

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 171

Darius heard the woman's breathing speed up even more, showing her nervousness.

He looked pleased with himself, and he stood up straighter. "I'm also guessing that she's

quite pretty and has blond hair. She's probably also wearing a white lace mask."

The woman heard this. She wondered how he could tell what her hair was like from this

angle and whether she'd accidentally left a strand behind. She was so focused on this

train of thought that she didn't register what he'd said about the mask.

By the time she did, it was too late. The curtains before her were suddenly drawn, and

her mind went blank.

It was good that Darius had prepared for this situation—the woman let go of the window

and started falling from the twenty-eighth floor.

Fortunately for her, Darius caught her and dragged her back up into the office.

The

sudden rippling of his muscles made his brand-new shirt tear open.

When the woman fell to the floor, her chest pressed against his bare arm, and her top

was extremely low-cut. She learned this trick through her experience as a thief—if she

were to get caught, she could pretend to be someone's lover and buy herself some time

to escape. It had worked like magic in the past.

However, she never expected to actually have physical contact with anyone.

She was

quick on her feet and learned how to run away as quickly as possible. This was why it

had never occurred to her that something like this could happen. Now, she felt both

angry and sad.

Someone had touched her where they weren't supposed to, and it was only right for her

to give them a tight slap in return. Unfortunately, this wasn't something she

could do at the moment because Darius was the one who'd saved her from falling to her death. There was no way she could treat her savior like that. She tried to think of her next move. To Darius, however, the woman was probably so terrified that she didn't know what to say. When he saw how dazed she was, he said, "So, what do you think? I'm a pretty good guesser, aren't I?" An ugly look crept onto the woman's face because he was right. She couldn't accept it and didn't know what to say. Darius continued, "Since you don't know where to start, I'll go first. You took the plaque in my office, right? Your first move should've been to remove it from your pocket." The woman didn't know how Darius knew about this. Her fear grew, and she remained silent. Until now, she still couldn't understand how he'd caught her. Of course, there was no way she'd even be able to guess the true reason. Her teacher was from a mysterious land, and she refused to believe that there was anyone better than her in terms of noticing and controlling one's breathing and actions. When Darius saw that she remained unmoving, he reached a hand toward her pocket. She tried to dodge him by curling up in a corner, but to no avail. He took the golden plaque out of her pocket and looked down at her. At the same time, Erin held her phone up to record what was happening. She said, "I've already looked into your background, Doris Gray. We know your modus operandi—you pretend to be involved with the men around to buy yourself time to escape. After finding out what you do, we put in place a series of traps to counter your every move. There's no way you're going to get away this time." Doris could tell what a hopeless situation she was in. She got to her feet, no

longer
looking terrified. She said, "You're right, and you're also very smart. In fact,
you guys are
the smartest people I've ever stolen from. It's too bad that even the almighty
Reid family
can't stop me. I've still managed to steal something from you, and as long as I
want to, I
can leave with whatever I've taken."
Darius smiled. "You're absolutely right, but the fact that you're still standing
here before
me shows that your curiosity got the better of you and made you fail."
Doris had to admit he was right. There was nothing she could say to refute
him. She
looked at him and said tentatively, "Since you already know everything and
have
evidence of me being behind this, you should get someone to escort me out of
here. At
least, that's what everyone else would do."
He continued to smile, then crossed his arms and listened to her speak.
This was her first time being treated this way in the eighteen years of her life,
and she
said, "I have to say that there's something dangerously charming about you,
and it
attracts me. And that's why I'm going to give you a chance."
Erin didn't expect to see yet another woman vying for Darius's attention right
before her.
She couldn't help but feel bitter, but there was nothing she could do about it.
Darius was both amused and surprised by Doris' words. "Are you trying to
distract me
and catch me off guard so that you can escape?"
Doris was disappointed. This was the first time a man had ever piqued her
interest, and
she'd been blunt with her intentions. He didn't believe her, though.
He sensed her disappointment, so he said, "There's no need to be like that.
It's only
normal for me to think that way because of your actions earlier."
She could sense that he was trying to cheer her up, but it didn't really help.
Erin could tell what Darius was thinking as well. She said, "Sir, she's never
done
something like this before. Also, the first time she got caught stealing was two
years ago,

when she was sixteen. She used this exact same method with her victim at the time, and he accepted it. He even tried to make a move on her."

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 172

This was beyond Darius' expectations. He widened his eyes in surprise and was curious to know how

Doris dealt with that.

He glanced at her, but she didn't look too happy. She didn't want him to know how

vicious she could be, but she could not shut Erin up. So, she bowed her head to hide her

face from Darius.

Erin saw this, but it didn't matter. She wouldn't do what Doris wanted, anyway. She said,

"She had a small blade to protect herself, so she whipped it out and stabbed the man in

the groin before running away."

Darius' lip twitched. He was about to say something to mock Doris, but Erin didn't give

him a chance to. While trying to conceal her laughter, she said, "Sir, if I were you, I

wouldn't be too happy. What I'm going to tell you next about what she used to do will

surprise you and make you mad."

This was his first time seeing Erin like this, and he was very curious to know what she

was going to say.

Erin said, "Every person Miss Gray stole from was affluent but had done plenty of illegal

or unethical things. They used their wealth to escape from the consequences they

should've borne. Then, she would steal from them and give their money to the poor."

Darius frowned. He now understood why Erin had laughed. He turned to Doris and said,

"It seems you

think I'm one of them."

Doris' eyes turned icy at his words. If one were to look closely, one would also see a

trace of regret in them. How could she have forgotten about something so important?

Darius was someone who could do anything for money. At first, he insisted he was

dating the prettiest girl in school. Then, he harassed another girl in the cafeteria.

However, nothing happened to him because he was rich. He'd even made a rival go

bankrupt for having the nerve to be interested in the same woman as him!

He was so unethical that she couldn't stand it. She had to teach him a lesson!

She chose to ignore the way she felt earlier. After all, she knew very well that she'd

trained hard over the years to make all these bad people get what they deserved.

Darius could sense the frostiness in her gaze. He was no longer smiling as he said,

"Who told you about my personal matters? Why did you leave Medicia?"

An ugly look crept onto Doris' face again. She didn't expect him to know so much about

her. This meant that she'd been on his radar for a long time. Or his wealth and influence

were powerful enough to allow him to find out so much about her in such a short time.

There were many answers to this question, but neither was what she wanted to hear.

She knew that if she couldn't do anything to him today, she would have to pay the price.

With this thought in mind, she no longer felt afraid. She glared at Darius and said, "I

already looked into your past before coming here, and I think you're rich but unethical.

You used your wealth to bankrupt a rival and even forced someone to be your girlfriend.

When that failed, you ruined her proposal."

Darius became furious when he heard this. He looked down at her. This woman had

broken into his office and scolded him for things that weren't even true. He was

especially mad because it had something to do with Sarah.

He couldn't resist wrapping a hand around her neck. It was slender, and his fingers

easily circled it.

This wasn't something Doris had expected. Her eyes widened, and she screeched, "How

dare you! You will regret about this!"

Darius smiled, though hard to be noticed. "You're absolutely wrong."

Erin could sense his anger but she didn't know what to do. She hesitantly took a step

forward and placed a hand on his arm, trying to sound as gentle and harmless as

possible. "Mr. Reid, she's just a young woman who's been tricked. There's probably a

better way to handle this. Would you like to give it some thought?"

Her voice calmed him down a little. He took deep breaths, then let Doris go and put his

hands behind his back.

Doris gasped and tried to catch her breath. She'd never felt this glad to be able to

breathe.

He didn't say anything, merely watching her emotionlessly.

After catching her breath, she ran over to Erin and hid behind her, keeping a hand on her

arm. She shouted at Darius, "This just proves how evil you are! You were going to kill me

because you were angry!"

After a few moments of silence, Darius said, "You shouldn't have mentioned Sarah. She

betrayed me in front of everyone, and I was the last to know she'd cheated on me. I don't

need to explain to you, but I'm willing to let you off the hook this time because you're

stealing from others for a good reason. However, you should also know that I'm not

always this kind, and if there's a repeat of this incident, I can't guarantee the result will

be the same."

Doris didn't want to respond. She didn't believe him because she'd never been wrong in

her

investigations, but he looked exceptionally serious—as if he was telling the truth. She

didn't know what the right thing was to do.

As she pondered the matter, Erin said, "I think you can check out the live stream replay from back then. You can watch it on your phone right now." Doris met her gaze, then nodded. "You're right. I know what to do now."

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 173

She pulled her phone out of her pocket as she spoke. She kept a hand over her gaping

mouth for the next ten minutes. After a long while, she turned to look at Darius, "I'm so

sorry about this. I had no idea you were so unfortunate."

Darius' expression turned cold. No one had ever described him as unfortunate before.

His lips couldn't stop twitching. He couldn't even think of the right words to describe his

feelings. In the end, he chose to remain silent.

This didn't mean that his office was silent as well. Doris' voice was getting louder and louder.

Darius crossed his arms and leaned against the wall while observing her. She was pretty

and had plenty of room to grow, but how she made a living limited her potential. That

wasn't good, and he couldn't just stand aside and watch while it happened. So, he

walked out of the room while she continued screeching.

He said, "Erin, I need you to find her an appropriate community college."

Erin was a bit surprised. She knew Darius was kind, and even if his wealth didn't always

allow him to be so, he tried his best. This matter was different, though.

Allowing a young

woman who'd survived by stealing from others to roam free wouldn't benefit anyone.

However, Darius was her boss. She couldn't go against his wishes.

She nodded and said, "Yes, sir. I'll have everything arranged as quickly as possible."

Darius couldn't tell what she was really thinking just by looking at her, but he could sense

that she didn't like what he was doing. He didn't say anything, Erin had been like this a

lot lately.

She wasn't aware that he'd seen right through her. She turned to leave, already planning

on sending Doris to the furthest community college she could find.

Darius stood outside his office. He could still hear Doris screeching inside.

The people

that walked past bowed at him respectfully and kept their eyes trained on the floor, but

he knew they were curious to know what was happening inside. He pushed the door

open.

Everybody's heads whipped toward the office. Darius' lips twitched, and he said, "You

guys can go now."

They quickly dispersed.

He was about to walk into the office to talk to Doris when he noticed someone breathing

next to him. He knew that it was her. So, he was completely calm as he looked down at

her blankly..

Doris couldn't help trembling with fear. No one had ever looked at her like that before. It

made her feel like she was nothing but a dead body to him.

When Darius noticed she was slowly inching away from him, he sighed and walked into

the room. He sat down and looked at her, then said coldly, "I hope you're as quick to

apologize and accept your punishment as you are in humiliating and stealing from me."

She quickly said, "Darius, I'm sorry for the misunderstanding and harming you after

believing something untrue. I'm more than willing to apologize to you for my mistake."

She paused, then continued, "Once again, I'm sincerely and seriously apologizing to

you. I hope you can forgive me and allow me to make it up to you."

Darius nodded. "Apology accepted. As your punishment, I hope you'll turn your promise

into reality the next time you appear before me."

Doris's face turned pale. She didn't think he'd use her words to punish her. She

sneaked a glance at him to check his expression. Then, she almost jumped out of fear.

He was looking right at her; his gaze was

Chapte

as cold as ice.

She'd never met such a gaze before, and she couldn't help but shudder.

On the other hand, this was Darius' first time coming across someone who feared his

gaze but didn't fall to their knees. He said,

"There's no skipping of the punishment. First, I want you to go to college. After that, I will

have plenty of things from you."

Doris was taken aback. She wasn't yet eighteen, so it was only normal for her to still be

studying. However, she didn't have the money to pay for it, so it had never occurred to

her.

She wanted to speak but suddenly found that she couldn't bring herself to say anything.

She still tried her best, though. "Thank you so much. You're the first person to say that to

me. To repay your kindness, I'm going to tell you who's the one who gave me the false

information about you and made me decide to come after you."

Darius was curious about this, but he didn't agree to it. "You have to repay me by

working for me."

Doris' mind went blank. She didn't expect him to be so insistent. Moreover, his words

made her feel that he knew her better than she thought. It made her feel uneasy and

nervous.

He smiled. "Look, the situation's clear—there's nothing else you can do aside from

accepting my offer."

She looked confused. "What exactly are you up to? I'm a thief, and no one in their right

mind would hire me." Her gaze turned wary. This whole situation was so odd.

Darius said, "Because you were stealing for the poor. Your way of helping them was

wrong, but it was only because you couldn't think of anything else. Now, I'm

giving you a chance to stand under the sun. You can let everyone know about this.” Doris laughed and crossed her arms. “Do you know how much money doing something like that would require? You’re only one person, and there’s no way you could be that rich!”

Before she could say anything else, she felt like she was being blinded by something gold. She quickly covered her eyes, and it took her a while to process what was happening. Then, she dropped her hands, and her mouth went agape.

The Consortium’s Heir Chapter 174

Darius smirked a little at the look on her face. This was what he wanted to see.

Doris had never seen so much money in her life, not even in the vault of the man who claimed to be the richest in the world. She’d even felt pleased with herself and wondered what had happened to the money.

Now, she knew. The man who stood before her was the one who was truly rich! If she could take the money with her, there was no telling how many mouths she could feed.

She smiled at this thought. It was nonsensical, of course.

At this moment, Darius said something that made Doris feel like she was dreaming. “I

had this money prepared with the intention of helping the poor. If you can graduate from college, you’ll be fully in charge of it.”

Doris felt like she’d suddenly been transported to a different world altogether. There was

no way a normal person would give a thief that much money—especially someone as rich

as Darius. Then again, she’d heard that these rich people tended to have odd fetishes—

maybe this was his.

Now, she felt like she’d stumbled upon the truth. This was probably a new

trick that

Darius had devised to lure her into his trap. Perhaps there was a catch somewhere,

waiting to sentence her to a worse fate!

When Erin returned, she saw that the office doors were wide open, and everyone could

see what was happening inside. This included the massive box that was filled with gold

bars. She didn't know what Darius and Doris were doing, but she knocked on the door

anyway.

Darius turned to glance at her. "Come in."

She walked into the room with a folder in hand, then walked up to his desk and slid the

folder over to him.

The way she moved showed off her every curve, making Doris narrow her eyes. She

made Erin jump when she suddenly said, "You're gorgeous. Why are you working for

someone like Darius?"

Erin quickly regained her composure and said, "Miss Gray, Mr. Reid saved me from the

clutches of someone evil. If not for him, I would be nothing but a corpse, forgotten and

rotting away in a trash can somewhere."

Doris was lost for words. She found it hard to believe Erin was telling the truth, yet it

seemed highly likely.

Darius wasn't flustered to see how much she still doubted him. He said, "At this point in

time, the truth has nothing to do with you. You should think about going to college." He

grabbed the folder in front of him, tore it open, signed it, and handed it back to Erin. "The

company will pay for her tuition."

Doris gaped as he heard Dockle Community College. She'd never expected him to be

serious. He was even paying for her tuition! Almost an hour later, she got into the

passenger seat of a car. Erin was in the driver's seat, and Darius was in the back. Things

started to sink in, and she turned to Darius, saying, "I'll make sure to complete my

studies as soon as possible so that I can come to work for you."

Darius didn't say anything. Doris' voice was the only one that could be heard in the car. "I

believe you now, so I'll tell you everything I know. Someone by the name of Alan Roberts

came to me and offered me 50,000 dollars to steal from you, saying he'd give me the

money once the job was done. He told me about your past and even lent me his

computer so that I could see for myself. What I saw back then was completely different

from what I saw earlier, so I'm really sorry."

Darius immediately felt uncomfortable when he heard that name. He frowned and

repeated, "Alan Roberts?"

Doris didn't know what had happened between them, but she could sense that something had changed in him when he said that name. She realized she'd probably

made a huge mistake and helped a bad person.

Erin confirmed her suspicions. "Doris, you're much too naive. Alan Roberts is the

president of Dream Investment Group. He once tried to make a move on me during a

dinner party and even threatened me. He also tried to make us lose some business

deals. Of course, he stopped pulling these tricks once he knew how wealthy Mr. Reid

really was."

She remained expressionless as she spoke, but Doris was far from that. Her hands

trembled violently, and she dropped her phone. Before she knew it, her face was

streaked with tears of regret. "I'm sorry. I really didn't know about these things. I know

words mean nothing, but aside from apologizing, there's nothing else I can do for you

guys." 1

Darius looked calm. "It's over now, so there's no need for you to act like this. I

don't like
it."

Doris immediately stopped crying. She turned to look at him, her eyes filled with desperation and longing. "Mr. Reid, I'll make sure to repay you with everything I've got."

"That's not something you should be thinking about. If you don't forget about it, I'll have you thrown in jail."

Doris shut her mouth and turned to face the front. She was overjoyed to be able to

stay by his side, and she didn't want to leave. After a while, though, she started feeling uncomfortable because of the silence.

She picked her phone up. Shortly after that, she shrieked, "Mr. Reid, I can't believe

you're so considerate to the poor when you're so rich!"

Even with his eyes closed, Darius could feel her gaze burning a hole in his face. He

frowned and said,

"Have you already forgotten what I just said?"

Doris shut her mouth again, but her eyes didn't leave him. His true identity was the

master and only heir of the legendary, mysterious Reid Consortium! Most people had no

idea what it was, but she wasn't one of them.

Her teacher had been saved by a member of the Reid Consortium before, but he

couldn't repay their kindness because he couldn't practice martial arts anymore. He'd

taught her everything he knew so that she could repay them on his behalf.

To her, if she could repay the Reid Consortium, she would also be repaying her teacher

for raising her. She glanced at Darius a few times, wanting to tell him about this.

However, she remained silent under his threatening gaze. Perhaps this was what her

teacher had meant when he said the time was not yet ripe

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 175

Doris didn't say anything else until they reached the college's entrance. When she heard

Erin start to drive away, she suddenly spun around and cupped her hands around her

mouth before shouting, "Mr. Reid, I really do like you! I'll be here, and you can come over any time!"

Her invitation was so obvious that it made Darius' vein twitch. His abilities only made her

voice sound

louder in his ears.

"Man, I was just thinking of going after her. Look at her face and those legs! Who

would've known she'd be the type of woman to publicly confess her love for some rich man!"

"Oh, my God! There's another gorgeous woman in the car!"

"Come on, forget about it. Let's go. We obviously don't stand a chance here."

Darius raised an eyebrow when he saw the young men standing nearby stalk off. He

seemed to

understand what Doris was up to now. Sure enough, when he glanced at her, he saw her

cheeky smile. He didn't even need to think to know what had happened-she'd used him!

To his surprise, he didn't feel mad. On the contrary, he was amused. She was smart and

clever, but it didn't turn him off.

Erin could see his expression through the rearview mirror. Darius could sense her eyes

on him, but he didn't meet her gaze. He looked down at his phone and said, "We can go

now."

She jumped a little before stepping on the accelerator. As the car sped along smoothly,

he said, "I thought you'd have her enrolled in the furthest, poorest college you could find,

regardless of how good or bad it was."

Erin's hair stood on end, and her breathing sped up almost uncontrollably, but she didn't

falter. She took a long, deep breath before calming down. She grimaced and said, "Yes, I thought about it, but that was all. She's useful to us, and she's very naive. I couldn't bring myself to do something so selfish." She felt her strength leave her after saying that because she didn't know how things would play out from there. Nothing else mattered anymore.

She continued driving, mentally preparing herself to get fired. Darius didn't say anything for the longest time. Finally, he sighed and said, "You're an excellent employee. I hope you'll ensure your heart is in the right place in the future. You've repeatedly overstepped the boundary, and I don't want to see it happen again."

Erin relaxed a little at his words. She knew she'd made it out alive this time, but she was on her last chance. If she were to make the same mistake, it would be the end for her.

Darius' voice pulled her out of her reverie, immediately making her nervous. "Someone's coming. Have someone from the office come here and prepare to redistribute the assets of some of the other companies."

Erin didn't understand what he was saying. She was about to ask him more when she saw two black cars suddenly appear before them. Instantly, her heart froze. She wanted to turn the car in a different direction, so she put the pedal to the metal and tugged on the emergency brakes.

There was a loud bang that left the car shaking. The airbags exploded out and blocked her view.

Darius knew that it was time to put his plan in place. He pushed the door open and said, "Remember what I just told you."

When Erin finally managed to push the airbag away, all she could see was Darius' broad back. He stood

before the car and faced several men in black suits holding baseball bats. She watched with bated breath.

This was such a dangerous situation that she couldn't control her movements. She

reached out to open the door but quickly retracted her hand because she'd remembered

Darius' instructions. She breathed deeply to calm herself down before picking her phone

up and calling Zack.

At the same time, Darius leaned against his Bugatti Veyron and crossed his arms. His

gaze was sharp as he looked at the men, and his tone was frosty. "Which board

members are you guys the bodyguards of?"

He took in their looks of fear and knew he'd guessed correctly. His expression turned

mocking. "I've already seen what you look like, and I'm sorry to inform you that you'd fail

to injure me even if you were to attack me all at once."

One of the bodyguards didn't like Darius' condescending tone and decided to teach him

a lesson. He wanted Darius to know he was a professional bodyguard, not a pushover.

And so, he shot at Darius.

Darius already knew what went through his mind the moment the thought was formed.

As an awakened martial artist, there was no way he would allow the bodyguard to come

close to him. As a result, the bodyguard was sent flying before his feet even fully left the

ground.

Darius slowly put his hands down, then said, "Although you guys were the ones to make

the first move, I'm still willing to give you a chance. Whose bodyguards are you? If all of

you decide to stay silent, I'll make all the board members go bankrupt and let them know

that you were the ones to rat on them."

He wasn't even standing up straight, but it didn't impede on his overpowering aura. This

terrified the bodyguards, and they felt like they were suffocating in his presence.

In that instant, Erin was as terrified as they were. She was still seated in the car and

trying to put the airbag away after hanging up when she saw smoke rising from the front

of the car. Her heart raced.

She'd seen a smoke bomb before, and it looked exactly like this. However, this thought

only stayed in her mind for a few seconds because she was sure the smoke was coming

from Darius himself. She didn't know the reason for it, but she did know that she was

safe as long as she was with him.