## **Read Novel I'm Someone Else Chapter 81**

I'm Someone Else Chapter 81

He had beaten up a lot of people, but not many would try to get back at him, so he wondered who was the one behind this.

One of the men looked at his leader. "So, can we do this now, Boss?"

"Bah, what's the hurry? The young master hasn't given his orders yet." The leader looked at his lackey. He knew his employer was hooking up with his new girl, and they'd have to wait until he was done before they could do anything.

Since the fight was not starting just yet, Thomas looked at them in silence. He was still weak from the injuries he had received earlier, so he wanted to rest up for a bit.

Meanwhile, a man and a woman were lying in a messy bed in an expensive condo, which was located somewhere in the city center. The man picked up the remote control on the nightstand and turned on the TV. The screen showed Thomas facing off against a group of armed burly men. "It's your birthday, and I have a present for you, babe." He knew full well what Felice wanted. He figured she would stay loyal to him if he showed her this footage.

"Thomas? Oh, honey, I want him dead. Turn him into mincemeat! No, torture him before he dies!" Felice's eyes shone when she saw what was happening on the screen. She hated Thomas' guts, and if possible, she would like to kill him herself. Walt might just be using her as a fling, but they did date for eight years, and because of Thomas, he was amputated. All the wealth and power she gained through hard work disappeared. If it weren't for the fact she was open enough to sleep around, she would never have hooked up with this guy, and she would be forced to live the life of a peasant.

"If you say so, babe." The man smirked and ordered his men, "Do it." He then hugged Felice.

"Thanks for the birthday present, honey! Tell you what, for now onward, as long as you're happy, I'm happy. If you know what I mean."

The man laughed.

She smirked, thinking, I told you I'd make you pay the price, and now you're going to die. Serves you right. Though, I have to say this man here is a sc\*mbag, too. Walt used to work for his father, but he destroyed him for a woman. He's cruel.

Her eyes were glued to the screen. The thought of seeing Thomas getting killed filled her with some sort of twisted satisfaction.

"So, are we doing this, Boss?" The burly men couldn't take it anymore. They were going to enjoy their night lives when that young master told them to come here to do something, and now they were waiting for his orders. They were hoping he would make it quick since this was a waste of their time. In truth, they wouldn't even listen to him if it weren't for his father being their boss.

"Ah, shut it," the leader roared. "Just wait for it!"

"Boss, I know he's the young master, but we only take orders from his father; he can't really tell us to do anything. Why do we even listen to him, anyway?"

"Will you shut it? Do you think I want to be here? He's the boss' only son and the future leader of the gang. If we disobey him, don't you know what'll happen once the boss retires? If we don't take this chance to butter him up, he's going to ditch us."

The men shook their heads, sighing. Their leader had a point.

Thomas looked coldly at the phone the leader was holding. So, the mastermind wants a live show? Very well. Let's see how you like it when your lackeys get their \*sses handed to them.

The leader finally got serious. "Alright, we have our orders. Attack!"

The burly men charged ahead. They'd been waiting for this for a long time.

Felice's eyes shone. Thomas, oh, Thomas. You think you're an excellent fighter, eh? Let's see how you fend off a group of armed men all by yourself!

"Do you see this, babe? Do you like this present I gave you? Now, come! Let us play once more!"

"Oh, you're so naughty, honey."

The men turned the TV off so it wouldn't get in the way of their sexy time. Unbeknownst to him, the moment he turned the TV off, his lackeys started getting the beating of their lifetimes.

Thomas charged into the group and quickly gave them a beatdown, and none could even get close to him. In just a few minutes, everyone was already on the ground, rolling around and groaning in pain. Thomas did not hold back; he even broke these people's limbs. He had no sympathy for them. They use their strength to hurt the innocent just to make money. In that case, I shall take their strength away. He picked up the leader's phone and handed it to the thug. "Unlock this."

The man quickly did as he was told, fear clutching his heart. Thomas looked at the screen, but the call had ended. "Who sent you?" he asked coldly.

"T-The young master..."

"And who is he?"

"Leslie Yam... The young master of the Yams. His father is... the boss of the Fierce Tigers..."

Thomas' eyes glinted coldly. The Yams? Another family? I don't remember getting on their bad side. What's going on?

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"What did I ever do to him? Why did you come after me?" Thomas looked at the man. I must get to the bottom of this.

"I-I don't know. We were just carrying out orders." The man was on the verge of tears. When Leslie gave him the order, he told him that this guy was nothing more than a loser. He was ordered to beat Thomas up and kill him once he suffered enough beating. However, Leslie's assessment was wrong. This man was no loser. He was a monster who could take down a group of armed men all by himself and break all their limbs! Damn you, Leslie! If I die, I'll haunt you forever!

Thomas was a little speechless. Are you dumb? At least do some recon before you come after me. You don't even know why you were sent after me, yet you still came for me, anyway? "Where is your young master?" He wouldn't let Leslie off the hook that easily. They had no beef, yet he still sent a group of fighters after him. I will not stand for this. He will pay for what he did.

"Please, have mercy. I have no idea where he is!" Every time Leslie needed something, he was the one to make the call. This man never sought him out. Not even Leslie's father knew where he was at all times, let alone a lackey.

Thomas nodded. These people are useless now. Then, he crushed these thugs' necks.

The man was already a mess of tears. He's a monster. He kills so many people without even batting an eye! "Please, have mercy on me! I have a family to feed. I can't die yet. Please..." Nobody wanted to die. He was only 30 years old and had made enough money to live a life of luxury but hadn't had the chance to use it yet. He still had a lot of women he wanted to sleep with, and he wanted to live a good life.

Thomas would rather not kill, but these people forced his hand. "Tell that to the Grim Reaper." He showed them no mercy. They came after him, and if he weren't a good fighter, these people would've

taken his life like it was nothing. These maggots of society had no worth at all. Killing them would bring down the threat they would pose to innocents.

Mercy for the enemy was poison for the soul. If he had let these people go, they would gather a bigger crowd to come after him once they got back on their feet. I'd rather cut the weeds before they can grow too big. Since the Yams are coming after me, I guess I don't have to show them mercy anymore.

"The Yams, huh?" Thomas stood before his Lamborghini, clenching his fists. A moment later, he drove back to his house. It was late, but his house was still brightly lit. "Chloe? Why are you still up?" He looked at Chloe, who was on the couch.

She smiled. She didn't want to stay up, but she was scared of sleeping even more. She might never wake up if she slept. Every day was a luxury for her, and she wanted to spend them as best she could. "Not sleepy yet. Have you had dinner, Thomas? I can make you supper."

He looked at her closely and frowned before sitting down beside her. "Something's on your mind, Chloe." She leaned into his embrace. "Thomas, did something happen to Zachary? Tell me the truth. I can take it."

Thomas was hit hard by that.

"I've been thinking. Ever since you showed up, things have changed. Zachary said you're the most brilliant soldier in the military. You're their pride and joy, the most lethal weapon this country has ever seen. Yet, you retired all of a sudden and came to live in this city."

His lips twitched. "You're reading too much into it. I just didn't want to fight anymore. It was a tiring life, and I wanted to live a normal life."

"Really? So, why hasn't Zachary called me for so long? In the past, no matter how busy he was, he would always call me once a month. But now, it's been two months since he last called. So, tell me. What happened? Tell me the truth, please."

"Well... I told you he's in Africa, didn't I? It's not exactly a rich place. That's why he couldn't make any calls. He has to finish his mission before he can come back."

"Really?"

"Yeah."

"I miss him. I want to see him, but if that's not possible, at least let me hear his voice." She teared up and started crying, her tears drenching Thomas' shirt. Her life was coming to an end, and she had no other wish other than to see her brother one last time. She wanted to see his smile again, but her simple wish could never be granted.

Thomas didn't move, and he let Chloe cry in his arms. He bit his lip so hard that blood was starting to trickle down. More than once, he had wanted to tell her the truth, but whenever he met her hopeful gaze, he couldn't bring himself to tell her that her brother was dead.

Eventually, Chloe fell asleep, and Thomas took her to the bedroom and tucked her in. He then returned to his room and smoked beside his bed. Teardrops fell on the windowsill, and a crisp plop rang in the air.

Look what you did, Thomas. You ruined a happy family. If you'd been more careful, the mission wouldn't have failed. Even if it failed, you didn't have to shoot Zachary. So what if the enemy had him? You could've saved him. You could've risked your life to bust him out. Why, gods? Why didn't you take me too? You took my friend away, so why do you let me live? He roared in silence, upset about the machinations of fate.

Thomas and Zachary were both hurt back then, but Thomas' injuries were slightly less severe. He knew if Zachary were caught, the enemies would torture him until he died. Zachary was the one who begged him to shoot. He wanted a clean death.

Thomas carried out his wish. He was going to go on a suicide mission after he shot Zachary, but it was then the reinforcements came. He survived out of sheer luck, and he cursed the gods for that.

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Thomas did think about committing suicide, but when he came back to the military base, he received Zachary's last will and testament. Since they were soldiers carrying out the deadliest missions in the field, they had a habit of writing last wills and testaments before they went on a mission.

Zachary was Thomas' best friend, and he knew Thomas might consider offing himself, so Zachary asked him to take care of his family. He needed something to tether Thomas to life. And so, Thomas returned to the city, but not a day had gone by where he was not wracked by guilt. Still, his mind was tough enough, and he kept his sadness bottled up, refusing to talk to anyone about it.

Dawn had just broken through, and Thomas—who didn't sleep a wink emerged from the house and called Sean. "Sorry for calling you so early, Sean."

Sean had been woken up abruptly, but he didn't complain. "Oh, it's nothing. What do you need?"

"Get me an African SIM card. I need to call someone."

"Consider it done, Thomas. Send me your location. I will have my man send the SIM card over once it is done." Half an hour later, someone came and gave him the SIM card. Thomas went to a quiet corner, switched out his SIM card, and called Chloe. "Hey, Chloe. Miss me?"

"Zachary?" Chloe was over the moon. She didn't even suspect that the caller was anyone else but her brother. He sounded and talked just like Zachary, after all.

Mimicking someone's voice was child's play for Thomas. The call went on for nearly an hour before it ended. He then bought some food and came back to the house.

The moment he stepped through the door, Chloe ran up to him excitedly while holding her phone. "Thomas! Thomas!"

"Someone's happy. What happened?" he asked, even though he knew why she was in such a good mood.

"Z-Zachary called! He told me he was alright. He is doing a mission in Africa, so he's been busy. That's a relief to hear."

Thomas smiled but said nothing. He merely ushered Chloe to have breakfast. Buoyed by her good mood, Chloe was talking a lot more that morning. She stared at Thomas for a while before asking, "You're still single, aren't you, Thomas?" She'd heard of Felice and met her before. But that woman is not good enough for him, Chloe thought to herself.

Thomas nodded. "Yes."

"I can introduce a girl to you." When she said that, she was a little conflicted. She'd love for Thomas to be her boyfriend, but no. Her days were numbered, and seeing the man she liked finding a good girl might make her passing smoother.

"You want to introduce a girl to me?" He was a little surprised. Why do this all of a sudden?

She started acting cute. "Aww, pwease? Pwease do this for me. I already asked the girl to have lunch together, so just come over. It won't take long."

Thomas would always fulfill her wishes, so he nodded. "Fine."

After breakfast, he took Olivia to the office and watched her finish her medicine before he headed to his workspace and sat down. Noon came, and he went to the place Chloe told him.

Chloe asked the girl out for lunch in a restaurant near Pearson Group. It was 12.05PM when Thomas showed up at the restaurant. Right on time. Chloe was already waiting, and she quickly waved at him.

He took a seat, smirking. A blind date all of a sudden? Seriously?

A moment later, his blind date came.

"Lilac, this is the one I told you about. His name is Thomas. Thomas, this is Lilac Dickens, my friend. And the one beside her is Fanny, her sister."

Thomas nodded at the ladies. Fanny Dickens was about five foot five. Her eyes were big, her chin was sharp, and she did look good, but Thomas was not interested. He only came so Chloe wouldn't get upset.

Lilac spoke up, "If you have any questions, ask away, Fanny. Chloe's a good friend of mine. I'm sure this gentleman is a fine one."

Fanny was sizing Thomas up. I can't believe him. Just a nod? He wouldn't even stand up to greet us. And he didn't even show any response to me, either. What does that mean, huh? Am I not pretty enough? Most men would love to butter me up at the first chance. And look at his outfit. So bland. Not even a single brand name is good. Bet he's not a rich guy. Probably a pauper, even. Hard pass. I'm a hot woman. There are tons of rich guys willing to woo me. If it weren't for Lilac, I wouldn't even have come here. What a waste of time.

"Sure. Thomas, is it? I heard you're working at Pearson Group. What is your position? How much do you make a month? Do you have a six-figure savings account? And do you have a car? If so, what brand? And I'm not settling for a regular house. Since I'd be staying in it for my whole life, I won't stand for anything less than a four-bedroom unit. And not too remote, too. The closer to the city center, the better, or it'd make shopping difficult. And the mortgage must be cleared. Do you have all that?" Fanny spoke harshly, and she stared at Thomas with disdain. That'll show you not to be cocky with me. Let's see how you like that. I'm going to reject and humiliate you.

Chloe froze. What's the deal with her? Lilac's a nice girl, so why's her sister a gold digger? "Ahem, Thomas is—"

She wanted to help, but Fanny interrupted harshly, "Shut it, girl. I'm not asking you. I'm asking him."

Thomas sipped from his glass. He looked at Chloe, then at Lilac. After a brief pause, he said, "Ah, I have a few questions for you, too. How many relationships have you had? When did you get into your first relationship? Do you still have your first kiss? Have you held hands with another man? Do you still have your virginity? If no, then how many men have you had?

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Who are you to tell someone else to shut up? Do you think you're some godly figure everyone's supposed to submit to? Or do you think your gorgeous looks give you some special privilege? If it weren't for the fact that Chloe might get embarrassed in front of her classmate, I would've taught you a lesson when you told her to shut up! Thomas couldn't help but curse.

Fanny glared at him before speaking in an icy tone, "Hmph! So what if I'm a virgin? So what if I'm not? Are you planning to spend the rest of your life with a partner, or are you planning to spend it with your partner's hymen instead?"

"Hah!" Thomas nodded. "Right back at you! Are you planning to spend the rest of your life with a man or a man's money?" There was a fiery tension in the room. He could tell from the moment Fanny walked into the restaurant that she was no longer a virgin. Judging by the haughty look in her eyes, it was evident that she was a self-centered woman. On top of that, he felt especially repulsed by Fanny when she told Chloe to shut up and when she interrogated him with a bunch of questions. Others may choose to spoil and pamper you, but I won't do the same!

"You—" Fanny was speechless in the face of Thomas' argument, and she simply glared at him with a deathly look in her eyes.

"I'm looking for a virgin to spend the rest of my life with. If you're not a virgin, all I can do is apologize to you," the man uttered.

"You b\*stard! Who do you think you are?" She was furious. Who does this country bumpkin think he is? What is he trying to say? Is he rejecting me?

How dare he! I'm the one who is supposed to reject him, not the other way around! Fanny cursed a few more times before she got up to leave.

"Must you be so rude, Fanny?" Lilac was starting to get annoyed as well. Fanny is getting more and more ridiculous by the day! I've never seen anyone ask about the other party's properties on their first date. She's so disrespectful toward Chloe, too. How rude!

"I'll be honest with you, Lilac. I wouldn't have come if you hadn't forced me over with your lame excuse of not wanting to disappoint that pauper classmate of yours. I have another date later on, so see you." Fanny's chin was held high as she glanced at Chloe. Hmph! Do you think we don't know you well? Your father was a scavenger who fell ill and got hospitalized, whereas your brother is a poor guy with no wealth or reputation in society who serves in the military. Your whole family is poor, and now, you brought this nobody over to come on a date with someone as pretty as me. Do you think I'm dumb? That I'll be so easily fooled?

"You're getting more and more ridiculous!" Lilac slammed her palm on the table as she stared at her sister. It was fine if Fanny uttered these harsh words within the compounds of their own home, but Lilac couldn't accept her bad behavior when it was shown to the public. Furthermore, Fanny embarrassed herself in front of her classmate. It was as if Fanny didn't care about Lilac's reputation at all!

"I'm sorry, Chloe. My sister is spoiled rotten at home." Lilac gave Chloe a sincere apology. Their family owned a few small businesses, and they weren't too wealthy, but they were relatively well-to-do. Their family was doing much better than Chloe's, so Fanny grew up in an environment where there was no shortage of love and care. That was how she grew up to become such a selfish and arrogant person.

"For the sake of your sister, I'll let you off this one time, Fanny. I don't want this to happen again. If you ever do this again, I'll make sure you regret your actions!" Thomas hissed. How dare she call Chloe a pauper? Chloe may not have the best family background, but why does that matter? She has never committed any crimes or broken any laws, and she keeps herself fed and safe. Who are you to look down on her?

"You sure are talking big, huh?" Fanny had a horrible temper. How dare this bumpkin threaten me? Where did he get his guts from?

Thomas rolled his wrists as he spoke, "Well, you can test me if you don't believe my words. We'll see if I'm talking big." He decided he would beat her up if she made any more comments that offended

Chloe. He didn't care that she was a female—he had no gender rules when it came to such fights. Fanny simply deserved a good beating.

Fanny parted her lips to say something upon hearing his words. However, Lilac interrupted their conversation just in time. "That's enough. I want you to go home now!" she growled.

"Pfft. Fine! Don't you dare make me attend such matchmaking dates again! I have no interest in such guys!" Fanny yelled. She was mad at her sister. I'm your sister here. Why are you supporting these outsiders instead of me? It's fine if you're not on my side, but how dare you shout at me! I'm going to tell Mom and Dad once I get home!

"We'll talk another day, Chloe. I have to follow that brat, as I don't want her to run off somewhere else. I'm so sorry about today," Lilac said. Chloe nodded and watched as Lilac left the restaurant. Chloe wasn't mad at Thomas—after all, she knew he only got angry because he was protective of her. In fact, she had felt rather frustrated after hearing Fanny's words as well.

"Thomas, Chloe... Are you guys okay?" Molly asked as she approached them. She had just finished up her work, so she visited the restaurant to have a meal, but she happened to come in right when Fanny was shouting at everyone. Thomas waved his hand to dismiss her concerns. "Everything's fine. Come over and eat with us." The dishes on the table were still untouched.

Molly greeted Chloe before sitting at their table. "Who was that woman earlier, Thomas? Why was she so mad?"

"You can forget about her. She was just some blind date."

"A date?" Molly's gaze seemed to turn dark and resentful as she stared at him then. Thomas was not sensitive to such details, but Chloe was a woman and was a lot more attentive to these slight changes in expression. It seems like Molly is interested in Thomas! What a coincidence!

"Hey, Molly. I didn't get to thank you for speaking up when Thomas got into trouble previously. Here, let me give a toast to you with this tea," Chloe offered. She held her teacup up as she thought, Thomas and Molly are a match made in heaven! Thomas is a charming man, and Molly is a gorgeous lady. Furthermore, they both work in the same office! I have to find ways to bring the two of them together!

Throughout the meal, she attempted all sorts of ways to get Molly to interact with Thomas a little more. Molly could feel her cheeks turning warm as she stole a few peeks in Thomas' direction. After the meal, Chloe pulled Molly aside and got straight to the point. "You have to work hard for this, Molly. I hope you become my sister-in-law soon!"

"What?! Oh... That's nonsense..." Molly jogged off with her cheeks red after that. Chloe went over to Thomas. "Hey, Thomas. Molly said that she was not feeling too well. Why don't you go over and check on her?"

He was stunned to hear this. Is she sick? Wasn't she fine just moments ago? "Well, come on. Let's all head back together," he suggested.

"I'm not heading back. I have other matters to handle." The truth was that Chloe didn't want to be the third wheel between the two. However, Thomas didn't think much about this and eventually hurried off to match Molly's pace. Chloe felt a twinge in her chest as she watched the two people leave. It left a sour taste in her mouth to push her love interest into the arms of another woman

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Thomas' phone rang at around 3.00PM. He held it up and saw that it was a call from Rose. "It's been a while, Thomas!"

"It sure is," Thomas replied with a smile.

"Are you free tonight? My father would like to meet you." Rose got straight to the point. She was having a cup of tea with her father at home right at this moment. She had told her father all about Thomas, and her father was beyond elated to hear about him, and he insisted on getting to know Thomas.

Thus, her old man urged her to ask Thomas out.

"Tonight?" Thomas hesitated. He had intended to head out to murder Pontius from Minacia Oito that night. The initial plan had been to kill Pontius last night, but the people from the Yam Family had disrupted his plans. The act would have to be delayed for two whole days if Thomas didn't follow through with it that night.

"You can come over to my house for a meal and a chat. Don't worry; we won't take up too much time. Two hours would be enough." Rose tried to reassure Thomas after hearing the hesitation in his voice. It's just two hours—I'm not asking him to spend the whole night here. I'm sure he'll be okay with this suggestion, she figured.

He thought about it for a while more and wouldn't mind heading over as long as his plans for revenge weren't disrupted. "Alright. Send me your address. I should be there around 8.00PM," he mentioned.

"Great! See you then!" Rose felt as if a huge weight had been lifted off her chest then. She would've been utterly embarrassed if he had ended up rejecting her. Deep down, she believed that Thomas was no regular man, and she was sure he would become an impressive leader in society someday.

She wanted to strengthen her connection with him before he received more recognition. Rose trusted her gut feeling, as she had always been right! I'm waiting for you, Thomas. My father is really curious about you, so I hope you put up a good show for him. Don't disappoint me!

Right after Thomas ended the call, Olivia stormed into the room. "Grab the car, Thomas. Molly, I need you to pick out the documents relating to our partnership with Mr. Belvard. We will meet up with him in a bit," she announced.

"Got it, Miss Pearson!" Molly replied in a clear and loud tone. She hastened her actions as she could tell that Olivia was in a rush. About five minutes later, the car picked up speed as Thomas headed to the location where Olivia had instructed him to go.

It was then Olivia realized how Thomas was driving a Lamborghini instead of his usual BMW Z4. Wait, that's not right. How did he get a new car? I only gave him the keys to a BMW Z4!

"Did you change the car, Thomas?" she asked.

"Yeah!" He nodded and explained, "This is my friend's car. I'm driving it for a few days."

She thought about his words for a while. I guess it makes sense. Even Sean and William treat Thomas as their good friend, and people of their financial status could easily get a Lamborghini in Irieson. Olivia no longer thought or asked about this matter after that.

Once they arrived at the destination, Olivia and Molly headed up into the building while Thomas waited in the parking lot.

About 10 minutes later, Molly walked over to the car and knocked on the window. Thomas opened the car door and asked, "What are you doing here? Where's Olivia?"

"Miss Pearson is still negotiating with Mr. Belvard about the partnership, and she told me to head off first. She said that we could find a spot to wait for her and that she would call us once she was done with her business," Molly said.

Thomas nodded and gestured for her to get into the car, but she remained in her spot with a rather bashful look on her face.

"Would you be free now, Thomas? Why don't we watch a movie? Miss Pearson's discussion with Mr. Belvard is going to take a while, and I don't think they'd be done in less than two hours. I know of a cinema nearby that has a pretty nice environment..." This was a rare opportunity for Molly to spend time with Thomas, so she wanted to take advantage of it. "You mentioned that you were busy previously, but we're at work now, so you shouldn't be occupied by anything else, right?" she asked.

Thomas froze for a moment before he recalled something. I rejected Molly the first time she asked me to watch a movie, and I even promised her I would buy her movie tickets the next time. Well, I've already rejected her once—I can't reject her twice, can I? He then nodded. "Sure. Let's watch a movie."

"Okay!" Molly's cheeks turned pink, as she hadn't expected him to agree to the plan so promptly. It seems like Chloe was right—Thomas does have feelings for me! Oh, Molly, why are you conjuring all these inappropriate thoughts in your head? What's going on?! She ended up selecting a new comedy movie. They both had popcorn in their laps as the movie started.

Thomas barely paid any attention to the show. What's this nonsense? This is a trashy film. It's so meaningless. He wasn't a humorless person, but none of the scenes made him feel like laughing at all. After the movie was over, he stood up and stretched his limbs. He felt rather sore after sitting down for too long.

Both Thomas and Molly walked beside each other as they headed toward the cinema's exit.

"Thomas? Stay right there!" someone shouted.

"Huh?" Thomas froze for a moment. Who's calling for me? The voice sounds rather angry. He turned around to see the date he had met just a few hours ago. It was Fanny, Lilac's sister. Beside her was a young man dressed in a white suit, and he seemed to be her date for the movie. Molly was shocked as well. She had seen Fanny earlier; she knew Fanny was Thomas' blind date and that things had turned sour between them. However, Molly hadn't expected to bump into Fanny so abruptly.

"What is it, Fanny?" The man beside Fanny knitted his brows as he reached his arm over to wrap around her slim waist.

"That's the b\*stard that scolded me in the restaurant this afternoon!" She pointed her finger in Thomas' direction as she was still fuming at the memory of what happened earlier that afternoon. Was there anything wrong with my questions? How could one come out on a date if he doesn't have money, a house, or a car? What kind of idiot would commit their life to a man like that? How dare you flip things around to ask if I'm a virgin instead? You even asked about my body count. Is that any of your f\*cking business? Look at that sister of yours! You guys are all poor, useless brats. You should be honored by the fact that I even showed up for the date. How dare you complain?! What a joke!

"Oh, is that the b\*stard you were talking about?" The man let out an icy scoff. He was trying to court Fanny, but Fanny had been complaining about this other guy since earlier. The man had promised her he would get someone to deal with the said guy, but he didn't expect to bump into Thomas so soon. Well, I guess you're out of luck, young man. You dug your own grave, the man thought.

Then, the man pointed toward the staff members standing by the exit of the screening room. "I want you guys to clear this place out. Don't allow anyone to come in!" the man ordered.

"Got it, sir!" The staff members uttered a few words into their walkie-talkies, and the whole space was cleared off after that. Thomas, Molly, Fanny, and the man were the only ones left. "I want you to avenge

me. Beat him up!" Fanny cried.

There was a cold glint in her eyes and a hint of malice in her voice. Since Lilac wasn't around, Fanny didn't have to worry about her sister's reputation.

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Fanny couldn't understand it. Our family background is pretty good, and we may not be wealthy, but we're content and comfortable with our finances. Why would Lilac become friends with someone as poor as Chloe? Isn't she embarrassed to say that she knows people like Chloe and Thomas? Well, this cinema belongs to my suitor, so Thomas is about to be crushed to death like a filthy little cockroach here!

Thomas shot the man a look. The staff members had been especially respectful to the man earlier, so Thomas figured that the man was probably reputable in some ways. Fanny's not doing too bad, huh? She sure has some skills to be able to find herself a man like this. That explains why she's so cocky. At that moment, a bunch of men walked in through the doors of the cinema hall. They had all sorts of weapons in their hands, and they walked over to form a circle around Thomas.

Molly panicked at the sight of this. She wrapped her hands tightly around Thomas' arm as she felt a surge of regret in her chest. "You're such bad luck, Molly! Why would you suggest watching a movie? Thomas wouldn't end up in this situation if you hadn't suggested watching a movie. We're dead! We can't escape now!" she whispered to herself.

"Hah. Your girlfriend's quite pretty. It's a shame that she's dressed in cheap clothes!" The man commented as he gazed at Molly thoughtfully. "The next time you decide to date someone, you should make sure that you find a man who's rich and reputable. The sum of all your clothes is probably less than one of the accessories that I bought for Fanny!" The man felt even more contempt for Thomas as he spoke. How dare someone so lowly and trashy mess with my woman? He must have a death wish.

Fanny, on the other hand, was pleased to witness Thomas' downfall. Weren't you all haughty earlier, Thomas? Didn't you say that you wanted to make me

regret my actions? Well, let's see who's about to regret their actions today! "Why are you guys still standing around? Attack him!" The man shouted at his staff when he saw that they were still standing in their spots. What a bunch of idiots. They don't even know when to take action! My guard dogs could probably do a better job than them.

Upon receiving their orders, the men charged toward Thomas. "Ah!" Molly let out a cry as she jumped into Thomas' arms and squeezed her eyes shut. She didn't have the guts to look around her then—she was already trembling with fear. "It's time for you to pay for what you've done, you poor b\*stard!" Fanny was excited. Didn't you have all those tough questions for me during our date earlier? Didn't you reject me? Well, if you're so good at talking, then I'm going to make sure that all of your teeth are plucked out today. Let's see how you're going to talk after that!

Thomas felt the urge to laugh when he saw the men charging toward him. They're obviously just a bunch of regular staff members who teamed up. The weapons that these men had chosen made it evident—there were men holding stools, bricks, beer bottles, and so on. They were obviously not professional fighters. They seemed more like staff members of the cinema that had been gathered around just for the numbers. Thomas wrapped his left arm around Molly and held her close against his chest as he didn't want her to get injured. Then, he used his other hand to reach for the stool that was being sent in his direction. With some strength, he managed to pull the stool away from the other man.

The man whose weapon had been snatched tried to protect himself, but Thomas smacked the leg of the stool against the bridge of the man's nose. The man flew backward, and he covered his nose with both his hands as he began to wail in pain. Thomas felt like he was already showing mercy at that point —if he had been in the same situation when he was in the military, he might have killed everyone there! If the eight years that he spent in the military taught him anything, it was that there was no in-between when attacking another person—he either killed the enemy or got killed himself.

The stool's broken leg came to life in Thomas' hand as he swung it all around. It only took Thomas two minutes to defeat all of the men. The men were all on the ground by the end of it, and their painful cries filled the cinema hall. If Thomas had intended to kill them off, the whole cinema would have been a bloodbath. The stool's leg had split into two throughout the process, which made it clear how powerful and painful his attacks could be. Thomas threw his weapon on the ground before shooting Fanny and her date a fierce look. Molly slowly lifted her head off Thomas' chest when she realized that everything was still. She glanced around her, and she was shocked to see a bunch of people lying on the ground. Her tiny hand reached over to cover her mouth as she widened her eyes in shock. She had always known that Thomas could fight, as she had witnessed some of his skills during John's birthday party. However, she didn't know he was this good!

There were about twenty men who had surrounded them earlier, and Thomas only took a few minutes to defeat all of them. That's unbelievable! Both Fanny and her date were too shocked to move. Is Thomas human, or is he a devil? How did he defeat all these people with just a stool leg? Right then, Thomas loosened his grip on Molly before he walked toward the man. I never messed with you, yet you took this opportunity to cause me trouble simply because I happened to be on your grounds. How much nonsense do you expect me to tolerate? I'm sorry your men are useless, and I'm sorry that they failed to do anything to me. But now, it's my turn! Thomas thought.

"D-Don't come near me. What are you trying to do?" The man cried out in panic when he saw Thomas walking toward him. He instinctively stumbled a few steps backward without even caring for Fanny. Could he be bothered by his crush at that moment? All he wanted was to protect his life—he could easily find another woman if he managed to survive the day.

"I'm a son of the Xalmar Family in Irieson! Do you know who we are? I-If you lay hands on me, the Xalmar Family will definitely get their revenge. You're going to die a miserable death!" The man panicked, and he ended up revealing his family name. He was a part of the Xalmar Family, and any regular person in Irieson would be eager to please him if they encountered him on the streets. You're just some nobody from a poor family. How dare you go against me? You must be tired of life, the man thought.

"The Xalmar Family?" Thomas froze in his spot for a moment. He recalled how one of the inner members of the Xalmar Family had attempted to stab Olivia, and he then raised his hand to feel the wound on his chest. When the man saw Thomas freezing in his spot, the man assumed that Thomas was intimidated by his family name. The fear disappeared from the man's face as he let out a confident scoff.

The Xalmar Family was one of the largest families in Irieson, after all. Do you think someone who's dressed in cheap clothes like you can afford to mess with us? Why don't you take a look in the mirror first? The man was mistaken;

Thomas simply stood still for a while because he was trying to figure out why the Xalmar name sounded so familiar. He only stopped to gather his thoughts for a moment.

Thomas didn't have any intention of killing the man at first, but after hearing that the man was from the Xalmar Family, he felt the urge to do something violent. How dare the people of your family lay hands on Olivia? How dare you guys injure me? I'm sorry, but I'm afraid good days won't last long for you guys. Once I'm done with Minacia Oito, I'm going to come for you guys! But since you're here today, I'll send you along your way first. Perhaps you can learn the ropes in the afterlife while you wait for the rest of your family to join you, Thomas though

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"Hah! Here I was wondering what you were capable of, but a bum's a bum. You must be so scared after hearing who my boyfriend is, huh? You must be peeing your pants now, huh? Well, it's too late! Since you offended me, your only option is to die!" Fanny taunted.

Thomas was going to wait a little longer before dealing with this woman, but seeing the way she jabbered on now, it was obvious that he should do it at once. So be it. She asked for it!

Smack!

Molly was thunderstruck by what she saw. A simple slap from Thomas was enough to send Fanny flying backward before slumping to the ground! Just how strong is he?

Fanny never thought Thomas would have the nerve to hit her. She was already splayed out on the ground by the time she registered what was happening.

She opened her mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood. A large number of yellowish-white-looking things were mixed into her blood—they were her teeth!

All her teeth had fallen out from his slap!

She wanted to scream from the excruciating pain, but she couldn't even muster a single ounce of energy. She flopped on the ground like a dead fish and suffered her torment in silence.

After dealing with her, Thomas walked over to the man.

He was so terrified that he was on the verge of tears! Who's this punk? How dare he attack when he knows I'm a Xalmer?

Crap! Damn it! I messed with the wrong guy today. I have to run! If I don't, I'll end up just like Fanny!

He was cursing Fanny out silently. You b\*tch! Of all the people you could've offended, why did you choose to offend a guy who's just like the devil? Look at what became of me today, and it's all thanks to you! Just you wait! I'll teach you a lesson!

Naturally, Thomas wasn't going to let the man escape. He appeared in front of the man in just a few steps and blocked the exit path before kicking the man in the waist.

Crack!

The crisp sound of a bone breaking rang out. Thomas had kicked with so much force that he broke the man's spine!

The man spat out some blood, and by the time his body hit the ground, he was no longer breathing.

"Don't worry. Soon, your family will be joining you down there," Thomas declared icily.

The fact that you went after Olivia was enough for me to make you pay! I was going to let you stay alive for a few more days but you chose to deliver yourself to me. You even got your people to mess with me. Well, you can't blame me for this then!

What happened with the Hinds taught Thomas a lesson. He decided that he needed to eliminate the entire family of those who tried to hurt either him or Olivia. Doing so would save him a lot of trouble.

Thomas went over to Fanny who was still twitching on the ground. He loomed over her and said, "I'll let you keep your life since your older sister is Chloe's friend, but if this ever happens again, you can join your boyfriend in hell!"

He didn't feel a single shred of pity for Fanny. It didn't matter that she was a woman. You chose to be b\*tch. I warned you at the restaurant, but you refused to appreciate the chance I gave you. I showed you enough courtesy. You're the one who pushed it too far!

As it was, Thomas didn't think the questions Fanny had for him were necessarily a problem. Everyone had the right to choose their own way of living and Fanny simply wanted a good life. That wasn't an issue.

However, you told Chloe to shut up! You even called her a pauper and insulted her!

Thomas viewed Chloe as his sister. She was more important to him than his own life! He had sworn that he would never let her suffer again. I would've killed you on the spot for that! I only chose not to because I didn't want Chloe to be dragged into anything!

I was going to just let bygones be bygones, but here you are trying to mess with me. You've got quite the death wish, don't you?

Thomas led Molly out to the road, and just as Molly said, there weren't any calls from Olivia. I guess the situation must be quite tricky over there.

"Where are we going now?" Thomas took a puff of his cigarette. I should walk around with Molly and help her take her mind off things in case she's still scared after everything that just happened.

"Let's go to the park over there."

Molly was indeed frightened. Her voice trembled a little.

She stole a peek at Thomas. He's no ordinary man. He's a hero! The kind who can save the world, just like in those movies! Look at his muscular body, his handsome features, and his attractive aura! What a man he is! What's there for me to fear if I'm with a guy like him?

Thomas nodded and drove Molly to the park.

Along the way, Molly couldn't tear her eyes off Thomas. She was too enticed by his earlier display of masculinity. He was able to defeat all those bad guys by himself! He's so amazing! She blushed so

hard that she was as red as a tomato.

It went without saying that Thomas noticed Molly's unusual reaction, but he simply thought she was still fearful after the earlier incident.

Once they walked into the park, Molly bought two drinks from the convenience store and handed one to Thomas.

"It's on me, Thomas."

Thomas smiled and took a drink.

"By the way, Miss Pearson said there's a new secretary who's supposed to be starting work today, but the person is still on a business trip abroad, so they'll be joining tomorrow."

Molly jumped in fright when she heard this news from Olivia. She was Olivia's secretary, so she didn't see the need for a new one. She wondered if she wasn't doing well enough, which was why they wanted to fire her.

Olivia had sensed her anxiety and explained that it was Norman who insisted on bringing on the new secretary.

Molly couldn't understand why a new secretary was brought into the company out of the blue, but since it wasn't due to her, she no longer worried about it.

Thomas nodded in response. He wasn't interested in the other employees. As Olivia's driver, his job was simply to drive her around and keep her safe.

Molly drank from her bottle and continued, "Miss Pearson also told me that the new secretary will be in the same office as us, but she told me that we don't have to pay any attention to her. I can tell that Miss

Pearson doesn't seem to like that new secretary."

"It doesn't matter. All we need to do is focus on our jobs."

"You're right." Nevertheless, Molly was quite curious. What will the new colleague be like? Is it a man or a woman?

Finally, at 6.30 PM, Olivia called and said the negotiations were over.

Thomas and Molly rushed over to pick Olivia up. It was past working hours, so Thomas dropped Olivia and Molly off at their respective dwellings before driving back to his own rented accommodation. He hadn't forgotten about Rose's invitation, and since he agreed to go, he had to change into something more proper out of courtesy to her.

What he didn't know was that a group of people had arrived at the cinema where he had been flexing his muscles earlier.

The man in the lead was a middle-aged man dressed in a black lounge suit who didn't look like he was in his fifties yet, and beside him stood an elderly man in a martial arts uniform

## **Read Novel I'm Someone Else Chapter 89**

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Nevertheless, the elderly man could understand what Kirk was going through. Anyone would go mad if their son was killed.

Thomas tidied up his rented accommodation. Adam was getting discharged from the hospital tomorrow and Thomas wanted to prepare a room for him. He didn't want Adam to be uncomfortable in any way.

He checked the time. It was nearly 7.00 PM, so he took a shower and got changed for his appointment tonight.

"Hey, Thomas."

While driving, Thomas got a call from Olivia.

"What is it?"

"Pick me up at 6.00 AM tomorrow morning. Oh, right. Don't head to the apartment. I'm staying at Pearson Residence now. Pick me up here."

Olivia was in a bad mood, so her tone was pretty curt as well. What on earth is Dad up to? Not only did he arrange for that annoying woman Yukine to be my secretary, but he even stormed over to my apartment and dragged me back to Pearson Residence!

That was the only bit of freedom I had left, and he took it away from me just like that!

That's not even the worst thing! I can't believe Dad's making me stay in the same room with Yukine!

It's not like there aren't any other rooms available. Why is he making me share my room with her? What on earth is going on inside that head of his?

Amid her thoughts, the door flew open and a tall, attractive silhouette came in. It was Yukine, Olivia's younger cousin.

Olivia pointed at the couch. "I'm not used to sharing my bed with someone. You can sleep on the couch!"

"Fine." Yukine's face remained expressionless as she covered the couch with her blanket and lay down.

Why is Dad making her stick to me? She doesn't even bother answering in full sentences. Look at her being all aloof and only giving single-word answers. It's as if others can't possibly bear the honor of hearing a longer sentence from her.

Olivia didn't like Yukine. She knew the latter was not a good person!

Yukine was the one who stole Terrence's favorite ring and sold it for money, but she framed Olivia as the culprit. Due to that, Terrence locked Olivia up for a week and exploded at her.

Olivia was a discerning woman. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to do such a good job running a company as large as Pearson Group. Although Yukine was cold and aloof toward Olivia, she was warm and sweet to all the family elders who adored her because of that.

In that case, why was Yukine cold toward Olivia? Olivia thought about that for a while and came up with two possibilities. Either Yukine looks down on me and doesn't want to bother wasting her breath on me, or she's purposely hiding her true intentions.

No matter which reason it was, it was still reason enough for Olivia to detest Yukine!

"Olivia, Yukine, it's time for dinner..."

The door opened again and Norman walked in. Dinner was ready so he came up to get them, but when he saw Yukine sleeping on the couch, his expression darkened at once.

"Olivia, did you tell Yukine to sleep on the couch?"

"Yes." Olivia nodded.

Norman immediately got angry. She's becoming more and more unruly. What is she doing now? Why can't she spare some room for Yukine on that huge bed of hers? Yukine is her cousin!

Your uncle loved you so much when you were a kid. Is this how you treat his daughter now that you're all grown up?

"Don't you think you've gone too far?" Norman berated.

Olivia was already in a bad mood and it only got worse now. "How have I gone too far?"

Ever since I was a child, you've never shown me any real concern! Even though you let me be the company president and agreed to let me move out, it's only in exchange for me promising that I won't date for ten years! You act like you're such a loving father when we're in public, but whenever we're at home, you give me the cold shoulder all the time! I've had enough of that!

Norman didn't bother responding. He stormed over to Olivia and slapped her hard across the face.

## Smack!

Norman had been brewing with anger for the last two days. Yesterday, he heard his bodyguard saying that Olivia and Thomas had something going on. They had been unusually intimate at the amusement park and even hugged each other. That was unacceptable to him.

It's almost time. The Pearsons are doomed if Olivia doesn't remain a virgin until then!

All along, he kept reminding Olivia to stay away from men. And yet, what is she doing now? Did she even listen to me, her father?

Her grandfather doesn't even know about her relationship with Thomas yet. If he did, she would be suffering a lot more than just this!

"Don't hit Olivia, Uncle Norman. I don't mind sleeping on the couch. After all, this is Olivia's room. She works hard all day, so she deserves to rest well at night." Yukine quickly tried to appease Norman.

Norma shook his head. "This has nothing to do with you, Yukine. She needs to be taught a lesson!"

Smack!

He gave her yet another slap.

"It's fine, Uncle Norman. It's not a big deal. Don't be angry."

Yukine got off the couch and stood in front of Norman.

"Stay out of it!" Olivia flicked her hand at Yukine.

"Ahhhh!"

Yukine stumbled to the floor.

Olivia eyed her coldly. She knew full well that she hadn't put any force into her hand just now. She was merely making a show of it. Yukine's fall was all her own doing.

"Why, you... You're just like your mother!" Norman wanted to give Olivia a vicious thrashing, but he was reminded of her pitiful life. Not only did she lose her mother when she was young, but she was also going to be a sacrificial offering. Alas, since she was already so pitiful, all he did was scold her.

"That's right. I'm just like my mother. A wild and unreasonable woman. Happy now?" Olivia's eyes were full of tears. "Go and spend your time with whomever you think has been brought up right then. In your eyes, Ophelie and I are nothing to you anyway. We don't matter to you at all, right? After all, you still have a son. You can spend all your time teaching him and shower him with all your love."

Who would've thought that Olivia, the Most Beautiful Female Entrepreneur in Irieson, had such a helpless and embarrassing side too? She didn't intend to

bring up the fact that Norman had another child out there, but he had gone too far by bringing up her deceased mother!

Dad's always like this, and Grandpa's even worse! They pretend to dote on us so much when we're in public, but in reality, Ophelie and I are outsiders in this family! They're so cold to both of us!

What about my mother? Did she mistreat you? Did she not love you? She simply failed to give you a son. Is that reason enough for you to talk about her like that? She's gone now! Don't you know that you should respect the dead?

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"You... I..." Norman froze in shock. He thought that Olivia had forgotten all about the fact that he still had another son out there. After all, she had been very young when she found out. But, from the looks of it now, she remembered it this whole time!

If she knew about it, then it went without saying that Ophelie did too as the two sisters were very close.

"Let's just drop it, Uncle Norman. Don't be mad. Olivia didn't mean it."

Yukine got to her feet and blocked Norman once more. Though she was speaking in Olivia's defense, her tearful expression made it obvious she felt aggrieved.

Olivia eyed her. Sure. Carry on with the act of yours. You may think it's flawless, but you never know who's watching. Do you really think no one can see through your pretense? Who knows why all the Pearsons are so blind that they can't spot your lies through your awful acting?

"Look at your sister, and then take a look at yourself! You're worlds apart!" Norman's hands were trembling. How did I, such a fine and remarkable man, end up with such a daughter?

"Hah! She's not my sister. I only have one sister and that's Ophelie! Don't bother comparing us to her. You're all part of the Pearson Family but we're not!"

Olivia was so aggrieved that tears were streaming down her face. If she had a choice, she would've taken her mother's last name. As if you'd dare to hit me

if Mom were here! You're always so cold and mean to me because you have a son so Ophelie and I aren't important to you anymore! Did you think I couldn't figure that out?

Just then, Ophelie entered the room. She had gone out for the day and as soon as she entered the house, she heard the sounds of people arguing upstairs, so she came over at once.

"Yukine?" Ophelie was startled. Why is she here? I didn't see her earlier today. Did she just come over?

"Olivia? You're here too? W-What happened to your face?" Ophelie cried out in alarm.

She spotted Olivia and immediately jumped onto the bed to check on her. She could see the slap marks on Olivia's face, and considering what she heard just now, she was able to piece everything together.

"Norman Pearson! What do you think you're doing?! How dare you hit Olivia?!" Ophelie exploded with rage. No matter how far Yukine went, she would never have the gall to hit Olivia, so Ophelie knew that it could have only been Norman. Ophelie had a fiery temper. It didn't matter that Norman was their father. That doesn't give him the right to slap Olivia whenever he wants! It's not just him mistreating her anymore! It's abuse!

"Ophelie... I..." Norman was a little wary of his younger daughter. Unlike Olivia who was soft and gentle, Ophelie had a hot temper and would flare up at anyone. Even he, her father, could not withstand her fury.

"Speak! Have you lost your tongue?!" Ophelie stuck her arms on her waist and glared at Norman. Calling you Dad is already the most respect I can give you! Ever since Mom left, you stopped treating Olivia and me as your daughters anyway. Since you hit Olivia today, don't blame me for not holding back anymore!

"I'm warning you. If you think Olivia and I are getting in your way, then just say so! If you don't want us to stay here, well, we don't want to either! Grandpa Harrison has said that if Olivia and I aren't happy, we can always move in with him!"

"And you, Yukine!" Ophelie showed a tiny bit of restraint when it came to Norman, but Yukine had no such good fortune.

"Why did you come to our house, you fake b\*tch? Why are you in Olivia's room? What's the matter? Is your family dead? Do you not have any other place to stay? Get lost! You better watch it. If I ever see

you again, I'll rip your head off!"

Don't even bother bringing up my uncle. All you Pearsons are the same! My aunt is the only one who has ever treated Olivia and me like we're a family! Ophelie thought.

As soon as Ophelie finished speaking, she picked up the lamp on the bedside table and threw it at Yukine.

"Ahhh!"

Yukine quickly moved away as she cried out in shock.

Norman took one last look at Ophelie. He was a little wary of his younger daughter, and now that she brought up Harrison, he felt even more uncertain.

He had no choice but to drag Yukine out of the room with him.

Once they were gone, Ophelie teared up.

"Olivia, let's move in with Grandpa Harrison!"

Olivia shook her head. "Forget it. Grandpa Harrison's getting old. It's better if we stay here."

If they moved in with Harrison, their maternal grandfather, then he would surely find out that the two of them were being mistreated by the Pearsons. Grandpa Harrison would get angry. What if it ends up triggering a heart attack? That would be terrible.

Olivia wiped her tears away and told herself to stay strong. She had no choice but to stay strong.

"Grandpa Harrison called me today. He asked me how I'm doing. I spoke to our aunts too. They want us to move in with them."

Ophelie had long since thought about moving in with Harrison. It was tiring to put on a show for everyone in this house.

"Listen to me, Ophelie. Just bear with it. Everything will pass. It's not a big deal."

"Hello!" Yukine came back into the room and flashed a smug grin at the sisters. She had a gloating expression on her face.

This was the second time Olivia had ever seen a smile on Yukine's face. The first had been when Yukine successfully framed her. It was the exact same smile.

"What are you doing back here?"

Yukine pointed at the couch. "I came to take my blanket." She walked over to the couch and picked it up. "Oh. By the way, Gavin's coming back, so it's time you two leave. And you, Olivia. I'm sure you know what's going to happen, right? Once Gavin's back, you can kiss your position as the company president goodbye!"

"Get out!" Ophelie snarled.

"Hmph!" Yukine shook her head and strode out of the room.

"Gavin's coming back, Olivia. What should we do?"

Olivia felt helpless too. Gavin was Norman's son. If he was coming back, it meant that Norman approved his return. She knew he wouldn't be coming back for no reason. He was most likely coming to take over Pearson Group.

Gavin's mother was the president of a large company. He should be about twenty now. Although he spent his childhood abroad, he did show up at Olivia's mother's funeral.

However, he cursed and insulted their mother, who was lying in the coffin, right in front of everyone!

Harrison had flown into a rage over that incident and said that he would fight the Pearsons to the bitter end if they allowed Gavin to come back.

That was the reason why Gavin stayed abroad all this while.

Yet, he's coming back now. It's bound to happen sooner or later. It's something I must face. There's no escape.