

Evan's secretary was dumbfounded after Zeke left.

*What the hell? Who the hell is that man?*

*The owner of the top conglomerate in Oakheart City actually addressed him in such a polite manner and treated him with respect!*

*He actually procured Michelin just to serve his wife breakfast?*

*Oh, God! Just how much does he love his wife?  
Fine! I should forget about it!*

Zeke reached the parking lot, but a familiar voice stopped him right when he was about to get into his car.

“Hold it right there, Zeke Williams!”

Zeke turned around and realized it was an acquaintance of his, Emily Clemons.

She was about to return home right after her interview session. Emily didn't expect to run into Zeke either, but she decided to stop him since they met in the parking lot.

Zeke stopped and asked, “Yes?”

“Yes? Why else would I stop you? I'm here to tell you I am officially a procure specialist for the Schneider family.”

"I'm currently in charge of the one billion order your steel mill secured from the Schneider family. You better ensure the products you produce are of top-notch, or else I shall deal with you accordingly based on the terms developed."

Zeke sneered and thought to himself.

*Are you showing off in front of me? A mere procure specialist is showing off in front of her supervisor? Nonsense! She must be a fool!*

Zeke ignored Emily and simply got into his car.

Emily was irritated when she was ignored by the man. She decided to get into Zeke's car and sat right beside him because she was annoyed.

"Get out of my car!" shouted Zeke.

Emily replied him, "Stop shouting at me! I'm here to strike a deal with you!"

"I'm not interested in what you have to offer!" Zeke rejected her immediately.

Emily went on. "Forget about it! Who do you think you are? I have just gotten word from my boss that they are gonna spend ten billion to build a grand hall that will be able to accommodate ten thousand people."

"I'm sure I will be in charge of the procurement of the materials needed, including steels. The

fortune involved in this particular project is ten billion.”

“Why don't you work with me to destroy Lacey's steel mill? We'll split the fortune into half for each of us.”

“I will consider returning to your side if your performance is up to expectation.”

Zeke was speechless.

*She must have lost her mind, right? Who the hell does she think she is?*

*Stop seducing me with the same excuse over and over again!*

Zeke started his car and replied in a callous tone. “I'm warning you to stay out of Lacey's way. If you get in her way again, I don't mind sending you over to the crematorium.”

“Get out! Now!”

Emily grew irritated and got out of the car angrily. “Zeke Williams! We shall see! I'm sure you will regret your decision today!”

“Since you're not interested to work with me, I'll get someone else instead!”

Zeke departed and sped his way out of the parking lot. He almost ran into Emily who got in his way.

Emily's face flushed all of a sudden. "F\*\*\* you! Go to hell, jerk!"

She soon regained her composure and plastered a wicked grin on her face.

Emily didn't hit on Zeke because she wanted to work with him. She had her own hidden agenda behind her action.

Ten minutes later, Emily walked into the tower's security room. She managed to retrieve the footage of the parking lot's surveillance camera.

She proceeded to send the footage to Lacey and attached a description. *Look at your husband. He's having an affair with someone else behind your back.*

If others were to come across such footage, they would definitely think that the man and woman inside the car had done some sort of hanky-panky activities.

Emily could imagine how much despair Lacey would feel when she figured out that Zeke had spent some time with his ex-girlfriend in the car alone.

"Hmph! Zeke, Lacey, how dare you guys go against me? I want both of you dead!"

"This is but the first step of my revenge!"

Emily proceeded to call Lacey's uncle, Jeremy.

“Jeremy, let's strike a deal.”



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Lacey's uncle, Jeremy, was confused. "I heard you've fired by the Hamilton family. Who do you think you are to strike a deal with me?"

Emily told him the truth, "The Hamilton family? What a joke! They are but nothing to me!"

"I am now part of the Schneider family as a procurement specialist."

"I will be in charge of the procurement for a huge project worth ten billion, which will be launched soon."

"I want you to take over Lacey's steel mill. As long as you're able to get your hands on it, I'll have you take over the steel orders worth a billion. We'll split the profit into half for each of us."

"What? A billion?" Jeremy's heart skipped a beat when he heard the fortune involved.

He agreed without any hesitation at all, "Sure! Let's seal the deal!"

"To be honest, I have been preparing to get my hands on Lacey's steel mill as well. I'm at the final stage of preparation. Everything will be ready soon."

"If everything turns out accordingly, the steel mill will belong to me by tomorrow."

Emily replied, "I can't wait for the great news! I look

forward to working with you as well.”

Jeremy gulped down two glasses of water after he hung up the call to calm himself down.

He rushed over to pay his father, Adam Hinton, a visit right after he regained his composure.

Jeremy initiated a conversation with his dad. “Dad, I have something to discuss with you.”

“Speak,” replied Adam.

Jeremy told him what he was up to. “Dad, when we decided to take a different path from one another, you gave me a plot of ten-hectare land while Daniel was given a plot of five-hectare land.”

“I mean, I'm not in the line of business either. I can't possibly fully utilize the plot of land given to me. Instead, I think Lacey might need it since she's currently expanding her business.”

“Is it fine for me to exchange the plot of ten-hectare land of mine with the five-hectare that Lacey owns?”

Adam's eyes widened. He glared at Jeremy, “Hmph! I think the one you want is Lacey's steel mill, right?”

“She built the mills on the plot of land given to them. If you manage to get your hands on their plot of land, that means you will be the owner of

the steel mill.”

“Jeremy, I'll be honest with you. I don't think you're able to run a business on your own. Please allow Lacey to take care of the steel mill instead.”

Jeremy was embarrassed as his father had managed to see through his plan immediately.

However, he tried to justify himself once again.

“Dad, I'm doing this for the Hinton family's sake!”

“I'm sure you're aware of Zeke's presence, right? Lacey is currently head over heels in love with him. I'm sure she will hand the steel mill over to him if he were to request for it.”

“Does that mean you want an outsider to reap what we have sowed previously? Seriously? Do you want to forsake one of our own?”

Adam had a serious expression on his face all of a sudden.

Before long, he heaved a euphoric sigh. “Mm. You're right. Fine, you have my consent. I do not want an outsider to be the owner of the plot of land as well.”

Adam searched high and low for the legal title of the five-hectare plot of land owned by Lacey's family as he told Jeremy his decision. Finally, he found it and handed it over to Jeremy.



Although he had distributed the plots of lands he had to his sons, he still held on to the legal title of the lands.

The legal title was but a piece of paper, but it felt tremendous for Jeremy. It wasn't just any piece of paper for him.

What he had in his hand would secure him a fortune of ten billion.

He picked Lily up and rushed over to the steel mill the moment he got his hands on the legal title.

Lily had found out that Lacey's family-owned assets worthy of a billion back when she worked as a lobby manager.

Ever since then, she had always wanted to get her hands on Lacey's steel mill. Lily was the one behind the idea to get the steel mill by force through the legal titles.

...

Meanwhile, Zeke enjoyed being around an irritated Lacey in the steel mill because she was one of a kind even when she was mad.

Lacey could no longer keep her cool. "Y-You... This is no laughing matter!"

"If you can't explain yourself, you better stay away from me for the rest of your life!"

Zeke teased rhetorically, “Stay away from you? I'm afraid your parents won't allow that to happen.”

Lacey was about to cry because of how shameless her husband was. He actually made use of her parents against her.

“Damn it! Stop making use of my parents against me! You jerk! I will be in charge of my marriage! I don't care what they say!”

Zeke asked in return, “Lacey, do you really think I'm the kind of man who would return to his ex? I will never go back on my words!”

Lacey shouted angrily, “Men are all the same! They tend to repeat the same mistake over and over again!”

“Stop lying to me! What about this video right here? Why don't you tell me what's going on?”



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Zeke was heartbroken as he saw the tears streaming down Lacey's cheeks. "I have evidence to prove my innocence."

He showed her the dashcam. "My car's dashcam recorded what happened back then. Please check it out."

Lacey couldn't wait anymore and watched the footage of the dashcam immediately.

She was touched when she figured Zeke didn't turn his back against her. In fact, he had declined Emily's offer and took Lacey's side instead.

However, Lacey put on an indifferent front as usual. "Hmph! I-I'll tell dad and mom if you try to bully me in such a manner again in the future!"

Zeke murmured to himself. "I'm afraid dad and mom won't take your side either."

Lacey heaved a long sigh because she felt dejected.

*They actually prioritize Zeke over me as of now. If I were to tell them what happened, perhaps they will take Zeke's side and blame me for not having enough faith in him. What the hell!*

Zeke flicked Lacey's forehead. "Have you learned your lesson yet? I'll penalize you without any hesitation if you dare doubt me again in the future."

“Hmph! You damned thug! Move aside! I have got lots of work to do!”

Zeke's past subordinates would definitely be dumbfounded if they had any what was going on.

The Great Marshall actually tried to hit on a girl.

Suddenly, a black Lexus stopped in front of Lacey's office.

Jeremy and Lily walked out of the car.

Lacey knitted her eyebrows. “What sort of business do they have with me?”

Although she didn't appreciate Jeremy's presence, she had to be courteous as he was, after all, her uncle. Hence, she stepped out of her office to welcome him.

“Uncle Jeremy, Lily, what brings you guys here today?”

Jeremy surveyed the surroundings of the steel mill. His eyes glinted greedily. “Mm, I'm here to check on the environment of the steel mill.”

“Lacey, you did a great job taking care of the mill.”

Lacey was surprised because Jeremy had always looked down on her, but was now actually complimenting her out of the blue.

Lacey replied cautiously, "Not really."

Jeremy went on, "Lacey, I've talked to your grandfather, and we do not want to waste your talent handling this steel mill anymore."

"I have decided to hand over the ten-hectare land of mine in the eastern area to you. I'm sure you will be able to build a new steel mill on a larger scale."

Lacey couldn't believe her ears when she heard what her stingy uncle told her.

*He's offering me his ten-hectare land? I'm sure he's up to no good.*

She decided to proceed with caution. "Uncle Jeremy, are you seriously going to hand over the ten-hectare land of yours in the eastern area to me?"

Lily scoffed, "You must be dreaming, right? It's a plot of ten-hectare land we're talking about. Do you really think we're giving it to you for free?"

"You should consider yourself lucky! In return for the plot of ten-hectare land, we only want this plot of five-hectare land of yours."

Lacey waved at them immediately. "Nope! That's impossible! My steel mill is built on this plot of land of ours. I can't possibly move it with me, right?"

Jeremy assured Lacey, "Don't bother about it if that's the case. Don't worry! Uncle will take good care of this steel mill of yours."

It was obvious what Jeremy was up to by then. Perhaps even a fool could figure out his intention.

The steel mill was Jeremy's ultimate goal.

Lacey got worked up all of a sudden. She could barely keep her cool as the steel mill was a brainchild of hers.

In fact, the steel mill was a huge part of her life. She would never hand it over to someone else.

Lacey made her stand clear and rejected them. "Uncle Jeremy, forget about it. I will never hand this steel mill of mine over to you!"

"You have no idea how much it means to me! The steel mill is a huge part of my life! No! It's even more important than my life!"

Jeremy sneered. "Forget about it? I'm afraid that's not up to you to decide."

"I have the legal title of this plot of land with me. That makes me the legal owner of this plot of land!"

Jeremy reached for the legal title he had with him and showed Lacey as he finished his sentence.



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Lacey could no longer keep her cool when she saw the legal title Jeremy had with him.

She knew her steel mill would be as good as gone soon.

Lacey took a deep breath and tried to calm herself down. "U-Uncle... T-That's too much!"

"I'll go tell grandpa what's going on immediately!"

Jeremy sneered once again. "You don't have to waste your time anymore."

"I couldn't have gotten my hands on the legal title if your grandpa was against the idea, right?"

"I mean, he was the one who suggested that I take over your steel mill."

*What?*

Lacey's pupils constricted all of a sudden. Her lips were trembling as she tried to catch her breath.

*In order to fulfil Uncle Jeremy's greed, grandpa had actually decided to make a move against me?*

*He's trying to take away something I've poured all my blood, sweat, and tears into for half of my life!*

*He must be biased! He must have lost his mind to be biased to such an extent!*



Lacey could no longer hold back her tears of wrath. “Y-You guys are so cruel! How could you guys do that to me!”

“Not even a stranger would have done such a thing!”

Suddenly, Jeremy lost his composure. “You damned brat! Is that how you're supposed to talk to your uncle?”

“Do you want me to punish you based on our family rules?”

“Get out of my sight immediately! I want you to be responsible if the operation of the steel mill is affected because of you!”

Lacey clenched her teeth and made up her mind.

“I shall dismantle everything! I will dismantle this steel mill if that is what it takes to prevent you guys from achieving your goals!”

Lily smiled contemptuously, “Dismantle it? Who do you think you are to have the rights to dismantle this steel mill?”

“This steel mill is built on our plot of land. You don't even have the rights to be here, let alone dismantling it.”

“This is the legal title for the ten-hectare plot of land. Take this with you and get out of our sight, or

you'll be leaving with nothing at all.”

Lacey felt despair all of a sudden.

*Clap! Clap! Clap!*

Zeke, who had remained silent all along, clapped his hand all of a sudden.

“Marvellous! What a splendid job from the Hinton family! You guys have actually managed to redefine what betrayal means.”

“Lacey, let's go. Don't worry! It belongs to you, and only you. They won't be able to take it away from you!”

Lacey, whose eyes brimmed with tears, replied, “But... They have the legal title with them...”

Zeke assured Lacey, “Don't worry. It's just a piece of paper. I'll get them to get on their knees to beg you to take over the steel mill tomorrow.”

Lily chuckled when she heard Zeke's words, “On our knees? You? Why don't you go and look at yourself in the mirror? Who exactly do you think you are?”

Zeke cast a stern gaze at Lily and drew a circle on the ground using his leg. “You guys will have to kneel here for a day if you want us to take over the steel mill again! Lacey, let's go!”

Zeke brought Lacey away with him.

Lily spat on the ground after they left. “Who gave you the audacity to make such a statement?”

Jeremy's cheeks flushed as he could barely hold back his excitement. “Lily, do you know why I insisted on taking over this steel mill?”

Lily asked curiously, “Why?”

Jeremy finally told her the reason behind his action, “That's because I will soon secure a deal worth a billion for steels.”

“What? A billion?” Lily was utterly shocked.

Jeremy reached for his phone with his trembling hands and called Emily. “Emily, I've gotten my hands on the steel mill. What about the order worth a billion?”

...

Lacey wept as they made their way home.

*It's too late! Everything's gone!*

*My efforts, my dreams, my ambition! It's all gone!*

Zeke was heartbroken because of what Lacey had to go through.

However, he remained silent instead of comforting

her because he knew Lacey wouldn't believe his words even if he told her his plan.

He decided to walk the talk and show Lacey what he was capable of.

Zeke was determined to finish the Hinton family off.

He parked the car right after they reached home and tapped on Lacey's shoulder. "Lacey, go ahead and wait for me upstairs. I'll join you after I make a call."

Lacey nodded obediently and headed upstairs.

Zeke reached for his phone and made a call, "Evan, Lacey's steel mill has been taken over by someone through illegitimate means."

"I want you to trick Jeremy Hinton and get them on their knees to beg for Lacey's forgiveness."



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Evan replied humbly, "Sure. I'll work on it immediately. I'll get him to surrender himself by tonight."

Zeke walked into the house and saw Hannah crying hysterically as she was scolding Daniel.

"Daniel! If you're a man, follow me to dad's place and confront him! We have to get the steel mill back!"

"I have never seen someone as biased as him! It seems like that senile fool doesn't even think of us as part of his family! To be honest, I don't think he treats us as humans!"

"The steel mill is what we rely on! It's our source of income! Are you seriously going to hand it over to them?"

Daniel remained silent and finished the cigarette he had.

Although he seemed to be relatively calm, he was heartbroken deep down as well because he had not expected his father to treat him and his family in such a cruel way.

He was in such dire straits because of his father.

Daniel couldn't help but doubt that he wasn't one of Adam Hinton's sons.

Although he was abhorred, he had no guts to

retaliate against his brothers, let alone his father.

He knew what would be in store for him even if he were to confront Adam. Daniel wouldn't be of much help, and he might be beaten up by Adam instead.

Hannah could no longer hold back her anger because of her husband's behaviour, "Get out! You don't deserve to stay with us!"

"You can't even defend our daughter! You're a coward! I don't need such a coward like you!"

"Don't come home if you can't get the steel mill back!"

Despite being a coward, Daniel could no longer suppress his anger when he heard Hannah's harsh words.

"Shut up! I'll get going immediately!"

"If dad refuses to return Lacey the steel mill, I'll commit suicide in front of him!"

Daniel rushed out of the house right after he finished his sentence.

However, Zeke got in his way and stopped him. "Dad, that won't be necessary."

"Uncle and grandpa will definitely get on their knees in front of us and beg for forgiveness

tonight. They will surely return the steel mill to us.”

Everyone was shocked and stared at Zeke in disbelief when they heard his words.

Zeke reassured them with a determined look on his face. “Trust me!”

Daniel turned around and looked at Hannah as he was trying to figure out what she had in her mind.

Hannah remained silent for quite some time before she heaved a heavy sigh. “Fine! We'll deal with it tomorrow.”

Lacey cast a confused gaze at Zeke as her mind was all over the place.

*S-Should I believe him?*

...

Emily rushed over to the steel mill once she received Jeremy's call.

She sneered over and over again after she confirmed the authenticity of the legal title.

“Zeke, Lacey, I knew it! You guys are no match for me!”

“Hmph! He who laughs last laughs best!”

Jeremy tried to flatter Emily, “Zeke and Lacey are

definitely no match for Ms. Clemons. They are but parasites of society! Please pay no heed to them, Ms. Clemons.”

“Ms. Clemons, about the contract... Did you bring it with you?”

Emily showed them the contract she brought with her. “This is a tentative agreement. Please sign after you have verified the terms.”

“The project for the grand hall has yet to be launched, but this agreement will take effect once the project is officially launched.”

Jeremy expressed his gratitude, “Thank you so much, Ms. Clemons. Rest assured that we will honour the agreement we have. I will definitely rebate the half-million that belongs to you.”

Suddenly, a black Mercedes-Benz made its way into the steel mill and parked right beside Jeremy.

A middle-aged man in a complete set of tuxedos walked out of the car.

Emily's eyes gleamed the moment she figured out who he was. She rushed to his side and welcomed him. “Mr. Geoffrey, such a trivial matter isn't worthy of your attention at all. I will be able to deal with it on my own.”

Jeremy was curious. “This is...”



Emily explained patiently, "He's the manager of the procurement department, Mr. Bent Geoffrey."

Jeremy rushed over and bowed respectfully as he shook Mr. Geoffrey's hand. "Welcome, Mr. Geoffrey. Thank you for gracing our steel mill with your presence..."

Mr. Geoffrey moved his hand away from Jeremy immediately and asked in a callous tone, "Skip the formality. Who's the person in charge of the steel mill?"

Jeremy stepped forward once again, "That would be me. I am the person in charge of the steel mill."

Mr. Geoffrey nodded. "Great."

As soon as he finished his sentence, he beckoned to the direction of the entrance with his hand.

Two police cars showed up in the steel mill with its sirens screaming.

Everyone was dumbfounded. "Mr. Geoffrey, what's going on..."

Mr. Geoffrey sneered, "Previously, the steels provided by your company failed to match up to the benchmark the company set. It has caused an enormous loss for the company in terms of actual financial loss and the company's image."

"As the person in charge, you have to bear the

responsibility and go through a series of investigation behind bars.”



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*What? This place must have been jinxed!*

Jeremy trembled in fear because of the misfortune had befallen the moment he took over the steel mill.

He immediately explained himself, “Mr. Geoffrey, I have just taken over the steel mill.”

“I wasn't the one who supplied the steels for the Schneider family previously. Someone else was behind the particular deal. Please go after that person in charge instead.”

Mr. Geoffrey sneered, “I believe that's an internal affair of your company. It has nothing to do with me at all.”

“All I have to do is to deal with the person in charge of the steel mill as of now.”

*Click!*

Jeremy was handcuffed by police immediately.

He broke down and lost his cool as he shouted at Lily hysterically, “Lily, go get Lacey!”

“She's the person in charge of the steel mill! We shall return it to her!”

Lily was frightened by what was going on. She only managed to return to her senses when she heard Jeremy's words.

She cried and replied, "Don't worry, dad! I'll go get Lacey immediately!"

"That damned Lacey! How dare you set us up!"

She rushed towards Lacey's place immediately as she was afraid the police would take her away with them as well.

Emily stiffened all of a sudden, her mind all over the place.

She would never have expected such an incident to occur. Things turned out exactly the other way around, even though she had racked her brain to develop the malicious scheme.

If she hadn't persuaded Jeremy to take over the steel mill, Lacey would be the one taken away instead.

*Great! Lacey manages to get off the hook while Jeremy has to spend his time behind bars for the time being. What a day!*

Mr. Geoffrey sneered and snatched the contract worthy of a billion from Emily. "Are you kidding me? They can't even fulfil the previous contract worthy of a billion, but you've actually signed a contract worthy of ten billion with them."

"I hope you didn't strike a deal with them secretly behind my back, did you?"

Emily got anxious all of a sudden and explained herself. “No! I didn't! I did nothing of sorts!”

“I... I didn't expect the Hinton family to be such a cunning bunch! If I had any idea of what's going on, I would have never worked with them!”

Mr. Geoffrey scoffed, “I will investigate what's going on myself. I do hope that you are as innocent as you proclaim to be.”

“Apart from that, this particular steel mill will be blacklisted. The Schneider family will never work with them anymore.”

Emily replied in a humble manner. “Don't worry, Mr. Geoffrey. I will never work with the Hinton family anymore!”

...

It was getting late, but Lacey's place was brightly lit as they couldn't fall asleep. None of them could move on from what had happened with the steel mill.

Lacey couldn't bear it when she saw how upset her parents were because of her. “Dad, mom, please go to bed and get some rest. We'll deal with what happened to the steel mill tomorrow.”

“If worse comes to worst, let's forsake the steel mill. I will start up something else and begin another venture!”

Daniel put out his cigarette and spoke in a ferocious manner, "Lacey, we are aware of what you've sacrificed for the steel mill. We will never give up on it!

"Don't worry! I will force your grandpa to return the steel mill to us, even if it's going to cost my life!"

Hannah took a peek at Daniel. "Hmph! Finally, you're acting like a man!"

"Let's tuck into bed for the time being. We'll talk about it tomorrow."

Zeke, who had remained silent all along, broke the silence all of a sudden. "Dad, mom, let's wait for another minute."

Everyone stared at him in disbelief. "What are we waiting for?"

Zeke looked at his phone. "It's about time."

As soon as he finished his sentence, someone knocked on their door.

Zeke smiled and told Lacey, "Lacey, go get the door."

"It's getting late. Who is it?" murmured Lacey to herself as she made her way to answer the door.

It was Lily on their doorstep.

Lacey tried to chase her away petulantly, “Lily Hinton, please leave! You're not welcomed here!”

Lily tried her best to calm herself down because she didn't want them to find out that she was upset.

*I can't let Lacey know that dad has been sent behind bars! If she knows what's going on, she definitely won't take over the steel mill again.*

She replied in an arrogant manner, “Lacey, we don't want your steel mill anymore. Please take it over.”



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Everyone was dumbfounded when they heard what Lily had said.

*What the hell is going on?*

*Uncle Jeremy had spent so much effort to get his hands on the steel mill! Why did he decide to return it to us all of a sudden?*

*What exactly are they up to?*

Lacey kept her guard up because she was afraid they might be up to no good. “Why have you guys decided to return it to us all of a sudden after what you guys did to get the steel mill?”

Lily replied, “We managed to gain a better understanding of the operation of the steel mill and realized that you're better suited to manage the mill.”

A weight was lifted off Lacey's shoulders when she heard Lily's words.

She immediately agreed. “Alright, I'll...”

However, Zeke interrupted Lacey before she could finish her sentence. “If you want to return the steel mill to us, I'm afraid it won't be such an easy task.”

“Have you forgotten what I told you guys back when we were at the steel mill? Get on your knees and beg us.”



Lily went berserk all of a sudden. “Zeke, you better watch your mouth!”

“You should be grateful that we're returning the steel mill to you guys! Stop pushing your luck!”

“I will dismantle the steel mill instead of returning it to you guys if you keep pushing your luck!”

Zeke sneered, “If that's what you wish, by all means, please proceed.”

*Thump!*

As soon as Zeke finished his sentence, he closed the door.

Lacey and her parents were anxious because of Zeke's action.

*They're willing to return the steel mill to us, but Zeke doesn't seem to want it back! I can't afford to lose the steel mill!*

Lacey scolded Zeke, “What the hell do you want?”

Zeke replied with a smile on his face, “Don't worry. I'm sure she will get on her knees today.”

*Thump! Thump! Thump!*

Someone knocked on the door again.

Lacey answered the door once more.

Lily stopped putting on an arrogant front. “Lacey, please allow me to apologize for what my dad and I have done. We're the ones at fault.”

“Can you please forget about the part where I have to kneel? After all, we're a family...”

“A family? Why didn't this particular concept crossed your mind back when you were there to take over the steel mill by force?” asked Zeke.

“I'll give you one last chance. Get on your knees, or we won't answer the door anymore.”

Zeke closed the door again as soon as he finished his sentence.

Lily was anxious and stopped him immediately. She begged, “Lacey, p-please forgive me...”

Lacey couldn't make up her mind. She took a peek at Zeke and made up her mind. “I'll listen to Zeke's instructions.”

Lily had a furious look on her face, but then recalled the fact that her father might be suffering behind bars as they spoke.

She clenched her teeth and got on her knees as instructed. “Lacey, please forgive us.”

Zeke told her, “It doesn't work if you get on your knees here.”

“Get your ass back to the steel mill and kneel on the circle I have drawn back them.”

Lily could barely remain her composure. “Stop pushing your luck and challenging my limits!”

Zeke sneered. “This is your last chance. If you have decided to forsake it, I can't do anything about it either.”

*Thump!*

Zeke closed the door again once more.

Lacey and her parents were anxious as they hesitated.

*Should we believe Zeke?*

They knew Lily wouldn't give in to their request because of how arrogant she was.

However, they couldn't make up their mind because of how determined Zeke seemed to be.

The enraged Lily, who was now shut out, kicked a pot of flower downstairs.

*Damn it! Jerks!*

*No one has ever bullied me to such an extent!*

*Hell! Go to hell! Each and every one of you should suffer in hell!*

Lily was on the verge of breaking down whenever she recalled the fact that her father was still behind bars.

She thought about it and decided to give in to Zeke's request for the time being.

“Fine! I'll put my dignity aside for today.”

“I'll go get the cops to go after all of you tomorrow once you have taken over the steel mill.”

“Hmph! I'll get two male inmates to give you a special service by then.”

Lily made up her mind and knocked on the door once again. “Lacey, I'll do whatever you guys have requested immediately.”

“Please keep to your words and take over the steel mill tomorrow.”

Zeke replied nonchalantly right when Lacey was about to open the door again. “I'll send someone to keep an eye on you.”

“Don't try anything silly. We will not honour our promise if you fail to kneel as requested.”



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Lily left angrily.

Lacey began to interrogate Zeke once Lily left. "Can you please explain to me what exactly is going on?"

She was almost certain because she had a strong instinct that Zeke was the mastermind behind the scheme.

Zeke replied half-heartedly, "You should ask Lily. Perhaps they have finally realized what they did was wrong and decided to atone for their sin."

"Let's go, honey. It's time to sleep."

Zeke yawned over and over again as he made his way into Lacey's room.

Lacey got worked up all of a sudden. "Zeke! Who told you anything about spending the night in my room? Go spend the night on the couch!"

Hannah glared at Daniel immediately. "Daniel, I'm afraid you'll have to spend another night on the couch."

"Yes, madam!"

Lacey was speechless.

*Dad! Mom! That's too much! Stop bullying your daughter!*

Lacey was irritated as she made her way back to her room.

She saw Zeke, who was on his phone on her bed, the moment she entered her room.

“The floor!” shouted Lacey.

Zeke heaved a helpless sigh but did as instructed nevertheless.

Lacey looked at Zeke with a complicated expression on her face, “Zeke, is Uncle Jeremy up to something? Why did he decide to return the steel mill to me all of a sudden?”

Zeke smiled when he heard her words.

*Exactly what I expect from a female entrepreneur who built everything from scratch! He's indeed up to something.*

Zeke reassured her, “Don't worry. Just take it over as requested. They won't be able to harm you as long as I'm by your side. They are not a threat to me at all.”

Lacey massaged her temples. “Should I believe you?”

Daniel, who was in the living room, returned to his room with his pillow once Lacey returned to her room.

He was surprised the moment he stepped into his room because Hannah was crying all alone.

Daniel asked curiously, "My dear, why are you crying?"

Hannah expressed how she felt, "Sigh... Ever since I have gotten married to you, we have always been bullied by your brother and his family."

"I can't hold back my emotions. Never would I have thought that Jeremy and his family would apologize to us and admit their mistake."

Daniel apologized with a look of guilt, "I'm so sorry, my dear. You must have had it rough ever since you got married to me."

Suddenly, Hannah asked, "Daniel, could it be... I mean, it seems like Zeke was the one behind what happened, right?"

Daniel nodded, "You're right. It seems like that's the case."

Hannah went on, "I feel like Zeke isn't an ordinary man. Perhaps he has another identity."

"But I can't figure out why he's constantly trying to court Lacey..."

Daniel pondered, "We can't be sure what he's up to. We should proceed with caution."



Hannah replied, "I don't think Zeke is up to no good... I don't care! He will be my son-in-law!"

The two mumbling pairs finally fell asleep after the end of the conversation they had.

The next day morning, Lacey was roused from a deep sleep by Lily's call.

The latter urged her to rush over to the steel mill and take it over as soon as possible.

Lacey agreed immediately as she had been waiting for it throughout the night. "Alright! I'll be there..."

Suddenly, Zeke interrupted their conversation. "Get your grandfather to return the legal title to us, or else let's forget about it."

Lily hesitated for a while before she brought herself to reply, "Fine!"

Lacey was about to rush over to the steel mill right after she hung up the call.

Zeke got in his way and told her, "I'll go with you."

Lacey nodded and replied, "Sure! Go get ready then, we'll depart soon."

Zeke took his time washing himself up.

Lacey was anxious because he decided to have

his breakfast right after he washed himself up.

She urged him repetitively because she was frantic with worry.

Zeke took his sweet time as he enjoyed his breakfast. “Lacey, they're the ones who are trying to beg us. Don't worry.”

“But...” Lacey tried to explain herself again.

“Have you forgotten how your beloved Uncle Jeremy treated you and your family back in the day?”



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Lacey felt abhorred all of a sudden when she recalled what Jeremy and his family had done back in the day.

Finally, she stopped urging Zeke and ignored the call from Lily because she knew what the call was about.

Zeke wiped his mouth after he finished his meal and asked Daniel and Hannah, “Dad, mom, do you guys want to tag along?”

“I believe grandpa will show up at the steel mill too.”

“He owes you guys an apology. I believe it's time for him to apologize for what he's done.”

Daniel was hesitating while Hannah immediately took upon Zeke's invitation, “Yes! Of course!”

“That old geezer used to look down on us because of how useless Daniel used to be!”

“I'm sure he'll stop looking down on us since he's the one who has a favour to ask from our exceptional son-in-law!”

“Let's go!”

The family of four made their way downstairs together.

They ran into the head of security of their

residential area the moment they got downstairs.

Mr. Zachary greeted Daniel enthusiastically and offered him a cigarette, something he had never done before.

Daniel was proud of himself because his life had never been the same ever since he acknowledged Zeke as his son-in-law.

He could finally hold his head high ever since then.

Soon, they reached the steel mill and saw Lily.

Lily was pale and haggard.

She rushed over when she saw Lacey. "Lacey, this is the legal title! Please take it..."

Zeke stopped Lacey and asked, "Where is grandpa? I told you to get grandpa over. I want him to hand the legal title over to us instead."

"Grandpa is on his way! He'll be here soon!" assured Lily.

"We'll talk once he gets here. Dad, mom, Lacey, let's wait for him in the office," said Zeke.

"Alright." They made their way into the office.

Lily gritted her teeth because of how irritated she was.

*Fine! I'll let you guys get full of yourselves for the time being!*

*Once you guys take over the steel mill, I'll get the cops to arrest each and every one of you!*

Soon, Adam Hinton reached the steel mill as well.

He was engulfed by wrath.

Actually, he knew his eldest son, Jeremy Hinton, was arrested by the cops.

He was aware that Lily was trying to return the steel mill to Lacey because she wanted her to take Jeremy's place behind bars instead.

Adam didn't blame Lily at all. Instead, he held a grudge against Lacey and her family.

He blamed Lacey for producing steels that failed to meet the requirements stated and deemed her the reason behind Jeremy's arrest.

Hence, he wanted Lacey to take Jeremy's place behind bars as well.

However, he was forced to be there to deliver the legal title to them on his own.

Although Adam was one of the masterminds behind the hostile takeover of the steel mill, he showed no signs of remorse.

Lily rushed over to usher Adam in an aggrieved expression and tone. "Grandpa, you're finally here."

"Uncle Daniel went overboard! He insulted me and scolded you! He said you're a senile and biased geezer who has always sided with our family."

Adam had a gloomy expression on his face all of a sudden. "Hmph! He must have lost his mind to utter such unfilial words against me!"

"Why did I ever give birth to such an unfilial child!"

"Hurry up! Go get them out! I will settle scores with them today!"

Lily nodded and rushed towards the office to get Daniel and his family.

"Dad, you're here," greeted Daniel respectfully.

Adam replied nonchalantly, "Daniel, it seems like you've finally learnt how to spread your wings, huh?"

"You unfilial son, how dare you order me to deliver the legal title to you?"

Daniel remained silent when he heard his father's words.

Hannah was irritated and talked back against Adam, "Dad, you handed it over to Jeremy previously, but you decided to return it to us out of

the blue. We have to verify what's going on, right?"

Adam cast a stern gaze at Hannah. "I'm talking to my son! Who the hell do you think you are to have the rights to interrupt our conversation?"

Hannah stuttered due to anger.

It had been years since she got married to Daniel, yet she had never been acknowledged as part of the Hinton family.

Adam Hinton showed them no mercy.

Suddenly, Zeke broke the silence. "Grandpa, I believe you know where Uncle Jeremy currently is, right? I believe you know what's about to happen once you hand over the legal title to us, right?"

Adam rolled his eyes. "Shut up! I don't have time for you!"

"Lacey, I'm here now. Come over and take the legal title."



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Lacey didn't take the legal title Adam handed over to her. Instead, she turned around and looked at Zeke as she wanted to know what her next best course of action would be.

Zeke smiled wryly.

Judging by the look he had on his face, he was certain Adam was aware that Jeremy was behind bars.

Although he knew what would await Lacey, he insisted on handing the legal title over to her.

*Adam is such a mean guy. He didn't even bother holding back against her own granddaughter.*

*I shall stop showing you guys any mercy since you guys have no intention to hold back either.*

Zeke told Adam, "We will take over the legal title under one condition."

"I want you to transfer the ownership of the title to Lacey. I don't want such conflict to occur anymore in the future."

That was precisely what Adam had in mind as he would be able to send Lacey behind bars and set Jeremy free once he transferred the ownership to Lacey.

He nodded. "Sure!"



Zeke reached for his phone and made a call.

Before long, someone from the Bureau of Land showed up.

Of course, they were part of Zeke's plan as well.

They carried out the required procedure online, right at the steel mill. The legal title was soon transferred to Lacey.

Lily had a wicked smile on her face the moment they verified the authenticity of the updated legal title.

“Great! Lacey, haven't you and your family gotten full of yourselves? How dare you humiliate me and ask me to get on my knees!”

“Hopefully you are able to keep it up behind bars as well!”

Adam replied in a sarcastic manner, “Lily, mind your manners!”

“After all, Lacey is your cousin. You should drop by and visit her occasionally once she's arrested.”

Lacey and her family were confused by their words as they had no idea what was going on.

Lacey asked, “Lily, what do you mean by behind bars and visit us?”

“Fine! I'll tell you guys the truth. The Schneider family dropped by previously because the steels you produced weren't up to standards.”

“As the person in charge of the steel mill, my dad was arrested by the cops.”

“Thankfully, we're able to prove otherwise now that you have become the person in charge of the steel mill. I'll get the cops to arrest you and set my dad free soon!”

*What?*

Chills were sent down Lacey's and her family's spines.

They had been tricked by Lily and Adam.

*It's a conspiracy against our family.*

*Dad and Lily want Lacey to take Jeremy's place behind bars.*

*It seems like Adam knew what's going on all along. How could he set Lacey up and...*

Hannah broke into tears because of how abhorred she was. “Dad... You... That's too much!”

“Lacey is your granddaughter too! How could you...”

“Do you seriously consider yourself her

grandfather?"

"You insolent fools!" Adam widened his eyes and pursed his lips. "You guys asked for it!"

"You shouldn't have produced such low-quality steels! You're the one who caused Jeremy to be sent behind bars!"

Daniel shouted angrily, "If it weren't because of the scheme you came up with Jeremy to take over the steel mill, he wouldn't have been sent behind bars either!"

"He deserves it! He should have seen it coming his way!"

"I... I'll beat you to a pulp, you unfilial son!" Adam raised his walking stick and beat Daniel. "Jeremy is your brother! How can you say he deserves it?"

Daniel didn't evade his father's attack either. He allowed his father to hit him as he wanted.

The excruciating sensation he felt physically was nothing as compared to what he felt deep down.

His eye brimmed with tears, "Jeremy took over the steel mill in a hostile manner, yet you didn't even bother standing up for us."

"He wanted Lacey to take his place behind bars, yet you remained silent as well."

“However, you decided to beat me to a pulp just because I talked back against you and said he deserved it?”

“Have you never once thought that you are the biased one?”

“Biased? I'm your dad! I get to decide to whom am I biased towards on my own. Stop telling me how or what I should do!”

He hit Daniel once again with his walking stick as soon as he finished his sentence.

Lacey and her family were utterly disappointed.

Suddenly, sirens were screaming at the steel mill's doorstep.

Lily was delighted. “Grandpa, it's the police!”

“I called them just now and told them that Lacey had become the steel mill's person in charge.”

“I'm sure they're here to arrest Lacey!”



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