

Chapter 101

Hearing this, Linda was stunned. "What did you say?"

Jennifer smirked and said, "Keep acting! So you won't admit it? Tsk, tsk, tsk. You're such a bad person, denying your own doings?"

The girls who walked in with Jennifer were pointing at their fingers and throwing judgments at Linda.

"Why are you doing this? You broke the guitar yourself but blaming Jennifer? Is your conscience still there? Jennifer used to be so good to you!"

"That's right. She doesn't have a conscience at all. It's disgusting to be in the same club with her..."

Listening to these words, Linda was surprised to find that everyone set her up together.

But it wasn't hard to understand. They had been bullying her in the past. No wonder they would gang together to frame Linda like this.

Jennifer couldn't help but laughed and continued, "Linda, let me tell you this, I just told Professor Price that you had broken his guitar. Just watch. It won't take long for you to hear from him!"

Jennifer then left complacently. Before exiting the room, she turned back and sneered at Linda, "Take care!"

Almost at the same time, Linda's cell phone rang. As expected, it was from Professor Price!

"Professor Price..." Linda picked up the phone with fear.

"Linda, I know what you've done. Do you know how precious the guitar is? You really broke my heart." Professor Price sighed as he spoke.

He didn't blame Linda directly, but his tone of voice was full of complaints.

"Professor Price, please let me explain. It's not like what Jennifer said, I..."

Professor Price interrupted Linda's explanation. He sounded unhappy.

"Jennifer has told me that you will point your finger at her. She also asked me to have sympathy for you. Look at her and look at yourself. Why is there such a huge difference?"

Professor Price muttered, "What a precious guitar! And now it's gone. It was left for my wife by my late father-in-law. I think you are talented so I borrowed you the guitar. Why did you..."

Listening to the unfair accusation, Linda cried again. She said with a grievance, "Professor Price, I didn't break your guitar. I promise..."

"I've heard enough!" Professor Price stopped Linda again, "You caused a lot of trouble. My wife won't let it go easily if she finds out. Let's stop here. I'm very upset. We'll talk about this tomorrow at school!"

Professor Price hung up.

Linda felt extremely wronged.

She didn't care that she was framed by someone like Jennifer. But she was sad because Professor Price didn't believe her.

Linda was nervous about what she was going to say to Professor Price tomorrow.

Professor Price hadn't been interested in Linda's explanation. He believed that Linda broke the guitar.

Linda wasn't worried about being the scapegoat. The thing she feared the most was how she could afford to pay Professor Price back.

Her mom was still in the hospital. Linda didn't have the money.

Linda gritted her teeth and thought, "It's not my fault. Why do I need to worry about paying him back..."

Ethan didn't have classes the next morning, so he slept in.

But he was woken up by a WeChat text noticing sound.

It was from Joanna.

She sent some words and a location, "Get up! Come over and bring Charles and Dylan. I'm waiting for you!"

Ethan frowned and thought for a while. He remembered that he promised Joanna to go to her dad's birthday party.

Ethan replied Joanna. He then got up, got dressed, and woke up Charles and Dylan.

They were getting ready to go.

At the campus gate, Charles pulled Ethan and secretly pointed to the other side. He whispered, "Ethan, look over there. Is it a professor from the music department?"

Ethan looked over and saw a middle-aged man with gray hair, wearing a suit. He was arguing with a woman.

The woman was quarreling with and punching him. She cried and complained, "Greg, what are you thinking? My dad only left me this one thing, but you borrowed it out? Now it's trashed. You tell me, is there something going on between you and that little bi*ch?"

Professor Price looked around with embarrassment. There were many people glancing over. He quickly explained, "It's my fault, alright? You just go home and let me deal with it. Let's talk it over when I'm back home. Don't talk nonsense here. There are so many people around. It's bad for my reputation..."

The woman didn't care so much. She screamed at Professor Price with anger, "I thought you didn't know it's bad! Then why did you do it? We have so many guitars, why do you have to pick that one? Don't tell me there's nothing between you two. I don't believe you!"

The woman narrowed her eyes and continued, "I must take a look at that little bi*ch myself. What kind of person is she has an associate professor bewitched. You still protect her after she broke my precious guitar."

The woman's words made Professor Price so angry that he shook her off and kept walking.

The woman became angrier. She pointed at the back of Professor Price, "I'll take that as a yes! Greg Price, let's wait and see!"

After finishing her words, the woman hurried to follow Professor Price to the building.

"Haha... It's interesting. The professor messed around, and his wife came to campus to argue. There will be a good show..." Charles laughed.

Dylan wanted to join in with Charles but stopped by Ethan. Ethan said, "Oh, well, whatever. Let's go. Joanna is waiting for us..."

"Let's watch it for a little longer. I bet there will a good show coming up!" Dylan said with a smile.

He liked to see faculties making a fool out of themselves.

But Ethan was trying to pull Dylan away. "Let's go. There's nothing to see here. Don't keep Joanna waiting. Let's go!"

Hearing Ethan's urging, Charles and Dylan followed him.

It took about twenty minutes for their taxi to arrive at the restaurant where the birthday party of Joanna's dad was.

Looking at the luxury decor, Charles couldn't help but exclaim, "Oh my god, Joanna's family definitely spent a lot of money on this party! I heard that this restaurant was very expensive. A simple meal will cost several thousand dollars. Having the party here is a very general choice."

Dylan was also surprised by the restaurant.

Although he didn't know restaurants in Buckeye like Charles did. But Dylan could see that it was not an ordinary restaurant. In a nutshell, he would only be standing in the background with a smile here.

Chapter 102

As the three were chatting in front of the restaurant, a voice was heard from the inside.

"You guys are here! Come on in!" Joanna walked out of the restaurant with a smile.

She wore a blue embroidered dress and a pair of white shoes, which raised her temperament to another level.

The natural makeup and big smile on Joanna's face made her look refreshing and energetic.

She walked over and grabbed Ethan's hand. Joanna said with a smile, "Let's go, my hero. My dad really wants to meet you."

The two were very close to each other, and Joanna's behavior to Ethan was affectionate. Charles and Dylan giggled at their interaction.

"What's going on between you two? We're still here, and you two just holding hands like that?" Charles said half-jokingly.

Joanna blushed. She quickly took back her hand and said embarrassedly, "Charles, what are you talking about? I'm just happy. Ethan helped my family survive the crisis. You guys don't know how awesome Ethan is!"

Joanna said with admiration.

Charles was shocked by her words.

"Ethan's help? What... what did he do?" Charles looked at Ethan and Dylan in confusion.

Joanna smiled and said, "Ethan called someone to help us get through the crisis. And you guys probably don't know this. Ethan was wronged the other day. The bottle of Chanel perfume he gave me was authentic. It was only no one bothered to verify it."

Joanna wanted to use this opportunity to help Ethan clear his name.

"Ah?" Charles cried out loud because of surprise, "I remember that the perfume costs more than fifty thousand dollars, right? Ethan, did you rob the bank? Where did you get so much money?"

Dylan was even more shocked, and his jaw almost dropped to the floor. He exclaimed, "What the hell, Joanna, are you making up stories for Ethan? Is it true? We are supposed to know Ethan better than you do!"

Dylan then looked at Charles. They didn't quite believe what Joanna had told them.

But Charles was aware that there's something different about Ethan.

Staring from the time Ethan paid the bill for Elle, to everything followed. All the incident suggested that the current Ethan was different from the bum Ethan.

Looking at Charles and Dylan's expressions, Ethan just smiled but didn't say anything.

But Joanna kept explaining, worrying that they still didn't believe her, "It's true! Why would I lie to you guys? Charles, you know that Ethan gave me a bottle of perfume before. But someone switched it with a counterfeit, so people just didn't want to trust Ethan anymore. As a result, when Ethan gave me another bottle, everyone just thought it was a fake without verifying its authenticity."

Joanna sighed and said, "Well, it was my fault. If I were to open it in public to verify it that day, the truth would be out. It was my cousin who insisted on opening it to see what's going on. Only

then did I know that I was wrong about Ethan."

Joanna looked at Ethan with a guilty look on her face. She continued, "I'm sorry, Ethan, as a friend, you gave me such a valuable gift, but I didn't trust you!"

Ethan quickly smiled and waved his hand, "We're friends, Joanna. Don't mention it!"

Charles still felt a little confused, but wouldn't it be better if Joanna said was true?

As the best buddy, Charles hoped that Ethan could have some money. Ethan didn't have to be very rich but at least reached the average level.

Maybe others didn't know, but Charles was clear that Ethan had been ridiculed by many people because he was poor.

He patted Ethan on the shoulder and said with a sincere smile, "Ethan, well said! I didn't know you helped Joanna's family. Let's go in. Didn't Joanna say that her dad wanted to see you?"

Joanna also nodded and said, "Yes, I told my dad yesterday that one of my friends helped to solve the problem, and he said that he would thank you in front of everyone!"

Joanna smiled mysteriously and continued, "But I didn't tell him it was you when he asked me who helped us. I just told him that you would find out when he came. But guess what my dad said then?"

"What did your dad say?" Charles and Dylan asked.

"My dad said that he knew it already!" Joanna asked curiously, "Ethan, have you and my dad saw each other before?"

Hearing this, Ethan quickly shook his head and said, "No? Maybe Uncle Mitchel was joking with you!"

Joanna scratched her head and smiled, "Maybe my dad was kidding me. Oh, well, let's go in quickly. Don't keep my dad waiting! I'll introduce you to everyone and tell them everything. I want to see what those who questioned you are going to say!"

Joanna grabbed Ethan's hand again and dragged him into the restaurant, disregarding what others were going to say.

A voice suddenly was heard from behind, "Joanna?"

They all turned around and saw Elle running over with a smile on her face.

"I knew you would come out to welcome me!" Elle came over and grabbed Joanna's hand, "Are you feeling better?"

Carl was also swaggering over. He was complacent about attending the birthday party.

But his face dropped when he saw Ethan.

"Why are you here?" Carl glanced at Ethan contemptuously.

Elle was stunned when she saw Ethan, and then her face turned red in an instant.

She couldn't fall asleep the other night because of the beating at the Empire Hotel Restaurant.

And it was all because of Ethan. If it weren't for him, how could she have been beaten so badly?

Elle rushed to Ethan and slapped him on the face. She shouted, "D*mn you! How dare you come here? Why are you here? For free food again. Is that rich woman your sugar mommy? Why don't you go to find her?"

Elle's behavior stunned everyone. Only Charles stepped forward and pushed Elle away. He

shouted, "Hey, Elle, what's wrong with you?"

Elle still wanted to hit Ethan but was held back by Charles.

"What's wrong with me? Why don't you ask that f**ker? He's getting rich lately, right? Do you want to know where his money comes from?" Elle looked at Ethan with a sinister look.

Elle's words got everyone curious.

Everyone knew that Ethan used to be poor, but how could he suddenly become rich?

When Nina was in danger, Ethan told people that his dad was rich. But no one believed him.

But Ethan had never given people an explanation about where did he get so much money!

Charles, Dylan, and Ethan were good friends. On one hand, they were curious; On the other hand, they were worried that Ethan might go astray for money.

But hearing from Elle, it seemed that she knew Ethan's secret.

Everyone was looking at Elle in silence. They hoped she could give people an answer.

Ethan also looked at Elle calmly, with a mocking smile on his face.

Ethan didn't stop Elle. He wanted to hear how she would slander him.

Ethan thought that no matter how much Elle tried to slander him, it wouldn't take long for him to let everyone know that Elle was lying. And people would know how ridiculous she was.

"Go ahead! Tell everyone where is my money from?" Ethan asked calmly.

"Humph!" Elle snorted and said with a smile, "Where is your money from? You have the nerve to ask me! Do you want me to tell everyone that you are a gigolo?"

Hearing Elle's words, everyone was surprised!

"Ah? What... What are you talking about? Elle, don't make false accusations! Ethan is a little poor, but he has his dignity, okay?" Charles was the first to stand up and defend Ethan.

Dylan then said, "We know Ethan's character. And I'm telling you, you are not the first one to say this. But no one could show any evidence in the end! Don't accuse people when you don't have evidence!"

Elle smiled and said, "Evidence? You'd better ask Ethan for evidence. I'm just asking you one thing. How could he have so much money if he didn't get him a sugar mommy? I'm also telling you this, yesterday Carl and me saw it with our own eyes. Did he bring back takeouts from Empire Hotel Restaurant yesterday? It was the leftovers from the dinner he had with his sugar mommy. We ran into him yesterday! What else can you say?"

Hearing Elle's words, Charles remembered that Ethan did take back some leftovers the day before. And even if they were leftovers, the packing was exquisite, and the boxes all had the Empire Hotel's logo. At that time, Charles tried to ask Ethan where did the leftovers come from, but Ethan didn't say a word...

Chapter 103

"Ethan...what is she talking about? Yesterday... Did you really see each other yesterday?" Charles asked incredulously.

Charles had been considering Nina's accusation of Ethan a slander because there wasn't any evidence.

But Elle just provided evidence about the same accusation. She knew that Ethan brought back takeout food from the Empire Hotel Restaurant!

So Elle was telling the truth that she saw Ethan at Empire Hotel Restaurant. But why did Ethan show up at such a high-end place? Empire Hotel Restaurant was one of the most luxurious restaurants in Buckeye.

How could Ethan afford a place like that?

It was not only Charles. Dylan remembered something that made him uncomfortable too.

After all, the three of them were good buddies. If one of them hooked up with a rich woman for money, the rest wouldn't feel good for him.

Ethan smiled at the doubts toward him. He looked at Charles and Dylan and said, "Do you guys believe her? Since this is where we are right now, I'll tell all of you the truth. I have told you that I have a rich dad. There are reasons that I just found out!"

Ethan didn't say too much about it.

He also knew that it was hard for Charles and Dylan to take in such surprising news.

Ethan didn't take it personally. He understood the news was too huge to believe.

He believed that they would eventually accept it.

"For real?" Charles asked hesitantly, "Are you really from a rich family?"

"Ethan, we are friends. Don't you lie to us!" Dylan said.

Ethan smiled and said, "Everything I just said is true. Maybe my power is still limited, but if any of you have financial problems, just let me know. I will definitely help you!"

Ethan was serious about the offer.

But Elle suddenly burst into laughter.

"Oh my God, that's so funny...Your family is rich? Haha, you have no shame!"

Elle looked at Ethan with a scornful face and continued, "I can't figure out what you are thinking. You are so poor that you have to sell yourself for money, but you are claiming that you are from a rich family? So disgusting!"

Elle spat at Ethan's clothes!

"You..." Ethan was irritated. He was about to speak, but Elle interrupted him.

"You what? What else do you want to say? Are you trying to tell us your dad is Bill Gates? or is it Jeff Bezos?" Elle raised her eyebrows and giggled, "Oh, right, your dad is Eric Norman, right? Haha, am I right? You are gone crazy, bum!"

Elle then took Carl's arm and sneered, "What the hell are you? You are nowhere near my Carl. My Carl is so powerful..."

A shout interrupted Elle.

"Enough!"

It was Joanna who shouted. She had thought that since Elle had come today, maybe they could have a talk and get past the misunderstanding. And they could be friends again.

But Elle didn't show any sign of repentance. She was still treating Ethan rudely.

Especially after Ethan just solved a big problem for Joanna's family, the way Elle treated Ethan showed no respect for Joanna.

Joanna walked over and looked at Elle angrily. She said to Elle word by word, "Elle, please be respectful when you are talking to Ethan. The only reason that my family got through the crisis is because of Ethan's help!"

Joanna turned to look at Ethan. In fact, about Ethan was from a rich family, Joanna also had her doubts, but she hoped it was true.

In Joanna's eyes, it didn't matter if Ethan had a rich dad or a sugar mommy.

What's important was that Ethan helped her and her family in crisis. It was like Ethan had saved the lives of her entire family.

Joanna didn't want to see her savior under humiliation!

Joanna continued, "Elle, if you still see me as a friend, enjoy my dad's party and make no offense to Ethan. He is the savior of my family, and any humiliation to Ethan equals to my family!"

Elle was stunned by Joanna's words. She couldn't believe her ears.

"What did you say?" Elle said with a gloomy face, "Joanna, say that again? You said that this moron helped to deal with your family's problem? Are you f**king crazy?"

Joanna was furious, "Why? So you Elle helped us instead? Ethan has told me everything yesterday!"

Hearing Joanna's words, Elle was surprised. But then she put on a face of disdain.

"Haha, it's interesting, Joanna. Are you brainwashed by that moron? He has told you? What did he tell you?" Elle argued angrily, "Please, to tell you the truth, the person who saved your dad and your family is not that moron. It's my boyfriend, Carl!"

Elle quickly pointed at Carl and said, "Yesterday, Carl and I went to pick up your dad. When Joan Dodd found out that you are my friend, he specially booked us a private dining room in the Empire Hotel Restaurant just to say sorry to My Carl!"

"That's right! Otherwise, we wouldn't have run into that moron and his sugar mommy!" Carl added. He sneered and said, "Elle, I didn't know your friend was such a funny person. She even thinks that moron is a treasure!"

"Joanna, you are so stupid. That guy conned you!" Elle sneered and continued, "You said that he was the one that helped. Then tell me how did he do it?"

"It..." Joanna was stunned.

Ethan just told Joanna that he helped. Out of her trust in Ethan, Joanna didn't ask for details.

That was why she couldn't offer the answer.

Joanna was anxious. She quickly looked at Ethan, hoping he could speak up.

She still believed in Ethan.

If Ethan said he did it, he should be able to offer evidence.

Ethan wasn't nervous. He smiled and said, "Evidence? No problems! I'll show you guys in a little bit. But where's your evidence?"

Ethan believed that no one could fake reality.

If Ethan was the one saved Joanna's family, he wasn't afraid of proving it when someone tried to take the credit by lying.

Elle was disdainful. She looked at Carl and said to Joanna, "Joanna, I see you as a friend. Even though you treated me badly yesterday in the hospital, I still asked Carl to save your dad. But now you are protecting that moron?"

Elle glared at Ethan and continued, "I know you don't believe me. Please go and ask your dad. Ask him who went to pick him up from the police station yesterday! I think you should believe in your dad's words."

"That's it. I'm afraid you still don't know why your dad wants to have the party here," Carl sneered, "You think it's for your peasant relatives? Please don't kid yourself. It's for me! Okay then, go fetch your dad and tell him his savior is here. It's okay if he doesn't want to kneel in front of me. But at least he should welcome me out here personally!"

Hearing Carl's words, Joanna gritted her teeth.

She had a bad impression of Carl ever since the first time she met him.

Carl's words were despicable, in disregarding whether he saved Joanna's dad or not.

Even if Carl did save Joanna's dad, it didn't give him the right to humiliate her dad.

Joanna turned to go back to the restaurant, dragging Ethan with her.

She didn't want to see Carl any longer. As for the truth, she would ask her dad.

However, Joanna saw her dad, Zebulon Mitchel, walking out of the restaurant in a hurry.

Chapter 104

Seeing Zebulon coming out, Carl couldn't help but smile, "Haha, speaking of the devil! Joanna, now your dad is here. You can ask him who helped him!"

Elle looked excited, "That's right! Ask your dad. See if we are lying!"

Joanna frowned upon Elle and Carl's words. She looked at Ethan and a trace of suspicion raised in her head.

She walked over to Zebulon and said, "Dad, why are you here?"

Zebulon smiled and said, "How can I stay inside when our guests are here. That's rude, considering they helped our family!"

Zebulon's words gave Joanna a little relief because she thought Zebulon was referring to Ethan.

Joanna smiled and pulled Zebulon over to Ethan, "Dad, let me introduce. This is my friend, Ethan."

Zebulon was a little unhappy that Joanna dragged him in front of Ethan. He was here to welcome Elle and Carl.

Zebulon believed that Elle and Carl were the ones that helped him. It was rude not to welcome Elle and Carl first, but to say hello to a total stranger like Ethan.

But since Ethan was his daughter's friend, Zebulon gave him a perfunctory welcome and then said to Joanna, "All right, take your friend inside."

Then Zebulon walked over to Elle and Carl.

Joanna was surprised by Zebulon's reaction. She pulled him over again and said in an unhappy tone of voice, "Dad, I'm introducing a friend to you!"

Zebulon frowned at Joanna and said perfunctorily, "Don't mess around. I know that this is your friend. Go help to seat him in. I need to welcome important guests! Maybe you should come over and say hello too."

Joanna was dumbfounded by Zebulon's words. She couldn't believe her dad's reaction.

Important guest? Shouldn't the important guest be Ethan? What was he doing?

Joanna looked over to Ethan and found out he was confused too.

Joanna stopped Zebulon again and asked with a puzzled face, "Dad, do you really know who helped you?"

Joanna's words irritated Zebulon. He shook off Joanna's hand, "What's wrong with you? Don't mess around with my business. Of course, I know who helped me. Do you think your dad is an idiot?"

While speaking, Zebulon hinted to Joanna in the direction of Elle and Carl.

It wasn't that Joanna didn't understand what Zebulon meant. She shook her head, refusing to believe it.

"Dad... do you... do you know who Ethan Humphrey is?" Joanna asked in surprise.

Zebulon rolled his eyes at Ethan and said unhappily, "How do I know who he is? Why do you ask me that? I don't know, and I don't need to know. Bring your friends inside. Stop making a fool of

yourself! Ah..."

Joanna scowled at Zebulon, "Dad, how can you say that? Don't you know that Ethan is the one that helped you?"

Zebulon was stunned by Joanna's words, "What did you say? Who helped me? Say it again?"

Zebulon was angry. Joanna was scared of his facial expression, "Ethan Humphrey? Dad, you said you knew it was Ethan who helped you, didn't you?"

Hearing this, Zebulon was furious. His face dropped. He shouted, "Joanna, what the hell are you talking about? Our savior is standing over there. What do you want to do by saying that?"

Zebulon glanced at Ethan coldly and said, "You said he helped me? But who is he? I don't know him at all. And who said he was the one that helped me? It's him?"

Zebulon pointed at Ethan and questioned Joanna.

Joanna had never seen her father behaved like this.

Zebulon used to be humble and well-mannered.

However, Joanna could feel that Zebulon had changed a great deal after the incident. He became unstable, and Zebulon was always screaming and shouting.

And the biggest change was that Zebulon used to treat people with equality. He didn't bully ordinary people or please the rich and powerful.

But he wasn't the same anymore. Zebulon had been treating their poor relatives badly. When it came to the rich and powerful, Zebulon couldn't wait to lick their boots.

Zebulon had never raised his voice at Joanna in the past, but that day he gave her a fierce face!

Joanna was scared. She nodded and turned to look at Ethan. "Ethan...Ethan told me!"

Hearing Joanna's words, Zebulon was getting angrier, "How dare you lied to my daughter? What do you want?"

Zebulon walked over to Ethan with a domineering look.

Ethan was also shocked. He thought to himself, "What is wrong with Joanna's dad?"

"Yes, I said it. And I'm telling the truth. Uncle Mitchel, I was the one who helped your family out of the crisis." Ethan said calmly.

Ethan only wanted to tell the truth.

He had realized that Zebulon didn't know who helped him.

To Ethan, it was ridiculous that Zebulon didn't believe the one who helped him.

If Zebulon didn't know, Ethan decided to tell Zebulon himself.

But in Zebulon's eyes, Ethan was lying the whole time.

Zebulon suddenly shouted at Ethan, "Stop lying! Do you think I'll believe you?"

Zebulon turned to look at Elle and Carl, "It was Elle and her boyfriend who got me out. I saw it with my own eyes. How dare you lie to me? Who are you to help me out of the mess? Can you prove it? I was wondering why Joanna has changed later. It turns out that it was because of you!"

Zebulon glared at Ethan. He then walked over to Elle and Carl with a smile, "People nowadays! Elle and Carl, forget about what just happened. I'm really tired of people like him. Let's go. Everyone is waiting for you!"

Zebulon gestured them to go in.

Zebulon's words made everyone confused.

First of all, Joanna and Ethan said Ethan was the one who helped Zebulon.

But this time, Zebulon said otherwise.

Joanna was stunned. She was staring at Ethan in disbelief.

Joanna realized that Ethan had never provided anything to prove that he was the one who helped her family out of the crisis. She believed his words merely because she trusted in Ethan's character.

But Zebulon confirmed that Elle and Carl were the ones who got him out.

Joanna didn't think her dad lied about it. But what really happened?

"Ethan, talk to me. Didn't you say that you helped my dad? But why...did you lie to me or not?"

Joanna was very upset.

She didn't want to believe that Ethan had lied to her, but all the evidence pointed toward the opposite direction.

"How could I lie to you, Joanna?" Ethan was also confused. He quickly explained, "I guess there must be some misunderstanding. Don't worry. I promise you that everything I told you is true!"

"But how?" Joanna was so anxious that she was about to cry.

"I..." Ethan didn't know what to say all of a sudden. After a moment of pause, he took out his cell phone to call Maggie.

Maggie was the one who took care of the matter. Ethan hoped that she could provide an explanation.

But Zebulon sneered and said, "You are still trying to lie your way out of this! People like you aren't welcome to my party!"

Zebulon gave Elle a smile to welcome them into the restaurant.

Elle was satisfied. She looked at Ethan complacently.

She took Carl's arm. On their way to the restaurant, Elle said with a sneer, "It feels great! Ethan, do you love the feeling of being caught lying red-handed?"

Chapter 105

"Haha, honey, don't say that. Maybe he likes it. Otherwise, why is he doing it all the time? There might be something wrong with him!" Carl sneered. And then he took out a fifty-dollar note from his pocket and threw it in front of Ethan. "For the sake of Joanna, here are fifty dollars. Go to the hospital and check yourself up!"

After saying that, Carl and Elle burst into laughter.

They felt that they had their revenge!

Elle and Carl had had their most humiliating experience in their lifetime the day before that day at the Empire Hotel Restaurant.

They were asked to pay for the check after offered free service and then be beaten up in front of Ethan.

Either Elle or Carl could let go of such a huge humiliation!

At this moment, they thought they had Ethan paid for their indignity.

Elle turned around and said to Joanna, "Haha, Joanna, now you know who your family's savior is? Huh, you are so ridiculous. You can't even tell who's a friend. Think about how you treated me yesterday and what you just said to me. You would have a hard time if I didn't take you as a friend!"

Elle rolled her eyes at Joanna. She continued her words while walking into the restaurant, "Joanna, take care of yourself. Remember what I've done for you. You owe me your life!"

Hearing Elle's angry voice, Zebulon was a little unhappy about Joanna. He scolded her, "Look, how generous Elle is! You treated her badly, but she still tolerates you. Why don't you cherish a friend like Elle? Take a look at your so-called friend?"

Zebulon rolled his eyes at Ethan and continued, "Look at Carl! He is so young but so powerful. He will definitely have a bright future. But that Ethan guy? he's so full of lies. He doesn't look like a decent person. Why do you want to be friends with a person like that? Don't you think you're ridiculous?"

Finished speaking, Zebulon hurried to catch up with Elle and Carl!

In fact, Zebulon's words were intended for Carl.

After the incident, Zebulon realized that he was too naive!

It was a snobbish world, and only the people who were rich and powerful could get what they wanted.

Zebulon had been devoting decades to his medical research, and the only thing he had left was a clinic. At his moment, Zebulon believed that he had been wasting his time and energy on nothing.

And he decided to put his time into pursuing money and power.

To achieve Zebulon's new goal fast, useful connections were essential!

In Zebulon's eyes, Carl was that connection he had been looking for.

Carl was in his twenties, but he was able to make an important figure such as Joan Dodd to admire him. And given another twenty years, Carl might be able to reach great achievements.

Zebulon wanted to befriend Carl. And maybe in the future, at least in Buckeye, no one would dare to give him a hard time anymore.

Zebulon also put on a harsh attitude toward Ethan for Joanna to see. He didn't want Joanna to be too close to Ethan.

Zebulon could tell that Joanna was interested in Ethan.

And Elle had a great prejudice against him.

So the relationship between Joanna and Ethan would get in the way of which between Joanna and Elle.

Joanna's friendship with Elle could be useful for Zebulon to get close to Carl.

Therefore for Zebulon's own purpose, Ethan had to stay away from Joanna.

However, Joanna didn't know Zebulon's scheme.

At this moment, she was full of tears.

She didn't understand why she was crying after hearing Zebulon said that Carl was the one who got himself out. Joanna just felt her heart was suddenly empty.

It felt like waking up from a beautiful dream that you had prayed so hard to be real.

Joanna's heart was turning.

"Ethan, why?" Joanna's tear was flowing down her cheeks, "Why did you lie to me? Do you know how disappointed I am?"

Seeing Joanna was crying, Ethan didn't know what to do. He reached out his hand to wipe the tears for her, but Joanna pushed his hand away.

"Joanna, I didn't lie to you. I've told you that there must be some misunderstanding. Please give me some time. I need to make a phone call to find out what's wrong. I believe things will be cleared up very soon!"

Ethan was worried and felt powerless.

He came here full of confidence but didn't expect things could go down like this.

Joanna looked at Ethan and sighed in disappointment. She took out the bottle of Chanel perfume from her bag and put it in Ethan's hand.

"Ethan, I hope you can give me an explanation!" Joanna choked up, "I really want to believe you. Please don't let me down again!"

Joanna was a little hesitant, but she still gathered the courage and said, "For the last time, I really hope you can explain what is going on. If you can't, I don't think we can be friends anymore. I must admit, I like you a lot. But I can't be with a liar!"

Joanna then ran away crying.

"She likes me?"

Hearing this, Ethan's heart shook. He was surprised and oscillated.

Looking at Joanna's running away, Ethan kept shaking his head, hoping to shake off everything in his head. "I'll have to give Joanna a satisfying explanation. Otherwise, I'll lose a good friend!"

"Ethan, what...what the hell is going on?" While Ethan was in a daze, Dylan rushed over and patted Ethan on the shoulder.

"Did you lie to Joanna? We are all friends, and you can't treat Joanna like that. And...And the

thing she just said. You can't say you didn't know. She's into you!"

Charles sighed and said, "Ethan, I do hope that you didn't lie to Joanna. But...Please don't take it personally. I find it hard to believe that you helped Joanna's family. My point is that even me, your buddies, don't know if I should trust you or not, try to imagine how other people would think of you."

"That's all I'm saying!" Charles patted Ethan on the shoulder and said, "I hope that if what you said is true, prove it to everyone. By then, let's see who else dares to say one more word!"

Finishing his words, Charles sighed and looked at Ethan with a complicated expression. He then entered the restaurant.

It wasn't that Charles refused to believe Ethan, especially at such a critical moment!

But after so many times, Ethan had failed to give Charles a reasonable explanation over and over again.

As a friend, Charles had done everything he could.

Every time Ethan groundlessly claimed how great he was, it was Charles and Dylan tried to defend Ethan.

They couldn't keep doing this any longer.

So Charles decided that he wouldn't help Ethan this time!

No matter his story was lie or truth, Ethan should try to explain it himself.

If it turned out what Ethan was telling was the truth, they could remain to be the best of friends. Otherwise, Charles thought he should reconsider his friendship with Ethan.

Just like what Joanna had said, Charles also didn't want to be friends with a liar.

Everyone had left.

Ethan was standing there all by himself.

What Joanna and Charles had said made him downhearted.

He didn't expect that such a small misunderstanding would end up like this!

He didn't want to lose his friends. They had helped him in so many ways. If it weren't for them, Ethan wouldn't have gone this far.

He took out the cell phone and dialed the number, "Hello, Maggie. Do you remember the time I asked your help to deal with a little trouble for my friend Joanna? I'd like to know how things went."

Although Ethan didn't use hard words, Maggie could tell something was wrong. He called to find the culprit.

"What's wrong, Mr. Ethan?" Maggie asked calmly.

Ethan sighed and told her what just happened in front of the restaurant.

Hearing Ethan's story, Maggie was stunned. She asked, "What? How come? Why someone tried to take the credit from you?"

After a minute of thinking, Maggie comforted Ethan and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Ethan. I'll get to the bottom of this. Text me the address, and I'll be there right away!"

Chapter 106

Maggie knew the importance of the incident.

Ethan, her boss's son, was wronged, and it was caused by her negligence in work.

Maggie knew that part of the fault was hers. So she had to deal with the matter to make up for her mistakes.

She got Joan's phone number and called him.

"Hello, Miss Hill, this is Joan Dodd!" Joan received a call from Maggie out of blues, so he was excited, "What's up? Is it for our real estate cooperation plan? Do we get a yes?"

Maggie said coldly, "Joan Dodd, do you know what you've done?"

Joan was surprised by Maggie's tone of voice, "What...What have I done? Does something go wrong?"

"Shut up. Let me ask you. Do you know who helped the doctor who works at that clinic, Dr. Mitchel?" Maggie questioned.

Joan was surprised, "Of course. It's the order from Mr. Norman's son. I treated it very seriously. I also treated him to a nice dinner the other day. He was very happy with my service."

"Ah?" Maggie was confused. She thought for a minute and said, "I'm sending you an address. You go there as soon as you can. I need you to clear things up. Something goes very wrong right now. Mr. Norman's son who you met with is an impostor!"

Maggie continued with a harsher tone, "If you can't fix this, not only you won't get the real estate deal, but also you might need to consider relocating somewhere not Buckeye!"

After saying that, Maggie hung up the phone abruptly.

At this time, Joan's face froze. He couldn't believe that the person he had warmly treated was an impostor.

But how to explain the watch on his wrist?

Luxury watches were one of Joan's habits. He recognized Carl's watch wasn't a fake one. It cost millions and was customized for Norman Family.

Joan knew Eric Norman started his business in Buckeye, which was considered a Norman family's base.

In Buckeye, no one dared to fake a Norman identity, especially for those who had personal relationships with the family.

So what was going on?

Joan couldn't figure out how things could go wrong. But one thing he was sure that the problem was very serious, or else Maggie wouldn't have called him personally.

At this time, his phone rang again. It was the address Maggie sent to him.

Joan rushed out of his office. He jumped in his car and drove to the address straight away.

In the restaurant, Zebulon's party was bustling with people.

Zebulon had made great efforts to arrange the party at this three-star restaurant. He wanted Carl to know what he can provide and his admiration toward Carl.

Zebulon entered the room with Carl and the others. Dozens of his families and friends suddenly went quiet and turned their heads over.

Zebulon clapped his hands and said loudly, "All right, everyone, please listen to me!"

Zebulon took a look at Carl with a smile on his face and said to the crowd, "I think everyone is here. Let me introduce my savior, Mr. Carl Lee!"

The crowd burst into a round of warm applause.

People were making sounds of admiration.

"That kid is so young, and he just gave Zebulon such a huge favor!"

"Don't call him kid! Who are you to call him that? He is young, but he is a big shot in Buckeye. Do you know Joan Dodd, the guy Zebulon offended? Even Joan has to treat him with great respect!"

"He's so powerful. How old is he? Early twenties? Give him another twenty years, I think, he will rule Buckeye!"

"Look at the girl next to him. That's our Joanna's best friend. It's because they are friends, Carl called Joan Dodd to let go of Zebulon."

"He's really powerful."

The people's praise of Carl was unprecedentedly high.

Zebulon's families and friends all hoped to make a pleasing impression in front of Carl. In their mind, Carl was someone even Joan was feared of. And if they could get a connection with Carl, they might get some great opportunities.

As soon as Carl entered the door, people were quickly gathered around him, smiling flatteringly and offering their business cards.

"Hello, Mr. Lee. I'm the general manager of Weibang. This is my business card. It's a pleasure to meet you!"

"Hello, I am a friend of Zebulon. I have a pharmacy. If you'd like, I can offer free medicine to your family..."

"I'm..."

A group of people immediately surrounded Carl. Zebulon was embarrassed, but he didn't feel good about stopping them because they were his relatives.

However, Carl was upset. He pushed away a middle-aged man with his business card in his hand, and then Carl threw out all the business cards he was handed.

"What the hell do you want?" Carl screamed at them, "Who do you think you are? Are you worthy of my acquaintance? Where you guys are from? Even my servants are more superior than you are! Don't try to make conversation with me. Go away!"

Carl's attitude really shocked everyone.

People were standing awkwardly, and some of them walked away angrily.

They were complaining, "Yes, you are rich and powerful, but do you have to be so snobbish?"

Zebulon's relatives suddenly lost their enthusiasm for pleasing Carl.

They could see that no matter how hard they tried, Carl would never treat him seriously.

You could say that Carl didn't regard them as human beings. In his eyes, they were less than nobody.

Elle didn't think Carl's attitude was problematic. She was enjoying the view of people being humiliated by Carl.

After learning how powerful Carl was, Elle's feet were off the ground lately.

In the past, she was kind to people, basically because she was ordinary.

But after she had the feeling of superiority, she didn't bother to talk with ordinary people anymore.

"Do you think every ordinary people can talk to my Carl? Use your brain!" Elle rolled her eyes at everyone and said arrogantly.

The air suddenly was full of awkwardness. No one knew what to say, including Zebulon.

After a while, Zebulon squeezed out a smile, "Ah... haha, it may be that we were a little rude. Carl, I'm sorry. Please come and sit. The food is ready! Please do sit down!"

Carl nodded proudly and then swaggered into the room.

However, Elle suddenly exclaimed. Everyone looked at her.

"Why are you here?"

Ethan was standing in the doorway, looking at Joanna.

"Want more humiliation? You really don't know what shame is!" Elle said disdainfully.

Carl looked at Ethan, sneered, "Don't say that, honey. What if he comes in for food? People like him may not be able to enter a place like this. You have to admire his courage for walking in."

As they were insulting Ethan, Zebulon's relatives were confused. They didn't know who Ethan was.

Carl just treated them so contemptuously that he refused to talk to them. But Carl would spend his attention on Ethan.

Carl looked at everyone with a smile and said sneeringly, "Oh, let me introduce. This is Ethan Humphrey. There's nothing about him worth mentioning, but you all can remember him through one thing. Ethan here claims that he is the one who helped Zebulon out of his mess. Funny, right? So where do you want to put me?"

"That's right. He has no shame to say such a thing!" Elle quickly echoed, "He even said it in front of Uncle Mitchel. Do you think we are all fools? It's ridiculous! How dare you lie to me!"

Hearing their words, everyone looked at Ethan in surprise.

Chapter 107

"Really? What's wrong with him?"

"There are a lot of weird people in this world. He just stole credits from other people, but I've seen worse."

"I know him. He is Joanna's friend. I saw him yesterday in the hospital. He gave Joanna a cheap perfume but told her it was a Chanel. His lie was exposed on the spot. How can he be so shameless to come today?"

"Really? He did that? Shameless!"

People were looking at Ethan and discussing.

They couldn't believe Ethan could do all those things.

Looking at his families' reaction, Zebulon hated Ethan even more.

Zebulon had already told Ethan to go away. Why did he come back to humiliate Zebulon?

Zebulon was furious. He walked to Ethan and yelled, "What are you doing here? Get out! Don't humiliate us!"

As he spoke, Zebulon was about to shove Ethan out.

But Ethan pushed Zebulon away. Ethan ignored everyone in the room, including Elle and Carl.

Ethan looked at Joanna and walked straight toward her.

"Get out! You are not welcome here!" Zebulon was trying to drag Ethan out.

But Joanna waved her hand at Zebulon, "Dad, he wants to speak to me. Just let him talk."

Zebulon sighed and pulled back his hand.

"What do you want to say? Just say it." Joanna looked at Ethan indifferently.

Ethan smiled, "I told you that I would give you an explanation. I'm here for that!"

"F**k your explanation!" Before Joanna could say anything, Elle interrupted, "Do you even know what a shame is? What do you still want to do now? I don't even want to waste my time on humiliating you anymore!"

Elle hated Ethan to an extreme. She glared at Ethan and said to Zebulon, "Uncle Mitchel, Why the hell are you still standing here? Get him out of here. I'm sick of him!"

Elle was commanding Zebulon.

Zebulon had no choice but to ask two nearby young men to get Ethan out. They then walked toward Ethan.

Right at this moment, another voice was heard.

"Dare you to touch him!"

A woman appeared in the doorway. She was wearing fitted brown suits and a pair of stilettos.

Zebulon didn't know Maggie. He questioned her, "Who the hell are you? This is my party, and I'm the one who decides who stays and who goes. Tomas, Rufus, you two, go and throw that guy out!"

Hearing Zebulon's command, the two young men started their actions again.

At the same time, a dozen bodyguards in black suits and sunglasses rushed into the room.

A couple of them went to protect Ethan. The rest circled Zebulon and the two young men.

Although the two young men were strong people,

They looked like small dolls comparing to a bunch of six-foot-tall muscular bodyguards.

"Don't you dare!" Maggie sneered on her way over to Ethan, "You people are ridiculous. Are you all blind?"

Maggie suppressed her anger.

She knew what Ethan had done for Mitchel's family. But they treated him so horribly after Ethan helped them.

If anyone of Eric Norman's sons were in Ethan's shoes, Buckeye would have been turned upside down by now!

Hearing Maggie's words, no one dared to make a sound.

"Or else?" Elle suddenly spoke out. She didn't take Maggie and the bodyguards seriously. She continued, "Don't think that I don't know. You are that moron's sugar mommy. I didn't forget what has happened to us yesterday. You got us only because you had more people. But this is not the Empire Hotel Restaurant, and we won't be easy on you. So you'd better watch yourself.

Elle then took a look at Zebulon's families and friends. There were quite a few of them were strong young men.

Elle continued, "What are you scared of? You are all threatened by her words? There was only a dozen of them."

Elle's words made many feeling ashamed.

Someone whispered, "She's right. We have more people. We don't need to be scared of them."

"And we can call more people. There are only a dozen of them. We are not gonna be threatened by them."

"They are only bluffing! We are not gonna be threatened by them!"

Zebulon's guests suddenly got their confidence back. They were staring at Maggie arrogantly.

A couple of them were even getting closer to Maggie.

Maggie found their action ridiculous.

Maggie's bodyguards were all ex-special force. They were as excellent in combat as they were ruthless.

With the Norman Family was their boss, they didn't have any scruples.

Looking at the defiant people, Maggie sneered, "Don't push your luck!"

The young men were reckless.

One of them said, "I'm not gonna take you seriously, and I'll hurt that guy. What are you gonna do to me?"

He then walked toward Ethan.

He thought Maggie just put up a front to scare people, and she daren't to start a fight.

But he was wrong!

Maggie smiled contemptuously and signaled one of the bodyguards. The bodyguard

immediately jumped at the young man and put him down on the floor. The bodyguard stepped on the young man's face, and the young man was too scared to make a sound.

Maggie smiled calmly and questioned him, "Now you know what I'm gonna do to you!"

The young man's face turned pale.

He realized how reckless and stupid he was.

And he also knew that the dozen bodyguard could put everyone in the room on the floor without breaking a sweat.

Maggie looked at Elle coldly and said, "By the way, didn't you say that you won't make things easy for me? Well, then, show me how!"

Looking at the young man being taken down, Elle was angry. She still wasn't afraid of Maggie.

Elle thought Maggie only had a couple of musclemen, but her boyfriend Carl was a big shot in Buckeye, who Maggie couldn't afford to offend.

"Bluffing! I'm not afraid of you! What are you? Dare to touch me! My boyfriend will call people to deal with you right away!"

Before Elle could finish her words, Maggie raised her hand and slapped Elle. Maggie yelled angrily, "How dare you to talk to me like that? Watch your tongue!"

Maggie's slap almost got Elle down on the floor. Carl caught Elle before she hit the floor.

"Why did you hit her?" Carl was angry. He didn't care about Elle that much. He felt ashamed that his girlfriend was beaten in public.

Maggie sneered, "So? You want to be hit too?"

Carl looked at Maggie's bodyguards and then stepped aside quietly.

At this moment, something in the door caught Carl's eyes, and a smile appeared on his face.

Carl said with disdain, "Are you threatening me? Who do you think you are? I command you to apologize to me before it's too late!"

Maggie was surprised by Carl's sudden attitude change. She followed his eyesight and saw Joan rushing over.

Maggie laughed. Carl thought Joan was here to save him.

Maggie thought Carl was ridiculous because Carl still didn't know which side Joan was with.

Chapter 108

Seeing Joan, Carl was relieved.

Carl thought Maggie was no match for Joan.

Joan was the CEO of the Nine Star Group and a famous figure in Buckeye.

But who was Maggie? Carl had never heard of her!

Maggie was arrogant toward Carl. But with Joan here, Carl couldn't let Maggie walk all over him anymore.

Carl grinned and said arrogantly, "Joan, where the hell are you? Why are you coming here so late?"

However, Joan had figured out the whole affair. He knew that Carl was faking the Norman identity.

Joan wasn't happy about being conned by Carl, and he was even angrier that Carl was still shouting at him disrespectfully.

Joan's face turned red. He walked toward Carl angrily.

However, Carl didn't know that Joan had found out about his lie. He pointed at Maggie and shouted, "Joan, now throw this crazy woman out, and that idiot!"

Carl thought Ethan was going to be done that day.

And he thought Joan would do anything he asked.

However, to Carl's surprise, Joan was walking straight toward him.

"What... what's wrong with you? Did you hear what I'm saying?" Carl shouted arrogantly, "Joan, I'm not done with you about what happened yesterday. You'd better stop pissing me off. Do you know that after you left the Empire Hotel restaurant, Pablo forced me to pay for the meal? It was more than eighty thousand dollars! Give me back the money right now!"

Hearing Carl's words, Joan was secretly happy. He thought it was fortunate that Pablo charged Carl, so Joan wouldn't have to be a total laughing stock.

Joan walked up to Carl with an angry face. Carl was getting more furious. He wanted to keep screaming at Joan.

But Joan punched Carl in the face.

Carl fell on the floor.

"Ouch..." Carl covered his mouth with his hands. One of Carl's teeth was knocked off, and blood came out from his mouth.

Carl was angry. He sprang up from the floor and shouted, "Joan Dodd, are you f**king crazy? How dare you hit me?"

Joan was so angry that his cheeks were twitching. He grunted, "Beat you? I want to kill you!"

Carl was stunned at Joan's facial expression. It was the total opposite of how Joan was treating Carl the last time.

An ominous feeling rose in Carl's head.

But at this moment, Elle suddenly jumped out and stood in front of Carl. She questioned Joan,

"How dare you hit my boyfriend? You are not scared of him anymore? Kneel before him and apologize! Or my boyfriend..."

Before Elle could finish her sentence, Joan raised his hand and slapped her in the face. Elle let out a scream and staggered, almost falling to the floor.

"You..." Elle was on the verge of exploding. She was about to fight Joan.

Joan had been around the street of Buckeye for years. A young girl wouldn't be able to harm him.

Before Elle charged, Joan kicked her in the stomach. Elle fell to the floor.

Everyone was stunned!

Especially Zebulon, he was watching everything confused but daren't to make a sound.

Zebulon remembered how ingratiating Joan was treating Carl and Elle the day before, but why did he beat them up at this moment?

What's happened to Joan? Wasn't he scared of Carl anymore?

Zebulon was still confused but stepped up to interfere, "Mr. Dodd... Mr. Dodd, please stop..."

Zebulon quickly held Joan from behind and pulled Joan away.

"What's the matter, Mr. Dodd? Let's talk it over!" Zebulon tried to stop Joan from hitting Elle and Carl, "Mr. Dodd, this is the son of the Norman Family, and you don't want to hurt him..."

Zebulon wasn't worried about Joan. He didn't want to be collateral damage.

Because this was Zebulon's party, if anything happened to Carl, Zebulon was sure part of the culprit.

Zebulon's word made Joan let out sneering laughter.

"A son of Norman Family?" Joan turned to look at Ethan and asked, "Zebulon, let me ask you, do you know who is that over there?"

Zebulon was confused by the question. He thought maybe Joan didn't want to see Ethan, "Well... Mr. Dodd, he is nobody. I didn't invite him! He is a party crasher. He lies about how he has saved me, and he found this woman to help his plot. I think he is here merely to make me look bad!"

Zebulon said as he smiled awkwardly, "But, Mr. Dodd... Well, as you can see, the woman has brought so many people. I... I am no match for her. Can you help me deal with them? You can rest assured that I, Zebulon, will remember your kindness..."

Before Zebulon could finish his words, he found that Joan's face turned blue. Joan stared at Zebulon with anger, "What did you say? Say it again?"

Joan grabbed Zebulon by the collar and shouted, "Zebulon, do you know what you're talking about? Deal with them? Who do you want me to deal with? How many lives do you have?"

Zebulon was stunned by Joan. He thought, "What's wrong with Joan? He was fine yesterday, but what's about the huge change?"

Before Zebulon found out what's going on, Joan told him.

Joan scolded Zebulon, "That guy is the real young master Norman. You fool haven't got a glue? How dare you talk to him like that? Do you know what will happen to you?"

Joan's voice was loud enough for everyone in the room to hear. They were all stunned.

"This... is it true?" Zebulon couldn't believe his ears.

"Ethan was the son of the Norman Family? Then who was Carl? Wasn't Carl the one who picked me up at the police station?"

All of Zebulon's families and friends were surprised at what they were hearing.

They didn't know the Norman Family, but from the way Joan and Zebulon behave around that name, they could sense how powerful the family was.

And a person from the family helped Zebulon!

"Zebulon, are we in trouble?"

"This... this is a misunderstanding? What the hell is going on?"

Everyone started to talk in a state of astonishment.

"Mr. Dodd, what the hell is going on?" Zebulon asked helplessly. He looked at Ethan with panic.

Joan sneered and told Zebulon everything.

According to Joan, Ethan was the one who called Maggie, and then Maggie informed Joan to let go of Zebulon.

Joan didn't know where did Carl get the watch, which was customized for the members of the Norman Family. Coincidentally, Elle and Carl appeared at the police station, and Joan happened to see them.

The whole incident was a series of coincidences.

Zebulon was surprised by Joan's explanation.

Ethan didn't lie about saving Zebulon? But Zebulon was horrible to Ethan.

Zebulon regretted his behavior toward Ethan. He was scared of what would happen to him.

Everyone was stunned upon hearing Joan's explanation.

"Ethan, do you really have a rich dad?" Charles asked in shock, "So, what you said before is true?"

"Ethan, you weren't lying the whole time! This is surprising news! Is your dad like super-rich? Who is this Norman Family? But why is your last name Humphrey?"

Dylan asked with excitement.

Ethan just smiled and didn't answer. He was looking at Joanna.

Ethan hesitated for a moment and said, "Joanna, now you know that I didn't lie to you, and that's my explanation."

Chapter 109

Joanna was in a dilemma.

She was happy to know Ethan's real identity.

She had hoped that Ethan was telling the truth when he claimed he was from a rich family, and he had helped her dad.

Joanna could only hope Ethan was who he said he was before the proof came along.

But she was a little depressed when she found out that Ethan was telling the truth.

She couldn't tell why. It was only a feeling.

Joanna could feel the distance between Ethan and herself. Ethan was too out of reach for her!

And the feeling brought up a sense of bitterness in Joanna.

She looked at Ethan with tears in her eyes, but she quickly wiped off the tears and nodded, "Well... thank you, Ethan. Thank you very much for saving my father and my family."

Joanna was saying thank you, but Ethan caught an off feeling from Joanna's gratitude.

Ethan was in a daze when he suddenly heard Elle's voice.

"Carl, what... what the hell is this?" Elle sounded angry, "Explain it to me now!"

Carl's face turned red. He stuttered, "Nothing. What do you want me to say? I have to go now!"

Carl got up and tried to leave.

Carl was clear that he'd better escape when there was still a chance. People had already found out about the truth, and nothing good was going to be left for him.

Carl was stopped.

Maggie's bodyguards were standing in front of him.

Maggie sneered, "Wanna run away? Do you think you can leave so easily? Naive!"

Carl was sweating and trembling. Suddenly, he took off the watch from his wrist and put it in the hand of one of the bodyguards.

"Well... I'll give you back your watch. What else do you want?" Carl gathered courage and said, "I... I warn you. Although I'm not the son of the Norman Family, my dad, Archer Lee, is also a big shot in Buckeye. If you dare to do anything to me, my dad..."

"What? Archer Lee?" Joan burst into laughter. "The Archer Lee who is operating a river trading business? No wonder you are his son, only good at bullsh*tting. I'll break one of your legs, and you call your dad. Let's see if he gets anything to say!"

Joan walked over to Ethan and Maggie as he spoke. He smiled ingratiatingly and said, "Sorry, the misunderstanding was all my fault. Please rest assured, I'll get to the bottom of this."

Maggie sneered and said, "How you want to deal with them is your own business. But don't do it here right now. We don't want to see it!"

Joan smiled and nodded. He made a phone call, and several strong men in black walked in from outside.

Seeing this, Carl was trying to run away, but they caught him and dragged him out of the door.

"Wait a moment. Take her with you! She is a terrible thing too." Joan pointed at Elle with a cold face.

One of his men nodded and walked to Elle...

Elle was petrified. She was ticking and screaming but was still dragged away by Joan's men.

Elle was on the verge of breaking down. She yelled at everyone in despair while beating the man who was dragging her.

But no one did anything to help her.

Zebulon shook his head helplessly.

He didn't even know what would happen to him afterward. Helping Elle was beyond his capacity.

Elle was even more desperate. She saw Joanna and cried suddenly, "Joanna, Joanna help me... Please help me..."

Joanna couldn't bear to see Elle in such a horrible situation. She walked up to Ethan.

"Ethan, please forgive Elle. I know she has been mean to you, but deep down, she is a good person. I'm begging you." Said Joanna.

Charles said hastily, "Yes, Ethan. Elle is my cousin. For the sake of me, please let her go!"

Ethan sighed.

Looking at Joan's fiendish face, Ethan knew very well that Elle would have a very hard time after being brought out.

Although Elle had been bullying Ethan, she didn't deserve such harsh treatment. If something bad happened to Elle, Ethan would feel bad about it.

Ethan looked at Maggie. Before he opened his mouth, Maggie said, "Young Master Ethan, do you want to let her go?"

There was a hint of disappointment in Maggie's tone.

Ethan blushed, but looking at Joanna and Charles, he nodded, "Let her go. I believe she has learned her lesson."

Maggie sighed. She nodded and waved her hand, indicating for Joan to release Elle.

Elle heaved a sigh of relief and burst into tears.

She looked at Joanna and Charles and cried harder, "Joanna, Charles, thank you..."

Charles sighed and said, "Don't thank us. You should thank Ethan. And there's another thing I need to tell you. Do you remember the time when we couldn't afford the check for the food? I told you the money was borrowed from a friend. It was actually from Ethan!"

Charles breathed a sigh of relief. He had tried to tell her about this many times, and he finally did it.

He continued, "Do you remember what did you say to Ethan that time? You should really take some time to think about how you should treat Ethan. As your cousin, I've tried my best to help you, and the rest is on you."

Hearing Charles's words, Elle was surprised. She didn't think for once that Ethan had given them the money.

Elle raised her head and looked at Ethan with confusion. She suddenly realized that she didn't

know Ethan at all!

Why was he the one who helped her? Why is he doing that again?

Elle was full of mixed emotions. She didn't know what to say, and her tears burst out again.

She threw a fierce look at Ethan and ran out.

"Elle..." Joanna was shocked by Elle's behavior and was about to run after her.

She was stopped.

It was Zebulon who stopped Joanna. He said strictly, "Don't run after her! Did you forget how she treated you and Ethan? A person like Elle doesn't deserve your attention. Letting her go is the most merciful thing she could ever get."

Zebulon then smiled at Joanna and whispered, "Joanna, you should put your attention on pleasing Ethan. Why would you still bother to talk to someone like Elle?"

Zebulon smiled hypocritically and leaned over to Ethan, "Ethan... Oh no, Young Master Ethan, I'm so sorry. I didn't know who you were. I'm so stupid..."

As Zebulon scolded himself, he slapped himself, "It's all my fault..."

Ethan was disgusted by Zebulon's performance.

Joanna was even more disturbed by what she was seeing. Her dad was slapping himself and apologizing to her best friend. The scene was too obscene to watch.

Joanna stopped Zebulon and shouted, "Dad, what are you doing?"

Zebulon pushed Joanna away and shouted, "What do you know? Step aside and don't get in my way! If you have nothing to do, join me then!"

Joanna looked at Zebulon in disbelief.

"Dad, what the hell got into you?" Joanna was speechless. Her dad's embarrassing behavior made her ashamed of facing Ethan.

Joanna couldn't stop Zebulon. She had no choice but to run away.

Seeing Joanna was running away, Ethan wanted to go after her but stopped by Zebulon, "Young Master Ethan, don't pay attention to her. I have spoiled her. I'll give her a good lesson later. The food is ready. Please take a seat!"

Zebulon made a gesture of "please" with a smile on his face.

But Ethan's face was cold. He looked at Zebulon discontentedly and said, "Forget it, go eat it yourself!"

After finishing his words, Ethan left.

Chapter 110

Seeing Ethan leaving, Zebulon was catching up with him.

"There's no need!" Maggie raised her hand to stop Zebulon. She said coldly, "For the sake of the relationship between your daughter and Young Master Ethan, you are off the hook, but behave yourself. You'd better stay away from Young Master Ethan, otherwise... I think you know what I mean?"

Zebulon was stunned. He nodded.

He didn't dare to say one more word. Maggie was giving him a warning.

Zebulon thought he just lost a great opportunity. Ethan was someone even Joan was under his command, but Zebulon let Ethan walk away.

Zebulon was hoping to work on the connection with Ethan, but with Maggie's warning, he didn't dare to contact Ethan again.

Maggie rolled her eyes at Zebulon and ran after Ethan. Her bodyguards followed her out.

The dining room went quiet suddenly. Everyone left in the room was too shocked to say a word.

It took a while for a few whispers to break out.

Zebulon sighed and looked at Joan. He suddenly grinned and said, "Mr. Dodd, please take a seat!"

Zebulon thought it wouldn't be so bad if he could get the connection with Joan going.

However, Joan sneered at Zebulon and patted him on the shoulder, "Forget it, Zebulon. Ms. Hill just told you to behave yourself. You are too snobbish. Look how you treated Young Master Ethan before you knew who he was, and now you are trying to kiss his boots? Shame on you!"

After finishing his words, Joan rolled his eyes at Zebulon and headed out.

Zebulon's face turned red. He regretted what he had been behaving.

"Aye..." Zebulon couldn't help but sigh. He hadn't been like that, but Zebulon could feel the drastic change in him after the incident.

It was too late to regret. To talk to Ethan again would be way too difficult at this moment.

However, thinking of Joanna's relationship with Ethan, Zebulon couldn't help but happy again.

He could see that Joanna and Ethan were closer than mere friends. He wished that their relationship could be further developed.

Zebulon imagined the day he was the father-in-law of Ethan. "No one in Buckeye would dare to mess with me!" he wondered.

"And Joan wouldn't be able to talk to me like that anymore!"

Thinking of this, Zebulon had a plan in his head. He grinned and greeted everyone, "All right, now that everything is over, please take your seats. Enjoy yourself!"

Outside of the restaurant, Maggie just caught up with Ethan.

"Where to? I'll take you there," Maggie said.

Ethan shook his head and said, "I'm going back to campus. Thank you, but I'd like to go back myself."

"I'll drive you. Today is my fault, and..." Maggie hesitated and said, "I have something to tell you."

"What?" Ethan stopped and looked at Maggie.

Maggie smiled and said, "Let's talk in the car."

Ethan had no choice but to get in Maggie's car.

"What's the matter? Can you tell me now?" Ethan sat in the passenger seat and asked.

Maggie started the car. She said as she was driving off the restaurant parking lot, "Mr. Norman is going to invest in a company in Buckeye, and he wants you to be in charge."

"Me?" Ethan was surprised. He was never in business before. How could he be in charge of a company?

"How much... is my dad going to invest?" Ethan asked.

Maggie smiled and said, "A couple of billion. It's from Mr. Norman's personal bank account, and no one would know about this. You are fully in charge of all the investment money."

A couple of billion?

Ethan was stunned.

He hadn't spent much from his two billion. And his dad just gave him more to invest in the business.

Ethan didn't feel confident about it, and he felt as if they were rushing him.

Ethan was afraid that he would fail.

Maggie looked at Ethan and smiled bitterly, "Don't worry. I'll be there to help you. You need to work hard and learn fast."

Maggie put on a strick face and said, "Mr. Norman wants me to tell you that you don't need to worry about failing. The money is for you. It would be better if the investment profits, but you don't need to feel pressured of earning."

Maggie's words made Ethan feel more stressed. He had no idea of what he could do.

When the car pulled over, Ethan was still lost in thoughts. "Young Master Ethan, we're here."

Ethan got off the car.

"Young Master Ethan, please wait a moment," Maggie called Ethan.

"What's wrong?"

Maggie smiled and handed Ethan a couple of real estate ads, "I almost forgot. This is real estate information about a high-end community in Buckeye. I want to show it to you."

"Why?" Ethan frowned and looked a little confused.

Maggie smiled and said, "Mr. Norman thinks it's inappropriate for you to keep staying at the dorm. He wants me to find you a decent place to live. I did the research, and this one is the best so far. You can take a look and let me know your thoughts. I'll take care of the rest."

Buying a place to live?

Ethan looked at the ads. They were all houses from high-end communities.

He was excited.

Buying a house was something Ethan could only dream about doing,

Let alone buying one from high-end communities.

Ethan nodded with a smile. After saying goodbye to Maggie. He walked on the campus as he checked the ads.

Ethan looked up and saw Nina was walking over with a couple of girls.

They were heading out of the campus.

Ethan tried to avoid Nina.

Nina had been mean to Ethan, and Ethan knew Nina would put him in an embarrassing situation if Nina saw him again.

However, Nina called Ethan out, "What a coincidence! Long time no see, Ethan! How have you been? Getting rich?"

Nina was after Ethan like a hungry wolf was after a rabbit.

Seeing Ethan was wearing designer clothes, Nina was curious. She laughed scornfully, "Nice outfits! Which dumpster did you get them from?"

Ethan tried to ignore Nina's insult, "I don't want to get into another quarrel with you. Excuse me, I have things to do!"

Ethan was walking away, but Nina stopped him. She looked at Ethan teasingly, "Why the rush? Am I scaring you? Are you hiding something? I heard you just made a huge mistake and almost got expelled."

"It has nothing to do with you," Ethan said indifferently.

Nina snorted and said, "You think I care about you? Interesting thoughts."

Nina looked at the ads in Ethan's hands and laughed, "Oh, that's good. Is that what you are working on right now? Buying a house by selling trash?"

Nina snatched the ads from Ethan's hands and ripped them into pieces. She threw the pieces in Ethan's face and sneered, "You are funny, moron! So dare to dream! Do you know what you are? Buying a house?"

Nina threw a contemptuous glance at Ethan and laughed loudly with her friends.

None of them cared about Ethan's feelings. They were talking and laughing in front of him.

"Are you crazy? Do you really think you can afford a house? You can't even afford a dog house!"

Nina sneered, "Do you guys know Justin's family is going to buy a luxury house. He has invited me to the moving party!"

The other girls looked at Nina enviously. "Really? Buying a luxury house? Justin has really got rich parents!"

"Nina, if things work out between you and Justin, you will live a very rich life!"

"It's really amazing. Where is the house?" A girl asked curiously.

Nina deliberately shouted with a full face of pride, "Of course at Stratyer Residence. You should know that. It's the best community in Buckeye!"