

The Pinnacle of Life – Chapter 0261

At this moment, Beatrice and Claire were on their way to her grandfather's place, driving the BMW M8 that was given to Dorothy by Alex.

Beatrice's grandfather was Aidan Bardot. He has two daughters, Claire was the elder while the younger one was named Adrianna Bardot.

Adrianna was much snobbish than Claire, she would always try to compare with Claire in every aspect. Ever since Claire's husband, Henry Assex, went missing after a trip with his secretary, Adrianna insulted and looked down upon her every time they met.

More importantly, Adrianna had a daughter, who was a year younger than Dorothy, she would always show her off in front of Claire.

Under such circumstances, Claire naturally couldn't drive her dilapidated car back home. Only a BMW M8 that was worth two million dollars could show her elegance and flamboyance. When the time came, she could get back at her sister to regain her self esteem.

"Mom, Sis found a new boyfriend!" Beatrice, who was sitting in the passenger seat, said suddenly, "Looks like she has finally come around and stopped clinging to that loser Alex."

Claire turned to her. "How did you find out?"

Beatrice replied, "In Sis' company group chat, I've been lurking in there. Now everyone is talking about her new lover. He drives a limited edition Lamborghini! Morn, do you know how much that costs? At least fifteen million dollars!"

"What? A car that costs fifteen million dollars?!" Claire exclaimed in surprise, as she had never seen such an expensive car in her life. "Where? Where?"

Beatrice showed Claire her phone. "This one here, look! Isn't it so cool?"

Claire stared at it excitedly, with her eyes sparkling. However, after her hands slipped, she accidentally ran the car into a railing with a loud bang.

Both the mother and daughter were shocked to their core. They hurriedly got out of the car and checked its condition.

The car's bumper had fallen off, the right lamp was broken as well.

Helpless, Beatrice cried without tears. "Mom, what do we do now? I shouldn't have shown you if I knew this would happen. If we were to wait for the cops to deal with this, we might end up missing Grandpa's birthday celebration dinner."

Claire said, "Why should we call the cops over a broken BMW? We don't even know where that loser Alex got his hand on it. Who cares if it's broken? Your sister is now riding a Lamborghini, why would we need this damn BMW?"

Beatrice replied, "Thank God we didn't run over anyone. Please drive more safely, Mom!"

Claire huffed. "This is all that trash, Rockefeller's fault. Why did he even give us such a poor car? Everyone's driving automated cars now, not old and outdated cars like this!"

They had finally reached their destination, Aidan's place.

Multiple cars had been parked outside the entrance, there was even a dashing red Ferrari. Numerous people surrounded the Ferrari and gossiped about it in awe and envy, some were chatting enthusiastically.

At first glance, Claire immediately noticed Adrianna and her family, who were standing there. Adrianna's husband, Taylor Bellamy and her daughter, Sharpay Bellamy were standing next to her.

Next to Sharpay was a man in a suit, who seemed quite intimate with her. They were most likely dating.

“Yo, Sis, you’re finally here! I thought you wouldn’t come to Dad’s 66th birthday celebration. You actually showed up in a broken car? Oh look, the bumper fell off too. Is your family so poor that you don’t even have money to fix it?” Adrianna rushed over to Claire as soon as she parked her car. Seeing the broken BMW, she almost couldn’t hold in her laughter.

Claire said with a darkened expression. “Money to fix it? I literally just crashed it on the way here. Open your eyes wide and look clearly, this is a luxurious car that’s worth two million dollars. I don’t really care if it’s broken and I’m too lazy to go through the insurance stuff anyway. At most I would lose a few hundred thousands dollars, but Dad’s birthday takes the cake.”

“Hahaha, what a joke! A broken car like this costs two million dollars? More like scraps from a junkyard! Just drop the act already. Who doesn’t know that your family is going to get kicked out of the Assexes?”

Adrianna smiled as she pointed toward the Ferrari. “Take a good look at this. Now that’s a real luxurious car. A Ferrari, have you ever seen one? Furthermore, this is my son-in-law’s car, it’s worth five million dollars! Would you like to take a photo of it?”

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Claire was shocked. After looking at the Ferrari and then turning to her broken car, she was instantly bereft of speech, as if she had just eaten a bug and received a critical hit of fifty thousand damage. However, she couldn’t help but curse Alex secretly.

More importantly, this wasn't the end of it.

Sharpay brought her boyfriend over to show off. "Aunty, Cousin, let me introduce you to my boyfriend, Edison Hood. He's an executive of Yowell Group, with a yearly salary of five million dollars! This car belongs to my boyfriend by the way. Oh right, why aren't Cousin Dorothy and her useless kept, I mean, husband here yet?"

As she mentioned the word "useless", a smug expression was plastered all over her face.

Beatrice said, "Sis is still working at her company, so she'll be a little late."

Adrianna huffed. "Does she not know what day is today? How could a lowly employee like her be busier than my son-in-law in an executive position? I guess the poor always act haughty and stuck-up. Also, I bet you are too embarrassed to bring along that useless son-in-law of yours who only lives off women!"

Edison asked, "What is it about living off women?"

Sharpay chuckled as she said, "Oh, that's my cousin-in-law, who is specialized in living off women. He never earns a penny his whole life but only asks my cousin for money every month. Marrying a husband like him is basically raising a man-child."

Adrianna added. "Oh well, comparisons are odious after all! They are both sons-in-law, but how could their differences be so vast?!"

Their conversation had attracted a small crowd. Some were Aidan's neighbours, some were guests who came to celebrate his birthday.

Upon listening to their conversation, puzzled gazes were fixated on Claire.

Angered, Claire's eyelids kept twitching as she felt that she had suffered such a great humiliation due to Alex. So, she immediately said, "Who said that he's my son-in-law? That useless piece of sh*t Rockefeller has been kicked out by me long ago! Dorothy divorced him! My dear Dorothy is now the CEO of a subsidiary company, who cares if you're an executive?! Her current boyfriend is great too, he drives something called... Lamborgigi."

"Mom, it's Lamborghini." Beatrice, who was standing aside, corrected her.

"Yeah, yeah! A Lamborghini! It's a limited edition too, it costs fifteen million dollars you know!" Claire seemed to be high spirited again as she pointed at the red Ferrari and said, "What's so great about that five-million-dollar Ferrari? They will come here by Lamborghini later, it will be an eye-opener for you guys?"

Adrianna pursed her lips as she said, "Is that really true? Are you sure you're not just bluffin g? How could I not know if Dorothy has divorced?"

“Why would we announce such a thing to everyone?”

“But, her divorce means that she’s going to remarry. How could she find someone nice from remarrying? Careful, her partner might play with her feelings!”

“Hmph, so what if she’s going to get remarried? My daughter is still a virgin, she has not slept with him even after marriage! She’s basically untouched. Unlike someone, she hasn’t changed boyfriends like changing clothes.”

Sharpay turned pale by her words. In fact, she had dated multiple guys, she even lost her virginity in her first love.

Just then, a cool and trendy Lamborghini slowly pulled up in front of them.

Beatrice pulled on Claire’s sleeve. “Mom, it’s the Lamborghini! Sis is here!”

Claire’s eyes lit up and hurriedly exclaimed, “Look, that’s my son-in-law! He’s driving a Lamborghini that’s worth fifteen million dollars! Ferraris are just toy cars compared to this!”

The crowd was shocked upon seeing the luxurious car, it really was a Lamborghini.

Adrianna was the one who fell silent this time round. The scissor doors of the car opened up.

Claire was overjoyed as she rushed to meet her new son-in-law. However, after seeing Alex got out of the car, she froze as if she were struck by lightning. “Why are you here? Where’s my new son-in-law?”

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“What new son-in-law?”

“Mom, what nonsense are you talking about?”

Dorothy, who was wearing a business attire, got out of the car as well. Sharpay, who dressed up glamorously, was incomparable with her ethereal beauty and elegance in that instant.

Even her boyfriend, Edison, stared at Dorothy with eyes filled with immense adoration and envy.

Claire ecstatically thought that Dorothy had finally dumped Alex and found herself a rich son-in-law. However, seeing Alex whom she knew very well, Claire was extremely disappointed.

“Dorothy, wasn’t there a rich heir who picked you up in a Lamborghini? How did it turn out to be this trash here?” Claire huffed angrily.

“What rich heir? It’s Alex who picked me up. Mom, I’m married, please don’t say such nonsense,” Dorothy said as she glared at Beatrice. She knew that Beatrice was added into the office group chat. Hence, she was the only one here who could know about this.

Just then, Adrianna walked up to them with a smile. “Oh, so it’s really Alex Rockefeller. Didn’t you just say that they’ve already divorced? Why do they suddenly get back together? Where did the real rich heir go? This down-and-out loser is worse than a common folk, it looks like you just have to put up with him!”

With that, she then touched the Lamborghini. “A fifteen-million-dollar luxurious car? Can you even afford this? You probably rented it, right? Why do you even put on an act? Is there any point to bite off more than you can chew?”

Dorothy froze. “Who got a divorce? I didn’t.”

Sharpay replied, “But your mom just told us that.”

In that instant, both Dorothy and Alex could not help feeling helpless as they were bereft of speech.

However, Claire asked, “Dorothy, where did this Lamborghini come from? Could it be that you bought it just now after your company earned a lot of profit?”

She tried getting back at Adrianna for once.

Dorothy shook her head. “ No, Alex borrowed it from a friend.”

“Hahahaha! ” Adrianna cackled. “I actually thought you guys have become rich. Looks like this was all just a big bluff! Yeah, sure, the car is amazing, but it’s even not yours! What good would it do for you? I’d rather get in my son-in-law’s Ferrari than a borrowed car.”

Taylor added. “I was in quite a shock too! Turns out it was just a lie, to think you acted as if it were true! How vain!”

After being insulted by both her sister and brother-in-law, Claire was clearly frustrated and annoyed. She swung her hand toward Alex’s face as she yelled, “You trash! You useless trash! Who invited you here? Who told you to borrow a car? Do you really think you deserve to drive a Lamborghini? Can you even pay for the expenses if you were to break it? Get lost! Get lost right now!”

Alex leaned back slightly and dodged her slap.

However, Claire had used too much force, causing her to almost slip and fall. As she got even more enraged, she took one of her heels off and threw it hard at Alex.

Alex was worried that Dorothy, who was right behind him, might get hit. Hence, he decided not to dodge and took the hit.

Dorothy said angrily, "Mom, what is wrong with you? So what if Alex borrowed the car? Have you not embarrassed yourself enough?"

Claire yelled back, "I'm only embarrassed because of this useless trash! Look at Sharpay's boyfriend, and now look at him! He's no better than dog sh*t on the roadside."

Alex's expression darkened as he was about to snap.

Suddenly, an old man walked out. "What's with the ruckus? Haven't you embarrassed yourself enough? Are you here to celebrate my birthday, or to piss me off?"

The man was Aidan Bardot.

In that instant, Claire dared not say another word.

Both Dorothy and Beatrice greeted him, Alex did so as well. However, the old man didn't even take a glance at him. On the contrary, he warmly welcomed Edison, Sharpay's boyfriend.

The contrast in his attitude was too obvious.

Dorothy clinged to Alex's arm, comforting him. After secretly giving him a gentle kiss, only then did Alex suppress his anger and calm himself down.

At the same time, Brittany, Waltz and Maya were on their way to Aidan's birthday banquet too.

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Inside Bardot Manor, there were around forty to fifty people in total of Aidan's relatives and his disciples. A few large tables had been placed in the hall.

It was time to present gifts.

Dorothy had thoughtfully prepared a gift for Alex to present to Aidan, it was an inkstone that cost tens of thousands dollars. The old man liked calligraphy, hence, she figured that he would like it.

“Give this inkstone to him later, and say it’s a present from both of us.” Dorothy reminded him in a soft voice.

“There’s no need for that, I’ve prepared gifts as well,” Alex smiled as he said.

In front of them, the first one to present the gift to Aidan was the elder daughter, Claire. “Dad, I’ve got you this jade scepter. I wish you good luck and health for years to come.”

Next was Adrianna and Taylor, they gave him a gold statue of Buddha.

Then, Aidan’s disciples followed suit and presented their gifts to Aidan.

Alex was speechless with the fact that Aidan would open his presents as soon as he received them, regardless of the gifts being wrapped in boxes. Alex had seen his expression turned gloomy as some of his disciples had presented gifts that weren’t as grand as the others.

While dragging Edison, Sharpay enthusiastically rushed up to present her gift as well. “Grandpa, this is a gift from Edison. It’s a famous painting called The Landscape by Jean Pucelli in the 13th century. It’s the real deal, you know? Take a look, Grandpa!”

“What? The Landscape by Jean Pucelli?” As expected, Aidan’s eyes lit up as he heard her words.

A few of his disciples were shocked as well. After all, Jean Pucelli was indeed the most famous artist back in the 13th century. Along with other three famous artists, they were referred to as the Famous Four. His original works were priceless. Just a while ago, one of his original works was auctioned for eighty million dollars in Port City.

Even if The Landscape was not as costly as that painting, it must still be quite expensive!

Upon hearing this, Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

‘He presented The Landscape too? That’s too coincident. Then should I present mine too?’ Alex thought.

During their conversation, one of Aidan’s disciples started praising out loud. “It’s the real deal! It really is! This gift is amazing, it must have cost at least tens of millions dollars!”

Aidan smiled at Edison as he said, “You’re so considerate, Edison. But this painting is priceless, I don’t dare to take it, you should just keep it for yourself!”

Edison smiled and replied, “Grandpa, heroes deserve powerful swords whereas refined scholars deserve famous paintings. You are indeed a truly refined scholar, Grandpa, just look at how many disciples you have! If I were to keep The Landscape, that would just lower its worth. However, it’s definitely a match for you!”

“Haha, what a great speech. Mr. Bardot, with such a grandson-in-law, what more could you ask for? Since this is his token of appreciation to you, you should just accept it, Mr. Bardot! ”

“Uhm... Well, alright. I’ll be keeping it safe for Edison then! It’s still going to be yours when I pass away anyway! Haha!”

Edison then took out a century-old ginseng, claiming that it cost millions dollars. He then proceeded to wish Aidan good health for years to come.

However, with Alex’s abilities now, he was able to identify any herbs with just one sniff. The century-old ginseng was a fake. It was just a garden ginseng that was dried and baked to make it look like a century-old ginseng.

Such ginseng was available in some markets in the north side, its price was even cheaper than carrots. Hence, Alex couldn’t hold in his laughter upon seeing this, he ended up letting out a slight chuckle.

This chuckle wasn’t much of a problem, but Sharpay immediately noticed it.

She walked over to him and said, “Yo, what are you laughing about, my useless cousin-in-law? What do you plan to give Grandpa on his birthday? Oh, you can drive a Lamborghini that’s worth fifteen million dollars, you have the right to laugh at us indeed. Then show us what gift you have prepared. Is the gift inside this bag?”

With that, she snatched it from him.

The moment the painting was opened up, everyone was shocked.

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“This... Is this The Landscape too?”

“Why does it look the same as the other?”

“Is it even possible that there are two copies of The Landscape in this world?” Sharpay exclaimed in surprise.

Adrianna rushed over to take a look and hurriedly said, “Why do you even need to question it? Obviously, this must be a fake. Why else are there two same paintings by a famous artist in this world? Even idiots could figure that out.”

Alex replied, "Mine is the original copy."

Taylor chuckled sarcastically. "Yours is the original? so, are you saying the one that my son-in-law presented is a fake? Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror, do you really think you can afford to present the original copy of The Landscape? You couldn't even buy a shred of it even if you were to use all the pocket money that the Assexes have given to you."

Edison huffed. "I got mine from a friend's auction with an internally set price of more than ten million dollars. I ask of you, where did yours come from? "

Alex replied dismissively, "A friend gave it to me."

"Hahaha!" Adrianna laughed. "What a joke! Have you really not taken a look in the mirror? Sure, you used to be that almighty young lord of the Rockefeller, and everyone would suck up to you. But look at you now, your dad betrayed our country, your mom is half-dead, and you, Alex Rockefeller is nothing but a street rat! If it weren't for the Assexes' generosity to let you stay, you wouldn't even be able to eat garbage at the roadside. And, you said that someone gave you this painting, but it costs more than ten million dollars! What kind of idiot would give it to you?"

Alex's eyes turned sharp and cold, his aura was immense. "Watch your mouth. No one can insult my family."

Adrianna's face was full of disdain. "So what if I insulted them? Are you going to hit me? Come on then, hit me here, you twerp!"

In the next second, Taylor, Sharpay and Edison came over as well, standing in front of Alex. All of them had a look of contempt and mockery on their faces.

Dorothy hurriedly rushed over to hold Alex back. She was worried that Alex might actually hit Adrianna out of anger, worsening the situation.

Aidan was enraged as he said, "Claire, keep your son-in-law in check."

After that, he also walked over to them and took a look at The Landscape that Alex had prepared for him. He immediately showed a contemptuous look as he said, "Your painting is the fakest of the fakes. Just compare it to the original copy, yours isn't even sealed with the stamp and there are burn marks down here too. It must have been damaged when you were trying to replicate it, right? This is not just any fake, but a lowly faux."

Sharpay sneered. "How dare you try to compete against my husband's original copy by bringing out such a lowly faux? You're really a joke."

Alex let out a sardonic laugh.

Indeed, his copy didn't have a stamp. This was due to a fire in the past when it was being passed down. It would have been destroyed if someone didn't save it. However, after the fire, the area with the stamp was burnt so it looked worn. Despite that, this was truly the original copy.

However, only true collectors and antique lovers would know about such a history. Alex only found out about this from Waltz.

Meanwhile, Claire rushed over and pulled Alex to the side. She yelled angrily, "Get lost, you trash! Haven't you embarrassed me enough? What kind of disgusting piece of sh*t is this? How dare you claim it to be Jean Pucelli's original artwork? Do you really think everyone's an idiot? Just get lost!"

She then snatched the painting and tore it into two halves. She even threw it to the ground and stomped on it twice.

Alex's heart sunk, he couldn't help but feel extremely helpless.

If Jean Pucelli were to know that his original artwork was damaged in such a way, he wouldn't ever rest in peace.

Dorothy narrowed her eyes as she said, "Mom, how could you tear it? It's still a painting regardless!"

It was obvious that Dorothy thought that the painting was a faux as well. However, tearing it apart in front Alex was just too humiliating.

Sharpay replied, “Why shouldn’t she tear it? Do you want to keep it around to scam others?”

She then took the other present in the bag. After opening it up, she said, “Oh my god, what’s wrong with you? How dare you give Grandpa a white flower on his 66 th birthday? What is the meaning of this? It’s wilted too! Are you trying to curse my grandpa?”

Alex already regretted joining the birthday banquet. He would rather stay at home and have dinner with his mother.

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Alex was demotivated as he said, “This is a snow lotus.”

“Huh, is this really a snow lotus?”

One of the disciples said, “This really is a snow lotus, but it looks kind of weird.”

Someone added, "I've seen it on Amazon, my wife ordered some for herself."

Sharpay immediately looked it up on Amazon. In the next second, she cackled. "I thought it was something good this time. This snow lotus here only costs 23.8 dollars, it comes with free shipping too! If you could drive a Lamborghini, why are you gifting this piece of sh*t? Not even a dog would want it!"

She immediately threw the snow lotus, which was worth millions dollars, onto the ground.

Claire angrily lifted her leg and stomped on it several times, trampling it into pieces.

While pointing at Alex, she yelled, "You loser! You godforsaken loser! Are you done fooling around yet? Are you really a nemesis of the Assexes? You don't ever do anything in your life, all you could do is get sh*tty items like this! How long do you plan on clinging to my Dorothy? You're just a bearer of ill luck, don't you know that? I can't even stand looking at you, why don't you just drop dead already? Just drop dead, along with your damn mother! Divorce now! Hurry and divorce my daughter! Trash like you don't even deserve my Dorothy."

She kept screaming while poking Alex's chest and pushing him hard. Bit by bit, she wanted him to step out of the door.

Dorothy wanted to pull her mother back, yet she was being held back by Beatrice.

The rest of the Bardots, who were standing aside, coldly watched the scene, as if they were watching an amusing laughing stock.

Sharpay, who was clinging to Edison, smiled coldly as she stared at Claire and Alex. She then turned to Dorothy, who was ashen-faced. She was extremely satisfied with this outcome, as though she were enjoying a cool popsicle in a hot June.

She knew that she was incomparable with Dorothy in many aspects. At first, she was no match for Dorothy in studies. Then, she was no match for Dorothy in looks and body as well. Now, she couldn't even compete with Dorothy in the job position.

However, looking at Dorothy now, Sharpay felt that she had become an ultimate joke.

Sharpay thought that the most important thing in a woman's life was neither intelligence nor beauty, but the ability to choose a good husband. If one could marry a good husband, she would live a blissful life. On the contrary, if one somehow married a sh*tty husband, her life would end up in living hell.

Claire was extremely livid as she had never been humiliated like this in her life. She blamed all of this on Alex, hence she wanted to insult him in every way she could today. Just then, she realized that a woman appeared right behind Alex.

This woman's expression was extremely cold yet baleful, glaring at her.

A whim struck Claire as she felt that the woman looked familiar. Only after a brief moment of thinking, she finally figured out the woman as she thought, 'She... Isn't she that loser Alex's mother, Brittany Rockefeller? Isn't she still lying in the hospital bed, half-dead? Am I seeing things now?'

In the next moment, a hard slap landed on Claire's delicate face.

Smack!

The slap was loud and clear. A red slap mark instantly surfaced on Claire's fair face.

Brittany's voice echoed through the halls. "Claire Assex, is this how you treat my son?"

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Claire held the side of her face that had been slapped, with her eyes widened in disbelief. She thought, "It's Brittany, it's really Brittany. She has actually woken up from her coma."

Alex was shocked as well. "Mom, you... Why are you guys here?"

He saw Waltz and Maya were behind Brittany as well. In that instant, Alex knew that chaos would soon ensue. He was worried the most that such a situation would happen, therefore he never told Claire that his mother had woken up.

For Dorothy's sake, he was willing to endure Claire's unreasonable and lunatic behavior to make things more difficult for him. However, Brittany would never stand back and tolerate her behavior.

Dorothy felt the same too, but her face was pale, with her lips trembling. She was about to faint out of shock. Beatrice was in shock as well, with her mouth agape.

Meanwhile, the Bardot family and the other guests were taken aback as soon as they saw such a scene, but their expressions turned excited shortly after... Especially Adrianna and her family, they almost wanted to cheer out loud.

Claire snapped back to reality and instinctively asked, "Brittany, how did you survive? Aren't you almost dead?"

Brittany's cold glare was as sharp as a spear. "Claire Assex, of course you wish me to die so you can keep bullying my son like this, right? You even cursed both my son and I to die, why don't you just drop dead instead?"

Brittany continued, "I didn't believe the rumours about you at first. But now, I've seen it with my own eyes, this is far worse than what I've heard. Do you even deserve to be a mother-in-law?"

Dorothy immediately flung Beatrice's hands away and rushed over. She held Claire back as she turned to Brittany and said, "Mom, please calm down."

Brittany lifted her arm and slapped Dorothy across her face. "Get lost! Dorothy Assex, do you still remember what did I say back then, when I gave you permission to marry into the Rockefellers? I told you to take care of m y son! Is this how you take care of him?"

She added, "How dare you let your mom scold my son all she wants, calling him a loser, and even letting him slave away for your family as a nanny?! Even though you've been married for ten months, he's still a virgin even now too, for god's sake! You've turned my son into the biggest laughing stock in California, you'll be condemned for the rest of your life!"

A slight smile flashed on Waltz's face.

Dorothy, on the other hand, burst into tears as she covered her face with her hands.

Alex held Brittany back. "Mom, what are you doing? What does this have got to do with Dorothy? Come on, stop this ruckus. We should at least give face to Aidan, after all today is his 66th birthday celebration. Let's just leave!"

After all, Brittany was known as the Steel Woman. Alex was worried that if this ever kept up, this wouldn't end up well. He might actually have to divorce Dorothy.

However, how could Brittany back down and the Assexes off the hook?

Brittany said, "Go away, don't even try to stop me! You're William's son, and my son too! Your dad and I would never allow you to get bullied like this!"

"You're the most precious thing to us in the world, we wouldn't even trade you for the stars up in the sky. Yet, in these people's eyes, you are nothing but sh*t, they think you're trash! If your father were to know that you have degraded yourself just for this woman, he would kick his coffin open to beat you up!" As Brittany spoke, her eyes were reddened. After all, this was her beloved son.

After being slapped in front of the crowd, Claire, who was enraged, pointed at Brittany and shouted, "You hot headed b*tch, how dare you slap me and even my daughter? What makes you think you could do that? Have you gone mental from being half-dead for half a year? Who do you think you are? Do you think William Rockefeller is still the great man that he used to be?"

She added, "Your husband is just a corrupted traitor who abused the law and colluded with the enemies! He's just a street rat detested by everyone! And you? If it weren't for us, the Assexes funding your hospital bills every month, do you think you can live up till now? You would've died long ago!"

Beatrice came over to help her mother too. "That's right, you brute woman, you're really unreasonable! What makes you think you can slap my mom?"

Just then, the Bardots finally came over to stick up for them.

After all, Claire was still part of the Bardots. Now that she was bullied by an outsider, if they were to stand back and watch, everyone would gossip and criticize them behind their back.

While smiling coldly, Brittany stared at the crowd and said, “You want to get even with us, right? Fine, I want to settle the account with you guys too.”

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“Mom...”

Alex wanted to stop Brittany, yet he was held back by Waltz. “Senior, Madame has been holding the anger for such a long time, if you don’t let her vent it, it might deteriorate her health and she might get sick. Your mother-in-law has indeed crossed the line. If we don’t teach her a lesson now, you’d have to suffer more in the future.”

Alex smiled bitterly. “I’m worried that I wouldn’t even have a future after this.”

Waltz smiled as she said, “That won’t happen.”

Deep in her heart, she wished clearly that Alex didn't have such a future.

"My son has been slaving away for your family as a nanny, he could at least have a salary of ten thousand dollars every month, right? There's a total of ten months, how much has he actually taken from you? Isn't that what he's supposed to deserve?" Brittany said coldly.

"It doesn't matter how much he took, that's still money of the Assexes!"

"Fine, it's your money. What about this then? Back when Alex was getting married, I gave you a betrothal gift of twenty million dollars, and I'm not even including the cost of the jewellery. But you never treat my son as your son-in-law, so shouldn't you return those money to me?"

With this, both Dorothy and Beatrice were shocked as they had no idea this had actually happened.

Dorothy asked, "Mom, you... you actually asked for a betrothal gift of twenty million dollars?"

Claire yelled, "So what if I did? After all, you two have registered for marriage, why should I return those money?"

Dorothy asked again, “What happened to the money then?”

Claire, who seemed fairly upset, agitatedly said, “I traded them for futures and lost all the money. Hmph, it must be because it’s dirty money, that’s why I lost. Why else would I suffer losses in everything that I bought?”

Listening to this, Dorothy was about to cry from sheer anger.

The guests were appalled as well. After all, it was not a small amount, but twenty million dollars. Most people wouldn’t even be able to earn such an amount in their whole lifetime. It was a rare sight when someone had the courage of her convictions to say that she lost all the money with such an excuse.

Brittany laughed coldly. “If it were really dirty money, the officials would’ve come to confiscate it ages ago. How could they let you off so easily? Fine, whatever, twenty million dollars are nothing to me, I don’t really care if they are gone. But don’t you dare try to reason with me using my son’s pocket change of hundreds of thousands dollars.”

She added, “Didn’t you just say that you wanted your daughter and my son to get a divorce? Sure, I agree with that.”

Panicked, Alex’s face turned pale. “Mom, I don’t want to.”

However, Claire clapped as she exclaimed, "I agree too, they should've divorced ages ago! Why should I let this loser stay in my place any longer?"

Brittany turned to Alex and said, "Back then, I told you that I didn't want you to marry Dorothy. In my mind, I'd prefer Maya to be my daughter-in-law, or Waltz, I'm satisfied with her too!"

Dorothy's expression instantly darkened.

Alex asked, "Mom, what wrong did Dorothy even do?"

Brittany replied, "She didn't, what's wrong is that she has an unreasonable, greedy and snobbish mother. I already realized that back then. Marriage isn't just between the two of you, it involves two families too. Son, do think you could be happy if her mother and the rest of her family members dislike you? Listen to me, get a divorce! Mom will approve your marriage if you were to marry Maya or Waltz."

Maya's face blushed, there was a shy look in her eyes. Waltz, on the other hand, smiled as she said, "Madame, I shall call you 'Mom' from now on. I don't mind being a concubine, Maya can be his wife!"

She then huffed at Alex. "Good for you, hubby! We can finally sleep in the same bed tonight!"

At this moment, Dorothy was crushed as if she were struck by lightning.

“Get out! All of you, get out! We Bardots don’ t welcome you.” Aidan was enraged as he lunged forward with a stick.

Waltz grabbed the stick effortlessly with her slender hand. Then, with just a gentle grip, the stick, which was as thick as an arm, broke into pieces.

Waltz smiled as she said, “Old man, you’re old and you should keep your temper under control, Otherwise, it would be bad for your health.”

Everyone was incredibly appalled, with their mouth agape.

Meanwhile, Sharpay’s boyfriend, Edison, had finally recognized Waltz. His eyes were instantly widened and filled with terror.

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“P... Princess Fleur?! ” After taking a clear look at Waltz, Edison almost fell to the ground out of shock.

Never did he expect that the great Princess Fleur of Thousand Miles Conglomerate would come by this place and join in on the fun. More importantly, she actually said that she wanted to become a concubine for Claire's useless son-in-law.

'Not to mention the legitimacy of the matter, if a man like him could have Princess Fleur to personally show up just for him, could this man really be a useless loser? Claire Assex and the whole Bardot family must be insane!' He thought as he quickly took a few steps back, fearing that Princess Fleur might notice him.

However, Sharpay, who was still clinging to him, asked with a puzzled look, "Honey, what did you just say? Who's Princess Fleur?"

Edison jumped in shock, he wished he could murder Sharpay right there and then because of her naivety.

He even saw that Waltz seemed to take a glance in their direction. He hurriedly dragged Sharpay and retreated to the back of the crowd as he explained, "I didn't say anything, you must've misheard. That woman seems pretty strong, let's take a few steps back, it'll be safer this way."

He dared not tell anything to Sharpay, or else this damn woman would start screaming out loud. When the time came, wouldn't Princess Fleur definitely notice them?

However, Sharpay said with a nonchalant expression, "She just crushed a stick, that's all. Besides, that stick is pretty decayed, what's the big deal about that?"

Edison was completely speechless toward her words. Everyone in the Bardot family really had a loose screw loose. Edison made up his mind to dump Sharpay as soon as the birthday celebration was over. He only dated her for fun anyway.

At this moment, Brittany said calmly, "Then we have a deal, Claire Assex. They shall file a divorce tomorrow."

Claire replied, "Alright, so be it! Alex Rockefeller, do you really think you're still the all mighty Rockefeller from ten months ago? Don't you ever forget that you are just an abandoned child that has been kicked out of the Rockefellers. It's a blessing for you to not starve! After the divorce, I will give Dorothy's hand in marriage to the real heir of Rockefeller Group, Spark Rockefeller. He had come to ask for my blessing ages ago!"

Brittany huffed. "Spark Rockefeller? It won't be long till his downfall. Claire Assex, I'm telling you right here now. You may look down on us two today, but I'll make sure you eat your words after tomorrow. Alex, let's go!"

Alex stared at Dorothy with a worried expression. However, he couldn't speak to her in private as of now. In the end, Waltz and Brittany dragged him out of Bardot Manor.

After they had left, Claire was fuming and acted like a maniac. "What the hell! What in the f*ck? Who does she think she is? Eat my words? She's just a lowkey widow, a half-dead b*tch who just woke up! Does she really think she's still the Steel Woman? She's even worse than a beggar in the streets!"

She added, "Divorce! You shall get a divorce tomorrow! Spark from Rockefeller Group is way better than that useless piece of sh*t!"

Dorothy, who was sobbing uncontrollably, screamed, "Mom, stop it!"

She just felt that she had been completely humiliated, with her self esteem in pieces. Her mind was left blank. She would only suffer from everyone's gossiping if she were to stay there any longer, so she just ran out of the manor.

"Sis!" Beatrice was worried about her sister and hurriedly chased after her.

Stomping her feet, Claire said, "Hmph, she must have had a concussion to like a loser like him."

Some of the guests came up to calm her down. After a couple of words, Claire was overjoyed again as she turned to everyone and said, "I'm not angry, but I'm happy! I finally got rid of that useless loser! Let me tell you guys something, Spark Rockefeller of Rockefeller Group had come by our place a few days ago just to remind us that he wanted to marry Dorothy! If it weren't for that trash, our Dorothy would have finally become a true Rockefeller's wife!"

Sharpay snickered. "Aunty, so you're saying that you want Cousin Dorothy to marry both the Rockefeller brothers? Tsk tsk, that must be an amazing feeling, right?"

Claire's expression darkened all of a sudden.

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Just then, an old man in traditional clothing walked into the manor with a smile while holding two bottles of wine.

“Hey Bardot! Your old pal is here to see you! Just look at what I've brought you, it's the thirty-year-old Dalva tawny port!”

Upon hearing the old man's voice, Aidan immediately rushed up to him while donning a bright smile. “Lawrence, didn't you say that the Archaeological Society will be having a meeting today? Why did you rush over here then?”

This old man was Christopher Lawrence, he used to teach History back in the same school as Aidan. However, this old man joined the Archaeological Society later on. Now, he had a different position as an official in the archaeology industry. Naturally, Aidan was overjoyed to see him.

Christopher smiled as he said, “I came as soon as the meeting ended.”

Just then, he took a glance at the ground and noticed The Landscape that had been stomped by Claire. Although he could only see parts of the painting, he was able to identify it.

Christopher was shocked all of a sudden. After placing the wine on the ground, he picked up the painting. “Bardot, this is... Isn’t this, The Landscape?”

His heart sank with restlessness. The more he looked at the painting, the more upset he looked.

Aidan smiled and said, “Oh Lawrence, just look at how panicked you are over a fake painting of The Landscape. It’s just a faux given by a loser. You’re an archaeologist for god’s sake. Just look at the area with the stamp, it has been burnt off. They are too clumsy and couldn’t even get the stamp right, it’s clearly the fakest of fakes.”

“You’re calling this a fake?” Christopher’s eyes widened in anger, even his beards stood up.

Claire, who rushed over, pointed at the painting and said, “Mr. Lawrence, of course this is fake! It’s a gift from my useless son-in-law. No wait, from my ex son-in-law! How dare he present a fake painting to my father? That’s why I tore it apart and stomped on it twice in front of him, just so this can’t be used to scam others.”

“You tore it apart and even stomped on it twice?”

Grimaced in intense anger, Christopher slapped Claire across the face.

Claire was stunned. "Mr. Lawrence, why did you slap me?"

Christopher was heartbroken. "You dumbass! You absolute idiot! You've ruined a beautiful art piece! Who told you that this was a fake? This is the original copy of The Landscape by Jean Pucelli! It's one of his priceless works that has been passed down! It's priceless, you hear me?! How, how dare you tear it apart?! You'll be condemned through the ages!"

Tears started trickling down Christopher's face. For an archaeologist, nothing was more painful than seeing a priceless treasure getting ruined by fools.

Everyone's chest tightened in shock and thought, 'If this is the real copy of The Landscape, what about the one that Edison presented?'

Aidan frowned and said, "Lawrence, are you sure this is the original copy?"

Christopher replied, "Of course, there's no doubt about it! Do you think it's a fake because of this burnt area? I guess you're a fool too. That's because the painting had experienced a fire when it was passed down. It took tremendous effort to save the painting back then, I didn't expect it to get ruined by your daughter!"

Adrianna immediately snatched the drawing given by Edison. “Mr. Lawrence, you must be mistaken. Look, this is the original copy of The Landscape by Jean Pucelli. My son-in-law bought it with ten million dollars in an auction.”

After taking a glance at the painting, Christopher spat on it. “This is a fake painting! There have been a few fake copies of Jean Pucelli’s arts lurking in the counterfeit market lately. They are all cheap counterfeits, printed digitally. This is one of them, it costs a hundred dollars at most.”

“What? A hundred dollars?!” Everyone was shocked.

Claire, who felt hard to breathe due to anxiety, immediately asked, “Mr. Lawrence, then how much does this original copy cost?”