

Genius 741

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Minerva asked that as she could think of no other explanation. It never once crossed her mind that the Cunninghams would know someone as prestigious as the boss of the restaurant. From her perspective, only people like her family who had lived abroad should know someone like that.

After some thought, Jonah was still at a loss as to who might have paid the bill. Nonetheless, he chuckled. "I suppose that's the case. Although it has been a few years since I last returned to Cathay, I do have a few business partners here. Perhaps they offered to buy me a meal after catching wind of my return. Waiter, I would like to have a chat with your boss."

The waiter smiled. "Ladies and gentlemen, our boss has yet to arrive. She gave us a call to have us prepare the wine for you. She will be here in a minute, and she should drop by after a moment."

There was a complacent look on Jonah's face. "Excellent! Come, let us continue with our feast. My friend will be here in a moment, and I'll introduce you all then."

Both Minerva and Tate were also wearing smug looks on their faces, for their father having such a prestigious friend was somehow something to be proud of. Meanwhile, Chloe was all smiles as she spoke. "Geez, Jonah, didn't I tell you to not inform this many people of our return? You're making a huge fuss over this! I was hoping to spend more time with Helen! We will have to deal with your friends once they receive news about our return. Can't I have more time with Helen?"

Jonah laughed. "I can't just avoid them, since they're all old acquaintances of mine. Since they found out about our return, we have to give them face. After all, we will need their help while doing business here. Helen

I won't be able to keep you company in

had just transpired, for they had believed that it was Jonah's friend who had paid for their expenses. In response, Helen gave them an awkward smile. "Chloe, we agreed that my family would

"Aunt Helen, you can drop the act already. The meal and the wine will cost you millions. How are you going to pay for it

hand. "Minerva, watch how you speak! Helen, please forgive her. I am the one who spoiled her. Speaking of which, you don't need to go to such lengths to impress us. I will gladly have a simple meal

said was so hurtful that she overlooked Minerva's impudence. After some time, the waiter came back, giving a knock on the door. "Ladies and gentlemen,

clothes, smiling. "It's alright. We're old acquaintances, so there's no need to be so formal with

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Leanna's beauty was on par with Sasha. Contrary to Sasha's innocence, she had a domineering air about her that befitted her status; it was as if she were a queen. Her aura alone was enough to conquer a lot of people. Coupled with her exquisite looks, she was somewhat of a legend. Therefore, Jonah, Tate, and even Liam were all stunned by her presence.

Yet, she didn't even spare them a glance as she smiled. "Oh, I own this restaurant indeed. The chef is highly skilled in the culinary arts. I'm a picky eater, and I like her cooking, so I bought the restaurant. It's also more convenient if I need to host gatherings among friends."

Her words shook everyone in the room, as none of them had ever met someone who bought over an entire restaurant just because the meal was to their liking. Moreover, The Court Parlour was no ordinary restaurant.

Sasha cried out in surprise. "President Sandel, I bet it must have cost you a fortune, right?"

Leanna chuckled. "It didn't cost that much. Prices were low when I bought it. It only cost me fifty million. To be honest, it's not the restaurant but the land that is worth all that money. Prices have gone up in the past few years. I had a friend make an estimate for me, and it turns out that the land is now worth three hundred million."

even fifty million in our currency! Y-You must be kidding! How could this shabby place be worth that much? It's not like we're in the center of New

a frown from Leanna. Considering her high status in Eastcliff, nobody ever dared speak to her in such a manner. However, she didn't make a fuss out of it in Matthew's presence. Instead, she commented casually, "I do, in fact, own two other restaurants in the heart of New

geez, Aunt Helen! Since when did Cathians learn to tell such blatant lies? Instead of saying that you own two restaurants in New York City, why don't you tell us you own a few high-rise towers there? Hahaha, this is hilarious! Admittedly, you're a beauty, but the way you

same time, Chloe was also shaking her head in dismay. "Oh, Sasha. You should be more wary of the company you keep around you. Not only did you marry a useless husband, but you weren't careful enough when you made friends. Heed my advice, dear. You shouldn't befriend

hesitant to correct Chloe. "Aunt

hand, Chloe cut her off. "Alright, stop it right there. Why are you lying to me as well? Sasha, you have changed

by the Campbells' collective arrogance. In the end, she could only

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Upon hearing that, the woman turned to glance at Jonah. "Hm? I could ask the same of you."

Immediately, Jonah replied, "Oh, I'm here for a family gathering. These are my relatives."

The woman was hit with a realization. "Oh, so this is the family gathering that you mentioned."

With a flattering smile on his face, Jonah nodded rapidly. "Tate, Minerva, come greet Miss Gonzalez!"

Both of them stood up right away to greet Lucia enthusiastically. It was especially true of Tate, who had a passionate gaze in his eyes. He knew Lucia was the daughter of Jonah's boss, so she was effectively born rich. If he could somehow get his hands on her, he would be settled for life.

However, Lucia didn't even give them much acknowledgement aside from a casual nod. "Hello, nice to meet you." Then, she ignored them in favor of looking at Leanna, visibly overjoyed. "President Sandel, I heard from the waiters that you have come. This is great! I haven't been able to meet you even after I dropped by your company a few times. If you have time to spare, can I have ten—no, five minutes will do. I can offer you an explanation regarding what happened last time. It was due to a mistake that my employees made, so it's a major misunderstanding!"

by what they witnessed. Lucia Gonzalez, the daughter of Jonah's boss, was being uncharacteristically polite in the presence of Leanna. On the other hand, Leanna wore a frown on her face. "I'm sorry. I'm meeting my friends, so let's talk about it in my office

only did Lucia remain calm, but she was even being apologetic. "Pardon my intrusion. I will drop by your company again

look for the manager of the restaurant later and ask her for my secretary's number. You can make an appointment with

lot! I'll be taking

backed out of the room humbly, which was a sight that left everyone stupefied. The Campbells were gawking, for they had a hard time wrapping their heads around the fact that someone as prestigious as Lucia had treated Leanna with

Lucia her secretary's number instead of her own. Even then, Lucia showed no signs of

speaking to her secretary? At that moment, Jonah was on the brink of having a meltdown. The Campbells finally understood that the beautiful woman in front of them wasn't lying, but was, in fact, of

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James was being rather self-conceited when he spoke. Ever since the beginning of his marriage, Jonah had looked down upon him as a piece of trash that his own family had given up on. Even now, the Campbells had been showing off their superiority during dinner with a contemptuous attitude.

Therefore, James had been fuming throughout dinner, but he never got to vent his frustrations. However, things were flipped upside-down after Leanna's surprise visit. Although she didn't even talk to James, her visit had, as a result, given him face, so he was finally able to speak with more confidence.

On the other hand, Jonah stared at him wide-eyed as anxiety kicked in. "W-What did you just say? S-She's President Leanna Sandel? Y-You must be joking!"

James smirked. "Do I sound funny to you? All of Eastcliff knows that she established Creative Cloud Group, and is the one who led it to its present glory."

Jonah exhaled sharply upon hearing that, his face panic-stricken. His most important mission during this visit to Cathay was to initiate a collaboration with Creative Cloud Group. The project wasn't only crucial to Jonah's career development, but it would also be a deciding factor in Gonzalez Corporation's future.

that Gonzalez Corporation would go bankrupt if he failed his task. Therefore, the project could easily seal the company's fate. When he recalled his attitude back then, he wished he could kill himself on

expressions on their faces when they recalled how they had mocked Leanna earlier. Considering how merciless Minerva had been when she mocked Leanna, they

was visibly angered. The boss would make them into minced meat

chuckled awkwardly. "Geez, Sasha, you have quite the friend there. She is the kind of hardworking and self-motivated person who you should befriend. Although you have

and I only came to know her through him. Although I consider myself her acquaintance, I'm not significant enough to have her pay for our bills, as well as present us with the Romanee Contis that

did you just say?

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Demi spat and said, "Of course she knows! But that's what she likes. Don't you know that these strong career women like to keep a toy boy?"

Frowning, Sasha chided, "That's enough, Demi! What are you speaking about?"

"Did I say anything wrong?" she snapped back immediately. "Look at how she's throwing glances at Matthew! Only you can take this, Sasha. I would have chased him away if I were in your shoes!"

"Watch your tongue, Demi Cunningham," Matthew warned with knitted brows. "It's fine for you to insult me, but President Sandel might not be so civil to you if she learns about this!"

The look on Demi's face fell; although she wasn't afraid of Matthew, it didn't mean that she wasn't afraid of Leanna, too. Turning to Sasha hurriedly, she uttered, "Sasha, look at him. He's feeling guilty—"

"Shut up." Sasha cut her off curtly. "I trust Matthew! President Sandel is grateful to him because he did her a big favor before, and they're just friends. Don't bring this up anymore!"

under her breath,

Despite what Sasha had just said, they were no fools. What sort of friends were they that she would buy him a Romanee Conti worth millions? Furthermore, when they thought about it carefully, Leanna's eyes were on Matthew

woman, she would only pay that much attention to a person

for

he was deeply attracted to her. Thinking that he returned from abroad and had a high status, he assumed that it would be a piece of cake to make her his. However, it just dawned on him that the gap

between them was simply too massive. In addition, and more importantly, she actually adored this live-in son-in-law whom he looked down on.

good friends with President Sandel, I see. Then could you please speak with her so she'll sign the contract with your Uncle Jonah's company and seal the deal for this project? As you know, Jonah came back this time as the general manager, and he needs to prove some sales results to his boss. It'll make him

I'm only friends with President Sandel and can't interfere with

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After a long moment of silence, Chloe turned to Sasha indignantly. "Sasha, although the negotiations for this deal are almost finished, wouldn't it be better if someone from the family could help out as well?"

"Aunt Chloe, it's really inappropriate for an outsider to stick his nose into work-related issues. After all, everyone has their own ideas on how to run their business, and it's against the rules for a friend to interfere with her business operations."

The look on Chloe's face turned cold and she snorted. "Even you are not helping us, Sasha? Hmph, some people sure are heartless. Did you forget how well I treated you when you were a child? Back then, I was so kind to you, but what about you now? Look how you're turning me down over a small favor. Just tell me if you don't wish to help because we're not people with thick skins that would force you to help us out. Anyway, you're an adult now and don't need me anymore. So what can I possibly do to you?"

Sasha frowned, thinking that Chloe was using their relationship as relatives against her.

At the same time, when Helen saw that Chloe had lost her temper, she hurriedly chirped in, "Oh Sasha, just get Matthew to help put in a few words. It's just something as simple as a few words! Compared to President Sandel's wealth and the size of her company, this project is so small that it won't be such a big hassle. Who knows? Maybe President Sandel won't even follow up on this project personally, and you can just pass a message to a secretary working under her. Your aunt was so kind to you when you were younger, so you shouldn't disappoint her!"

helpless because

was caught in a dilemma, Matthew sighed and said, "Mom, since you've already asked for this favor, I'll speak to

as you're willing to speak to her. President Sandel has so much trust in you now, so she'll listen to your words for sure." Turning to Chloe,

the way! Sasha, your husband is a good man. As a family, we should help each other out. Oh, by the way, later when Jonah has closed this deal, I can get him to arrange a good position for you in the company. As you know, he's the

tight line. "Thank you for that, Aunt Chloe! But I'm used to being idle, and I prefer to work

job at the hospital is a breeze, but at the end of the day, you won't have much development there. For a man, career is of utmost importance. Join me in my company and I'll take good care of you there. Maybe you can even become a department manager in the future or something,

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The Campbells stopped insulting Matthew right after that, and they went back to their dinner. When they were done, Helen said, "Phew, that was a nice meal. Want to get some shuteye? You guys just came back, so you must be tired."

Then, Minerva said, "But I'm still hungry, Aunt Helen. Can I get some more food? And besides, there is some wine left. I don't want to waste it. Uncork them, waiter." She shot a look at Tate and Jonah, and they got what she was trying to say.

Everyone was done with dinner, but two bottles of Romanee Conti remained. Each bottle of Romanee Conti would cost a million, and they wouldn't get another chance to taste it if they let this one slip. If they passed this chance up, Matthew and the others would take the wine back with them. Minerva would never let that happen even though she was already full.

Even having a sip of the wine would be enough for her to brag for a long time, so she ordered a few more dishes and got the waiter to uncork the bottles. Then, she placed the wine together and snapped dozens of pictures.

After that, she took a ton of selfies that involved the wine and the lavish meal they had. Once she had her fill of pictures, she picked the best ones, edited them, and posted the pictures of Romanee Conti and Lafite to her wall.

of history and romance to it compared to '82 Lafite.' In her picture, she tagged a few of her 'besties', obviously showing it off

trying to tell them he was

of the wine, but he never liked alcohol to begin with. Once everyone had their fill, they left the hotel happily. Minerva and Tate went one step further by taking the four empty bottles back with them. The bottles were their spoils, and they could show it

don't you come over and stay for the night, Chloe? We have a spare room,

and it'll ruin my skin. Besides, I heard

The kids are really particular, and I only have myself to blame. Besides, your place isn't big enough to house

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Chloe nodded. "Sure. It's still early, so I don't see why not. Let's get a taxi."

At that moment, James stopped her. "It's fine. We have a car."

“You have a car?” Chloe asked in disbelief. “Wow, it seems like a lot has changed over the years. Back before I left, only the rich guys could afford a car.”

Helen smiled. “We have two cars. Well, three actually, but one of them was totaled.”

The news shocked Chloe. “You have three cars? Helen, that’s a bit of a waste, isn’t it? At least save some of your hard-earned money. Don’t take out a loan just because you want to keep up with the Joneses. It’ll be better if you work hard and live an honest life rather than exhausting yourself for a fake one. Money doesn’t grow on trees, you know.”

Helen smiled awkwardly. “It’s fine. Let’s go.”

Then, Demi said, “Mom, we can’t. We only have two cars, but there’s ten of us. That’s not enough.”

“What? Why?” Helen was befuddled.

some wine back there, remember? We need two drivers, so that makes twelve of that. So someone has to take a taxi home. Liam, Matthew, why don’t you two take

Minerva cut in. “Tate and I will take the

Helen objected to it. “But you’re the guest here. I can’t let you

her off dismissively. “It’s fine. Just give us

Helen told them where her new place was,

Tate asked, “Why

and her family are paupers. Even if they can afford a car, I bet it’s a hunk of junk. Those cars are small, cramped, and hard to move around. I’d rather get a taxi. At least there’s

I see. “You’re smart,

roadside and stopped a taxi. Once they got in, the driver asked, “Where

Know where that is? I can hit them up and get them to

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Fifteen minutes later, the Campbell siblings came to The Grand Garden’s front gates, and what they saw shocked them. The appearance alone was already extravagant enough, let alone the inside. Mansions stretched as far as the eye could see, and lush greenery flanked the cleanly paved paths that led to the houses in the neighborhood.

Minerva thought she knew a lot, since she grew up overseas, but it was the first time she saw a neighborhood as grand as The Grand Garden.

Tate whispered, “Are you sure this is the place, Minerva? That family actually lives in this neighborhood? Impossible.”

Minerva thought it was improbable too, but she then smiled. “Maybe this isn’t the place. Maybe they’re living somewhere nearby. They were probably worried that the taxi driver might be lost, so they told us a more recognizable place.”

Tate nodded. “That’s possible.”

After that, they saw two cars coming toward them. The one in the lead was a white Maserati Quattroporte, while the one behind was a Mercedes-Benz G-class. The sight of the cars excited the Campbell siblings, and Minerva gasped. “Whoa, they have that kind of car here? Oh my god, that’s a Quattroporte. It’s gorgeous! My best friend’s friend is a rich kid, and she said he has a Quattroporte.”

from our class? His father has a G-class, and he kept showing it off to us. That’s one

rolled down the window, and Helen stuck her head out. “Oh, you’re here! Sorry for the wait, though. It took us some time to get a driver. We should go in now. I’ll get the

Campbell siblings were utterly floored to see Helen and her family in the cars. Then, the guard came out, and Helen told him to escort the siblings.

dumbfounded, but also shocked. Even the guard here drives a

are we even in a car, Minerva? I mean, we’re literally at the front gate.

and it’s around eight hundred meters from the gates. Quite a distance if you

he heard that. “Eight hundred meters? That’s the distance to his place

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The siblings went inside, but they were still in too much of a shock. A moment later, they saw the swimming pool in the yard. “T-There’s a swimming pool?” Minerva gasped. “Oh my god, is that a real pool?”

Helen closed the gates and smiled. “Yeah, this is the outdoor pool. It’s always great to take a dip when the weather’s sunny. Swimming’s the best kind of sport, you know. This is my favorite place to swim.”

The Campbell siblings were already numb from the non-stop surprises, but the pool still shocked them nonetheless. A mansion with a pool is rare even in foreign countries. Only the richest of the rich can afford it!

They came into the mansion, dazed. Even though the interior decorations were lavish, they were already numb to it. After seeing the pool outside, they could accept everything in the mansion, no matter how extravagant it was. In fact, they’d be surprised if the decor wasn’t lavish. I mean, they’re super rich.

Chloe and Jonah were sitting on the sofa in the living room, looking as shocked as their children were. “I-Is this your home, Helen?”

Sasha quickly answered, “Yes, but to be precise, it’s my husband’s. My husband got involved with some investment projects and earned a few hundred million. The partners pooled their money and bought

this mansion for him.” She didn’t want to show off, but she was already at her limit that night. How dare you mock Matthew. Oh, you think he’s a loser, eh? Well, I’ll show you who’s the real loser.

shaken to her core. “What? This mansion belongs

he wants us to live with him, so he took us in. And he even gave us the whole place, or

she was hearing. “H-He’s involved in investment projects? What

made money because he’s lucky. If he somehow lost the bet, he would have

nasty look. “Well, look who’s talking. If it weren’t for Matthew, you would

you say?”

have been kidnapped and killed. Don’t tell me you forgot all

to that, so she turned her head away. Sasha sneered, deciding to go on the offense tonight.

started giving a lecture. “Luck is important when it comes to investments. Don’t get too greedy, young man. You might