

Love Spell 501

Chapter 501

"The Alumni Network has set up a 'Top Student' section where you can seek help from other top-ranking students. The section is divided into different courses, and registered users can join according to the subjects they're taking.

"These will contain abundant learning resources from top students from their respective courses. You'll be able to find all kinds of learning resources, exam information, supplementary classes, and many other things to help you study even better!"

Sean stood beside the screen and watched as students from various courses gave detailed explanations on how to solve the various difficult questions. The audience was equally engrossed.

Carlisle rubbed his chin and murmured, "I had no idea that a Course Section was added to the Alumni Network."

Anthony smiled and said, "Mr. Woodsen probably had a stroke of inspiration and added it in. I do think that it's a little redundant. It would be more efficient for them to post on the main page and tag the corresponding course to indicate the one they need answers from!" Felicia had a different opinion. "I think it's a good idea to have a section like that. That way, students who may be a little socially anxious or don't like interacting with others can find the answers they need in the community related to their course!"

"Sean's idea is a good one." Carlisle agreed with Felicia. "When the number of users increases, having all kinds of posts asking for help on the main page will only affect the overall user experience. This section will categorize students' posts according to their course!"

The Alumni Network wasn't just a platform for learning.

It also focused on socializing, entertainment, and sharing.

After all, most people surfed the Internet in their spare time, and only a small portion of students would use it for research.

Anthony nodded in approval after hearing what Carlisle had to say.

"I am a top student, but why should I share the fruits of my learning? If I had that free time, wouldn't it be better for me to study and gain more knowledge?" a student suddenly asked.

He drew everyone's attention at once.

Carlisle turned and frowned slightly.

The student who had raised the question wore glasses and had a buzz cut. He looked rather thin and weak and was average-looking. It was the kind of face that would get lost in a crowd.

"Damn, I thought the top students were all very humble. If he's a top student, I'll eat my hat.

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"Ahem, that student was the top scorer in physics and mathematics in 2002 for Eastvale. He's currently studying at Eastvale University, and he's the president of the student union."

Eastvale was Cascade State's capital, and Eastvale University was one of the top universities in the country.

Sean smiled and said, "That's why we've set up a point accumulation system. Whenever you help someone solve a problem, you can gain points. We've also set up a function for those who answer questions to receive "likes" from users.

"Users who give reviews on these answers can also accumulate points, which can be used for lucky draws to get prizes. In the future, we'll also have an online mall where users can exchange their points for school supplies!"

The Eastvale top student did not seem impressed. "It's not like school supplies cost much. Who would care about that?"

Damn!

Well, no one cared whether he would use the website.

It wasn't as if the Alumni Network would cease to operate without him as a user.

Sean almost threw the microphone at him, but he controlled his temper and maintained a calm smile. He sounded a little inexperienced as he said, "Alumni Network is just a free platform that's only open to current college students.

"What you've said is reasonable, and we do take feedback from our users seriously. If you would like to earn money, we can also set up a function where you can receive a fee by answering questions. However, I'd like to ask the other students if they have an opinion on that."

Carlisle's brow furrowed.

Sean was clearly provoking dissent among the crowd!

Although he had vented his annoyance, this was the launch of the Alumni Network.

He shouldn't have offended future users at this event, especially when his opponent was an influential top student representing Eastvale University.

Besides, the moment the top student voiced his doubts, Carlisle had sensed something was off.

He suspected that the top student had an ulterior motive.

"Are you crazy about money? Is that how top students are? Share if you want to, but you should be a tutor if you just want to earn money. Are you here to try and validate your existence?"

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"That's right! You're acting as if you're the only top student here. You're just finding fault with this on purpose because Sean is younger than you but has already established his own company. You feel like he's more accomplished than you are!"

"Fuck, what are you guys blabbering on about? If you want to get things for free, be open about it!"

"That's right! Only beggars would want something for free. What's so good about this website, anyway? Isn't it just a duplicate of Facebook? I could do it with my eyes closed!" Several Eastvale University students stood up to support the top student.

"A beggar? How much money does your family make? How many of us can say that our families are farmers?"

"So what if it's a copy? There are so many knock-off products in the country. Why don't you go and make a fuss about those?"

The venue rapidly descended into chaos.

Several students stood up and began arguing. It looked as if they were about to start a physical fight.

Sean was stunned.

He had been trying to teach the top student a lesson, but he had never expected things to progress in this manner.

The executives of the Alumni Network were equally at a loss. They looked very anxious.

The venue could hold two thousand people. If anything happened, the Alumni Network's launch would have to be aborted.

The security of the venue had already started trying to control the situation.

At Glory Textile Factory, the live broadcast on the television had cut.

The host looked awkward as he said, "There's been a bit of a disturbance at the Alumni Network press conference. For now, we'll be showing you some commercials."

Rory and Sharyl looked pale.

There were tears of anxiety in Sharyl's eyes. "Oh no, oh no! Sean's press conference won't be able to go on!"

Rory gritted his teeth. "Damn that top student! He was obviously there to cause trouble. He just can't bear seeing someone more accomplished than he is!"

Gordon said heavily, "Doing business isn't easy. Sean is still too young and inexperienced.

He shouldn't be provoked with just a few words from that student!"

Anyone could tell that Sean had been trying to stir up feelings of hostility and hatred toward the top student.

At Genius Apartments in the heart of Riverland's city center, Sarah and a few of her friends were gathered in room 808, a luxurious suite. They were watching television together. It was a color television that was 24 inches wide.

The coffee table was covered with various snacks, desserts, and expensive liquor.

Sienna's face was red from drinking. She giggled as she hugged a bottle of wine to herself. "I bet Carlisle is furious right now!"

Sarah crossed her legs as she held a wine glass in her hand. Her lips curved slightly. "He's no match for me!"

Sienna stopped smiling and said, "I have to say, Alumni Network does sound pretty good. Carlisle must have a good head for business if he can make a website like that!"

Sarah said carelessly, "It's just a knock-off. It's not as if he came up with it on his own. When our loan company starts earning money, we can also imitate things from overseas and make knock-offs!"

Sienna looked depressed as she said, "My ScholarLoan has been seized, and I got a hefty fine. Now I don't have any money at all. I've already tried this out for you, and this method doesn't work. You've got to change the rules of that loan company of yours!"

Opposite them, Ruby took a huge gulp of wine and looked scornfully at Sarah as she said, "Sarah, you are too naive!"

Chapter 503 "I'm naive?"

"Am I wrong?"

Sarah looked at Ruby in confusion. She was a little annoyed.

She was Ruby's future sister-in-law, after all. Didn't she deserve a little respect?

Couldn't Ruby see that they were surrounded by Sarah's friends?

Ruby noticed the look in Sarah's eyes. Sarah was just a small-town nobody, but she was becoming more arrogant after coming into some money.

Did she really think she was the Gust family's future daughter-in-law?

Whether she could marry into the Gust family was beside the point. Even if she did marry Austin, she would never have more authority than Ruby.

"Do you know why Carlisle wasn't the one to stand in front of the crowd at the Alumni Network press conference?" Ruby asked, still disregarding Sarah.

"Of course I do. He likes to keep a low profile and has been like that since high school. He doesn't want to draw too much attention to himself." Sarah was full of confidence as she spoke as if she knew everything.

She sneered. "He has no idea how foolish that is. They invited reporters from the broadcasting stations for this press conference. If he had grabbed the opportunity to get exposure on television, he would definitely be able to attract the attention of several investors!"

Sienna immediately nodded in agreement. "What Sarah said makes sense! Carlisle is the kind of person who keeps a low profile. He was like that in high school, and he's exactly the same now that we're in university!"

Ruby looked at the two of them with pity.

She had met idiots before, but never anyone as idiotic as the two of them.

They proved that birds of a feather did flock together.

Sienna said curiously, "What are you laughing at, Ruby?"

Ruby glanced at them and said impassively, "There are four companies on the 18th floor of Windex Building. These companies are Alumni Network, Dragonaire Studio, Gowan Technology, and Aurora Holdings.

"Sean is the CEO of Alumni Network and Owen is the CEO of Dragonaire Studio. The CEO of Gowan Technology is called Logan, and all three of these companies are managed by Aurora Holdings, which is managed by Carlisle.

"That means that Carlisle just wants to be the boss behind the scenes. He won't care that you messed up Alumni Network's press conference because you pose no threat to the

foundations of Aurora Holdings!"

At her words, Sarah and Sienna fell into silence for a while.

Their company was on the 19th floor.

They knew Carlisle had started a business on the 18th floor, and they had bits and pieces of information about what was going on there.

Within the short space of a month, Carlisle had started from nothing and now had four companies.

Sarah had tossed and turned for nights because of that.

She did not want Carlisle to be doing better than she was and hated that he was better at making money.

Sienna saw that Sarah was silent, so she hastily said comfortingly, "Sarah, don't overthink it. Their Alumni Network press conference is ruined, and that website will just become a joke among all the universities. That gaming company of theirs won't be able to achieve anything, either.

"Think about it. Computers aren't even a common household product. There aren't that many people who play games. As for that Govan Technology company, I heard they're making phones. Only someone insane would choose to make phones, right?"

"You're so ignorant." Ruby looked at Sienna as if she was an idiot.

Sienna looked irritated. "Why are you calling me ignorant? I heard that your father invested in phones and ended up losing his entire investment!"

Ruby did not protest at the mention of the phone industry. She only said, "Alumni Network isn't going to be destroyed, and the press conference will conclude well. As for Dragonaire Studio, that's the company that Gareth invested 200 million in, but you talk about it as if it were worth nothing!"

"2-200 million?" Sienna's eyes were bulging out of their sockets.

Sarah frowned slightly. "Where did you hear about that?"

Ruby said impassively, "Last week, there was a contract-signing cocktail party at Imperial Hotel which rocked Riverland.

"Carlisle attended as the representative of Dragonaire Studio, while the other party was Gareth. Even Sheldon and executives from the Department of Culture and Tourism were in attendance. My father and brother went as well!"

Sienna was confused, while Sarah was stunned.

Carlisle had managed to get 200 million in investment funds?

Sarah felt her heart wrench painfully, and her lips trembled as she said, "No... Carlisle must be lying to Gareth. He must be deceiving Gareth through multilevel marketing. I... I'm going to call the police..."

She pulled out her phone, her hand trembling.

Not even Austin had ever done business worth 200 million.

How could Carlisle?

There must be something wrong.

If she called the police, Carlisle's reputation would be ruined, and he would have to return the 200 million!

He would become bankrupt, and the university would expel him.

Besides, he was now legally an adult and could go to jail.

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There was a crazed look in Sarah's eyes, and her hands trembled as she dialed the numbers.

Ruby shook her head and said, "You're hopeless."

Seeing that Sarah was about to make the call, Sienna grabbed her wrist at once. "Sarah, calm down! If Sheldon attended the contract-signing ceremony, how could there be any deception involved? No matter how bold Carlisle is, he wouldn't deceive the governor, would he?"

Sarah's eyes reddened, and her hand drooped slowly, still holding the phone.

Carlisle had really gotten 200 million in investment funds.

Sarah said in a daze, "Why? Why does he always have such good luck?"

Ruby's gaze swept over Sarah, and she pondered the matter deeply.

Was Carlisle really just lucky?

Wasn't it because he was very accomplished?

There must be a reason that Wanda liked him.

At the press conference, there were several upperclassmen from Eastvale University who were threatening to beat Sean up.

The security and staff from Alumni Network formed a human wall to hold the

troublemaking students at bay outside.

Seeing that the event had descended into chaos, Carlisle finally could not resist it any longer.

He stood up.

However, at that moment, all the lights in the exhibition hall turned on.

The hall was immediately filled with light, and it was as bright as day.

Several law enforcement officers in uniform came in from outside.

Gabriel was in the lead and yelled loudly, "What are all of you doing? Sit down at once!"

His deep, booming voice was filled with threatening authority.

Silence fell at once.

The troublemaking students had accepted a thousand dollars for their trouble, and they knew they were in the wrong. They were afraid they would be exposed, and it would affect their studies, so they dispersed like rats fleeing from the scene. The other students all sat back down.

Carlisle breathed a sigh of relief at the sight and slowly sat in his seat.

Even Gabriel had come.

Surely Sean wasn't important enough to get Gabriel to come personally...

Carlisle thought of Melanie.

He looked around, and sure enough, he spotted her in a seat nearby.

Good turns always deserved another.

Although, on second thought, Melanie didn't know that Alumni Network belonged to Carlisle!

As Carlisle sat there in confusion, another group of people came in.

They were even more intimidating.

Among them was Alan, who was in plain clothes, and Sheldon.

Gareth walked beside them.

It was Gareth!

Carlisle smiled slightly.

Gareth had managed to get Sheldon to come and support the event.

Sheldon often appeared in the Riverland Evening News and on television.

Many of the students present recognized him, but Sean did not. He was still sunk in regret and was blaming himself.

Gillian and Lily had gone over to Sean in the chaos.

Gillian stepped hard on his foot. "Snap out of it! The governor's here!"

Sean gasped, and his eyes widened. He was immediately tongue-tied. "T-the governor?"

Chapter 505 Damn...

Sean felt his legs go weak, and he almost bit his tongue.

Sheldon was the main person in charge of Riverland City.

Sean had never seen the county mayor before, but now he had a chance to meet the governor, Sheldon!

Had he come to attend the press conference?

Would he be disappointed at finding the press conference in this state?

Carlisle would also be disappointed, wouldn't he?

"Sean, why are you in a daze?" Lily tugged on his sleeve.

Sean finally jolted back to his senses and immediately hurried over to meet Sheldon with a few of his executives in tow.

The reporters from various media outlets surged forward as well.

Sheldon looked sideways at Gareth and smiled. "This press conference doesn't seem to be going very smoothly!"

He was interested when Gareth told him about the Alumni Network. It was established by a university student and was a social platform for university students to discuss their studies and socialize. That was why he wanted to take a look after work.

He had learned about Facebook, and if Alumni Network had been made with Facebook in mind, it was sure to be explosively popular in all the universities.

That was why Sheldon felt it was a company with a lot of potential, and companies like that would raise the region's income and increase Riverland's GDP. He was very supportive of such companies.

Additionally, Gareth was the grandson of Sheldon's mentor.

If Gareth came to Riverland and invested in a business here, it would be beneficial to them.

Sheldon had accepted his invitation, both as a favor to Gareth and to assuage his curiosity. It was a win-win situation. However, the press conference seemed to have run into some unexpected difficulties.

Gareth sighed and said, "Well, it's inevitable that there'll be rivalries in business. This isn't even a big incident. Last year, on the opening day of one of my partner's companies, someone jumped off the office building."

"Really? Does stuff like that actually happen?" Sheldon looked shocked.

Gareth nodded heavily. "It's pretty common."

Sheldon said harshly, "Some business owners really are crooked."

He began lecturing him. "Gareth, you should take it as a warning. Don't be blinded by profits!"

Gareth nodded as meekly as a child. "Yes. I'll keep that in mind, Mr. Darnell."

When he saw the huge group of reporters gathering around them, Sheldon's secretary went over to stop them.

However, Sheldon said, "You don't need to stop them. They can interview us if they want. We came to support Riverland's local businesses so they can ask whatever they want."

Several reporters began to chatter simultaneously as they called out their questions.

Sheldon answered every question they had, although he did avoid the more controversial questions.

Riverland Insight's reporters immediately sent word of Sheldon's arrival at the press conference to the live broadcast backstage.

The program director backstage immediately notified the crew to end the commercials.

He told the host that Sheldon was now at the press conference.

As time was tight, the backstage crew ended the commercials as soon as they had finished their discussions.

The host adapted very quickly. He immediately smiled and said, "Hello to all our viewers in front of the television and the radio! Welcome back to Riverland Insight's live broadcast!"

"The little issue at Alumni Network's press conference has been taken care of, and the latest news is that Riverland's governor, Sheldon Darnell, is here as an audience member of this press conference.

"This conference is hosted by a university student. Now, let's get back to our live reporter to see what Mr. Darnell thinks about the Alumni Network!"

At Glory Textile Factory, the discouraged Woodsens perked up, their eyes widening at once. Gordon was in disbelief. "What? Even Mr. Darnell is attending?"

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Hilda grabbed Sharyl's arm and said excitedly, "Sharyl, your son is such a success! He managed to invite Mr. Darnell!"

The look of excitement on her face was for both Sean and Carlisle, which was proof of the friendship between their families.

Hilda had often borrowed money from Sharyl, so Carlisle would not have to worry about going hungry.

Sharyl often agreed.

In fact, she would take the initiative to ask. She also urged Hilda to let her know if she was in need of any money.

That was why Hilda was genuinely happy that Sean was so successful.

Sharyl's eyes were red as she wiped away her tears. "Yes, my son has succeeded..."

Rory looked at Sheldon on the television. He was in a daze and filled with conflicting emotions.

There would be an important, successful figure in the Woodsen family!

Gordon patted Rory's shoulder. "Did you see that? What did I tell you? You have to have confidence in your son! With an accomplished father like you, your son will be no different. If you don't believe in him, that means you don't have confidence in your genes!"

Rory looked delighted as he began laughing. "That's right! A distinguished father will also raise an accomplished son. Otherwise, how could Carl have earned so much money so quickly? Carl must have been a huge help to Sean in starting up his company!"

Gordon had held a party when his convenience store opened, and everyone in their circle knew Carlisle was doing quite well.

Sean's company looked pretty large-scale, too.

Rory knew how much money he had.

Sean had asked Rory for 30 thousand dollars just a few days ago for the press conference, which was a reasonable amount, but where had he gotten the money to establish the company?

Rory suspected that the Alumni Network wasn't established by Sean at all.

Even if it were Sean, Carlisle would definitely be one of the major shareholders.

No matter who had established the company, Rory was still very happy.

Sean and Carlisle had grown up together from junior high to high school. Based on how close their friendship was, neither of them would forget the other, no matter which one of

them succeeded and got rich.

On the television, Sheldon was led onto the stage by Sean.

Sean demonstrated the functions of the Alumni Network and its social functions once more.

Sheldon nodded continuously, lavishing praise on him.

Finally, Sean finished explaining about Alumni Network.

The live reporter from Riverland Insight saw that the program had almost ended, so he asked, "Mr. Darnell, what is your opinion on Alumni Network and on university students starting their own businesses?"

Sean hastily handed his microphone over to Sheldon reverently.

Sheldon smiled and took the microphone. He said slowly, "After seeing the functions of Alumni Network, all I have to say is that there are always geniuses in every generation.

"With the advent of the Internet, there are more opportunities for young university students to start their own businesses. Supporting them in their endeavors can stimulate the development of the economy and create employment opportunities.

"Whether it's now or in the future, I feel that it is essential to support young university students in starting their own businesses because the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation is an important factor in pushing the progress of society.

"Through this press conference, I can see the unlimited creativity of young university students and their sensitivity to the trends in the development of the Internet. I express nothing but praise and support for their spirit of entrepreneurship.

"The youths are the future of society, and their spirit of entrepreneurship represents Riverland and how innovative we are. We should actively provide more support and resources for them and help them achieve their dreams of starting their own business.

"At the same time, we should take notice of the advancement of the Internet and grab the opportunities as they crop up. The rapid development of the Internet has already changed our way of life and how we socialize. In the future, it is sure to have an even greater effect in various fields.

"As the governor, I will put my effort into creating a conducive environment for entrepreneurship. We will increase our investment in technology innovation and provide more support through policies and funds to encourage young university students to start their own businesses.

"Apart from that, we will also strengthen our cooperation with technological companies so that we can collectively stimulate the development of online businesses in the city and nurture them.

"I believe that with our collective effort, the development of businesses in our city will be sure to welcome an even brighter tomorrow!"

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There was a thunderous round of applause after Sheldon finished speaking.

He encouraged and supported university students to start their own businesses.

At the same time, the students could hear what he was saying between the lines.

The age of the Internet was imminent.

After Sheldon finished his speech, he spoke to Sean for a while more.

He encouraged Sean to be bold and told him to go to the city council building to see him if he had any difficulties he couldn't resolve.

Sean could not tell if Sheldon meant it or was just being polite, so he just nodded vigorously and thanked him.

Sheldon looked at the audience, and his gaze rested shortly on Carlisle, who was in the back row. He smiled and said, "It's getting late. I won't disrupt your press conference any further, Mr. Woodsen."

Sean hurriedly said, "It's not an interruption at all! Having you here is a great honor, Mr. Darnell!"

Gareth said, "Mr. Darnell has a busy schedule, and he postponed a few investment recruitment events to come to your press conference. He'll be moving on now."

Sean blushed in embarrassment. "I'll send Mr. Darnell off."

Sheldon raised a hand to stop him. He smiled and said, "It's alright. Carry on with your work!"

Then, he went off with his entourage.

After watching Sheldon leave, Sean picked up the microphone again and said, "Firstly, Mr. Darnell isn't an accomplice I hired to collude with me, and I don't have the authority to invite him. After he got to know about our product, he gave us high praise, and we were determined not to disappoint him.

"Our team will do our best to make this product well so that all our users will have a good experience. Now, I will speak about the reward system for bringing in new users. It will be implemented once the Alumni Network is launched."

Back at Genius Apartment, Sarah threw an empty wine bottle onto the floor with an almighty crash.

She was furious!

She had paid almost 20 thousand dollars for those people, and they hadn't managed to mess up the press conference at all.

Sheldon had gone to support Alumni Network personally!

What had Carlisle done to deserve it?

Sienna and the others were trembling with fright.

Ruby was smiling slightly. "Sarah, if you want to make money, you've got to be practical and put in the work. There's no use in playing these little tricks!"

Sarah was burning with anger and said coldly, "You should say this to Austin and your father. Ask them if they use such strategies to oppress their business rivals when they work!"

Ruby was full of confidence as she said, "Dad doesn't lack money. He earns his money fair and square, and he does charity when he can! He would never stoop to using these despicable tricks!"

Sarah snorted. "Ruby, you've changed."

Ruby was startled. "What do you mean by that?"

Sarah said calmly, "You know exactly what you used to do in school. Don't you feel any shame at all when you call something despicable?"

Ruby was startled once more.

After being transferred to another class, she hadn't bullied any of her classmates at all.

She really did seem to have undergone a huge transformation.

After a moment's silence, Ruby murmured softly, "Perhaps this is what it means to become mature."

After that, she stood up to leave. "I'm going home. I'd also like to remind you that you and Carlisle are on totally different levels. If you keep trying to go against him, you're just going to end up destroying yourself!"

Carlisle was an entrepreneur, but he offered high salaries to employ talented, educated, and highly skilled people.

Conversely, Sarah's company was mass hiring without any requirements for education.

Carlisle's company could openly hold a press conference and had even attracted the support of Sheldon, whereas Sarah's company could not even hold an opening ceremony. They were like rats skulking in the gutter.

Carlisle's business trajectory seemed to be progressing under the guidance of an expert, whereas Sarah was just working blindly like a headless chicken.

There was a world of difference between the two of them.

Sarah thought of Carlisle as her rival, but Carlisle wouldn't even look twice at her.

After Ruby had left, Sarah sat on the sofa in a daze.

Sienna took her hand and said comfortingly, "Sarah, don't let Ruby affect your mood. You didn't want Carlisle, and she actually likes him. How smart can she possibly be?"

Sarah closed her eyes and smiled bitterly. "Enna, do you still think that Carlisle sucks?"

Sienna was startled. She pressed her lips together and said, "I'll always stand on your side!"

She had made her stance clear. No matter how accomplished Carlisle was, Sienna would think poorly of him if Sarah did not like him.

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Sarah put on a false smile and said, "It's getting late, so you guys should get going. I want to go to bed."

After seeing off her friends, Sarah closed the door and sank down to the floor. She began crying as she leaned back.

She did not know why she was crying.

She just felt very upset.

Her phone rang on the table, and she wiped away her tears and went to get it.

It was an unsaved number, but Sarah immediately recognized it as Carlisle's.

After all, this number once sent her messages and called her every day.

At the time, she had been capricious and rarely answered his calls or replied to his messages.

Sarah hesitated and picked up. She said in a choked voice, "Carlisle..."

Carlisle said impassively, "Sarah, are you done with your tricks?"

Sarah felt a little guilty. "W-what did I do?"

He said icily, "You know exactly what you did. I'm warning you, this is the last time. If you do this again, even Yuriel won't be able to save you!"

His ice-cold voice felt like a stab in her heart.

Before she could protest, he hung up.

Ten minutes before calling Sarah, Carlisle went looking for Daniel as soon as Sheldon left. The two of them accosted one of the Eastvale students who had been making a fuss.

"Which university are you from, and what are you trying to do?" they asked.

The student stared nervously at Carlisle and Daniel.

Carlisle immediately took out two thousand dollars in cash. "Answer my question, and two thousand dollars will be yours. Don't worry, I'll keep it a secret."

The student looked at the cash Carlisle was holding, and his heart skipped a beat. He stared hungrily at the money, swallowed, and asked, "What's your question? Go ahead and ask!" Carlisle asked, "Did someone order you to cause trouble at this event?"

The student remained silent.

Daniel pressed his shoulder. "Tell the truth, and nothing will happen. If you lie, you'll be sure to regret it!"

Carlisle said, "I just want a firm answer. I won't pursue this matter further!"

Reassured, the student nodded gently. "We each got one thousand!"

Carlisle continued asking, "Who gave the order?"

The student shook his head and said, "I can't tell you that."

Daniel looked aggressively at him and said through gritted teeth, "Damn you! I'm going to beat you up!"

The student said, "Even if you beat me up, I won't tell you. They know my address, and if I give them up, my family will be in trouble!"

"You're already going astray despite your young age. Get lost!" Daniel kicked the student's calf.

The student said in a low voice, "What about the money?"

Carlisle put the money back in his pocket, and his expression was cold as he said, "I'm already showing you mercy by not calling the police. Are you actually going to ask me for money?"

The student's face twitched violently when he realized he had been tricked.

He glared at them and ran off to a nearby collection point where the university distributed free milk in the mornings.

Carlisle was sure these students had been acting under someone's orders, and he immediately suspected Sarah.

He called her to ask.

Sarah's guilty stuttering made Carlisle more confident that she was the one who had done it.

As they had been classmates in high school, he chose to give her a chance.

If Sarah continued to make things difficult for him, he would not show her any mercy despite their history together.

Carlisle returned to Willow Grove and saw Gareth's Ferrari at the entrance.

Gareth sat in the driver's seat with both his feet up on the steering wheel. There was a cigarette held between his fingers.

"Gareth?"

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Carlisle smiled as he went up to Gareth.

Gareth had brought Sheldon to support Alumni Network, which had shown his sincerity. He had also indirectly elevated the legitimacy of Alumni Network, and more people would know about it as a result.

Gareth glanced at Carlisle. "Well, well. You didn't even tell me about the Alumni Network press conference. Do you even think of me as a friend?"

Carlisle said wryly, "I only found out about it this afternoon. It was Sean's idea."

Gareth frowned slightly. He wanted to say something, but with Sean and Carlisle's relationship in mind, he kept his worries to himself.

Carlisle wouldn't be wrong in his judgment of people.

Sean was young, and it was normal for him to make mistakes.

Also, Carlisle was probably keen on training Sean to take care of things on his own.

At that thought, Gareth asked, "Shall we go and get a couple of drinks?"

"Where shall we go?"

"Wonderland Steakhouse?"

"Alright." Carlisle pulled open the passenger's side door and got in, and Gareth tossed away his cigarette stub to start the car.

Carlisle took out his phone to call Sean and Owen.

Sean felt very nervous when he saw that Carlisle was calling.

Carlisle had been at the press conference. Sean almost ruined everything with his mistake and assumed that Carlisle was calling to scold him.

Lily saw that Sean still hadn't picked up the call, so she asked curiously, "Why aren't you picking up?"

Sean hunched down and gave Lily his phone. "Carl's calling. He must be calling to scold me! You pick up for me!"

Gillian's eyes narrowed. "Carlisle is the real founder of Alumni Network, isn't he?"

Sean wasn't ashamed to admit it. He nodded and said, "Yes, I'm just working for Carl!" Gillian's lip curled and said, "As I expected. I knew you wouldn't have the ability to do so!" Sean was annoyed and said, "Gill, would it kill you to go a day without sniping at me?" He had no idea how he had offended her.

It was fine when she didn't talk to him, but whenever she did, it was always unpleasant. Lily took the phone from Sean and answered the call. "Carl?"

"Oh, Lily? Where's Sean?" Carlisle sounded calm, and there was no trace of emotion in his tone.

Lily was rather nervous. "H-He's in the bathroom. I can pass on any messages you have for him!"

Carlisle laughed and said, "I was planning to ask him out for drinks to celebrate, but it seems he doesn't have any time. How's the recovery of your injury?"

"I-I'm recovering very well. I haven't even had time to thank you yet!" Lily had been recuperating over the past two days. Sean had been worried about the radiation from her phone, so he had forbidden her to touch it. It was why she still hadn't managed to contact Carlisle and thank him.

"What do you need to thank me for? We're all friends. If I was the one who needed blood, I'm sure you would also have donated without a second thought, right?" Carlisle said, chuckling.

Lily was kind, and as they had been high school classmates, he was sure she would have donated her Rh-negative blood without hesitating if he had gotten sick and needed it.

"Well, where are you having drinks tonight? Would you mind if I went with Sean?"

"Of course we wouldn't mind. Come to Wonderland Steakhouse. Sean knows where it is."

An hour later, Sean and Lily arrived at Wonderland Steakhouse.

Sean hid behind Lily, looking like a child who had done something wrong and was hiding behind his mother.

"Come on. Carl isn't that scary." Lily dragged him out from behind her, looking amused.

Sean looked nervously at Carlisle. "Carl... I..."

Carlisle laughed and said, "You did very well! Come and have a seat!"

Sean looked startled. "Aren't you angry, Carl?"

"Why should I be angry?"

"I... I prepared this press conference on my own without notifying you! Not only that, I almost caused trouble at the press conference because I couldn't control my emotions!" Sean hung his head as he admitted his mistakes.

Carlisle took a sip of beer and smiled slightly as he said, "You're the CEO of Alumni Network. As long as it's not something big like closing down the company, you have the right to make decisions on your own. As for the little issue that occurred at the press conference, you should be more careful.

"In the future, when the company grows, there'll be more people who are out to cause trouble for you. There are sure to be many kinds of problems. When that happens, we need to calm down and deal with things in an appropriate manner!"

He was referring to situations like Internet trolls in comment sections that tried to sway public opinion.

Chapter 510

Sean was clearly upset by someone who had been provoking him on purpose.

Gareth spoke up and said, "You're the CEO of a company now. You've got to keep your goal in mind and be more tolerant. Before you make any decision or say anything, you have to think of the big picture!"

Sean nodded vigorously. "I understand! If I had just endured, things would have turned out much better!"

Owen had arrived about ten minutes earlier than Sean.

He had been busy with work and couldn't attend the press conference, so he had no idea what had happened.

After hearing what Carlisle and Gareth had said, he quietly made a note of it in his heart.

In the past, he would definitely have retorted. After all, he wasn't a coward. Why should he be the one to endure it? He was a hot-blooded young man, after all.

However, he was no longer the uneducated thug he had once been.

He was the CEO of a company, and he was leading elite professionals who were educated and refined.

As their superior, he had to be a good example.

He could learn a lot of things with Carlisle and Gareth.

The five of them sat together, eating steak and having drinks.

Carlisle did not continue talking about work.

Instead, he asked about Sean and Lily's relationship.

Lily told them Sean had stayed glued by her side for the past few days to care for her.

The truth was that after she had regained consciousness, she had suggested breaking up. However, Sean had held on tightly to her and refused.

He had even said that if she broke up with him, he would jump off the hospital building.

Carlisle was amused and said, "I've known Sean for more than ten years, and I know what he's like. He's the kind of person who would do anything to preserve his ego! He'd been drinking too much and wanted to show off the place he has in your heart. The truth is, he loves you very much."

Lily blushed slightly. "I-I didn't realize that at the time."

Sean's status was different now.

He needed to have a certain image around other people, and Lily should be more understanding about that.

Sean hung his head in shame and said, "Carl, stop talking about that. I regret it so much! Damn my ego! In the future, I'll proudly say that Lily wears the pants in the family, and whoever wants to laugh can go ahead!"

He was full of regret about what had happened.

As Carlisle said, he should love his girlfriend, not use her to show off.

That night, Lily paid for the dinner to thank Carlisle for saving her.

Although it was nothing in comparison to saving her life, it would have to do for now, as she couldn't repay him with something better.

She wanted to gain more knowledge to manage Alumni Network well with Sean in the future for Carlisle.

After they had a few rounds of drinks, Carlisle returned to Willow Grove.

He turned on the computer and typed in alumni.com.

He pressed the enter key on the keyboard.

It took six seconds for the Alumni Network page to move to the registration and log-in page.

He clicked on the word "register" and a window for registration popped up.

The interface looked very similar to that of SociableNet.

There was a navigation bar on top and sections for the main page, daily diary, photo albums, message board, people he was following, and study communities.

Although he had registered as a user, he was not able to post anything, browse through existing posts, or comment on them.

If he wanted to gain the privilege of doing so, he had to verify his account using the intra-campus network.

There was another navigation bar on the left side of the page.

The categories included university classmates, high school classmates, junior high classmates, and elementary classmates.

Carlisle browsed through the page for a while. Apart from the rather old-fashioned layout due to the computer system, he could not find any other flaws.