, "Darling, see if you like it"

Janet observed the bracelet in her hand. Jade Buddhas were carved onto the sandalwood beaded bracelet. Jade had gotten someone from the Buddhist temple to carve them. They could keep her safe and save her from any danger she encountered outside.

Stroking the tiny jade Buddhas, Janet felt calm. She nodded and said happily, "Thank you, Grandma. I love it."

A smile found its way across Jade's face. "Although my gift isn't expensive, it's full of my love for you, my darling."

The edges of Janet's lips curved upward as she kept the bracelet in her pocket. She loved whatever her grandma gave her.

"Janet, come along. Let's go talk to Emily downstairs."

"Okay." Leaning against her grandma, Janet didn't reject her.

Emily was sitting alone on the sofa in the living room downstairs. When she heard footsteps, she quickly turned around and looked at the second floor. The moment she saw Jade holding Janet's arms, her eyes narrowed. Huh. You just got back, yet you already bought off Grandma Jade. Janet, you're still as cunning as before!

"Janet, I missed you so much." Despite her hatred toward Janet, she still grinned at her.

Janet arched an eyebrow at her words but she said nothing.

Putting the box in her hand on the table, Jade said with a smile, "Janet brought this back for me. What do you think about these Ginsengs?"

Megan came closer and observed. "The stuff Janet brings back is naturally good."

When Jade heard her, her face was full of happiness.

Emily tugged at the hem of her dress before she leaned forward to take a closer look. After a while, she said sourly, "They're pretty good. Where did Janet buy them?" The thousand-year Ginseng and snow lotus were sold in limited quantities. It was difficult for one to get their hands on ten of those all at once. If she remembered correctly, J'Adore had given ten of these to Mason previously at his twenty-sixth birthday party.

How did they get to Janet suddenly? Since Janet and Mason have an affair, Janet might have gotten them from Mason. If J'Adore knows that the gift she gave to Mason changed hands to Janet, I wonder how she will feel. If she finds out, Janet will probably be doomed! Haha! Tsk, tsk, tsk! You even gave up your dignity just to please Grandma Jade! Janet, you're really getting shameless.

Chapter 834

With the corners of her mouth lifted, Janet couldn't help but laugh at her mother's words.

Yet, her laughter immediately irritated Emily. Discontented, Emily frowned. "Janet, what's that supposed to mean?"

What does she mean now? Is there something wrong with me winning the championship? How dare she laugh at me? Does she even know how to play the piano? Who does she think she is to laugh at me? She does not even qualify to take part in the competition!

Janet poured herself a cup of water as she pursed her lips nonchalantly. "Nothing."

Her lazy look annoyed Emily even further. Nonetheless, this wasn't the time for her to lose her temper. She couldn't fall for Janet's trick. She had to maintain her good image in front of Megan; otherwise, Megan would be pissed off. Swallowing her anger, she clenched the hem of her dress and walked to the piano. Gently, she smiled. "Mommy, Grandma, let me play a song for you."

She wanted to play the piano in front of Janet intentionally. No matter what, I'm better than her when it comes to playing the piano! Janet is someone who doesn't even qualify to participate in the competition. She has no right to laugh at me. I'll definitely win the competition and flaunt the trophy in front of her. I'll prove her wrong! She wanted to tell the Jackson Family, even the world, that she was better than Janet. Janet can't even compare herself to my finger with her useless skills. Although Emily was criticizing Janet in her head, the movements in her hands did not stop.

Soon, the lively and melodious sound of the piano flowed from her fingertips. The melody was beautiful. Sometimes, it was as wild as a galloping horse, but sometimes, it was as cheerful as a mountain stream; it was fascinating.

As soon as the music stopped, Megan and Jade opened their eyes slowly and clapped. They couldn't help praising her, "That was beautiful." It was undeniable that Emily's piano skills had improved significantly over the previous months.

Emily didn't seem surprised to receive the compliments. In fact, she began acting humbly. "Mommy, Grandma, you flatter me. It's all thanks to Mr. Hilbert's lessons!"

When Janet heard her, she raised an eyebrow. She retracted her fingers that were tapping against the table and said nothing.

Staring at Janet for a while, Emily held back the hostility in her gaze and looked at her innocently. "Janet, how does my song sound?"

Janet was leaning against the sofa lazily. Looking at Emily's superior smile, she grinned. "Even though I'm no professional, I can tell that it's not bad."

Emily didn't think Janet would understand the song in the first place. After all, she didn't know a thing about the piano. Even if she did, she only had a smattering of knowledge about pianos. Janet couldn't possibly know if I did well or not. However, she actually said that she could understand the song!

How ridiculous! She isn't willing to give in even when it comes to playing the piano?

Right away, she smiled. "Janet, if you let Hilbert teach you, maybe we can—"

Remaining in her previous position, Janet tapped her slender fingers against the table rhythmically and interrupted, "But, the melody sounds familiar. I think I've heard that somewhere before..."

Emily was flustered when Janet interrupted her and questioned her song. Nevertheless, she continued to tug at the hem of her dress, trying her best to regain her composure. "Janet, what are you getting at? I wrote this song during my time at the Royal Academy of Music. This is my original creation! Are you questioning me or denying my capabilities?"

At her remarks, Janet turned around and brushed away the hair strand on her forehead. There was a hint of a chill in her smile as she smirked at Emily. As if she was laughing, she said, "I didn't mean that. What I was saying was that there could be similarities between excellent pieces."

Chapter 835

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Staring at Janet for a while, Emily held back the hostility in her gaze and looked at her innocently. "Janet, how does my song sound?"

Janet was leaning against the sofa lazily. Looking at Emily's superior smile, she grinned. "Even though I'm no professional, I can tell that it's not bad."

Emily didn't think Janet would understand the song in the first place. After all, she didn't know a thing about the piano. Even if she did, she only had a smattering of knowledge about pianos. Janet couldn't possibly know if I did well or not. However, she actually said that she could understand the song!

How ridiculous! She isn't willing to give in even when it comes to playing the piano?

Right away, she smiled. "Janet, if you let Hilbert teach you, maybe we can—"

Remaining in her previous position, Janet tapped her slender fingers against the table rhythmically and interrupted, "But, the melody sounds familiar. I think I've heard that somewhere before..."

Emily was flustered when Janet interrupted her and questioned her song. Nevertheless, she continued to tug at the hem of her dress, trying her best to regain her composure. "Janet, what are you getting at? I wrote this song during my time at the Royal Academy of Music. This is my original creation! Are you questioning me or denying my capabilities?"

At her remarks, Janet turned around and brushed away the hair strand on her forehead. There was a hint of a chill in her smile as she smirked at Emily. As if she was laughing, she said, "I didn't mean that. What I was saying was that there could be similarities between excellent pieces."

Chapter 836

Jade nodded. "That's right. It's up to you." Right after she said that, she opened her mouth and yawned.

"Grandma, are you tired?"

"Yeah. Janet, accompany me to bed upstairs."

After a while, Janet stood up from the sofa. Calmly, she said, "Okay."

After putting Jade to sleep, Janet closed the door from the outside gently. She turned around and walked away. At that moment, she ran into Emily, who was coming from across the corridor.

Emily took a look around them. After making sure that there were only the both of them there, she cut to the chase and said, "Janet, did you remember what Mommy said just now?" The meaning behind her words was obvious: she wanted Janet to stop seducing Mason; otherwise, when J'Adore found out about them, no one knew what would happen to the Jackson Family. She did not want to be dragged down too.

Upon hearing that, Janet raised an eyebrow. She was baffled.

Noticing her expression, Emily was irritated. She glared at her, sarcasm and disgust filling her gaze. "I'm telling you to stop seducing Mason! If I find you with him again, I'll find a way to tell J'Adore."

How dare she flirt with men everywhere she goes! Doesn't she feel shameless? Has she forgotten why Magnus and his family were doomed?

At first, Emily thought Janet would come back to her senses and beg for mercy after she said that. Nonetheless, the latter still looked nonchalant, and she asked, "So, you know all about it?"

"Do you think you can hide all the nasty things you did from me? I'm already saving face for you when I didn't expose your identity as a liar back at the Fuller Residence. If you offend J'Adore, you're only wandering down the dead end." Sometimes, Emily thought that she was unlucky to be a part of this family and have this kind of sister! After Megan's reminder from earlier, she was even more afraid that Janet would get her involved with this mess.

As Emily was talking, Janet stood lazily and listened. From time to time, she would lift her eyebrows at her words, looking indifferent yet devilish. When Emily was done speaking, Janet folded her arms across her chest and sneered. Unable to conceal the cunning under

her eyes, she stared at her sister. "I don't mind if you really want to complain to J'Adore. I'm curious about her reaction too."

Her words instantly enraged Emily. Clenching her fists, Emily squeezed her words through her gritted teeth. "Janet Jackson, do you have no shame? This is a disgrace!"

Still standing with her arms folded across her chest, Janet let out a smirk. Step by step, she approached Emily. "Watch what you say. If you don't, you'll end up like Rebecca." Then, she turned around and went down the stairs without looking back.

In the enormous corridor on the second floor, all that remained was Emily's infuriated figure.

Janet Jackson is simply too lawless. I was only giving her advice. How dare she talk back to me? What does she mean by me ending up like Rebecca? She's taking herself too seriously! Hasn't she taken a look at herself in the mirror? How dare she talk to me like that just because she is the chairperson of the Writers Association? Huh. We haven't met in three months, and she's really getting better! If she wasn't a Jackson, I would have told J'Adore about everything she did, and let J'Adore teach her a lesson!

The moment Janet turned around and left, her phone rang. She jammed her hand into her pocket and took the phone out. Although it was an unfamiliar number, it only took her a moment of hesitation before she answered the call. After a moment of silence, she spoke in her calm voice. "International Federation of Musicians? Judge?"

The man on the line said excitedly, "That's right. We've saved you a spot as a judge. We hope you can attend and give some advice to the younger generation."

Immediately, Janet shook her head. "I don't want to be a judge. I can't make it this time." She had agreed to participate in the competition. There was no reason to quit and become a judge instead.

Chapter 837

Jade nodded. "That's right. It's up to you." Right after she said that, she opened her mouth and yawned.

"Grandma, are you tired?"

"Yeah. Janet, accompany me to bed upstairs."

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The man on the line said excitedly, "That's right. We've saved you a spot as a judge. We hope you can attend and give some advice to the younger generation."

Immediately, Janet shook her head. "I don't want to be a judge. I can't make it this time." She had agreed to participate in the competition. There was no reason to quit and become a judge instead.

Chapter 838

After Janet said that, she ended the call.

Unbeknownst to her, Emily had heard what happened from behind. Her brows furrowed slightly as she was startled by the conversation. International Federation of Musicians? Judge? Don't tell me as a judge for the World Piano Competition this year?

When Emily realized what was going on, she instantly burst out into laughter. Janet knows I'm taking part in the World Piano Competition, so she acted in front of me on purpose? And she even turned down the invitation because she's busy? How can she turn them away when they didn't even invite her? This is probably a show she self-directed and acted in! Haha! Why the need for a show? Doesn't she know what qualifications are needed to be a judge of the World Piano Competition? Why bother while she doesn't even know how to play the piano? Is it so embarrassing to surrender to me? Does she think that I'll believe what she said? How ridiculous!

"Sigh. Such a pathetic country bumpkin." Why does she want to compete with me in everything? Emily stood in the corridor on the second floor as she stared at Janet, who was leaving. A trace of mockery and disdain flashed before her eyes.

Meanwhile, someone knocked on the door to the study of the Fuller Residence in Yobril. Sheldon looked up at the door and rubbed his brows. Coldly, he said, "Come in."

Reiner pushed open the door and came in. He then said respectfully, "Young Miss Fuller said she's coming back two days later. I've booked a ticket for her."

"Okay." Sheldon was helpless when it came to his willful sister. Annoyed, he flipped open the document and took a glance. "Get my plane ready. I'm going to Sandfort City tomorrow."

Instantly, Reiner was surprised. "Mr. Fuller, are you going to bring the young lady back from Sandfort City in person?"

The man sitting on the main seat nodded. The reason he made this decision was that he wanted to prevent Hazel from regretting her decision and also because he...

From his expression, Reiner seemed to figure out something, and he couldn't help but twitch his lips. If he wasn't mistaken, Sheldon wasn't just going there for Hazel. That woman was also studying at Woodsbury University... However, his heart still flinched with fear at the thought of that woman. Sandra wasn't a woman who was easy to mess with. He didn't want to try that laxative again.

On the following day, a man was standing outside the Woodsbury University medical school. He was a tall man with a handsome face that carried the vibe of royalty. Beside him was a gentle-looking foreigner, who had emerald-green eyes that looked even more charming coupled with his mature appearance.

The students from the medical school were thrilled. Those two men were obviously noble princes or CEOs of some company.

"Oh my God! They're so stunning! Who are they looking for?"

"Seriously? Whose boyfriends are they?"

"Oh my God! They're too handsome. Look at their suits. They are handmade in Italy."

"Why are there people like them here on our campus?"

For a moment, the students had lost their minds.

"Excuse me, we're looking for Hazel Fuller. Is she not in the medical school?" Reiner asked politely.

The students were captivated by his emerald-green eyes.

"Hazel Fuller?" They exchanged a glance with one another. "Hazel Fuller hasn't come yet." She usually only came right before classes started.

"Sirs, why are you looking for Hazel Fuller?" Someone in the crowd asked curiously.

He can't be Hazel's boyfriend, right?

Oh my God! Hazel's boyfriend is so handsome. No wonder she's always so wilful. She has every right to do that!

Chapter 839

Reiner smiled at the question and explained, "This is Hazel's brother. We're here to bring her back to Yobril for the piano competition!"

As soon as he said that, the eyes' of the students present at the scene started shining. They were jealous!

Tsk, tsk, tsk. So, this is Hazel's brother.

D*mn it. Hazel's brother is so handsome. Indeed, beauty runs in the family!

When everyone was caught up in the middle of a discussion, an indifferent and cold female voice rose from behind. "Excuse me, can I get by, please?"

Sheldon's pupils immediately shrank when he heard the familiar voice. His breath skipped, but he quickly regained his composure and turned around. She was still as cold as usual. With the white shirt she was wearing, she looked even more distant. It was as if one could read 'Do Not Enter' in her aura. And it was also the reason Sheldon couldn't help but fall for her.

The moment Reiner saw Janet, he was slightly embarrassed and quickly gave way to her.

Parting his lips, Sheldon took the initiative to greet her. "It's been a while, Miss Sandra!"

Janet was expressionless. Nevertheless, she slowed down her pace before she said, "It's better to call me Janet Jackson here."

Sheldon's throat bobbed, and he spoke in a charmingly low voice. "Okay." After he said that, Janet went straight to the classroom. However, Sheldon's gaze remained fixated on her.

When the crowd saw the situation, they were confused. They couldn't help but wonder if Hazel's brother knew Janet. Is this an illusion?

While everyone was puzzled, a cheerful female voice rose from the outside. Everyone knew it was Hazel Fuller when they heard her voice.

"Sheldon."

As soon as they turned around, they saw Hazel, who was dressed in a light yellow dress, sprint past them and plunge into Sheldon's embrace.

Spreading his arms widely, Sheldon welcomed her into his arms. Quarrels between the siblings were short-lived! No matter how they fought over the phone, they still felt happy meeting each other.

"Sheldon, what are you doing here?" Hazel thought her eyes were blurry when she saw Sheldon. But, he was really here.

The latter's lips parted. "The World Piano Competition is happening this Saturday. I'm here to pick you up."

After Hazel heard that, she looked disappointed instantly. "Didn't I say that I'll be back in two days? I can still make it anyway."

Standing beside them, Reiner tried to explain. "Mr. Fuller is worried about you."

The corners of Hazel's lips twitched when she heard him. She broke free from Sheldon's arms, looking arrogant and disdainful. "Huh. Worried about me?"

If he is really worried about me, he should have sent Janet to prison instead of pretending in front of me! Nevertheless, she did not dare to say it out loud. After all, some words were not to be uttered in public.

Letting out a sigh, Sheldon spoke helplessly, though his tone was affectionate. "Fine. If you want to stay here, I'll stay a few more days. We'll go back to Yobril together."

Hazel pouted and chuckled secretly. "That's more like it."

When Janet left the university at 5 PM, she suddenly heard the sound of a car honking by the road. Glancing over her shoulder, she tried to take a closer look. A man suddenly got out of a black car. Then, she saw Sheldon approaching her and stopping beside her. She took two steps back to keep their distance before she looked up at him. "Mr. Fuller, what can I do for you?"

There was a flash of embarrassment and redness on Sheldon's handsome face. However, it happened so fast that no one noticed it. His magnetic, low voice flowed out from his thin lips. "Miss Jackson, would you like to go for dinner with me?" It was a date they agreed on last time, but it didn't happen. For that reason, Sheldon decided to visit Sandfort City because he wanted to make up for the date.

"What's the catch?" Janet raised an eyebrow at his invitation, and her tone was inexplicable.

Sheldon was startled for a moment; his heart couldn't stop hammering against his chest.

"You won't reject a dinner with me, right, Miss Jackson?"

Janet tugged at the neckline of her shirt. Her fair skin was exposed slightly due to her action. Nonchalantly, she said, "I'm afraid I can't make it today."

"What about tomorrow?" Anticipation was visible in the man's eyes.

Nonetheless, Janet rejected him with certainty. "I'm not free tomorrow too."

"Then, when are you free?"

"There is no right time, but only the right person." It was obvious from her words that she was rejecting him. After she said that, she turned around and wanted to leave for the other side. At this moment, Sheldon came forward and grabbed her arm.

Turning around, Janet spoke in a deep voice. "Mr. Fuller, please behave yourself."

Sheldon gulped at her warning. Immediately, he knew he had crossed the line. So, he quickly let go of her arm. "I'm sorry. I just want to ask you about what happened with my sister, Hazel..."

Staring at the ground, Janet was silent. After some time, she began, "She's not bad. But, Mr. Fuller, I think you should keep an eye on her. Don't let her be fooled by those around her."

Stunned, Sheldon then answered calmly, "Thank you, Miss Jackson, for your advice."

In the next instant, Janet turned around and left.

Sheldon's right arm fell to his side as he stared at the girl who had gotten into a black Maybach. From the rear windshield, he could faintly see that there was a man sitting in the back seat. They were whispering into each other's ears, talking about something.

Noticing that something was wrong, Reiner quickly said, "Mr. Fuller, she's left."

Sheldon clenched his fists at his words. He turned around and said coldly, "Hmm. Let's go."

In the meantime, Megan was preparing a grand banquet in the Jackson Residence to celebrate Emily's participation in the competition. It was a great honor for someone from Sandfort City to represent Yobril in the competition. Therefore, of course, Emily didn't want to miss the opportunity to show herself off. Even if Emily didn't mention the banquet, Megan had already thought about it. She had to make sure that the banquet took place within these few days.

Since Emily was the main character of the banquet, she was extremely excited. "Mommy, did you invite all the well-known musicians in Sandfort City?"

"I called them and sent them invitation letters. It depends on whether they want to show us respect."

Upon hearing that, Emily sneered. Everyone in the music industry wants to please me. How can they not show me some respect? "Mommy, I think we should invite the three major families."

Megan was puzzled for a moment when she heard her. "Are you talking about the Sanders Family, the Moss Family, and the Lowry Family?"

Emily nodded. "Yeah!" Other than those three major families, who else would there be.

Megan then smiled awkwardly. "They are prestigious families. Why would they want to attend a small event like this?" Besides, she didn't dare to invite the Lowry Family. She couldn't forget how Rebecca and her family ended up after offending them.

Yet, Emily wasn't pleased when she heard her mother. What do you mean by a small event? This is a banquet to celebrate my becoming the champion of the World Piano Competition. How can you say it's small? My banquet is on an international scale, unlike Janet's position as the chairperson of the Writers Association! These are two completely different things, okay?

"Fine, fine." Megan brought her palm to her forehead helplessly. It was just an extra invitation letter, and there was no need to make a fuss with Emily. After all, she could only win the competition a few days later in her best condition!

Seeing that Megan had finally compromised with her request, Emily smirked in satisfaction. When she was finishing up the invitation letters, a figure suddenly crossed her mind. Biting her lip, she made up her mind and dialed the number.

Chapter 841

The phone was quickly connected, but the voice coming from the other side was cold. "Hello?"

The moment Emily heard the familiar male voice, she was surprised and delighted. "Walter, you didn't take part in this year's World Piano Competition, did you?"

"No."

Upon hearing that, Emily was overjoyed. "Then, do you know who is representing Sandfort City in the competition?"

Walter knew nothing about the competition this year. Besides, he still didn't know if Janet was going to attend, so he shook his head. "I don't know. I haven't seen the list."

He hasn't seen the list? And he hasn't heard about it yet? Does this mean that this year's participants aren't very well-known, or does this mean that no one will be representing Sandfort City? If this is the case, it'll be great because I'll have one less competitor. At the moment, Emily suddenly felt like the trophy was already within reach.

"Do you have anything else to say?" The man's voice on the other end was unusually cold.

"Walter, the Jackson Family is hosting a banquet to celebrate my participation in the World Piano Competition. Would you like to come?"

Walter went silent on the other end of the phone. Emotionlessly, he said, "I've something to do here. I'll end the call." The minute he said that, he really hung up.

Staring at the phone, Emily was confused. What's that supposed to mean? Is he looking down on me? Although I once left a bad impression in front of him, now that I'm about to become the champion of the World Piano Competition, how can he still look down on me? What does he mean? Walter and Janet are friends. Could it be that Janet is keeping him away from me? This was the only reason Emily could think of. The more she thought about it, the angrier she got, and she couldn't help but clench her fists.

Janet probably got him to annoy me because she couldn't stand to see me becoming the champion. I won't be fooled by that b*tch!

"Emily, call your sister. Tell her to come back home. We'll go to the banquet together tomorrow."

Emily heard Megan's request as soon as she ended the call. Immediately, her mood worsened. It's my banquet; why does Janet have to follow along? If Janet showed up, the guests would focus their attention on her again. Why should I invite her?

Having said that, she knew the banquet was held to celebrate her success, and the guests were all important figures from Sandfort City's music and business industries. Luckily Janet couldn't play the piano, so the guests probably wouldn't talk to her too often. Besides, she was one of the candidates for the championship. Naturally, people would compare her with Janet. In this way, her capabilities and strengths would be more striking.

Thinking of that, Emily felt better. "Okay, Mommy. I'll call Janet now." She picked up her phone and called Janet. The phone rang for a long time before it was connected. Emily heard an indifferent voice on the other end. It was so cold that she couldn't figure out Janet's emotion. "What's wrong?"

Emily lifted one of the corners of her mouth and smiled triumphantly. "Janet, Mommy wants you to come home today. We're going to the banquet tomorrow at Holden Hotel together. Besides, a lot of successful people in the music industry are coming tomorrow. You can come and get to know them too!"

Holding the phone in her hand, Janet crossed her legs lazily and laughed. "Forget it. I'm not free tomorrow."

When Emily heard her, her expression changed subtly. Holding back her anger, she said indifferently, "Okay. If you don't want to support me, I can't force you to."

Janet hummed in response and hung up.

The moment Emily heard the beep sound from the phone, her expression sank.

Chapter 842

What in the world is she playing at? Janet isn't going to show me support? What right does she have to not support me? She's really shameless!

Seeing Emily standing utterly still with her fists clenched, Megan couldn't help but feel puzzled and asked, "Emily, what's the matter?"

Emily was taken aback. She turned to face her mother, looking pained. "Mom, Janet said she won't come to the banquet. "

"She's not coming?" Megan's expression turned slightly unpleasant.

"Yeah," said Emily with an empathetic expression. "She doesn't know anything about piano anyway. Rather than going there and spacing out, I reckon it's best that she stays home."

Having heard that, Megan nodded and agreed, "That's right. Try on the dress. If it's too loose or too tight, I'll ask the designer to alter it." She then placed the gift box containing the dress on the table.

Retrieving the gift box, Emily couldn't help but feel slightly overjoyed by the sandy texture beneath her fingertips.

She didn't need to look at it to know that the dress in this gift box was custom-made.

"Thanks, Mom."

After picking up the box, Emily skipped up the stairs.

When she was upstairs, Emily admired herself in the mirror and was stunned by her own beauty.

"It's gorgeous." She twirled in delight, unable to hide the smile on her face.

Megan heard the sounds and hurriedly went upstairs and opened the door.

For a moment, Megan stood frozen in place, unable to get a single word out.

After a while, she came back to her senses. "Oh my God. Emily, you look so beautiful."

It was as if after practicing piano for three to four months, she had begun to exude an artistic temperament.

Megan nodded in satisfaction.

"Mom, you think it looks good too?" Emily asked, blushing as she gazed at herself in the mirror.

"Of course. This dress is custom-made, and it's embroidered with real diamonds."

Megan had specially ordered this dress for Emily because of selfish reasons. After all, Emily was almost twenty years old now, so Megan wanted her to find herself a lucky man during an occasion as important as this.

In fact, Megan thought about it before and found that the three major families weren't bad choices.

But, the Lowrys now had a new candidate for the lady of the family, and J'Adore was also the head of the No.1 organization in Markovia. No matter how much she wanted the lucky man to be Mason, she dared not let Emily provoke them.

Besides, the Sanders Family and the Moss Family were good candidates too. It would undoubtedly be best if Emily could get their attention!

After all, no wealthy family could refuse a well-bred young lady!

Upon hearing the words 'real diamonds', Emily straightened up and looked in the mirror more proudly than before.

Janet; oh, Janet. Mom is willing to use real diamonds to customize a dress for me, yet you don't even have the right to walk through the banquet doors. Tsk, tsk! So what if you're the biological daughter? In the end, you're no better than me, and I'm the adopted daughter! Hahaha. Emily looked in the mirror with an unconcealable smile on her face.

Meanwhile, Janet was at the Lowry Residence. As soon as she ended the phone call with Emily, she walked into the living room and saw Sean holding a red paper that resembled an invitation.

When the man sitting on the sofa caught sight of Janet's silhouette, he couldn't help but appear a little more joyful. His thin lips opened slightly and he called out, "Babe."

Janet hummed a faint answer and walked downstairs.

"What's Sean holding?"

A small smile appeared on the man's lips as he answered, "It's an invitation from the Jacksons. Don't you know about it?"

"Huh?" Janet stared at him incomprehensibly.

With one hand, Mason grabbed her so that she was sitting on his lap. He leaned against her and took a deep breath. "Apparently, it's an invitation from the potential champion of the World Piano Competition."

Chapter 843

Mason had no interest in this kind of banquet unless it was related to Janet—only then would he take the initiative to organize one or participate in it.

Janet mouthed an 'oh', then raised her eyebrows. "So, what's the plan? Not going?"

The man tightened his grasp as he roped his arms around her. "Babe, do you want to go?"

Janet took a look at the time and her schedule and found that there was nothing important going on tomorrow. Her eyes turned in a circle and she said in a laid-back manner, "It can be considered."

Didn't Emily say she wanted to tell J'Adore about me hooking up with Mason? I wonder how Emily will react if I attend the party as J'Adore? I'm quite looking forward to seeing her reaction!

Janet leaned against the man and lazily lay down. Looking at the paper in her hand, she announced, "Tell her we're all going."

The corners of Mason's lips curled up slightly as he answered warmly, "Okay."

She leaned into him as her slender white fingertips slowly grazed over the paper.

As he watched her acting all soft and sweet, for a moment, the man was filled with happiness.

At the same time, news of Mason's agreement to attend the party reached Emily.

Then, the Sanders Family and the Moss Family agreed too.

For a short instant, Emily's hands trembled with excitement.

I didn't expect... I didn't expect the three major families of Sandfort City to regard me with such respect. It seems like the World Piano Competition is still of high importance! Now that all three major families are attending, I reckon everyone in Sandfort City will start respecting me. Hahahaha!

At the Lowry Residence, Janet was lying in the man's arms when she suddenly remembered something. She quickly got up and took out her phone to give Lara a call.

The girl's cold and indifferent voice sounded. "Get someone to send a few hyper-realistic face masks over."

When he heard this, Mason pursed his thin lips and his brows furrowed.

"Are you going to wear a mask to the party?" he asked after waiting for her to hang up the phone.

Janet murmured a bleak 'yes'.

Now wasn't the best time to reveal her face.

If she wanted to reveal herself, it would be better to wait for their engagement party.

Mason pressed his lips together, then reached out to grab her small hand. "Jan, how am I supposed to kiss you if you're wearing a mask?"

He figured that this young lady had no regard for his reputation at all. She was going to wear a mask and a hyper-realistic one at that. People must already have the impression that he fooled around with many women.

Janet blinked, then deliberately smiled. "Then, when I kissed you in Rose's mask, why didn't you resist?"

I kissed him forcibly, but he didn't avoid it, did he?

Upon hearing this, Mason was angry, but he also felt like laughing.

Just as he was about to explain himself, a sudden sound of footsteps came from outside.

Janet quickly rose from Mason's lap and sat solemnly on the sofa.

The man's lips were pressed into a straight line, and he looked rather displeased.

"Miss Janet, this is from Miss Lara."

Janet looked up, then reached for the box that the man dressed in a black outfit was holding. She said nonchalantly, "Thank you. You can go now."

The man dressed in black left.

Janet carefully opened the box and saw five hyper-realistic face masks with varying levels of attractiveness inside.

She heard that the black market had improved their skills of making hyper-realistic face masks, so there were now more options to choose from.

This was Mason's first time seeing a hyper-realistic face mask that wasn't being worn. He couldn't help but feel a little uneasy as he gasped, "It's so realistic!"

If he or the other members of the Lowry family wore this mask when they went on their missions, it might be helpful as they wouldn't be recognized.

The corners of Janet's mouth lifted slightly. "The producers of these masks in Markovia's black market have been acquired by us. If you want some, I can get them made for you. But, what do you think about paying a million per mask?" Janet said in a naughty tone.

The man gritted his teeth and gently pinched her at the waist. "A million for one mask? Miss Jackson, you sure know how to run a business."

Janet smiled and pointed at the masks in the box. "Choose one that looks good to you."

Mason took a deep breath and immediately got up to leave as he couldn't stand the teasing. If he had a say, he had much rather she didn't wear one. After all, none of those looks could compare to Janet.

Janet watched the man's retreating back, and an evil smile appeared on her face. She randomly chose a mask and put it on.

On the other hand, Mason went upstairs and walked into the study. Sitting in the black leather office chair, he kneaded his forehead, then decided to make a phone call. Speaking in his low, magnetic voice, he instructed, "Have the people in the research department work on a hyper-realistic face mask. It must look exactly like a human face."

His other identity had already been discovered. If he had a hyper-realistic face mask, it would be much more convenient to carry out missions. If he wasn't mistaken, the group of people in black that attacked him in the teahouse last time had come for him thinking he was his alias. That identity of his could be a threat to the people of Markovia.

However, the person that dominated Markovia was Janet, and he didn't think that it was her who had sent those men after him.

The next day, the entire Holden Hotel building had been rented by Brian, so this banquet was definitely one of the most luxurious events Sandfort City had ever seen. It was obvious that Brian and Megan attached great importance to this celebratory feast.

At around seven in the evening, all kinds of luxury sports cars were parked outside the hotel. The lowest grade of the lot were cars like Audis and Mercedes-Benzs. Evidently, all the guests were big shots. This time, the Jacksons had invited a total of fifty families, and more than forty had shown up. Even those who didn't attend had sent gifts to congratulate them.

Backstage, Emily couldn't help but feel a little nervous. Although she had been to many different occasions, and she had even watched the video of Mason's 26th birthday party, she was the main focus of today's event, which was a hundred times more exciting than watching a video. She certainly didn't expect that so many people would come to support her.

Now, she couldn't imagine what kind of a banquet Megan would organize for her if she actually won first place at the World Piano Competition. It would undoubtedly be an even grander occasion than Mason's 26th birthday party! At the thought of this, Emily couldn't resist a chuckle.

"Emily, come out. Everyone's saying that they want to see you." Megan was exhilarated by all the greetings.

Emily nodded, then lifted the hem of her dress, took a few deep breaths, and slowly walked out. Wearing a white dress embedded with dazzling diamonds, she gracefully and confidently followed Megan out. Her steps were light and her catwalk was as beautiful as a model's. With her curvy figure and the artistic aura she was exuding, it was hard not to look at her.

At Emily's appearance, many of the guests began to whisper in discussion.

"That's Emily, the main focus of today! She's beautiful indeed."

"She's even wearing a custom-made dress, and it's embroidered with real diamonds! Tsk, tsk. The Jacksons sure do love her!"

"I must say; pianists certainly have a good temperament."

"You don't say. She looks completely different from before. She's simply too beautiful!"

Chapter 845

"Yeah. I think she can be considered as one of the three most beautiful women in Sandfort City."

A feverish chatter rose among the audience.

Emily saw that she had attracted the attention of the guests and couldn't help but rejoice.

She had been closed off in Yobril for so long, but now, she finally got to enjoy the attention of others. I'm afraid it's Janet's turn to suffer now! Hahahaha!

Seeing that Emily was standing in place, Megan hurried over to remind her, "Emily, quickly toast the guests and introduce yourself."

Emily nodded obediently. "I'll go now. "

She hastily picked up the wine glass beside her and went forward to toast one guest after another.

"Emily, you're getting more and more beautiful."

"Of course. She's entering womanhood after all. Have you been thinking about marriage lately? I think my son is a good match for you."

Emily bowed and smiled shyly. "Thank you, but I want to put my career first, so I haven't considered marriage."

Oh, how many men in Sandfort City are even worthy of me now? These people want to introduce me to prospective partners? Even so, they should see if their sons can be presented. How ridiculous.

However, she dared not voice out any of her actual thoughts.

"Emily, I heard that you're the dark horse at this year's World Piano Competition. Is that true?"

"That's right. I saw on the news that you're the most likely contestant to win first place!"

As she was being showered with all these compliments, Emily once again lowered her head and smiled. She said modestly, "Oh, don't say that. Although I've not seen the list of participants, in the past, there have been strong contestants every year. So, there's no guarantee that I'll get first place."

"Emily, don't say that. We all have high hopes for you." Everyone felt that Emily was being too humble. After all, if she really didn't think that she would win, the Jacksons wouldn't have been so anxious to organize such an ostentatious celebration.

"Thank you all for the encouragement. I certainly won't let everyone down at the World Piano Competition."

Emily smiled at them, appearing elegant and kind.

Meanwhile, at the Lowry Residence, Janet and Mason got into the car after changing into their respective outfits.

Leaning against Mason, Janet yawned, then said, "I'm going to take a short nap. Wake me up when we arrive."

As he looked at the stranger's face, he could still sense her familiar scent and taste. His frown eased and he answered, "Okay."

She rested her head on his shoulder and closed her eyes, feeling at ease.

The black Maybach came to a stop in front of Holden Hotel.

There were many luxury cars outside the entrance, so if the people milling around didn't take a careful look at the license plate, no one would know that the two most powerful people in Asia and Europe were seated in this humble vehicle.

Mason was going to carry Janet down the car, but when he touched her waist, Janet suddenly opened her eyes. Still in a haze, she looked around and said in a hoarse and sluggish voice, "Have we arrived?"

Mason nodded, and his voice was low and gentle when he spoke. "Yes."

Janet jumped out of the car.

He then took her hand in his and the two of them walked toward the hotel entrance.

Inside the hotel, Emily sat with Megan and Brian at the guest table while they waited for the biggest names in the music and business industries to arrive.

Brian repeatedly reminded her, "Emily, Sandfort City's biggest names are here tonight. You have to speak and act with caution, okay? And don't offend the Lowry Family. We Jacksons can't afford to offend them."

Emily impatiently adjusted her hair and responded, "Dad, how many times have you said that? Do you think I won't recognize the young masters of Sandfort City's three major families?"

Chapter 846

It would be ridiculous if Emily didn't recognize Lee, Henry, and Mason.

Brian frowned and patiently said, "Not only the three major families. You should also watch how you speak to the other guests. Don't offend the bigshots of the music industry, or your future will be over."

He and Megan had tried their best to set up this huge event for her. If Emily screwed things up because of a few words, all their effort would be for nothing!

With a grin, Emily said proudly, "I know all of the bigshots in the music industry, so I definitely won't offend them."

Frowning, Brian asked doubtfully, "Even the piano master, Wesley Ford, and the junior pianist, Walter Lynn?"

Emily shyly lowered her head and pursed her lips, then said, "Of course, I know them. I even have Walter's contact information."

Although she had shamelessly asked Mr. Hilbert to give it to her, wasn't she resourceful since she had eventually gotten it?

There's nothing to be ashamed about!

Hearing this, Brian's eyebrows instantly relaxed and he said with satisfaction, "Yes, good for you. It's good that you know the importance of widening your network. After all, you'll be on an equal footing with them in the future."

"Exactly. That's what I thought too." As Emily said this, a trace of pride and delight flashed across her eyes.

Both Brian and Megan were content with her behavior. They nodded as Brian praised, "Look at how great Emily is. She really proved herself to be the daughter of the Jackson family. Although your sister is very talented in all aspects, if you become the champion of the World Piano Competition, you won't pale in comparison."

As soon as he said this, the smile on Emily's face suddenly collapsed.

Does that mean that if I don't win this competition, I'm not as good as Janet? That's kind of absurd. I know that my ability to seduce men is indeed incomparable to Janet's!

She didn't say this out loud but simply kept it to herself.

"Dad, Mom, I will do my best."

Since Janet was admitted to Woodsbury University, Megan and Brian's attitude toward her had improved a lot. Plus, when she was revealed to be the author, Rose, her status in their parents' hearts elevated.

If I don't get first place this time, I might be kicked out of the house.

At the thought of living in the countryside, the dirty soil, and having to dress in off-the-rack clothes, Emily's heart shuddered.

"All right. Emily, you stay here first. Your mother and I will go greet the guests." Brian held Megan's waist and slowly disappeared from Emily's sight.

She nodded. As she watched their receding backs, a sense of gloominess surfaced inside her, and an indescribable rage burned in her heart.

It's all because of Janet, that b*tch! Dad should've known better too. Why did he have to mention her for no reason? It's just my rotten luck.

As she silently seethed, she turned and her gaze fell on a woman in the corner whom she had never seen before.

Emily frowned slightly, then glanced down at her own dress and back at the other woman's, and her anger suddenly grew.

It was bad enough that her figure was similar to Janet's. She was also wearing a limited edition gown, and it looked even more expensive than Emily's.

A trace of anger erupted in Emily's eyes.

She got up and slowly walked forward while lifting the hem of her dress.

Originally, Janet and Mason were supposed to stay at the VIP table in the corner of the banquet hall together, but when they walked in, they met Henry, so Mason followed him to discuss matters elsewhere.

Janet didn't want to move around, so she stayed alone in the corner.

Sitting to one side, she sipped on her wine and looked down at her phone, appearing completely at ease and unbothered.

Chapter 847

However, a sharp female voice sounded and broke Janet's tranquil state.

She saw Emily with her dress raised and a sour expression on her face. In a domineering manner, Emily demanded, "Which young lady are you?"

Emily walked up to her and eyed her up and down with disgust.

Emily knew everyone they invited to the party, and as far as she knew, someone as strange and eye-catching as this woman shouldn't be at this important celebratory banquet of hers.

If she were a stranger who came to the banquet to scrounge a free meal, it would've been fine. However, this woman's temperament and figure bore a huge resemblance to Janet's, which Emily found truly annoying.

She felt so disgusted that it was as if she had eaten sh*t!

A look of disdain and contempt flashed across Emily's face.

Janet sat on the sofa with no emotion in her eyes. Picking up the wine glass on the table, she gave it a gentle swirl. "So, you're the contender for the champion of the World Piano Competition and the protagonist of tonight's banquet, Miss Emily Jackson?"

Emily didn't expect to be recognized so soon. It seemed like she had a pretty good reputation after all.

"That's me! Who are you?"

Upon hearing this, Janet let out a light chuckle. In a monotonous voice, she answered, "I'm not some young lady. Someone brought me here."

As soon as she said that, Emily frowned, and the disgust in her eyes became even more obvious.

Brought over by someone else? Haha. She's just a piece of trash who came here to scrounge a meal, yet she put it in such a refined way. How shameful indeed!

Emily fluffed her hair, then warned, "So, you're just here to eat and drink. In that case, know your place and don't let your eyes linger for even a second on the eligible men. You might end up disappearing and no one would know about it."

Hahaha. Besides getting a free meal, since she's all dressed up like this, isn't she also trying to hunt for rich and attractive men at this large banquet?

Emily was most familiar with this strategy!

Janet curled her lips and sneered, "Don't worry. I don't use the methods that you use, Miss Jackson."

Her words were like a double-edged sword that was clearly meant as criticism toward Emily!

This angered Emily in an instant.

Her face contorted into a hideous expression. In a furious voice, she snapped, "Who brought you here? How dare you talk to me like this!"

How can she ridicule me even though she's just here for the food? Is she asking for a fight?

With her wine glass in hand, Janet took a small sip, then said casually, "I managed to come here because I'm capable. As for who brought me here, you don't need to look too much into that, Miss Jackson."

"You!"

Today was an important moment for Emily, yet someone dared to speak to her like this.

This woman must be tired of living.

"It's one thing to come here for food, but what right do you have to criticize me when you're just a woman who warms the bed for men? Remember; this is the Jackson Family's territory, and this is a banquet organized by us. If I find you distasteful, I can get you kicked out in minutes!" Emily spoke in a low voice so only the two of them could hear her clearly.

Janet simply laughed but didn't speak. She continued sitting there, turning a deaf ear to Emily's warnings.

At this moment, a female voice sounded from behind.

Emily turned her head and looked around before noticing that Megan was walking toward them. "Emily, the people from the music industry are coming soon. Get ready."

Hearing this, Emily immediately plastered a smile on her face and said cheerfully, "I'm coming, Mom."

She couldn't let her mother find out that she was arguing with a stranger. Otherwise, Megan and Brian were sure to give her a scolding later.

At that, Emily quickly left the corner and walked in Megan's direction.

Looking up, Janet glanced around and her pink lips curled up slightly, her raised eyebrows making her appear profound.

Under Megan's guidance, Emily successfully met the famous piano master in Sandfort City—Wesley Ford.

Upon Wesley's arrival, the guests were collectively shocked.

They knew that Wesley refused every invitation he received. Even if it was an international event, he would find a suitable reason to decline the invitation. It was difficult to see him at huge events, but today, he actually made an appearance at the Jackson Family's banquet. It signified just how much respect he showed Emily.

It seemed that rather than being a contender for the first place, Emily could directly be considered the champion.

She hadn't even competed but everyone already predicted her to be the champion. Emily's skills certainly weren't comparable to others!

With the hem of her dress lifted, Emily walked up to Wesley and respectfully offered her hand. "Master Ford, thank you very much for coming to the Jackson Family's banquet. Please take a seat at the VIP table."

Wesley pushed up his glasses and smiled. "Don't worry. It's no hurry. I came here today to assess the skill level of the World Piano Competition's winner."

He wanted to see how well Mr. Hilbert had taught his students.

Emily pursed her lips, then said modestly, "Master Ford, you're too kind. I still have a long way to go from being the champion! However, I'll be playing the piano today. I hope that you can give me some comments after my performance."

With that said, Wesley was naturally very happy. "All right. I'll be waiting for your performance."

Emily was all smiles as she stated firmly, "I'm sure I won't let you down, Master."

Wesley pushed his glasses up once more, then went to the VIP area and sat down.

After sitting down, he made a gesture and someone brought forth a huge object.

Wesley was smiling with anticipation. "This is a gift for you, Miss Jackson. I hope you'll like it."

As he spoke, the cloth covering it was gradually lifted.

When the cloth was fully lifted, every guest widened their eyes in shock.

D*mn!

The gift in question was a grand piano.

When everyone saw its brand and shape, someone suddenly exclaimed, "Isn't this the piano that has been passed down in the Ford Family for generations?"

This piano had been passed down since ancient times. During Wesley's generation, he did not continue to pass it down because none of his children undertook a career as a pianist, so it had remained in his possession all this while.

Now, to everyone's surprise, Wesley was personally handing this precious piano over to Emily.

Does this mean that Master Ford believes Emily will be the winner? Does he think that Emily has the potential to become a part of the next generation of masters?

As these thoughts ran through the guests' heads, they began to talk aloud.

"Tsk, tsk. Who would've thought that Master Ford would pass this piano down to Emily."

"I know, right. What a surprise!"

"Although this time Emily is representing Yobril, she still has Sandfort City's blood running through her veins. Master Ford sure is a knowing man."

"Well, well. It seems like Emily's skills can't be underestimated."

"This is a great thing! Regardless of whether Emily or Sandfort City's representative wins, she would still be our city's glory."

"Yeah, that's right. Emily has really made Sandfort City proud."

Overwhelmed by all the compliments and comments, Emily was slightly stunned.

Everything that was happening felt as beautiful as a dream.

Master Ford is actually giving me his family piano? This is a dream come true!

Although she was shocked, she was even more surprised and elated.

Wesley saw that Emily was dazed and standing in place, so he assumed that she didn't like his gift. He frowned and said, "Miss Jackson, is the gift not to your liking?"

Chapter 849

Emily reacted immediately upon hearing this. She hurriedly said, "How could I not like it? I like it so much. Thank you for your support, Master Ford."

Having been favored and gifted with such a generous present, Emily felt that all the suffering she endured in the past few months in Yobril was worthwhile.

It has certainly paid off! Now, it's my time to shine. Hahahaha!

Megan, who was standing to one side, was deeply touched as well.

She didn't expect that everyone would think so highly of Emily. This act made her feel a little bit more confident about the competition that was to be held a few days later.

At this moment, Brian walked toward Emily and said enthusiastically, "Another bigshot has arrived! Emily, hurry up and greet him with me!"

"Another bigshot?" Emily's eyes sparkled with excitement. "Who is it?"

"The top composer—Mr. Antonio Powell."

The moment Brian said this, Emily froze.

Her shoes felt like they were filled with lead, and she couldn't seem to walk.

She was thrilled but her feet felt heavy, so she didn't take a step forward.

Oh my God, I didn't have high expectations for Antonio's arrival, but I'm really going to meet him now! This is such a delightful surprise!

If she could invite even a top composer, it seemed like she would soon have a huge influence on Sandfort City and the entire music industry!

Seeing that Emily was motionless and seemingly daydreaming, Megan hastily tugged on her sleeve and urged, "Emily, hurry up and greet Mr. Powell with me."

Emily was so happy that she had gotten a little loopy. She nodded repeatedly. "Okay. Let's go meet Mr. Powell." As soon as Emily said this, the guests couldn't hold back their gasps.

Antonio Powell?

They managed to invite the top composer, Antonio Powell?

How lucky is Emily?

It seemed like she had already become the champion; she already had half a foot in the music industry.

In that case, Emily would be the first person in Sandfort City to be loved by the people in the music industry.

"Even Antonio is here. Emily is seriously amazing."

"Oh my God. Since things are developing like this, do you think Emily will become the next Hilbert?"

"It's not impossible. If she wins first place, I wonder which university will approach her first to hire her as a music professor!"

"Goodness me. Do you think the previous champions will turn up as well?"

“And Walter Lynn, the piano prince. He will show up to support Emily too, right?”

“There’s also Sweet Tune—the talented composer. If anything, I think she’ll attend the banquet too.”

Emily listened on as everyone discussed tonight’s prospective guests.

It sounded like casual remarks, but it signified another meaning to Emily.

Emily didn’t expect that the bigshots in the music industry held her with such high regard. This is so exciting!

She reckoned even Walter and Gordon didn’t receive this kind of treatment, let alone other people.

Although her song ‘borrowed’ a little bit of Sweet Tune’s composition, even the composer wasn’t treated like this either. Does this mean that she has lost to me? Hehe!

As she grew aware that she was standing on the stage in the limelight, Emily straightened her back.

When she moved, she acted with utmost grace and elegance. “Welcome, Mr. Powell.”

Antonio’s smile was like a kind breeze. “Congratulations for being selected to compete in this year’s World Piano Competition, Miss Jackson. I’m here today for the same reason as Master Ford, which is to witness the strength of the champion candidate.”

Emily nodded. “Of course. When everyone is here, I’ll immediately play a song on Master Ford’s piano.”

Antonio nodded in response and sat down in his designated seat.

After sitting down, Antonio spoke slowly. "I brought a small gift for you, Miss Jackson. I hope you won't dislike it."

With that said, he hurriedly asked someone to bring something for her.

It wasn't big, so the cloth used to cover the object wasn't large either.

Antonio got up and stepped forward to slowly uncover the present.

"This is a speaker that I asked a designer to customize for you, Miss Jackson. The sound quality is very clear, and the operation is simple. Your name is on it too. I hope that it can contribute to you winning the competition."

When the gift was revealed, the guests were shocked once again.

What on earth?

The speakers were designed in Spain. Not only did it look magnificent, but it was also very practical. What's more, Emily's name was engraved on it. It would be perfect to be used during the competition.

Antonio had indeed thought this through!

Emily was slightly overjoyed, and she couldn't conceal the smile on her face. "Thank you, Master Powell, for your blessing. I will certainly work harder knowing that I have your support."

Antonio was very pleased to hear this.

There was now another talent in Sandfort City!

If nothing unexpected happens, this year's champion would undoubtedly be Emily.

It seems that Hilbert is doing a great job at nurturing new talents!

The grin on Emily's face grew wider by the second, and her previously downcast mood disappeared with everyone's flattering remarks.

She had been cast aside for so long. Now, she was finally making a name for herself.

Her hard work from the past few months had not been in vain after all!

If Janet saw how dazzling of a moment I'm having now, she would definitely be so angry that her lungs would hurt!

Hehehe. It would be best if I could p*ss her off!

She could avoid dealing with such an eyesore in the future.

At this moment, a male voice suddenly sounded out of nowhere.

Then, they saw an usher running from the corner toward Emily and Megan. With great excitement, he announced, "The three major families of Sandfort City are here!"

At this, the guests who had been shocked to the core by Wesley and Antonio's arrival couldn't resist sucking in a breath.

Everyone at the banquet was completely shaken.

What is going on today?

Wesley and Antonio's arrivals were shocking enough, but how did Emily manage to invite all three major families of Sandfort City?

The last time the three major families made a collective appearance was during Mason's 26th birthday party. So... why are they here at an event like this?

This is just a celebratory banquet. Are the Jacksons so highly respected that even the three most popular young masters in Sandfort City can be called upon?

It's unbelievable.

Megan and Brian didn't expect that they would turn up too, as they had only sent the invitation as a symbolic gesture!

This news not only amazed the guests but also left the two of them dumbfounded.

Emily was so stunned that she didn't know how to react.

She was frozen in place, and her hands and feet were ice-cold!

All three of Sandfort City's most popular young masters were here at her party.

It can't be. Am I dreaming? Young Master Sanders, Young Master Moss, and Young Master Mason are all here! Why did they come? Could it be...

Emily began to blush.

Could it be that they're all attracted to me? That's impossible. Am I going to be pursued by all three young masters in Sandfort City? Oh my God. This is unlike anything I've ever imagined before! How did it turn out like this?

At first, Emily was highly suspicious, but after giving it some further thought, she figured that it wasn't impossible.

After all, the three young masters weren't married yet. They were nobles, so they had to be looking for a well-bred young lady who had a full range of talents, and she just so happened to meet those standards. So, it was understandable for her to have caught their attention.

Chapter 851

If it wasn't because they had taken an interest in her, there was no other reason for them to come.

Suddenly, Emily's mind was in a whirl.

If that's actually the case, who should I choose?

Although Mason was the most powerful out of the three, J' Adore wasn't an easy woman to deal with. Not to mention, he used to be in a relationship with Janet. Just thinking about it made Emily uncomfortable.

What if Young Master Mason could give up J'Adore and Janet for me?

Then, perhaps she could consider him.

All of a sudden, the sound of neat and steady footsteps came from behind, disrupting Emily's train of thought.

She turned to look at the people walking toward her.

She saw three tall, handsome men approaching her step by step.

Emily was so ecstatic that she nearly lost her mind.

However, another woman was with them, and she looked incompatible with these three men. The woman was holding Mason's hand and walking gracefully toward her.

Emily frowned as her gaze fell on the woman's face.

Suddenly, the joy and pleasure that were in her eyes were slowly replaced by fear and shock.

This woman... Isn't she the woman from just now? How does she know Young Master Mason? And why is she holding his hand? Unless... Young Master Mason brought her here. In other words... is this woman the legendary... J'Adore?

When these thoughts flashed through her mind, Emily instinctively covered her mouth in disbelief and almost screamed in astonishment.

I was talking to J'Adore just now? That is to say, I accidentally offended her just now! How could I be so unlucky as to offend J'Adore? Emily thought.

When Brian saw that Emily was frozen in place, he quickly pulled her aside and took the initiative to say hello. "Young Master Sanders, Young Master Moss, Young Master Mason, welcome!"

Lee nodded his greeting. "I heard that the second Young Miss of the Jackson Family is going to participate in the World Piano Competition. Congratulations, Miss Jackson."

Brian had a friendly look on his face. "Thank you, Young Master Sanders. Please take a seat."

After Lee took his seat, Brian settled his gaze on Henry and said respectfully, "Young Master Moss, please be seated."

Henry nodded. "My gift will be presented to Miss Jackson later."

Flattered, Brian exclaimed, "Young Master Moss, you shouldn't have gone to the trouble of getting a gift."

Henry said nothing but proceeded to walk toward the VIP table where he found his place and sat down.

"Young Master Mason," Brian called out.

Mason nodded at him and said, "I heard that the second Young Miss of the Jackson Family will represent Yobril in the World Piano Competition. I hope that Miss Emily will win the championship."

Brian gave him a genuine smile. "Thank you for honoring us with your presence, Young Master Mason. May I ask who this is?" Brian's gaze fell upon Janet.

Mason's mouth curled up slightly, and his thin lips opened a little as he introduced her. "The future lady of the Lowry Family—J'Adore."

When Brian heard this, he straightened up immediately. "Hello, Miss J'Adore."

The woman pursed her lips and gave him a faint nod. "Hello, Mr. Jackson."

At that moment, Emily had heard every word of their exchange.

She felt cold all over, and the hairs on her back stood on end.

She's really the Lady of the Lowry Family, J'Adore? The person I offended just now is really J'Adore. Although she has a good figure and a unique temperament, her looks are just average. How can Mason be interested in such a woman?

Emily's expression took a drastic change. How could it be... how could it be J'Adore?

Earlier, Emily dared to find fault with her because of her plain appearance. After all, if she's truly a daughter of a wealthy family or a celebrity, she wouldn't look so ordinary. But, how could I have known that I offended such a big name?

Chapter 851

At this moment, the woman suddenly spoke up. "Why is Miss Jackson hiding behind there? What's the problem? Are you shy?"

After being called upon, Emily's face turned pale instantly.

Listening to the girl's cold and indifferent voice, Brian got goosebumps. He quickly pulled Emily forward. "Emily, hurry up and greet Young Master Mason and Miss J'Adore."

Didn't I teach her all these banquet etiquettes just now? How could Emily forget them so fast? She's being so rude!

Emily looked extremely embarrassed, but she had to step forth to cater to them.

She poked her head out slowly. Still in a trance, she walked to Mason and J'Adore, then greeted them respectfully. "Hello, Young Master Mason! Hello, Miss J'Adore!"

The man nodded, then retracted his gaze.

Janet glanced profoundly at Emily, then smiled. "If I remember correctly, the person that reminded and warned me to know my place, to not let my eyes wander, and that no one would know how I disappeared, is you. Am I right, Miss Jackson?"

At this, Emily visibly paled.

Brian, who was standing beside her, frowned and looked at her. "Emily, what happened? You had an argument with Miss J'Adore?"

I've warned her so many times before the banquet! Why can't she listen? Is Emily trying to p*ss me off?

If Mason and J'Adore held a grudge against the Jacksons, then their family would be in deep trouble!

With his arm around her waist, Mason asked in concern, "What happened? You had a dispute with Miss Jackson?"

This question was directed at Janet.

His arm around her waist had a clear implication. It was obviously an act of someone protecting his wife.

A huge part of Emily's heart turned to ice. She knew that if she didn't take the initiative to apologize today, the Jackson Family would likely be targeted by the Lowry family, so she had no choice but to step forward and admit guiltily, "I'm sorry. I acted like a snob just now. I hope you won't take it to heart, Miss J'Adore."

When the woman heard this, she didn't mention anything about forgiving her. Instead, she let out a cold laugh.

When this laugh reached Emily and Brian's ears, they shivered slightly.

Brian stepped forth and bowed. "Miss J'Adore, I'm sorry. The Jackson family didn't discipline her well. Miss J'Adore, please be understanding and forgive Emily this time. "

Seeing Brian in such a humble posture, Janet trembled slightly and reached out to help him up.

She blinked. "Forget it. Miss Jackson is the main focus today. I'm just an outsider, so I won't be a wet blanket."

As soon as Emily heard that she would stop pursuing the matter, the large stone in her heart fell to the ground.

Brian released a sigh of relief as well. He quickly said, "Young Master Mason, Miss J'Adore, this way please."

Mason and Janet nodded at the same time.

Then, the man placed his arm around her waist as they walked toward the VIP table.

Emily stood stuck in one spot for a long time before snapping back to reality. The blood gradually rushed back into her pale face, and her small face took on its rosy tinge once again.

She was about to find a place to sit when she was suddenly faced with Brian's criticisms.

His usual good temper withered away as he berated her. "Emily, look at what you've done. Didn't I tell you not to have disagreements with the guests? Why won't you just listen to me? If it wasn't for J'Adore's generosity, I think your future would be ruined by now."

The place was full of the music industry's big names. If they knew that Emily had such a bad temper, it wouldn't be hard to figure that the people in the music industry would rally against her.

As she was being scolded, Emily's expression turned dark, and the color that had just returned to her cheeks faded away.

How was I supposed to know that J'Adore looks so ordinary?

Chapter 852

At this moment, the woman suddenly spoke up. "Why is Miss Jackson hiding behind there? What's the problem? Are you shy?"

After being called upon, Emily's face turned pale instantly.

Listening to the girl's cold and indifferent voice, Brian got goosebumps. He quickly pulled Emily forward. "Emily, hurry up and greet Young Master Mason and Miss J'Adore."

Didn't I teach her all these banquet etiquettes just now? How could Emily forget them so fast? She's being so rude!

Emily looked extremely embarrassed, but she had to step forth to cater to them.

She poked her head out slowly. Still in a trance, she walked to Mason and J'Adore, then greeted them respectfully. "Hello, Young Master Mason! Hello, Miss J'Adore!"

The man nodded, then retracted his gaze.

Janet glanced profoundly at Emily, then smiled. "If I remember correctly, the person that reminded and warned me to know my place, to not let my eyes wander, and that no one would know how I disappeared, is you. Am I right, Miss Jackson?"

At this, Emily visibly paled.

Brian, who was standing beside her, frowned and looked at her. "Emily, what happened? You had an argument with Miss J'Adore?"

I've warned her so many times before the banquet! Why can't she listen? Is Emily trying to p*ss me off?

If Mason and J'Adore held a grudge against the Jacksons, then their family would be in deep trouble!

With his arm around her waist, Mason asked in concern, "What happened? You had a dispute with Miss Jackson?"

This question was directed at Janet.

His arm around her waist had a clear implication. It was obviously an act of someone protecting his wife.

A huge part of Emily's heart turned to ice. She knew that if she didn't take the initiative to apologize today, the Jackson Family would likely be targeted by the Lowry family, so she had no choice but to step forward and admit guiltily, "I'm sorry. I acted like a snob just now. I hope you won't take it to heart, Miss J'Adore."

When the woman heard this, she didn't mention anything about forgiving her. Instead, she let out a cold laugh.

When this laugh reached Emily and Brian's ears, they shivered slightly.

Brian stepped forth and bowed. "Miss J'Adore, I'm sorry. The Jackson family didn't discipline her well. Miss J'Adore, please be understanding and forgive Emily this time. "

Seeing Brian in such a humble posture, Janet trembled slightly and reached out to help him up.

She blinked. "Forget it. Miss Jackson is the main focus today. I'm just an outsider, so I won't be a wet blanket."

As soon as Emily heard that she would stop pursuing the matter, the large stone in her heart fell to the ground.

Brian released a sigh of relief as well. He quickly said, "Young Master Mason, Miss J'Adore, this way please."

Mason and Janet nodded at the same time.

Then, the man placed his arm around her waist as they walked toward the VIP table.

Emily stood stuck in one spot for a long time before snapping back to reality. The blood gradually rushed back into her pale face, and her small face took on its rosy tinge once again.

She was about to find a place to sit when she was suddenly faced with Brian's criticisms.

His usual good temper withered away as he berated her. "Emily, look at what you've done. Didn't I tell you not to have disagreements with the guests? Why won't you just listen to me? If it wasn't for J'Adore's generosity, I think your future would be ruined by now."

The place was full of the music industry's big names. If they knew that Emily had such a bad temper, it wouldn't be hard to figure that the people in the music industry would rally against her.

As she was being scolded, Emily's expression turned dark, and the color that had just returned to her cheeks faded away.

How was I supposed to know that J'Adore looks so ordinary?

If I knew that the woman was J'Adore, I definitely wouldn't have approached her and offended her! It's just my luck! Am I the only one to be blamed, though? She looks so ordinary. No wonder Mason would cheat on her!

"Dad, please stop scolding me. I didn't mean it. If people see you chewing me out, it would cause unwanted consequences," Emily pleaded, looking wronged.

Today was her big day, so if other people found out that she was having an argument, it would be downright embarrassing!

Brian sighed in exasperation and crossed his hands behind his back. He was so furious that he couldn't speak.

He chided himself that he should've let Megan supervise Emily because she had quite nearly caused a disaster!

"Forget it; forget it." Brian didn't know what else to say, so he simply left with his hands behind his back.

As she watched Brian's back fade into the distance, Emily reached up to wipe the tears from the corners of her eyes.

It's all J'Adore's fault! If she hadn't appeared, I wouldn't have gotten a scolding from Dad! Those whose names start with 'J' are all b*tches! Janet is one, and J'Adore is another. B*tches! They almost caused my destruction!

It seemed that she really had enmity with people whose names started with 'J'!

She should've asked Janet to come today. If she attended the party and met J'Adore, they definitely would've torn each other apart. That way, the incident earlier wouldn't have happened.

Bah, I'm just unlucky!

At the VIP area, Mason squeezed Janet's hand and asked, "What did she say to you just now?"

Janet blinked several times, then said, "Are you talking about Emily?"

He nodded and murmured a 'yes'.

"She said that I'm here to scrounge a free meal and that I'm trying to pick up men," Janet casually answered.

Mason frowned, feeling puzzled: "Pick up men? What do you mean?"

Henry leaned over and chuckled. "Young Master Mason, to pick up men means to flirt with them."

As soon as he said this, Mason's handsome face darkened.

If it wasn't for Brian's sake, he would have thrown Emily out without a doubt.

Henry glanced at the man's gloomy face and silently laughed.

Looking at the stranger's face, Henry opened his mouth to say something, but he couldn't bring himself to call her 'Mrs. Lowry'.

It felt weird to refer to this unfamiliar face as 'Mrs. Lowry'. It was as if Mason was cheating on Janet.

Henry rubbed his nose and called out, "Janet."

At this, the man next to him narrowed his eyes.

Janet? Doesn't Henry usually call her 'Mrs. Lowry' or 'Miss Janet'? Why is he calling her so intimately now? Could it be that Henry is attracted to Jan in this mask? I won't allow it!

"Henry, address her like how you typically would. Don't start having other ideas." The man's low voice indicated that he was slightly displeased.

"Oh... What?" Henry retracted his gaze, then muttered, "Young Master Mason, I just called her by her name; why are you getting so excited?"

Hearing this, Mason remained unmoving.

The Lowry Family had never dared to call her by her name, but Henry sure had the guts. After not seeing her for so long, he was addressing her without even a 'Miss'.

Mason shot Henry a warning look, and his grip on Janet's thin waist unconsciously tightened.

Janet was dumbfounded, and she felt as if her waist was about to be snapped into half.

What is his problem? Didn't Henry just call me by my name? What's he so angry for? Really! So childish! Who knew that Mason was so childish?

Seeing that something was off, Henry endured his discomfort and said, "Mrs. Lowry, your sister hasn't even won the competition yet, but your family is so anxious to set up a banquet already. What's their problem?"

Chapter 854

It would be so embarrassing if Emily didn't become the champion! Although Janet was a part of the Jackson family, and she was multi-talented, even she didn't keep such a high-profile!

Janet raised her eyebrows and smiled. "Students taught by Hilbert won't perform too badly. She might actually win the championship."

"Pfft!" Henry responded offhandedly. "Don't forget—there are many other music prodigies in Sandfort City." He already knew several of them.

Didn't Moss Group invest in a music video before? Although Jessie messed it up and they lost a lot of money in the end, he vaguely remembered a musician called Sweet Tune. (Refer to Chapter 163).

The way she played the piano was natural and smooth, and it made him feel as happy as a person enjoying the rain after a long drought. Moreover, despite not seeing her face, she had a nice figure. Just thinking about it made Henry's heart flutter!

Catching sight of the yearful look on his face, Janet chuckled. "Why? Is there someone you like?"

Henry looked down like a sheepish young lady and said, "Last time, Moss Group invested in a music video called 'Heaven on Earth', and there was a pianist called Sweet Tune." He didn't bother covering it up, so he just told her the truth. "To be honest, I'm quite interested in her." Although he had met all kinds of women, there was never a woman who was able to attract his attention with just a back view.

As soon as he said this, Lee's Adam's apple bobbed slightly and he let out a dry cough. Janet raised her eyebrows and a somewhat surprised look appeared on her face, but it quickly disappeared. She smiled and exclaimed, "Sweet Tune, huh?"

Henry blinked, stunned by Janet's reaction. "Mrs. Lowry, do you know that woman?"

Janet coughed, then said nonchalantly, "Sort of. Why? What do you want to do?"

He was delighted to hear this, and his dark eyes lit up instantly. "Then, do you know if Sweet Tune's going to participate in the World Piano Competition this time?"

"It's not confirmed yet." Janet's expression was so natural as she picked on her nails that no one could find anything amiss.

Henry grinned and bumped Janet's arm. "Mrs. Lowry, can you give me her contact information? I'll find a way to chat her up."

Upon seeing Henry's intimate gesture of bumping her on the arm, Mason's eyeballs nearly popped out of its sockets.

At this moment, Janet coughed stiffly and touched her nose as if feeling guilty. "Forget it. She already has a boyfriend."

Boyfriend? This news disappointed Henry. She's such a beautiful woman who exuded an air of literacy and artistry! Which scoundrel's lucky enough to be her boyfriend?

Henry felt a sense of regret overcome him. He rolled his eyes and covered his mouth, then said, "It doesn't matter if she has a boyfriend. Her boyfriend is definitely not any better than me. I will make her mine, so please give me her contact information!"

Henry's words almost made Lee spit out his red wine. Not bad. He has the guts to steal Young Master Mason's girlfriend!

The more the conversation progressed, the more Janet felt that something was wrong. She hurriedly moved her body and pushed Henry away. In a cold voice, she said, "Get your head straight."

Janet shot a glance at the man next to her. She was afraid that if they continued like this when her identity was revealed, she would be in huge trouble.

"Mrs. Lowry, you're so petty." Henry was irritated. How was he supposed to be at ease when he had been denied the chance to pursue the first woman who caught his attention?

Janet rubbed her chin. After a while, she said, "Young Master Moss, don't you have any beautiful women you want? Do you have to be so hell-bent on getting her? What's with you?"

Henry said nothing as he turned away and sulked.

Chapter 855

Rolling her eyes, Janet turned around without saying anything.

Mason glared at Henry briefly then patted Janet on the shoulder and said coldly, "No one is allowed to lay a finger on my Jan."

His pats were not strong and felt more like he was asserting his dominance.

She looked at him with a puzzled expression. What is he doing? Suddenly, she recalled Henry grazing his head on her shoulder earlier. Oh. Feeling flustered, she shifted closer toward Mason.

Once he felt her slight movement, his mood was instantly lifted.

Grabbing her small hand, he gave it a firm squeeze and said, "Since you know Sweet Tune, why don't you introduce her to Henry so they can get to know each other? It's not a big deal."

She raised an eyebrow. "Are you sure?"

Her arched brow looked profound.

"Hmm?" The look on her face puzzled him.

"Don't regret it then." She shot her brows up and scoffed at him on the inside.

He was amused now. Regret? What do I have to regret? He did not seem to comprehend her words. Is she trying to provoke me on purpose?

"Mr. Lowry, all Henry did was call my name. You don't have to be this jealous. It's not very manly."

Ever since she got together with him, it felt as though she was always surrounded by jealousy.

"Be a good girl and call me Mason," he cajoled.

Narrowing her eyes, she called, "Mason." She intentionally dragged his name out and made it sound seductive.

"I'll deal with you later." He gritted his teeth. His voice was low and husky.

Deal with me? What did I do wrong? He's not making any sense.

On the other side, Henry only felt envious as he watched Janet and Mason's sweet interactions with each other. Ugh. Janet is just too mean!

As soon as Mason noticed Henry's gaze, he shot him a cold glare that was filled with hostility.

Once Henry got the warning, he quickly looked away and rubbed his eyes miserably.

From the VIP section, Emily had witnessed the whole scene.

J'Adore looks ordinary. Why are there three men hovering around her? They're truly blind.

She even felt like this so-called J'Adore was not as pretty as Janet.

Chuckling, she thought, It's indeed such a waste of Young Master Mason's handsome face.

When Brian saw that almost everyone was present, he quickly walked to Emily and said, "Emily, hurry up the stage to make your speech now. Everyone is waiting."

She froze for a few seconds before getting back to her senses. Nodding, she took a deep breath and reassured, "I got it, Dad."

Standing below the stage, she tried her best to get in the right frame of mind. No matter what, she could not get distracted by anyone.

Janet might be at home waiting to laugh at me!

I have to surprise Janet along with everyone else.

Drawing a deep breath, she grasped the hem of her skirt and stepped on stage elegantly like a cat.

A clear round of applause sounded below the stage.

She kept a faint smile on her face and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to my celebration banquet."

A sweet voice sounded followed by another clear round of applause.

When the banquet started, everyone gathered together in a circle.

The moment they went up to her, someone exclaimed, "Tsk. Tsk. Emily claimed her gown was embroidered with real diamonds earlier and it turned out to be true."

Chapter 856

"Yes. These diamonds are especially marvelous under the lights."

"Tsk. Tsk. Looks like the Jackson Family really bled themselves dry!"

"Her skin also looks flawless at such a close distance."

"I agree. Didn't Young Master Mason's girlfriend, J'Adore, come here today? She's definitely not as beautiful as Emily!"

"You're right. J'Adore looks quite ordinary. It's only her temperament that is extraordinary."

"Yeah. She might not be as beautiful as Emily, but her temperament is very alluring. It's the kind that makes people want to take a second look at her."

Emily felt a burst of happiness when she heard that J'Adore was not as beautiful as her. Snickering to herself, she thought, There are only a few people in Sandfort City who can beat me in terms of appearance. I'm confident about that! With such an ugly face, it serves J'Adore right!

Emily chuckled and continued talking with the microphone in her hand. "I will be playing a piano piece for all of you shortly. I hope Master Ford and Master Powell who are here today will be able to judge my performance."

As soon as she spoke with her sweet and melodic voice, murmurs started to rise from every direction.

"Oh my god. Is Emily really going to play right now? This is such an honor."

"I'm so excited. We get to hear the champion of the World Piano Competition play at this moment, and it's for free."

"Exactly. I'm going crazy!"

"Hurry; hurry. Take out your phones to record this."

If Emily had been the champion of the World Piano Competition, the tickets for each of her performances were going to be at least a few tens of thousands.

Although a few tens of thousands was not much to them, it was still exciting to be able to come in contact with a big celebrity at such a close distance and at no cost.

When she heard the sounds of their cheers, a graceful smile grew on her face.

"You can start now, Emily," Brian reminded from below the stage as a signal for her to get started soon.

She was still immersed in her blissful imagination when she heard his urges and quickly snapped out of it. I must get the attention of Master Ford, Master Powell, and the men from the three major families. With that thought in mind, she forced a smile on her face and slowly walked toward the piano with the hems of her dress lifted.

She couldn't help but shudder when she reached out to touch the grand piano that Wesley had given her.

The cold metal edge of the piano instantly brought to life the musical notes in her mind.

At that moment, all eyes were drawn to the girl who was in a white gown.

With a smile on her face, Emily pulled the piano stool out and sat down.

After taking a deep breath, her eyes drifted toward the men in the VIP section and accidentally stumbled upon Henry looking in her direction.

He looked like he was extremely interested.

In turn, his gaze only made her nervous. Even if I can't have Mason Lowry, Young Master Moss is still not a bad option.

Her heart was pounding in her chest.

She smiled and spoke in a respectful and professional manner. "The song I will be playing is an original called 'Relentless Glimmer'."

After she spoke, an enthusiastic round of applause rose from below the stage.

"I didn't know Emily was this talented. She even has her own original piece!"

"That goes without saying. A student under Mr. Hilbert is surely exceptional!"

"Tsk, tsk. Not to mention, the title of the song is just as great."

"She looks too beautiful sitting up there!"

"Quiet. Let's listen to her play."

In the VIP section, Janet began to laugh the moment she heard 'Relentless Glimmer' being played.

Chapter 857

"'Relentless Glimmer'..." Janet's pink lips curled up slightly. "'Glimmer of Dawn'. This is rather interesting."

When Henry heard Janet murmuring to herself, he was prompted to ask. "What is it, Janet? What 'Glimmer of Dawn'?"

She looked up and saw him gazing at her. Shaking her head, she replied, "It's nothing."

He scratched his head at her response then returned his gaze to the stage.

When he saw Emily's back, it somehow reminded him of Sweet Tune.

Even though he knew that Sweet Tune was Sweet Tune, and Emily was Emily, he still felt a sense of excitement.

Suddenly, a melodious musical note slowly sounded under Emily's fingertips.

The huge banquet hall fell silent except for the sound of Emily's piano.

The grand piano from Wesley and the sound system from Antonio naturally went well together. The delivery of the music was so commendable that it was even comparable to an actual dance hall.

Everyone held their breaths as they watched and waited for Emily to bring to them the work of the century.

The moment her fair and slender fingers fell on the black and white keys, they also felt their hearts quiver.

Each note in the tune simply mesmerized them.

Once the song came to an end, the guests in the audience began cheering for her. "Holy sh*t! That sounded incredible."

"Emily was capable enough to be able to hold this celebration banquet in advance!"

"Yes, this is rather unbelievable. In any case, it was amazing."

Hearing the round of applause around her, Emily let out a sigh of relief and slowly got up from the stool to bow. "This is the end of my song. I would like to ask Master Ford and Master Powell to provide some feedback for my performance," she said in a modest and respectful manner. Even if she made a mistake, people would not have the heart to criticize her too harshly for it.

Moreover, her performance tonight deserved a perfect score.

Especially the last verse; it showcased her strong style and each note sounded unique.

There was only one word to describe her performance—perfect!

Even though Wesley and Antonio already saw her as the champion of the upcoming World Piano Competition, the standard she exhibited tonight still took them by surprise.

When she did not get any affirmation, however, she slowly went from being full of confidence to a little flustered. Did I get caught out? No, that can't be. If I get caught at a celebration banquet, I'll turn into a laughing stock!

Her heart was pounding in her chest from the nerves.

With her hands clenched into fists, she was slowly losing color in her face as she stammered, "Master Ford, Master Powell, what did you think of my performance tonight?"

They glanced at each other then exclaimed, "It was excellent!"

Excellent? She blinked. Did they really use the word excellent to describe my performance? It was something that even she, herself, did not expect.

Did she really receive such high praise for her 'original work'?

In that case, who else would be deserving of the title as champion in the World Piano Competition if not her?

At that moment, the thrill and shock she felt could no longer be described with words.

After working hard for three to four months, she was finally being repaid for her efforts.

It was a truly touching moment.

Both Wesley and Antonio were in awe of her. "Miss Emily, can you please tell us how you came to compose this piece? Without any special circumstances, it's impossible to create a song of this level."

Upon hearing their question, she hesitated and eventually fell out of her excitement.

Chapter 858

How did I compose this piece? What does that mean? Composing music isn't that complicated! There isn't a need for any special circumstances. That's too dramatic. Emily shook her head rather lightly. "I don't believe composing music requires any special conditions. It is professionalism that a professional artist should already have." It isn't that difficult!

As soon as she spoke those words, the audience exploded with admiration.

"Wow. Is she gifted? How can she create such a magnificent work without putting much effort into it?"

"Oh my god. This is just unbelievable. As a student who got trained under Hilbert, aren't her capabilities just too strong?"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. I can bet that Emily's skills are on par with Gordon's and Walter's. Who knows? She might even overshadow those two as time goes on."

"I agree. Don't forget Sweet Tune. Emily should be at the same level as Sweet Tune now."

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. Sweet Tune hasn't been active for a long time now. She's probably been replaced by Emily."

"That's right. Back then, Sweet Tune was also the idol in our hearts!"

"I wonder if Sweet Tune will participate in the competition. I want to see her and Emily have a showdown with each other."

Wesley and Antonio sighed. "Out with the old, in with the new."

As Emily fiddled with her hair, a look of disdain flashed across her eyes.

Sweet Tune? She snickered. Sweet Tune might not be able to beat me anymore!

Moreover, Wesley and Antonio were implying that the title of champion was a hundred percent hers now.

At one corner, Henry effused, "Janet, your sister is quite good at playing the piano. For a moment there, I almost saw her as Sweet Tune." He gazed at her in admiration.

Janet did not know what to say.

"What do you think, Babe?" Mason asked as he lowered his eyes to look at her.

"I think..." she pondered carefully. "If that really is her original work, then she has a chance of being the champion."

Henry was slightly astonished. "Janet, what do you mean by that? Emily just said she composed this song herself!"

Beside them, Lee suddenly laughed. "Aren't her implications clear enough? It's not original."

Henry was dumbfounded as if he could only think of one possibility. "Are you saying she drew inspiration from someone else's work?"

"Drew inspiration?" Janet chuckled and seemed indifferent. "Don't make plagiarism sound so refreshing."

Henry was lost in the middle of their conversation as though he was an outsider who did not know anything. "Emily plagiarized someone? Who?"

Lee touched his nose casually and teased, "Young Master Moss, do you care that much about what Emily does? Don't tell me you fell in love just after one song?"

Henry grew slightly upset from being teased. He snapped, "Nonsense! I will always flaunt my feathers for Sweet Tune."

Emily and Sweet Tune did not only differ slightly.

Janet rolled her eyes in her mind. Flaunt his feathers? Does he think he's a peacock now? He's just impossible!

Just then, a sweet voice suddenly rang from beside them. "Young Master Sanders. Young Master Moss. Young Master Mason. What did you think of my original piece?"

Lee turned to look at her. He smiled reluctantly and gave a remark that was both superficial and hypocritical. "Your song, 'Glimmer of Dawn', was quite spectacular, Miss Emily."

The moment she heard his critique, her heart skipped a beat. Don't tell me he caught on?

Chapter 859

After Emily let out a short gasp, she laughed stiffly and said, "Young Master Sanders, it's called 'Relentless Glimmer'."

"Oh, right, 'Relentless Glimmer'. My bad, Miss Emily. I was mistaken."

Upon hearing that, she let out a sigh of relief. He didn't catch on. Pursing her lips, she said empathetically, "It's not your fault, Young Master Sanders. I am to blame for not giving a better explanation of my work and making it hard for you to remember."

He smiled with his lips pressed together and did not respond any further.

Shifting her gaze toward Henry, she lowered her head bashfully and asked, "Is there something on my face, Young Master Moss?"

Henry knitted his brows together and blurted, "What?"

"If not, why were you staring at me earlier? I actually thought I had something on my face."

When she was on stage earlier, she did not dare to see whether he was looking at her or not, but now that she was off the stage, she realized that he was still staring at her.

What else could it mean other than that he had caught feelings for her?

When he heard her question, he touched his chin awkwardly and explained, "You're mistaken, Miss Emily. I just wanted to ask you about your original—"

As soon as she heard the word 'original', she became alarmed and looked right at him. "What is that, Young Master Moss? Did you want to ask about the originality of this piece? I wrote it during my time at the Royal Academy of Music in Yobril. Do you have any other questions?"

When he saw how frantic she was, he immediately lost interest and did not pry any further.

Janet looked up calmly and smiled. "Miss Emily, did you rearrange the latter part of the piece? It sounds quite different from the first part."

Emily was taken aback. "Don't tell me you know about piano too, Miss J'Adore?"

She was already aware of that. J'Adore had played a piano piece at Mason's twenty-sixth birthday banquet before, and her performance was even more spectacular than Rebecca's.

Emily just did not know how J'Adore would compare to herself.

Nonetheless, J'Adore was just an amateur at the very most while she was a professional pianist.

In response to Emily's inquiry, Janet chuckled and answered leisurely, "I know a little bit, but I still lack tremendously compared to you, Miss Emily."

Emily gave a modest reply. "You're being too kind, Miss J'Adore. After all, this is my expertise. If you're able to get a few lessons from Hilbert, you will definitely be better than me." Even though she was saying that, she thought, But you're not fortunate enough to be noticed by Hilbert.

Still, she did not dare to voice her thoughts.

When Henry heard that, he teased, "Why don't you go up and play a piece, Mrs. Lowry?"

His deep and attractive voice slowly seeped into their hearts.

Janet simply laughed when she heard him. "Forget it. This is Miss Emily's home ground. Don't break the rules."

"What are you saying? I've heard a lot about how skilled you are at playing the piano, Miss J'Adore! If you can play a piece here today, it would be my honor." Emily smiled as she left a hypocritical remark. She sneered to herself, You're just making up excuses because you're too scared to go on stage. But I can see why; if you go on stage, it will create such a big distinction between us. Apart from humiliating yourself, you will also dishonor the entire Lowry Family. It would be hilarious!

Mason smirked and said in an icy voice, "Darling." Reaching out to stroke her cheek, he coddled, "You're being too modest!"

Chapter 860

Mason's evil and demonic voice gradually entered Emily's ears.

Emily's facial expression did not look too good. "Even Young Master Mason is saying you're being modest, J'Adore. You must be very skilled."

Janet did not answer her and only kept her lips pressed together. A wave of emotions flickered across her eyes as if she was suppressing a smile.

Nodding, Mason did not hold back on complimenting her. "Of course, she's the best pianist in my eyes."

They all turned to look at J'Adore to see her reaction, but she did not say anything and was simply standing there leisurely with a relaxed expression.

The similarities in her mannerism to Janet's made Emily quite uncomfortable. Smiling, Emily leaned to one side and looked up. "Since Young Master Mason said it himself, I think you should still give us a performance, Miss J'Adore. Otherwise, it would be a bit of a waste." She scoffed. They've gone overboard. If J'Adore doesn't give us a performance, it will only show that she's a coward. If she does go on stage now, though, she will only humiliate herself. "It's fine if you don't want to perform today, Miss J'Adore. Once I return to Yobril, I'll introduce you to Hilbert and let him give you a few pointers," she offered kindly.

As soon as she said that, the people at the scene looked at each other quizzically.

"Didn't J'Adore play the piano at Young Master Mason's twenty-sixth birthday banquet? Why won't she perform now?"

"Exactly. I find this strange too. Perhaps J'Adore doesn't want to bring too much attention to herself."

"That makes sense. After all, Emily just finished playing. If J'Adore goes up there now and doesn't perform as well as Emily, it would be so embarrassing!"

"Yes. Emily has way better skills than Rebecca. If J'Adore goes on stage, her skills would definitely fall short."

"Oh, now that you mentioned it, it does sound reasonable."

Lee let out a dry cough. He felt an urge to speak up but was held back by J'Adore.

J'Adore looked at Wesley and Antonio with a vague expression then said, "I will go and perform one piece then. If you find that I lack in some areas, please point them out to me, Master Ford, Master Powell."

The two shared a glance then smiled. "Of course." They were more than eager to give pointers to Mrs. Lowry.

Their conversation made the corners of Lee's mouth curl up. Pointers? Does a golden composer really need pointers from others? Janet is taking her act of playing dumb to the fullest!

Her words stirred up chatter among the other guests at the scene.

"No way. Is J'Adore really going to perform?"

"Isn't she afraid of being compared to Emily?"

"Tsk, ts, ts. Her courage is commendable!"

"I agree. Even if she plays the piano well, she can't beat the champion of the World Piano Competition, who is also Hilbert's student."

"Exactly. I'm nervous for her!"

Listening to the voices in the crowd, Emily flicked her hair and straightened her back subconsciously. A look of ridicule and contempt flashed across her eyes. J'Adore really agreed to it. She sneered. She's so thoughtless!

Janet turned a deaf ear to them and walked straight to the piano. Stroking it, she thought, A grand piano is certainly different. The feel and texture are all top-notch.

That single touch brought out her passion for piano in an instant.

In the VIP section, Henry fiddled with his nose nervously. "Young Master Mason, are you sure Mrs. Lowry's piano skills are better than Emily's?"

It would be humiliating if Janet lost to Emily!