

Chapter 14

But he kept flaunting himself in front of her.

"Mr. Lester sure knows how to crack a joke!" Leslie playfully blinked, and Carlos found it even more amusing. Was this girl acting all innocent to impress her wicked stepmother and fake sister?

"I'm not joking, I like you. So, tonight, I'll give you Flourishing Age!" Carlos teased, and hinted on his bodyguards. With a wave of his hand, the bodyguard took a few steps forward and respectfully handed the box to Leslie!

Leslie was taken aback, staring at Carlos, who was still smiling at her!

What was this guy playing at?

He knew she was cautious around Ashley, yet here he was, being kind to her in front of them, making enemies for her!

"Goodness! Flourishing Age... Isn't that the one just auctioned for twenty million?"

"Yes, Mr. Lester bought it for twenty million. It's a painting by a talented artist from Brickelwhyte. He's won the National Award, and even the prime minister met him!"

"So impressive! He casually gave away twenty million like it's nothing. Is Mr. Lester interested in Leslie?"

"Leslie is not bad. Don't you remember the last charity event when she stood up for her sister even though her sister slapped her so bad?"

The surrounding ladies whispered, and Sarah's face turned livid. She couldn't believe her eyes!

How could Carlos, so handsome and impressive, be interested in Leslie, a girl with a dry figure?

Moreover, Leslie might be pretty, but wasn't she prettier?

"Sorry, Mr. Lester, I can't accept such a precious gift!" Leslie shook her head, lowering her eyes slightly, afraid to look into Carlos's eyes.

Carlos narrowed his eyes. This girl actually dared to reject him in front of everyone?

"Leslie, what's wrong with you? Mr. Lester appreciates you, that's why he's giving you the painting... Mr. Lester, I'm sorry for her rudeness. Please don't blame her!"

Sarah, afraid that Carlos hadn't noticed her, so she took a step forward. If it were any other man, he would have been tempted by her gentle tone and affectionate gaze.

But Carlos just glanced at her lightly, "I naturally won't blame her. No matter how rude she is, I won't give the painting to you."

Everyone burst into laughter.

Sarah blushed, and Ashley quickly pulled her a few steps back, "Mr. Lester, please don't mind. Sarah is still young, and sometimes she speaks out of turn..."

"Then you need to work harder, Mrs. Byrd. After all, you are her birth mother. As the saying goes, like mother, like daughter." Carlos hooked his lips, creating a seductive smile.

"I... I will, thank you for the advice, Mr. Lester!" Ashley's face turned liver-colored as she awkwardly responded.

"Girl, if you don't accept it, I'll have someone deliver it to your villa. If you have the ability, you can treat it like garbage and throw it away." Carlos turned his head, his dark eyes expressing his determination.

Leslie had no choice. If she really did that, she would offend him.

But accepting his gift would make Ashley and Riley more wary of her!

"Well, I'll accept it then. Thank you, Mr. Lester." Leslie no longer hesitated, calmly taking the rectangular box from the bodyguard's hands.

Suddenly, all kinds of gazes fell on Leslie, burning as if they wanted to incinerate her.

A painting worth twenty million!

And the one giving it was the highly regarded Carlos!

People couldn't understand why Carlos would be interested in a girl who had just left her childhood behind.

Carlos satisfiedly raised an eyebrow, "That's a smart girl. Be good, call me if you need anything, and I will have your back!"

Carlos left with satisfaction.

Leslie was speechless.

What was good about her? What made him treat her like this?

Sarah and Ashley were filled with hatred but couldn't show it. Sarah suppressed the cold light in her eyes, holding Leslie's hand as they left together.

Back home, as Leslie opened the brocade box from her bag, Riley returned from his business trip. Seeing the Gem of Eternity on the table, he couldn't help but be surprised.

"Is this... the Gem of Eternity?"

The auction had been well-publicized from the beginning, and as a businessman, Riley naturally paid attention to such news. The Gem of Eternity was a highlight of the auction; how could he not recognize it?

"Yes, Daddy, this is the Gem of Eternity Mommy bought!" Leslie said excitedly.

Ashley and Sarah exchanged glances, both smiling slightly, thinking that Leslie was in big trouble this time.

"You bought this?"

"Yes, Leslie said she liked it, so I bought it." Ashley looked like a virtuous mother.

"Leslie, what's going on? Why did you buy such an expensive necklace?" Riley endured his anger, fearing to offend his daughter.

But he was her father. Riley didn't want to keep his anger inside.

"Don't be angry, Daddy. Leslie rarely likes something that much!"

Ashley tactfully grabbed the furious Riley, smiling on her face.

Sarah smiled faintly, "Daddy, Leslie has always favored such luxurious items. Calm down."

On the surface, this sounded like an excuse for Leslie, but it was actually a reminder to Riley. Leslie had always been unreliable and extravagant! Spending millions like it was nothing!

Leslie looked surprised and aggrievedly glanced at Sarah, then slowly turned to Riley, "Daddy, why are you blaming me? Mommy bought it! Mommy, just leave the necklace here; I dare not take such an expensive thing!"

Ashley's face sank, "Leslie, you clearly said you liked it!"

Leslie innocently shook her head, "Mommy, I did say I liked it, but I didn't ask you to buy it! When it reached ten million, I told Mommy not to bid anymore. But you didn't listen to me! Daddy, if you don't believe me, you can ask Mrs. Pearce; she was there too!"

"What? Ten million?" Riley's blood almost boiled when he heard this!

Riley had struggled since childhood, and it was only after marrying Leslie's mommy that life improved. With the support from the external family, Byrd Venture slowly started to thrive.

For almost twenty years, Riley had worked tirelessly, putting all his efforts into securing Byrd Venture's future!

In terms of daily expenses, Riley was very frugal, not wasting money, and he didn't like women spending on luxury items!

And now, a necklace costing ten million! How could he calm down?

"Daddy, it's one million five hundred thousand. Mommy and Mrs. Porter

compete for that, but I told Mommy not to bid anymore... I didn't even want it. Daddy, don't be angry with me..." Leslie looked at Riley with a helpless and slightly teary gaze.



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