

# **Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell**

## **#Chapter 131 - Read Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell Chapter 131**

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After Cameron and Francis left, Carlisle went to the second floor.

The computer supplier, Winston Sanders, was installing the computers with his apprentice. When he saw Carlisle, he stopped and beamed. "You're back, Mr. Zahn!"

His apprentice pulled out a packet of cigarettes from his pocket and held one out to Carlisle. "Have a smoke."

Then, Winston introduced Carlisle to the person next to him. "This is my new apprentice, Jake Horton."

Jake looked to be about 18 or 19. He had earrings, and his hair had been dyed white. He even had a tattoo of a scorpion on his neck as well as a few more scattered over his arms. It was hard to have a good first impression of him.

"Thanks, but I don't smoke." Carlisle turned Jake down with a smile.

Jake frowned. "Are you gonna be that rude, Mr. Zahn?"

He felt that Carlisle should have taken the cigarette even if he didn't smoke. It felt like an insult to him.

otherwise.

"I honestly don't smoke. Those cigarettes don't come cheap; you'll just be wasting one on me," Carlisle explained.

He was starting to get mad. He was the boss, and he'd hired Winston for a job. If even Winston was so polite to him, why wasn't Jake? And how could he think Carlisle was being rude. just by refusing to accept the cigarette?

Sunny noticed Carlisle's temples throbbing a little. Earlier, in the car, he seemed to have caught Carlisle breaking up with Wanda. Carlisle had been glum since then, so Jake was just getting himself in trouble.

"How can you talk to Mr. Zahn like that, Jake?" Winston glared at Jake.

Then, he explained awkwardly, "Don't mind him, Mr. Zahn. He's my nephew, and he comes from a single-parent family. No one's ever had the time to raise him properly, so he's picked up a few bad habits...."

Jake and Carlisle were the same age. Jake had always been a bad student, so he hadn't gotten into university. Under his mother's insistence, he'd come to the city to learn how to deal with computers from Winston.

But since his arrival in Riverland, he'd gotten to know some hooligans and ruffians. That was why he'd dyed his hair and gotten tattoos, Winston didn't know what to do about it.

Carlisle didn't intend to stoop to Jake's level. Winston was Ivan's relative, and Jake was Winston's. They were all acquaintances, so there was no need to make things too awkward between them.

Besides, his game studio was just starting out. If things went smoothly, he would continue expanding the company over the next three to five years. That meant he and Winston would have to work together for some time.

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At that thought, Carlisle smiled perfunctorily. "It's fine. Get back to work. With any luck, all the computers will be installed by-

"Take the cigarette!" Jake cut Carlisle off.

"Fuck you!" Sunny's blood pressure rose. He kicked Jake while Carlisle grabbed Jake by the hair and punched him.

"Fuck! I'll kill you!" Jake had been a bully in school, so he was used to being the one doing the beating.

No one had ever treated him like this before. Now that two people were targeting him, he immediately started fighting back.

Back in school, Carlisle had also been good in fights. He didn't hesitate to throw punches, and he seemed to be NO using this fight as a way to vent his frustration. He put all his strength into every punch.

As for Sunny, he was 25 years old and in much better condition than condition Jake. This was his first time getting into a fight, but that didn't mean he went easy on Jake.

"Mr. Zahn, please! Please stop!" Winston hurried forward to break up the fight, but Carlisle pushed him away.

Jake was only one person, while Carlisle and Sunny were working together to pumme him. He eventually curled up on the floor and protected his head with his arms as he spat expletives at them.

"Mr. Zahn, you'll kill him at this rate!" Winston threw himself over Jake to protect him. Only then did Carlisle and Sunny stop.

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At the same time, Owen and Benjamin charged upstairs, each holding a chair leg. "What the fuck?"

When Owen saw how Carlisle's shirt had been tugged open and how there were scratches on his face, he ran over to them, wanting to smash the chair leg on Jake.

Carlisle stopped him. He panted as he said, "Forget it."

Benjamin pointed at Jake with his chair leg. "You'd better fucking watch yourself, fucker!"

Just then, Heath came running upstairs with a bunch of men. They held either beer bottles or steel bars they'd taken from the windows.

Jake spat out a mouthful of blood and yelled, "You guys are the ones who should watch out! My boss won't let you off the hook!"

Heath lit a cigarette. He narrowed his eyes and asked, "And who would that be?"

Jake snorted. "Wendell Webb, Starlight Bay's top dog.'

Heath and Benjamin were taken aback when they heard Wendell's name. Then, they burst into laughter.

"W-What are you guys laughing at?" Jake was baffled.

Wendell was infamous in Starlight Bay. All the karaoke places and bars in the area were under his watch. It would only take a single command from him to have dozens of men by his side.

Heath took a drag of his cigarette. "Wendell used to be under me."

Jake's pupils constricted. He stared incredulously at Heath and asked, "You... What's your name?"

"Heath Walton, also known as Prince Heath!" Heath swung the chair leg behind him, resting it on his shoulder.

Prince Heath? Jake felt a chill run down his spine.

Wendell had indeed mentioned that name in the past. According to Wendell, Heath had joined Horace's gang at the age of 15. At his peak, he'd had more than 200 people reporting to him.

The most fearful thing about him was that he enjoyed slicing people's fingers and toes off. The mere thought of it made Jake shudder.

Heath had gone missing after Horace jumped off a building. Wendell said he was still in Riverland; he just rarely made any appearances.

Jake never would've expected to run into Heath in a place like this. He said tremulously, "I'm sorry, Heath..."

"Let's get back to work." Heath waved a hand and led the people he'd brought downstairs.

"Holler for us if anything happens, Carl. I'm gonna get back to work!" Owen left after saying that.

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"If you dare piss Carl off again, I'll snap your legs in half!" Benjamin snarled as he glared at Jake before leaving as well.

Jake trembled all over as cold sweat beaded over his swollen face.

Carlisle pulled an office chair over and sat before him. His tone was icy as he said, "Don't act like you're a big deal when you're fucking worthless, brat."

"Do you think Heath's that powerful? He was only one of Horace's lackeys."

"Did powerful? Look at how someone destroyed you think Horace was his family and made him commit suicide. Do you think you can ever become half as powerful as Horace was?"

"And so what if you do get there? Those who are truly powerful can take you down without even showing their faces!"

"We live in a law-abiding society now-taking the lawless path won't get you anywhere!"

Carlisle's every word hit Jake where it hurt. He hung his head, not daring to meet Carlisle's gaze.

Winston handed him a bag of tissues. "Wipe off the blood. No one's cared about you since you were a child, so you're used to running wild and being arrogant.

"Mr. Zahn's given you a precious life lesson today. Do you think it's that easy to survive as a gang member? Think about how Ivan quit that life to open up an internet cafe."

Jake grabbed some tissues and wiped the blood trickling from his nose. He started crying as he wiped.

Carlisle couldn't be bothered to watch him cry. He brought Sunny downstairs with him to Team Legendary's area.

They'd just gotten downstairs when Hank approached them excitedly.

"Carl, there's a phone manufacturer in Stoneville who made a run for it with his sister-in-law. We should hurry over there to check things out!"

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"Wait, really?" Carlisle's eyes lit up. If the plant were to close down, there'd be tons of top talents he could recruit from there!

"Yeah, I just saw it on the forum! The post is still fresh. The plant's employees are now protesting outside the plant. We can go check things out and see whether we can hire some technical people from there."

Hank had already guessed that Carlisle likely wanted to get into the world of cell phones and the internet. Otherwise, he wouldn't have asked Hank to search for people in this field of work.

That was why he'd hurried back to the studio without even finishing his lunch when he saw the news.

"Let's head over there right now! Sunny, you stay here and do what you're supposed to do." Carlisle left Sunny at the studio.

He and Hank immediately hailed a cab to Rainville. It was under Riverland's jurisdiction and was in the north.

About half an hour after they'd left the studio, Carlisle received a call from Heath. "Carl, it's Sunny. Have you heard of Riverwatch Hotel?"

Sunny's voice rang out on the other end of the line.

Riverwatch Hotel? Wasn't that Prince Hotel's predecessor?

After Riverwatch District had been developed, Riverwatch Hotel was rebuilt and turned into Prince Hotel. Carlisle had no idea how it ended up in Heath's hands, though.

"Yeah, I've heard of it. What's wrong with it?"

"Three people died there last night. According to the police, someone powerful was behind it. They've put out wanted notices for the guy. If he's caught, he'll definitely be sentenced to death," Sunny said in a low voice.

"Are you saying that we'll have a chance to buy the hotel?" Carlisle's eyes gleamed as his mouth went a little dry from the excitement.

"I got the owner's phone number from Bill earlier. He does intend to sell off the hotel, but the price..."

"How much is it?"

"36 million dollars..."

"Alright, got it." Carlisle hung up.

36 million dollars wasn't a sum he could afford for the time being. It would be hard to borrow that much money from someone, too.

After some thought, he called Lethan

"Well, I'll be. Why are you calling, Carlisle? Lethan asked.

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"I want to do business with you."

"Oh?" Lethan chuckled. "Let's hear it."

"Before that, I want you to promise you'll split the profits in half with me," Carlisle said seriously.

"Sure." Lethan didn't hesitate.

Carlisle had helped him avoid a three-billion dollar loss-it was no different to saving his life. But Carlisle hadn't asked for anything in return and even wanted to do business with Lethan.

Lethan was also positive he would make money! If they did, Lethan was willing to give all the profits to him, let alone split it in half.

"Alright, then. I'll text you the details." Carlisle hung up and sent Lethan a text after that.

At Islo Clothing, Lethan was leisurely sipping his coffee. When he received Carlisle's message, he immediately read it.

"Buy Riverwatch District. It costs 36 million dollars."

He spat out his coffee.

36 million dollars? Did Carlisle even know how much money that was? And this was Riverwatch Hotel they were talking about!

No one visited Riverwatch District these days, not even wild animals. Only a fool would purchase property there.

Lethan composed himself before replying to the message. "Do you know what you're talking about, Carlisle?"

After that, he put his phone down and wiped the coffee he'd spat all over the coffee table.

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Less than two minutes later, Lethan received a reply. He immediately checked it.

Carlisle: "Give me a proper answer in half an hour. If you've yet to make up your mind by then, I'll approach Yuriel Gust about this."

"Ha! Yuriel? He's not as easygoing as I am!" Lethan muttered to himself before leaning back and falling into deep thought.

Carlisle didn't seem like a regular student to him-Carlisle's calmness upon first meeting him at the cafe hadn't been an act.

And it was still a mystery as to how Carlisle had found out about his wife and driver having an affair. If even he, as the husband, didn't know about it, how had a freshman at Riverland University found out?

He was much too mysterious. Could it be that Riverwatch Hotel really could earn him big bucks?

Lethan sipped his coffee with his eyes narrowed.

The only way it would make a profit was if Riverwatch District were to be developed. But if that were to happen, Riverland's upper crust would be the first to hear about it.

Suddenly, he thought about something and widened his eyes.

Josie had dropped by Shania's place some time ago, and Shania mentioned something about Yuriel's Evermore Properties fighting her for a piece of land in Riverwatch District.

Had Shania already heard something about this? That didn't make sense, though. If she knew something, she would've long since started purchasing the property there in bulk. Lethan just couldn't puzzle things out..

He called Shania.

"Lethan?"

"Are you busy, Shania?"

"Not really,"

"I have a question for you. Is Riverwatch District going to be developed?"

"Who did you hear that from?" Shania asked in confusion.

"I was just asking." Lethan chuckled awkwardly.

"Man, and here I thought you'd heard something." Shania rolled her eyes.

"You and Evermore Properties are fighting over a piece of land there, aren't you? I thought that meant the district was gonna be developed. I even thought about purchasing some property there just in case!" Lethan explained.

"It's normal for us in the property line to purchase land, isn't it? There's no doubt Riverwatch District will Chapter 134

be developed-we just don't know when it'll happen. It might take ten years, 20 years, or even 30 years if you're unlucky." Shania sounded bored.

"With your business acumen, do you think there's a chance of it being developed in recent years? Lethan didn't want to give up just yet.

"I did hear about the higher-ups wanting to hold a meeting on Riverland's economic development and future plans. They're likely going to develop a particular district, but I wouldn't say Riverwatch District is high on the list," Shania said.



"That still means there's hope, right?"

"If you insist. I've already told you what I can. Josie wanted me to stay away from you brother, so I can't do that. That's all I have to say, really. Bye." Shania hung up impatiently.

Lethan listened to the dial tone and smiled bitterly.

but you're still my

Outside Stoneville's Pioneer Industrial Park, dozens of people were sitting on by the roadside. Several of those who'd lost control of their emotions were sobbing and wailing in the middle of the street.

The policemen were trying to keep things under control while the authorities tried to soothe the workers.

Lethan called Carlisle just as he'd gotten out of the car.

Carlisle checked the time. There were three minutes left until the deadline he'd given Lethan. "Have you decided?"

"Do you have some inside news or something?" Lethan asked seriously.

"That's not something you need to bother about," Carlisle said calmly. "I just need you to trust me!"

"Fine. I'll take this bet, then!" Lethan chose to believe Carlisle. If he were to lose his bet, he'd treat it as his repayment to Carlisle for saving his life.

"There's one more thing. I might need to borrow some money from you," Carlisle said rather embarrassedly.

"How much do you need?" Lethan asked.

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"I'm not sure about the details. I'll call you once I've confirmed them."

After ending the call, Carlisle walked toward the group of labor department staff that was busy calming the employees in the middle of the road.

A woman was sitting on the ground and sobbing. "That jerk hasn't paid us for three months, and now he's run away. I can't even put food on the table for my family. What am I supposed to do now?"

"Ma'am, please calm down. You'll get your money back!"

Bella Hopkins, a staff from the Labor Department squatted in front of the woman, trying to comfort her.

"Then you should pay us now! What good is it just talking about it?" the woman shouted at Bella.

"We can only assist you in applying for labor arbitration, which requires going through a process!" Bella explained gently.

"How long will the process take? A month? A year?"

The woman was skeptical of the staff's words and continued to cry.

"My relative had a similar situation a few years ago with a factory closure. The boss ran away, and he still hasn't received his wages!"

The woman seemed doubtful and continued to cry.

Bella sighed helplessly. She walked to a nearby carton of bottled water. She took a bottle from it and handed it to the woman.

"Ma'am, crying isn't the solution. Have some water!"

The woman took the bottled water. She took a few sips and continued to wail.

Bella returned to the group and looked for the team leader, Kane Wright.

"Kane, there are too many of them here. We can't handle them all."

Kane sighed helplessly. "Caleb's phone is no longer reachable. He even fled abroad. It would be difficult for us to manage these employees..."

After speaking, he asked the company's human resources manager, Mila Jenkins.

"How many staff are there in your company?"

"About 16 hundred staff," Mila replied. She seemed to be relatively calm.

"The employees haven't received their wages for three months?" Kane continued to ask.

"Yes, all employees haven't been paid for three months. Mr. Davis' aunt is the finance manager. She has been helping him deceive us by saying they haven't received payment for the goods!"

"Does the company still have any stock?"

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"We ran out of stock last month. The employees had nothing to do and had been cleaning the workshop or assembling subcontracted game consoles.

"Mr. Davis must have planned his escape a long time ago!" Mila lowered her head and sighed.

"Have the employees file for labor arbitration. We'll expedite the process and then let the court handle it."

Kane felt heavy-hearted. Now that Caleb had fled abroad, it would be difficult to catch him.

He could only wait for the court to liquidate the company's assets and try to compensate the employees'

losses.

Just then, a male staff member from the labor department walked over and said, "Kane, there are two guests who want to see you."

Kane turned. When he saw Carlisle and Hank, he thought they were also the company's employees.

He said helplessly, "Talking to me won't help you. You have to go through the labor arbitration process!"

"We're not this company's employees!\*

udent at Carlisle began to introduce himself. "I'm Carlisle, a student at Riverland University. I'm also a businessman and want to acquire this company!"

Kane sized Carlisle up and down suspiciously and asked, "Do your parents know about this?"

Carlisle rolled his eyes. "What does acquiring the company have to do with my family?"

Kane couldn't help but doubt Carlisle. He was way too young

"You should contact the court if you want to acquire the company!" Kane was somewhat impatient with Carlisle. He didn't quite believe him.

"This company's factory is on a rental basis. The value of the equipment may not be enough to cover employees' wages. Otherwise, the boss wouldn't have run away.

"If I take over the company, I can compensate the employees!"

Carlisle would rather spend some money on compensating the employees than waste too much time.

He just wanted to quickly overcome the pressure from the Thompson family and spend his four years at university with Wanda happily.

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For Wanda's sake, Carlisle had to push forward.

Kane took another look at Carlisle. He did look more mature and composed than his peers.

Kane then reminded him, "I'm a public official. It's best you don't joke with me!"

"Do you know Lethan Warbane?" Carlisle smiled and asked.

"He's Islo Clothing's chairman. I'm quite close with him. Are you his relative?"

Kane's expression softened a little. If Carlisle was related to Lethan, then he truly had the ability to acquire this company.

"I'm not, but he's going to help me."

Kane took out his phone and made a call. "Let me ask him.

The call was picked up not long after. "Kane, what a surprise! I never expected you would call."

"Do you know Carlisle?" Kane got straight to the point.

"Yes, I know him. What's going on?"

"What is your relationship with him?" Kane continued to ask.

"We're collaborating, I suppose!"

"Alright, got it. I'll talk to you later."

When Kane confirmed that Carlisle's words were true, he felt a weight being lifted off his shoulders.

He looked at Carlisle and said, "I'll talk to the court. If things go well, you could take over this company in three days!"

Carlisle raised his eyebrows. He extended his hand. "Thank you!"

Kane smiled and shook Carlisle's hand, "I never thought someone so young would have the capability to run a factory. I hope you'll be a good boss!"

"You're welcome to visit anytime!" Carlisle smiled.

Hank, who was behind Carlisle all the time, was completely stunned.

Although he suspected Carlisle might be interested in working with mobile phones or the internet, he thought he would start with a studio. Acquiring a company directly was something that never crossed his mind.

Kane clapped and told his colleagues, "Inform the employees that a new boss will take over the company. Their wages will be paid in full. The situation should be resolved in about three days."

With Kane's assurance, the staff from the labor and police departments all breathed a sigh of relief, Chapter 136

Kane led Carlisle to Riley Corporation's management team and introduced him to them.

"He'll be Riley Corporation's future boss. He'll ensure all employees' rights are respected and none of you will lose your pay. You can discuss these matters ahead of time."

The management team was surprised to see Carlisle.

"He's too young. isn't he? If they were going to hire an actor, they could have chosen an adult!"

"Exactly, he looks younger than my son. Can he be a boss?"

"Don't underestimate him. He might be a rich heir!"

Carlisle clapped and introduced himself, "Nice to meet all of you, I'm Carlisle, I'll take over the company in e fill three days. I hope we can work together well in the future."

The business department's manager, Victor Clark, pursed his lips andm whispered "He's stila Rid. Yet, he wants to manage a factory with over a thousand people?"

The production manager quickly stepped on his foot and said, "Can you shut up?

He's going to pay us!"

Victor cleared his throat and shut his mouth.

Carlisle heard his complaint. He would deal with him later once he took over the factory.

"Who is in charge of the R&D department?"

This department was Carlisle's primary concern. It was the factory's core department.

A woman in her late 20s stepped forward and said, "Mr. Zahn, Kmm Logan Cooper, the head of the R&D department."

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"Who is the business department's second in command?" Carlisle continued to ask.

"There's only one person in charge of the business department."

Victor, who had mocked Carlisle earlier, responded.

Carlisle didn't even look at Victor as he inquired, "Is there a supervisor?"

Logan's lips curled as she pointed to the middle-aged man smoking at the factory's entrance and said, He is the supervisor, Kenny Chester."

Each department's senior members shot Victor a meaningful look. Their message was clear-it was time to revamp the business department.

Victor was aware of Carlisle's intentions, too. He smiled disdainfully at Carlisle.

He had all the important clients in his hands. Could Carlisle afford to fire him? Even if he did get fired, he could leverage his clients for a better opportunity.

Hank brought Kenny over. He looked at the group of senior members in confusion and asked, "Who wants to speak to me?"

Logan introduced, "Mr. Chester, this is our new boss, Mr. Zahn."

"New boss? Are we going to get our salaries?" Kenny asked in surprise.

Logan nodded and smiled. If Kane had said so, then it had to be true. No matter what the others thought, she trusted Carlisle with all her heart.

"Mr. Zahn, nice to meet you. I'm the business department's supervisor and am in charge of the hardware supply chain."

Kenny extended his hand nervously. He knew his higher-up very well. Victor looked down on everyone and treated them with disrespect.

Carlisle probably wouldn't get along with Victor. There could be an opportunity to get a promotion for himself.

Carlisle shook hands with Kenny and said, "Mr. Chester, you might have a tough time ahead."

"As long as I can revive the company, I'm not afraid of any hardship!" Kenny's eyes lit up excitedly.

Carlisle nodded and smiled. "Let's start by bringing me around the company."

The employees gradually dispersed under the persuasion of the labor department and the other department heads.

At the same time, Lethan arrived. He parked his car by the roadside and exchanged a few words with Kane before walking toward Carlisle with a grim expression.

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"Lethan, you don't seem to be in a good mood," Carlisle greeted him playfully.

Lethan stared at Carlisle and asked, "Are you really going to take over this mobile phone factory?"

Having agreed to spend 36 million dollars to buy Riverwatch Hotel, Lethan was already regretting it.

But at least the hotel had some potential for appreciation. As Shania had said, Riverwatch District would eventually be developed. It was just a matter of time.

Anyway, he had a bit of money to spare, so he might as well treat it as if it were deposited in the bank.

By the time Riverwatch District was developed, he would definitely not lose money. He could even make a profit out of it.

Lethan wondered what Carlisle was thinking by trying to buy this mobile phone factory. Did he not know how difficult the industry was?

Josie had tried to run a mobile phone factory but gave up after less than three months. She lost nearly a billion dollars.

Shein had also tried to run the same business but lacked technical expertise. So, he gave up the business.

after six months, losing nearly two billion dollars.

Even Riverland's richest man, Yuriel, had attempted the same business but was quickly overwhelmed by other mobile phone manufacturers.

So did Carlisle, a university student, actually want to venture into the industry?

"Yes!" Carlisle answered seriously.

Lethan took a deep breath. He said in a serious tone, "Carlisle, please stay away from this industry.

"If you just want to do charity out of sympathy, I can donate some money to help compensate for the debts owed by this company.

He had confirmed with Kane earlier. This company had over 16 hundred employees, each owed three months of wages.

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According to the employees' current average wage, it would require around two million to settle these employees' wages. Lethan could invest three million dollars in it.



But starting a mobile phone manufacturing business would cost tens or even hundreds of millions of funds.

Investing was one thing, the main concern was whether the Industry Lethan invested in could generate profit.

Josie and Shein were both outstanding in running businesses, but even they suffered heavy losses in the mobile phone industry. How could a university student like Carlisle hope to thrive in it?

"I'm not doing anything else. I want to create a phone that will revolutionize this world!" Carlisle said confidently.

Lethan was completely stunned. He seemed to see his younger self in Carlisle.

According to his family's plan, he was supposed to be groomed as the successor in the family's real estate business, while Shania was supposed to be in the fashion industry. Because he had always been passionate about fashion, he studied fashion design despite his family's opposition.

The facts proved that his choice was correct. But, it was unfair to Shania.

Lethan took out a check for five million from his briefcase and handed it to Carlisle. He smiled bitterly and said, "This is all I can help you with. I wish you success!"

He started Islo Clothing at the age of 27. In ten years, the start-up capital provided by his family had grown from 300 million to three billion dollars.

In fact, after deducting bank liabilities, the net assets were only about two billion dollars.

If Carlisle hadn't helped him recover the three billion dollars, he would have lost ten years of hard work. Without that money, he would be heavily indebted and possibly have committed suicide.

Carlisle not only helped him recover the losses but also saved his life.

So, whatever Carlisle asked for, he would try his best to fulfill it.

"Thank you, Lethan." Carlisle took the check and put it in his pocket.

Lethan left after receiving a call, Carlisle toured the company under Logan's and Kenny's guidance.

At around 4:00 pm, he received a call from Sunny.

The negotiation for Riverwatch Hotel had been finalized. They were just waiting for the payment and the signing of the contract.

Chanie Ba Carlisle Informed Lethan of this news and then sent Sunny's number to him.

All managers had gathered in a shabby meeting room in Riley Corporation's office building.

Victor didn't attend the meeting but returned to his office to secure the USB flash drive that held at the important client data. If Carlisle really wanted to get rid of him, he wouldn't have an easy time.

In the meeting room, Carlisle sat in the main seat.

Kenny said in a low voice, "Mr. Zahn, all the important client information of the company is with Mr. Carson. If you treat him like this, will it..."

Carlisle interrupted Kenny. "I don't care about those clients. Riley m Corporation is already history. I'll establish a new company. All clients and suppliers will be reselected."

"Without those clients, the company would cease operation!" Mila interjected.

Carlisle looked at Kenny and said,

"Mr. Chester, I'll give you three days. Find a client in need of.com subcontracting. Don't worry about making a profit, just make sure it can support all employees."

To begin manufacturing, he first needed to develop his own operating system. And he didn't like any of the current phone hardware on the market.

He wanted to look for manufacturers to customize advanced hardware, which was also a long journey.

During this time, the company's employees could only subcontract other clients' electronic products. Otherwise, they would be laid off.

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"Alright, I'll make sure to complete the task!" Kenny nodded.

This was a test given by Carlisle. He had to complete it no matter what.

"Is anyone using Riley's phone?" Carlisle inquired the crowd.

Everyone present except Hank took out a small, delicate flip phone, resembling the Motorola Razr V3 that had just been released this year.

Logan handed her phone to Carlisle and said proudly, "This is the Motorola Razr V3. It took only three months from designing it to selling it in the market."

After trying it for a moment, Carlisle smiled and asked, "It's basically a Motorola knockoff, right? How are the sales volumes and profit?"

Logan blushed. She lost her confidence when it came to sales volume.

She said embarrassedly, "It's been on the market for two months, and... we've only sold over six thousand units. The profit per phone is around a thousand dollars.

"With a production line for over 16 hundred employees, the production capacity should be large enough in two months. Where did those phones go?" Carlisle asked in confusion.

"Our sales were bad because the competition was too aggressive. Mr. Davis was pressured by the creditors and had to mortgage the remaining inventory to high- interest loans to fill the funding gap." Logan sighed softly.

"Alright, let's not discuss this anymore. It's almost time to get off work. Kenny, Logan, and Hank, you three please stay back. The rest of you can leave," Carlisle instructed.

He wanted to talk to Logan about product development, but the product he had in mind was too extraordinary. So, he sent the others away to avoid causing too much of a stir.

Once the rest left the room, Carlisle got up and closed the door. Logan and the others stared at him intently, not knowing what he was up to.

"Let's talk about phone development!" Carlisle said seriously.

He stared at Logan and said in a deep voice, "I plan to create a buttonless full- screen phone."

"A buttonless phone?" Logan was a little dumbfounded.

Kenny laughed as well. He then asked, "How do you use it without buttons?"

Hank had even gotten tired of questioning Carlisle.

There was a time when everyone called Hank crazy. Now it seemed that Carlisle was the crazy one.

Carlisle picked up a piece of paper and a pen from the table and then drew the outline of a rectangle with rounded corners.

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The three of them leaned in to look at the drawing.

"Is... Is this a phone?" Logan's eyes widened.

It was impossible for a phone to look like this. It looked more like a brick!

"This is the resistive screen. We can only activate the software by touching the screen," Carlisle explained briefly. Although the capacitive screen had yet to be developed, the resistive screen was already on the market. Only a few phone manufacturers used it.

Logan was the head of the R&D department, after all she was likely to be imaginative.

As Carlisle explained, a picture of a buttonless full-screen phone that could start the software by touching the icons naturally formed in her mind.

As soon as this image appeared, Logan's eyes widened in disbelief.

Such a phone could only appear in science fiction movies. If such a phone could really be made, it would definitely subvert the phone industry's entire perception.

Hank and Kenny roughly understood what Carlisle meant. They were equally astonished.

They couldn't imagine what kind of phone Carlisle was going to make.

Logan came back to her senses and asked, "Then how do you type and chat on it?"

Chaper 140

Chapter 140

"Though phones are used for communication, youngsters nowadays use them for internet browsing. If there are no buttons, how will they type?" Logan asked.

"We can develop a keyboard that allows users to freely switch between the default, voice, and handwriting input methods!"

Carlisle drew rough outlines of all the input methods on the draft paper.

Hank and Logan widened their eyes in disbelief again.

"If this keyboard can be developed, it will definitely take the world by storm!"

Hank was breathing rapidly. Such a keyboard was a brilliant idea. It could meet various typing groups' needs.

"Next, let's discuss this phone's operating system. I want to develop an intelligent operating system based on Linux."

Carlisle used the Android system as a prototype and elaborated on the smartphone operating system.

Logan and Hank quickly took notes as he explained.

Carlisle made Kenny get off work since this was not his expertise.

In the meeting room, Carlisle had an in-depth discussion with Logan and Hank.

Time flew by, and it was already midnight.

There was now a thick stack of draft papers surrounding Logan and Hank. Each paper contained the most crucial business secret.

Around 2:00 am, Carlisle finally completed his explanation of the smartphone operating system.

Logan took a deep breath. Admiration was shining in her eyes as she looked at Carlisle.

She then asked, "Mr. Zahn, how did you come up with such a system?"

Carlisle smiled and said, "I had a dream. I used a phone like this in my dream, so I wanted to make it a reality."

Logan looked at the draft papers. Her eyes darkened. "With our company's R&D team, I'm afraid it's very difficult to develop such a phone system!"

Riley Corporation was just a knockoff phone company, and most of its R&D personnel were mediocre.

Riley phones' operating systems were also modified from the generic button phone operating system available in the market. She did not have the confidence to develop such an advanced system.

Carlisle leaned back in his chair. He tapped the desktop lightly.

He shifted his gaze to Hank, who was smoking, and asked, "Hank, are you confident?"

"My skills aren't at that level, either!" Hank shook his head. The usual arrogance he had was now gone. This wasn't about hacking or web pages anymore. It was a macro-level smartphone operating system.

Carlisle was no longer just a gaming studio's boss. He was now the boss of a company with 16 hundred employees.

Hank felt exceptionally small compared to Carlisle, so much so that he lost his confidence when he spoke.

The three of them sat in silence. Their burning enthusiasm was instantly put out.

Suddenly, Logan said, "I have an uncle who works as a technology development executive at Apple. Maybe we can consult him!"

Before anyone could respond, Hank took a deep drag of his cigarette and said in a low voice. "Let me handle this project. What others can do, we can do it, too!"

Logan frowned at Hank's lack of respect for her uncle. She asked, "Where did you work before?"

"I was unemployed."

"Where did you get the confidence to develop this phone system? Do you even understand how the industry works or how phones work?" Logan pressured him.

"Technology is all about exploration and development. Having our own technology is better than relying on others.

"Only by developing our own technology can we avoid being oppressed by the foreign market!" Hank retorted defiantly.

"If you're so confident in yourself, then go ahead!"

"I already said I'll do it, didn't I?"

Hank and Logan were at odds. One was the head of the company's R&D department, and the other was a self proclaimed genius programmer. Neither of them was willing to yield to the other.

At the same time, Carlisle voiced his decision. "It's settled, then. Hankm of the system. UI. And Logan, you'll be responsible for the internet software applications!"

you'll be in charge of the

