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My brows furrowed at the sight of the picture.

Audrey was right. The woman looked just like me.

Besides our fashion styles, it was no exaggeration to say that both of us looked exactly the same. I stayed stunned for a moment before noticing the other person in the picture.

It was a man. Even though only his chin showed up in the picture, I could tell that it wasn't Ashton.

The first thing that came to mind was that I had never taken such an intimate picture with any man in my life. Both of them were standing shoulder to shoulder, with their faces touching. They looked like an affectionate couple no matter what.

Seeing that I wasn't reacting at all, Emery leaned closer to take a look before saying, "She looks like your long-lost twin sister."

Without giving it much thought, I replied in shock, "Really? Do I really have a twin sister?"

A look of disdain appeared on the woman's face as she said, "Can't you tell that I was just joking?"

Then, she took the picture from my hands and started to study it. "But I've got to say, both of you really do look alike. It's at the point where I can't even tell that this woman isn't you. It's no wonder the kids would go after her like that."

I shrugged, unsure of how I should reply.

Meanwhile, Audrey had already made her way to the car and was urging us to hurry up. I quickly shoved the picture back into the wallet and put it on the counter before leaving.

With Fuller Corporation as the sponsor, the whole of Wenville seemed like a banquet out of the dreams. The parade of carriages

stretched on for miles during the warm-up phase alone. Models with excellent figures stood in the carriages as they displayed the Hanfu they were wearing. Just the sight of them made the audience appreciate the clothing more.

For some reason, Emery had a sudden change in attitude after receiving a call. She immediately dragged me to the biggest Hanfu store in the city.

For someone who would only shop in high-end stores, she didn't seem to mind the bustling shop at all. In fact, she was completely unaffected by her surroundings. The woman circled the shop and noticed a sign that wrote: "Haute Couture upstairs (minimum spending thirty-six thousand)." At the sight of this, Emery took the wooden stairs and spent around eighty-eight thousand there, making her one of the shop's VIPs.

It was a lot quieter upstairs. All the Hanfu there were made with first-class materials, so every one of them looked beautiful.

A green gown caught Emery's attention. She had a softer temperament after putting in on and looked absolutely stunning when she wasn't speaking.

I was the only one being absent-minded. Is it really possible for two people to look exactly the same?

We were in the same place too. This is too much of a coincidence.

"Hey, Scarlett! What's on your mind? Why do you look so somber?"

I finally snapped back to my senses when Emery raised her voice. Shaking my head, I said, "It's nothing. This one suits you. Should we pick out some accessories? I noticed that some of the young ladies outside had even changed their shoes."

"We can pick out the accessories, but there's no need for the shoes. High heels are a woman's secret weapon."

I laughed at her words. "The people here truly like Hanfu, but you're paying more attention to your beauty. You just have to be the prettiest even when we're wearing traditional clothes, don't you?"

Hearing that, she chuckled and said, "Don't expose me even when you've figured it out. You should pick something too. They would need a week minimum to custom-make your order. We can still make it to the project's opening if we come here together when it's done. We have to show off what we have at least."

"I'll pass," I replied. I didn't have any interest in this sort of stuff. "It's too annoying to get changed."

Having no desires and with life becoming more stable, I started to become lazy. I didn't feel like moving once I sat down.

"Okay, then. It's your choice." Emery didn't try to force it on me, and she continued admiring the dress she was wearing.

Seeing that we hadn't paid even after such a long time, the manager of the shop walked over to us and said, "Hello, the shop is offering a forty percent discount if both of you pay together. If you are interested, I can tell the ones working at the counter to register both of you."

"Forty percent? That's almost free, then." Emery instantly turned into a shopaholic. She turned to me and said seriously, "It's a forty percent discount! This is like picking up money from the streets. I don't care. You have to get something now. I don't mind paying it for you."

No woman could ever escape the clutches of a discount.

I became serious about it now that I was going to buy something.

There were many different kinds of accessories displayed in the cabinets. However, I liked the phoenix coronet in the center the most. It was as though the coronet was enchanted as I couldn't take my eyes off of it the moment I saw it.

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"You have a good eye, miss. This phoenix coronet is our shop's most prized possession. It is entirely handmade, and there's only one of this in the whole country."

The manager wasn't exaggerating at all.

With the transparent glass petals, the red tassels with white crystals, and the handmade embellishments, the phoenix coronet looked so much more stylish and classy than any other accessories in the cabinet, let alone paired with a red gown.

I couldn't stop the corners of my lips from tilting upward as I traced a finger over the coronet.

The memories of the wedding I had with Ashton back then were already blurry. All I could remember was that I felt nervous but excited. I didn't have time to rest that day. As for how the wedding went, or how many guests there were, I could remember none of it.

Perhaps it was because of where I was from, but I preferred the traditional Chanaean wedding with a red and gold theme. Back then, we were in a rush to get married, so there wasn't time for me to think about this at all.

I regretted not being able to wear a phoenix coronet or a veil over my face as I went up to Ashton. Even after so long, I could still feel something tugging at my heartstrings whenever there was anything related to weddings near me.

Indeed, women must never miss out on the formalities, or they would carry the regret in their hearts forever.

"Here, I would like to pay with this card."

Emery got ready to pay for our stuff while I was still in the midst of my thoughts.

"Hold on," I said, quickly reaching out to stop her. Then, I said to the manager, "Sorry, please let us have a moment of discussion. We'll call for you if we need anything."

"All right." Fortunately, the manager was modest as he left immediately after with a polite smile on his face.

I pursed my lips and made sure he was gone before putting the phoenix coronet back into the cabinet. As I fiddled with the other accessories, I started to advise earnestly, "Didn't you hear what the manager said? This is a one-of-a-kind item. It's the only one in the whole world. The ones you're wearing now already cost you tens of thousands. This coronet will definitely cost up to hundreds of thousands. I won't be able to use it even if you spend that much money, so there's no need to waste your money."

I paused for a moment before continuing as I traced the sides of the coronet, "I can't bring myself to keep such a beautiful thing from the world. It'll only collect dust if I get it and put it up on a shelf, like all the antiques we have. Let's give it a chance to find someone better. Let the person be the most beautiful bride when she wears this."

"Why do you overthink so much? When are you able to shop to your heart's content then?" Emery's motto was "Have fun while you still can." It was especially true when it came to shopping. She would never be stingy, nor would she try to bargain for a better price. This was the reason that her mood was rarely affected for material reasons.

In a way, there were benefits when women earned a lot in their iobs.

"I'm satisfied with what I have now." I turned around, a smile on my face as I sighed. Then, pointing at my head, I said, "I already have it in here. We should leave it to surprise others with its beauty. That's why we should just spare it."

"What kind of logic is that?" the woman snorted with anger. "You should claim something for yourself if you like it. If you're going to be like that, you might as well open up a charity home. Why should you compromise yourself for someone else's benefit?"

"It's not as bad as you think. I just feel that a wedding item should be left for someone who is going to get married. We're just here for the cultural festival. So why not just choose something else? I really can't bring myself to throw away money as if it's dirt."

At my words, Emery sucked in a cold breath and was looking at me as if I was a freak. Her brows were furrowed as she continued to stare at me but said nothing.

"What's with the look on your face?" I lost my confidence after being a wet blanket.

"I was thinking if anyone would believe me if I told them that the wife of the richest man couldn't bring herself to spend a few hundred thousand. Are you trying to play the role of a virtuous wife and help Ashton to save money?"

A laugh escaped her lips as she continued, "Whatever. I'm not going to force you to buy it. What belongs to you will end up with you in the end anyway."

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Shouldn't she be saying, "There's no point in holding on to something that doesn't belong to you?"

Seeing that she wasn't going to dwell on the matter anymore, I acted as though I didn't hear her and did nothing about it.

In the end, I went along with Emery and bought a red gown, paired with some jade pieces as my accessories. It was my dream wedding outfit.

I also chose a normal-looking phoenix coronet. It didn't cost much, but it was still pleasing to the eye.

However, the previous phoenix coronet had left a great impression on me. The current one lacked meaning to it no matter what.

Emery finally agreed to return home with me after we placed our orders.

The streets were bustling with energy. The pedestrians all around wore traditional clothing, but they still looked lively. It wasn't like how the television had depicted at all.

As we passed by a small eatery, a wave of pedestrians blocked the streets, and there was no way to get past them. All we could do was wait for them to move along.

A moment later, eight men carrying a sedan chair passed by, with a group of security escorts beside them. The sedan was so intricately decorated that more and more people were stopping to take pictures and videos of it.

"If only I could get married on that sedan chair. I'd have no regrets then."

"You sure ask for a lot. Do you even know how special that sedan is? There are already seven to eight types of wood used to build it, not to mention the carving skills on it. I've only seen a picture of it in a magazine previously. This particular sedan chair is especially complicated. It took eleven professionals three years to complete it. It even has intricate designs on it. One can only imagine how much it costs. There's no way you can have this. But Fuller Corporation really is generous with their spending. It's like money is nothing to them when it comes to this cultural festival."

"My sedan... Oh, when is the man of my dreams going to come to me in his white horse?"

Young women are always obsessed with romance.

To decrease exposure, the eight men quickened their paces. They disappeared into the corner in just minutes. Countless pedestrians followed along, and the street became quiet in an instant.

"You should really learn how to spend your money from Ashton," Emery said suddenly.

"What does this have to do with him? Summer's the one leading this project." I had a confused expression but helplessly smiled when I realized that she was probably talking about what happened back in the shop.

"Please. You were the director of Fuller Corporation. Did you forget that every fund spent would need the president's approval? How would there be such a majestic sedan chair here if it wasn't for Ashton?"

"True. But it's still thanks to Summer for having such a good eye for things," I said stubbornly.

Dimples showed on Emery's cheeks as she replied, "Yes, yes. You have such a great daughter. She spent so much time and energy on this cultural festival. I'm sure she must be tired after this."

At her words, I turned to look at the walls of the city. Summer looked thin and vulnerable in her green outfit. It must have been hard on her to take on such an important project.

But she would never agree to accept help since she always wanted to be strong.

Why don't I cook something as a reward for her?

"Let's go." Blood ran hot in me when I decided what I was going to do. I hooked my arm around Emery's and dragged her outside. "Let's go wipe out the supermarket!"

I was a bit rusty as it had been a long time since I last cooked. Originally, I planned to cook alone but could barely manage even with Mrs. Kingsley helping.

"Please hand me the garlic, Mrs. Kingsley. I've already plated the prawns. Summer can have them right when she comes home if we steam them now."

Without turning to look, I reached out my hand and felt something on it. But right when I pulled back my hand, I realized someone had followed my action and had leaned over.

"Ashton!" Annoyed, I pushed him away and added, "Don't mess around here. Summer hasn't been eating well lately. I want to make sure everything is done before she comes home."

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I took the garlic sauce as I spoke and turned to pour it over the prawns.

The man leaned against the counter with his hands crossed. It was obvious that he was upset that I had gotten annoyed. "Your husband is also a diligent worker. Why don't I see you worried about me?"

"How is Summer the same as you? You enjoy working, but she's pushing her limits. Haven't you seen how thin she has gotten lately? Aren't you worried? Remember to talk nicely and give her encouragement when we're eating later.

Ashton's eyes narrowed as a smile appeared on his face, seemingly having a plan forming in his mind.

I suddenly thought of the wallet from earlier. After starting the fire, I turned to him and said seriously, "Tell Joseph to keep a closer eye on the kids. I saw someone who looked a lot like me today. Even though we didn't meet physically, I have a feeling that things aren't as simple as it seems. There's nothing wrong with being too careful."

He nodded slightly and answered, "Okay."

A second later, he acted as though nothing had happened and asked, "What do you think of Wenville after going there today? Do you like it?"

"It's not bad. Summer's work is impressive. I must admit that you're right. Our daughter has grown up now, and it's only right that she make a career for herself."

I began picking the side dishes as I spoke.

"I'm not asking about that." Ashton took in a deep breath and stared at me. "I meant, do you like that place?"

"Huh?" I was stunned but laughed a moment later. "So what if I like it? There's no way you'd abandon such a huge project just because I don't like it, right?"

"Why not?" Surprisingly, he was being serious. "I spent so much money on it. What's the point of keeping it if I can't even move my wife's heart?"

Despite not wanting to fool around with him, I couldn't stop myself from smiling at his words. "I noticed that these things roll off your tongue so easily. Aren't you tired of it?"

"Nope. I don't even think I'm doing it enough, actually. It'll be best if you stay beside me, instead of always going out with Emery and the others. That way, I can always tell you how much I love you and need you," Ashton told me seriously.

I was rendered speechless.

From what I remembered, this man was a person of few words.

Silence ensued when suddenly, John's voice was heard. "Babe, sweetheart, should we have another baby princess? Just one more. I really want a daughter. Please, let's just have another baby."

I massaged my temples, unsure of what I should say. As I turned to look at my husband, I realized that he was in the same situation.

He took a look at John and straightened his back as if trying to show that he had a higher status than the latter.

It was hard to imagine that they would be clingy once returning to their families. Shaking my head, I raised my voice and tried to purge my mind of the thoughts. "I like it. The whole city, the people, and the stuff sold there. I like all of them. Summer told me that there are going to be ninety-nine pairs of brides and grooms. I'm so excited just thinking about it, not to mention the other projects."

Right then, I thought about the beautiful phoenix coronet. I wanted to share it with Ashton, but after giving it some thought, I realized that he would have gone to get it for me that very night. Before I could get the words out, I swallowed them and pursed my lips.

Ashton noticed the look on my face and started to scrutinize me before I said anything. Surprisingly, he didn't ask anything. The corner of his lips twitched as he went out, leaving me in a daze.

Well, it seems like I've been overthinking it. Ashton is still the same old Ashton. His change in attitude is still quick as always. I'll never know what he's thinking.

With everyone's attention on Wenville, the opening ceremony had finally begun.

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This was Summer's first independent project, and we originally planned on having the whole family in attendance to show our support. However, the school denied applications for leave due to the group performance. Ashton, on the other hand, had to meet up with a difficult business partner and could only make it to the closing ceremony. As such, I headed out with Emery, John, and his wife.

I found myself stunned speechless by the decorations at the venue the moment we got out of the car.

The city walls were covered with colorful lights, starting from the city gate, and both sides of the main road were lined with red and orange flowers. The road was split in two by a red-colored guard rail running through the middle.

I found myself so captivated by the beauty of the scenery before me that I felt like I was dreaming.

"Why are you spacing out? The opening ceremony is about to start. We're attending it as special guests, so we can't afford to be late."

Emery's words snapped me out of my daze, and I quickly regained my composure before making my way forward.

After the ribbon-cutting was done, Summer went on stage and took the microphone over from the emcee as she said, "Thank you all for attending this cultural festival organized by Fuller Corporation. We hope you will all have a great time here."

The emcee quickly picked up where she left off and said excitedly, "As expected of the heiress of Fuller Corporation! Ms. Summer truly is an elegant and beautiful young lady! Of course, she won't be the only one in this grand event! Make sure you don't blink, because we are about to welcome all ninety-nine couples who look just as great!"

His speech was followed by a series of fireworks and a performance by a musical ensemble as good-looking couples dressed in traditional wedding attire made their way down the red carpet one after another.

Each pair looked so amazing that the guests couldn't help but wish them the best in marriage.

The sight of true love was a very beautiful one, and some of the younger girls among the guests found themselves touched to tears by the mere sight of those loving couples standing next to each other.

"Bad news, Ms. Summer! Two of our female models have just informed us that they won't be able to make it due to some unforeseen events!"

Everyone was so immersed in the moment that it took them about half a minute to react to the anxious voice behind them.

Summer's assistant got really agitated. "What the hell? Why is this happening now? Hurry up and look for replacements from other shows!"

"We've already contacted them, but all the nearby businesses have postponed their shows to avoid having their spotlight stolen by our event! Those who are able to help out would take at least an hour to get here, so I don't think they'll make it on time..."

"I don't care! This is your problem! By hook or by crook, I need you to get those models here and prepare them for the red carpet walk!"

"[…"

"Forget it." Summer stopped her assistant when she saw the difficult situation the messenger was in. "I know you've put a lot of effort into the preparations for this cultural festival, but this is an unforeseen situation. No one wanted this to happen, so you shouldn't be blaming them like this. Let's just try to figure something out..."

The assistant let out a depressed sigh and took a moment to calm down before asking, "How about we just have ninety-seven couples participate in this event instead? With that many couples coming on stage, I bet no one will even notice the two that are missing!"

"No. This opening ceremony is being broadcast live by dozens of top media companies in the country. A sudden change of plans like this will be disastrous for us," Jared spoke up all of a sudden.