

Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell

#Chapter 31 - Read Back to the Past: Breaking the Love Spell Chapter 31

Chapter 31

Chapter 31

1/3

“Let's talk to him-first. If his offer aligns with us, we'll make a deal,” Carlisle tossed the cigarette he had only taken one puff of on the ground and stomped it out.

“| reckon he'll go Sean suggested, eager to secure the highest possible price for the Heavenly Sword. <10 80 thousand dollars at best. Should | reach out to potential buyers on the forums?”

This was a business transaction worth tens of thousands. Ordinary people might not even earn 10 thousand dollars a year.

Carlisle shook his head. “This isn't a minor deal. I'm not keen on dealing with strangers.”

Though they had limited interactions with the internet café owner, they were at least somewhat familiar with him. He was more reliable compared to other strangers.

“Here, have some drinks.”

The internet café owner walked in with three cans of Coke. He closed the door with his foot and handed a can to each of them.

“Let's get to know each other. I'm Ivan Sanders, but everyone calls me Mr. Sanders.”

Ivan sat on the bed, popped open his soda can, and smirked sinisterly.

Mr. Sanders?

Carlisle was slightly surprised.

The name Mr. Sanders rang a bell

Back at Rainville High School, Ivan seemed to be the guy several bullies relied on.

Carlisle hadn't met Ivan before. Unbeknownst to Carlisle, the internet cafe's owner was the infamous Mr. Sanders, whom bullies constantly mentioned.

Sean's grip tightened on his Coke can at the mention of Mr. Sanders.

"Hello, Mr. Sanders. I'm Carlisle," Carlisle greeted calmly.

"Hello, Mr. Sanders. I'm Sean." Sean's voice trembled slightly, betraying a hint of nervousness.

Observing Carlisle's composure, Ivan's expression flickered with surprise. "So, you guys are high schoolers, huh? Which year are you in? Are you freshmen or sophomores?"

Given his influence, Ivan had dozens of lackeys at Rainville High School. He was a widely recognized

figure.

He mentioned his own name in the hopes of instilling a sense of intimidation. Then, he could potentially negotiate a lower price. "I'm a senior, just finished my SATS," Carlisle replied calmly, his composure belied his youthful

appearance

Ivan grew even more intrigued by Carlisle's demeanor. He wondered if Carlisle had a more powerful backer than he himself. After taking a sip of Coke, Ivan went straight to the point. "How much are you planning to sell the Heavenly Sword for?"

After a moment of consideration, Carlisle gestured with nine fingers.

Ivan lit a cigarette and took a couple of puffs. He shook his head and responded, "That's too high. Selling the Heavenly for 90 thousand dollars is impossible, in spite of its rarity."

Sean glanced nervously at Carlisle, fearing he might lower the price further.

On the forums, some big spenders offered starting prices of 100 thousand or more. If they auctioned it, they might even fetch 150 thousand.

After a moment's hesitation, Carlisle smiled and proposed, "Everyone knows the value of the Heavenly Sword now. "But I'm willing to be friends with you, Mr. Sanders. You can have it for a friendly price of 80 thousand

dollars."

What the heck?

Carlisle directly reduced it by 10 thousand?

Sean was stunned.

The Heavenly Sword, worth over 100 thousand dollars, would be sold for only 80 thousand dollars?

In Rainville, current housing prices were typically 170 dollars per square foot.

Second-hand houses likely ranged from 70 to 80 thousand dollars. This equated to the value of an entire second-hand house! Ivan soon realized Carlisle wasn't so easy to deceive. 80 thousand dollars was indeed a friendly price.

It appeared that Carlisle genuinely sought friendship with him, but wasn't syig com with 80 thousand dollars on such short notice.

After a moment of hesitation, Ivan gritted his teeth and said, "Alright 80 thousand dollars. I'll fee to make a phone call to gather the funds!"

"I'll come back tomorrow" Carlisle stood up with a smile.

When Ivan saw this, he immediately said, "No, I must get it today!"

He feared that Carlisle would seek other buyers.

"Alright. Try your best to be quick then." Carlisle sat back down on the chair.

"It might take a while. In the meantime, feel free to use one of the computers for you," Ivan said with a cigarette in his mouth.

Carlisle and Sean went outside to use the Internet.

Ivan took out his cell phone and started making calls to gather the funds.

Two years prior, he had a reputation for being a bit of a rogue, but marriage had mellowed him. The internet café was initially financed by his father-in-law.

He planned to borrow some money from his father-in-law first.

Chapter 32

Chapter 32

Half an hour later, a lavishly dressed woman in her thirties entered the internet cafe with her nose pinched.

Her slightly bulging abdomen indicated her pregnancy.

"Honey," Ivan greeted her with deference.

Jessica Stewart rolled her eyes at Ivan. "Could you please pay attention to the hygiene of this place? With such a strong foot odor, who would want to visit?"

Ivan scratched his head. "It's full every day. It's only around seven or eight in the morning that we don't have many customers."

The woman took out a bundle tightly wrapped in newspaper from her bag.

"Here's 100 thousand dollars. Keep the remaining 20 thousand for yourself. Next time, call me directly if you need money. My dad already looks down on you. Yet you keep asking him for money."

"Yes, honey," Ivan replied with an awkward smile.

He accepted the money from the woman, then smiled and said, "You go rest in the bedroom first. I'll go find that kid to trade the equipment!"

The woman nodded and headed toward Ivan's bedroom.

Ivan unwrapped the newspaper and took out 20 thousand. Then, he placed the remaining 80 thousand in front of Carlisle. "Here's 80 thousand. Count it!"

Sean stared in disbelief at the crisp new bills amounting to 80 thousand dollars. He found it hard to catch his breath.

His father had managed to save only around 100 thousand dollars after more than a decade in business.

In fact, each employee's wage was a mere 600 dollars in his father's store.

And here was Carlisle, selling a single piece of equipment for 80 thousand dollars.

Given Carlisle's rebirth, he had experienced more than a decade of economic growth. His understanding of 80 thousand dollars transcended the current society.

Carlisle just glanced at the stack of money indifferently and said, "Let's log in and make the trade now."

Ivan returned to the counter and logged into his account.

your username 'Bygones_b_bygones'?" Ivan asked.

"Yes. Are you The_Whisperwind"? Carlisle confirmed again, even though they had already confirmed the Information earlier.

"Yeah, that's me." Ivan clicked directly on the trade.

Carlisle dragged the Heavenly Sword into the trade window.

Chapter 32

2/2

Ivan purchased the Heavenly Sword for the price of one gold coin.

Once the transaction was completed, Carlisle felt a wave of relief wash over him.

After Ivan checked the attributes of the Heavenly Sword, he took out a camera from the drawer and snapped a few pictures.

He had purchased the Heavenly Sword with the intention to resell it at a higher price. Buying it for 80 thousand and reselling it for 100 thousand would yield him a profit of 20 thousand.

It would take his small internet cafe four months just to earn that much.

"Mr. Sanders, it's getting late. We'll take off now." Carlisle and Sean had already left their seats.

"Okay, Carlisle. We're officially friends now."

Ivan rose from his seat and handed them cigarettes. "Whenever you drop by to use the internet in the future, I'll only charge you a dollar!"

Carlisle nodded with a smile. "Thanks, Mr. Sanders!"

Ivan escorted the pair out of the internet cafe.

Carlisle and Sean went straight to a restaurant and treated themselves to a lavish breakfast.

As they were about to finish their meal, Carlisle took out 20 thousand dollars and handed it to Sean. Sean, this 20 thousand is for you!"

"Carl... This-" Sean gaped at Carlisle in disbelief.

This wasn't a negligible amount of 20

e dollars or 200 dollars. (t)was 20m thousand dollars!

Even his father couldn't simply hand over 20 thousand dollars to him like this.

"Take it!" Carlisle insisted, forcefully handing the money to Sean.

"Thanks, Carl, Sean said, his eyes reddening with emotion.

With a friend like Carl, Sean wondered what more he could ask for.

After they left the restaurant, Carlisle went to a cell phone store to purchase a phone.

The display case was brimmed with outdated keypad phones. This was the era when keypad phones were all the rage.

gh-end brand's keypad phone would be priced at around 3000 to 4000 dollars.

Carlisle quickly selected an exquisite and stylish flip phone.

The Motorola Razr V3 had just been released last month

However, the price was slightly outrageous. It was priced at 4200 dollars.

Chapter

Chapter 33

Chapter 33

Carlisle clenched-his teeth and bought three phones straight.

Observing Carlisle's generosity with the money, Sean decided to indulge himself and bought one as well.

During that time, SIM cards did not require any form of Identification. So, Carlisle bought three phone cards directly.

As they exited, the store manager gifted them water bottles and umbrellas.

Just as they stepped out of the phone shop, Carlisle suddenly felt a pang of regret.

He remembered that the technology for mobile phones would advance rapidly in the coming years.

He shouldn't have bought such an expensive phone.

Then, he quickly rationalized that the money he had was an unexpected fortune.

In his previous life, he had been negligent, failing to adequately support his parents. He resolved to make amends in this lifetime.

Carlisle rode his bike to the market and purchased a substantial amount of high-quality produce.

He didn't return home until nine in the morning.

Hilda sat on the couch, engrossed in her handiwork.

Seeing Carlisle arrive with bags of groceries, she smiled and remarked, "Oh, it seems like my son has really grown up. He even knows how to buy groceries now!"

It was intended as a jest, but Carlisle chastised himself internally.

Other teenagers his age were capable of doing household chores like laundry and cooking by the time they were juniors in high school.

However, Carlisle had already graduated from high school. Yet this was the first time he bought groceries for the family.

"I'm eighteen now. I'm already an adult!"

Carlisle placed the groceries on the table. Then, he picked up the white cell phone gift box and walked to the couch. "Mom, I got you a gift!"

eyes widened when she saw the exquisite Motorola cell phone image on the gift box, "Is this... a cell phone?"

It wasn't just any cell phone; it was a high-end brand, Motorola!

Gordon's older brother, Gerard, had bought a Motorola last year. They had heard it cost over 3000 dollars.

Even after a year of manual labor, Hilda couldn't afford such a phone!

Carlisle had foreseen Hilda's reaction. He explained, "I sold a piece of equipment in the game last night for over 30 thousand dollars!:"

"How much?" Hilda repeated. She thought she had misheard and accidentally dropped the cell phone components.

"30 thousand dollars!"

Carlisle placed the 20 thousand dollars he had set aside on the old coffee table.

He didn't dare disclose the actual amount of 80 thousand dollars.

After all, he had already given Sean twenty thousand and spent over 10 thousand on the phones.

80 thousand dollars seemed like an immense amount to Hilda now.

He feared she might not be able to handle it.

Hilda gazed at the stack of crisp hundred-dollar bills, her breathing slightly agitated.

It took her a moment to compose herself. She fixed her gaze on Carlisle and asked sternly, "Carlisle, where did this money come from?"

"I got it from selling game equipment!"

"Nonsense. What kind of game equipment could sell for so much money?"

Hilda clearly doubted his explanation.

Carlisle had no choice but to keep explaining about The Legendary Tale to Hilda. He even took out his phone and had Hilda call Sean to confirm.

Sean exaggerated the story even further. "Aunt Hilda, Carlisle is telling the truth. We even sold the equipment at a discount. Originally, it could have been sold for 50 thousand dollars!"

With Sean's patient explanation, Hilda gradually accepted the truth..

After ending the call, Hilda looked at the 20 thousand dollars with om trembling eyes. Do you believe that you can make money by playing games?" she asked.

Carlisle hastily reassured her, "No. It !

was just a stroke of luck. I won't get addicted to video games!"

Hilda secretly breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing Carlisle's words. She looked at him with pride and said, "You've really grown up"

Carlisle sat beside his mom and unpacked the phone. With skillful hands, he inserted the SIM card, Med the battery, closed the battery cover, and turned it on.

Hilda sighed, "This phone must be very expensive, right?"

It looked even more exquisite than Gerard's phone. It had to be very expensive.

"It was over 3000 dollars. I bought three, so there's only 20 thousand left."

"That's too expensive."

Hilda didn't know whether to laugh or cry at the situation.

A manual laborer earning merely 300 dollars per month owned a phone that cost over 3000 dollars.

Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Chapter 34

What would outsiders think if they found out?

Carlisle chuckled and said, "Regardless, this money came to me unexpectedly. Let's just enjoy ourselves with it."

He entered his phone number into the phone with the SIM card installed and made a call. The phone in his pocket rang.

Carlisle handed the phone to Hilda. "Mom, give it a try and see if it works!"

Hilda got up and made her way to the bathroom. "Let me wash my hands."

The handiwork she did involved assembling hardware. Her hands were coated in lubricating oil.

She didn't want to dirty such an expensive phone.

After washing her hands, Hilda took the phone and attempted to make a call.

Carlisle went to his bedroom to converse with her on the phone.

"Mom, can you hear me?"

"Yes. I can hear you!" Hilda's voice quivered with excitement. Her eyes brimmed with indescribable joy.

Gordon only had a second-hand PHS phone. Hilda hadn't even used that PHS phone herself.

She felt quite nervous about suddenly using such a high-end and expensive phone.

"Do you like this gift? In the future, I'll make sure you and Dad live in a mansion, drive luxury cars-" Carlisle said, his gaze fixed on the ceiling as he lay on the carpet.

Hilda's eyes grew slightly moist. "Silly boy, you mustn't spend money recklessly in the future!"

Carlisle went silent for a long time.

Hilda pushed open his bedroom door to find him already asleep. He had probably stayed up all night.

Shaking her head, Hilda closed the door gently.

"Honey, is our son home?" Gordon suddenly entered from outside.

Hilda's brow furrowed slightly. "Aren't you supposed to be at work?"

Gordon sighed, "Maintenance on the circuits, so I'm off today!"

was currently employed part-time on a piece-rate basis. A day off meant no income.

"Why did you go grocery shopping so early today? Why did you buy so much? Are we expecting guests" Gordon asked, puzzled, as he observed the table filled with groceries.

Just as he finished speaking, his eyes fell on a white gift box on the table. His pupils dilated suddenly.

Chapter34

"Which bastard gave you this?" he asked with wide eyes.

It was a Motorola Razr V3. His boss had purchased one just two days ago for over 4000 dollars.

And the groceries on the table cost at least 100 dollars. It was hard for him to not speculate.

twice, and her tone turned cold instantly. "Gordon, what are your The comers of Hilda's lips twitcher implying?"

Only then did Gordon notice that Hilda also held a cell phone in her hand. Another gift box sat on the coffee table.

If it was from another man, why would there be two?

Hilda glared at Gordon. "If you don't explain yourself today, I won't let this slide!"

They had been married since they were 18, for over 20 years. She had never imagined Gordon would ever doubt her.

Gordon realized he had overreacted and slapped his own face. "Hilda, don't be angry! I spoke without thinking!"

His insecurities about not earning much money in the past two years often led to wild thoughts:

Seeing such an expensive phone, he immediately thought other men were interested in his wife.

Hilda recounted the whole story about Carlisle selling game equipment to Gordon.

Like Hilda's previous reaction, Gordon didn't believe it at all. He rose from his seat, intending to wake Carlisle for interrogation.

"You better sit down!"

Hilda held Gordon back angrily. "Can habit of yours?"

you stop this nasty habit Stop making wild guesses before you know the truth!"

Once Gordon calmed down, he pulled out his PHS phone to call a manager from his previous company.

"Lewis, do you play The Legendary Tale?"

"Yeah. Gordon, are you thinking of playing too?"

Gordon cleared his throat. "It crossed my mind. Can you make money with this game? I heard someone sold a piece of equipment for over 30

thousand!" he asked tactfully.

Chapter 35

Chapter 35

1/3

"What's 30 thousand dollars? Last year, a player sold a piece of equipment for over 200 thousand dollars! That was equivalent to a luxury mansion!"

"Wow, are things in the game really worth that much?" Gordon felt like his worldview was about to collapse

"They're valuable, but it's like playing the lottery. I've been playing since 2001 and haven't made any money. Gordon, you'd better forget about making money in the game while you can!"

"I was just asking casually. I'm almost 40 years old. Where would I find the time to play games?" Gordon laughed.

"Oh, Gordon, where are you working now? Are they still hiring? I think I might be laid off soon!"

Gordon pretended to cough. "Let's discuss that later, I have something to attend to. I'll hang up now!" With that, he promptly ended the call.

Gordon didn't want Hilda to know about his layoff until he found another stable job.

Hilda stared suspiciously at Gordon and asked, "What's with this 'talk about it later? Do you have a mistress outside?'"

Gordon didn't react as explosively as Hilda had earlier. Instead, he grinned and replied, "Seems like you still have high expectations of me. Do you think I'm capable enough to find a mistress?"

Hilda scoffed, "You're hopeless. You're not even as capable as our son. Can you earn these 20 thousand.

dollars?"

if my son Gordon glanced at the 20 thousand dollars on the table and said solemnly, "Like father, like son, If is capable, it only proves his old man is capable too!"

"Your skin is as thick as armor," Hilda scolded, albeit with a smile.

At noon, Hilda woke Carlisle up for lunch.

Meanwhile, at the dining table, Gordon received a call from Gerard.

Gerard had decided to come to the county at the end of the month for his daughter's graduation banquet.

"Did Kelly's SATs results come out already?"

ET Ts just ended yesterday. Shouldn't the results take longer to come out?" Gordon asked, puzzled and surprised.

"Her uncle works in the Education Bureau. It wasn't hard to check the results!" Gerard's tone was filled with pride.

"What's her score?" Gordon asked with a smile.

"She scored 1225, just five points shy of making it into Riverland University!" Gerard sighed.

Chapte 35

On the surface, it seemed disappointing. But, in reality, this score was enough to stimulate Gordon.

A score of 1225 was sufficient for various Tier 2 universities. It could even secure her a spot in some lower-tier Tier 1 universities.

Gordon lamented, "What a shame! Only five points away!"

Despite his strained relationship with Gerard, Kelly was still his niece.

Gordon couldn't help but feel a tad sorry for her missing out on Riverland University by just five points.

Gerard interpreted Gordon's reaction as gloating. He remarked, "We'll have plenty of summer job openings at my construction site this year. Should I have Carl come over for some work experience?"

Gordon's expression turned grim instantly. "No need. My son's scores won't be lower than your daughter's!"

Gerard chuckled softly. "It's good to be confident. But you know Carlisle's grades better than anyone. Listen to me. Don't push him to retake the exam if he doesn't pass.

"Success in education hinges on talent. Without talent, even three years of repeating won't help. It's better for him to start working early and earn money!"

"My family matters are none of your business, I'm hanging up!" Gordon exclaimed angrily, about to end the call.

Initially, he had considered asking Gerard to use his connections to check Carlisle's scores. However, after hearing Gerard's words, he felt too embarrassed to request his assistance.

"Hold on..."

"Is there anything else?"

"I'm planning to invite some of the elders from the village to the graduation banquet at the end of the month. Can you help me with that?"

"I'm busy with work. I don't have time," Gordon replied in a lukewarm tone.

Help him with it?

Gerard's request seemed like a blatant attempt to stir up gossip among the village elders.

Gerard wanted to say more, but dad's Carlisle's voice interrupted from the other end. "Uncle Gerard, my Me with preparations for my with tied up graduation banquet. He really can't spare any time!"

ended the call before Gerard could respond.

Gordon took a sip of white wine and slammed the glass onto the table.

"That idiot! He's deliberately arranging Kelly's graduation banquet in the county. He even invited all these village elders. He's clearly alming to embarrass us!"

Hilda's expression mirrored Gordon's displeasure, The village elders were notorious gossipers.

Unless Carlisle's scores surpassed Kelly's and got accepted into a Tier 1

university.

Carlisle enjoyed his roast chicken with a smile. "Who knows who'll end up humiliated then!"

Seeing his son's confidence, Gordon refilled his glass. "Exactly. What if my son gets into Riverland University?"

Despite his words, Gordon harbored doubts deep down.

Chapter 36

Chapter 36

As Gerard mentioned, Gordon, as Carlisle's father, understood Carlisle's academic performance better than anyone else.

After Carlisle ate and drank his fill, he retreated to his room to rest.

He laid on his bed and logged onto the MSN messenger on his phone.

Wanda still hadn't accepted his friend request.

He sighed helplessly and retrieved the pink letter hidden beneath his pillow, reading it once more.

Meanwhile, in a luxurious mansion, Wanda sat in front of her desk in her pajamas. There was an LCD desktop computer on the desk.

The cell phone on the table rang.

"Zac," she answered.

"Your results are in. You scored 1350!" Zachary's voice lacked excitement, tinged instead with a hint of anger.

Given Wanda's academic performance, she could have scored above 1450.

A score of 1350 wouldn't secure her a spot in any Ivy League universities.

Wanda blinked her lovely eyes and exclaimed, "That's not bad. I can still get into Riverland University!"

Zachary almost exploded with anger. He sternly interrogated, "Tell me, are you seeing someone? Are you planning to stay in Riverland for some guy?"

"Zac, what are you talking about? This year's SAT questions were exceptionally challenging. Being able to get into Riverland University is already quite an achievement!" Wanda said with an aggrieved voice.

Zachary sighed, "Never mind, do as you wish. After all, you are my one and only sister." He chuckled bitterly, tinged with a sense of resignation.

I

"You're the most handsome brother on earth. Can I ask you for another favor? Wanda pleaded playfully.

"What is it?"

hint of guilt.

nelp me check Carlisle's results? He's from Rainville High School!" Wanda's voice carried a With Zachary's sharp intellect, it wasn't difficult for him to discern something.

Zachary fell silent for a morfent. "Carlisle, that brave kid from last time? You're quite intrigued by him," he remarked coldly.

Back then, when Carlisle got beaten up, Zachary noticed that Wanda seemed very concerned.

hapter 36

2/2

It wasn't the usual concern between classmates. It felt more like that of lovers

"Zac, don't talk nonsense. Carlisle is just a student I tutor. I'm only curious to see if he's improved."

Wanda made exeuses.

"I'll check it later. I suspect the exam papers haven't been graded yet. We don't have any connections at the Education Bureau. It took me a lot of effort to expedite the grading of your papers," Zachary sald coldly.

"Alright then," Wanda pobited, disappointment evident in her eyes.

"Give me three days. I'll tell you that kid's results in three days!" Zachary was overly indulgent to his sister. He couldn't stand to see her upset.

Wanda suddenly felt uplifted by Zachary's promise. "Thanks, Zac! You're the best!"

Time passed quickly.

In just over twenty days, the day for the release of SAT results arrived.

Back then, the internet wasn't as advanced. The candidates had to visit the school to check their scores.

As fate would have it, Carlisle and Sean ran into Sienna and Sarah at the school gate.

"Carlisle, are you here to check your scores too?" Sarah asked.

She wore a short-sleeved shirt and extremely short shorts. Her fair and long legs captivated anyone who saw them.

"Yeah," Carlisle replied calmly.

Sarah chuckled and asked, "If you don't pass, will you retake the exam?"

"There are no 'ifs' involved, Carlisle stated calmly, then strode into the campus.

Sienna snorted loudly from behind and said, "I hope you won't walk out of the school crying!"

Carlisle didn't bother to respond.

Instead, Sean turned around and quipped, "You'll be the ones crying later!"

Sienna immediately retorted, "Sean, I bet you won't even get into a Tier 3 university!"

Seeing Sean ignore them, Sienna stomped her foot in anger. "Sarah, look at them."

Sarah shook her head and chuckled.

"How could people like them possibly diversity?"

Lo be parasites in society!"

du

Suddenly, Sienna said, "Sarah, perhaps you shouldn't be so cold toward Carlisle. He'll definitely go to work if he doesn't get into university. That way, you won't have to worry about finances when you attend university!"

Chapter 37

Chapter 37

"Enna, what nonsense are you talking about? Wouldn't I be an opportunist if I actually did what you said?"

Sarah shot Sienna an angry glare.

She didn't want to come off as too arrogant in front of her classmates.

However, Sienna's words did serve as a reminder.

Sarah's family's business had been struggling lately. She knew that her university life was bound to be financially tight.

For now, she had to keep Carlisle interested. She could always discard him once she found a better guy at university.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I misspoke!" Sienna quickly apologized as she shook Sarah's arms playfully.

"Alright, I forgive you. Let's head to the classroom first!"

Sarah linked her arm with Sienna's and walked toward the main school building.

Meanwhile, the teachers' office bustled with activity.

Several homeroom teachers had gathered around Lucy. Even the principal and the director of the Education Bureau were present.

"Ms. Turner, you're really outstanding. Four students from your class have met the Tier 1 University requirements. This is unprecedented in our school!"

"It looks like Ms. Turner will receive the Best Homeroom Teacher of the Year award again this year!"

"Ms. Turner, are you available tomorrow? I'd like to treat you to a meal and learn from you!"

Lucy remained silent euphoric from the praise.

she basked in everyone's compliments. She felt almost Since its establishment, Rainville High School had only produced a few students who made it into Tier 1

Universities.

The fact that four students from a single class managed to qualify was unprecedented.

The bald principal, who had a protruding belly, smiled and said, "It's almost time. Let's announce the SATS results. Tonight, I'll treat everyone to a big meal!"

The homeroom teachers then exited the office with their report folders.

Ju uy stepped out of the office, she suddenly remembered something. She turned back to retrieve a large tote bag from her drawer.

As Lucy entered Class 3A, the room fell silent.

"I'll be distributing the SATS 'results," she announced. "I'll call out your names. So, please come forward to collect your score reports."

Chapter 37

Lucy wasted no time and began announcing the names on the report folders..

Once the students received their folders, they returned to their seats to check their scores.

"Sienna Thorn!" Lucy called out. She glanced at Sienna with a hint of disappointment.

Sienna was just a few points shy of qualifying for a Tier 2 university. It was indeed a bit of a pity.

Anxiously, Sienna approached and took her report folder.

Back at her seat, Sienna clasped her hands together and silently prayed, "Dear Lord, please bless me to get into a Tier 2 university."

Shortly after, she reached into the folder and retrieved her score report.

When she saw her total score of 1045, Sienna felt like the sky had fallen on her.

The minimum requirement for admission to a Tier 2 University was 1060.

In other words, she had no chance of getting admitted into a Tier 2 University.

"Enna, what's your score?" Sarah leaned over to look at Sienna's score report upon noticing Sienna's sour expression.

Sienna had applied to the Riverland Institute of Business, which was located near Riverland University. It was a college Sarah had helped her choose so they could remain best friends in college.

Upon seeing Sienna's total score of 1045, Sarah frowned. "Enna, how did you only manage 1045 points?

You studied so hard!"

Sienna was at a loss for words. "The exam questions were completely different from what I prepared for. Why am I so unlucky?" she sobbed.

As she spoke, tears streamed down her face.

Throughout the classroom, various emotions were evident.

"Yes! I got 1000 points! I made it! I made it! I'm the hope of my whole *пород* village. We have a college student in our village!"

Some shed tears after failing to

2 ^æ

secure a spot in a Tier 2 university. Meanwhile others celebrated simply for gaining admission to a community college.

Sarah held Sienna's hand and comforted her, "It's okay, at least you'll still be able to earn a degree in college, right?"

"Se adsen!"

"Here!" Since Wanda was absent, Sean occupied her seat. It was easier for him to collect his report folder.

He retrieved his score report from the folder.

It revealed a score of 1230.

Sean's lips curved into a wide grin.

Chapte 37

Though this score fell short of securing admission to Riverlandm University, it still opened doors to numerous lower-tiered Tier 1 Universities.

"Sarah Gates!

Chapter 38

Chapter 38

Lucy called out Sarah's name.

Sarah took a deep breath and then stepped forward confidently.

As she moved, her classmates watched with anticipation.

Sarah consistently ranked at the top in final exams each year. So, it was certain she'd meet the Tier 1

University requirement.

When she received her report folder, she opened it directly in front of the class.

It revealed a total score of 1325.

Relief washed over Sarah, and a contented smile spread across her face.

Lucy beamed and said, "Congratulations, Sarah!"

Sarah bowed to Lucy with modesty. "Thank you for your guidance over the past three years, Ms. Turner!"

Lucy's smile widened even further at her words.

"Sarah, what's your score?" Herman asked curiously.

The rest of the class eagerly listened to her response.

"I scored a total of 1325 points!" Sarah announced her score confidently.

"Wow!" The entire class erupted in shocked voices, followed by a warm round of applause.

Sarah smiled brightly and glanced at Carlisle. She expected to see admiration in Carlisle's eyes.

However, Carlisle remained calm and composed. He spared her no glance as if he hadn't noticed her at all.

Sarah thought he probably felt challenged upon seeing her scores. She smirked subtly and confidently returned to her seat.

"Christine Goodman!" Lucy called out another name.

Christine went to the front to collect the report folder. After returning to her seat, she was eager to open it.

She scored a total of 1340.

Chri ands trembled slightly as tears of excitement welled up in her eyes.

"Carlisle Zahn..." Lucy's voice rang out as she called the last name on the list. Carlisle stood up from his seat and accepted the report folder handed by Lucy. Once seated, he carefully opened the folder and retrieved his score report.

It revealed a total score of 1400.

Carlisle's expression remained unchanged as if he had already known his score.

"Carlisle, what's your score?' Herman's voice come from behind.

The whole class held their breath, awaiting Carlisle's response.

In the month before the SATS, Carlisle had put in a lot of effort. No one knew how much progress he had made.

Sean snapped out of his joy and leaned over to catch a glimpse of Carlisle's score report.

"Damn! You scored a total of 1400 points?" Sean's eyes widened in disbelief.

Carlisle had previously ranked even lower than Sean in the past exams.

Did he really become a top student with just a month of revision?

"What? Carlisle scored 1400 points?"

"Damn, that doesn't make sense. How did he pull it off?"

"This is unbelievable. People who sleep in class every day still manage to get such high scores. Those of us who study hard only score around 950. What kind of world is this?"

"He must have cheated!"

"How could he possibly score a total of 1400 points? Scoring 1000 points would be more believable!" Sarah interjected.

Lucy tapped on the desk. "Quiet!"

The students fell silent. Lucy continued, "This year, our class has om the highest enrollment rate. You are NO the best students I've ever taught, but a few students did not qualify for college.

"Don't be discouraged if you don't get into college. I suggest you consider repeating the year!"

Afterward, Lucy delivered a lengthy speech of blessings and encouragement.

When the bell rang, Lucy declared the end of class and exited the classroom with her tote bag.

As she reached the classroom door, she glanced back at the students she had taught for three years.

After this parting, some students might return to visit her in the future. Meanwhile, others might never cross paths with her again.

In her five years of teaching, she had taught three senior classes. The earliest batch had graduated.

six years ago, but only a few had returned to visit.

fre

After Lucy departed, Sarah stepped forward and pursed her lips.

Chapter 39

Chapter 39

"Yes, that's right-Carlisle placed his score report on the table.

Sarah shuddered when she saw the score of 1400.

He really did get a score of 1400. He... How did he achieve that?

He transformed from a slacker into one of the top, students within a month! Was this the power of love?

Sarah took a deep breath. She smiled sweetly and asked, "Shouldn't you thank me then?"

Carlisle was slightly stunned. Following that, he returned a slight smile.

"Why do I have to thank you? The person I should be most grateful to is Wanda. Without her guidance this past month, it would've been impossible for me to achieve this score!"

"Didn't you only start studying hard because I told you that I wanted to study at Riverland University? Would you have gotten such good results if I hadn't said that in the first place?"

Sarah hung her head down low, making herself look as if she had been wronged. She was good-looking to start off with. Her pitiful look tugged at people's heartstrings.

Sean, who had been watching by the side, almost had the urge to stand up and rebuke Carlisle.

Fortunately, he and Carlisle were tight. As a bystander, he was able to recognize Sarah's true colors. Right now, he just hoped that Carlisle wouldn't turn back.

"Don't you realize you're just living in your own world, Sarah? I applied to Riverland University for my own sake. It had nothing to do with you at all!" Carlisle laughed. He gazed at Sarah mockingly.

Sarah glared at Carlisle in disbelief.

He used to go along with everything she said. She couldn't believe that he was capable of uttering such heartless words.

What did he mean by saying she was living in her own world? Was there anything wrong with what she said?

Sean noticed the frigidity in Carlisle's response and breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed like Carlisle had really moved on from Sarah.

"Let's go, Carl. It's time for your celebration!"

"C Carlisle had just got to his feet when the phone in his pocket rang. His mother had called.

Sarah saw that Carlisle had the latest Motorola Razr V3 in his hand. A look of shock flashed across her eyes once again.

This model was just released last month. Its starting price was 4200 dollars. How was Carlisle able to afford it?

2/2

All of a sudden, Sarah thought of a specific person.

Wanda Thompson! It must have been Wanda who bought it for him.

Sarah's face went pale. A wave of disappointment swept over her as if she had lost the most important thing in the world.

Carlisle answered the call while he walked out of the classroom with Sean.

It had been almost a minute since he answered the call. But Hilda still hadn't said a word.

So, Carlisle asked in an uncertain tone, "Mom? Why aren't you saying anything?"

"I'll ask him instead!"

Gordan's voice came from the other end of the call. He took the phone from Hilda's hand and stuttered,"

Carl, um... Have you... You...."

"Are you trying to ask if I got into college?" Carlisle asked with a smile on his face.

Gordon nodded repeatedly. "Yes, yes. Have you?"

Carlisle answered, "I got into Riverland University!"

"Really?" Gordon almost started prancing in excitement,

"Of course it's real. Would I joke about such a thing with you?" Carlisle laughed.

Then, he asked, "How's the preparation for the party coming the coming along? plan to bring a few classmates over!"

Gordon explained immediately, "All's ready. Do bring more of your friends along!"

"Oh?" Carlisle frowned.

"Those people from our village went over to your Uncle Gerard's, Onlyn some of my colleagues and your Mom's family are coming to show their support!" Gordon sighed.

"Okay, got it!" Carlisle answered calmly. Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

Chapter 40

Chapter 40

Gordon scoffed. They're giving us the cold shoulder now. Just wait until you become successful. You will be too good for them when that time comes!".

After some more small talk with Gordon, Carlisle ended the call.

He had just walked to the field when an announcement was made through the school's PA system. Carlisle Zahn, please take a look at the school building."

Carlisle stopped in his tracks. He turned his head toward the school building. There was a figure that was standing at the top of the building.

Then, a gigantic banner was unrolled downward like a waterfall.

"Heartfelt congratulations to Carlisle Zahn from Class 3A for entering Riverland University!"

The voice in the announcement alerted all the students. Everyone glanced over.

"Isn't that Ms. Tumer?"

"Dang, what was Carlisle's test score that the teacher even put up a banner for him?"

"I think he scored 1400!"

Soon enough, quite a number of students had walked to Carlisle's side. As for Carlisle, he gave a nod of acknowledgment in the direction of the school building.

Lucy watched the group of students on the field. Tears welled up in her eyes. After a while, she left the roof after a few of her colleagues convinced her to do so.

The students surrounded Carlisle, asking him whether he was having a college entrance celebration. They were eager to go so that they could drink.

Carlisle was smiling from ear to ear. He urged, "Those who want a drink can come with me to Sunago Restaurant right now!"

"Let me go back and get some money. I need to make sure I have enough congratulatory money!"

"I need to make a trip back too!"

"Why do you want to head back? How much do you guys need? I can lend it to you!" Sean offered as he whipped out ten 100-dollar bills from his pocket.

The students were floored. That looked like a thousand dollars. Sean was loaded!

everyone knew that Sean came from a rich family. He was one of the few students in the class.

who owned a Walkman.

Herman rubbed his hands together and said, "Sean, please lend me 20 dollars!" Abigail took out some money from her pocket and inspected them.

2/3

In this generation, congratulatory money was usually around 10 to 20 dollars.

She did have 20 dollars, but they were in the form of small change. That didn't look good.

Quentin didn't have any money on him. He, too, borrowed 20 dollars from Sean.

Some other students borrowed money from Sean as well. He didn't refuse all those who requested. He went to the tuck shop outside to get some small change. Then, he distributed 20 dollars to each student.

Sarah and Sienna were pushing their bikes as they walked over.

They heard that the other students were borrowing money. Sienna couldn't help but ask, "Is there a graduation gathering?"

Herman explained, "Nope. We're planning to go to Carlisle's college entrance party!"

Sienna curled her lips. She turned behind to take a glance at Sarah.

Sarah walked over while pushing her bike. She directed her question at Carlisle. "Can I attend your college entrance celebration?"

Carlisle smiled slightly. "We're schoolmates. Of course you can!"

A smile flashed across Sarah's face. She then said to Sean, "Sean, let me borrow 20 dollars too!"

Sean faked a smile. "Is Belle Gates short of money?"

Sarah glared at him. "I didn't bring any money out today. How about that?"

Frankly speaking, it wasn't that she didn't have any money with her today. She simply couldn't bear to part with 20 dollars.

She was sure that if she borrowed money from Sean, he would not make her return it.

Sean handed 20 dollars to Sarah.

A moment later, all the students received 20 dollars each. They followed Carlisle and Sean to Sunago Restaurant.

Rainville Hotel was right opposite Sunago Restaurant. It was also one of the few major hotels in Rainville.

The seven-story hotel stood out like a sore thumb among all the smaller buildings around it. From its furnishi to its scale, it was incomparable to Sunago Restaurant.

Three ago, Gerard Zahn had returned to Rainville with his wife and daughter, Maria and Kelly.

He wanted to hold a grand college entrance celebration for Kelly Sa, he spent 30 thousand dollars and made a reservation for the entire hotel.

At this moment, Gerard and Maria stood outside, welcoming guests with wide smiles.

Maria glanced at Gordon and Hilda, who were standing across the street. She beamed.

Chapter 40

She waved at them and shouted, "Gordon, Maria, don't wait anymore. Carlisle will not qualify for college.

"You should hurry and come over to Kelly's college entrance celebration trance celebration instead. And don't worry about giving E

any congratulatory money!"