

## The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin

### Chapter 191

As he stretched, he asked, "Have you taken care of everything?"

Erin looked awkward as she shook her head. "I'm sorry about this, but the university

refused to approve your leave because they said that you may not even be one of their

students anymore."

Her words made him realize what was going on. After a moment of thought, he nodded

and said,

"Take me to the university now. I think I need to discuss with the dean whether I'm still

one of Kingston University's students."

Erin had never doubted him, so she drove to the university. When they arrived, the sky

had yet to darken, and the students still had class. Darius headed straight for the dean's

office and knocked on the door.

Soon, an aged voice said, "Come in."

Darius walked in and met the dean's eyes, clearly seeing the shock there. He didn't

expect to see this in the dean's eyes, which made him

suspicious. It was true that his sudden appearance was a surprise, but the dean's

reaction was still unexpected.

He asked, "Dean Fletcher, you seem surprised to see me. Am I not supposed to be

here?"

The dean, Leon Fletcher, had already regained his composure. He stood up and said

sternly, "No, you're not. Darius Reid, you've already been expelled.

I don't know what you're still doing here."

His tone was firm as he continued, "I know you come from an affluent family, but

Kingston University won't condone your actions."

Darius sighed. "Your logic sounds infallible, but it's really not. It's built on a lie."

Leon looked at the clock. "It's almost time for me to get off work, so you can

come again tomorrow if you have anything to say.” He turned his computer off and put his pen away before grabbing his coat and leaving the office. However, Darius stopped him as he got to the door. He turned to glare at Darius.

“Your actions are enough for me to get the security guards to kick you out.” Darius shrugged. “If you think you’re capable of that, go ahead and do it. I can’t guarantee what’ll happen after that, though.”

Leon knew Darius was threatening him, but he didn’t seem to have any other choice. He’d heard about what had happened recently, and he knew he wouldn’t have any way to deal with the consequences. Therefore, even though he felt like he was being humiliated, he still turned to look at Darius and said, “Perhaps you can let me know what exactly you want.”

“Nothing, really.” Darius was calm. “I just want to let you know that my expulsion was based on something that was unverified, so it shouldn’t have come into effect. If you choose to go ahead with this, I can always report this to the federation.”

Leon pushed his glasses up, looking angrier than before. “I think the truth is obvious! The authorities brought you away and locked you up! I don’t know why you’re here, but as the dean of Kingston University, I have to do something about this. I’ll make sure to bear the responsibility for my actions.”

Darius’ face was void of emotion. He didn’t think he needed to waste his energy on a person he wouldn’t see in the future. Leon didn’t know Darius’ intentions. He was just mad because of Darius’ reaction. So, he didn’t consider his future at all.

He said, “You can choose to stay here, and so will I. I’ve already contacted the authorities, and they’ll be here soon. You’ll be paying the price for your mistakes in no time.”

Darius' lips curved into a frosty smile. "May I know what evidence you've collected to

prove that I've really committed plagiarism, Dean Fletcher?"

A trace of fear flashed across Leon's face, but it quickly disappeared.

He said, "Professor Plinsky's the one who reported you, and I trust him unconditionally.

As a professor, he must have verified this matter before making such a decision.

Moreover, the fact that the authorities locked you up is proof enough!"

Darius' smile grew, both in size and frostiness. "I'm surprised that someone told you

about this beforehand."

Leon's resolute expression faltered. Darius' words made sense-he wasn't supposed to

know a thing about this matter before the court came to a decision. However, not only

did he know about it, but he'd also brought it up to Darius' face.

Darius' gaze was sharp. "It seems that you found out about this before

Professor Plinsky

did, Dean Fletcher. Professor Plinsky did nothing of the sort, which is why the authorities

easily caught him.

Now, he's the one locked up in the detention center. And based on what he told them, he

didn't have any time to tell you about this." He didn't continue.

"You're still suspected of committing plagiarism, and no one told me about that. Based

on that alone, you have no right to stay on as a student of Kingston University."

Darius wanted to spit in the face of his nonsense. "So, all I need to do is prove that my

dissertation is an original work and that I didn't commit plagiarism?" His eyes were

already filled with rage.

Leon could sense this, but he couldn't care less how Darius felt. Though he had lost this

battle, he would win the war.

He nodded and said, "Yes, exactly. The onus is on you to prove that you're innocent."

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After saying that, he looked like he was excited for the show to start.

What Darius did next surprised him-he turned the computer on, looked for a dissertation

Leon had written, pulled it up, and showed it to him.

He said seriously, "I once read a dissertation that's very similar to yours, and it was

published three years ago. Dean Fletcher, I'd like you to prove that you wrote this

dissertation independently and didn't copy someone else's work."

As he spoke, he pulled his phone out. "I hope that you'll be able to give me a reasonable

explanation. Otherwise, I'll have grounds to suspect that you committed plagiarism, and

I'll report you to the authorities."

Leon had imagined plenty of different ways Darius would react, but this definitely wasn't

one of them. He took a deep breath and glared at Darius, saying,

"Are you sure that's what you want to do? You're crossing the line here."

Darius nodded. "We used the same methods, didn't we? Why are you mad?

Also, you

don't have any way to prove your innocence, do you?"

Leon retorted, "Writing a dissertation isn't an easy feat, and it's normal for there to be

repeated information-mine doesn't have a lot of that.

Moreover, if I can't prove my innocence, can you?"

Darius looked pleased. "I know that people like you have plenty of dirty little secrets,

which is why you'll never have surveillance cameras installed in your study.

Mine does,

though, and it can clearly show the words on my monitor or the data that I referred to."

Leon's jaw dropped. Never would he have expected there to be such a plot twist. Soon,

however, he regained his composure. "If you really had a way to prove your innocence,

Professor Plinsky wouldn't have had you taken away. Also, I believe he must've spoken

to you privately before publicly exposing your wrongdoings. Even if you refuse to admit

it, it doesn't change the fact that it happened."

Darius rolled his eyes. "Yeah, you can keep telling yourself that. Look, just stop beating around the bush and say that the mastermind has already told you to expel me no matter what."

Leon's expression changed instantly. He knew that Darius was clever and wasn't sure whether he'd slip up in front of him. So, after a short moment of hesitation, he nodded.

"Yes, you're right. Someone did tell me not to allow you to stay on at Kingston University, and he paid an astronomical sum. I couldn't resist the money, so I agreed to do it."

He stood up, his expression going from one of anger and disdain to pleading.

"The money is important to me. I know your family is wealthy, and money isn't an issue

for you. Also, you're the sole heir to your family's fortune.

That will not change even if you leave Kingston University without a degree.

You'll still

live a cushy life, but I won't."

After that, he looked at Darius, trying to gauge his reaction. Unfortunately,

Darius didn't

even blink an eye.

Leon knew that he had no other choice. He had to make Darius pity him and give up on

the idea of continuing to study at Kingston University.

"Darius, I know you're a kind person..." Before he could continue, he saw Darius' hand

close to his mouth. He immediately shouted,

"What are you doing?"

Darius put his hand down and said calmly, "I just wanted you to keep quiet and listen to me."

Leon had never been treated like this before, but he knew he didn't have the right to say

no. He stood still and shut his mouth, but he still felt mad. His rage reached its peak

when he saw what Darius did next.

Darius nodded, looking satisfied.

"Earlier, when you demanded I prove my innocence, I already told my secretaries about

my suspicions, and they've already gone through all of your dissertations. Sure enough, they found something."

He held his phone up and showed Leon the titles of four papers, making Leon's eyes bulge.

"What will it take for you to pretend none of this happened?" He glared at Darius and forced out through gritted teeth. Obviously, his blood was boiling, but Darius ignored him.

He shook his head and opened his mouth to answer Leon, but he was interrupted by someone knocking on the door.

Pearl's voice rang out. "Dean Fletcher, I think I have important information for you regarding Darius' case."

Darius didn't expect her to show up at this moment. He looked at Leon, and Leon knew

that he was allowed to handle this. He nodded, wanting to see what sort of information she had.

If she were to provide falsified evidence, he could use it to eliminate both her and Darius.

This would send everyone the message that he wasn't someone to be trifled with.

With this thought in mind, he said, "Come in."

Pearl walked in and was shocked to see Darius there. However, she quickly returned to

her senses and hurried to him before holding his hand.

"What are you doing here? Were you sent here because you got into some conflict with the authorities?"

Darius could see the concern on her face

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It was because of her concern that he showed no displeasure. On the contrary, he

smiled and said patiently, "No, I'm here and not at the detention center because I've

already proved my innocence."

Pearl let out a sigh of relief and patted her chest lightly. She smiled and said,

“If I’d known, I wouldn’t have come here. I was worried that you’d be in danger if you couldn’t prove your innocence, so I came here to help you out. At the very least, I could ensure you’d still be a student here.”

Darius was moved by her words and curious to know what else she was up to. So, he shrugged and said, “You showed up in the right time. Dean Fletcher doesn’t believe the authorities’ decision, nor does he believe what I told him. He doesn’t want me to continue studying here.”

Pearl’s eyes widened in disbelief. “That’s ridiculous!” She turned to Leon and said,

“Dean Fletcher, I’m sure there must be a misunderstanding. Maybe we can solve things if you let us know your concerns.”

Before Darius could say anything, Leon laughed.

“Everyone knows about what’s happened to the Chamberlain Group. That puts you firmly on Darius’ side, so it would only make sense for your so- called evidence to favor him.”

He leaned back in his chair, looking smug.

This was Pearl’s first time seeing him like this. Her mind went blank, and she turned to look at Darius awkwardly.

“What happened? I’ve spoken to Dean Fletcher before, and he wasn’t like this back then.”

Darius put a hand into his pocket and pulled his phone out. “I recorded it if you want to have a listen.”

Despite his words, he played the recording without giving Leon and Pearl time to consider.

Leon’s voice rang out, saying, “Someone did tell me not to allow you to stay on at Kingston University, and he paid an awful lot of money.” Darius paused the recording here and turned to look at Pearl.

“I think this is enough for you to understand what’s going on.”

Pearl was dumbstruck. She wanted to say something, but they suddenly

heard the sound of footsteps approaching the office. Along with it came a man's angry shouts.

"Isn't Kingston University supposed to be an excellent school? That doesn't seem to be

the case! I've already been here twice today to take two people away. Now, I'm here for the third time!"

"Tell me about it. In fact, the student was framed. Apparently, someone was jealous of

him for being so outstanding and decided to slander him."

Pearl gaped. She couldn't accept that her dean was such a person, but it seemed she

didn't have any other choice.

When Darius heard the noise in the corridor, he put his hand back into his pocket and

looked at said baldly, "You're going to be taken away soon. If you have any requests,

now's the time to let me know, and I'll consider satisfying you."

Leon looked mockingly. "There's no need to be so pretentious. I'm sure this is exactly

what you want to see."

Darius raised an eyebrow, but he didn't say a word. To him, there was nothing else to

say. Leon was set on his path and wouldn't listen to him. Anyway, judging from Leon's

choices, there was no need for him to say anything.

The officials had probably lost their patience after coming to Kingston University multiple times on the same day. They kicked the door open unceremoniously.

Darius turned to look at them. He didn't say anything when he saw that Donny wasn't

around, merely nodding at them.

"Hello. I'm the one who called you."

The official in the lead glanced at him and nodded. "You should know what you need to prepare, then."

"It's ready." Darius pulled his phone out. "He clearly intended to frame me, and I've

recorded it on my phone."

The official looked slightly appeased. "That's great. We won't have to go



through  
unnecessary trouble, then.”

Then, he looked at Leon. “Dean Fletcher, you must come with us, regardless of the truth.”

Obviously, Leon hadn’t expected Darius to really do this. His eyes widened, and he bellowed,

“No, I can’t go with you! I’m the dean of Kingston University, and you have no evidence to prove that I did anything wrong! You can’t lock me up in the detention center!”

The official didn’t expect him to resist capture. His expression turned steely, and he said,

“I have very little time to do a lot of things, and I’ve already wasted too much time

because of Kingston University. It’d do you good to cooperate and come with me.”

“Darius must’ve bribed you!” Leon raised his voice. “You were so friendly with him but

not with me. Moreover, you have nothing to verify the authenticity of his so-called

evidence, so you have no right to take me away.”

The official saw the fear on his face and sighed. “I find it hard to believe the dean of

Kingston University said something like that. Your actions are a disgrace to the university.”

This hurt Leon. He collapsed onto his chair, looking dazed.

The official’s anger dissipated when he saw Leon stop resisting. He held out an arm and

gestured for Leon to go with him.

“No matter what the truth is, you and the person who reported you have to come with us.”

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Darius raised his arm, pulled back his sleeve to look at his watch, then placed his hands on the table.

“You’ll have loads of free time in the future, Dean Fletcher, while I’ll be busier.

If you want an easier time at the detention center, I suggest you stand and speed this whole process up.”

Leon’s eyes narrowed the slits at Darius. “You’re too arrogant, Darius Reid! Sooner or later, you’ll pay for it!”

Darius did not respond to that. His expression remained blank as he put his hands in his

pockets, turned toward the official, and said, “I think we should go now.”

“I agree,” replied the official in a neutral tone.

Subsequently, Darius exited the space with the group of officials in tow.

Pearl never imagined she would witness such a scene. Her jaw dropped, and she did not

know how to respond.

That continued until Darius stepped outside the dean’s office. Only then did Pearl finally

speak. “Darius, I think I should go with you because I can prove that you wrote your

dissertation. Plus, I also witnessed half of what happened to you with Dean Fletcher.”

Darius’ lips curved before he shook his head. “No, that’s not an appropriate place for a

girl like you. Besides, I can handle these things alone. It won’t take too long, nor will I

endanger myself.”

That was not the outcome Pearl hoped for, but she knew she had no say in the matter.

All she could do was stand at the door of the dean’s office and watch him leave.

It was not long before Darius arrived at the detention center again.

He had just left this place in the morning. Never did he think he would return later in the

day. On top of that, he never would have guessed his plan would be so successful.

“The person controlling all of this is likely at Almiron City now,” Darius thought with a

frosty glare. “How I wish I could be right in front of Gillette Group’s doors now. But that’s

impossible because I haven’t gotten a leave of absence yet. Honestly, I have no clue

who I should ask for approval...”

He eventually got to the interrogation room and submitted all of his evidence to the officials.

The officials there were people he had never met before, which meant they would judge things impartially.

They accepted Darius’ evidence and informed him, “Donny will be likely to be punished

for what he did. We hope you can speak up for him on the matter.”

“Did your boss discover the things that Donny did for me?” Darius arched a brow,

flashing a look of disbelief.

The officials shook their heads, and one replied, “No, that’s not the case.

Donny came

clean about everything to our chief. While we don’t think he did anything wrong, but still

he broke the rules and had to be punished accordingly.”

Darius nodded before voicing his thoughts. “He was trying to help me. I won’t let him get

punished for it. If the rules insist on holding someone accountable, I’ll bear that

responsibility.”

Hearing that, the officials nodded happily; Darius had done way more than they had

hoped he would.

“So, where do I go now?” Darius could not help asking after seeing them smile without

giving him more information.

Only then did the group snap to their senses.

One of them gazed warmly at Darius and said, “I think-I can take you to him.”

“That’s great!” Darius nodded, indicating he was grateful.

Following that, the official walked ahead, guiding Darius.

They soon arrived before a black door that stood out from the others.

The official could tell Darius was confused, so he explained to the latter,” This room is

specially prepared for officials who make severe mistakes. When that happens, the

person gets detained until they realize their wrongdoings.”

Darius then recalled the room in this exact location on the floor above and frowned.

“There aren’t any windows in this room,” he stated with a voice full of certainty, shocking the official.

The official eventually composed himself and replied, “Indeed. There are no windows or lights. You can’t even get food or water when detained in this room.”

Darius could accept the first two things, but the last bit went against his beliefs. Thus, he

urged through gritted teeth, “I need to discuss Donny’s situation with your chief now.”

While the two were chatting at the door, a crashing sound came from inside the room-it was Donny.

He had overheard their conversation. Panicked, he rushed to the door and threw his

body against it, causing a loud boom.

He yelled at the top of his lungs, “This matter has nothing to do with both of you! Please

don’t speak up for me! The punishment I’m accepting now is a result of my actions. I

didn’t receive any unfair treatment or injustice.”

Darius looked at the official beside him.

The latter shrugged before raising both hands, indicating he could not do anything about the situation.

He then explained, “That’s how Donny is. Every one knows what happened to you, Mr.

Reid, so everyone feels what Donny did is acceptable.

He didn’t need to come clean about it to our chief. However, he thinks differently from us.

Donny admitted to everything and ended up in this state. Our chief was furious. He said

Donny had to stay here for three days without food or water. But everyone’s worried that he can’t survive it.”

Suddenly, the door rumbled again, and Donny yelled from the other side.

He spoke fast, so it was challenging to make sense of his words. However, Darius could

tell Donny did not want the former to interfere or speak up.

A moment passed as Darius hesitated, he ultimately felt it was wrong to accept Donny’s

opinions on the situation.

Hence, he locked eyes with the official. "I need you to take me to your chief now. We

must come up with a good way to resolve this."

The official gave a big thumbs up to Darius, praising him, "Donny made the right choice

in helping you. You're worth his efforts."

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Darius and the official were no longer within Donny's hearing range.

The latter, also Donny's friend, kept silent the entire time.

It was later when Darius decided to speak up. "Are you worried Donny got detained

because your chief has something to do with the mastermind behind my situation?"

The official generously expressed their admiration for Darius, praising him,"

You're the

top student at Kingston University, who's genuinely exceptional and intelligent.

That's

exactly how I feel. According to our rules, Donny shouldn't even get detained, at least not

until the case closes. Moreover, he shouldn't have received such a harsh punishment."

"It's okay." Darius was calm as he explained, "No matter what horrible things they do. I'll

deal with the root of what made this happen once Donny's matter gets resolved."

The official's eyes widened. Yet, it did not last as he immediately collected himself.

"I can't do much to aid you with that. All I can do is hope for your success and pray for

things to pass."

"That's more than enough."

After that, the two no longer spoke on their journey to the chief's office.

At that point, Darius had already made long-term plans for his upcoming journey to

Almiron City.

His patience was wearing out, so once he confirmed the chief was inside the office, he

immediately opened the door to enter.

Surprisingly, the chief did not feel offended by Darius' unreasonable actions.

His features were neutral as he calmly stated, "This is Philips Splinter's office. May I know who you are and why you've come to see me? Then again, I think you should know this before you speak—If you don't have a valid reason for being here, I'll lock you in our detention center's cells, where you'll stay for up to four years." The corner of Darius' lips twisted into a sneer. "Then you won't receive any pay because I'm Darius Reid, the chairman of West Atlantics Int'l." That caused Philips' countenance to shift. He could tell when the young man entered his office that the latter was Darius Reid. Likewise, he knew there were only a few reasons why Darius would show up here; either for academic fraud or to seek help in evading punishment for the former. Philips assumed that was an entirely different case from Donny, who had gotten detained for breaking the rules. He only recalled hearing the name of West Atlantics Int'l's chairman during Donny's detainment. Now, when Darius brought up the matter, Philips realized that Darius was also the chairman of West Atlantics Int'l. Not only that, but Darius' first sentence earlier made it crystal clear that Darius was not someone Philips could offend. Thus, it was unwise for the latter to do anything to Donny. Philips sighed deeply but steadied himself in no time. He then looked at the official that tagged along with Darius. "You can release Donny Garcia now. He made an excellent decision, so I'll reward him with a bonus." The official beamed before turning to execute the order. The speedy thuds of his footsteps indicated how happy he felt with that outcome. Nevertheless, Darius' focus was on something else. He boldly met Philips' gaze. "I did a simple investigation on you before coming here. You're an exceptional official with firm principles, so I don't know what led you

to make  
such a decision.”

Philips’ brows drew close while his lips parted slightly upon hearing that statement from

Darius.

Yet, it was not long before his countenance returned to normal. “I know you’ve figured

out what I’ve done, including my dealings with others. That’s why I don’t intend to hide

my motivations from you-I did it for the sake of my subordinates. You may be remarkable, but you’re still just a student with a wealthy and influential family background. You’d never understand my struggles.”

While speaking, Philips clicked some files relating to the matter on his computer and

showed them to Darius.

He continued, “I wasn’t acting out of my own will throughout the situation. Still, I hope

you understand this is the only choice I’m left with until you deal with those guys. I have

to do it even if I feel guilty.”

Darius glanced at Philips before looking at the screen filled with documents. It turned out

that they contained unimaginable information, including nearly every vile thing the

Gillette family forced Philips to do.

Confusion swirled in Darius’ eyes.

Although he did not speak, Philips immediately understood and smiled while nodding.

“I’ve been waiting for victims of injustice to fight for their rights by filing appeals against

the country’s decision. If those victims get a second chance, I intend to use various

methods to submit the evidence to the court.”

Darius had sat down, leaning his back against the chair. He did not know if he could trust

Philips, even though he had no choice at that instant.

Philips noticed Darius’ internal conflict. He, too, leaned against his chair and motioned at

Darius. “Donny being in detainment is the best option for him now. But don’t worry, I

won’t actually let him suffer from starvation and thirst. He’ll have decent living

conditions

in the detainment room. Most importantly, that's the only place where he'll be safe." 1

Darius' eyes met Philips, staring the latter down. Only after confirming Philips was not

lying did Darius stand with his hands folded behind his back.

"It's in your best interest to think that way. While I don't need the world to be on the same

page as me, I would still hope that no one would stand against me. Because that would

mean the person opposing me isn't a

good person." Darius spoke with the utmost seriousness before promptly turning to

leave.

Meanwhile, Philips did not expect the former to make such a hasty decision.

He shot to

his feet and asked, "Where are you off to now?"

Darius halted.

The question prompted him to turn so that he was facing Philips again. "I have plans to

go to Almiron City and deal with the mastermind behind all of this. But before I leave, I

must apply for a leave of absence from my university. However, Dean

Fletcher refused to

admit that I'm a student at Kingston University, so I'll need to find someone who can

tackle this issue."

After saying that, Darius turned and bolted out the door without saying another word.

Philips was left alone in the office. He slumped in his seat, contemplating things. He was

unsure why Darius had told him that, nor did he know what he should do. After pondering momentarily, he lifted the telephone handset while dialing Kingston University's student affairs office.