

## ZrotA Publications

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## Prologue

He was the laughingstock of the town, scorned and ridiculed at every turn. His own wife looked at him with contempt, and his in-laws treated him like dirt.

As he lay on his deathbed, he felt lower than the mud on his boots during his miserable days. But as his life force faded, a glowing vision appeared in his mind.

Whispered secrets of an ancient power that could lift a man's spirit higher than the clouds themselves. Strength that he could scarcely dare to dream of.

Now the truth was within his grasp. All it would take was the courage to reach for it. Will he find the strength to take hold of his destiny and rise to new heights? Or will he forever remain grounded, dwelling in the scorn of those who underestimated him?

As the glowing vision reveals itself, he alone can unlock the power inside - and finally soar to the top of the world.

## Chapter 1

Madame Claire of the Assex family celebrated her birthday today. She still embodied grace and beauty despite her advanced years. More amazing perhaps was the grace and beauty of her two daughters. One of them was hailed as California's most attractive, and the other was hailed as her college's best-looking student. Many of the men who had been swooning over them took the chance to come and wish Madame Claire a happy birthday.

"Madame Claire, allow me to introduce The Pearl of the East Sea to you. Your complexion will improve if you wear it. "Happy birthday!" "Madame, I am giving you a pair of jade scorners. I wish you well and may all of your wishes come true." As the gifts were presented to her one by one, the look of delight could not be hidden on Madame Claire's face.

She was feeling overjoyed. Like a bolt from the blue, a young man wearing a pair of worn-out jeans rushed into the villa looking distressed. He said to Madame Claire, "Mum, my mother is very sick and needs immediate attention. Could you please lend me half a million dollars?"

Everyone was in shock and stared at the young man. The disgust on their faces was apparent. He had the audacity to not only come in empty-handed, but to ask for half a million dollars of hand out. Had he gone insane? A faint voice in the crowd asked, "Who is this person?"

A man in a suit arrogantly said, "Who else can it be? He is Alex Rockefeller, the son-in-law of the Assex family. The useless husband of Lady Dorothy! He is but a husband only in name, Lady Dorothy is a virgin. Otherwise, none of us will be here today!" The villa was bursting with laughter as he finished his sentence. A beautiful lady sitting on the couch looked at Alex with disappointment. She was Alex's wife, Lady Dorothy Assex. They had been married for almost a year, but Alex's status in the family was worse than that of a nanny.

He was never even allowed to enter his wife's room. A year ago, on the day of their wedding, Alex's parents were involved in a traffic accident. His father, William Rockefeller, was pronounced dead on the spot; his mother had been in a coma up till now. To make matters worse, his father was framed for corruption, and his company as well as all the properties had been seized.

Alex was expelled from the house of Rockefeller. A man who was once treated as a young prince had turned into a nobody overnight. Naturally, his money-loving mother-in-law despised him to his very core. In order to afford his mother's medical bills, he had to sell off the only house that he had under his legal ownership, and it was still nowhere near enough to pay for the exorbitant fees incurred by her treatment. He had just been notified by the hospital that he had to come up with half a million dollars for a critical operation immediately, otherwise, his mother would only have three days of life left. Alex had exhausted all other options, he had no choice but to come to beg the Assex family for money. Looking at Alex's desperate begging, embarrassing her in front of her guests on her birthday, Madame Claire's face turned red with fury.

She took a piece of her birthday cake and threw it at Alex and said, "You are such garbage, the only thing you know how to do is beg for money from us every day. Do you think our money grows on trees? Is it not enough that we give you a stipend of ten thousand dollars every month? You dare to come here begging for half a million dollars? Your mother's medical expenses are like a bottomless pit. There's no need for an operation, just prepare for her funeral already!" Alex immediately let go of his tightly held hands. Lady Dorothy finally stood up and handed some tissue to Alex.

She then said, "Mom, you should be more civil about this, there's no need to get physical." At this moment, Beatrice, the younger sister of Dorothy, said sneeringly, "Sister, why are you still defending this trash? Look at him. Has he contributed a single cent since he came into our family? Has he ever given a gift to me and Mother? No! What else can he do apart from asking our family for money? I

think you should leave him as soon as possible. There are many young, talented, and eligible men here today. Any one of them is a thousandfold better than him." As they heard the words of Lady Beatrice Assex, all of the young men couldn't wait to speak up. "I agree! Being married to this loser is truly unfortunate for Lady Dorothy, it's much better to get the marriage annulled immediately!" said one young man. "I'm willing to marry Lady Dorothy immediately, I will provide a dowry of a mansion in Beverly Hills worth thirty million dollars and another twenty million dollars in cash."

Someone else immediately shouted, "Thirty million dollars mansion in Beverly Hills? That has to be the cheapest home in the neighborhood! I am willing to give a mansion worth eighty million in Beverly Hills if you marry me, Lady Dorothy!" Another shouted, "Me, me, me! As long as Lady Dorothy marries me, all of Jones's Family's billions in assets will be yours."

Alex's face had gone pale with humiliation. Dorothy's face had also turned pale. She was depressed because of the words her mother spoke next. Madame Claire was pleased to see everyone offering such sky-high dowries for her daughter's hand in marriage and said, "Gentlemen, please settle down and listen to what I have to say. Truth be told, my daughter Dorothy recently came upon a problem and accidentally ran into Sir Gaston Gates of Thousand Miles Corporation.

Sir Gaston has threatened to run our Assex Construction out of business. Whoever is willing and able to help Dorothy out of this mess, you have my blessing for my daughter's hand in marriage." She did not mention that Sir Gaston had asked for the companionship of Lady Dorothy, otherwise, he would run the Assex family out of town. Alex was fuelled with anger and exclaimed loudly, "I will not agree to that, Dorothy is my wife..." Madame Claire slapped Alex across his face and said, "Who is your wife? Are you not aware that you are a nobody? You have no right to speak."

She asked again, "Gentlemen, what do you say?" After hearing of the threat of Gaston Gates, all those who were vying to marry Lady Dorothy changed their attitude drastically and did not utter a single word. Thousand Miles Conglomerate was the leading corporation in California. Their assets were worth trillions of dollars. A single word from the Gates family could make the world tremble. What was more frightening was the fact that Lex Gunther, the owner of Thousand Miles Conglomerate, known as Lord Lex, was the Don of California's underground world, with unfathomable power and influence. None of them were crazy enough to be making enemies of the Thousand Miles Conglomerate just for Lady Dorothy's hand in marriage.

Witnessing the utter silence of the moment, Madame Claire's heart sank a little with restlessness. Suddenly, someone said, "Alright, I will settle this matter with Thousand Miles Conglomerate, and once it's done, I will marry Lady Dorothy." Everyone's head turned and all eyes were on a young man wearing a Giorgio Armani suit with extraordinary temperament walking in with his head held high. Chapter 2 "Young Master Spark!" Madame Claire quickly greeted the incoming person enthusiastically.

Everyone in the villa had respect written on their faces. He was Spark Rockefeller, the young director of Rockefeller Group. Although the real number was unknown to the world, it was estimated that

the wealth of Rockefeller Group totaled up to three hundred billion dollars, more than all of them combined. However when Alex saw this man, he charged towards him with angered eyes, grabbed him by the collar and yelled, "You animal. Dorothy is your sister-in-law. How can you call yourself a human when you want to marry your sister-in-law?" As fate had it, Spark was Alex's cousin. He was the son of his uncle, John Rockefeller. Alex had deep hatred for them both. He recalled a little incident that occurred last October, right after his parents were involved in the car accident, it was John who came out and framed his father for corruption and stole Rockefeller Group that was built by his parents, and kicked Alex out of the Rockefellers' residence.

If it wasn't for them, Alex's situation would not be as dire as it currently was. Spark looked at Alex with contempt, and said, "What sister-in-law? You were kicked out of the Rockefellers' residence by your own grandfather, how can Lady Dorothy be considered as my sister-in-law? Besides, you do not deserve her." Madame Claire pulled Alex away and kicked him. She then turned around with a smile, said to Spark, "Master Spark, I'm so blessed a man of your esteem has managed to make time for me today." Spark laughingly said, "Madame, it is your birthday today, I came here to wish you personally. This is a 100-year-old ginseng, even I had to jump through hoops to buy it for three million dollars, just to give it to you as a birthday gift." Upon hearing that the ginseng was worth that much money, Madame Claire could not contain her joy. She immediately received it with a greedy grin from ear to ear. As Spark gazed at Lady Dorothy, he was mesmerized by her beauty.

It was obvious to everyone that he desired her. In fact, he had been yearning for her for a long time. He spoke softly, "Dorothy, I've heard about your little incident with the Gates family. It just so happens that my father has a close friend in the upper management of Thousand Miles Conglomerate. I can help you to resolve this matter. Once it's done, I will give you a grand wedding beyond your imagination! Dorothy, I love you with all my heart and have loved you from the first time that I saw you. When we're married, the entire Rockefeller Group will be yours." Lady Dorothy calmly shook her head and said, "I will not get a divorce." Madame Claire was filled with excitement when she heard that the entire Rockefeller Group would belong to her daughter. She tugged at Lady Dorothy and said, "Are you crazy?"

The odds of landing a guy like Spark is lower than being struck by lightning. Why do you still want to stay married to this garbage?" Madame Claire turned to Spark and said, "Well, Mr. Spark, it seems like you are truly in love with my daughter. This is great. From now on, you will be my son-in-law." Spark was delighted to see Madame Claire's reaction. "I heard the news of your ill mother and you need half a million dollars for her surgery.

Here is the half a million dollars, it is yours if you file for a divorce with Dorothy tomorrow." Spark said to Alex as he nonchalantly tossed an American Express card at Alex's feet. Alex's eyes turned red. He could not bear to take Spark's money. Lady Dorothy could not stand it any longer, she pulled Alex and said, "I will go to the hospital with you to see your mother.

I can't get the half a million dollars right now, but I will find a way." Madame Claire pulled her and said, "How will you figure it out? We don't have that much money, unless you sell the house! I am telling you now Dorothy, if you dare to step out of this door today, we will no longer be family!" Lady Beatrice stood up and pushed Alex out of the door. "Alex, you should leave now. You are

embarrassing my sister with your presence. Get out of here!” Bang! Alex was out of the villa and the door was shut after him. He could hear Spark shouting from within the villa “Alex, remember to get a divorce tomorrow!” and all the guests’ laughter filled the silent night.

Alex was seething with rage and anxiously left the Assex’s residence in despair. Although he was just a husband in name to Lady Dorothy, he was truly in love with her. They attended college together and had fallen in love with each other at that time. It was a match made in heaven, but everything came crashing down on their wedding day. He had hit rock bottom, losing his parents and his wealth. On top of that, he was despised by his mother-in-law which made things much more difficult. At this very moment, a black Rolls-Royce Phantom slowly stopped beside him.

“Master Alex!” A man in a well-tailored suit in his fifties exited the car. Alex was confused as he did not know this man and said, “Are you calling me? Do I know you?” The man walked up to him, took a slight bow and said, “I am Lex Gunther of Thousand Miles Conglomerate.

I work for your father.” What? Alex was stunned. Just a few moments ago, he heard the Assex family anxiously selling their daughter to the highest bidder as they were worried that Thousand Miles Conglomerate would destroy them. Out of the blue, the infamous Lex Gunther of Thousand Miles Conglomerate suddenly appeared saying that he was working for his father. Was this all an elaborate prank? “What business do you have with me?” Alex asked with a stoic face. “I heard that you are facing some difficulties recently Mr. Rockefeller.

I’m here to offer you some help. The PIN is your birth date.” The old man said as he handed Alex a black ATM card. Alex was bewildered, “How much money is in the account?” Lex Gunther answered, “Not much, a measly ten billion dollars.”