

Dauntless 61

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Chapter 61

“Dad, what's wrong? What happened?” Brittany asked her father worriedly.

“You're finally back, Brittany. I don't know what's going on, but those hotels, large companies, and factory cafeterias that previously signed contracts with us called to say that they're rejecting our greenhouse vegetables. What should we do?” Richard explained anxiously upon seeing that his family members were back.

“What? Those hotels and factories are breaching the contracts? How did this happen?”

Hearing his words, the three, including Brittany, immediately turned pale.

Truth be told, after noticing that so many factories, hotels, and large companies' cafeterias had signed the contracts, they had listened to Harold's advice and not only invested all their savings but also borrowed three million from the bank to expand the size of their greenhouse.

Now the vegetables are ready to be sold, but those hotels and factory cafeterias abruptly decide they don't want them anymore. Doesn't that mean we're going to suffer a complete loss? What are we going to do when the bank demands the loan repayment?

“Don't worry too much about it. Those hotels and factories have signed contracts with us. Worse comes to worst, we can take those contracts and sue them!” Richard assured them with a forced smile.

“It's not that easy, Dad. Since they dare to break the contract, they must have a counterplan. Besides, lawsuits take time. Even if we win, all our vegetables will be rotten in the greenhouse by the end of it. More importantly, we've already invested all our funds, and we can't even get the money for the down payment to buy a house for Gordon. What can we take out to file a lawsuit against those companies?” Brittany asked her father with her face deathly pale.

“If so... What do we do now? Worse comes to worst, we'll look for those vegetable sellers, sell the vegetables to them at a low price, and reclaim our capital!”

As expected of the head of the family, Richard quickly thought of a way to preserve their capital.

Previously, many vegetable sellers had come to their greenhouse base in person, intending to buy their vegetables.

However, at that time, they had already signed contracts with those hotels, large companies, and factories cafeterias that purchased at retail prices, which were much higher than the sellers' wholesale prices. Naturally, they would not choose to collaborate with those vegetable sellers.

However, with their current situation, capital preservation was the best option.

Mandy's eyes lit up with hope upon hearing that. She quickly urged her husband, "You must hurry up and contact those vegetable sellers then!"

Richard quickly found the phone number that one of the sellers had left behind and dialed it.

"Hello, who's this?"

The first call was soon answered.

The Xenoses all looked anxiously at Richard.

"Hello, Mr. Carlson. I'm the owner of Brittany's Greenhouse Produce—"

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As the color drained from Mandy's face, the entire family began to panic.

It seemed as though they had somehow offended everyone overnight as all those people simultaneously decided to ignore them.

"Don't you find it a little strange that everyone collectively broke the contracts at this time?"

Brittany was relatively calmer and began raising some questions.

"Brittany, are you saying that someone is targeting us?"

His daughter's question enlightened Richard as he immediately thought of the key issue.

Brittany nodded before asking her parents, "Since so many hotels and companies have unilaterally terminated their contract with us, and even the vegetable vendors have ignored us, the answer is obvious. Have you both offended some big shot recently?"

"We spend our days attending to the vegetables in the greenhouse. How can there be time and place to offend some big shot! Did you, on the other hand, offend anyone in the company recently, Brittany?" Richard answered without any hesitation.

"I... I didn't either!"

Brittany was about to comment that other than Harold, she had not offended anyone recently.

However, in the end, she reasoned to herself that he could never possess the ability to instruct the hotels, large companies, and vegetable sellers to boycott their business collectively.

Besides, it was his idea that we should venture into greenhouse produce back then.

This time, the trio turned their attention to Brittany's younger brother, Gordon.

"Why is everyone looking at me? Although I often associate with Goldie and the others, I've never offended any big shot!" he protested, feeling wronged.

"It's pointless for us to keep on guessing. Tomorrow, I'll go to those hotels and companies and get an explanation from them in person. Only through finding out the reason can we come up with the corresponding countermeasure," Brittany said helplessly.

The rest of them could not think of anything better, so they could only nod their heads.

It was a depressing and uneasy night for the Xenoses.

The next day, Brittany went to those big companies and hotels early in the morning, going door-to-door to find the initial coordinators.

To her despair, all the hotels and companies she went to turned her down for various reasons and did not even give her the chance to speak face-to-face.

It continued until noon when she dragged her exhausted body to an office building, the last company that signed a contract with her family.

"Hello, I'd like to speak to Mr. Yale of your company's purchasing department. Is he available?"

Brittany had lost all the confidence she had had at the beginning of the day and now spoke to the receptionist with a pleading tone.

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However, upon reaching the entrance, she felt unwilling to let the entire morning pass without success.

Hence, she hid near the entrance and waited for Thomas Yale from the purchasing department to get off work.

Only around half-past twelve did the purchasing manager she was looking for exit the building.

Brittany rushed toward him like he was her last hope.

On the contrary, the man with the receding hairline turned and ran away upon seeing her, as though he had just seen a ghost.

“Please wait, Mr. Yale. I just have a question. Why did your company terminate the contract unilaterally? Should you not give me a satisfactory answer, I will sue you in court!” Brittany demanded aggressively when she successfully stopped him.

She vented all the grievance, unjust, and anger she had experienced that day on him.

“I can't believe you still have the nerve to question us, Ms. Xenos. The price of your greenhouse vegetables is much higher than the market price. You people are so corrupted. Go ahead and sue us if you have the means to do it!” Thomas replied while avoiding her gaze.

“We agreed on the price before you signed the contract, but now you're using it as an excuse. If you weren't satisfied, why did you sign it back then?”

Upon hearing that this was the reason, Brittany was furious.

Ours are organically-grown vegetables, so our price will certainly be higher than those vegetables grown with chemical fertilizers.

“Do you think we wanted to sign at that time? If it wasn't for the big shot supporting your family, do you think we would be so stupid as to sign at such a high price? In all honesty, we terminated the contract this time because your family crossed the wrong person. Coming to me is pointless. If you want to sue, you can go ahead. Now, excuse me.”

Although she had already thought of this possibility, she was still taken aback by the confirmation from Thomas.

“Mr. Yale, can you tell me who exactly is this big shot trying to blacklist my family's business?” Brittany asked with a hopeful look as she grabbed his hand.

“I'm sorry. I don't know who the person is either. We only know that the instructions to terminate the cooperation with Brittany's Greenhouse Produce came from Paradise Hotel's platinum members chat group. No one knows who on earth did it!”

After saying that, Thomas stopped paying attention to her and turned to leave.

“The instructions came from Paradise Hotel's platinum members chat group?”

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The moment she entered, Mandy shouted to her excitedly, so Brittany subconsciously looked toward the living room.

A man whose appearance could be described as handsome was sitting in front of her father with a large bouquet of flowers beside him.

There were also many gifts on the table.

“Jon? Didn't you go abroad? Why did you come back?” Brittany asked in confusion upon seeing the handsome man.

The man was none other than Jon Sullivan, a classmate who had relentlessly pursued her in university.

At that time, she felt that his appearance was too feminine and did not have a sense of masculinity. Coupled with the fact that she heard he relied on his good looks and family background to buy an apartment near the school—where he often brought all kinds of girls to spend the night—and she did not hesitate to reject him then.

Sometimes he even brought two or three girls there in one night. Any adult would know what they were doing!

Later, she heard that he had gone abroad. Hence, she never thought that he would suddenly appear in her home on this day.

“It's been a while, Brittany. Have you been well? I just heard about you and your family's affairs from Mr. and Mrs. Xenos. If you agree to be mine, you can leave those matters to me!”

Jon picked up the roses and stood, declaring those words confidently as he walked toward Brittany, who looked exhausted but still captivating.

During the five years he was abroad, although the Sullivans had not attained the same status as the four prominent families in Dellmoor, it was still considered a first-rate family in the city.

He believed that she would certainly not be as naive as before after experiencing the harsh reality of life for the past few years and would understand that nothing was better than finding a rich man.

“You think you can do that? As long as you can help me solve my family's problems this time, I can agree to date you. If you can't do it, please don't bother me again in the future. I'm tired. I'm going to my room to rest.”

Looking at Jon, who was walking a little unsteadily, Brittany coldly uttered those words before turning around and returning to her room.

The way he walks is obviously the result of an overly decadent lifestyle. Although I truly wish to find a rich man to marry right now, that doesn't mean I'll marry just anyone. I still have my pride.

"Well... Since Brittany is tired today, I'll visit her another day, Mr. and Mrs. Xenos!" Jon, who had just tasted rejection, said to Richard and Mandy awkwardly.

"I can't believe this daughter of mine. Don't mind her, Mr. Sullivan. She's just tired. She'll be better after some rest. I'll leave our family matter to you then."

Mandy saw him off at the house's front door.

"Don't worry, Mrs. Xenos. Leave it to me. I'll settle it within three days."

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Which big shot banned our family? Why would they do so? Mr. Yale also mentioned that he was forced to sign the contract back then. Who exactly is this person? It was Harold who originally suggested that we open a greenhouse. He was the one who accompanied me to negotiate contracts with those hotels and big companies. He also suggested that we upscale our business. Is he the mastermind behind all this?

Brittany suddenly thought of a ridiculous idea, but she quickly shook it off.

That poor guy can't even fork out thirty thousand. How can he be capable of forcing those giant companies, large hotels, and factories to sign contracts with him? Furthermore, we have always attended contract negotiations together.

Brittany eventually began to piece together the little details of the times she spent with Harold.

Other than the fact that he was poor, and that he couldn't give her the life she wanted, Harold treated her well.

However, Brittany gritted her teeth in anger when she thought about how he had turned to propose to Isabella and even slapped her on the spot because he was unable to fork out thirty thousand.

That night, the unhappy Brittany made a post on Instagram before falling into a deep sleep.

Jon had promised to help her family settle the matter, but she did not take it to heart.

After all, the big shot who blacklisted her family had assets worth over ten billion.

The Sullivans, although influential in Dellmoor, were incomparable to the platinum members of Paradise Hotel.

Harold was adding Carolyn's contact on WhatsApp when he happened to see Brittany's Instagram post right after she uploaded it.

He read her post in a low voice: I have no appetite. I can't tell the difference between sorrow and happiness. If you know how despair feels, that's probably what I'm going through right now.

He was unaccustomed to the despair and helplessness conveyed in her post.

The Brittany he knew was not a pessimistic person.

"Logan, has Brittany run into any trouble lately?" Harold asked, lifting his head to glance at Logan who sat across from him.

As his mind was recently occupied with Isabella, he had not paid attention to Brittany at all.

Furthermore, their past was a misunderstanding. He didn't want to be a disturbance presence in her life anymore.

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"Watch your tongue, Carolyn. Apologize this instant!" Logan, who was beside her, stood up abruptly.

He was ready to put her in her place for raising her voice at Harold.

"Am I wrong? There are so many talented and beautiful women of significant social standing in this world who are dying to be with Harold, yet he rejected all of them for a girl who treats him coldly. How is he... any different from a simp?" Carolyn trailed off, her voice eventually becoming just short of a mumble.

"How dare you!" Logan snapped. He could not hold back at Carolyn's lack of remorse when she had gone so far as to call Harold a simp.

Carolyn did not retaliate. She knew that resistance was futile. She was no match for Logan, who was the strongest of The Four.

"Logan, don't mind her. There are some things that the two of you won't understand. Lift the ban before tomorrow!" Harold instructed Carolyn. He sighed as he checked the time. It was already nine at night.

"It's getting late. I'm leaving." He rose to his feet and left the café.

Craig and James, who had been standing outside the door, disguised as waiters, did not dare to leave until Harold, Logan, and the others had left.

Along the way, Harold left a comment on Brittany's post: Rest well, tomorrow will be better.

Then, he put his phone away.

In the living room of the Sullivan residence in Eastview, Connor Sullivan, head of the Sullivan household, was livid.

"You want me to resolve the issue with Brittany's Greenhouse Produce? Are you courting death?" he roared.

Jon had been waiting for his father's return ever since the former came back from Brittany's house.

Connor, Jon's father, finally returned from a social engagement at around nine. Jon quickly brewed him a cup of coffee and told him about Brittany's situation.

Given the status of the Sullivans as a first-class family in Dellmoor, Jon believed that the Xenos family's issue would be resolved with just a few words from his father.

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"Isn't he Craig McGowan, one of the three big shots in Dellmoor? Why is he groveling at someone's feet?" Jon exclaimed after watching the video. He turned to look at his father in surprise.

The short video was of Craig kneeling before Harold, begging for forgiveness, right in front of the entrance of Paradise Hotel.

Someone had been brazen enough to record the incident and upload it online.

"I don't know, and apparently, no one knows who that man is either. Recognize that face, and do not ever offend him. Do you understand me? I'm tired. Please leave, and do remember what I've told you," Connor said before he left to take his rest.

Jon was left stumped in the living room.

Even though he had seen the Instagram post by Brittany, he dared not comment on it.

The next morning at seven o'clock, when Brittany's family was not yet awake, the outside of the Xenos residence was already packed with people.

There were men and women of different ages.

However, all of them had one thing in common—they owned businesses in Dellmoor.

These people owned assets that encompassed hotels, office towers, and even factories.

Furthermore, all of them were holding a contract, not to mention that those who were there were business owners of modest size.

Those who owned smaller businesses could only wait outside the residential area.

Last night, in Paradise Hotel's platinum member chat group, a mysterious admin known as Carolyn had retracted the ban order on Brittany's Greenhouse Produce. She even ordered for the hotel, office tower, and factory owners who previously signed contracts with them to apologize to the Xenos family and offer to sign new contracts with Brittany's Greenhouse Produce.

The owners of the hotels, office towers, and factories were flabbergasted by the ban order previously.

After all, why would the management of a conglomerate like Paradise Hotel issue a ban order on a small company like Brittany's Greenhouse Produce?

Besides, the management retracted the ban order shortly after and even urged the business owners to apologize to Brittany's Greenhouse Produce.

Even though the business owners had their complaints about the decision, no one dared to voice them out.

They could only oblige and personally go to the Xenos residence to offer their apology.

“What is happening out there? Why is it so noisy?”

The Xenoses were roused by the commotion outside their house, and Mandy went outside to check it out.

“Who... are you guys? Why are all of you crowding the entrance of my home?”

Mandy was startled by the sight of the gathering of bosses dressed immaculately outside of her house.

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“Mom, who's here?” Brittany asked in a confused tone.

“Jon has helped us settle our problems! The hotel, office tower, and factory owners are lining up outside

to apologize to us!” Mandy exclaimed.

Thud!

The tube of toothpaste in Richard's hand fell to the floor, making Brittany snap out of her daze.

“Mom, it's already morning. Please wake up!”

Brittany thought that her mother was still dreaming and did not believe a single word she said.

After all, the person who was trying to ban them was a platinum member of Paradise Hotel.

Even though the Sullivans exercised great influence in Dellmoor, they still paled in comparison with the platinum members of Paradise Hotel, who each had a net worth of over ten billion.

Besides that, a net worth of over ten billion was only the base requirement of being a platinum member of Paradise Hotel.

“You don't believe me? Why don't you take a look yourself?”

Mandy opened the door again when she noticed her daughter was still skeptical.

This time, Brittany finally saw the group of people gathering outside her house with her own eyes.

Brittany's almond eyes widened as her mouth popped open in shock.

She had met most of the bosses who were standing right outside her door. Hence, she recognized them in a heartbeat.

“I- Let me just go back to my room to change my clothes!”

Brittany finally regained her composure and hurried back to her room to change out of her pajamas.

Then, the Xenoses spent almost a full day sending off each and every one of the bosses.

“Jon is quite capable, huh? Not only does he come from an affluent background, but he is also quite efficient. He's helped us solve such a difficult situation in just a single night! Brittany, hurry up and call him to thank him. You have to hold on to him. I don't think you can find a man like him anywhere else in Dellmoor. Come to think of it, there won't be many in the whole country either!”

After sending off the bosses, Mandy disregarded the weary look on her daughter's face and urged Brittany to invite Jon out for a date.

Other than Brittany, everyone else was certain that the bosses had only apologized to them because of the Sullivans.

“Mom, Dad, do you guys really think that it's Jon's helping us this time?”

Brittany was still reluctant to believe it.

After all, the Sullivans still could not rival the platinum members of Paradise Hotel.

She had not told them about the ban coming from a platinum member of Paradise Hotel as she feared that they would worry about it too much.

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After a long instance of deliberation, Brittany finally made up her mind to invite Jon out on a date.

Even though Jon was a womanizer, he came from a powerful family. Should Brittany refuse, she would face the repercussions.

If Jon could get that platinum member of Paradise Hotel to stop the boycott, then he could also get them to continue boycotting my family. Besides, there's no downside to marrying a man with wealth and power. Brittany concluded that her only option was to put up with Jon.

Jon soon received a call from Brittany. Coincidentally, he had been looking for an opportunity to admit to Brittany that there was nothing he could do to help her family. Hence, he agreed to meet.

An hour later, the duo met in front of Grandeur Hotel.

“Brittany, there's something I need to tell you.” As soon as the two met, Jon spoke first. He wanted to retract the boastful statements he had made the day before at Brittany's home.

“Jon, you don't have to say anything more. I stand by what I said. I'm truly grateful to you for resolving my family's situation. From now on, we can date officially!” Brittany assumed that Jon wanted her to fulfill her promise.

Given that she had already made her decision, she instantly accepted Jon's courtship.

“What did you just say? You are agreeing to go out with me?” There was an expression of disbelief on Jon's face when he heard Brittany's words.

They were far beyond his expectations.

“That's right. I said it before. If you help my family out of our trouble, I'll agree to be your girlfriend. This morning, the bosses of various hotels, factories, and large companies came to my house to apologize. They also guaranteed that they would comply with all the previous contracts. Since you helped resolve my family's difficulties, then I shall fulfill my promise.” Brittany spoke through gritted teeth.

“This...” Jon was dumbstruck at Brittany's words.

He was unaware that the problems surrounding Brittany's family had been resolved. Furthermore, it appeared as if Brittany was under the false assumption that Jon was the one who helped her.

Jon was at a loss. What do I do now? Do I just come clean with her or claim the credit? If I go along with it and take the credit, this beauty will belong to me.

As Jon ogled Brittany, whose eyes were gleaming alluringly, the desire within his heart grew stronger.

Given how Jon abruptly fell into a trance as he stared at her, she could not help but feel uncomfortable and ask, “Jon, what's the matter?”

“N-Nothing. I didn't expect how swiftly my dad would make his move. I told him just last night about your family's situation. Then today, everyone went and apologized to your family. Let's go and grab a bite to eat. Then, we can catch a movie. There's a good blockbuster movie that just premiered tonight.” Jon tried his best to appear composed as he spoke.

The moment Brittany called out his name, he had made his decision. He would first get Brittany into bed with him. As for the rest, he decided to leave it for after the act.

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Harold had just gotten off work when he received a report detailing Isabella's movements for the day from Logan.

He was unconcerned at the fact that Isabella had trouble finding a satisfactory job. After all, he was sure that the Turners would make their move within the next couple of days.

As such, he took the opportunity to strengthen his relationship with Isabella.

Harold sent a message in reply to Logan. He texted: Logan, come up with a way to divert Marilyn away when the movie is about to start.

After that, he found a random place and had dinner before heading to the movie theater in advance to wait for Isabella.

As soon as Harold arrived at the movie theater, he saw a familiar figure. It was Brittany.

Meanwhile, Jon was purchasing their tickets at the cashier of the movie theater.

Brittany followed behind him, glancing around from time to time. She appeared to be somewhat uneasy.

As it turned out, Brittany had seen through Jon's intentions. She was certain that, after the movie, he would bring her over to a hotel and book a room for them.

Even though Brittany had been with Harold for about five years, he had never crossed the line with her or done anything inappropriate. Hence, she was reluctant to engage in what awaited her as she was still a virgin.

For a moment, Harold was stunned when he saw Brittany. He wanted to switch directions and turn around a corner to avoid meeting her.

Nevertheless, Brittany was too familiar with Harold's figure. The moment he turned his back, she noticed him.

Similarly, a look of shock appeared on Brittany's face.

Given how Harold once "intentionally" made his way to her residential area to trap her, the idea that he was secretly stalking her instantly crossed her mind.

Immediately, her naturally pretty eyes blazed with anger.

Harold had only taken two steps before Brittany rushed up behind him in a fit of fury, yelling his name, "Harold Campbell! Stop right there!"

In an instant, all the eyes in the ticket hall of the movie theater spun toward them.

A crowd soon gathered around to witness the drama.

Harold swiveled around resignedly. He smiled bitterly as he greeted, "Brittany! What a coincidence! You're here to watch a movie as well?"

"Coincidence, my ass! What are you doing here?" Brittany interrogated Harold aggressively.