

Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell

#Chapter 11 - Read Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell Chapter 11

Chapter 11

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Carlisle did a simple sweep throughout the house and began his revision.

Gordon brought Gérard and his family home at around 7:00pm.

"Carl, your uncle is here. Come out and pour some glasses of water for them!" Gordon said with a smile. as he turned toward Carlisle's room.

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"Gerard, Maria," Hilda greeted them as she poked her head out of the kitchen.

They nodded impassively, whereas their two teenage children didn't even spare Hilda a glance.

Gerard was wearing a white T-shirt. He held a Samsung flip phone in his right hand and wore a Vacheron Constantin's watch of the latest model on his left hand.

"Gordon, you could afford a Santana worth 200 thousand dollars, but you couldn't afford a better house?"

Maria Davidson, Gerard's wife, asked.

There was a thick layer of foundation coating her 38-year-old face. She was a sharp-tongued woman who only cared about her interests.

"We bought this house so that it'll be easier for Carl to go to school. I intend to sell this house once Carl heads off to university!" Gordon explained.

"Wait a minute. Why hasn't Carlisle come out yet?"

Maria waved her hands for some wind as she looked around the house. Then, she said in disgust, "Why didn't you install an aircon? Aren't you all being overly frugal?"

Gordon quickly brought out the standing fan from his bedroom. Meanwhile, Carlisle slowly made his way out of his room to pour them four glasses of water.

"Carl, do you not recognize me?" Gerard asked with a frown.

"I do!"

Oh. Then, who am I? Gerard asked impassively.

"You're Uncle Gerard!"

"Then why didn't you greet me and your aunt?" Gerard asked with a tinge of anger.

Maria also said mockingly, "Where did all those years of education go?"

Suddenly, Hilda slammed her knife on the cutting board, causing the sound to echo throughout the house.

Gerard also glared at his wife, But Maria didn't seem to realize her mistake as she turned to look at Gordon, who was taking out the extensions from his room.

Maria said, "A father's responsibility is to educate their children. But it seems like you didn't educate your son properly."

Gordon chuckled dryly. "I'll discipline him later!"

"Did you educate your children properly? Did Kelly and Xander greet my parents?" Carlisle asked calmly as he brought the glasses of water over.

"You brat, are you trying to talk back to me?" Maria said furiously.

"I don't dare to do such a thing. I'm just stating a fact. Aren't your children receiving special education the city? Why are they so rude then?" Carlisle did not hold back.

his past life, Gerard and his family had not held back in humiliating him and his parents for not getting admitted into college.

His father had knelt and begged his uncle to lend them money when he fell sick in his past life. Not only did Gerard not lend them the money, but he had also beaten his father up.

Gerard also insulted them by claiming that Carlisle had lived long enough and deserved to die.

Such familial bonds were as good as none.

"Are you joking with me? Do you believe you deserve to be compared to my children? My daughter is at the top of her class. It's only a matter of time before she's admitted to Riverland University.

"What about you? From what I've heard from your father, your results are trash. It might be hard for you to enter a Tier 3 university. People like you are what holds us as a society back!"

Maria was so angry that her voice trembled slightly as she spoke.

Gordon's eyes flashed with anger as he listened to Maria's belittling words.

At that moment, Hilda came out of the kitchen. Her voice was cold as she said, "Maria, you're a guest in our house, so we'll welcome you wholeheartedly. But if you come here to fight, we'll have no choice but to kick you out!"

Hilda could accept Gerard and Maria belittling them. The differences between families were evident after all.

But she could not accept them mocking her son.

Maria watched as Hilda played with the knife in her hands and gulped subconsciously.

Gerard waved his hands dismissively and said, "That's enough. Everyone should just keep their words to themselves. Don't affect the children here!"

"Don't blame me for crossing the line if you continue to belittle my son," Hilda said as she returned to the kitchen.

Maria was so angry that her breath became labored.

Gerard patted her arm and lowered his voice. "It's not like you don't know that they're uncultured. What's the point in arguing with them?"

Maria felt comforted as she sat on the sofa and enjoyed the wind from the fan.

Carlisle was in his room when he heard his mother's warm words.

He smiled in amusement. He had not said anything in his past life, so Maria had never crossed the line.

He didn't expect Maria to be so cruel with his words after he stood up for himself.

He also did not expect his mom to protect him so fiercely.

The two families sat together for dinner at around 8:00pm.

Maria was much quieter than before.

The atmosphere was also tense.

"Kelly, have you also submitted your applications for Riverland University?"

Gordon asked his niece with a smile.

Kelly Zahn seemed confused. "What do you mean by 'also'? Are you telling me Carlisle has also applied for Riverland University?"

Gordon nodded. "That's right. It was the only school he had applied to!"

Kelly immediately burst into laughter.

Gordon's face flushed red as he asked, "What's wrong? Do you also look down on your cousin?"

Kelly couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Uncle Gordon, it's rare for people outside of the city to be admitted into Riverland University.

"Also, when has Carlisle ever had a He's new decent grade for his year? He's never dared to tell us his results. Yet he had to tell us the guts to only apply for Riverland University. It's hard for me to understand his train of thought!"

In other words, she also looked down on Carlisle.

However, Gordon and Hilda did not know how to refute Kelly as they knew she was stating facts.

Maria was delighted as she looked at Gordon and Hilda's expressions. She then said sarcastically, "Kelly, stop mocking Carlisle.

Xander Zahn, a newbie junior in high school, slammed his spoon on the table and said, "Let them kick us out them.

Hilda's grip around her fork tightened. She was about to say something when Gordon gave her a warning look.

So, she had no choice but to swallow her indignance for the sake of Gordon's pride.

Carlisle ate the food and said, "You'll find a hotel if you turn left downstairs. I suggest you head over there to eat!"

Gerard chuckled coldly. "Your dad hasn't even said a word, yet here you are chasing us out?"

Carlisle sighed in exasperation. "Uncle Gerard, do you think there's any point in sitting together for dinner?"

You're just here to gloat because you've earned a small fortune in the county. Am I wrong?"

Gerard froze when he heard Carlisle's words.

He didn't even tell Gordon about it yet. How did that brat, Carlisle, find out about his small earned fortune?

He did earn a small fortune.

His original plan was to come here and belittle Gordon. But he decided to keep his fortune a secret when he saw Gordon coming to pick him up in a Santana.

He had planned to investigate Gordon's financial situation thoroughly before telling them about fortune.

Gordon saw the shock in Gerard's eyes and quickly got up to pour Gerard a cup of beer. Gordon smiled and asked, "Gerard, did you earn some money recently?" Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

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Some years back, Gerard had made a fortune selling illegal CDs. Hence, he managed to buy a house and a car in the county.

Although he hasn't been making much for the past few years, he still had a hefty saving of several tens of thousands.

He wasn't considered wealthy, but he was also slightly above the middle class Gordon could tell from the shock in Gerard's eyes that Carlisle had guessed correctly.

Gerard had made a fortune!

It just so happened that he had lost his job recently. Who knows? His brother might even allow him to work for him.

Although the chances were low, he knew he had to succumb during times of need for the sake of his family.

Gerard picked up the cup and took a sip. "I didn't make much, just enough to afford two Santanas!"

Two Santanas were equivalent to almost 500 thousand dollars!

Gordon's eyes shone brightly. "What are you doing to earn so much money? Why don't you let me join you?"

Gerard smiled. "Didn't you also earn a small fortune? You hadn't bought a car when we met back in our hometown last year!"

Gordon sighed and downed down a glass.

Then, he confessed the truth with a small grin. "I borrowed this car from my supervisor!"

Maria couldn't help but burst out in laughter. "So it was all an act, wasn't it?"

At first, she thought Gordon had earned a healthy amount, so she held back with her snarky remarks. But who would have thought that he had borrowed the car?

*Gordon, you should own up to your reality if you're in a tight spot. What's the use of acting and pretending like you do? Don't act so prideful. You might mislead your son!" Maria said mockingly.

Hilda's cheeks were burning as she glared at Gordon. Gordon could be shameless and forgo his pride if he wanted to! But what about her and their son?

Gordon touched his nose and laughed.

"Gerard, is there any way for us to work together? We can go big and grow our wealth together. That way, we'll be able to shine. The people from our hometown would also stop looking down on us!"

"Gordon, I think you've misunderstood something Those people don't look down on us. They only look down on you!" Gerard said with a smile. The disdain in his eyes was strong while he sipped his drink.

"We are brothers. Can't you just help me?" Gordon said with a shy smile.

"Your fate is in your own hands!" Gerard said calmly. He had no intention of helping Gordon.

"So Carlisle guessed correctly, didn't he? You're just here to gloat, aren't you?' Gordon asked with a forced smile.

Carlisle felt uncomfortable as he watched his father's disheartened state.

His father had always been a man of integrity.

He always taught him that one can be poor. But one can never give up in life. Moreover, Gordon had always said one should help himself rather than ask others for help.

But when his family was now in a financially challenging situation, all of his father's dignity seemed to have disappeared.

At that moment, Carlisle swore to himself that he would work hard to earn a large fortune.

He would allow his parents to stay in a mansion and drive luxurious cars. He'll ensure they can raise their heads high when they see Gerard and his family.

He would also make everyone in their hometown envy his family's fortune.

"I'm not here to gloat. I was just hoping that I'll be able to inspire you!" Gerard said with a smile.

Hilda could not listen any further. She put down her cutlery and returned to her room.

On the other hand, Gordon gulped down his beer.

After dinner, Gerard brought his family to a hotel to stay., Gordon and Carlisle dropped them off at the entrance of their complex.

Gerard lit up a cigarette and patted Carlisle's shoulders.

"Don't worry if you can't get into a university. I have some contacts with a few factories. You always go over there to train and gain some experience!"

"Uncle Gerard, you don't need to worry about me. I'll definitely be able to enter Riverland University!"

He had learned to control his emotions well after experiencing too much in his past life.

He had been nothing but an incompetent bipolar man, as he had often failed to keep his emotions in check despite having nothing to his name.

"Do you know that even if you managed to get into Riverland University, you might still fail to make a name for yourself?"

"Have you ever thought about that? Don't tell me that you believe everyone who goes to university will be able to make it big in the real world."

Gerard's words were slightly controversial. However it was also the truth. Carlisle knew that because he had seen a lot of things in his past life.

In other people's eyes, it was important for their children to further their education.

But knowledge could change one's destiny.

"As you said, my fate is in my own hands. Hence, no one has a say in how I live my life! So, Uncle Gerard..."

"Yes?" Gerard! was shocked to hear Carlisle say such words. But when he turned to look at Carlisle, he realized Carlisle was looking directly at him.

"Have you ever heard the saying of never undervaluing a youth?" Carlisle asked with a smile.

*So, are you telling me that you'll make it big in the future? That I should start buttering up to you?"

"The sky's dark. You should head to the hotel for an early rest. Otherwise, the hotel might not h rooms left!" Carlisle smiled impassively as he placed his hands into his pockets.

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There was no point in engaging in a verbal argument with them. He'll show them what he was made of when he made it big.

Gordon also took out a cigarette and inhaled deeply. Then, he said guiltily, "Son, I'm sorry for embarrassing you and your mother today."

Carlisle was five feet eight and almost half a head taller than Gordon.

With one hand in his pockets, he put his other arm around his father's shoulders and said, "You were doing it for our family. We'll pay them back for the humiliation sooner or later!"

Gordon grinned and faked a solemn expression as he said, "Carl, do you understand it now? Incompetent people will only be looked down upon. That's why you must enter university and become a competent person."

"Dad, who said you're incompetent? In the future, I'll show them how competent and capable my dad is!"

The father and son chatted happily as they disappeared into the distance under the night..

Carlisle put all of his focus on his studies after Gerard and his family left.

He would wake up every day at five in the morning. He would then revise for an hour before eating breakfast and heading to school.

When he came home, he would start his revision immediately after dinner. His study session would last until 11:00pm to 12:00am before showering and heading off to sleep.

Hilda was worried about Carlisle. "Gordon, do you think your brother's visit had triggered something within Carl? He's been studying non-stop ever since. Can his body handle it?"

Gordon sat by the balcony and lit up a cigarette. His voice was heavy as he said, "Did you realize that our son seems to have become much more mature and sensible lately?"

Hilda froze as her eyes widened in shock. "I think you're right. I feel he's been talking and acting like a grown-up recently!"

Hilda seemed to have thought of something as she suddenly shuddered.

Her voice trembled slightly as she asked, "Do you think something is possessing our son? I've heard from one of our neighbors claiming that people who have been possessed would start acting out of the blue!"

Gordon flicked Hilda's forehead gently and said, "Stop overthinking things. Our son has just grown up!"

Time passed in the blink of an eye.

Every high school student in their senior year was studying hard as time slowly passed.

Soon, it was five days away from their SATS.

Lucy stood on stage with a solemn expression. "All of you are five days away from your SATS. Don't all of you feel like you're working hard. I believe that all of you will be admitted to the school of your

dreams."

She adjusted her glasses and looked at Carlisle, who sat before her. "I would like to praise and use this opportunity to affirm Carlisle Zahn. His test scores in the past few mock tests were outstanding!"

It wasn't just outstanding. It was near perfect.

Lucy didn't even dare to announce Carlisle's mock scores.

Who would have thought Carlisle, whose test scores had always been near the bottom, would get a near-perfect score in each subject with only a month's revision?

She was even afraid that Carlisle would be taken to a lab to be investigated if people found out about him.

"Carl has b been studying hard for the past few months. He's even studying during break time.

"That's nothing. He's even going as far as reading while pooping!"

"What the heck? Are you being serious?"

A few students turn to look at Carlisle with envious eyes.

Sean pressed his heart against his chest and exclaimed in pain. "Carl, do you even remember the oath we took in the past? You said you wanted to work in a factory with me!" Carlisle turned to glare at Sean. "When did I ever say that?" "You did! I'm telling you that you did!" Sean pursed his lips cheekily.

Carlisle's lips twitched. Why was he friends with such an idiot? Although Sean was always cheeky, he had to admit that Sean was a good friend.

In his past life, Sean had managed to enter a Tier 2 university. But Sean had set aside his studies and joined a factory with him due to his failure in getting accepted into a university.

But after working for about three to five months, Sean's father, Rory Woodsen, forced him to return to school After Sean graduated, he relied on the 100 thousand dollars given by his father to start a small business and became a small tycoon.

Chapte After that, he rarely had the opportunity to meet Sean. Fortunately, he had the opportunity to meet Sean one more time before his death. Sean had come to visit him one last time in the hospital.

Sean had bawled as he promised to take good care of his parents. He even promised to treat his parents as his own.

It was also after hearing those words that Carlisle could rest in peace.

"It's the final five days. All of you can go home and rest well. The exams will be held on the 7th of June. All of you must come a day before to register for the exams!"

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Lucy continued with her long and passionate speech.

She talked about how getting into a better school would mean better job opportunities.

She even gave a few examples of her past students.

She talked about how some of her students had graduated and joined international companies.

Meanwhile, others had started their own businesses and made a name for themselves.

The students were captivated by her speech as their eyes shone with hope.

"Of course, not all students will be able to gain admission into college! I'm not saying this to discourage you all.

"I just want you all to be prepared for such an outcome. You don't need to be disheartened if you fail to join a college.

"Based on my experience with my past students, some had retaken their SATS and managed to join a top-tier college!" Lucy said as she placed her hands on the podium with a solemn gaze.

Suddenly, Sarah raised her hands and asked, "Ms. Turner, do you think I'll be able to get into Riverland University?"

The whole class turned to look at Lucy.

"There's a high chance for you if you don't slack off," Lucy answered strictly.

Although Sarah had scored well during the mock tests, Lucy did not overly praise her to prevent her from slacking off.

Sarah smiled with confidence.

For the past few months, she had been studying hard. She was confident in her abilities to gain admission into Riverland University.

Sarah glanced sideways at Carlisle.

She wanted to ask Lucy if there was any hope for Carlisle to gain admission into Riverland University. However, she refrained after taking Carlisle's pride into consideration.

Although Carlisle's results had been improving rapidly, she believed Carlisle would only be able to enter a Tier 2 university at best.

Then, the bell rang, signaling the end of their class.

But everyone sat quietly in their seats.

"Class is dismissed!" Lucy took a deep breath as she spoke. It was rare for her to not prolong the class.

"Oh my gosh. We're free!" Sean immediately stood up and threw his textbook in the air.

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Immediately, everyone was buzzing with excitement.

However, a few students did choose to sit quietly in their seats.

They had finally graduated from high school.

Some would proceed to university to obtain a higher education, whereas some would enter society in advance and experience harsh reality.

At that moment, Carlisle was quiet.

It had been a month since he was reborn. Soon, he would see the fruition of his hard work.

He was confident that he could gain admission into Riverland University.

His admission into Riverland University would be the start of the new life he had given himself since being reborn.

"Carl, this is for you."

Wanda had already carried her beg. She was blushing as she handed him a pink colored letter that was folded into a heart.

"This is..."

Carlisle looked up at Wanda, but she had already run out of the classroom.

What just happened? Was this a love letter?

Did she fall for him within a month of talking?

Carlisle was about to open the letter when Sean smacked his table loudly. "Carl, do you wanna go to an Internet café? We can play throughout the night. Consider it my treat!"

"We're about to have our SATS. How can you still be thinking about playing games all night?"

study the essay title Variety is the spice of Carlisle rolled his eyes at Sean and continued, "How's your on life" that I asked you to research?"

Sean pursed his lips. "Tve been reading it for a few days now. But it might not come out in our SATS!"

*Just read it! Carlisle said as he kept all of his textbooks in his bag.

"Carl, I'll worship you if the essay topic really happens to be Variety is y happens to the spice of life!" Sean said with a

smile.

Carlisle held his bag and carried his backpack. He said impassively, "I'm not guaranteeing anything. But

the extra knowledge won't do us any harm!"

He didn't insist on the title of the m essay. Otherwise, he could not explain how he knew the essay question.

"Carlisle," Sarah called out as she walked toward Carlisle's desk

"What is it? Carlisle looked at her indifferently.

Chapter 14

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"Thank you for treating me well for the past two years!" Sarah said shyly Those unaware of the situation might even think she was about to confess to Carlisle.

However, the person at hand, Carlisle, answered impassively, "Just say what you want to say. Don't beat around the bush!"

Sarah tucked a few strands of hair behind her ears. She smiled sweetly and said, "Actually, I just wanted to tell you I won't accept your confession even if you get accepted into Riverland University!"

"Are you alright? Don't tell me you still believe I'm trying to get into Riverland University for your sake?" Carlisle was amused by Sarah's words.

Was his attitude toward her for the past month not clear enough?

"I know that you don't want to admit it. But it's alright, I only wanted to tell you what I think! Although your results have improved drastically with Wanda's help, you'll only be able to enter a Tier 3 university at most.

"It would be a miracle if you managed to enter a Tier 2 university. So, don't even fantasize about joining Riverland!"

Sarah's tone was condescending, and her expression was filled with arrogance.

Suddenly, Sean slammed his fist on Carlisle's desk. He sounded furious when he said, "Sarah, how can you be so shameless?"

"What did Carlisle ever do to you? Why must you say such hurtful and condescending words to hurt his pride?"

As Carlisle's good friend, he knew how well Carlisle had treated Sarah. Ever since Carlisle fell for Sarah, he stopped going to cybercafes and became stingy and frugal.

How could Sarah treat Carlisle that way?

She had no feelings for him. Yet she continued to enjoy Carlisle's goodwill.

Now that things were ending, she still wanted to hurt Carlisle and discourage him. She was basically trying to destroy him.

"What do you mean by "hurt his pride? Does he even have any pride left in him? Would he have read his love letter aloud to the entire class if he had any pride left?"

Sarah shook her head in disdain. Then, she turned to look at Carlisle, only to realize he looked calm. He didn't look like he was about to blow a tantrum because of his words.

She found it strange. How did he manage to remain impassive after hearing those hurtful words?

"Are you done?" Carlisle asked as he looked at her with a heavy gaze.

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"I'm not done yet! Let's make a bet. What if I agree to go out with you if you manage to get admitted into Riverland University?"

There was an amused smile on Sarah's face. It was as if she was sure Carlisle would not be able to enter Riverland University.

She wanted to see Carlisle put in his all, only to fail.

"Alright!" Carlisle agreed with a smile.

Sarah froze slightly. She never expected Carlisle to agree with her that much?

But it didn't matter.

Did he really lack self-awareness? Carlisle will never ever be able to gain admission into Riverland University. She wouldn't bat an eye at him.

even if he did.

"Then we shall wait and see!" Sarah said with a smile. Then, she carried her bag and left the classroom.

Most of Sarah's close friends were standing by the classroom's door. They circled each other and began to laugh.

"Carl, are you alright?" Sean asked as he massaged Carlisle's shoulders.

"I'm fine! I have a great mentality!" Carlisle said with a smile.

He knew what Sarah wanted to say when he noticed her walking toward him.

He could have ignored Sarah, but he still chose to talk with her, just like before.

In his past life, he had put in all of his efforts. Yet he still failed to enter Riverland University. In the end, the whole bet had become a joke in his classmates' eyes.

Even after many years, some of his classmates would talk about the bet to humiliate him.

He had agreed to Sarah's bet because he wanted to see her own words when he managed to enter Riverland University.

Their class had ended much earlier today. Hence, Hilda and Gordon weren't home when Carlisle reached home.

He went to the fridge to take out a the's can of Coke before sitting on the sofa while he enjoyed the fan's

breeze.

He anxiously opened Wanda's letter.

Was it a love letter?

Probably not. Right?

It was probably a letter of encouragement.

The second he opened the letter, he noticed that the letter had been written neatly and gracefully.

Chapter 15

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"Hello Carl, do you still remember what you said to me before? You said it was stupid for a person to change their whole life for another person!

"Do you think such a stupid person will ever appear in your life? I'll see you Carlisle felt his brain go blank.

erland University."

Anyone with a functioning brain would understand the hidden meaning behind Wanda's words.

She was trying to say that she had decided to change the path of her life for someone. And that someone just so happened to be him!

No wonder Wanda had continued to stay in Riverland University despite having the grades to enter an Ivy League.

She had really stayed on for him!

Holy shit!

He had rarely interacted with Wanda in his past life. How could she stay at Riverland University for him?

She probably decided to attend Riverland University, so it'll be easier for her to attend any gatherings in the future.

It was a shame that he had been so caught up with Sarah in his past life that he never spared a second glance at Wanda.

After being reborn, he began to have some interactions with Wanda. Hence, she had gathered the courage to write a love letter to him.

Carlisle's breathing became labored as he seemed to have grasped another new meaning behind his rebirth.

Wanda must have ended up marrying someone she had no feelings for. Hence, she didn't have a happy future.

It was one of Wanda's biggest regrets, and he was the one who had caused it.

He had lived a short life.

His parents had to watch him die.

These were all part of his regrets in his past life.

Carlisle took a deep breath and murmured, "Wanda, I'll see you at Riverland University!"

Wanda's last sentence probably meant that he would not be able to see her for quite some time.

With her shy personality, she would also probably try to hide from him.

Since that was the case, they would meet again at Riverland University. Chapter 15

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At that moment, Hilda's angry shouts echoed into the house. "Hayley Woods, I dare you to slander my son again. I'll destroy your house if you do!"

Carlisle quickly made his way outside.

What happened to his mom? Why did she suddenly begin arguing with their neighbor?

At the stairs, Hilda and Hayley happened to be glaring at each other.

The fresh groceries from the shops were scattered all across the floor.

Hayley laughed coldly and said, "Did I say anything wrong? My son's results would not be that bad if your son hadn't brought him to the cybercafe so frequently.

"How dare Carlisle even dream of entering Riverland University with that shitty results of his. You and your whole family should just continue dreaming!"

"You bitch. I'll tear you apart..."

Hilda's expression was full of hostility as she rushed up to grab Hayley's hair.

Hayley refused to back down as she grabbed Hilda's arm and bit her. "Mom, Mrs. Woods, stop fighting..." Carlisle quickly rushed up to stop the fight. Although Hayley's words were slightly cruel, they were neighbors for quite some time now. Their family had helped his family repeatedly throughout the years.

Her precious son probably messed up another exam. Hence, she was venting all her anger on his family.

Carlisle separated the two women as Hilda screamed in anger. "Don't hold me back. I want to tear h mouth apart..."

her Hayley placed her hands on her hips as she said arrogantly, "Come on then. Come and hit me if you dare. You can't do anything. Why are you acting so proud?"

"Carlisle, let go of me..."

"Hey, mom. Calm down!"

Carlisle held onto his mother tightly as he turned to Hayley and said, "That's enough, Ms. Woods. We're all neighbors here. We don't have to fight."

Hayley combed her messy hair as Hilda had messed up her hair.

Then, Hayley said, "I'll let it go this time since your son is here!"

Hilda also didn't dare to go overboard with Carlisle there. She didn't want her son to think that he had a crazy old woman for a mother.

Hayley picked up the groceries on the floor and headed home.

Carlisle bent down to put all the leftover goods into Hilda's basket.

"Did your class end early today?" Hilda asked as she bent down to help pick up the groceries.

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Carlisle nodded. "That's right. We have a five-day holiday before it's time for our SATS."

Suddenly, Hilda thought of all her aggrieved moments. She pursed her lips as tears pooled in her eyes. " Carlisle, are you confident you'll be able to further your studies?"

"Can't you have more faith in your son? Didn't you see I've been studying non- stop for the past month?"

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Chapter 16

Carlisle's voice was soft and gentle.

It was as if he suddenly realized that his parents were probably more stressed than him.

They had to withstand endless mockery from Gerard and his family. Ti neighbors'

judgemental gaze toward them.

All of this was because of his bad grades.

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Furthering one's education was a big thing in his generation. Most people would look down upon a family if their child failed to get into a university.

In the eyes of most people, only people who manage to get into m university will be able to have a bright future.

And that was indeed the case in reality.

Only a great opportunity or knowledge could change one's future.

Carlisle had been a salesman in his past life. He had a boss who only finished elementary school. But he had also met a Master's student who became a regular employee in the firm.

"I believe in you," Hilda said through teary eyes as she smiled at Carlisle. Then, they brought the goods.

back home.

Gordon only returned home at around 9:00pm. He looked exhausted. There was also a twinge of sadness in his eyes.

The three of them had dinner together. It was warm and fulfilling.

For the next five days, Carlisle had spent three days revising. But during the last two days, Sean had dragged him to an internet café for two days straight.

But Hilda and Gordon did not mind.

After all, Carlisle had been studying diligently for the past few days. His SAT exams were in two days. It was time for him to relax before the exams.

On the 7th of June, it was drizzling when Carlisle woke up at six in the morning.

Hilda could hear some sounds coming from the living room and nudged Gordon.

"Gordon..."

"What is it?*

"Why is Carl up so early?"

"His exams are today. He probably woke up to prepare for them!"

Chapter 15

Chapter 16

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Carlisle's voice was soft and gentle.

It was as if he suddenly realized that his parents were probably more stressed than him.

They had to withstand endless mockery from Gerard and his family. They also had to withstand the neighbors' judgemental gaze toward them.

All of this was because of his bad grades.

Furthering one's education was a big thing in his generation. Most people would look down upon a family if their child failed to get into a university.

In the eyes of most people, only people who manage to get into university will be able to have a bright future.

And that was indeed the case in reality.

Only a great opportunity or knowledge could change one's future.

Carlisle had been a salesman in his past life. He had a boss who only finished elementary school. But he had also met a Master's student who became a regular employee in the firm.

"I believe in you," Hilda said through teary eyes as she smiled at Carlisle. Then, they brought the goods.

back home.

Gordon only returned home at around 9:00pm. He looked exhausted. There was also a twinge of sadness in his eyes.

The three of them had dinner together. It was warm and fulfilling.

For the next five days, Carlisle had spent three days revising. But during the last two days, Sean had dragged him to an internet café for two days straight.

But Hilda and Gordon did not mind.

After all, Carlisle had been studying diligently for the past few days. His SAT exams were in two days. It was time for him to relax before the exams.

On the 7th of June, it was drizzling when Carlisle woke up at six in the morning.

Hilda could hear some sounds coming from the living room and nudged Gordon.

"Gordon..."

"What is it?"

"Why is Carl up so early?"

"His exams are today. He probably woke up to prepare for them!" Chapter 16.

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"Then, I'll go and prepare some food for him," Hilda said as she turned on the light and changed out of her pajamas.

Gordon took out a hundred dollar bill from under his pillow and said, "Why don't you give him this hundred dollar bill and let him go out to have some good food!"

"Alright!" Hilda changed quickly and went to the living room.

"Mom, did I wake you two up?" Carlisle smiled awkwardly.

"Why did you wake up so early? How will you maintain your energy if you don't rest properly?" Hilda reprimanded.

"I agreed to go to the exam hall with one of my friends!"

"That still doesn't explain why you had to wake up so early," Hilda said inquisitively.

"My examination hall is located at the Beta Complex. It'll take me around an hour to ride my bike there."

"Who asked you to ride your bike there? You can call a cab there. Come home if you can after the first day of exams.

"Just find a hostel nearby if you can't. Remember to eat well for the next two days," Hilda said as she stuffed the 100-dollar bill in Carlisle's hands.

"This is so much money His father only earned around 800 dollars per month.

His mother had taken another job to ensure they'd have enough money to eat. But she only earned around 300 dollars a month.

In the following years, although the pay was low, the price of goods was also relatively low.

He could buy breakfast for less than a dollar from his high school's cafeteria.

Lunch would only cost around two dollars.

Most students living in the dorms would only spend around 20 dollars a month.

Carlisle had a weekly allowance of 30 dollars. But he used to spend about 20 dollars of his allowance on Sarah.

Carlisle immediately felt uncomfortable as he recalled how his parents had been working hard to earn a living. However, he had been caught up in spending money on Sarah.

His mother would need to work for about ten days to earn the equivalent amount in his hand.

In his previous life, he had thought that money was a given, He had even believed that his parents weren't giving him enough money.

But now that he had been reborn, he finally realized how much weight a simple 100-dollar bill could hold.

"Mom, thank you so much." Carlisle's eyes turned red as he hugged his mother.

Chapter 16 AT

*Focus on your exams. Don't disappoint your dad and me," Hilda said as she patted Carlisle's back.

Carlisle glanced at the clock. It was almost half past six in the morning. He had to rush over and stop Christine from getting into that car.

In the past two days, he had managed to find Christine's house. It would take him about an hour to ride from his complex.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17

Carlisle wore a raincoat before quickly speeding toward Christine's residential area.

It was th the beginning of June. Despite the rain, the air was still hot and humid.

The muscles in his legs tightened as his bicycle chain began to creak due to it being too long since he last oiled it.

The rain poured on endlessly.

Suddenly, the chains in his bicycle finally broke due to the tension, Fuck.

Carlisle cursed as he stopped his bicycle by the roadside and began to repair the chain.

He had used his bicycle for more than three years. Fixing the chain was easy. He had finished it within ten minutes and was back on the road.

To stop his chain from breaking once more, he had found a shop for bicycles and asked for some oil. The repairman didn't charge him after hearing that he was heading to attend his SATS.

The houses in the Helios Village were mostly made out of plywood.

There was also a landfill nearby that stretched out from the county to the suburbs. Yet, no professionals were around to clean up the area.

Hence, the disgusting smell of trash hung in the air.

Christine sat by the bed while feeding her grandma breakfast in a simple 300- square-foot home.

The house was simple and crude. But it was able to shelter them from the storm.

The house was also clean.

"Christine." A middle-aged woman walked in. The woman's clothes were ripped and had several patches all over the shirt.

"Ms. Jefferson, why are you here?" Christine quickly put the food in her hand and went to the door.

"We managed to save up some money. You'll be having your SATS, so you should eat properly."

Christine quickly shook her hands. "That won't do. I can't take any more of your money!"

Grace Jefferson took out a stack of crumpled notes. But it consisted mostly of loose change as most notes were one-dollar bills. There were hardly any five or ten-dollar bills.

Christine's parents were working in another city. But ever since two years ago, they stopped visiting and funding her.

For the past few years, she had survived high school through the small amount her neighbors gathered

for her Grace stuffed the money into Christine's hands.

Her hands were calloused as she held Christine's hands and said, "Christine, you are the light and hope for our small village. You should focus on your exams. I'll take care of your grandma!"

Christine had grown up in the village. Her grandma had also helped many villagers when she was young. After her grandma had become paralyzed, her parents abandoned shoulder the weight of the family at a young age.

Hence, she was forced to Hence, the kind villagers took it upon themselves to care for Christine and her grandma.

Christine's eyes turned red as she lowered her head. Tears fell down the corner of her eyes as she choked on her sobs.

"Thank you Ms. Jefferson. Please help me thank everyone too. I definitely won't let all of you down!"

She had been studying hard for the past few days. She knew she had to get into a university and make a name for herself to repay their kindness.

"Alright. It's about time now. You should hurry to school!" Grace urged. She was worried Christine would be late for her exams.

"I got it. Then, I'll have to trouble you with caring for my grandma for now!"

Usually, Christine would wake up early and spend two hours walking to school.

But her grandma had been feeling sick today. So, she went to the clinic that was some distance away to buy some medication for her grandma. Thus, she had already wasted a portion of her time.

It was unrealistic for her to walk to school now. So, she could only call a taxi and rush over.

She collected her things, washed up, combed her hair, and left her house hurriedly with an umbrella.

The Helios Village was by the countryside, so it was rare for taxis to drive by. Christine had decided to

wait for a while for the bus to save some money.

It would only cost her one dollar if she decided to head to school by bus.

However, ten minutes had passed. But the bus had yet to arrive.

At that moment, a black car stopped beside Christine.

"Hey, are you heading to take your SATS?" The driver was a fat man, wearing a pair of sunglasses.

Christine looked at the driver warily and nodded.

"Why don't you get on? I'll send you there for only a dollar! I only offer a great deal to SAT candidates!

such a great deal

"

But Christine shook her head a

Chapter 18

Chapter 18

She would have gotten into the car if it was a metered taxi.

But the man was driving a personal car. She dared not to get in his car.

Suddenly, lightning flashed across the sky as the thunder rumbled causing Christine to tremble in fear.

The fat man continued to say, "Hey, just get in quickly. I'm not a bi don't want to miss your exams, do you?"

Christine looked around and realized not many cars were on the road.

Her exams weren't going to wait for her to arrive either.

1. uy. There will be a storm soon. Your She would be disappointing everyone in her village if she missed her exams.

After some contemplation, she reached out to hold the car's door handle.

"Christine."

At that moment, a bicycle was rushing toward her at high speed.

"Why are you so slow? Do you want to go for your exams or not? I can leave right now if you don't want to!

The fat man urged on in annoyance

"M-My classmate is coming!" Christine said timidly.

It sounded like Carlisle. But he was too far away, so she wasn't sure.

The fat man took off his sunglasses as his gaze flashed with irritation. He got out of the car and walked toward Christine.

Christine immediately became very alert. Her body shook as she dodged the man's hand.

"What are you trying to do?" Christine's complexion paled as she looked at the driver in fear.

"Get in the car," the fat man said in a low tone. Then, he reached out, trying to grab Christine's arm.

"Fuck. Let go of her!" Carlisle shouted in anger as he quickened his pace.

The fat man opened the car door and pushed Christine inside.

For my service The fat man murmured, "I already told you that I'm not a bad guy. I was kind enough to offer my and send you to your examination hall for a small fee."

Then, the man slammed the door shut.

Christine was terrified as she, slammed her hands on the car window and began to shout, "Let me out. Let me go. Help:

The man got in the driver's seat and took a blade from under the seat. He lowered his voice and said, "

Shut up. I'll stab you to death if you continue to scream."

Chapter 18

Christine immediately paused as her body began to tremble.

Suddenly, Carlisle slammed his bicycle in front of the car.

He held a brick he had prepared in advance and shouted at the man, "Get down the car. You better get down now..."

The man's expression darkened as he peeked his head out from the way. Do you believe that I'll run you over?"

With that said, he began to release his brakes.

1. ow. "You brat. Get out of my Carlisle immediately went forward and slammed the brick down on the man's head.

The man was immediately stunned. What the fuck?

His head spun as he stepped on the accelerator, trying to run Carlisle over.

Carlisle immediately threw another brick at his windshield. His windshield immediately cracked.

The man was furious as he got down the car with his blade.

"Carlisle... Run..." Christine was so scared that her face was deathly pale, and her mind became a jumbled

mess Carlisle was slightly terrified when he noticed that the man had a knife.

The area had not been covered with surveillance cameras yet. But this would be the first meaningful thing

he did since he had been reborn. He had to save Christine.

"I've already called the cops. You still have time to run away" Carlisle began to backtrack with a brick in

hand.

However, the man was cruel as he charged at Carlisle with the knife in hand.

Act Fast Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

Claim Chapter 19

Chapter 19

Chapter 19

Carlisle immediately dodged to the side. He looked for the right time and smashed the brick in his hand onto the man's arm.

The man began to scream in pain as he dropped the blade. Then, he gave Carlisle a punch to the face.

Carlisle was immediately fired up as he threw the brick to the side and started a fistfight with the man. Despite his slender body, he went head to head against the fat man.

Beep...

Beep...

At that moment, a white BMW stopped by the roadside and honked at them.

"Carlisle? Why is he here?" The short-haired girl in the passenger seat looked confused.

Then, her hands clenched into fists. She turned to the man in the driver's seat, Zachary Thompson, and said emotionally, "Could you please go down and help him?"

Zachary glanced at his sister before taking an umbrella and heading toward the black car.

"You should have minded your own business. I'll choke you to death!"

The fat man had already gained the upper hand and was standing over Carlisle with his hands wrapped around his throat.

Carlisle couldn't breathe and could feel himself start to fade. He had overestimated his strength.

Although he had been working out for the past month, he was only an 18-year-old boy!

"Hey, why are you killing someone out in the open here?"

The fat man turned around to see a young man in a sleek suit. He seemed to be in his late twenties and stood tall at about six feet.

"Are you trying to meddle in my business too?" The fat man shouted ferociously.

Zachary glanced at the black car and saw a young student in tears through the car window.

He immediately guessed that the man before him was a human trafficker. The young boy probably caught him in the act and tried to stop him.

That was why the fat man had screamed at him for meddling too.

So, Zachary tightened his grip around his umbrella and walked toward the man. Then, he raised his leg and kicked the man in the throat.

The man immediately fainted from the kick.

Zachary pursed his lips and said, "How can he faint from just one kick?"

hapte 19

Then, he held his umbrella and walked toward Carlisle. He stretched out his hand to help him up. "Are you alright?"

I'm fine, Carlisle said as he coughed. Then, he got up and headed toward the black car to unlock the door.

Christine immediately got out of the car and wrapped her arms around Carlisle. She began to cry.

"Carlisle, thank you so much."

Carlisle tensed as he patted Christine's back. "It's alright. You're safe now!"

Luckily, someone came and intervened. Otherwise, he would have died here.

"Hey, thanks for your help..." Carlisle turned to thank Zachary only to realize that the BMW had driven away.

In the car, Wanda's gaze hardened as the memory of Christine hugging Carlisle flashed across her mind.

Zachary kept one hand on the wheel as he used his other hand to light up a cigarette.

He glanced at his sister from the corner of his eyes. He asked in confusion, "Why do you seem to be in a bad mood?"

Wanda pursed her lips and shook her head. "I'm not!"

Zachary took a puff of his cigarette bud guthaf and flicked the ciga aid, "Don't get the distracted and focus on your exams. Try and get into an Ivy League!"

Rainville Beta High School was built five years ago.

Then, it became the designated examination hall for all students in Rainville.

Every student slowly made their way into their designated exam hall.

Carlisle had bought a set of clean clothes in the supermarket next door.

Lucy stood outside of Carlisle's exam hall for a long time. She immediately sighed in relief when she saw Carlisle had arrived.

"Ms. Turner, are you the invigilator for the exam?" Carlisle's face was m bruised and swollen. One might not recognize him if they saw him from afar.

Chapter 20

Chapter 20

"What happened to your face?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"The chains on my bicycle broke on the way here, causing me to fall!" Carlisle rubbed his burning face as even his words were slightly slurred.

Lucy didn't question him further. Instead, she said, "The invigilators y's exams are from the county. Don't stress yourself out too much, and just take the exam with a calm heart!"

Carlisle quickly nodded. "Alright!"

Lucy patted Carlisle's shoulders and said, "You should go in. I've already prepared a congratulatory gift for you. I'm just waiting for the day your results are released!"

Carlisle laughed, "I was only joking with you. Did you really take my word seriously?"

Lucy's expression was stern. "I wasn't joking with you. I told you I would prepare a gift for you, and that will be exactly what I do!"

Lucy had noticed the changes in Carlisle over the past month. He had become one of the rare candidates who had the opportunity to gain admission into Riverland University.

"Alright. I'll definitely make you proud!"

"Good luck!"

Lucy used her hands to cheer him on as he straightened his back and entered the examination hall confidently.

He sat down on his designated seat.

When the bell rang, the invigilators began to hand out the exam papers.

He quickly flipped through the essay questions and ignored other questions for the moment.

As expected, the theme for the essay was "Variety is the spice of life".

The essay carried a significant portion of the final marks and would affect his scores greatly.

Carlisle smiled as everyone began to flip through the exam paper.

In his past life, he felt like the world had ended when he saw the exam paper.

But now, he did not feel an ounce of pressure as he read through the questions again.

It was too easy.

Carlisle managed to finish the entire paper within an hour. He was the first one to leave the school.

When he went out, he saw many parents holding umbrellas as they stood outside the school's entrance.

"Why did he come out so early? He probably handed in an empty test paper!"

"He doesn't look like he's competent either. I feel bad for his parents!"

"Luckily, he's not my son. I'll probably break his legs if he did something like this."

"Oh my gosh. Gordon, that looks like your son." A bearded man said as he tapped the parent's shoulder, claiming to feel bad for his parents.

Gordon had been working part-time nearby. His boss had wanted to wait for their son to finish their SATS and had taken two days off.

So, Gordon decided to join in and went to the school.

Gordon held a cigarette in his hand and narrowed his eyes. Then, he shook his head and said, "That's not my son. My son isn't that fat. He also wasn't wearing that when he went out this morning."

It was still drizzling, so the student's face was slightly blurred.

But Gordon was sure that the boy wasn't Carlisle.

Gordon had been standing by the window as he watched Carlisle head off. He wasn't wearing that set of clothes.

However, Carlisle soon arrived at the school gate, and Gordon's expression immediately changed.

Holy shit, that was his son!

What happened to his face?

He nearly didn't even recognize his own son!

"Carlisle." Gordon stood on his tip toes as he waved his hand at Carlisle.

Carlisle saw his dad and quickly went over. "Dad, why are you here?"

Gordon's expression was sullen as he said, "What happened to your face? Who did you get into a fight

with?"

Although his expression was stern, he felt like his heart was breaking.

He couldn't even bring himself to discipline his child. How could someone else hit his son?

He would ensure they got what they deserved!

Carlisle quickly explained, "The chains in my bicycle broke this morning, causing me to fall."

He had already thought of a great excuse before coming out.

Gordon patted Carlisle's head as he sounded guilty. "It's all my fault.

should have sent you to school this

morning!"

Almost immediately, Gordon's expression darkened as he saidm again, "Why did you come out so early? Did you hand in an empty paper?"