

Guardian 601

Chapter 601 Seven Crimes

Everyone from the top three families knelt and prostrated, not making a sound. “You lot tricked James and plotted the car crash to murder him. You accused him of sexually assaulting Taylor Swan and then forced him to jump off the building. And you people even scattered his ashes!

“You went back on your promise and betrayed him, that’s crime number one.” Kaze counted the crimes of the top three families condescendingly.

“You took advantage of James’ widow and daughter, forcing Winnie to remarry and harming his parents. That’s crime number two!

“You plotted against the Shangrila Group, causing it to go bankrupt, stole its secret, and harmed the employees. That’s the third crime!

“You recruited thugs from the underworld to oppress your competitors, running the business world of the city. Don’t forget about the bribery and annexation. That’s crime number four!

“You monopolized the priority industry, oppressed the people of the city, and gained wealth through illicit means. That’s crime number five.

“You accused and framed me for murder, used my name to boost your family’s wealth and status; you challenged me multiple times and disrespected me. Crime number six!”

— Kaze’s voice echoed throughout the square like rumbling thunder.

Each time he declared a crime, the top three families would shudder in fear. They were so scared that they prostrated completely on the ground.

Kaze’s voice continued reverberating in the air, “Lastly, you hurt my wife multiple times, and oppressed her company, creating groundless rumors to ruin her company’s reputation.”

Kaze took a deep breath and then shouted, “You bullied my wife, that’s crime number seven!” Thump! Thump! Thump!

Most of the top three family members, including the heads of families, spat blood upon hearing Kaze’s sentences for them. Blood tainted the ground red.

The pungent smell of blood filled the air.

Seven crimes! Each crime they committed had clear records and evidence, but due to the top three families’ influence over the city, they were fine and continued to oppress the people of Lilyrose, exploiting them.

There were many more who died in grievance like James, leaving their families broken and futures ruined.

As a matter of fact, their crimes were more than just the seven listed.

If they were charged in court, the cases would take more than three years.

Therefore, what Kaze listed was just the tip of the iceberg.

“Belarus Chapman, do you still think that it’s unfair for your daughter to work as a maid?” Kaze looked at Belarus. Belarus lowered his head and cried a—river: “N—Not at all! She’s doing it for our family!”

Kaze then looked at Edward. “Edward Everia, do you still think it’s wrong for me to beat your son, Eliot, into a comatose state?” “No, sir, he deserved it!”

Kaze then looked at Flint. “Flint Golding, | broke your son’s legs and made him a handicap. Is that unfair?”

“No! You are doing society a good deed!” Flint said with his head on the ground.

“You people confessed and accepted everything | said now, but deep down, you are all aggrieved.”

Kaze scoffed, “You only accept this because I’m the God of War! If | were the useless son-in-law of the Quint family, would you still feel the same?”

“But, | don’t care what you people feel. | am going to use my authority to eradicate you vermin for the sake of the city! And also seek justice for friend, James, and the Lilyroseans!”

my good

Then, Kaze said without looking back, “Remove the lockdown of Jade Estate! Let the people of Lilyrose see how the top three families pay respect to my fallen friend!

“They liked the limelight so much, so this will be broadcast live on every platform, giving you people all the attention you seek!”

Everyone in the top three families turned pale upon hearing this. After today, there would be no more top three families!

“Yes, sir!”

Draco and the others executed the order.

Soon, the news of the top three families paying respect to James spread across the city like wildfire.

The whole city was shaken by the news. Almost the entire city swarmed toward Jade Estate to witness the event.

Chapter 602 Unprecedented Burial

Countless people gathered outside Jade Estate, and there were more making their way here.

All the roads connecting to the estate saw standstill traffic.

The Traffic Department under the city council was forced to mobilize more manpower to clear the traffic and maintain order. Ever since the city was built, it had never seen such a grand funeral before.

The red carpets were taken away, the stage for the ceremony was taken down, and the flowers along the pathways were removed.

The top three families spent tens of millions to prepare this event to flatter the God of War, yet because of an order, all the decorations were taken down.

All the decorations in Jade Estate were changed to prepare for the wake service. White flowers were placed around the lake, giving the entire premise a gloomy and heavy mood. The square that was used for the inauguration ceremony was turned into the venue for the wake service and funeral.

A group of five to six hundred people appeared in formal wear, mostly black, and came out of the main building to pay respect to the deceased.

“Look, the heads of the top three families are at the forefront!” “Even Taylor Swan is also there! She looks so good in black formal wear! Even better than on TV!”

“Damn, the former chairman of Lilyrose Bank, Maurice Toan; the chairman of the old Bersina Group, Toffle Toan; the chairwoman of Tuling Education Group, Jessica Summer; all of them are business tycoons and they are all here to pay respect to James White!”

“That’s Lightning Tiger, the bastard who monopolized the funeral industry! He forced countless families to a bitter end and now he is here to pay for his crimes!”

Lilyroseans were engaged in a heated discussion regarding the business tycoons and elites they saw.

They were some of the most powerful people that no one would dare to mess with yet they were all here to pay respect to the deceased.

They were like monkeys in a cage, allowing the people to tease and mock them at will. Belarus, Flint, and Edward led the group forward.

Belarus was holding a black and white portrait of James and with each four steps he took, he would kneel and bow at the sky before he got up and continued forward.

After some distance, Belarus was already shaking due to exhaustion and he was sweating profusely, but he carried on with clenched teeth.

Behind him, eighteen young men from all three families carried the casket on their shoulders.

After them would be the main group of the funeral procession.

Jessica and Shelly were among the main group as well.

All three families mobilized everyone.

respect to James.

men and women, young and old—to pay

“Look at that kid, he is not even ten years old yet he is there with the group. The sun is harsh today. Poor kid.” “There are a lot of women as well. Most of them lived a good life yet they are being tortured like this. How sad.” Some of the audience felt bad for the women and children.

“Bad? The three families monopolized many industries and oppressed the people for billions of dollars. The children and women enjoyed the benefits also, yet you feel bad for them because they have to walk under the sun?”

“Two years ago, Shangrila Group went bankrupt and James White's family were thrown out of their house and almost died. Why no one pitied them?”

“Yeah! Go away, hypocrite!”

As the audience continued their heated discussion, the top three families and the others were done circling the lake.

It took them two hours to return to the square in front of Jade Estate. The square was right in front of the lake and it had a higher ground compared to other places.

There was a statue of the Chapman family's ancestor in the center, marking the origin of the family and where he started the business.

The ancestor spent a fortune to buy the estate and allowed his family to live for generations. The statue was pushed over with the cheers of the people.

Amidst the deafening cheers, Lightning Tiger and his men dug a hole in the ground.

James' casket was then placed inside even though the casket was empty.

Chapter 603 Return Billions

“James White's ashes were already scattered by the top three families. That's why the God of War evicted the Chapman family from the estate and used the place for the cenotaph,” someone from the audience answered.

Then, Camry and Teresa put their son's belongings into the casket as they cried.

“Daddy, this was the toy you bought for Brenda...”

Winnie carried Brenda to let her place a yellow duck inside.

The girl’s innocent voice made everyone teared up.

Winnie brought Brenda over in the end because she was James’ only daughter.

After the casket was sealed and buried, the tombstone was erected.

“James White.”

It was not as tall as the statue of the Chapman family’s ancestors; it was just a normal tombstone. Then, the funeral officially ended.

From now on, the family estate of the Chapman family became the tomb of James White.

Two years ago, the top three families caused James’ death and took his company.

Two years later, now, the gathering place of the top three families became his final resting place. James finally got his name cleared and justice was served.

The top three families fell from their prestige and even lost their homes.

They were still alive but their families had broken into pieces, status wise.

How ironic.

Everyone knew the God of War cleared James’ name and served justice.

“An order from the God of War!”

One of the generals shouted, “The top three families with Taylor Swan and the others tried to bribe their way into the inauguration ceremony, the total sum is over a billion dollars.

“The God of War said the three families had oppressed and exploited the people

of the city for long enough. The money they used for bribery was the blood and sweat of the people.

“The money received from the top three families and those involved will be given to the finance department of the city council and the money will be used for the city’s development!”

As soon as the announcement was made, thunderous cheers came from the audience. “God of War! God of War! God of War!” Tens of thousands of people cheered as a sign of respect.

“That’s a lot of money! Not even big companies can fork out that much money in one go! The three families must have gotten them from the loan sharks!”

“Even if the God of War took the money away, no one would know, yet he returned it to the city! He is righteous and just!” “The God of War is a true hero!”

The God of War's reputation reached an unprecedented height among the people, and they hoped to have a glimpse of his true face, so they continued the cheers.

“We are terribly sorry. For the sake of the city and your safety, the God of War had left after he punished the top three families.” The general's announcement disappointed everyone. The crowd then scattered away after the whole event ended.

Before they left, all the people placed a white flower before James’ grave to pay their respect and to indirectly thank the God of War for punishing the top three families.

“Too bad. We didn’t get a chance to see the God of War in person.”

Rose, who was among the crowd, pouted in disappointment. She stayed back and refused to leave.

Beside her was Darcy and her family.

They came when they heard the news about the funeral.

Darcy also went up to put a flower at James’ grave, to honor an old friend.

Rose’s sigh infected her as well. She said with a sigh, “The God of War saved us again and even cleared James’ name, yet we can't even thank him in person,”

“Hinph. There are a lot of people who want to thank the God of War. Ge Arude voice came from behind.

It was Samus with Deborah, Master Quint and the others.

“You want to see the God of War? It’s never going to be your turn!” Deb mocked her with rolled eyes.

Darcy pursed her lips. She did not want to argue with them. “Sorry to disappoint but my wife can see me every day.” Kaze then came over.

Everyone then looked at Kaze in shock. “You are the God of War?!”

Chapter 604 Bragging Comes True

Awhile later, everyone finally recovered their composure.

“Kaze, what are you talking about? The God of War just left and you are impersonating him again?” Not just Deborah who was deeply prejudiced against Kaze, even Darcy did not believe him.

Kaze said, "Darcy, yesterday | said the Chapman family would have to move out of the Jade Estate and they did today. The estate was then turned into James' grave.

"All three families, the Chapmans, Goldings, and Everias, paid respect to James and were the pallbearers. You guys thought | was bragging and bluffing right?"

He never thought of hiding his identity from Darcy because she was his wife.

Even if she found out that he was the God of War, and if he asked her to keep the secret, he believed she would never tell. Revealing his identity would only bring disaster to Lilyrose City.

The moment he saw the disappointment on Darcy's face, he decided to reveal the truth.

"Yeah."

Darcy, Rose, and the others nodded. They witnessed and heard it themselves yesterday.

"Then what happened today?"

Kaze smiled and continued, "The things that | said all came true, right?"

"Holy cow! Don't tell me you are really the God of War!"

Rose covered her mouth in shock and stared at Kaze with gleaming eyes. "No wonder everything you said came true!

"You said my dad had to copy a hundred times the confidentiality manual and he actually did! One phone call and my dad wants to be taken to retention.

“Everything you said really came true! The whole country said you were impersonating the God of War but the God of War only punished the top three families and not you! | knew it! Other than the God of War himself, no one can do it!”

Agatha glared at her daughters.

The girl’s father was punished and she was so happy. If Nelson knew his daughter gloated at him, he would surely be angry. At the next moment, Agatha finally realized what her daughter was saying and it shocked her.

Could Kaze really be the God of War?

She thought Rose’s words sounded ridiculous but also reasonable, even Darcy was slightly convinced.

Agatha and Agnes widened their eyes at Kaze, trying to find the similarities between him and the God of War.

Then, a cold grunt sounded.

“You punk, stop talking nonsense!”

Master Quint, who had been quiet, finally spoke.

He bellowed, “The God of War punished the top three families because they tried to bribe him. He knew what the top three families did, so he sought justice for James White. The God of War didn’t punish you because you are not worthy of his attention, or time.

“It would be insulting to come after you! And it's not a reason for you to keep impersonating him!”
Master Quint was disgusted by Kaze’s shamelessness.

He hated his grandson-in-law to the bones.

Kaze smiled and did not argue with the man.

The soldiers were still around.

If he wanted to, he could call them over to prove his identity.

However, Kaze suddenly remembered that when he almost exposed his identity the last time, Master Quint and the extended family tried to flatter him for wealth and power.

The whole country found out about it in a few days yet they acted like nothing happened.

With the previous example, he chose to remain silent.

“Hahaha! Look at you now, idiot! Remember to think before you speak. You

aren't going to be lucky enough to escape punishment every time.”

“Master Quint, you are really smart to expose Kaze’s lies again!”

Samus, Deborah, and the others took Kaze’s silence as a sign of guilt and their victory.

After sneering at him, they left.

Rose rolled her eyes at Kaze.

She got excited for nothing because of the boastful Kaze.

Chapter 605 Here Comes the Wolf

Darcy did not blame Kaze though.

She was happy enough that Kaze got out of trouble. Nothing was more important than her family's safety and well-being "Come on, let's go home."

The two of them went back to Horizon Mirror.

During lunch, the afternoon news reported the unprecedented funeral at Jade

Estate.

The aftereffects of the funeral continued to unfold.

"Taylor Swan's solo concert was canceled. All her fans requested a refund, and her agency terminated her contract.

"She also turned herself in and confessed that she was instigated by the top three families to accuse James White of sexual assault.

"Lightning Tiger, Aster Fellini, Shelly Fowler, and many more turned themselves in. "It was also reported that the entire Chapman family, more than a hundred people, have moved out of Jade Estate."

"The assets, market shares, and properties belonging to the three families are all confiscated by the city council, and related assets will be auctioned away in the near future.

"The person in charge of the city council informed us that the God of War returned the money the three families exploited and embezzled from the people to the city council, and the money would be used for future city developments, providing a better environment to do business."

It was Kaze's idea to confiscate the top three families' assets. It was the only condition for him to release them.

Without their assets, market shares, and properties, the top three families that once ruled over Lilyrose would be forced to retire from the forefront.

"More than a billion is being invested in the business world. The city council is going big this time," Darcy said with a hint of anticipation.

Quartet Group could get a share of the investment, then that would be great.

"Investment aside, the properties under the top three families alone will be a great boost in your career if you can get them," said Hector, who was usually quiet.

He, however, quickly sighed and explained, "But our company is too small. It's not easy trying to get a share."

"Dad, Quartet Group isn't that small anymore, why can't I get a share of the pie?"

Darcy refused to give up just yet.

Hector said patiently, "Quartet Group is competitive in Lilyrose but what about the bigger companies from the capital?"

"Now that the top three families are gone, there are going to be a lot of vacant slots to fill. The behemoths are making preparations to seize the pie."

Even though Hector had retired for years, he was still much more experienced than Darcy. (2) Then, the news anchor read another piece of news.

"Lee Corporation from Sunrise City has just announced in a press conference that they condemn the corrupted acts of the top three families in Lilyrose.

“The vice-president of the company, Mr. Narian Lee, said that as once a company from Lilyrose, they have the responsibility to rebuild the corrupted state of Lilyrose...”

Lee Corporation from Sunrise City was obviously a part of the Lee family.

“The wolf is here,” Hector said with a scoff.

The top three families did not actually corrupt the business world of Lilyrose; it was the Lee family before they left.

Five

years ago, the Lee family acted as the mastermind and instigated the top three families to separate Quintessential Group. The three families were just repeating what the Lee family started.

They wanted to copy the Lees and climb the social ladder to gain more wealth and fame.

Now, the Lee family stepped up to condemn the three families and even righteously said they would come back to Lilyrose to rebuild the business world.

“The Lee family is utterly shameless!”

Darcy clenched her fists angrily.

As for Kaze, he raised a brow when he saw Narian on TV.

The month-long duration he gave the Lee family was almost up.

The destruction of the top three families did not alarm them. Instead, they wanted to come back for the big pie.

He grabbed his phone and went out.

“Snow, tell Ray to warn the Lee family. If they don't come to apologize to my wife and her family, they will be in the shoes of the three families.”

Chapter 606 Not the Loser We Thought

Upon the phone call from Snow, Ray dispatched his men to deliver Kaze's message to the Lees. In Sunrise City, the key members of the Lee family gathered at the family estate.

They were discussing getting a chunk of the pie of Lilyrose businesses.

While in their meeting, they got a message from Lilyrose.

“What do you think about the loser's warning?”

George, the head of the household, looked at the family with an ashen look.

“Kaze is just a piece of trash, George.”

Gregory, the second—in—command in the family, said, “We received intel that the boy's alias is Jesse White. He re-established Shangrila right under the three major families' noses.

“Now that the God of War punished these elite families by seizing their assets and compensating James' family, Shangrila Group will only develop rapidly from

there.

“If we continue to dismiss the boy and think of him as nothing more than a mentally unstable psycho, we will be losing more than we can bargain:”

His words drove many to put away their contempt.

Kaze went under an assumed name.

In less than two weeks, he rebuilt Shangrila Group from the ground up, and that was the last the Lees expected from him. Kaze hid behind the scenes and acted all mysterious.

The top three families took him lightly.

The God of War somehow was drawn into the drama too.

All of that contributed to the rapid growth of Shangrila Group.

However, Kaze demonstrated tactics that had brought the Lees great fortune six years ago; he was a business prodigy. Still, since they drugged Kaze and drove him nuts, both parties were beyond reconciliation.

“Are we seriously going to travel to Lilyrose and beg his wife’s family for forgiveness on our knees?”

Karina, the princess of the family, hissed through clenched teeth, “I won’t agree to it. I’d rather die than be nice to the bastard.” During her last birthday party, Kaze sent her a coffin, and she became the laughingstock in the community.

She hated Kaze’s guts.

“Karina's right. | will never be on board with the idea.”

“We are the Sunrise Lees. It’s a joke to be scared of a castoff we disowned.”

“He has something to hide since he took on an alias and snuck behind backs.”

“He will and always be a loser. Sure, he might have some tricks up his sleeve, but they mean nothing in the face of true power.” The rest of the key family members expressed their stance.

To think Kaze expected them to apologize to Darcy’s family on their knees in Lilyrose.

No way was that happening.

They were a multi-billionaire family.

In fact, they reached the ranks of multi-billionaires years ago.

Now, their wealth had more than doubled.

The growth of Shangrila Group was no threat to them.

“Kaze resents us. If we allow him to grow, our family might lose everything like the three major families did.”

Gregory said solemnly, “It is now more important than ever for us to return to Lilyrose.”

His comment was met with agreement.

“We want a piece of the pie not just to amass the family wealth but to put Kaze in his place too. We need to nip the potential problem in the bud.”

George had the final say.

“Chief Commander Lang said nothing when Narian held a press conference on behalf of the family. Either he forgot about the Lees, or the past was in the past.

“Narian, you should make haste to Lilyrose.” More than two weeks ago, Narian upset the chief commander at a distributor conference.

For that reason, the Lees thought twice before setting foot in Lilyrose. They had to turn to the three elite families to give Kaze problems.

After the press conference, their fears were alleviated, and they could now enter Lilyrose without qualms. “Yes. I will embarrass you. Kaze will pay for this.”

Narian gnashed his teeth menacingly.

Chapter 607 An Indiscreet Return

For the past two weeks, Narian dreamed of the moment he would kill Kaze with his bare hands, He wanted to make Kaze pay for humiliating him at the distributor conference.

Narian rushed to Lilyrose with his team in tow.

That night, Narian, representing the Sunrise Lees, held a dinner party at Dynasty Hotel. All the rich, powerful, and famous received an invitation to the dinner.

The purpose of the feast was plain to see.

It was to mark the Sunrise Lees’ public comeback to Lilyrose.

The Lees were a wealthy family from Lilyrose.

It had only been six years since they uprooted to Sunrise.

Hence, their influence remained in Lilyrose.

There was no doubt the Sunrise Lees were the overlords of Lilyrose.

The three top families may be the unspoken rulers of the city, but the Lees overruled them. No one would decline an invitation from the Lee family.

“Kaze, you must know about Narian’s party. Quartet Group received an invitation, and we are both invited.” Darcy returned from the office that evening with an invitation letter.

“We should go. It’s time to meet with Narian.”

Kaze’s eyes flickered coldly,

Despite his warning, Narian staged a rather publicized return to the city with a party, and Kaze was invited. It was an act of aggression.

“Never mind. | think we should sit that one out. | smell trouble.”

Darcy tossed the invitation aside.

Knowing Narian, he would not pass up on an opportunity to insult and taunt

Kaze again.

There was no reason for them to put themselves through that.

“Alright, babe.”

Since Darcy did not want to go, Kaze did not insist.

Soon, he received a call from Winnie. “Mr. Chairman, Shangrila Group received an invitation from Narian. Your real name is written on the invitation letter.”

“The Lees now know that Jesse White is my alias. Just ignore him.”

Kaze put down the phone with a scoff.

Quartet Group’s and Shangrila Group’s refusal to attend the celebration did not ruffle any feathers. The Lees’ banquet carried on as scheduled.

Nevertheless, Narian brought Kaze’s name up during the event.

He said that the family had disowned Kaze and expressed his disdain for him.

It was a great party.

Narian felt content.

Many behaved cautiously and fawned on him during the event.

Though a decade had passed, the Lees’ hold over Lilyrose had only increased.

The Lee family was coming after the biggest chunk in Lilyrose.

Narian believed no one would step forward and retaliate against them.

“Sir, Samus and Deborah from the Quint family wish to meet you.”

A hot female assistant came over to report to Narian.

“Oh, the good-for—nothing siblings?”

Narian smiled. “Let them enter. | want to see what they have to say.”

Soon, Samus and Deborah walked into the room with ingratiating smiles. “We heard what you said at the banquet, sir.”

Samus said fawningly, “It’s beneath you to personally sort Kaze and his wife’s family out. We can offer our assistance.”

“You?”

Narian did not hide the contempt on his face. “I heard that Kaze had a ball assaulting you. I’ll believe you when you can return the favor to him.”

The siblings felt flushed in the cheeks.

Their minds wandered to the miserable times when Kaze slapped them.

“You don’t have to believe us, sir, but you should have faith in our family.”

“Darcy, the bitch, is a member of the Quint family. With our grandfather backing us up, I’m sure we have the bitch under our thumb,” Deborah uttered

menacingly.

Chapter 608 Applying for Funding

In fact, Samus and Deborah met with Narian under Logan’s instruction.

Logan could not resist dipping his hands into getting part of the three major families’ assets. Quintessential Group was now an empty shell as all the talents had jumped ship to Quartet Group. The Quints did not have the funds or talents to run the company.

Since the Quints happened to know that the Lees wanted to screw with Darcy’s family, they thought they could offer their services,

“That’s true. Nothing matters more than family. You’re right on that front.” Narian nodded and asked, “What is your family expecting out of it?” Overjoyed, Samus drew close ingratiatingly.

“We want you, as the representative of the Sunrise Lees, to put in the good word for us so that our family gets a slice of the three top families’ seized assets.”

“No problem. I will hold up my end of the bargain,” Narian agreed readily.

Samus and Deborah brought the good news back to the family, and Logan could not be happier. Narian’s comments at the event quickly reached Kaze’s ears.

Kaze did not care for a buffoon like Narian, so he did not take his remarks to heart.

Darcy's family, on the other hand, was not pleased.

Nevertheless, Narian was backed by the Sunrise Lees.

The only thing they could do was put up with the vile comments.

“We have been the subject of ridicule because of you, dummy. I don’t see anybody else’s son-in-law putting their families through hell.”

Agnes took her anger out on Kaze.

Despite feeling upset, Darcy consoled Kaze, “Don’t mind Narian. We can just proceed with our own lives.” “Okay.”

Kaze gave a nod.

He went to his room for a shower and noticed the light in Darcy’s room. She was in front of the computer. “Why aren’t you in bed yet, babe? What are you busy with?” Kaze entered her bedroom and asked.

After moving into Horizon Mirror Mansion, Kaze no longer shared a bed with Darcy thanks to Agnes’ interference. Sometimes, Kaze felt they were better off moving back to the dilapidated house.

Even though Darcy took the bed while he slept on the floor, they were at least in the same room.

They were married through and through.

He was baffled by Agnes’ delusions.

Kaze believed he should get Darcy out of the house and make some headway in their relationship.

"I'm reviewing the project proposal for the support fund application. I hope we can get a better grant this time," Darcy replied without looking back, her voice reflecting anticipation.

Quartet Group should be eligible to apply and acquire part of the 10-billion-dollar fund.

Kaze went over and flipped through the proposal.

Quartet Group had prepared a well-researched and compelling proposal.

"Don't worry, you'll get it," Kaze said encouragingly.

As a matter of fact, Kaze could reach out with one phone call to basically hand the entire support fund to Quartet Group. However, he did nothing of that sort.

Firstly, his behavior would be no different from that of the three major families.

He did not want to end up like those who had turned from good to bad.

Apart from Quartet Group, there were many other outstanding local businesses in need of funds.

Wealth should be shared for mutual development.

Lilyrose would grow commercially, and its people would have more opportunities

in their careers.

Secondly, Kaze had faith in his wife's abilities. 2

She could do it.

The city council worked efficiently for once.

Many experts were invited to form a reviewing panel. Quartet Group's proposal was submitted the next day. The results were out in less than two days.

Upon receipt of notification, Darcy took her employees to the office of the reviewing panel.

"What? Our proposal didn't even make it through the first review?! Why, Mr. Yale?" Darcy asked disappointedly in the office.

Chapter 609 The Quints Are Granted 2 Billion

Sitting across from Darcy was a bespectacled middle-aged man.

His refined air spoke volumes about his education and upbringing.

His name was Federick Yale, a faculty member at the University of South River. He was a doctoral supervisor. Federick was invited to the reviewing panel as the director and chief.

He had the biggest say of them all.

"Why, Ms. Quint? Are you questioning my professionalism?" Federick said curtly with a long face.

Darcy apologized right away, "I'm sorry for my outburst. You are a highly respected figure in our community, Mr. Yale. I shouldn't have doubted you."

“It's good that you see things my way.” Federick softened his facial muscles.

He adjusted his glasses and added, “We reviewed all business proposals without prejudice. If there isn't a problem, please leave

now. “Thank you, Mr. Yale.”

Darcy turned away in disappointment.

“Hang on.” Federick's voice came from behind.

Once Darcy turned around to face him, Federick said indifferently without looking up, “The evaluation is not set in stone. | will get your proposal reviewed once more and might get in touch. Just leave your number.”

“Thank you, Mr. Yale.”

Darcy was happy to leave her number with him.

All that mattered was that her company was still in the running.

She got out of the office building to find the Quints waiting at the reception.

The family was there to apply for the support fund too.

Logan did not look too happy to see Darcy.

“| can't believe your company did not even pass the preliminary review, Darcy. It

goes to show what you are made of. It's time for you to step down as the chairman," Deborah said gloatingly. They knew the result of Quartet Group's evaluation beforehand.

Darcy scoffed. "I wouldn't celebrate so soon if I were you, Deborah. The head of the reviewing panel is Mr. Yale of the University of South River. He's strict and thorough with his job, so your proposal might not make the cut."

She did not harbor ill intentions or wish ill of Quintessential Group. The facts were laid right in front of them—all that was left of Quintessential was an empty shell.

Besides, the Quints were not well-known for their business prowess. She was doubtful they could produce an impressive proposal.

"Oh, really? We shall see about that," Deborah snorted. The group walked into the office building. Unlike the Quints, Darcy had no intentions of staying and gloating over the misery of others.

She was about to leave when she ran into friends in the business who had applied for the government grant too. She stayed and chatted with them.

The Quints took the elevator down to the reception with glee.

"Are you here to make fun of us, Darcy? Well, that's just mean of you, but you're in for some disappointment." Deborah laughed. "We were granted two billion dollars."

"What? Quintessential Group acquired two billion dollars in grant?"

Darcy was surprised.

The representatives of other companies were envious and shocked.

"Quintessential Group is nothing but an empty shell, but they managed to get their hands on two billion dollars. Is there any justice in the world?"

“Yeah. We didn’t even make it past the preliminary review.”

The people whined, finding things unfair. “Watch your mouth!”

Deborah yelled cockily at the veterans in business. “You are all a bunch of sour grapes. Serves you right for failing at the first round.”

The public was furious to be criticized by Deborah. Alas, the Quints had a reason to be proud of themselves.

These veterans in business walked out as nothing more could be said about the situation.

“I bet you are baffled and frustrated, Darcy.”

Deborah approached Darcy and uttered smugly, “Do you know why we were able to obtain such a huge grant? Mr. Narian Lee pulled some strings for us.”

Chapter 610 Darcy Weeps

“We even made a private deal with the reviewing committee that we would give back five hundred million dollars in commission if we were granted two billion dollars.”

Deborah was not afraid of letting Darcy know of the family’s dirty dealings and calling out on them. She knew that Darcy would think twice before upsetting the Lee family.

Deborah sneered, “Did you know? The Lee family was granted four billion dollars in support funds. Darcy widened her eyes in disbelief.

The God of War put back ten billion dollars into the government funds.

His intention was to support the infrastructure growth of Lilyrose which would benefit its people. Now, the Lees and Quints pulled some strings to acquire six billion dollars.

The money would serve as capital for them to plunder the three major families' wealth.

Darcy was furious.

She was enraged at the two families' shamelessness.

The God of War's good intentions were taken advantage of.

"We will use one and a half billion to bid for the three top families' assets and businesses. The Quints' wealth will only soar from here."

"Well, all you can do is watch as our family becomes richer, or should I say, contributes to Lilyrose's economy. Haha!" "You have no connections or means to fight back, Darcy. What are you going to do about it?"

The Quints took turns taunting Darcy before strutting away in arrogance.

Soon, the veterans in business stormed out of the office building.

"Fuck. The Quints and Lees took six billion dollars of the ten—billion—dollar pot. If another powerful family comes along, there will be nothing left for us to grow our businesses. I suspect some funny business is going on."

"I don't trust the God of War anymore. Talk about supporting Lilyrose's infrastructure and benefiting the people, but the only people that count are those handful of well-connected families. The rest of us mean squat."

"Shh! Are you trying to get yourself killed? Zip it. This never happened. It's a dark world out there." "I knew it. Everybody is selfish. Do you actually think the God of War is selfless?"

The group ran their mouths and left.

Darcy cried on her way home.

“Why are you crying, babe? Didn’t you get the grant?”

Feeling sorry, Kaze went and gave her a hug.

“The Quints and Lees exercised their influence and acquired six billion dollars in funds. Many amazing businesses and start-up companies didn’t even see a dime.

“These people abused the God of War’s good intentions.

“Many are tearing into the God of War, calling him a hypocrite.

“That’s not true. The God of War’s heart is in the right place, but the Quints and Lees discredit him.”
Darcy wept for a long time.

Rose joined in the teary session upon learning that the reputation of her idol was ruined.

Kaze did not know how to react, but one thing was for sure, he was moved.

Darcy bawled over the smearing of his name.

“Alright now. Don’t cry. The God of War won’t turn a blind eye to these families’ unruly behavior.”

It took Kaze quite a bit of effort to stop the ladies from crying.

“The God of War is back in his palace. He won't know the situation here. | guess that's why the Lees believe they will get away with it.”

Darcy was still outraged.

Rose wiped her teary eyes and said, “I wish you were the God of War, Kaze. At least you would be able to punish those bastards!”

“Even if | said | was, you wouldn't believe me.” Kaze was helpless in that regard.

Nevertheless, he would not let the Quints, the Lees, and the reviewing committee get away with it.

Darcy then received a call. “Mr. Yale?”

She did not expect Federick to call her.