The Miraculous Simone Gray by Opal Reese Chapter 51

The Heiress' Return & Revenge

Chapter 51 More Interesting This Way

Jonah had already spoken to the cameraman beforehand, so when Simone a ppeared, the cameraman continued to focus on **Zac** and the others without turning the camera towards her.

As Simone approached Jonah, he asked in a low voice, "Are you Aaron's **cou sin**?"

Simone immediately realized that the online rumors **had** been fueled by the despicable efforts of Sembag No. 2 and the hired trolls.

Shaking her head, she replied, "No."

Jonah understood that someone had paid internet trolls to slander Simone. He informed her

about the trending topics circulating online, cautioning her, "The trending topic s online are solidifying the false narrative against you. It's not in your favor. Yo u should think of a way to address this. Once the show ends tomorrow and yo u're back, we'll find a way to clear things up."

He added, "If necessary. I can help you take down the trending topics."

Seeing the worry in Jonah's eyes, Simone felt touched. Not everyone was like the Gray Family or Leon.

Thank you, Jonah, for your concern, but there's no need to take **down** the tre nding topics," Simone assured him. "Let the rumors spread; the more they talk, the better."

Simone didn't explicitly confirm anything on the livestream, and she even let J odie change the subject. She was sure **that** Titus wouldn't sit idly by and would try to stir up trouble, which he did. She deliberately allowed them to continue spreading rumors. Relying solely on the popularity of the variety show wouldn't be enough

The trending topies from the past two days had caused quite a stir, making things known throughout the entire internet.

When the truth was revealed, that's when things would get even more interesting.

Seeing Simone in this state. Jonah realized he was worrying too much.

He chuckled. "It seems like you planned this intentionally"

Since Simone wanted the tuation to escalate, he decided to let it be for now. He lowered his voice and asked. "Can you reveal your relationship with Aaron? It will help me prepare for the next episode. Of course, I won't tell anyone until you're ready to reveal it yourself

Jonah **had** always been curious about the true relationship between Simone a nd the siblings. He wanted to get a taste of this juicy piece of gossip.

Simone didn't hold back and replied, "We're biological siblings."

Jonah's eyes widened in shock. "Biological siblings? So, you and Jodie are al so biological sisters?"

Upon closer reflection. Simone did bear a resemblance to Aaron, but not so m uch **to** Jodie. If they were real sisters, with such a public spat on the **live** broa dcast, their private relationship must be very

strained.

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Simone shook her head. "She's **adopted** while I'm biological. My exfamily favors her more than me, though. They hate me."

Jonah was once again taken aback. The revelation was even juicier than expected.

"Your family prefers your adopted sister over you, their biological daughter?" He couldn't fathom it What do you mean by ex–family:

There seemed to be more to the story.

Simone didn't mince words when it came to the Gray Family and Aaron. She b riefly explained her background, "When I was a child. Aaron lost me, and then, before coming on the show, I had already cut ties with them

Jonah listened, processed the information, and nearly let out a curse. "Aaron is truly something else"

It wasn't hard to see why Simone, with her normally good-natured demeanor, treated Aaron so poorly. Losing a biological sister. only to favor an adopted one upon her return-

what kind of logic was that? Doesn't he feel any guilt in his heart? Doen: he want to make amends for his mistakes?

"You did well to cut ties with them." Jonah commented, clearly frustrated with Aaron and the Gray Family's behavior. The Gray Family 's members were no better. They found their biological daughter. only to intent ionally let their adopted daughter trample all over her. Something's seriously wrong with

them.

Simone observed Jonah's reaction and felt reassured. Most people would probably react like him and be unable to fathom such a situation. She was looking forward to what Aaron and Jodie would face when the truth came out.

"So, since they showed no mercy, they can't blame me for being ruthless later . Simone stated matter- of-

factly. She was mentally preparing Jonah, making it clear that she wouldn't ba ck down.

After this episode of the show ended, it would be her turn to stir the pot.

Jonah nodded in agreement and support. "You must fight back

If they continued to endure without retaliating, those people would only becom e more audacious. He added. "If you need any help, feel free to let me know!

Simone thought for a moment and whispered. "If you want higher viewership f or the next episode, focus the camera more on the interactions between Aaro n and his sister

Jodie would probably seek comfort from Aaron later after what happened today

Jonah, being astute, immediately understood. He had noticed the physical closeness between Aaron and Jodie

before, but he hadn't thought much of it, thinking it was because they were bio logical siblings. Now, knowing they weren't actually blood—related, he realized it was indeed excessively

intimate.

If they captured footage of the siblings hugging or being unusually close, it wo uld be difficult for viewers not to speculate. Once the true nature of their relatio nship was exposed, more people would eagerly watch the replay and anticipat e the next livestream.

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Naturally, the trending topics would be dominated by the revelation about Aar on and his sister.

Jonah found Simone cunning, but he liked it. After **all**, she had been labeled a n "ungrateful b*tch" **and a** "leech" due to the distorted rumors, which were now trending.

He gave Simone a thumbs-up. "Feel free to reach out if you need anything."

After all, he was grateful to Simone for **saving** his wife. Beyond gratitude, Sim one's exceptional knowledge of geomancy and her various abilities made her someone worth befriending on a deeper

level.

Simone nodded in acknowledgment. "Alright."

The two parted ways, and Simone joined the others at the entrance of the courtyard. As she approached, the child that Ross was holding reached out to Simone instead. "Hug me!"

This left Ross speechless. The ungrateful little rascal was willing to abandon his own father at the sight of a pretty lady.

Ross addressed the child, his face stern. "Young man, she's a girl. You're a bit too heavy for her to hold all the time.

The child considered this and looked at Simone. Then... I won't ask her to hold me."

He then extended his tiny hand. "Let's hold hands instead."

Simone **had** a fondness for children. She reached out and took the child's sm all hand. "Alright, let's hold hands.

Ross' wife had intentionally gone to town to buy groceries in the afternoon. No w, she had prepared a table full of dishes, and her mother—in—law **had** also cooked several of her signature dishes to express gratitude to Si mone.

The entire family warmly welcomed Simone.

"I have placed the talisman around his neck. Once the negative energy is expelled from his body, this talisman will continue to serve **as** a protective charm."

Upon seeing the talisman hanging around the child's neck, everyone felt inexp licably reassured.

"Thank you, Miss Gray. We are truly grateful. Ross raised his cup, standing up . "Let's make a toast. I will **have an** alcoholic beverage, and you can have a n on–alcoholic one."

Simone raised her paper cup. "No need to be so formal"

As they chatted and enjoyed their meal. little did they know that the geomance r who had been observing Simone create the talisman had recorded a video a nd shared it in a geomancy group.

It was like a bomb had exploded in the group.

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This was an intermeshate level geomancy group. When the group owner shared the video with the

ve expostost much. However, after watching Simone draw talismans, they wer e all amared

"Is this a talisman that combines exorcist and protective functions"

"Her talisman-

drawing skills are really impressive, even without considering the fusion and modificano

I can't draw a talisman as smoothly as she does"

"Will the modified talisman be effective?"

Is she just fooling around?"

The group owner chimed in. "No, she's not fooling around. Her talisman is really effective"

Then, he dropped a link to the reality show's livestream. You can see for your selves. Also, remember to watch the replay **from** earlier **today**."

Since **the entire** day was filmed, the replays were divided into three–hour segments, **available** on the official website's livestream.

The group members saw the message and **immediately clicked** into the lives tream. They saw the happy child clinging to Simone with the talisman hanging around his neck, now visible outside **his** clothes. While watching the livestream, they also opened the replays and quickly scrolled through

After over half an hour...

"I watched **the** replay video from earlier today. The child **had** a major calamity in his physiognomy, but it's gone **in** the current livestream."

This girl isn't just drawing randomly; her modified talismans are very effective."

To combine exorcist and protective functions into one talisman like this... It's the first time I've seen it."

"This girl is quite skilled. Is she from a famous geomancy lineage?"

"With such high-level talisman-drawing skills, why did this girl become **a** celebrity?"

"It does seem like she's not focused on her true calling

"Such a promising talent, and yet she chooses a different path. What a shame

"But I really like this girl; she's very pleasing to **the** eye.

I also really like her. I wonder if there's a chance to connect with her."

While the geomancy masters watched the livestream, they soon saw the live c omments from fans calling Simone their **idol**. They **were** puzzled.

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The group owner **then shared** a video of Simone practicing martial arts and e xplained the meaning behind the idolizing comments. This led to some strang e **and** amusing comments from the geomancy

Tm an oid and humble geomancer who feels a strong affinity with this **young** I ady. Let me acknowledge her as my **granddaughter** idol."

"I just love **a** talented girl like her. Granddaughter idol, I have high hopes for you."

I believe in the talent of my granddaughter idol. Don't become a **celebrity**: **co me back** to **our** geomancy circle."

"I couldn't discern the girl's physiognomy. There's something interesting about it. I'll also acknowledge her **as** my granddaughter idol.""

Seeing these self-

proclaimed geomancers and elderly individuals. Simone's fans and others wer e bewildered. They couldn't help but ask. "What's a granddaughter idol?"

The elderly geomancers responded.

a bit

"I'm over 80 now, so it wouldn't be appropriate for me to call myself a normal f an. I'll just be a grandpa

fan."

well.

I'm 78 this year, so I can only be a grandpa fan as wel

I'm almost 90, and being a normal fan would show too large an age gap. So, I' ll be a grandma fan."

I'm 96 this year, so I'm a true grandpa fan."

"Although I'm only 68 this year. I'm still considered a grandma fan."

"Don't judge us by our age, we've always kept up with the latest trends."

"That's right. We often help celebrities and entertainment companies with geo mancy, so many of us. are knowledgeable in this area."

The fans and viewers who were originally watching the livestream were speec hless.

The old people in the comments above are really having fun."

"They actually created a term like 'granddaughter idol for themselves and bec ame grandpa and grandma fans."

"These old folks are quite amusing"

"Simone is amazing! She now even has **grandpa** and grandma **fans**. She's a middle–aged and elderly slayer!"

The older fans who **had** become fans of Simone during the martial arts stream also felt a bit embarrassed about their ages. So, **they** all said they would become grandpa and grandma fans.

Then, fans of various ages started flooding the comment section.

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"Hey, grandpas and grandmas above, are you all from the geomancy circle?"

"Yes, we're from the geomancy circle."

One by one, they showed off their knowledge of geomancy in the comments.

Meanwhile, Simone and the others finished their meal, **sat** for a while, and the n returned to the courtyard. Just **as** they sat down, Leon **and** the others return ed from their meal outside.

Suddenly, a comment appeared in the livestream.

"Grandpas and grandmas, can you tell if Simone and these people who just c ame in are related by blood?"

This comment instantly left the livestream in silence. Everyone was stunned, then curious, and eagerly awaited the unfolding drama.

The geomancy masters who were currently watching the livestream were still unaware of the trending topics.

Upon seeing this comment, they **all** started to carefully examine the others' physiognomies.

"The young man on the far left in the blue short—sleeved shirt... From his physiognomy, he and my granddaughter idol are siblings."

"I looked, and I got the same result."

"Are these siblings appearing together on a reality show? Should I also become a fan of this **young** man

100?"

"But can this young man do geomancy?"

"If he doesn't know geomancy, I wouldn't want to be his fan.

These old folks were quite amusing.

Aaron's fans saw these comments and couldn't help but ask, "Have you all fig ured out **that** they're

cousins?"

The geomancy masters were all a bit perplexed.

"What cousins? Aren't they biological siblings?"

"Yeah, judging by their physiognomies, they're definitely biological siblings. I'm absolutely sure.

Aaron's fans and Jodie's fans couldn't stand it any longer.

"How is that possible? It's already been exposed online that they're cousins. How can they be biological siblings?"

"Exactly, you guys must be making things up. right?"

"Are you all a bunch of liars? Do you even know physiognomy?"

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"Are you guys the internet trolls Simone hired?"

Now, the elderly geomancers were annoyed.

"We're honest and upright. How could we be making things up? We're definitely not internet trolls. We're well–known **geomancers** in the industry."

"Exactly! Clearly, they're siblings, and everyone can see that,"

One of Aaron's fans popped up to argue.

"Weren't some of you just claiming that you couldn't predict Simone's future?"

"Yeah, and now all of a sudden you can tell that they're siblings?"

"Your acting skills are terrible."

"You guys are just online bullies."

"Simone definitely cannot be Aaron's actual younger sister."

"That's correct; open your eyes wide and observe carefully. The person in the blue dress standing next to him is the genuine biological sibling!"

These comments were incessantly spammed by both Aaron's and Jodie's fan s.

The geomancy experts in the group came across these comments and were infuriated. These young individuals were being extremely impolite by labeling them as online trolls and accusing them of fabricating information.

Upon witnessing the continuous influx of comments, they began closely examining Aaron and Jodie's

appearances.

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After carefully examining their facial features, everyone was left speechles s.

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"When we said we couldn't discern Simone's physiognomy, we meant that we couldn't see her past or future."

"Exactly, we can still perceive their sibling relationship from their faces."

"Moreover, you **guys** are **just** making things up. The man in the **blue** shirt and the woman in the blue dress clearly **have** no familial resemblance **based** on their physiognomies."

"In **my** opinion, they **are** indeed unrelated. You **guys are** just talking nonsens e."

"The young woman and this young man are the true siblings; they have no blood relation to the woman in the blue dress."

"That's correct! I can confirm this."

"Not only do we possess expert certificates from the geomancy association, but we are also recognized by the special department. It is impossible for us to make basic mistakes or lie."

"If you don't believe us, you can have them undergo a DNA test."

Aaron's and Jodie's fans naturally

didn't believe them. They were convinced that these people were all impostors hired by Simone as part of her propaganda. In the comments, they denounce d and criticized the geomancy experts.

As expected, the experts were furious. When it came to defending themselves , they were not afraid of anyone. After all, they had frequently clashed with rea I scammers on geomancy forums. So, the two sides continued to argue fiercel y in the comments.

Others felt like a bombshell had been dropped on them. Just moments ago, they were listening with great interest as the elderly fans boasted about geoman cy. They thought they might really be geomancy experts. Nowadays, geoman cy associations only issue certificates to genuine experts. Most also knew about the existence of special departments that dealt with supernatural events. An yone recognized by these special departments was undoubtedly a real expert. So, many were inclined to believe the words of the elderly fans.

If that were the case, then Simone was Aaron's true younger sister, and Jodie and Aaron were not related. This revelation was simply mind-boggling.

The paparazzi were all energized, feeling like they had finally found the right I ead. They hadn't even delved deep into the matter yet, but there were already numerous online exposés about

Simone and Aaron being related. This left them with nothing new to work on.

However, if what these elderly individuals were saying was true, then the relationship that had been exposed online was fake.

The paparazzi were highly sensitive to bombshells like this one. They thought that if it was just a normal cousin relationship, it shouldn't have caused such a big stir.

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What was suspicious was that

there had suddenly **been** an influx of topics and posts about it. It seemed likely

that someone had hired an army of internet trolls **to** deliberately fabricate Sim one and Aaron's relationship **as** cousins in order to divert everyone's attention and, in the **process**, tarnish Simone's reputation.

Therefore, they took immediate **action**, attempting to **investigate the** biologic al and non—

biological aspects of their relationship. They tried to uncover information about Aaron and Jodie's upbringing, only to find that it had been meticulously conce aled. This indicated that there **was** significant financial backing behind these t wo. So, they shifted their focus to Simone's upbringing.

Jonah watched **the** live comments, astonished by the unfolding events.

It's so unexpected for Simone and Aaron's relationship to be so easily revealed. These elderly fans are truly something. It's almost as if fate is on Simon e's side. With these so—

called geomancy experts, the paparazzi will be able to dig deeper in the right direction. This incident will definitely escalate once again.

On the other side, those in the courtyard were still unaware of the online turm oil. They all got up to prepare for bed, and the livestream ended at that mome nt.

Aaron's and Jodie's fans were dissatisfied. Before the stream ended, they had challenged the elderly fans. Now, both sides were engaged in another argum ent in the comment section below the livestream...

Simone's fans remained silent because they weren't sure about the exact relat ionship between Simone and Aaron. Thus, they chose to observe quietly. The y only believed what Simone had said.

However, compared to the comments about them being cousins or Simone be ing an ungrateful leech, Simone's fans were more inclined to believe the word s of the elderly fans.

The fans of other people and random passersby watched the heated argumen to between the two sides in the comment section.

Aaron and Jodie had many fans, and their words were harsh. However, the el derly fans skillfully criticized them without using foul language and belittled Aar on's fans as useless. There was also a geomancy expert who usually did stre ams to read physiognomy who couldn't resist attaching his own link and invite d Aaron's fans and Jodie's fans to join. He challenged them to connect with hi m live to read their physiognomies and witness his skills.

Following that, everyone clicked on the link and shifted the battle to that partic ular stream.

Even Jonah couldn't resist and clicked in. After entering, they found that it was an officially certified geomancy expert, Master Luiz's, stream. Customary to m ost involved with geomancy, he wore traditional clothing and had an amiable s mile.

"To those who were insulting me in the comment section just now, are you brave enough to connect with me now?"

All the geomancy experts were unhappy about being insulted and accused. They all had to clear their names. Therefore, other experts also joined the stream to support him.

Aaron's and Jodie's fans saw the certification on the account and couldn't help but feel uneasy.

However, they still didn't believe the so-called experts.

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They thought **these elderly** individuals **were** probably acquaintances of Simo ne who **were** hired to play the part, **as** she **was adept** at geomancy and probably knew **these** older people.

Then, one of Aaron's fans stepped forward to connect with Master Luiz. Soon, a young woman who looked quite beautiful appeared before everyone. She lo oked at Master Luiz disdainfully and said, "You can take a look at my physiognomy."

Master Luiz gave her a glance and said helplessly, "With so much makeup on and that beauty **filter**, how am I supposed to **see** properly? Turn off the filter and remove your makeup."

This fan always lived in the world of beauty filters and makeup techniques. When she heard **Master** Luiz's words, she angrily cursed him a few times.

"You

charlatan, clearly you can't see anything. Yet you dare to ask me to remove my makeup and turn off the filter. Are you insane? You fraud! You're just an internet troll brought in by that b*tch Simone, pah."

After cursing, she immediately hung up, clearly unwilling to turn off the beauty filter and remove **her** makeup.

This left most of the viewers speechless. Anyone with common sense would k now that when reading physiognomy, one definitely had to see the person wit hout makeup. When people turned on a beauty filter, their faces would look completely different. Even the most amazing geomancy expert couldn't possibly see through it.

Moreover, this fan had a poor character. She lacked basic knowledge and rec klessly insulted others. This behavior caused many people to feel disgusted with both Aaron's fans and Aaron himself.

Subsequently, none of Aaron's fans were willing to appear without makeup an d with the beauty filter turned off.

In fact, they were afraid that Master Luiz would see through their appearance.

Master Luiz was left speechless and couldn't be bothered to argue with this gr oup of fans who lacked basic manners. He simply ended the live stream.

Others also believed that Aaron's and Jodie's fans were feeling guilty.

However, due to this entire incident, the atmosphere became heated. Everyon e was debating whether the online revelation of the cousin relationship betwee n Aaron and Simone was true or if what those geomancy experts said was true.

Jonah was reading the comments when suddenly his phone rang. It was his a ssistant calling. He had previously instructed this assistant to keep an eye on Aaron and Jodie in the yard *to* see if there was anything noteworthy.

He answered the phone, and an excited voice came through from the other en d.

"Jonah, there's something happening with Aaron and Jodie. It's quite exciting. Should we start a live broadcast?"

Jonah's eyes lit up. "Start it now. Say that because the current season's variet y show is about to end tomorrow, we're planning a surprise for tonight. We'll take a look at the lives of a few celebrities in the

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evening and chat with them about their **feelings** regarding this **season's** sho w."

At this moment, he had even greater admiration for Simone. She **was** practica lly clairvoyant!

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In the courtyard, after everyone had freshened up, they returned to their room s to **rest**.

Jodic **lay** on her bed, her mind consumed by thoughts of the **day**. She wonder ed **if** anyone outside was

ying to **expose** their complicated relationship. This thought filled her with anxiety and fear.

As she dwelled **on** it, she felt increasingly aggrieved. Therefore, she picked up her phone to **message** Aaron. When he **saw** the message, he **got** up and op ened **the** door to find Jodie standing beneath the persimmon **tree** in the courty ard. "Jo, **what's** going on?" **he** asked **as** he walked to her.

Seeing Aaron approach, Jodie took the initiative to throw herself into his arms. "Aaron, I'm scared."

Aaron was taken aback, puzzled. "Scared of what?"

With teary eyes, Jodie tightly embraced his waist, looking at him. "I'm afraid o ur relationship will be exposed. I'm afraid I'll be a burden to you, and people wi ll—criticize you. After all, you're **Simone's** biological brother, and I'm nothing."

Saying this, she burst into tears. "I'm **so** scared that Mom and Dad, and all of you, will no longer want

me."

Ever since Simone was found and returned, this fear had been haunting her.

Having grown accustomed to being the pampered daughter of the Gray Family, she had no desire to return to her old life.

Thus, she often subtly sowed seeds of discord against Simone when she was alone with the Grays. She created a narrative that implied Simone's return me ant not only taking away her identity but also harboring ill will toward her.

Simone wanted to take everything from her and push her out of the family.

Over this past year, she had been

quietly making her moves, and it had been quite successful. Sure enough, the entire family still doted on her while growing increasingly dissatisfied with Sim one.

So what if Simone is their biological daughter? She still can't measure up to the adopted one.

Whenever she coveted something of Simone's, all it took was a subtle, indirec t suggestion,

Those from the Gray Family would willingly snatch it from Simone and hand it over to her.

She had been in control and manipulating everything all along. But since the p revious incident, everything had spiraled out of control.

Simone suddenly lashed out at the family, even severing ties and leaving.

Initially, Jodie was delighted, thinking she had finally gotten rid of Simone, the legitimate heiress.

Now, however, things were not going as she had anticipated.

After Simone left, although the members of the Gray Family complained and s colded Simone, they

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often displayed a strong desire for her to come back.

Aaron, for example, used to be the one Simone fawned over.

But **ever since** he appeared on the variety show, he found himself constantly drawn to Simone, seeking **her** affection.

This made Jodie uncomfortable and gave rise to a sense of crisis. She had a f eeling that things shouldn't be this way.

Moreover, today, Simone nearly **exposed their** relationship **on** the internet by mentioning the three taboos. This had thrown Jodie into a panic.

After much contemplation, she suddenly felt that driving Simone away might not be the best option.

Instead, she should let Simone continue to provoke the displeasure of the Gra y Family's members until they themselves pushed her out. Thus, **she** needed to persuade the family to win Simone back and the n find ways to sow discord gradually.

Eventually, they would reach a point where they couldn't stand Simone and w ould expel her. This was the only way to truly eliminate future trouble.

Aaron had one arm around Jodie's shoulder. With the other, he gently stroked her head. "Silly girl, that won't happen. You're the little princess of our family, our cherished treasure. How could we ever not want you? As for the issue of y our identity, you don't need to worry anymore. It hasn't been exposed yet, and Titus

will definitely find a solution. Even if it does come out, I'm not afraid of criticism . We'll protect you."

Seeing Jodie's anxiety and fear, he regretted his impulsive actions earlier. He also felt a bit resentful toward Simone for insisting on the three taboos.

Isn't that deliberately telling everyone about their blood ties?

It wasn't that he didn't want to acknowledge Simone as his sister, but it just wa sn't the right time for a public announcement. They should wait until Jodie was no longer afraid of losing them.

He wanted to wait until Jodie felt secure and had firmly established herself in the entertainment industry. Then, it would be more appropriate to reveal the relationship with Simone.

Why is Simone so impatient and unhappy waiting this little bit of time?

"Will you not want me anymore?" Jodie looked at him pitifully, as if seeking re assurance once again.

Aaron, looking at her in this state, felt a pang of heartache.

He bent down and

instinctively kissed her forehead, assuring her. "Of course, we'll never not wan t you. You'll always be our precious one. Don't worry."

With that, Jodie's tears turned into a smile. She playfully said, "Then, once this variety show is over, you guys better coax Simone. After all, she's the true da ughter of the Gray Family. I don't want her to leave the Gray Family because of me. I've been feeling really uneasy lately. If she doesn't come back, I'll feel I ike it's my fault, and I'll want to leave too."

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Hearing this, Aaron looked at her with a soft gaze and said, "My Jo is so kind and sensible. Her leaving is due to her own stubbornness, and it ha s nothing **to** do with you. Don't overthink it. Of course, no matter what, she's st ill **a** daughter of the **Gray** Family. We'll make sure she comes back. Don't worr y. After she learns her lesson and comes back, she won't deliberately vie with you anymore.

They all hoped to **see** Simone and Jodie **coexist peacefully** in the family. Per haps after this incident, once Simone had caused enough trouble and returne d home, it could be realized.

Hearing this, Jodie felt relieved.

Upon hearing his reassurance, Jodie felt her tension eased. She leaned in, planting **a** kiss on his cheek. "I always knew you understood me, Aaron. Yo u're the best!"

Ever since her arrival at the Gray Family, Jodie had been working to ensure her brothers' affection and closeness. From a young age, she purposefully engaged in intimate gestures with them, even coaxing them to plant kisses on her forehead and cheek as a form of self—

comfort and reward. She also reciprocated with her own affectionate gestures, signifying her approval and endearment.

As expected, as they grew older, Jodie and her five brothers continued to nurt ure their closeness, strengthening their bond even further. In Jodie's heart, the

se five brothers were not just family; they were hers, and she didn't want anyo ne else to intrude upon this special connection.

Unbeknownst to them, the courtyard gate was open, and the cameras were ro lling.

From

the moment they embraced, their actions were being recorded for the live bro adcast.

Due to the distance, they deliberately spoke in hushed tones.

Therefore, the audience could see their intimate actions but couldn't hear their conversation.

However, even this was shocking enough for the viewers.

The abruptly ended live stream reopened, and the production team announce d that they were going for an impromptu surprise, offering the viewers a glimp se into the guests' daily lives in the evening.

Who would have imagined that it would start with such a thrilling scene?

The cameraman couldn't stay at the doorway the entire time, as it would be to o obvious what they were doing.

After all, they had already captured something sensational. So, he raised his c amera and walked into the courtyard, followed by other members of the production team.

As they entered the courtyard, they also startled Aaron and Jodie. Simultaneo usly, they let go of each other.

Aaron furrowed his brows, looking at them. "What are you doing?"

Then he noticed that the camera was on.

His expression changed slightly. "You're live streaming?"

When Jodie heard this, her complexion also changed. She was especially concerned that their previous

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conversation might have been caught on camera. Both **of** them silently cursed the production team for being so sneaky.

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Isn't that deliberately telling everyone about their blood ties?

It wasn't that he didn't want to acknowledge Simone as his sister, but it just wa sn't the right time for a public announcement. They should wait until Jodie was no longer afraid of losing them.

He wanted to wait until Jodie felt secure and had firmly established herself in the entertainment industry. Then, it would be more appropriate to reveal the relationship with Simone.

Why is Simone so impatient and unhappy waiting this little bit of time?

"Will you not want me anymore?" Jodie looked at him pitifully, as if seeking re assurance once again.

Aaron, looking at her in this state, felt a pang of heartache.

He bent down and

instinctively kissed her forehead, assuring her. "Of course, we'll never not wan t you. You'll always be our precious one. Don't worry."

With that, Jodie's tears turned into a smile. She playfully said, "Then, once this variety show is over, you guys better coax Simone. After all, she's the true da ughter of the Gray Family. I don't want her to leave the Gray Family because of me. I've been feeling really uneasy lately. If she doesn't come back, I'll feel I ike it's my fault, and I'll want to leave too."

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Hearing this, Aaron looked at her with a soft gaze and said, "My Jo is so kind and sensible. Her leaving is due to her own stubbornness, and it ha s nothing **to** do with you. Don't overthink it. Of course, no matter what, she's st ill **a** daughter of the **Gray** Family. We'll make sure she comes back. Don't worr y. After she learns her lesson and comes back, she won't deliberately vie with you anymore.

They all hoped to **see** Simone and Jodie **coexist peacefully** in the family. Per haps after this incident, once Simone had caused enough trouble and returne d home, it could be realized.

Hearing this, Jodie felt relieved.

Upon hearing his reassurance, Jodie felt her tension eased. She leaned in, planting **a** kiss on his cheek. "I always knew you understood me, Aaron. Yo u're the best!"

Ever since her arrival at the Gray Family, Jodie had been working to ensure her brothers' affection and closeness. From a young age, she purposefully engaged in intimate gestures with them, even coaxing them to plant kisses on her forehead and cheek as a form of self—

comfort and reward. She also reciprocated with her own affectionate gestures, signifying her approval and endearment.

As expected, as they grew older, Jodie and her five brothers continued to nurt ure their closeness, strengthening their bond even further. In Jodie's heart, the se five brothers were not just family; they were hers, and she didn't want anyo ne else to intrude upon this special connection.

Unbeknownst to them, the courtyard gate was open, and the cameras were ro lling.

From

the moment they embraced, their actions were being recorded for the live bro adcast.

Due to the distance, they deliberately spoke in hushed tones.

Therefore, the audience could see their intimate actions but couldn't hear their conversation.

However, even this was shocking enough for the viewers.

The abruptly ended live stream reopened, and the production team announce d that they were going for an impromptu surprise, offering the viewers a glimp se into the guests' daily lives in the evening.

Who would have imagined that it would start with such a thrilling scene?

The cameraman couldn't stay at the doorway the entire time, as it would be to o obvious what they were doing.

After all, they had already captured something sensational. So, he raised his c amera and walked into the courtyard, followed by other members of the production team.

As they entered the courtyard, they also startled Aaron and Jodie. Simultaneo usly, they let go of each other.

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n surge of fans claiming to be geomancers. The Internet is in an uproar, with everyone wanting to know who the real siblings **are**. Now, with this unexpected turn of events, how will people perceive it?"

When it came to addressing the situation between Aaron and Jodie, he preferred to criticize Aaron.

Reuben also frowned. "You shouldn't have let Aaron join this variety show in the first place. He's just causing trouble. Now, this will negatively impact Jo's reputation."

Regardless of whether she was their biological sister or adopted, having an int imate moment recorded and broadcast live like this would undoubtedly draw criticism. Jodie was a girl. How could she bear such harsh c omments? So, it was all Aaron's fault.

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dly agreed with his two brothers. "Aaron has gone too far. This is harming Jo.

Hearing the three of them, Steven was bewildered. Why were all three of the b rothers blaming their brother? "Don't you think their actions were too intimate?"

Without hesitation, Andrew replied, "Not at all. Look at Aaron. He's just consoling Jo. When Jo feels wronged, we comfort her like this too."

Jodie was their sister, and this kind of intimate comfort only proved their close relationship. He really **saw** nothing wrong with it.

Steven had been busy with the group's affairs for the past few years, spending only

about three days a week at home on average. They only had dinner together, and each of them was working during the day. So, he didn't really know how his sons and adopted daughter interacted.

Is this level of comfort necessary for comforting a sister? Am I just getting old?

He asked sternly, "Do you also hug and kiss Jo like this?"

Reuben and Titus realized their father's expression wasn't quite right.

They were about to deny it, but Andrew, wearing a self–assured expression, said, "Of course, what's wrong with it?"

Reuben and Titus exchanged a look. Andrew was straightforward.

Seeing Andrew's attitude and hearing his words, Steven was furious. He raise d his hand again and smacked the table hard. "You're siblings, for heaven's s ake! This is outrageous; you've gone too far!"

Andrew argued, thinking his father was overreacting. "It's precisely because we're siblings that this is a sign of a good relationship between us. Dad, can you please not overthink things?"

Steven was speechless. How can I not overthink it? The crucial point is that e ven if I don't, others will! If people in our circle find out, I'll be a laughingstock!

Narrowing his eyes, he asked, "Do you treat Simone, your real sister, the sam e way?"

Andrew shook his head. "How could we treat her like that? Our relationship wit h her isn't that close. Besides, she would never initiate such intimate contact with us."

Simone would normally be warm and considerate but never initiated intimate c ontact with them. She wasn't like Jo, who relied on them.

Seeing Andrew's unyielding response, Steven was so angry he nearly had a heart attack. "Simone's actions are how a normal sister should act, okay?"

When he saw that they weren't listening to him, he could only turn to Salma, bl aming her. "Look at the

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fine children you've raised."

After saying this, he got up with a stern **face** and went straight to his study. He needed to think carefully about how to handle the relationship between his so ns and adopted daughter.

Salma looked at her displeased husband storming off, feeling very wronged. She knew her sons and adopted daughter **had** a good relations hip, but she **really** didn't know they were **so close** in private.

Looking at her three sons, she said, "Jo **is** still young, and she doesn't underst and these things **yet**. You're all older brothers, so how can you **be so** intimate with your younger sister?"

She emphasized, "After Jo comes back, you're not allowed to hug her, let alon e kiss her on the face."

Andrew was still unwilling to accept this. Why couldn't they be caring and doting brothers to their little **sister?** Just as he was about to argue, Reuben held him back.

Looking at Salma, he said, "Mom, we understand."

Their parents were getting older and couldn't accept this kind of intimacy. It was fine. They could still be close to Jodie behind their backs, just not as carele ssly as Aaron.

Seeing Andrew's dissatisfied expression and the perfunctory response from R euben, Salma felt a vague sense of annoyance toward Jodie for the first time. She's a girl, so why isn't she more self—respecting? Why is she so intimate with her brothers?

Simone wasn't like Jodie. She always kept her distance from men, including h er own brothers. Thinking this, Salma sighed. Apart from wanting to steal Jodi e's identity and possessions, Simone, her biological daughter, was better in ot her aspects.

"Handle this matter quickly, and don't let it blow up," she told Reuben and Titu s again. "Otherwise, if people in our circle find out, our family's reputation won't be able to bear it."

They nodded. "Yes!"

Salma felt tired and got up to rest in her room.

Reuben and Titus took out their phones and began making calls non—stop. One went to have the trending topic removed, and the other to have the f an accounts release some major gossip about other celebrities to divert attenti on.

After making the calls, they both felt mentally exhausted. They were starting to regret letting Aaron bring Jodie onto the variety show. Ever since they joined, it had been one mess after another, and they were the ones left to clean it up.

This time, it had nothing to do with Simone, and both of them blamed Aaron for being too careless.

However, things didn't unfold as they had hoped. Just as the videos and trending topics about Aaron and his sister's intimacy were taken down, new videos with modified titles and trending topics emerged, quickly rising in popularity. The gossip about another celebrity that was brought out also didn't completely steal the limelight.

Moreover, because of the intimate video of Aaron and Jodie, the online discus sions about who the real siblings were became even more intense.

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In the courtyard, after Jodie finished speaking, the assistant director, along with the cameraman knocked on the doors of the other guests' rooms and conducted interviews with them.

Everyone kept their responses brief, sharing their feelings. This made Jodie's earlier statements seem excessive and overly calculated.

After asking each guest about their feelings, the production **team** once **again** ended the broadcast and left the courtyard.

Seeing the live broadcast end, Titus couldn't help but call Aaron and express his frustration.

Aaron felt inexplicably wronged, wondering why he was being scolded so late at night. Jodie was worried and anxious, which was why she had sought comf ort from him.

This was their normal way of interacting with Jodie, and she enjoyed being cared for in this way. How was he supposed to know the production team would make **a** surprise visit? Moreover, how could his brothers blame him? He argued with Titus over the phone, and they ended the call without resolving anything.

Titus, looking at the public opinion online, was equally frustrated. He had plan ned for Aaron to solidify Jodie's 'nice girl' persona by participating in the variet y show and subsequently gaining popularity. Following this, he could continue to provide resources for Jodie, aiming to propel her to the ranks of top—tier actresses next year.

Little did he know, things had

completely backfired. Not only did Jodie fail to rise to stardom, but her reputati on also suffered greatly in comparison to Simone.

He was at a loss for how to resolve this situation. Sitting in his study, he pond ered late into the night and suddenly came up with an idea. He immediately called Aaron.

Aaron, unable to sleep and tossing and turning in bed, answered the phone when it rang.

"Why are you calling so late, Titus?"

Titus didn't waste any time with small talk. "I need to discuss something with Leon. Please pass the phone to him."

Aaron was quite puzzled. Why would his brother be looking for Leon in the middle of the night? Nevertheless, he didn't ask too many questions and called out to Leon.

Leon had already been awakened by the ringing phone. "What's up?"

Aaron handed him the phone, saying, "Titus needs to talk to you."

Leon was unaware of the live broadcast incident involving Aaron and Jodie in the courtyard. So, finding it all quite confusing, he took the phone and asked, " Why are you calling so late? What's going

on?"

Titus recounted the previous events, as well as the ongoing discussions onlin e.

"There's only one way now to divert everyone's attention," Titus announced.

Leon frowned, wondering what this method could be. Considering the latenight call from Titus, he Chapter 56 Only One Way Now

speculated that it probably involved him.

As expected, Titus quickly followed up. "We'll publicly **reveal** that you and Si mone were in a relationship

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R team.

Suddenly, an assistant joined the video conference. "Titus, something's happe ned. Paparazzi have dug up Simone's childhood story. They even exposed the fact that she is the biological daughter of the Grays. This will become the top trending headline."

Titus and his team listened in shock. They immediately picked up their phones and checked the trending topics, and it was exactly as the assistant had described.

'Simone's Heiress' Identity is Revealed, But...'

The title naturally piqued the curiosity of netizens.

Those who clicked on it were taken through Simone's life from childhood. At a young age, she was kidnapped by human traffickers and almost sold into the mountains to be a child bride. On the way, a geomancy expert saw through the traffickers' plan and saved

Simone and a few other kidnapped children. At that time, Simone was not clai med by her family, so the geomancy expert adopted her and

raised her.

From there, she excelled in academics. Starting from school, she consistently ranked first in her grade. She even skipped several grades and entered Cebro s' top university, majoring in geomancy and metaphysics, becoming the top st udent in the field.

Her academic achievements, awards, and more were all detailed.

In her senior year, she entered the entertainment industry with excellent acad emic results. At nineteen, she was recognized as the missing daughter of the Gray Family. It turned out she was the Gray Family's daughter who had gone missing. Aaron and Jodie were actually Grays.

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In the entertainment industry, they used different names. Jodie was not the bi ological daughter of the Gray Family but was adopted by them after Simone w ent missing.

It turned out that the group of elderly fans had accurately **read** the physiogno mies.

According to common knowledge, Simone **seemed to have** fallen out with the Gray Family and moved out. So, the strained relationship **between** her and A aron in the live broadcast **was** explained.

As for deeper **secrets**, the **paparazzi had** not uncovered them yet.

The Gray Family had a long-

standing legacy and had intentionally kept their **affairs** under **wraps. It** was difficult to unearth any information about them. The

paparazzi had only managed to dig up details through Simone's history. They were still working tirelessly to uncover more.

In addition to this, a major influencer posted on social media. They shared the screenshot of the paternity test between Simone and the Gray Family. It was sent to their

inbox, and after confirming its authenticity, they promptly posted it to ride the wave of popularity.

This influencer had strong backing and used an account that often posted maj or scandals, and they were not afraid to offend anyone. These revelations qui ckly went viral online.

Previously, there was no solid evidence regarding the cousin—sibling relationship or the claims that Simone and Aaron were true siblings. But now, with the paternity test results out, coupled with the reputation of this influential figure, everyone wholeheartedly believed it.

Aside from being astounded by the enormity of this revelation, many were also captivated by Simone's achievements. Most admired her for her res ilience in overcoming difficulties with determination.

People sympathized with her predicament and were also curious about what h ad transpired between Simone and the Gray Family. Why were she and her bi ological brother on such strained terms? Was Simone's departure from the Gray Family true? Many

speculated that the whole situation might have been instigated by Jodie.

Later in the evening, the video of Aaron and Jodie embracing resurfaced. Man y suspected that Jodie might have orchestrated it. After all, they were not bloo d—related, and the intimacy shown in the video led to wild speculations.

Simone's fans even went through the replays, capturing numerous other clips. From the videos, it was evident that Jodie often displayed deep affection for A aron in front of Simone, highlighting the closeness she shared with Aaron. It s eemed like a deliberate jab at her sister's feelings.

Moreover, earlier in the day, Jodie intentionally injured her hand. People quick ly found out the reason behind it. She was trying to prevent Simone from expo sing their relationship.

So, while many sympathized with Simone, there was a growing number of people directing their anger toward Jodie.

Titus, upon seeing the trending topics, the influencer's social media, and the various speculations in the comments section, not to mention the conspiracy theories, had a deeply grim expression.

He hadn't managed his public relations properly yet, but he was already force d to face such a difficult situation. *I can't wait any longer*. Thus, he called Aaro n, instructing him to pass the phone to Leon.

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Leon, still awake, answered promptly. "I haven't made up my mind yet."

Titus recounted the rapid spread of the news online. "We can't wait any longer. Jo is taking the heat and being constarily criticized."

Leon hadn't expected the paparazzi to uncover this so quickly. Previously, wh en the Gray Family brothers and Jodie entered the entertainment industry, the y had deliberately kept their relationship and the fact that they came from the wealthy Gray Family under wraps. The brothers even went out **of** their way to avoid discussing it.

So, the paparazzi had not been

able to uncover their relationships for a long time. If it hadn't been for the previous exposure of Aaron and Jodie traveling alone together, they wouldn't have willingly revealed their sibling relationship.

The entertainment company under Reuben's management was just a subsidiary of the larger Gray Corporation, with the mighty Gray Corporation as its back bone. Thus, obtaining the Gray Family's paternity test was not an easy feat.

Leon couldn't help but think of Simone.

There was silence on the line for a while. Titus urgently asked, "Have you mad e up your mind? Don't you want Jo to be alright too? Exposing your relationshi p with Simone won't have a huge impact on you. You're not just a popular act or relying on social media traffic now. Plus, you have the backing of your family, which is just like the Gray Family."

With his influential background, Leon was a force to be reckoned with in the in dustry.

Upon hearing Titus' words, Leon was brought back to reality. "But what about Simone?" he retorted.

He hesitated, biting his lip, and countered, "Have you considered the impact o ur relationship being exposed will have on her?"

Titus hesitated as well, clearly not having thought about this before. After a m oment, he responded, "Simone has always shown strength. She has endured so much since her youth and can handle it. However, Jo, who was spoiled by the Gray Family, is sensitive and easily hurt. When the variety show airs and she discovers the online criticism, I fear she won't be able to cope. Moreover, it all started with Simone. If she hadn't intentionally clashed with Aaron on the show and steered the conversation in a certain direction, people wouldn't have been so curious. It was also her so—

called geomancer fans that gave the paparazzi something to dig into. So, let's end it with her."

He paused, then added, "I will compensate Simone. After all, she's my biologi cal sister."

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ered, "I don't think so. She only answered because you kept staring at her. I believe there are three taboos among geomancers. You cra ask around when you return to Cebros after the show."

Aaron felt comforted after hearing that. "As long as it wasn't intentional."

Then, they fell silent, unable to sleep.

Meanwhile, Titus called Leon's manager, Elin Harmon.

Initially, she didn't agree

to reveal the relationship, but Titus emphasized that Leon had agreed to it. He wasn't asking for her permission, but merely informing her.

So, Elin messaged Leon to confirm. They argued, and she reluctantly agreed to cooperate with Titus' public relations team, suppressing her anger at his insistence.

Then, she sent some photos of Leon

hugging Simone, Simone holding his hand with a huge smile on her face, and a few more from their school days to Titus.

This was an order from Leon to log into his backup drive and download those photos. He wanted Simone to see them after the show, hoping they would bring back happy memories.

Titus collected a few more photos before asking his team to post them.

Soon, the headlines 'Leon's Girlfriend', 'Not Just Childhood Playmates', and 'L eon and Simone's Relationship Unveiled' went viral, overshadowing the previous headlines from the paparazzi.

Titus also spent some money to remove the old headlines.

As expected, the internet went crazy over the new headlines, especially Leon's devoted fans.

They couldn't accept the revelation of his relationship and demanded confirmation on Elin's Facebook

page.

On the other hand, many people weren't surprised by the revelation, as some had suspected that Leon and Simone were childhood playmate's turned lover s.

However, Leon and Simone didn't appear like a couple anymore, especially during the show. It seemed like they had fallen out.

Elin didn't answer the fans' questions but made a post stating that Leon would reply to the questions after the show's filming.

From the beginning, she had been against Leon and Simone's relationship an d tried to stop it, but failed. That was also the reason for her dislike of Simone —she felt that Simone was using Leon to gain resources in the entertainment industry.

Simone was aware of Elin's attitude towards her and rejected Leon's suggesti on to sign with Elin.

For Elin, it was one thing to look down on Simone, but Simone's rejection intensified her dislike.

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She thought Leon had gone mad agreeing to reveal his relationship with Simo ne to help Jodie.

She didn't know they had actually broken up and was still thinking about how Simone would use Leon after the revelation. She despised Simone,

The night was destined to be chaotic. The next morning, many people woke up to the viral headlines, and Simone's name spread like wildfire.

As a result, the viewer count reached a new high when the show was broadcast the next morning.

Jonah didn't expect that the surprise live show from the previous night would r eveal Simone's familial relationship with Aaron and romantic relationship with Leon.

However, the trending topic about Simone and Aaron's sibling relationship was no longer present.

In addition to the newly revealed relationship, he suspected that the Gray brot hers were behind this.

But he looked down on their actions as they were biased. How could they exp ose Simone, their biological sister, just to divert attention from their adopted sister, Jodie?

Most importantly, the other person involved was the hottest actor, Leon. This put Simone in a difficult position.

He clicked open the post and saw numerous comments attacking Simone, as he had anticipated.

Leon's fans belittled Simone and refused to accept their relationship.

They labeled her as a scheming b*tch, gold digger, and leech.

They even accused Simone of pretending to be Leon's childhood playmate and not letting him go, which they found despicable.

Simone's fans were also unable to accept her relationship with Leon, as they preferred her to be single or, at the very least, not involved with him.

This sentiment was further fueled by the fact that Leon's fans had been pursui ng Simone even before the show. Unable to handle the situation, Simone's fans were eager to know how she would react upon discovering that her relation ship had been exposed.

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Simone was seen practicing martial arts when the live broadcast started.

A group of older men and women praised her in the live chat, while Leon's fan s attacked her and even picked fights with the older people for liking Simone.

Naturally, the elderly wouldn't accept being scolded and retorted that they like d Simone for who she **was**. They didn't care who she **was** in a relationship wit h.

They also criticized Leon's fans for being excessive, as Leon and Simone's relationship had nothing to do with them.

Despite their age, they weren't afraid to retaliate. Fans of geomancy from the previous night, as well as Simone's fans, joined the argument. They didn't back down despite facing an army of Leon's fans.

After some time, some elderly individuals asked everyone to stop arguing with Leon's fans as it would affect everyone's watching experience. Besides, they were all there to watch Simone practice martial arts and would miss it if their f ocus was on arguing with Leon's fans.

Gradually, Simone's fans stopped arguing, leaving Leon's fans to continue their one–man show.

Meanwhile, Aaron and Jodie's fans were shocked by their intimate embrace a nd the revelation of their sibling relationship. So, they watched from the sidelin es.

Other fans and

viewers were simply watching the gossip. However, it started to annoy them when the live chat became too overwhelming and affected their viewing experience. Leon's fans continued to attack Simone in the live chat even after Simone's fans stopped replying. As a result, it created a negative impression of Leonand his fans, as celebrities often face consequences for their fans' behavior.

In the courtyard, Simone went to take a shower and make breakfast after practicing martial arts.

Although she didn't know the exact situation online, she guessed it wouldn't lo ok good.

The DNA test that Simone sent to the verified influencer was probably posted as well.

Zac woke up early, as usual, to watch Simone practice martial arts before help ing out in the kitchen. Jonah signaled the cameraman to film Aaron and the ot hers, who were just waking up.

He entered the kitchen when the

camera left. After some thought, he didn't ask Zac to leave since everyone wo uld find out what happened online after the filming was done and they got their phones

back.

He walked up to Simone and whispered, "You've been dominating the trend y esterday and today."

Simone smiled and asked, "What is it?"

Jonah answered, "They confirmed you are Aaron's biological sister because s omeone posted a DNA test. But

the trend was removed this morning. The trending title now is about you and L eon's relationship." He emphasized the pressing matter.

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That stunned Simone. My relationship?! What? She didn't expect Titus to use her relationship with Leon as a distraction. However, this must be done with L eon's approval. So, it means that Titus has no idea about our breakup.

Did staying in the same room with Aaron make Leon dumber? During an interview two months ago, Leon denied tha we were a couple.

Now that they broke up, he agreed for Titus to expose their relationship.

There could only be one reason: Leon chose to help Jodie instead of her.

Such irony! Simone shrugged and commented nonchalantly, "Whatever they like."

Since they insisted on doing this, she would also cut ties with Leon.

When Zac heard Jonah's words, he felt irritated and a sense of disgust directe d at Leon, not Simone. Leon isn't worthy of Simone, considering his attitude to ward her.

Then, he became jealous but held it in as he looked at Simone with widened e yes. "You dated Leon? Did you guys fight?" Simone told him truthfully, "Yes, we were, but we broke up before coming here."

She further explained, "I've said it on the first day that we're no longer friends. I wasn't joking."

Zac's mood shifted. "Oh, so you've broken up. It's no wonder you guys didn't l ook like a couple."

He commented straightforwardly, "You guys didn't seem compatible anyway."

He added, fearing she would misunderstand him. "He's not worthy of you."

Even Jonah agreed with that statement. "You're right."

Although netizens were saying that Simone was holding onto Leon and not wo rthy of him, Jonah still felt that Leon wasn't worthy of her.

In a romantic relationship, having a higher status didn't mean being superior. Leon openly and secretly helped Jodie multiple times during the live broadcast, and those actions were obnoxious.

Simone smiled

when she saw the seriousness on Zac's face and the recognition in Jonah's e yes. "Thank you, both of you."

She was glad to have people on her side.

Then, Jonah said, "I'll head out. You guys continue with your meal."

He went in to inform Simone to mentally prepare herself and think of ways to d eal with the situation. He felt she was confident, considering her attitude.

After Jonah left and before the cameraman came in, Zac approached Simone. "If you need help, I'm here. I promise I'll help you handle this."

Simone smiled. "Thank you for the offer. But I can handle a small matter like this."

However, when she saw the disappointment on his face that resembled an abandoned puppy, she

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added. 'Til contact you if I need help.

Then, Zac smiled widely. "That's a promise, then. But! Don't go to anyone else but me."

She found it amusing. "Okay" Zac pondered for a moment. "You should call yo ur manager and let him know about this. So, he can prepare the PR team."

Although they handed in their phones. Jonah didn't stop them from using their phones, **as** it was common for celebrities to contact their managers when problems arise.

Simone shook her head. "I don't have a manager anymore. My previous mana ger was Aaron's brother. And I cut ties with the Gray Family and left Gray En tertainment before coming here."

Zac didn't know Simone before this and had never followed her, so he didn't k now about her manager. He frowned after hearing her words. "If Titus was you r manager, he most likely wouldn't help you."

That punk would only help Jodie.

Simone reassured him with her gaze. "I don't need his help either. Actually, I s hould thank him for causing all this."

The situation made it easier for her to fight back. "Don't worry. They can't har m me."

Then, she added. 'Let the public express their opinions. After the show, I will d efinitely reveal something shocking to them."

Observing Simone's assured expression, Zac ceased his concerns and blinke d. "Certainly. I will patiently await and witness what you have prepared for the m."

Nevertheless, there was one final sentiment that he withheld. It was his unwav ering loyalty towards her. He intended to demonstrate through his actions that he could assist her in confronting those who tormented her, even if she was u nable to overcome them.

The Heiress' Return & Revenge

Chapter 60 Who Knew It Would Come To This

After breakfast, the two groups did not continue with the task. Instead, they we nt outside and found **a** space to rehearse for the afternoon performance.

Simone and her group started by rehearsing the shadow puppetry, and then they watched their group mates practice for their own performances.

Whenever they noticed a problem, they pointed it out so that improvements could be made.

On the other hand, the other group practiced individually since they all had sol o performances.

Afterwards, Simone made several appetizing dishes using the ingredients give n by the villagers **as a** reward for their hard work. She didn't want the ingredients to go to waste.

Zac and the rest sat down happily and enjoyed the food.

As for Jodie's group, they didn't have time to cook as they had two performances.

In the end, Jodie made four PB&Js for lunch.

Her group found the lunch to be bland compared to the delicious aroma of Si mone's cooking. They planned to enjoy a feast when they returned to Cebros.

At 2:00 PM, the production crew set up a stage and placed chairs in a field in the village.

The village head used a loudspeaker to announce in the village for the villager s to gather and watch the performance.

Jonah then asked both groups to draw lots. The group that picked the longer s tick would perform first.

Eric represented Simone's group, while Leon represented Jodie's group.

In the end, Leon got the longer stick and asked, "We're performing first. Who wants to go first?"

Jodie looked around and raised her hand. "Maybe I can go first."

Leon and the rest had no objections.

So, she walked up to the stage to perform a traditional dance in traditional attir e that she had specially asked the production crew to prepare.

Having practiced from a young age, she delivered a brilliant performance.

The villagers clapped loudly, and Jodie was satisfied as she watched their applause.

Then, it was Simone and her group's turn.

Eric asked, "Who's going first?" He smiled and said, "Why don't I go with the c hildren first? We should use dance to go against dance."

Simone and the rest all agreed. "Sure. You go first."

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And so, he led a few of the children in the village to perform a robot dance for the second performance, dressed in clothes prepared by the production crew.

Zac did exceptionally well, and the children were not bad either.

The dance was fun with a group of people on stage, which created a better st age effect, especially since the village children were involved. Therefore, they received loud cheers during the performance and even louder applause when they finished.

Jodie pursed her lips when she heard the louder cheers and applause compar ed to her performance. However, she didn't mind too much since Zac, the ma n she was interested in, was performing

After **that.** Aaron performed a street dance. Considering he was a singer and dancer, he did well.

However, the villagers couldn't fully appreciate his dance since he was perfor ming alone. So, the applause could have been more enthusiastic.

As Jodie's group had prepared many performances, Leyla was next after Aaron and went up to sing a **recent** popular song.

Since the audience mainly consisted of older people and children, their reactions were equally quiet since they didn't understand the song.

After she got down from the stage, Keira performed with the children, singing a medley suggested **by** Simone.

They sang classic songs that older people liked before singing nursery rhyme s.

The group discussed and changed the order and connecting rhythm of each s ong, so that each song transitioned smoothly, creating a joyful, nostalgic feelin g.

The elderly and children in the audience hummed along unconsciously and still wanted to sing even after Keira and the children finished the song.

As for Jodie's group, despite smiling, they had a bad feeling. They had forgott en an important point, which was that the old villagers and children were their primary audience. They had made a mistake. And Simone's group clearly took advantage of that and managed to capture the villagers' preferences.

After Keira's performance, it was Leon's turn. He sang a theme song for a TV show, which was on the slower side. After he finished, he received quite a lou d applause as some villagers knew the song from

the show.

Then, Eric led the children on stage as each of them drew.

The parents in the audience

were happy as they admired their children's artwork, thinking that their child's painting and writing on the side was the best.

The other villagers also cheered at that scene.

It was under such an atmosphere that Jodie played the song The Battle Cry of Freedom' on the harp.

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It wasn't a poor performance, but

the villagers couldn't fully appreciate it. In the live broadcast, the netizens commented fairly that she had superb skill but didn't bring out the majestic fighting and solemn feeling of a battlefield.

They also mentioned that her performance would have been good if it wasn't f or Simone's performance of A Soldier's Armor, which had a similar theme.

But since there was something to compare

against, even people who didn't know much about music felt that Jodie's performance lacked something compared to Simone's playing.

However, the villagers still clapped but weren't as excited as they were while li stening to the songs and watching the painting.

This wasn't the excitement that Jodie had imagined as the finale performance. She felt regretful and stupid. She should have prepared a song or performance more suitable for older people and children.

Jodie was consoled that her limelight wasn't stolen since Simone wasn't part of the more exciting performances.

However, what she didn't know was that her performance was being compare d in the live

chat, and she was on the losing side. If she knew, she would have been furious.

The last performance was Simone's group performing shadow puppetry with the older people.

Shadow

puppetry was usually performed at night, but the production crew was going to leave with everyone else in the evening. So, they had no choice but to perfor m now.

It was plausible as there was a type of shadow puppetry *that* could be perform ed in the daytime.

The four of them got on stage with Zac, and the other two manipulated the sh adow puppets and did voiceovers while the older people and Simone played the accompaniment.

Jodie's team watched as Simone played and changed instruments to match the music to the scenes.

They were stunned as they didn't know that she was also a talented musician.

Jodie saw how gracefully Simone changed instruments and played the music. It was obvious that

Simone was more than just a beginner.

So, the smile on her face gradually froze. Did this woman secretly learn *all* of this behind our *backs?* Or did she know *all* of this but never showed *it?* Who is she hiding this from? Even Aaron had similar thoughts.

Simone had never mentioned or shown that she knew all of these instruments

Was it because she didn't trust them, or was she cautious of them? He felt a little uneasy and upset at that thought.

On the other hand, the villagers, regardless of age, happily enjoyed the shadow puppet show.

After the performance ended, the production crew gave each villager a small red flower to vote for their favorite act.

In the end, the shadow puppetry received the most red flowers, securing first place. Keira's singing

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performance came in second, followed by Zac's dancing and Eric's painting. L eon's singing placed fifth. with Jodie's traditional dance in sixth place. Leyla's **singing** took seventh place, and Jodie's harp playing with Aaron came in last.

Jodie and her group members' smiles all faded at the results.

It was difficult for them to **accept** that none of their performances could compa re to Simonc's.

It was especially tough for Jodie, considering she had put her heart and soul into getting the most red flowers.

However, who could have predicted this outcome? She was furious, and if it weren't for the live broadcast, she would have cried and sought comfort from the Gray brothers.