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“Ahem!”

Thomas cleared his throat, which snapped Olivia out of her reverie. She rattled off an address.

He nodded and started driving.

“Oh, right!” She was struck with a thought and quickly added, “There’s no rush. Feel free to take your time.”

A slight hint of a smirk danced across Thomas’ lips.

Olivia must have been terrified of the way he drove the last time.

Well, it wasn’t surprising. He was probably the only driver in this world who would end up making his employer puke on his first day on the job. It was a bit extreme.

Soon, they arrived at Unicus Hall, which was an auction house.

There was a sea of luxury cars parked out front. Thomas gave them all a cursory glance. Even the cheapest model among them would cost at least six figures. It proved that all the attendees were some of Irieson’s richest and most influential people.

Olivia glanced at Thomas and decided on a whim to ask, “Why don’t you come in with me, Thomas?”

“Me? Go in with you?” Thomas was taken aback.

He was just a driver. Would it be alright for him to follow Olivia into a place like this?

“Yeah. This is a charity auction. You can come along and gain some experience. What’s the matter? You don’t want to?”

“It’s not that!”

Thomas shook his head at once. Why would an employee refuse their superior in this manner? It was akin to handing in their resignation letter.

Thus, the two of them stepped into Unicus Hall one after the other. The reception was in full swing. Handsome young gentlemen and beautiful young ladies filled the area, along with older, more established members of the upper echelon of society. Thomas knew that those present would have more than a few million to their name. Furthermore, money was the least of all

requirements to get into a place like this. No matter how much a person had, they still wouldn't be able to get in without some kind of influential or prestigious status to back them up.

"The Morton Family owns this place." Olivia glanced at Thomas and began to explain, "The Mortons are one of the oldest and most prestigious families here in Irieson. They're involved in numerous industries, including entertainment, food and beverage, finance, and medicine. Unicus Hall was started by their most promising young heir, Sean Morton. He built it up from scratch himself. A charity auction is held here every six months and all the proceeds are donated to children in need in rural areas."

Thomas nodded. It appeared that not all of the wealthy elites turned a blind eye to the plight of others. At the very least, young men like Sean Morton still had a generous side to them.

Hang on. Sean Morton? Why does that name sound so familiar? I've heard it somewhere.

Meanwhile, Thomas didn't know that someone had zeroed in on him!

There was a young man in a wheelchair tucked away in a corner of the hall who exclaimed, "That's him, Dad! He's the b*stard who broke my legs at Twilight Bar the other day!"

That young man was Harvey Patton!

And the man beside him who looked to be hitting sixty soon was one of Irieson's most infamous people, Joe Patton!

Joe cast an icy stare at Thomas. "Harvey, are you sure that young man is the one who broke your legs?"

"Of course! I'd recognize him anywhere!"

Over the last few days, all Harvey could think about was taking his revenge on Thomas, but unfortunately for him, Thomas seemed to have vanished into thin air. There was no trace of him anywhere, and even Chloe had disappeared as well. Harvey got someone to look up Chloe's address for him, but when they showed up, the house had been vacated already.

Harvey was fuming. He was convinced that Thomas and Chloe must've fled Irieson by now, and he had no way of making them pay for what they did to him!

He never would've thought that he would run into Thomas at the auction house today.

The sight of his enemy made his blood boil. "Dad, you must avenge me! Rip him to pieces!"

"We can't act rashly, Harvey. We're in Unicus Hall right now. Don't cause a scene here. But don't worry. I'll take revenge on your behalf!"

At the same time, a handsome young man walked onto the stage and waved to get everyone's attention. The crowd instantly fell silent and shifted their gazes to him.

Thomas lowered his head and snorted. No wonder the name Sean Morton felt so familiar! It's him!

Sean was smiling jovially as he said, "Thank you, everyone, for honoring me with your presence here at our auction today. I won't give a long speech, but on behalf of all the children in need in rural areas, I want to thank you for your contribution today! Let the charity auction begin!"

"Wait a minute!"

Before the crowd could break out into applause, they were interrupted by Joe's loud hollering.

Joe put his hands together and greeted Sean before saying, "Mr. Morton, one of the people here today doesn't have the right to be here!"

Joe was certain that Thomas and Sean would not be acquainted in any way. Thus, as long as he spoke up, Sean would surely go along with him out of respect for him.

"Oh? What do you mean?"

Although Sean was a little annoyed at someone interrupting the auction, everyone invited was a guest, so he couldn't deny them the right to speak. After all, everyone else was watching...

Joe continued calmly, "Everyone here today is someone of influence and prestige in Irieson, but this doesn't include the person I'm talking about. This person's sister is just a bar girl at one of the local bars, and he is nothing more than a violent thug. He was the one who broke my son Harvey's legs!"

The crowd was stunned by Joe's words.

"Goodness me! Someone broke the young Mr. Patton's legs?"

"Does he have a death wish?"

"His sister is a bar girl? That means their family must be dirt poor, right? How could he show up here?"

Joe pushed the wheelchair forward until they were right in front of Thomas. "What makes you think you can come in here?"

Unicus Hall had rules in place that were said to be set by Sean himself. No one was allowed to get into a fight inside the walls of Unicus Hall, so as long as Thomas was chased out of the place, Joe was certain that it would be a piece of cake for him to exterminate a little rat like Thomas!

Thomas glanced at Joe and the wheelchair-bound Harvey. His blood started to boil.

He couldn't care less about being called a violent thug, but how dare they call Chloe a bar girl right in front of everyone? It was blatant slander! Chloe was far more important to Thomas than himself. On one hand, Chloe wasn't a bar girl. She was just a server working at a bar. However, even if she were a bar girl, Thomas still wouldn't allow anyone to humiliate her in public like that.

Before Thomas could say anything, Olivia chimed in, "Mr. Patton, I'm the one who brought Thomas in here. Why wouldn't he be allowed to come in?"

Joe had noted Thomas and Olivia's proximity early on, but it didn't stop him from being determined to take revenge on his son's behalf. Although Pearson Group was a fairly influential conglomerate, he wasn't afraid of them. Furthermore, it was just Olivia here. He might've been warier if her father, Norman Pearson, was here today.

Olivia Pearson? Hah! Who's scared of her?!

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All eyes were on Olivia, Joe, and Thomas. No one noticed the change in Sean's expression as he stood there on the stage.

His eyes had widened almost comically when he spotted Thomas, and immediately after, the young man who could bring all of Irieson to his knees if he wanted to broke out into a foolish grin.

"What makes you think you can butt in now, Olivia Pearson?" Joe retorted icily.

He didn't have a single ounce of respect for Olivia, so why would he bother to show her any courtesy?

"Why, you..." Olivia was infuriated.

But at the same time, she was also regretting her decision to bring Thomas in on a whim. If she hadn't, then none of this would've happened.

In her defense, she didn't know that Thomas and Joe were enemies! He broke Harvey's legs... so it won't be easy to settle things today.

However, regardless of everything, Thomas was still her savior, and she would protect him no matter what.

"My sister is merely working as a server at a bar. She's not a bar girl. You need to apologize for what you said just now!"

Thomas' voice was firm and authoritative.

"Apologize? Hahaha!" Joe guffawed. "Am I hearing things? A little thug like you expects me to apologize? Do you know who I am? Did you get dropped on the head as a baby?"

Several among the onlookers began to snicker as well.

Their thoughts were largely the same. How can a bar girl's brother like you compare to Joe Patton? How can you make such a ludicrous demand? What an arrogant fool!

"I don't care who you are. You humiliated my sister, so you need to apologize, or else, I'll make you pay!"

Olivia was startled. She immediately nudged Thomas as she thought to herself, I can't believe how hot-headed Thomas is. He's even threatening Joe Patton, of all people! Everyone in Irieson knows that Joe is a well-known bully. Things will get even more out of hand if Thomas angers him!

"Hah!" Joe snorted. "What an arrogant and boastful young man you are! How was I wrong? Your sister is a b*tch who's selling herself out at the bar, isn't she? The audacity you have to threaten me!"

"The audacity!" A furious voice rang out.

The crowd turned to see who the voice belonged to. It was Sean, who was coming over with a dark expression on his face.

Joe immediately put on an unctuous smile as he said to Sean most respectfully, "You're right, Mr. Morton. He is such an arrogant young man, and he doesn't have the right to join our auction. Please chase him out of Unicus Hall, Mr. Morton!"

Sean eyed Joe coldly. "Joe Patton! How dare you?!"

"Yeah... Huh?"

Joe was stupefied. What did Sean just say? Did he just snap at me? That doesn't seem right. He should be furious at Thomas instead! Was it just a slip of the tongue?

"Thomas! I never thought I'd see you here! Aren't you supposed to be serving in the army right now?" Sean gave Thomas a light punch in the chest.

"Oh, my goodness! Can it be? Mr. Morton is acquainted with that young man?"

"That's impossible! One's the pride and joy of the Morton Family, and the other's just an average dude from a poor family. How can they possibly know each other?"

“Hang on. That young man can’t be an average guy. Mr. Morton spoke to him so respectfully just now!”

“I feel like my whole perspective on life has changed!”

Sean’s friendly and respectful attitude toward Thomas left everyone else dumbstruck. How could such an ordinary-looking man turn out to be someone entirely opposite of that?

Even Olivia was at a loss. What’s going on? How did Thomas get acquainted with Sean Morton? It doesn’t seem like they’re merely ordinary acquaintances either!

“What... What’s...”

Joe and Harvey were now certain that Sean hadn’t misspoken earlier. If he had, it wouldn’t explain why he was being so friendly with Thomas now.

Joe was beginning to realize the hole he dug for himself by demanding that Sean chase out the person he was showing so much respect to right in his own territory!

While the Pattons did have some influence in Irieson, they were far from being the mightiest in town. In reality, they were nothing compared to the Mortons!

“I left the army.”

“What the heck?! That’s not nice of you, Thomas. I thought we agreed that you’d get in touch with Will and me once you left the army and came back to Irieson?”

Thomas chuckled. “We can catch up later. I need to deal with this first.”

“Let me handle it, Thomas. Go ahead and take a seat!”

Then, Sean turned to Joe and gave him a menacing glare. How dare he try to mess with Thomas?! Does he have a death wish?

Sean had a nasty temper. All at once, he lifted his foot and kicked Joe right in the gut.

“Mr. Morton, don’t the rules of Unicus Hall state that no fights are allowed in here?”

“Are you dumb? I’m the owner of this place so whatever I say goes! Hurry up and apologize to Thomas, or else, I’ll make sure you can’t step foot out of here alive!”

“I’m sorry, Mr. Clifford! I’m so sorry! I was blind for not knowing who you are! Please forgive me!” Joe was regretting his actions with every fiber of his being. How did it come to this?

Thomas lit up one of his cigarettes and inhaled deeply. “A word of apology won’t cut it. You humiliated the most important person to me! Since you don’t know how to watch your tongue,

I'll have to help you by teaching you a lesson today. Let's see now... Alright. Let's settle on a thousand slaps. That should be enough!"

"No! No! Please have mercy on me, Mr. Clifford. I know I made a grave mistake. Mr. Morton, please help me... Miss Pearson, please put in a good word for me..."

Smack! Smack!

Thomas didn't wait for Joe to finish speaking. He grabbed Joe by the collar and began to slap Joe across the face.

The sounds echoed all across the hall.

Everyone present held their breath out of fear.

They were shocked by how ruthless Thomas was!

Who on earth was Thomas? Why was Sean treating him with such respect? This man wasn't showing any mercy to Joe either. When did such a formidable man show up in Irieson?

Thump!

Joe couldn't take it anymore. It was unclear how many times he had been slapped in the face by Thomas, but by now, his face was all swollen up like a balloon!

"Tsk! What a weakling!"

Thomas glanced at Joe, who was lying unconscious on the ground, and snorted derisively.

Gasp!

The crowd all gasped in response. After all, Joe did rank among the top of Irieson's society. How could it be that he would end up fainting from being slapped by someone?

Sean signaled over a few of Unicus Hall's security guards. "Get these two losers out of here, both the father and the son!"

Once that was settled, the auction proceeded as normal.

Naturally, the auction felt a lot less exciting than the events that had taken place just moments earlier.

Once the auction was over, Sean grabbed Thomas to stop him. "Don't go, Thomas. I'll call Will right now. Since you've left the army, we must celebrate with a drink. A lot of drinks! None of us are leaving without getting drunk!"

Thomas shook his head. “I can’t. I’m Miss Pearson’s personal driver and I can’t drive while intoxicated. Why don’t we wait until I get off work to grab a drink instead?”

Sean cast a careful glance at Olivia before grinning devilishly.

