

Joel flew back from the impact and crashed into the security guards.

All of them collapsed onto the ground.

This time, Zeke had put his back into the kick. The impact was so great that they couldn't get up.

The security guards simply like crying as they gasped for breaths. Both times they tried to make a move, they were thwarted by Joel crashing into them.

We are being utterly embarrassed as security guards.

Everyone at the scene was shocked.

Isn't he the same guy who worked together with them as a server? The same coward who used to be bullied by everyone but never dared to resist?

Given his display of strength a moment ago, it was more than enough to take them all on.

Not that he didn't dare resist, it was just that he didn't want to stoop to the same level as they did.

Joel was so angry that he vomited a mouthful of blood before yelling, "Call the police! Get them to arrest him!" *Cough! Cough!*

He screamed so hard that his voice turned hoarse.

Immediately, one server took out his phone to call the police.

Sighing, Zeke gave Evan a call.

He complained, "Evan, what did you teach your staff? How dare they beat up their boss?"

Joel scolded, "Boss? You're... the f***ing boss? Today, it's not going to matter who you call. Hehe."

When Evan heard Joel through the phone, he was flabbergasted.

Without a doubt, Joel and the other employees must have stirred some trouble.

He quickly added, "Mr. Williams, please put me on speaker."

Zeke turned it on. "Go ahead."

Evan immediately started swearing, "Joel, you f*****g bastard! What's wrong with all of you? How dare you attack your boss? Apologize to him immediately. If he doesn't forgive you lot, then get ready to have your lives devastated! F***, even I have to treat Mr. Williams with the utmost respect. What gives you the right to

cause him trouble?”

Huh?

Boss?

Zeke is actually our boss?

Joel thought he had misheard.

He quickly retorted, “Mr. Schneider, have you made a mistake? Zeke is just a former employee. How could he be the boss? Have you been conned by him?”

Evan admonished him, “Con my ass! How can you not f***ing tell who is the boss by now? Get on your knees and beg for forgiveness. Now! F***, why are you so stubborn?”

It was clear that Zeke was the owner of the Michelin-starred restaurant.

And yet we were about to attack the boss... it would have been suicide!

Pfft!

Under such stressful circumstances, Joel vomited blood and fainted on the spot.

It was simply too shocking for him.

The rest of the crowd were astounded by how much had changed over five years.

Zeke was just a server. He had climbed to such heights within such a short time.

Not only did he buy over the Michelin-starred restaurant, but he also got the richest man in Oakheart City, Evan Schneider, to do his bidding.

He had reached a level so high that even they dared not dream about.

They struggled to imagine what Zeke had gone through for the last five years.

When Zeke glanced at the security guards, they trembled and got on their knees to beg.

“Boss, we made a mistake.”

“Boss, Joel forced us to do it. He would dock our pay if we didn’t obey.”

“That’s right, boss. Please give us a chance.”

Zeke coldly replied, “Send Joel to the police station. Then report him for corruption and abuse of power.”

The bodyguards nodded. Bearing with the lingering pain, they dragged Joel away.

As Zeke scanned across the crowd, his gaze fell upon a lady with a ponytail. “Mia, you will take Joel’s place as the manager.”

With that, he strode into the restaurant.

As for Mia, tears of regret rolled down her cheeks.

Five years ago, when Zeke had just started working at the restaurant, Mia helped him a lot.

Slowly, they grew close as time went by and were even an item for a while.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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She felt Zeke was too much of a coward and wasn't ambitious enough. She not only kept her distance but also bad-mouthed him for being useless.

Time had now proven she was blind to all his potential.

She had lost millions... No; she lost billions!

No longer able to endure the regret, she started crying out loud.

To the others who weren't aware of the true reason, they assumed she was just feeling emotional at being appointed manager.

As the crowd hung their head in silence, they gradually returned to their work in the restaurant.

Meanwhile, in the restaurant's most luxurious private room, Mance's eyes sparkled the moment he saw Lacey.

Beautiful, she's just amazingly gorgeous!

He had originally thought that Nancy was extremely pretty, but didn't expect Lacey to be a cut above Nancy in terms of both looks and figure.

Most importantly, she had a certain charisma

that Nancy lacked.

Her unique charisma captivated Mance, and he couldn't free himself of it.

He had not expected to see such a beautiful Goddess walk the face of earth.

All the female mercenaries he slept with were nothing compared to Lacey.

He had been fooling around with shit for the last ten years!

At that moment, he made a decisive decision to remove Zeke and claim Lacey for himself.

This was the first mission toward his goal, and he needed to do a good job in his first encounter with the enemy.

Soon, Zeke joined them.

Nancy rolled her eyes rudely at him. "Here comes the kept-man. Have a seat."

Zeke felt helpless as he didn't seem to ever be able to correct Nancy's bias toward him.

How dare you insult your hero! Aren't you worried about the consequences?

Zeke took a seat.

Mance snapped his fingers, "We're ready to order."

The server approached and handed them two menus.

He gave one each to Nancy and Lacey, respectively. "Ladies, please place your orders."

Nancy replied. "Thank you."

Before Lacey received the menu, Zeke got to it first and studied its contents hungrily.

"Honey, this 'Spring of New York' is the restaurant's specialty. We must order it. Also, the shrimp balls are fantastic. Let's have one of those. And I heard the chocolate cake is good for your skin. Let's get that too."

Nancy's face darkened as she rebuked him, "Hey, Zeke. Can't you be more chivalrous? Show some basic manners by letting the lady go first. You should take a leaf out of Mance's book."

Zeke replied, "Haven't you ladies asked for equality? Yet you are now demanding to be given preferential treatment?"

"I-I will not waste my time on you. I'm telling you now that Mance is treating today. He can decide who gets to order. If you want to order something, pay for it yourself. Oh, I forgot. You

live off another woman. You won't have the money to foot the bill."

Zeke replied, "Haha, I can eat here for free."

Nancy retorted, "Are you stupid or what? What gives you the right to eat for free here?"

"I own the restaurant."

"Sheesh! That's a ridiculous lie. If you're really the boss, why would you need to be a kept-man? Gosh, I really regret asking you to come."

Snatching away the menu from Zeke, Nancy passed it to Lacey. "Lacey, you should order."

Lacey was feeling a little awkward at that moment.

Her best friend's boyfriend was acting gentlemanly while hers was being a jerk. He even claimed to own the Michelin-starred restaurant.

Geez, I shouldn't have brought him along.



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She gave Zeke's sleeve a light tug to signal him to keep quiet. Then she ordered in earnest.

Wanting to embarrass Zeke, Mance joked, "I heard that you have a small appetite and can only eat porridge. Waiter, please give him a small bowl of porridge. Thank you."

Nancy chuckled. "That's right, the mushier it is, the better. A lousy person deserves a lousy meal."

Zeke looked at Mance calmly. "Since you look down on kept-men, I'm sure you must have a strong stomach. Waiter, give him a pot of hot stew."

Nancy protested angrily, "Stop! This is not your place to speak. Today, Mance is the one in charge. You will eat whatever he tells you to! I'll repeat myself one more time. Until you can reserve the whole place, you should just keep your mouth shut."

Zeke countered, "Didn't I tell you I own the place? Why do I still need to reserve it?"

Mance laughed in disbelief. "Is that so? Let's see if the server listens to the distinguished guest or to their 'boss'."

Once Nancy and Lacey had their orders taken, the server went back to the kitchen to prepare.

After a while, Nancy's and Lacey's food was served. It looked delicious and exquisite with its appetizing colors.

As Nancy dug in, she sneered, "Where's the porridge? Isn't it ready yet?"

Before the server could respond, Mance interrupted, "Nancy, didn't you order the porridge to be cooked until it became mushy? It's difficult to achieve the liquefied texture in such a short time."

Nancy laughed. "That's right. Please take your time to cook it. It's fine for you to serve it after we're done eating."

Meanwhile, Nancy ate slowly as she observed Zeke.

He didn't look embarrassed at all. In fact, he seemed to enjoy himself.

Nancy sighed in her heart when she thought Zeke was just a shameless person. Mance's words couldn't provoke him.

Meanwhile, Lacey didn't eat.

From what she could gather from the current situation, Zeke would likely just be eating porridge at the end of the meal.

To make him feel better, she planned to have dinner together with him later.

After a while, the server brought another dish in.

As he was about to place the dish on the table, Mance reached out to accept it as a demonstration of good manners.

At the same time, he thanked the server who unexpectedly retracted the dish and responded, "I'm sorry, sir. It's not for you."

Mance knotted his eyebrows in curiosity.

The server placed the exquisite dish in front of Zeke. "Mr. Williams, please enjoy your meal."

Fuck!

Mance was infuriated. How dare the damned server disobey and humiliate him at the same time?

His hands remained in the air awkwardly.

Both Nancy and Lacey were equally stunned as they stared at the server.

Mance was a prominent guest who had reserved the whole place. How was it that a lowly server dared to go against his wishes?

Just when Mance was about to explode in anger, the server reassured him, “Sir, your meal is ready too. Please back off a little as it’s an enormous dish. I’m worried it might spill onto you.”

Only then did Mance calm himself down.

Perhaps the reason they didn’t serve Zeke the porridge was that a Michelin-starred restaurant wouldn’t have it on the menu. Or they might want to avoid insulting their guest.

Given that they were preparing a dish that was even grander than Zeke’s, it was enough compensation for him.

The restaurant’s management seemed capable of balancing the politics of its guests.

Mance waited excitedly to see what surprise the Michelin-starred restaurant had prepared for him.

In response to his anticipation, the server brought out a pot of hot stew.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A pot of hot stew.

It really was what Zeke had ordered for him.

Mance's face darkened instantly. In fact, it was even darker than the black pot.

Bastards, how dare you humiliate me!

Nancy and Lacey exchanged glances in surprise.

What was the restaurant management thinking?

Not only did they disobey the host, but they also followed the instructions of a freeloader to humiliate their own distinguished guest.

There was no discretion at all!

Fury consumed Mance as he had never been humiliated to this extent in his whole life.

Raising his hand to hit the server, Zeke grabbed it to stop him.

Zeke said, "He was just following instructions. Besides, you shouldn't be finding fault with a lowly server."

Nancy quickly interjected. "Mance, there's no need to get physical. Let's just talk it out."

To maintain his chivalrous attitude, Mance finally put his hand down.

“I want to see your manager.”

Damn it, to think that I had given him so many tips earlier.

The server nodded immediately and left to get the manager.

After a while, he returned alone.

Mance demanded angrily, “Where’s your manager?”

The server replied meekly, “Our manager says she’s busy and has no time to come over.”

Mance banged the table as he stood up. “Do I need to look for her myself? Humph, when I see her, she will have to face the consequences.”

Zeke added, “Do you have time to see her personally? Won’t your food be cold by then? Go. Call your manager. Tell her I’ve asked for her.”

Lacey couldn’t help but chuckle. She found his comment humorous, given how the pot of hot stew would not turn cold anytime soon.

Nancy stared at Zeke with a dissatisfied

expression. “Mance as a prominent guest couldn’t even get the manager to come out. What makes a kept-man like you think you can? You really are oblivious to your status.”

The next second, Nancy was humiliated.

Mia, the restaurant manager, rushed over. She bowed at Zeke and asked, “Mr. Williams, you wanted to see me?”

Nancy and Lacey were so stunned that they froze like statues.

Zeke not only got the manager to come, but he also got her to bow with respect.

Fuck! What’s going on? They must have mixed up who was the host.

Smiling, Zeke replied, “Ma’am, I have some feedback on the food.”

“Please go ahead, Mr. Williams. We will do our best to improve.”

“How can you serve the pot of hot stew when it isn’t cooked thoroughly? Aren’t you not living up to your own standards?”

The manager apologized, “I’m sorry, Mr. Williams. Since you didn’t say how well you wanted it done, we just cooked it to seventy

percent doneness.”

Lacey burst out in laughter again.

*A pot of hot stew that was seventy percent done.
What a smart-ass!*

Mance was fuming with anger now.

It was a huge insult to him by a restaurant employee and wasn't something he could tolerate at all.

With his temper of old, he would have beaten someone up.

But in front of the two beautiful women, he suppressed his anger to maintain his chivalrous front.

“Go and get your boss. I want to buy this restaurant.”

He then looked at Nancy longingly. “Nancy, I'm sorry that you had to go through such an unpleasant experience the first time we share a meal. It won't happen again. I'll buy this restaurant for you as a gift. Going forward, we will always have the place to ourselves, alright?”

“Huh?” Nancy was shocked.

This Michelin-starred restaurant would cost at least seventy to eighty million. There was no way she could accept such a gift.

She waved to decline immediately. “Mance, you can’t. It’s too expensive. I simply can’t accept it.”

Mance replied, “Nancy, this restaurant is nothing to me. I’m worried it isn’t up to your standards. As long as it makes you happy, I’m willing to buy the entire Oakheart City for you.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nancy was so touched that she teared.

Mance was indeed filthy rich and powerful. This restaurant was a drop in the ocean for him.

Wiping off her tears, Nancy said, "Mance, you are so good to me."

She then turned toward Zeke to save Mance's ego.

"Zeke, you could get order the manager around because you know each other. So what? Can you give Lacey such an expensive present? As far as I know, you haven't even given her a proper present despite being together for a year. In the end, you're just a useless kept-man. As a leopard will never change its spots, you can never compare with Mance. Hmph, just you wait. The first thing Mance will do after buying this place is to fire that manager friend of yours!"

Zeke shot an angry glance at Nancy and cursed her in his heart.

Mance is tricking you by pretending to be your hero.

I am the genuine Hero.

You must be blind to protect the fake one by insulting me.

Ignoring Nancy, he looked at Lacey in earnest. “Lacey, do you know today is the first anniversary of the day we met? I don’t really have much to give. If you really like this restaurant, I’ll give it to you as a present.”

After all, the original reason he bought this Michelin-starred restaurant was so that it could provide breakfast for Lacey. Therefore, giving it to her made sense.

Nancy burst into laughter.

“Zeke, please be more conscious of your own status. Do you think you can do anything you want just because you know the manager? You actually think you can give this Michelin-starred restaurant away? Haha, even the manager is just an employee. Her salary itself wouldn’t be enough to afford a meal here. Please stop disgracing yourself by copying Mance’s idea. Think about whether you can afford it. You’re just blindly imitating him, sheesh!”

Mance scoffed, “Doesn’t he have a mirror at home? He should reflect on his behavior more often.”

Nancy burst into raucous laughter. “Mance, I never knew you were so funny!”

Meanwhile, Lacey blushed out of embarrassment.

Every month, she gave Zeke eight thousand for his salary. Even if he spent nothing, he still wouldn't be able to afford the restaurant.

He had boasted about himself just to satisfy his own vanity.

Taking a deep breath, she said, "Nancy, I'm done with the food. If there's nothing else, we'll take our leave first. You two lovebirds can have each other to yourselves."

Zeke grabbed her hand to stop her. "Lacey, don't leave yet. I haven't given you the present."

"Mia, what are you standing idly there for?"

Regaining her senses, Mia left immediately.

Lacey felt helpless and upset at the same time.

What is wrong with Zeke? Why must he disgrace himself like that?

Even if you wanted to get into a contest with Mance, shouldn't you at least think whether you are capable enough first?

After a short while, Mia the manager returned.

She passed a bunch of documents to Lacey. "Ms. Hinton, this is a present from Mr. Williams."

“Present? What kind of present?” Lacey was puzzled.

Zeke explained, “Today is the first anniversary of when we first met, so this is my present to you to celebrate the occasion. Why don’t you see if you like it?”

Nancy and Mance began to feel nervous.

Can he really be the owner of the Michelin-starred restaurant? Isn’t that a transferal agreement?

Both of them stared at Lacey without blinking.

Glancing through the documents, Lacey began to blush.

The document was a love letter Zeke had written her.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In truth, she felt a little disappointed. The present didn't even surprise her as she reacted to it indifferently.

Spending a thousand to buy a watch would have been better than the love letter.

It was already 2020. Writing love letters was simply too old-fashioned.

However, she pretended to be delighted so Zeke wouldn't be upset. "Thank you, Zeke. It's really thoughtful of you. Given how lazy you are, I appreciate that you wrote me a love letter."

Love Letter!

Nancy and Mance widened their eyes in disbelief before bursting into laughter.

"Huh, you only gave her Lacey a love letter for your first anniversary? You're really a smart-ass. But it's understandable that as a kept-man, that's all you can afford.

Lacey, have you seen through that fake facade of his yet? He

's not willing to spend any money for your sake. Why do you still need a man like that? For a moment there, I thought it was the transferal agreement for the Michelin-starred restaurant. I made a mistake by overestimating you."

Lacey came to Zeke's defense quickly. "That's enough. Nancy, don't criticize him anymore. I like this present very much. Zeke, let's go."

Despite what she said, her disappointed expression was too obvious to hide.

She felt embarrassed to stay and wanted to leave with Zeke.

Compared to the Michelin-starred restaurant that Nancy's boyfriend wanted to give her, Zeke's love letter simply paled in comparison.

However, Zeke refused to leave. "Lacey, please finish reading the letter."

Lacey replied, "I want to finish it at home."

Nancy added, "With so many pages, she would at least need half a day."

Zeke was at a loss. "Fine, just read the last sentence."

"The last sentence?" Despite being confused, Lacey continued reading. "Silly you. You know how I don't like to have breakfast, this isn't a good idea."

"The reason I giving you this Michelin-starred restaurant is so that they can specially prepare breakfast for you. Promise me you will take

good care of your health.”

Lacey had a sudden realization. As her heartbeat started to race, her trembling hands flipped to the next page.

Instead of a love letter, the last few pages were part of a contract.

The contract stated that Zeke would transfer his ownership of the Michelin-starred restaurant to Lacey.

As payment-in-kind, Lacey was required to have breakfast regularly.

Tears started rolling down her cheeks. “Zeke, you... you’re being silly!”

She was at a loss for words.

He bought her a Michelin-starred restaurant just so that she could eat breakfast. If that weren’t silly, what else would it be?

She felt he was silly to the extent of being adorable.

Nancy and Mance were puzzled as to why Lacey had suddenly become so emotional.

To satisfy her curiosity, Nancy snatched the contract from Lacey’s hands.

After reading it, she and Mance were left flabbergasted.

Zeke was indeed the owner of the restaurant, and he had given it away to Lacey for free.

The love letter combined with the Michelin-starred restaurant made an already extravagant gift even more thoughtful.

It was an extremely romantic gesture, but how could a kept-man afford such a thing?

There was no part of Zeke now that indicated he was a kept-man at all.

Even Nancy couldn't help but admit that the gesture touched her too.

As Zeke gently wiped the tears off Lacey's face, he persuaded, "Sign your name and you will be the owner of this restaurant."

Lacey choked in tears.

Her initial disappointment turned into surprise. The rollercoaster of emotions was simply too much for her, causing her to be dumbfounded.



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Under Zeke's encouragement, Lacey signed the contract.

He then turned to Mia and ordered, "Gather all the staff to meet their new boss."

It was necessary for the employees to get to know Lacey to avoid a repeat of today's incident, where they almost attacked their own boss.

Mia gathered the hundred employees who worked there.

Bowing in unison, they greeted Lacey, "We are at your service, ma'am."

Lacey broke into a smile. "Next time, let us not be so formal. Wait a minute, you're Harry Simpson!"

Lacey noticed a familiar figure in the crowd. He used to send food to her regularly when working as a delivery boy.

Whenever she had missed her meals, Harry would always appear at her door with food despite her not ordering any takeout.

When she asked Harry who sent the food, he would always say he didn't know.

Lacey assumed it was Dawn and thought little

of it.

Now that she saw Harry at the restaurant, she knew there was more to the matter than met the eye.

Walking out from the crowd, Harry greeted Lacey with a smile. "Hello, Ms. Hinton."

Lacey asked out of curiosity, "Aren't you working as a delivery boy? Why are you here? Have you been moonlighting?"

Harry laughed as he explained, "Ms. Hinton, you have the wrong idea. Actually, I'm not a delivery boy. I have always been an employee here. When Mr. Williams bought this restaurant, he ordered me to provide you with breakfast. Therefore, I'm in charge of delivering it to you. Every time you missed breakfast, I would masquerade as a delivery boy to send food to you."

When Lacey heard it, tears of joy rolled down her cheeks.

All this time, Lacey had complained that Zeke never cared for her enough.

When she missed her meals because of work, Zeke would show no concern at all.

Now, she realized she was wrong to blame him.

He had always been concerned about her irregular meals and even bought a Michelin-starred restaurant just to make sure she ate regularly.

Wiping the tears off her face gently, Zeke comforted her, "There, there. Don't cry now. You're just embarrassing yourself in front of the staff."

Lacey said with remorse, "Zeke, I was wrong to blame you for not loving me more. Why didn't you ever let me know you cared?"

Smiling, Zeke replied, "Being concerned about you is my duty as your husband. There's no need to tell you about it explicitly. Unlike some others who liked to declare that they would give the moon and the stars but fall flat in fulfilling their promise."

Mance's expression turned awkward as he was aware of what Zeke was insinuating.

Turning to the staff, Zeke instructed, "Alright, you're dismissed. Everything will stay as it is with Harry in charge of Lacey's meals."

"No problem." Harry answered readily.

With that, the crowd dispersed.

When Mia went back to her room, she started

crying again.

The better Zeke treated Lacey, the more remorseful she felt.

She was so overwhelmed by regret that she felt like dying.

If she had believed in him and stayed in the relationship, she would be the proud owner of the restaurant.

In the end, Lacey changed Mance's pot of hot stew into a premium set meal.

But Mance was no longer in the mood to eat.

He had spent so much money reserving the place so that he could embarrass Zeke and gain favor with Nancy.

Not only did he fail to do so, but he had also inadvertently helped Zeke to impress the ladies at his own expense.

There was no way he could tolerate such an insult.

When Nancy saw how moved Lacey was, she became jealous.

"Lacey, are you overreacting? Have you thought about how this kept-man found the money to

purchase the restaurant? Undoubtedly, he must have misappropriated the funds from your company to do so. He used your own money to buy a gift for you, isn't it meaningless?"



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Meanwhile, Zeke picked up a piece of lemon and waved it around. “Tsk Tsk, this slice of lemon looks especially sour.”

Nancy was speechless.

Are you accusing me of being salty?

How dare you!

Never mind, there's no point in wasting time on someone like him.

Nancy turned to console Mance, “Ignore him. He is a useless man who has to rely on his wife for a living. He's nothing compared to you.”

Despite his infuriation, Mance suppressed his anger to maintain his chivalrous facade.

He nodded in agreement. “Mmm, don't worry. I'm not that narrow-minded.”

At that moment, Mance's phone rang.

It was John. “Mance, I have sent the Maserati you requested to the entrance of the Michelin-starred restaurant.”

Mance briefly acknowledged John and ended the call.

He then asked Nancy, “Are you done eating?”

Your car has arrived, let us go take a look.”

Nancy nodded in agreement. She had no desire to stay a second longer.

Zeke suggested to Lacey, “Honey, let’s join them too.”

Holding onto Zeke’s arm, Lacey smiled blissfully. “Anything you say.”

Outside, John was directing some men to lower the Maserati from the trailer.

When Zeke saw John, he couldn’t help but furrow his eyebrows.

He could detect a rotten scent from the old man, it smelt like a dead body.

John’s figure was thin and scrawny, just like a corpse.

Could it be that he is a warlock?

He has to be one.

Only a warlock who dealt with worms for a long time would have this unique smell.

Besides, the reason he was thin and malnourished was that the worms he raised lived off his body.

They would suck all the nutrients from him, causing him to look scrawny.

The situation now took an interesting turn.

Zeke was sure that this warlock killed Logan and the others with his poisonous worms.

Why did he do it?

He was in the same line as Logan and Wilson. Therefore, they worked for the same boss.

If Zeke had continued to investigate Logan and the others, he might have found out who their real boss was. Hence, the warlock was tasked to kill them so that Zeke would not have any leads.

If the warlock were doing Mance's bidding, it would imply that the latter was in the same line as them.

Zeke's scheme had ensnared two big fishes at the same time. What a wonderful harvest indeed.

It was now obvious that Mance had ulterior motives for getting close to Nancy.

She was in danger.

At the same time, John's heart skipped a beat

when he noticed Zeke's presence.

Damn it, why are Zeke and Mance together? Are they friends?

If their boss knew Mance was friends with the enemy, he would order his godson to be beaten to death.

John quickly regained his composure. "Mance, it's late. I'll send you home. Tonight, there will be a banquet organized by the Ocean's Chamber of Commerce in your honor. You should get yourself prepared."

Nancy was shocked. "The Ocean's Chamber of Commerce? Isn't that the largest chamber of commerce in Rivermouth where all the wealthiest businessmen from every district are members?"

John nodded. "That's the one."

Nancy exclaimed, "My God! Even the Ocean's Chamber of Commerce is holding a dinner in your honor. Mance, you're really amazing!"

Mance grinned in response. "Nancy, given that you know who they are, are you an entrepreneur too?"

Zeke interrupted abruptly, "Oh, how can you not know? When Nancy's business was in the

doldrums, her hero helped her resolve it. Therefore, you must know that she runs a business. Since you aren't aware of it, can it be that you are not the hero she thinks you are?"



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Nancy and Lacey turned to look at Mance curiously.

Given that Hero had helped her resolve the problems her business faced, he should know she was an entrepreneur.

In fact, he even gifted her the project at Whiteridge.

Meanwhile, Mance panicked and silently cursed Zeke for being a busybody.

Forcing a smile, he explained, "It was just a slip of tongue. Of course, I know that you're a businesswoman. I would like to invite you and Lacey to the banquet tonight. Only the elite entrepreneurs are invited. With more networking, it would definitely be helpful in the course of your business."

Nancy replied eagerly, "I would love to go."

Smiling, Lacey nodded too. "Thanks for inviting us along."

Given that the Linton Group had reached a plateau in their development, it would be helpful to expand their network and hopefully secure more projects along the way. Perhaps they could break through their plateau that way.

Meanwhile, John introduced himself. "My dear

ladies, I will be in charge of tonight's dinner. I'm John. If there are any problems at the banquet, you can look for me."

Looking at Nancy, he asked, "May I know your name, please? You look awfully familiar."

Nancy replied, "I'm a member of the Hintons in Riverdale."

John immediately realized who she was. "The Riverdale Hintons! It's my honor to meet you."

He offered his hand to shake Nancy's.

Zeke was shocked and quickly blocked John's arm.

The warlock had poisonous worms everywhere in his body.

If he shook Nancy's hand, he could plant the worms on her.

Zeke sniggered, "Dear sir, forgive me for being direct. Your hands looked like they haven't been washed in days. You shouldn't go around offering your hand when you would end up dirtying someone else's hands. Don't you think so?"

John became visibly awkward.

Meanwhile, Lacey and Nancy were dumbfounded as they were shocked at Zeke's response.

John was trying to be courteous, but Zeke criticized him for having dirty hands instead.

It was undoubtedly rude of Zeke.

What if John became upset and rescinded their invitation to the banquet, it would be a great loss to them.

Nancy panicked and pushed Zeke aside. "What gives you the right to meddle in my business? John, please forgive him for his boorishness."

Meanwhile, she extended her hand to John.

Zeke noticed that when John shook her hand, he had flicked his fingers.

It was a move warlocks typically used when they wanted to plant poisonous worms on their victims.

At that moment, Nancy had been poisoned.

John reminded them, "By the way, Jeffrey, the mayor of Oakheart City, will also be attending. It would be a glamorous event. I suggest that you attend the banquet in gowns to make a good impression on Jeffrey."

Nancy was elated. “Did I hear correctly? Jeffrey is gracing the occasion too? Mance, you’re really something!”

Lacey was equally excited. “It’s wonderful that Jeffrey himself would be there. Coincidentally, the Linton Group is preparing to get itself listed. However, there’s a bunch of applications that are stuck with the mayor’s office. If we could meet Jeffrey tonight, perhaps we could get the matter sorted. Mance, you did me a great favor. Thank you.”

Mance proudly replied, “Oh, it’s nothing. No thanks needed. Everything’s settled then. I’m heading home to get prepared. Later, I’ll send someone to pick both of you up.”

Once Mance left, Nancy’s face darkened instantly. “Zeke, I know you’re jealous that I found my hero, but that doesn’t give you the right to cause so much trouble. How could you accuse John of having dirty hands? If he became upset, would you be able to bear the consequences? Luckily, Mance was being kind to me. Otherwise, I would have made you suffer.”



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Lacey joined in the criticism. "That's right. Zeke, your behavior today was atrocious."

Zeke sighed repeatedly. "You don't know him well enough. Despite how pleasant Mance is on the surface, he is a very dangerous man."

Nancy scowled, "Shut up. You're just envious that he is more successful than you. He's richer and more powerful than you ever could be. Other than bad-mouthing him, you are capable of nothing else."

Zeke shot a glance at Nancy. "Say whatever you want. You will regret it one day. Also, stop drinking for the next few days."

Most of the poisonous worms were sensitive to alcohol. By drinking, Nancy would only speed up the poison's spread.

She rolled her eyes at Zeke. "How can you not drink during a banquet? It would be rude not to do so. Are you asking me to offend all the important guests there? It doesn't matter, I'm don't care what you do. Lacey, I'll pick you up later and we'll attend the banquet together."

With that, Nancy left.

Meanwhile, Lacey took a deep breath and said, "Zeke, can you not attend the banquet? You despise Mance anyway. Out of sight, out of

mind, you know.”

She was worried that Zeke’s presence would disrupt her plans.

But he would never agree to that.

Since he confirmed that Mance and John were in the same line as Logan, he knew they were his mortal enemies.

They were cold-blooded killers, and their attempt at cozying up to Nancy and Lacey was filled with ill intentions.

How could two defenseless women be safe when they were walking into a trap?

Zeke replied, “We will talk again tonight.”

Inside Mance’s Bentley.

John carefully pried, “Mance, do you know Zeke is the one that our boss wants you to destroy?”

Mance nodded. “Of course, I do.”

John continued, “In that case, why are you sharing a meal with him?”

“We have to know our enemy before we strike. I’m just trying to get a feel of who he is.”

John laughed wryly.

He didn't believe Mance's lousy excuse as he knew the latter was simply there for the girls.

He sighed, "Very well."

"Mance, a friendly piece of advice. Don't let your lust mess up the boss' grand plan."

Mance smiled smugly. "You must think that I'm cozying up to the girls simply for fun. You're absolutely wrong. This is one of my schemes to deal with Zeke."

John's curiosity was piqued. "Please, elaborate."

Mance explained, "I know Zeke cares a lot for his wife. He values her life more than his own. If I defile his wife or even kill her, do you think it will devastate him? I intend to torment his soul before taking his life."

John nodded after giving it some thought. "This is a wonderful idea indeed. However, you have to remember that women are just toys."

Mance waved his hand restlessly. "I know, I know. By the way, have you implanted the poisonous worms on Nancy like I asked?"

John nodded. "It's done."

Mance smiled diabolically. “With the Lust Worm you implanted in her, she would be desperate for me once she drinks some wine. As for Lacey, it would be difficult to attack her with Zeke by her side. Nevertheless, I guarantee that in less than seven days, Zeke will die and Lacey will submit to me!”

In the evening, Zeke called Evan. “Evan, I’m sure you have been invited to the Ocean’s Chamber of Commerce banquet tonight.”



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Evan replied, "Mr. Williams, I'm surprised you know about it. They invited me as you said."

Zeke ordered, "In that case, give me your admission ticket. I need to attend the banquet."

Evan nodded immediately. "No problem. I'll send someone to bring it to you."

Although Evan was really eager to attend the banquet to expand his business network, he still had to bear the loss of the opportunity and acquiesce to Zeke.

In a short while, Evan's man arrived with the admission ticket.

Right after he received it, Lacey got a call from Nancy.

"Lacey, come down quickly. I'm waiting for you at the entrance of Linton Group tower. By the way, don't let Zeke know. You should come down discreetly."

Zeke let out a dry laugh. "She's sitting beside me."

Nancy hesitated before adding, "Do you have a club or an axe with you? Please knock him unconscious."

Lacey ended the call instantly and asked Zeke,

“Do you really want to go?”

“Of course. I wouldn't feel at ease to let my beautiful wife attend the banquet alone.”

“Fine, but you have to promise me you won't cause any trouble there,” Lacey replied without a choice. “There will be many prominent people attending which the Linton Group may work with in the future. If we leave a poor impression, it will affect the future development of the group.”

Zeke smiled. “Don't worry, I know what to do.”

With that, both of them went downstairs.

John himself drove a Lincoln Limousine to pick the women up.

When he saw Zeke, he became upset. “Mr. Williams, those without an invitation card could not enter tonight's banquet.”

Before he could finish, Zeke threw the admission ticket in his face and ordered, “Drive.”

John had nothing else to say except to drive.

Clenching her teeth, Nancy stared at Zeke. With her right hand on the fire extinguisher, she was tempted to whack Zeke's head with it.

If she knocked him out, he could not follow her around anymore.

However, her actions were quickly noticed by Zeke, who shot an angry glare at her.

She had no choice but to forgo her plan.

She grumbled, "For Lacey's sake, I'll allow you to get some exposure to the outside world. Remember, don't talk too much there. It would be even better if you act dumb or hide. If you cause any trouble and disgrace Mance, I won't ever forgive you."

Zeke shot a glance back at her. "I, too, have a piece of advice for you. Stay away from alcohol or you will be in mortal danger."

Nancy scowled, "Bastard, who are you cursing?"

Lacey felt awkward being sandwiched between them.

One was her best friend and cousin, while the other was her husband. They would always argue every time they were together.

It was hard for her to always be trapped between them.

In a short while, they arrived at the banquet

organized by the Ocean's Chamber of Commerce. It was indeed very grand.

Outside, the music was blaring while there were tons of people around.

The female ushers greeted the guests wearing gowns with high slits. Their long and slender legs played peek-a-boo with all the guests who were ogling at them.

Meanwhile, the ballroom was filled with successful men dressed in suits, mingling around noisily.

When Lacey and Nancy saw the scene, they couldn't help but yell in excitement.

"Look! It's Mr. MacTodd, the president of the MacTodd group."

"OMG! The Raider family from Eastend state is here, too."

"Mance is talking to the head of the most advanced tech company from the UK. He's really amazing! Zeke, everyone here belongs to the Ocean's Chamber of Commerce. We cannot afford to offend any of them. Remember, you must pretend to be dumb!"



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Zeke was speechless.

These people were nothing to him.

Even for Sole Wolf, he could easily get rid of them with a snap of his fingers.

When Mance realized Lacey and Nancy had arrived, he was filled with delight.

However, when he saw Zeke had tagged along, his expression darkened.

Walking over, he smiled at both ladies. "Nancy, Ms. Hinton, both of you look so ravishing in your gowns that it reminded me of something."

He greeted the two ladies and ignored Zeke.

Smiling, Nancy asked, "Mance, what is that?"

Mance replied, "A Goddess... No, I think you are more beautiful than Goddesses. Actually, there are a lot of pretty ladies here tonight. But, in front of both of you, they simply pale in comparison."

Nancy chuckled. "Mance, you flatter us."

He wasn't saying it just to make them happy.

It was the truth.

Both of them were born pretty. Their gowns simply made them look stunning.

Their arrival attracted the attention of many “successful men” who came over to make conversation.

“Mance, introduce us?”

Mance grinned. “They are my friends, Lacey and Nancy.”

The word “friends” had a broad meaning and left a lot to the imagination of others.

Many guests came to complement their beauty.

“Haha, I’m from the entertainment industry and often mingle with female stars. Even then, they are nothing compared to both of you.”

“I didn’t expect Rivermouth to still have such beauties born here. It is fertile ground indeed.”

“You ladies must be entrepreneurs. What businesses are you in? Perhaps there will be opportunities for cooperation.”

Nancy and Lacey were astounded.

These were all of society’s elite who they never even had the chance to talk to before.

Now, they were being swarmed with compliments instead. Their family would be proud to see them.

Both women were aware that these people were being nice to them on the account of Mance. Hence, they felt indebted to him.

Checking the time on his phone, Mance said, "Jeffrey will probably be here soon. I'll be at the main table entertaining him. Nancy, do you want to come along with me to the main table? I'll introduce you to him."

Nancy was delighted. "Oh, really? I-I can sit at the same table as Jeffrey? It would be an honor."

Mance then looked at Lacey. "Lacey, there's still one more seat available. Don't you have a bunch of applications stuck at the mayor's office? Why don't you sit at the main table? When the time comes, I'll bring up your issue with Jeffrey. I'm sure he will help you approve it."

Lacey was elated. "Thank you, I'm really grateful."

Mance then led the two ladies ahead.

Meanwhile, Zeke followed behind.

Mance became upset and said, "I'm sorry, the main table is full. There's no place for you. You should sit at the cheap seats."

The crowd furrowed their eyebrows in curiosity and wondered. Zeke actually wanted to sit at the main table, despite not being invited to do so by Mance.

Even all the other successful businessmen weren't qualified to sit there, so what gave him the right? He was thick-skinned indeed.

Zeke replied, "If I sit at the cheap seats, how would Lacey be able to discuss the listing application with Jeffrey?"

Lacey answered, "Zeke, leave it to me. You should sit someplace else first. When I'm done, we'll go home."

Zeke shook his head.

"Lacey, you misunderstood me. What I meant was if I sit at the cheap seats, Jeffrey will definitely sit there with me. With you at the main table, how are you going to discuss your business with him?"



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The crowd was silent for a moment, but this was quickly followed by hysterical laughter which filled the hall.

“Haha, did I hear that right? This guy just said that Jeffrey will sit down with him.”

“Who does he think he is? Even Mance doesn’t have this privilege. From where did he get the arrogance to say such a thing?”

“As the saying goes, ‘Only a shameless man thinks he’s invincible.’ I’m speechless.”

Nancy and Lacey both blushed furiously at the same time.

Goodness gracious! Zeke always speaks his mind without thinking through it first!

This is really too embarrassing!

Nancy reacted quickly, saying, “Let’s not pay any attention to him. He’s just my bodyguard.”

“This guy is not quite right in the head. He always behaves in an odd manner. Let’s not take his words seriously.”

“Zeke Williams, quickly take a seat and have your meal, otherwise, I shall dismiss you right away.”

Zeke spoke, "You little..."

Are you worthy enough to employ the Great Marshal as your bodyguard?

The crowd laughed even more hysterically.

It turns out that he's the bodyguard.

Are all the bodyguards so arrogant nowadays? Do you think you are a bodyguard from Zhongnanhai?

Lacey, too, rebuked him, "Zeke, when you arrived, you promised me you would behave well."

"A man must keep his word."

Zeke Williams replied smilingly, "Lacey, trust me, Jeffrey will take the initiative to come and sit with me."

Mance was getting impatient and he said, "Ms. Lacey, Jeffrey should be here any moment now; we don't have too much time."

"You should make your decision quickly. Make up your mind whether you believe in Zeke Williams or me and all my colleagues in the Chamber of Commerce."

Mance did not know about the relationship

between Zeke Williams and Jeffrey.

Although his deputy, John, knew, he had not informed Mance.

John had realized much earlier that Mance was a prideful person who thought lowly of Zeke Williams.

To underestimate an opponent was something to be avoided in any battlefield.

In order to teach Mance the lesson of appraising an opponent correctly, he had withheld this information from Mance.

Only through practice could one gain wisdom.

Lacey struggled with herself.

Of course, for now, she chose to believe Mance.

However, if she publicly chose to believe Mance, she would make Zeke look bad and it would hurt him.

It was a choice between her future and Zeke's dignity. It was a difficult choice.

Finally, Mance sighed in disappointment, saying, "Never mind, I'll not put Ms. Lacey in a difficult position."

“Ms. Lacey, you’d better be seated with Zeke.”

“You’re so indecisive. Even if you sit with Jeffrey, you’re not likely to give him a good impression. It wouldn’t do you any good, anyway.”

“Nancy, let’s go.”

Knowing that Mance would take away her chance of sitting at that table, Lacey felt a sudden ache in her chest and her face turned pale.

Nancy was furious.

“You scoundrel, you’ve robbed Lacey of a great opportunity. You might even have ruined her future.”

“You wait, I’ll make you pay for this when we get home.”

Zeke inhaled deeply and spoke sincerely, “Nancy, don’t drink alcohol later.”

“Get lost!” Nancy scolded, “It’s none of your business.”

They went to their VIP seats.

Zeke tried to take Lacey’s hand in his as he reminded her, “Lacey, trust me. Have you

forgotten that I've never disappointed you before..."

Lacey angrily avoided his hand and walked off towards the normal seats in a huff.

After she had settled down, she couldn't endure being wronged anymore and tears flowed down from the corners of her eyes.

Why, why does Zeke Williams have no tolerance for others at all?

Just to bicker with Mance, he has ruined my future.

And because of his ego, he publicly announced that Jeffrey will sit with him.

This is an act of self-humiliation and it's so shameful.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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He has done it this time. Mance is offended and will not put in a good word for me. He might even encourage Jeffrey to not let my company go public.

All the hard work of more than six months has just gone up in flames.

On the other hand, Zeke Williams was unperturbed. Time would tell.

Even though everyone was seated, they were still discussing Zeke's folly and were constantly laughing at him.

Lacey felt so ashamed that she kept her head low.

Finally, she made up her mind and got up to leave.

It was pointless to stay on. To make it worse, she had to endure the embarrassment!

Zeke Williams pulled her back, "Lacey, where are you going?"

With an emotionless face, Lacey said, "Home."

Zeke Williams replied, "You have not told Jeffrey about our plans for public listing yet. How can you leave?"

Pfft!

Nearby, a few guests who heard their conversation could not control their laughter.

Lacey was even more embarrassed.

At this exact moment, a government car drew up at the entrance.

The waiter at the door hurriedly yelled to Mance, "Mr. Raider, Jeffrey is here."

Everyone in the hall got up one after another and took the opportunity to go out and greet him. For a while, the crowd near the entrance was packed to standing room only.

Jeffrey was today's special guest so he had to be tended to very well.

If they could give Jeffrey a good impression, he would remember them and might give them some special consideration that would enable them to rise to the top.

With the arrival of Jeffrey, Lacey could not sneak off now.

She then decided that she might as well greet Jeffrey too. There was the possibility that he would remember her face and be left with a good impression.

Nevertheless, Zeke pulled her back and told her, "Lacey, you don't need to go to greet him. Later, he will come over and toast us."

Lacey gave Zeke a sidelong glance and sadly heaved a sigh.

Never mind, I'll just obey you. Jeffrey is surrounded by such a big crowd of people. Even if I go near, I won't be seen.

Mance took the lead and opened the car door for Jeffrey, saying, "Jeffrey, welcome to our gathering. Your presence brings us abundant joy and glory."

Jeffrey replied with a gracious smile, "Mr. Raider, you are too kind. Your investments in Oakheart City brings much pleasure to me."

"On behalf of all my city's citizens, I welcome you, Mr. Raider. It is rightful of me to do this."

Mance laughed aloud, "Mr. Middleton, you are too humble. Please come in, please come in."

Nancy Hinton's gaze was full of admiration.

My hero is indeed special enough to be able to chat so naturally with Jeffrey.

The other traders, too, were full of envy and respect.

Led and followed by the crowd, Jeffrey came to his seat which was prepared for the guest of honor.

All this while, he did not even look in Zeke Williams' direction.

After Jeffrey was seated, the crowd returned to their respective seats.

Several young people sitting at the same table with Zeke Williams ridiculed him, "Mr. Williams, why didn't Jeffrey come over to give you a toast?"

"This is quite the opposite of what you said just now."

Zeke replied, "That's only because he hasn't seen me yet."

Pfft!

The young people burst out in laughter.

"His words are so convincing that I nearly believed it."

"Buddies, I have been hiding something from you guys. Actually, I'm close friends with Jeffrey. If he sees me, he'll come and give me a toast."

“Oh! Why isn’t he here to say ‘cheers’ to you?”

“Because he hasn’t seen me, yet.”

“Hahaha!”

Lacey lowered down her head even more.

Embarrassing! It’s just too embarrassing!

She made a decision. Later, when no one was looking, she would sneak out.

Zeke turned around and watched out for Jeffrey. He saw that, coaxed by Mance, Jeffrey was about to drink.

Immediately, his face showed displeasure and he scolded, “Jeffrey, how many times have I told you not to drink?”

“You know what problems your body is suffering from. You should know better than to drink, shouldn’t you?”

At these words, the whole hall went totally silent!

Everyone looked at Zeke Williams with fear and surprise!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Heavens! Is this man out of his mind? He... he dared to scold Jeffrey!

Furthermore he had “ordered” Jeffrey not to drink and even scolded him for not knowing better!

How much liquor did he drink to have the guts to say such things?

This young man was done for.

The young men at Zeke’s table turned pale with fright. They quickly left the table.

Darn it! If Jeffrey thought that Zeke had drunk too much and at the same time, rebuked him for drinking, the others at the same table would also get into trouble!

Foolish Zeke Williams, get into trouble all you like but don’t involve us!

Lacey Hinton was so frightened that she started trembling and her limbs went weak.

She just wished that a hole would appear in the ground and she could creep into it.

Now, not only would Linton Group be destitute. There was even the possibility of imprisonment.

Jeffrey quietly turned around and once he realized that it was Zeke Williams speaking just now, he instinctively jumped to his feet.

Zeke Williams... Mr. Williams... Why is he also here?!

Damn, why didn't I notice him just now, and damn you, Mance, for putting him in the general sitting area.

Now I can count on Zeke to remove the poison out of me and old teacher.

If Mr. Williams was not properly served, then I and the old beloved teacher might lose our lives!

Immediately, he went towards Zeke Williams.

Mance got up immediately and said, "Jeffery, do ignore him. He's just somebody's bodyguard."

"His brain is not quite right and he always talks nonsense. Let me get someone to dismiss him right now."

Jeffrey silently cursed Mance. *You are the one whose brain is not right!*

He ignored Mance and continued walking towards Zeke Williams.

Mance was overjoyed. Things were happening beyond his expectations.

Initially, he planned to talk bad about Zeke to give Jeffrey a bad impression of the man.

It was now quite apparent that he was overthinking. There was no need for him to put Zeke down.

Zeke Williams was doing it himself.

Haha, this retard is digging his own grave. There is no one else to blame.

Everyone present felt concerned for Zeke Williams.

Jeffrey was going to personally teach him a lesson and it looked like it was going to be serious.

Lacey Hinton was so scared that her limbs felt weak. Despite so, she managed to get up and pull Zeke up as well.

“Zeke, quick... get up quickly...”

“Jeffrey is going to reprimand you... You... you mustn't sit down.”

Zeke Williams said casually, “If I stood up, he would feel that he is disrespectful to me.”

Lacey Hinton's mind went blank.

Even at this moment, this rascal is still trying to bluff.

Will you stop this nonsense only after the Hinton family is totally destroyed?

Everyone else was astonished but they could not help bursting out in laughter. *This guy is still stubbornly digging his own grave.*

While everyone was waiting for Zeke Williams to be put to shame, what happened next was totally unexpected...

Jeffrey walked right up to Zeke Williams, bowed deeply, and said respectfully, "Mr. Williams, I didn't expect you to be here."

"Just now, I did not notice you. That was really disrespectful of me. I am sorry."

Oh gosh...

Everyone's eyes widened in shock as they made exclamations of surprise.

Oh my goodness...

Are we... are we seeing things?

A high and mighty mayor of a city bows down to

an ordinary bodyguard and addresses him respectfully as

Darn, is this guy really the "Bodyguard Of Zhongnanhai"?

Oh my goodness! This is just a small cocktail party. How could it attract the presence of a VIP?

Lacey was shocked silly. She kept staring at Zeke Williams with fiery eyes as her heart beat wildly.

Zeke... Zeke... really, did not disappoint me!

He really does know Jeffrey!

How did he get to know Jeffrey... and when? Why do I know nothing about it?

Zeke Williams, what other secrets are you hiding from me?

Of those present, the biggest reaction was from Nancy Hinton.

Up to now, she could not believe that this kept-man who depended on his wife, was a friend of the Mayor of Oakheart City!

Furthermore, it was clearly not just a casual acquaintance as the mayor was so respectful to him!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Is this the same kept-man that I know?

A kept-man must look like a kept-man but just look at you now! You don't look like a kept-man at all!

Something is amiss!

As for Mance, his feelings were indescribable. He just felt terrible!

This was supposed to be a welcoming party for me but Zeke Williams is now the center of attraction!

I am now seriously wondering if Nancy is being sarcastic when she used the term "kept-man" on Zeke. Is she just fooling with me?

Zeke Williams matter-of-factly accepted Jeffrey's respectful bow to him.

He pointed to the seat next to him and said, "Sit down. There is something I would like to discuss with you."

"Oh! Sure, sure," Jeffrey obeyed instantly and sat by his side.

Zeke said, "Lacey, don't you have something to tell Jeffrey?"

"Huh?" Lacey came back to her senses and

said hurriedly and respectfully, “Mr. Middleton, let me introduce myself. I am the president of Linton Group, Lacey Hinton.”

“Recently, our group is planning to go public but due to some red tape, it has been delayed at your office for a few days and there is no news yet.”

“I would like to know if there are any problems in that application? Could you please tell me so I can correct them?”

Jeffrey replied, “Are you speaking about the Linton Group listing application? I have approved it and sent it to you in person three days ago.”

“Oh?” Lacey was surprised, “You sent it personally three days ago? Why... Why didn’t I know about it?”

Jeffrey quickly explained, “Well, you were not in that day and I happened to meet your assistant, Dawn, so I passed the approved application to her.”

Lacey said, “Dawnie did not mention that to me. I’ll call her and ask her now.”

She immediately dialed Dawn’s number, “Dawnie, let me ask you, has our listing application been returned to us?”

Dawn replied, "No, not yet. Furthermore, they won't deliver it to us. We have to go and retrieve it ourselves."

Lacey insisted, "Think carefully. Three days ago, did someone hand the application to you?"

Dawn suddenly remembered, "Sis, are you talking about the scammer?"

"Three days ago, there was a dispatch rider who delivered a dispatch saying that it's our approved listing application being returned to us."

"Let me tell you, that dispatch rider is a scammer. He said he was the mayor and even asked for your phone number."

"I guessed that scammer has fallen in love with you, written you a love letter and was asking for your phone number to harass you."

"Of course, your smart sister, me, did not give him your number."

Lacey's face turned red with anger and she scolded in a low voice, "You... you silly girl, you've made a huge mistake."

"Where is that letter? Find it for me, quickly!"

Dawn replied, "I've thrown it into the trash bin."

What's wrong, sis?"

Lacey snapped, "Shut up and go find it."

Dawn realized something was wrong and so, she quickly searched the trash bin.

It did not take too long for her to find it.

"Sis, do you care about this love letter? Let me tell you, you mustn't cheat on Zeke..."

Lacey was almost speechless, "You will be the death of me! Open it and see if it's a love letter!"

Dawn opened the letter, looked at it and was immediately, stunned. She said, "Oh, sis, it really is our listing application!"

"And that means, the scammer... is really the mayor..."

"Sis, I'm done for, should I run away now..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“I’ll settle you when I go back.” Lacey scolded and put down the phone.

She apologetically looked at Jeffrey and explained, “Jeffery, I’m sorry. My younger sister was so silly...”

Jeffrey laughed and with a wave of his hand, he said, “Haha... Since I became the mayor, I have yet to hear criticism from any citizen.”

“A few words of reproach is good. I’ll treat it as encouragement to do a better job.”

The crowd was greatly moved by his words.

What type of person is Zeke Williams that when his wife’s assistant mistakes the mayor for a scammer, the head of the city shows no anger and does not pursue the matter?

Presumably, only the big bosses in the province have this ability.

Mance’s limelight was stolen by Zeke and he was so angry that he could now swallow Zeke whole.

Nevertheless, in his twenty-year career as a mercenary, he had learnt tolerance.

He hid the shame of being insulted within himself and walked to Jeffrey, saying, “Mayor,

the feast will begin soon. Please return to your VIP seat.”

“You are our special guest today and it’s not right for you to take this ordinary seat.”

Jeffrey had some questions concerning Mance putting Mr. Williams in the ordinary seating.

Showing displeasure, he said, “Since Mr. Williams is here among the ordinary seats, how dare I take a VIP seat?”

“I’ll take a seat at Mr. Williams’ table. It will do fine.”

Mance swallowed his pride, looked at Zeke and invited him courteously, “Mr. Williams, would you like to come and sit at the VIP table?”

Zeke laughed and said, “Just now, didn’t you say that the VIP seats are all taken so I have to take an ordinary seat?”

“This location here feels good so I’m not moving.”

Mance got more angry.

You dare reject my invitation! It’s like slapping my face in public!

Williams, I’ll have my revenge!

Alas, Zeke and Jeffrey did not change seats but remained in the ordinary seating area.

It might be labelled an ordinary seating but with Jeffrey there, it was now a VIP area.

Everyone's attention was on this table, and time and again, guests came up to toast him and give praises.

The table where Mance was seated was completely ignored and nobody bothered about him.

Throughout the whole meal, Mance said not a word, but drank alone instead.

Nancy Hinton tried to console Mance but she did not know how so she just let him be.

Due to the presence of certain toxins in his body, Jeffrey could not take liquor and so, he left after a short while.

After Jeffrey left, Lacey was full of apologies and she told Zeke, "Zeke, I'm so sorry for what happened just now. I should have trusted you."

Zeke lovingly stroked Lacey's long hair and said, "Lacey, don't talk silly again. We are one family. What is there to be sorry or apologetic about?"

Lacey smiled shyly, “Yeah, Zeke, how did you know Jeffrey? You didn’t mention this before.”

Zeke replied, “Oh, Jeffrey is suffering from an intractable disease, only I could save him.”

“How could he not respect his only savior?”

Lacey Hinton replied thoughtfully with an “Oh,” but she had some doubts.

If it was just treating sickness, there was really no need to worship him like an idol.

This man is exasperating. How I wish I could cut him open and see what secrets he holds inside him.

At this point, intermittently, guests came to greet Zeke and to build connections.

Nancy Hinton glared at him angrily.

Why? Why on earth?

He is nothing but a kept-man who depends on his wife and has no skills at all. All he has is some medical knowledge.

How can he steal the limelight from my hero?

In order to avenge her hero, Nancy stood up, snorted and announced, “You people, do not be

fooled by his appearance.”

“As a matter of fact, this fella is just a kept-man who depends on his wife for food and lodging. His car and his home are all his wife’s.”

“He has no money and no power. All he can do is to pretend to be something he is not.”

The crowd were surprised.

A kept-man?

How could Jeffrey respect a kept-man so much?

Mance added to the insults, “As far as I know, Jeffrey is in good health. He is not sick at all.”

“Are you fooling the crowd by deceiving Jeffrey into believing that he is suffering from an intractable disease which only you can cure?”

“You are committing the crime of deceiving the mayor. In ancient times, you would be beheaded!”

Doubts had been cast and the crowd started talking among themselves.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Yeah, I don’t think I’ve heard anyone saying that Jeffrey was sick.”

“I’m the president of Clearview General Hospital. Jeffrey came to my house for a checkup the other day, and he was totally fine.”

“Hmm, could Mance be right? Is this fellow trying to fool Jeffrey?”

“Damn it! If that was true, then it’d be unforgivable.”

Nancy snorted, “Are you guys finally seeing his true colors? He’s a sly fox masquerading as a tiger, lying to everyone around him.”

The others cast a puzzled look at Zeke Williams.

Zeke replied nonchalantly, “You guys are just deceiving yourselves.”

To this, Mance replied, “For what it’s worth, what could you do even if you do know Jeffrey?”

“Guys, truth to be told, Jeffrey is not the VIP of today’s cocktail party. I’ve invited another guest who is way above the totem pole compared to Jeffrey.”

What?

The others were taken aback with surprise.

Way more significant than Jeffrey? He must be some kind of big shot then?

At the very least, he must be some kingpin of the city, right?

The others were quite curious about the identity of the VIP so they asked Mance, “Mr. Raider, don’t keep us guessing further. Why don’t you just let us know who’s the VIP you’ve invited here tonight?”

Mance merely smiled, “Do you guys know about General North?”

The others nodded in reply, “General North? Who in Eurasia doesn’t know him?”

“Yes, he’s one of the four Gods of War in Eurasia, as well as the second defender of Eurasia.”

“I heard that he’s the disciple of the Great Marshal as well.”

“Mr. Raider, why did you suddenly mention General North? Could it be that...”

Mance did not beat around the bush further, “That’s right. The VIP I’ve invited is none other than the General North himself.”

“I invited him yesterday and he said he would attend the cocktail party tonight.”

“However, it’s such a pity that he had an emergency mission today and had to go to Riverdale District. I don’t think he could make it back in time, though.”

The others went abuzz at the revelation.

Unbelievable!

Mance Raider has connections to the General!

So what if Zeke Williams knows Jeffrey? Jeffrey is nobody compared to General North.

It looks like Mance is truly the chosen one.

Everyone then started to butter up to Mance.

Nancy cast a taunting gaze at Zeke. “Hah! Now it’s crystal clear that Mance is indeed the chosen one. He’s the type to shine bright. You’re nothing more than a shattered piece of glass. Even if you are glowing, you are merely reflecting the light of others. It’s best that you know your place as a kept man. Don’t try to get into someone else’s limelight.”

Zeke could only smile bitterly to himself. *These people are truly fence-sitters, bending with the wind.*

He did not keep quiet and retorted, "To my knowledge, the General North is not out for any emergency mission. He has been in Oakheart City all this while."

Mance cast a dubious look at Mance and snorted, "Hah. You're only a kept man. How would you know the whereabouts of the General? Moreover, emergency missions are highly confidential information. I don't think even Jeffrey knows, let alone someone like you. You're clearly talking nonsense."

The others also looked down upon Zeke. They thought that he was bluffing and was just trying to be the center of attention again.

Zeke did not say anything further; he merely sent the General North a text.

Please come to the Ocean's Chamber of Commerce. I'm being bullied here! One more thing, bring more people with you!

The General North, Sole Wolf, burned with fury at the sight of the text.

Damn it! How dare they bully the Great Marshal!



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Sole Wolf then hurriedly replied: *Brother, our army has developed a new batch of firearms recently. I'll test them on your opponents then.*

Zeke typed his reply: *Nonsense. There's no need to waste firearms on these useless people. I'm still counting on using them as bait to get to their boss behind the scene. How can I catch the big fish if you're killing off these small ones in one go? Just lead a team here to prove that you're in Oakheart City. There's no need to stir up anything.*

The General North was dejected to hear Zeke.

However, he could not go against the orders of the Great Marshal and could only oblige.

Mance mocked, "Hey, Williams, who are you texting? The General North himself? Why don't you ask him to come and slap me across the face?"

Zeke put on a surprised look. "How did you know that?"

Hmm?

Hahaha!

The crowd burst into laughter.

It's true that Zeke Williams has lost his mind.

He did not even notice that Mance was just mocking him!

What a joke! If Zeke could invite the General North here, we can also invite the Great Marshal himself.

Mance laughed so hard that he had tears in his eyes, "Fine, fine. Please get back to your seats, ladies and gentlemen; our cocktail party shall continue."

"Just take it that Williams and I were doing stand-up comedy. Heck, my stomach is hurting from the good laugh!"

The crowd dispersed at his words.

Nancy glared at Zeke Williams, "Hmph! You're really a clown, stopping at nothing to become the center of attention."

Zeke did not bother to explain himself to Nancy; rather, he advised her again, "I'm going to give you my last warning. Don't even take a sip of alcohol."

Nancy gritted her teeth. "Shut up and get off my back."

The crowd started to toast to Mance while asking him about General North.

Zeke Williams was completely disregarded by the others once again.

The people who were at the same table as Zeke also started to tease him.

“I’m quite happy to meet you guys today. I’ll introduce you guys to some big shot later on.”

“Oh, who is it?”

“The Great Marshal, of course. I’ve texted him, and he will be here soon.”

“Hah! You are worthless in front of the Great Marshal. What makes you think you can ask him to come here?”

“Somebody who is just a bodyguard could invite the General North himself with a phone call, so why can’t I invite the Great Marshal here, hmm? Hahaha!”

Lacey could not help but sigh.

Zeke prides himself too much. How could he say that he could invite the General here?

*Doesn’t he know that he’s only going to be more embarrassed when people know he’s just lying his a** off?*

She decided then to take Zeke away when she

had the chance.

Her proposal for the public listing of her company had been approved, anyway, and there was no point for her to stay much longer.

The cocktail party went on, but suddenly roars of engines could be heard coming from the outside, accompanied by rings of urgent sirens.

A voice could be heard blasting on the megaphone, "The army is on a mission to shut off this street. All unauthorized personnel, please get out of the way..."

"The army is on a mission to shut off this street. All unauthorized personnel please get out of the way..."

Everyone at the party was stunned.

What's happening now? The army is on a mission...

What kind of mission is the army carrying out here?

When they were about to go outside to check things out, a heavily armed troop blocked the entrance, causing massive congestion.

A leader-like figure stood out and bellowed, "The army is on a mission to shut off the street.

Please stay inside, or else we are going to shoot on sight!”



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The army seemed oppressive, and no one dared to go against orders.

The onlookers edged close to the window instead and peeked outside.

They were dumbstruck at the sight.

“My goodness! Am I imagining things? This is such a rare sight!”

“The whole street has been shut off by the army. The troops are endless and they stretch all the way back... There have to be at least thousands of soldiers here.”

“Look, there are helicopters hovering in mid-air. They are blocking both the roads and air passage.”

“Which bigshot is out rounding the streets today who calls for the army to be mobilized?”

“Look at the car in the middle of the road. The bigshot is sitting in the car with a red flag.”

“He must be at least a colonel to be able to travel in a car like this.”

“Which colonel is coming to Oakheart City on a mission? Our city is going to be famous!”

Nobody could relate that it was Zeke Williams

who had invited General North here.

Because a joke is merely a joke. How could a security guard invite a bigshot like the General North?

The car came to a stop at the entrance of the cocktail party under everyone's scrutinizing gaze.

A colonel then announced, "General North has arrived."

The army then announced in unison as well, "General North has arrived!"

General North!

It's really General North!

The public was stupefied by the announcement.

Protector of the kingdom, Eurasia's ambassador of peace is in this part of town!

They suddenly came to a realization and cast glances at Mance Raider.

"Mance, did you invite the general here...?"

Mance Raider had his mouth in his heart at that moment.

He did send an invitation to General North previously, but he never received a reply from General North.

Is General North giving me a surprise?

The idea seemed quite probable to Mance.

Even though he was excited at the sight of General North, he remained calm and humble in front of others.

“General North must have finished his mission so he can come straight to the cocktail party.”

The others were astonished at Mance’s reply.

Having a meal with General North was a great honor.

Mance Raider is indeed the chosen one.

Nancy was so excited that she was brimming with tears.

My hero is so great that he could invite General North here personally!

I would only be beneath one man while I stand above millions of others.

Nancy hurriedly reminded him, “Mance, you have to go and welcome General North...”

The others snapped out of their thoughts, and they all rushed ahead to welcome General North.

Zeke did not follow the crowd. "I would advise that you guys stay as far away from him as possible, or else you're going to suffer the repercussions."

Nancy angrily glared at Zeke. "What do you mean?"

"Because I called General North here. He's not here to greet you guys. You guys are not in the position to welcome him," Zeke replied.

Mance Raider chuckled at Zeke's words, and the others burst into a laugh.

This guy is still keeping up with his lies when the truth is about to slap him across the face!

How could he be so delusional?

Mance Raider did not take heed and went straight to the entrance to greet General North.

However, a soldier stopped his tracks, "Stop right here. Do not get any nearer."

Mance hurriedly explained, "I invited General North here. Please let me greet him."

“You guys will suffer consequences if the general is displeased!”

The soldier snorted, “Who do you think you are? How could you be able to invite General North here? Are you trying to humiliate General North?”

Mance burned with fury at the soldier’s derision and bellowed, “Forget it! I don’t want to stoop so low to argue with you.”

“You shall receive your termination letter when I welcome General North in here!”



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Mance Raider tried to barge his way out, but the soldier did not show mercy and kicked Mance onto the floor.

The other soldiers then pointed their guns at him. The guns were fully loaded, totally dominating Mance Raider.

“This is the first warning,” the soldier alerted Mance Raider.

“We would like to stress that we will shoot on sight at those uncooperative ones.”

Mance Raider’s legs turned to jelly at the sight of the tens of guns pointing at him; he did not dare utter another word.

He boiled with rage. *Let’s just wait and see. I will get these imbeciles fired as soon as General North comes in.*

“Look, General North is getting off the car!” A person shouted while the others glanced at the car with a red flag.

A towering figure could be seen getting off the car.

The man donned a huge outercoat, the stars denoting his superior rank shone brightly on his shoulders.

He was wearing an army cap, paired with sunglasses and a face mask specifically made for the army. This made it difficult for others to discern his features.

However, his domineering vibe was unmatched. He was truly the leader!

General North did not even cast a glance at the cocktail party venue. Instead, he turned around and entered Elmina Wholesale Market, which was situated right opposite the cocktail party.

Huh?

What's happening now?

Why didn't General North come inside, and went to the wholesale market instead?

Is he thinking that it would be awkward to show up without bringing a gift, so he's going to the market to buy something?

General North showed up again after some time with a few bags in hand.

After that, he went back inside his car and left.

He did not cast a glance at the people at the cocktail party. It was as if they did not exist.

The others were quite disappointed with the

turn of events; it seemed like they were way ahead of themselves.

The soldier guarding the entrance of the hall snorted at Mance, "I'll let you off this time. However, don't expect me to go easy on you next time. Let's head back!"

General North came and left in a rush.

Some people were left stunned on the ground while one person in particular just felt... extremely embarrassed.

At the very least, Mance Raider was feeling flustered.

They were about to barge out of the entrance to greet General North, but as it turned out he was not there for the cocktail party at all. This was the perfect example of someone being given the cold shoulder.

Mance Raider could not help but feel he was left with egg on his face.

He could only grumble to himself. *You're the great General North. Do you really have to buy supplies personally?*

Even if you are buying supplies, why must you come to this small town?

Now I am so ridiculed.

Zeke mocked, "That's what you get for not taking an old man's words to heart. I've told you not to approach him but you refused to listen to me. I had goosebumps all over when you insisted on barging out there just now."

The others then cast a curious glance at Zeke Williams. They all had the same question in mind.

In the end, Lacey Hinton spoke out for the rest, "Zeke, did you really call General North here?"

They were now all ears to listen to Zeke's answer.

Zeke smiled thinly. "You could choose whether or not to believe in me."

The ambiguous answer made the others even more anxious.

Is he for real? If it were true, then we'd better start sucking up to him.

If it were just all poppycock, then it'd quite embarrassing to flatter a freeloader security guard.

Lacey Hinton was infuriated.

This fella is trying to hold people in suspense again. I really have to stop paying attention to him.

Mance spoke in the end, “Hah! Are you guys going to believe what this useless freeloader says?”

“If he really did call General North here, why didn’t the general come in and say hi to him?”

“I don’t know if you guys noticed it, but when General North came here, this guy was so scared that he did not even utter a single word. What’s more, he did not even go near the window or the door.”

The others contemplated Mance’s words and nodded in agreement.

Mance has a point.

“I think getting supplies is part of General North’s emergency mission as well,” Mance added in an attempt to defuse the awkward situation he was in.

“Why would he come to a cocktail party when he’s not even done with his emergency mission?”

The crowd nodded. “Mance, you’re right.”

NH

Chapter 624 First Warning



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke burst into a chuckle. “You mentioned that he’s out on a mission in Riverdale District. Why is he here in Oakheart City then?”

“Nonsense! He must have completed the emergency mission in Riverdale before coming here for another mission.” Mance retorted.

Zeke noted, “But Riverdale is in the West, and General North came here from the East.”

Mance Raider was rendered speechless.

“Hmph! How would I be clear on the emergency mission that he was on?”

“Maybe the trip to Riverdale District was just a coverup to confuse our enemy?”

Zeke wanted to speak when Mance Raider cut him off.

“I know you guys still doubt me even after my explanation.”

“So, I’ll invite General North to my company’s opening ceremony seven days later.”

“Didn’t you guys want to have a meal together with him? Now I’ll give a chance to those who drink the most today to sit at the same table as General North at the opening ceremony banquet.”

They found Mance's offer extraordinarily appealing.

Nobody would want to miss the chance to sit at the same table as General North and Mance Raider.

The crowd was abuzz with excitement, and Zeke Williams was completely disregarded.

Mance looked apologetically at Nancy Hinton. "Nancy, I'm sorry for today."

"I did not want to be selfish and cause a delay to General North's tight schedule for my own personal gains."

"What about if I arrange for you to dine at the same table as General North himself a week later?"

Nancy Hinton was psyched at the prospect. "Thank you, Mance! I'll be on my best behavior on that day."

The crowd was in an uproar. "Mance, you're favoring gals over pals!"

"We could only get the chance if we drink a lot tonight, but Ms. Hinton here does not even need to take a single sip of alcohol to enjoy the same privilege!"

“That’s true. You have to be fair to us!”

“Right, it’s already the 21st century. Don’t you know anything about gender equality?”

Mance found himself to be in a difficult position. “Umm...”

Nancy spoke on behalf of Mance, “Gentlemen, I definitely could not compete against you guys when it comes to drinking. What about this? I’ll drink three glasses in one go as my way of thanking you guys for the precious chance to dine with General North?”

The crowd chimed, “Sure! If you could honor your words and drink three glasses in one go, we would give Mance due respect and you could have your chance.”

Zeke stopped Nancy when she was about to chug the liquor down her throat. “Nancy, you shouldn’t drink this.”

“Someone could be trying to take advantage of you when you’re drunk.”

Nancy was enraged, “Zeke Williams, enough!”

“What do you take Mance for? A perverted freak whose brain is filled with filthy thoughts like you?”

“A wicked person always thinks wicked of others!”

Mance was incensed at Zeke’s warning as well. “Hey, Williams, you really take me for a fool, huh? How many times have you tried to smear my name?”

“Do you wish for me to file a case of defamation against you?”

The crowd then started to crusade against Zeke.

“This guy is obviously an attention seeker.”

“He thinks that all men are same as he, unable to think straight just at the sight of women!”

“Besides, Nancy was only going to have three glasses. How drunk could she get from it?”

“Mance, you really shouldn’t have invited Williams here.”

Nancy finished the glass in her hand in one go in an attempt to agitate Zeke Williams.

When she was about to chug down the second glass, she was stopped by Mance. “Nancy, one glass is enough. I don’t want others to say that I’m harboring any indecent thoughts about you.”

Nancy glared at Zeke. “You heard it. Mance only asked me to drink just one glass.”

“Even a child wouldn’t get drunk from this amount of alcohol.”

Zeke became the target of the crowd all of a sudden as everybody chastised him.

Lacey Hinton could not bring herself to stay any longer.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nancy Hinton thought it was unnecessary for Zeke to accuse Mance Raider so.

Mance was polite and refined; he did not seem like he would do anything close to Zeke's accusations.

She smiled apologetically. "Guys, something came up in my office, so I'll have to get going first."

"Zeke, let's go."

She took Zeke's hand and headed out.

Zeke could only sigh.

Nancy Hinton was not only poisoned with worms, but she was clearly brainwashed by Mance Raider as well.

Zeke hoped that Nancy had not reached the point of no return.

The party was bustling with life again after Zeke left. The hall was filled with laughter and clinking glasses.

Nancy silently retreated herself to a corner.

Her face was flushed. She had trouble catching her breath as she felt waves of hot chills.

An unfamiliar feeling was building up inside of her, making her uncomfortable.

Mance was thrilled to see her reaction. The alcohol was clearly waking up the toxic worms in her body and causing her to feel lustful.

His chance was finally here.

Mance smiled smugly. "Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for taking the time out to attend this party. I am deeply grateful for your presence."

"It's getting quite late, and I do not wish to interrupt your resting hours. You may head back home now."

"We will drink to our hearts' content seven days later with General North at the opening ceremony of my company."

The crowd dispersed in glee. They did not forget to remind Mance Raider to invite General North to attend the opening ceremony before leaving.

After everyone had left, Mance turned his attention to Nancy. "Nancy, you're drunk. Let me help you to your room."

Nancy did not seem at ease with his offer, "Mr. Raider, thank you for inviting me here tonight but I do not wish to stay for the night. I still

have something on in the office.”

Mance replied, “Nancy, you’re drunk and cannot be driving in this state.”

Nancy tried to refuse him again. “It’s okay, I could just call for a car to pick me up...”

Mance seemed displeased at her reaction. “Nancy, do you really believe what Zeke said?”

“Don’t worry, I’ll leave right away after helping you to your room. I promise not to touch you.”

Nancy was flustered to see Mance losing his patience, and realized that it would be impolite of her to reject his offer to help.

In the end she obliged and said, “Okay then...”

Mance smiled slyly at her reply and helped Nancy to a room.

Nancy tried her best to stay conscious. “Mr. Raider, you may leave now. I’ll be alright after plenty of rest.”

Mance’s lips curled into a thin smile and slammed the door shut and locked it from the inside.

He did not really leave.

Nancy's heart skipped a beat at the loud slam of the door.

She was slowly drifting out of consciousness. She bit her tongue in a desperate attempt to stay awake.

She was afraid that she would faint if Mance had stayed for just a bit longer.

Nancy was vigilant when she saw that Mance was still in her room, "Mance, why didn't you leave?"

"Leave?" Mance found her question amusing. He sat opposite to Nancy, "Hey Nancy, have you forgotten how I helped you through your hurdles? Shouldn't you consider to repay me with your body?"

Nancy's face became even redder upon hearing his words. "Mance, what... what are you saying?"

"We've only known each other for a day. How could we... You'd better leave right away. I'm not ready until we have spent some time together."

She tried to push Mance away.

Mance furrowed his brows as he assessed the woman before him. *This woman has got some tough willpower. She could even resist the temptation of the*

lust worm.

Any other woman would have begged to get in bed with him right now.

However, the more she tried to resist him, the greater the urge he felt to conquer her.

He pushed her onto the bed and smiled. “Hah, you’ve made me so excited for you, so you have to bear the consequences. I’m going to take you tonight regardless.”

Mance quickly reached out to grab Nancy, who was taken aback and subconsciously pushed him away, saying, “Don’t touch me... Get out... out...”

Mance slapped her across the face right then without hesitation. “B*tch! Stop pretending like you don’t want it, you slut.”

“You’re all wet down there. Let me see if you’ve even wet your panties.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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He yanked off Nancy's pants forcefully and tore a hole through her pants.

Her exposed thighs were so fair that they tantalized him further.

Mance was burning with lust at the sight.

Nancy Hinton came to a startling realization at that point.

My hero slapped me across the face to rape me.

*He called me a b*tch and a slut, and he even mentions that I'm all wet down there...*

Is this the hero that I put on a pedestal?

No, it couldn't be.

He's not a hero, he's a gangster! A good-for-nothing gangster!

Shocked at the truth, Nancy mustered all her strength to run away.

Mance pulled her hair and threw her on the bed. "There's no way you're going to escape tonight."

Nancy could only wail hysterically, "You're not my hero, you're a fake!"

"Let me go, or else my hero will not let you off

easy!”

Mance did not budge. “Hero? I never said I was your hero. You imagined it all.”

Ah!

Nancy wished she were dead.

He was not her hero, after all.

She had been deceived by his appearance.

“You’re a liar! Damn liar!” Nancy continued to wail.

“A liar? Yeah, I am. I lied my as** off trying to get you in bed. Did you know that I’ve already poisoned you earlier today, and was just waiting for you to drink some alcohol to activate the poison? It’s just a matter of time before you beg for my body and crawl into my bed.”

“Poison?” Nancy felt chills down her spine.

No wonder I’m drowsy from just one drink.

“You... When did you poison me?” Nancy’s voice was shaky.

“Oh, when John was shaking your hands,” Mance replied.

“You wouldn’t have been poisoned if Williams had succeeded in preventing you from shaking John’s hand. You were the one who stubbornly shook his hand.”

“Besides, the poison wouldn’t be activated as well, if you had listened to William’s advice. Guess what? You also did not listen to him.”

“This was your own doing, so there’s no one else to blame!”

What?

What did you say?

Mance’s words were like a dagger driving through Nancy’s heart.

She felt more in control of herself upon hearing his confession.

So Zeke was not trying to seek my attention or to disturb me when he stopped me from shaking John’s hand. He asked me not to drink for the very same reason as well.

He’s the one treating me sincerely.

However, not only did I not listen to him, but I also even ridiculed and mocked him all along...

It’s all my fault for not realizing the truth!

Zeke, I know I did you wrong. Could you give me one more chance and save me one last time?

However, Nancy knew her chances were slim.

A sense of despair and guilt washed over her, pushing her into a dark abyss.

Mance Raider could not hold back his lust any further; he pounced on her.

Nancy hurriedly kicked Mance with her slender legs.

Mance yanked off her heels and grabbed her feet and pulled them near his nose. He took a deep breath, taking in her scent.

“You smell so good!”

“Hey pretty lady, you’re really a piece of art. If your feet smell so nice, your body must smell heavenly! Haha, here I come!”

Pervert!

Nancy cried out in desperation. She tried her best to wriggle herself free and rolled over to the side.

However, she bumped her head into the nightstand instead and started to bleed profusely.

Her consciousness continued to fade with the activated lust worm in her body, and the bleeding only made it worse.

She did not even have the strength to open her eyes.

I'm really done for this time.

Tears rolled down her cheeks.

At this moment, the door sprung open with a bang.

A buff figure broke into the room.

A man rushed in, dressed in an all-black outfit and only revealing his eyes. It was difficult to discern his features underneath.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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However, Mance thought the figure looked quite familiar.

He cursed at the intruder, "B*stard! Who let you in? Get out!"

"Or else I'm going to throw you out the window!"

The guy cast a glance at Nancy and his eyes burned with fury.

He did not hesitate further and dashed toward Mance Raider.

"You're asking for death!" Mance was enraged and ready to fight the intruder.

He had not once fought during his twenty years in the Secret Service Army. Today was finally the time for him to showcase his skills!

When the intruder kicked, Mance Raider responded with a kick as well!

The two legs bumped into each other, sending dust off into the air.

The next second, Mance Raider's body flung through the air and toward the window!

The thick-glass window shattered at Mance's weight!

He fell out of the window along with shattered glass.

*F*ck!*

Mance Raider let out a string of curses.

He knew his capabilities well. He may not be number one but he was easily crème de la crème in the field.

Only less than ten people in Eurasia could compete with him.

However, he could not even survive the intruder's one blow!

This guy must be really powerful!

He could only be master class.

Only a master could beat me this effortlessly!

When did I offend such a master?

The intruder did not wait for Mance Raider to respond and hurried to Nancy's side, picking her up gently.

Nancy had lost her consciousness by now.

She had forgotten everything, including Mance and the situation that she was in. Nancy had

even forgotten who she was.

The only sensation she felt was the burning desire building up inside her.

She subconsciously grabbed at everything within her reach.

Hugging Zeke's neck and tearing off her clothes, Nancy moaned softly, "Save me... Please save me... I'm feeling so hot right now..."

Zeke blushed crimson red.

Even though Nancy Hinton was not as beautiful as Lacey Hinton, she was better than Lacey in the art of seduction.

That curvy figure, her porcelain skin, paired with her sexy moans and slender bare legs were a lethal combination to any man's attempt to self-control.

Zeke redirected his gaze, picked her up, and dashed out of the door.

However, Nancy struggled to free herself and tried to kiss him.

Zeke was distracted by her exotic scent.

He tried his best to keep his attention on his track and ignore her.

However, his effort was futile.

Painstakingly, they finally reached downstairs. He put her inside a car. By now, Nancy was struggling even more to free herself.

The driver was the General North who had left earlier.

Sole Wolf cast a glance at Nancy and then at the man dressed in black. He grinned, "Brother, I'm going for a puff."

The man took off his mask— he was none other than Zeke Williams.

Zeke retorted angrily, "Shut up and drive."

Sole Wolf was let down by the scolding and could only mutter "yes" before he started the car.

Zeke could not stop her violent shaking and could only hit her at her nape and cause her to faint.

"She's finally quiet." Zeke breathed a sigh of relief.

Sole Wolf twitched his lips.

My brother is more upright than an angel!

The girl is practically begging him for it. It's one thing to reject her, but knocking her unconscious is really going overboard.

Zeke took out a silver needle and started to perform acupuncture on Nancy. He released some blood from her body and applied sulfur on her to suppress the toxic worm in her body.

Zeke had always carried sulfur with him ever since he came to know that his opponents were adept at black magic.

Nancy's complexion started to improve after Zeke's laborious efforts. Her heartbeat and breathing had returned to normal as well.

Sole Wolf had reached their destination by now —the Provincial Military District!

In front of the entrance of the Military District, tens of thousands of his soldiers were still awaiting him.

Zeke told Sole Wolf, "Please ask a female soldier to send her to the nearest reception room for rest."

Sole Wolf nodded, "Yes, Sir."



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The duo got down the car.

Sole Wolf said to a female soldier, "Send the person in the car to the nearest hostel."

The female soldier saluted him, jumped into the car, and left.

Immediately after, thousands of soldiers knelt and greeted, "Welcome, Great Marshal!"

Their voices boomed loudly in an imposing manner.

In the car, Nancy Hinton was jolted awake by the boom of the greeting.

The pain in her body subsided, and she became more conscious of her surroundings.

Within a short moment, she recalled everything that had happened.

Mance Raider had passed off as the hero and attempted to force himself on her.

At that crucial moment, she remembered someone rushing in and saving her!

She then fainted and had no idea what transpired after.

She was on high alert now; her gaze darted to

the chauffeur driving the car. Her eyes flashed when she saw that the driver was a military soldier.

A military soldier!

It was the military who saved her!

Could it be...him?

My real hero!

She thought about the noise that had jolted her awake and turned her head back quickly.

It was just a glance, but the scene made tears stream down her cheeks continuously.

A figure stood tall as domineering amidst the thousands of soldiers knelt around him.

He was valiant, formidable-looking, composed, imposing, mighty and majestic!

The commanding aura he possessed would make anyone hold their breaths as he walked past.

It's the hero, the hero who saved me!

Suddenly, she thought of something and quickly opened the car door before attempting to jump down to look for her hero.

The two of them stood far apart. Furthermore, the 'hero' had his back facing her, and hence, she did not recognize him as Zeke Williams.

The female soldier who was driving was shocked when Nancy tried to leap off the vehicle.

The car was moving at close to a hundred miles per hour. If she jumped now, she would definitely break a bone or two or maybe even lose her life!

With quick reflexes, she pulled Nancy back and stepped on the brakes.

The car finally rolled to a stop, and Nancy pulled herself away from the female soldier. She hopped off the car and dashed in the direction of her hero.

"Hero, please wait for me!"

"Thank you for saving me again..."

However, since they were so far apart, it was as though the 'hero' could not hear her as he entered the Provincial Military District without turning back.

Nancy panted heavily as she arrived at the entrance of the Military District.

However, she could not care less about her fatigue and wanted to force her way in.

Needless to say, the guards blocked her path and announced, "This is a restricted military area. Unauthorized personnel are not allowed to enter. Please leave."

However, Nancy was persistent. "I want to meet my hero. Please let me meet him!"

Naturally, the guard did not know who the 'hero' she referred to was, so he did let her pass.

After a while, Nancy began to panic. She yelled at the top of her lungs, "Hero! I will wait for you outside!"

"I will wait as long as you need! No matter whether it is a day or a year! I will even wait for you for a lifetime if need be!" She continued.

She plonked onto the bench beside her in a stubborn manner; her eyes affixed on the gates with a fiery passion.

Zeke was vexed after he got wind of this.

What even is love? Why were people willing to die for it?

This stubborn and unreasonable woman is no exception.

Of course, he would not meet her...

What if she clings to me? I will never let that happen!

At the end of the day, he could only scurry out of the district via the back entrance.

The next morning, he received a call from Sole Wolf.

“Bro, please just go and meet the girl. If you don’t step in, she might just die at the entrance of the Military District,” the latter said.

Zeke Williams inhaled deeply as he exclaimed, “Don’t tell me Nancy is still waiting at the entrance.”

Sole Wolf informed him, “Yes, she was there the entire night.”

“I tried to get food and water for her, but she refused to take anything. She even said that if she didn’t meet her hero, she would neither eat nor drink.”

Zeke was rather overwhelmed and distressed when he heard this.

I guess I have no other choice but to get Lacey here.

Hence, he revealed everything that happened yesterday to her.

He even told her how Mance tried to pass off as him and took advantage of Nancy.

Luckily, a 'hero' saved Nancy at the crucial minute.

Nancy stood outside the Provincial Military District for a night to meet her savior.

Of course, he did not mention that he was, in fact, the 'hero' in Nancy's situation.



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Lacey's face drained from color as Zeke narrated the incident to her.

Finally, she sighed. "Well, they always say you can know a man's face, but never his heart. I can't believe Mance Raider is such a devil. He looked so gentlemanly and courteous!"

"He might have a gilded appearance, but he is rotten on the inside. Zeke, you're still the best. You see past everything," Lacey stated.

Zeke smiled and responded, "Well, if I didn't have good judgment, I would never have found such a wonderful wife like you."

"Sheesh!" Lacey blushed slightly.

"Come, let's go look for Nancy," she continued.

Zeke drove the two of them. They arrived at their destination very quickly.

One could not mistake Nancy Hinton, who sat alone at the entrance of the Provincial Military District.

Her eyes were swollen and red; it was obvious she had been crying. Her vision was still glued to the district's entrance. She stared at the gates without blinking for even a moment.

Her clothes had been drenched by the morning

dew, making her look so pitiful.

Lacey's heart ached for her. She walked over quickly and pulled Nancy into an embrace, stroking her head as she comforted, "Nancy, you must have suffered a lot."

Nancy could control herself no longer and bawled loudly when she saw her cousin.

Lacey frowned slightly and chided, "Nancy, this 'hero' of yours is too unreliable. He doesn't even want to meet you after you waited for him for a whole night. What a ruthless man."

Zeke Williams stood beside, speechless.

I suppose I am getting attacked without doing anything.

Nancy quickly jumped to his defense, however. "Lacey, you can't talk about him like that. It's all my fault, my fault!"

As she spoke, tears flowed down her cheeks again as she wailed loudly.

"Lacey, do you think he is angry with me? I mistook someone else for him and even spent time alone with that man. But Mance never touched me. I'm innocent! Does my savior hate me now? Does he dislike me? Does he not want me anymore?"

Meanwhile, Zeke felt rather helpless and was at a loss for words. He had no choice but to send Sole Wolf a message with some instructions.

After a while, a soldier walked to the gates upon Sole Wolf's orders.

He saluted upon seeing Nancy and greeted, "Good day, Ma'am!"

"I'm here on my superior's orders. He told me to let you know he's out for an emergency mission and has been out since last night. Hence, he won't be able to meet you. He told me to inform you that he will meet you in seven days."

"Before that, you must take good care of yourself. My superior has also asked the chef to prepare this breakfast for you," the soldier reported.

Ah!

Nancy's tears turned into tears of joy upon hearing this.

This soldier treats me so respectfully!

He even brought me such a nutritious breakfast on his superior's orders.

This meant that the 'hero' was not angry at her and even acknowledged her as one of his!

It was the best news she had heard all day.

Nancy nodded enthusiastically and said, "Thank you. Please let my hero know that I will take good care of myself. He should do the same too!"

Lacey heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that Nancy was finally willing to leave.

She was previously worried that Nancy would not listen to her.

On their way out, Nancy held onto the breakfast, looking extremely excited.

Lacey asked, "Nancy, didn't your hero prepare that breakfast for you? Why aren't you eating it?"

"Lacey, this is the first gift my hero has gifted me. How can I eat it?" Nancy laughed like a silly girl.

"I have to treasure it for a lifetime!"

Lacey shook her head as she sighed, "I really suppose no one can cure this obsession of yours with him."

Turning her head to look at Zeke, Nancy said apologetically, "Uh...Zeke, I was a little overboard yesterday. Please don't take it to

heart.”

Zeke remarked, “Do you think an apology will do it? Don’t you know that my weak soul was severely hurt by your words?”

Instantly, Nancy commented, “Williams, that’s enough. Don’t be so ungrateful, alright? You should be forever indebted by the fact that I, a Hinton, am apologizing to you now, alright? Take it as a blessing.”

“Also, I didn’t even come after you for what you did. What makes you think you can act so unforgivingly?” She scoffed.

Zeke was puzzled, “What did I do that would have made you come after me?”



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Nancy lamented, "Yesterday, you clearly knew John and Mance were going to poison me! They forced me to drink so that the poison would take effect. Why didn't you try to stop that from happening?"

Zeke's face instantly clouded over as he replied, "Nancy, that's such a cold-hearted thing to say. I tried to stop them at least four to five times yesterday."

However, Nancy remained adamant, "Why didn't you try harder then? Perhaps I wouldn't be in this state if you did."

Zeke was instantly lost for words.

Sigh, why was I so foolish? Why did I think I could reason with a woman?

I just dug a hole for myself!

Ignoring Zeke, Nancy turned to her cousin and said, "Lacey, my hero said he will meet me in seven days."

"What do you think I should wear then? Should I put on light or heavy makeup? Should I eat before I meet him?"

As the subject was being brought up, Lacey rubbed on her temples and suggested, "Nancy, have you thought about it clearly? Perhaps your

hero is the General of the North.”

“Ah,” Nancy took a deep breath in surprise.

“What makes you say that Lacey?” She asked.

“Well, your hero works at the Provincial Military District, doesn’t he? The General of the North was also recently assigned to that district,” She explained.

“Furthermore, Mance said that his company will be holding a launch party in seven days and would invite him. Didn’t your hero say he will meet you in seven days’ time?”

“That’s why I’m guessing your hero is most likely General North. Perhaps he’s going to meet you at the launch party.”

“Hmm,” Nancy inhaled sharply. “That’s very possible,” She agreed.

Lacey sighed. “Well, our company is going to hold a celebration for going public in seven days too. It clashes with the launch party.”

“We can’t even change the timing of our event now that Nutel Entertainment and Sharon Edward have already published the news. Everybody knows about the celebration. Mance has General North as their VIP, but we have no important figures attending our celebration. I’m

sure that all the limelight will be on their company instead! This is really frustrating, what do I do?"

Nancy's thoughts pondered for a moment. Finally, she gritted her teeth and assured, "Lacey, don't worry. I'm not one to give up on my friends for men! I promise I will not go to Mance's launch party just to meet with my hero. If he wishes to see me, he has to come to your celebration instead."

Zeke suddenly chimed in, "Don't worry about it. Mance will never be able to invite General North."

The two women looked at him suspiciously and remarked, "Why are you so sure of that?"

Zeke explained, "Well, it's very simple."

"He got into a fight when he saved Nancy yesterday. Obviously, they would be enemies now. So, if the hero were indeed General North, why would he attend the launch party organized by his rival!"

The two women exclaimed as they came to a sudden realization, "Ah, you do make sense!"

They relaxed a little upon hearing this.

After a moment, Lacey spoke, "Zeke, I suppose

you have some time on your hands these few days. Let me give you a task. Do you know Master Healer Lowe? The old man who is known as the legendary doctor?”

Zeke pondered for a moment before nodding. “Yes, I’ve heard of him before.”

“Master Healer Lowe is well renowned in the medical field. His massage skills are the best one has ever known. They’re said to be able to revitalize anyone!” Lacey continued.

“Legend has it that there was a woman who died while giving birth, and Master Healer Lowe bumped into this when he went to the wilds to collect herbs. Apparently, he said that this woman was not dead, and all it took was one look at the coffin! The family immediately opened the coffin, and Master Healer Lowe jumped to her rescue. Not only did that woman survive, but she also even gave birth to a healthy baby girl! It took Eurasia by storm.”

“There are many people who ask for his help, and there’s a long queue in every country. The earliest one can wait to see him is probably next year! He is definitely very reputable and influential. Construction and medicine are the two main pillars of the Linton Group. If we could get Master Healer Lowe to attend our celebration dinner, it would definitely be beneficial and impactful for the Linton Group’s

pharmaceutical business.”

“I heard that he might visit Oakheart City. Zeke, you are an insider of the industry and have common interests with him. I hope you can invite him to the celebration on behalf of the company. He doesn't have to be there for long. I reckon five minutes is enough, and I will give him ten million for that...Of course, if he wants more, I'm willing to give more too,” Lacey stated.

Nancy scoffed, “Lacey, you probably overestimate this man.”



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“Zeke has not seen much of the world yet. If he really meets Master Healer Lowe, he will probably wet his pants! Not only will he fail to invite him to your celebration party, but Master Healer Lowe might also end up having a bad impression as well. Surely that would be unfavorable for Linton Group.”

Nancy sighed. “Well, even though the chances of success are low, I suppose there is no harm trying. Otherwise, there would really be no hope. Fake it till you make it.”

Zeke merely flashed a small smile and said, “Alright, I will try my best to get him here.”

I'm the Needle God, the Great Marshal. I'm the best in Eurasia.

Even Master Healer Lowe would have to bow down in front of me like an elementary school kid.

Nancy pouted and remarked nonchalantly, “Lacey, let me translate his words for you.”

“When he said he would ‘try his best’, it means that he will never be able to get Master Healer Lowe for you, even if you beat him to death. I reckon you should just give up.”

Zeke was speechless once more.

Fine! A stubborn woman is indeed very persistent!

Just as she was starting to calm down, she activates her attack mode once more!

Suddenly, Zeke's phone rang.

It was a call from Jeffrey.

Zeke remembered that he had promised to help Jeffrey and his teacher weed the parasite today.

Jeffrey must have called to rush Zeke.

At that moment, they returned to the Linton Group. Zeke quickly made up an excuse and sped off.

Not long after, he arrived at his destination – a residence for families of those who served in the military.

Jeffrey's teacher must be from the military if he lived there. Furthermore, from the scale of the residence, it seemed like he held a high rank too.

Meanwhile, Jeffrey waited for Zeke at the entrance. After he arrived, the former quickly welcomed him courteously.

“Mr. Williams, you’re here. Let me bring you in.”

“Alright.”

Thereafter, Zeke followed the man into the place.

On the way, Jeffrey told him in a low voice, “Mr. Williams, we have a minor problem now.”

“My junior, who’s also my teacher’s daughter, Shannon Hans, does not believe in such parasitic infections. She does not want you to cure her father. She even invited Master Healer Lowe to help. But don’t worry. I will definitely convince her to let you treat her father instead.”

“Hmm?” Zeke paused for a moment.

“Master Healer Lowe? What a coincidence,” He remarked, “It just so happens that I needed to meet him.”

After walking through a long corridor, the duo stepped foot into the teacher’s room.

The room was filled with people who were supposedly family and friends.

Zeke observed that most of the crowd were middle-aged or elderly people, except for one young girl.

No doubt, she was the teacher's daughter and Jeffrey's junior, Shannon Hans.

She was tall and slender, dressed in a tight-fitting leather jacket which accentuated her formidable aura.

Her eyes blazed with a fiery passion, and she had an imposing manner about her. No one could mistake her dominance as she toyed with the small knife in her hands.

Shannon was indeed true to her name.

As Zeke and Jeffrey entered, she immediately turned displeased and obviously did not welcome them. In fact, she even placed her index finger on her lips in a bid to tell them to stay quiet.

An elderly man was treating the patient.

The man's long beard was as white as ash and from afar, and Zeke could discern the heavy scent of medicinal herbs on him.

This must be Master Healer Lowe, the national doctor that everyone reveres.

Indeed, he was considered a Master Healer, but it remained to be seen as to whether he was as holy and divine as people claimed he was.

After a quick checkup, Master Healer Lowe's face turned serious.

In a low voice, he said, "Why didn't you ask me to come earlier? This is long-delayed. His condition has worsened."

Shannon immediately stepped in. "Sir, I know you are busy with other patients. That makes it hard to even meet with you. I had to queue for a long time before it was my turn."

Master Healer Lowe chided, "Why did you not let me know the patient's identity then? Didn't Mr. Hans tell you we are extremely good friends? Even if I were busy, I would have definitely given him a priority."

Shannon immediately apologized, "I'm very sorry, Sir. It was all my fault."

Master Healer Lowe sighed. "Forget it. I suppose I'm at fault too since I'm also very busy. I would never have looked at the patient's information with such detail."

"Get me some hot water and alcohol. I will begin my treatment now," He instructed.

"Alright," Shannon quickly told the helpers to do as Master Healer Lowe had instructed.

"I wonder what you diagnosed him with. How

are you going to cure him?”

All of a sudden, a voice could be heard from the back of the room.



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Everyone turned to look. It was an unfamiliar man who had spoken just now.

Naturally, it was Zeke.

Master Healer Low threw him a side-glance and asked with disdain, "Who are you? Are you part of the Hans family? I do not have to explain myself to outsiders."

Jeffrey quickly stepped in and introduced, "Everyone, this is Zeke Williams, the man whom I've told you all about. He is known as the Divine Doctor, Dr. Williams. I'm confident he can help to cure Sir's illness."

"Ridiculous!" Master Healer Lowe bellowed.

"If you got me here, why did you engage someone else?" He asked.

"Do you not trust my skills? If that is so, I say that we forget it. I will never treat someone who does not trust my practice!"

Master Healer Lowe was ready to walk out as he said this.

Everyone in the Han family panicked when they saw this and quickly grabbed him by his hand.

Meanwhile, Shannon gritted her teeth and glared at the two. "Jeffrey, this is a family

matter. Who said you could step in?"

"Master Healer Lowe, you do not have to care about these two people. Jeffrey is just a senior. He is not a part of the family. He does not have the right to interfere. Also, the man he got here is a quack. I will never allow him to treat my father."

Upon hearing this, Master Healer Lowe stopped in his tracks and said, "A quack like him can never be in the same room as me. It is humiliating. Get someone to kick him out of here."

Jeffrey instantly turned frantic as he jumped to Zeke's rescue. "Shannon, you have to believe me. Mr. Williams will definitely be able to save your father! If it were not for him, I would have been dead by now!"

Shannon yelled back, "Jeffrey, do you think I didn't look into him? Zeke Williams is no one but an ex-convict. This man has been to prison."

"A year ago, he was left on the altar during his wedding ceremony with Emily Clemons because he could not afford three hundred thousand as dowry. Under those circumstances, he turned to marry the bridesmaid instead. After that, he bummed around for another year and just leeches off his

wife. This man has achieved nothing to date! A loser like him can never treat my father's chronic illness. This is ridiculous."

As Shannon continued, the Han family started an uproar in anger and pushed the blame to Jeffrey.

"Jeffrey, how can you get such a bad doctor to treat your teacher! What were you thinking?"

"Hmph, I suppose you are just malicious. What do you gain if your teacher dies?"

"Sigh, your teacher treated you so well for all these years. How can you return his favor in such a manner? How can you forget all he has done for you to groom you into the man you are today?"

"Uhh..." Jeffrey could no longer defend himself and was instantly speechless.

Meanwhile, Zeke stated coldly, "This is ridiculous. I didn't know there was a correlation between my personal life and my medical skills!"

Master Healer Lowe challenged, "Oh? So are you saying you are very good at what you do? Why don't you tell me what's wrong with the patient then? Why's he unconscious even after so many years?"

Zeke asserted, "Simple. It's because of a parasitic infection. He was infected by a poisonous parasite commonly found in wild cordyceps. After taking it, he turned unconscious and has been a vegetable for the past few decades."

"What a load of rubbish!" Master Healer Lowe banged his fists on the table.

"It seems like we've overestimated you when we said that you were a quack. To me, you are not even a doctor! You are just a practitioner of black magic!"

Zeke remained unfazed and let out a laugh.

"Well, why don't you tell me what's wrong with the patient then?"

Master Healer Lowe replied, "Sure, I will show you how you are wrong. Due to unknown reasons, his blood vessels have hardened. This caused insufficient blood flow to his brain, and as a result, his cerebrum has been damaged."

"I am going to alternate the use of hot water and alcohol to massage his vessels. When the coldness of the alcohol and the hotness of the water interacts, his blood vessels will return to normal. By using my unique massage skills, the vessels will soften themselves. When there is enough blood flow to his brain, he will slowly recover."

“I guarantee that he will awake within two months,” He stated smugly.

However, Zeke shook his head and scorned, “You will kill him if you do that. Parasites are the most sensitive to alcohol. The hotness and coldness will only provoke it and make it much more active.”

“I guarantee that the patient will vomit blood, lose blood, and his pupils will dilate. The parasite will then expel itself out of his body. By then, there will be no hope left for the patient.”



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Master Healer Lowe was flushed red with anger by now.

“You are misleading everyone here with those untruths,” He remarked.

“Black magic only exists in fiction. How can that happen in real life?”

Zeke commented, “Well, we’ll wait and see.”

Shannon Hans was also on the verge of frustration. Toying with the knife in her hand, she spun it very quickly. One could only see the shadow of the knife as it moved.

Finally, she tossed the dagger, and it stabbed onto the ground next to Zeke William’s feet. “I will make sure you are punished accordingly if you speak any more nonsense,” She threatened.

Zeke merely smiled. “The man who is dying is not me. It’s your father.”

“Jeffrey, let’s go and get a cup of tea. They will come begging for me to help later on.”

The two stepped out as he said this.

Shannon gritted her teeth and muttered, “If I beg you, I will not be Shannon Hans.”

Zeke scoffed, “Well, why don’t you try changing

your name instead. To...Hans The Fool? You chose not to do anything even though your father is going to get killed by this man. Who are you, but a fool?"

"I swear I will kill you," Shannon warned through gritted teeth, ready to give him a taste of his medicine.

"Enough!" Master Healer Lowe exclaimed.

"The patient is more important," He told everyone.

"Furthermore, this man can't die yet. I have to prove to him that I can treat your father, and he shall kneel and apologize to me then."

At this, Shannon could only stay silent and control her temper.

At this moment, the helpers entered with the hot water and alcohol.

Master Healer Lowe immediately got to work. He used both water and alcohol to wipe the spots with clogged vessels.

Within ten minutes, one could see visible changes in the patient's body.

His pale face was now filled with color once more; this meant that his blood flow had

returned to normal.

Master Healer Lowe waved Shannon over as he said, "Come here and take your father's pulse."

Shannon did as she was told and immediately turned excited.

The woman, who was usually domineering and headstrong, now had tears filled to the brim of her eyes!

"My father's pulse is obviously much stronger than last time! There is hope! My father is going to recover! Thank you so much, Master Healer Lowe."

The Han family also heaved a sigh of relief as they said, "Luckily, we didn't believe in that crazy doctor."

Shannon scoffed, "Well, I never trusted him anyway."

Master Healer Lowe then continued, "You can continue to massage his clogged vessels while I will continue to massage the other spots."

"Alright," Shannon took the towel from him and continued what Master Healer Lowe had done earlier.

The latter started to demonstrate his unique

massage skills.

Another ten minutes passed. The patient who had been quiet for the past decade suddenly moved.

He parted his lips and groaned slightly before coughing out a mouthful of blood.

Everyone was stunned at this scene and began to wonder what had happened.

A small girl with pigtails immediately stuttered, “That uncle said he was going to cough blood and lose all his blood...”

Immediately, Shannon rolled her eyes at the girl and chided, “Lily, don’t spout nonsense. Master Healer Lowe, what’s going on?”

Meanwhile, the doctor remained calm and said, “This is normal. My massage skills have helped to discharge the blood clots in his body.”

“Hang on, this does not seem like clots. It looks more like actual blood... This is not right. Shannon, pick up your speed.”

The two continued to split the work and sped up the massage.

Poof!

The patient spat out blood once more.

Master Healer Lowe glanced at the blood, and a deep frown appeared on his face. He commented, "This does not look right."

"By right, he should be spitting out clots. Why is it blood?"

At this moment, Shannon let out a loud shriek, "Master Healer Lowe, look! There is...There is a blood blister here!"

"Blister? What blister?" His eyes darted over in a doubtful manner.

However, the next moment, his face turned pale as he said, "That's impossible. Why would there be a blister?"

"Could it be that the water was too hot and caused a blister? Shannon, use alcohol. Hotness expands, while coldness contracts. The alcohol should reduce it."

"Alright." Shannon quickly nodded and dipped the cloth in alcohol.

However, before she could apply it on him, a loud pop echoed around the room, and the lump burst!

Blood splattered out far.

Everyone turned pale at this unusual and terrifying sight.

The girl in pigtails even started to sob uncontrollably as she repeated, "Vomiting blood, losing blood...That uncle was right... Grandpa is dying...No..."



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Despite the sight in front of her, Shannon still did not believe Zeke's words.

With desperate eyes, she looked towards Master Healer Lowe and asked, "Master Healer Lowe, w--what is going on?"

Much to everyone's surprise, even Master Healer Lowe panicked and was at a loss.

"This is impossible. There is no way this could have happened. I have been doing this for many years and have never witnessed something as unusual as this," He remarked.

"Vomiting blood, losing blood, dilated pupils, even the parasite is discharged..."

"The pupils, the pupils!"

In a hurry, Master Healer Lowe pulled apart the patient's eyelids and observed his pupils.

"Ah! It's all true! All true!"

All of the patient's symptoms were accurately described by Zeke earlier.

Master Healer Lowe's legs turned into jelly, and he fell onto the chair behind.

Could that man really be so capable? He even knew it was a parasite found in wild cordyceps!

Or could this all just be a coincidence?

But how could there be so many coincidences in the medical field?

If I were to believe that I would just be lying to myself.

I have to accept this harsh reality! It's all right in front of me!

I have lost to a young man!

Loudly, he shouted, "Hurry! Get that young man in here! Now!"

Everyone's heart skipped a beat and trembled in shock.

Even Master Healer Lowe does not know what else to do now and can only ask for that 'quack' for help!

It seems like that young doctor is indeed very capable.

Surely, whatever he said about parasites in wild cordyceps was true too!

All the hair on their arms stood on their ends as they realized the severity of the situation and the strange accuracy of Zeke's words.

Shannon bellowed, "What are you all waiting for? Get him in here!"

The Han family members finally recollected their senses and quickly dispersed to look for the man.

At this moment, Zeke and Jeffrey were relaxing in one of the Han family's pavilions.

As for tea...There was no way the Han family served them any drinks.

Jeffrey offered Zeke a sincere apology. "Mr. Williams, I'm really sorry about this. Shannon has always been spoilt and does whatever she wants. That's why she had no qualms humiliating you earlier. Please don't be angry with her."

Zeke nodded and replied, "Oh? It sounds like you have been bullied by her too. Don't worry. I will make sure to get back at her on your behalf later."

Jeffrey let out a laugh.

Come on, you were scolded so badly by her just now.

At that moment, the Han family found them and yelled, "Divine Doctor Williams! It's an emergency! Please! Save him!"

Almost immediately, Jeffrey jumped up and asked worriedly, “What’s wrong? Did something happen?”

The Han family informed him in unison, “The divine doctor was right. Your teacher’s life is hanging by a thread!”

Needless to say, Jeffrey panicked and quickly said to Zeke, “Dr. Williams, please. It’s all water under the bridge. I hope you can help my teacher.”

Unfazed, Zeke threw a side glance at the Han family and remarked, “Oh? Hans The Fool isn’t here? I said she must personally ask me to help.”

Hans The Fool?

Shannon Hans?

It was the name that Zeke had given her earlier.

The Han family was under immense pressure now, and they pleaded frantically, “Mr. Williams, please, I beg you to help us! As for Shannon, we will make sure she apologizes to you later.”

Jeffrey also joined in, “Mr. Williams, please! A man’s life is at stake here! I hope you can let go of what happened. Don’t worry, I will make sure Shannon kneels and apologizes to you later!”

Finally, Zeke gave in and sighed. “Fine, I will do it because of you.”

All of them returned to the room.

Zeke glanced at the patient and furrowed his eyebrows. *He looks worse than I thought he would be.*

Master Healer Lowe immediately humbled himself and said to him, “Young man, my apologies for my attitude earlier. I know I can never express how sorry I am with words. But this patient here is innocent. I hope you will still save him, despite the mistakes I’ve made in the past.”

Seeing this, Shannon quickly stood up and made way for Zeke as well.

“Please, please save my father!” She begged.

In large strides, Zeke approached the patient and observed his pupils. “It is dilating by quite a bit, and I can see a black object wriggling underneath. The parasite is going to expel itself through the eyes. Make way and make sure the room is ventilated.”

Everyone quickly dispersed and opened up the windows in the room.

Meanwhile, Zeke fished out the sulfur he

carried with him and placed it on the patient's eyes.

After which, he examined the spots where the patient had lost blood from earlier.

There were a few other blisters that appeared once more, and they looked like they were going to burst anytime.

Zeke quickly shouted for Shannon, "Hans The Fool, get in here!"



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Shannon frowned suspiciously. *Hans The Fool? Who is Hans The Fool?*

However, she recovered her senses quickly and instantly became infuriated.

*Who the f**k is he calling Hans The Fool?*

However, saving my father is more important than anything now.

She hurriedly walked over.

Zeke stretched his hands out and wanted to pull on her hair.

Instinctively, Shannon covered her head in shock.

“Do you want to save him or not! Move your hand away!” Zeke bellowed.

Left with no choice, Shannon could only tolerate the humiliation and move her hands away.

Zeke released the elastic band that secured her hair in a ponytail. Immediately, her hair came loose and landed neatly on her shoulders.

Zeke teased, “You toy with knives and weapons, and yet you have long hair. It seems you are rather vain. But tell you what, I don’t think you

need this elastic band anymore. You look better with long hair anyway.”

Shannon was utterly astonished and confused.

We are saving a life here! How can he say that!

My father's life is more important than anything!

Zeke said, “Go and get more elastic bands. I will need it.”

Without hesitation, Shannon turned her head and instructed her family, “Give me all of your elastic bands.”

Within a short moment, she managed to gather a dozen of them. She quickly passed them all to Zeke.

Adeptly, Zeke used the elastics to separate the blisters from the rest of the patient's body. Tossing a bag of sulfur to Shannon, he instructed, “Place this on the patient's legs.”

She quickly did as she was told.

At the same time, Zeke took out his needles and administered acupuncture on the patient.

It was the eighth needle in the Ammo Needle set – a needle that will stop all bleeding.

It would reduce the speed of blood flow and eventually cause the patient to stop bleeding out.

From the side, Master Healer Lowe looked at Zeke's acupuncture. His eyes flashed in excitement.

This method looks very familiar!

Is this...Is this perhaps the legendary Ammo Needle?

The Ammo Needle was invented by the Great Marshal from Eurasia. It was never passed down to anybody!

Could this young man be a disciple of the legendary Great Marshal?

Well, my humiliation was all worth it. This man must be a disciple!

After a series of emergency procedures done by Zeke, the patient looked much better.

He seemed much less in pain, and his previously dilated pupils returned to normal. The black spot in his eyes was nowhere to be seen.

The blisters on his skin also subsided on the application of sulfur.

Shannon took her father's pulse and breathing and finally exhaled with a sigh of relief. *Father is finally not in a critical condition anymore.*

The rest of the Han family relaxed upon this sight. They walked up to Zeke Williams to thank him.

Meanwhile, Shannon glared at Master Healer Lowe and accused unforgivingly, "Master Healer Lowe, you almost killed my father. You can't be known as a divine doctor. You're just a bad doctor! A quack!"

Master Healer Lowe's face instantly turned as pale as ash.

This will be the end of me.

If what happened today spread, my reputation will be tarnished! It will be the end of my high-flying career!

From a divine doctor to a quack? I rather die than be known as a quack!

At that moment, he fell into despair and wanted to take his life so badly.

However, Zeke suddenly spoke, "That's enough. How can you kill the chef after being fed? Don't be so ungrateful. If it was not for him who paved the way for my treatment, I might not

have saved your father either.”

“Master Healer Lowe probably took up thirty percent of the success this time.”

Master Healer Lowe glanced at him in gratitude.

As the saying goes, a dilettante only recognizes the bustle, but a connoisseur knows the artistry. As a medical practitioner, he knew he had no part to play in saving the patient, and if not for Zeke, he could have caused the death of the man.

It was obvious Zeke was helping him by crediting him more than he deserved.

This young man’s mindset and tolerance were beyond his expectations.

It went without saying that he had deep respect and admiration for Zeke and held him in high esteem.

Upon Zeke’s words, the Han family looked at Master Healer Lowe in a less hostile manner.

Speaking to her helpers, Shannon said, “Go and get ten million as his fees.”

However, Zeke laughed and shook his head, “Ten million? You think I will be satisfied with

that? You must be kidding me.”

“No amount of money will ever pay for my services. Shannon, just kneel and apologize. I will take that as my fees.”

Master Healer Lowe knew Zeke spoke the truth.

For a disciple of the Great Marshal to treat a patient was a rare occurrence, and it was indeed true that no amount of money could pay for that.

However, Shannon thought Zeke wanted to humiliate her on purpose.

Gritting her teeth, she spat out, “You...you are going overboard here.”

“Get me a hundred million. The Han family never owes anyone anything,” She told her servants.



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Zeke sighed, "You really are a stubborn woman. I already told you that you can't afford my services. Even a billion will not suffice. Jeffrey, let's go. She will kneel and apologize to me one day."

"Hang on," Shannon quickly stopped him.

"Why is my father still not awake?" She asked.

Zeke scoffed. "Your father has been in a coma for decades! How can he wake up so easily? I have to do acupuncture on him at least a dozen times. It will take about a month or so for him to come out of the coma."

"However, if a particular person doesn't kneel and apologize, I will not return."

At that, Zeke turned and left with a smile on his face.

All the color drained from Shannon's face.

It seems like I have no choice but to kneel and apologize now.

However, I am of a high rank in the military and respected by many! I represent the military! If I kneel to a loser like him, what's going to become of me?

It's going to be a shame to the military!

What should I do now?

Master Healer Lowe left shortly after too.

After stepping out of the Han family, he caught up with Zeke and bowed deeply to him.

“Sir, your attitude, mindset, and medical skills are beyond me. I am truly convinced you are a great man. I am very sorry for all the disrespect I showed you previously.”

Zeke waved his hand dismissively as he replied, “Don’t worry about it. Even if you didn’t come today, I would have treated him as well.”

“Sir, you have helped me a lot today. Please let me know how I can return the favor. I will definitely do everything to help you out, even if it means risking my life!”

Pondering for a moment, Zeke finally told him, “Well, come to think of it, I do have a favor to ask of you. My wife’s company is going public soon and will be holding a celebratory dinner. We need a few important guests to attend. Why don’t you come then? It would look good on the company.”

Master Healer Lowe agreed without hesitation, “It would be my honor to do so.”

He left after.

Jeffrey immediately stepped in and added, "Mr. Williams, I will bring a few friends of mine too, in support of Ms. Hinton's ventures."

Jeffrey's friends were either from wealth or aristocracy. It would definitely add to the glamour of the celebratory dinner.

Zeke nodded. "Alright. Let's go and find a secluded place, and I will help you with that parasite."

Elated, Jeffrey immediately agreed, "Thank you, Mr. Williams!"

...

"Zeke Williams has to die! He definitely has to! No, that would be too easy on him. I will torture him bit by bit. I will make sure he goes through hell!"

Mance was in an upscale nursing home. He gritted his teeth as he held onto Zeke's picture in his hands.

He confirmed that the man in black who had snatched Nancy Hinton away that night was either Zeke or a man sent by him.

That man had even kicked him down the flight of stairs!

Fortunately, he only fell from the third floor, and only broke his leg, thanks to his gift. No other severe injuries were sustained.

However, his ego was definitely very hurt!

After all, this was his first mission in twenty years. It was such a dishonor that it ended so badly!

“Hmph. Zeke Williams, I didn’t expect you to have such capable men around you. But so what if they are good at fighting? I’m sure they can’t escape the all-around ambush I set up! Dream on!”

At this moment, John Connor entered and asked, “Mance, how do you feel now?”

With a look of displeasure, he glanced at John and said, “What’s going on with Zeke now?”

The latter reported, “Zeke went to treat Jeffrey’s teacher earlier. It seems like everything worked out for him. He said that he can bring the teacher out of a coma within a month.”

Mance scoffed coldly, “John, I’m sure you already knew that Zeke and Jeffrey are close friends. Why didn’t you tell me about it during the cocktail? You made me lose face!”



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John merely smiled and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mance. I didn't know Jeffrey would be at the cocktail. I thought I would tell you after it was over."

Mance rolled his eyes at his response. *I would be a fool to believe a word you say. You are such an evil man!*

You saw how I underestimated the rival! You made me embarrass myself intentionally just so I would have my eyes on the enemy!

John quickly changed the topic. "Mance, he is going to come out of the coma in a month because of Zeke. Disaster is going to happen if he awakes and points out Boss. Hence, you only have a month to execute the Big Plan."

Mance replied coldly, "A month? You underestimate me. To tell you the truth, the Big Plan has already started. I guarantee that Zeke Williams will die in ten days. Not only will I kill him, but I will also carve him open and take his heart out!"

"Also, have you invited General North to attend the launch party like I told you to?"

John nodded. "I've already sent the invitation card, but General North has not replied. I'm not sure whether he's coming."

Mance replied, "Alright. Put out the news that General North will be attending Raider Group's launch party."

"Mm?" John was slightly taken aback.

"Mance, perhaps I didn't make myself clear earlier, or you misheard me," He noted.

"General North didn't agree to come to the launch party," He clarified.

Mance said, "In today's world, only those who are daring and take risks will succeed. Without courage, you will never achieve anything! It would be nice if he can come. But if not, I will just get someone to pretend that he's General North."

The color immediately drained from John's face as he reminded, "Mance, it's an offence to pass off as a military officer. It can get you beheaded! This plan sounds very daring, but if I were to be blunt, it sounds more rash and reckless..."

Mance remarked, "Why are you panicking?"

"General North is an important man who has a busy itinerary every day. He wouldn't even take note of this. Also, even if we get exposed, we will just get the impostor to be the scapegoat."

He continued, "All we have to do is to deny the whole incident and say that we thought that he was the real General North since we never met him before. Just push all fault to that impostor."

John's heart raced quickly, and he hesitated, "I still think it's not a foolproof plan..."

Mance immediately turned upset and snapped, "Alright, let's leave it as it is. It's been decided. Have you brought the two whom I asked you to search for?"

John nodded. "Yes, they are here. However, why did you decide to save them? They are such insignificant figures."

Mance replied, "You are clueless. Normally, these insignificant figures can become extremely useful. Our plan depends on these two."

"Bring them in."

"Alright," John waved towards the door, and a couple entered.

They were none other than Zeke Williams' ex-girlfriend, Emily Clemons, and her brother, Sam Clemons.

They had been sent to prison by Zeke Williams. The former had been charged with trafficking

and consuming drugs, while the latter was accused of murder.

The duo thought they would spend the rest of their life in prison.

It was unexpected John would rescue them out of that place.

However, it was all weird because they did not know John.

All he told them was that this was all his boss' wish.

Emily Clemons looked at Mance with uncertainty and asked, "You are John's boss? Were you the one who wanted to save us?"

Mance nodded with a faint smile. "Yes."

"Who are you? Why would you do that?" Emily asked.

Mance told her, "It does not matter who I am. What's more important is that we have a common enemy."

His words were all it took to excite Emily as she asked, "Are you referring to Zeke Williams? Do you bear a grudge against him too?"

"Indeed. He and I cannot live in the same

universe! That's how much I hate him!" Mance nodded slightly.

Emily tried hard to control her excitement as she said, "Well, you have to know that Zeke Williams is not an easy man to defeat. Even the richest family in Riverdale District, the Forrest Family, took a huge loss because of him. Are you sure you can defeat him?"

Mance was nonchalant, "The Forrest Family from Riverdale District? Haha! They are nothing as compared to me."

What!

Emily and Sam Clemons became even more ecstatic.

If the Forrest Family from Riverdale is nothing compared to him, he must be an extremely powerful man of high stature!

Furthermore, if he could get us out of prison, he must wield an uncanny amount of influence in society!

He must be an important man.

Haha! Zeke Williams, you always seek your own death. Now that you've offended such an important figure, God will punish you! Let's see if you can take such a huge blow!

Meanwhile, Sam Clemons asked in a worried manner, “What do you want us to help you with?”

Mance looked at them and said purposefully, “Sam Clemons, you are not getting younger. It’s time for you to get married. I’m planning to introduce you to a lady.”



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The brother and sister became even more puzzled.

Get Sam a wife? What has this got to do with defeating Zeke Williams?

Mance immediately revealed the entire plan to the two.

After which, they became even more elated at the prospect of defeating their common enemy.

This plan was going to achieve three goals.

First, it would defeat Zeke Williams. Second, it would resolve the issue of Sam Clemons' marriage. Third, it would help Emily Clemons with the financial difficulties of her family. If it succeeded, they would prosper and achieve the unthinkable!

So, the two quickly agreed, "Yes, we will cooperate with you."

Mance ended the discussion and asked the two of them to leave.

Meanwhile, his gaze was affixed on Emily's large and voluptuous bottoms.

From the first moment his eyes landed on her, Mance's heart had palpitated quickly, and his desire for her arose.

When it came to looks, Emily Clemons paled slightly in comparison to Nancy Hinton.

However, she had just exited from prison, and if she spent some time taking care of herself, she would definitely be on par with Nancy.

If he were not injured and could move around freely, he would have asked her to stay.

However, Lacey Hinton still topped all the women he met.

As his thoughts drifted to her, Mance's heart started to ache once more.

Lacey Hinton, I'm going to have you one day!

...

In the afternoon, a piece of shocking news took the entire Oakheart City by storm, including Rivermouth.

The great General North was going to attend the Raider Group's launch party!

The Raider Group was already a hot topic before it launched, and everyone in the city talked about the company.

It was so cool and capable of them to be able to invite General North to attend their party!

The limelight was instantly on the Raider Group.

At the same time, the Linton Group publicized its celebratory dinner for going public as well.

However, they did not have other important figures as their guests, and hence, there was not much buzz created.

Nutel Entertainment, which was in charge of publicity works, tried their best and resorted to all available methods. They even attempted to create a scandal but to no avail.

The news on Raider Group had such a great impact that it overwhelmed any buzz that Linton Group tried to create.

Mance even sent out invitations to the top figures in each industry, saying that they could all welcome General North together.

He even stated that they could not attend the Linton Group's dinner if they were to be present at the Raider Group's launch.

Similarly, those who planned to attend Linton Group's dinner were not welcomed at the Raider Group's launch party.

All of the insiders knew what was going on. It was obvious that the Raider Group had just

initiated a war against Linton Group. They were forcing all the businessmen in Rivermouth to take sides.

They could either side with the Raider Group or the Linton Group, but there was no question about it.

No fool would side with the latter.

The sole fact that the Raider Group was able to invite General North was sufficient to defeat Linton Group.

Many people queued to meet Mance.

Meanwhile, at Linton Group, it was deserted without a soul in sight.

Even the long-time business partners of the Linton Group had betrayed and abandoned the company.

The only business that remained loyal to Linton Group was Schneider Group, owned by the richest man in Oakheart City, Evan Schneider.

In fact, Schneider Group was one of the many personal ventures of Zeke Williams.

It was as if the Linton Group was being boycotted by the whole of Rivermouth; this implicated the Schneider Group too.

To be blunt, the Linton Group was ambushed on all fronts.

...

Mance looked at the name list in his hands and smiled from ear to ear.

This list consisted of all the businesses that sided with Raider Group and included almost all of the famous entities in Rivermouth.

Gloating continuously, he said, "Hmph! There's no way the Linton Group can fight me. They're too weak! This is just the first step in defeating them in the business world! Once this is done, I will use my connections in the underworld to defeat you entirely! I will make sure your bones turn into ash too!"

At this moment, John entered and reported, "Mance, someone from the Castaneda family is here to see you. They are one of the four prominent families in East Skuld."

"Ah, they are finally here," Mance remarked.

"Bring him in," He said.

Shortly after, the head of the Castaneda family, Yung Castenada, stepped into the room.

However, when he expressed his wishes to side

with Mance, the latter sighed profusely. “Mr. Castaneda, I feel very uneasy that you’ve offered to side with me.”

Yung was slightly surprised. “Mance, what do you mean?”

Mance explained, “Your daughter, Dawn Castaneda, works for Linton Group as the general manager and chief secretary for the CEO. As you know, the Linton Group is an archenemy of ours. How can I feel comfortable when my enemy’s father offers to help me out? How can I be assured that you weren’t sent here by Dawn Castaneda to be a spy?”



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Upon hearing this, Yung Castenada bellowed, “Hmph! This girl! She has been lying to me all this while and hiding from me. I didn’t expect her to work for Linton Group! Mance, don’t worry. I will make sure she resigns, and if she refuses to listen, I will make sure to kidnap her home. She can’t be working against you! That’s ridiculous.”

Mance smiled slightly and nodded, “Mr. Castenada, I feel much more at ease upon hearing your words. By the way, my brother has told me that he likes your daughter. He wishes to marry her and be together with her for a lifetime. If we become in-laws and work closer together, the Castaneda family will no longer be restricted to East Skuld and can prosper in the whole of Eurasia instead.”

“Haha!” Yung let out an excited guffaw.

“This is definitely a good thing. Definitely good! I will agree to this marriage on behalf of my daughter. Mance, don’t worry. I will get her back to the family and marry your brother.”

“Please, go ahead,” Mance replied.

“I will get my brother to visit one day,” He added.

Yung Castenada left with a lot to do after.

Just as he stepped out, Aaron Hinton of the Hinton family from Riverdale paid him a visit.

This was naturally the Hintons to which Nancy belonged to.

Aaron was infuriated when he knew that Mance failed in his bid to court Nancy and that she even got someone to beat him up.

“What a ridiculous woman! Damn it! It’s a blessing from our ancestors that Mance would even court someone from the Hinton family! How can this lass just reject him like that? She’s really stupid for doing that! What a bastard!”

“Mance, please don’t worry. I will definitely punish this daughter of mine and give you a satisfactory explanation.”

Breaking into a sigh once more, Mance said, “Sir, there’s no need to be angry. I still love Nancy. If she wishes, I do not mind forgiving her.”

Naturally, Aaron was elated and relieved upon hearing this and said, “Thank you, Mance, for giving the Hintons another chance. We will not let you down! I will definitely make sure she marries you, even if it means kidnapping her!”

Mance just laughed and nodded. “Alright, I

await your good news then!”

Aaron left in a hurry after the conversation ended.

Mance stretched his limbs in a casual manner. There was no mistaking his high spirits and vigor.

Linton Group was now boycotted by most of the businesses in Rivermouth. If they lose Nancy Hinton and Dawn Castaneda, who were the pillars of the company, it would definitely be a huge blow to the company. Would they be able to survive in lieu of the internal and external troubles?

It was not possible!

...

Linton Group descended into utter chaos.

The company had recently acquired a piece of business. It was at the peak of its development and expansion. Any error, including a minute detail, could send the company spiraling downwards with a situation of no turning back.

Unfortunately, at such a crucial stage, the Linton Group had been boycotted due to Mance's act.

Many business partners betrayed the Linton Group and changed camps to side with the Raider Group. It was now difficult for the company to move forward, and it could collapse at any moment!

As if the situation was not bad enough, troubles continued to arise. Earlier, Dawn received a call from her family to say that her father was gravely ill and asked to see her for one last time.

Nancy was uncontactable.

Since the pillars of the company were gone, the company was placed in a difficult position.

Lacey panicked and did not even have an appetite for lunch.

Zeke walked in with a cup of coffee and smiled as he said, "Honey, have some coffee. You will feel more energized after."

Lacey looked up and said to him, "Zeke, I really envy you sometimes."

"What about?" Zeke asked, slightly taken aback by her words.

Lacey replied, "I envy that you can be so heartless and thoughtless."

Zeke was speechless.

I thought you were going to praise me. I suppose I thought wrong.

In a soft voice, he assured, “Lacey, are you worried because of the Raider Group? Don’t worry. This might just be his peak. Within a short time, he will fail so badly and collapse with just a rack of bones left.”

“Defeating someone necessitates that you allow him to be arrogant first,” He added.

Lacey rubbed her temples and lamented, “The entire Rivermouth supports him now. Even General North is attending his launch party. How can he be so easily defeated?”

Clap clap clap!

Resounding claps could be heard from the door as someone said, “Haha! Hinton, it seems like you are quite self-aware.”



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The two turned to the entrance with frowns on their faces.

Once they realized who was at the door, they inhaled deeply in surprise.

It was Emily Clemons, who had been imprisoned for drug trafficking and consumption.

How is she out so fast?

What is she doing here?

Lacey said in a low voice, "What are you doing here? You are not welcomed, so please leave."

Meanwhile, Emily was unfazed and challenged her, "Tsk tsk, Lacey, don't be so ruthless, alright? After all, we were best friends once, weren't we? I came today to help you out. I don't want to see you sleep on the streets and starve to death."

Lacey scoffed, "You? Help me? Since when were you so kind-hearted?"

Emily nodded. "Of course."

Tossing a set of documents into her arms, Emily said, "This is the transferal agreement for Linton Group. I'm offering two hundred million to buy over your company."

Without even looking at the documents, Lacey threw them back in her direction. "I'm sorry, Linton Group is not for sale! Also, we are worth at least five billion now. What makes you think I will sell my company for two hundred million? How dare you?"

Emily scoffed, "Indeed, at your peak, Linton was probably priced at five billion. But things are different now. The company has been boycotted by Rivermouth! It will be bankrupt soon. Two hundred million is already an over-valuation of your company."

"If you're smart enough, I suggest you just listen to me and sign the papers. Or else, when Linton Group does become bankrupt, not only will you not receive a single cent, but you might even end up with a ton of debt."

Lacey turned angry and asserted, "Even if I burnt down this building and destroyed Linton Group, I will never sell it to you."

Zeke stepped in and told Emily coldly, "I suggest you get out of here before I turn angry. Or else, I can't guarantee you will walk out of here with two legs working."

Emily shot him a stern glare and said, "Zeke, do you think I'm still that small, insignificant citizen without power and status many years back?"

“Hmph, let me tell you! You can never compare yourself to me now. Don’t even think about laying a finger on me! I suppose you don’t have the courage to do that anyway. Junior and Senior Panther, come in.”

Immediately, two large men entered from outside and asked, “Ms. Clemons, who should we beat up this time?”

That question was enough to demonstrate their ferocious aura.

Needless to say, Emily pointed at Zeke and instructed, “This man is my ex-boyfriend. I dumped him when he couldn’t afford the dowry. Now? Well, he asked to get back together with me and keeps clinging onto me.”

“What do you think we should do?”

The duo laughed and suggested, “Well, for that, we naturally should break his legs.”

“Whatever you say.” Emily made way for the two men as she spoke.

The duo clenched their fists, and one could hear the cracking of their joints. With fiery eyes, they glared at Zeke and teased, “You were dumped! Yet you still cling to her. What a f**king simp! Kneel, and apologize to Ms. Clemons. Or else, we will make sure both of

your legs are broken.”

Zeke replied in scorn, “Junior and Senior Panther? I suppose you are more like cats. Come on, show me what you got!”

*What the f***!*

What an arrogant man!

To be referred to as felines was an utter humiliation to the duo. They seethed with anger and attacked in his direction one after another.

Zeke remained calm; he did not react to this.

He only retaliated with his legs when Senior Panther was very close to hitting him.

Senior Panther reacted by using his arms to block Zeke.

However, he did not expect such a casual-looking kick to contain such explosive power.

Immediately, he was sent flying in the air, colliding with Junior Panther. Both fell and collapsed onto the ground.

They could not get up after a long time and even had difficulty breathing.

With shocked and stupefied expressions, they

stared at Zeke Williams.

Damn it! How can this man be so strong!

Doesn't everyone say he's just a man who leeches off his wife?

If he's this capable, why would he need to depend on a woman?

Surely the information on him must be wrong!

As Zeke continued to exude a forceful and overbearing manner, Emily also became terrified. She gulped continuously and retreated slowly.

“Zeke Williams, just you wait! I will make sure you regret this. You can no longer cross me now. I will make sure you kneel in regret one day.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As she said this, Emily turned and scurried out of the room.

Upon this, Zeke let out a cold laugh. *The Great Marshal cannot offend her? That will only happen if you are now the colonel.*

Several guards rushed into the room upon learning of the fight. Zeke instructed, "Get these two lackeys out of the room."

The guards quickly responded and dragged Senior and Junior Panther out.

Lacey, who had witnessed everything from the side, was still terrified. She gasped for air.

In a soft voice, she mumbled, "Zeke, how did she get out of prison so quickly? Furthermore, she can even afford two hundred million now."

With a smile, he told her, "Well, it's simple. She's now one of Mance's lackeys. She's bullying us because she thinks she has a formidable force supporting her."

Lacey pondered his words for a moment before nodding in agreement. "Yes, that's very possible. But, she did say the Linton Group was going to be bankrupt soon. I suppose that is the truth."

However, Zeke let out a laugh and assured her,

“Lacey, give me seven days. In seven days, I guarantee you Linton Group will soar to success and be in the limelight once more. Raider Group will fall into despair. I can bet you that with my life.”

“Alright, that’s enough. There’s no need to comfort me.” Lacey did not know whether to laugh or cry at his statement.

“Furthermore, based on the situation now, I probably can last seven days only if Nancy and Dawnie were helping me out. However, I can’t contact the two of them. I probably can’t even last a day with the workload.”

“Hmm?” A frown appeared on Zeke’s face immediately.

“Where are the two of them?” He asked.

Lacey explained, “Dawnie’s dad is seriously ill, so she went back to say her last goodbyes.”

“I can’t contact Nancy all of a sudden. I’ve already sent someone to look for her at the Riverdale Hintons.”

Suddenly, Zeke’s heart skipped a beat, and he had a premonition.

Two of the key personnel at Linton Group disappeared during such a crucial timing...

This is probably Mance's doing.

They might be in trouble!

Zeke immediately told her, "Lacey, I'm heading out for a while. Please wait for me here. Don't leave the office."

Lacey nodded. "Alright."

Zeke stepped out of the Linton Groups' building and blew on his whistle.

In a short while, Hadley appeared and asked, "Boss, what do you have for me?"

Zeke ordered, "Protect Lacey Hinton from behind the scenes. Also, take special note of the guards at the entrance. They might have changed camps and work for Mance now."

Hadley inhaled sharply and remarked, "Mance really acts fast. I'm truly amazed. He even managed to infiltrate into the internal organization of the Linton Group. But how do you know that they changed camps?"

Zeke explained, "I know what they are capable of. Even if they could not stop Senior and Junior Panther, they probably would have been able to injure them rather severely. However, I observed that neither the guards nor the Panthers had even a slight bruise on them. This

meant that they did not even try to stop Emily Clemons and her party of two.”

He continued, “Also when Emily left earlier, she left via the main entrance, not the side doors. She clearly knows that there are guards at the main entrance, but not the side doors. However, she still chose to exit by the main doors, which means that she was confident the security would not stop her.”

Thinking over Zeke’s words for a moment, Hadley suggested, “Or perhaps, Emily did not react in time and instinctively escaped from the main doors.”

Zeke denied this. “I know her well. Based on her scheming nature, she would have definitely taken this into account.”

“Well, I would like to ‘know her well’ too. Do you mind?” Hadley teased.

“Get out!” Zeke reprimanded.

Obviously, he knew what the man had implied.

...

Emily brought the injured Panthers to the hospital and looked for Mance.

“Mance, I’m sorry, but I didn’t accomplish what I

was supposed to,” Emily said with remorse.

“Alright, I got it. You can leave now,” Mance replied without a change in expression.

Of course, he had never expected Emily to succeed at buying over Linton Group with just two hundred million.

He had ulterior motives in mind by sending her to make an offer to the Linton Group.

After she left, Mance looked over the Panthers’ injuries.

They immediately jumped to their own defense. “Mance, that Zeke is nowhere near the loser you described him to be.”

“Exactly! I think your information is wrong. You can’t blame us for failing this time.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Mance nodded his head. "Let me ask you. How hard did Zeke Williams attack you?"

"As hard as he could, of course," Senior Panther replied.

Mance nodded again and threw a bank card to them. "There's one hundred thousand in this card. Take the money and get out of here."

Senior Panther and Junior Panther were thrilled.

They never thought they would get paid!

They had not expected Mance to still give them the money even after the mission had failed.

Mance is really generous!

Both of them quickly took the money and left.

As soon as they left, a blond-hair guy came out from the washroom.

He had a scorpion tattoo on his face which made him look even ferocious.

"How good is Zeke Williams?" The blond-hair man asked.

Mance sneered with disdain, "Not good at all. He couldn't even hurt those two men. I'm pretty

sure Zeke is not the one who attacked me that night. He's not the master. Scorpio, it's your turn now. Go get him!"

Mance had used Emily Clemons the other night to test Zeke. He wanted to find out if Zeke was the man in black who had attacked him.

If he were that man in black, Scorpio could never be his match.

But Mance had gotten it wrong and had overestimated him.

Scorpio nodded. "Alright. I'll go and take him down now."

"Scorpio, even if you can't kill him on the spot, you must stop him from saving Dawn and Nancy. Remember that!" Mance ordered.

"Don't worry. I'm Scorpio. No one can get away from me!"

.....

On the way out of the province, a Mercedes Benz was speeding.

Senior Panther and Junior Panther were inside the car.

Both of them were looking so happy.

Senior Panther guffawed, “We’ve earned one hundred thousand by just taking a blow! It’s easy money!”

“Well, I will do it again even he gave me two! Ha-Ha!” Junior Panther laughed and chimed in.

But after a short silence, Senior Panther suddenly palpitated and covered his chest with his hands, “Damn it! I felt my heartache! I can’t breathe! What about you?”

Junior Panther felt his heart ache pain as well, and he groaned, “I felt my heart twinge. It felt so tight.”

Then, at the same time, both of them spit blood out from their mouth!

Their heads went blank for a moment. The pain had become so unbearable.

They lost control of the car and crashed into a big truck. Just before the collision, something crossed their minds.

Internal injuries!

The kick from Zeke Williams had caused them some serious internal injuries!

He is stronger than we thought!

.....

Dawn, who had always been optimistic, was now feeling down.

The closer she got to the Castaneda family, the more depressed she was.

Although she belonged to the family, she had no feelings for them.

We're not even related. We're just his illegitimate children!

Before she was five-years-old, she used to live in a cheap rental house with her mother and brother.

When her mother died, her father had no choice but to take them back to the Castaneda family.

But the Castaneda family had always looked down on them, calling them bastards secretly. Even the servants rolled their eyes when seeing them.

Their father ignored them too. He did not care for them. All his attention went to their stepmother, Monica.

I'm treated worse than a servant in the house!

Thus, she learned to be independent. During her

college years, she worked part-time to cover her personal-expenses and did not take any money from the family.

She lived with Lacey after she graduated and had never been back after that.

The Linton Group and Lacey were her home and family. The Castaneda family was just dispensable to her.

She thought she would never come back, but her father had fallen sick.

She had no choice. *He's my father, after all. I should see him one last time.*

She stood in front of the door and hesitating for a long time before going in.

But as soon as she walked in, she was stunned.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The servants were busy decorating the courtyard with lights and lanterns. It looked beautiful!

She found the Castaneda family in the hall. They were having a good time chatting and laughing with each other.

Her father, Yung Castenada, was sitting in the middle. *He looks good. Who the hell told me he's sick? He doesn't look sick at all! What's going on? Are they lying to me?*

Dawn immediately frowned.

“Hey, looks who's here!” Her stepmother, Monica, saw her and quickly came out to welcome her.

“Dawnie, come in!”

Monica held Dawn in the arms and walked her into the hall.

Everyone in the family stood up when she walked in.

“Dawnie. It's so good to see you again. We've been waiting for you.”

“You must be tired. Come and have some tea with us!”

“Dawnie, you’ve done a great job to our family!”

Her father, Yung Castenada, was smiling at her too. “Dawnie, come and sit with me!”

Dawn was confused.

What’s going on? Why are they being so nice to me?

They were treating her like an honorable guest. That had never happened before.

Dawn was surprised. *They must be hiding something from me!*

“Dad, what’s going on here?” She swallowed hard before asking, “What’s the occasion for all these decorations?”

Yung Castenada laughed. “It’s for you. Ha-Ha! You’re such a lucky girl!”

“For me? I’m...” Dawn was lost for words.

“Dawnie, this is for your wedding! They are coming to propose to you right now! You’re going to marry a powerful and wealthy man. Our family will rise to fame and honor when you marry him!”

What?!

Dawn was stupefied.

They asked me here to get married?

But how could she marry anyone else after knowing a perfect man like Zeke Williams?

Furthermore, this was a pre-arranged business marriage set up by her family. How good can the man be?

She would rather stay single forever and take care of her nieces and nephews for the rest of her life.

Without hesitation, she directly refused, "I'm not marrying anybody."

Her father's face immediately darkened. "What did you say? Don't let me hear it again. Or else..."

"Hey, come on. Don't say something like this in front of the children," Monica said hypocritically.

"Dawnie, listen to me. Your future husband comes from a big and wealthy family. You're going to be a rich aunt soon. Isn't it wonderful? Furthermore, we can all get rich and famous because of you. You're the Castaneda family's savior, you know? This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You're indeed one in a million!"

“I won’t get married,” Dawn said again, determinedly this time.

“If you have nothing else for me, I’m leaving now.”

With that, Dawn turned to leave.

“How dare you disobey me! You’ll not be leaving the house until you get married. You’re grounded!” Yung said angrily to her.

“Maid! Take her to her room to try on her wedding dress,” He ordered.

What? They even have a wedding gown ready? How could they do this to me? Am I a commodity for them to trade?

Dawn was furious. She stomped and walked away.

Monica’s face darkened. She went up to Dawn and slapped her in the face.

“Who do you think you are? Do you think you’re a princess who gets to choose your prince? You don’t have a choice. You must get married today, no matter what!”

Dawn felt her head spinning, and tears started to stream down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Her emotions suddenly went out of control as she blurted, "I won't get married even if you beat me to death!"

"Brute!" Yung Castenada banged on the table angrily, "I'm your father. You cannot disobey me. You don't get to choose who to marry, and you must marry him today!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Father?” Dawn sneered, “You called yourself my father?”

“Where were you when we were begging on the streets with no food to eat? Where were you when mum was lying on the sickbed and brother had to sell his blood to pay for her medicine? Where were you when we’re almost kidnapped after mum died? Do you know that brother almost got beaten to death because he stole a bun just for me?”

“Where were you? Damn it! You were travelling around the world with this woman! You dare call yourself my father? You don’t deserve it!”

“Stop it!” Monica slapped on Dawn’s face again. “How dare you talk to your father like that! You’re a savage little girl! If they weren’t coming to propose today, I would beat you to death!”

“Go to your room and put on your wedding dress now! Don’t you dare disobey us again, or you’ll be grounded for the rest of your life!”

Monica then grabbed Dawn’s hair and pulled her all the way to her room.

Arghhh!

Suddenly, Dawn missed a step and fell to the floor.

But Monica did not let her go. She kept pulling her.

In fact, she pulled her hair so hard that Dawn's scalp began to strip off, and blood started to drip down from her cheeks.

Dawn was in great pain. Her head felt dizzy, and her mind went blank out of a sudden. She held her head and struggled to break free.

But Monica still grabbed hold of her. "Bitch! I'll rip off all your hair if you dare disobey me again!"

"The bride-price is here!" Someone shouted at the door.

Yung quickly stood up and said, "Hurry, go and greet them!"

When he passed by Dawn, who was lying on the floor, he threatened her, "You better behave yourself. Don't make us look like fools! Otherwise, I will kill your brother in the army."

Dawn was in despair.

Why do I have such a father? How could he threaten me with his own son? How can he be so mean?

A group of people came in to the house.

Sam Clemons, the brother of Emily Clemons, was the first to walk in.

He had just been released from jail. However, with the support from Mance, he proudly walked in and didn't take the Castaneda family seriously at all.

He was the groom who was going to marry Dawn Castaneda today.

Behind him were his men carrying the bride-gift.

Someone from the group suddenly shouted, "Bride-gift for Ms. Castaneda, includes cash of six million six hundred and sixty thousand, one Rolls-Royce car, one mansion by the Lake Resort, gold and silver jewelry weighed eight hundred pounds..."

All the members of the Castaneda family were excited when they heard about the bride-price...

Wow! They're indeed rich and famous...Even the bride-price is extravagant!

Yung Castenada quickly went up to Sam, "Come here, my future son-in-law. Come in and have some tea with us!"

However, Sam Clemons just ignored him, "Where's my wife? I want to see her now!"

“Well, she’s back from Oakheart City as soon as she heard you’re coming,” Yung said.

“But why is she lying on the floor? Did she hurt her head?” Sam Clemons was confused.

“Oh, she was hanging the lantern just now. She accidentally fell,” Yung Castenada immediately explained.

Sam Clemons smiled. “Oh really? She even hung the lanterns herself? Oh sweetie, where did you hurt yourself?”

Sam went up to Dawn, wanting to touch her.

Dawn was shocked to see him!

It’s him? They want me to marry Sam Clemons?

Dawn knew Sam well.

He was the younger brother of Zeke’s ex-girlfriend. Oh no...He’s a murderer and a convict! How can I marry him? What’s more, he’s a useless guy who depends on his mother and sister. I’d rather die than marry him!

As soon as Sam went up to Dawn, she pushed him away.

“Go away! Don’t touch me!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Damn it!

Sam grew mad once he was pushed away.

How dare you reject me? Do you know who I'm with now? Mance! How dare you push me away!

Slap!

Sam slapped Dawn in the face. "Bitch! You should be happy to marry me! How dare you push me? Do you have a death wish? Believe it or not, I can kill you and even the whole Castaneda family in the blink of an eye!"

Yung Castenada was shocked by his words. He quickly calmed Sam Clemons down. "Mr. Clemons, please...I'm sorry. My daughter doesn't mean to offend you. I will teach her a lesson later."

Monica was mad too. She put her hands on Dawn's shoulder and berated, "Hey! How dare you push Mr. Clemons away. Are you out of your mind? You must apologize to him now!"

"No way!" Dawn said determinedly. "I'll never apologize to brother-in-law's enemy!"

As soon as she said that Monica strangled Dawn's neck and pushed her to the floor.

Dawn fell on her head and scratched her scalp

again.

It was so painful that Dawn almost cried out.

She gritted her teeth and groaned, "My brother-in-law will come for you! Just wait and see."

"Brother-in-law?" Sam sneered. "You mean Zeke Williams? Well, I know him. He's nothing compared to Mance, you know? Do you know Mance is General North's good friend?"

Dawn refuted, "Well, someone like you will never know how good my brother-in-law is. You're just a bunch of little monkeys to him!"

"B****! Stop it!" Monica beat Dawn on her back. "Stop saying that!"

Monica used to be a Taekwondo black belt before. Hence, with just a few punches, Dawn almost coughed out blood from her mouth.

Dawn was in total despair now as tears coursed down. "Brother-in-law, where are you? Help..."

"Enough..." Sam reprimanded, "She's marrying me today. Don't beat her to death!"

Dawn scoffed as blood was coming out from her mouth, "Don't you wish! I will not marry you! I'd rather die!"

“Well, I won’t let you die before we sleep together. Ha-Ha!” Sam smirked. “Don’t ever wish to die before serving me!”

“Good. Everything’s settled then. Let’s get ready for your wedding!” Monica quickly chimed in, “Come, dear! let’s go and try on your wedding dress!”

Monica gave an eye signal to her bodyguards to bring Dawn to her room.

Yung Castenada then said, “Mr. Clemons, please come in. Let’s discuss the wedding process.”

Sam nodded as he walked in and sat in the middle.

Yung had no choice but to sit by his side.

Sam acted like he was the big boss in the family now.

.....

Zeke sped all the way to the Hinton family.

He knew it was odd that Dawn had been summoned back to the Castaneda family all of a sudden.

He tried to call Dawn, but her phone had been

shut off. This made him even more worried.

Thus, he had to go and look for her.

When he reached a crossroad, a van suddenly pulled out in front of him and blocked his way.

“Hey, get out of my way!” Zeke shouted angrily.

A strong big man emerged out of the van.

He was Scorpio. Mance had sent him to take down Zeke.

He took out a photo and took a glance at Zeke, “You’re Zeke Williams from Linton Group?”

Huh? He’s looking for me?

“Who the hell are you?” Zeke asked.

“You do not need to know. All you need to know is to go back to where you come from. Go back to Oakheart City now. Or else...”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke was not a bit threatened at all. He refuted, "Why not you go back to where you are? Get lost, or...Erm...I should keep you alive. But I'll make you plead for death!"

"You're really full of yourself." Scorpio threw his photo away and unbuckled his leather belt. It then suddenly turned into a sword with a few shakes.

He then rushed up to Zeke and attacked him with the sword.

However, Zeke was not a bit intimidated.

He moved his right arm in a swift motion, and four silver needles shot out!

It was so fast that Scorpio could not react. The needles were shot directly to his four fingers holding the sword.

Arghh!

Scorpio shrieked and let go of his hands, dropping the sword.

Zeke then walked up to him and kicked him hard on his belly.

Poor Scorpio! Before he could make a move, he was hit by another blow and knocked against the van heavily.

The bonnet was sunken, and Scorpio was stuck in it.

Ouch! I can't even move my body! Damn it! He must have broken my ribs.

He looked at Zeke, feeling scared.

He is the master! I couldn't even react to his strikes just now. He is definitely from the master level! Damn it. How could Mance ask me to come for him? I'm not his match! He must have hidden his identity when fighting with Senior Panther and Junior Panther! Or else, they would be killed on the spot when Zeke kicked them.

Zeke quickly hopped to the van and drove it to the side.

Then he grabbed Scorpio by his leg and pulled him out of the dented bonnet.

Scorpio was flung to the floor, and he tried to struggle to break free.

His body was listless.

Damn! My ribs are broken, and I think my spine too. I'm going to be a vegetable for the rest of my life!

Zeke frowned when he saw the scorpion tattoo on the man's face. "You're from the Northern

Xinjiang Scorpion's troop? Did Mance send you? How dare he collude with the mercenary organization and send you here?"

Scorpio wanted to say something, but as he tried to open his mouth, he spat out a large amount of blood.

Zeke took out his phone and called Sole Wolf, "Caught an illegal mercenary. Come and take him now."

"Guess what? I just called my brother Sole Wolf. Do you know his other name? He's the notorious General North! You do know him, right?" Zeke sneered to Scorpio.

What?! General North!

Scorpio's eyes went wide; he was in total fear!

General North is his brother? How can Mance say General North is his friend? How ridiculous! Wait a minute, if General North is his brother, then he is...

"You're...you're Great Marshal!"

"Bingo!"

Scorpio spat out some more blood and went into shock.

He then fainted.

Zeke left him there and went to get his car. *I can't stop. I must find Dawn now. She must in danger!*

Following the GPS in his car, he soon arrived at the destination, the Castaneda's mansion in the East Skuld.

To his surprise, the Castaneda mansion was just one block away from the East Skuld Military's base.

Master Jeffrey, Shannon Hans's father, was staying there now.

Maybe I can ask them for help?

However, Zeke Williams did not think much. He parked his car and walked to the mansion directly.

The Castaneda mansion was lit up with lightings and decorations.

Everyone in the house was busy and did not see him walking in.

He found Yung Castenada, Monica, and Sam Clemons chatting happily in the living hall.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Well, it’s time that the presider is coming. Can someone get Dawn down here?” Sam looked at his watch and exclaimed.

“May I know who the presider is?” Yung Castenada asked.

“Douglas Timms!”

“What?” Yung Castenada and Monica exclaimed. They could not believe their ears.

“You mean Mr. Douglas Timms, the minister of City Armed Forces?”

“Yes. That’s him!” Sam nodded.

Yung Castenada and Monica grew excited. “Mr. Clemons, you’re really something. Even Mr. Timms is here. Well, we’re so honored that he’s the presider!”

“Hurry, ask Dawnie to come down now!”

Soon, two bodyguards brought Dawn to the living hall.

At that moment, Zeke walked through the door. He did not recognize Dawn at first sight.

Instead, he pitied the girl. Her hair was disheveled and a small piece of her scalp had been scratched off. Her head was covered with blood.

How can they torture their maid like this? Zeke thought to himself.

He had mistaken Dawn as one of the Castaneda's servants!

"Why is she not dressed up? Where's her wedding gown? How can we get married when she's a mess like this?" Sam looked displeased.

The bodyguards shrugged and replied, "Sir, she doesn't let us dress her up! We had no choice!"

"B****! I told you to behave. What have you done? Do you have a death wish?" Monica chastised her in front of everybody.

Dawn gritted her teeth and said, "I've told you...I'm not marrying this bastard even if you beat me to death! My brother-in-law is going to take revenge for me. Just wait and see."

"Damn it! Even if Zeke is coming, I can kill him easily."

Suddenly, Zeke heard Dawn's voice. He was shocked and felt as if a knife was piercing his heart.

He stared at the girl whose hair was disheveled.

That's Dawnie? The smart and pretty little girl is being tortured like this? Damn! Castanedas, you're all dead meat!

He clenched his teeth and strode into the hall, throwing blows to the bodyguards who were beside Dawnie.

He then squatted down and tried to help her up.

However, Dawn resisted, "Don't...don't touch me..."

It was not until then that Zeke noticed the fingerprints marks on both sides of her face.

Even the blood from the corner of her mouth had dried up.

Zeke felt sorry for her.*How could they do this to her?*

The Great Marshal, who was as hard as flint, was suddenly choked with sobs, "Dawnie, it's me. I'm here to save you."

Dawn was shaking like a leaf when she looked up at him.

As soon as she noted that it was Zeke, she lost control of her emotions and burst into tears.

"Zeke, you're here? Bwah! Aha! Ha! You're finally here. I miss you..."

She hugged him and cried hysterically.

“Who are you? Who let you in?” Yung Castenada asked angrily. “Get out! Otherwise, my bodyguards will throw you out!”

Zeke glared at him viciously and ignored him. He held Dawn in his arms and put her on the sofa.

Dawn was clinging to him tightly. She was scared he would leave her again.

Zeke took a deep breath and commanded a servant next to him, “Bring me the first-aid kit!”

The maid looked displeased, “Who are you? Who do you think you are to give me orders?”

But before she could finish her words, Zeke choked her and tossed her.

The servant’s head broke through the ceiling and was stuck there. Her body was swaying. No one could tell whether she was alive or not.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke then glared at another servant, "Bring me the first aid kit if you don't want to end up like her."

The maid was frightened. She quickly went off in a hurry.

"Who the hell are you? How dare you broke into my house and beat my people up?" Yung Castenada asked again.

"Why does he look so familiar?" Monica said, looking confused.

"You don't know him? He's Dawn's brother-in-law and one of Mance's greatest enemies," Sam said.

Suddenly, Yung Castenada and Monica turned furious.

"So you're that useless crap who depends on the Linton family! This is our family matter and none of your business. Get out of our house now!"

Zeke wanted to get up, but Dawn would not let go of him. So, he had no choice but to sit still.

He looked at Yung Castenada indifferently.
"Whoever hit Dawnie, go and break one of your hands now."

“Shut up! How dare you talk to us like this?”
Yung Castenada yelled furiously.

Monica chimed in immediately, “Why bother with him? Just get security to take him out! I’m sick of seeing him in our house.”

“Guards, bring him out now!” Yung Castenada shouted.

Soon, more than ten security guards came in.

“Sir, please. Otherwise, we’ll escort you out!”
One of the security guards said.

Zeke sneered, “Throw me out if you can.”

“Damn it! Guys, go get him!”

All the security guards went up to Zeke at the same time.

Zeke Williams moved his hand, and a silver needle flew straight to the ceiling fan.

The high-speed rotating ceiling fan was shot down, knocking four or five security guards to the floor.

The fan even peeled off the scalp of two security guards, causing a bloody scene.

The remaining five security guards were

stunned, and they trembled in fear. “He’s good. Be careful!”

But the security leader shouted again, “What are you guys waiting for? Go and take him down now!”

The security guards had no choice but to go up against Zeke again.

Zeke was still holding Dawn in his arms. He could only move his legs. He pulled the carpet hard.

The security guards slid and fell to the ground.

In a flash, Zeke took one of the chairs beside him and threw it at them.

He threw it so hard that the solid sandalwood chair immediately smashed into powder when it hit the ground.

All five guards were crushed by the chair. They died on the spot.

Oh, my!

Everyone was shocked to see such a scene.

He’s too strong! Oh my god! He wiped out all security guards without even standing up! We have underestimated him!

Zeke stared at Yung Castenada again, “Who did this to Dawnie? Go and break one of your hands now! If Dawnie tells me later, I will break both of your arms!”

“Zeke, so you think you can fight? But how about weapons? Let me warn you, Douglas Timms, the minister of City Armed Forces, is coming now. I’ll let him blow your brains out with his gun later.”

Yung Castenada and Monica were not afraid of Zeke Williams after knowing that Douglas Timms was coming.

“Yeah, you’re right. Just shoot him. He’s ruthless and violent! He’s an extremely dangerous man. He must be shot to death.”

“Well...” Zeke shook his head and sighed, “I have given you chances. Don’t blame me for it.”

“Dawnie, tell me. Who hit you?”

Dawn looked up and stared at Monica gingerly.

“B****. Why are you staring at me! I hit you for your own good,” Monica said quickly.

Before she could finish her words, Zeke took the paring knife beside him and went up to Monica in a flash.

He stroke twice.*Shoo-shoo!*

Suddenly, Monica's arms were cut. Her limbs fell to the ground and fresh blood began splashing out profusely.



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Ahhh!

Monica shrieked and fainted on the spot.

She was in unbearable pain!

Everyone else was shocked as well. They feared Zeke.

Monster! He's a monster! How could he cut her arms just like that?

Yung Castenada and Sam Clemons took a step backwards. They could hardly breathe now.

“Guards, send Madam to the hospital. Hurry!”
Yung Castenada roared.

But no one dared to go up to the woman. The securities were down on the floor, and some of the maids were frightened to death!

“Please, one million for those who bring Madam to the hospital.” Yung Castenada begged. Only then did two men get up. One carried Monica on his back, and another took her arms and quickly left for the hospital.

“Who else? Come out now. Don't let Dawnie point at you...” Zeke Williams looked at the crowd with a grim smile.

“Either you want to lose one of your hands or

both of your arms! Choose one!”

Sam was shaking...

Damn it. If I knew he was so strong and ruthless, I wouldn't have laid a finger on her.

He gritted his teeth and blurted out, “Zeke Williams, I know you're strong in Oakheart City, but you can't do whatever you want in East Skuld!”

“Douglas Timms, the Minister of the City Armed Forces, is coming. He's my presider. You can't beat him here. I think you should leave before he comes.”

“Leave? I think he should be the one to leave, not me!” Zeke growled coldly.

As soon as he finished speaking, Douglas Timms arrived.

An armed force suddenly broke into the compound, and Douglas Timms walked in.

He could sense something was not right as soon as he entered the mansion.

And when he saw the bloody scene in the hall, he grew alert.

“What's all this? What happened?”

Yung Castenada and Sam Clemons quickly got behind him.

“Mr. Timms. Please, help us! Zeke Williams broke into my house and hurt all my people. He even cut off my wife’s arms!”

What?

Douglas Timms was mad. “Who the hell dares do such things in broad daylight? Who is Zeke Williams?”

“It’s him!” Sam pointed at Zeke.

“Put your hands on your head and squat down!” Douglas Timms then commanded his men to surround Zeke Williams.

“Do it now, or I’ll shoot!”

Zeke Williams just shook his head. “I hate it when a gun is pointing at me!”

He then took out his phone and called for Shannon Hans. “Hans The Fool. Come to the Castaneda family in East Skuld now! It’s time to pay for your medical bill.”

Shannon Hans was confused. She was still worrying about the ‘medical bill’ lately.

She had taken one hundred million to give to

Zeke, but the man was not happy to receive it.

He wants me to kneel down in front of him! I rather die!

Since Zeke Williams had called her to settle her medical bills, she did not hesitate to agree immediately.

Hans The Fool? Who the hell is she?

“Hans The Fool? Is she someone powerful in East Skuld? What a strange name.” Sam was confused.

“It’s East Skuld! Do you think you’re at Oakheart City now?”

Sam shook his head. “I’ve never heard of her! Anyway, no one can come and save him now! A slow remedy cannot meet an emergency!”

“Yeah, you’re right!” Douglas said.

“Take him down now. Or I’ll shoot him in the head.”

Zeke was surrounded.

Dawn was soberer now, and suddenly, she got scared.

She knew Douglas well. Zeke Williams might

not be his match if his help could not be here in time.

“Zeke, just leave. Don’t bother about me! I can take this on my own.”



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Zeke got a little mad. “Dawnie, stop saying such foolish words and make me angry.”

All of a sudden, Dawn broke down in tears.

Zeke, you’ve finally rescued a damsel in distress. I don’t care if I’m going to die. It’ll be an honor to die with you, Zeke.

Sam grabbed a bench beside him and was ready to attack Zeke if he dared to retaliate.

Just when Douglas was about to take Zeke down, someone suddenly broke the door of Castaneda’s residence.

A group of armed individuals barged into the building, and the person leading the group was Shannon.

She lived in the military base that was just a street away. Hence, she was able to get here in just a short time.

The moment Shannon saw Zeke surrounded by a group of people, she yelled in anger, “Stop it!”

Shannon’s sudden appearance sent shivers down Douglas’ spine.

Damn it, what is she doing here?

Shannon was United Front Work Department’s

deputy director, and the Armed Unit reported directly to this department.

In other words, Shannon was Douglas' superior.

Douglas immediately went up and greeted, "Director Hans, what brings you here?"

Up to this point, Douglas had yet to associate Shannon with 'Hans The Fool'.

Who on earth dared to call Shannon 'Hans The Fool'?

Shannon said in a cold voice, "Douglas, I didn't receive your request to conduct this operation. Did you initiate all this behind the department's back?"

Douglas explained, "Please listen to me, Director Hans. I'm actually here to attend a wedding. Then an accident happened. This fellow injured someone in public. At that critical moment, I had no choice but to act first and report to you later."

Shannon continued to say in a cold tone, "I'll investigate this case."

She then walked to Zeke and asked, "Mr. Williams, what is going on?"

What?!

Everyone's jaws dropped.

Shannon knew who Zeke was and even addressed him as Mr. Williams!

Oh, crap. So 'Hans The Fool', which Zeke referred to earlier, was actually Shannon?

He must be someone authoritative who had the guts to call her a fool!

Also, he probably held more power than Shannon!

This man was not only powerful in Oakheart City. Apparently, he was just as influential in East Skuld!

This time, they had truly played with fire.

Zeke did not have the energy to explain to Shannon. "Detain Douglas and interrogate him!"

Douglas panicked. "W-Who are you to arrest me? My only mistake is that I violated the protocol. I'll reflect on the mistake I made..."

Zeke replied, "How about the unauthorized recruitment of armies? I certainly can charge you in court for this."

It was obvious that Douglas was working for Mance, and Mance had been recruiting armies

illegally. One way or another, Douglas could never wash his hands of it.

Douglas' face turned pale.

Damn it. He had always communicated with Scorpio in private. Besides Mance, no one else knew what happened under the table.

How did this Zeke manage to get this intel?

He swallowed the fluid lodged in his throat and defended himself, "Nonsense. Don't accuse me of something I didn't do. I'm a military officer, and I'll never be in cahoots with Scorpio."

Zeke sighed, "With your level of intelligence, I'm surprised you managed to get to where you are today. I didn't mention anything about Scorpio. Yet, you blurted out this name out of nowhere!"

Douglas broke down right away. His nerves got the best of him, and he accidentally gave himself away.

Upon hearing that, fury surged through Shannon.

A military officer engaging in unauthorized recruitment of armies deserved the harshest punishment!

She gritted her teeth. "Detain Douglas!"



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Shannon's men went up, seized Douglas' weapon, and handcuffed him.

The color drained out of Douglas' face.

He knew he was about to suffer a miserable death under the hands of Shannon. She hated all things evil so much, she definitely would not let him off.

Zeke glanced at Shannon. "You can leave now. It's time for me to settle scores with the Castaneda family."

Shannon whispered, "But how about the medical fees?"

Zeke replied, "All settled."

Shannon heaved a sigh of relief and left with her team.

Zeke cast a cold stare at Sam Clemons and Yung Castaneda. "I'm giving you one last chance. The person who hurt Dawnie better break your own wrist before I do that for you!"

Sam was about to go mad!

He could no longer rely on Douglas to support him, and it was too late for him to contact Mance.

That was it. He was definitely going to lose one of his hands.

The moment he noticed Zeke approaching him, Sam clenched his teeth, rushed into the living hall to pick up a fruit knife, and chopped off his wrist.

A swift cut immediately severed his hand from his arm!

“Ah!” Sam shrieked in pain, and his cry resonated throughout the Castaneda residence.

Feeling satisfied with the turn of events, Zeke nodded and turned his attention to Yung. “Your turn.”

Yung immediately kneeled before him. “I-I didn’t touch Dawnie! Dawnie, I’m your father. Y-You can’t kill me.”

Zeke looked at Dawn as if he were waiting for her instruction.

Since Yung was Dawnie’s father, Zeke wanted to respect her decision.

Dawn gritted her teeth and said, “From now on, I have nothing to do with the Castaneda family anymore, and you’re no longer my father. He didn’t hurt me, Zeke. Come, let’s go.”

“Alright,” Zeke responded.

Zeke then brought Dawn to a nearby hospital to treat her wounds.

He initially wanted Dawn to admit into the hospital, but she insisted on returning to Linton Group.

Now that corporations in Rivermouth had boycotted Linton Group, the company was slowly losing its footing and might collapse.

Dawn wanted to protect the company with Lacey.

Left with no choice, Zeke could only bring Dawn back to Linton Group.

While they were on their way to the company, Dawn kept looking at Zeke and smiled.

“Zeke, I’ve decided not to marry anyone for life. I’ll take care of your child. Of course, if you feel bad about it, you can marry me to repay my kindness.”

Zeke’s face changed.

What on earth is she thinking? Hasn’t she learned from her mistakes?

Nevertheless, he was glad that the cheeky girl

he knew was back!

...

“A*shole! Useless piece of shit!”

When Mance found out that Sam did not ruin Dawn and Zeke eventually rescued her, he exploded with rage. He started throwing everything he could find in his room.

Mance knew that Lacey would not be able to pull Linton Group together. He was certain that she would crumble before the company could be listed in seven days.

By then, he would have the entire Oakheart City in his hands.

Now that Dawn was back, Linton Group would be able to survive a couple more days. Her return would also steal the limelight of his opening ceremony.

He was utterly irritated by this.

“That Scorpio too! Is he so useless that he can’t stop Zeke at all?”

A vortex of anger swirled inside him. He took out his phone and was ready to teach Scorpio a lesson.

Yet, Scorpio did not turn on his phone.

Mance got worried. There could only be two reasons Scorpio turned off his phone. Either he had been held hostage or he had betrayed him!

After giving it some thought, Mance opined the possibility of Scorpio betraying him was high.

He knew what Scorpio was capable of. It was almost impossible for Zeke to capture him.



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“Traitor! I’ll kill all your family members!”

Little did he know that Zeke really did hold Scorpio hostage.

When Zeke was dealing with Senior Panther and Young Panther, he did not reveal his strength. He did so to give Mance the wrong impression that they could easily take him down.

“Shit. Now that Zeke has rescued Dawn, he would probably rescue Nancy next. If Nancy returns, she would be a threat to the opening ceremony of Raider Group,” muttered Mance to himself.

Mance was a perfectionist. He would not allow anyone to get in his way.

Nancy, guess I’ll just have to destroy you! Oh, yes. I heard she’s working on the Whiteridge tourist destination development project with Linton Group? If we sabotage the Whiteridge project, and the project fails, it just might be the last straw that breaks the camel’s back. Ha! Let’s do this. I’m a genius!

The thought of it got him excited.

Yet, he was in a quandary about which candidate to choose to execute his plan.

First of all, the Hintons' patriarch Aaron Hinton was out of the picture.

Nancy was his biological granddaughter, after all. He would not have the heart to kill her.

Michael Hinton! That's right. Let's get Michael to do this. Michael has been at loggerheads with her for quite some time. He must have had the thought of getting rid of her too.

Mance took out his phone and texted Michael. [Get rid of Nancy and take over her project in Whiteridge.]

He had only met Michael twice!

The first time they met each other was at a Michelin restaurant, where Michael made fun of him and Nancy for not being able to dine there. He was later beaten up quite badly.

The second time was when Michael visited him and apologized to him after learning his identity.

At that time, Mance thought this man was rather venomous, and he might be able to use him in future. Hence, he asked for his contact number.

Now the time had come.

...

At the Hinton family's home in Riverdale.

Upon receiving Mance's text message, Michael could not help but shudder.

What a cruel man Mance is. He wants Nancy dead?

Between his cousin, whom he viewed as his direct competitor in taking over the Hinton family, and an influential man, who could give him all the wealth he ever dreamed of, he would choose to side with the latter without a doubt.

Nancy should have been dead for years!

After deciding to carry out Mance's plan, he walked towards the room where Nancy was locked in.

Of course, he did not plan to tell his grandpa Aaron about it.

Nancy was Aaron's granddaughter, after all. He would have stopped him if he found out what Michael planned to do.

Besides, he could not kill her in the Hinton residence. It would be disastrous if the police made him the primary suspect of the murder case.

So, it was best to lure her to a godforsaken land, finish her off, and not leave a trace behind.

At this point, Nancy was still weeping in the Hinton residence.

Michael was the one who had abducted her from Oakheart City, and her grandpa Aaron forced her to marry Mance.

How could she agree to marry Mance when she had seen his true colors?

In a fit of anger, Aaron locked her up in a dark room. He would release her only if she agreed to his terms.

The Hinton family even confiscated all her communication devices. Now, no one knew they locked her away in that dark room.

Not even her hero would be able to track her down now.

Nancy could scream for help, but no one would ever come to her rescue. Thus, she was plunged into the depths of despair.

At this point, the dark room's door was opened.

Michael quietly stepped into the room.

Upon seeing Michael, Nancy became agitated.

“What are you doing here, a*shole?”

Michael hurriedly said, “Keep your voice down. I’m here to release you.”

“What?” Nancy asked in disbelief, “You? You’re going to release me? You abducted me, and now you want to release me?”



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