In the meantime, all the designers and models were waiting in the dressing room for the catwalk show to start. That being said, none of the models went up to the stage when the show was supposed to start. Because of this, everyone was starting to get riled up.

Peeved, Jessie had a scowl on her face.

Where are the models?

Shortly after, the host of the show came out of the dressing room and announced that the show would be delayed for an hour.

Upon hearing the announcement, the designers and models were rather perplexed as to why the show was being delayed.

In distress, Jessie's face turned pale.

Could it be that Natalie's model going missing is the reason why the competition is delayed?

A while later, the host glanced at the designers and models before uttering in a deep voice, "It has come to my attention that someone among you has deliberately injured Natalie's model. Sally is currently receiving treatment in the hospital. We'll continue the catwalk show once she's done with her treatment. Regarding this incident, the organizer has already instigated an investigation. With that said, I would suggest the culprit confess now, or else..."

The host turned around and left without finishing his sentence.

Terrified, the designers and models began trembling in fear.

With a pale look on her face, Jessie clenched her fists.

I can't believe Natalie actually found Sally!

Things are getting more complicated now that the organizer has instigated an investigation. If they find out I'm the one responsible, I'll be...

Not daring to think about the potential consequences she may face, Jessie got up and went to the restroom.

When she came back, the distressed expression on her face was surprisingly gone. She was even humming a song happily.

Seeing as such, Hannah went up to her and queried, "You look rather exuberant today, Ms. Syke."

Jessie gazed at her model and replied, "Really? I guess I'm just feeling happier than usual today."

Jessie was behaving so joyfully because she had gotten news that her traces had been removed. She was assured that her DNA wouldn't be found by the organizer.

The person who had assured her was the one who managed to escape that incident.

Moreover, Jessie was also told that another designer would be framed to take the blame instead.

Humph, I should've gotten Natalie out of the competition too.

A short while later, Natalie and Sally came back to the dressing room.

Sally looked pale and weak with a bandage wrapped around her head.

Curious, all the other designers and models quickly went up to them and bombarded them with questions.

Sally and Natalie gave them all a terse answer and sent them away.

"Ms. Smith." Just as Natalie was about to assist Sally with her make-up, Jessie approached Natalie.

"Ms. Syke, how may I help you?" Natalie raised her eyebrows.

"Oh, it's nothing. I just wanted to see how Sally was holding up. You're doing fine, right, Sally?" Jessie looked at Sally with a perturbed expression on her face.

Sally couldn't tell if Jessie was seriously concerned about her or not.

She's probably just putting on a show.

So, Sally responded apathetically, "Yes, I'm fine."

"That's great." The woman seemed very happy for Sally.

Natalie picked up her makeup brush before uttering, "Ms. Syke, could you please leave us? I know you're done with your model's make-up, but I'm just getting started with mine. Perhaps you could abstain from being a nudnik to us for a while?"

"Oh, sorry. I'll leave right away." Jessie let out a shy-looking smile and left.

"Nat, I think she's only feigning her concern for me. She must've come here to make fun of me," Sally murmured.

Natalie opened her makeup case and replied, "Enough talking about her. She's not worth our time anyway. Close your eyes. I'll start applying the makeup now."

"Okay." Sally nodded and shut her eyes.

In a blink of an eye, Sally's makeup was finished.

Glancing at her reflection on the mirror, Sally frowned. "The bandage on my head looks out of place. I'm worried it might impinge on your marks."

Natalie pursed her lips. "You're right."

"Maybe we could use a hat to cover it?" Sally suggested.

Natalie's eyes suddenly lit up. "Sal, you're a lifesaver."

Yes, that could work. Since this outfit is an integration of a wedding dress and a suit, she can wear a veil in front to cover the bandage.

That being said, I can't have the veil covering her back. That would ruin the look from behind. Hmm... How about I make it so that the veil only covers her face? I can use a jazz hat to cover the back of her head.

Natalie was glaring pensively at Sally's head. She then took a jazz hat and cut it in half with a scissor.

Bewildered by her action, Sally queried, "Nat, what are you doing?"

Since her voice was a bit loud, it caught the attention of the other models and designers, including Jessie.

Jessie was rather confused as to what Natalie was up to.

Natalie was reticent as she placed the hat that had been cut in half on the table. After that, she grabbed the white veil beside her and started cutting shapes out of it.

Then, she sewed the veil and one of the halves of the hat together. Lastly, she sewed two flower patterns as well as a diamond pattern onto the veil as her finishing touch.

And just like that, a new peculiar style of a veil was born.

Although the outfit was a weird integration of a wedding dress and a suit, it didn't look ugly at all. On the contrary, it looked rather unique and refreshing.

Natalie proceeded to put the veil on Sally's head.

Aside from covering the bandage on the model's head, the veil, together with the hat, was able to accurately illustrate the beauty of a bride as well as the suaveness of a groom.

Upon seeing the outfit, the other designers gave Natalie a round of applause.

"You're absolutely incredible, Natalie. How brilliant of you to be able to come with this."

"Yeah, I can't help but envy your profound sense of fashion."

"I guarantee this veil of yours will be the center of attention later."

Natalie passed the outfit over to Sally and told her to change into it. She then put on a fake smile and continued making small talk with the other designers.

Meanwhile, Jessie was glaring intently at Natalie while biting her nails. Her eyes were filled with jealousy.

"She's really popular, isn't she?" Hannah uttered sullenly.

Jessie narrowed her eyes.

Yeah, you don't have to tell me that.

It's all thanks to her face and talent.

To my chagrin, I can't hold a candle to her in either of those two aspects.

Jessie covered her face with her hand and remained taciturn.

After a while, she put down her hand and uttered, "When the competition is over later, I want you to look for Natalie. Try to provoke her."

"Okay." Hannah nodded.

Ten minutes later, the catwalk show finally started.

As expected, Natalie's design was able to capture everyone's attention.

They were all mesmerized by the unique integration of a wedding dress and a suit.

When Sally walked onto the stage, everyone saw a beautiful bride in a wedding dress.

But when she turned around, everyone saw a handsome groom in a suit.

Since the design was breathtaking, some of the apparel companies were already furtively making plans to purchase it after the competition.

Apart from Natalie's design, Jessie's design was also very stunning.

The latter's design was a short skirt with shoulder straps. The skirt consisted of many layers which made it look puffy and cute.

The skirt was fluorescent pink in color, and it looked gorgeous. With that said, only a designer with a tremendous amount of skill and talent would be able to come up with a design like this.

The only minuscule shortcoming of this design was that the tailoring of the outfit wasn't all that compatible with the design of the skirt. However, it wasn't that big of a problem as long as the design was brilliant enough.

After a while, the final results of the competition finally came out. Jessie was able to advance into Team A while Natalie got to keep her position in Team A.

"Ms. Smith, we'll be in the same team from now on. May the best designer win." Jessie shot Natalie a bright smile.

"Yes, of course." Natalie returned the smile and nodded.

"Then let us meet again in the next round of the competition after three days." Having finished her sentence, Jessie left immediately.

After Jessie left, Natalie exited the competition grounds and headed toward the dressing room to find Shane.

"Has the competition ended?" Shane stared at Natalie with his gentle eyes.

The woman nodded and replied, "Yeah. I'm remaining in Team A."

"I know." Shane helped Natalie to tidy up her messy hair. "I'm cognizant of your amazing skill and talent. With your capabilities, I believe you'll unequivocally be able to make it till the end," he added.

Natalie lunged herself into his arms. "Thank you, Darling."

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Shane wrapped his arm around her waist and caressed her hair affectionately.

At this moment, Sharon's voice was heard out of nowhere. "Daddy and Mommy are doing lewd stuff again."

Natalie blushed as she separated herself from Shane's arms. She then lowered her head to gaze at her daughter before uttering, "You're awake?"

She was still asleep on the couch when I came by her just now.

"Yes. I was woken up by your voice, Mommy. Connor is still asleep, though. Does this mean I'm more diligent than him?" Sharon looked up at her parents adorably. Shane and Natalie shot a sweet smile in their daughter's direction and responded, "Yes, yes. You're the most diligent."

Natalie patted Sharon's head as she spoke, causing the girl to break out into a big grin.

"Go and wake your brother up. We're heading back now." Natalie retracted her hand from Sharon's head.

"Okay." Sharon turned around and went back inside.

In the meantime, Shane and Natalie waited silently outside for her.

A few minutes later, the two children came out together.

The four of them held hands and walked together toward the entrance hall.

"Natalie." When they arrived at the entrance, Natalie was called out by one of the designers.

She stopped in her tracks and queried, "What's the matter, Luna?"

The designer who called out to her was Luna. Being the amicable person that she was, Luna would always greet Natalie whenever they met. They were actually quite close to each other.

As Luna was walking toward Natalie, she took a glance at Shane and the children. "Natalie, I assume they are your husband and kids?"

"Yes." Natalie nodded while smiling.

Luna turned to Natalie shot the woman a thumbs-up gesture. "Not bad. I always had the notion that all eastern men look the same, but it seems like I was wrong. Your husband is quite attractive, I must say. His height and physique can compete with the western men here. Also, your kids are way too adorable."

"Thank you for your kind words," Natalie replied.

"Well then, I'll stop bothering you guys now. I wish you all happiness." Luna waved her hand.

"Thanks." Natalie nodded.

After that, Luna left together with the other designers who were waiting for her.

Natalie gazed at Shane and uttered, "Let's go Darling."

Shane let out a grunt of agreement and brought Natalie and the kids to the parking lot.

"Oh, so those two children are Natalie's kids? They do resemble Mr. Shane a lot." Hannah was staring at the family from somewhere close by.

Jessie narrowed her eyes and bit her lip before growling, "Enough talking. We should go now."

Having said that, she turned around and started walking forward.

Hannah was left in a perplexed state.

Why is she acting so sulky? Is she angry at me for not being able to provoke Natalie?

Hannah felt aggrieved.

It's not like I didn't want to provoke her! She just left before I could.

Not to mention, with her husband by her side, I don't think I can get away with provoking her.

Meanwhile, Natalie got in the car and was staring out the window.

Shane was wearing his seatbelt as he queried, "Who are you looking for?"

"Sal. She still hasn't come out yet," she answered.

Just as Shane was about to say something, Natalie's phone suddenly rang.

"It's from Sal." Natalie quickly picked up the phone. "Hello?"

"Nat, I'm not going back tonight."

Natalie was baffled. "What? Why?"

"I received a job asking me to do a shoot for a magazine just now."

"Oh, is that so? Okay then. Just be careful, yeah?"

"I will. Bye." Sally hung up the phone.

Natalie put down her phone before uttering, "Let's go. Sal isn't coming home with us tonight."

Shane nodded his head nonchalantly and started up the car.

He wanted to tell Natalie that he was the one who had given the job to Sally, but he refrained from doing so in the end.

I don't want Sally to interrupt our family time.

Shortly after, they arrived at the villa.

Knowing beforehand that Shane and his family were coming back, the housekeeper had already prepared dinner for them.

After they had dinner, Natalie tucked the two of the kids to bed. She then headed to the master bedroom.

When she entered, Shane was talking to someone on the phone in his pajamas.

Natalie shot a glance at him before going to the bathroom to change into her pajamas.

"How's her condition now?" Shane asked over the phone.

Silas replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Shane. We are keeping a close eye on Ms. Graham. We'll make sure she doesn't try anything suicidal. However, she isn't doing too well mentally ever since we started monitoring her. She hasn't even eaten anything today."

"She hasn't eaten anything today?" Shane squinted his eyes.

"Yeah. According to her maid, Ms. Graham is deliberately fasting. We aren't sure if she's doing it to spite you or if it's because of her mental health."

It could be both for all I know.

Shane let out a sneer. "If she doesn't want to eat, then let her starve."

"Mr. Shane, are you sure?" Silas was stupefied. "What if she starves to death?"

"That won't happen. The nutrient fluids will keep her alive," Shane replied callously.

Many patients in hospitals who can't eat rely on such nutrient fluid to keep them alive.

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With that said, Jacqueline will be fine.

After hearing Shane's response, Silas was taciturn.

Mr. Shane is really on another level.

A while later, Silas finally replied, "I understand."

Shane took a sip of his red wine. "Give a call to Jackson later and tell him to prepare a ward for Jacqueline in case she passes out. The nutrient fluids in the hospital will be able to keep her alive."

"Okay," Silas responded.

Shane then continued on, "By the way, how's the Gunn family doing?"

"The Gunn family has been under the pressure of the Garcia family lately. I believe the Gunn family will lose its position as one of the strongest families in the capital soon. When that happens, the Garcia family will hand over the evidence Mr. Gunn has on Ms. Graham to you."

This is what you get for having an incompetent son, Mr. Gunn.

Ever since Mr. Gunn's son had taken over his position, everything started going awry for the Gunn family. Since all the descendants of the Gunn family were feckless and incompetent, Mr. Gunn wasn't able to find a worthy successor to manage the family.

After Mr. Gunn retired, the Gunn family's power and influence spiraled downhill. If it wasn't for the respect the other powerful families had for Mr. Gunn, the Gunn family would've been eliminated a long time ago.

This was the same reason why the Garcia family couldn't properly go headfirst against the Gunn family. The only reason why the Garcia family finally started getting back at the Gunn family was that one of the Gunn family members made fun of one of the Garcia family's young daughters. The financial support that Shane provided was also reason enough for the Garcia family to stop holding back.

Still, Silas had no sympathy for the Gunn family.

The younger generations of the Gunn family had done too many despicable things. It was also ridiculous that the older Gunn family members, who were supposed to be wiser, still made the mistake of taking Jacqueline's side.

"Two or three months?" Shane murmured to himself.

Natalie's competition would roughly end then.

The timing isn't too bad. This way, she would be able to enjoy watching Jacqueline and the Gunn family go behind bars.

That would be my present to her.

"Keep an eye on Jacqueline for me. Don't let her die. If anything happens, just call me," Shane said in a deep voice.

Silas nodded. "Understood."

After the call, Shane picked up his wine glass and walked into his room.

He paused when he heard the sound of running water coming from the shower. A dark expression glinted in his eyes.

After placing the glass on his bedside table, he walked toward the bathroom.

Since the bathroom wasn't locked, Shane walked in with perfect ease.

Natalie was standing under the rushing water, which masked the sound of Shane's footsteps.

She only realized that Shane was in the room when he snaked his arms around her waist. Whipping her head around, she glared at the man. "You scared me."

Shane simply chuckled shamelessly and bent his head to nibble on the back of her neck.

He didn't bite hard enough to hurt her, but it did make her feel ticklish.

Natalie couldn't help but shrink away from Shane's biting. "That's enough, let go of me. I haven't finished showering."

Shane let go of her neck and grazed his teeth on her earlobe instead. In a raspy voice, he whispered. "Go ahead."

His meaning was clear enough. You can take your shower and I can continue my fun. I won't get in the way.

Natalie rolled her eyes. "Stop it. How am I supposed to shower with you being all sappy with me?"

Shane finally paused his movements and looked down as if he were considering it.

However, just two seconds later, he reached out for the showerhead and detached it from the wall. "I'll help you. You don't have to worry about getting distracted then."

Natalie fell silent. She was annoyed but in a fond way. "I take it that you're not leaving, then?"

Shane shrugged carefreely. "I missed you. I haven't touched you in so long."

Natalie looked at him and saw a hint of grievance in his eyes.

She massaged her forehead in exasperation. "I would like to spend time with you, too, but I'm pregnant right now. Why don't you just settle it yourself?"

That was the only solution she could think of.

After all, she wasn't about to suggest for him to go out and meet other women.

Shane's eyes glinted. "You can help me."

Natalie was about to turn him down when she caught sight of the hope in his eyes.

The desire in his gaze shut Natalie up.

Oh, well. It isn't fair to him if I don't help him at all, especially with such things. I guess helping him out isn't too bad...

After properly thinking about it, Natalie let out a deep sigh and reached out to tug at Shane's belt.

His eyes shone in excitement almost immediately.

They finally finished a long time later, and Natalie groaned as she tried to loosen up her sore wrist. "That was exhausting. Why did you hold out for so long?" she complained.

Shane chuckled. "As if you're not into that."

Natalie fell silent. She couldn't deny that.

I guess he's right. It's much better when I'm more involved.

She couldn't help but blush at the sudden thought before coughing softly and pushing Shane lightly. "Okay, now that you're done, get out. I'm still not done with my shower."

"I'll shower with you," Shane said, insistent on clinging to Natalie.