

FINDING OUT THE BILLIONAIRE

Chapter 211

Desmond's cheeks flushed with embarrassment.

However, he was brought up in a prominent family, so he refused to apologize to a loser.

Gritting his teeth, he sneered, "Ha! I don't like owing favors. Tell me. What do you want from me?"

He rolled up his sleeves and showed Alex his arm. "Look, this is a vintage Patek Philippe watch I got for one and a half million at an auction. Have you ever seen something this good?"

The watch on his hand sparkled in the sunlight. As the crowd took in the astonishingly intricate engravings adorning the watch's 18k white gold case, their eyes

widened in disbelief.

It seemed to be a genuine Patek Philippe model. No wonder it was worth over one million.

Vicks swallowed hard upon seeing the expensive watch. He blurted enviously, “Damn, that’s a rare item!”

“Ha! Of course!” Desmond was pleased with the crowd’s reaction. He started putting on an arrogant front as his fear disappeared in an instant.

“Is this watch enough?” He was about to remove the watch to give it to Alex.

Alex stared at the pretentious man and grinned.

“You’re rich, huh? Your watch seems nice, but it’s such a pity that it’s a fake.”

Desmond looked taken aback as he retaliated,
“Nonsense! There’s no way my Patek’s a fake!”

“If you don’t believe me, just ask the other antique dealers around.”

Alex shrugged and continued, “Some people are rich but know nothing about antiques. If they insist on pretending, they might end up being deceived by their so-called friends.”

Fury overwhelmed Desmond when he realized Alex’s sarcastic words were directed at him. He spat out angrily, “If my watch is genuine, you need to get on your knees and beg for my forgiveness. How’s that?”

“Sure,” Alex agreed casually. “I can’t believe you thought this fake Patek is real - it’s as if you’ve mistaken glass for diamond.”

A red blush crept up Desmond's cheeks upon hearing his insults. He turned to the crowd and commanded, "Nolan, Leeroy. Help me appraise this watch."

The antique dealers who he had just called exchanged glances, obviously torn.

If they agreed to appraise the watch, they would end up offending one or the other.

"Mr. Jones, we aren't skilled enough to appraise your watch."

Desmond retorted furiously, "I know what you're capable of. Appraise my watch, now. It doesn't matter if my watch turns out to be fake - I promise I wouldn't come after you because of it. But don't you dare try to fool me. I'll get someone else to appraise it later, and I won't spare you if you dare to lie to me."

“Mr. Jones, don’t get mad.”

The both of them immediately approached him, trembling in fear.

No one at Portabello Street dared to go against Desmond Jones, so the antique dealers had no choice but to take his watch and appraise it.

After a few minutes, one of them replied in a trembling voice, “M-Mr. Jones, that man is right. Your watch...”

“Say it!” Desmond ordered.

The antique dealer hurriedly explained, “Your watch is a replica.”

At his words, Desmond turned ghastly pale before he flushed a bright red, as if someone had just slapped him forcefully.

He swallowed a few times, seconds away from exploding in anger.

The two antique dealers hurriedly retreated to the crowd in fear.

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Alex smirked. “Do you believe me now? You spent one and a half million on a replica. You sure have a lot of money, huh?”

“I was mistaken that once,” Desmond announced,

clenching his jaw. “It’s just one and a half million. That’s nothing to me. Even if my watch is fake, this vintage jade pendant is real!”

Desmond was certain this jade pendant was genuine as he had asked a jewelry appraiser to appraise it previously. It was an authentic Art Deco piece.

He shot Alex a disdainful look and popped his collar open. A jade pendant appeared in everyone’s sight. He removed the jade pendant from his neck. “This should be enough to repay your favor.”

He snorted and added, “This Art Deco piece has been blessed by the Divine Priest. It was a gift King Vincent received from his father on his eighteenth birthday. It’s worth at least three million! I always wear it so it can bring me good luck.”

After listening to the origins of the jade pendant,

everyone craned their necks to catch a glimpse of it.

Vicks breathed heavily in excitement. He stared at the jade pendant unblinkingly. His gaze was so greedy, like he was about to swallow the pendant if he could.

Desmond held the jade pendant and sneered, “The poor buy watches while the rich buy jade. You can’t even afford to buy a decent outfit, let alone antiques. Dream on!”

He was thanking Alex for saving him, but his tone was so sarcastic that everyone started giving Alex the once-over.

Indeed, Alex didn’t seem like he was rich. He was clad in a plain white T-shirt, jeans, and a pair of sneakers. His appearance resembled that of an ordinary office worker.

Desmond's outfit might seem simple, but any knowledgeable man would know his suit was a bespoke suit that cost at least six digits.

Alex stared at an arrogant Desmond. How funny, he thought. He is not a horrible guy. He's just a foolish rich brat.

"I don't want this," Alex snorted in reply. "I can't believe you're wearing a piece of cursed jewelry. How foolish of you."

"What did you say? Nonsense!" Desmond was practically fuming by then.

Alex's reply was curt. "It's cursed. You're lucky you haven't died from wearing it."

Desmond's face fell, but because of what had happened earlier, he didn't know if Alex was telling

the truth. Glaring at Alex, he demanded, “What proof do you have?”

“Look at the shape of the jade pendant carefully,” Alex answered icily. “When you bought it, didn’t you check what it was used for?”

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Desmond replied weakly, “Isn’t this a gift from King Vincent’s father to him on his eighteen birthday? It’s shaped like a gourd, which symbolizes luck. Every antique dealer knows that. Loser, are you trying to trick me? I’m not a fool!”

Everyone stared at Alex in confusion, especially the antique dealers who immediately knew this pendant was indeed worth millions.

Alex is outrageously greedy for refusing this valuable pendant, they mused.

As Desmond refused to give in, Alex shook his head and mocked, “You don’t even know the difference between a gourd and a plug? Have you heard about the ancient saying, ‘Jade allows you to attain immortality after death’?”

“Huh? Jade? Immortality after death?” Desmond echoed with confusion.

Alex shook his head. “You don’t know about that? Then you should know what the Jade Plugs are, right?”

“Jade Plugs?” Desmond repeated foolishly.

He was a fan of antiques, but he didn't dedicate much time to study them. He'd only buy those antiques recommended by his friends and show them off to others.

“Fool!” Alex sneered. “The Jade Plugs are stuffed into a corpse's ears, nose, mouth, reproductive parts, and anus. A total of nine body orifices.”

“Corpse?” Desmond's lips parted as he stared at Alex in disbelief.

He glanced at the jade pendant on his neck and felt the hairs on his body stand in fear.

Is this from a corpse? he thought, utterly horrified.

Alex continued taunting him, “Looks like you’re clueless. This jade pendant of yours was used to plug the anus. Isn’t it disgusting to have it hanging on your neck?”

Desmond was rendered speechless. He gazed at the jade pendant in his hand as disgust overwhelmed his entire being.

This jade pendant was stuffed in a corpse’s anus? But I thought it was lucky and even hung it on my neck for three years!

I even bit on it playfully because I love it so much. Damn it, does that mean I tasted an ancient corpse’s s**t?

Desmond hunched over and made a retching sound as that thought occurred to him.

The crowd who was craning their necks earlier immediately cast mocking looks at him.

Some were even ridiculing Desmond for paying so much for a piece of cursed jewelry.

Alex declared icily, “Since this jade pendant has been on the corpse for a long time, it is cursed and will bring bad luck to its owner!” He added, “If you continue to wear it, you’ll die within one year. You’re lucky enough because I saved you today. I don’t think you’ll be this lucky next time.”

Upon hearing these words, the onlookers surrounding Desmond immediately inched away, afraid that his bad luck would affect them.

Even Vicks who was right beside him scrambled up and ran away.

Vicks wasn't a real expert and had survived by despicable means, but as he had come across tomb raiders previously, he knew Alex wasn't lying.

Desmond was shocked and met Alex's gaze stiffly.

He didn't doubt Alex at all because his previous prediction had come true.

"Sir, are you telling the truth?" Autumn piped up as she looked at Alex sternly.

The Jones family had been really unlucky recently, but no one knew why.

Hence, something occurred to her after hearing Alex's words.

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Alex glanced at Autumn before regarding Desmond with an impassive look on his face. He snorted and said, “You have been unlucky since the start of this year, right? Besides this accident today, you must’ve been involved in other accidents, right?”

Desmond gazed at Alex in astonishment.

He was indeed terribly unlucky this year. Earlier this year, he was involved in a car accident. If he wasn’t in his extremely durable Hummer, he would’ve lost his life.

Even so, his driver had died on the spot while he suffered from broken ribs. He was hospitalized for two months before he was discharged.

Right now, Desmond broke out into a cold sweat as he pulled the jade pendant off his neck and threw it away.

The crowd immediately backed away to avoid being hit by the cursed pendant.

A flash of shock appeared in Autumn's eyes. She no longer doubted Alex's words.

Upon seeing Desmond's reaction, Alex sneered silently. If he hadn't reminded Desmond today, the young man would've died within this year.

"Who are you?" Desmond gritted his teeth and demanded.

He knows a lot about me. Is he sent by a rival? he wondered.

“I am someone you shouldn’t mess with,” Alex returned coolly and turned to leave.

Desmond thought Alex was uttering nonsense and wanted to escape, so he hurriedly hollered, “Take him! How dare you lie to me? Someone must’ve ordered you to do this!”

“I shouldn’t mess with you? Ha! I call the shots in Gorden City!”

He ordered, “Take him down and break his legs. I want to know who sent him here!”

Desmond was certain it was a business rival who had sent Alex here. Otherwise, the man wouldn’t have

known about his car accident earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Autumn's frown deepened. Her instincts told her Alex wasn't a swindler.

Strangely, she trusted Alex without hesitation.

At his orders, the bodyguards took action and stopped Alex from leaving.

“Is this how a Jones repays someone who had just saved his life?”

Alex's gaze darkened as he kicked a burly bodyguard blocking his way. He moved swiftly toward Desmond and grabbed his collar.

“What are you doing? Let me down if you don't want to die a horrible death!” As Desmond was lifted into the air, he yelled in horror and threatened.

The other bodyguards dared not act recklessly as their boss was lifted off the ground.

“I’m from the Jones family. If you dare to harm me, your entire family will bear the consequences!”

An icy glint appeared in Alex’s eyes as he glowered at Desmond. “I can save you, but I can kill you, too. You can continue challenging my limits if you dare.”

Desmond was shocked to the core by Alex’s ferocious glare.

“Sir, please spare his life.”

Right then, Autumn bowed deeply before Alex. She met Alex’s gaze and pleaded sincerely, “Sir, my cousin is young and immature. Please don’t take his words to heart. I’ll make sure he gets disciplined at

home.”

Alex huffed and threw a silent Desmond on the ground.

He dusted off his hands before gesturing for Jessica to leave with him.

“Sir, please wait!”

Autumn hurried over to them and stopped them from leaving.

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“Is something wrong?”

Alex stared blankly at Autumn.

“I’d like to ask you a question. My family has been going through a string of bad luck lately. Does that have something to do with the strange thing that my brother has been carrying around?” asked Autumn as she stared at Alex in anticipation.

Since Alex could see what was wrong with Desmond, then he could identify the issue within the Jones family as well.

“Yeah, the place he used to stay in must be filled with malicious energies and spirits. You guys mingle a lot lately, so it’s normal for your family to be affected as well,” answered Alex as he nodded.

Autumn's heart stirred. I knew it! The Jones family's recent bad luck has something to do with Desmond.

"Thank you for sharing the information. How do we solve the issue? Please help us. My mother is restless as she claims to see ghosts roaming in our home," said Autumn politely as she took a bow. She only wished that Alex would help her.

"I don't know how to solve it either. You should ask for someone else's help," replied Alex. He never gave it a thought before he rejected her request.

Alex would not help the Jones family under those circumstances.

Autumn was disappointed when she saw Alex and Jessica walking away.

"Autumn, this man is nothing but a fraud. Don't

believe in a word he said,” insisted Desmond.

Autumn turned to stare at Desmond intently, but the latter couldn't decipher the meaning of it. After a while, Autumn made a call to get someone to fix the car.

When they got home, Autumn shared everything she learned with her father.

“Dad, I believe the guy can solve our issue, but Desmond offended him, so he refused to help,” informed Autumn.

Stefan frowned and double-confirmed, “Did he really get everything right?”

Autumn nodded. “Yeah, I heard it with my own ears. Besides, only our family knows about this. So if an outsider like him knows that much, then he must have

some skills.”

Stefan paced back and forth before he finally decided. “If that man can solve the issue, then I will make Desmond publicly apologize to him. On top of that, I’ll even make Desmond give in to his demands.”

The Jones family had been down on luck lately. Their corporation kept getting into trouble, and some of their most profitable projects got cancelled. Their luck was simply horrible beyond words.

If the man was truly as capable as Autumn described him to be, then Stefan would pay the man handsomely.

Autumn shook her head and replied, “I don’t know what is his name, nor do I know how to contact him. It’d be a little difficult to look for him.”

Stefan shook his head and assured her, “Tracking him down would be easy. All we have to do is get our hands on the security camera’s footage.”

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Jessica’s grandma wasn’t staying in Nebula City. Instead, the elderly lady stayed in Airedale District.

Her family had a place in the city, but Jessica’s grandma preferred living in the suburbs.

The Saffin family was doing pretty well in Airedale; even their place in the suburbs was as spacious as a villa. The only difference was that the renovation wasn’t as luxurious as that of an actual villa.

For an elderly lady, however, a place like that was way more comfortable than a condo in the big city.

“Who’s going to be there for your grandma’s birthday? How many people will there be?” asked Alex, who was getting more and more nervous as they approached Jessica’s house.

Jessica had explained the situation to Alex beforehand. The thing was, her aunts insisted on getting her to go on blind dates, so Jessica asked Alex to be her fake boyfriend for the day to dissuade her aunts.

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Alex's scalp itched when he thought about how he would have to deal with Jessica's aunts, who were obviously into gossiping.

"Just a few people. All my uncles and aunts from my mother's side of the family, my cousins, some old friends from the village... It'd probably be a party that fills about twenty dining tables. Oh, and I heard that my grandma's mentor will bring her family over as well," replied Jessica nonchalantly.

"That is a lot. Will they badger me with countless questions? Will they figure out that I am a fake?" asked Alex. He suddenly felt a headache coming.

He would never have agreed to go if he had known that Jessica was only inviting him to the party to be the cannon fodder.

"Mr. Jefferson, my grandma is seventy years old. If

you think about it, she's bound to have met a lot of people, and naturally, her kids would have kids of their own already too. Hence, the number of attendees isn't really that alarming," explained Jessica in exasperation.

Seriously, is it really that difficult to be a fake boyfriend?

I am the one whose reputation in my traditional family is at stake here. So what is he so scared? If the managers in the company learn about this, they will mock and laugh their butts off.

Alex was exasperated. That was actually a pretty tough job for him.

"Oh, by the way, Mr. Jefferson, my aunts will definitely ask you about your age, your upbringing, and your career. How do you plan to answer them?" asked

Jessica suddenly.

“Err... I’ll just talk sh*t. It’s fine as long as it’s not too far-fetched, right?” replied Alex after thinking things through.

“Okay, if they ask about your job, just tell them that you work at Four Seas Corporation... Don’t say that you are the chairman’s driver, though.”

Jessica was tempted to laugh aloud when she thought about how Alex had told Heather that he was the chairman’s driver.

The funniest bit, however, was that the Jennings’ actually bought his lie!

“Should I just say that I am a manager?” asked Alex.

“Umm...” Jessica thought about it for a while before

answering, “Yeah, sure. Just tell them you’re a manager or they will discriminate against you.”

Jessica knew her family too well. Most of them were snobbish, and she knew that they would discriminate against Alex if he told them that he was just an ordinary employee.

They reached the village soon after. The road was jammed up with all the cars parked along there.

“That’s my grandma’s house right there,” informed Jessica as she pointed ahead.

The house was huge. Alex heard that Jessica’s great-grandpa owned a large piece of land and built a house there. The house had since been renovated multiple times as it passed down from an heir to another.

Alex stared at the house through the windshield. The place was lively. There were people who were there for the party as well as workers who were there as servant.

“Let’s just walk over,” suggested Jessica when the traffic wouldn’t budge even after they waited for a long while.

“Sure,” replied Alex as he nodded. The car was parked some distance away.

After that, the duo made their way to the vicinity of Jessica’s grandma’s front yard.

Alex couldn’t help feeling nervous when he saw that many people around.

That was the first time Alex had to deal with a situation like that. He felt like he was about to receive

a capital punishment when he thought about how he had to deal with Jessica's aunts.

“You know, Jessica, I am so perfect that the other rich brats may seem dull when compared to me. Your grandma and mom won't force us to get married or something, will they?” joked Alex.

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Jessica's heart stirred. She knew that Alex was just joking, but her heart still wished for that to actually happen.

She quickly shook her head to toss the demonic thought out of her. Jessica Saffin, keep it together! What the hell were you thinking about? Alex is married. Besides, he is an outstanding man so there's no way he'd be into woman like you!

"Don't worry. My mom is quite reasonable. She won't badger us about it," replied Jessica with a smile.

"Good," commented Alex as he grinned.

The two of them walked into the front yard and immediately saw a middle-aged lady approaching them.

"Hey, isn't this Jessica? You've grown up to be a beautiful young lady. Oh, is this your boyfriend?" asked the middle-aged woman in surprise when she saw Alex standing beside Jessica.

“Yes, Denise. This is my boyfriend, Alex. He came to wish grandma a happy birthday. Alex, this is Denise,” said Jessica, who blushed a little. She quickly regained her composure, though, and introduced everyone.

“Hello,” greeted Alex, who had met rich VIPs before but was still feeling anxious when in contact with the legendary gossiping middle-aged women.

“Hi, Alex. Your accent is different. Are you from the North? What’s your family background? Oh, and are you working over there? Did you drive over or did you take the bus?” Denise began to fire a series of questions as if she was a machine gun.

Alex stepped back a little. Holy sh*t! We haven’t even made it past the front yard before the interrogation began. The legends are true. Gossiping middle-aged women really are intense.

Alex was tempted to wipe the sweat forced out of his forehead.

“Haha, this is Alex’s first time here, so I better take him to greet grandma first, Denise,” said Jessica in a hurry before she dragged Alex into the house. Jessica was genuinely worried that Alex would flee and abandon her if Denise kept firing her questions like that.

If that were to happen, then Jessica would lose her cannon fodder for the day.

“Ah, silly girl. I’m doing this for your own good, you know?” said Denise as she giggled.

Alex sighed a breath of relief when he finally made it into the house. That was when he saw another middle-aged woman, who looked just like Jessica.

Alex recognized that middle-aged woman as Jessica's mom. Unfortunately, the elderly lady was unconscious when they met, so she didn't recognize Alex.

When Alex saw how Jessica's mother was staring at him, he became nervous once more.

To make matters worse, Jessica had reached out and held his hand at that exact moment.

"Didn't you say that you'd be taking the day off? Why are you only...?" said the middle-aged woman before she trailed off, and her gaze zoomed in on the way the two of them were holding hands. Jessica's mom, Aunt Saffin, stared so intently that her eyes were about to pop.

Alex's heart gripped. He wanted to retract his hand,

but Jessica held on even tighter before he got to move away.

“Mom, this is Alex. He is my boyfriend. I was waiting for him to clock off before heading over together,” answered Jessica calmly as she introduced Alex to her mother.

“Hello,” greeted Alex, who didn’t feel right to flee even when the situation had gone so out of control. He had no choice but to toughen up.

“Huh? Oh, you’re Jessica’s friend. Make yourself at home alright. Jessica, come here with me,” said Jessica’s mom. After that, she grabbed Jessica’s arm then turned around to lead Jessica into another room.

“Wait here for a while, Alex,” said Jessica before she shot him a look and followed her mother.

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“Mom, what are you doing? What’s so secretive that you can’t talk freely in front of Alex?” asked Jessica in puzzlement.

“What is going on? Why haven’t I heard you talk about this before?” demanded Aunt Saffin.

“Oh, you mean about Alex? I wanted to surprise you,” replied Jessica with a smile.

“Giving me a surprise? It feels more like you’re trying

to give me a stroke!” complained Aunt Saffin.

“Why would that give you a stroke?” chuckled Jessica calmly.

“Let me ask you something. What is so bad about Zachariah? He studied overseas and got a job as a high-ranking officer with the government immediately after. His father is the second-in-command of the police department in Airedale, so his family background is great. Moreover, he is handsome and charming, so what is so bad about him?” demanded Aunt Saffin angrily.

“Mom, his family background has nothing to do with me. I simply don’t like the way he works and his style,” replied Jessica in an annoyed tone.

“He has been in love with you ever since high school, and I heard that he is still single. He is waiting for you

this entire time! Jessica, it's virtually impossible to find someone who truly loves another person like he does to you," informed Aunt Saffin.

"Oh, c'mon, you bought that lie? You know, I'm going to leave if there's nothing important you'd like to say. Alex is still waiting for me," replied Jessica as she opened the door to leave.

"What is so good about Alex? He is obviously unreliable. Just look at his outfit. I bet it only costs a few hundred, and he probably wouldn't have worn something so luxurious if it weren't for an occasion like this. Zachariah, on the other hand, had always looked smart. He also seems sharp and is obviously someone with a bright future. That dumb-struck Alex is nothing compared to Zachariah," protested Aunt Saffin, who hated how overwhelmed and scared Alex looked a moment ago.

“Mom, you are so discriminating. Alex is a manager in a huge company, and his future is bright too,” refuted Jessica.

“Given how uneasy he looks, I’m guessing only mediocre companies would hire him. Moreover, how can a random employee compete against a high-ranking officer? Zachariah is a public servant. Stop fighting me. I’ll make it plain and simple. I don’t like that Alex, and I don’t want you seeing him,” scolded Aunt Saffin.

“I am just a secretary in the Four Seas Corporation, and my annual income is already over a million. So how much do you think a manager like him makes?” said Jessica with a grin.

“The company you work for? Are you joking? Why do I feel like that kid is unreliable?” asked Aunt Saffin. She used to be one of the key players of Saffin’s

Group, so she was convinced that she was pretty good at judging a person.

“Why would I lie to you? How do you think I met him?” said Jessica.

“My sweet child, your dad has passed away, and you’re all I have left. If your future husband is unreliable, our lives will be impossible,” reminded Aunt Saffin.

For some unknown reasons, Aunt Saffin felt like Alex was unreliable and was nothing compared to Zachariah, who was referred by Denise.

Perhaps it was because she knew Zachariah first, so she liked the boy better.

“Mom, I don’t know how is Zachariah really like, but I know that Alex will treat us right. Oh, and he’s the one

who helped you exorcise the demon. When Master Smith of the Desecrated Court was wounded, Alex stepped up at that crucial moment to save our family. He solved the issue for us,” shared Jessica as soon as she recalled it. That was an important incident that could make Alex look good, so Jessica wasn’t going to keep it a secret.

“W-what? Alex is the master that helped us?” blurted Aunt Saffin in disbelief.

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“You can ask him if you don’t believe me. Oh, or I can take him home some other day, and you can ask Josephine and the others. They saw Alex perform the exorcism with their own eyes,” informed Jessica.

“If he really is the one who helped us, then I won’t butt in on you two. I’m fine as long as you are sure that he is reliable,” said Aunt Saffin, who stopped hating on the guy as soon as she learned that Alex had saved her life.

I would’ve been dead and would not have the luxury to celebrate mom’s birthday if it weren’t for Alex.

Aunt Saffin truly appreciated Alex for what he did.

She was also touched when she heard her daughter say that Alex didn’t ask for payment from the family after that.

The mother-daughter duo later brought Alex to see Jessica's grandma, and another middle-aged woman walked over.

"Jessica, you came. What are you girls talking about? Fourth, we have a lot of guests over there. Please help greet them. I have to go help in the kitchen."

"Fourth" was Jessica's mother's nickname. She was the fourth of the siblings in the family, so she was nicknamed "fourth".

"Huh? Is this Jessica's boyfriend?" asked the middle-aged woman in a surprised tone when she saw Jessica holding Alex's hand.

"Jessica, go spend some time with your grandma," instructed Aunt Saffin, who had no choice but to let them go. They could always discuss the matter afterwards.

“Okay,” replied Jessica before she greeted the middle-age lady and dragged Alex out of there.

“Fourth, what are we going to do about Zachariah if Jessica already has a boyfriend? I heard that Zachariah’s father is dropping by today and plans on publicly asking us to let Jessica get engaged to Zachariah,” said the middle-aged woman.

Aunt Saffin shook her head and sighed, “I just learned that Jessica has a boyfriend today. Let’s ignore it and deal with it later.” After that, Aunt Saffin left to greet the other guests.

Aunt Saffin wasn’t prepared for that either. She wouldn’t have accepted Alex if Alex weren’t the one who saved her life.

Jessica’s grandma was chatting with Jessica’s aunts

when Jessica dragged Alex into the living room. Jessica's grandma grinned as soon as she saw Jessica. "My sweet granddaughter is here. Come quick. Let grandma see how you are. Did you get thinner?"

"Grandma."

Jessica hurried over and held the elderly woman's arm. It had been a while since Jessica visited, and she felt warm when she saw her grandma's kind expression.

"Jessica, who is this?" asked Jessica's eldest aunty with a frown when she saw Alex there.

The elderly lady had been paying attention to her granddaughter while the others had their eyes on Alex.

“This is my boyfriend, Alex,” answered Jessica as she turned around.

“Your boyfriend?” blurted Jessica’s grandma, aunts and uncles, were all flabbergasted.

The son of the deputy director general was into Jessica, and he planned on asking her hand in marriage.

The entire family was delighted to hear that news. Jessica’s uncles were all public servant, and if they could get on that powerful family’s good side, their career would be given a boost. However, Jessica had thrown a huge wrench in their plan, and that upset her aunts.

Alex saw their reactions, but he stepped up and greeted them with a smile, anyway. “Hello, grandma. I wish you a happy birthday.”

“Good boy. Since you’re Jessica’s friend, don’t stand on ceremonies alright,” replied Grandma Saffin with a grin.

She liked Zachariah too, but she respected her granddaughter’s choice and wouldn’t complain either way.

It seemed that Grandma Saffin was even more open-minded than Aunt Saffin and her siblings. It somewhat made sense since Grandma Saffin used to work for the government.

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“Jessica, even your mother has agreed on the engagement between you and Zachariah, the deputy director general’s son. Now that you’ve brought home a boyfriend, it would be so embarrassing for them.”

When Jessica’s aunt spoke, she deliberately scanned Alex from head to toe in distaste. She was obviously hinting and telling Alex that his opponent was the deputy director general’s son. You should back away if you know what’s good for you.

The Saffin family was cursed, so Jessica was the only heir to the family.

So, the family had always been concerned about Jessica’s marriage.

After all, Jessica was beautiful, and if she handed her future to her family, they would make the best

arrangement out of it.

Zachariah's obsession, for example, was the product of their labor.

Aunt Saffin thought about how she and her daughter were alone, so the former let the family take charge of her daughter's marriage.

As such, Alex was there on a mission that day.

Alex was contented with a secretary as capable as Jessica, so when the latter asked for his help, he couldn't say no.

Hence, Alex wasn't bothered by Jessica's aunt's threat. He promised that he would help Jessica, so it wouldn't matter if he were against the son of a puny deputy director general. Alex would not back down even if the tyrants from Lumenopolis were there.

“That is none of my business. I never said that I would go out with Zachariah, and you guys never asked me,” refuted Jessica.

“You are such an immature child. We’re doing this for your sake! After returning from his studies overseas, Zachariah landed a job with the government immediately. Furthermore, he is handsome and comes from a powerful family. He is not the kind of man that an average joe can beat.”

Jessica’s aunt never explicitly said that Alex, Jessica’s current “boyfriend”, was nothing compared to Zachariah, but her words were so obvious that everyone could receive the message.

“What does his family being powerful have to do with me? I am my own person, and as far as I am concerned, Alex is the best,” defended Jessica

angrily.

“You are such a stubborn child... By the way, Alex, what is your job?” asked Jessica’s aunt, who targeted Alex when she realized that she couldn’t convince Jessica otherwise.

Alex was going to answer as he and Jessica had previously agreed on when he saw a handsome young man in a tuxedo walking over. The young man carried a bunch of bags with him.

“Grandma, I, Zachariah, wish you a happy birthday and a lifetime of health,” said the young man as he bowed to the elderly lady with an enormous grin across his face.

“Ah, you are so kind. You didn’t have to get me any gifts. It’s sufficient to just come and visit me,” replied Grandma Saffin as she smiled. Zachariah seemed

like a good kid. It's such a pity that Jessica isn't interested in him.

"It's nothing. I just got you some supplements," replied Zachariah modestly.

"Alright, come sit with us," said Grandma Saffin as she nodded. She couldn't help but sigh internally for him.

If she was being honest, she actually favored Zachariah because his father used to be her subordinate.

However, her granddaughter didn't like him, so she couldn't say anything.

"It's been a while, Jessica," greeted Zachariah with a smile after he had greeted every single one of Jessica's aunts.

However, Zachariah's smile soon froze when he saw that Jessica was holding another's man's hand.

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