#### Genius 281

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#### Chapter 281

Resignation was written all over Matthew's face because he knew no one could reason with a person who refused to listen.

Sasha was irritated by what her mother said. "Mom, how could you say something like that? Matthew just offered his opinion out of kindness. How did he offend you by doing that?"

Helen rolled her eyes and she didn't bother to answer. Demi sniggered right away and commented sarcastically, "Does he have the right to offer his opinion when Dad and Mom are here?

Why doesn't he look at his own reflection in the mirror first to see whether he has the right to speak up? Does he know what it means by being a live-in son-in-law?

In ancient times, his status will be similar to a girl who stays with her husband's family, and will not be allowed to have meals at the dining table with the rest of the family. Besides, he isn't allowed to talk when her parents-in-law are talking. That's the rule. Doesn't he understand that?"

Sasha, who was exasperated by Demi's comment, retorted, "Demi, what nonsense are you talking about? We are in modern times now! We are a married couple and we enjoy equal statuses in our relationship.

Mom, since you are the senior in our family, we are obligated to respect you, but you should remind yourself to behave like one too. Would you please quit thinking that everyone else is inferior to you? Marrying me doesn't make Matthew any different from everyone else, not to mention he isn't less respectable than anyone!"

Helen was angered by what Sasha said. "What do you mean? Oh, are you saying I have to be respectful toward him in the future? Do I need to get down on my knees and offer him kowtows everytime I meet him from now on?"

when did I say such a thing? What I

something like that. Why should Mom respect him? He's just a useless kept man who freeloads on our any respect? Even a random beggar from the streets is more capable than he is, because at offended by her comment that her whole body was trembling. "H-How could you living? Can't you guys see how he has been working and earning money for

the argument was getting bitter, James quickly spoke to mediate the dispute, "That's enough

to your elder sister like that? Sasha, you should watch your words

of breaking into tears. Her parents had been telling her since she was little to treat Demi in a nicer way shop lots after roaming around the city. You may transfer the 10 million

heard her mother. "Mom, I don't

she demanded, "Why is it

question at Matthew directly, "Did you say something to trick Sasha into changing her mind? Matthew, what exactly did we do to offend you so badly that you had to sabotage us

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Sasha spoke anxiously, "Dad, the crisis didn't happen because we've offended them! Do you know what the Pharmaceuticals Union demands? They want half of our business!"

James was confused when he heard her. "W-What do you mean by that?"

After Sasha gave him an account of the encounter with the Pharmaceutical Union earlier, James went dumbfounded at once, who never expected that the Pharmaceutical Union would actually make such a greedy request.

After a moment of silence, Demi voiced her opinion all of a sudden, "I think the Pharmaceutical Union can't possibly be so angry with us just because we refused to join them!

I think this crisis must have something to do with Mr. Hughes whom Matthew offended! Matthew, how did you upset such a big shot in the Pharmaceutical Union? He is now angry with you and because of that, he wants to finish our company off! Matthew, how are you going to handle this?"

"Demi, how could you pin the blame on Matthew?" Sasha questioned.

Demi snapped back, "Who else should I blame if not him? If he hadn't offended Samuel Hughes, this crisis wouldn't have happened! Matthew, oh, Matthew, you're really a jinx to our family. Look at the trouble you've caused us because of what you did.

Firstly, the project at the construction site was forced to take a halt, causing the reputation of our company to be tarnished. Luckily, we received a compensation of 300 million for all the losses we suffered, but you decided to give the money to somebody else.

of you. Will you only be satisfied after breaking our family

revealing, "Mr. Hughes

stunned before she queried, "How did he die? Did you

was left speechless. Why do you think that I must be the

Demi, "Demi, what nonsense are you spouting? How is Matthew related to his death? Mr. Hughes was killed by

Why would Young Master Jackson's parents kill Mr. Hughes? He is after

Master Jackson was killed

James and Helen exclaimed at the same

Mr. Hughes or Matthew. The Hughes is looking

at this juncture. Why don't the two of you go back home first and we'll talk about it after I and Helen glanced at each other,

Hughes are way out of our league in terms of wealth and power! Why don't we just offer half of our business to them

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Matthew then gave Sasha some advice to handle the crisis—he reminded her not to panic and calming down the existing customers should be her first priority. After that, Matthew left the company as he planned to seek direction and counsel from others.

As soon as he reached the lobby of the building, he spotted James and Helen from afar. Just as he tried to avoid them, to his dismay, the two were heading his way. "Matthew, stop right there!" Helen roared.

Matthew had no choice but to stop. "Mom, how can I help you?"

Helen nodded at him and yelled, "James has something to say to you!"

James, who looked sullen, first glared at Matthew before asking solemnly, "Matthew, what do you think about the way to solve the crisis at this time?"

Matthew reassured him in a soft voice, "Dad, I'm trying to come up with a solution. Don't worry. I'll handle this well and I won't make the company suffer any loss!"

I can see that you're getting better and better at bragging! Did you say that you will handle the crisis? How are you going to do that? Don't you know who's behind the Pharmaceutical Union? It's the Hughes, one of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire! The family is so powerful and influential in Eastshire that even Billy Newman is not their match. Who can help you this time? That old lady from the Graham

there is a solution to every problem. Please don't

can't do! Matthew, this is what I want to discuss with you. I'm sure that you can't handle this, so I have a solution which can save the company as well as Sasha out of this predicament. Now, it all depends

before he quizzed, "Dad, what

the Hughes. They dare to bully us because we aren't powerful enough when we don't have a strong foundation! If we have a strong backup, will they still have

forehead because he could see that James was trying to imply something

graduate from the University of Cambridge, who is now the Vice President of the company of his family. Also, he is still single and he will be a perfect match for Sasha. If Sasha marries his son, our family will have a strong backup. President White will only need to pull some strings to solve the little crisis that Cunningham Pharmaceuticals is facing." Staring unflinchingly at

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Matthew was left speechless knowing that James still wanted to compel him into getting a divorce with Sasha. On top of that, James even made it sound so noble by telling him that he should let Sasha go if he loved her. In conclusion, all James wanted was to realize his dreams of living a life of the riches.

Judging from their attitude, Matthew reckoned they had long planned for this while they merely made use of the crisis to exert more pressure on him. "Dad, I'm not going to do that! I really love Sasha and I won't divorce her. As for the crisis, I'll handle it well, so please don't worry about that!" Matthew answered.

Demi was annoyed at once by what he said. "You will handle it? How are you going to do that? If you were a capable man, you wouldn't have depended on us for a living for the past three years!

You are only good at bragging! Instead of letting you handle the crisis, I'd rather just shut the company down right now!"

Helen chided, "Matthew, you kept telling us how you love Sasha, but is this your way of showing your love for her? Don't you understand that you should let her live a better life instead of keeping her to yourself?

It seems like you don't love her at all but rather, you just want to fulfill your own possessive desires of her! Would you only be happy to see Sasha be drowned in debts and be announced bankrupt? Would you only be satisfied to see her go through hell?"

Sounding resigned, Matthew emphasized, "Dad, Mom, I really meant what I said and I will really settle this problem!"

"I can't believe you are still bragging at this juncture. Matthew, we don't expect you to become a very successful man, but at least we hope you can be

to settle it! We know you can't handle it, which is why we provided you with

really can handle this! Please just give me some time to do

can see you're living in your own fantasy. Do you really think you're

us would treat you like a big boss in the future. Otherwise, you will have to divorce Sasha

nodded his head vigorously thinking that there was no way Matthew could resolve

love of my life and I won't use her as a

him immediately, "I knew you were a coward! You're good at nothing other than bragging! What

her face. After taking a deep breath to suppress his rage,

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Demi looked delighted at once to hear Matthew's pledge. "Matthew, I've kept what you said in my mind. You'd better honor your promise or I won't let you go easily! Dad, Mom, let's go!" She let out a loud disdainful snort at Matthew before leaving in a buoyant mood.

Watching as the four of them left, Matthew let out a sigh again. He then headed straight to visit Stanley in order to gain some insights from him about the crisis.

As Stanley had been running a business in the pharmaceutical industry for a very long time, he had a better understanding about the Hughes Family than Matthew himself. In fact, Stanley had long been aware of the Hughes' intention to punish Cunningham Pharmaceuticals.

After Matthew arrived at his place and informed him of the purpose of his visit, Stanley stated right away, "Mr. Larson, there are two ways to solve this.

The first solution which is also the most straightforward one, you may ask Master Newman for help. Although the Hughes are very powerful, I don't think they have the guts to pay no respect to Master Newman."

Matthew shook his head slowly because he had dismissed this solution right from the beginning; he did not want to owe too many favors to Billy as he wanted to enjoy equal status with him in their relationship. "What about the second solution?"

Stanley revealed, "The second option is, you represent Eastshire to participate in the Six Southern States Medical Conference and score one of the top three rankings for Eastshire."

frowned and doubted,

always been at the bottom of the ranking in the medical conferences for the past

disturbing for the Hughes because their own interests are threatened. Over the years, they have been trying hard to seek a famous doctor who can help them get a

want, I'm sure they will treat you as a very important guest. Then, I guess you won't have to worry about the crisis that

he did not have a favorable opinion of them and he was unwilling

be even more tricky. You can only solve this crisis if you are able to persuade one of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire to help you. Otherwise, there is no one else other than Master Newman

At that juncture, his phone rang suddenly; it was Joseph Harrison who was trying

"Mr. Larson, I've found the Thousand-Year Snow Lotus that you

his sister's life, who had been unconscious all this while because his prescription for her was short of that one ingredient. "Where did you find it? How much does it cost?" Matthew

sale. I was just told that it's the prize for the winning state

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At seven at night, members of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff arrived at the ninth floor of Times Hotel to welcome the successor to the Hughes Family who came from Eastshire.

As the representative of Billy, Stanley attended the function together with Matthew. All of them waited for a while before they heard a commotion coming from outside.

Shortly after that, a group of people flourishly strode into the ballroom. The group was led by a young man who was wearing a gold-rimmed spectacle.

His manner was decorous but there was an indescribable air of brutality concealed deep in his eyes. He was none other than the successor to the Hughes Family—Travis Hughes.

Everyone of the Ten Greatest Families walked over to greet him, but Travis couldn't even be bothered to glance at them as he headed straight toward the private room deeper inside the ballroom.

Despite feeling slightly embarrassed, those people did not voice out their annoyance. After all, the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire were way more superior than the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff in terms of their power and wealth.

Stanley brought Matthew to the private room where he greeted Travis and introduced Matthew to him. "Young Master Hughes, Mr. Larson here is a man with unparalleled medical skills. If he represents Eastshire to take part in the medical conference, I'm sure we will be able to seize the victory this time!"

with a trace

dare you claim this young lad as a superb doctor? Is there something wrong with your

skills I have

there aren't many talents in Eastcliff! When the cat's away, the mice will play. How dare you recommend some nobody to me as the candidate

you actually brought such a man here to humiliate me. Do you think my family are

was. "Young Master Hughes, how can you be sure that I have no talent

on a frown as he responded, "There's no need to verify it! I can be sure because I was born in a family which has produced generations of talents

one can only be a superb doctor through years of experience. I only manage to have the skills

more exceptional than mine? Only idiots like Stanley will

by his comment, spoke, "Young Master Hughes, we can get a better idea of Mr. Larson's medical skills just by giving him a test. I'm afraid the way you judge

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Matthew asked curiously, "What's the plan?"

Stanley only revealed it to him after some hesitation, "You can take part in the medical conference as the representative of Eastcliff. However, this requires more effort from us because we have to convince the Eastcliff Medical Association to support you to be the representative of the city."

"I have no idea at all about the existence of such an organization in Eastcliff," Matthew replied.

Stanley chuckled and imparted, "This organization has already been in existence for a very long time and Cunningham Pharmaceuticals is also one of its members. The organization used to be managed by the Watkins Family, who used to be one of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff.

However, ever since the Watkins Family went through a bloodbath because of Master Newman, the organization has been operating without a leader up until now.

As the wealth and business owned by the Watkins Family are shared by the other nine families, the Eastcliff Medical Association is considered to be co-managed by the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff.

Therefore, if you want to gain the support from the organization, you will have to convince all the Ten Greatest Families to support you too."

of Eastcliff had not been too pleasant ever since what happened between him and the Jacksons. It might be

in any case. Please help me gather the people of the Ten Greatest Families, because I'd

too much from this method because it's highly unlikely to work. Every year, the Eastcliff Medical Association is capable of raking in

suspend the activity in the medical industry of Eastcliff, the one who will lose all that profit is the Eastcliff Medical Association. I'm sure the Ten Greatest

immediately rushed off to approach the masters of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff. He gathered them

"Stanley Carlson, is there something wrong with your mind? Do you want the Eastcliff Medical Association to make itself

the profit distribution in the medical industry of Eastcliff? Once we make them angry, all our drugs and medical equipment won't be marketable in other

it concerns the survival of the drug manufacturing companies, medical equipment companies, medical organizations and chinese herbs companies

these companies to go insolvent just

stressed at the top of his lungs, "I understand what all of you are thinking. But, have you guys actually thought about the possibility of us emerging as the

the medical resources in the six states would be allocated to Eastcliff? We will be talking about a business which is worth up to or more than several hundred billion

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Stanley looked livid with rage but he couldn't come up with anything to refute them. Only he himself as well as several others knew how excellent Matthew's medical skills were. As the members of the Ten

Greatest Families were not aware about it, they would not believe it no matter how hard Stanley tried to convince them.

At that juncture, Matthew spoke, "Gentlemen, all of you will know whether I can win at the medical conference by giving me a chance to try. I can make a pledge for all of you here—if I am defeated in the medical conference, my life will be all yours."

Master Sandel jeered right away. "Matthew Larson, do you think your life is that valuable? This is a business which is worth up to ten billion and every year, the medical association can bring in around two to three billion profit for us.

Are you trying to convince us to use such a staggering sum of money as a stake to bet with your life? Are you even worth the money?"

Because of Matthew's relationship with Leanna, Master Sandel had always found Matthew an eyesore. Therefore, there was no doubt he would make full use of this chance to taunt and mock Matthew the best he could.

Looking bleak, Matthew advised, "Master Sandel, I don't think you should make your stance too absolute. Today, I'm asking for a favor from all of you here. If you guys are willing to offer me help, I'll keep that in my mind. But, if you refuse, I'll remember it too!"

Everyone burst out laughing at once. "Oh, it seems like you're one who holds grudges! But, so what? Are you going to set yourself against all of us in the future?

just because you're a friend of Master Newman's. But, you have to remind yourself that you aren't him! Your favor means nothing to all

"Let's go! Let's not waste our time

in his tracks suddenly to cast a glimpse at Matthew. "Larson, you'd better listen to me

don't want people to start talking about how a member of our family has an affair with a kept

him, "Master Sandel, is your

Mind you, my family is way more superior to

because it was very obvious that Master Sandel was mocking his family but he did not voice out

a substantial loss after what had taken place between them and the Hughes. At the moment, they couldn't even be

rest of the families all rose to their feet and left the room in between laughter.

watching them walk away, Stanley couldn't resist but to land a forceful punch on the table and cursed, "These bunch of gaffers are such bullies! Mr. Larson, shall we

his head and said, "Master Newman has helped me on too many occasions and I can't always rely on his help whenever I have a problem. President Carlson, can you think of any

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Stanley first glanced at Matthew before he added in a soft voice, "The 10 billion fund will be in the form of a direct investment. Once you take part in the medical conference, you will have to offer the fund at the medical conference as the medical resources of Eastcliff.

In the event you lose at the medical conference, a part of that money will be seized by the other five states. Coupled with the oppression from the Hughes Family, it's highly likely that the 10 billion fund will all go down the drain in the end. So, I think it will be challenging trying to get people to invest in the association."

Matthew looked even more troubled because he had never expected that Stanley's method just turned out to be more and more strenuous.

Seeing that Matthew was keeping silent, Stanley spoke suddenly, "Mr. Larson, if you've really decided to do this, I can offer an investment of 1.5 billion! I'm going to get the money by putting up Carlson Pharmacy as collateral to the bank. Mr. Larson, you will have my full support even though I might have to sell off all my assets!"

Matthew was deeply moved by Stanley. To be frank, Stanley really trusted him a great deal. Based on the wealth owned by Stanley, 1.5 billion was the maximum he could allocate for the investment and he probably had to take on loans to get cash. If Matthew was defeated at the medical conference, Stanley might be bankrupt too.

Matthew nodded at him in gratitude. "President Carlson, I'll keep your kind gesture in my mind! I'll come up with ways to gather the rest of the fund."

After saying goodbye to Stanley, Matthew went on to visit Timothy, who agreed to offer an investment of 2 billion to support Matthew very decisively. Together with what Stanley had offered, Matthew had a total of 3.5 billion at the moment.

foundation, Billy asked Matthew to try finding himself more investors first because he would offer him whatever

All in all, he was really impressed by how much those three trusted him. After doing a calculation in his mind, he estimated that he could get another 500 million

go was very challenging, and it was a risky gamble even

saw Leanna's secretary waiting for him when he arrived at the building. Instead of bringing him to Leanna's room, she brought him

he stepped into the room, the first person he saw was not Leanna but Old Master Jackson, whose first name was Connor. The man looked like he

in astonishment and found

you and I are the only ones here," Connor spoke in

"So, you are the one who wants

"You can think of

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Connor's eyes went red-rimmed as he told his story, "The two of them were already in bad shape when I was there. My son, whose whole body was covered with blood, was thrown into a pool of mud full of ants which were crawling all over his body. The moment he spotted me, he actually begged me so hard to kill him!"

Tears started streaming down his face when he got to that part because it hurt him.

After a sharp intake of breath, he wiped away his tears and continued, "As for my daughter-in-law, all her limbs were chopped off before her torso was squeezed into a jar. The Hughes fed her medicine to keep her alive and sober so that she could experience every bit of the pain and torture."

Matthew frowned at the cruelty of the Hughes in seeking revenge.

No wonder none of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff had the guts to set themselves against them; it seemed like he had indeed underestimated them.

However, it actually served as a reminder for Matthew to take this more seriously.

This was no longer just a competition in business with the Hughes.

If he turned out to be the loser this time around, he would definitely end up very badly.

Connor mumbled, "At that time, I knelt down in front of Master Hughes begging him to let my son and my daughter-in-law go, but he ignored me and continued chatting with me happily.

through the torture for the entire day. At night, Master Hughes handed me a

freed of the misery instead of looking pained. That was not all. In the end, they dumped their bodies to a pack of dogs and I had

choked with sobs at that

was then Matthew realized why Connor had aged so

Master Jackson, what do you want me to do

us to hand over 70% of our business to them.

like to work with you.

because he had never thought that Connor would actually offer

well that Connor was a very cunning and shrewd man, Matthew was sure he

to loathe Matthew. Why would he want to work with

any hidden traps in his

was deep in thought, he received