FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1011

Although Helen looked very pretty, Alex still pulled his hand back without any hesitation.

The look on Helen's face froze for a second, but she was quick to regain her composure. "Your friend sure is something else. I bet he must have something really amazing if he's got you falling for him!"

"Shut up! I won't talk to you ever again if you don't stop saying stuff like that!" Elsa retorted while giving her a nudge.

Helen was about to tease her even further but decided not to when she saw the angry look on Elsa's face.

Elsa had kept her feelings for Alex a secret from everyone except Helen.

She didn't even realize when exactly she developed those feelings for him, but they were way out of her control by the time she became aware of them.

Elsa tried coming up with all sorts of excuses just to visit Alex at Four Seas Corporation, but would always chicken out upon arriving outside the building.

Despite always being brave enough to face any challenge that came her way, Elsa found herself being shy like a little girl when it came to romance.

She was going out with Helen after getting some time off from work when they passed by the store. Because it reminded her of Alex, Elsa decided to go in and buy him some clothes. To her surprise, she ended up running into him inside that very store itself.

Unsure of what to say, Elsa tried her best to come up with something on the fly. "I really wasn't expecting to see you here, Alex."

"Yeah, it really is a coincidence. This is the first time I've seen you in casual attire. You sure look a lot different," Alex complimented her sincerely.

He found himself being a lot more reserved after finding out about Elsa's feelings toward him. That was especially the case since he already had plenty of girls falling for him at that point.

"It's almost time for lunch, so let's not stand here and continue this awkward conversation. How about you treat us to a meal, handsome?" Helen suggested.

Alex wasn't planning on dragging things out any further, but refusing Helen's request would make him

come off as petty.

Although going down the mountain felt a lot less tiring than it was going up, it was still quite physically demanding, so Alex was feeling rather hungry at the time.

"Sure. I know a nice restaurant in the area. How about we have lunch there?" Alex suggested.

Just like that, the three of them headed over to Marsingfill Restaurant. The place was insanely crowded at the time, and its unique decor felt refreshing to look at.

"You two have a seat. I need to use the restroom," Elsa said as she got up and made her way to the restroom in the back.

Just moments after she left, Helen got up and moved

to the seat closer to Alex's.

Her doing so reminded him of that little stunt she pulled when they shook hands earlier, and he didn't appreciate her copping a feel like that.

Despite how beautiful she looked, Alex found it rather unpleasant and even a little creepy.

"Do you mind if I call you 'Lex?' I feel like it would sound a lot friendlier that way!" Helen asked with admiration written all over her face.

No man could possibly resist a woman looking at him like that, let alone one as gorgeous as she was.

"That's up to you. I have no control over how you prefer to address me anyway," Alex replied indifferently.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1012

"Lex, why are you treating me so coldly when you speak to Elsa in such a gentle manner? Am I that much inferior to her?" Helen put on a pitiful expression as she gave Alex a teary-eyed look.

Alex was stumped. How did I end up making her cry when I barely said a thing?

"To be honest, you really aren't as pretty as Elsa," he remarked.

Upon hearing Alex's candid response, Helen's expression drastically changed. Why is he so clueless? Despite how obvious my advances are, does he not get what I'm trying to convey?

"Even though I'm no match for Elsa in the looks department, I'm gentler and more understanding than her. Besides, her job as a cop requires her to be embroiled in violence all the time. Unlike her, I'm not only good at housework but also love to cook."

Just as Helen spoke, she poured a glass of water in front of Alex. "Lex, I'm sure you must be thirsty in this hot weather. Why don't you have some water?"

Alex had no idea what Helen was up to. Despite being a close friend of Elsa's, she was exploiting Elsa's trip to the restroom by seducing the man Elsa fancied.

What the hell is going on here? One has to certainly

be careful in choosing the company one keeps.

After taking a sip of water from the cup, Alex explained, "Even though Elsa is very busy, she is being of service to her fellow citizens. Not everyone is capable of such a noble task especially the fact that it is inherently more difficult for a woman."

When she saw how unmoved Alex was, Helen's eyes glistened as another idea popped into her head. "Precisely. I'm also well aware of the honorable work she is doing. It clearly isn't something that an ordinary girl like me can compare myself to. As her best friend, I'm constantly worried about her health since she would occasionally return home from work at one to two in the morning."

Letting out a sigh as she briefly paused, Helen turned her gaze toward Alex and suggested shyly, "She's usually so busy that she doesn't have any time for me. Since she's my only friend, I have no choice but to go to the movies alone all the time. How I wish that there was someone who can watch a movie or share a meal with me. Speaking of which, Lex, why don't you give me your number? I noticed that you are on your own most of the time, so why don't I invite you along to the movies? With each other as company, I'm sure it will not be that boring."

Is she trying to get my contact? Alex was speechless. Even though he was peppered with Helen's hints of interest, he wasn't the least bit interested.

"I'm sure there's no such need. I have no time to catch a movie due to my busy schedule anyway. Besides, I'm Elsa's friend, and I don't know you that well." Alex didn't mince his words.

Coincidentally, Elsa had come out of the restroom and was surprised to see Helen leaning toward Alex

at his seat.

"It looks to me that both of you have been happily chatting while I was in the washroom, huh? Helen, tell me, what are you two talking about?" Elsa asked with a smile.

Alex sighed in resignation. Although Elsa has a high IQ, she is utterly clueless when it comes to relationships. It appears that she is truly oblivious to the nature of her friend. When she has a boyfriend one day, he would likely end up being stolen by Helen.

Just when he wanted to remind Elsa of it, Helen preempted him, "Elsa, I have tested this guy that you fancy, and concluded that he's of sound character and definitely not a jerk. In fact, he's a prime candidate for marriage. It's just that I have no idea what his family background is like."

Alex didn't expect Helen to be testing him. If I recall correctly, I have always treated Elsa as an ordinary friend despite her interest in me. So what's with all this drama?

Previously, Elsa already felt shy whenever she faced Alex. But after what Helen did during the short time she was away, she was now utterly embarrassed.

With blushing cheeks, Elsa apologized, "Alex, I'm sorry. Please forgive my friend for rattling her mouth off."

Alex naturally wouldn't hold it against a woman, let alone someone who was Elsa's best friend. Just when he was about to reply, a male voice rang out from behind him.

"Hi! Ms. Sawyer, what a wonderful coincidence to run

into you again!"

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1013

The man who spoke was in his thirties and dressed in a branded suit. Behind him were two men that treated him with deference.

After greeting Elsa, the man had no intention of leaving. Instead, he sat right down and joined them at the table.

"Alex, this man is Ichiro Ogawa, he's your love rival.

You had better keep an eye on Elsa before he steals

her from under your nose!" Helen whispered.

Given how pretty Elsa is, it's normal for her to have suitors. In fact, it would be wonderful if she meets someone she likes. So, being a love rival in this context is irrelevant.

"Right. Thank you for the advice." Despite what was going through his mind, Alex still expressed his gratitude to Helen.

"Ichiro is a titan in the food and beverage industry of Jetroina, and it goes without saying that he is extremely wealthy. Even though you don't look rich, I still favor you when it comes down to a competition between both of you. After all, you have passed my test." Helen gave Alex a wink.

Since Elsa had never been in a relationship before, and it was rare for her to meet someone she liked, Helen felt that it was her responsibility as Elsa's best friend to make sure the latter wasn't cheated. That was why she tested Alex.

Ichiro was especially friendly with Elsa and would ask her all about Eurasian culture. Out of courtesy, Elsa explained some of it to him.

Amidst their talk, Elsa noticed that she had neglected Alex and was worried that he would get the wrong idea.

With that thought in mind, she ignored Ichiro and diverted her full attention back to Alex.

Consequently, Ichiro was filled with jealousy when he saw Elsa chatting happily with another man. The contrast with her reluctance when speaking to him couldn't be any starker.

Even though he had only met Elsa a few times, he was utterly enamored of her feminine dominance.

His prominent status allowed him to have any girl he wanted, and there were plenty of beauties who would willingly throw themselves at him. In spite of that, he wanted to experience someone different and Elsa was coincidentally what he was looking for.

The women of Jetroina were traditionally submissive and would treat their husbands as if they were their masters. As a result, Ichiro had never seen a woman as courageous as Elsa before.

"Mister, may I know what kind of business you run?" Ichiro asked Alex.

Annoyed by how close Elsa was to Alex, Ichiro wanted to throw his weight around and demonstrate to Elsa that he was most suited to her.

"I run a company," Alex casually replied.

At that moment, food was finally served. When Alex saw the plain pasta on his plate, he began to salivate.

"I'm famished! So, I'm going to dig in first!" With that, he finished the plain pasta without adding any of the accompaniments.

Yet to be satisfied, he instructed the waitress, "Can I trouble you to serve me another plate?"

Soon, the waitress returned with another plate of plain pasta which was cleaned off by Alex just as quickly.

Meanwhile, Ichiro was shocked by the sight of Alex wolfing down his food the moment it was served. From his perspective, Alex's behavior was appalling and no different than that of a beggar.

There's no way I would lose to someone like that. The look Ichiro gave Alex was filled with contempt.

After wiping his mouth, Alex smiled at the waitress. "Can I trouble you again for one more plate? This pasta is amazing!"

He wants more? Evidently, he is a poor b*stard that hasn't been exposed to the world. Even though his outfit is still acceptable, he is nothing compared to me.

"Go ahead and eat all you want. After all, someone like you has probably never eaten in such an expensive restaurant before. On the account of Ms. Sawyer, this meal shall be on me, so don't worry about it. Feel free to order as much pasta as you want," Ichiro declared generously.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1014

Alex was caught by surprise when Ichiro wanted to get the bill just to prove that he was superior.

Nevertheless, pride didn't matter to Alex at all. In fact, he felt that he would be a fool not to take advantage of Ichiro's generosity.

"Sure, Mr. Ogawa. Since you are kind enough to pay, I would like to order five hundred pounds of pasta!"

Since there was someone willing to foot the bill, Alex decided to milk Ichiro for all his worth by asking for

five hundred pounds of pasta.

"The hell? Have you been starving or something? How dare you ask for five hundred pounds? Are you trying to pull a fast one?" one of Ichiro's lackeys sneered.

"If my memory serves me right, Mr. Ogawa told me that I could order as much as I wanted. Now that I'm asking for five hundred pounds, are you trying to go back on your words because of the amount?" Alex taunted Ichiro with a raised brow.

Even though Alex's greed was unexpected, Ichiro was heartened by the development, for it demonstrated what a useless person Alex was. Perhaps, Elsa will see his true nature and ignore him!

"I'm a man of my word. Besides, I can still afford five hundred pounds of pasta." Ichiro turned his attention to the waitress and ordered, "Prepare the pasta as requested."

"I'm sorry, but please bear with me for a while as this matter is beyond my authority. Let me check with my manager first." With that, the waitress went off to speak to her manager.

Pretending to be well-intentioned, Ichiro reminded Alex, "Mister, regardless of how delicious the pasta is, it doesn't cost much. You should have more of the other dishes since this is such a rare occasion for you."

"Thank you, Mr. Ogawa." Alex expressed his gratitude and didn't say anything further.

Even though Elsa had no idea what Alex was up to, she instinctively decided to trust him.

"Hey, Elsa, what the hell is he doing? Could it be that he's actually dirt poor? If he is, he might not be deserving of you," Helen murmured to Elsa.

Not deserving of me?

Upon hearing those words, Elsa let out a selfdeprecating smile.

Alex has plenty of women by his side, many of which are prettier and gentler than me. In fact, most of them come from better families than I. Thus, I'm the one who doesn't deserve him. If the chairman of both Four Seas Corporation and the tech dome is considered poor, no one would dare to claim that they are rich.

"I'm the one that's unworthy of him," Elsa mumbled as she stared at Alex admiringly.

Ever since she was young, she was never short of

suitors due to her beauty. However, none of them ever caught her eye.

In fact, she had begun to wonder if she was someone who didn't have any feelings at all when she didn't seem interested in a loving relationship.

It wasn't until she met Alex that she learned what love felt like. It felt as if her heart would beat for him all the time. He would appear in her mind whenever she closed her eyes, and seem to be standing in front of her whenever she opened them.

As Elsa continued to gawk at Alex, she couldn't hear Ichiro calling out to her.

As a result, Ichiro felt dejected, for the woman he liked fancied someone else. It was a truly miserable feeling indeed.

What does she see in that idiot for her to swoon over him to that extent? Ichiro was on the brink of being overwhelmed by jealousy.

Meanwhile, one of the men who was ingratiating himself with Ichiro suggested, "Speaking of pasta, I remember that Jetroina is famous for its Moonlight pasta. In fact, the pasta from Eurasia is nothing compared to it. My family loves to eat Moonlight pasta considering how delicious it is. It's extremely expensive and costs tens per pound."

Ichiro's mood improved when he heard the Eurasian praising Jetroinian pasta. Hence, he replied with a smile, "The Moonlight pasta from Jetroina is really tasty. Since you're a fan, I'll present you a few hundred pounds of it next time."

"Really? In that case, I would like to thank you in advance." The man stood up and gave Ichiro a

grateful bow.

At that moment, the manager of the restaurant approached them and asked, "Sirs, are you sure you want to order five hundred pounds of pasta?"

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1015

"My companion says that the pasta your restaurant serves is delicious. As such, I would like to present him with five hundred pounds of it so that he can eat his fill. Anyway, have you prepared them?" Ichiro asked.

"I'm afraid we can't spare that much, as we only have five hundred pounds of it in stock. In view of our business operations, it would be impossible for us not to serve it to other customers. Moreover, our pasta is a crowd favorite and many of our customers have already made reservations," the manager explained awkwardly.

Alex, too, understood that five hundred pounds were too much. Given that the restaurant needed it for their business, it would be unreasonable for him to buy all of it.

"In that case, how much can you spare? I'll take whatever that's available, while Mr. Ogawa here will pay for it." Smiling, Alex turned to Ichiro and asked, "Isn't that right, Mr. Ogawa?"

Despite giving Alex the side-eye, Ichiro nodded in agreement just to maintain a good impression in front

of Elsa.

As a titan of the Jetroinian food and beverage industry, there was no way he could argue with a poor kid over a few hundred pounds of pasta. After all, doing so would only sully his reputation.

"Our restaurant can only provide you with a hundred pounds of pasta. Also, we require you to pay upfront before we pack it." The manager smiled cordially at Ichiro.

However, one of Ichiro's companions complained, "What's the big deal about a hundred pounds? By asking us to pay first, are you inferring that we can't afford to do so?"

The manager laughed at the man's words before going on to explain, "The rule that payment is required before we pack the pasta is one that management

has set. At the end of the day, I'm just an employee here and can't change the rules on my own accord."

Just when the man was about to retort, Ichiro reached out to stop him. After all, a hundred pounds of pasta was no big deal, and it didn't make a difference to him whether he paid then or later.

"There's fifty thousand in this card. Go ahead and swipe it. As for the balance, consider them as tips," Ichiro declared arrogantly as he placed a card on the table.

instead of picking up the card, the manager maintained his cordial smile and informed Ichiro, "Sir, fifty thousand isn't enough to cover it. You have racked up a total of nine hundred and twenty thousand on your bill."

"What? Nine hundred and twenty thousand? Mister,

this is daylight robbery!" one of Ichiro's companions thundered as he sprang to his feet and slammed the table concurrently.

This time, Ichiro didn't stop him. Even though he was rich, it didn't mean that he would allow himself to be taken advantage of. How can a meal plus a hundred pounds of pasta rack up such a massive bill? They might as well commit robbery at such prices. This restaurant is nothing but a con!

"Mister, I remember that I ate a similar amount of food the last time I was here and the bill only came up to between twenty to thirty thousand. So how did it spike up to nine hundred thousand? Even if you inflated the price behind our backs, isn't it still ridiculous? How is this different from a scam?"

One of Ichiro's companions asked in order to help him avoid embarrassment.

"We are a trustworthy establishment with a long history. There's no way we would unscrupulously inflate the price of your meals. The meal itself isn't expensive. It's the pasta that caused the bill to skyrocket," the manager explained with a grin.

Snorting, the man retorted, "Can Eurasia's pasta beat the Moonlight pasta of Jetroina? Moonlight pasta costs tens per pound. Even if we use that price, the bill would only amount to tens of thousands at most. So your pricing is just ridiculous!"

At that moment, Alex couldn't tolerate how Ichiro's companion was speaking. During the war in the old days, there were many hated traitors within Eurasia. This man is no different from them by worshipping foreign products.

"I'm afraid your lack of exposure has given you the

impression that Jetroina's Moonlight pasta is better than Eurasia's pasta. Are you going to say that a Jetronian's poop smells nice next?" Alex asked the man while glaring at him.

"Y-You... What I say is the truth. Jetroina's Moonlight pasta does taste better than that of Eurasia's," the man insisted.

"As a fellow Eurasian, I feel embarrassed on your behalf. Since you know nothing about pasta, let me explain to you how Eurasia's pasta is superior to that of Jetroina's," Alex asserted coldly.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1016

"The highlight of this restaurant is Marsingfill pasta, which is also the local specialty. The wheat used to make the pasta demands a lot from the soil it's planted in. Hence, it is only produced in an area that's no bigger than a hundred acres. Since the land needs to be irrigated by a mountain spring, its annual production doesn't exceed a hundred pounds.

"Furthermore, out of the top ten best kinds of pasta in the world, seven of them come from Eurasia. As for the Moonlight pasta of Jetroina that you praise so highly of, it has actually never been heard of before."

Alex hadn't intended to say all that, but he simply couldn't tolerate Ichiro's companion anymore. The reason he bothered to make the explanation was to show them how stupid worshipping foreign products were.

"Mister, I'm surprised that you know even more than I do. Everything you've said is correct. Marsingfill pasta costs nine thousand per pound. Therefore, a hundred pounds would add up to nine hundred thousand. Including the amount for your meal, that's how the total bill came up to nine hundred and twenty thousand," the manager chimed in.

At that moment, the thought of paying such a tremendous amount caused Ichiro to feel an intense heartache. It also dawned upon him that Alex had lured him into a trap on purpose.

If he thinks that nine hundred thousand can deter me, he couldn't be any more wrong. After shooting Alex a glare, Ichiro took out a gold card from his bag.

"Swipe this one instead." While bringing out his card, Ichiro subconsciously puffed up his chest and put on a smug smile. He even snuck a glance at Elsa to

check if she was looking at him.

After all, he was holding a gold card from Global Bank. Whenever he flashed the card, everyone would treat him with the utmost respect, for the card was a symbol of prestige.

Just as expected, his companion's face lit up as he stared at the card in Ichiro's hand.

Worried that the others were unaware of the card's significance, he asked loudly, "Mr. Ogawa, if memory serves me right, isn't that card a gold card from Global Bank? Doesn't that mean that you have assets worth more than a billion? Oh, my God!"

Satisfied with the man's response, Ichiro gloated, "This is nothing but a mere gold card from Global Bank. Give me another twenty years, and the Ogawa family's success in Jetroina will definitely help put the black card within my grasp."

Meanwhile, Alex cringed as he watched what was unfolding before him. Looks like Ichiro isn't just poor but has grandiose delusions too.

As for the manager, he didn't care what color his client's card was. All that mattered was that it could cover the bill.

Just when the manager was about to leave after swiping the card, Alex called out to him.

"Sir, may I know if your establishment serves Jetroina's Moonlight pasta?"

Stunned, the manager had no idea what Alex was up to. After buying Marsingfill pasta, he is now inquiring about Moonlight pasta? For those not in the know, they would likely think that he is here to procure pasta

instead of having a meal.

"Mister, we do have some Moonlight pasta in stock.
But since it's imported, the price is higher than that in
Jetroina due to the transportation costs," the manager
explained.

Chuckling plainly, Alex replied in a nonchalant tone, "How much of it do you have in storage? I'll take all of it."

"Well... we still have eight hundred pounds," the manager replied anxiously.

By then, the manager's suspicion that Alex was actually there to buy pasta instead of having a meal intensified. The problem is, can he finish eating eight hundred pounds of pasta?

"I'll take everything!" Alex declared without hesitation

as if he was buying eight pounds of pasta instead of eight hundred.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1017

Ichiro and his companions had no idea what Alex was trying to do. Firstly, he makes me spend more than nine hundred thousand to buy a hundred pounds of Marsingfill pasta. And now, he wants to buy eight hundred more pounds of pasta? Is he taking me for a fool?

Unbeknownst to them, Alex wasn't putting them in a spot on purpose. The reason he finished three plates

of pasta was that the Jefferson family always had Marsingfill pasta back home. When the taste of the pasta reminded him of home, he ended up eating more than one normally would.

"Kid, what are you trying to pull? When I promised to treat you to a meal, it only covers the one hundred pounds of Marsingfill pasta. As for the eight hundred pounds of Moonlight pasta, that has nothing to do with me. I'm not going to let you take advantage of me to stock up on pasta," Ichiro snapped as he held a grudge against Alex.

"Don't worry, I'll pay for the eight hundred pounds of pasta myself." Just as he spoke, Alex turned his attention to the manager and asked, "How much do the eight hundred pounds of Moonlight pasta cost?"

"A hundred thousand."

A hundred thousand was nothing to Ichiro. However, he wondered if Alex could afford it at all.

Since Alex had reassured him that he didn't need to pay, Ichiro was curious as to where the former would find a hundred thousand.

Worried that Elsa would offer to help Alex, Ichiro remarked, "Kid, when you said that you would pay for the eight hundred pounds of pasta, I hope you're not planning to get Ms. Sawyer to help you. After all, what kind of man would you be if you did?"

Even though Elsa didn't understand what Alex bought the Moonlight pasta for, she knew that he had his reasons for doing so.

Alex is the chairman of Four Seas Corporation and has a net worth of hundreds of billions. There's no way he would need my help just for a hundred

thousand.

"Mr. Ogawa, please rest assured that I won't interfere in this matter."

Given that Elsa has made her stand clear, she would definitely not help him. It's just a matter of time before the kid embarrasses himself. Holding that thought, Ichiro broke into a devious smile.

After Alex had passed her test, Helen had a good impression of him and felt that he would make a good match for Elsa. Nonetheless, from the consecutive incidents that unfolded, her perception of him began to muddle.

Why would he buy eight hundred pounds of pasta for no reason? Even a family of three can't finish that amount of Moonlight pasta in a year. Other than wasting a hundred thousand, he's also letting food go to waste.

With no patience to wait, Alex flashed his black card and handed it to the manager. Then, he instructed in an indifferent tone, "Swipe this."

Ichiro was awestruck at the sight of Alex's black card. Unable to believe his eyes, he rubbed them a couple of times before continuing to gawk in amazement.

Just a few minutes ago, he had made an ambitious declaration to obtain a black card from Global Bank twenty years later. Thus, it wouldn't have crossed his mind that the young man he had just ridiculed would end up having one.

There's no way someone who owns a black card from Global Bank is an ordinary person. So, it turns out that Alex is filthy rich. No wonder Elsa is interested in him.

"By the way, mister, please take a hundred and fifty thousand from the card and help me cook all eight hundred pounds of the pasta. When I was coming down the hill, I saw a bunch of stray dogs up there who looked extremely pitiful. I'd like you to please feed them the cooked Moonlight pasta." While Alex was giving instructions, his gaze swept across Ichiro and his two companions.

Meanwhile, Ichiro and the two men's expressions darkened at the scene. Given that we had just extolled the virtues of Jetroina's Moonlight pasta, isn't he insinuating that we're dogs by feeding it to the strays?

Even though the two companions were outraged, they had no choice but to swallow their anger. After all, the fact that Alex owned a black card clearly demonstrated that he wasn't someone they could

afford to mess with.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1018

In the meantime, Elsa and Helen covered their mouths to hide their laughter. What a deft move by Alex!

Despite Ichiro's anger, he didn't lose sight of the original purpose of his visit, which was to expand his food and beverage business into Eurasia.

Alex must be someone prominent in the nation since he owns a black card. If I can get him to collaborate with me, my plans would definitely be a success.

With that thought in mind, Ichiro forced himself to apologize with a respectful smile, "Mr. Jefferson, I'm sorry for being rude earlier."

He bowed deeply at Alex to express his regret. In Jetroinian culture, bowing would alleviate one's wrong regardless of how serious it was. Unfortunately, Alex wasn't interested in any of it at all.

"There's no need for you to apologize, as you are nothing to me," Alex remarked indifferently. His tone was devoid of any respect for Ichiro.

Surprised by Alex's hostile attitude, Ichiro's expression turned solemn. Nonetheless, he bore with the humiliation for the sake of his ambition and the Global Bank's black card.

"Mr. Jefferson, it was I who didn't know my place earlier. Since you are the perfect match for Ms. Sawyer, I will stop pursuing her going forward. Naturally, I'm still interested in discussing collaboration between us in the food and beverage business. With you as a partner, I'm sure Jetroinian food will be able to expand successfully in Eurasia. By then, both of us would achieve glory and profits, and it would be a win-win scenario!" Ichiro proposed enthusiastically.

Alex sneered in response. No wonder Ichiro changed his attitude toward me so quickly. It turns out that he wants to make use of my position to get a foothold in Eurasia and profit off Eurasians.

"If you're thinking of using me to make money in Eurasia, you can forget about it. Besides, Four Seas Corporation, which I own, has establishments throughout Eurasia and also restaurants of their own.

We do not need any foreign culture at all," Alex asserted coldly.

Helen, who had been watching Alex thrash Ichiro, was now mesmerized and stared at Alex as if she was intoxicated by the sight of him.

"Elsa, I finally understand why you like him. He is extremely brash, just like the protagonists in romance novels. He is also rich, handsome, and loyal. Even I can't resist his charms," she exclaimed in admiration.

Elsa simply stared at Alex blankly without saying a word. My best friend is attracted to Alex the very first time she meets him. Evidently, Alex becomes the center of attention wherever he goes!

After settling the bill, Alex left together with Elsa and Helen. As for Ichiro and his companions, they didn't follow after that.

"Mr. Ogawa, I just did a background check on Alex online. He was married twice and even has two children. Previously, he was a live-in son-in-law for the Jennings family. However, he suddenly became inexplicably rich," Ichiro's companion reported.

Since he's a live-in son-in-law, his wife must be the source of his wealth. In fact, everything he has now must very likely be obtained from some other rich and powerful woman. Regardless of how rich he is, a man like this isn't worthy of my goddess, Elsa, at all!

Nonetheless, Alex treated Elsa indifferently despite her feelings for him, much to Ichiro's jealous chagrin.

"Mr. Ogawa, I think the way you're pursuing Ms. Sawyer isn't appropriate. Why don't I share with you a method of mine?" the man suggested in a self-aggrandizing manner.

If Alex had agreed to work with him, Ichiro would have dropped the idea of pursuing Elsa. But now that Alex had not only humiliated him but also rejected his proposal for collaboration, Ichiro resolved to get his hands on Elsa by hook or by crook.

Upon hearing his companion's proposal, Ichiro cracked a smile that gradually widened into a vibrant one.

"That's a great plan. I didn't expect this from you. Well done!"

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1019

At Nebula Elementary School, a little girl rebuked, "Did I say you could touch my things? The things that you've touched are filthy!" The girl had doll-like features, and her hair was tied back into two ponytails. She picked up the pencil on the table and hurled it to the floor.

"But this pencil was on the floor. I just helped you pick it up!" Stanley said in an attempt to explain himself.

I'm only trying to help her pick up the pencil. Why is she throwing a tantrum at me? Needless to say, Stanley was confounded.

The little girl went back to her seat and shot a glare at Stanley. "In the future, you are forbidden to touch any of my things, even if they're on the floor. Don't be a busybody!"

Stanley grew upset at those words. After all, their teacher had asked them to help each other out. He was only heeding the teacher's advice and helped out his classmate. He did not expect that he would get lectured for doing somebody a favor.

Right then, another little girl who had naturally curly hair and wearing a floral dress pulled Stanley back to his own seat.

The little girl was Stanley's desk mate, Tanya Silverstone. She was previously besties with the little girl who threw a tantrum at Stanley. However, they somehow got into a fight and had not made up since.

"Stanley, just ignore Jessie. She's a loner. Nobody likes to play with her. Besides, I've never seen her parents even after being friends with her for so long. I was the only one playing with her all this while. One day, I drank a sip of her water and she called me a

'poor beggar!' So I'll tell you now that she's a really terrible person. Even if our other classmates are bullying her, you don't need to help her out. After all, if you do, she might go on and blame you for helping!" Tanya chattered on to Stanley.

Stanley turned around to look at the little girl who lashed out at him. So, she's Jessie Wilson, huh? Why is she so weird though? And why doesn't she have parents?

Stanley went to elementary school when the school reopened as he had graduated from kindergarten.

Owing to his easygoing nature, he quickly became friendly with the other kids from the same class.

Jessie was the only one who paid no heed to him.

Hence, Stanley grew more curious about Jessie. On the one hand, he wanted to know why her temperament was so weird. On the other hand, because she was different from the other kids, he found her to be quite cool.

After getting off from school, Stanley did not get into his driver's car. Instead, he followed Jessie around like he was Jessie's shadow.

Normally, someone would come and fetch Stanley home. It would either be Alex, Flynn, or Maria. If they were all busy, the driver would come and pick him up instead. They would never let him go home alone.

After a while, Jessie noticed that Stanley was tailing her. She shot a glare at the boy and demanded, "Why are you following me? Are you trying to get back at me for throwing a tantrum at you? Well, I'll tell you right now that I'm skilled at Taekwondo! If you dare come near me, I will beat you up so bad you're going to run home crying!"

Stanley had learned martial arts from Zachary. On top of his innate talent, he could single-handedly beat up one or two adults at the same time despite his young age. Hence, he did not fear the little girl's threats at all.

"That's not it. I just saw that you're going home all alone, and I'm afraid that you might encounter some bad people along the way. I'm just trying to see you home safely. If you really bump into bad people, I can help you chase them off," Stanley explained.

Jessie was stumped and relaxed her tightened fist. She had an inexplicable look on her face as she gaze at Stanley. Her mysophobia had made it difficult for her to get along with her peers. Despite her lashing out at the little boy in the morning, he still tried to see her home safely. Jessie had to admit that she was quite touched by the little boy's kind gesture.

"Jess, is this your friend? Hurry up and welcome him inside!" a woman said warmly.

The door to Jessie's house sprung open right then. A pretty woman who was in her late twenties came from behind the door with an apron on.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1020

Jessie widened her eyes in disbelief when she saw the woman coming out of the house.

Stanley, likewise, was stumped as well. He still remembered his desk mate, Tanya, telling him that

Jessie did not have parents. So, who is this woman then?

"Mommy?" Jessie called out in a perplexed tone.

"Jess, what are you standing there for? Hurry up and invite your friend inside. I've just baked some cookies. They smell really delicious!" Jessie's mother exclaimed.

Stanley wanted to reject her and explained that he only intended to see Jessie home safely. Now that his mission was accomplished, he wanted to head home. However, Jessie's mother coaxed him and welcomed him into the house.

Jessie's mother, Sarah Scott, took her daughter's school bag off her shoulders and poured two glasses of milk. Then, she said, "Why don't you guys take a seat first? I'm going to fetch you guys the cookies."

Stanley was flabbergasted. He did not think that a cool and distant person like Jessie would have such a warm and welcoming mother. Not only that, Sarah was really pretty as well.

It did not take long for Sarah to serve them two trays of cookies. They were bear-shaped cookies. The smell of the cookies was so enticing that it almost made Stanley drool.

Sarah put a small plate in front of Stanley. Being the attentive boy he was, he noticed a scalded red mark on her hand right away.

"Your hand—"

Before Stanley could finish his sentence, Sarah hurriedly retracted her hand and said to Stanley with a smile, "It's nothing. Hurry up and try out the cookies."

Then, she turned to Jessie and said, "Jess, you should eat up too. Your Aunt Annie mentioned that you had a lot of food last time at her place, and even Eric had to fight with you for it. But you don't need to worry about anyone snatching your food this time, for I'll cook for you whenever you want."

Stanley, who was silently munching on the cookies aside, grew envious as he listened to the conversation. He would have given anything for his mother to be by his side and bake him cookies.

However, the reality was that it would be difficult for him to enjoy such motherly love. Hence, he was green with envy by how Jessie's mother doted on her.

Before Stanley could take another bite, a small hand punched hard at his arm, making him drop the cookie to the floor. Subsequently, a red palm mark appeared on his arm.

Stanley felt the numbing pain and shot a confused look at Jessie. I didn't do anything to offend her. So why is she hitting me?

"Are you a beggar? Why are you simply eating anything that a random stranger offers you? Besides, my mommy made this, and I'm not letting you eat it. So get the hell out of my house right now!" Jessie yelled as she pointed in the direction of the door.

Stanley was rendered speechless. He thought that her impassive demeanor was quite cool. However, now, he was starting to think that she was quite mean.

Sarah did not expect that her daughter could be so outrageous and demeaning toward her own friend. If she keeps up with this attitude, I doubt anyone would

be willing to befriend her.

"Jess, how could you talk to your friend like that? Hurry up and apologize to him. Otherwise, I'm going to punish you!" Sarah warned.

Stanley thought that Jessie would tone down after her mother had scolded her. However, the little girl grew even more irate and threw the two trays of cookies to the floor before proceeding to stomp on the cookies.

"You don't have the right to criticize me! You only gave birth to me and did nothing else! You have never taken care of me! Don't think for a second that I will forgive you just because you've treated me nicely today. That's impossible!" Jessie bellowed at her own mother.

Her eyes fleeted across Sarah's hand which was scalded. Then, she stormed upstairs to head back to

her own room, slamming her door shut and locking her door.

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FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 1021

"I'm sorry," Sarah said to Stanley apologetically. "Jess isn't usually like this. She must've gone through something bad to be behaving like this. I hope you won't take it to heart and that you'll come over to play again."

Before Stanley left, she didn't forget to give the boy a lovely box of homemade cookies.

Stanley frowned inwardly. Jessie's weird, but her mommy seems really nice. Why doesn't Jessie treasure her? It's no wonder the other girls and boys in our class don't want to play with her.

After he left, Sarah heaved a sigh and glanced at the school bag on the table sorrowfully. Then, she went upstairs and stood outside Jessie's door.

"Jess, I know you're upset at me for not keeping you company, but I had to work so we could get by. If I could, I would love to remain by your side, watch you grow each day, play with you, help you with your homework, and make you lots of desserts so you can have a good childhood."

Inside the room, Jessie curled up underneath her blanket. She tried to cover her ears to block out her mother's words, but her tears couldn't stop falling.

Sarah began to cry too, but she took a deep breath, wiped her tears, and composed herself. "I know I've neglected you a lot," she said with a wry smile. "That's why I've decided to quit my job so I can spend more time with you. Now, I can prepare your breakfast, brush your hair, and take you to school. In fact, anything you want me to do, I'll do it for you. So, can you forgive me, Jess?"

Being met with silence, the look of eagerness on her face slowly faded as she sighed hopelessly. Maybe it's a bit too late to apologize.

Life was hard without money. This was a truth Sarah had been forced to face, and the memories remained fresh in her mind up until now.

Back when Jessie was still nine months old, Sarah was a full-time housewife. While she spent all day looking after her daughter, her husband worked as

the manager of a small firm. His salary was just about enough to cover their mortgage fees and living expenses.

Just as Sarah thought the three of them would continue living happily, life was ultimately unpredictable. One day, it rained so heavily that the grounds began to flood.

She gazed out at the downpour, carrying a nine-month-old Jessie as the clock struck ten. Her husband should have been home by then, but he remained nowhere to be seen, and his phone was switched off.

An ominous feeling brewed within Sarah. She wanted to head outside to find her husband, but the violent storm and pelting rain made it so that she wouldn't be able to manage on her own. Besides, she couldn't leave her infant behind.

Time ticked by as she sat on the couch awaiting her husband's return. Yet, the man never showed up despite her waiting all night.

Alas, she received a phone call from the police informing her that her husband had unfortunately met his fate in a car accident during the pouring rain.

Seeing her husband lying in bed with his eyes tightly shut and feeling the coldness of his hand sent a stabbing pain into Sarah's heart. She was so helpless at the time that she wanted to die with him, but there was no way she could leave her nine-month-old daughter on her own.

After her husband's passing, all the burden fell on her shoulders.

Despite the couple having initially taken up a

mortgage to buy their own place, home didn't feel like home anymore. Instead, she had to worry about paying the mortgage fee of five thousand a month in addition to buying her daughter's milk and diapers. It only took less than three months for all of Sarah's savings to be depleted.

Left without a choice, Sarah could only seek her brother out for help. Nonetheless, borrowing some money from her older brother was but a short-term solution. From then on, she depended on her brother and sister-in-law to care for Jessie while she worked hard for money.

While her brother had a job, her sister-in-law would help raise Jessie together with their own son, Eric. For that, Sarah would pay her two thousand each month.

Just like that, time flew by quickly. Jessie was now

seven-years-old, but she wasn't close with Sarah at all. Rather, there was resentment in the little girl's eyes whenever she looked at her own mother.

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