

Under the Heiress' Facade

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 431 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 431

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Catherine had always loved fresh flowers. Hence, she had bought a few bouquets when she saw them in the supermarket.

"Alright."

After Douglas left, Hera brought the rest of the fresh flowers and placed them into a vase, whereas Bernard was busy marinating his steak in the kitchen while wearing an apron.

The atmosphere within their home felt happy and peaceful. At that moment, there was a knock on the door. They didn't lock the door to the main entrance, so Everly made her way inside.

Hera had just finished placing her vase on the dining table when she spotted Everly. She asked, "Everly? Why are you here?"

Everly explained, "Douglas told me that you two arrived home, so I came over to visit. I would also like to speak to you about something."

Then, she secretly looked at Bernard, who was busy cooking their steaks, from the corner of her eyes. Bernard stood tall, and his apron matched his white button-up, only making him look handsome and homely.

Just a small glance was enough to make Everly's heart skip a beat. Back in the village, all the male

villagers didn't know how to cook. They also refused to do any chores, claiming that chores were a job for the women.

Ever since she came to the city, she realized chores weren't just for women; men could also do them. A man who could cook and clean was truly a good man who loved you.

She also wanted to find a good man to spend the rest of her life with.

"Is something wrong?" Hera took out a carton of milk from the fridge and poured Everly a cup.

Everly quickly collected her gaze and said, "It's nothing big. But when you all went out for your vacation, Mrs. Chime Senior stopped by the clinic to meet Mrs. Jones."

"What happened then?" Hera asked.

Hera took a sip of her milk and said, "They talked in the consultation room with the doors closed. I also don't know what they said, but Mrs. Jones seemed unhappy after their talk."

Hera frowned slightly. She was the one who had exposed Camille, so why did Priscilla come to meet Catherine instead?

"I got it." Hera nodded.

"Oh, right. Hera, I heard from my brother that you and your friends were involved in a terrorist attack. Are you all alright?" Everly held Hera's hands and asked her about it.

Hera smiled. "We're fine."

"Sweetie, the steaks are done. Just clear the table, and we'll be able to eat," Bernard reminded her from the kitchen.

"Alright!" Hera answered and quickly cleared the leaves and stems on the table.

Everly had also helped Hera clean up as she said enviously, "Hera, Mr. Killian treats you so well. Men from Jadonia are amazing."

"Do you also want such a good boyfriend?" Hera glanced at her with a raised eyebrow.

"Don't tease me," Everly said shyly.

But her eyes couldn't help but wander toward the open kitchen, where Bernard was focused on plating up the food. She could feel her cheeks turn red at that sight.

Bernard could feel someone's gaze on him. He looked up and met Everly's gaze.

Everly shocked, she immediately averted Bernard's gaze while her cheeks turned even redder.

Seeing this, Bernard frowned and turned to look at Hera.

Hera didn't seem to have noticed Everly's gaze. She had finished clearing the table and went to wash her hands. On her way back to the table, she carried a plate of steak with her.

Bernard was speechless.

"Oh, my! That smells delicious! It'll definitely taste good!" Everly gulped as she took a whiff of the cooked steak Hera had carried over.

"You're right!" Hera said in agreement. Seeing her hungry expression, Hera was about to offer to share some with her when Bernard's impassive voice sounded from behind her.

"Everly, haven't you eaten yet?"

Bernard was carrying another plate of steak over when he had asked his question. Everly assumed he wanted to give her that plate and was immediately at a loss on what to do.

She nodded her head before shaking it instead. "I-I've already eaten."

With that said, she reached out to take that plate of steak over when Bernard avoided her reach and said, "Then, go home and not disturb us during our meal."

Everly was at a loss for words.

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Surprisingly, Bernard didn't need to wake Hera up the next day as she had woken up early herself.

Bernard felt slightly confused when Hera took the initiative to wrap her arms around his neck. She stood on her tiptoes and kissed his cheeks. "Why don't I send you to work today? I'll drop by the Everetts on my way home."

Bernard remained silent. He had planned to head to Astral Nova today, not Shuttle Ventures. They were, in fact, not heading the same way.

But since he had decided to keep his identity a secret from Hera, he had to keep the gig up.

"Sure," Bernard answered.

So, Douglas came to fetch them after breakfast as they drove from Jedburgh to Norburgh. They dropped Hera at the Everett residence before turning around to head to Astral Nova.

When Hera entered the Everett residence, she took two steps forward before turning around to ensure that Bernard had left.

Then, she turned around and left the Everett residence. Gino came out of the house with a yawn while carrying his backpack. He just so happened to see Hera get in a car by the entrance of their house. His drowsiness disappeared instantly.

"Hera-" He quickly chased after her. But Hera didn't hear him and quickly drove off.

"Gino, where are you going?" Lilith came out and asked.

Gino said loudly, "I just saw Hera come home."

Hearing this, Lilith turned to look at the gates with delight.

She was about to head out when Gideon and James quickly jogged out of the house. Even Mildred had gotten up in a hurry as she asked Judy to help her outside.

The entire family turned to look at the gates expectantly. However, there wasn't anyone standing there. Gino explained, "But she already left."

"Gino, it's been a month since April Fools. Why are you playing such tricks on us? Don't you find it childish?" Gideon asked as he rolled his eyes at Gino.

"I'm not lying! She just returned moments ago! If you don't believe me, I'll call you right now to prove it!"

With that said, Gino took out his phone and dialed Hera's number. However, no one answered his calls despite calling her three times in a row.

Gino was at a loss for words.

"I'll deduct your allowance if you continue to lie! Okay, everyone, let's break this up. Go back to what you were previously doing." Gideon said with a wave of his hands. It was clear he did not believe Gino.

Gino tried to explain himself. "No, I'm not lying! I'm telling you the truth!"

But no one believed him. He was filled with frustration as he said, "I'll definitely prove that I wasn't lying!"

Hera had asked Nathan to meet her in a cafe. Then, she told him about the clues Aurora had given her yesterday. She also showed him the video she had taken during their exchange.

Nathan frowned. "Rhett Killian? He's the current CEO of Killian Corporation. We can't call him in for questioning without any evidence. We need to continue investigating until we find some evidence." Hera agreed and said, "Aurora cares deeply about the child in her womb now. She probably wouldn't lie to me. But we can't fully trust her words. I can

only conclude that she knows more than we expected her to." "You're right. You've already alerted them that you're making your move. You need to be very careful with your next step. You can leave everything to me if you need," Nathan said.

Hera nodded and asked, "Alright. Have there been any breakthroughs on your side?"

Nathan shook her head. "No. They're all very careful. They've not made any moves ever since Queenie was silenced.

"However, the clues you've just provided are useful. Since they're not planning to do anything, we can stir some things up to draw them out.

Hera had the same plan in mind. She looked at him as the two of them smiled knowingly. After leaving the cafe, Hera realized that she had received a number of texts from Gino.

"Have you come home? I've already seen you!"

"Where are you? Why aren't you answering my calls?"

"Answer my calls!"

"Will answering my calls cause you to die or something?"

"I won't be your friend anymore if you don't answer me."

"Fine. We're no longer friends!"

"Goodbye!"

All the messages only left Hera feeling flabbergasted.

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Iera texted him back, saying, "I was busy just now, so I didn't hear your calls. You're right. I am back."

At the Cavenridge International Academy, the homeroom teacher of Grade 1 Class A was currently teaching when Gino felt his phone vibrate. He took out his phone and immediately stood up, interrupting his homeroom teacher.

His teacher's expression darkened as she asked, "Gino Everett, what on earth are you doing?"

"Miss, I'm not feeling quite well today and would like to take the rest of the day off."

Before his teacher had a chance to answer, Gino immediately rushed out of his classroom with his phone in hand. Then, he quickly ran out of the gates and caught a ride back home while the security guards weren't paying attention.

On the way home, he screenshotted his chat with Hera and sent it into their family group chat. Then, he wrote, "See, I told you! I wasn't lying!"

Five minutes had passed, yet no one replied to his message. He tagged everyone in the group chat, but no one replied, even by the time he got home.

Gino was dumbfounded. It was only when he entered his home and saw everyone surrounding Hera that he understood that everyone had just been too busy to reply to his messages.

"Aren't you supposed to be in class? Why are you home?" Hera was the first one to notice Gino standing by the door.

"I'll come home whenever I want. It's none of your business! Dad and Gideon have also skipped work to come home!" Gino said unhappily.

Hera found his stubborn attitude to be a little cute. So, she waved her hand and said, "Come over here." "What am I, a dog?" Gino said unhappily, yet he obediently made his way toward her.

Hera took out a bag from behind her and said, "I brought you a present."

Gino's eyes immediately brightened as he took the gift, which seemed to be quite heavy.

It was Hera's first time bringing back a proper gift for him, and his anger immediately deflated. "Because of this gift, I've decided not to unfriend you just yet."

Then, he opened the gift expectantly, only to see four books inside. The four books were educational books on Java, C/C++, Perl, and Lisp, all programming languages for hacking.

Gino was dumbfounded. What were all of these books for? He hadn't even finished reading the previous one!

Hera had some things to do in the afternoon, so the Everetts decided to have an early lunch together. At around 11 in the afternoon, Hera packed some food in a container and hailed a cab to Shuttle Ventures.

Harold had just so happened to be coming out of the president's personal elevator when he saw Hera come in. His eyes immediately widened in shock as he took out his phone to call Bernard.

"Mr. Killian, Ms. Youngworth has just arrived at the company!"

Bernard was dealing with some of Astral Nova's official business when he received Harold's call.

He immediately stood up and said, "Tell her I had to leave the company due to unexpected circumstances and that you're not sure when I'd be back. Ask her to give me a call instead."

"Alright." Harold had turned around after ending the call, only to see that the receptionist was already greeting Hera.

"Ms. Youngworth, are you here to see Mr. Killian? Mr. Killian is—"

"Ms. Youngworth, unfortunately, Mr. Killian had to leave the company to deal with some unexpected circumstances." Harold quickly flew over to interrupt the receptionist, startling her.

"Mr. Greer."

Hera turned to look at the newcomer in confusion. Seeing that she recognized him, she said, "It's alright. I'll just wait for him upstairs."

Then, she turned to the receptionist and said, "Could you please give me access to the elevator?"

Harold quickly blocked their path and said politely, "Mr. Killian might not return to the office today. Why don't you call him instead?"

Hera frowned and nodded. "Alright. I'll head up first."

Harold was afraid he'd seem suspicious if he tried to stop her again. So, he moved aside for her to pass. After Hera entered the elevator, he immediately sent Bernard a message.

Hera arrived at Bernard's office and settled comfortably in his chair before deciding to give him a call. "Bernie, I've brought you lunch, but they told me you're outside now. When will you be back?"

Bernard looked at the busy schedule Samson had just handed to him. He had a meeting with the Ten Elders at two and could not leave.

"I won't be returning to the company in the afternoon. Sorry for making you come all this way for nothing. I'll go and meet you later at night."

Hearing that Bernard wasn't planning on returning, Hera reached out to turn on his computer...

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"Where are you? Do you want me to bring the food over there instead?" Hera asked deliberately.

It was rare for Hera to act so clingy, so Bernard was actually feeling very happy. But at the same time, he also felt guilty for lying to her.

"I'm at Dusk City discussing a possible business collaboration. It's a bit far, so there's no need for you to bother. I'll go meet you once I'm done."

Hera's hands paused after hearing that Bernard was at Dusk City as Astral Nova was located beside it.

"What time's your appointment?" She probed.

Bernard replied, "Two in the afternoon."

Hera said regretfully, "Oh, then I don't think I'll be able to make it in time. Just go and do what you need to do."

"Good girl. I'll try to finish up as soon as possible and head to the Everett residence to meet you."

"Alright," Hera said before ending the call. Then, she opened her WhatsApp and changed to her other account, Shadow. After that, she sent the Grandmaster of Astral Nova a message before turning Bernard's computer on.

She remembered that during the first time she had hacked into the Grandmaster's computer, his IP address indicated that he was at Shuttle Ventures.

Furthermore, Bernard had requested backup during the attack at Greecia Lakeside. However, the backup came from a helicopter that held the Astral Nova symbol.

Was it really all just a coincidence? She remembered how the Grandmaster of Astral Nova had asked for her picture.

But despite showing up as someone completely different, even a different gender, the Grandmaster wasn't the slightest bit surprised. It was almost as if he already knew who she was. She took out a USB drive from her bag and connected it to his laptop.

At the same time, Bernard was currently at Astral Nova's skyscraper. He looked at his chat message with Shadow and frowned.

Shadow had just sent him a message: "All the money for those special medications has been credited into your account, right? Prepare the money, and I'll head over to collect it at two in the afternoon."

What was Hera doing? Why was she acting so out of the blue today? Did she realize something?

Back at Shuttle Ventures, Hera used her codes to run through all the documents on Bernard's laptop but failed to find anything related to Astral Nova.

At the same time, she found something interesting. The timestamps for the modification of the computer files had very large gaps in between. There would only be a few timestamps throughout the whole year. Furthermore, all of the applications used for communicating had been deleted thoroughly. It was obvious that the computer before her was barely used to complete work. Was it just for decoration?

Then, she proceeded to hack into the company's internal network and began searching through the cameras by the building's entrance. She used times 16 playback speed to watch through today's recording, but there weren't any signs of Bernard entering the company today.

It was a one-time thing. She continued to look through old footage and realized there weren't any signs of

Bernard. So, where exactly did Bernard work if he came to Norburgh every weekday?

Bernard had not been doing well in the Killian family, yet he did not come to work. Hera felt like things weren't adding up and that Bernard wasn't who he claimed to be.

At the same time, she had also hid her real identity from him, so she believed they were both equally at fault. But now, not only was Bernard not who he claimed to be, but he was also much better at pretending than she was!

At that moment, her phone lit up as she received a notification. She opened her chat.

It was a message from the Grandmaster of Astral Nova. The message wrote, "Sure. You can head straight to the skyscraper."

What? He didn't reject her?

Hera immediately quit his company's network and removed her traces. She pulled out the USB drive and called a cab to head toward Astral Nova.

In the conference room within the skyscraper, Bernard was the only person present around the round meeting table, whereas a 3D hologram filled in the seats for the Ten Elders.

Although the 3D holograms were covered in black, they had an emerald ring on their index finger. Each ring had a different color, symbolizing the different elders.

Today's meeting was an online meeting with Astral Nova's upper management. An AI processed everyone's voices and automatically converted them to the language set by the receiving end.

The meeting had just started when Bernard's phone lit up, indicating a call from Hera.

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But Hera quickly ended the call and sent a message instead.

Hera wrote, "When will you be done with your meeting? I happened to be dropping by Astral Nova to handle some business. So why don't we head back together once we're done?"

Hera was rarely so clingy toward him. Bernard glanced at the time and was sure they would be able to end the meeting before three in the afternoon.

So, he replied, "Alright. I'll try to finish up by three and go to meet you."

In the lobby of Astral Nova's skyscraper, Hera walked in brazenly without even wearing a mask. Samson immediately invited her to sit and poured her a cup of coffee. He had always been curious about her true identity, especially after seeing how Bernard had dismissed all protocols at the auction for her.

Now that he was standing before her, he could not help but feel a strong sense of respect toward her, despite seeing on the news that Camille had been pretending to be the miracle doctor while Hera was the true miracle doctor.

"I never thought that you'd be the real Dr. Shadow, Ms. Youngworth," Samson said as he handed her a cup of coffee.

"Do you know me?" Hera asked as she looked at him.

Samson cried out in his heart, "Of course, I know you! You're dating Bernard!"

However, he looked impassive and said, "I've seen you on the news."

Hera nodded in understanding as she quietly looked around the lobby, especially behind that big screen. However, she saw no signs of the Grandmaster of Astral Nova.

So, she asked, "Is the Grandmaster not here?"

Samson answered, "The Grandmaster is currently busy."

"Oh," Hera said as she glanced at Bernard's reply. Three in the afternoon...

"This is the money our grandmaster has instructed for me to give you. Due to thirty billion being too much to carry in cash, the grandmaster has arranged for us to hand you a check."

Samson took out a black envelope that had the Astral Nova's symbol stamped on it in gold. He handed her the envelope with both hands as a sign of respect.

"Thank you." Hera took the envelope but did not open it. Instead, she placed it on the coffee table and slowly drank a sip of her coffee. Then, she asked, "Are you busy?"

"Not at the moment," Samson answered.

Bernard was in a meeting, so his job was to stand guard outside his office to ensure that no one would disturb him. Hence, he wasn't particularly busy.

"Then, could you allow me to sit here as I wait for someone?" Hera asked.

Samson thought about how they were in Bernard's office. She had every right to sit there as long as she wanted to.

Forty minutes later, Bernard's meeting was about to end, yet Hera remained seated on the wooden chair. She was looking through her phone as she drank cup after cup of coffee.

She seemed like she had no intentions of leaving!

Samson was beginning to feel anxious. Bernard's meeting was about to end. If he came out, everything would be let out of the bag!

He immediately sent Bernard a message. Bernard was dumbfounded when he saw the message and quickly replied, "Bring her out on a walk."

Samson received the orders and was planning how to take Hera out on a walk when he heard her ask, "Is the Grandmaster of Astral Nova required to come to work every day?"

Normally, Samson would not answer such a question as it was clear that the person asking was trying to figure out Bernard's whereabouts. But the person before him wasn't just anyone. She was Bernard's girlfriend.

Samson answered, "It depends on the Grandmaster's mood."

Hera was speechless. That was as good as not giving her an answer!

At that moment, her phone rang. She thought it was Bernard calling to say that he had arrived but realized it was Leon calling instead.

"Boss, there's an emergency. The website that Damian's company runs is being attacked by a hacker. That website contains a lot of confidential information that should not be leaked to the public.

"I can't seem to be able to stop the hacker. Could you help me? It's a really big emergency! If those documents get leaked, Damian would suffer a huge loss—"

Hera scoffed and said, "Give me a moment."

Then, she got up, took her check, and left Astral Nova. Then, she went to look for a cybercafe nearby.

Hera sat at the corner of the cybercafe. She plugged in her USB flash drive and had just received access to control Leon's desktop from afar.

Suddenly, her phone rang, indicating that Bernard was calling her. "Sweetie, I've arrived at the entrance of the skyscraper of Astral Nova. Where are you?"

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Hera was flabbergasted by the timing as she had just gotten started. No matter how quick she was, she would need at least ten minutes to do everything.

"I've already left Astral Nova, and I'm currently at a coffee shop by the mall. Why don't you come over and meet me here?" With that said, she ended the call.

Her slender fingers flew quickly across the keyboard. The sound of typing had attracted the admiration of a young man beside her. He couldn't help himself and took out his phone to record her.

Hera took control of Leon's desktop and screened through his codes. Then, she immediately sent those hackers a virus, forcing them to stop with their attacks.

She integrated a simple trap by their firewall to prevent bad people with bad intentions from hacking into their website again.

Once everything was done, she sent Leon a message.

It wrote, "Don't just put all of your focus into dating. You might as well study and improve if you have the time. At this rate, even my little brother will be able to surpass you."

Leon replied, "What? Do you mean your biological younger brother? Since when did he start learning hacking?"

Hera didn't have the time to reply to him after she looked at the time. Fifteen minutes had passed, and Bernard had probably arrived.

She revoked her access to control his desktop and saw the young man filming her through the reflection of her screen. She immediately typed a line of codes on her keyboard.

The young man had been engrossed in watching her code when his screen suddenly blacked out.

The young man was stunned. But after fiddling with it, he realized his phone had just turned off.

When he turned his phone back on and scrolled through his videos, he realized that the video he had just taken had disappeared.

Logically, the video should have been saved automatically. But even if it hadn't been saved, there should be a record of it in his trash.

Suddenly, he realized that Hera was probably the one behind it. But Hera had already exited the page, deleted all her records, unplugged her USB flash drive, and left the cybercafe.

Hera had just left the cybercafe and was about to head to the cafe when she heard a familiar voice call out to her.

"Sweetie."

She paused and turned around, only to see Bernard walking toward her.

Bernard was dressed in a black suit jacket, a white buttoned up, and a gray tie. He was dressed very formally while he held a document bag in his hand. He looked like a professional who had just finished a meeting.

There was also an undisguisable sense of elegance in the air around him, making him seem perpetually out of reach.

Hera suddenly felt a little guilty. "Bernie"

"Why are you here?" Bernard asked as he purposely glanced at the cybercafe behind her.

Hera was just about to come up with an excuse when the young man from just now came up to her.

"Hello, you were so good just now. Can I have your number? I'm also currently learning how to hack!" The young man lifted his phone as he looked at Hera expectantly.

The young man was much taller than Hera, but he looked very young. He didn't seem to be over 15 or 16 years old.

Hera did not expect the young man to chase after her. She glanced at Bernard guiltily.

Based on her understanding of Bernard, he would probably assume that the young man was just spewing nonsense in order to hit her up.

However, Bernard looked amused as he asked, "Oh? How amazing was she?"

"She-"

"It was just some basic Python programming. It's all written in the books." Hera quickly interrupted the young man from speaking.

The young man froze. Although he was a beginner, he could tell that what Hera did was absolutely amazing.

"I already have a boyfriend, so I won't be able to give you my number." With that said, Hera held Bernard's arm and pulled him away, pretending that the young man was just trying to hit her up.

Bernard looked down at Hera. He couldn't help but smile after seeing her acknowledge their relationship so openly. He took her hand, which was linked with his arm, and held it tightly.

"No, I just wanted to-"The young man was about to follow them to explain himself.

However, Bernard looked back and glared at him coldly. His cold glare caused the young man to tremble as he froze in his tracks.

Hera noticed that the young man did not chase after her. She was about to sigh in relief when she heard Bernard ask her a question.

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"Have you been in the cyber cafe all this time?"

"That's right. I had just finished running an errand and wasn't sure when you'd be done. I noticed there was a cybercafe here, so I came over to study."

Hera had lowered her eyes when she spoke. But she suddenly remembered Bernard mentioning to her that she had a habit of not daring to look people in the eye when she lied.

So, she forced her head back up and looked at him. "We've been going out for the past few days, and I didn't have the time to study. So, it's about time I catch up with my studies."

Bernard raised an eyebrow as he looked at her. "Didn't you tell me that you were in a cafe just now?"

Hera answered, "O-Oh, the entrance of this cybercafe is a bit hidden. I was afraid you wouldn't be able to find me, so I decided to name a more eye-catching shop, like that cafe over there."

"Oh," Benjamin nodded. Then, he asked meaningfully, "So, are you eager to learn how to hack quickly?" Hera was at a loss for words. She felt like there was something wrong with the atmosphere between them. She was the one who had come here to test Bernard. So why did the tables suddenly turn on her instead? "I just wanted to learn a little faster and better than you. That way, I would be able to sleep through in the morning," she said solemnly.

That wasn't an excuse! She really did not want to wake up early in the morning. Bernard was dumbfounded. It seemed he had to keep his identity hidden well and made sure Hera would never find out.

"What project did you come all the way here to discuss? Was the meeting successful?" Hera took the opportunity to change the subject while he was silent.

"It was successful, but it's a company's secret, so I can't tell you about it," Bernard said.

Hera also didn't want to know about his company's secret, so she rolled her eyes and said, "I'm hungry. Let's go and eat something. You're much more familiar with the area, so is there anywhere you'd recommend?"

Without missing a beat, Bernard said, "I don't come here that often, but my business partner did recommend a restaurant nearby. We can always head over there to give it a try."

Hera replied, "A-Alright."

The two of them headed to the restaurant hand in hand. Due to the time, there weren't many customers in the restaurant, so Bernard decided to book a private room.

The private room had floor-to-ceiling windows, providing a perfect view of Astral Nova, which happened to be across the road. The vintage architecture, coupled with the red walls and green tiles, made the whole building look like it had been stuck in time.

Hera stood by the window as she suddenly turned around and asked, "What kind of people do you think would work for Astral Nova?"

Bernard was busy ordering and answered, "I don't know. Come over here and take a look at what you would like to eat."

Hera was speechless as she took note of calm demeanor, not giving anything away. If it weren't for the fact that she had seen the surveillance footage of Shuttle Ventures, she would have begun to wonder if she was just overthinking things.

However, she felt much more eager to expose him after seeing him do such a good job of not slipping up. She was eager to test him, but she could not rush into it.

The problem at hand was like a difficult math question, a tough medical case, or even an impenetrable firewall. She had to solve it step by step.

"You already know what I like." Hera returned to her seat and propped her chin up with her hands. Her eyes sparkled as she looked at him, causing Bernard to gulp subconsciously while his gaze darkened.

"I won't be able to hold myself back if you continue to look at me like that." He got up and walked around the table to kiss her.

At that moment, a waiter just so happened to have entered to bring their drinks in. He was immediately greeted by the scene of them kissing, so he quickly left and only returned after some time had passed.

While the waiter was pouting them their drinks, Bernard took the opportunity to look at his phone and read through his messages.

He had sent a message into one of his group chats about ten minutes ago. It wrote, "Have there been any reports or signs of Raven being online today?"

Scorpio and Virgo both replied, "Nope."

Taurus added, "I didn't see her either."

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At night, James received the news that Hera would return home from dinner and immediately organized a small family gathering. Ever since he had received an

investment from XS Corporation, the Everett Group had resumed operations and gone back on track, with the company even starting to generate profits.

He was filled with confidence once again as he stood higher than he ever did in the corporate world. He was also regaining his power and position as the head of the Everett family. So, he was just filled with confidence and energy.

He knew that Hera was to be thanked for all of his success and achievements. His daughter was a genius, a miracle doctor, and his lucky charm. It was due to his poor judgment that caused him to mistreat Hera and resulted in his bankruptcy.

But luckily, his daughter wasn't overly cruel and had given him a chance to make things up to her. Suddenly, he heard the sound of a car pulling into their driveway. As the head of the family, James walked up ahead to welcome them and to show them his respect toward them.

He had just walked out the door and realized that it had started to rain. He was about to get an umbrella when Judy headed out to greet their guests with two umbrellas in hand.

Then, Lilith also rushed out with a blanket in hand. Gideon held out an umbrella as he followed behind Lilith. He accidentally bumped into James on his way out.

James stumbled but managed to steady himself. Then, he heard Mildred's voice sound out from behind them.

"Why are you standing here blocking the way? Go and bring two cups of warm water over here. It's easy for them to get sick during such weather. We can't have Hera and Bernard catching a cold."

James was speechless. So much for family status. Hera was sitting in the passenger seat and had just unbuckled her belt when Judy opened her car door. Judy used her umbrella to shelter her from the rain.

The second Hera got down from the car, Lilith immediately wrapped a blanket around Hera. Hera was flabbergasted.

"Don't get caught in the rain. It's easy to catch a cold if you do. You should head inside quickly," Lilith said as she ushered Hera in.

"Mom, you're being dramatic," Hera said as she tried to pull the blanket off.

Lilith stopped her and said in a low voice, "You're on your period. You should be more careful."

Hera froze momentarily. She had indeed started her period in the afternoon, but she never expected Lilith to be so attentive. Her heart was filled with warmth as she allowed Lilith to usher her into the house.

Bernard followed behind them, but he held his own umbrella as he watched the Everetts fawn over Hera. Hera had just sat down when James carried two cups of warm water over.

Seeing this, Mildred said unhappily, "Did you really just bring plain water over here because I asked you to pour them some hot water? Don't you know how to brew some tea, considering how cold the weather is?"

James had not done such chores for more than ten years. Back when he was the head of the family, Lilith would be the one to pour their guests water and serve them.

He felt quite aggrieved since the person he was serving was his daughter. But Bernard was sitting there watching him, so he could only swallow back his grievances and went to brew them some tea.

It seemed his position within the family had gone down a notch once again.

"Hey, Mr. Everett. That's not how you're supposed to do it. You need to boil some hot water-Oh, just let me do it," Judy said as she pushed James away.

James was at a loss for words. Well, his position had gone down again.

Hearing the ruckus coming from downstairs, he immediately came down. When he saw Bernard, he immediately understood why Hera had given him those books in the afternoon. She wanted him to study in secret and slowly surpass Bernard.

He had been studying on his own for quite some time now and did make some progress. It seemed it was time for his family to see how talented he was.

He quickly ran up to get his laptop before squeezing in between Bernard and Hera. He turned to Bernard and asked, "How much Python do you know?"

Bernard was slightly annoyed that Gino had decided to squeeze in between him and Hera. But considering that Gino would be his brother-in-law in the future, he answered, "I've read half of it."

Hearing this, Gino was secretly delighted. Bernard was only halfway done, yet he had already finished it! It seemed like all his efforts spent on studying Python every chance he got had not gone to waste. He turned to Hera and asked, "Hera, what about you?"

Hera was busy drinking the chamomile tea Judy had brewed for her and did not pay any attention to the page Gino had flipped to. She replied perfunctorily, "About the same as him."

"The two of you are too slow! I've already finished the book!" Gino said in disdain as he turned his laptop on. "I've also learned how to apply it and have made a few games."

Then, he clicked on an icon on his desktop. His screen immediately displayed a large blue sky background, a grassy field, and a gray road. The bright colors formed a simple highway driving game.

Although the game wasn't attractive in terms of display, at least all the basic codes for the game were accurate.

"What do you think? Am I awesome, or what? I'm basically a genius!" Gino turned to look proudly at Hera and Bernard. It was obvious he was waiting for them to praise him.

"Wow! Gino, did you write this yourself? You're amazing!" Lilith came over and encouraged him after taking a look at his screen.

"It's not that bad for a kid your age," Gideon said as he nodded in approval.

"As expected, all of the children in the Everett family are geniuses!" Mildred nodded in satisfaction.

James was the only one who remained silent. Suddenly, he thought back about his time in school with Lilith. He felt slightly guilty as he remembered all the times Lilith would explain a certain lesson to him. "Pretty impressive," Hera said with approval. He did show potential compared to his peers.

Bernard was slightly speechless. Was that it?

"However, you could tweak this part a little," Hera said as she took the laptop and brought up his codes. She was just about to give him some pointers when she felt a hot gaze on her.

She didn't even need to look up to know who it was. An idea flashed across her mind as she deliberately wrote an error into the string of code. Then, she turned to Bernard and asked, "Would it be better if you tweak it like this? What do you think?"

"That's not right." Bernard moved Gino aside and sat beside Hera before pulling the laptop toward him.

Such a basic level of programming was enough to impress Hera. Wouldn't Hera be mesmerized by him if he showed her his capabilities?

"You should do this," Bernard said as he typed a row of codes onto the keyboard and changed Hera's wrongly written code. He also optimized the overly complicated code and simplified it.

Gino was flabbergasted. Hera watched as he typed confidently and narrowed her eyes. She said, "These aren't Python functions. They're from Java and Perl, right?"

Moreover, he had executed those techniques flawlessly. It did not seem like something a beginner would be able to pull off.

Bernard paused momentarily. He realized he had gotten carried away and had forgotten that he was supposed to be a programming beginner. Based on his progress, he was not supposed to know all these.

He cleared his throat and explained, "That's right. I would often browse around some hacker forums while I slack off during work. I learned this from a few tutorials I had watched."

Then, he turned to Hera and asked, "How did you recognize them?"

Hera was at a loss for words. Oh no! She had spoken too quickly just now. She should have allowed him to

show off some more and understand his programming habits.

Famous hackers tend to have their own style of programming. Experience hackers would be able to recognize people through these different styles. By speaking up, not only did she stop Bernard from showing off his skill and style, but she had also accidentally exposed herself.

"Coincidentally, I also went through some website forums and watched a few tutorials," Hera explained, Gino was flabbergasted. Didn't they agree to read the books and learn by themselves? Why were they both doing other things instead?

Chapter 440

"Hera, will you major in programming at your university?" Gideon asked.

It had been half a year since Hera received the letters of recommendation for two of the greatest universities in Jedburgh. However, she never mentioned which university she was going to attend or what she was going to major in.

Since she was learning programming at that moment, he instinctively thought that was what she was choosing. Bernard was curious as well as he looked at Hera.

"I haven't made up my mind yet," she said.

Previously, she kept focusing on getting revenge for Daphne and clearing Lucius' name. So, she never thought about what she wanted to major in. Instead, she just wanted an opportunity to go to Jedburgh. However, too much had happened. She had a home again and a person she loved. That was when she realized that life wasn't just about revenge. She had to actually live her life and think about her future.

Bernard held her hand. "No matter what you choose to major in, I'll support you. It's fine if you don't want to study at all. I can provide for you."

When she heard that, she smiled and held his hand tight. Hera figured she had to start thinking about their future together.

"Why should you even study when you're already Dr. Shadow? Instead of wasting four years in school, you might as well use the time to expand your medical clinic," said Mildred.

Then, she started breaking it down for Hera. "With your capabilities and Bernard's investment, you can totally make it great right away.

"You can even surpass the Chimes and be at the top of the local medical industry! Then, the Everetts can finally hope to be part of the four influential families!

"So, do your best, Hera! I've already told all of my wealthy friends how great you are, so don't disappoint me!"

Hera was speechless, thinking that Mildred was overthinking it.

"Grandma, you shouldn't boast like that!" Gino said mockingly.

"That's right, Mom. How could you say something so exaggerated? The Chimes have been in the medical field for centuries. You're putting Hera in a spot by saying that," said Lilith.

She knew Hera was impressive. However, she didn't want Hera to have such a great burden because of it. "That's not it!" Gino disagreed with what Lilith said, and he said confidently, "Hera won the Elasker Medical Award before, and she might even get a Nobbell prize next year! So, what's so great about being the best in the country? She should be the best in the world!"

Lilith and Bernard were both speechless when they heard that. Hera didn't know what to say, and she smiled awkwardly. She thought Gino was being too ambitious.

"Hey, you're right. My imagination is limited by our poverty!"

Mildred patted herself on her thigh and said, "Hera, do you still have that special medication? Try getting a Nobel prize with it now! Then, you should produce as many of

them as possible and make it the Everetts exclusive! Don't ever let the Chimes take advantage of it."

"If I remember correctly, the special medication is made from Eclipse Stones. Since they are rare, there's

no way to mass produce the pills," Gideon reminded.

"They might be rare, but that doesn't mean we can't find any! We can get someone to search for them!" said Mildred.

"That's right!" James agreed with a nod. He was proud enough to be Dr. Shadow's biological father. If Hera really could be the best in the world, he would be the father of the world's greatest person! That would be the greatest dream he could have.

With that thought in mind, he immediately suggested, "Astral Nova found the Eclipse Stones last time, so we can ask them where they found it. Then, we can pay for something to get more of them! Let's create our own opportunities!"

After he said that, Gideon suddenly thought it was feasible and nodded. "That might actually work." "Then, what are we waiting for? Send someone to ask about it now!" Mildred urged.

Meanwhile, Bernard was still speechless, thinking that they were underestimating the people at Astral Nova. After all, it wouldn't be that easy to get information out of them. If the Eclipse Stones were that easy to find, the Everetts wouldn't even get the chance to find any.

Hera was speechless as well, thinking how her family was so happy with their wild imagination.