Guardian 531

Chapter 531 Bark up the Wrong Tree
Taylor finally showed up at the door.
Rose was thrilled beyond words to see her favorite idol.
Taylor was surprised. She was not expecting to see a young girl.
The VIP who spent 100 million dollars to meet Taylor turned out to be a much younger lady. Taylor was jealous. Still, she reflected none of her inner emotions on her face. Taylor nodded in reverence. "Hello, young lady: Thank you for supporting me. How should address you?" Tm Rose Oceanid, Taylor," Rose said in a daze.
Taylor was an idol, worshiped and screamed at by her fans. Now, she stood before Rose in deference. Rose could not get used to it.
It put a damper on her excitement.
Somehow, Taylor's attitude made her sick.
"Ah. Ms. Oceanid."
Unaware of Rose's changed opinion, Taylor smiled ingratiatingly. "I believe you aren't a local to the city.
"As far as know, the Oceanids aren't one of the top three families in Lilyrose." Rose was puzzled that Taylor would think she came from an elite family.
That was strange.



Taylor felt awkward.
She wanted to demonstrate that she rubbed shoulders with the elites, including the Sunrise's Lees. Instead, she rubbed Kaze the wrong way.
"See, Rose?"
Paying Taylor no heed, Kaze turned to Rose and said sarcastically, "The supposed unattainable celebrities will do anything for their interest in the face of power.
"Are you still going to blindly follow celebrities now?"
Rose looked at Taylor.
Taylor turned red in the face, but she had nothing to say for herself.
The sparkle in Rose's eyes dimmed.
Fans formed a long line outside the hotel and spent 20 grand for a chance to meet
Taylor.
Yet, all it took was a phone call from Kaze.
Taylor lied and ditched her disappointed fans to meet Rose. She fawned over Rose. She even beat around the bush to ask about her family history and sucked up to her.
Rose was no idiot.

She saw Taylor's attitude toward Kaze. If she was not around, Taylor probably would
be all over Kaze.
"Thank you for the lesson, Kaze. will never blindly follow stars anymore."
Rose went to sit on the couch.
She propped her chin on her hands and sulked, refusing to look at Taylor.
Taylor was put in the spot.
It never occurred to her that Kaze would spend 100 million dollars for a private meeting, just to give Rose a reality check. Taylor served as the living cautionary tale.
Chapter 532 Bite the Hand That Feeds You
Despite her displeasure, Taylor kept her feelings to herself.
She could not afford to piss off Kaze, the type without qualms to throw money around.
Besides, Kaze was not just wealthy.
Alisa said that Kaze had to hold a higher position than the chief commander of Lilyrose Strategic Department to set foot into Emperor Hall.
Kaze was the definition of power. Hence, Taylor stood there without a word.
"I needed Rose to see you for who you are, Taylor, but also need to find something out from you."



"James was wheelchair—bound after the car accident. He was upset because Shangrila Group was being targeted again. "The families wanted me to have a heart-to—heart with James and get him drunk. They wanted to take a video of me pushing James away, so they could claim that he assaulted me. "The truth was, James was optimistic. He wasn't beaten down like the rumors said he was. He didn't drink much, and he pushed me away when | got too close. "He lectured me for my misbehavior and chalked it off as me being the influence. He said | was a sister to him. "Two days later, Winnie introduced me to an agency in the south. They were kind." Taylor unveiled the truth in tears. Kaze uttered curtly, "You used their kindness against them to get the media. attention on yourself. Since then, your rise to stardom has been smooth sailing. "That's not the only thing. James' death anniversary is drawing near. "You have not been back to Lilyrose for two years, and now you're dancing on his grave by having a concert here." Kaze stood up and glared at Taylor. "You bit the hand that fed you." "I'm sorry, Mr. Lee. | was wrong. | know it's my fault." Taylor fell to her knees once again and apologized tearfully. "You should apologize to James, not me."

Kaze added coldly, "Cancel the concert that's supposed to happen three days later. | 213

want you to be at the graveyard to pay your respects to James.
" expect a public apology to Shangrila Group from you. want my buddy's name cleared."
Taylor had the audacity to demand an apology from Shangrila Group, and she mentioned it during an interview. In that case, Kaze expected the same things from her.
Taylor, knees on the ground, shuddered.
The truth would be out the moment she apologized publicly.
She could forget being a star.
Heck, that would be a social suicide.
Chapter 533 Something's up With James Death
Taylan knew right there and then
Kaze was not leaving her with any choice
After all, the had done a lot of harm.
Kaze was a man of power. She could not refuse his requests.
"Come on, Rose"
Not wanting to see the disgusting woman anymore, Kaze left Emperor Hall without looking back. Rose even glanced at Taylor in disdain on her way out.

The earlier conversation introduced Rose to a whole new world.
Rose thought that Taylor was no different than ordinary folks. She was probably at
bit of a snob.
It never occurred to Rose that Taylor had committed such an unforgivable thing.
Once out of Dynasty Hotel, Kaze gave Snow a call.
"Snow, get Shane to investigate the real reason behind James' death. believe he
didn't jump off the building."
The police wrote off James' death as suicide because he was depressed from the car crash and career downfall. Everybody even called James a coward.
Kaze knew something was fishy right from the start.
James was expelled from school in his senior year when Jessica accused him of cheating. The situation would be hopeless and devastating to any youngster.
Yet, James managed to pull through after the traumatic experience. He traveled to the south on his own and put in the grinding work to build Shangrila Group.
James had been through all the hardships because he had the right attitude. He would never take his life over a car accident and a setback at work
kaze could not believe it

He had been through many struggles too. He understood James too well. James loved his wife and adorable daughter. He had a family who needed his protection
Kare doubted James would leave his family behind.
Taylor's statement at Emperor Hall confirmed Kaze's suspicions.
Despite the double whammy, James did not lose his spirit. Even when drinking, he remained vigilant and sober.
James would never attempt suicide.
"What's the matter, Taylor?"
Alisa was shocked to find Taylor wandering downstairs with vacant eyes in the hotel. She hurried over to help her up.
"Im done for Alisa. I'm finished!"
Taylor threw herself into Alisa's arms and wailed.
Alisa made a star out of Taylor
Two
years 1
Alisa blew up the story about James assaulting Taylor to get Taylor
famous in showbiz.



"He belongs to one of the top three families, so he must know a lot about Lilyrose. He might know something."
Chapter 534 Someone Else Does the Dirty Work
The two women quickly met with Frank
Frank felt a tingle in his loin when he saw Taylor looking vulnerable in tears. "What's wrong, Taylor?" Frank asked.
Taylor recounted the story once more.
Frank looked solemn.
For the person to gain access to Emperor Hall, they must be untouchable even to the upper society.
That included the Goldings.
Frank said frustratedly, "I'm not aware of anyone important in Lilyrose. What does he look like? Let me see."
Alisa pulled out a thumb drive. She had all her bases covered.
Prior to coming, Alisa requested a surveillance video of Emperor Hall from Dynasty Hotel to keep as evidence.
"Hahaha!"
Frank burst out laughing when Kaze appeared in the video.
"Do you know him, Mr. Golding?"

Taylor and Alisa looked at him, wondering why he was laughing.
Frank enjoyed a good laugh before uttering, "Taylor, I've missed you. It's been two years since we got it on.
" hold the key to your survival, but perhaps one more taste of that shared night could sweeten the deal?"
Taylor was no longer the fresh face two years ago with just Shangrila Group's print. campaign under her belt. She was a big star now.
Frank's interest in her had only increased
Fear flickered in Taylor's eyes. Her mind wandered hack to the night Frank bonked her two years ago.
*Pan hungry. I'll get something to eat.'
Alisa walked away, making her stance clear.
Taylor remembered the moment she kneeled before Kaze at Emperor Hall.
She walked to the bathroom without hesitation.
"I'm taking a shower."
Soon, the trio gathered once more.
"Kaze is probably more famous than you in Lilyrose, Taylor. He's well-known for sure."

With Taylor in his arms, Frank smoked and said tauntingly, "You can ask anyone about the idiot son-in-law of the Quints. Even a three-year-old would know who he

1. is. "The thing about gaining access to Emperor Hall... "The idiot has a habit of impersonating the God of War. Today is the second time. "Chief Commander Lang is gracious enough to let the idiot go. Otherwise, he would. not have lived to see another day." The two women exchanged looks. The malice showed on their faces. "| want to kill that bastard!" Taylor hissed through clenched teeth. She was furious to think that the loser nearly scammed and ruined her.

"How do you plan on doing so?" Frank asked with a smile. Taylor turned to Alisa. "We don't have to do anything." Alisa said sinisterly, "This time, | want someone else to do our dirty work. "We can use the God of War to finish off the idiot and Shangrila Group. "Taylor can ride on the God of War's popularity and become an A-list celebrity." Frank's eyes lit up as he clapped. "That's a good idea. If you can do it, Alisa, the top three families will lend you all the resources to hype things." Kaze was the least of Frank's concerns. Shangrila Group was the sword hanging over the top three families' heads.

If Alisa was able to achieve what she said she would, the three elite families would do everything to support her.

"Come on. Let's get back to Dynasty Hotel and hold a press conference. We'll live stream online too."

"I'll contact Twitter, TikTok, and other social media platforms to make sure the press
conference trends on the number one spot." Chapter 535 Press Conference
Alisa dragged Taylor back to Dynasty Hotel
The fans who attended the meet-and-greet were still hanging around the venue. Noticing Taylor's return, they were overjoyed. "Is that a new outfit, Taylor?"
"She must have taken a shower. Her hair isn't dry yet, and she's already in a rush to see us. She's too good to us fans."
Feeling moved, the fans kept screaming.
To their surprise, Taylor went up on stage and solemnly announced that she would be having an immediate press conference which would be broadcast live.
The local press from various agencies soon entered the scene.
The press conference began.
Without wasting a lot of time on words, an edited clip was projected on the screen. In the video, Taylor kneeled before a young man, explaining something in tears. Holy shit!
Gasps filled the room.
Taylor was a top-rated celebrity with a huge following.
The Internet went wild in less than a minute.

With Alicia pumping money into the publicity campaign, Taylor quickly became a viral sensation on social media for kneeling before a mysterious man.
A conversation went on at Horizon Mirror Mansion.
"Look. Kaze. Taylor is holding a press conference. guess she must be apologizing." Rose's cries startled Darcy's and Agatha's families.
"Who is Taylor?" Agnes and Agatha asked curiously.
"A lying and cheating female celebrity," Rose replied in disgust.
"Who is Taylor apologizing to?"
Darcy looked at Kaze and Rose in confusion, not understanding why Rose had bended with Kaze.
As Rose went to turn on the TV, Kaze said indifferently, "She's apologizing to James. She was told to accuse James of assaulting her two years ago. had a talk with her
tonight.
" told the woman to make a public apology, but she's holding a press conference instead. That's sensible of her.
Darcy and the others exchanged glances.
Taylor was a major celebrity.

believe. Meanwhile, the press conference carried on at Dynasty Hotel.
"Ms. Swan, who is that man in the video?"
"Why did you kneel to him?"
"What happened?"
The press rushed to question Taylor before the video came to an end.
It was a bombshell.
Awell-known celebrity fell to her knees in tears before a young man.
The scene left a lot to the imagination.
Besides, Taylor showed the video herself.
"Ill answer your questions."
Taylor said, "The man in the video claims to be the God of War."
Woah!
An uproar stirred.
It was the God of War!

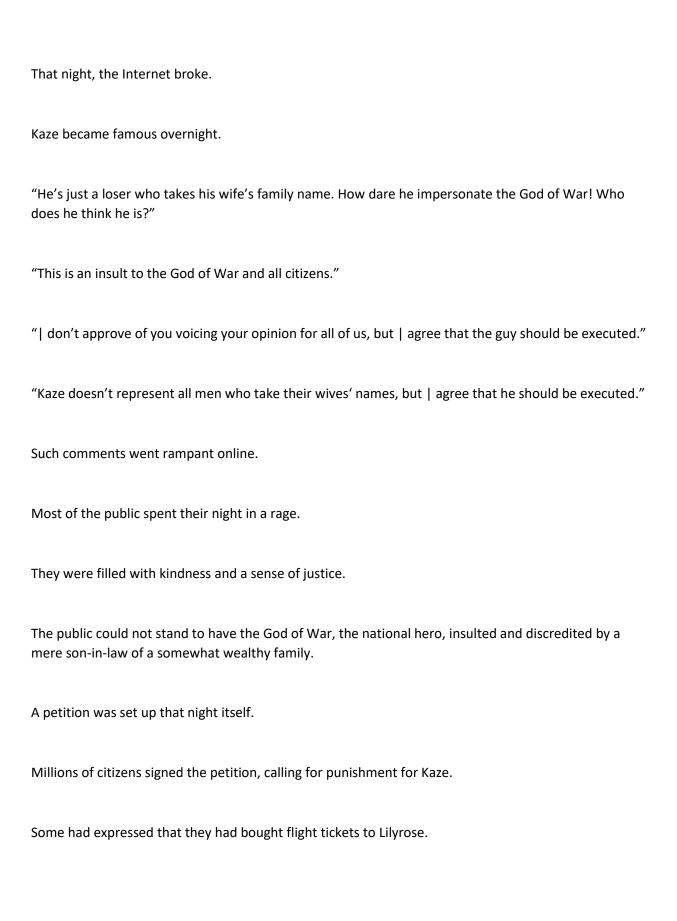
She seemed willing to harm her public image and apologize after Kaze's talk with her. It was hard to

So the one and only God of War was the young man?
Everybody's eyes widened.
They looked at the young man in the video fervently, trying to remember his looks.
If anything, that was the God of War's first public appearance.
"Tonight, Mr. Lee summoned me from my greet-and—meet event to Dynasty Hotel's Emperor Hall. He told me to kneel. "He said he was friends with Mr. James White of Shangrila Group.
"He requested that clarify the details surrounding my accusations of James' assault on me two years ago.
"Before he left, Mr. Lee told me to apologize publicly to Shangrila Group and pay my respects to James' gravestone three days later.
"That's the story."
Chapter 536 The Quints' Son—In—Law Impersonates the God of War
Taylor'e words stirred an uproar.
It went crazy online
The God of War was more popular than any A-list celebrity
Alisa did not have to throw money into publicity to make the issue a huge deal anymore.

Taylor was trending on social media for crying to the God of War on her knees. Her name and other keywords were trending. The usual breakups, divorces, and scandals that the public loved to hate were no longer going viral.
"The God of War's buddy, James White, assaulted Taylor."
"The God of War's face exposed."
All terms related to the incident occupied the top ten hashtags.
All of Arcadia had their attention at the press conference.
The server of all social media platforms went down. The network engineers were summoned late into the night to fix the servers urgently.
The press put in the extra shift to publish articles about the press conference. They could expect huge traffic on their sites.
"Taylor, are you going to apologize to Shangrila Group and pay your respects to James?" a journalist at the press conference asked.
"will."
Taylor nodded with tearful eyes. Woah!
10
The crowd went wild
The journalist persisted with another question "So you're admitting that you falsely accused James of assaulting you two years ago?"



" saw it with other fans. Am right?" The members of the fan club stepped forward.
"That's right. His relative is Rose Oceanid. Rose is Taylor's fan too. We went to meet
Taylor at the airport."
Terry looked at Taylor and uttered, "Did the idiot impersonate the God of War and make you kneel and apologize?" "It must be true. The loser can't even get into Dynasty Hotel."
"He and Rose were outside the hotel because they couldn't afford tickets to the meet- and-greet."
Even Taylor was surprised by the turn of events.
Terry and the group of fans knocked it out of the park for her.
Alisa's stooges were not even needed this time. "Yeah."
rean.
Taylor nodded innocently. The vulnerable look on her face tugged on heartstrings. Click! Click!
The camera lights flashed.
"The son-in-law of the Quints impersonated the God of War!"
The hashtag became the hottest search. . Chapter 537 Media Storm



They summoned the public to protest the city government today.
"You're such a troublemaker! What did you get into again, Kaze?"
An angry voice broke the silence of Horizon Mirror Mansion.
Agnes' bellow echoed across the living, her anger lingering.
Agathe uttered in age "Kare, didn't you say that Taylor was going to apologize? It looks like yell be the one issuing a public apology to the nation."
No one would have thought that Taylor's press conference would end in such a way. The statement from Terry and the others ignited the fury of the public.
Kaze and Shangrila Group were not the only ones facing hostility online
The information on Darcy's family and the entire Quint family was dug out and posted on the Internet.
They were met with a tirade of abuse online. The name-calling and vile comments were endless.
Darcy took a glance at the comments before tossing her phone aside with a pale face. Even though Darcy had been in the same situation before when Joy backstabbed her, it was too much to handle.
Rose went white as well.
Still, Rose tried to explain. "Mom, if Terry didn't annoyingly butt in, Taylor would have apologized.
"Why are you blaming Kaze? He didn't do anything wrong-"
"Shut up!"

Agatha interrupted Rose with an angry shout and hissed. "Why are you defending him? What do you mean that he didn't do anything wrong? He impersonated the God of War! "He got you in trouble too. "You and the idiot have become the subject of public ridicule!" The menacing look on her mother's face scared Rose to tears. Rose did not know what to say. She was caught between a rock and a hard place. Taylor was supposed to apologize. Yet, the situation had gone out of hand now. "Haven't you learned anything from the Lefteria Group incident, you fool? | can't believe you would take things up a notch and impersonate the God of War. You'll be the death of our family Agnes approached Kaze and poked his head. Kaze said helplessly, "I didn't impersonate the God of War. | am-Smack! Kaze was slapped in the face. "Why did you hit Kaze, Darcy?" Rose looked at Kaze in shock. Teary—eyed, Darcy looked sternly at Kaze. "You have disappointed me, Kaze. "We would have a nice and uneventful life, but you had to cause trouble and impersonate the God of War.

"Have you ever considered my feelings before you did all that?" Driven by the heat of the moment, Darcy wailed out loud, "Do | have to divorce you before you will stop?" Kaze's heart broke when Darcy cried. "| will handle it, babe. The comments online will die down," he uttered firmly. "Die down? Why don't you die down? Are you going to stop the Internet across the country?" An angry voice came from behind. Master Quint walked over aggressively. He was joined by an angry mob, the rest of the Quint family. "You have done it this time, Kaze. What the hell were you thinking to impersonate the God of War?" "Thanks to you, we have become the most hated family." "We didn't do anything for you to drag us into this this time. | want to kill you, bastard!" Chapter 538 Cut Herself off From the Family Everybody glared at Kaze. The Quints found themselves blameless for once. Trouble came looking for them when they did nothing at all. For no reason, the public tore into them because of Kaze.

"The idiot has ruined our family. He must separate from Darcy now."
"Darcy shouldn't just divorce. She needs to throw the idiot out. It's the only way to save our family."
The Quints clamored. They rushed over to force Kaze to cut ties with the Quints. "Don't think you can talk your way out of it this time, Darcy. Either you divorce the fool, or I'll have to disown you too," Master Quint said ruthlessly.
"Just do it, Darcy. Why are you still hesitating?"
Agnes and Agatha urged.
Only Sky and Rose did not want Darcy and Kaze to separate.
Nevertheless, their opinions did not matter because they were not taken seriously being the youngest in the family.
"Alright. have made up my mind."
Darcy turned to Kaze with a heart-wrenching smile.
"I've decided to leave the family with Kaze.
"I'll have nothing to do with the Quints from now on."
Tears rolled down Darcy's cheeks. It took everything in her to make the decision. Silence befell the living room.
No one expected Darcy to still stand by Kaze's side at that point.

She was willing to cut herself off from the family for him.

"Have you gone mad. Darcy?"

Dumbstruck at first, Agnes quickly wailed angrily. "The idiot doesn't care about you. Why are you still considering his feelings?

"Do you understand the consequences of leaving the family? You'll destroy yourself!" They lived in a world where families mattered the most.

A person, once abandoned by the family, would not belong anywhere. They would face many obstacles, feeling lost and insecure by the lack of support.

Kaze looked at Darcy in shock.

He thought that Darcy was disappointed in him past the point of redemption when she yelled at him. It never crossed his mind that Darcy would cut ties with the

Quints for him.

"Kaze played with fire to impersonate the God of War, but his heart was in the right. place for doing so."

Darcy looked at Kaze and added, "I believe he pulled such a ridiculous stunt to clear James' name and seek justice for him.

"But Kaze, you have no idea that Taylor is backed by the top three families. You can't beat them."

When Kaze was framed for the murder at Lefteria Group, Darcy uncritically sided with public opinion.
She would not make the same mistake.
This time, she chose to trust Kaze.
"Even if have to stand against the world, will go through it with Kaze."
Darcy went over and took Kaze's hand before declaring resolutely.
"Hmph! It's your funeral. No one will stop you from going through it with Kaze. "Write a statement that you are no longer part of the Quint family don't care what you do. Just don't get us involved.
Master Quint stomped his foot and walked away
"You're a fool, Darcy. No one thinks the loser amounts to anything, but don't understand why you see the world in him.
"The fool and the idiot are made for each other.*
The rest of the Quint family left, relishing Darcy's misfortune.
Although Darcy was used to the mockery, she furrowed her brows in fury at their vile taunts.
"Just ignore them, babe. will make the comments online disappear."
Kaze consoled her.
He was happy to see Darcy cutting ties with the Quints. Darcy was nothing but an emotional punching bag to that cold—hearted family.

Besides, Kaze would make the Quints regret the decision to kick Darcy out of the family soon enough... "Save your breath. Do you think | will believe you?" Darcy shook his arm off with a grimace. She was willing to believe Kaze. However, she hated it when Kaze bragged. "I will never forgive you if anything happens to my daughter, Kaze!" Agnes glared at him before storming out with Agatha. Sky said, "My sister is only doing this for your own good, Kaze. You should quit showing off and think about how to get the God of War's forgiveness." "Kaze, Sky is right. | was with you last night. | know you didn't impersonate the God of War, but no one else believes you. After much thought, Rose added, "Why don't | create a Twitter account for you since the whole nation is watching your every move now? "Ill publish your apology to the God of War online. Be sure to sound sincere and explain yourself. "The God of War might stumble upon the post and forgive you." Chapter 539 A Strategic Lie "You went me to apologize to the God of War publicly? Did | hear that right?" Kaze was shocked.



Even though Rose and Sky did not take him seriously, Kaze could not be bothered to explain himself to them. He went to a corner and made a phone call
"Draco, call the national security and ask why they still left photos of my family and me circulating online."
Faze uttered curtly. "Who's going to take responsibility when Lilyrose turns into rubble?"
"Got it"
Draco's solemn voice came on the other end of the line.
He knew that his boss was pissed.
After hanging up, Draco immediately contacted national security.
The person who took the call was the number one in national security. Faced with Draco's questioning, he protested, "The God of War got me all wrong. Chief
Commander!
"We wanted to contact the cyber information office to erase the moment his photo was out, but we received orders from above not to do anything."
If the orders came from above, they had to come from the cabinet.
"Oh, so the cabinet has it out for my boss?"

Draco scoffed and uttered murderously, "Ask the bastard if he needs the God of War Palace to fight the foreign battles anymore." "D-Don't go there, Chief Commander. Calm down. Don't joke about that."

The person added, "You got the wrong idea. The cabinet wanted to get involved, but the public didn't believe that the God of War was a man who took his wife's family name, so they decided to let the situation fester.

"Think about it. If the citizens didn't even believe it, the foreign forces wouldn't believe the truth either.

"That's called a strategic lie. In a way, the lie protects the God of War and his family.

"The God of War will always have time to reveal his true identity later on."

Draco scoffed. "Your strategic lie doesn't stop the public from tearing into the God of War and his family.

"Those who serve the country should be treated with dignity.

"Your little stunt there will let the God of War, his palace, and millions of soldiers down."

The serious accusation was not a responsibility the person could shoulder. Moments later, the person explained meekly, "Since it's a strategic lie, we can't respond too quickly, or it will raise suspicions, Chief Commander.

"Please let the God of War know that we will resolve the issue to his satisfaction by tomorrow morning at the latest." Draco scoffed and ended the call before conveying the message to Kaze.

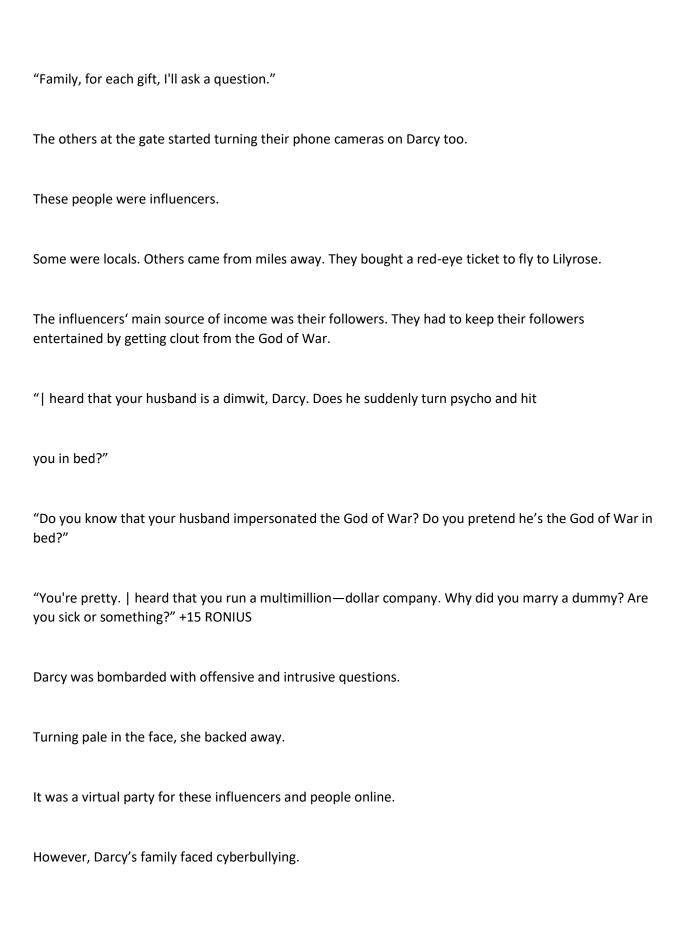
Chapter 540 Cyberbullying

The next day, a commotion invaded the quiet area of Skylar View District first thing

in the morning



Darcy walked over and peeked through the gate. She frowned.
There were at least a hundred men and women joking around with selfie sticks.
The scene erupted into chaos because of them.
The group was headed by a young man who exclaimed fervently, "Family, this is where that son-in-law lives. It's a billion—dollar mansion with the local military on
patrol.
"Now do you know why the son in law impersonated the God of War? He's neighbors with the chief commander.
"Oh, the guy's wife is coming out, and she's hot. She's well-known to be a pretty CEO in Lilyrose.
"Please like, share, and send gifts, family, and I'll interview his wife live."
The young aimed the camera at Darcy.
"It's Terry, the jerk! Why is he live streaming?"
Rose bore her fangs when she saw Terry,
He was the ultimate jerk. He slandered Kaze at Taylor's press conference, causing the situation to go out of control.
"Wow. That's the wife of the impersonating guy."
"Hurry. Send gifts to Terry, and he'll interview his wife live."



"How often do you sleep with your dimwit husband? Hey! Don't leave!"
With Darcy backing away in silence, the influencers were not having it.
Darcy did not respond to them.
Here was their chance to get clout, but Darcy stood in their way by not answering. "Why don't you ask your mom how often she sleeps with your dad?"
Achilling voice was heard.
The influencer, who would not leave Darcy alone, turned around, looking angry." How dare you say that to me. Do you know how many followers have on TikTok?
" have over a million followers. Trust me when say I'll expose you." "How dare I?" Kaze smiled.
He reached out and grabbed the influencer's bleached hair before pulling it. Then, he smashed the influencer's face on the metal gate.
Thud! Blood spilled as the influencer broke his nose and lost his tooth.
The influencer with over a million followers fell on the ground, screaming in pain.