

Save Myself From Desperation by Cara Agnes

Chapter 9

Tom astutely handed Valentin his phone.

He knew Valentin had been eagerly anticipating Ashley's performance.

Unfortunately, Ashley drew lots to be the last one to perform, and Tom had to wait a long time before it was her turn.

Therefore, as soon as Ashley appeared, he immediately informed Valentin.

Valentin turned his attention to the livestream on the phone.

Ashley, dressed in a stunning white dress, looked ethereal and breathtakingly beautiful. However, Valentin's brows furrowed almost imperceptibly when he saw the comments scrolling on the phone screen.

He thought, 'Honey?

'They are calling Ashley honey!

'But Ashley is actually my wife. She is my honey!

At the competition venue, hearing the audience's praises of Ashley that she looked more beautiful, Jessica, who was touching up her makeup, became so angry that she smudged her lipstick on her lips with her hand trembling.

She hated nothing more than Ashley's face!

Nearby, Jeremy and Frankie were taken aback by Ashley's appearance. They always knew Ashley was beautiful.

But when she was with the Ramos family, she always followed them around, flattering and pleasing them like a lapdog, without any dignity.

They wondered when her demeanor became so captivating.

On stage, a rhythmic piece of classical music slowly started.

Ashley faced the audience.

With the music's beat, she gently lifted her leg and began to dance gracefully.

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As she gently raised her arms, her sleeves slid down slowly, revealing her fair arms and slender intertwined fingers. She made graceful and gentle dance moves.

A gentle breeze made her hair sway in the air while her white dress fluttered gently.

Simultaneously, snow-white petals began to fall from above.

Ashley's every dance step was precise, her spins and dance moves getting faster with the beat of the melody.

Each spin was natural and smooth, every pose breathtakingly beautiful.

She moved swiftly, her figure graceful, like a goddess from a myth.

In the vast competition venue, a hush fell so quietly that everyone could even hear a pin drop.

Everyone's eyes were glued to the stage as if they were transported into a pure white dream of modern dance.

As the music's tempo quickened, Ashley suddenly leaped upwards.

She made a split mid-air with a grand jeté, and then she landed lightly.

Her fluttering dress stirred up the snow-white petals on the ground, creating dreamlike beauty.

With the music shifting to a softer cadence, Ashley sat on the stage, her dress spreading out like a blossoming flower amid falling petals.

She looked like a fairy, with her fair and slender neck and her slightly lifted chin. Her eyes were clear and bright as she gazed upward into the distance.

The stage lights slowly dimmed.

Only then did the audience realize the performance had ended, all wearing expressions of eagerness for more. They really hadn't seen enough yet.

The livestream comments went wild.

[Wow, so impressive! I can't believe I actually saw a fairy dance in my lifetime!]

[Did you see that mid-air split? Amazing! So steady and light!]

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[With five years of dance experience, I can tell that Ashley is a very experienced top-tier dancer. She makes difficult moves look effortless.]

[I thought Jessica's modern dance was good, but her dance is just average compared to Ashley's!]

[Weird! How did Jessica get first in the preliminaries over Ashley?]

At the competition venue, after Ashley's performance, it was the scoring time.

The four judges should give their scores first.

They exchanged glances and whispered among themselves.

HA

"Ashley really danced well. What score should we give her?"

"Well, Ashley is indeed good, but how can she compare to Jessica? Although Ashley is also from the Ramos family, she's not as favored as Jessica.

"Moreover, Frankie is here, clearly supporting Jessica. We better play it smart.

After their discussion, the four judges quickly wrote down the scores.

[9.2 points.]

[9.3 points.]

[9.2 points.]

[9.2 points.]

The scores caused a stir among the audience, with whispers and discussions.

The viewers in the direct broadcasting room were also stunned.

[What? Why are Ashley's scores so low?]

[I remember Jessica got two 9.4 points and two 9.5 points. Ashley danced better. Why get such low scores?]

[Right, Ashley danced better than Jessica.]

[No way! What were the judges thinking? Are they blind?]

Backstage, Jessica saw the scores and breathed a sigh of relief.

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She knew the four judges were tactful.

Jeremy, seeing the scores, also relaxed. He could tell Ashley danced better than Jessica.

But it didn't matter to him who was better. He just wanted Jessica to win first place.

Jeremy smiled smugly, "With these scores, Ashley is already 0.9 points behind Jessica.

Only Ms. Rice hasn't given a score. She's always strict, so she won't give a high score.

The first place in today's semifinal will definitely be Jessica's."

Frankie nodded slightly. "Jessica will surely be the winner."

He thought, 'So what if Ashley danced well?

The first place only belongs to Jessica

'Besides, Ashley is Jessica's big sister. Letting Jessica have the first place is only right.

On stage, Ashley, seeing the scores, remained composed and humble. "Thank you, judges."

Next was Megan's turn to give the score.

Megan stared blankly at Ashley, her gaze inscrutable.

Only after a reminder from a staff member beside her did she realize it was her turn to score.

Coming to her senses, Megan quickly wrote down the score and then raised her dry erase paddle to display it.

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