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Chapter 41

A worried John was frantic as he waited by the phone. For some reason, the value of his company shares suddenly plunged by three hundred points before it came to a trading halt half an hour later. As a result of this, the company's net worth had instantly dropped by a few billion.

Furthermore, he had also received a phone call from a stranger. The said person mentioned that the reason for his company losing money was because of his darling daughter, which was why John was currently on the phone with Jasmine. "Jas, did you offend anyone at school recently?"

A surprised Jasmine paused for a moment before reacting indignantly, "What do you mean by that?! How could I possibly have offended anyone?!"

All of a sudden, Elise's name came to mind but shortly after that, Jasmine brushed it off and thought, *Elise's just a country bumpkin, so how could our fight have possibly alerted Dad?! She then subsequently disregarded Elise.*

"Dad, don't tell me that you've been listening to those nonsensical rumors out there?! I've been following your advice at school and been on good terms with all of my classmates. By the way, I'm having lunch with my classmates right now."

"Alright then. It's good to know that you've been behaving yourself. However, I'm warning you, you must treat your classmates nicely and maintain good ties with

everyone."

"Sure, I know that." Jasmine was evidently quite annoyed at this point, but she didn't forget to remind, "My pocket money for this month is running low."

When he heard that, John felt his head pounding, but he didn't reject her request. "Okay, I'll transfer you some money later on."

"Thanks, Dad."

After Jasmine hung up the phone, she turned to her sidekicks and suggested, "Let's skip this afternoon's class to go shopping."

Meanwhile, Rita hesitated, "P-Perhaps we shouldn't?"

Jasmine retorted, "It's not a big deal. I thought that you wanted a Chanel No. 5 Eau de

Toilette? How can I buy it for you if you don't join us?"

Rita then gritted her teeth in determination. "Okay then, let's go together."

Upon hearing that, Jasmine smiled in response and it was evident that she was in good spirits. However, she was completely unaware of the situation that befell Anders Group.

John was rubbing his temples with a pained look. Meanwhile, his secretary gingerly reported the situation, "President Anders, the company's cash flow is at a critically low level and we're on the brink of bankruptcy. There are quite a few projects that we still need to finance. The bunch of people working on it has started to kick up a fuss."

The moment he heard the report, John felt his blood pressure rising. "What did you just say?! How could this have happened all of a sudden?!"

"Actually, this isn't a recent issue. We have faced a capital chain rupture before, but our regular customers have maintained a working relationship with us out of trust all along. However, as the company's stock has traded to a halt now, our business partners are afraid that we'll be unable to service our debts--"

As soon as John heard that, he was so angered that he threw all of the documents onto the ground. "Imbeciles! Go and discuss with the banks about the issue with our cash flow! Why are you still standing here?!"

The trembling secretary slowly backed out of the room. As for John, he was on the verge of losing his cool, yet he still remembered to tap on his phone and transfer a sum of about tens of thousands to Jasmine.

As soon as she received the money in her bank account, she beamed widely and immediately went shopping with her sidekicks in tow.

"Boss, don't you worry. In less than three days, the Anders Family will be rendered bankrupt and their business will no longer exist." Jamie was full of flattery. "Hey, do you feel less upset now?"

Meanwhile, Elise grunted with an indifferent expression as her anger had subsided significantly

"*Hehe!* Then, let's have lunch together. I've heard of this newly-opened restaurant that serves great food."

"It's alright. I want to complete some work. Why don't you head over to enjoy your lunch?"

"That's not a good idea! Boss, food is our body's fuel, so it's not good to skip meals. Since it's my treat, you should take the opportunity to have a lavish meal."

Elise couldn't resist smacking Jamie lightly on his forehead. "Okay then, I'll choose something spectacular for lunch."

Then, she tidied her documents and placed everything carefully into her bag. When she was done, she followed him and they walked out of the classroom. Soon after that, he drove out of the school grounds with her in his ostentatious-looking pink Lamborghini.

Anders Group was a well-known corporation in the city, but its share prices continued to plummet until trading came to a halt in merely two days. Moreover, a whistleblower came forward and revealed that the company was currently unable to service its debts. As a result, the relevant government departments came forward to take action by investigating the claims. This came as a huge blow to the Anders Group, which basically crippled them.

Meanwhile, Elise was unconcerned about the outcome of the Anders Group. At this point in time, she had already managed to translate Beter's entire document. "Beter, this is what you were after."

He was quite shocked at the speed she produced the work. "It's only been two days since you received this. Man, you're exceptionally gifted with languages."

However, she explained, "I was worried that there would be issues if I dragged things any longer. So, I rushed to complete this before the deadline. Take a look and make sure that everything's fine. However, I need to apologize to you; due to personal reasons, there's been a third party who had access to the document. However, she's just a high school student, so I don't think that she knew what it was about. The thing is that I can't guarantee everything will be perfectly fine. As a token of my apology, you can deduct half of my pay this time."

Upon hearing Elise's words, Beter couldn't help but smile. "Your current words seem to imply that I'm a stranger. I believe that with you around, the details of this document would definitely be kept confidential. We've known each other for so long

that there's really no need to resort to all this."

Meanwhile, Elise pursed her lips and promised, "You have my word that the details of this document will remain confidential. If there are any issues that arise from this, I will take full responsibility for it."

"I'm happy enough to take your word for it." Then, he took out his cell phone and dialed a number as he spoke. In less than two minutes, she received a notification that there was money being transferred into her bank account

Elise went to the bank after leaving Beter's house and she instantly transferred part of her pay to a charity organization. After she'd done all that, she was just about to head home when she noticed a familiar-looking car parked by the curb as she walked out of the bank. It was Alexander talking on the phone inside the car.

She initially feigned that she didn't see him and turned to leave. However, he yelled her name, "Hey, Elise Sinclair!"

A resigned Elise stopped in her tracks and she turned around. "It's such a coincidence to see you here too."

At that moment, Alexander was in the midst of a conversation with his personal assistant on the phone with the loudspeaker option being activated. The personal assistant's voice rang out, "I'm sorry, President Griffith. I'm stuck on the motorway because there's been a multiple-vehicle accident, so I reckon that the traffic will be quite congested for the time being. I'm not sure when I'll be able to arrive."

Alexander paused for a moment to think before he responded instantaneously, "Forget about it then." He hung up the phone immediately after that. "Elise, come over here."

He spoke with a demanding tone that Elise hated, but out of respect for him, she nevertheless approached and asked, "Do you need something?"

"Get inside the car." His blunt words were quite perplexing to her.

It then suddenly dawned upon her as she asked again, "Do you intend to give me a ride home? That's just nice. I guess I won't have to call for a cab."

Upon saying that, Elise opened the door and entered the car. Meanwhile, Alexander didn't bother to provide any explanation. The driver instantly started the ignition

and drove off.

She had assumed that Alexander was about to send her home, but as soon as the vehicle started to move, he immediately threw a stack of documents at her. "These are the details of our negotiation with Mr. Sylvester later. Have a look."

A confused Elise shifted her head to the side to look at him. "Why are you showing me this?"

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"My personal assistant can't make it on short notice, so I'll need your help."

"Are you asking me to act as your personal assistant?" an uncertain Elise asked again.

Alexander responded with a grunt and replied, "I'm sorry to bother you."

At that point, she couldn't think of any reason to reject him. Furthermore, she recalled the help he previously gave during the Mathematics Olympiad and

naturally agreed to him. Then, she started to flick through the documents in her hands to study them.

Shortly after that, the car came to a halt in front of a five-star hotel in town. She then followed behind him as they entered the place.

While they were inside the elevator, she took a look at herself in the mirror and: instinctively adjusted the black-rimmed spectacles on the bridge of her nose. However, soon after that, he turned around and scrutinized her appearance before he noted, "You should spend some time making yourself presentable next time. After all, good looks can be an advantage to females."

Elise was about to rebuke Alexander, but she only stifled her words as the elevator doors had suddenly opened. Nonetheless, she glared at his back and muttered, "Well, if you think that I'm not presentable, then you should seek help from someone else."

"What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get over here."

In response, she unwillingly headed toward him before the two of them entered a large private room. As soon as he entered the room, the other party instantly greeted him with enthusiasm, "Mr. Griffith, it's great to meet you."

Meanwhile, Alexander made a slight gesture and lightly shook the person's hand. "Mr. Sylvester, thanks for waiting."

Mr. Sylvester smiled. "I didn't wait for too long either as I arrived not long ago." As he said that, he shifted his gaze toward Elise, but it was a brief glance before he shifted his gaze. Obviously, one could sense that he wasn't exceptionally pleased with how she looked.

Nonetheless, she was quite indifferent to his reaction and followed Alexander's

footsteps before she took a seat by his side.

"Mr. Griffith, who's this lady here?" Mr. Ford from Eureka Corporation couldn't help but question.

Alexander briefly introduced, "This is my personal assistant, Miss Sinclair."

Elise tilted her head to greet them. "Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Ford, nice to meet you."

"Oh. So, she's your personal assistant, but she looks underaged," Mr. Ford exclaimed jovially as he blatantly scrutinized her. Meanwhile, she felt quite uncomfortable with the way he looked at her.

However, as she had naturally agreed to help Alexander, she didn't reveal a hint of displeasure but responded, "Mr. Ford, you must be kidding. I've already graduated from university."

Although Elise was merely stating the truth, it was evident that everyone present, including Alexander, didn't believe her words. Despite that, none of them made it known.

"Mr. Griffith, let's discuss the contract." Mr. Sylvester signaled for his secretary to hand the document that they had brought over. Everyone wore a solemn look as they started to talk about work.

Elise performed her job quite well as Alexander's personal assistant and she managed to handle all of the questions directed toward her by the other party. She was exceptionally capable at her job and was even the epitome of a professional from the corporate world, which was a surprise to Alexander.

Finally, their food was served at a time when they were almost done with their discussion.

"Waiter, could you get me the wine that I have stored with you guys?" Mr. Sylvester asked generously and turned to Alexander with a smile. "Mr. Griffith, let's confirm the contract terms. I'll ask the legal team to draft the contract once I head back and we can sign it after that."

Alexander responded, "Sure. Thanks for all the hard work."

Mr. Sylvester replied humbly, "It's nothing. Thanks for giving me the chance and I'll

make sure we won't disappoint you. I hope we can work well together." As soon as he said that, he raised his glass of wine to propose a toast and downed the contents.

As for Elise, upon noticing that the contract was basically a sealed deal, she heaved a sigh of relief. She was also ravenous, so she focused on her meal and even enjoyed it. After a few rounds of toasts, it was only natural for everyone to consume some alcohol. Alexander then rose to his full height to head to the washroom.

As soon as Mr. Ford from Eureka Corporation noticed Alexander's absence, he became much more emboldened, especially when he had consumed alcohol. He instantly stumbled over to Elise with a glass of wine in his hand. "Hey, Miss Sinclair, have a drink with me."

Mr. Ford's breath reeked of stale alcohol, which caused her to frown uncomfortably.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Ford. I don't normally drink alcohol." His expression darkened as Elise rejected his request. "Just do as you're told and drink this! Stop giving me all sorts of excuses. Do you know that I can get Mr. Griffith to fire you just by asking him to do so?"

Subsequently, Mr. Ford forcefully filled her glass with wine. Meanwhile, Mr. Sylvester, who was by the side, feigned ignorance. After all, to the likes of them,

she was a mere personal assistant. Furthermore, she was rather ugly-looking, so it was obvious that she should feel honored to be invited to drink with them.

Besides, Alexander would definitely choose to turn a blind eye for the sake of their collaboration

"I'm sorry, Mr. Ford. I really can't take alcohol," Elise politely rejected once again.

However, the man merely smiled and stretched out with an arm to drape it around her shoulder. "Miss Sinclair, you really shouldn't test my patience."

Elise's expression darkened as well before she abruptly pushed his arm away. At that point, she was significantly displeased. "Mr. Ford, please have some self-respect."

As soon as she said that, he was evidently quite upset. "You're just a lowly personal assistant! How dare you talk to me so insolently! You should be honored to have attracted my attention. Who do you think you are anyway?!"

Initially, she had her reservations, but as soon as she heard his words, her temper

immediately rose. "I think you're the one who doesn't know your position! You're old enough to behave respectfully, yet your behavior is despicable! You're no different to a scum!"

"How dare you insult me, you b*tch!" Mr. Ford threw the wine bottle in his hand to the ground with such force that it landed with a resounding crash, which reverberated in the private room. As soon as Alexander heard the commotion, his face was as dark as charcoal when he strode toward the room. Moments after he pushed open the door, he noticed that Mr. Ford had grabbed hold of Elise by her wrist.

"B*tch!" Mr. Ford even roared, "I can't believe that you have the nerve to show your temper!"

Meanwhile, Elise didn't expect the man to lay a hand on her, but she wasn't going to suffer in silence either. With a snort, she lifted her foot and kicked him on his crotch. As a result, there was a loud, painful moan that echoed in the room.

Alexander then stepped forward and stood protectively in front of her. Then, he gave Mr. Ford a cold glare before asking, "What's going on?"

Mr. Sylvester, who had remained silent all this while, hastily came forward and

explained, "It's just a misunderstanding. Mr. Griffith, don't take offense. She's just a lowly personal assistant, so why don't you hand her over to us?"

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“Hand her over?!” Alexander emphasized on those three words as his expression became thunderous. He stared at Mr. Ford, who was currently groaning in pain, before he lifted his foot and delivered a hard blow on Mr. Ford without any hesitation.

As Alexander had exerted force when he kicked Mr. Ford, Mr. Ford was instantly flung into the air before he landed on the ground with a loud thud. Subsequently, there was a crack’ sound that was indicative of a broken ribcage.

Soon after that, Alexander grabbed Elise and said, “I’m not that worthless to resort to taking advantage of a woman and surrendering my subordinate in exchange for a collaboration! From now on, the Griffith Group will cease all operations with you!” Upon finishing his sentence, he grabbed hold of her and strode out of the room.

A panicked Mr. Sylvester rushed after them. “Mr. Griffith, let’s talk this through. There are some things that we shouldn’t be hasty about! Give us another chance,”

However, Alexander disregarded the man’s words and escorted Elise out of the room.

While she followed closely behind him, she looked at his strapping figure and felt the warmth that radiated from his palm at the same time. At that point, she felt an inexplicable sense of security and her heart frantically racing in her ribcage.

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Alexander escorted Elise into the car before he instructed the driver to immediately drive off. Meanwhile, she glanced at their closely intertwined fingers and instinctively tried to withdraw her hand.

While the car slowly departed, neither of them said a word. There was a somber vibe that enveloped them, which continued until the car pulled into the driveway of the Griffith Residence. She finally broke the silence and said, “Thanks for standing up for me earlier. Just let me know if you need my help for any company matters in the

future.”

Elise thought, *If he loses this collaboration because of me, then I have to compensate him for his loss.* However, it never crossed Alexander’s mind to turn to a woman for help, so he rejected her outright. “You should go home,” was what he replied instead.

She was aware that he needed to maintain his pride and it was also a male’s basic dignity to resist, so she didn’t say another word. Rather, she turned around to enter the house.

Elise still didn't feel at ease with things after she entered the house, so she gave Jamie a call. "Hey, Jamie. If you notice that the Griffith Group is in need of some help, be sure to lend them a hand, but do it secretly so that no one realizes that you are helping them."

Upon hearing her words, a stunned Jamie gaped. "Boss, do you have a wrong impression of Alexander? He's well-known to be a formidable opponent in the corporate world. How else do you think the Griffith Group was able to maintain its position as the leading company in town? He doesn't need any help from small flies like us. You should stop worrying, Boss. It's just a minor contract that's nothing to Griffith Group. It won't result in any significant loss for them."

She was finally rest assured when she heard his words. *That's right. Alexander's such a formidable person so obviously, he wouldn't care too much about this minor contract.*

Nonetheless, she was determined not to allow Eureka Corporation to get away with this lightly. However, before she could even mention anything, he had already made his move.

"He messed with the wrong person! He's going to pay for that," Jamie said as his fingers whizzed furiously on the keyboard.

Shortly after that, he came up with a list containing the details of all the Eureka Corporation's business partners and thereafter sent the information to the company's opponents. *How dare they mess with Elise! I'm definitely going to make their life a living hell.*

"Miss Sinclair, it's time to wake up. I've prepared breakfast for you." The servant woke Elise up at the exact time. Meanwhile, she stretched while her eyes remained half-opened. "Okay, sure. I'll come downstairs in a short while."

Despite her words, she curled into another comfortable position and fell into a deep sleep once again. She was wide awake most of the night as she couldn't seem to shake off Mr. Ford's sleazy expression from her mind. After tossing and turning for hours, she finally managed to sleep for the rest of the night, but it didn't last long as she had to wake up earlier for school.

Elise shuffled around and took her time to get out of bed. After she freshened up and applied some light makeup, she wore her custom-made wig and made her way downstairs. At that moment, she noticed that Matthew was already seated at the dining table as he slowly savored his breakfast. "Good morning."

She greeted him and received a grunt in reply. Then, he responded, "Good morning."

After that, she took a seat at the dining table and asked, "Are you the one sending me to school today?"

"Yup." Matthew placed his cutlery aside while he spoke and lifted his wrist to check the time. "You have five more minutes. I'll wait for you by the door."

Then, he rose to his full height and headed toward the door after saying that. Meanwhile, Elise hastily took a few large bites of her toast and grabbed a bottle of milk before she scrambled after him.

While he waited in the car and held an iPad in his hand, he dealt with some work related matters. He was someone with a different personality to Danny, who always behaved in a rather impulsive manner as an immature second-generation wealthy kid. On the other hand, Matthew was calm and steady in all his endeavors while being a generally quiet person who didn't have much to say. Each time he sent her to school, he would only converse with her whenever necessary and he basically didn't interact much with her.

The moment Elise arrived at school and entered the classroom, she ran into Danny holding a basketball and about to walk out. Their gazes met and although he was unwilling to do so, he dutifully greeted, "Good morning, boss."

The boys standing behind him watched their exchange in shock.

Meanwhile, she maintained her composure and replied, "Good morning."

One of the boys behind Danny came forward and whispered to Danny, "Danny, is there something wrong? Why did you just address that ugly wretch as Boss?"

In response, Danny threw the basketball in his hands toward the boy. "Who are you calling ugly?! That's my boss there. From now on, keep this in mind, you're not allowed to bully her and if anyone contradicts this, that means you're intentionally provoking me."

All of the boys stared at him dumbfoundedly, but none of them said a single word. After all, anyone who dared to cross Danny's path was basically digging their own grave.

"Don't worry, Danny. You just have to say the word and we'll definitely keep it in mind. We won't act rashly."

It was only at that moment when Danny's expression softened slightly. Although he was quite reluctant to acknowledge Elise as his boss, he had lost the bet, so a true man would definitely honor his part of the deal. Since he had already agreed that she was his boss, then it was non-negotiable.

"Let's go. Let's shoot some hoops." The group then headed off toward the basketball court and ignored the chime of a bell that signaled the start of classes.

Meanwhile, Elise walked into the classroom and sat at her spot. Soon after that, she opened her textbook to do some revision.

At this moment, Mikayla inched closer and handed some snacks to Elise that she'd brought from home. "Here you go, Elise. This is for you. These are my favorite crackers."

Elise took the snack from Mikayla while replying, "Thanks."

Subsequently, Mikayla conveniently took a seat by Elise's side and glanced at their

surroundings. Mikayla then whispered, "I heard from my family members that Jasmine's family business is in trouble because their company's about to be bankrupt."

She had been upset with Jasmine ever since Jasmine took the liberty to ransack Elise's bag without first obtaining permission. Generally, Mikayla was rather forgiving of Jasmine's rudeness and arrogance, but Jasmine had gone overboard with her actions.

"Well, I sure do hope that her family goes into bankruptcy. By then, she wouldn't have the nerve to be arrogant at school."

Elise's expression was unfazed as she listened to Mikayla's words before responding, "I hope your wish comes true."

"Fingers crossed!"

While those two chatted with each other, Jasmine suddenly walked through the door. However, contrary to her normal behavior, she currently looked defeated and completely listless. She glanced at Elise and couldn't help recalling her father's words. *Jas, did you offend someone at school? Is that why the person has been intently targeting us?!*

Although Jasmine returned to her senses soon after that, there was a flash of uncertainty across her face. *I don't think I've offended anyone at school, though?! Perhaps it was Elise?! Then again, she's just a country bumpkin. How could she possibly have achieved all this?*

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Jasmine suddenly shifted her gaze because she didn't think that Elise could be involved in the unfortunate events that had befallen her family.

She placed her bag down and took a seat at her desk.

The first lesson for the day was Chinese wherein the teacher briefly talked about Chinese Week before starting class. "Our school has started to accept registrations for Chinese Week. I hope that everyone can support this event by

participating in it. This is especially so for Jasmine and Elise since you two have a strong command of the language. I reckon that you can give it a shot by signing up for it.”

After being suddenly prompted by the teacher, Jasmine took a deep breath before her lips curved upward to form a smile. Subsequently, she stood up, “Miss, I’ll enroll for the program and bring glory to our class.”

The Chinese teacher nodded with approval. “That sounds great. Jasmine’s enthusiasm should be noted and something that everyone should learn from as well.”

Soon after that, the teacher glanced toward Elise, whose head was lowered, and asked, “How about you, Elise? Would you like to enroll?”

Elise gradually lifted her head and met her teacher’s gaze. She had intended to reject the request but as soon as she noted Jasmine’s enthusiasm, Elise changed her mind. After all, life was quite boring and it would be wonderful to annoy a certain someone, so she responded, “Sure, I would be more than happy to enroll.”

Upon hearing Elise’s reply, the Chinese teacher beamed widely. “Awesome! I wish you guys luck and hopefully, you’ll be able to attain great results in the competition. I also have some materials at home that will help to improve your listening skills. I’ll compile it and give it to you soon. Once you’ve come up with your speech, I can proofread it for you.”

It was quite evident that the teacher had treated Elise like her own daughter. Jasmine was initially grinning from ear to ear, but she became downcast and sat in her seat. She glanced at Elise with tightly clenched fists while vowing, *I’m definitely going to win this competition! No one else can stand in my way!*

Once their class had ended, Jasmine’s sidekicks approached her. “Jasmine, you’re so talented to have been selected for the competition! I’m so envious of you!”

“Yeah, Jasmine! You’re the best in this subject in our class. I’m sure that you’ll be able to shine and achieve a great result in the competition!”

Jasmine enjoyed all the flattery from the others, but she feigned humility. “You guys need to stop saying that. I have an advantage because I’ve been learning the language from an earlier age. Besides, I’m not the only one from our class to be competing.”

“Gosh, Jasmine. You’re way too humble. All of us here know that you have a strong command of Chinese in terms of speech. As for the other person, well, it’s unfortunate that she’s only there to fill the space. Regardless of what happens, it’ll be your treat once you win the competition!”

An elated Jasmine immediately agreed. “Sure! That’s not going to be an issue. Well, since everyone’s here, how about I’ll treat you guys today then? Let’s head out for lunch and you guys can decide on the location.”

"Jasmine, you're awesome!" Her sidekicks continued to flatter her, which made her forget about her current predicament. As soon as it was lunchtime, she brought all of them to a luxurious restaurant outside their school. In total, the five of them had spent three thousand on their meal and she picked up the tab by handing over her credit card to the waiter.'

However, the waiter immediately informed her, "I'm sorry, but this card has insufficient balance on it."

Jasmine's expression then stiffened as she quickly took her card back. "I gave you the wrong card. Give this one a try."

Despite the change of cards, the outcome was still the same. "I'm sorry, Miss, but this card has the same issue too."

Her sidekicks then exchanged looks with each other, but everyone maintained their silence. Meanwhile, she felt slightly awkward and tried to explain, "Perhaps my daddy forgot to pay my bill. Please hold on."

As soon as Jasmine said that, she headed for the washroom where she immediately dialed John's number. Their family was currently facing a crisis wherein their company had also gone into bankruptcy. There were massive debts that were due to be cleared and as a result from all the stress, he had significantly aged. He took steps to remortgage all of the family's properties, which finally allowed him to pay off the debts.

After he'd cleared their debts, there was not much cash left on hand, so he was quite fretful about it. Coincidentally, he received a phone call from his daughter at that moment. "Daddy, there's insufficient balance on my card. Could you transfer me

some more money?"

John frowned and sternly questioned her, "I just transferred fifty thousand to you last week! Have you already spent all of that money?!"

Then, Jasmine wore a guilty expression as she explained, "I bought some cosmetics and a bag. The money's all gone. Daddy, could you hurry up and transfer me some money? I'm at a restaurant and I don't have money to pay for the meal."

"Didn't I tell you that we're currently facing a crisis?! You can't keep spending your money unnecessarily! I told you to have your meals at the school cafeteria for the time being! Have you forgotten what I said?!"

"No, Daddy. This is a once-off thing. I promise I'll have my meals at the school cafeteria from now on."

John had always doted on Jasmine since she was a child and he had never rejected any of her requests. Although they were impoverished now, he didn't

want his daughter to suffer so he thought, *It's quite fortunate that I still have a thousand left. That should last her for quite a while.*

"I have a thousand on my card, so I'll transfer that to you in a while."

As soon as she heard that he was only going to transfer a thousand, she knew that it was insufficient and quickly responded, "Daddy, that's not enough."

That was enough to make John lose his temper. After all, one thousand was all of the cash he had right now and it should be enough for a meal. "Where did you go for lunch? How can that be insufficient?!"

"Daddy, I treated some of my classmates to lunch at a restaurant. Could you please hurry up and transfer me some money? I need three thousand to pay for lunch. You should transfer me more because we have plans to go for karaoke later."

His blood pressure immediately spiked. *I don't even know whether I have enough for my next meal, but this wretched kid is still out there spending unnecessarily!* He was so angered that his breath quickened as the veins on his temple pulsated. Then, he roared over the phone, "Jasmine Anders! I don't have that amount of money! You should find a

way to deal with it yourself! Don't call me anymore!"

Upon saying those words, John instantly hung up the phone on Jasmine. By that stage, she was stunned into silence. Without her father's money, she wouldn't be able to foot the bill. Then, she rummaged through her bag and only found a few hundred in cash, but that was hardly enough.

She hesitated for a long time before finally exiting the washroom. As she faced her sidekicks, she finally spoke through gritted teeth, "I don't have enough money on me. We should pay for our own meal."

As soon as everyone heard what she said, they kicked up a fuss.

Rita was the first to respond, "What are you on about, Jasmine? Didn't you say that it was your treat today?"

"Yeah! You said that this was your treat. How can you suddenly change your mind and ask us to pay ourselves?"

Jasmine didn't have a choice either because she didn't have the money on hand. "I'll treat you guys another day. Why don't we just pay for our own meal today?"

However, her sidekicks exchanged looks with each other where they silently agreed on something. "I'm sorry, Jasmine. I don't have that much money on me."

"Me too. I only have fifty bucks on me. It's not enough."

“Jasmine, why don’t you give your family members a call and ask them to send some money?”

It was at that moment when Jasmine stared at her so-called friends incredulously. She was usually generous with them and even gifted them bags worth tens of thousands without any hesitation. However, none of them was willing to take one for the team and pay for today’s meal.

She was just about to say something when all of her sidekicks stood up in unison. It was as if they had reached a consensus beforehand. “Um, we still need to return to class, Jasmine. We have to leave now. As we don’t have enough money on us, would you mind footing the bill first?” .

After saying that, everyone left. Jasmine tried to run after her sidekicks, but the waiter stopped her in her tracks.

“Excuse me, can you please settle the bill first?”

Jasmine was close to tears; she finally fished out all of the cash in her bag, which only amounted to a few hundred bucks. In the end, she had no choice but to hand her designer bag over as payment for the meal.

However, she noticed that everyone in class seemed to look at her strangely as soon as she returned to the classroom. Even her usual sidekicks had ignored her too. Although she wasn’t used to such differential treatment, she tried to maintain a calm front as she went to her desk.

Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 45

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Chapter 45

After class, Elise and Mikayla laughed and chatted as they exited the school doors. “I hate parting ways with you, Elise. Wouldn’t it be nice if we lived together? We could eat together, do our homework together, and sleep at the same time.”

As she stroked Mikayla’s head, Elise comforted, “Why don’t I visit your place when I have the time?”

In an instant, Mikayla’s eyes brightened. “Good; that sounds awesome! When the time comes, (This novel will be daily updaed at)I’ll have my mum prepare some dishes that you like. When are you coming to visit, though?”

After a moment of thought, Elise replied, “In a few days’ time. I’ll come over after the Chinese Week competition.”

“Alright. It’s set, then!”

It was only then did Mikayla happily bid Elise adieu. After waving goodbye to her, Elise headed toward a familiar car waiting nearby and opened the door. Upon doing so, she greeted Matthew, who grunted in reply.

After she entered the car, he took the initiative to inform her, "Grandpa is having dinner tonight and wants me to bring you along."

"Alright. We'll go together then." Although Elise had no idea what kind of dinner it was, it had to be an important event if Jonah was the host.

They then arrived at a private room of a restaurant. Once they passed through the doors, they saw the other young masters of the Griffith Family had already arrived, including Brendan, who rarely showed his face.

When Jonah saw Elise, he waved her over. "Come on over, Ellie."

She obediently walked up to him and respectfully greeted, "Hi, Grandpa."

Then, with a smile, he introduced her to the person next to him. "This is Ellie, my granddaughter; she's also known as my *future* granddaughter-in-law."

The simple introduction was enough to cause everyone's expression to change. Even Elise was startled, but she didn't protest whatsoever.

Meanwhile, out of all the Griffith brothers, the one who had the biggest change of expression was Danny. He incredulously looked at his siblings as if he questioned, *Does the introduction mean Elise has decided on a marriage partner?*

Elise courteously greeted the stranger. "It's nice to meet you. I'm Elise Sinclair."

The stranger nodded and introduced himself, "Nice to meet you, Miss Sinclair. I'm Mr. Griffith's personal lawyer, Luis Sosa."

Seeing that everyone was present, Jonah then declared without further delay, (This novel will be daily updated at)I asked everyone here today because I wanted to announce something."

Since they rarely saw him being so serious and earnest, the brothers suddenly felt uncertain and felt just as mystified as Elise was.

"I've thought long and hard before arriving at this decision; and now, it's time to tell all of you about it." After saying that, Jonah asked Luis to produce a document from a folder. Following that, he looked at Elise and continued, "After thinking about it, I've decided that since you're now my granddaughter as well as my future granddaughter-in-law, the future of the Griffith Family will eventually be in your hands. Thus, I've taken the initiative to transfer the 30% of shares under my name to you. No matter which of my grandsons you marry, this will be my wedding gift to

you."

All of the brothers were shocked the moment they heard Jonah's words and stared at him with incredulity—with the exception of Alexander. Jack was the first one to stand up and protest, "Surely this is too rash of you, Grandpa. Even if we leave aside the discussion on whether Elise can marry into the Griffith Family, it's grave for the family for you to bequeath 30% of the shares to an outsider just like that."

"He's right, Grandpa. Maybe you should reconsider your decision," Danny added. While he might have now recognized Elise's position and was even protective of her, 30% of the Griffith Family's shares was no joke.

"I think it's very rash as well, Grandpa. Why are you in a hurry to do it?" Brendan glanced at Elise before he continued, "Not to mention, if we look at things from Miss Sinclair's perspective, she's still young and might not be able to protect such large assets."

Nonetheless, there was no change to Jonah's expression as he listened to their reasoning and he simply looked at her before earnestly answering, "Your concerns

are the ones I've considered as well, but I've made up my mind and will not change it. As long as you have no objection, Ellie, you simply need to sign your name on this document."

A conflicted Elise pursed her lips. In truth, 30% of the Griffith Family's shares wasn't a small number and it would pose a great temptation to the average person.

To her, however, it was nothing but a number,

More importantly, she never thought about staying within the Griffith Family. So, she opened her mouth to reject the offer. "This gift is extremely precious, Grandpa, and I can't accept it. I think you should take your offer back!"

"Ellie, I know you're a sensible child, but I've already decided that you're my granddaughter from now on, no matter what. If you do become my granddaughter in-law one day, this will be the Griffith Family's wedding gift to you. If you find your own happiness elsewhere, this will instead be my dowry for you."

"Grandpa, I..” Elise choked on her reply. As she tried her best to keep her emotions under control, she dived into his arms.

Jonah patted her back gently and comforted, "There, there. No need for such displays, huh? Just do as I say."

"But—"

"Why so many misgivings, my child? Don't worry about it." Then, he turned to Luis. "Please have Ellie sign the document."

Accordingly, Luis handed the document and a pen to Elise, where under the audience's watchful eyes, she took the pen and carefully wrote her name on the document.

"It's settled, then. Thank you, Mr. Sosa."

As he kept the document away, he answered, "No worries, I'm merely doing my job."

"Alright, now that we have concluded the official matters, we should get to dinner without any further delay." Jonah bade everyone to dig in. Yet, apart from Alexander, none of the brothers had any appetite.

Jack left midway through dinner as he had to rush on the completion of his work. Not long after that, Brendan had also excused himself and made an early departure.

And just like that, Danny, Matthew, and Alexander were the only brothers left.

Before Jonah left, he instructed, "I still have some business to discuss with Mr. Sosa. The three of you should take Ellie home."

Upon Jonah's departure, Danny pursed his lips before explaining, "I'm meeting up with a friend and won't be coming home tonight, Boss. Let Alexander see you home."

With that, Danny made a move to leave and left Matthew and Alexander behind. As per their custom, Alexander would be the one to send Elise home, but Matthew spoke up this time and said, "I'll take you back then."

As a result of that, she waved goodbye to Alexander. "We'll make a move now, then."

Alexander grunted in reply and watched as she entered Matthew's car with something buried deep in his gaze. It wasn't until the car disappeared from his sight that he looked away.

Now that she was in the car, she leaned in her seat and watched the night view from her window while seemingly deep in thought.

After a while, Matthew commented, "You don't seem to be in a good mood."

His words had jerked her back to her senses, but before she could reply, (This novel will be daily updated at)he continued, "Let me switch on some music for you to relax."

"Okay," Ellis agreed.

Thus, he turned on the radio, which played a soft, light musical piece.

"This is my favorite song," he explained. "It was written and composed by a famous composer named H."

Upon hearing the familiar melody, she paused for a moment and inadvertently asked, "Do you like her work a lot?"