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Chapter 1231 Mistress

Judging from Arielle's expression, Susanne knew that she had guessed it correctly.

A frown appeared between her brows as she let out a sigh. "Sannie, Vin has a stubborn temper just like his dad and doesn't know how to express himself. So, sometimes, you might have to take the initiative to speak to him. I guarantee that as long as you give in first, he'll definitely go along with it, and the misunderstanding between the two of you will surely clear up. After all, no matter how much in love a couple is, effective communication is still very important in a relationship. Don't you agree ?"

Arielle forced an awkward smile and replied, "All right, I know what to do..."

"OK then, let's go in together and talk it out with that rascal. He should really learn to pacify his wife!"

Susanne dragged Arielle into the house while scolding her son.

As such, Arielle had no choice but to enter the manor that was brightly lit.

The moment the two women walked in, Susanne started yelling Vinson's name, "Vinson! Come here now!"

One second later, a woman, who was holding a plate, walked from the kitchen to the living room hastily.

After seeing Susanne and Arielle, the woman froze for a moment but regained her composure shortly after.

She was Penelope, whom Vinson had brought home from Wave Karaoke Bar.

Penelope quickly realized what was happening and asked Susanne in an ingratiating manner, "Are you... Mrs. Nightshire?"

"Huh?" Susanne frowned.

She knew most of the servants in the Nightshire residence, and they were all middle-aged. As such, the woman was sure that Penelope was not one of them.

"Who are you? I don't remember hiring a new helper in the house," Susanne asked.

Penelope's expression darkened when she heard that.

Before her family went bankrupt, she had led a lavish lifestyle and was pampered by her parents. As such, she was shocked that Susanne had mistaken her for the family's servant.

Do I really look like a servant?

Keeping in mind the luxurious life that was awaiting her, Penelope tamped down her irritation and explained with a smile, "You've mistaken, Mrs. Nightshire. I'm not a servant. I... It was Mr. Nightshire who brought me back."

"Vin?" Susanne had a bad feeling about that and looked toward Arielle instinctively.

When she saw the frosty expression on Arielle's face, the woman's heart skipped a beat.

Could it be that Vinson is having an affair and has even brought this woman home?

Penelope could guess what Susanne was thinking and quickly clarified. "Mrs. Nightshire, there's nothing going on between Mr. Nightshire and me. I'm definitely not a threat to Mrs. Nightshire here. I just need a place to stay. I'll do anything you ask of me and won't think about anything else."

Susanne's fear intensified after hearing the woman's words, which implied that Vinson had indeed cheated on Arielle.

Even though he might not have physically cheated, there was definitely emotional cheating involved.

Knowing how headstrong Arielle was, Susanne was certain that Penelope's appearance would cause a huge problem between Arielle and Vinson, deepening the misunderstanding between them.

What an idiot!

Susanne could not help but scold her son silently, thinking that the man must be out of his mind to forsake his beautiful and outstanding wife for a random ugly woman.

Susanne was smoking with anger, and with trembling hands, she bellowed, "You, get out of here now!"

Penelope was shocked by Susanne's outburst.

She had thought that wives of rich men should already be used to the presence of mistresses. As such, she did not expect Susanne to react in such a manner even before Arielle said anything.

"Mrs. Nightshire, I..."

"Shut up!" Susanne interrupted the woman and continued, "Stop calling me. I don't even know you. Someone! Get this woman out of my sight right now!"

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Chapter 1232 Filthy

Right after Susanne gave her orders, a bodyguard appeared and restrained Penelope.

Just when he was about to throw her out of the house, Susanne suddenly changed her mind.

"Wait a moment."

Hearing that, Penelope thought that Susanne was finally willing to let her stay. However, the next moment, Susanne said coldly, "Don't chase her out first. Call the police and report her for trespassing and stealing."

Penelope's eyes widened in shock and tried to defend herself, "I didn't trespass! It was Mr. Nightshire who brought me back! Besides, I didn't steal anything, you can't accuse me without evidence!"

"You didn't steal anything?"

Susanne sneered and continued, "What are you wearing then ?"

Penelope looked down subconsciously.

When she first got to the manor, she was still dressed in the uniform she wore while working in the karaoke bar. As such, while Vinson was showering, she had acted on her own accord and instructed a servant to bring her a set of clothes that belonged to Arielle.

What infuriated her most was that, as Arielle had a slim figure, Penelope could hardly fit into most of her clothes and ended up with loose-fitting loungewear.

She did not expect that Susanne would use that as evidence and accuse her of stealing!

"I, I..." Penelope started to panic and blurted out, "If you are upset that I took the clothes, can I return them now?"

"Ha!" Susanne smirked coldly and replied, "Do you expect my daughter-in-law to wear the filthy clothes you've worn? She's obsessed with cleanliness!"

Arielle was momentarily stunned when she heard that and had a confused expression on her face.

She did not remember herself being very particular about cleanliness.

However, realization hit her the next instant. That was just an excuse Susanne made up to send that woman to jail.

Arielle felt a heartwarming feeling rise within her.

She had never expected that Susanne would go to such lengths to stand up for her. At the same time, Arielle had also noticed that Vinson had inherited some aspects of his mother's personality. As long as they had their hearts settled on someone, no one else would be able to replace that person.

Arielle could not help but look toward Penelope, whose face was flushed red with anger.

Clenching her fists, Penelope said, "Then, would it be all right if I buy this set of clothes from you?"

Susanne crossed her arms in front of her chest and replied, "I don't need money. Did you actually think that I was after your money? Besides, do you know how much this set of clothes cost?"

"Isn't this just some loungewear? I'm not that poor that I can't even afford this," Penelope muttered to herself before saying in a much louder voice, "How much does it cost? I'll pay you ten times more."

In fact, her work at the karaoke bar paid quite well. She earned at least seven to eight thousand monthly, and with tips from customers, she could easily make an average of ten to twenty thousand every month.

As such, the woman did not believe that she could not even afford a set of random loungewear.

The next instant, Susanne let out a low snort and said, "Well, it's not that expensive. It just costs slightly more than a hundred thousand. Since you offered to pay ten times the price, I'll round it down for you. How about one million ?"

Penelope's expression darkened at once.

"One million?" She raised her tone unconsciously. "What kind of loungewear costs one million?"

"Can you afford it? If you can't, we'll have to call the police. Stealing would probably get you a few years in jail!"

After Susanne said that, she turned toward her bodyguard and said, "What are you waiting for? Call the police now!"

At the urging of Susanne, the butler took out his phone and was about to call the police when Penelope suddenly shouted, "Mr. Nightshire! Save me, Mr. Nightshire!"

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Chapter 1233 Handsome And Wealthy

As if she had just seen her lifesaver, Penelope yelled toward the stairs at the top of her voice.

Arielle and Susanne looked toward the stairs instinctively and saw Vinson, who had just finished showering, walking down the stairs.

His hair was not completely dried yet and the first two buttons of his shirt were undone, exposing his collarbones.

Mesmerized by the man's good looks, Penelope could not help but swallow hard.

That was a man who was not only physically attractive but also extremely wealthy, perhaps one in a million.

As it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Penelope, there was no way she would give up on the chance, even if she had to risk going to jail.

"Mr. Nightshire! Mrs. Nightshire is accusing me of stealing and wants to report me to the police. Please explain to her for me!"

The woman was certain that Vinson would not sit around and do nothing, After all, the man had taken an interest in her and brought her home personally.

Indeed, Vinson frowned in displeasure and said, "Mom, she's not a thief. I was the one who brought her back."

Penelope heaved a sigh of relief at once and nodded continuously as she said, "That's right. Mrs. Nightshire, did you hear what he said? I'm really not a thief! It's true that Mr. Nightshire brought me here."

Immediately, Susanne's face turned several shades darker.

Just then, Arielle said placidly, "Mom, it's true that she did not trespass. I saw Vinson driving her home too."

She did not understand why, out of so many other options, Vinson had chosen to bring that woman back and wondered if he had done that on purpose just to spite her.

Susanne widened her eyes in shock.

She glanced at Vinson before looking at Arielle and said, "What on earth is going on? Vinson, tell me everything now! Both of you have just gotten married!"

Susanne simply did not understand why Vinson would bring another woman home when he and Arielle were so much in love with each other. He had even fought with her a few times because of Arielle.

Sensing something amiss, Susanne grabbed Arielle's arm and asked, "Sannie, you tell me. What's going on?" "Umm..." Arielle opened her mouth to speak but was not sure if she should tell Susanne the truth.

Just then, Vinson suddenly said, "There's nothing going on. I will handle it myself. Mom, stop asking further questions."

When Arielle heard that, she frowned and looked at Vinson.

Given that Susanne was family, Arielle did not find it necessary to hide the truth from her.

She could not help but wonder what Vinson had in mind and why he had not bothered to clarify.

She even started suspecting that the man might have fallen for Penelope within that few hours.

Before Arielle could say anything, Susanne exploded with rage and started lashing out at Vinson.

"Stop asking? I'm your mom. Why can't I ask? Let me tell you, you'd better chase that woman out at once and cut off all contact with her!"

Vinson took a deep inhale and replied, "If you insist on that, I would have no choice but to move to Maple Mansion with her."

"You, you..." Susanne was so mad that she was nearly suffocating from her fury.

Arielle reached out to support her at once and said, "Mom, it's not good for your heart if y you get angry. Relax and take a deep breath..."

After taking a few deep breaths, Susanne finally managed to calm down slightly.

She looked at his son like she was looking at a stranger, then she finally closed her eyes and said, "Fine. I will not bother myself with any of your affairs ever again! But let me warn you, if you let Sannie down, you will definitely regret it in the future!"

Vinson did not respond to that, and neither did he look at Arielle. Instead, he merely said to Penelope, "Didn't I ask you to prepare dinner? Is it ready?"

Feeling secretly delighted, Penelope replied at once, "Yup, it's all ready! I'll bring them out now."

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Chapter 1234 Even Dogs Will Not Eat It

After taking a pause, the woman said to Susanne, "Mrs. Nightshire, I'll go bring the dishes out. Please take a seat and get ready to eat. I won't get in the way."

After saying that, Penelope quickly made her way to the kitchen to take out the dishes.

Susanne opened her mouth and was about to say something but decided against it.

If Vinson and Arielle had indeed lost feelings for each other, or if there were really cracks in their relationship, it would not be very appropriate for her to meddle in their affairs. If she did that, it might even have an adverse effect instead.

As such, Susanne decided that she would just not acknowledge Penelope. That seemed like the only thing she could do. Since that woman with an unknown background wants to move in, she will first have to be able to tolerate my temper.

At that thought, Susanne decided in her heart that she would no longer argue with Vinson and use her actions to force Penelope to back down instead.

"Let's go. You haven't had dinner yet, right ?" Susanne patted Arielle's shoulder and said, "Our chef had returned to his hometown today. Since we have a free substitute chef today, let's just try her cooking."

Even though Arielle hardly had any appetite as she was trying to figure out what was going on with Vinson, she had no choice but to sit at the dining table after being dragged there by Susanne while trying hard to tone down her displeasure.

Soon after, Penelope emerged from the kitchen and brought the dishes to the dining table.

After managing Maureen's Kitchen's for so long, Arielle's occupational hazard acted up as she started scrutinizing the dishes.

Penelope had prepared a three-course meal including a soup. Just judging by the presentation of the dishes, they seemed passable, but the taste of the dishes was still left to be judged.

Just when Arielle was still assessing the dishes, Penelope started laying out the cutlery for everyone.

"Everyone, please try my cooking," Penelope said confidently. "Even though I might not be good at a lot of things, I'm quite confident in my culinary skills. In fact, everyone who has tasted my cooking had only praises for me." Susanne took a piece of grilled fish and put it in her mouth expressionlessly, and Penelope looked at the woman expectantly.

However, the next instant, Susanne's expression darkened as she spat out the fish.

"Ugh! This is horrible!" Susanne exclaimed before picking up her glass of water to rinse her mouth.

Feeling extremely awkward, Penelope froze on the spot and did not know how to respond.

However, Susanne was not picking on the woman intentionally this time. It was because she had just been to Maureen's Kitchen for dinner two days ago, and one of the dishes served there was also grilled fish.

After savoring grilled fish that was excellently prepared, it was just normal for other grilled fish to not meet her expectation.

"How can something taste so bad!"

Susanne tossed her cutlery on the table and looked toward Penelope. "Try this yourself! I doubt that it's even fit for any human. Perhaps, even dogs won't eat it!"

Vinson, who was about to take a piece of grilled fish as well, retracted his hand slowly upon hearing his mother's comments.

Penelope refused to believe that the grilled fish which she had painstakingly prepared was that bad. Besides, the fish itself was fresh from the market. As such, even if the preparation method was not ideal, it was impossible for its taste to go wrong. After tasting it herself, Penelope arrived at the conclusion that Susanne was definitely making things difficult for her deliberately.

In fact, the dish which she had prepared that evening tasted better than all of her previous attempts. As such, she was sure that Susanne must be picking on her by claiming that even dogs would despise the dish.

Feeling indignant, Penelope said, "Mrs. Nightshire, since everyone has different tastes, I guess maybe you don't like grilled fish in the first place? Do you want to try something else instead?"

"No thanks!" Susanne waved a dismissive hand and said to Arielle, "Sannie, are you tired? If you're feeling fine, why don't you show her how the dish should be prepared?

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Chapter 1235 A Battle Of Cooking Skills

That day, when Susanne went to Maureen's Kitchen for dinner, she had made inquiries and found out that the reason the grilled fish tasted so delicious and different from those which she had elsewhere was because Arielle had made modifications to the original recipe.

Even though Arielle had not tried the grilled fish prepared by Penelope, she did not want to go against Susanne's wishes and agreed to her mother-in-law's suggestion with a nod. "All right, I'll need about twenty minutes to prepare it."

"Sure!" Susanne answered and looked toward Penelope with disdain. "You can come along and watch. Useless people are not welcomed here. If you want to stay, you need to have some contributions to the household. In the future, you shall be in charge of the kitchen and cleanliness of the first floor." Sensing that Susanne was treating her like a servant, Penelope's expression stiffened and had trouble maintaining the fake smile on her face.

Her intention was not to become a servant of the household but Vinson's woman instead, living comfortably and enjoying a life of luxury.

"Mr. Nightshire..." Penelope looked at the man with pleading eyes, looking all vulnerable and fragile.

However, Vinson merely responded placidly, "Just do as my mom says. Those are useful skills to pick up anyway."

When Penelope heard that, she had no choice but to accept the arrangement. "All right. I'll go now."

After saying that, she caught up with Arielle and the two women headed to the kitchen together.

While Arielle was preparing the ingredients, Penelope merely asked with no intention to help, "Do you need any help? Since Mrs. Nightshire had specially asked you to prepare the dish, you must have excellent culinary skills."

Although that was what Penelope said, all she felt for Arielle was disdain.

There was no way she would believe that the owner of Sann Group could cook well.

After all, it did not seem logical that someone with status as high as Arielle would cook personally. Penelope was certain that Susanne had gotten Arielle to prepare that dish just to give her some pressure.

In a while, after Arielle was done with the dish, Vinson would know that compared to Arielle, she was the better homemaker and that Arielle was only fit to be his business partner.

Penelope was secretly delighted at that thought and could not wait for Arielle to finish preparing the dish.

As if Arielle did not hear Penelope's question at all, she continued with her task at hand and treated the other woman like an invisible object.

Penelope could feel her anger building after being ignored. However, other than standing quietly at one side, there was nothing she could do.

She did not believe that, without her help, Arielle would be able to finish preparing the dish alone.

That was simply impossible as preparing grilled fish took a lot of skill as it might be a very simple dish but it was hard to cook it to perfection.

As such, Penelope was sure that Arielle would be asking for her help in no time.

In that case, Penelope intended to take some credit after the grilled fish was served by telling Vinson that she had guided Arielle in the preparation.

However, after waiting for a while, Arielle still did not speak to her. When the woman looked over suspiciously, she noticed that Arielle had already finished preparing all the other ingredients and was currently handling the fish. Snapper, which was used to prepare the dish, demanded a high degree of care and skill in its handling. As Penelope was aware that her preparation work was not done perfectly, the grilled fish served by her earlier on did not look exceptionally appealing.

The woman was confident that there was no way Arielle could handle it better than her.

However, the next instant, she saw Arielle picking up the knife and starting to prepare the snapper skilfully, removing all its innards.

After that, Arielle proceeded to carve delicate patterns along its backbone.

Penelope was shocked to see that the pattern was almost identical—that was something she could never accomplish.

As such, she started wondering if it was really possible that Arielle's culinary skills were indeed better than hers.