

Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell

#Chapter 111 - Read Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell Chapter 111

Chapter 111

Chapter 111

Chapter 111

Shania replied dejectedly, "All I know is that he's a student at Riverland University.

Her contacts at Retrovintage copied the surveillance footage and sent the buyer's photo of Harold Delacruz's genuine piece to the school. However, they only provided a phone number.

Lethan asked curiously, "Why did you call him, and what did Lyrene mean by the 6 million dollars?"

Shania was about to speak when Lyrene shot her a warning glance.

Lethan chuckled resignedly

"Lyrene, I know I messed up. Go ahead, give me a beating!"

He had once hit Lyrene over Quinn, and she had ignored him ever since.

Lyrene gave him a cold glance. "Get up. Don't come looking for me or Shania anymore."

Lethan's eyes welled up. "Lyrene, are you going to hate me forever?"

Lyrene frowned. "Do I need to repeat myself?"

With a heavy sigh, Lethan stood up and left the office.

Shania gently advised, "Lyrene, let's leave the past behind us. As siblings, we should try to get along."

Lyrene stood up, smoothed out her dress, and said calmly, "I'm heading back to the county to look after Dad. Take care of yourself. Remember what I said: stay away from Lethan... and trust no one but me."

With that. Lyrene With that, Lyrene walked away, leaving Shania staring after her in a daze.

After a while, she sighed. "Why does it have to be this way?"

As Lyrene got into her BMW, she dialed Shein's number.

Shein answered with a laugh, "Did the sun rise from the west today? You called me!"

Lyrene responded flatly, "We missed our chance with the vacant land in Riverwatch District."

Shein drummed his fingers on the desk. "Not even a sliver of opportunity?"

Lyrene simply responded with a soft "Hmm."

Shein sighed, feeling a headache coming on. "I hope my intel is wrong. If Riverwatch District gets developed and Evermore Properties beats us to it, Yuriel will dominate the real estate sector."

After a moment of silence, Lyrene asked, "When will we have confirmation?"

Shein took a sip of water and whispered, "The city council has a meeting set in three days. We'll likely get the latest updates by noon on the third day."

Without another word, Lyrene hung up the phone.

Chapter 111

Carlisle led Cameron into the studio and introduced him to Heath and the others.

Heath offered Cameron a cigarette and said, "Nice to meet you! We're like family from now on!"

"Thanks, Heath, but I don't smoke," Cameron politely declined and added, "I'm new here, so I'm really looking forward to learning from you."

After checking his bank account balance, Carlisle opened a text message from Yuriel.

"Help Cameron get settled in. I've got some errands to run," Carlisle instructed.

Then, he grabbed the painting and headed out to Rick's Cafe.

Carlisle knew that Yuriel trusted him because he had the means to find him easily through his connections.

He dared not entertain other thoughts as he was dealing with Riverland's wealthiest. Moreover, business dealings required honesty.

Arriving at Rick's Cafe, Carlisle spotted five Mercedes parked outside.

He walked over to find Yuriel's car.

Yuriel was chatting with a com rosy-cheeked old man.

Seeing Carlisle, Yuriel greeted him with a smirk, "Here he is..."

Carlisle walked over and handed the painting to Yuriel.

Yuriel gave a wry smile. "By having close to ten million when you're this young, you're way ahead of 99% of people your age with that money."

It would be disingenuous to say Yuriel didn't regret spending 8,6m million dollars on something that could've been purchased for just tens of thousands.

Carlisle modestly smiled. "Thank you, Mr. Gust!"

Yuriel then handed the painting to the elderly man beside him for authentication.

Chapter 112

The old man scrutinized the details of the painting through his magnifying glass and nodded at Yuriel.

"Let's go back to the office!" Yuriel said, not even bothering to glance at Carlisle.

As Yuriel and his men left, Carlisle breathed a sigh of relief.

He had finally secured the 8.6 million dollars.

He grabbed a few cups of coffee and flagged down a cab by the roadside. To his surprise, Francis was the one behind the wheel.

"Looks like fate has brought us together again!" Francis chuckled.

Carlisle handed Francis a cup of coffee and joked, 'Since we're so destined, why not become my personal driver from now on?'

With the recent back and forth between the school and the studio, Carlisle thought it would be convenient to have Francis on board.

"So, you've hit the jackpot in just two hours?" Francis joked. From what he remembered, Carlisle had borrowed money from that girl just the day before, and now he was already on the hunt for a personal driver.

Carlisle glared at him impatiently. "Are you willing to do it or not?"

"Hey, are you serious?" Francis was taken aback.

instan

"I've dabbled in a little business. I'm constantly shuttling between school and the studio, so I need a car frequently," Carlisle explained.

Francis remembered Wanda mentioning Carlisle's business ventures, so he believed what Carlisle had just said. "This is a company car, so I can't offer it. Do you have your own?" he asked.

"Not at the moment. I'm planning to buy a used car," Carlisle replied.

"Funny enough, I have a retired comrade who works as a used car intermediary," Francis said.

"Take me to the bank first," Carlisle instructed.

In this era, cash was king. Most transactions were done in physical currency.

Even bank cards weren't ubiquitous, and many still relied on passbooks.

Opportunities for wealth were abundant in this age, especially for someone like Carlisle, who possessed memories of a past life..

Even without any business experience, he was confident in building his own business empire with the memories of his past life.

Carlisle first bought a backpack from a nearby mall and withdrew 300 thousand dollars in cash.

Chapter 112

Back in the car, he gave Francis the address of the studio.

Wanda called Carlisle to confirm their dinner plans with Lily.

Carlisle told her to give him an hour.

Soon after, Sean called, "Carl, I've reserved a private room at A1 Seafood Restaurant for a welcome party for Cameron. Is that alright?"

"No problem at all. We've got someone new joining us too!" Carlisle said with a smile.

Back at the studio, Carlisle clapped his hands to get everyone's attention before he announced, "Hold on a moment, everyone. Let's have a meeting."

The team gathered around the couch. Carlisle began by introducing Francis, followed by each member of the studio.

Francis looked at Carlisle with admiration. He had initially thought Carlisle was just a con artist, but now

he was starting to see his capabilities.

At nearly 30 years old, Francis couldn't help but feel somewhat overshadowed by this young college

student.

Carlisle handed out coffee to everyone. Since he had given Francis one earlier, he didn't take one for

himself.

Cameron pushed his coffee toward Carlisle, saying, "Here, Carl, you have it."

Carlisle shook his head with a smile and pushed the coffee back. "I'm not a fan of coffee."

"Alright, let's move on. I have a few announcements to make," Carlisle declared.

1/2

Chapter 113

Chapter 113

Just as Carlisle was about to start the meeting, a knocking sound came from the door.

The landlord, Jean Windoff, opened the door and looked at the smoky room with a frown. "Could you kids. smoke less? People outside are about to call the fire department!" she scolded.

Carlisle chuckled nervously. "Jean, you're just in time. Come in. I need to talk to you."

Francis couldn't help but admire Jean's slender figure as she walked in. When she glanced his way, he blushed and looked away.

"What's up?" Jean asked, fanning herself as she entered the room.

Carlisle explained, "You still have a few vacant units, right? I'm thinking of renting them all."

Jean's eyes lit up with excitement as she sat down beside Carlisle. "Are you serious?"

Carlisle chuckled, shifting away slightly. "Why would I lie?"

Jean was worried about not being able to rent out those three apartments, and Carlisle's proposal came as a relief. "But the price stays the same, okay?"

Carlisle gave her a reassuring smile. "Of course, I'll pay the original price."

"You're amazing, Carl! I'll make sure to treat you well tonight," Jean said, opening her arms wide for a hug.

Carlisle quickly dodged to the side.

Francis smirked and said, "Carlisle's still young. Come to me if you need anything!"

Jean glanced at Francis with disdain. "You must be around 30 years old, right? I don't like older men!"

Francis was surprised that being 30 was considered old. He awkwardly responded, "I've never had a girlfriend!"

Jean scoffed, "Do you have a house, a car, or savings? Finding a girlfriend without those would be tougher than an elephant's hide!"

"Jean, please leave. We have a meeting to attend," Carlisle interrupted.

Jean pouted. "Do you think I'd spill your business secrets?" Despite her words, she sashayed out of the room.

Carlisle continued, "This is our first meeting. I'll keep it short since I have other matters to attend to."

After a brief pause, he added, "Cameron is an experienced player in The Mystical Journey. He's joining Team Mystical to manage it. Hank, I'd like you to assist Cameron in setting up Team Mystical's gold farming operations."

Carlisle looked at Cameron and Hank. Cameron played The Mystical Journey to earn money for his sister's medical bills. When Carlisle mentioned gold farming, Cameron immediately grasped what he was implying.

Hank chuckled and took a sip of Chardonnay. "Team Legendary hasn't even started making a profit. Where would we get the money to set up another operation?"

Carlisle placed his backpack on the table and unzipped it, revealing 300 thousand dollars in cash.

22

The room fell silent immediately.

Sean stared at Carlisle in disbelief and blurted out, "Carl, did you rob a bank or something?"

Ignoring Sean's comment, Carlisle continued, "Team Legendary will get an additional six computers, while Team Mystical will get ten extras."

Carlisle took out 200 thousand dollars and placed it in front of Heath.

Heath was at a loss for words. He stuttered, "Carl... I... You..."

After all, they had only known each other for less than three days.

Despite this short time, Carlisle entrusted him with 200 thousand dollars, an amount that could cover the cost of a house.

"My principle in hiring is trust. Since I'm leading this venture to make money with you all, I won't doubt your abilities," Carlisle said.

Carlisle then proceeded to assign new roles.

"Dragonaire Studio will be divided into four departments: Team Legendary, Team Mystical, Team Darklord, and Team Techno," he announced.

"Owen will lead Team Legendary, with Benjamin serving as his deputy.

Cameron will lead Team Mystical. Lead Heath will temporarily lead Team Darklord. Hank will be the head technician of Team Techno. And Francis will be my personal driver."

After Carlisle finished assigning all the roles, Sean cautiously asked, "What about me?"

Carlisle teased, "You're still in school. I won't give you any duties to prevent you from getting distracted."

Sean immediately protested, "That won't do! If you don't give me something to do, I won't even feel like going to school!"

Carlisle brushed off his complaints and turned to Heath and the others, asking,

"Any more questions?"

Hank inquired, "How many people do we need for each department?"

After some thought, Carlisle replied, "One person for every six computers. The new hires will receive a monthly salary of 3000 dollars. Additionally, Team Techno needs to recruit more people."

"Why does Team Techno need so many people? I can handle it on my own!"

Hank exclaimed, taking another sip of Chardonnay.

"I have other plans in mind for you.

For Team Techno, I'm looking for top-tier talent like you who can handle independent application development," Carlisle clarified.

Chapter 114

Chapter 114

"Isn't this like finding a needle in a haystack?" Hank chuckled absentmindedly.

In the field of computer technology, he believed he was the best.

"Don't settle for less. Just bring over the right talent when you find them."

"Sean, check around your school for top-notch talent in internet and software development. I'm willing to offer a handsome salary for the right person," Carlisle said firmly.

In the age of digital intelligence, recruiting top talent was crucial.

Many tech giants had emerged, and competing with them on resources alone was impossible.

Carlisle knew his limited resources and funds paled in comparison to theirs.

His unique advantage was his knowledge of the future, which he believed gave him an edge.

The brief meeting lasted about 40 minutes.

After it ended, Carlisle asked Francis to drive him to Riverland University to pick up Wanda.

Meanwhile, Heath and the others headed to A1 Seafood Restaurant on their own.

At the entrance of Riverland University, Wanda stood on the roadside, wearing a light blue dress.

She was eagerly checking her phone from time to time to prevent missing any messages from Carlisle.

"Wanda, are you waiting for Carlisle?" Sarah's voice came from behind.

Sarah was in a stylish halter dress, her hair styled with bangs, and she wore a delicate smile on her face.

"Yes," Wanda nodded.

Sarah adjusted her hair and smiled coyly. "What's so great about Carlisle anyway? Besides being handsome, he's useless. Looks can't pay the bills. There are plenty of rich kids at school. You could find someone better than him easily!" ich kid?"

Wanda looked at Sarah in confusion. "Why would I want to find a rich Sarah was taken aback by Wanda's response. Indeed, why would she, a rich kid herself, want to find another rich kid?"

This was a reality Sarah struggled to confront. Despite being superior to Wanda in most aspects, the only area where she fell short was her family background.

Unlike Wanda, she didn't have a chauffeur waiting for her after school. She had to ride her bicycle home.

However, this didn't bother her anymore.

Her life was changing.

"Well, I wish you two a happily ever after!" Sarah sweetly smiled.

Chapter 114

7/2

Feeling puzzled, Wanda looked at Sarah.

Just earlier in the cafeteria, Sarah had given her a rather hostile look. She wondered why Sarah had sudden change in attitude that day.

Just then, a Porsche sped toward them and came to a halt by the roadside. The driver was a handsome young man around 20 years old.

He sported sunglasses, a white shirt with a few buttons undone, and his hair was slightly tousled.

Wanda recognized him from a party she had attended with her father.

It was Austin Gust, the only son of Yuriel.

"Sarah, get in," Austin said, waving her over with a smile.

Sarah nodded gracefully and walked toward the car.

Wanda finally understood why Sarah's mood had brightened. She G had found herself a wealthy guy.

Suddenly, a cab pulled up in front of the Porsche.

Carlisle stepped out, saying, "Wanda, let's go!"

With a smile, Wanda walked toward him.

Carlisle blocked the door frame and gently reminded her "Watch your head".

"Carlisle..." Sarah called out to get his attention.

Carlisle turned to her and asked, "Is there something you need?"

"Nothing. Just saying hi to an old friend," Sarah replied with a grin.

Carlisle turned away and got into the cab.

Inside the Porsche, Austin casually asked, "Do you know each other?"

"Yeah," Sarah replied. "Wanda, Carlisle, and I all went to high school in Rainville, Carlisle was quite persistent. He pursued me for over a year!"

Chapter 115 4:

Chapter 115

Sarah shook her head hastily. "I never even agreed to it. I never even touched a boy's hand when I was in high school!"

"Well, it seems like I hit the jackpot!" Austin's eyes sparkled with amusement. He placed his hand on Sarah's fair, smooth leg.

Sarah blushed and lowered her head, feeling both shy and uneasy.

She was happy to be with Austin, but they had just met.

Austin's advances made her uncertain about how to respond.

After a moment of silence, Sarah gathered her courage to grasp Austin's wrist and tremblingly said,

Austin, maybe we're moving too fast...

"Hmm, perhaps we are." Austin withdrew his hand with a smile.

He enjoyed it more when girls were willing and took the initiative.

In Francis taxi, Wanda noticed Carlisle's worn-out slippers and said, "Carlisle, please dress a bit better when you go out next time!"

After spending so long at the studio, he hadn't even bothered to take a shower or change his clothes. And he still smelled like cigarettes..

Carlisle shifted uncomfortably. "I'll remember next time. I promise!"

He was just too busy.

After bidding goodbye to Wanda, he picked up Cameron, made a trade for the "Galloping Horses painting, and attended another meeting.

Worried that Wanda might have to wait too long, he hurried to the school right after the meeting ended.

"Why are you distancing yourself from me? Am I that intimidating?" Wanda pouted.

"I smell like smoke and sweat, so I was afraid you wouldn't like it!" Carlisle said apologetically.

"I don't mind!" Wanda scooted closer to Carlisle.

Carlisle grinned and took Wanda's hand, placing it in his palm.

Wanda rested her head on Carlisle's shoulder and whispered, "You don't have to worry about anyone causing trouble for you at school anymore. We can openly date without any worries."

Carlisle raised an eyebrow. "You already know about it?"

Wanda nodded. "It was Zac's men. I've already talked to him."

Carlisle chuckled and asked, "What did you tell Zachary?"

Chapter 1154

Carlisle wondered how Zachary, with his personality, had agreed so readily.

Wanda pursed her lips, choosing not to answer Carlisle's question..

Carlisle tightened his grip on Wanda's hand and leaned his face against her forehead, whispering, "I'll prove myself to Zacl He supposed Wanda had threatened Zachary with something, which made Zachary agree so readily.

It was clear that Zachary doted on Wanda. However, due to Carlisle's appearance, she seemed to be estranged from her family.

Carlisle and Wanda waited for Lily at A1 Seafood Restaurant's entrance. The three of them headed to a private room on the second floor.

While Wanda and Lily chatted about school, Carlisle asked, "Any dietary restrictions for you two?"

Both shook their heads.

Carlisle chose a few signature dishes and started browsing the Riverland forum on his phone.

Twitter was established in 2006, while Facebook came in 2004.

Forum websites were the primary platforms for netizens to communicate.

Particularly, platforms like Widetalk Community were hubs for talented individuals.

Many

regions had also established their own forum websites, such as the iverland forum where a large number of Riverland residents congregated

When Carlisle first arrived in Riverland, he registered an account on the forum.

Upon entering the forum, he immediately posted a thread seeking

OP

to purchase property in the Riverwatch District. He specified that all documents must be complete and even attached his contact number.

Chapter 116

Chapter 116

After posting his thread, Carlisle began browsing through other users' posts on the forum.

He stumbled upon a pinned thread seeking a player named Bygones_b_bygones from The Legendary Tale. The contact person listed was Chaos_Hero, along with a provided contact number.

Carlisle glanced at Wanda, realizing that Chaos Hero was her brother, Zachary. The anger he had accumulated from the punch Zachary had thrown seemed to dissipate a bit.

If Zachary found out that the person who kidnapped his sister was the one who ruined his Heavenly Sword, Carlisle wondered how he would react. But for now, it was best not to provoke him.

As Carlisle remained engrossed in his phone, Lily leaned in to whisper to Wanda, "Are you guys together now?"

Wanda blushed slightly and said, "Well, sort of."

Lily chuckled. "What do you mean 'sort of'?"

Wanda lowered her voice and explained, "We haven't really confessed to each other yet..."

*So, you're just missing a formal declaration? Lily grinned. Then she frowned and said, "Wait a minute. Carlisle seemed quite particular about these things. He even sent roses to Sarah at school previously."

"Oh, when was that? Why didn't I know?" Wanda's smile faded as she felt a pang of jealousy.

Realizing she had upset Wanda, Lily quickly corrected herself. "I was just kidding. There's nothing to it!"

h you Wanda tugged at Lily's dress and threatened her. "You better tell me, or I won't be friends with anymore!"

Caught in an awkward situation, Lily glanced at Carlisle for help, Despite sitting across the table, Carlisle could still hear their conversation.

Carlisle smiled and said, "Last Valentine's Day, I got a rose for Sarah and waited under her dorm in the rain for two hours. Yet, she didn't even give it a second glance!"

"Serves you right!" Wanda turned her head away in a huff.

Last Valentine's Day was on a weekend. Zachary and Queenie had a fight, and she was at home helping Zachary figure out how to make up with Queenie.

"Wanda, that was just a silly thing from last year. You don't need to be jealous," Carlisle said, shaking his head with a wry smile.

Wanda huffed, then she turned her head to Lily and asked, "So, what major did you choose?"

"I chose Accounting." Lily said.

While the two chatted, Carlisle poured himself a cup of tea and took a sip. Chapter 116

22

Earlier, Lily had mentioned the importance of formalities.

Carlisle hadn't directly confessed his feelings to Wanda because he wanted to give her a romantic confession.

But before that, he needed to make some achievements in his business. He wanted to give Wanda a sense of security.

The waiter served the dishes.

Carlisle wore disposable gloves and peeled some shrimp for Wanda. He pushed them toward Wanda, saying. "Wanda, have some shrimp. They're good for you!"

Looking at Carlisle's smiling face, Wanda turned her head away. "I have hands, you know..."

At this moment, Lily chimed in, "Wanda, if you don't want them, let me take them!"

"No, he peeled them for me!" Wanda immediately pulled the small plate of shrimp toward her.

Lily let out a sigh. "You two are so lovey-dovey. I feel like a third wheel here. It's really awkward for me!"

Wanda chuckled. "Don't you have male classmates in college? You should find someone too!"

"L..." Lily lowered her head, a blush spreading across her face.

"You little liar. You must have a boyfriend already, right?" Wanda teased.

"I... I don't!" Lily quickly shook her head.

"Is it Sean?" Carlisle asked with a smirk. He had previously set them up, but he wasn't sure if they'd taken the hint and pursued it.

"We just had smoothies together!" Lily replied.

"Just let things develop naturally.

Sean's a good guy. Oh, speaking of which, Sean's also at AD Seafood Restaurant. Let me call him over," Carlisle said as he picked up his phone to dial Sean's number.

Just as he picked up his phone, he received a call from Sean.

Carlisle answered, "Sean, I was just about to call you. I'm with-"

Before he could finish, Sean's urgent voice came through the phone "Carl, we've got trouble with someone. Hurry up and come he

Chapter 117

The sounds of a fight as well as expletives flying everywhere came from the other end of the line.

Carlisle said, "Wanda, Lily, I need to head out to deal with something. Stay in here and don't go anywhere!"

He hung up and strode out. Two groups of people were caught in a tussle in the second-floor corridor.

Heath swung a chair leg around wildly like he was brandishing a sword. His moves were strong and precise.

Meanwhile, Benjamin, who looked honest and down-to-earth, was surprisingly good in a fight. He was holding a man by the neck and kneeing him in the abdomen hard. The man's eyes were already rolling to the back of his head.

Sean and Owen were younger, so they were receiving more blows than they were dealing.

"Stop fighting! Stop!" Francis was trying his best to "stop" the fight. As he spoke, he locked a burly man in his arms, keeping him in place so he couldn't move. Meanwhile, Hank charged forward to smash a beer bottle on the man's head. As it shattered, blood trickled down the man's forehead. Just then, three young men ran at Francis with beer bottles in their hands. Francis' gaze flickered as he spun around to fling the man at them, making them fall to the floor as he crashed into them.

Then, another group of men charged out of a nearby private room. They held beer bottles that had yet to be opened. Mike was in the lead. He brandished a beer bottle and roared at Heath, "Do you want everyone in our circle to turn their backs on you, Heath?"

Heath turned to spit out a mouthful of blood on the floor. Then, he bared his teeth in a feral smile and snarled, "Come on, then. It's been a while since I've gotten serious in a fight. I'll have some fun with you guys today!"

Mike seemed to be a little wary of Heath. There was even a hint of fear in his eyes. But he didn't want to embarrass himself in front of his lackeys, so he said, "Are you itching for a beating because my brother hasn't given you one in a while?"

Heath gave him and his men a scornful look. "You guys were still wetting yourselves in bed when I started running in these circles. And don't think you can scare me by throwing Ian's name around—he's nothing without those rich people backing him up!"

Just then, Carlisle came downstairs with a rusty chair leg. When he saw they were up against Mike and his men, he frowned slightly. Heath had told him about Ian being Mike's brother and the top dog in this area. It would probably be more trouble than it was worth to get on Mike's and Ian's bad sides.

After some thought, he chucked the chair leg aside and hurried over to them. "What's happened here. Heath?"

Heath retrieved the cigarette he'd tucked behind his ear and lit it. He took a drag before saying, "Some of the brats in the private room next to us got drunk and came to us to kick up a fuss."

Chapte 117

2/2

Carlisle nodded and looked at Mike with a smile. "Since your men are the ones in the wrong, Mike, how about we let this slide? I'll handle tonight's bill."

Heath frowned but didn't say anything. He knew Carlisle had to consider his business.

Owen went to them and exclaimed, "Have you lost your mind, Carl? They're the ones who came causing trouble-why do you need to foot their bill?"

Wasn't that an indirect apology and admission of fault? He couldn't stand for it.

Sean limped over to them. His eyes were red as he asked, "When did you become such a coward, Carlisle?"

Back in their high school days, Carlisle had gotten into more fights than he had. When any of their classmates had been bullied, he'd always been the first to throw a punch.

Yet now, Carlisle wasn't standing up for his friends despite the beating they'd taken. What was worse, he was offering to pay for Mike and his men's expenses!

It was so fucking frustrating!

Hank tucked his hands into his pockets. Some glass had slashed his arm, and his long hair covered half his face, making it hard to read him.

Meanwhile, Francis crossed his arms. He didn't think Carlisle was wrong for doing this. Mike had safety in numbers. If they were to continue with this fight, their side would be the one to lose.

The fact that Carlisle had chosen to settle the matter in this manner proved he was mature on the inside.

Chapter 118

Carlisle ignored how the rest of the people felt about the situation. He didn't take his eyes off Mike as he asked, "What do you think?"

After a moment of hesitation, Mike said, "I want 8000 dollars to pay for my medical bill!"

"Fucking-" Sean and Owen almost exploded with rage. Mike's men hadn't been the only ones who got injured.

Benjamin stepped forward. "I'll be beyond disappointed in you if you agree to that, Carl."

Heath always told him that one could be broke, but one couldn't be undignified. Even when they'd been at their worst, they'd chosen to sleep under bridges and starve than to beg for food or money.

Carlisle looked at Heath. "Do you have the money?"

Instead of saying anything, Heath looked at Cameron, who was hiding in the private room. He was carrying the bag that carried the money.

Carlisle went inside and took 8000 dollars out of it. He handed the money to Mike and said, "Here's the money for your hospital bill."

Mike smirked. "I suppose you're not that dumb. Here's a reminder-you'd better stay away from these fuckers in the future. I'm in a good mood today, so I'll let you off easily!*

He waved a hand. "Let's continue drinking!"

He and his men returned to their private room, as did Heath and the others. Sean didn't join them, though. He roared at Carlisle, "This is the end of our friendship, Carlisle! With that, he limped off. Benjamin sighed as well. "I don't want to do this anymore, either."

Owen didn't say anything, but he silently followed Benjamin away. Francis shook his head and smiled bitterly. "These youngsters really can't keep their tempers in check."

Hank opened a bottle of whiskey and poured it onto his wound. The veins on his neck bulged from the -pain, but he didn't make a sound. Francis watched him, thinking that he was ruthless despite his appearance. He was ruthless to himself more than he was to others.

Heath finished his cigarette and lit another one. Carlisle took the whiskey Hank had placed on the table and took a swig. The liquor burned on its way down his throat, helping to suppress his anger.

"Let's keep whatever happened today in mind for now. Within a month, I'll drive Ian and Mike Carlson out of Riverland!" His tone was calm, but his eyes flickered with ruthlessness.

Carlisle didn't feel great, seeing that his friends had been beaten up. But he'd just started his business, so he had to hold himself back whenever necessary.

Heath stubbed out his cigarette. "This area used to be under Horace Lancaster's care. I worked for him for more than a decade. Later, Ian suddenly showed up out of nowhere with more than ten million dollars. He bought out some of the places here and went after Horace's businesses.

Chapter 118

2/2

"When things went bad for Horace, Ian even bought out some of his most loyal supporters. Then, Ian got someone to get rid of Horace's wife. He couldn't handle it and jumped off a building."

Francis stuffed a piece of salmon into his mouth. "You know, I would've thought the battle over territory would've involved more physical brawls."

"That might've been the case a decade ago. At the time, two or three hundred of us would get into fights at one go. But in recent years, law enforcement has been getting stricter in these parts. It's rare to see a large-scale brawl nowadays," Hank said as he leaned back casually.

"You guys are younger than me, yet you've seen so much more than I have." Francis chuckled.

"You used to be in the army, right? It's normal that you wouldn't know about these things." Hank smiled

faintly..

Just then, Carlisle's phone rang. It was a call from a number he didn't recognize.

Half_a_Cig was Carlisle's online username. He said, "Yeah, that's me."

The person sounded excited as he said, "I'm Sunny Little, a realtor from Premier Properties. saw your post on the Riverland forum that you're interested in purchasing some property at the Riverwatch District. I happen to have some listings there."

Chapter 119

Chapter 119

Chapter 119

"How many units do you have?" Carlisle asked.

"Six, and they're all overlooking the river. They should be pretty easy to rent out once you've refurbished them a little!" Sunny answered.

"I'll meet you at 6:00 pm tomorrow, then."

"Alright. I'll be waiting for your phone call!"

Carlisle was delighted after hanging up. In three days, the news that Riverwatch District would undergo development would start to spread among the upper crust. There was also one important factor that led to his decision-Riverland's first subway station would be in Riverwatch District.

Once the wealthy heard about this, they would fall over themselves to purchase property at Riverwatch District, and the prices would skyrocket overnight.

Six units were far too small a number. Carlisle's plan was to invest all eight million dollars he had in the area. In three days time, it would probably increase by three to five times.

After having some drinks with Heath and the others, Carlisle got up to head back to the third floor so he could accompany Wanda. He said to Heath, "Remember to talk to Benjamin and Owen. Tell them we'll settle the score starting next month."

Heath nodded with a smile. "They're still young. I hope you won't be too harsh on them."

Carlisle smiled and left. Hank downed his liquor, then asked Heath, "Do you believe the things he said?"

Heath shook his head. "Not really."

Cameron looked resolute, though. "I have faith in Carl."

The three of them turned to look at Francis. He asked, "So what if we don't believe him? Can you guys take Ian down?"

He laughed mirthlessly. In truth, he didn't have much faith in Carlisle, either. If the latter were around his age, he would probably be less wary. But Carlisle was much younger. Francis didn't think he was capable of taking down Ian's financial backer.

The only thing about Carlisle that could make Francis have some semblance of faith in him was how he was more mature than the people his age.

Heath and Hank lowered their heads and sighed deeply.

Carlisle returned to the private room on the third floor to accompany Wanda. After they were fed and watered, he went to the front desk to settle the bill. His bill was slightly over 300 dollars, but Mike and his men had spent 12 thousand dollars. Chapter 119

2/2

It pissed him off. They must've ordered several bottles of good liquor.

off to Wanda had already seen Lily a cab. When she saw Carlisle come out, she said, "How much was the bill? I'll pay you back."

She was the one who'd wanted to treat Lily to a meal, so she didn't feel good having Carlisle foot the bill. There was also the fact that Carlisle was starting his own business- he had to be short on cash. Why else would he have borrowed money from her?

He tucked his hands in his pockets and said with a smile, "You don't have to be so polite with me. We're all classmates. It wouldn't be wrong for me to treat her to a meal."

"No, that won't do. I have to pay for this!" Wanda stubbornly pulled out some 100-dollar bills from her purse Carlisle was bemused. "That really isn't necessary."

She glared at him. "If you don't take the money, I won't bring you along to any more of my gatherings!"

He relented and tugged two notes from the stack Wanda held. "Let's split the bill, then. The meal cost 360

dollars-you can pay 200 dollars while I pay the remainder."

She stuffed all the money she held into his hands. "Take it all!"

"Wait-" Carlisle wanted to return the money to Wanda, but she'd already run off.

He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He tucked the money into his pocket and ran after her. "That wasn't fair, Wanda! You make me feel like I'm leeching off you!"

"Well, you should! Isn't it nice?" She stopped and turned to grin at him.

He caught up with her and grabbed the back of her neck. "Go ahead and run. Why did you stop?"

he was lil. "Let me go!" Wanda shrunk away from him as she yelped. a kitten whose mother had caught it by the neck. She swiped at his waist.

"Wait, don't tickle me!" Carlisle had always been ticklish. He hurriedly released her to avoid her attacks. Once she was free, she tried to tickle him with both hands, making him flee. "Don't you dare run from me,

Carlisle!"

This time, Wanda was the one who did the chasing. They ran to the grass near the square Carlisle abruptly the squared stopped and turned around with his arms wide open. He waited for Wanda to run right into them.

"Hey!" Wanda didn't manage to stop in time and crashed into him.

He wrapped his arms around her and teased, "Are you trying to take advantage of me, Wanda?" "What? No!" Wanda blushed furiously, her voice barely above a whisper.

Chapter 120

That wasn't right. Carlisle was the one taking advantage of Wanda!

She puffed out her cheeks and looked up at him. "You're the one who purposely stopped..."

She didn't finish her sentence. The way Carlisle stared intently at her made her stop. Under the dim lights, the moonlight cast on her face through the tree branches. Her red lips gleamed delectably.

Carlisle gulped, unable to stop himself from leaning down to kiss her. Wanda widened her eyes in surprise as her heart raced.

She wondered if Carlisle was going to kiss her. This was her first kiss! Should she reject him? She thought that she couldn't let this happen. He'd yet to confess his feelings to her, so she wasn't his girlfriend yet!

But... if she were to turn him down, wouldn't she be just like Sarah?

After a round of mental struggling, Wanda slowly lifted her head and shut her eyes tightly. She was going to throw caution to the wind. This would be Carlisle's first kiss, too-she wasn't losing out on anything!

Suddenly, there was a loud bang from the square nearby. It made Wanda jump in surprise and turn to look at the square.

There was a crowd at the square, and fireworks were being set. They exploded in the night sky in a flurry of colors, lighting it up momentarily.

"Wow, they're gorgeous..." Wanda's eyes gleamed brightly."

Carlisle sat there and asked her softly, "You don't get the chance to see fireworks often?"

"I spend the holidays at the county, and they don't allow fireworks there."

"Do you like them?"

"Yeah! I love the moment when they explode and light up the sky. The sight of them in that split second is so memorable." Wanda looked up at the sky, looking dreamy.

The colorful fireworks, the twinkling stars, and the fact that she could witness all of this with the person she liked... It was wonderful.

Carlisle lay on the grass with his hands behind his back. He crossed one leg at the knee and wiggled his toes as he looked up at the sky with his eyes half-shut.

"Wow!"

"Kiss her! Kiss her!"

The crowd at the square started cheering and whooping. A couple hugged each other and shared a kiss.

Wanda's eyes lit up at the sight. "Look, Carlisle! That's so romantic!"

He asked lazily, "Is that a hint for me?"

Chapter 120

"What? No, of course not! Don't overthink this!" Wanda shook her head vigorously.

Carlisle smiled without saying anything else. He already had it planned out-on the day he confessed his feelings for Wanda, he would light enough fireworks to make Riverland's sky light up like it was daytime.

They strolled around the square for a while before taking a cab back to campus. Carlisle walked Wanda back to her dorm before returning to his.

Kelvin was playing a game on his phone as he lay on his front. When he saw Carlisle walk in, he mocked, "You thought you were a big shot back in high school, didn't you? Why'd you back down like a coward today?"

Carlisle gathered his clothes and said, "You were a pretty big shot in high school, too. Why are you someone's lapdog now?"

"Fuck! Say that again!" Kelvin jumped out of bed, looking like he would swing a punch at any second.

Carlisle couldn't be bothered. He turned to leave with his shower necessities. Kelvin stood in this way and said obnoxiously, "You'd better watch yourself when you're talking to me. You couldn't afford to offend me in Rainville, and you can't afford to do it now!"

Carlisle looked at him. Kelvin was half a head shorter than him and was as skinny as a stick. Then, he sidestepped Kelvin to leave. If he was still the same person he'd been before being reborn, Kelvin would already be lying on the floor and screaming for mercy.

Now that Carlisle had been given a second chance at life, his mindset had changed drastically. He would take Kelvin's insults in stride and pretend they were nothing but ant bites.

After taking a shower, he returned to his room and lay on the bed. Then, he called Thomas to wish him a happy birthday.

Chapter 121