

Chapter 29 Good Grades

Emily did not enter the room together with the crowd. The organizer found her out there, asking, "Are you alright?"

Emily looked at the bloodstains on her knees and clenched her hands, replying, "I am fine and can still participate in the contest."

Emily wanted to get a reward in this competition to wipe off her previous shame. She could not bear to lose again.

Earlier, Emily wanted to trip Alyssa to prevent her from participating in the competition. Unexpectedly, Alyssa actually slid that chair over to her.

Not only did she not hurt Alyssa, but she also got herself wounded.

Emily glared at the damn chair, then followed the organizer to enter the room.

In line with the ranking, Emily should stand in the first row. Due to the injury, however, she was placed in the back row.

Alyssa turned her head to see Emily standing in the back.

Then, Alyssa curled up her lips at the woman who wanted to harm her.

Soon the competition started, and the first round was a written test.

Only those who passed the written test could enter the final speech section.

There were more than two hundred candidates from various elite universities.

Passing the written test was a must, and Alyssa was quite confident.

When the examiner asked the candidates to put on their headphones, Alyssa knew that the listening section was about to begin.

Soon after wearing her headphone, Alyssa heard the signal of the start.

Alyssa calmed down and answered the questions one after another on the answer sheet.

Leon was standing at a distance and saw Alyssa in the first row.

Staring at the dedicated woman, Leon thought of how hard she had been preparing for the competition these days.

Over the previous five days, she spent almost every second on the preparation.

Her voice was pleasant to hear, and her tone was touching and evocative. Listening to her speech always reminded Leon of his college life.

The written test ended in one and a half hours.

The scorers began to calculate the results.

Half an hour later, the ranking list was released. Alyssa ranked in the seventieth place, Ella ranked sixth, while Emily ranked seventy-second.

Only the top 100 could advance into the next section.

All the three girls made it.

The following section would be the speech part, and there would be thirty of them be chosen as winners.

And the ranking of the top 30 would be that of the entire competition as well.

During the interval, Alyssa said to Ella, "I knew you'd ace it. You are an academic tyrant indeed."

"It's more impressive for you to achieve such a good grade in a short period. You have to know that all of the more than two hundred contestants are academic tyrants. You have outperformed the majority of them. Isn't that awesome?"

Ella took Alyssa's hand, continuing, "Don't be nervous for the next part. Focus on the topics you are asked to elaborate on. You will surely break a leg."

"I will try my best. The result isn't that important as long as I do my best."

"Let's hope for the best for both of us."

No one knew what kinds of topics they would come across during the second part of the competition. Although Alyssa and Ella encouraged each other, they were worried about their performance later.

The order was decided by drawing lots.

The candidates were then divided into two groups, with fifty each.

Alyssa's number was eighty-something, which meant her anxiety and nervousness would last for quite a while.

Both Ella and Emily were in the first group, and they entered the competition room before Alyssa.

Alyssa prayed not to encounter those challenging topics.

Half an hour later, Alyssa entered the room.

There were three examiners in the room, one younger foreigner and two older locals. Upon seeing Alyssa, they fixed their eyes on her.

The attention she obtained made her even more nervous.

"Your topic is your view on this competition." The foreign examiner flashed a smile at Alyssa, saying, "Just relax. You may start with a brief self-introduction, and you will be given half an hour to elaborate your ideas."

Learning that the examiner had seen her nervousness, Alyssa got even more strained.

"I..." Glancing at the examiners, Alyssa told herself to cherish the opportunity though it was challenging.

She was ready.

She lifted her head to look at the examiners and said in a pleasant voice, "Nice meeting you all. My name is Alyssa Graham."

At the pleasant voice, all the examiners perked up.

The examiners' response slightly relaxed Alyssa, and her speech gradually became more natural and fluent. "I'm from the department of finance of A University. It's such an honor for me to stand here. First of all, I see this competition as a precious chance to practice my public speaking skills. In today's society, they have become important transferrable skills for people from all walks of life..."

As the speech went on, Alyssa forgot her nervousness at all.

She found that the key to a speech was to get her ideas across to her audience. Thus, she needed to make sure her voice to be clear and her ideas clarified with evidence and examples.

Alyssa's voice and tone were so pleasing to hear that they left an excellent impression on the examiners.

When Alyssa stepped out of the room, she saw Ella waiting for her with a smile.

"How was it going?"

"I just spoke out what I thought of. That's it."

"That's alright. It's just a competition and not important for finance students anyway."

Ella encouraged Alyssa in a gentle voice, hoping that the latter would not take it too seriously.

"I..."

"The results of the first fifty candidates were released. Let's go check it out."

Other students' voices interrupted Alyssa.

The ranking list was displayed on a big screen.

Alyssa noticed Ella's score, which was ninety-seven point nine.

"Ella, your score is very high. Most of the results are around ninety points. And there are few above ninety-five."

Alyssa felt genuinely happy for her best friend. "Well done indeed."

"Perhaps some from your group will get higher scores."

Alyssa did not respond to Ella's guess.

Not far away from them, Emily was surrounded by her classmates.

"Emily, congratulations! You got 95, almost as great as that of Ella. That's really impressive." A male classmate, who was also a candidate for the competition, handed a water bottle to Emily with a flattering expression on his face. "Have some water to moist your throat."

Emily looked at him with a smile, saying, "Thanks. Jack, you performed well too."

"His score is lower than 90. Haha, that's not a surprise at all. Emily, you are not only pretty but also good at speech. I'm impressed." Rose Winslate said with a smile, "In this group, you're second to no one else but Ella. And I don't think anyone from the second group may surpass your score. Congratulations in advance."