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After both of them set off, Brandon, who had been waiting for a long time, started complaining.

"Seriously? It's my mom's birthday. Why can you only leave after that ex-husband of yours leaves? Don't tell me you're inferior to him just because you're a nanny?"

Sasha stayed silent.

Of course, the reason she came out so late was because she didn't want Sebastian to find out that she would be attending the party as well.

However, this pretty boy managed to hit a nerve in her.

Nanny...

Sasha's mouth tightened at the corners and she refused to speak.

Her silence made Brandon realize that he had said something wrong again. Hence, he quickly changed the subject. "Alright, alright. Let's not talk about this anymore. I'll take you to do your makeup and get dressed."

"Makeup?" This drew Sasha's attention. "Why do I have to wear makeup? Is it really necessary?"

"Of course. You must know, that mayor's daughter my mom introduced to me isn't just a run-of-a-mill woman. If you don't outshine her, I don't think I'll be able to escape my mom's plans."

As Brandon drove, he stated his reasons for doing so with a disgruntled look on his face.

However, it only served to make Sasha even more speechless.

Is there something wrong with this guy's brain? Does he actually think I'd be able to outshine the mayor's daughter by just putting on some makeup? Is he blind?

"Brandon, if that's the case, I suggest you pick a new candidate to be your fake girlfriend."

"Why?"

"Because there's obviously something wrong with your eyes. How can I compete with a socialite? I'm already old and dull. I'm a mother of three, for God's sake! Meanwhile, she's in the prime of her youth. So tell me, just how do you think I can outshine her?"

Sasha looked at him as if he should be put in a mental home.

Brandon froze under her gaze.

His eyes were fixated on the rearview mirror, and his mouth was slightly agape. For a long time, no words came.

Is there a misunderstanding between this woman and her own face?

Has she never looked into the mirror?

Thereafter, Brandon was adamant to make her realize what a beauty she was.

He floored the accelerator and the Lamborghini sped along the road. It didn't take long before the two of them arrived in the city center and meet up with Brandon's personal makeup artist.

"Prep her."

"Will do, Mr. Emmanuel!"

The makeup artist's eyes instantly lit up upon seeing Sasha's face.

A woman's beauty and elegance was subjective. However, makeup artists had the most say in this aspect because they relied on this to make a living.

Half an hour later, Sasha emerged and shocked everyone with her stunning beauty.

"Good heavens! Who is this? She's too gorgeous to be true!"

"Yeah. She's even more beautiful compared to the number one beauty in the entertainment industry! Where did she come from? Is she a newcomer in the showbiz?"

"I think so. Brandon Emmanuel brought her here."

When someone among the crowd mentioned Brandon's name, everyone was instantly filled with jealousy and admiration.

Meanwhile, Brandon had unwittingly fallen into a trance as he stared at her, his jaw going slack.

Sasha was indeed beautiful.

But her beauty wasn't the kind that gave an overly strong impact at first glance. It was more like a finely crafted piece of rare jewelry. She exuded an inherent elegance and nobility. Her delicate features may look ordinary without makeup, but now everything was enhanced to perfection, mesmerizing anyone and everyone who laid eyes on her.

By just standing there, she managed to steal everyone's breath away.

Sebastian must be blind. How could he fail to notice such a rare gem when it's right before his eyes? Instead, he picked up a piece of shit?

Spellbound, Brandon's treacherous heart thumped violently against his chest.

"Brandon?"

"Huh?"

Brandon finally snapped out of his daze and awkwardly recomposed himself.

Sasha did not seem to notice the effect she had on everyone around her. On the contrary, she felt very uncomfortable in the white tube maxi dress. It was too grand and exposing, nothing like the clothes she was used to wearing.

"Can I not wear this, Brandon?"

"Why not? It looks great on you. Trust me, for my plan to pull through, this is exactly how you should be dressed. Sasha, the fate on the next half of my life rests on your shoulders. After we succeed, I'll give you another million. How about that?"

Brandon quickly dissuaded her from changing her dress, even going so far as to increase the price.

Sasha furrowed her brows in response.

It wasn't the increase in compensation that swayed her. The hatred and disgust on his face when he talked about the mayor's daughter reminded her of herself back then.

Yeah. Who'd want to marry someone he or she doesn't like?

In the end, Sasha agreed to wear this dress and attend the party with Brandon.

Meanwhile, Xandra had returned from abroad and just arrived at the hotel with her aunt, Kelly, after dolling herself up.

"Aunt Kelly, do you know if Sebastian's coming?"

"It doesn't matter. What's important is that his father invited you. As long as you show up, everyone will know that you're the daughter-in-law whom the Hayes acknowledges. Understand?" Kelly replied.

A smile appeared on her heavily made-up face as she glanced at the birthday gift that was worth millions.

"Though, I wonder if Sasha will be attending today."

Upon hearing her aunt's question, Xandra's red-painted lips curved into an evil smile and she said with certainty, "Oh, she will."

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How was Xandra so certain?

It was simple, really. Xandra was acquainted with Brandon, and she knew for a fact that among the Hayes, he was the only one who was close to Sasha.

As long as Brandon found himself in a particularly difficult situation, Sasha would definitely come.

"Your intel from before was wrong. Brandon doesn't like the mayor's daughter at all. It's actually Matilda's wish, and the birthday party today is just a front. It's in fact a blind date for Brandon and that woman."

"Really?"

Kelly was surprised.

Xandra nodded and looked at the book in her hand. "Mm, so if Brandon wants to oppose this marriage, he will definitely find someone to act as his shield, and Sasha is undoubtedly the most suitable candidate."

As expected of someone who had mingled in the upper-class circles for five years, Xandra was well-versed in the workings of upper-class people.

Kelly broke into an approving smile. "Not bad. Since this is the case, our plan can be implemented perfectly today."

"Mm, all the arrangements are in place. Don't worry, I'll let Sebastian see for himself just what kind of person she is and make sure that starting from today, she will never set foot in Frontier Bay again!"

As Xandra held the book in her hand, she stroked the words on the page with her red nails, her mouth arching into an insidious and resentful smile.

Yes. Today, I'll make sure that b*tch crawls back to her grave!

Coming back from the dead was a mistake, dear Sasha.

Holding their respective birthday gifts, the two women entered the hotel in high spirits.

Brandon and Sasha were held up by the latter's makeup and hairdo. Hence, they arrived at the hotel an hour later

This was a five-star hotel under the Hayes Corporation and its lobby could accommodate up to thousands. Upon reaching the hotel lobby, Brandon and Sasha found that most of the guests had already arrived. At that moment, the place was bustling with life as everyone chatted merrily.

It seemed like this was a large-scale birthday party.

Sasha hesitated by the entrance.

"Sasha, maybe you should wear this?"

Sensing her uncertainty, Brandon hesitated for a moment before taking something out.

"Wear what?"

Sasha's gaze fell on the item in he had magically conjured up. "A mask?"

"Yeah. It's completely normal for girls to wear masks at parties like this. People used to always do this in the past." Brandon racked his brains for an explanation, hoping that this woman wouldn't suspect anything.

However, a smart woman like Sasha immediately understood his meaning when he took out the mask.

Do I really need to lower myself like that?

Even at a place like this, I have to hide my face from him?

Sasha's lips curled into a bitter smile. "It's fine. Sebastian's father invited me here anyway. Let's go say hi to him now."

With that, she lifted her dress slightly and walked into the hotel.

Brandon was dumbstruck.

Well, why didn't she start with that? I wouldn't have brought this stupid mask for her if I knew. That damned woman. And to think that I was worried she'd feel awkward if we bumped into her ex-husband.

Though slightly indignant, Brandon quickly moved to catch up with her.

Perhaps it was because of Sasha's eye-catching appearance and the noble aura she was emanating, she turned heads the moment she entered.

"Who is this? She's so beautiful."

"I don't know. Maybe she's the daughter of some rich family?"

Everyone's eyes were riveted on her. Because of her unworldly beauty, they instantly surmised that she was an heiress here to attend the party.

There were many socialites present in the lobby and their faces had turned unsightly when they heard the whispers traveling through the crowd. As they stared at Sasha, jealousy, disbelief, and displeasure were sprawled across their faces.

Due to the Hayes family's influence, everyone who was anyone attended the party.

Most of the women came hoping to get themselves a rich husband, while the men hoped to find themselves a wife with a strong background. Sasha's arrival was no doubt a tremendous blow to the women.

As for the men, their eyes instantly lit up at the sight of such a stunning beauty.

Before they could make their move, Brandon appeared behind her. Suddenly, shocked gasps filled the lobby.

"Isn't that the youngest son of the Emmanuel family? Did he come with that girl?"

"Yeah, that's him. Do you think there's something going on between them?"

"Could she be... his girlfriend?"

As soon as someone vocalized this possibility, the entire lobby broke into an animated discussion.

Staring at the two of them, everyone displayed shock and disbelief on their faces.

Upon noticing the gossip revolving around them, Brandon thought to hell with it and lengthened his stride to reach Sasha. "Why are you walking so fast, Sasha? Wait up," he called out in a whiny tone.

Is this guy acting cute with me?

Goosebumps formed all over Sasha's body just then, and the lobby erupted into a boisterous uproar. Samantha Dunn, who was currently in the center of the lobby, was already alerted to the situation.

Her family held the reins in Avenport, and she was the girl Brandon had mentioned to Sasha.

Brandon has a girlfriend?

Samantha's pretty face turned purple with rage, especially when she saw Sasha. The latter's appearance and aura were both superior to hers, which made her even more jealous.

"Dad, what are the Emmanuels trying to do? Brandon already has a girlfriend. Why did they come to us?"

She immediately went to her father and complained.