Chapter 58

"Let's face it. You haven't been a father to me for a very long time," Adrian said through gritted teeth.

"You -" Anthony was clearly about to explode, but surprisingly, he held back and instead raised, "And what about the shares? Were those Mister Pie's shares?"

"Mister Pie had long sold his shares to me. I decided to name it under Riley," Adrian said. "She had no idea about this."

Adrian turned to Riley, saying, "This was my advance wedding gift to her."

"But why are you giving her company shares?" Anthony questioned.

"Because she will soon be my wife, and I love her. I want her to be part of the company," Adrian answered.

"But she knows nothing about our company," Anthony objected.

"On the contrary, she does. I told her about the company, and she will learn more in the years to come as my wife. Why is this an issue? You gave Tonet and Fredrick shares of the company that easily, so why can't I give some to my fiance?" Adrian pointed out.

"you are not yet even married!" Anthony barked. "Why did -"

"Enough!" Abner scolded. "Adrian is a grown man. He has every right to marry a woman of his choosing, just like you married Tonet without my consent!"

"But father, we don't know anything about her," Anthony pointed out.

"Exactly," Tonet remarked.

"But I do. I have known the name Riley Allen since Adrian was in college. If you were being a father to your son, you would know who Riley is," Abner countered. "Now, enough about this argument. Adrian has a lot of work to do, considering how the construction company has been going downhill over the years. I also don't have any issue with Adrian giving Riley company shares. He bought it from Mister Pie, so he had every right to give it away as he pleases!"

"And Riley also has a company to manage," Abner added. "So let this go."

"Did you really open a new business with her?" Anthony asked Adrian.

"Yes, we are business partners in the new jewelry company," Adrian revealed.

"Oh, you mean you started the company for her," Tonet sarcastically commented. "How much did you spend on it, Adrian? Can't you see? She is already spending your money this early on."

"Just like how my father built a company for you," Adrian responded to Tonet. "How is your sales doing, by the way, Tonet? Have your fashion line earned at least a hundred dollars?"

"Yes, I built a company for my future wife, but she has loyal clients who will follow her. Watch as our business will soon thrive, but yours will continue to lose money," Adrian supplemented.

"Adrian, stop! Time and time again, you have insulted my wife," Anthony scolded.

"I did not know it was considered an insult to be concerned with Tonet's sales, considering I am now the company's stand-in CEO," Adrian said.

"He is right," Abner defended Adrian's words: "We are barely breaking even with the new fashion line company. Adrian has every reason to question Tonet."

Riley thought their heated discussion would go on and on. Thankfully, Clint saved the day. He entered the chairman's office and announced, " I'm sorry to disturb your family gathering, but the CEO of ACE construction firm is on the phone, looking for the boss."

"ACE Construction firm?" Anthony's eyes rounded. He asked, "How is it possible you are already connected with the CEO of ACE Construction?"

"I have my ways," Adrian said. He held Riley's hand and said, "Excuse us. Riley and I have things to do."

As Riley and Adrian paced toward the CEO's office, she remembered what Clint said. "ACE Construction?"

Adrian did not react to her words, but Clint heard her from behind. Clint said, "It's a rising construction company, Miss Allen. A partnership with them would help The King's Enterprises' current lack of projects."

"Oh, but ACE -" Riley was about to say the company name was a coincidence. Adrian was Mister ACE, and there was such a company with the same name?