#### Genius 221

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#### Chapter 221

After leaving his intimidating words behind, the people from the Union left in a huff. Sasha wanted to stop them, but Matthew held her back again, saying, "Just let them go."

"Matthew, this is the Pharmaceutical Union we're talking about!" she cried out with a worried look. "Many pharmaceutical companies in Eastshire are their members and it would be very troublesome if they publicly oppose us! Even if we're not joining the Union, we could at least speak respectfully with them instead of offending them."

Shaking his head, he told her, "It's useless. Obviously, the Union is here to grab a share of our profits. If you have pleaded with them, they would think that we're weak and pushovers and would be even more audacious!"

"T-Then what could we do?" she asked anxiously.

With a small chuckle, he assured her, "Don't worry, I'll think of a way. Just finish the job you have to do for now."

As she fixed her gaze on him, she felt a sense of assurance inside. Although she didn't know what plans he would come up with, her trust for him was absolute.

way, how's the construction of the new factory?" he asked. The original factory which they had was no longer

piece of land and planned to build a new factory there to expand their

going smoothly and the construction has started. In less than

his head, Matthew contemplated transferring Tiger to the new factory to watch over the progress of the construction. After all, this was a huge project and it was inevitable that some thugs might create accidents on purpose to get

Helen and James knew about this, they would assume that he

they went straight to look

owners of the pharmaceutical companies kept their heads

been in the limelight lately and they all knew about their three billion deal, wondering how they could get a share

a thought. Now that the people from the Union were here, they might be able to get some

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Surprised, Samuel asked, "What new factory are you speaking about?"

"It's the new factory the Cunningham Pharmaceuticals is building," the other answered. "Mr. Hughes, you're a prominent man from the Hughes Family in the provincial capital. You could appear personally to a few other important figures in Eastshire, so that they could stop the works at the new construction site.

Not only would this drag their progress and cost them a lot of money, they also wouldn't be able to produce the orders which they signed, and have to pay liquidated damages in return. Before long, that would definitely put that Cunningham woman in her place!"

Samuel's eyes twinkled. "That's not a bad idea. Let's give it a shot. Alright, that's what we'll do. The few of you should start arranging this for me by finding out more information. Don't worry about anything and just go all out. I'll back you up no matter what happens!"

The other pharmaceutical owners were delighted when they heard this. What could hold them back now that they have the backing from the Hughes Family?

In the afternoon, while Sasha was having lunch with Matthew, her secretary dashed in with a worried look on her face. "President Cunningham, this is bad. There's trouble at the construction site!"

Matthew frowned. Just after Samuel Hughes had left, trouble cooked up at the construction site. The first thought that popped into Matthew's mind was that the culprit was the Hughes. With a tensed expression, Sasha asked, "What happened?"

people came and claimed that our new factory is affecting the

hot weather, so everyone got easily irritated and started a fist fight after exchanging a few words. One person from the other party is wounded and

situation and didn't know that so many troublesome situations would occur at the construction site of a factory. "S-So what is the situation now?" she asked

our construction machines! They also dragged the manager who is in charge of the site to the hospital, claiming that

she asked, "It's just one person who's injured, isn't it? H-How did it turn into

this group of people are the local thugs in that area, and they're most probably just feigning some injuries deliberately to make a fraudulent claim. How about this, I'll take

in approval and her secretary left. Looking at her, Matthew asked in a soft voice,

her head, she said, "Don't go there. It's a mess right now and the situation might become worse if you went. Furthermore, those are some rogues. What happens if they

"Hurt me? I don't think it's that

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While she was worried sick, she received a call from Helen. "Sasha, how are things going with the jade bracelet? What did the Grahams say? Matthew had admitted to it, so now it has nothing to do with us anymore, right?"

Sasha was almost driven to tears with frustration. How could her parents be so selfish? All they were concerned about was if they would be implicated without even asking about Matthew? "I don't know!" she cried through gritted teeth.

Fretful, Helen stressed, "How could you not know? Didn't you ask Matthew? Otherwise, you could ask Old Mrs. Graham about it. Why are you not concerned at all, my child?"

"Mom, could you please concern yourself with something more important?" she hollered in frustration. "It's hard to tell if Cunningham Pharmaceuticals can even survive for now, so could you please stop adding on to my troubles?"

"What happened?" Helen asked in a fret. "D-Does the Grahams want to go against us because Matthew couldn't solve the situation? Goodness, how did it end up like this? W-What should we do? Cunningham Pharmaceuticals is our family's hard work. H-How are we supposed to live from now on if it's gone?"

"That's enough! Stop spouting nonsense!" Sasha was hopping mad. "Did I mention that it had anything to do with Matthew? This is our own family's problem!"

could be the problem

had worked in the company for a while, after all, so she knew the importance of the new factory

no idea! That's it. I'm busy

up the call, Helen whimpered in a choked up voice, "You heard what happened

to this point and if anything happens at the new factory, w-would we be done away with, having to pay for liquidated

the old factory, there were also people trying

give them some small projects and they would stop! More importantly, we have to get someone who knows how to handle such situations to

in construction and had seen many of such situations before when he went around

tell him to rush home after doing the groceries

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"Old Mrs. Graham wasn't home today, so I haven't gone there yet," Matthew said, simply fabricating an excuse.

Even though they seemed unhappy about it, there was nothing else they could say. The moment they stepped into the building, Helen straight away started, "Sasha, you'll really have to thank your brother-in-law this time!"

Sasha knitted her brows, puzzled. "Thank him for what?"

"He has settled the situation at the site of the new factory for you," she replied with a grin. "The one leading the group there is called Jacob Lawrence, an old friend of Liam's and they're on good terms.

With just one word from Liam, the situation was settled and he's attending to him now! He said that these all would come to a rest if we buy him dinner tomorrow night!"

Matthew was surprised that Liam could settle the situation. According to his sources, it was indeed the Hughes who was the one behind it, causing all the trouble. So how did Liam settle it?

"Really?" Sasha exclaimed, startled.

small issue, it was an easy catch with my husband at the scene! Do you

at how blatant Demi was at mocking Matthew. "Demi,

about the family and already sent Tiger to find out about the situation. It's just that he didn't manage to handle

doors? Why are you sending Tiger? Don't you know who the other party is? They're a group of local thugs

kind of situation with looks alone. Could he be compared with Liam? Did

their faces. The way they looked at it, Tiger was just Julian's friend without any capabilities and was only relying on the herbary to

with a frown. "If Tiger had heard

did. Do you think that I'm afraid of him when you say he won't show me any mercy? Hmph,

couldn't be bothered with her; Demi was just saying things recklessly and had no idea what she was doing at

a smile on her face. "Sasha, thankfully Liam

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There was a momentary silence as Sasha considered the situation before saying in a soft voice, "Don't be so anxious, Demi.

Tiger is also over there and he must be trying to sort out the situation now. Why don't we take care of the company's situation first before we speak about anything else, alright?"

Demi burst out in anger. "It's that Tiger again! Why are you so slow-witted, Sasha? Why are you allowing him to stay there when my husband is almost done dealing with the situation? Tell Tiger to leave quickly so he doesn't ruin all the plans!"

"Tiger has many friends, so he could be of help, "Matthew said gently.

"What else could he help out with?" she snapped furiously. "Why is Tiger needed now that my husband is there personally? You don't trust him, do you? Forget it if you don't. How about I tell him to come back and just leave the matter alone?"

James and Helen were immediately struck with distress and they urged fretfully, "Sasha, the situation is almost resolved by Liam, and it's inappropriate for you to send another person over there now. The other party might think that we are incapable and need someone else's help.

demand for a bigger amount of settlement. Moreover, what's the meaning of

fact, Tiger is more suitable to handle this

she sneered, "That's interesting what you just said, Sasha. So you think that my husband is incapable and can't handle this situation,

get him to come back instantly instead of wasting all his efforts there!" Whisking out her cellphone, she wanted to make a call when her startled parents hurriedly stopped

over if you don't trust him. Why doubt him now after you've asked him to

was stunned speechless. I've never asked him to handle it! Aren't you the ones who sent him over? Furthermore, what's the problem if I just wanted another person

the end, she couldn't dissuade them and neither did she dare ask for Tiger's help, but that didn't bother her too much. It didn't matter to her who she

the new site, that was something she would definitely not agree with. However, she was thinking about giving him a huge compensation later, just

just can't stand to see my husband do well! Liam has finally settled the issue and yet, he

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James promptly started preparing for the dinner arrangements for the next evening after he returned home. He made a reservation for a VIP room at a very high-end hotel in the city, and bought all sorts of cigarettes and alcohol, bustling around the whole day.

The next evening, Matthew went to pick up Sasha right after work. Tonight was the night that they would be buying dinner for Jacob and his gang.

James didn't want Matthew to show up initially, but Sasha was worried that something unexpected might happen, so she insisted Matthew to come along. When they reached the hotel, they could hear a bout of commotion coming from the inside even before they entered the VIP room.

"Mr. Cunningham, with Liam around, that makes all of us good friends here. I'm not bluffing when I tell you that my words definitely carry some weight in my turf!

Only the ones whom I approved are allowed to go ahead with their works. Without my permission, that construction site has to stay still as it is!"

Pushing the door in, Matthew and Sasha stepped straight into a smoke-filled room. Around seven or eight men with tobacco breath sat around a huge round table. They all had a buzzcut and wore thick, gold chains around their necks, while showing off their tattoos on their shirtless bodies.

On their arrogant faces, the only thing missing was the word 'nasty' inscribed on their foreheads. Sitting amongst them was Liam, who was behaving in the same manner, smoking and hooking shoulders with them as if they were well-acquainted with each other.

one speaking with them was Jacob, who appeared to be the leader of the gang, seated in the main seat with

room was stunned and couldn't hide the surprise in their eyes when Matthew and Sasha walked in. Liam instantly sprang

of Cunningham Pharmaceuticals, who was also once the top beauty of

from Liam so he couldn't grab her while her face distorted into

into an uproar and cried, "Wow, she's very pretty indeed! Liam

and beautiful, she's also the president of a company. Liam, check

out to have some fun after his marriage. With such a gorgeous sister-in-law, you probably even wouldn't want to get

foul language from their mouths, it unsettled Sasha so much that she frowned deeply and was so close to walking out of the room. Meanwhile, Matthew's face had turned stone cold as he had picked up a wine bottle from the

bigger plans! So, he placed the bottle down slowly with an icy look in his eyes. There was

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The men all banged their hands against the table and stood up, acting as though they wanted to leave while Liam hurriedly said, "Everyone, don't be angry! Come on now and take a seat for my sake.

Sasha, you're too much. How could you be so ignorant? You're the host and Jacob is the esteemed guest tonight, so you'll have to sit next to him! Come over here and sit next to Jacob."

Jacob patted on the chair next to him triumphantly, showing off his yellow teeth while staring at Sasha with an inexplicable wretched look on his face.

The few men next to him were also staring at her expectantly in a manner as though they couldn't wait to pull her right next to themselves. Utterly disgusted, she found it impossible to seat herself next to these people.

Pulling her behind himself, Matthew cast Liam a look from the corner of his eyes. "Liam, aren't these your friends? In that case, shouldn't you be the one seated there to attend to them?

After all, Sasha is a girl and she can't drink. She'll be a hindrance to your conversations if she's seated there."

Liam slammed the table abruptly in anger at him. "Matthew, do you have a place to speak? We're here to settle an issue with the Cunningham Family and Sasha is the president of the company.

reasonable if she attends to the guests personally? So what do you mean by

dagger and stabbed it into

and hollered, "Damn it, you should go and ask around if

you are, speaking so insolently to Jacob?! Darn, do you really

cheered him on and cast triumphant looks at

the situation, James anxiously chirped in, "Jacob, don't get angry. He's young and ignorant. I'll get him to apologize to you! Why are you still standing

apologize to Jacob! Liam, say something to Jacob as well. Why bother being angry with this since

proud to have friends such as these. "Dad, I'm

tonight, but you can't blame him for getting mad if Matthew made him look bad as soon

problem with your head, offending people the moment you open your mouth? Why are

times to apologize to Jacob. If he's in a good mood, he'll let you live! Otherwise, I'll take after your family name if you could walk out of here

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Seeing how Sasha was hesitating for so long without showing any willingness to go over to him, Jacob furrowed his brows and said, "Young lady, looks like you're not giving me any face.

That's fine! If that's the case, that just means we're not friends. Liam, I've done my best for you, but your family is looking down on us.

So let it be this way then, that no matter what happens at the construction site afterward, it has nothing to do with us!"

With a slam on the table, all the other men stood up and the one with the dagger earlier pulled it out of the table and glared menacingly at Matthew. "Damn it, kneel down now and apologize to Jacob! Otherwise, I'll make sure you're all dead!"

James and Helen were shaking in fear as Liam yelled angrily, "Look what you've done, Matthew! Damn it, you should just shut your mouth if you're dumb! Sasha, it's not that I don't want to help you out with the company, but with an attitude like yours, not even a deity can help you out! You're on your own now, Matthew!" All the other men glared threateningly at Matthew, appearing as if they were ready to pounce on him anytime and take his life. With an ashen face, Demi chided in, "Matthew, just shut your mouth if you can't say anything! Sasha, sit over there and save Jacob some dignity!"

Immediately, Jacob broke into a smile. "That's the way! Young lady, let me tell you that I treat people well. If everything goes fine today, not only that construction site, no matter what problems you'll have in the future, I'll make sure it goes smoothly for you!"

stared expectantly at Sasha. However, Matthew pulled Sasha behind himself and stared coldly at Jacob. "Jacob, I'll give you a chance now! If you kneel down and kowtow in apology, then I'll let you

Jacob's face turned sullen as he pointed at Matthew and yelled,

knife and appeared in front of Matthew, swinging

could already tell that he was merely putting up a show. All the man knew was just to shoot his mouth off without any true ability, but it was enough to frighten the likes of James and the others. In the face of someone capable, they were all

so frightened that she stammered anxiously, "Matthew, d-don't play around with them. A-At the most, we'll abandon this construction site! I don't care about the money as long as you're

construction site? Can these few pieces of trash affect Cunningham

shouted at him, "B\*stard, I'll kill you!" Aiming the blade at his arm, he lunged forward. Being the coward that he was, he didn't dare to stab him at his vitals

arm, Matthew made his move first and swiftly clasped him by his wrists, twisting it and breaking it directly. The crisp sound of broken bones rang in everyone's ears

the situation now. The one with the dagger was defeated by the one without

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At Liam's words, James and Helen looked accusingly at Matthew. "Matthew, why are you so reckless? Can't you talk things out properly? Why do you have to beat them up?

Don't you know that this would implicate the construction of our new factory? What are we supposed to do now after you've offended them?" James chided.

"Not a problem. I'll just make a call!" he said calmly.

Glaring hard at him, James shouted, "You're going to ask for backup? Can your friends be stronger than Jacob?

Don't you know that Jacob and his gang could kill a person without even batting an eyelid? They're the true big shots, while the shrimps you're calling are just an embarrassment!"

Matthew couldn't help but retort, "Dad, do you think that a true big shot who kills without batting an eyelid would resort to such petty methods to make a living?

These are merely a bunch of small-time thugs, making a living by taunting others! You don't even have to take them seriously!"

At his words, Liam was instantly displeased. "Oh my, Master Larson, look how good you are at bluffing! Are you even aware of Jacob's status?

than a thousand people like it's child's play. Small-time thugs? Taunting others? Later when

done, Matthew! This was supposed to be solved over dinner but you messed it up so much. How are

about the construction site? That's the hope for the Cunninghams, but it's all shattered now in

end. I've already reminded you not to bring him to this dinner, but you just had to. Look what has come about now. Later on,

you not to bring Matthew

shouldn't I bring him along, Mom?" Sasha asked through gritted teeth. "This concerns our family and

of people they are? They are just a bunch of shameless and

could you not understand such a simple rule? It's normal to take

entertain other customers in the future. You'll have to learn to adapt to

him, "Dad, Sasha is your daughter! Those people obviously had ulterior motives

he couldn't find the words. Even a fool could tell that Jacob and his gang were

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Fretful, Sasha asked, "How could you say this, Dad? All this started because of me. Should I let them take me away instead?"

Bursting into anger, James shouted, "What do you mean by that? I only said that to save you! Did I say anything wrong? Matthew started this, so he should answer for it himself by bearing the full responsibility!"

By now, Sasha was also in a fit of rage and shouted, "Since you're putting it that way, then what about the matter with the jade bracelet?

You were the ones who sold it off, but did you bear the responsibility? So, let Matthew be accountable for this matter while you guys can take the burden for the jade bracelet!"

Everyone was suddenly speechless when they were reminded that the issue with the jade bracelet had yet to be resolved, which they had pinned their hopes on Matthew all this while.

"Why don't I go out there and look into the situation?" Liam asked tentatively. "I think they most probably just want some money. So why don't we give them some to avoid trouble?"

Sighing sadly, James said, "Whatever, this is all we can do now. It's so difficult to earn a living nowadays, and you made us lose so much money within such a short period of time. You're quite capable, aren't you?"

Jacob with a pleasing smile

after he finished speaking and yelled, "Scram off! We were all beaten up and you

life? Liam, if you still treat me as a friend, then you should leave quickly since

Liam started, "Jacob, we're all

whisked out a knife and pointed it at him, shouting, "Who's your friend? I'll kill

side, he spun around again and ran out of the hotel. If he

also knew that James and Helen would definitely hate him later for leaving just like this. So a little

to settle this issue, so I'll need to get help from others. Don't ever get out of there. I'm getting someone to come and

is bad! They don't

Matthew assured. "I've already called my friend and nothing will happen to

time, who could be of help to us? Do you know who we're facing now? That's Jacob with at least a few dozen lives under his belt.