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Holding a luxurious gift box, Alfred handed it to Arielle with a smile. "Ms. Arielle, Ms. Actonward has prepared this gown for you. Since Mrs. Southall isn't at home, she said she was worried that you didn't prepare one. Hence, she took the liberty of doing so."

Arielle raised her eyebrow slightly.

Since when did Yvette become so kind as to prepare a gown for me? It must be a trap. I had better be more vigilant.

However, Arielle didn't reveal her true emotions. Instead, she received the box with a smile and even opened it in front of Alfred.

"Wow! It's beautiful!" Arielle exclaimed.

Alfred's eyes were filled with disdain.

Mrs. Southall even claimed that Arielle was as sly as a fox. But now, isn't she just an innocent and vain little girl?

Hiding his contempt, Alfred replied with a smile, "It's good that you like it. If you wear this gown to Ms. Actonward's birthday party, she will definitely be delighted."

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Arielle nodded. "Don't worry. I will not disappoint Yvette. In that case, let me try it on, and I will wear it to the birthday party."

Alfred acknowledged, "That's wonderful. After all, it would be rude if you didn't wear the gown she prepared for you. Anyway, please go ahead and try it on. Feel free to let me know if you have any problems."

"Alright. Thanks, Alfred."

"Don't mention it. It's the least I can do."
Alfred left, smiling.

Arielle maintained the wide grin on her face until Alfred was out of sight.

Closing the door behind him with a frosty gaze, she laughed at herself in a self-deprecating manner.

At this rate, I'll get an award for Best Actress.

Turning back into her bedroom, she carefully opened the box Yvette had presented her.

Inside, there was a gown, a pair of heels, and some accessories. Everything she

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needed was there.

Arielle examined the items carefully and even used a special method to test the material. Strangely, she didn't find anything wrong with them.

After trying them on, she verified that the gown and shoes fitted without any problems at all.

Can it be that Yvette didn't sabotage the items and sincerely prepared them for me?

With the gown on, Arielle twirled herself in the mirror. It was a black-themed gown where the back and collarbone portions were covered with lace. It looked gorgeous and dignified, just like a charming black swan in the middle of a lake.

The gown was gorgeous regardless of whichever angle one looked at it.

If she wore the gown to Yvette's birthday party, she would undoubtedly be the focus of everyone's attention.

It was just that... Is she really that kind?

Arielle dispelled that thought at once.

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After all, no one would want to be outshone on their own birthday.

Therefore, something was definitely amiss, just that she had yet to discover what.

What could it possibly be?

As time flew by, a car arrived at the monastery entrance.

Shandie, who had been told of the news by Louisa, was eagerly waiting there. Finally, she saw the car arrive at sunset.

With her luggage in tow, Shandie headed toward the car.

Suddenly, a hand appeared out of nowhere and stopped her.

As Shandie lifted her gaze, her eyes met with Cindy's worried expression.

The moment Shandie saw Cindy, she asked coldly, "What do you want?"


"Shandie! Where are you going?" Holding Shandie back, Cindy anxiously asked, "Why didn't you tell me that you are going out?"


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Henrick had called Louisa directly. Hence, Cindy wasn't aware.

Furthermore, Shandie had lost all trust in Cindy. Therefore, she too didn't inform her.

Nevertheless, Cindy's intuition told her that wherever Shandie was going, it was definitely not a good idea to do so.

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Shoving Cindy's hand away, Shandie thrust her chin into the air. "Where else can I go? I'm going home, of course."

"Home?" Cindy asked in surprise, "Why would your dad suddenly let you go home?"

Shandie dug her ears in frustration. "I'm my dad's biological daughter after all. Of course, he won't let me stay in there my entire life."

However, Cindy was still puzzled.

"Your dad is not someone who would call you home for no reason. You shouldn't go, it may be a trap!"

"What nonsense are you spouting?" Shandie rebutted with a frown, "Just because you are cruel and abandoned your own daughter, it doesn't mean everyone in the world is the same as you. Move aside! I'm leaving."

Just as she spoke, Shandie nudged Cindy aside and strode to the waiting car.

"Shannie! Don't go!"

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Cindy wanted to stop her still but was met with the sound of Shandie slamming the car door shut.

"Drive!" Shandie ordered the driver, leaving Cindy, who was desperately chasing them, in the dust.

Looking at Cindy's distant silhouette, Shandie let out a mocking smile.

It is now Cindy's turn to wait indefinitely in the monastery. For being a heartless mom, she should have a taste of what despair feels like.

By the time the car was out of sight, Cindy frantically made a call.

However, just before she could press the call button, her phone was snatched away from her.

Lifting her gaze, her expression drastically changed.

It was Louisa.

"Louisa, what are you doing?" Cindy asked while trying to remain calm.

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Louisa replied with an indifferent expression. "I was wondering how you can have food being discreetly delivered to you every day. Now, I finally know how. I am taking your phone!"

"No! Louisa! Let me make a call, I have something urgent..."

Ignoring her, Louisa turned and left.

When Cindy pursued her, two young men stopped her.

"Mrs. Southall, please go back."

"No, my phone! I need my phone back!"

Cindy's scream thundered across the sky. However, the only response she got was the sound of birds fluttering out from the forest.

Meanwhile, after driving for half an hour, Shandie realized that the route they were taking didn't look familiar.

Can it be that Cindy is right about someone trying to harm me?

Cringing anxiously, Shandie asked, "Where

are we going? This isn't the way home?"

The driver replied with a smile, "Ms. Shannie, Mr. Southall has instructed me to take you to Yvette's birthday party first before sending you home."

"Yvette's birthday party..." Shandie mumbled as her fears were eased.

I see. Yvette must have said something favorable on my behalf. That's why Dad has allowed me to come home. When I see her later, I must thank her properly.

The next moment, Shandie ordered the driver to stop the car.

"I can't go dressed like this, I need to change into a gown."

"Don't worry, Ms. Yvette has prepared them for you. The gown is on your right. Why don't you take a look."

Only then did Shandie notice the luxurious gift box beside her.

When she opened it, a black gown made of expensive-looking fabric was nestled inside.

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Shandie's eyes lit up the moment she saw it.

What a gorgeous gown!

Hugging the gown fondly, she couldn't stop running her fingers over its fabric.

She didn't expect Yvette to treat her so well on such an important occasion despite being nasty to her all the time.



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Given how beautiful the gown was, she could imagine how stunning she would look in it.

It was obvious to her that the gown was extremely expensive.

So what if Arielle is born pretty? She is alone in Jadeborough and doesn't have any money nor power. There is no way she would wear a gown as luxurious as this.

As the saying goes, "Clothes maketh the man." With this gown, I will impress everyone at the party!

After suffering in the monastery for such a long time, this will be my reward. I will make a glorious return!

"Hey, go faster!" Shandie pestered impatiently. "I want to arrive at the party right away."

The driver replied with a smile, "Ms. Shannie, don't worry. We have to get you to the stylist first. Other than your clothes, your makeup will also have to match the occasion."

"Yes, of course!"

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Shandie tried her best to keep herself calm. However, she couldn't stop her smile from widening still.

After all, she just couldn't wait to impress everyone there!

Meanwhile, at the Spaunia International Conference Hall.

There was a gathering of the elite from every industry in the nation. Only figures of exceptional stature were invited.

Vinson arrived at the red carpet dressed in an all-white suit, looking the part of a dignified nobleman.

The reporters who were lined up on both sides of the red carpet raised their SLR cameras and began snapping furiously.

Meanwhile, the emcee spoke gleefully into his mic, "Let us welcome the CEO of Nightshire Group, Vinson Nightshire! Last year, Mr. Nightshire attended the event by himself. Will he have a plus one this year?"

A few other socialites that were walking on the red carpet slowed down on purpose.

Every year, Vinson came alone and this year was not expected to be any different.

Therefore, whoever could walk the red carpet with him would have bragging rights amongst the other socialites given how great an honor it was.

However, instead of walking the red carpet right away, Vinson turned around and opened the car door fully. Putting one hand underneath the roof to shield her, he offered his other hand in a chivalrous manner.

The socialites were stunned.

Can it be that Vinson has brought a companion this year?

One of them shook her head in denial. "It's definitely not a female companion. It must be Mdm. Stone instead."

However, a hand with flawless white skin gently accepted Vinson's hand. After that, an equally fair pair of legs stepped out of the car.

Judging by how taut her skin is, it definitely isn't Susanne.

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The socialites widened their eyes in shock when they saw a lady gracefully emerging from the car.

She was wearing a white-feathered gown that was so white that it seemed to glow under the lights. The perfect curves of her body were all accentuated by how the gown was tapered.

When they lifted their gazes, they saw a lady with a dainty face and high nose. Her eyes sparkled like the stars while her luscious lips were pursed slightly. She was the epitome of rare but noble beauty and her appearance awed everyone present.

Every other beautiful phenomenon in the world paled in comparison next to her.

At that moment, everyone's attention was focused on Arielle. No one was able to peel their eyes away.


Even the photographers who were used to taking pictures of gorgeous women were so astounded that they forgot to work their cameras.


This is the kind of beauty that could launch a thousand ships.


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Once she got out of the car, Arielle could sense that everyone's attention was focused on her.

The very next second, she felt Vinson lean closer and whisper by her ear, "I am beginning to regret bringing you along."

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