

Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell

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“Yeah!” Carlisle rubbed his eyes and gave a nod.

“Damn, that's impressive!”

Francis sighed quietly and glanced out the window at the reasonably large semiconductor company. He was convinced that acquiring a company of this scale would have cost him a fortune.

In just a couple of weeks, Francis had seen Carlisle go from scraping by to becoming a billionaire and snapping up two companies in the process.

He wondered why Carlisle, who was already swimming in cash, would bother with running businesses. He figured it would be easier to keep the money in the bank and live off the interest.

Carlisle returned to school and ran into Wanda, Phoebe, and Christine, who were all beaming joyfully. “Hey, Carlisle,” Phoebe greeted him with a big smile.

Carlisle turned to Wanda with a grin and joked, “You guys look very pleased. Did you receive another order or something?”

Wanda nodded, then glanced around. Spotting Mike and his friends playing basketball on the field, she quickly tugged at Phoebe's sleeve.

“Let's go. We can't keep our clients waiting!”

“Wanda asked me to tell you...” Phoebe playfully teased Carlisle, her tone flirtatious.

“Come on, Carlisle. You better hurry up. Someone's waiting for you to marry me!” “Huh?” Carlisle responded, taken aback.

“Phoebe, are you out of your mind?”

Blushing bright red, Wanda tightened her fists, clearly upset.

“Oh, help me!” Phoebe screamed as she fled off the school grounds.

After noticing Carlisle's dark circles, Christine gently remarked, “While making money is important, your health matters more. After all, health is the cornerstone of everything.”

Without waiting for Carlisle's reply, she briskly walked away.

Carlisle smiled and made his way toward the dorms.

“Carlisle...”

Mike’s voice echoed from the nearby field.

Carlisle stopped in his tracks and turned to look.

Mike gestured impatiently.

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“Hey! Are you gonna come over here, or must I go to you?”

Carlisle calmly walked toward the field.

Approaching Mike with a smile, he asked, “What’s up, Mike?”

In a nonchalant tone, Mike asked, “Are you still hanging out with Wanda?”

Carlisle was quick to say, “Nah, man. I’m not.”

But Mike wasn’t buying it. “Damn, I saw it myself. Do you think I’m blind?”

Then Carlisle, smooth as butter, handed over some cash, saying, “Hey, get everyone some drinks!” He pulled out five hundred dollars with a grin.

Taking the money, Mike said, “Just be more careful next time. I’ll cover this for you just this once. Now, off you go.”

“Alright. Thanks, Mike!”

Carlisle chuckled, then headed back to the dorms.

As soon as he turned away, his smile faded.

Carlisle quickly called Heath when he returned to his room.

“Boss...” Heath's voice was faint and weak.

Carlisle frowned and asked, “What’s going on with you?”

Heath croaked out, “Ian’s guys showed up at the ice rink last night and started a fight. They outnumbered us, and we were pretty beat up.”

“Are you badly hurt?”

“Not too bad...”

“Which hospital are you at?”

“Don't worry about it, Carl. It's merely cuts and bruises... ty fuckcat yeu ibe gentler?” The content is on ! Read the latest chapter there!

Heath hadn't even gone to the hospital. He had the staff at his bar patch him up instead. Carlisle wasn't fooled. He knew Heath was more injured than he was letting on. Squinting, he asked, “Ian's already making moves?”

Heath's tone grew serious.

“Yeah, it's weird. He brought over a hundred guys, caused a hu eS gene, and ev ggtithe-dobs volved Both sidesen I need up with people getting arrested.” The content is on ! Read the latest chapter there!

Carlisle took a deep breath.

“Think about this carefully, Heath. Maybe we should focus on legitimate business if this path isn't working Chapter 221

out.

Heath clenched his jaw.

“No way. I've got to see this through. I'm striking back tonight!”

He believed that once someone was committed to a pa théy wauld'' ve toyfoliow/ irs gh, even if it €ant persevering against all odds. The content is on ! Read the latest chapter there!

With many of his men arrested and having suffered a cut on his arm, Heath couldn't just let it go.

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*Focus on your recovery first. We can talk about everything else later.”

After ending the call, Carlisle lay on his bed. Staring up at the bunk above, he was lost in thought.

He didn't really mean it when he told Heath to give up that path earlier.

Ian and Zachary were his most significant obstacles. He knew that dealing with Ian was essential if he

wanted a normal relationship with Wanda.

As for Zachary, once Heath became more powerful, it would be Zachary's turn to fear him.

Carlisle slept until 8:00 pm. Sean's call woke him up.

"Carl, where are you? Let's grab dinner! It's on me," Sean sounded exhausted.

One day of hiking left him completely worn out.

"I'm at the dorm. Where are we eating? I'll head over."

"How about A1 Seafood Restaurant?"

"Sounds great."

Carlisle called Francis before getting up to get ready.

After freshening up and stepping out of the school gate, Francis arrived shortly after.

Just as they were about to get into the car, they suddenly spotted Lawrence passing by with some everyday items.

Spotting Carlisle, Lawrence smiled and asked, "Is this your car?"

"Lawrence?" Francis suddenly widened his **eyes** and exclaimed.

Lawrence was slightly taken aback.

Are you

He looked at Francis and asked, "Sergeant Gable?"

Now Carlisle was the one who seemed shocked.

He was surprised to learn that Francis had actually been a sergeant. Who would have thought?

Lawrence approached Francis and gave him a tight hug.

His voice filled with emotion as he said, "Sergeant, it's so good to finally see you!"

Returning the embrace, Francis laughed and said, "Wow, what a small world! Never thought we'd meet here!"

With a tearful gaze, Lawrence shared, "I've been serving as an instructor at Riverland University for two **years** ."

Francis looked genuinely surprised.

"I've barely retired, and here you are already. Are you teaching?"

Lawrence nodded with a smile.

"Yeah, that's right. Once this task is completed, I can return and become a sergeant!"

"Way to go, buddy! I always knew you had it in you," Francis commended while giving Lawrence a friendly pat on the shoulder.

Admiration shone through his eyes.

At that moment, Lawrence glanced at the car behind Francis, then back at Carlisle, and quietly asked, "What's your relationship with Carlisle?"

"He's my boss," Francis admitted confidently, showing no shame about his role as a chauffeur.

With a sigh filled with various emotions, Lawrence commented, "If you hadn't been so impulsive back.

then, you'd probably be a master sergeant by now."

“Let’s not dwell on the past,” Francis replied.

“I have no regrets,” he added with conviction.

Francis chuckled casually, then turned to Carlisle, saying, “Boss, let’s go!”

Hearing their earlier conversation, Carlisle smiled and suggested, “Why don’t we all grab dinner together? It’s been two years since you guys caught up.”

“Sounds good. Lawrence, any other familiar **faces** around the school?”

“Yeah, two more...”

“Let’s get them to join us!”

“Sure thing. I’ll give them a call!”

Lawrence took out a PHS phone and called the other two comrades.

Two sturdy, confident men with crew cuts came running out of the school in just five minutes.

Like Lawrence, they both embraced Francis and exchanged a few words.

Not wanting to waste time, Francis opened the car door and said, “Come on, let’s go. Ca

waiting!”

Lawrence wasted no time and hopped into the driver’s seat.

“Sergeant, let me drive!”

After all, Francis was their sergeant. It wouldn’t be fitting for the sergeant to play chauffeur.

keep my boss

Francis, wanting to save time, didn’t

object.

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Carlisle took the front passenger seat while Francis and the other two comrades sat in the back, catching up on old times.

Carlisle texted Sean, asking him to book a private room and add a few extra dishes to the order.

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Lawrence's hands gripped the steering wheel tightly as his gaze flickered nervously to Carlisle in the rearview mirror.

Who would've thought the newbie he disciplined on the first day of training was Francis' boss?

He worried if there were repercussions, they'd be aimed at Francis. Or perhaps Carlisle would settle scores with him in front of Francis.

Lawrence wondered if he should take the initiative to apologize to smooth things over.

"Mr. Hanson..." Carlisle turned and abruptly called out to Lawrence

Lawrence was already worrying about Carlisle possibly confronting him in **front** of Francis, so his heart raced when Carlisle called out to him.

"Mr-Mr. Zahn... Do you need something?"

Feeling like he was facing Francis' superior, Lawrence was on edge.

Carlisle noticed Lawrence's tension and couldn't help but smirk.

"I've got a bit of business to attend to tomorrow morning, so I need to ask for some time off from military training.

With the recent acquisition, Carlisle now controlled five companies. However, paperwork at the business registration office could only be handled on weekdays, leaving Monday as the only option.

“Sure,” Lawrence replied, feeling relieved that Carlisle wasn’t there to settle any scores.

Although freshmen were generally only allowed sick leave during military training, exceptions could be made.

To ensure Carlisle treated Francis well in the future, Lawrence was willing to bend the rules a little and offer some assistance.

Carlisle grinned.

“Thanks a lot, Mr. Hanson.”

Lawrence chuckled warmly.

“No problem at all. Just make sure to take good care of Sergeant Gable for me.”

“I won’t let my people down,” Carlisle replied with an innocent smile.

In truth, Carlisle would have treated Francis well even without knowing he was connected to Lawrence.

But having this connection certainly wouldn’t hurt. He figured it probably meant he wouldn’t face any more punishments during the rest of military training.

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Half an hour later, they arrived at A1 Seafood Restaurant.

Sean and Lily met Carlisle’s group downstairs. After exchanging pleasantries in the private room, Carlisle **and** Sean got down to business.

Carlisle skipped past the early version of SociableNet, formerly known as SchoolSpace, **and** delved into explaining the integrated SociableNet model. Sean listened with keen interest and was clearly intrigued by Carlisle’s visio

Sitting near Carlisle, Lily’s eyes widened with amazement as she heard his ideas and the business potential within the online realm.

“Carlisle, your imagination is incredible! I can’t believe you thought of a website like this!”

Taking a sip of his beer, Carlisle smiled calmly.

“Having ideas is one thing, but we must bring this to life and make it work.”

Creating the platform wasn’t the hard part. The real challenge lay in its successful operation.

With Electronic Arts recently going public and Messenger’s user base still growing, Carlisle knew his social networking platform had to seize the market quickly.

Sean licked his dry lips and whispered, “This idea is really solid. It creates an online platform for college students to connect and also brings in ad revenue. If we can expand this nationwide, our site will be a talent hub in just a few years.”

Back in the day, there weren’t as many college students. However, with industrial growth and improvements in education, even students from rural areas could attend university. The present day college students were the ones who would drive future economic growth.

Sipping his soup, Carlisle continued, “In the next few weeks, you should recruit a few talented seniors from your school to form a company. Let’s get this website up and running as soon as possible.”

Sean’s school specialty was in computer science.

Locating a few seniors with decent computer skills shouldn’t pose a challenge.

With some guidance from Carlisle, they would perform just as well as any top engineering graduate from a prestigious university.

It was akin to untangling a knotted ball of yarn—Carlisle would show them how to find the loose end and straighten everything out.

Chapter 224

Sean enthusiastically lifted his glass and exclaimed, “Carl, you’re a genius!”

Carlisle clinked his glass with Sean’s and laughed.

“Don’t give me too much credit. I just pieced this idea together from some online posts. Whether it’ll actually work, who knows.”

SchoolSpace initially failed due to a lack of investment. Later, it was acquired, and its **school** network was integrated into another social platform, thus forming SociableNet.

Over the next ten years, SociableNet’s value would soar to over six hundred billion. But unfortunately, it eventually fell into the hands of Electronic Arts.

Therefore, to ensure the longevity of their own project, they must create a product that could rival the prestige of Electronic Arts.

Running a business was like playing chess—when you made **a** move, you always had to think three steps ahead.

Without a long-term business vision, any venture was bound to decline. Despite lacking previous business experience, Carlisle excelled as a company marketer.

-Effective marketers must also possess sharp business intuition.

Francis and his comrades only managed to finish a bottle of beer before switching to non-alcoholic beverages.

Meanwhile, Sarah **and** a group of classmates gathered for dinner in another corner of the restaurant.

The girls were visibly flushed from drinking.

With a slightly intoxicated tone, Sienna praised, “Sarah, you’re truly impressive! A loan company must be quite profitable. There are so many financially struggling students at our school!”

“Yeah, Sarah! You’re awesome! And you’re willing to share the wealth with us!”

“Sarah, you’re practically family to me now!”

Sarah’s classmates all chimed in, trying to flatter her.

Coming from modest backgrounds, they naturally didn’t want to miss out on this opportunity to make money.

Moreover, Sarah had chosen them precisely because she knew about their financial struggles.

She believed that only those who were financially struggling would be easy **to** control **and** prioritize her needs.

She wasn’t keen on her **team** members questioning or arguing with her.

Since she decided to venture into entrepreneurship, she knew she needed absolute authority.

Sarah lifted her chin confidently and said, “Once my company is up and running, you guys will be the managers, and I’ll be the chairperson!”

In a low voice, Sienna asked, “Have you chosen a CEO?”

Sarah glanced at Sienna and replied, “Don’t be too ambitious. I’m reserving the CEO position for my cousin. She’s been a business manager at a big loan company for years. You don’t have the experience. If I gave you the CEO role, could you really make the company profitable?”

Sienna chuckled awkwardly and admitted, “Fair point…”

Another classmate jumped in, asking, “Sarah, what if they don’t repay the loans?”

Sarah chuckled and replied, “My clients are college students. If they refuse to pay, they can kiss their graduation goodbye!”

Impressed, Sienna nodded and said, “That’s a clever strategy. Most students wouldn’t give up their education for a loan.”

With a narrowed gaze, Sarah replied, “By keeping the interest rates high, we’ll put a lot of pressure on them to repay. I’ll have them all working part-time jobs to cover their debts. It’s like they’ll be working for me.”

“You’re a genius, Sarah!” Sienna exclaimed, gazing at Sarah with admiration.

“I bet you’ll be making tons of money in college.”

Then, she joked, “I bet Carlisle regrets ignoring you now. He won’t even have a chance with you in the future!”

Sarah scoffed, taking a sip of her wine.

“I want Carlisle to realize what **kind** of woman he gave up. He wasn’t good enough for me before, and he definitely won’t be in the future. He’ll only be worthy of admiring me from afar.”

After finishing their meal, Sarah and her friends went to the front desk to settle their bill.

Coincidentally, they bumped into Carlisle and his group descending from the other side.

Sean couldn’t help but gasp as he looked at Sarah, who seemed even more pretty now.

“Carl, is that stunning woman Sarah?”

Sarah was wearing a light yellow sundress that day. The hem was relatively short, ending just above her knees.

Her legs, fair and lovely, were really glistening under the lights.

Just as Carlisle looked up, Sarah happened to glance his way, too. She gave him a slight smirk, then quickly looked away. It was as though she couldn't stand to look at him for another second.

Carlisle remarked nonchalantly, "Yeah, that's her..."

Lily, with a light scoff, muttered, "Who's she trying to impress dressed like that?"

Silently, Carlisle made his way to the front desk to pay their bill.

After the cashier calculated the total, she smiled and said, "It's 1,985 dollars. But since you're a regular, let's round it down to 1,900 dollars."

Carlisle pulled out some cash, counted out two thousand dollars, and placed it on the counter, saying, "Keep the change as your tip."

The cashier's eyes widened with excitement.

"Thank you so much, sir."

She was used to seeing tips go to the servers or those working the private rooms, but she almost never

got any as a cashier.

This was the first time she had ever received a tip. A hundred dollars was a significant portion of her part-

time wages.

Nearby, Sarah commented, “Carlisle, just because you have some extra cash doesn’t mean you should. throw it around. At this rate, you’ll burn through it all in no time!”

Carlisle smiled calmly.

Don’t worry about it. The more I spend, the more I earn.”

Sarah’s bill was just 1,300 dollars.

She pulled out 1,500 dollars from her designer handbag and placed it on the counter, saying, “Keep the extra two hundred dollars as a tip.

The cashier was stunned.

A1 Seafood Restaurant kept operating 24 hours a **day**.

Most of the staff worked **two** shifts, but the cashiers rotated through three.

Her part–time job only **paid** four hundred dollars a week.

That day, these two customers alone had tipped her three hundred dollars.

“Were all the customers here this generous?

“No wonder the servers who worked the private rooms all had tens of thousands in savings,” the cashler mused Inwardly.

Once she overcame the shock, the cashier quickly thanked Sarah, “Thanks a lot! You’re so sweet **and** generous...”

Sarah didn’t spare her a second glance before turning to Carlisle and saying, “Carlisle, do you secretly think that in the past, I ignored you, and now I’m **out** of your league?”

Carlisle, with his hands in his pockets, **shrugged**.

“If that’s what you think, sure.”

Sienna and her friends burst into laughter.

“Sarah, you hit the nail on the head! He actually thinks that!”

“Seriously, dude. Sarah is about to start her own company. You should drop that silly ideal”

“I’ve seen confidence before, but this is on another level!”

Sean finally lost his patience and stepped forward, asking, “What’s going on here? Are you looking for trouble?”

Sienna noticed how close Sean and Lily were and jeered at Lily, “Lily, are you two together now?”

Lily replied nonchalantly, “Mind your own business. Who I’m with is none of your concern.”

Lily was Wanda’s close **friend**, and Sienna **and** Sarah **had** always had issues with Wanda. As a result, Lily had never been fond of the duo since high school.

Seeing Lily fire back, Sienna naturally had nothing nice to say. She clucked her tongue.

“With your looks, you could at least snag a rich kid at school instead of being with Sean,” Sienna continued sarcastically.

Shut the fuck up!” Sean couldn’t hold back and swore angrily, even raising his hand as if to slap her.

“Stop!”

Suddenly, a cold voice intervened from the doorway.

It was Austin, accompanied by a few stylish rich kids.

Sean’s gaze bore into Austin as he asked with a scowl, “Who the hell are you?”

The two rich kids beside Austin couldn’t help but laugh at Sean’s question.

Apparently, someone didn’t recognize the son of Riverland’s wealthiest man.

Even if college students didn't have their own computers, surely they had phones to keep themselves updated, **right**?

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Even without a phone, the school had newsletters coveting local news in Riverland, right? They wondered

If Sean had ever read one.

Austin was momentarily surprised, then laughed and turned to a nearby rich kid, saying, "Tell him who I am!"

Before the rich kid could speak, Sarah quickly said, "Sean, this is my boyfriend, Austin."

Sean sneered, "I thought he was-"

Lily tugged on Sean's sleeve and whispered, "Austin's the son of the richest man in town!"

Sean's heart skipped a beat, and his eyes went wide.

"The wealthiest man's son? Sarah actually landed him?"

"Holy crap! Why didn't Carlisle say anything earlier?" Sean groaned inwardly.

Sienna shot Sean a disdainful look and taunted, "What's the matter? Are you chickening out of throwing a punch now?"

Sean was seething with anger but remained silent

Sienna was Sarah's best friend. Sarah's alliance with Austin, the town's most powerful figure, gave significant influence.

More importantly, Sean couldn't risk dragging Lily and Carlisle into trouble over a moment of anger.

Carlisle stepped in, saying, "Sean, let's go."

Sean nodded and followed Carlisle out.

Sienna, however, refused to let the matter go.

She blocked Sean's path, taunting, "Leaving already? Not so fast!"

Sean looked down, visibly shaking. He couldn't muster any bravado in front of Austin.

Carlisle asked calmly, "What do you want?"

With her arms crossed, Sienna demanded, "I want him to apologize to **me!**"

With a smile, Carlisle asked, "Did he hit you?"

"He insulted me."

Sienna looked up and locked eyes with Carlisle.

Carlisle glanced at Austin and mouthed something. Sienna understood. It was **two** words.

She immediately turned to Sarah and blurted out, "Sarah, Carlisle insulted me!"

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Sarah looked at Carlisle calmly, demanding. "Apologize to my friend."

"What if I don't?" Carlisle challenged.

"You gonna call the cops on me?"

This time, Carlisle decided to have his friend's back.

When Sean was severely beaten last time, Carlisle had simply kept quiet. But now, he couldn't stand by and watch Sean be mistreated again.

Sarah, feeling helpless, turned to Austin with a frustrated plea.

"Austin, do something..."

Austin narrowed his eyes at Carlisle.

“So, you’ve bought Riley Phones?”

Carlisle grinned insincerely.

“You’re well-informed, Mr. Gust.”

Austin lit a cigarette and said, “If you apologize to Sienna, we’ll let this go. Otherwise... your phone company might run into some issues.”

Sean’s eyes widened slightly, and he stepped forward, whispering to Carlisle, “Maybe we should **just** swallow our pride and say sorry. We can always pick our battles another day.”

With his hands in his pockets, Carlisle walked over to Austin with a smile and leaned in to whisper something in his ear.

Austin’s hand holding the cigarette trembled slightly. A cold glint flickered in his deep eyes.

Carlisle’s lips curled into a sly grin.

“Sean, let’s go.”

“Huh?” Sean was caught off **guard**.

He couldn’t believe they could leave just like that and wondered what Carlisle had said to Austin.

“Let’s go!” Lily pulled Sean toward the exit.

“Austin, should we stop them?” asked two rich kids next to Austin.

“Let them go,” Austin narrowed his eyes **and** said through clenched teeth.

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Sarah, with a pout on her **red** lips, said plaintively, “Austin...”

Austin, feeling frustrated, remarked, “A few insults won’t do any harm.”

Sarah looked at him sadly.

Seeing her reaction, Austin softened his tone a bit.

“Alright. Let’s remember this for later. Once my dad sorts out the Thompson family, I’ll help you get your revenge.

Sarah could only nod quietly in response.

Outside, Sean persisted in his questioning, but Carlisle wouldn’t reveal said to Austin.

Carlisle flagged down a taxi for Lily and Sean.

“Drop me a message when you reach school.”

“Got it, Carl. Catch you later!”

“Goodbye, Carl!”

They waved goodbye to Carlisle, who waved back with a grin.

At that moment, Lawrence received a call from Wanda.

She needed to take some time off from school.

Lawrence had to reject her request due to the rules of military training.

Because of the noise outside, Lawrence switched to speakerphone mode.

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Carlisle casually draped his arm over Lawrence’s shoulder when he heard Wanda’s voice and Lawrence’s

refusal.

He said with a smile, “Mr. Hanson, Wanda and I were high school buddies. We’re really close.”

Lawrence hesitated for a moment. He glanced at Francis standing on the roadside and noticed Francis! face was filled with melancholy as he smoked. Lawrence picked up his phone and called Wanda back.

“Mr. Hanson...” Wanda’s soft voice came through the phone.

Lawrence spoke calmly, “Um... Is your matter really urgent?”

Wanda thought for a moment before timidly saying, “Not really... It can wait until after the military training.

At the sound of Wanda’s meek tone, Lawrence softened his stance and replied, “I **can** give **my**

approval on my end, but it’s ultimately up to your counselor and the principal.”

Wanda was thrilled.

“I’ve already spoken with them, and they’ve both approved!”

Lawrence’s mouth twitched at her words.

He pondered when Susan and the principal were so easy to persuade.

“Could it be that Wanda has some special status? Lawrence couldn’t help but wonder

After ending the call, Lawrence flashed a grin at Carlisle. Her leave’s sorted!”

“Thank you, Mr. Hanson Carlisle grinned in gratitude.

Lawrence shrugged and leaned in, saying. “Take care of my sergeant. He’s a real hero.”

Carlisle asked in a hushed tone, “What kind of hero?”

With a chuckle, Lawrence replied, “Can’t spill the beans on that one. Even if his own parents asked, he

wouldn’t say a word!”

Carlisle nodded. “I understand. It must be the confidentiality agreement and all”

Lawrence remained silent as he and his two comrades hopped into a taxi

Since Francis had a few drinks and couldn’t drive, he and Carlisle hailed a taxi back to the studio.

In the taxi, Francis couldn’t help but ask, “What did you tell Austin earlier?”

One would expect that Austin’s background as the son of Riverland’s wealthiest would have him accustomed to all sorts of situations. Yet, Carlisle’s words seemed to catch him off guard.

1 basically told him that investing all my money with his biggest business rival is akin to the underdog challenging the top dog. It was enough to make him break a sweat! Carlisle shared

“But isn’t he supported by Yuriel? Why would he back down?”

Francis still couldn’t wrap his head around it.

“Austin hasn’t fully taken over the family business yet. He probably has his own smaller ventures. I’ve pumped tens of millions of dollars into his main competitors in those ventures. It’ll definitely keep him tossing and turning at night!” Carlisle explained with a **sly** grin.

“What if Yuriel decides to splash a load of cash? I mean, he’s the richest guy around. It’d make complete sense for him to throw in tens of millions, or even hundreds of millions, for his own son, right?”

“With Riverwatch District development looming. Yuriel’s directing his investments there. He won’t be bothering with Austin’s small businesses,” Carlisle confidently remarked as he lounged back in his seat with legs crossed.

Francis gave a thumbs up.

“Impressive. I’m starting to think you’re some sort of ageless wizard, having Austin’s psyche all figured out like that!”

“Seriously, how many drinks have you guys **had**?”

The taxi driver couldn’t resist butting in.

“Tens of millions? Hundreds of millions? You’re talking about Yuriel, the richest guy in Riverland!”

“You guys talk big, yet you’re taking a taxi home.”

Carlisle and Francis wisely kept quiet.

There wasn’t much point in explaining it to him anyway.

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

In one of the luxurious private suites at Zachary's hotel, Zachary was seated at his computer, immersed in The Legendary Tale.

His phone vibrated on the desk. Without taking his eyes off the screen, he picked up the call.

"Zac... This one's proving to be quite challenging," Ian's voice sounded strained.

"Is it our strategy, or are they just that tough?" Zachary's tone was icy.

Ian sighed bitterly and said, "Horace and his loyal crew have all joined Prince Heath. Those guys fight like mad dogs when they attack."

Zachary frowned.

"How many men did we send?" "How many m

"Over a hundred, Ian replied promptly.

"And how many does Prince Heath have?"

"They have just over 50... About 30 of our men were caught this time, along with seven from Prince Heath's side. Security's going to be very tight for a while."

"Got it. Let's hold off for now **and** just apply pressure on their hangouts, Zachary said, ending the call in frustration.

He scowled and dove back into the game. Everyone outside his guild fell under his blade.

The next morning, Carlisle didn't wake up until 9.00 am.

As he finished his morning routine, Francis and Owen walked in, Carrying bags of takeout from outside.

Carlisle asked, "Did you drive the car back?"

"Yeah. I brought it back safe and sound," Francis replied.

Francis was an early riser. He usually got up around 6:00 am for his morning jog.

After breakfast, Carlisle headed straight to the Secretary of State's office.

On the way there, Logan gave him a call. Carlisle informed her he was already on his way.

Half an hour later, he arrived at the office.

As they parked, Carlisle spotted Logan stepping out of a taxi.

Dressed in a black dress with her hair in a ponytail, she greeted Carlisle with a smile, "Mr. Zahn, good morning."

"Good morning." Carlisle acknowledged with a nod.

Logan handed Carlisle a folder and asked, "Have you decided on a name for the new company yet?"

Carlisle rubbed his nose and replied, "Let's go with Govan Technology Limited."

Logan's eyes lit up. "I like it! It sounds much better than Riley."

Just as Carlisle was about to enter the lobby, his phone rang.

He answered it while leading Logan inside..

It was Ryan calling. Carlisle told him he was at the Secretary of State's office.

Then, Carlisle started the process of registering the company.

He registered three companies: Govan Technology Limited, Dragonaire Game Company, and Skyline Holdings Venture Capital Company.

At that time, there was no subscribed capital system in place. They needed to provide proof of funds.

So, Carlisle had to make a trip to the bank..

Just after Carlisle left, Lethan showed up with Wanda at the Secretary of State's office.

Wanda was unfamiliar with registering a company, so she brought Lethan along to help.

They

decided to use an accounting firm for the financial verification part of the process.

As they were leaving, they bumped into Sarah and Austin, who were just getting out of a Porsche.

Sarah noticed Wanda and glanced at Lethan beside her, asking, "Who's this guy, Wanda?"

"He's my uncle," Wanda replied.

"Seriously? I find that hard to believe. He couldn't be..." Sarah's voice trailed off.

"Mr. Warbane, hello!" Austin interrupted with a smile.

Lethan shot Sarah a stern look.

"What about me?"

Sarah started feeling uneasy as she watched Austin be very polite to Lethan. More so with how Lethan stared at her—it was intimidating.

Lethan cut in coldly, “Well? Go on. What were you about to say?”

Even without Sarah finishing her sentence, Lethan seemed to already know what she was thinking.

He wouldn’t allow anyone to bully his niece.

Sarah cowered behind Austin, trembling.

Austin forced a smile and said, “Mr. Warbane, please, calm down. My girlfriend didn’t mean any harm. Surely, you wouldn’t hold it against her, right?”

But Lethan remained unmoved.

He responded in a flat tone, “Either your girlfriend apologizes to my niece, or your dad can come fetch her.

With a deep breath, Austin pulled Sarah forward with a blank face.

“Mr. Warbane is indeed Wanda’s uncle, Please apologize to Wanda.”

Tears welled up in Sarah’s eyes.

She had thought Wanda's dad was the supposedly tough one. She wondered why even her uncle was

someone Austin couldn't mess with.

She hadn't managed to humiliate Carlisle last night and couldn't sleep a wink because of it.

That day, she tried to humiliate Wanda but ended up with an egg on her face instead.

Hands behind her back, Wanda looked at Sarah with a smirk and said, "What are you waiting for? Just

apologize already."

Wanda realized Sarah's behavior had become even more ruthless than in high school.

She knew there was no need to tolerate it anymore. It was time to fight back.

Lethan was furious seeing Sarah in tears. He demanded, "Say you're sorry."

Sarah, visibly shaken, quickly muttered, "I—I'm sorry..."

Lethan pressed further, "Is that apology for me?"

Sarah wiped her tears and turned to Wanda, saying, "Wanda, I'm sorry..."

It was simply too humiliating for Sarah. She wondered when she would finally gain the upper **hand** over Carlisle and Wanda.

"Sarah, remember, words can bring trouble. It's about time you learned to show some respect Wanda

advised before heading over to her uncle's car.

Lethan shot a look at Austin and remarked, "Keep your girlfriend in check."

Austin smiled slightly.

"Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Warbane. I'll have a talk with her."

With a disdainful snort, Lethan climbed into his car, started the engine, and drove off.

Not too far away, Logan chuckled to herself, “Austin’s got himself a young girlfriend, but she doesn’t seem too bright.”

Austin swiftly smoothed things over for Sarah, thanks to his father’s connections.

As they settled into the Porsche, Sarah pouted and grumbled, “Austin, when are you guys going to take down the Thompson family finally?”

Clearly frustrated, Austin gripped the steering wheel tightly and muttered, “That day’s not too far off. Trust me.”

“When it happens, I want them to have nowhere to hide in Riverland!”

Sarah’s face was filled with cold determination.

As Austin drove the Porsche out of the parking lot, he turned to Sarah and said, “Sarah, just a heads up- let’s try to keep things low-key for now. My dad’s in the thick of dealing with the Thompsons, so we can’t stir up any major trouble.”

“Got it.” Sarah nodded.

“Also, loaning can be a risky business. I’m thinking of getting you a **financial** advisor and a lawyer. You’ll need to heed their advice,” Austin added.

“Well, that might not be necessary. I’ve already got my cousin on board. She’s been working at another loan company for three years,” Sarah replied cautiously while keeping an eye on Austin’s reaction.

Austin steered with one hand while the other rested on Sarah’s smooth leg.

His voice was deep and magnetic as he said, “The company is yours, so it’s your call. But now that your company is established, don’t you think you owe me something?”

Sarah’s face flushed even redder, and she lowered her head.

She whispered, “I... I’m *on my period*...”

A smirk played across Austin’s lips. “There are other ways, you *know*.”

Baffled, Sarah asked, “What other ways do you mean?”

Austin flashed a wicked smile as he drove towards his mansion.

Chapter 230

Carlisle returned to the Secretary of State’s office with the capital verification report. Ryan showed up

around the same time.

After they wrapped up the paperwork, the office staff couldn’t help but sneak a few looks at Carlisle.

They were amazed by how someone so young could set up so many companies at once and even acquire a big semiconductor company. Some even joked if he could be Yuriel’s long-lost son or something or other.

Carlisle and Ryan walked out of the Secretary of State’s office together.

The suppliers Carlisle had invested in also showed up.

As they spotted Ryan, all three paused in surprise.

“Could it be that Carlisle had also invested in Ryan’s company?” they couldn’t help but wonder.

With Terrence's Wind Semiconductors reigning supreme in the Riverland market, the chances of Ryan's Xenos Factory making a comeback seemed slim.

Ryan greeted the three with a big smile, saying, "Hey guys! It's been ages!"

Edward laughed, "Yeah, it's been a while!"

Simon couldn't help but ask, "Did Mr. Zahn invest in your company too?"

Ryan shook his head.

"Nah, he actually bought my company.

These suppliers were all hardware providers for companies, but they had all been struggling due to market competition. They shared a mutual understanding of each other's challenges.

With a thoughtful look, Simon asked, "So, what's your plan now? You're still young. You can't be thinking of retiring already, right?"

Ryan chuckled.

"No way. Thanks to Mr. Zahn's support, I'll be taking charge as CEO at Xenos Factory,"

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Ryan excused himself, saying he needed to get back to the company and start the process of getting things back on track.

Meanwhile, Carlisle registered the equity transfer details with Edward and Simon.

Their three standalone companies transitioned into a joint-stock limited liability company

After finishing up around noon, they were simply waiting on the final business licenses. Hungry from all the work, Carlisle took the group to grab lunch at a nearby restaurant.

PA

Wanda wore a frustrated expression as she followed Lethan around at the accounting firm.

She said, "Uncle Lethan, if we had just gone to the bank, we'd have the capital verification report by **now**."

either."

slightly embarrassed, Lethan responded, "I didn't expect their meeting to go on for this long

Then, with a teasing smile, he asked, "Are you in such a rush because you're hoping to meet up with Carlisle?"

Wanda blushed immediately.

She stuttered, "U-Uncle Lethan... What are you talking about?"

Truth was, she did entertain the thought. She went to school to request leave that morning and didn't see Carlisle. She learned Carlisle had also taken the day off when she messaged Phoebe.

She wasn't sure why Carlisle had decided to skip school, but it meant that she might at least get a chance. to hang out with him alone.

Lethan chuckled.

"You can't even trust me, huh?"

Just as Lethan finished speaking, his phone rang. After checking it, his smile disappeared.

“It’s your dad calling,” he said.

Wanda widened her eyes and shook her head urgently.

“Don’t tell him I’m with you,” she whispered.

Lethan answered the call on speakerphone.

Shein’s voice came through.

“Don’t forget to send Wanda back to school.”

Wanda frowned, giving Lethan a war look.

She suspected Lethan had spilled the beans.

“Got it,” Lethan replied.

Lethan was always on his best behavior around his brother-in-law.

After all, his brother-in-law could go toe-to-toe with Yuriel, the wealthiest man in Riverland.

At that moment, Wanda blurted out, “Dad, I want to go to Aunt Shania’s!”

After a brief pause, Shein **said**, “Alright. I’ll give her a call.”

And with that, he hung up.

Wanda was furious. Her dad calling Shania himself meant Shania would be keeping an eye on her.

She pondered how she was supposed to hang out with Carlisle now.

But Lethan’s eyes

lit

1. up.

“Your dad actually agreed? This makes things easier...”

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