

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

## **#Chapter 161 - Read Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell Chapter 161**

Chapter 161

Lethan felt a bit uneasy after he finished speaking.

Carlisle's expected price was 400 million, but Lethan had only sold it for 250 million. If he gave Carlisle 200 million, he would only have 50 million left.

Giving Carlisle 180 million would leave him with an extra 20 million. But this seemed unfair to Carlisle.

Carlisle was silent momentarily, then smiled and said, "You probably didn't sell it for 360 million, did you?"

He didn't believe Lethan would sell the hotel for 360 million after buying it for 36 million. He probably wouldn't have sold it for even 300 million.

Lethan asked, "Just tell me if 180 million is enough. If it's not, I'll give you 200 million. Anyway, I'm still profiting!"

He had thought it through. He wouldn't have earned a penny if Carlisle hadn't insisted on him buying the Riverwatch Hotel.

He had already earned some goodwill by selling the Riverwatch Hotel to Shania at a low price. Giving Carlisle 200 million out of the 250 million, he could still earn 50 million.

"180 million is enough. It's been a pleasure doing business with you." Carlisle smiled as he spoke, very satisfied with the price.

He was just an 18-year-old freshman with no influence, background, or connections.

On the other hand, Lethan was a well-known billionaire. Even though he had amassed a fortune, he couldn't remain indifferent when facing hundreds of millions of dollars in funds.

Lethan could easily embezzle the money with his abilities, but he didn't. Perhaps it was out of gratitude or for other reasons.

But no matter the reason, Lethan was someone worth befriending.

Carlisle didn't ask for the 200 million, which touched Lethan. "Give me your bank account number, and I'll have Shania deposit the money directly into your account later."

Carlisle provided Lethan with his newly opened checking account.

Then, Carlisle called Sunny.

Sunny instantly picked up the phone, sounding very excited. "Boss, property prices in Riverwatch District have already risen to 700 per square foot. Should we continue to wait or sell them now?"

"Let's wait a bit longer," Carlisle said calmly. "It should rise to 900 in a few days. We'll sell once it surpasses 900."

The reason for the rapid rise in property prices was because property developers had already started to take action.

However, the highest price would only reach 900 this time. Later, it might even be pushed down to around

500.600.

After finishing the call with Sunny, Carlisle received several calls from unfamiliar numbers. These were all property developers who wanted to buy the nearly 50 properties from Carlisle.

After discussing prices with them, they offered as high as 780 per square foot. Carlisle rejected them without hesitation.

This price was already very high and was comparable to property prices in Lumina. However, Carlisle was well aware of the current price surge and was unsatisfied with the offer.

After military training ended in the afternoon, Carlisle contacted Francis to pick him up. After returning to the dormitory and showering, Shane suddenly stopped him just as he was about to do his laundry.

"Carlisle, let me wash your clothes from now on!"

Shane's eyes were filled with enthusiasm, and he looked at Carlisle as if he were looking at a beautiful girl.

"Is that really necessary?"

Carlisle's mouth twitched, wondering if this guy had some issues with his sexual orientation.

Shane snatched the hamper of clothes from Carlisle's hands. "I've been doing laundry since I was five and started doing chores at eight. Carlisle, you can rest assured!"

Carlisle smiled wryly. "Alright, so how much are you charging?"

Shane's family was in a tight financial situation. His clothes were always patched up, and his shoes looked like they had been worn for years..

He often helped out by running errands to buy snacks, charging a 50-cent delivery fee. Now that he wanted to wash Carlisle's clothes, he was clearly trying to make some money.

Shane grinned. "One dollar for summer clothes, two for winter clothes!"

Carlisle took out some change from his pocket and handed a 50-dollar bill to Shane. "Here's 50 bucks for you. Do my laundry for a month!"

Carlisle admired Shane for earning money through labor.

Shane took the 50 bucks and pulled out a stack of change from his m pocket.

Carlisle pushed the change back with a smile. "No need for the change. You can do the laundry for me next month, too!"

"Thank you, Carlisle!"

Shane's eyes turned red, and then he lifted the two hampers of clothes and headed to the balcony.

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"Shane, I want a monthly package, too. 30 bucks, okay?" Daniel put down his game console and asked

"Sure, sure. Thank you, Mr. Scott!" Shane hurriedly responded, afraid that Daniel would change his mind. "Shane, do my laundry, too. You can wash them for free today, and I'll start paying monthly from tomorrow!" At this moment, Kelvin dragged out a suitcase from under his bed.

Inside was a bag full of clothes. He had yet to wash his clothes since the beginning of the semester. Even without exercising, it was easy to sweat in them due to the hot weather.

When Kelvin opened the suitcase, a sour smell filled the air.

I Shane grinned. "Okay, I'll wash yours after I finish these!"

Carlisle glanced at Kelvin's bag of almost moldy clothes and said, "That's at least five days' worth of clothes. Where do you get the nerve to ask for free washing?"

"Come on, Shane didn't say anything. Why are you being so nosy?" Kelvin glared.

Carlisle told Shane, "Shane, don't take Kelvin's business. I'll give you an extra 30 bucks each month."

Kelvin glared at Carlisle with a dark expression. "Carlisle, are you deliberately trying to pick a fight with me?"

Carlisle casually chuckled. "Well, I'm just richer than you. If you have the ability, you can give him 60, too!"

\*60 it is!"

"Shane, I'll give you 60 bucks each month. Today.

"I'll give you 120..."

Carlisle crossed his arms and interrupted Kelvin, "If you're giving 120 bucks, then I won't interfere with this matter."

Kelvin clenched his fists, and his eyes locked fiercely onto Carlisle, who was significantly taller than himself. He would have slapped him immediately if he could beat Carlisle.

Carlisle smirked. "Isn't your dad rich? Don't you get thousands for your living expenses? What's wrong with giving 120?"

Kelvin gritted his teeth and said, "120 bucks it is. If you have the guts, keep raising the price!"

Kelvin stubbornly held his ground. 120 dollars wasn't something he couldn't afford. If Carlisle dared to raise the price, he would double it!

Carlisle waved to Shane. "Cofme here, Shane!"

Shane approached nervously, his face tense. "Carlisle, Kelvin..."

Carlisle handed him another 50 and two tens. "Kelvin and I will give you 120. But you'll charge 30 dollars Chapter 162

each month for our other classmates."

Shane stared at the money, feeling stunned. "Carlisle, this..."

120 bucks was almost half of his monthly living expenses. Were rich people always this extravagant?

Kelvin, unwilling to admit defeat, handed Shane 120 bucks. "Can today's clothes be washed for free?"

"Uh, sure..."

Shane responded with a blank stare. This 120 bucks would cover his laundry expenses for several months. What were five days' worth of clothes?

Carlisle smirked as he walked out of the dormitory.

Francis was smoking by the roadside outside the school gates. When he saw Carlisle approaching; he immediately dropped his cigarette and opened the car's rear door.

After all, Carlisle was now a multimillionaire-practically a deity to be worshiped.

Carlisle entered the car and said, "To the Commercial Bank's Riverwatch branch."

Francis returned to the driver's seat and started the car.

Across the street, Sienna stepped out of a taxi. Watching the black Mazda drive away she furrowed her brows slightly.

"Was that Carlisle? Was I seeing things, or was that really him?"

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Sienna took out her phone and sent a message to Carlisle on MSN messenger.

"Carlisle, did you just get into a black Mazda?"

She didn't get a response from him.

Sienna pursed her lips and immediately called Sarah. Just as the call connected, she saw Sarah walking out from the school gate.

Sienna waved to her. "Sarah, I'm across the street!"

Sarah wore a pure white off-shoulder dress, a Hermes bag released in 2003, and a pair of Gucci crystal sandals. Her appearance drew countless boys' attention.

"Wow, which course is this goddess from?"

"I've never seen her before. She must be a freshman, right?"

"She's so beautiful. Who wants to ask for her phone number or MSN messenger account? I'll give you a 100 bucks!"

"Stop dreaming, she's Mr. Gust's girlfriend!"

"Mr. Gust? Which Mr. Gust?"

"Austin, who else could it be?"

After Sarah's makeover, she exuded confidence as she walked, emanating a rich heiress' air. Hearing the discussions around her, she curled her lips into a hint of arrogance.

Sienna covered her mouth and approached her, trembling as she spoke, "Oh my god... Sarah, it's only been a few days since we last met, and I almost didn't recognize you."

She had always felt unworthy of being Sarah's best friend. Now, she felt even more like a country bumpkin.

Sarah tilted her chin arrogantly and said, "So, do you think I can overshadow Wanda completely now?"

Sienna nodded repeatedly. "Absolutely. Are you really with Austin?"

Sarah's face turned slightly red as she shyly nodded.

Sienna's face was full of envy. "Your clothes and bag must be very expensive, right?"

Sarah patted the Hermes bag at her waist. "It's alright. This bag is 12 thousand, and the clothes and shoes are around 15 hundred."

Sienna's breath hitched. "T-This is too extravagant, isn't it?"

Their conversation was interrupted by the sound of a horn. Four Mercedes cars sandwiched a Porsche parked by the roadside.

Sarah held Sienna's hand and said, "My boyfriend's here. Come have dinner with us!"

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Sienna followed Sarah into Austin's Porsche.

Even long after the car started moving, Sienna still felt like she was dreaming. She never imagined she would actually ride in a Porsche.

She certainly never imagined that her best friend Sarah would marry into a wealthy family.

Austin took out two gift boxes from the side. "These phones are for you two!"

They were both Motorola V3 premium editions.

Sarah was moved. Her voice trembled as she said, "Thank you, Austin!"

Sienna looked at Sarah again with envy and even a little jealousy. Why didn't she have such good luck?

Sarah handed one phone to Sienna.

"Sienna, aren't you going to thank Hontent is on Austin?"

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Sienna took the phone and said, "T-Thank you, Austin!"

"Only I can call him Austin. You have to call him Mr. Gust" Sarah om reprimanded Sienna with a glare.

Blushing, Sienna corrected herself. "Thank you, Mr. Gust!"

Austin smiled and nodded.

Sarab looked at Austin happily and asked, "Austin, where are we going to eat?"

Austin raised his wrist to check the time and said gently, "It's still early. I have some business to attend to in Riverwatch District first."

Sarah nodded with pursed lips, then began to open the gift box.

Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

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Riverwatch District was particularly lively today. Many businessmen flocked to this development zone, which was soon to become Riverland's central hub.

The traffic was so congested that some cars were stuck in it.

One Porsche, escorted by a Mercedes, quickly passed through the crowded section after forcefully merging into traffic.

Francis pulled his head back in from the window and smiled. "Boss, when will you let me drive a luxury car, too?"

Carlisle, lounging with one leg crossed over the other, casually chuckled. "Tell me, what brand of car do you like?"

"I was just kidding!" Francis laughed awkwardly. "This Mazda is already quite good. Let's keep a low profile."

"Let's switch to a BMW someday! Isn't making money all about enjoying life?"

Carlisle smiled dismissively. The internet wasn't as developed right now. In the eyes of ordinary people, Mercedes, BMW, and Audi were already considered top-tier luxury cars.

However, Carlisle only planned to switch to a BMW temporarily.

In his previous life, he had obtained a driver's license but never bought a car. This time around, he was determined to experience all the luxury cars.

Francis' eyes lit up when he heard about the plan to switch to a BMW. He tightly gripped the steering wheel, saying, "I never thought there would come a day when I'll get to drive a BMW!"

After a while, Austin and the others reached the Commercial Bank's Riverwatch branch.

Austin brought Sarah to the VIP room to handle their business. Sarah's eyes widened in disbelief when the bank manager placed one million on the table.

A million dollars! She probably wouldn't earn this much money in her entire lifetime.

The bank manager smiled as he said, "Mr. Gust, here is one million. Please take a look."

At that moment, Austin received a call from Yuriel.

Yuriel's voice was grave. "There are also a few shops on 3rd Avenue. The price has been negotiated and is about 800 thousand or so. They only accept cash."

Austin grunted in acknowledgment, then hung up the phone and looked at the bank manager. "Do you have cash?"

"We do, but..." The bank manager looked hesitant.

There were five million in cash in the safe deposit box. However, this money was prepared for another

client.

Austin said calmly, "Give it to me first. I need cash urgently."

The bank manager swallowed nervously. "Mr. Gust, could you wait a moment? I'll call other banks to transfer the cash over."

Austin frowned and slammed the table, shouting. "You said there's cash, why can't you give it to me?"

When Sarah shivered in fear from being startled, Austin took a deep breath and held her hand gently. He spoke in a soothing tone, "I'm sorry. Did I scare you?" Sarah quickly shook her head. "No, not at all. I like your domineering demeanor!" Austin smiled slightly, then turned to the bank manager and said, "My family has around 300 million deposited in your bank. You wouldn't want us to switch banks, would you?"

The bank manager turned pale with fright. "..."

"Mr. Zahn is here!" a staff member suddenly said.

The bank manager's face turned even more mournful as he said, "Mr. Gust... to be honest we still have five tobeh million in cash here, but Mr. Zahn had called in advance to reserve it."

Austin narrowed his eyes and asked, "Who is Mr. Zahn? Maybe I know him. I can talk to him!"

Meanwhile, Sienna was playing with her new phone, worth over four thousand, outside the bank.

When she saw Carlisle stepping out of a black Mazda, she was shocked and exclaimed, "Carlisle, it's really you!"

Carlisle glanced at the Porsche and the four Mercedes in seen the parking lot, guessing that Sienna had come with Sarah and Austin.

Carlisle politely smiled. "Are you surprised?"

Sienna pointed at the black Mazda. "Is that your car?"

Almost as soon as she asked the question, she chuckled. "Of course not. You don't even have a driver's license!"

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Carlisle couldn't be bothered to explain and walked toward the bank.

Francis took out a large suitcase from the trunk.

Sienna stopped Francis and asked, "Mister, is that car Carlisle's?"

"It's my car," Francis replied.

Sienna looked puzzled. "Then what's your relationship with Carlisle? I saw you opening the car door for him at the school gate."

"What's it to you?" Francis could tell Carlisle didn't want to engage with the girl much, so he didn't feel inclined to, either.

Sienna wrinkled her nose. "It's just a shitty Mazda. Have you seen those Mercedes and Porsches over there? They belong to my best friend's boyfriend. Do you know who my best friend's boyfriend is?"

"Damn, I thought they belong to your boyfriend. It turns out it's your friend's boyfriend!" Francis sneered at her, then walked into the bank.

Sienna stomped her feet in frustration when she heard his response.

Carlisle arrived in the bank lobby, where the manager quickly approached him. Austin and Sarah followed behind.

"Carlisle?" Sarah's eyes widened in surprise.

Could Mr. Zahn, who the bank manager mentioned, be Carlisle? It couldn't be. How could Carlisle have five million?

She had previously asked Sean how Carlisle had obtained the money to buy the phone. Carlisle said he had hit a stroke of luck in a game and earned 80

thousand bucks by selling impressive equipment.

So, there was no way Carlisle could be the Mr. Zahn who had reserved five million in cash. Mr. Zahn must be someone else!

"Mr. Zahn, you're here?" The bank manager forced a smile.

Sarah felt as if she had been struck by lightning. She stared at Carlisle in disbelief.

He really was Mr. Zahn! Where did he get five million from?

"Um, is my money ready?" Carlisle didn't glance at Sarah but looked directly at the bank manager instead.

The bank manager nodded. "It's ready, but..." He looked cautiously at Austin. "Mr. Gust urgently needs 800 thousand in cash. Can you lend that amount to him?"

Austin narrowed his eyes. So, this was Sarah's previous pursuer. Didn't Sarah say his family was poor? How could he have five million stored in the bank?

Carlisle looked at Austin, then shook his head. "I can't let it go. I must take the five million with me.

The bank manager looked awkwardly at Austin. "Mr. Gust, what do you think?"

Austin snorted coldly. "That's your problem. I'll give you only ten minutes!"

The bank manager felt helpless.

Carlisle was the one who reserved the cash, but Austin was a major bank client, with his father being the wealthiest man in Riverland. He might lose his job if he offended Austin.

"Mr. Zahn, could you please give me half an hour? I'll transfer 800

thousand in cash from another din cash m

branch! the bank manager spoke nervously, sweat breaking out on his forehead.

"Is this how you do things here?" Carlisle sneered.

"Mr. Zahn, I'm really sorry. Please understand!" The bank manager bowed deeply.

"Forget it. Just hurry up and transfer the cash." Carlisle waved impatiently. He knew how tough it was for ordinary workers and didn't want to make things too difficult for the bank manager.

"Thank you, Mr. Zahn, thank you!" The bank manager wiped the sweat off his forehead in relief, then took out his phone to arrange the cash transfer.

At this moment, Sarah stared at Carlisle and demanded, "Carlisle, where did you get so much money from?"

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"What does that have to do with you?" Carlisle's voice was cold. It was as if he was talking to a stranger.

No matter how hard Sarah racked her brain, she couldn't figure out where Carlisle had obtained five million.

She snorted. "It must be dirty money. If you've done something illegal, I advise you to turn yourself in!"

"Believe whatever you want." Carlisle rolled his eyes, too indifferent to engage further with her.

"Carlisle, listen to my advice. If you need to confess, just do it. Even if not for yourself, at least consider your parents. They've raised you with difficulty.

"Consider this advice from a former classmate. I've said what I need to!" Sarah was making it sound as if she genuinely cared for Carlisle's well-being.

Carlisle sneered. "Is me having money bothering you right now?"

His words seemed to hit Sarah's nerves. She spared no effort in mocking him.

"If your money were earned through legitimate means, I would only be happy for you. But your money is dirty!"

"And even if your money were clean, I wouldn't be bothered. My boyfriend has much more money than you!"

"Do you see this bag? Do you know this brand? Do you know how much this bag costs?"

"Take a look at my shoes. They cost 800 dollars. Even if you didn't eat or drink for two months, you couldn't afford a pair of shoes like mine!"

Sienna also walked over. "Carlisle, Sarah is right. You'd better confess quickly. Confession may lead to a lighter sentence, but resistance will be met with strict punishment.

"Just be honest and admit it, and you might get a few years off your sentence!"

"Idiot." Carlisle chuckled disdainfully, too lazy to pay attention to the two crazy women.

Sarah's eyes were wild as she picked up her phone to call the police. "Are you going to turn yourself in, or should I call the police on you?"

Carlisle stood with his hands in his pockets, casually saying, "Go ahead."

Sarah trembled as she was about to dial the emergency number.

At that moment, Austin grabbed Sarah's hand. "Hold off on calling the police. Let me ask the bank.

manager."

Sarah nodded vigorously, her voice trembling. "Yes, please ask him. I'm sure his money is dirty!"

After the bank manager finished his call, Austin asked, "How did Carlisle get that money?"

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"Well, that's customer privacy. But I can assure you, Mr. Zahn's money is clean," the bank manager said confidently.

The money Carlisle had was from a check issued by Islo Clothing. He had already confirmed this with Islo Clothing's chairman.

However, this information was considered customer privacy and couldn't be disclosed to others.

Having offended Carlisle once already, the bank manager didn't want to provoke him again.

"Give me the cash!" Austin didn't probe further. It was just fu borrowed.

million, and it could also have been The bank manager led Austin to withdraw the cash while his staff took Carlisle to another VIP room.

Sarah and Sienna stood still in the lobby, dumbfounded. Even the bank manager said the money was clean. Where did Carlisle get five million dollars from?

Sienna comforted Sarah, holding her hand. "Sarah, don't worry about it. Austin is the son of the richest man in Riverland. Five million means nothing to him!"

Sarah sneered. "I'm not worried at all.

Does he think I'll change my mind e

just because he has five million?"

Sienna's eyes twitched slightly. She seemed to believe Carlisle would think that way.

Suddenly, Sienna asked, "Sarah, how are Carlisle and Wanda doing now?"

Hearing this, Sarah's anger subsided, and she smirked. "They've broken up!"

Sienna looked puzzled. "Broken up? Why?"

Sarah took a deep breath and replied, "It should be because of Wanda's brother meddling. Do you know who her brother is?"

Sienna shook her head.

"Her brother is Zachary, the son of the famous Riverland bysinessman, Shein Thompson!" "Wow... Wanda is Mr. Thompson's daughter?"

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Sienna had only recently seen Shein in the newspaper. He was pretty remarkable, being able to sit at the same table with Yuriel at business banquets.

Sarah sighed and said, "I never expected Wanda to be Shein's daughter. If it weren't for Austin, I would have a hard time holding my head up in front of her for the rest of my life."

Sienna expressed jealousy. "Life is truly unfair. Why couldn't I be as lucky as Wanda?"

Just then, Austin approached them with his bodyguard carrying a briefcase.

Sarah linked her arm with Austin's, asking softly, "Austin, I didn't scare you just now, did I?"

She had flaunted extravagantly to stimulate Carlisle just now and knew well that she looked horrid. She was worried Austin would be disgusted.

Austin affectionately rubbed Sarah's head and smiled. "How could you scare me? I bought these things for you to stand out."

"Austin, you're the best!" Sarah leaned into Austin's embrace.

Austin held her slender waist and chuckled. "Since I'm so good to you, do you want to sleep in my bed tonight?"

Sarah's cheeks flushed. "I'm not ready yet!"

Austin's brows twitched slightly, but he smiled. "Alright, I have some business to attend to now. After I'm done, I'll take you all out to dinner."

Carlisle received a call from Logan at the bank's VIP lounge.

Logan said the company's employees hadn't received the money and had once again blocked the road with banners.

Carlisle instructed Logan to tell them he was withdrawing money from the bank and would be heading to the company shortly.

To save time, Carlisle only withdrew four million and 200 thousand in cash, leaving the remaining 800 thousand for the bank manager to deposit into his own bank account.

On the way to Stoneville, Francis displayed exceptional driving skills, going at 80 miles per hour throughout the journey.

What was originally a two-hour drive was shortened to 80 minutes.

It was already evening, and the road outside Riley Corporation was crowded with people.

Francis honked frantically, but the people ahead ignored him as if they heard nothing.

Someone even shouted angrily, "Damn it, do you want me to smash your car?"

If they dared to say it, some would dare to do it. Three or five workers wielding wooden sticks marched angrily toward them.

Carlisle got out of the car and shouted, "Do you still want your wages?"

Several workers immediately stopped in their tracks.

"Who's this kid?"

"I don't know!"

"He's our new boss, right?"

"Damn, such a young boss?"

"Yeah, it's him. Our supervisor said the new boss is a rich kid!"

Kane and the company's management team walked over together.

Francis dragged the luggage out from the back seat.

Upon seeing the huge luggage, Kane breathed a sigh of relief, then loudly announced to the workers, "The boss is here to distribute salaries, everyone! Don't worry!"

Hearing Kane's announcement, more employees gathered around.

Carlisle frowned at the management team and said, "Each department head should organize their employees to return to the company and wait!"

The management team immediately contacted their subordinates.

Fortunately, these employees were sincere. They queued up obediently and headed toward the company gate.

Accompanied by law enforcement personnel, Carlisle brought over four million in cash to the finance department.

The finance department staff quickly took out the salary slips and began counting the money.

The company had no counting machine, so the finance staff had to count manually.

Unfortunately, the finance department only had five employees.

With over 16 hundred employees'

salaries to count, how long would it take for five finance staff to be done?

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Carlisle spoke up. "All employees above the team leader level should come to the finance department to help!"

A moment later, over 30 team leaders, more than 20 supervisors, and seven or eight managers joined the finance team. They were worried about miscounting, so they counted each batch three to four times.

Carlisle left the finance department and found Kane to inquire about the company transfer.

Kane took some documents and evidence from his briefcase and said, "Riley Corporation has been forcibly deregistered."

"The equipment in the company is worth about two million and 600 thousand. The suppliers owe us about one million and 700 thousand."

"If you are willing to pay off the suppliers' debt, we can register ourselves as a new company tomorrow. If you don't want to bear this debt, the court will sell off the department's equipment until the supplier's debt is paid off!"

Carlisle pondered momentarily and said, "I'll pay off the suppliers' debt. Let's keep the equipment for now."

The company still had to continue subcontracting. So, how could they continue without the equipment? Wouldn't over 16 hundred employees lose their jobs?

Kane lit a cigarette and said, "If Caleb is caught, you still have a chance to recover your losses."

Carlisle smiled. "We can't catch a wolf without sacrificing a lamb. My efforts and rewards can exceed the direct proportion."

Out of nowhere, Kane choked on the smoke and coughed a few times.

Afraid that Carlisle would misunderstand him mocking him, he quickly waved his hand and said, "I caught a cold these days, I didn't mean anything else."

Carlisle poured Kane a cup of hot water. "Have some water!"

"Thank you." Kane put the cigarette in the ashtray and took a few sips.

The two chatted for a while, during which Kane briefed Carlisle on some labor laws. After receiving a phone call, Kane had to leave.

Carlisle escorted Kane to the entrance.

As Kane got into the car, he reminded, "Settle the payment with the suppliers as soon as possible.

Otherwise, if they go to court you won't have peace here, either."

Carlisle smiled slightly and said, "You can trust me to handle it."

Kane smiled back and rolled up the car window. He started the engine and drove away.

Carlisle then headed to the R&D department.

The R&D department had two working departments: Department One and Department Two.

R&D Department Two was the one managed by Logan before. With over 60 workstations, every seat was taken.

As Carlisle entered the office, someone immediately frowned and asked, "Hey, whose kid are you?"

All the staff turned to look at Carlisle.

A woman in her 30s giggled. "He's already such a big kid. He must be Elvis', right?"

The woman with short hair at the adjacent workstation couldn't help but chuckle. "He could also be Gordan's. Maybe they got married early?"

A middle-aged man with graying hair in front glanced at the woman with short hair. "Stop talking nonsense. I got married late, and my child just started weaning!"

The woman in her 30s rested her chin on her hand and looked at Carlisle. "Little boy, are you here to see Elvis?"

Carlisle smiled. "Let me introduce myself. I'm Carlisle, this company's boss."

"The boss?"

"Alright, little boss, come here. I'll give you some candy."

The short-haired woman rolled her eyes. "Sandy, can you not flirt with kids?"

Carlisle approached Sandy Parker and glanced at her computer screen, which displayed a semi-finished album icon.

Most of the keyboards on the market were still black and white, with only a few high-end brands offering color screens.

However, the album icon on the computer already resembled the icons on future smartphones.

"Nice icon design!" Carlisle complimented with a smile.

"Hehe, what a sweet talker you are, little boy. Here, let me treat you to some candy." Sandy grabbed a NOV handful of milk candies from her drawer and stuffed them into Carlisle's hand.

The short-haired woman whispered, "Sandy, the director is here!"

Sandy snapped out of it and quickly sat up straight to continue working. Logan walked straight to Carlisle and greeted respectfully, "Boss..."

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Boss?

Sandy's body stiffened, and her hand holding the mouse trembled violently. All she could hear was Logan calling Carlisle "Boss".

Her head was buzzing. Was this 17 or 18-year-old really her boss? She had even flirted with him earlier. Sandy's expression turned sour. She didn't know what kind of person the boss was. Would she be fired? The girl at the opposite workstation was also in a daze. Although she had only been at the company for two days, she had already heard the company's boss was very young.

But she hadn't expected the boss to be this young. That youthful and inexperienced face told her that Carlisle was only 17 or 18 years old.

The staff member who had asked whose child Carlisle was earlier didn't dare to look up, wishing she could hide under the table.

Carlisle unwrapped a milk candy and put it in his mouth, mumbling, "Mr. Cooper, take me to R&D Department One."

"Of course, Boss. This way, please."

Logan gestured toward the office door.

R&D Department One was a newly added office area. Two security guards stood at the entrance, and the opposite wall was covered with 360-degree surveillance cameras.

Logan said softly, "Mr. Zahn, Mr. Quilton has set some rules. Anyone entering R&D Department One needs his permission, and no digital devices are allowed. Please wait for a moment, I'll call Mr. Quilton."

"Okay, sure."

Carlisle was satisfied with Hank's rigorous approach to work.

This smartphone's independently developed operating system was the company's core secret, and Hank has done an excellent job with it.

After discussing with Logan, they placed their phones in the nearby basket and stood before the security guard with their arms spread.

The female security guard used a metal detector to check Logan from her neck down to her ankles.

Carlisle also took out his own phone and placed it in the basket, Logan smiled and said, "You're our boss. You can bring your phone in without a security check."

Carlisle replied with a serious expression, "The project in R&D Department One is of utmost importance. Even though I'm the boss, I cannot bring my phone in."

After the security check, the two entered the office. There were only ten people inside.  
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Six of them were middle-aged people in their 40s with thinning hair. The other four were young people in their 30s. They had messy hair and wore glasses with heavy dark circles under their eyes.

Carlisle and Logan entered the office without disturbing their work. It was hard to tell if their work attitude was genuine or just for show.

Hank clapped his hands and exclaimed, "Let me introduce everyone. This is our boss, Mr. Zahn!"

Everyone stopped their work and looked up at Carlisle in unison, greeting him, "Hello, Boss!"

Carlisle smiled and nodded. "Thank you all for your hard work!"

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Logan whispered to Carlisle, "These people were all recruited by Hank, and each of them is a senior engineer in the field of computer science."

As she said this, Logan glanced admiringly at Hank. She never expected this scruffy man she initially looked down upon to have such powerful connections.

Carlisle raised an eyebrow. "Are they well-known?"

Logan whispered back, "Not only are they well-known, but each of them is a household name in the internet industry to

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Carlisle's heart raced a bit upon hearing this.

Hank was truly a treasure!

First, he helped him destroy Zachary's gear. Then, he developed scripts for three-game hacks..

Now, he had brought in computer experts from the internet industry to develop the smartphone system he needed.

With talents like Heath and Hank under his command, success seemed almost inevitable.

Hank approached Carlisle, grinning widely. His breath smelled of alcohol as he said, "We can have the system ready in just one month."

"So soon?" Carlisle's breath quickened. He had estimated it would take about six months to develop the system, but now Hank suggested they could do it in a month.

It seemed he needed to negotiate quickly with the hardware suppliers.

Logan scoffed, saying, "They're like a bunch of immortals, never sleeping at night. I suggest getting them more insurance."

Hank glanced at Logan. "We're just resting in the office. I don't like to procrastinate when it comes to work."

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"Are you saying I procrastinate?" Logan widened her eyes.

"I didn't say that. Are you confessing?" Hank shrugged.

"You..." Logan was about to retort, but then she sighed. It wasn't worth arguing with someone like Hank.

Carlisle noticed the tension between the two, so he smiled and said, "Are you guys hungry? Let's go out for a meal together."

"I just had instant noodles in the afternoon. You guys go ahead," Hank said before walking toward his office.

"He doesn't even respect the chairman. He weighs 100 pounds but has 90 pounds of stubbornness,"

Logan muttered quietly.

Carlisle chuckled softly. "Let's not disturb their work. Let's go."

No boss would dislike such a work attitude.

Carlisle couldn't understand what Hank's previous companies were thinking. If someone had the skills and capital, drinking at work shouldn't be a problem, right?

But he also felt fortunate they didn't let it slide. Otherwise, how could he have come across this opportunity?

The two walked out of R&D Department One. Carlisle noticed a utility room nearby and asked, "Is this utility room in use?"

"Not really. If R&D Department One plans to expand the team, they could knock down the wall in the middle," Logan replied.

"No need to knock it down. Let's turn this utility room into a kitchen and cafeteria. R&D Department Two can have their meals here in the future."

R&D Department One's members were workaholics, always eating instant noodles, which were not nutritious. Their diet naturally had to be improved.

Carlisle returned to the chairman's office and had Logan call in the business supervisor, Kenny.

Kenny, who had just received his three months' salary, was in a great mood. He came to the chairman's office with a smile. "Mr. Zahn, you called for me?"

Carlisle gestured to the chair beside him. "Please have a seat, Mr. Chester."

Kenny, feeling honored, sat down promptly.

"How is the progress with the outsourcing?"

Kenny's expression instantly turned awkward. "We contacted three om mobile phone brands. Gloree and Borda directly refused to cooperate.

Polar is planning to visit tomorrow for an on-site inspection."

Gionee and Borda were familiar to Carlisle. These two brands' products would become increasingly popular over the next five years.

Gionee's popularity skyrocketed after signing with Tony Mitchell as their spokesperson. Within just two years, it would become a bestseller both domestically and internationally.

Borda phones were practically household names. With a core m

strategy of low prices, they targeted ordinary families. From 2003 to 2008, they would dominate as the top-selling brand annually.

However, Carlisle's rebirth meant that history was destined to be rewritten.