

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin Chapter 214

Chapter 214

The screen showed what happened after Erin dragged the older woman out of the airport earlier.

Darius' eyes darkened like a hailstorm had broken out in his eyes. Not a word came from

him. He looked at Shelvin and stated, "I don't know who you are, and I can't do anything

if you decide to publicize that video.

However, I believe you're aware that doing so makes you my enemy."

Shelvin's lips curved upward. "I know, but I'd still like to see you pay dearly.

After all, I

don't like people who own vast riches."

Darius' eyes narrowed. He never anticipated Shelvin to say such things. Even so, he

remained stoic. He only nodded before returning to his seat and shutting his eyes.

"Then I wish you luck," Bridget, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly said. She

then took out her laptop and got comfortable in her seat.

That set off a sudden anxiety in Shelvin.

He quickly shut off his phone, approached Bridget's side, and looked at her laptop.

Bridget ignored him all the while, her eyes glued onto the screen before her.

Still, she

remarked, "Edward, this is all your fault."

Edward nodded and immediately stood from his seat. He walked over to the spot

between Bridget and Shelvin, pivoted to face the latter, then stated with a low, icy growl,

"You shouldn't be standing here and trying to look at Bridget's laptop. It doesn't matter

what your reasons are."

"I don't like how you're speaking to me," said Shelvin, whose eyes had narrowed.

"You're probably unaware, but you're no match for me. Of course, I understand a young

man like yourself has unlikely seen much of the world, so I doubt you'll believe me. Thus,

I intend to prove my superiority to you with my actions.”

It was the first time Edward had gotten criticized that way. Rage soon boiled under his

skin as he felt Shelvin was provoking him.

What surprised him was he could not react in time when a strong wind blew from

opposite him. His legs struggled to stay rooted on the ground. Soon, he lost balance and

was nearly about to fall.

That was a feeling he had never felt before. The fear gushing inside him caused his eyes

to grow wide.

Edward refused to give up just yet. He raised both fists, hoping gravity’s pull would help

him bash Shelvin. Alas, Edward realized that was wishful thinking as it did not happen.

By the time Edward raised his arms, his body had already stumbled backward. If it were

not for the chair behind him and Bridget’s arm that supported him, he would have

already landed on the ground.

The turn of events drained all color from his face.

He now knew he could not protect Darius, which made him feel very defeated.

Behind him, Kate was in the same state. Sheer panic coursed through her veins as she

shot to her feet, wanting to aid Darius. Unfortunately, the wind was so strong that she

stumbled onto the ground without the support of her seat.

The thud caused by her fall was barely audible through the howling wind. That wind

came from none other than Shelvin, who casually raised an arm. He did not do anything

but that simple movement.

Still, as everyone’s eyes glazed with fear, so did his. Everyone soon gawked at Darius.

“That’s my most powerful move! Although it’s not lethal, it can strike fear into the hearts

of everyone around. So how can Darius stay in his seat as though nothing is happening?

I won’t accept that! It’s as if my attack is powerless against him!” Shelvin seethed in his

heart.

In the meantime, Darius remained seated and was looking at his laptop. Not even a

strand of his hair got tousled from the wind.

Shelvin had been an enlightened martial artist for many years, but he had never

witnessed such a scene before. His brows knitted as he stared alertly at Darius, asking,

“Who are you? Why are you able to ignore my attack?”

“And here I thought you could tell that we’re both enlightened martial artists,” Darius

casually said while he stood and straightened his clothes. His eyes locked onto Shelvin

like a predator.

“At first, I detected something on your body but decided not to question it.

What I don’t

understand is why you’re targeting me. I have many enemies, but I don’t recall you being

one of them.”

When he said that, he could sense that Shelvin had let out a sigh of relief.

Nevertheless,

he did not allow the latter to be at ease for long. He added,” And that pisses me off even

more. I boarded this plane like any other passenger, yet a stranger now targets me for

no reason. He plans to ruin my entire life and kill me.”

All warmth had left Darius’ voice when he spat that last sentence at Shelvin.

Before

Shelvin could respond, he got smashed to the ground by an airborne attack.

The plane shook violently once more.

Shelvin gathered all his might to prop himself upright. At that moment, his eyes rounded

with disbelief at Darius. One of his most powerful skills dealt no damage to the other

party. Shelvin crawled over and groveled before Darius’ feet.

“I-I made a mistake, D-Darius. Because of my poor background, I took on this mission to

harm you. But now, I understand that I’m no match for you, I hope you can show me

mercy by not getting even with me for my earlier actions.”

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Darius sat back in his, he could tell the man on the ground no longer planned to attack.

Thus, Darius returned his attention to the contents of his laptop screen.

Shelvin did not expect that from the former. He knelt on the ground and dared not move

while letting out lengthy sighs. With time, he eventually felt he could not stay in that

position any longer, so he cautiously looked up and glanced sideways at Darius. That

was when Darius' voice rang out.

"Everything you've done till now remains a mistake until I allow you to get up. I'm being

generous by only making you kneel now. If you can't even fulfil this condition of mine, I

suggest you try to kill me instead. Otherwise, you'll suffer a more miserable end."

Every muscle in Shelvin's body tremored as he knelt and bowed his upper body against the ground.

He succumbed because he knew Darius was serious about that threat.

Thus, he gulped and looked up at the latter. "Then, what must I do for you to allow me to stand?"

Darius' eyes narrowed at Shelvin. "I want to know how you managed to show up at such

immaculate timing and see me deal with that pesky woman. Also, why did that woman

suddenly start trouble for Edward at the airport earlier?"

"What? I don't understand a word you're saying!" Shelvin's eyes hardened, trying to

shoot a calm and collected look at Darius but failing.

Darius took in the former with a look of mockery. "Since you've decided not to tell me

anything, what else can you offer in exchange for me to let you go?"

Shelvin leaned against the ground, his eyes darting around as he brainstormed.

"Everything has turned out differently from the information I found about Darius," he

thought before gulping and continuing to kneel. He knew he needed to make a decision.

Then, Darius looked up and did not see Kate's head peeking out from the seat in front of him. He found it odd as he did not see Kate leave the cabin at any point, so he stood.

Shelvin was already terrified of Darius, so seeing the latter abruptly stand made him shrink backward in fear. Yet, he was surprised when he realized Darius' focus was not on

him. The latter did not even spare a sideways glance at him.

Instead, Darius walked ahead, eventually taken aback by the sight of Kate lying on the ground.

Her eyes were shut, and it seemed as though she did not know what had happened.

Darius instantly guessed the reason for that; it was because Shelvin's sudden gust of

wind caused her to trip, hit her head, and faint. She then remained unconscious until now.

A deep sigh came from Darius just then.

He turned to look at Shelvin, saying, "You were already at fault for killing someone. Now,

you've just made another mistake. I'll keep this in mind and settle things with you once

we get off this plane."

Shelvin did not fear those words. Instead, his eyes widened with relief as what Darius

said implied he could leave this plane alive. Sadly, his hopeful outlook would soon get shattered.

Darius returned to his seat, adding with his frosty tone, 'That is if you manage to get off this plane alive.'

Eyes widened and heart racing, Shelvin was shocked that Darius was not planning to let

him go. His voice took on more of a squeak as he clarified,

"Darius, although I came here intending to harm you, I didn't actually do it."

'That intention alone is enough reason for me to kill you. I don't need you to do anything

else now." Darius yawned before adding, "I'm not an enforcer of the law, so the outcome

of things doesn't matter to me-it's your motive and your actions throughout the event that matter to me."

Shelvin's eyes were wide open. He could not express anything else apart from the terror he felt. After all, he had never encountered anyone like Darius in all his years as an assassin.

Darius let out a long exhale after sitting down. He then instructed, "Edward, get the plane's captain, or any other person in charge, over. Tell them Kate is injured and needs medical attention."

Edward whipped around on his heel to do so at once, not doubting the former's orders. It

was also then that Bridget shut her laptop.

She shot a determined gaze at Darius. "Mr. Reid, you can relax now. The video no

longer exists on his phone, and he can't ever retrieve it again."

Darius quirked a brow before locking eyes with Bridget. "I didn't know you had such

skills." A proud smile spread across Bridget's face.

"Edward and I may be proficient in fighting, but our combat skills aren't in the top ten

ranking among all other bodyguards. Contrarily, we have many skills that others don't.

For instance, I'm well versed in computer science and driving while Edward specializes

in management and medical practices."

His eyes rounded, shocked as he had always assumed it only took adept combat skills

to become a bodyguard for the Reid family.

Now he knows that The Reid family's bodyguards needed exceptional fighting skills, as

well as many abilities and specializations within other fields. He now had a higher level

of understanding toward Reid Consortium's wealth.

Some time passed before he nodded, asking, "Those are both your areas of expertise,

huh? Well, I'd like to know how you define expertise. To what extent are you two

proficient in your skills?"

Bridget beamed. That was the first time she revealed a sincere smile before Darius, as she reached a new level of understanding toward him. She mused, "He's indeed a remarkable person who's able to deduce many things from one piece of the puzzle like he's doing now by asking that."

"Darius isn't asking about our level of expertise for his personal benefit," Bridget thought, touched that Darius had bothered to learn more about her abilities. It meant he was genuinely listening and learning about his bodyguards. "I once won first place in a hacking competition," she elaborated, "And Edward can do many things with his skills. Only he, among the other bodyguards, is able to perform challenging surgical operations."

Darius leaned against the seat's backrest, falling into deep thought. It took a while before he spoke.

"Both of your levels of expertise seem superior to other experts in those respective fields. One can even say you're both top in the world at what you do." Still groveling on the ground, Shelvin's eyes shot open once he heard Darius' words.

"I didn't find out about that information beforehand. If I had known, I wouldn't have shown up today." With that thought, Shelvin did not hesitate to tear up and plead, "Mr. Reid, please forgive me! I didn't know your background before overhearing the conversation between you and the lady next to you. I wouldn't have come here if I knew you were from the Reid family!"

Darius chose not to respond and continued focusing on Bridget. "It must've been challenging for you two to endure bodyguard training camp." 1

"Not at all, Mr. Reid." Another genuine smile curved on Bridget's face.

"We had food, clothes, and a roof over our heads. Furthermore, our lives weren't under any threat. You've just reunited with the Reid family, so you probably aren't aware of this several wealthy families and consortiums require their

bodyguards to kill one another during training. Only those that survive can become official bodyguards, who'll remain alive temporarily until threatened."

She paused to breathe before resuming, "However, none of that ever happened during the Reid family's bodyguard training camp."

Darius nodded. He was initially furious to learn of how other families trained their bodyguards. It baffled him, and he could not understand their methods. He saw all human life as precious gifts. Hence, it upset him to learn some wealthy people thought differently. Yet, he soon felt pride, knowing his family respected life as much as he did instead of supporting those cruel practices.

Seeing that Darius remained silent, Bridget continued, "Edward was one of those who lived a pitiful life. Several years ago, he struggled to keep himself fed. He grew up in a less fortunate background. Even after becoming the Reid family's bodyguard and receiving a high salary, his financial struggles persisted. That's because he previously took out a loan with a high interest rate to survive his poorer days."

Darius finally sensed something was off, his eyes narrowing at Bridget. "You've sung many praises about him and his future this entire night. If you're implying something, I hope you'll speak candidly about it."

Bridget scratched her head while flashing an apologetic smile at him. "Sorry, Mr. Reid. I'm unsure of how you currently feel toward Edward as he has made many mistakes, and you didn't seem to like him before."

Not a word came from Darius.

Feeling awkward, Bridget rubbed her palms together and continued, "Mr. Reid, I personally think Edward struggled with his life before becoming a bodyguard. So, he's probably uninterested in dating or maintaining good relations, especially with women."

That's also why I think he's lying and taking the blame for everything. I bet he has some difficulties."

Again, only silence came from Darius, who pondered the matter.

He thought about Sarah just then. After all, even when he was penniless, he was still

willing to be in a romantic relationship with her and even thought about marrying Sarah.

Thus, he could not fully confirm that Edward was uninterested in love, even if the latter

was poor at the time.

That was when Edward returned.

Seeing Darius and Bridget share a look made Edward nervous, and he curled both fists

on the sides of his body while gulping. He then greeted Darius with a trembling voice,

"I'm back, Mr. Reid."

Darius could sense Edward's growing anxiety, so he explained, "I just learned about the

Reid family's bodyguard training camp and some issues with your character.

Now, I'm

giving you one last chance to tell me the truth."

Every part of Edward's face stiffened as he stood silently.

"Honestly," Darius added, sighing and flashing a hint of disdain in his eyes.

"I don't think there's a need for you to behave this way. I'm sitting here, patiently advising

you that it's your last chance to come clean. If you continue lying, this man on the ground

next to you knows everything and won't bother helping you hide the truth."

Despite facing the former's dark gaze, Edward chose to stay silent.

However, Shelvin could not take it any longer. He pressed both hands against the

ground, propping himself upward and exclaiming,

"Enough! I'll tell you what happened! Edward owes many loans with high interest rates

and has no way of repaying them. So, someone approached him and promised to erase

all his debts as long as he disclosed your whereabouts."

Bridget's jaw fell agape when she heard that. She had never imagined such a thing

would happen. Disapproval soon brimmed in her eyes that fixed on Edward.

Yet, if one were to look closer, one would notice there was also a hint of an apology in her stare.

Edward stayed rooted to the ground wordlessly as he did nothing wrong. He believed

Darius was a justice person who would never let him suffer for anything he did not do.

Everyone on board had conflicted thoughts, but none spoke except for Shelvin.

He squawked with a pitchy tone, "Of course, Edward didn't agree. However, he was very

young and not a professional bodyguard at the time, so he had no idea that we put a

tracking device on him once he entered the room. From that, we managed to track

Darius' every action accurately. The person then got Edward's ex-fiance's mother to start

trouble at the airport, delaying things so we could tamper with the plane and ensure

Darius died aboard. Alas, things turned out to be different from what we expected-we

never expected Elizabeth to get involved. She somehow got on this plane too. We never

planned to kill her."

Darius' lips curled up into a cold smile.

Shelvin knew Darius believed him when he saw the latter smirking. He calmly continued,

"So when I boarded this plane, I received orders from the person behind everything, my

employer, to end Elizabeth's life whenever I see fit. Thus, I picked out the best timing to

execute those orders."

He then stretched all his fingers apart and rolled his sore shoulders back before

concluding, 'That's all I have to say regarding my part in this story.'

Annoyance flickered in Darius' eyes. He glowered at Shelvin, balling his fists while

raising them.

The two stood about 10 feet apart, but once Darius did that, Shelvin's arms instinctively

shot up toward his neck because he could not breathe. With every second, the invisible force constricting his neck tightened. He gripped his neck and spoke hoarsely. "D-Darius, I believe you should let me go now. I didn't wrong you in any way. Besides, I did everything you asked by telling the truth. I'm pretty sure I didn't leave out any details. You can tell me if I've done anything wrong, and I'll correct it. There's no need to turn to violence."

His fearful gaze locked onto Darius as he uttered those sentences at lightning speed. Although Darius was an enlightened martial artist, it was difficult for him to understand every word clearly. Nevertheless, he had a rough idea of what was said. Seeing the sincere look on Shelvin's face, Darius knew the former was telling the truth. He loosened his fists slightly, but not entirely. Still, that alone was enough to give the former some relief.

Shelvin opened his mouth wide, greedily sucking in every bit of air he could. He then looked at Darius, hoarsely stating, "I don't know what I did wrong, but I hope you can tell me straightforwardly so I can amend my mistakes and make up for all the trouble I've caused, like wasting your time."

Darius nodded stoically. "I'll give you one last chance. Know that I won't hesitate to send you down to hell, where you can mingle with Elizabeth for eternity if you cross me again."

This time, no threats were necessary for Shelvin to take action; he immediately held his neck with eyes full of fear and nodded. "Mr. Reid, what information do you want in exchange for sparing my life? I promise to reveal everything I know."

Darius lowered his arms, shut his eyes, then leaned back into his seat and crossed his arms before asking, "How were you at the private corner where I dealt with that older woman?"

Based on your abilities, it's unlikely that you can conceal yourself from me, so I bet someone was aiding you."

Upon hearing that, Shelvin slapped his forehead.

"My bad. The situation has made me negligent, so I forgot to inform you how it happened. Basically, I arrived at the airport last night and was responsible for setting up

the incidents that occurred today, including the employees involved. So, I placed a

tracker on the woman once she arrived at the airport in case things went out of hand. I

knew things were no longer going according to my plan once she got dragged away.

After weighing my options, I decided to come over and see what was happening."

"See what was happening?" Darius repeated.

Shelvin sensed the disapproval in Darius' snide remark. However, the latter's reaction

placed him in a difficult position. He did not know what to say to make Darius stop

picking on and questioning his every mistake.

Desperate, he flashed puppy dog eyes at Darius, hoping to appear innocent and pitiful.

Many possible outcomes of today formed in Shelvin's mind. Yet, none of them came true

because Darius never bothered to open his eyes or look at Shelvin.

That was when Shelvin elaborated, "Edward was popular with the ladies back when he

attended school. I chose this specific family for my plan because they weren't good

people. They did horrible things and harmed many innocent people by robbing and

scamming them. That's why I never intended for them to walk away alive when I asked

them to participate in my plans-"

Besides, I don't want to, nor will I, allow them to live. After all, their recent schemes

involve recruiting children to scam other families, which I can't tolerate." While saying

that, Shevin boldly looked into Darius' eyes. "I believe you're also aware of these things.

Otherwise, you wouldn't have acted against them."

Darius' gaze bore into him as he nodded. "I've said many things to you today, and it's

significantly more than my usual conversations with my secretary. Among everything we

discussed, your last assumption is the most accurate. It's what I like to hear.

Thus, from

this point on until the plane lands, I want you to shut up unless you're uttering facts. That

way, I might stay in a good mood and allow you to leave this plane alive."

Meanwhile, the captain had been on the ground in the row ahead, his fingers roaming

over Kate's head.

After Shelvin and Darius' conversation dwindled, the captain meekly reported to Darius,

"Kate's not doing so good. She has suffered trauma to her head, but I'm unqualified to

give her a proper diagnosis or treat her. I'll need to make an in-flight announcement to

see if we have a doctor on board. I hope this matter won't affect your mood, sir."

Darius found the captain, who stared at him timidly, amusing as it was not his intention to

be frightening. Plus, he did not think he was a scary person. Nevertheless, he kept silent,

shut his eyes, and nodded.

Seeing the former behave like usual, the captain heaved a sigh of relief and patted his

chest while leaving to make the announcement.

Darius massaged his temples. Suddenly, he changed his mind when the captain was

about to depart the first-class cabin. He called out, "Wait."

The captain halted in his step.

While he feared Darius, he was equally terrified of his ruthless boss, Kate's father,

William Anderson.

Kate was William's only daughter. Although William had many lovers, no one could deny

he deeply cared for and loved Kate.

That was why the captain stiffened, unable to relax or return his hands to his sides. He stood frozen on the spot, visualizing how he would get fired after all this was over. It was also then that he snapped out of that thought, realizing there was no guarantee he could leave the company alive if he were to upset William. Hence, he exhaled shakily, his arms flopping limply against his sides as he turned to Darius. "Sir, is there anything else you need? Kate's situation is pretty urgent."

Darius could tell the former was nervous, so he did not respond rudely. Instead, he stood and pointed at Kate, stating, "There's no need for the announcement. I have my ways of resolving this matter."

The captain was taken aback, his eyes widening at Darius while his jaw fell open. All words failed him in that instant. While he pondered how to react, he saw Darius approach Kate and knelt to rest a hand on her head. It looked like a scene straight out of a romance movie if not for Darius touching Kate's wound. Seeing that, the guard could not stand by and watch. He yelled, "Please let go of Kate, Darius! Everyone on this plane might not survive if anything happens to her."

Darius' eyes clamped shut, feeling irritated by the former's loudness. Erin instantly noticed that and understood how Darius felt. She whipped her head around, shooting a glare at the captain. She raised a dismissive hand while saying, "Are you aware of how irritating you are when you talk? If I were you. I'd shut up at once and refrain from saying anything else. The lives of everyone here depend on my boss' actions now, so your current behavior isn't helping!"

The captain parted his lips, then shut them. In the end, there was nothing he could do but lower his head, his gaze downcast. However, that did not mean he was betraying his

pledge to protect William's daughter. It was because he could not refute Erin, who spoke the truth.

Only after the captain fell silent did Darius' eyes open. Regardless of how he felt, the

warm gas in his belly continued to pour out of his palms, seeping into Kate's head injury, then entering her brain.

Then, something shocking happened.

Kate's injury was speedily mending itself before everyone's eyes. Her face, pallid due to

the wound earlier, now regained some color.

That sight was baffling to everyone there, including Erin and Bridget.

However, the two were quick to snap out of their dazes as they had both received

professional training to qualify to be beside Darius. They met each other's gazes before

speedily turning their backs to each other, blocking off Darius and Kate from anyone

else's view.

The two scanned the crowd with eyes that resembled lethal laser beams.

Because of

that, no one dared to look at them. Other passengers lowered their heads to avoid eye

contact, used their phones, or pretended to be asleep.

Darius knew what the two women were doing. His lips curved upward, pleased with their

actions.

That continued for about three minutes before Kate's injury fully recovered.

That was when Kate opened her eyes and noticed how close Darius was. Her head was

practically leaning against his firm abs, so her cheeks turned bright pink in seconds. She

struggled to sit upright but could not. It was then that she realized her entire body was

leaning against him for support.

Kate wanted to ask Darius what was happening. However, she was too flustered to

speak after realizing her intimate position. She could only sit there, gawking like a fool at

Darius as though her eyes were about to pop out.
Her reaction amused Darius so much that he let out an airy chuckle

Kate had never imagined Darius smiling at her before, especially after she'd come onto him so forcefully.

Darius shook his head, then said, "I think you can stand up now that you're feeling better."

She was still dazed by his smile, so she stood up without a second thought. Then, she

heard the despair in the captain's voice. "No, wait! You shouldn't do that! It's much too

dangerous now!"

Unfortunately, it was too late, and his despair grew as he looked at Darius.

Now, he had

two options-to go along with what Darius wanted or to go against him. No matter which

one he picked, he wouldn't be able to live a peaceful life. So, he chose to leave a good

impression on the people who would make it out of this alive and win himself a stellar

reputation. He would show them that he was willing to die to protect his master no matter

how dangerous it was, which meant that he would stop Darius.

He hurried over to stand between Kate and Darius, his expression mixed with fear and

anger. "How can you allow her to stand up? Do you know how unethical it is for you to

do something like this just to prove what a good doctor you are?"

Darius narrowed his eyes, but he didn't say anything. The captain became even more

nervous at his reaction. He started to tremble, but he kept his voice loud as he said

tremulously, "I'm sure we all saw what happened earlier. Kate suffered a serious injury to

the head, and she was bleeding profusely. She should be in pain and feeling dizzy now,

but you told her to stand up regardless of her condition. I think it's illogical for you to do

that just because you saved her."

Darius raised an eyebrow and nodded. "What do you think is the logical thing to do, then?"

This surprised the captain. He subconsciously turned to look at Kate. Then, he saw a look that he would never forget. Kate's gaze was filled with shock, confusion, disdain, and other emotions that he couldn't discern. He remained silent, however, because he didn't know what to say.

An awkward silence descended upon them. After a few attempts to speak, the captain

finally managed to ask, "Are you feeling better now?"

Kate moved her head around, saying blankly, "Yes, I am. I feel perfectly fine."

She put a

hand to her head and massaged it vigorously, even messing her hair up to prove that

she was okay. The captain's jaw dropped at her actions. He stumbled backward, shaking

his head as he mumbled, "No, that's impossible. I saw your wound, and it was deep.

There was so much blood! That's enough to show how serious the injury was.

There's no

way you could've recovered in such a short time."

He turned to look at Darius. "I think you owe us an explanation."

Darius smiled. It was mocking, but he still nodded and said, "You're right. Kate was

seriously injured earlier, but that doesn't mean I can't make her recover quickly."

Edward stood in one corner silently. He'd heard about enlightened martial artists before

and always thought they merely had an additional source of power to tap into for fights.

Never would he have imagined there to be other uses for it. In that instant, he suddenly

wanted to join their ranks. His logic won out, though, and he stepped forward before

looking at the captain. "I believe that you've heard of me before. My name's Edward

Elliott, and I'm an experienced surgeon. If you don't know who I am, you can probably

look me up on the internet.”

Silence greeted his words. The captain gaped and stared at him for the longest time, unable to blink or move.

This was Darius’ first time encountering such a situation, so it took him a while to

process this. Edward walked up to him and looked disapproving as he said, “Sir, they’re

not worth your time, and you don’t need to operate on them personally. If anything like

this happens again, you can tell me to handle it. I’m your bodyguard, and I’ll do anything

you want me to.”

Darius sensed that he was making a request as a loyal subject. He realized that he

shouldn’t have used his powers to handle the situation, so he nodded without a word.

Edward sighed with relief at Darius’ acquiescence, then turned to face the captain again.

“I think we’ve managed to resolve the issue pretty well. As long as you keep silent, no

one will know what happened here.”

The captain was still gaping at him, making him frown. He was about to say something

when the captain shrieked, “My God! You’re Edward Elliott, you say? Of course, I know

who you are! I doubt there’s any pilot who hasn’t heard of you-you’re the one who

brought us all the benefits that we’re enjoying now, and all the obstacles you overcame

have contributed to lengthening our lifespans.”

Edward didn’t expect him to know about those things. After a moment’s hesitation, he

nodded and said, “Thank you for your gratitude.”

“Therefore, can you pretend nothing happened on this plane and continue doing what

you’re supposed to?1’

The captain nodded without hesitation. He held a trembling hand out and said, “There’s

no way I’ll turn down your request. May I shake your hand?”

Edward shrugged and nodded. He relaxed a little and said, "If you're willing, I can take a photo with you."

The captain's face glowed with excitement. His lips were trembling so badly that he

couldn't say a word, and he'd even teared up. He shuffled over to Edward, then pulled

out his phone with trembling hands and snapped a blurry photo.

Darius saw that there was no way to tell who was in the photo, so he smiled helplessly

and took the phone from the captain. Then, he aimed the camera at them and said,

"Let's take another photo. The other one was blurred."

Bridget walked over to Erin's side, his hands behind his back as she gaped at the scene

before them. It felt so surreal. When Erin heard how uneven her breathing was, she

knew Bridget was shocked. She turned to look at

Bridget and said, "There's no need to be surprised. Mr. Reid must have his reasons for

doing this. All we have to do is wait, and our questions will eventually be answered.

You're being too obvious, and that's not a good thing for Mr. Reid."

Erin tried to keep her voice as low as possible so only Darius and Bridget heard her. A

trace of surprise flashed in Darius' eyes. He glanced at Erin without anyone noticing,

then put a hand behind his back before sliding the phone back into the captain's pocket.

"Alright, it's time for you to get back to work. I don't think you need to worry about Kate.

She's fine now."

Kate was still shocked. She never would've expected someone who'd been extremely

loyal to her father only to have eyes for Edward. Still, she was happy about this. After all,

she wanted her staff to treat Darius as well as she did. Though the captain hadn't been

nice to Darius, he practically worshipped Edward, which was good enough. At least it

wouldn't make things between him and Darius too awkward. She buried this

thought deep in her mind, but the look in her eyes betrayed her. The captain wanted to continue speaking with Edward, but he knew not to be greedy. He forced himself to turn around and walk away from Edward. Darius narrowed his eyes. He was running out of patience. If the captain didn't snap out of it, he would say something nasty. Fortunately, the cabin crew didn't allow that to happen. The captain only took a few steps when one of the flight attendants ran up to him and whispered something into his ear. Darius heard her clearly as an enlightened martial artist, but no one else did. She said, "Captain, the plane's about to land. You have to return to the cockpit immediately." The captain didn't say anything but quickly headed for the cockpit. Darius wanted to see this, so he didn't say anything. He merely sat down in his seat and looked at Kate. "We should all sit down, shouldn't we? The plane should be landing soon." Kate checked the time and nodded. "Yes, you're right." Then, she sat down. Erin took her seat next to Darius, then started breathing deeply. Darius glanced at her, making her nervous. She smiled and said, "Mr. Reid, I'm always like this when it's almost time to land. Flying always exhausts me." She thought Darius was going to reprimand her, but she was wrong. He merely smiled and said lightly, "I thought you'd be tired because of everything that's happened. In fact, you were working hard before we boarded." Kate had never heard him use such a gentle tone before, and without even realizing what she was doing, she quickly whipped her head around to glare daggers at Erin. She'd even opened her mouth to warn her off, but her rationality kicked in at this point and stopped her. After a short pause, she turned back around. Erin had caught her death glare, but she didn't say anything. Darius sensed the change

in atmosphere and narrowed his eyes-this wasn't something he wanted to see. Neither of these women belonged to him, and he didn't want to waste time smoothing things out between them, but it seemed that he didn't have a choice. However, he didn't say anything since Kate hadn't acted. When the plane landed, he took a deep breath. This was his first time feeling mentally exhausted after returning to the Reid Consortium, so the moment they could get off the plane, he got to his feet and strode off without a word. This was Erin's first time receiving such treatment.

Chapter 221

Her eyes widened, and she looked confused. However, she only allowed herself to stay like this for a second before regaining her composure. She grabbed her things and hurried off the plane. She had to catch up with Darius. When Kate saw them moving, she got ready to get off the plane as well. Before she could do so, someone appeared before her. It was a man with blond hair and plain features. She knew who he was-Darius' bodyguard, the surgeon. The captain practically worshipped him and treated Darius nicely because of him. So, she told herself to be nice to him. She forced out a smile and said, "You're Edward, right? May I know why you're stopping me from getting off the plane?" Edward looked at her seriously. "Because I'm a bodyguard. I can tell that you want to get close to Mr. Reid, and that's not something that I can allow." Kate resisted the urge to roll her eyes. She was starting to dislike Edward already, but she couldn't show it. As she pondered this, Edward said, "Mr. Reid will be in Almiron City for a long time. I don't think you need to express your thoughts right now. Also, if my memory serves me right, the Anderson Group is very influential here. I

suppose it's something for you to think about."

He stretched his neck, then continued, "I think I've overstepped my boundary as a bodyguard, so this is the end of our conversation. I hope that you won't show up before Mr. Reid for the time being. Also, I hope that you'll learn proper communication before the next time we meet. Otherwise, I'll exercise my right and duty as a bodyguard."

Without waiting for Kate's reaction, he turned and left. Kate remained rooted to the spot, only returning to her senses once Edward was out of her sight. She shrieked angrily, "Edward, you're just a bodyguard! You have no right to speak to me like that!" It was too late, though. Neither Darius nor Edward heard her.

At this moment, the four of them had already gotten into the car Erin had prepared. Edward was in the driver's seat, Bridget was in the passenger seat, and Darius and Erin were in the back.

Erin turned to Darius and said, "Mr. Reid, you didn't have anything concrete planned for this trip before we came here, so I've prepared a simple itinerary for you to go through. You'll have to let me know what other plans you have."

Darius nodded and said, "Okay."

Erin handed him her laptop. He quickly scrolled through the itinerary and said, "This is fine. I don't have anything else to add."

Erin nodded and put the laptop away. "Per the schedule, we should be heading to our hotel now. It's a five-star hotel, the best one that Almiron City offers. It's called Umbrite Hotel. It has the best restaurant in the city and provides various cuisines. It also has a splendid view."

Darius looked at her approvingly. This was exactly what he needed. The Reid Consortium hadn't invested much in Almiron City because it wasn't that well-developed,

and he now needed to get more people interested in this place. He was shocked by its size despite knowing that it wasn't well-developed. It had only taken them twenty minutes to get from the airport to the hotel. The hotel's entrance was framed by a gilded door to show its lavishness. The security guards and valet stood at attention, but Darius' car didn't pique their interest. None of them stepped forward to offer to park the car. This upset Darius, and he turned to look at the car. It cost half a million, which Erin had gotten in Almiron City. He could understand that the car was too cheap to make them spring into action, but he couldn't accept the fact that their attitude was affecting their work performance. Erin's heart started to race at the displeasure on Darius' face. She knew that he was starting to feel dissatisfied with the hotel, so she quickly got out of the car. "Mr. Reid, this is the best hotel that I could find in Almiron City. If you're unhappy with it or with the car, I'll immediately arrange for you to stay elsewhere. Please, don't allow this to affect your mood." Darius looked at her, surprised. "I don't mean that. I think these employees don't have the right frame of mind. Their lackadaisical attitude has resulted in Edward being unable to park the car in the correct spot because he doesn't know a thing about this place." Realization dawned on Erin. She walked over to the employees and said, "I don't think that you people should be standing around here like this. You should be helping to park the car. Also, none of you came to welcome us. This is a disgrace to your hotel's service standards."

Chapter 222

##Her anger didn't bring about the results she wanted. On the contrary, the

security

guards burst into laughter. One of them said, "I think you need to get this straight-you

have no right to make any demands of us because your employer's only driving a car

that's worth half a million.

In fact, you don't even have the right to come up to us and talk to us. If not for that pretty

face, you would already be flat on your back."

Their eyes trailed over Erin's body lasciviously. To their surprise, this didn't even make

her flinch. The security guard who'd spoken wasn't happy with this, so he raised his

voice and said to the guard opposite him, "Look, I was right. This woman's not the proper

type-why would she be getting out from the back seat if she were that guy's secretary?

Unless, of course, she was giving him some extra special service."

His meaning was relatively covert, but everyone present still understood what he was

getting at. They turned to look at Erin with pointed gazes, but she was still unaffected.

She stood there and curled her lips, then said haughtily, "I've already recorded everything you've said, and I think both of you are going to be out of jobs soon."

Based on past experience, these people would start feeling scared once she said that.

To her surprise, things didn't turn out like that. The security guards stood there with their

heads held high, and they looked at her mockingly. "If I were you, I wouldn't have said

something like that. You're just putting yourself in danger."

Erin narrowed her eyes. "If that's a threat, I'm sorry to say that you've failed. My

chairman won't give up on me."

The security guards shared a look, then threw their heads back in laughter.

Erin merely

watched them silently. When they were finally done laughing, they looked at her again.

The one that hadn't spoken much looked at the other and said,

"Lyon, I think it's time for you to show this beautiful woman what reality is like.

She thinks
that she's worthy of her chairman paying the price to protect her. In truth, she means
nothing to him. Perhaps he doesn't even know what her name is!"

Lyon nodded. "You're right, Viktor. I'll show them who's boss." He walked
down the
steps, eyes trained on Darius. Erin's hands balled into fists by her side, and
she got
ready to give him a punch once he stopped in front of her.

Unexpectedly, he walked right past her and headed toward Darius. She
narrowed her
eyes and looked at him worriedly, saying, "Mr. Reid..."

Before she could say anything else, Darius held a hand up to stop her. She
twisted her
hands worriedly, but she didn't make a sound.

Darius stretched his neck and looked at Lyon. "You're Lyon, right?"

His deep voice carried emotions that Lyon couldn't discern, making him
uncomfortable.

So, when he spoke, he didn't sound as arrogant as before. "I -I think that you
probably
don't know what that pretty little lady is called, so it's likely that she means
nothing to
you."

Darius looked at him calmly. "I think you can just be straight."

When Lyon saw that Darius wasn't offended, he widened his eyes, looking
excited. He
raised his voice and said, "If that's the case, I'll take it to mean that you're
someone who
doesn't like beating around the bush. I hope that my words will make you
come to a
realization. This woman's attitude wasn't very pleasant when speaking to us
earlier, and
if you leave her out here with us while you enjoy your stay in the hotel, we can
just end
this debacle. You'll still be an honored guest at our five-star hotel, and no one
will know
that you can only afford to drive a car worth half a million."

He held his head up high to show how confident he was. He believed that no
one would
be able to resist this offer, but he was surprised by what happened next.

Darius didn't

avert his gaze. Instead, he lifted a hand and balled it into a fist. Lyon subconsciously took a step back, then said warily, "I hope you're not holding up your fist because of me and that it won't land on me. Otherwise, I'll make you regret it." Darius didn't answer him. Instead, he said coldly, "I want to know what would've happened to the pretty little lady you were referring to if I'd done as you said." Lyon smiled, but it only made him look immoral. "Nothing much. She would've continued doing what she already does, but for a different person. Then again, I don't think it matters to women like her who they serve. Don't think I'm pulling your leg. I've seen one too many..." Suddenly, he let out a cry of pain. Darius slowly lowered his hand. He looked at Lyon, who was crouched on the ground, then stepped over him. His eyes were trained on Viktor, but his words were directed at Edward as he said, "I'm sure you know how to deal with such people."

Chapter 223

"Don't worry, Mr. Reid. I'll settle this." Darius nodded, then closed his eyes and fell silent. Viktor was terrified. He cried, "Darius, let me go this once, please! I didn't do anything-I didn't even speak to the woman! I merely agreed with what Lyon said." Lyon's eyes bulged. He spat on the ground and growled, "If you had the least bit of shame, you wouldn't have said that. When we came across situations like this in the past, it's not like you didn't get anything out of them. Now that the shit has hit the fan, you're pushing all the blame on me so that this dude will vent his anger on me. I'm not going to take this lying down, and you'll pay the price for what you've done!" His tone was resolute and firm. It made Viktor's face turn ghostly pale. Darius' gaze traveled between the two of them. Then, he narrowed his eyes, seemingly having understood something. He took a deep breath before putting his hands behind

his back and walking into the hotel.
Edward followed him while dragging Lyon along by the collar. Lyon didn't seem fazed, though. "Hey, brat. I bet you're not from here. If you were, you wouldn't be treating me like this. Do you know why? Because my uncle's Wilson Gillette, the founder of Gillette Group!" He said this confidently, even trying his best to hold his head high. Darius stopped and turned to look at him. "So, your name's Lyon Gillette?" Lyon looked proud. "Yes, that's right. I suppose that means you're not as ignorant as you look. So, you should get on your knees, apologize, and beg me to forgive you. Say that you'll do anything to make it up to me, or I'll do whatever I can to make your life a living hell. You don't want to end up as a pile of bones frozen by the roadside, do you?" Darius sized him up. His hat was crooked because of the punch Darius had given him earlier, but he still looked unbelievably pleased with himself. This reminded Darius of the first time he'd gone out looking for a job when he was fourteen. It was a cold winter's day, and it was still snowing. The orphanage didn't have many funds, so all he had on was a thin short-sleeved T-shirt under a long-sleeved shirt he'd scavenged from the trash, 1 For convenience's sake, they weren't allowed to leave the orphanage unless it was to go to school. So, this was Darius' first time leaving the orphanage alone. He could still remember how scared he'd been back then. Then, he found a restaurant and asked the owner in the smallest voice possible whether he needed someone to wash the dishes. There was nothing else he could do aside from this. Before being recognized as the heir to the Reid Consortium, Darius had been on the receiving end of all sorts of harsh treatment. The restaurant's owner was no different. He was a bully whose life was filled with bitterness. To this day, Darius could

remember

the menacing gaze that had traveled over his body. He couldn't help but tremble under it.

The owner didn't say anything for the longest time, and Darius felt like he would freeze to

death. So, he forced out, "Sir, I've never worked before, but I grew up in an orphanage.

I'm used to doing these chores, and I'm sure I can do a good job."

At his words, the owner had exaggeratedly pretended to vomit. Then, he turned to the

chef who was standing next to him and said mockingly, "You're a great employee, so I

won't cause trouble for you by hiring someone that's obviously no better than a thief. I

wouldn't want him to steal our food, would I?"

The chef smiled as well, but he still headed into the kitchen to get some food for Darius.

Darius was grateful for this, but he felt humiliated. So, he shook his head.

'Thank you,

but I'm not here to beg for food. The orphanage provides food for us. I just want to find a

job to earn my tuition."

The chef dropped his smile. The owner reached out to take the food from him, then

threw it at a stray dog who was digging around for food. After that, he said harshly, "If I

were you, I would've fucked off long ago. As you said, you're here for the money. There

might not be any money in my kitchen, but there's plenty of food, and that's worth

something. Now, get the fuck away from here." He then shoved Darius so hard that he

fell to the ground.

Back in the present, Darius looked at the scars on his palm. He took a deep breath,

suddenly finding that Lyon's expression was eerily similar to that of the restaurant

owner's. He didn't enjoy being reminded of these things, so he narrowed his eyes and

looked at Lyon contemptuously.

This was Lyon's first time being on the receiving end of such a gaze, and it

made him angry. He refused to take it lying down, so he started struggling, wanting to escape Edward's grip. Unfortunately for him, all he managed to do was give himself a headache. He had no choice but to stop. He turned his head with difficulty, his gaze landing on Edward. "Hey, brat. You'd better let me go this instant, or I guarantee you and your gang will leave this hotel in coffins."

Chapter 224

Edward looked into his eyes and found that Lyon meant what he said. He believed that he had the ability to turn his words into reality. So, he narrowed his eyes. He could not understand this, but he didn't say anything. He merely looked at Darius. Only when Darius nodded did he turn his cold gaze onto Lyon. Before anyone realized what was going on, he flicked his wrist and snapped Lyon's bone, making him let out an anguished cry. Darius stretched his neck and looked at Viktor. "I know that everything that's happened today will make your life difficult. If you need me to break your arm as well, I'll be glad to be of service." The blood drained from Viktor's face. He had yet to recover from his last bout of terror, so he remained rooted to the spot, trembling uncontrollably. His jaw went slack, but he didn't say a word. When Darius saw him like this, he chuckled and said mockingly, "This guy's essentially the same as Lyon. In fact, he's worse. At the very least, Lyon has the guts to own up to the things he's done, and it's easy to see that he has no concept of right and wrong. This guy, however, knows very well that what he's doing is wrong, but he continues to do it anyway."

Viktor could sense the menace in Darius' gaze and tried his best to move. He dropped to his knees and repeatedly kowtowed with his forehead landing on the ground with loud thuds. "Please, let me go." His voice was shaky, but he didn't stop talking. "Even if you don't, Lyon's family won't. You don't need to dirty your hands dealing with someone like me. It'll just alert the authorities, and you'll be punished." He looked sincere-as if he didn't want them to get into trouble. Darius didn't believe him for a second. Instead of saying anything, he walked into the hotel. Except for the receptionist, the employees had all gone into hiding because of the ruckus outside. He walked over to the front desk and put Erin's phone on the counter. When he looked at the receptionist, he saw her trembling all over. He sighed and said, "There's no need to be afraid of me. I'm not here to rob you. In fact, I assure you that we booked rooms here through proper procedures, and now we're here to check in. The only thing your emotions prove is that you're not a very professional receptionist." He looked her in the eye. The receptionist's eyes were big and bright, and she had long lashes. Her blond hair, fair skin, white teeth, and red lips made her look like a perfect Barbie doll. However, when she heard Darius' words, she became an angry rag doll. "Sir, I don't think you can just peg me as unprofessional! There's no one in this world who can smile at someone who had his bodyguard break someone's arm as if nothing was wrong. I'm a human, not a robot. It's impossible for me to put on a friendly smile to greet you." She spoke quickly, and the displeasure in her eyes was obvious. This amused Darius because her displeasure suddenly gave way to fear at the end of her sentence. She took

two steps back, then bowed at him and said loudly,
“Sir, I got ahead of myself! I realize my mistake now, so please don’t treat me like you treated Lyon. It’s not something I can handle! Also, I just started here. If you can forgive me, I’ll...”

She chattered on, but Darius had already focused his attention on Erin. She’d changed her clothes in the car, perhaps because Lyon had managed to lay a hand on her without her noticing. She was now wearing a black pencil skirt, and it showed off her hourglass figure. Darius gave her an appreciative look and said, “You look great in this skirt.”

Erin lowered her head shyly, exposing her slender neck to his eyes. He suddenly realized what was happening, so he stopped talking and turned back to the receptionist.

“This ends here. Check us in now, or I’m really going to lodge a complaint against you.”

The receptionist straightened up immediately and hurried over to the computer, her fingers flying over the keyboard. Thirty seconds later, she placed four key cards before Darius.

“Sir, these are the four suites that you’ve reserved.”

Darius raised an eyebrow. “How many rooms do the suites have? How many people can one suite accommodate?”

The receptionist’s eyes swept over him and his entourage, and she immediately knew what he wanted to know. She said, “The normal suites only have two rooms with a bed each, so they can’t accommodate four people. However, if you want to stay in the same room, I’d suggest taking the presidential suite. It’s more than enough to accommodate

four people, and each person will have their own space.”

Darius looked at her approvingly, then put the four key cards on the counter.

Chapter 225

"Now, I want you to change these four rooms into a presidential suite."

The receptionist bowed at Darius politely again before reaching out to take the key

cards. Before she could, an unpleasant voice rang out.

"If my memory serves me right, anyone who wants to upgrade from a normal suite to the

presidential suite has to fork out an additional thousand dollars. Since you're upgrading

from four normal suites, you'll need to pay four thousand dollars. I doubt you'll be able to

afford it, judging by the rags you're wearing."

No one would be happy to suddenly be criticized or insulted by a random passerby.

Darius narrowed his eyes and turned to look at the person who'd spoken.

However, a

hand caught him by the arm.

He subconsciously looked at it and followed it upward to see that it belonged to the

receptionist. He exhaled and said, "I don't think we're well acquainted enough for you to

be doing this. It's not very appropriate."

The receptionist's face turned crimson. She let go of him and bowed again, saying

apologetically, "I'm sorry, sir. I acted without thinking. You may not know who this woman

is, so allow me to introduce you. She's our lobby manager and a stellar employee. She's

also a member of the Gillette family."

The woman cut her off here. "I don't think that's information that you have the right to

reveal! I'm going to take note of this and deal with you later."

Her voice wasn't easily discernible as masculine or feminine, and if one didn't look at her,

it was easy to mistake her for a young man. So, Darius didn't bother hiding his surprise.

And it was this surprise that truly made the woman's blood boil.

She bellowed, "Your gaze is extremely rude. Guards, drag this pauper out of here right

now! If you don't deal with him immediately, I guarantee you'll regret being born." Then,

she turned to look at the receptionist.

“As for you, pack up your things and leave right now.”

The receptionist’s eyes widened, and she raised her voice without even realizing it.

“Firstly, I want to say that’s an unreasonable decision.

Secondly, you don’t have the right to fire me at all! You’re not a senior executive in this

hotel. You’re just a lobby manager. Also, you’re not a shareholder!”

She was loud enough that everyone heard her clearly, and Darius could even hear their

gasps. His interest was piqued, and he said to her, “If you’re really asked to leave this

hotel, you can consider joining my company. It’s newly established, so we need talents

like yourself.”

Without a word, Erin stepped forward and put her laptop on the front desk’s counter. Her

fingers flew across the keyboard. Darius raised an eyebrow at her actions.

He’d never

seen her like this before. After a moment’s thought, he understood what she was doing.

Then, he saw her smile. She pushed the laptop over to him and said, “This is all the

information we have on the receptionist. Indeed, she’s well-suited to join West Atlantics

Int’l. If she does join us, she’ll definitely be a good addition.”

Darius raised an eyebrow. It was hard for him to believe that he’d stumbled upon yet

another talent. After all, they were a rare breed. Coming across Erin was already

surprising enough. If this receptionist was another talent, there was no doubt in his mind

that West Atlantics Int’l would be able to achieve its goal in no time.

As he thought about this, he walked to the front desk to look at the laptop.

Then, he

glanced at the receptionist and said, “Alicia Rodríguez, a finance major who completed

her degree and postgraduate studies with flying colors. For some reason, all the

interviews you attended after graduating went badly, and you failed to find a job in

finance. Then, someone accused you of cheating on the entrance exam to join a government body, and it was decided that you would never get a job there. This hasn't been verified, though."

As Darius continued looking through the information, he found that Alicia seemed to give up on her life after this. She didn't put in any effort to change her situation. Instead, she'd gone around working odd jobs.

He looked at her. "So, that was the story of your life. I want to know now whether you have anything to say about it."

In truth, Darius hadn't read aloud all the information they had. All the accusations of

Alicia cheating on the entrance exam had originated from the same IP address. In other

words, this issue could be easily resolved if one had the wealth and power to do so.

Unfortunately, Alicia was nothing but an ordinary student. She didn't have the means to

turn her life around, which was why she'd kept silent.

She took a deep breath, not expecting the things she'd long buried to suddenly be

unearthed. She looked at Darius with her eyes wide, and she trembled as she said,

"Don't believe what they say. I'm innocent, and I did nothing of the sort. Trust me!"

Her gaze was pleading as she looked at him. After the cheating incident, no one

believed her when she claimed to be innocent, not even her parents.

Now, however, a complete stranger seemed to be telling her that they were wrong.

Chapter 226

To her, Darius was basically her lifebuoy. He was the only thing she could hold on to as she drowned.

When Darius saw this, he wanted to help her relax. He nodded and smiled, saying, "I

think that anyone with the money and power to go up against the Gillette

family wouldn't think of this as an issue. The reason you couldn't resolve this before was that you had neither. Now, with me around, you have both. I need someone to help me take care of some things in Almiron City. So, this is the time for you to shine. I'll give you a chance to prove yourself by resolving the issue that we're facing now."

Alicia's eyes widened again. She never would've expected to come across such an opportunity. Her eyes reddened, and she nodded vigorously. "I'll definitely prove that you made the right decision by trusting me, regardless of my age."

She wiped her tears away, then strode toward the entrance. She wanted to make things clear to the security guards, but she was surprised by the fact that there were none around. The sudden emptiness scared her a little because she had never seen the hotel's entrance so deserted. It made her nervous. This situation was different from what she was used to, making her anxious. So, she turned to look at Darius, her gaze one of confusion. He knew how she felt, but he didn't say anything, merely sticking his hands in his pockets. Alicia took a deep breath. She knew that this was Darius' test for her. She had to calm down and think of a way to deal with this. If she failed this, she would lose the chance to work alongside a rich and powerful man like Darius, and she would have to continue living her miserable life. The moment this thought formed in her mind, she pushed it away.

If she were to fail this test, she wouldn't even be able to continue living her miserable life because she'd just offended the lobby manager big time. If Darius didn't hire her, the lobby manager would find ways to tie her down to the hotel while forcing her to take on all sorts of debt. She could already see it happening.

She exhaled and strode into the courtyard. Then, she sucked in a deep breath again and shouted as loudly as possible, "Where are all the security guards? If you don't appear before me immediately, I promise that all of you will be fired, regardless of who your uncles are!"

Though she didn't name any names, everyone knew who she was referring to. They watched her with interest, sticking their heads out to see what she was up to. Alicia could sense the gazes on her. She took a deep breath, put her hands behind her back, and turned to face the entrance. This would help to hide the fact that she was so nervous she was trembling.

No one answered her. She sucked in another breath and said, "I'm going to count to three. If you appear before I'm done, I can forget about you ignoring me before this. And if you don't, I'm sorry to say that you'll have to bear the consequences of my anger."

After she said this, someone finally staggered out of one of the cars parked in the courtyard. It was Lyon, but he looked worlds apart from how he usually did. Certain parts of his face were normal, but the other parts were purple with bruises. The left side of his face was swollen, and he couldn't open his right eye. This was probably thanks to Edward.

Alicia didn't expect to see him like this. She took a step back in surprise. Lyon looked up at her. He thought he sounded bold and confident, but the blood on him and the pain coming from his body made him weaker than usual. He said, "You'd better be polite when speaking to me, or I'll show you what it's like when I'm mad! Of course, I'm sure you know how the other people before today ended up. You can take them as reference points. I guarantee you'll be a hundred times worse than them."

Alicia's breathing sped up at his words. Her voice wasn't as loud as before, but she sounded more resolute. "If I were you, I wouldn't threaten someone looking like that. You have no right to!" She emphasized the last few words. Everyone could discern the meaning behind her words, and it pissed Lyon off even more. Alicia relaxed her stance, and her breathing slowed down. She was already in the zone. She held her head up high and said, "You're no better than a stray dog now, so you should keep your head down and do what a security guard's supposed to. Perhaps I'll consider giving you some food to tide you over." The lobby manager was already seated on one of the sofas. She watched the debacle without making a sound. However, it was obvious that this was nothing more than a minor interruption to her day. She wasn't bothered by it at all. Soon, she would know how wrong she was. She got to her feet and stuck her hands in her pockets while looking at Darius. "If I were you, I wouldn't be doing this. You don't understand a thing about our hotel or me, so you don't know what you're dealing with. I've seen many people like you in the past, and none of them had good endings." The look in her eyes told Darius that she was confident he would be no better. He turned to look at her disdainfully, then said, "I could say the same to you."

Chapter 227

With that said, he turned to Erin. "It's been a while now. I think we've been standing here for at least half an hour. It's probably time for you to give me an update." Erin's fingers paused on the keyboard. She turned to look at Darius, then smiled and nodded. "Yes, sir. We can see some results now." As she spoke, she turned the laptop to face him. "Mr. Reid, as you can see, we already have 10 percent of Umbrite Hotel's shares. Our business partners provide 8 percent, and the remaining 2 percent

is from
the share market.
Now, we're the fifth largest shareholder. I've already contacted the third and fourth
largest, and as long as they hand over their shares totaling 35 percent, we'll
own 45
percent of this hotel. That will make us the largest shareholder."
When she got to the end of her report, her gaze went from Darius to the lobby
manager,
and she smiled.
Darius nodded. "That's about as good as we can get. Continue working on it."
Erin nodded, but she didn't do as he said. Instead of turning back to her
laptop, she kept
her eyes on the lobby manager.
'This woman, the lobby manager, is called Samantha Williams. She got the
job because
her father-our business partner owns 8 percent of the hotel's shares."
The people hiding in the corners poked their heads out again to look at
Samantha in
surprise.
"I always thought she was arrogant because of her abilities or contributions to
the hotel."
"Right? Turns out she knows nothing. She only got the job because her dad's
rich!"
'This is completely different from what she told us!"
Their voices weren't loud, but the silence in the lobby still made their words
audible.
Darius and the gang were the only guests in the lobby at the moment.
Samantha didn't expect the truth about her identity to be exposed like this.
She didn't
want to admit it, though. She glared at Darius. "If you don't admit you
fabricated that,
you'll pay the price for defaming and slandering me!"
Darius scoffed. No one knew for sure whether he was laughing, but it was
obvious that
he was disdainful of Samantha. Everyone present widened their eyes in
surprise.
'Who's this guy? I can't believe he's speaking to Samantha like that!"
"Samantha's nothing but an ordinary person now. The wealth that belonged to
her family
now belongs to this guy. I don't see why he can't speak to her like that. If I

were him, I'd probably act the same way."

Samantha's expression turned venomous at their words. She said to Darius, "I don't think your actions make you worthy of being called a man. Shouldn't you at least tell me who you are and what you're trying to achieve?"

"I wouldn't be so rude if I were in your shoes. I'm a client of your father's company, and he relies on us heavily. Also, he needs an investment company to support his cash flow."

He put his hands in his pockets, looking contemptuous. Samantha had been disdainful before, but she didn't dare behave that way anymore. Her eyes were trained on Darius, "Who the hell are you? How do you know that?" He glanced at the clock on the wall, and his face became void of emotion. "I've already wasted too much time on you people. You need to think about whether you're worth it."

She felt humiliated, and tears formed in her eyes. Her voice became tremulous as she said, "Darius Reid, I know you're a wealthy person, much wealthier than I am. But you shouldn't have done that to me when I did nothing to offend you."

Darius narrowed his eyes. "You're not making sense at all. The surveillance cameras and your colleagues have captured everything you did. Even if your colleagues don't say anything for fear of retribution, there's still the surveillance footage."

He looked at the cameras, then smiled. "Of course, if you don't believe me, perhaps there are other ways to make you explain yourself."

He turned to Erin. "Have you taken down everything that she did?" Erin's fingers were still flying across the keyboard, but her eyes focused on Darius. She nodded, looking happy.

"Mr. Reid, there's no need for you to worry about that at all. I knew she wasn't the good sort right from the beginning, so I always kept an eye on her. Moreover, the fact that she

switched tactics so quickly just proves that she's acting like this for a reason." Darius narrowed his eyes again.

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Darius' ears perked up, and he realized he could hear several cars coming from a distance. His expression immediately turned icy. "I think I know why she's doing this."

Erin looked at him blankly.

He sucked in a deep breath, then said, "Because the Gillette family will be here in ten minutes, at most."

Erin and Alicia both frowned. They quickly got to their feet and hurried to stand before him, wanting to shield him with their bodies. They ended up standing shoulder to shoulder.

Darius lowered his head and looked at them with a smile on his face." There's no need for you two to be so nervous. It won't solve the problem. If anything, it's just going to increase the time I need to spend on resolving this."

The two women shared a look, but neither of them said anything since this was only their first meeting. Then, they averted their gazes and breathed deeply. As they fell deep into their thoughts, Darius stretched his neck.

"Honestly, there's nothing to worry about. The person behind this hotel is the Gillette family's dog, and they're not going to allow anyone to bully their dog. Now that we have

10 percent of this hotel's shares, it means that we have power over them. This will help

hold the Gillette family back a little.

It doesn't mean much, but for the sake of their ego, the Gillette family won't give up on

their dog. Unless, of course, Wilson Gillette is as generous as I am and willing to pay a

high price for his dog. I doubt that'll happen, though." He shrugged, then leaned against

a table nearby. "So, if I were you, I'd continue doing what I did before this."

As Erin listened to him speak, her earlier nervousness dissipated, and she quickly calmed down. She turned to him and bowed her head slightly, saying, "I'm sorry, sir. I lost control of myself earlier, but I'm fine now."

Then, she walked back over to her laptop and started typing again. Darius looked at Alicia, who still stood before him. "Lyon's the most useless person I've ever met. He doesn't come from a wealthy family, nor does he have any talent. In fact, he doesn't even have friends. So, you can go ahead and do whatever you want."

Alicia's eyes widened. "Mr. Reid, how'd you know I wanted to do something?" He said, "I don't think you should be asking me questions, not with your identity."

She felt like a bucket of ice water had been poured over her. However, she quickly recovered and calmed down, then bowed her head. "I'm sorry, sir. I'll ensure everyone knows that you're the boss from now on."

Now, this was what Darius wanted to hear. He nodded, then looked at Samantha, who was still on the floor. "Samantha, you can stop that now. The person you're waiting for isn't here yet, and perhaps he won't be coming at all."

Her eyes widened, and she wept silently. Then, she shook her head vigorously and cried, "He'll definitely be here! He promised me!"

"Well, maybe Hank Gillette's soul is here right now." Darius looked up at the sky. "Look, maybe he's hanging around here somewhere, looking down at you! But if you want him to appear before you, I'm sorry that it's not possible because he's dead. He died a long time ago."

Samantha shot to her feet, glaring at him with bloodshot eyes. "What the hell are you talking about? That's impossible! Hank's always been powerful and has an enlightened martial artist protecting him. How could a pauper like you, who can only afford to wear

rag, have anything to do with him?" Darius looked at his clothes and smiled disdainfully.

"Cut the crap. If I were you, I'd be thinking of ways to escape instead of continuing to offend me."

Samantha's expression turned murderous. She forced out through gritted teeth, "Do you know what you're saying? What do you think you can do to me? I'm this hotel's lobby manager! All the security guards have to listen to my orders! They should be protecting me. That's their duty."

Darius sighed. "I've lost all my patience. I already told you that I didn't like what you were doing, and if you continue like this, there's no way we'll be able to hold a civilized conversation. I can guarantee that there'll be a repeat of what happened earlier."

Samantha fell silent. She didn't dare to make a sound because she knew that Darius could turn his threat into reality. She sat down and looked out the window resolutely, obviously insisting on waiting for Hank to show up.

Darius saw through her right away, but he didn't say anything. He merely walked over to

Alicia, who was standing at the entrance, looking mad. He reached out to put a hand on

her shoulder. "You don't look too happy.

Didn't you manage to resolve the issue?"

Alicia looked at him and shook her head. "No, I've already taken care of Lyon. He's lying

in the corner of the courtyard now."

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As she spoke, she pointed at a guy lying on the ground.

Darius looked at him and raised an eyebrow. "You're worried about the Gillette family coming here."

Alicia nodded. "Yes, sir. They're extremely unreasonable and act based on their whims

and fancies. There's no way we can predict what they'll do." She looked at

Darius. "If we stay here, we'll put ourselves in grave danger. Also, the fact that Samantha did a one-eighty worries me. It proves that she knows they're almost here. We've kept an eye on her all this time, so I have no idea how she found out about that."

Darius took in her frustrated expression, then walked into the courtyard. He put his hands behind his back and looked in the direction that the Gillette family's cars were coming from. "You're worried that because the Gillettes know we're here, they'll be able to swiftly come up with a counterattack against us."

Alicia didn't expect him to understand her so well. She widened her eyes in surprise.

Darius didn't turn to look at her, though. Instead, a mocking and disdainful smile curved his lips.

"They might have a hundred and one ways to deal with us, but none of them will work against me. Otherwise, Hank wouldn't have died by my hands." He stretched his neck.

It allowed Alicia to sense his murderous intent, but all it did was bewitch her. He was so handsome to her now, and it dazzled her.

Darius found it odd when he didn't receive a reply. He turned back to look at her and asked, "So, what else are you worried about?"

She shook her head. "Nothing. I'm unbelievably reassured now." He nodded.

At this moment, Samantha, who'd been weeping pitifully this whole time, suddenly stood up. She went back to looking like her usual self and moved to put her hands into her pockets. However, she stopped at the last second and brushed the dust off her clothes instead.

Darius glanced at her and clearly caught the disdain on her face. He knew that it was meant for him, and he narrowed his eyes. She was an odd woman, and it seemed that

he had to change his impression of her. He felt that it'd be dangerous if he thought of her as a normal woman. So, he walked over to her. Samantha watched him approach, putting her hands into her pockets and sticking her chest out. She held her head high and looked at him. "What, are you going to apologize to me for your rudeness now, you pauper?" To her surprise, Darius' expression only became contemptuous. "You seem to have already forgotten about what happened earlier." Before he could continue, she cut him off shrilly. "What the hell do you mean by that? What do you mean I've already forgotten about what happened? Are you mocking my memory, or are you saying I'm insane?" Darius' eyes were already narrowed, to begin with, and at her words, he shut them. He needed a silent environment to think. This woman's attitude was extremely odd. Also, her words seemed to be pointing out her current situation. But was there really someone so dumb? While he pondered this and failed to come up with an answer, he suddenly heard the sound of someone panting outside, but the Gillette family had yet to arrive. The only thing that piqued his curiosity about this was the fact that he hadn't heard this slightly familiar pant despite listening to all the sounds around them. He turned to look at the entrance. In the next second, he saw a tall, blond man running toward them. Shelvin's hair was mussed up because of the distance he'd run. His shirt was unbuttoned, and the collar was flipped. His tie had gone missing long ago. He'd never been this disheveled. However, he felt that he could look worse. He ran toward Darius, then flopped onto the floor by his feet,

gasping for breath.

Darius looked at him with a frown. "What are you doing? Is there something you're trying

to achieve by lying down at my feet?"

Shelvin's expression turned steely. He propped himself up with both arms and prepared

to get to his feet.

Darius cleared his throat. "You look just like a tortoise now, you know."

Shelvin rolled his eyes. "Man, you're savage. If not for you, I wouldn't have run all the

way here. Do you know how hard that was?"

Darius put his hands in his pockets, then shook his head. "That's not exactly right. It

might be tough for an ordinary person, but not for you. After all, despite your weaknesses, you're still a martial artist."

Shelvin looked exasperated. He glared at Darius and said, "It looks like you're not

interested in what I'm about to tell you."

Instead of saying anything, Darius merely let out a scoff.

This made Shelvin's exasperation disappear immediately. He smiled brightly and spread

his hands, saying, "I was just joking, of course."

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"After all, you're Darius Reed. I'll do anything I can to help you.

Darius looked at his watch. "I don't have much time left for you. The Gillette family's

going to be here soon."

Shelvin's eyes widened as he looked at Darius in disbelief. "How's that possible?

Shouldn't they have their hands full right now? Why would they show up here?"

Darius glanced at Samantha. "I think the answer to that probably has something to do

with this woman, but I don't know exactly what it is. You can look into the matter yourself

and tell me the answer once you have it." He stretched his neck.

Erin hurried over to him. She sized Shelvin up, then frowned. "Mr. Reid, what's he doing

here?" Shelvin was a little hurt by her question. He raised his voice in dissatisfaction and said,

“Hey, you may be beautiful, but you can’t be so contemptuous of me! I’m a great guy, and plenty of women were interested in me even before I became an enlightened martial artist. They were practically dying for me to marry them, but that wasn’t what I...”

Erin cut him off. “Yeah, I’m not interested in that. I need to speak to Mr. Reid about work, and I don’t think you should be here.”

Shelvin gaped and looked at her in shock. “How can you say that? I’m here for your chairman’s sake, you know! I mean, it’s obvious that you like him, but you can’t insult me like that. It’s really hurtful, and I don’t think it’s smart to treat your future colleague like that.”

Erin looked at him in confusion, then turned to Darius. Darius raised an eyebrow but

didn’t avert his gaze and continued looking at Samantha.

Now, she looked like the professional lobby manager she was supposed to be.

This was different from how she’d looked earlier and wasn’t the same as how she’d

looked when she’d first appeared.

Darius found this odd, but he didn’t say anything. Just as he was deep in thought, a shrill

scream rang out. He whipped his head around to look at Erin and found her lying on the

floor. He frowned, narrowed his eyes, and then bent down to help her. As he did so, he

heard Shelvin say,

“My dearest Darius, you’ll thank me when you hear what I’m about to say.

This woman

named Samantha Williams is Hank Gillette’s fiancée.”

Darius raised an eyebrow. Hank was the sole heir of the Gillette family. There was no

way he would’ve missed news of Hank getting engaged. He looked at Shelvin doubtfully,

and it made Shelvin feel uncomfortable.

He rubbed his nose and said, “You don’t have to look at me like that because I’m telling

you the truth. It's an unspoken tradition among wealthy families for the heirs or heiresses to have a childhood sweetheart who becomes their spouse."

Darius scrutinized him. When he was sure Shelvin wasn't pulling his leg, he took a deep breath and said thoughtfully, "That just makes things weirder. Samantha's father is a business partner of mine, and his wealth isn't enough to make the Gillette family recognize her as Hank's future wife. However, that's exactly what they did, and they did it long ago too."

As Darius tried to puzzle this out, Shelvin said, "Before this, there were rumors that there was something off about this fiancée's mental state. I didn't believe for a second that the Gillette family would choose such a person to become the future chairman's wife-it was much too risky. Now, however, I believe it."

Darius looked at him in confusion. "Why? Was it because of her mood swings? Also, it's not like you witnessed it. You only heard some rumors." Shelvin raised an eyebrow and looked at Darius in surprise. "Wait, you're an enlightened martial artist-a powerful one, too-but you don't know this? It's common knowledge among martial artists."

Darius said baldly, "Indeed, I don't. My awakening was an odd process, and nobody knew about it, so..." He shrugged.

Shelvin's eyes lit up. He started trembling, then suddenly grabbed Darius' wrist. Darius looked at his hand with displeasure. He didn't say anything, though. He wanted to know what Shelvin was up to.

Soon, something surprising happened. Shelvin didn't do anything else after grabbing him. Instead, he looked at him with bright eyes and said, "Wait, so you're the legendary genius?" Without waiting for a response, he nodded confidently and continued, "You have to be! Only a genius would become enlightened without anyone finding out!"

Darius was a little lost for words, but he didn't deny this. "Maybe you're right, but I think you should let go of my arm and tell me why you think there's something wrong with Samantha's mental state."

Shelvin immediately let go of Darius when he sensed the shift in his emotions, then took two steps back, keeping what he felt was a safe distance between them.

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He cleared his throat and straightened his collar before saying, "It's a skill that we enlightened martial artists can use. You just need to direct that warm energy to your eyes to see everything you want anything at all, as long as you think about it."

This came as a surprise to Darius. He widened his eyes and looked at Shelvin doubtfully, which Shelvin didn't appreciate. Shelvin took a deep breath and looked at Darius sincerely, then said, "Darius, I'm not lying to you. Why would I when I want to work for you in the future?" He paused, then continued calmly, "If you don't believe me, you can try it. You'll definitely see whatever you want to."

Darius was still doubtful, but he couldn't suppress his curiosity. He tried to direct the energy from his abdomen to his eyes. What happened next shocked him—it was the exact scene he'd imagined!

Erin flushed when she saw him staring at her. She took a deep breath before saying, "Mr. Reid, you're making me shy, staring at me like that." As she said this, Darius felt his mouth go dry.

He never expected his mind to conjure up such an image, which was why he couldn't take his eyes off Erin—she was butt -naked in his eyes.

It was only when he registered what she'd said that he returned to his senses. Then, he jumped slightly and quickly turned away. Erin didn't understand why he was acting so

oddly, so she hurried over to him and reached out to steady him. "Mr. Reid, are you okay?"

Why did you jump? Do you feel unwell? Should I get you a doctor?"

Darius' heart was calm as he listened to her concerned questions, but he was acutely

aware of her hand on his arm. He pulled his arm out of her grasp and put it behind his

back before clearing his throat to conceal his awkwardness. Then, he frowned and said,

"I'm fine. You can let go of me now."

Erin sensed the displeasure in his tone and quickly put her hand down, but she couldn't

conceal her disappointment. Shelvin stood there silently, watching them. He turned to

Darius and smiled knowingly, saying, "So, the view was pretty nice, huh?"

Realization dawned on Erin when she heard his words, and her face burned bright red.

She immediately kicked Shelvin behind his knee. He could've avoided her, but he knew

that he'd crossed the line earlier. He didn't dodge her, so he ended up falling to his

knees before Darius.

When Darius heard the sound of Shelvin's knees coming into contact with the floor, it

made him wince. Shelvin didn't look too bothered, though, making Darius raise an

eyebrow. It seemed that

Shelvin was worthy of his respect. Soon, however, Darius pushed this thought out of his

mind.

Because Shelvin looked up at him, grinned, and mouthed, "Don't worry. I'm aman, too,

and I can understand how you feel. I'll take this kick on your behalf, but I hope you'll be

braver the next time. I'll be waiting to attend your engagement party!"

Darius rolled his eyes, choosing not to say anything in response.

He put stuck his hands in his pockets and said coldly, "You keep saying you have

something important to say, but you've failed to do so. Tell me what you know about

Samantha Williams.”

Shelvin knew that he was really out of patience now, so he quickly got to his feet and

said, “You’ve already tried directing the energy to your eyes, right? And you saw

whatever it was you were thinking of. Basically, your eyes can act as an X-ray, and no

one will be able to hide anything from you. You’ll be a walking X-ray machine!”

Darius didn’t say anything. He merely turned to sweep his gaze over everyone present

and found that Shelvin was right. It was like he’d been introduced to a new world—one

he’d never imagined existed. His gaze landed on Samantha.

He could clearly see that the blood vessels in her brain weren’t like the ordinary person’s

—they were all lumped together, and some of them had turned black. They were

probably dead.

To Darius, this meant something really was wrong with her brain.

This made his eyes widen, but it also made him more curious. With the Gillette family’s

wealth, there was no way they would choose a disabled person to be the future

chairman’s wife.

Yet, this was exactly what had happened. It was unimaginable, and he looked at her in

wonder.

Samantha couldn’t hear their conversation.

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She saw Shelvin and Darius’ eyes sweep over their surroundings and finally land on her

for the longest time, but they didn’t move.

This made her feel uneasy. She frowned, then swiftly walked over to them.

Then, she held her head high and said, “What are you looking at? I bet you’ve been

spending all your time ogling at women instead of working, judging from the fact that you

can only afford to drive a car worth half a million. If I were you, I wouldn’t just stand here

and gape like an idiot; it won't earn you any money. You'll just be depressed that none of these women you're ogling will be yours."

Darius' lips twitched. Honestly, he didn't think it'd be an easy feat to find someone wealthier than him, but it was obvious that Samantha disagreed with him. A trace of curiosity flashed in his eyes and quickly disappeared.

Samantha suspected she was seeing things, and since she couldn't figure out what was happening, she stopped thinking about it. She stalked toward Darius and closed the distance between them, finally standing nose-to-nose with him.

Darius grabbed her by the back of her neck without saying a word. "I'm not used to coming into such close contact with anyone, and if you insist on doing this, don't blame me for whatever happens next." Samantha's eyes widened. She couldn't believe he'd said something like that to her, but she didn't seem to have a choice. As she got ready to stand her ground, she suddenly felt the grip around her neck tighten. Before she realized what was going on, the grip loosened. She'd never experienced this, and she let out a cry of terror.

Darius narrowed his eyes at her. "You may not know this, but I don't have the best of tempers. If you continue screaming, I guarantee you won't live to see the Gillette family."

She didn't want to believe him, but she knew that she had no choice. She forced herself to shut her mouth.

Darius exhaled. "Now, you just need to answer my questions. If you upset me at any point, I promise that you'll regret it."

Samantha's expression turned murderous. She glared at him and scoffed, but she didn't say anything. Then, she closed her eyes and turned her head away, not wanting to look at him at all.

Darius could sense her rage, but he couldn't care less. He said bluntly, "You

don't look like a normal person, and something seems to be wrong with your mental state. Why has the Gillette family tolerated you for so many years?" Samantha started flailing. She glared at Darius, the hatred in her eyes practically spilling over. "I don't understand what you're talking about." Her breathing sped up, and her hatred turned into anxiety. "Cut the crap! It's not going to do you any good!" Darius looked into her eyes and saw her gaze darting around. He knew she wasn't telling the truth, so he sighed. "It looks like you still don't know what sort of circumstances you're under. Or is it because you think your father's influential enough to keep things under wraps and hidden from my investigation?" Obviously, Samantha agreed with his question. She still didn't say anything, though. Darius sighed again and looked at Erin. "She seems to be horribly mistaken about us. It's up to you to correct her." Erin nodded confidently and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Reid. [1] make sure she knows how wrong she is." She stretched her neck and placed her fingers on the keyboard again. Her actions made Samantha feel inexplicably anxious, reminding her of how quickly Erin had bought 10 percent of the hotel's shares. She'd never seen someone work so quickly, so she wasn't too sure that Darius wouldn't discover her secret. The cogs in her brain whirled as she tried to think of a way to resolve this. Unfortunately for her, nothing seemed to work. She shut her eyes again and took a deep breath before looking at Darius. "I can tell you what you want to know, but you must let me go and return the shares you stole from my father!" Her gaze was defiant. Darius rolled his eyes at her. "I'm going to have to correct you there. I didn't steal anything from your father; I bought them from him fair and square. Also, you need to

understand that even if I did steal something from him, he'd thank me profusely."

Samantha's eyes widened at his words. Then, she sucked in a deep breath and spat at

him. It didn't reach him, but this didn't stop

Darius from getting mad. She felt the grip around her neck tighten, cutting off her oxygen

supply. However, she looked ecstatic.

"You're angry now, aren't you? If you harm a hair on my head, I promise this will be the

last day of your life."

Darius narrowed his eyes. There was something odd about this woman's body... She

seemed to be telling the truth.

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No matter how much he refused to admit it, he knew she was telling the truth.

However, he smirked and said, "Even if you're telling the truth, it doesn't bother me.I

couldn't care less.You may not know this, but your father can't harm me in any way.Perhaps it's because you're too naive, but you should know that saving the world

isn't something we care about."

He raised an eyebrow and turned to look at Erin.He saw that she already had some

results from her investigation, so he flicked his wrist and and let Samantha go. She glared at him, her eyes filled with hatred.

However, it didn't bother him He walked over to Erin and leaned against the table, his

eyes focusing on the monitor.

"How is it? Do you have anything?"

Erin smiled and nodded.

"Yes, sir."

She turned the laptop to him and said, "The truth is shocking.I decided to delve into this

from a different perspective and used whatever information we had to search for

Samantha's father, Michael Williams.

Indeed, he's a wealthy man and even wealthier than we thought.

I also found that all his wealth comes from the same source, which is a rare mine.

The ore in the mine is indispensable when it comes to manufacturing engines and

certain chips, and it's irreplaceable.

In our country, the production of these items is slowly being monopolized, so this mine is

important to the Gillette family.

The ore isn't exactly cheap, either.

In their backdoor pre-nuptial agreement, it was stipulated that Samantha Williams would

bring along 20 percent of the mine's ownership with her, which would help to lessen the

Gillette family's costs in purchasing the ore."

This wasn't what Darius expected.

He looked at Samantha with narrowed eyes and said, 'Now, that's something I didn't

expect. Your father's not only great at amassing wealth but also at keeping secrets. When

I think about such a well-kept secret being exposed because of you..."

He scoffed.

Samantha's face became ashen. She was fearful because she couldn't refute him.

Her father had always kept the fact that they owned a mine secret, but it was now out in

the open because of her.

Suddenly, she didn't know what to do to make things better.

On the other hand, Darius was truly surprised. He didn't expect there to be anyone who

could hide this from the Reid family. He closed his eyes and exhaled, wondering whether

anyone else knew about this.

And if they did, what sort of role did they play in this? As he pondered this, the Gillette

family's cars finally arrived.

Shelvin had been leaning against the wall, straightening up when he heard the cars.

He looked at Darius vigilantly and asked, "Mr. Reid, what should we do now?"

The Gillette

family's here, and it looks like they brought help. I don't think we can handle them."

Darius smiled faintly at his words and nodded.

"You're right about there being many of them, but they're weaker than you

think.”

He yawned and continued, “I suppose it’s good that they’re here. We can deal with this

as soon as possible so that I can get some sleep.”

This was what Wilson Gillette heard when he walked into the hotel.

It infuriated him, and he strode toward Darius.

“Hey, brat. You’d better tell me whatever I want to know.”

Darius shrugged, not saying anything in response.

This only made Wilson angrier, and he exhaled as his hands balled into fists.

When he thought about the questions he wanted to ask, he tried to make himself sound

amicable.

“Darius Reid, I know that you’re a smart guy. Just tell me this— where’s my son? If you

tell me what you know, I can pretend that none of this happened.”

Darius took in his serious expression and smiled.

“I have the power here, don’t I? After all, I believe I’m the only person who knows the

answer to that.”

He lifted his chin.

“If you lay a finger on me, I guarantee you’ll never know where he is.”

Wilson didn’t want to accede to Darius, but he knew this was his only choice.

He took a deep breath and sized Darius up before finally forcing out through gritted

teeth, “Darius, you’d better remember what you’re saying right now. If anything happens

to my son, you’re the first person whose blood I’ll be out for.”

He’d done this so many times today that he was already sick of it.

However, he still nodded.

“Sure. I mean, I can just take you for a ride, but it’s unnecessary.”

He watched as Wilson slowly raised a hand, then decided not to waste time on these

people anymore. He said bluntly, “Hank’s dead. I’m sure you already know this; you just

refuse to accept it.”

As he spoke, he quickly backed away and avoided Wilson’s grip.

No one expected Darius to just blurt the truth out like this, and silence descended upon

them.

The only sound that could be heard was Wilson’s labored breathing, and they saw his

eyes turn red.

Though he'd already found out about this long ago, he had yet to accept it.

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Now, however, he was being forced to, but he just couldn't bring himself to do it.

He looked at Darius with bloodshot eyes and roared, "This is all your fault! You're the

one who killed my son! He didn't even do anything!"

Darius' eyes widened as he looked at Wilson, raising his voice to say, "You can blame

me for killing him, but you can't say that he died in vain. He's done so many illegal and

immoral things and escaped the law so many times because of you. He even killed

someone because of his own selfish desires!"

He paused, taking in Wilson's bloodshot eyes and heavy panting, then calmed down and

smiled.

"I know there's no point in saying all this at this point."

Wilson stalked toward Darius.

"I think I've been very patient with you so far, more patient than I've been with anyone

else. Yet, you harmed my beloved son."

Darius frowned.

"I don't think we've even met before today."

He didn't receive a reply from Wilson, however.

Wilson just growled, "Look at you—you're no different than a pauper. You even injured

my subordinates and had the nerve to buy 10 percent of my hotel's shares through dirty,

underhanded means. But I haven't complained about that, have I? I've been nice to you

so far, but you killed my only son."

Though Darius had already given up on talking sense into him, he still couldn't stand

how Wilson kept going on and on like a broken record.

He sighed and said, "I think there's probably some sort of misunderstanding here."

The moment he said this, it seemed to ignite something in Wilson, who shot to his feet

and pointed at him.

His spit flew as he roared, "I saw it! There's no misunderstanding; it's all your fault!

Everything's your fault! If not for you, things would've been so peaceful here!"

Darius saw that there was no way they would have a normal conversation. He rolled his

eyes, then knocked Wilson out.

No one expected this, and gasps and shouts came from all around.

There were even people who were screaming for blood.

Darius shrugged, then stuck his hands in his pockets and looked at Wilson, who had

collapsed to the floor.

He was so disheveled that no one would believe he was the chairman of the Gillette

Group.

Darius glanced at Wilson's entourage, who were still watching him hesitantly.

He frowned and said, "What are you guys standing there for? Isn't he your chairman?

Are you really going to just let him lie on the floor like this?"

They didn't know how powerful Darius really was, so at his words, they glared at him and

said, "How dare you say that! Why'd you knock him out?"

"It's bad enough that you guys are dumb. Don't tell me you're blind, too. Couldn't you see

that something was wrong with your chairman's mental state? Shouldn't you be getting

him to the hospital rather than asking me about this?"

His patience was wearing thin, but it seemed that Wilson's entourage didn't realize

this. They pointed at Darius angrily.

"How dare you hurt our chairman! We'll show you who's boss!"

One of the younger employees raised a fist and pounced on Darius.

Darius quickly sidestepped this attack, making the young man fall flat on his face.

Then, silence descended upon them.

No one else dared say anything, and Darius' lips twitched.

He walked over to the young man, wanting to help him up, but he shuddered and

fainted.

Darius straightened up and stood with his hands on his hips while looking at the

remaining employees.

He sighed and said, "Look, just come here and take your chairman away, alright?"

The employees trembled and hurried over to Wilson, helping him up with difficulty.

They were trembling so badly that they almost dropped him.

Darius shook his head, sure that if something were to happen to Wilson during this

process, they would definitely push the blame on him.

Not that he cared.

As he watched them struggle to hold Wilson up, he saw the very thing he was worried

about happening.

Wilson slipped out of their grip and fell to the floor, and the pain jolted him back to

consciousness. He staggered to his feet and turned to look at Darius. He opened his

mouth to speak but couldn't bring himself to make a sound.

In the end, he clapped his hands.

Instantly, Darius heard the sound of people whipping out their weapons.

Wilson's eyes were still bloodshot, and he said hoarsely, "If you get to your knees and

beg me for mercy, I'll make your death painless, seeing as how quickly you ended my son's life."

Darius raised an eyebrow.

"It looks like you know everything, then. Why'd you still ask me about it? Was it because

you thought I was too kind to do something like that? Is that why you refused to accept the truth?"

Wilson's eyes seemed to grow redder.

He knew Darius was deliberately pushing his buttons, but he couldn't hold himself back.

"I don't know why you keep trying to anger me, but you've succeeded. There's no way I'll

let you leave Almiron City alive now."

Darius yawned and said, "Don't worry. It's not like I have any plans to leave anytime soon."

Obviously, he wasn't fazed by Wilson's threat.
Wilson's breathing sped up.

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 235

He reached an arm out and quickly grabbed a gun from the guy standing next to him

before he cocked it.

Then, he aimed it at Darius and forced out through gritted teeth, "I'll show you there's no

human more powerful than a gun!"

However, in the next second, he felt the gun leave his hand.

He remained rooted to the spot and slowly looked up to see the gun in Darius' hand —it

was the one he'd been holding earlier. He was about to make his move when a woman's

crisp voice rang out.

Darius found this voice to be a little familiar, but he couldn't place it.

He didn't move; part of him was distracted by the woman's voice.

However, most of his attention was still focused on Wilson.

When Wilson heard the woman's voice, he looked at Darius and said

mockingly, "My,

look at that. She was my future daughter -in- law, but she's so desperate to be with you

now! And at the price of my son's life!"

He gnashed his teeth as if he was biting down on Darius' flesh.

Unfortunately for him, Darius didn't take his words to heart. He slowly lowered the gun.

Standing next to him, Erin saw his eyes looking toward the hotel's entrance. She couldn't

help saying, "Mr. Reid, now isn't the time to be distracted."

Darius didn't even look at her. He merely turned his back to the wall and headed toward

the entrance, saying, "Don't worry. They won't have the guts to make a move now. Anyway, this is just a game. Even if they had the nerve to do anything, their skills

aren't up to scratch."

Erin knew he was right, but she didn't want him to head out to see that woman.

Of course, she was also worried that he'd be in danger when walking past Wilson's men.

With all these thoughts in her mind, she opened her mouth to speak, but

Darius was
already gone.
When Wilson saw her crestfallen look, a sudden bout of sympathy rose in
him. He sighed
and walked over to her, saying, "Look at you. You've stayed by his side for so
long now,
but he doesn't even appreciate you. If you work for me, I'll definitely treat you
much better
than he ever could. Also, I'll do everything I can to give you anything you want
—all you
have to do is say the word."
Erin resisted the urge to roll her eyes. She crossed her arms and put on a fake
smile,
saying, "If that's the case, I'd look bad if I were to ignore your request,
wouldn't I?"
Wilson didn't realize he'd already fallen into her trap. He put his hands behind
his back,
looking like his usual stern, serious self.
However, the gleam in his eyes revealed his true thoughts.
Erin said, "I want your wife and kids to disappear off the face of this world!
Then, I want
you to marry me, announce it to the whole world, and make sure everyone
gives us their
blessing. That's the only way I'll know this marriage is a sign from
above. Otherwise, I'd
rather stay single forever."
Wilson's jaw dropped, then he said coldly, "I was just flattering you
earlier. How dare you
speak to me like that! I can end your life in a split second!"
As he spoke, he held up a hand and gestured at Erin's neck.
This didn't seem to bring about the effect that he wanted, and he frowned.
"There are only a few people who don't fear me, and the fact that you don't
just makes
me want to have you more." Erin scoffed.
"All that shows is that your people are just too useless for words. Either that or
they're
putting on a show for you. I may not have worked long for Mr. Reid, but I've
learned how
to tell whether a person's good or bad."
Wilson's expression turned murderous.
His eyes flashed, but he heard someone cock a gun behind him before he

could do
anything.

In that instant, he stiffened, put his hands up, and slowly turned around to look at the hotel's entrance.

Darius was back.

Next to him stood a woman who was even prettier than Erin—at least, her figure was

better than Erin's. It was Pearl.

Wilson's jaw dropped, and he stared at Pearl greedily.

He walked toward them without hesitation, then looked at Darius with dissatisfaction

before saying, "I think it's a waste for you to be working here. I'll find you something better."

The dissatisfaction in his gaze morphed into contempt, but to his dismay, Darius didn't even spare him a glance.

All he got was a mocking laugh.

"You'll find me something better? What right do you think you have to be saying that? Is

it because of your wealth or because you think you're a big shot? Do you think you're

influential enough to have someone aid and abet you?"

In truth, the moment Wilson spoke, he knew he'd said the wrong thing.

He didn't think he had any other choice, though.

At Darius' words, he subconsciously wanted to explain himself, but before he could do

so, Darius sneered.

"Also, you made it sound like I'm your employee."

Wilson had never thought of that, and neither did he dare.

At this moment, Darius was like a savage wolf to him.

He didn't dare make any false moves, let alone step on Darius' tail. He took a deep

breath, then put his hands behind his back and looked at Darius seriously.

"I made a mistake earlier, but I don't think you should be backing people into corners the

way you're doing now. It's not going to benefit you in any way. You should know that

there's a hefty price to pay for offending me."

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 236

He looked at Darius confidently as if this was all part of his plan.

Darius narrowed his eyes.

"Honestly, you're wrong."

His original plan was to deliver a devastating blow to the Gillette Group and reduce its

net worth exponentially, but it seemed that this wouldn't work out.

Darius raised an eyebrow, then turned to look at Erin.

"He hurt you earlier. Are you willing to let him off the hook?"

Wilson narrowed his eyes at Darius' words. He felt deeply uneasy, but he didn't dare say

anything.

In fact, he didn't even dare look at Darius, afraid that he would accidentally reveal his

true emotions.

He sucked in a breath, thinking that this was his first time feeling so frustrated.

He swore to himself that if Darius didn't end him right here and now, he would definitely

find a chance to get revenge in the future. He'd make Darius disappear off the face of this

world.

As soon as he thought about this, he sensed Darius' gaze change. He raised his head

and stared directly into Darius' eyes, but he didn't see anything different.

This only made him feel even more confused, and he gulped.

He was about to say something when Erin shook her head.

"No, it's fine. Thank you, Mr. Reid. You've already taught him a lesson earlier, and I doubt

he'll have the nerve to do something similar in the future."

Darius raised an eyebrow. He knew Erin was only trying to appease him, but he didn't

know why she was letting the matter go.

Erin wasn't mad that he hadn't given her a response. She tugged on his sleeve and said

in a small voice, "Sir, I think you should ask Miss Chamberlain what she thinks. Her

expression's already shifted a few times now. Also, the Chamberlain Group's the one

that's suffered the most at the hands of Gillette Group, and not..."

Only then did Darius notice Pearl watching him with a painful look. He didn't understand

it, so he walked over to her with a frown.
However, when he stood before her, she merely forced out a smile and said,
“That
woman’s beautiful.”
She was expressionless as she said this.
This made Darius’ frown deepen.
He didn’t want to continue on this topic, so he cleared his throat before saying,
“The
Gillette Group’s done a lot of things to the Chamberlain Group, and both
Wilson and
Hank have tried to harm you.If there’s anything you want to do to them, you
can let me
know.I’ll do my best to help you.”
His tone was as calm as if he was talking about the weather.
Pearl forced out a slightly bitter smile and tried to comfort herself by telling
herself that
things had worked out well—Darius would never be hers alone, and no matter
how
competent a rival Erin was, at least she would never beat her in terms of age!
With this
thought in mind, Pearl nodded and placed a hand on Darius’ arm.
“I’m fine with anything, and I’ll go with whatever you have in mind.I’ll be happy
as long
you are.”
Darius raised an eyebrow.He didn’t expect to hear this, and he’d be lying if he
were to
say that he was completely unmoved by her words.So, he let out a soft sigh
and patted
her on the shoulder, his tone gentler than usual as he said, “What did you
come here
for?”
Pearl suddenly slapped herself on the forehead, the sound attracting
everyone’s
attention.
A proper smile curved her lips.
“When I came to look for you, I met some nice officials.They told me that your
company
in Almiron City ran into some problems, so they were going to come and tell
you about
it.They didn’t look like they held high positions, though, so I don’t think it’s
anything

important.”

She looked innocent, but Darius had already narrowed his eyes.

Based on his experience and current situation, the authorities wouldn't bother tipping him off.

This meant that these people were actually coming for him.

His expression became frosty, and the temperature around him dropped.

Pearl shuddered and linked her arm with his before asking in a small voice,

“Are you mad? Did I do the wrong thing by bringing them here? Or are you worried about your company?”

The more she spoke, the smaller her voice became because she knew she'd done

something to upset him.

When he saw her like this, Darius sighed and rubbed her on the head.

“Now, now. This doesn't have anything to do with you, actually. Also, shouldn't you be on

campus? I doubt you managed to get any time off.”

Pearl's jaw dropped, and she looked at him disapprovingly.

“How could I possibly wait around while you resolved this? You only went up against the

Gillette Group because of me! Also, this is Almiron City. I grew up here, and the

Chamberlain Group's roots are here. I can protect you better by being here with you.”

The loyalty in her gaze was obvious.

It made Darius raise an eyebrow, but his voice was cold as he said, “If so, you can stay.

Where are the officials that you mentioned?”

Pearl was unaware that she'd already made Darius mad.

She smiled brightly, accentuating her beauty, immediately turning her into the center of attention.

However, it seemed that she wasn't aware of this.

She looked at Darius seriously, hoping he would finally make room for her in his heart.

Soon, she knew that it was impossible.

Darius' attention had already shifted to the officials she'd mentioned.

Their presence was out of his expectation, and he wanted answers.

Unfortunately, Pearl couldn't provide them for him because even she didn't

know why
they'd left without her after getting out of the car.

Chapter 237

The car was still parked in its spot. As Pearl deliberated over what to do, something seemed to happen in the courtyard. Darius opened his eyes, and what he saw rendered him speechless.

Four men appeared before him—three of them were burly and tattooed, and the remaining one's eyes kept darting around. Who knew what was going on in his mind? Darius narrowed his eyes. He didn't really want to have anything to do with them, but there didn't seem to be any reason for him to turn them down. He rolled his shoulders, then sighed and looked at them.

"Bring on whatever questions you have."

To his surprise, the official in the lead merely looked up at the sky before pulling out an order for arrest. This wasn't something Darius expected, so he narrowed his eyes even more. The women paled, unable to utter a word. Of course, this didn't bother him.

He merely looked at the officials and nodded seriously. "You guys don't have to look so wary. I won't do anything to you; And I trust that you guys are good employees."

His tone didn't go down well with the officials. He walked over to them and was pushed

into the car. The official in the lead said with a frown,

"Don't be so obnoxious, Darius. I spoke to my colleagues at the airport, and they didn't

arrest you because they had yet to get any evidence. Now, however, we already have

what we need. You're the only suspect that fits the bill."

"Cut the crap. Since you're already here, let's go somewhere where we can talk! Don't let

your plane tickets go to waste."

When they reached their destination, he stretched his neck and walked toward the

building with his hands in his pockets. The officials frowned when they saw him like this.

One of them spat out, "Darius, you think too highly of yourself!"

Darius looked at him with a trace of mockery. "Who do you think you are?"

How dare you

speak to me!"

The official's eyes widened. He jumped and pointed a finger at his badge.

Darius didn't

even bother to respond. After walking into the conference room, Darius

slammed the

door shut, then turned around and leaned against the table with his arms crossed.

There was no time to waste, and he didn't give the officials any chance to speak. "Since

you guys came here with an order for arrest, you must already have enough evidence.

But based on what I've seen so far, I don't think that's the case. Otherwise, you wouldn't

be playing nice."

The officials didn't expect Darius to already see through them. He narrowed his eyes and

looked at Darius warily, but at the same time, he looked excited. Darius

rubbed his arms

with a frown, then said with disgust, "Stop looking at me like that, or I'll gouge your eyes

out!" After that, he chuckled. "Actually, no. Go ahead and give it a try."

The three burly men slammed their hands on the table and shot to their feet, their

muscles making their uniforms burst at the seams. They glared at him. Darius

rubbed his

temples, thinking they did not need to give him such death glares. It wouldn't have any

effect on him, anyway.

He dusted off his hands, then shook his head at the official in the lead and clicked his

tongue. Before the official could say anything, the person standing behind him got mad.

He raised a fist and swung it at Darius, saying, "My name's Miguel."

Darius didn't expect him to introduce himself, but he didn't have time to ponder this as

Miguel's fist came hurtling his way. He frowned and swiftly dodged the blow.

Before

anyone realized what was going on, he had already shifted to stand behind the official

and grip his neck tightly.

The official paled instantly. He knew Darius was powerful, but this was out of his

expectations. He'd moved at the speed of light! The official's breathing sped up because

he knew that no one would be able to stop Darius if he really wanted to kill him. He

couldn't help but tremble, but he didn't say anything, merely deliberating his next move.

Darius thought the official would interrogate him after bringing him here, but not a single

question was asked. All the official had done was ponder. He stretched and said, "I'm

going to leave if you guys continue like this.

Take all the time you need to think things through and remember to let me know when

you're done." Then, he turned to leave.

The three burly men appeared before him, and he sighed. "You three don't look like the

brightest. If I were you, I'd sit this out and wait for someone to predict the outcome. I may

not be able to see my own fate, but I can see yours."

Standing next to them, Miguel's eyes widened. "R-really? Can you tell me what's going

to happen, then? You seem to predict the future quite accurately."

Darius yawned and smirked. "If you keep harassing me, I guarantee I'll make the first move."

Chapter 238

Miguel felt Darius' hand wrap around his neck, and it wasn't a nice feeling. He became

especially angry when he heard what Darius said. He struggled to take a deep breath,

his eyes bulging.

It wasn't easy to do so because of Darius' grip, but he managed to force out,

"Darius,

you've made a mistake. As long as you admit to your wrongdoings or pay a

fee, no one will come after you anymore. But if you harm me, it'll only worsen your crimes. You won't be able to bear the consequences!"

'Thanks for the advice, dude. But if I were you, I'd think about this-you were the one to attack me out of nowhere, yet you're telling me to think about the consequences.'

Miguel paled and widened his eyes in shock. "You're about to get locked up at the detention center! How dare you speak to me like that!"

Darius looked at him, his face is void of emotion. His tone was mocking, though, as he said, "I wouldn't be saying things like that if I were you. After all, you have no idea how rich I am."

Miguel stared at him. Despite his breathing difficulties, he still forced out a laugh. "I know that, as a young man, you want people to acknowledge you, but pretending to be rich isn't going to help you achieve that. On the contrary, it will only make things awkward for you."

Darius didn't expect him to say that. He raised an eyebrow, then said," What would you do if you were in my shoes?"

This made Miguel falter. He hadn't thought about this. He opened his mouth a few times, but he ended up not saying a thing.

Then, the skinnier guy who'd been standing behind the three burly men finally showed his face. He stood before Darius with his hands in his pockets, looking like nothing could faze him. However, his gaze was sharp.

Darius looked at him, a trace of surprise flashing in his eyes. The skinny official looked slightly below 5'5" when standing with the burly men, but now that he was closer to Darius, it turned out they were almost the same height.

Darius glanced at Miguel, whom he was still holding by the neck. His feet were still

dangling about an inch from the ground, so Darius flung him aside. Miguel was sent flying. Judging from the time it had taken for him to land on the ground, he'd probably been thrown about a hundred feet away! This made Miguel's eyes widen. Pain shot through his body as he staggered to his feet, and when he stumbled over to Darius, he said, "You're truly powerful." Darius didn't think his sudden friendliness was something he liked. He frowned and asked, "Do you have something to say?" Miguel's smile faltered, then he scratched his head and shook it. "No, I don't. I'm just surprised. I never expected you to be able to catch me, let alone send me flying. In the past, if anyone were to send me flying like that, I'd be able to land on my feet, but I didn't manage to do so this time despite flying a hundred feet away. You're the first person to make me land on my back." Darius couldn't bring himself to trust a guy who'd attacked him upon their first meeting. Obviously, Miguel sensed this and said, "Hey, why don't you trust me?" Darius said, "I do. I already told you that, didn't I?" Miguel didn't believe him, but he said, "Yeah, yeah, whatever." Then, he heard Darius say, "If I were you, I wouldn't be sitting here. You'd be better off getting yourself checked rather than trying to convince me of anything. Do you think I want to sit here and waste time like this?" Miguel wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer, so he said bluntly, "No, it's okay. I know my body, and I know I'm perfectly fine. Also, I'm curious to know how you became as powerful as you are now." Darius didn't say anything because he didn't know the answer either. He crossed his arms and leaned against the door, the atmosphere cooling around him. When everyone started to shudder, he raised an eyebrow, knowing that he'd achieved his goal. Now, he

only had three problems to take care of.

He took a step forward and looked at Paula, who'd shown up with the rest of the gang.

"Any problems here?" 1

Paula felt lost. She'd run into these officials at the airport, so she hadn't had time to ask

them what was happening. She turned to look at them, questioning them with her eyes.

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin Chapter 215

Chapter 215

Darius sat back in his, he could tell the man on the ground no longer planned to attack.

Thus, Darius returned his attention to the contents of his laptop screen.

Shelvin did not expect that from the former. He knelt on the ground and dared not move

while letting out lengthy sighs. With time, he eventually felt he could not stay in that

position any longer, so he cautiously looked up and glanced sideways at

Darius. That

was when Darius' voice rang out.

"Everything you've done till now remains a mistake until I allow you to get up.

I'm being

generous by only making you kneel now. If you can't even fulfil this condition of mine, I

suggest you try to kill me instead. Otherwise, you'll suffer a more miserable end."

Every muscle in Shelvin's body tremored as he knelt and bowed his upper body against

the ground.

He succumbed because he knew Darius was serious about that threat.

Thus, he gulped and looked up at the latter. "Then, what must I do for you to allow me to

stand?"

Darius' eyes narrowed at Shelvin. "I want to know how you managed to show up at such

immaculate timing and see me deal with that pesky woman. Also, why did that woman

suddenly start trouble for Edward at the airport earlier?"

"What? I don't understand a word you're saying!" Shelvin's eyes hardened, trying

to

shoot a calm and collected look at Darius but failing.

Darius took in the former with a look of mockery. "Since you've decided not to tell me

anything, what else can you offer in exchange for me to let you go?"

Shelvin leaned against the ground, his eyes darting around as he brainstormed.

"Everything has turned out differently from the information I found about Darius," he

thought before gulping and continuing to kneel. He knew he needed to make a decision.

Then, Darius looked up and did not see Kate's head peeking out from the seat in front of

him. He found it odd as he did not see Kate leave the cabin at any point, so he stood.

Shelvin was already terrified of Darius, so seeing the latter abruptly stand made him

shrink backward in fear. Yet, he was surprised when he realized Darius' focus was not on

him. The latter did not even spare a sideways glance at him.

Instead, Darius walked ahead, eventually taken aback by the sight of Kate lying on the ground.

Her eyes were shut, and it seemed as though she did not know what had happened.

Darius instantly guessed the reason for that; it was because Shelvin's sudden gust of

wind caused her to trip, hit her head, and faint. She then remained unconscious until

now.

A deep sigh came from Darius just then.

He turned to look at Shelvin, saying, "You were already at fault for killing someone. Now,

you've just made another mistake. I'll keep this in mind and settle things with you once

we get off this plane."

Shelvin did not fear those words. Instead, his eyes widened with relief as what Darius

said implied he could leave this plane alive. Sadly, his hopeful outlook would soon get

shattered.

Darius returned to his seat, adding with his frosty tone, 'That is if you manage to

get off
this plane alive.”

Eyes widened and heart racing, Shelvin was shocked that Darius was not planning to let

him go. His voice took on more of a squeak as he clarified,

“Darius, although I came here intending to harm you, I didn’t actually do it.”

‘That intention alone is enough reason for me to kill you. I don’t need you to do anything

else now.” Darius yawned before adding, “I’m not an enforcer of the law, so the outcome

of things doesn’t matter to me-it’s your motive and your actions throughout the event that

matter to me.”

Shelvin’s eyes were wide open. He could not express anything else apart from the terror

he felt. After all, he had never encountered anyone like Darius in all his years as an assassin.

Darius let out a long exhale after sitting down. He then instructed,

“Edward, get the plane’s captain, or any other person in charge, over. Tell them Kate is

injured and needs medical attention.”

Edward whipped around on his heel to do so at once, not doubting the former’s orders. It

was also then that Bridget shut her laptop.

She shot a determined gaze at Darius. “Mr. Reid, you can relax now. The video no longer exists on his phone, and he can’t ever retrieve it again.”

Darius quirked a brow before locking eyes with Bridget. “I didn’t know you had such

skills.” A proud smile spread across Bridget’s face.

“Edward and I may be proficient in fighting, but our combat skills aren’t in the top ten

ranking among all other bodyguards. Contrarily, we have many skills that others don’t.

For instance, I’m well versed in computer science and driving while Edward specializes

in management and medical practices.”

His eyes rounded, shocked as he had always assumed it only took adept combat skills

to become a bodyguard for the Reid family.

Now he knows that The Reid family’s bodyguards needed exceptional fighting

skills, as well as many abilities and specializations within other fields. He now had a higher level of understanding toward Reid Consortium's wealth. Some time passed before he nodded, asking, 'Those are both your areas of expertise, huh? Well, I'd like to know how you define expertise. To what extent are you two proficient in your skills?'

Bridget beamed. That was the first time she revealed a sincere smile before Darius, as she reached a new level of understanding toward him. She mused, 'He's indeed a remarkable person who's able to deduce many things from one piece of the puzzle like he's doing now by asking that.'

"Darius isn't asking about our level of expertise for his personal benefit," Bridget thought, touched that Darius had bothered to learn more about her abilities. It meant he was genuinely listening and learning about his bodyguards.

"I once won first place in a hacking competition," she elaborated, "And Edward can do many things with his skills. Only he, among the other bodyguards, is able to perform challenging surgical operations."

Darius leaned against the seat's backrest, falling into deep thought. It took a while before he spoke.

"Both of your levels of expertise seem superior to other experts in those respective fields. One can even say you're both top in the world at what you do."

Still groveling on the ground, Shelvin's eyes shot open once he heard Darius' words.

"I didn't find out about that information beforehand. If I had known, I wouldn't have shown

up today." With that thought, Shelvin did not hesitate to tear up and plead,

"Mr. Reid, please forgive me! I didn't know your background before overhearing the

conversation between you and the lady next to you. I wouldn't have come here if I knew

you were from the Reid family!"

Darius chose not to respond and continued focusing on Bridget. "It must've been

challenging for you two to endure bodyguard training camp.” 1

“Not at all, Mr. Reid.” Another genuine smile curved on Bridget’s face.

“We had food, clothes, and a roof over our heads. Furthermore, our lives weren’t under any threat. You’ve just reunited with the Reid family, so you probably aren’t aware of this several wealthy families and consortiums require their bodyguards to kill one another during training. Only those that survive can become official bodyguards, who’ll remain alive temporarily until threatened.”

She paused to breathe before resuming, “However, none of that ever happened during the Reid family’s bodyguard training camp.”

Darius nodded. He was initially furious to learn of how other families trained their bodyguards. It baffled him, and he could not understand their methods. He saw all human life as precious gifts. Hence, it upset him to learn some wealthy people thought differently. Yet, he soon felt pride, knowing his family respected life as much as he did instead of supporting those cruel practices.

Seeing that Darius remained silent, Bridget continued, “Edward was one of those who lived a pitiful life. Several years ago, he struggled to keep himself fed. He grew up in a less fortunate background. Even after becoming the Reid family’s bodyguard and receiving a high salary, his financial struggles persisted. That’s because he previously took out a loan with a high interest rate to survive his poorer days.”

Darius finally sensed something was off, his eyes narrowing at Bridget.” You’ve sung many praises about him and his future this entire night. If you’re implying something, I hope you’ll speak candidly about it.”

Bridget scratched her head while flashing an apologetic smile at him.” Sorry, Mr. Reid. I’m unsure of how you currently feel toward Edward as he has made many mistakes, and you didn’t seem to like him before.”

Not a word came from Darius.

Feeling awkward, Bridget rubbed her palms together and continued, “Mr. Reid, I personally think Edward struggled with his life before becoming a bodyguard. So,

he's

probably uninterested in dating or maintaining good relations, especially with women.

That's also why I think he's lying and taking the blame for everything. I bet he has some difficulties."

Again, only silence came from Darius, who pondered the matter.

He thought about Sarah just then. After all, even when he was penniless, he was still

willing to be in a romantic relationship with her and even thought about marrying Sarah.

Thus, he could not fully confirm that Edward was uninterested in love, even if the latter

was poor at the time.

That was when Edward returned.

Seeing Darius and Bridget share a look made Edward nervous, and he curled both fists

on the sides of his body while gulping. He then greeted Darius with a trembling voice,

"I'm back, Mr. Reid."

Darius could sense Edward's growing anxiety, so he explained, "I just learned about the

Reid family's bodyguard training camp and some issues with your character. Now, I'm

giving you one last chance to tell me the truth."

Every part of Edward's face stiffened as he stood silently.

"Honestly," Darius added, sighing and flashing a hint of disdain in his eyes.

"I don't think there's a need for you to behave this way. I'm sitting here, patiently advising

you that it's your last chance to come clean. If you continue lying, this man on the ground

next to you knows everything and won't bother helping you hide the truth."

Despite facing the former's dark gaze, Edward chose to stay silent.

However, Shelvin could not take it any longer. He pressed both hands against the ground, propping himself upward and exclaiming,

"Enough! I'll tell you what happened! Edward owes many loans with high interest rates

and has no way of repaying them. So, someone approached him and promised to erase

all his debts as long as he disclosed your whereabouts."

Bridget's jaw fell agape when she heard that. She had never imagined such a thing would happen. Disapproval soon brimmed in her eyes that fixed on Edward. Yet, if one were to look closer, one would notice there was also a hint of an apology in her stare.

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"Darius isn't asking about our level of expertise for his personal benefit," Bridget thought, touched that Darius had bothered to learn more about her abilities. It meant he was genuinely listening and learning about his bodyguards.

"I once won first place in a hacking competition," she elaborated, "And Edward can do many things with his skills. Only he, among the other bodyguards, is able to perform challenging surgical operations."

Darius leaned against the seat's backrest, falling into deep thought. It took a while before he spoke.

"Both of your levels of expertise seem superior to other experts in those respective fields. One can even say you're both top in the world at what you do."

Still groveling on the ground, Shelvin's eyes shot open once he heard Darius' words.

"I didn't find out about that information beforehand. If I had known, I wouldn't have shown

up today." With that thought, Shelvin did not hesitate to tear up and plead,

"Mr. Reid, please forgive me! I didn't know your background before overhearing the

conversation between you and the lady next to you. I wouldn't have come here if I knew

you were from the Reid family!"

Darius chose not to respond and continued focusing on Bridget. "It must've been challenging for you two to endure bodyguard training camp." 1

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Edward stayed rooted to the ground wordlessly as he did nothing wrong. He believed

Darius was a justice person who would never let him suffer for anything he did not do.

Everyone on board had conflicted thoughts, but none spoke except for Shelvin.

He squawked with a pitchy tone, “Of course, Edward didn’t agree. However, he was very

young and not a professional bodyguard at the time, so he had no idea that we put a tracking device on him once he entered the room. From that, we managed to track Darius’ every action accurately. The person then got Edward’s ex-fiance’s mother to start

trouble at the airport, delaying things so we could tamper with the plane and ensure Darius died aboard. Alas, things turned out to be different from what we expected- we

never expected Elizabeth to get involved. She somehow got on this plane too. We never

planned to kill her.”

Darius’ lips curled up into a cold smile.

Shelvin knew Darius believed him when he saw the latter smirking. He calmly continued,

“So when I boarded this plane, I received orders from the person behind everything, my

employer, to end Elizabeth’s life whenever I see fit. Thus, I picked out the best timing to

execute those orders.”

He then stretched all his fingers apart and rolled his sore shoulders back before concluding, ‘That’s all I have to say regarding my part in this story.’”

Annoyance flickered in Darius’ eyes. He glowered at Shelvin, balling his fists while

raising them.

The two stood about 10 feet apart, but once Darius did that, Shelvin’s arms instinctively

shot up toward his neck because he could not breathe. With every second, the invisible

force constricting his neck tightened. He gripped his neck and spoke hoarsely.

“D-Darius, I believe you should let me go now. I didn’t wrong you in any way.

Besides, I

did everything you asked by telling the truth. I’m pretty sure I didn’t leave out any details.

You can tell me if I’ve done anything wrong, and I’ll correct it. There’s no need to

turn to
violence.”

His fearful gaze locked onto Darius as he uttered those sentences at lightning speed.

Although Darius was an enlightened martial artist, it was difficult for him to understand

every word clearly. Nevertheless, he had a rough idea of what was said.

Seeing the sincere look on Shelvin’s face, Darius knew the former was telling the truth.

He loosened his fists slightly, but not entirely. Still, that alone was enough to give the

former some relief.

Shelvin opened his mouth wide, greedily sucking in every bit of air he could. He then

looked at Darius, hoarsely stating, “I don’t know what I did wrong, but I hope you can tell

me straightforwardly so I can amend my mistakes and make up for all the trouble I’ve

caused, like wasting your time.”

Darius nodded stoically. “I’ll give you one last chance. Know that I won’t hesitate to send

you down to hell, where you can mingle with Elizabeth for eternity if you cross me again.”

This time, no threats were necessary for Shelvin to take action; he immediately held his

neck with eyes full of fear and nodded. “Mr. Reid, what information do you want in

exchange for sparing my life? I promise to reveal everything I know.”

Darius lowered his arms, shut his eyes, then leaned back into his seat and crossed his

arms before asking,

“How were you at the private corner where I dealt with that older woman? Based on your

abilities, it’s unlikely that you can conceal yourself from me, so I bet someone was aiding

you.”

Upon hearing that, Shelvin slapped his forehead.

“My bad. The situation has made me negligent, so I forgot to inform you how it happened. Basically, I arrived at the airport last night and was responsible for setting up

the incidents that occurred today, including the employees involved. So, I placed a tracker on the woman once she arrived at the airport in case things went out of hand. I

knew things were no longer going according to my plan once she got dragged away.

After weighing my options, I decided to come over and see what was happening.”

“See what was happening?” Darius repeated.

Shelvin sensed the disapproval in Darius’ snide remark. However, the latter’s reaction

placed him in a difficult position. He did not know what to say to make Darius stop picking on and questioning his every mistake.

Desperate, he flashed puppy dog eyes at Darius, hoping to appear innocent and pitiful.

Many possible outcomes of today formed in Shelvin’s mind. Yet, none of them came true

because Darius never bothered to open his eyes or look at Shelvin.

That was when Shelvin elaborated, “Edward was popular with the ladies back when he

attended school. I chose this specific family for my plan because they weren’t good people. They did horrible things and harmed many innocent people by robbing and scamming them. That’s why I never intended for them to walk away alive when I asked

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Besides, I don't want to, nor will I, allow them to live. After all, their recent schemes involve recruiting children to scam other families, which I can't tolerate." While saying that, Shelvin boldly looked into Darius' eyes. "I believe you're also aware of these things. Otherwise, you wouldn't have acted against them." Darius' gaze bore into him as he nodded. "I've said many things to you today, and it's significantly more than my usual conversations with my secretary. Among everything we discussed, your last assumption is the most accurate. It's what I like to hear. Thus, from this point on until the plane lands, I want you to shut up unless you're uttering facts. That way, I might stay in a good mood and allow you to leave this plane alive." Meanwhile, the captain had been on the ground in the row ahead, his fingers roaming over Kate's head.

After Shelvin and Darius' conversation dwindled, the captain meekly reported to Darius, "Kate's not doing so good. She has suffered trauma to her head, but I'm unqualified to give her a proper diagnosis or treat her. I'll need to make an in-flight announcement to see if we have a doctor on board. I hope this matter won't affect your mood, sir." Darius found the captain, who stared at him timidly, amusing as it was not his intention to be frightening. Plus, he did not think he was a scary person. Nevertheless, he kept

silent,
shut his eyes, and nodded.
Seeing the former behave like usual, the captain heaved a sigh of relief and patted his chest while leaving to make the announcement.
Darius massaged his temples. Suddenly, he changed his mind when the captain was about to depart the first-class cabin. He called out, "Wait."
The captain halted in his step.
While he feared Darius, he was equally terrified of his ruthless boss, Kate's father, William Anderson.
Kate was William's only daughter. Although William had many lovers, no one could deny he deeply cared for and loved Kate.
That was why the captain stiffened, unable to relax or return his hands to his sides. He stood frozen on the spot, visualizing how he would get fired after all this was over. It was also then that he snapped out of that thought, realizing there was no guarantee he could leave the company alive if he were to upset William. Hence, he exhaled shakily, his arms flopping limply against his sides as he turned to Darius. "Sir, is there anything else you need? Kate's situation is pretty urgent."
Darius could tell the former was nervous, so he did not respond rudely. Instead, he stood and pointed at Kate, stating, "There's no need for the announcement. I have my ways of resolving this matter."
The captain was taken aback, his eyes widening at Darius while his jaw fell open. All words failed him in that instant. While he pondered how to react, he saw Darius approach Kate and knelt to rest a hand on her head.
It looked like a scene straight out of a romance movie if not for Darius touching Kate's wound. Seeing that, the guard could not stand by and watch. He yelled, "Please let go of Kate, Darius! Everyone on this plane might not survive if anything happens to her."

Darius' eyes clamped shut, feeling irritated by the former's loudness. Erin instantly noticed that and understood how Darius felt. She whipped her head around, shooting a glare at the captain. She raised a dismissive hand while saying, "Are you aware of how irritating you are when you talk? If I were you. I'd shut up at once and refrain from saying anything else. The lives of everyone here depend on my boss' actions now, so your current behavior isn't helping!" The captain parted his lips, then shut them. In the end, there was nothing he could do but lower his head, his gaze downcast. However, that did not mean he was betraying his pledge to protect William's daughter. It was because he could not refute Erin, who spoke the truth. Only after the captain fell silent did Darius' eyes open. Regardless of how he felt, the warm gas in his belly continued to pour out of his palms, seeping into Kate's head injury, then entering her brain. Then, something shocking happened. Kate's injury was speedily mending itself before everyone's eyes. Her face, pallid due to the wound earlier, now regained some color. That sight was baffling to everyone there, including Erin and Bridget. However, the two were quick to snap out of their dazes as they had both received professional training to qualify to be beside Darius. They met each other's gazes before speedily turning their backs to each other, blocking off Darius and Kate from anyone else's view. The two scanned the crowd with eyes that resembled lethal laser beams. Because of that, no one dared to look at them. Other passengers lowered their heads to avoid eye contact, used their phones, or pretended to be asleep. Darius knew what the two women were doing. His lips curved upward, pleased with their actions. That continued for about three minutes before Kate's injury fully recovered.

That was when Kate opened her eyes and noticed how close Darius was. Her head was practically leaning against his firm abs, so her cheeks turned bright pink in seconds. She struggled to sit upright but could not. It was then that she realized her entire body was leaning against him for support. Kate wanted to ask Darius what was happening. However, she was too flustered to speak after realizing her intimate position. She could only sit there, gawking like a fool at Darius as though her eyes were about to pop out. Her reaction amused Darius so much that he let out an airy chuckle

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Darius as though her eyes were about to pop out.

Her reaction amused Darius so much that he let out an airy chuckle

Kate had never imagined Darius smiling at her before, especially after she'd come onto

him so forcefully.

Darius shook his head, then said, "I think you can stand up now that you're feeling better."

She was still dazed by his smile, so she stood up without a second thought. Then, she

heard the despair in the captain's voice. "No, wait! You shouldn't do that! It's much too

dangerous now!"

Unfortunately, it was too late, and his despair grew as he looked at Darius. Now, he had

two options-to go along with what Darius wanted or to go against him. No matter which

one he picked, he wouldn't be able to live a peaceful life. So, he chose to leave a good

impression on the people who would make it out of this alive and win himself a stellar

reputation. He would show them that he was willing to die to protect his master no matter

how dangerous it was, which meant that he would stop Darius.

He hurried over to stand between Kate and Darius, his expression mixed with fear

and
anger. "How can you allow her to stand up? Do you know how unethical it is for
you to
do something like this just to prove what a good doctor you are?"
Darius narrowed his eyes, but he didn't say anything. The captain became even
more
nervous at his reaction. He started to tremble, but he kept his voice loud as he said
tremulously, "I'm sure we all saw what happened earlier. Kate suffered a serious
injury to
the head, and she was bleeding profusely. She should be in pain and feeling dizzy
now,
but you told her to stand up regardless of her condition. I think it's illogical for you
to do
that just because you saved her."
Darius raised an eyebrow and nodded. "What do you think is the logical thing to
do,
then?"
This surprised the captain. He subconsciously turned to look at Kate. Then, he saw
a
look that he would never forget. Kate's gaze was filled with shock, confusion,
disdain,
and other emotions that he couldn't discern. He remained silent, however, because
he
didn't know what to say.
An awkward silence descended upon them. After a few attempts to speak, the
captain
finally managed to ask, "Are you feeling better now?"
Kate moved her head around, saying blankly, "Yes, I am. I feel perfectly fine." She
put a
hand to her head and massaged it vigorously, even messing her hair up to prove
that
she was okay. The captain's jaw dropped at her actions. He stumbled backward,
shaking
his head as he mumbled, "No, that's impossible. I saw your wound, and it was
deep.
There was so much blood! That's enough to show how serious the injury was.
There's no
way you could've recovered in such a short time."
He turned to look at Darius. "I think you owe us an explanation."
Darius smiled. It was mocking, but he still nodded and said, "You're right. Kate

was
seriously injured earlier, but that doesn't mean I can't make her recover quickly." Edward stood in one corner silently. He'd heard about enlightened martial artists before
and always thought they merely had an additional source of power to tap into for fights.
Never would he have imagined there to be other uses for it. In that instant, he suddenly
wanted to join their ranks. His logic won out, though, and he stepped forward before
looking at the captain. "I believe that you've heard of me before. My name's Edward
Elliott, and I'm an experienced surgeon. If you don't know who I am, you can probably
look me up on the internet."
Silence greeted his words. The captain gaped and stared at him for the longest time,
unable to blink or move.
This was Darius' first time encountering such a situation, so it took him a while to process this. Edward walked up to him and looked disapproving as he said, "Sir, they're
not worth your time, and you don't need to operate on them personally. If anything like
this happens again, you can tell me to handle it. I'm your bodyguard, and I'll do anything
you want me to."
Darius sensed that he was making a request as a loyal subject. He realized that he shouldn't have used his powers to handle the situation, so he nodded without a word.
Edward sighed with relief at Darius' acquiescence, then turned to face the captain again.
"I think we've managed to resolve the issue pretty well. As long as you keep silent, no
one will know what happened here."
The captain was still gaping at him, making him frown. He was about to say something
when the captain shrieked, "My God! You're Edward Elliott, you say? Of course, I know
who you are! I doubt there's any pilot who hasn't heard of you-you're the one who brought us all the benefits that we're enjoying now, and all the obstacles you

overcame
have contributed to lengthening our lifespans.’’
Edward didn’t expect him to know about those things. After a moment’s hesitation,
he
nodded and said, “Thank you for your gratitude.”

The Consortium’s Heir by Benjamin Chapter 219

Kate had never imagined Darius smiling at her before, especially after she’d come
onto
him so forcefully.
Darius shook his head, then said, “I think you can stand up now that you’re feeling
better.”
She was still dazed by his smile, so she stood up without a second thought. Then,
she
heard the despair in the captain’s voice. “No, wait! You shouldn’t do that! It’s
much too
dangerous now!”
Unfortunately, it was too late, and his despair grew as he looked at Darius. Now,
he had
two options-to go along with what Darius wanted or to go against him. No matter
which
one he picked, he wouldn’t be able to live a peaceful life. So, he chose to leave a
good
impression on the people who would make it out of this alive and win himself a
stellar
reputation. He would show them that he was willing to die to protect his master no
matter
how dangerous it was, which meant that he would stop Darius.
He hurried over to stand between Kate and Darius, his expression mixed with fear
and
anger. “How can you allow her to stand up? Do you know how unethical it is for
you to
do something like this just to prove what a good doctor you are?”
Darius narrowed his eyes, but he didn’t say anything. The captain became even
more
nervous at his reaction. He started to tremble, but he kept his voice loud as he said
tremulously, “I’m sure we all saw what happened earlier. Kate suffered a serious
injury to

the head, and she was bleeding profusely. She should be in pain and feeling dizzy now,
but you told her to stand up regardless of her condition. I think it's illogical for you to do
that just because you saved her."

Darius raised an eyebrow and nodded. "What do you think is the logical thing to do,
then?"

This surprised the captain. He subconsciously turned to look at Kate. Then, he saw a
look that he would never forget. Kate's gaze was filled with shock, confusion, disdain,
and other emotions that he couldn't discern. He remained silent, however, because he
didn't know what to say.

An awkward silence descended upon them. After a few attempts to speak, the captain

finally managed to ask, "Are you feeling better now?"

Kate moved her head around, saying blankly, "Yes, I am. I feel perfectly fine." She put a
hand to her head and massaged it vigorously, even messing her hair up to prove that

she was okay. The captain's jaw dropped at her actions. He stumbled backward, shaking
his head as he mumbled, "No, that's impossible. I saw your wound, and it was deep.

There was so much blood! That's enough to show how serious the injury was. There's no

way you could've recovered in such a short time."

He turned to look at Darius. "I think you owe us an explanation."

Darius smiled. It was mocking, but he still nodded and said, "You're right. Kate was

seriously injured earlier, but that doesn't mean I can't make her recover quickly."

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"Therefore, can you pretend nothing happened on this plane and continue doing what

you're supposed to? I'

The captain nodded without hesitation. He held a trembling hand out and said, "There's no way I'll turn down your request. May I shake your hand?" Edward shrugged and nodded. He relaxed a little and said, "If you're willing, I can take a photo with you."

The captain's face glowed with excitement. His lips were trembling so badly that he couldn't say a word, and he'd even teared up. He shuffled over to Edward, then pulled out his phone with trembling hands and snapped a blurry photo. Darius saw that there was no way to tell who was in the photo, so he smiled helplessly and took the phone from the captain. Then, he aimed the camera at them and said, "Let's take another photo. The other one was blurred."

Bridget walked over to Erin's side, his hands behind his back as she gaped at the scene before them. It felt so surreal. When Erin heard how uneven her breathing was, she knew Bridget was shocked. She turned to look at Bridget and said, "There's no need to be surprised. Mr. Reid must have his reasons for doing this. All we have to do is wait, and our questions will eventually be answered. You're being too obvious, and that's not a good thing for Mr. Reid."

Erin tried to keep her voice as low as possible so only Darius and Bridget heard her. A trace of surprise flashed in Darius' eyes. He glanced at Erin without anyone noticing, then put a hand behind his back before sliding the phone back into the captain's pocket. "Alright, it's time for you to get back to work. I don't think you need to worry about Kate. She's fine now."

Kate was still shocked. She never would've expected someone who'd been extremely loyal to her father only to have eyes for Edward. Still, she was happy about this. After all, she wanted her staff to treat Darius as well as she did. Though the captain hadn't been nice to Darius, he practically worshipped Edward, which was good enough. At

least it
wouldn't make things between him and Darius too awkward. She buried this
thought
deep in her mind, but the look in her eyes betrayed her.
The captain wanted to continue speaking with Edward, but he knew not to be
greedy. He
forced himself to turn around and walk away from Edward.
Darius narrowed his eyes. He was running out of patience. If the captain didn't
snap out
of it, he would say something nasty. Fortunately, the cabin crew didn't allow that
to
happen. The captain only took a few steps when one of the flight attendants ran up
to
him and whispered something into his ear. Darius heard her clearly as an
enlightened
martial artist, but no one else did. She said, "Captain, the plane's about to land.
You
have to return to the cockpit immediately."
The captain didn't say anything but quickly headed for the cockpit. Darius wanted
to see
this, so he didn't say anything. He merely sat down in his seat and looked at Kate.
"We
should all sit down, shouldn't we? The plane should be landing soon."
Kate checked the time and nodded. "Yes, you're right." Then, she sat down.
Erin took her seat next to Darius, then started breathing deeply. Darius glanced at
her,
making her nervous. She smiled and said, "Mr. Reid, I'm always like this when it's
almost
time to land. Flying always exhausts me."
She thought Darius was going to reprimand her, but she was wrong. He merely
smiled
and said lightly, "I thought you'd be tired because of everything that's happened.
In fact,
you were working hard before we boarded."
Kate had never heard him use such a gentle tone before, and without even realizing
what she was doing, she quickly whipped her head around to glare daggers at Erin.
She'd even opened her mouth to warn her off, but her rationality kicked in at this
point
and stopped her. After a short pause, she turned back around.
Erin had caught her death glare, but she didn't say anything. Darius sensed the

change
in atmosphere and narrowed his eyes-this wasn't something he wanted to see.
Neither
of these women belonged to him, and he didn't want to waste time smoothing
things out
between them, but it seemed that he didn't have a choice. However, he didn't say
anything since Kate hadn't acted.
When the plane landed, he took a deep breath. This was his first time feeling
mentally
exhausted after returning to the Reid Consortium, so the moment they could get off
the
plane, he got to his feet and strode off without a word.
This was Erin's first time receiving such treatment.

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin Chapter 220

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Chapter 221

Her eyes widened, and she looked confused. However, she only allowed herself to
stay
like this for a second before regaining her composure. She grabbed her things and
hurried off the plane. She had to catch up with Darius.
When Kate saw them moving, she got ready to get off the plane as well. Before she

could do so, someone appeared before her. It was a man with blond hair and plain features. She knew who he was-Darius' bodyguard, the surgeon.

The captain practically worshipped him and treated Darius nicely because of him.

So,

she told herself to be nice to him.

She forced out a smile and said, "You're Edward, right? May I know why you're stopping

me from getting off the plane?"

Edward looked at her seriously. "Because I'm a bodyguard. I can tell that you want to get

close to Mr. Reid, and that's not something that I can allow."

Kate resisted the urge to roll her eyes. She was starting to dislike Edward already, but

she couldn't show it. As she pondered this, Edward said, "Mr. Reid will be in Almiron City

for a long time. I don't think you need to express your thoughts right now. Also, if my

memory serves me right, the Anderson Group is very influential here. I suppose it's

something for you to think about."

He stretched his neck, then continued, "I think I've overstepped my boundary as a bodyguard, so this is the end of our conversation. I hope that you won't show up before

Mr. Reid for the time being. Also, I hope that you'll learn proper communication before

the next time we meet.

Otherwise, I'll exercise my right and duty as a bodyguard."

Without waiting for Kate's reaction, he turned and left. Kate remained rooted to the spot,

only returning to her senses once Edward was out of her sight. She shrieked angrily,

"Edward, you're just a bodyguard! You have no right to speak to me like that!" It was too

late, though. Neither Darius nor Edward heard her.

At this moment, the four of them had already gotten into the car Erin had prepared.

Edward was in the driver's seat, Bridget was in the passenger seat, and Darius and Erin

were in the back.

Erin turned to Darius and said, "Mr. Reid, you didn't have anything concrete planned for

this trip before we came here, so I've prepared a simple itinerary for you to go through.

You'll have to let me know what other plans you have."

Darius nodded and said, "Okay."

Erin handed him her laptop. He quickly scrolled through the itinerary and said, 'This is

fine. I don't have anything else to add."

Erin nodded and put the laptop away. "Per the schedule, we should be heading to our

hotel now. It's a five-star hotel, the best one that Almiron City offers. It's called Umbrite

Hotel. It has the best restaurant in the city and provides various cuisines. It also has a

splendid view."

Darius looked at her approvingly. This was exactly what he needed. The Reid Consortium hadn't invested much in Almiron City because it wasn't that well-developed,

and he now needed to get more people interested in this place.

He was shocked by its size despite knowing that it wasn't well-developed. It had only

taken them twenty minutes to get from the airport to the hotel.

The hotel's entrance was framed by a gilded door to show its lavishness. The security

guards and valet stood at attention, but Darius' car didn't pique their interest. None of

them stepped forward to offer to park the car.

This upset Darius, and he turned to look at the car. It cost half a million, which Erin had

gotten in Almiron City. He could understand that the car was too cheap to make them

spring into action, but he couldn't accept the fact that their attitude was affecting their

work performance.

Erin's heart started to race at the displeasure on Darius' face. She knew that he was starting to feel dissatisfied with the hotel, so she quickly got out of the car. "Mr.

Reid, this

is the best hotel that I could find in Almiron City. If you're unhappy with it or with the car,

I'll immediately arrange for you to stay elsewhere. Please, don't allow this to affect your

mood.”

Darius looked at her, surprised. “I don’t mean that. I think these employees don’t have

the right frame of mind. Their lackadaisical attitude has

resulted in Edward being unable to park the car in the correct spot because he doesn’t

know a thing about this place.”

Realization dawned on Erin. She walked over to the employees and said, “I don’t think

that you people should be standing around here like this. You should be helping to park

the car. Also, none of you came to welcome us. This is a disgrace to your hotel’s service

standards.”

