

The Miraculous Simone Gray by Opal Reese Chapter 271-280

Chapter 271 Big Bang For the Start

Simone glanced at Andrew with indifference. “Your ability to gaslight is stronger than your directorial skills. What do you mean by not letting her off? What do you mean I’ve been snatching her stuff? What’s even funnier is, according to you, I’m the one snatching her spot on this show,”

He felt somewhat weakened by her consecutive counter-questions. Still, he questioned with a stiff face, “Isn’t it true? We’re not asking you to have a good relationship with Jo; we just hope you stop targeting and suppressing her. We’re all on the same show, so can’t we be kind and get along?”

Simone’s face revealed a sarcastic smile. “No. I originally had something in mind, thinking that since we’ve severed ties, there’s no need to bring it up again. A clear conscience speaks for itself, but you insist on making a fuss. Why don’t we let everyone judge? Is it me who’s snatching her things, or is it her who sent you all to snatch mine? Are you my blood brother, or are you her blood brother? Why did I sever ties with all of you and save myself from this mess of a self-pity party?”

After she finished speaking, she took out her phone from her bag. “Perfect timing. The phone is still here.”

At that moment, Jodie’s expression changed when she saw Simone doing that. Andrew and Aaron, too, had a bad feeling. What is she planning to do?

Simone quickly let them know the answer. She took out her phone and, in front of played the recording from the day she severed ties with the Gray Family.

everyone,

When the Grays saw that, they all looked over. The live chat in the broadcasting room, which had been arguing, also quieted down. Everyone was curious about what she was going to do.

From her device, a male voice questioning her rang out. “I called you earlier. Why didn’t you

answer?

Simone then spoke and had a conversation with this person. “Didn’t feel like it.”

The male voice said, “Stop with the trouble, will you?”

She replied, “Say something new. It’s getting old, and I’m tired of hearing it from all of you”

The man spoke, “Is this amusing to you? Jo wants in in that variety show. What harm would it do if you just let that happen? Must you make the whole family unhappy!

Her voice rang. “This is an opportunity I fought for myself. I won’t give it up. That’s your business if you’re unhappy

13

Chapter 271 Big Bang For the Start

+5 Free Cons

The recording paused at this point, and everyone quickly realized that this was a recording.

Jonah never expected Simone to start the live broadcast with such a bang. It was truly a stroke of luck for him! As he watched the number of viewers skyrocket, he once again felt it was right to invite her because of that favor.

The

paparazzi and marketing accounts were also excited. There was gossip, juicy gossip! Titus, sitting at home watching the live broadcast with Luca, had a change in expression. The voice in the recording was his own, the words he had said to Simone when he went upstairs to confront her.

Luca was also stunned. “She recorded it that day?”

Titus’ emotions were indescribable. “Sure did.”

Since Simone had never released the recording, he thought that she had only said those things to scare them. Perhaps she did not want to go too far with them, so she did not release

He took a deep breath, with a hint of self-mockery in his voice, and said, "I've always thought. she kept this recording from the public eye because she cared about us, our family. It turns out she was waiting for that opportunity right here right then."

At the scene, the recording paused for a moment, then continued. This time, it sounded like the voice of an older woman.

"What trouble are you up to this time? It's been nothing but chaos ever since you returned."

Then, Simone's voice appeared, along with a conversation with a few people. "Did I insist on returning? I remember you all came to pick me up, right? And what trouble did I cause? Jodie wanted

my resources, and not giving them makes me the bad guy? If we're being clear here, aren't all of you the unreasonable ones?"

The voice of the older woman argued, "Jo just likes that variety show. You're the young lady of the Gray Family now, while Jo has lost that status. Shouldn't you compensate her? Moreover, Titus said he'd get you a better opportunity in exchange. Why do you have to compete with Jo?"

Luca's voice appeared. "I think you just can't stand Jo, so you deliberately target her."

Andrew's voice chimed in. "Simone, can't you just diligently be the young lady of the Grays? Why do you have to cause trouble?"

Simone sneered. "Every one of you opened my eyes, truly. I never knew defending what's mine makes me the unreasonable one. You're not only ignorant but also shameless. Firstly, I've never stolen anything from her from the beginning. On the contrary, she replaced me and enjoyed a comfortable life in the Gray Family for years. Secondly, you need to

|||

<

28

understand that it was you who lost me back then. I don't owe her anything, and I certainly don't owe any of you either. So, compensate what, exactly? As for the young lady of the Gray Family, she can have it. I don't care for it."

The older woman's voice rang. "What do you mean?"

Simone said, "I mean it literally. I'm cutting off all relations with you and leaving the Gray Family. In the future, we'll be like we used to be—just strangers when we meet. Your cherished adopted daughter will remain the little princess of the Grays. You don't need to worry that I'll steal anything from her or snatch your love for her. I'm just making things easier for all of you."

These words made it clear who was trying to hog those resources, but the recording was not over yet. Then came Jodie pretending to be innocent. The Gray Family members took turns accusing Simone, and Simone defended herself.

What was even more outrageous was that the Grays threatened Simone with resources and other things.

Then, everyone enjoyed a big scoop. It turned out that Simone's disappearance was caused by Aaron.

At last...

"From today onwards, I won't serve you anymore. Do whatever you want. You didn't publicly announce my identity, so I won't have to announce it to the public either. Goodbye forever!"

The recording concluded at this point.

Upon hearing the recording, whether it was the individuals present or the numerous viewers watching the live broadcast, they all felt a sense of pity and empathy for Simone. The recording was not brief.

However, it unveiled the attitudes of the Grays toward her. Based on the conversations, one could envision the experiences she encountered upon her return to the Gray Family.

Additionally, it had shed light on Jodie's role and position within the family dynamic. There were always individuals asserting that Simone was being too harsh on her brothers. Furthermore, severing ties with the Grays appeared to be a regressive step to move forward.

After all, they were originally a family, so why make things so tense and inflexible? Yet, after listening to the recording, these individuals fell into silence.

Simone's fans could not help but shed tears and feel remorseful for her in light of the hardships she faced after being acknowledged by the Gray Family.

3.3

<

Chapter 272 Can You Please Spare Me?

Zac was deeply distressed as he listened to this recording, his heart almost breaking. He had known beforehand that Simone had been treated unfairly within the Gray Family, but he never expected it to be this dire.

He was devastated. As a result, he glared at Andrew and Aaron. "Are you even human? Forget about being her brothers; even strangers wouldn't be so cruel." He looked at Andrew sarcastically. "Have all the books you've read over the years gone to waste? Simone fought for the spot herself from Jonah, but Jodie insisted it was hers. The whole family pressured Simone to give up her spot. Otherwise, it's stealing from Jodie. I've never heard of such a twisted theory before. And isn't Simone the rightful heiress of the Gray Family? Your implication is as if Simone is the adopted daughter, trying to steal the position of the biological daughter. If that's the case, why did your family take Simone back? To acknowledge her and use her as a companion for the adopted daughter, to step on her? All of you have such malicious intentions. Simone has had-terrible luck to have a family like you."

Then, he coldly looked at Aaron. “And you. You lost Simone in the first place, yet you

dare to ask Simone to give up her spot for Jodie, colluding with others to suppress Simone and snatch her resources! And you have the nerve to say she’s being resentful. As she should! If it weren’t for meeting her master after being abducted by traffickers, she would’ve been sold off to the mountain as a child bride. How dare you say she’s resentful, using this as an excuse to compete with Jodie for a favor?”

He angrily continued, “Does Simone even care about Jodie’s so-called favor? She only gave way to you guys because she once cared about you.” He questioned again, “Think about how much she’s done for you guys. Don’t you appreciate it? I’ve heard of many things, like her making medicinal meals for every member of the Gray Family. Luca often had a sore throat, so she

spent over half a year making a throat lozenge that not only soothes but also relieves pain. But during his last appearance, he unreasonably accused her. I’m afraid those throat lozenges were all wasted.

“Simone accompanied you to practice dancing and was caught by the paparazzi. She was so badly criticized by your fans, but you, as her brother who lost her, hid and refrained from explaining. Afterward, you were also photographed having dinner alone with Jodie. As soon as she was criticized, you immediately stepped forward to clarify the situation.

given

“This is what we know, but there are still many things we don’t know, right? Simone has everything to every one of you. She wanted to cherish this hard-won family relationship. But what did that get her? Is this how you repay her and her efforts? Your so-called compensation is cold violence, suppression, punishment, and even turning the tables by accusing her of stealing from Jodie.

“You forced her to the point where she couldn’t stay in the family anymore, and she had to cut ties with you to protect what she fought for.” Then, he continued, “But I’ve also figured something out.

111

13

Chapter 272 Can You Please Spare Me?

+5 Free Coins

“Whether it’s before or this recording, it all shows one thing. For the sake of Jodie, you Grays can distort the truth, bully Simone without any reason, and even enjoy gaslighting her. It’s ironic because it was Jodie who wanted to take Simone’s spot. But in your narrative, it became the other way round.”

He deliberately looked at Jonah and asked, “Jonah, were you the one who initially chose Simone as the regular guest on this show?”

Jonah was initially quite excited and thrilled because of the recording, but after listening to it, he felt a bit bitter in his heart. Thus, he did not avoid the question at this moment. Instead, he truthfully answered, “Yes, everyone knows that Simone is a geomancy master. Before the variety show, she saved my wife. At that time, this show hadn’t been confirmed, and she didn’t ask for any repayment from me. After it was, I took the initiative to contact her and invited her to be a regular guest because I wanted to repay this favor.

“As for Jodie, it was her manager, Titus, who came to me with her and Aaron. They said Aaron could participate in our show without payment. But there was one condition, which was to bring their sister along. Since Aaron is a popular star, I naturally couldn’t refuse and had agreed.” He did not exaggerate but simply stated the facts.

Zac said, “Thank you, Jonah, for clarifying things. Then, he looked at Andrew and said, “I just want to ask. How did Simone precisely snatch Jodie’s spot and resources? Please clarify for everyone. Otherwise, we won’t understand the logic behind this.”

Andrew’s face turned pale, then red, a mix of embarrassment and anger. Being questioned like this by Zac, he opened his mouth but did not know what to say. He had spoken without thinking earlier, impulsively bringing up what they once believed. He intended to ask Simone to stop targeting Jodie and let her off in this show.

Who would have thought that Simone would release the recording of their conversation from that day? After listening to the recording, along with Jonah’s words, he could not find any words to retort.

Zac sneered. “What’s the matter? Cat’s got your tongue? You were quite eloquent when you asked Simone to spare Jodie earlier, weren’t you? Simone was the one who wanted you to spare her.

“From beginning to end, it was you who provoked and accused first, yet you dare to say that Simone didn’t spare her. In the first episode, Aaron immediately said Simone was wrong and asked her not to bully Jodie. In the second episode, before the live broadcast started, Luca also angrily confronted Simone in front of everyone. He accused her because Jodie asked her not to go too far. And now, in this episode, you’re doing the same thing, immediately shifting the blame onto Simone

“If Simone didn’t have the recording as evidence, she would’ve been wrongfully accused of bullying and stealing Jode’s resources”

↳

23

He glanced at Andrew and Aaron. “Did Simone step on your toes or something? Why do you guys hold some deep grudge against her? Why are you treating her like this?”

At that moment, Simone looked at the brothers and echoed. “That’s what I’d like to know, too. How strong is your grudge against me that you keep cornering me with every chance you get? You defend Jodie and come after me for attention. Did I offend you? Did I provoke you? Just like before, our relationship was already strained; we had already fallen out. I don’t want to pretend and put on a show for the audience. Now, it’s my fault that I’m impolite”

She appeared helpless and emphasized, “Can I also say, spare me, please? Can’t we have no connection or involvement? Can’t we just be strangers?”

This time, Zac truly aided her by highlighting all the crucial points from the recording and questioning them in return.

111

Aaron's face turned pale, feeling both embarrassed and bitter at the same time. When he and the others talked about Simone, he did not think much of it. But now, after listening to the recording, their words were exposed.-

Suddenly, viewing the situation from an outsider's perspective, he realized how excessive they had been. In front of the people present and the live audience, he looked at her and said, "I'm sorry. We went too far before, and I apologize to you. After you came back, we believed Jodie without verifying the facts and accused you. It was our mistake, and I apologize."

Simone looked at him coldly and replied, "I reject."

Rejecting an apology meant not forgiving, so she continued, "If causing harm could be resolved with just an apology, wouldn't that be a joke?"

Zac added, "Exactly. What's the use of apologizing now? Simone is done with all of you attention-seekers. She doesn't care for your apology."

She nodded. "Precisely."

In her past life, she might have wanted an apology, but in this life, she neither needed nor cared about it. She never expected that, after going around in circles, her loved ones and ex would not understand.

Only Zac comprehended her and saw through her true feelings. Her gaze fell on the man, with a hint of warmth and a smile in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Leon had been staring at Simone since she played the recording. After listening to the recording, his heart ached. He had no idea she had been mistreated like this in the Gray Family.

She had never spoken ill of her family in front of him or complained. Who would have thought that the reality would be so unbearable? He blamed himself even more for not asking her about these matters more often. Instead, because of his mother's words, he lost his love and care for her.

What had he done during those days?

No wonder Simone knew about his secret meetings with Jodie and wanted to break up after helping Jodie with the variety show.

He deserved it. He let the girl he had protected for so many years suffer so much. Moreover, he was also one of the people who hurt her. His heart now felt like it was being pricked by countless needles, causing him pain, especially when he saw Simone questioned by Andrew

13

Chapter 273 1 Reject

and Zac immediately stepped forward to protect her.

He also remembered every episode of the show before.

+5 Free Coins

Aaron and Luca questioned Simone, but Zac immediately came out to protect her, not caring about his public image or popularity with the audience.

What did he himself contribute? Before coming to Cebros, he would always be there for her whenever she needed help. Ever since he came here, he had been influenced by others and learned to turn a blind eye to her. He became the kind of person he used to despise.

Then, he noticed that Simone's gaze toward Zac had a different shine than before. It broke his heart even more, knowing that some things were heading in a direction he did not wish to see. He wanted to say something, but he could not find the words.

up for

Could he blame Aaron and the others? Although he had not gone as far as they did, he had also hurt Simone. So, how could he have the right to blame them? Should he stand Simone as Zac did? But Zac had already taken the lead, and if he came forward now, it would seem fake.

Although he did not want to admit it, he knew Simone did not need his protection now, even if he came forward. After all, when she needed him before, he was nowhere to be seen. What would it mean if he defended her now? He found it laughable.

In the meantime, Aaron was also feeling extremely uncomfortable. Simone, his sister, did not accept their apologies, which meant they had deeply hurt her. She used to be so forgiving and good to all of them.

He pursed his lips and looked at her, saying, "Even though you rejected it, I still want to apologize. I want to make up for the mistakes I made in the past."

Simone immediately shook her head. "No. I don't need this. As long as you don't bother me anymore, I'll be grateful enough."

Her words were hurtful, but the people around her did not think she was being unreasonable. Instead, they understood her very well. Simone just wanted some peace. Otherwise, why would she cut off ties with them?

At that point, Aaron felt like his heart was being stabbed. Suddenly, he remembered the cute little girl who used to follow him around, a memory that had become blurry. He calmed his emotions and spoke again, though with some difficulty. "Okay, since this is what you want, I will do as you wish in the future."

Simone did not need apologies or compensation, she just wanted them to stay away from her. What else could he do?

Andrew, standing in front of everyone, did not know what to say at that moment. Still, he

2/3

spoke his mind, "We're blood-related. Do you need to make such a big deal out of it?"

She stared at him directly and said, "Actually, I do. And besides, I'll say it again in front of everyone. I've severed ties with the Gray Family, including you. So, please don't talk to me about being blood-related. It just sounds ironic and ridiculous to me."

She could not understand the thought process of these sc*mbags. Just because we're family means you can hurt me all you want without being held accountable? Why should that be the case?

Aaron reached out and pulled Andrew aside. "Andrew, please stop saying such foolish things. And stop talking without considering the consequences."

The one who was hurt by us is Simone; only her feelings matter the most. Now, you're standing here as the perpetrator, saying such things. I can't even listen to it."

Andrew was stubborn enough to spew such words. What Simone hated the most was them. using "family" to weaponize against her.

Embarrassed to be called out by his younger brother in public, Andrew said, "We didn't mean to hurt her before. Besides, she might've misunderstood us. I thought that since we're family, we could get along if she could resolve the misunderstanding with Jo."

He truly did not think he had done anything wrong.

"We didn't make a mistake in adopting Jo. It was a decision made by our parents. So, Jo is innocent, too. That's why I wanted Simone not to take it out on her. The conflict between them is not that big of a deal. Will everything be fine if they both take a step back? Jo took the initiative to greet Simone first. Isn't that an attempt to reconcile and make amends? Since Simone didn't respond, I decided to speak up for Jo."

|||

Chapter 274 Simone's Accomplishment.

Andrew's words left everyone speechless.

Zac looked at him and said, "Andrew, are you an idiot? Isn't the recording clear enough? Jodie should take Simone's place in this variety show because she is innocent?"

Andrew choked and explained, "We helped her negotiate with Simone; it wasn't her idea."

Zac sneered. "Your minds are filled with nonsense. You've been used and discarded, yet you still feel proud.

Ethan also said, "Am I lacking comprehension? Did you really go to negotiate with Simone? According to the recording, it sounds like you were forcing her to give the spot to Jodie."

These individuals are treating Simone unfairly, and it's infuriating to witness such a talented person being subjected to bullying.

Keira was angered. "Mr. Andrew, we're not deaf. We can still distinguish right from wrong."

Although Tina arrived later, she witnessed the whole incident. She said, "I might be struggling with my understanding. From what I gathered, Mr. Andrew and his family have been pressuring Simone. In the recording, Jodie explicitly expressed her reluctance to take the spot. She politely conveyed her desire not to upset Simone with their parents. Is this clearly indicating her lack of interest? Am I missing something here?"

Eric coughed.

"That means our comprehension is wrong. We can't compare to the nonsense in Mr. Andrew's mind." He sarcastically added, "Ay, we're a bunch of fools."

He rarely got involved in trouble, but today, he couldn't hold back. Andrew really is, as Zac said, a stupid idiot. He has reached a point where he can't think clearly just to protect Jodie.

Brandon agreed. "I agree; we can't understand or agree with Mr. Andrew's words as we're too foolish."

Leon coldly said, "He's simply a foolish idiot who fails to distinguish between negotiation and coercion. It makes me wonder if he resorts to hiring others to handle his directorial tasks behind the scenes. Anyway, the Gray Family doesn't lack money. As long as they gain fame, anything goes.

What Andrew said was completely baseless. It was simply nonsense. Even in this situation, he insisted on claiming they were a family and should get along well.

Leon emphasized again, 'If we have to form a team later, I don't want to be in the same

175

group as this idiot."

I'd rather die than be in the same group as these people again.

Tina took the opportunity to say, "I don't want to be in their group either."

Thank goodness! I really don't want to be in the same group as these losers again.

Andrew realized that all the guests on this variety show were targeting him. "You guys are isolating us as a group. That's just too much."

It was the first time he had been so singled out and ridiculed. It was too embarrassing.

He then said to Leon, "You can question my character, but please don't insult my profession."

He had never used a ghostwriter to help him direct plays and movies.

Zac confidently said, "Yes, we are isolating you as a group. Did you just realize that?"

Simone added, "He has always been the least self-aware but the most self-righteous."

Among the five, the problem was most obvious with Sc*mbag No. 4.

Andrew didn't expect Zac and Simone to say such things in front of the live broadcast audience, but he was retorted and didn't know how to argue back.

The atmosphere became extremely awkward for a while.

Zac looked at Jodie. "Andrew is standing up for you. Don't you have anything to say?"

Jodie, the troublemaker, always hid behind others, and he deliberately wanted to expose She regretted it now and cursed Zac for being nosy.

her.

Mainly, she didn't expect Simone to have a recording in her hand and that she would release the recording at this moment.

Otherwise, she would definitely go and stop Andrew from continuing to act recklessly.

At the same time, she felt a bit resentful toward Andrew.

Everything was fine, but he had to bring up the issue of grabbing spots.

Now, they were all trapped in this embarrassing situation.

Jodie didn't know what to say. She could apologize to Simone; sure, she could fake it. After all, it wasn't sincere, but when Aaron was apologizing, he faced ridicule from Simone and Zac, so that was not an option.

<

25

On the other hand, if she sided with Andrew, she'd be criticized by netizens once again.

This time, she genuinely wanted to clear her name. So, with red eyes, she lowered her head, pretending to be embarrassed and wronged.

Upon witnessing this, Andrew spoke up, "This is all my fault; you can just blame me. Jo doesn't know anything. Why would you make her say anything?"

Jodie remained silent, but her silence also indicated agreement with Andrew.

Simone realized that this act could almost come to an end, so she answered, "We have no common ground with you, and we're too lazy to talk to you anymore. After all, you don't understand human language. Director and audience in front of the camera, I apologize for taking up your time just now. Now, let's move on to the live segment of the variety show so as not to waste the program team's time and the resources of the public live broadcast room."

Right from the start, she targeted Sc*mbag No. 4, the popular new director in the with a trending topic gift.

The Gray Family accompanied him on the trending topic.

Her goal for the opening of this variety show had been achieved.

country,

There was no need to continue arguing with Sc mbag No. 4, a person with a one-track mind who couldn't be reasoned with.

It was best to stop here in order to stir up more negative emotions toward Andrew and his group.

As expected, the live chat had already exploded.

Andrew was handsome and was a well-known new director, so he had a considerable number of fans.

When the variety show started, his fans came out to criticize Simone, but after listening to the recording, they all fell silent. Either they felt ashamed, or they were afraid of being attacked if they spoke up.

Simone's fans, along with the fans of other guests and some casual viewers, were all infuriated now.

I never expected Simone's family to be like this. From her parents to her siblings, not a single good person among them.

This is too much! They actually bullied Simone like this. I cried with heartache after listening to the recording

TH

35

For the sake of their adopted daughter, they coerced their biological daughter and sister into relinquishing their resources. Is this something a human being would do?"

"The most ironic part is that they believe Simone is the one stealing Jodie's resources and bullying her, as long as they don't give up their positions.

'Based on the implications in the recording, it appears that this kind of thing has happened quite frequently.

'As Zachy mentioned, Simone is not their family, but their adversary.

'Simone is truly unfortunate to have such a family.

'I am truly grateful that Simone encountered her mentor; otherwise, she would have been in a miserable state.

'For the first time, I find Aaron utterly repulsive. He lost Simone and yet has the audacity to torment her for the sake of Jodie.

Yes. This scandal is something I never anticipated. Where does Aaron find the audacity?"

Now they apologize. But where were they before?"

Thank goodness Simone didn't accept their apology and forgive them; otherwise, I would have been consumed by anger.

The other members of the Gray Family are equally repugnant.

"That agent, Titus, deliberately defamed Simone before. He is so malicious.

'Luca as well. Simone dedicated so much time to making throat lozenges specifically for him, but he accused her for the sake of Jodie. What a despicable person."

'Yes, I bet the so-called Mr. Reuben is definitely not a good person. either.

Mrs. Gu is even more heartless. Simone is her biological daughter, yet she treats her own flesh and blood this way for the sake of her adopted daughter.

Although Mr. Steven didn't say anything, he didn't seem innocent either."

Zachy was right about everything. He is protecting Simone and doing an excellent job.

All of Simone's kindness toward the Gray Family was in vain.

The reasoning of the Gray Family is truly absurd. How is Gray Group not bankrupt yet?

Now I understand why Simone wanted to sever ties with the Gray Family

THE

'All I want to say is that cutting ties was a wise decision, and Simone did an outstanding job!'

Soon, 'Simone's Exposed Recording.' "Simone Being Blamed by Mr. Andrew,' and "The Logic of the Rising Star, Mr. Andrew' all trended and occupied the top three positions.

Following that, Aaron, Luca, and Andrew experienced a significant loss of fans.

Many of their former fans turned against them. They unfollowed and criticized them, stating that they were unworthy of their support.

Titus and Luca were also brought up again and subjected to various forms of mockery and criticism.

Salma, Steven, and Reuben, who had previously remained in the shadows, were not exempt from the criticism and found themselves pulled into the fray.

|||

55

Chapter 275 Troublemakers

Upon watching the live stream together at home, Titus and Luca wore expressions of utmost

concern.

Unable to contain his frustration, Luca exclaimed, "What in the world has that idiot done now?"

Having previously weathered criticism, they had finally found some reprieve.

However, due to Andrew's reckless actions, they were once again being dragged into the ire of netizens.

Luca opened Facebook only to witness a rapid decline in their fan base, with the latest inundated with insults and sarcasm.

post

He felt an overwhelming urge to confront Andrew and expressed, “The past incidents were undoubtedly our fault. We were deceived and blinded. Now, because of Andrew, Simone will hate us even more.”

Their attempts to mend their relationship with Simone through the purchase of talismans and jade pendants were now in ruins, all thanks to Andrew.

“No wonder Simone refused to sell talismans and jade pendants to him. He doesn’t deserve them.”

Titus shared Luca’s frustration, harboring thoughts of physically confronting Andrew.

“He’s just a troublemaker. We shouldn’t have allowed him to participate in the final episode of the variety show. He’s the real idiot. He should have faced Simone alone. Why involve us?”

The situation was deteriorating further, all because of Andrew’s actions, compounded by the previous incident with Simone and the controversial photos of him with Jodie.

Titus, as the agent, was now under scrutiny and trending.

Just when things had seemed to settle, and he was ready to go back to work, Andrew managed to stir the pot once again.

Upon watching the live stream with them, Salma was furious. “What on earth did Andrew do It seemed like he was intentionally causing trouble for no reason.

Salma couldn’t comprehend why he couldn’t just greet Simone. If he hadn’t provoked Simone, she wouldn’t have exposed the recording

Salma was furious. With a hint of resentment, she exclaimed, “I didn’t expect that Simone

14

would actually record our conversation that day. Family matters should not be exposed to the public. How could she do such a thing?” With the recording

exposed, the Gray Family and their reputation in the industry were at risk of losing respect.

Salma's anger intensified as she observed the live chat, filled with insults directed at her.

She couldn't believe that her prestigious reputation was being tarnished in this way.

Having grown up in an esteemed family and later marrying into the Gray Family, this was the first time she faced such disgraceful scolding. She could anticipate the mockery and laughter from those who had previously been at odds with her.

She also wondered how her close friends would now perceive her.

Salma's feelings toward Simone, her biological daughter, became increasingly complex.

On one hand, there was a sense of guilt toward her biological daughter.

On the other hand, Simone publicly exposed the recording in the live broadcast, letting so many people hear about the Gray Family's family secrets. She couldn't help but feel somewhat angry with Simone.

Why can't we discuss it privately? Why does she have to expose this recording in front of everyone? And why did she actually record it beforehand? Who is she trying to protect herself from?

Titus scoffed, "She's already severed ties with us. What family secrets are left to keep hidden?"

He saw through his mother's delusions.

Because of what he knew about Simone, he believed that Simone had planned to release the recording all along.

She was just waiting for the opportune moment.

Most likely, Simone was certain that Andrew would voluntarily step into the trap.

Sure enough, that fool didn't disappoint her, allowing her to find an opportunity to take action.

Simone's clever and strategic move during the final episode of the variety show had successfully garnered the attention of millions of viewers.

All phones were usually confiscated before the recording started.

Simone seized this opportunity to play the recording in front of the entire national audience, dealing a crushing blow to them

24

At the time, when he and his siblings were accomplices, he didn't perceive their actions as bullying or suppressing Simone.

However, after listening to the recording, he felt the urge to crawl into a hole.

On one side, he felt embarrassed. On the other side, he acknowledged that they had gone too

far.

During that time, Jodie had instigated and insinuated a certain idea-Simone had stolen something from her.

The idea was that if Jodie wanted a spot, Simone should have given it to her.

Upon reflecting on this, he sighed. "Now that I listen to the recording again, I realize that we were all so foolish, even Reuben."

They were all manipulated by Jodie.

Luca expressed, "Indeed, especially Andrew and me. We were so naive, instigated by Jodie, and charged into battle for her. Andrew is even more of an idiot, going up on the live broadcast to invite insults."

He looked at Jodie, who was pretending to be innocent and aggrieved with her head lowered during the live broadcast.

He added mockingly, “Look, he went up there and made a fool of himself. Not only did he fail to satisfy Jodie, but she probably also resents him now. Just like last time with me. Whenever we confront her, as soon as things don’t go her way, Jodie starts playing dead and acting innocent. This time, the blame for Andrew’s actions has fallen solely on him. She’s Jodie, and she’s innocent.”

Upon contemplating the situation, he couldn’t help but ask, “How blind were we before that we couldn’t see through all this?”

Titus joined in, “How could we have known that our sister, whom we loved and cherished for over a decade, would always play mind games with us and manipulate us? Because we were unprepared, we were repeatedly betrayed.”

That was the most ironic.

Luca concurred, “Indeed, who could have imagined that she would be such a selfish, self-serving, and malicious person?”

Every time, she instigated and incited them, waiting for them to charge into battle. When she succeeded, she enjoyed the fruits of their labor. When something went wrong, they took the blame while she hid innocently behind them.

34

Upon considering Andrew, he wondered, “Do you think Andrew will see through Jodie this time on the variety show?”

He recalled that Andrew faced criticism and lost countless fans because of Jodie when the

show started.

He wondered if Andrew would take any more proactive actions.

Titus pondered for a moment and commented, “Even if Andrew doesn’t do it, Jodie certainly will manipulate him. In the end, Andrew will be the one who suffers. Therefore, this time, he should be able to discern Jodie’s true intentions.”

Luca agreed, "If he still fails to see through it, then he is beyond assistance and deserves all the misfortune."

Titus firmly stated, "Regardless of whether he can be helped or not, he deserves all the misfortune. Not only did he cause trouble, but he also specifically dragged his siblings down."

Because of that troublemaker, the time for him to return to work at the company was postponed again.

As Luca was about to speak, his phone rang.

After answering the call, he couldn't help but curse, "Andrew is just as much of a disaster as Jodie."

Titus inquired, "What happened?"

Luca replied, "Just now, my agent called and informed me that the release of my new song has been postponed. The concert that was being prepared has also been postponed, and the autograph session next week has been canceled altogether."

All these setbacks were caused by Andrew, who faced criticism, and as a result, his siblings were dragged into it as well.

Titus rubbed his forehead. "We are truly unfortunate to have such a brother."

He glanced at Salma, whose face was pale. "Mom, it was a huge mistake to adopt Jodie into our family. Look at the chaos now; I can't even show my face outside."

Chapter 276 How Could She Be So Cruel?

After the recording was exposed, Salma faced criticism and became a hot topic of discussion.

Soon, her family called and scolded her for her actions.

Not long after, her mother-in-law called and reprimanded her as well.

In various social circles, people deliberately brought up the incident, mocking her for going too far as a mother.

Some even directly questioned her, asking what she was thinking. How could she show such favoritism toward her adopted daughter and suppress her biological daughter?

She felt as if her dignity had been stripped away and trampled on. So, she chose not to respond.

Already in a bad mood, her irritation grew when she heard Titus' words.

She furrowed her brow and said, "What's the point of saying these things now? Besides, it's mainly because of Andrew's foolishness. Simone is heartless. She did this on purpose to embarrass us. I don't think this incident has much to do with Jo. Don't blame everything on

her."

She had raised Jodie for over ten years, treating her as her own daughter.

Jodie also treated her as a real mother, clinging to her and acting like a close companion.

Although Jodie's behavior with her sons had crossed boundaries, she didn't want to completely reject Jodie. Doing so would be like denying the decision they made back then. So, even though she said she wanted to send Jodie away, deep down, she wanted to give her a chance.

Her husband suggested keeping Jodie at home and monitoring her, and she agreed. They even hired a tutor. They simply wanted to bring Jodie back.

When Titus saw his mother's reaction, he knew that she hadn't personally experienced being deceived and hurt by Jodie. So, she wasn't as hurt.

She still had feelings for Jodie and was willing to give her a chance.

This time, Simone was probably the one they were angry at because of the recording incident.

They felt that Simone shouldn't have done this and made them lose their reputation. Titus didn't say much because it wouldn't make a difference.

On the other hand. Steven also received a call from his father, who scolded him harshly.

He had always been outstanding since childhood. But it was the first time Owen had scolded him so mercilessly.

In the family group chat, he was also mocked by his uncles and aunts.

At the company, many shareholders looked at him with strange eyes.

Even friends called specifically to ask about his family's situation.

Steven was extremely angry and overwhelmed.

Meanwhile, he speculated that Simone had intentionally done this. The recording from before was probably meant to go viral today.

Such a ruthless act showed no mercy at all.

Just as she wished, their whole family was criticized by netizens and made fun of by friends and relatives.

At the same time, he felt that Simone truly lived up to her reputation as a member of the Gray Family.

Her attacks were precise and ruthless. It's a pity that Simone cut ties with them; otherwise, he would have wanted to groom her to work for the Gray Group.

This incident gave him a headache and made him extremely annoyed.

So, on that day, he had his secretary book a flight ticket and went abroad for an inspection. However, he intensified the investigation into Jodie and the two masters.

At Gray Entertainment.

Reuben went through a similar ordeal as well. First, he received a call from his grandpa and was scolded.

Then, in the family group chat, he became the laughingstock of his cousins.

The same thing happened at the company, where he received many strange looks

As he passed by several places in the company, he overheard people discussing this matter

This time, it wasn't just a few siblings who lost their reputation, he was not spared either. So, he found an excuse to fly to another city on a business trip

He planned to return only when the heat died down. Because he was unable to afford the loss

21

of reputation.

His feelings toward Simone became even more complicated because of this.

How can she be so ruthless?

This time, she didn't spare any mercy for them. At the same time, he scolded Andrew, who was a fool more likely to cause trouble than succeed.

In Cubilis.

Andrew sneezed several times in a row, knowing he was definitely being criticized due to Simone's unexpected actions.

Upon standing beside Jodie with a solemn face, he didn't utter a word.

The director didn't want the awkward atmosphere to continue either.

The number of viewers in the live broadcast room reached a new high.

He smiled and said, "Next, let's move on to the main topic. I believe everyone is familiar with Cubilis. It is a city that preserves ancient culture. Later, we will give everyone a new makeover, dressing you in the ancient costumes you like. This time, your task is to explore the ancient city with a pair of eyes that can discover and take the live audience on a tour together. Of course, the rules remain the same. For the next week, you will be responsible for your own food, accommodation, and transportation. We will assign you check-in tasks, and you need to check in at different times. This time, we will still be working in teams."

Just as he finished speaking. Zac raised his hand and asked, "Can we have free team formation this time? I want to be on Simone's team."

Simone was in high demand, and he wanted to join her team right away.

Others also realized this and raised their hands one after another, saying, "I also want to be on Simone's team."

Except for the Gray brothers, Jodie, and Leon, everyone else expressed their desire to be on Simone's team.

It was not that Aaron and Leon didn't want to, but they knew Simone wouldn't choose them.

Upon seeing this, Jonah smirked and said, "It seems like everyone wants to be in Simone's group"

Then he changed the subject and said, "But I regret to inform you all that this time, we can't form teams freely"

34

Previously, they had formed teams freely twice. If they did it again this time, things wouldn't be fresh or interesting.

Zac asked in disbelief, "Why not?"

He wanted to be in Simone's team. Does anything go wrong?

Jonah replied, "Many viewers have given feedback suggesting that for this episode, the teams should be decided by drawing lots. They say it will bring more variety and make it more interesting for all of you. So, after the show's team conducted research, we decided to follow the viewers' suggestions. The teams for this time will be decided by drawing lots."

This way, the finale of this variety show would bring more interesting changes and attract more viewers.

Zac and the others were left speechless. The director's decision in the final episode was truly heartless.

They cared about the feedback from the viewers? It is evident that the team made the decision.

However, since the team had made the decision, there was nothing they could do about it. All they could do was silently pray, hoping to be chosen for Simone's team.

Even Aaron and Leon were filled with excitement this time. They were silently praying as well.

Zac asked, "Do we draw lots ourselves?"

Jonah smiled and replied, "To ensure fairness this time, we will play a game using a large roulette wheel to determine the teams."

Everyone was a bit puzzled. "A large roulette wheel to determine the teams?"

Jonah signaled to his assistant.

Soon, the assistant brought in a large roulette wheel with its base.

The wheel had 12 slots, each bearing the name of a guest. In order, they were Simone, Zac, Leon, Ethan, Eric, Keira, Brandon, Aaron, Jodie, Andrew, and Tina.

There were eleven guests and twelve slots on the roulette wheel. One of the slots had the word "mystery" on it.

Chapter 277 What Is It If Not For Her?

Everyone gathered around to see the roulette.

As they felt excited and anticipating some fun, they also admired Jonah's creativity.

Keira smiled and asked, "Jonah, are we having another mysterious guest in this episode?"

Others looked at Jonah with curiosity.

Earlier, it was declared that there would be no more celebrity guests for the time being, leaving everyone wondering who would be joining this time.

Jonah smiled and replied, “Yes, there will be a guest joining, but it’s a mystery. I don’t know who it will be.”

Keira was surprised and asked, “You don’t know who it is? How is that possible?”

Everyone was puzzled.

Jonah deliberately piqued everyone’s curiosity and explained, “The program team is preparing to arrange for you to explore fate in Cubilis. You can look for an amateur guest who seems to have a strong connection with the team. As long as the other party agrees, the special guest for this episode will be them.”

This idea was suggested by the planners, and the supervisor also supported it, so Jonah had no objections.

Jonah speculated that the specific amateur guest was most likely pre-arranged.

However, they didn’t inform him of the guest’s identity.

They just mentioned following the conditions provided by the planning team to look for an

amateur.

Whoever they found, as long as the person agreed, he or she would become the guest.

They said it would make things more interesting and exciting.

Since it was just a single amateur guest, plus the pressure from higher-ups, he didn’t object.

Moreover, it was indeed challenging to form groups with eleven guests. So, adding one more guest would facilitate better grouping.

Upon hearing this, everyone understood that they were going to find an amateur guest to bring a fresh element to the show.

|||

Simone's eyes flickered with interest. Could this amateur guest be connected to Jodie, and is there a specific reason for choosing Cubilis as the location? This is going to be interesting.

She asked, "How will we form groups using roulette? Does the arrow determine the group?"

Jonah nodded and replied, "Yes, that's correct. After adding the amateur guest, you will have a total of twelve people. You will be divided into three groups, with four people in each

group.

Zac asked, "Do we spin the roulette ourselves?"

Jonah smiled and said, "Originally, the team was supposed to spin it. But if you want to spin it yourselves, that's fine as well."

Zac immediately said, "Then we'll spin it ourselves."

Jonah agreed and added, "Alright, you can spin it yourselves. But to ensure fairness, you have to draw lots to determine the order of rotation."

This avoided putting the guests in a difficult position, eliminating any unpleasantness about the order.

Everyone agreed to this decision.

In front of the livestream's audiences, Jonah's assistant prepared a sealed box with numbered ping pong

balls inside, which was lifted and shaken before it was carried over to the guests to make their draw.

Each guest drew a number to determine the order of rotation. The person who drew number one would go first. Whoever he spun to, that person would continue to spin. And then, they would continue to rotate until the teams were complete.

Then, the remaining would draw the ping pong balls to start another round of roulette.

Once the second round was completed, the remaining four people would form a team without rotating.

Everyone reached in to take their number.

Zac drew number one. "Then I'll go first."

He didn't hide the fact that he wanted to team up with Simone, saying with a smile, "I hope for a good start; let's land on Simone."

Simone gestured a thumbs-up to him. "Go for it."

However, in her heart, she felt that it was highly unlikely for Zac to be in the same group as

her this time.

|||

25

5 Free Coins

Someone behind the scenes might have manipulated the team formations.

As expected, Zac reached to spin the large roulette wheel.

After a moment, the arrow's movement slowed down, lingering on the space next to Simone's name and gradually coming to a stop.

Just as Zac was about to feel happy and excited about drawing Simone, the arrow moved a bit. slower and landed in the space below with the name Jodie.

Zac's expression instantly changed.

He silently cursed his bad luck.

His luck was exceptionally bad today; he actually landed on Jodie.

Upon seeing this, Jodie appeared surprised on the surface. But inwardly, she was delighted.

Zac had always been the target she wanted to conquer.

This time, it seemed like fate had placed them in the same group. She might have a chance to be with Zac. Excellent!

You bet, you pay. Although Zac didn't want to be in the same group as Jodie, he could only accept his fate.

With a mournful face, he approached Simone to seek comfort.

"Simone, I shouldn't have washed my hands before leaving today."

Upon hearing this, Simone laughed and comforted him. "It's okay, it's just forming teams,

let's have fun!"

Zac sighed. "Guess it's the only way. Let's just hope my teammates in the upcoming rounds get lucky and draw your name."

Simone responded with a smile, "Fingers crossed."

Following the turn to Jodie, her name was taken off the designated slot to prevent repetition.

If it happened to land on the empty slot, it wouldn't be valid; they would have to spin again.

After Zac, Jodie drew Keira, and Keira drew Andrew, forming their group of four

Zac and Keira weren't pleased about being grouped with Jodie and Andrew, whom they considered troublemakers

111

36

The second group, led by Eric, was paired with Ethan, who then paired with Brandon, and Brandon with Tina.

After each pairing, the other person's name was removed from the roulette, creating uncertainty and relying on luck for group

formations.

The remaining guests-Simone, Aaron, Leon, and the mysterious guest-formed another

group.

Zac was disappointed, while Leon and Aaron were pleasantly surprised.

Simone wasn't very surprised by this grouping, which further confirmed that someone had definitely manipulated things behind the scenes.

Hence, she wasn't given the chance to go up and spin the roulette.

The person behind the scenes must have noticed her interest in Zac and strategically placed him in the same group as Jodie and Andrew, creating a connection with her.

Previously, she had observed that Jodie harbored some intentions toward Zac.

Jodie wanted to take Zac in her pocket while Andrew was coming for Jodie to support and protect her.

This grouping not only fulfilled Jodie's desires but also restrained Simone.

In the other group, Ethan was an artist she managed. So naturally, she was concerned about him.

Tina was arranged by the person behind the scenes.

This simultaneously posed a connection challenge for her.

In her group, there was an ex-boyfriend, an ex-brother, plus a mysterious guest. It was basically a powder keg.

This was clearly directed at her. The person behind the scenes had truly considered every

detail.

She intentionally didn't make a move, wanting to see how they would play it. And she looked forward to the role of the mysterious guest.

After the grouping was completed, Jonah had a somewhat surprised expression on his face

However, it must be acknowledged that this grouping was likely to be very intriguing

Especially Simone's group

Although everyone was aware of their teammates, Jonah announced the grouping situation in the live broadcast room.

"Now, please gather the individuals in each group."

Zac looked at Simone with a pitiful expression, saying, "Simone, we can't be in the same group this time."

Simone found Zac's expression resembled a pity puppy. She regarded him, finding his appearance endearing.

So, she extended her hand to pat his head and said, "It's alright; even if we're not in the same group, we can still support each other if necessary."

|||

575

Chapter 278 They Should Not Have Offended Simone

Upon feeling an instant sense of comfort when Simone patted him on the head, Zac couldn't help but be overjoyed.

He disregarded the dagger-like glares from Aaron and Leon, who had already sided with.

Simone.

"Alright." He put on a sunny smile and reluctantly returned to his own group.

Upon witnessing the scene, Jodie secretly cursed Simone for being shameless.

But she saw Zac being assigned to her group as an opportunity.

The audience in the live broadcast room also took notice.

Ah! Simone and Zachy are so adorable together!”

A head pat from Simone looks amazing. I wish she'd pat me, too.”

“My ship is sailing! Their affection is so sweet!”

I can't resist shipping them. The affection is overwhelming.

I used to want to see Simone looking beautiful alone. But Simone and Zachy are a perfect match.

“Yes, besides being handsome, her ex-boyfriend always had a cold demeanor. Zachy is better; he can protect and comfort Simone!

Zachy is also very handsome, no worse than her ex-boyfriend.

Simone's personality is more suitable for someone like Zachy

When Zachy protects Simone, he transforms into a sharp-tongued and domineer. When he spoils her, he is like a wolf dog. When he is spoiled, he becomes a little puppy. He can switch anytime. There are so many choices.

Quick Bring the City Hall here I want to see them get married on the spot

It's a pity that Zachy's luck is so bad, he will be separated from Simone in this episode”

Although they are separated. I think Zachy will still find opportunities to be with Simone

Simone will continue to take care of and spoil Zachy Thinking about it is so sweet

Tam looking forward to it!”

‘Haha! Just now, when Zachy was switched to Jojo's group, his face turned black. I couldn't help but laugh.

Jonah is not being fair, creating such a grouping. Both groups are like a crematorium.

'Of course, Zachy and the Gray Family siblings don't get along. Simone is in the same group as her ex-boyfriend and ex-brother. This episode will be interesting

'Poor Zachy. When he wants to cry, Simone's ex-boyfriend and ex-brother are secretly laughing.

"Wow, I just realized that none of those who said they wanted to be in the same group as Simone were actually assigned to her group.

The grouping from the roulette wheel this time is so unfair. They all want to cry.

'Simone: I might not be able to handle this episode.

The groups had been formed.

Simone asked Jonah, "Should we go find the group with the mystery guest, or should the production team find them?"

Jonah replied, "We have a mission card here to find the target. Follow the mission card and go find them. As long as the other party agrees, you will be able to successfully form a team."

Simone took the mission card and opened it to take a look.

It contained a simplified map with instructions to enter Cubilis and walk into the main street.

After walking a kilometer, they should turn left into the alley, then follow the map left again.

and turn

Upon entering the seventh shop, they should invite the first person they meet, excluding the shopkeeper.

If the person agreed, the team formation would be successful. If not, they should ask the second person they met or wait for the first customer to enter the shop.

While Simone was reading, she recited it during the live broadcast.

Aaron listened and said, "It's all about finding someone with fate; its all up to chance"

The viewers in the live broadcast room also had similar thoughts, curious about what kind of ordinary, mysterious guest Simone and her team would encounter.

23

Not Have Offended Simone

+5 Free Coins

Zac asked, Jonah, after we enter Cubilis, do we still have to work and earn money for food and accommodation ourselves?"

Jonah nodded. "Yes, the rules are still the same. But you have to be careful; you can't do modern things to make money. Cubilis follows a retro route, so no modern dances or songs."

Upon hearing this, everyone's faces showed a wry smile.

It's like they're making things difficult for us again."

They realized they didn't have any ancient skills either.

On the other hand, Jodie was delighted. She knew the traditional dance and the harp and could use them if necessary.

Jonah thought to himself, Isn't this obvious? The point is to make things difficult for you. Otherwise, what's the point?

He smiled and reassured them, "I believe in you. It's already noon, and we're not that mean. Each of you will be given 15 dollars as startup capital. After entering Cubilis, enjoy lunch first. and then make money."

Cubilis was a huge ancient city, and they were still outside it. There were cars and other modern transportation outside the city, but they would disappear after entering Cubilis.

Jonah added, “By the way, we will also pay the entrance fee for you. Isn’t that nice?”

Cubilis required an entrance fee for maintenance. Visitors entering the city had to pay-14 dollars per person.

After paying the entrance fee, everyone would receive an entrance token engraved with the date. It was valid for three days.

The guests couldn’t help but laugh and cry. If they were not allowed to use their own money, and the production team hadn’t paid the entrance fee, how could they have entered? How dare Jonah actually say that?

Next, everyone handed in their phones and exchanged them for the ones provided by the production team.

They went to a clothing store outside the city, and each had chosen a set of clothes.

This time, it was the production team that paid for them.

“This set of clothes is also a gift from the production team. However, for the next few days, if you want to change clothes, you’ll have to earn money and buy them yourselves in Cubilis”

TH

35

Aaron was dumbfounded. “Are you saying we can’t wear the clothes we brought in Cubilis?”

He had never been to Cubilis before.

Jonah smiled and said, “Yes, that’s right. It’s a rule set by the authorities before entering the city. No matter what era you’re dressed in, you have to wear traditional attire. The same goes for shoes. You have to wear the ones you brought when you leave.”

Aaron was speechless. Am I bringing a whole suitcase of clothes for nothing?

Then he noticed that, apart from himself, Jodie, Leon, and the others didn’t have as much luggage.

So, he asked, "Did you bring enough clothes for a week?"

Zac looked at him proudly and said, "We only brought clothes for today and the last day. Simone reminded us earlier that we have to wear traditional attire in Cubilis, not our own clothes. Things like watches are also not allowed. And we can only use cash; no mobile payment is allowed."

He asked deliberately, "You guys didn't know?"

Aaron remained silent. This realization is painful. We don't have Simone's reminder, and we have never been here before. How can I know?

He smiled awkwardly. "Indeed, we didn't know."

Then he looked at Simone and said, "You're amazing; you know everything."

This was both an attempt to please Simone and a genuine compliment.

Simone glanced at him and said, "I've been here before. The production team informed us at week ago that this episode would be filmed in Cubilis. Didn't you guys do any research.

beforehand?"

Although she had been to Cubilis in her previous life with her master, in the week before, she still spent a lot of time studying the map of Cubilis and watching some related videos and

news.

Aaron was taken aback by this counter-question.

He touched his nose and said truthfully, "No, we really didn't"

They simply didn't consider it.

Zat looked at Aaron and said, "You guys are lucky this time. You found the right person. Otherwise, you would be in trouble"

45

advance with di

He boasted again. “Unlike us, we all listened to Simone and looked up introduction of Cubilis in advance.”

the map and

Keira also laughed and said, “Yes, Simone shared the information and videos she found in advance with us.”

Aaron and the others missed out on the information. It served them right to offend Simone so significantly.

Aaron remained silent. He was struck again.

This time, he wisely kept his mouth shut..

Chapter 279 It's Double Standard

The group changed into traditional attire, adjusting their clothes and makeup accordingly.

Women tied up their hair while the men donned wigs.

They strolled toward Cubilis gate, where a queue was forming to enter the city, and they followed suit.

This spectacle attracted numerous onlookers and photographers, but the production team had taken security measures, preventing anyone from approaching or harassing the guests.

When their turn arrived, they noticed soldiers in traditional attire, clad in armor and wielding spears, guarding both sides of the gate.

Individuals were also assigned to distribute entrance-tokens.

Upon receiving these tokens, they discovered that the wooden pieces were engraved with the date.

At this point, a sense of novelty and amusement finally settled upon them.

Tokens were either hung on their clothes or stowed away as the group entered the city.

What met their eyes were ancient, picturesque streets filled with people adorned in traditional attire. Occasionally, horse-drawn carriages and ox-wagons, designed to resemble ancient times, carried passengers.

It felt like a journey back in time, hundreds of years ago.

Unlike modern tourist attractions, these horse-drawn carriages and ox-wagon were authentic.

It charged according to the distance, with fares starting at 3 dollars.

Reluctant to spend, the guests hesitated to use them.

Zac turned to Simone, suggesting, "Simone, how about we team up to earn some money?" His intention was not to take advantage but rather to spend time with her.

However, a staff member reminded them, "No, after Jonah assigned you to different groups, only members within the same group can work together. You can't form new groups.

Otherwise, the grouping would be meaningless.

Upon hearing this, Simone proposed, "Let's work separately. We can meet at a certain place

|

13

for meals or rest."

Disappointed but understanding, Zac nodded, "Alright, let's stay in touch in a group chat and plan a meal together."

He sought confirmation from the staff member, asking, "Can we use the money we earn to treat each other to a meal?" The staff member agreed.

In another group, Eric suggested, "We'll work hard to earn money and treat you all to a meal."

The other three agreed as well.

Then, the staff member suggested, "You can split up and work separately now."

Zac suggested, "Let's not split up for now. Let's have a meal together. We each have 15 dollars, so let's find a restaurant and eat together before we go our separate ways."

Zac desired to share this first meal in Cubilis with Simone.

Upon thinking this way, he cursed himself again for his bad luck.

Others in the group agreed and said, "Yes, let's have a good meal together."

"Let's enjoy a good meal together, and we'll split the bill later." Normally, they wouldn't want to eat with Andrew, Jodie, Aaron, and Leon.

But since they were all assigned to the same group this time, they had no choice but to share. a meal together.

Aaron responded enthusiastically, "Sure, let's eat together."

It would help improve the relationship with everyone, so Leon nodded and said, "Sharing sounds good!"

He was willing to do anything as long as he could be with Simone.

Upon following the majority rules, Jodie, who wanted to object, could only remain silent.

Andrew, still indifferent to variety shows, was indifferent to this suggestion.

So, the group found a restaurant and booked a private room that could accommodate eleven people.

The menu and dishes had an antique style, and the utensils were all traditional.

Zac handed the menu to Simone and said, "Ladies, take a look and see what you'd like to cat"

|||

Andrew's eye-rolling response was prompted by this gesture. He certainly knows how to be

attentive.

It was a trait that both Leon and Aaron observed, as Zac seemed overly focused on Simone. It became apparent why he was always trailing her.

Simone took the menu, perusing it alongside Tina and Keira. They didn't order much, opting for just one dish each. Jodie felt completely ignored, causing her eyes to turn red with a sense of injustice.

Simone and the others seemed to go too far, excluding her even during a meal.

After placing their orders, Simone handed the menu to Zac, saying, "You should also order something."

Zac ordered a dish but didn't extend the menu to Jodie, who was in the same group.

Instead, he passed it to Brandon, then Andrew, who taunted Jodie with, "Jo, see what you'd like to eat. Some people just lack gentlemanly manners."

This drew everyone's attention.

Zac raised an eyebrow, asking, "Who are you referring to?" Andrew looked at Zac. "Of course, it's you. We are in the same group, and you don't pass the menu to Jo but offer it to female guests from other groups. Isn't that lacking gentlemanly manners?"

Jodie didn't say anything, but she strongly agreed in her heart.

She was truly provoked by Zac just now.

Zac put on a feigned scared expression. "I wouldn't dare to give it to your precious sister. After all, in the first season, she was exposed for having a secret meeting and being flirtatious with Leon. And she was hugging and cuddling with Aaron. In the second season, she sat directly on Luca's lap and was caught being intimate with her agent, Titus, at a bar, cuddling closely together. For this last season, I don't want any scandals with your sister trending on social media."

He bluntly emphasized, “So I have to keep my distance and stay away from her.”

Every time Jodie saw him, it was like a dog seeing a bone.

He didn’t want to have any relationship with her.

Even if he was grouped with her because of his bad luck, he wouldn’t have any interaction with her

No one, whether present or watching the live stream, expected Zac to say such things.

|||

35

But thinking about it, Jodie did have a lot of previous offenses.

If they were to get entangled, the biggest scandal of this season would probably be between Zac and Jodie.

Jodie felt unfairly targeted and resentfully bit her lip.

How can he look at me like that? And to say these things in public as if I am promiscuous. It is really unfair.

Upon seeing this, Andrew addressed Zac, “If you want to maintain your distance, then do so! I notice how attentive you are toward Simone. Why don’t you keep your distance from her?”

Leon and Aaron also agreed with these sentiments. Why doesn’t he keep his distance from Simone?

Zac retorted, “Can Simone be compared to her?”

He shrugged. “And please refrain from comparing Jodie to Simone, as they are completely different.”

Despite it being a livestream, he remained unconcerned.

Jodie didn’t possess the qualifications to be compared to Simone in the first place.

Andrew was at a loss. “Why is it different now? Aren’t they both female celebrities?”

“You’re being hypocritical.”

Confidently, Zac stated, “Yes, I am being hypocritical. What can you do about it?”

Andrew was speechless. He truly couldn’t do anything about it.

How can someone be so arrogant? After all, this is being live-streamed.

Jodie felt genuinely wronged this time and was on the verge of tears.

Do I seem so far behind Simone? There must be something wrong with Zac’s eyes.

The more Zac behaved this way, the more determined she became to win him over.

She seemed to compromise and, in a somewhat resigned manner, pulled Andrew’s arm. “Andrew, let’s order some food.”

Andrew’s words couldn’t be as cutting as Zac’s.

So, it was better not to say anything, or else she would be implicated again.

45

Moreover, this allowed Zac to see how considerate and tactful she could be.

Andrew was truly at a loss on how to counter Zac’s retort.

He immediately followed up on what Jodie said. “Alright, you go ahead and order.”

Jodie took the opportunity to place an order.

This meant each person ordered one dish.

The portions at the restaurant were not substantial, so everyone finished almost all eleven dishes without any waste.

After the meal, the three groups went their separate ways, with the other two groups heading to earn money while Simone's group sought someone.

Chapter 280 Taking Good Care of Him

Simone and the others followed the map and instructions on the mission card, arriving at the seventh shop.

The shop specialized in custom-made seals, offering a variety of options for customers.

Upon entering, they noticed a young man in a religious robe conversing with the shopkeeper.

From their conversation, it appeared that he had come to collect a seal he had previously ordered.

The viewers in the live stream room became excited when they saw the

'He's quite handsome from the side!'

young man.

"Wow, he's the first person Simone and the others have encountered in this shop. They should invite him to be a guest."

'Yes, invite him! Simone, go! Go! Go!'

It seemed that many of the viewers were fans of good looks.

Upon observing his attire, Simone was certain that this person must be the perfect amateur guest for this episode.

She suggested to Aaron, "Why don't you go and ask him?"

Aaron, wanting to impress Simone, agreed and approached the young man. He greeted him. politely, "Excuse me."

The young man in a religious robe turned to face Aaron, wearing a polite smile. "Is there something I can help you with?"

This sudden change in expression caused the viewers in the live stream room to exclaim in admiration, calling him handsome with a charming face and a god-like appearance.

Simone also noticed his good looks-fair skin, handsome features, a faint smile at the corner of his lips, and clear, bright eyes.

He possessed a refined and elegant temperament, and every movement exuded a scholarly and gentle aura.

If he were to exchange his green religious robe for a white brocade robe, he would give off an ethereal and immortal vibe.

14

Aaron was surprised by the young man's appearance. He didn't expect the first person they encountered to be so good-looking.

In the entertainment industry, the young man would be considered quite remarkable, especially with his elegant and ethereal demeanor, which had the potential to make him popular.

Aaron smiled and explained to the young man about their live-streamed shooting of the variety show and the need to invite the first person they met as a guest.

"So, we would like to invite you to be a guest."

The

young man was initially taken aback, wearing a slightly confused expression.

He asked, "But I have never been on a variety show before, and I don't know anything about it. Is that okay?"

Simone noticed that his voice was like a clear spring, very pleasant to listen to.

The fans of his voice control in the live stream room started to scream again.

Aaron smiled and said, "It's okay, even if you don't know anything. You can give it a try. How about joining us?"

The man pondered for a moment and said, "How long will your program be recorded? I have some prior commitments and will be leaving Cubilis next week."

Aaron replied, "We will be shooting for a week, including today, and it will end just in time.

next week."

The man hesitated. "I'll think about it."

Aaron nodded. "Okay!"

The three of them gave the man some time to think, and they wandered around the shop, looking at the seals.

Meanwhile, the program staff immediately approached the man and provided a detailed explanation of their variety show live broadcast, introducing the gameplay and showing him some exciting clips from the previous two episodes on their phones.

Jonah saw the face and demeanor of this amateur through the live broadcast and insisted that they must do their best to persuade him to be a guest

This would undoubtedly attract a group of fans to watch the live broadcast

This episode of the variety show was a showdown between talented individuals, with most of

them being handsome men.

After various recommendations and persuasions from the staff, the man finally agreed to give it a try.

However, he requested that if he felt uncomfortable or didn't want to continue participating later on, the program team should allow him to withdraw.

The program team readily agreed to this request.

Simone was casually browsing the displayed seals.

Suddenly, her gaze fell on a corner where a seal appeared very antique.

The jade seal had a dark green color, initially looking ordinary and inconspicuous.

Normal people might even feel a sense of dislike upon seeing it.

However, she noticed clusters of negative energy lingering around the seal. It should have been nurtured in a place filled with negative energy, and it was capable of being used as a geomancy attack weapon.

Normally, it was challenging to activate negative energy, and the quantity around was generally low.

It might work to perform a small action. But engaging in battles becomes difficult.

With this seal, she could amplify the negative energy, making it much stronger.

Simone asked the shopkeeper, "May I take a look at this seal?"

The shopkeeper nodded. "Of course, go ahead."

Simone picked it up and carefully examined it, finding no signs of tampering.

The presence of the negative energy was natural and rare. It was very rare and challenging to

come across.

She touched the seal with her hand, ensuring there were no issues.

She was shocked.

Upon lowering her gaze to the seal, her eyes narrowed.

Within the seal, there was an aura of a master, indicating that the seal likely belonged to a master in the past.

THI

Upon suppressing her emotions, she asked in a calm tone, "Is this seal available for purchase?"

The shopkeeper smiled and said, "If you're interested in buying it, you can ask this religious priest. It was consigned to our shop by him."

young

Simone had already guessed, but on her face, she displayed a surprised expression. "So, it was consigned by the religious priest. Does that mean it can be sold?"

The

young man smiled and said, "Yes, it can be sold. It was given to me by an elder. But he said I wasn't destined for it and asked me to find its rightful owner."

He looked at Simone and said, "I've had this seal consigned for three years, and you are the first person to show interest in it. It seems you are its rightful owner."

Simone smiled. "So, it turns out that I am truly destined for it."

A map, a designated store, and, coincidentally, it's a seal shop. This is truly "destined."

She asked, "How much?"

The man smiled gently. "Since we are destined, I'll give it to you. After all, it's just an old and worthless seal."

Simone shook her head, saying, "That won't do. I don't like taking other people's things for free."

The man pondered for a moment and replied, "I just made a commitment to the

program team that I would participate as a guest on this episode, the cameo guest or something. How about this? For the next week, you take care of me a little more, and this seal will be your reward, okay?"

He emphasized, “My elder instructed me to give it to the destined person, so it wouldn’t be right if I sell it to you.”

Simone agreed, “Alright, I’ll accept your offer. For the next week, I will make sure to take special care of you.”

Since he was so generous, she didn’t hesitate to accept.

Moreover, she wanted to see what he was up to.

The current situation had left her a bit puzzled.

If he wanted her to take care of him, then she would take “special care of him.

—