

Love Spell 651

Chapter 651

Alistair Wyatt's parents were intellectual, and his father owned a company. Alistair had been smart since he was a child and was top of his class from elementary to high school.

He hadn't even had to attend the college entrance exams, as he had been admitted straight into Harvey University, the most prestigious institution in the country.

He graduated from Harvey University in 2001 with a degree in electrical engineering, majoring in radio. After that, he got a scholarship and went abroad to continue studying.

In March 2003, FriendStar was established. Within a very short period of time, there were more than a hundred million registered users.

Alistair was deeply impacted by it. He realized that the widespread use of the Internet would create an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurship. If he didn't grab the chance, he would be overtaken by others with a keen sense for business.

Therefore, he decided to give up on his PhD and return to the country to start up his own company.

Firstly, he established ManyPal, a website where people could get to know new people through their friends.

That meant two strangers could get to know each other through their friends on ManyPal. Users had to register an account and add their information to be able to make friends.

However, the team had not been adept at promoting the website, and they hadn't made their target demographic clear. In the end, ManyPal failed.

Alistair had always been ambitious. As a child, he often came to blows with his peers just because he wanted to win. His determination made him refuse to admit defeat on his journey to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

ManyPal failed, so he established Family Frame. The idea was for students studying abroad to upload their photos for their parents to look at. It aimed to alleviate the homesickness that many people felt.

Students abroad could upload their photos onto the website, and after they paid a fee, the website would print and post them to the students' parents.

This time, their target was clear. After they tried operating it for a few months, they received a certain amount of profit.

However, the number of registered users was insufficient. Even though they put in great effort to rope clients in, many were reluctant to put their photos on the Internet. In the end, Family Frame could not make ends meet.

Alistair was a wealthy heir, but he hadn't asked his family for any money to start his businesses.

All the money he used had been obtained from his scholarships and his own savings.

He knew very well that there was no future for Family Frame and that he was just gritting his teeth and hanging on at that point.

"Actually..." Alistair pushed his glasses up his nose. He wanted to say something, but he hesitated.

"What is it?"

"Alistair, just go ahead and say it. We've known each other for so many years. What is there that you can't say?" His friends stared intently at Alistair. They had been classmates and had all graduated from Harveyn University.

Alistair smiled bitterly. "I've already thought of my third plan for a startup. I want to imitate Facebook and create a campus social network platform. I've even thought of a name already. It'll be called SchoolSpace. However, there's no point in saying this anymore because someone did it before we could!"

"Damn, really?"

"Alistair, you act as if you've been bewitched. Alumni Network is very successful, but there's no need for us to be jealous. The Internet is only just starting to become widespread. We still have many chances!"

"Believe whatever you want," Alistair said impassively as he sat in his chair. His classmates exchanged looks and saw the doubt in each other's faces.

Chapter 652

Alistair wasn't lying to his friends. He always planned things in advance, and when he realized that Family Frame had no potential to develop, he began planning his next startup.

He had been observing Facebook recently.

Facebook was created by a Yale University student in his second year, and it launched in February of that year. It had only been launched for three months when it became

explosively popular at Yale University.

While he was abroad, Alistair had met a few Casmanians who were Yale University students.

He had heard from them that almost every student at their university had a Facebook account. The founder, Mark Zuckerberg, had decided to open Facebook to all universities. He was even planning to get into the international market so that he could bring his product to the entire world.

Alistair was still observing. He wanted to see how Facebook would be received at other universities. After all, Mark was from Yale University, and it was natural for those from the same university to support him. It did not show Facebook's true business worth.

However, after observing Facebook for a while, he discovered Alumni Network, which was practically identical.

Alumni Network seemed to know Facebook's developmental plan. As soon as it was launched, it was opened to all the tertiary institutions in the country. Within just two months, there were over eight million registered users.

Alumni Network's functions and interface were much more advanced than Facebook's. In fact, it was even becoming more and more like a business. Even international luxury brands like Hermes were collaborating with them.

"The success of Alumni Network is directly related to capital utilization. Companies like that won't go far." A thin youth picked up half a cigarette from an ashtray and stuffed it into his mouth. He lit it up and took a deep puff.

The cigarette finished, so he poked it into the ashtray and continued speaking, "Think about it. If Alumni Network didn't have that reward system for those who brought in new users, would they have been able to spread across the country so quickly?

"They currently have eight million registered users. According to their reward system for bringing in new users, they had to pay 40 million for those users. Alumni Network has a strong financial supporter behind the scenes. If it weren't for that power, it would be very difficult for them to succeed!"

Alistair smiled and said, "Without capital support, Alumni Network's progress would just be a question of time. The Internet is becoming widespread, and the developmental trend of socializing on the Internet is already a given. Capital utilization has only shortened the development of Alumni Network."

Alistair pulled out his wallet and took out two ten-dollar bills. "Go and buy two packs of cigarettes, Wayne."

Wayne took the money but was in no hurry to leave. He said thoughtfully, "Alistair, what do you think is the next step in Alumni Network's plan? If they're only aiming for educational

institutions, why don't we make a social media platform that has nothing to do with schools or universities?"

The eyes of both Alistair and the thin youth lit up at once.

Alumni Network's target market was tertiary educational institutions, and there were over a hundred million Internet users in the country. The market for educational institutions was only 30 million at most. Alumni Network only made up about a third of the enormous pie of social networking services.

The thin youth stood up from his chair and said with a passionate look in his eyes, "I'll start coding right away!"

They had been influenced by Alistair and were now filled with energy. They planned to put their ideas into practice and act according to Alistair's motto, which was not to hesitate or regret anything.

However, Alistair said, "Don't be in such a rush to code."

The thin young man and Wayne stared at Alistair in confusion.

Alistair took off his glasses and took out a cloth from his case to clean the lenses.

He said impassively, "Don't underestimate Alumni Network. If we can think of it, so can they. I'm worried that Alumni Network is currently developing a second product. The positioning of this product should be for everyone in the country to carry out social networking, and if we don't find out more about it, we'll be working for nothing."

The thin youth clutched at his messy hair and said irritably, "What should we do, then? We don't know anyone at Alumni Network!"

Wayne suggested, "Shall I sneak in and try to find out?"

The thin youth rolled his eyes. "You're going to be a spy. That's not ethical."

Alistair laughed and said, "Well, all's fair in love and war. It's always about strategies in the business world. You have to know your enemy to win all your battles, right?"

Seeing that they were in agreement, the thin youth had no choice but to give in. "Alright. We'll be waiting for news."

Alistair hesitated for a moment and said in a low voice, "I'd better be the one to go. Anyway, I'd like to see what kind of person Alumni Network's CEO is."

Chapter 653

It was bright and sunny on New Year's Day, 1st January 2005. Temperatures had risen slightly, and there were ten more days before winter break.

Students whose homes were far away chose to stay at the university over the new year.

Carlisle was playing basketball with Arthur and a few others at Riverland University's basketball court.

"Get the ball, Jamie!"

Arthur was playing against two classmates who were equally as burly as he was. He feinted, throwing the ball to Jamie and bouncing it through his legs to Carlisle instead.

Carlisle was familiar with Arthur's strategies, and he focused as soon as Arthur began passing the ball.

He caught the ball and began dribbling it as he ran toward the net like a gust of wind.

He leaped into the air, looking like a rocket that had been launched into the sky.

The basketball landed in the net with a thump.

It was a perfect three-step bank shot.

His outstanding skills in basketball immediately got the female students gathered around the court screaming.

"Oh my! He's so handsome!"

"I love you, Carlisle!"

"You're so cool, Carlisle!"

When Carlisle sang "Rest of My Life" at the bonfire party, he left an impression on most of his classmates. However, he had been busy studying after that, so he rarely appeared in public.

After returning from Yorksle, Carlisle was invited out for meals every day. All the weight he had lost rebounded fiercely, which was why he had squeezed out some time to train.

He went for a run every morning and played basketball during his free time. After classes ended in the afternoon, he went to the gym.

Several of the female students at the university had familiarized themselves with Carlisle's routine. They would meet up and go for morning runs at Shorelin River. After class, they would cluster around the field to wait for Carlisle to come and play basketball.

Those from wealthier families even signed up for memberships at the gym that Carlisle frequented.

Carlisle was exasperated by their antics. Without Wanda beside him, they were all drawn to him like sharks attracted to blood.

"Have some water, Carlisle!" A soft female voice came from behind him.

Carlisle turned to see that Ruby had already twisted open the cap on a bottle of mineral water.

He was now in an awkward position. It didn't seem right to refuse it, nor did it seem

appropriate to take it.

He was now the center of attention. If he took the water Ruby was holding out to him, there would be rumors about them.

However, if he didn't take it, he would hurt Ruby's self-esteem.

Ruby had changed drastically recently, and she often helped students who were struggling financially. When seniors tried to bully her classmates, she would step out to stop them.

She was the daughter of the richest man in Riverland, after all. No one in Riverland University dared to disrespect her.

After a moment's thought, Carlisle smiled and took the bottle of mineral water. "Thank you.

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He would prove his innocence with his actions.

Why should he care about what other people think?

Ruby's eyes curved into half-moons. She looked hopeful as she said, "It's New Year's Day today, and Caulitorna BBQ has a promotion going on. Shall we have a meal tonight or something?"

It had been more than a month since Wanda left Riverland University, and Carlisle seemed to have gotten over it. Ruby wanted to try pursuing him once more.

"Carlisle." At that moment, Christine and Phoebe walked over from beside them.

Phoebe looked warily at Ruby and said to Carlisle, "Mr. Spencer is treating us to dinner tonight. He told us to invite you."

"Okay. Where are we eating?" Carlisle asked.

"Imperial Hotel," Christine answered.

"Alright. I'll go once I'm done with basketball." Carlisle smiled and nodded.

He said apologetically to Ruby, "I'm sorry, I'm busy tonight. Let's meet some other day. It'll be my treat."

Ruby hooked her silky hair behind one ear. There was a disappointed look in her eyes as she said, "Alright, let's meet next time."

Carlisle's phone rang in his pocket. He pulled it out and glanced at it.

Sean was calling.

"Hello? Sean?"

Chapter 654

"Carl, there's someone here with a quasi-doctorate called Alistair who wants to apply for the position of Alumni Network's planning supervisor."

"Can't you approve it on your own?" Carlisle asked, laughing.

With Anthony supervising, Sean only needed to agree.

Anthony would be sure to meet a future PhD holder personally.

However, Carlisle frowned. "What did you say his name was?" "Alistair... It starts with an A!"

"Where is he?" Carlisle asked, his eyes narrowed.

His name was Alistair, and he was a future PhD holder?

He was applying to work at Alumni Network?

If Carlisle was guessing correctly, Alistair had created SchoolSpace in their past lives.

He was a legend in business. SchoolSpace hadn't gotten far under his management, but he had gone on to create the largest food delivery empire in the entire country.

"He's at Alumni Network's office right now. He's a genius! He seems to know a lot about Alumni Network. I called to tell you we've got ourselves a treasure!" Sean said excitedly.

Carlisle was now sure that Alistair was the one whom he had pretty much stolen the idea of SchoolSpace from.

He smiled and said, "Treat him well. I'll come over right now."

In the office of Alumni Network's CEO at Windex Building, Alistair's resume lay on the desk. He had been guaranteed a spot at Harvey University in 1997 and graduated in 2001.

In 2004, he withdrew from his program at Midwest University and returned to start his own business.

"Have some tea." Sean poured Alistair a cup of tea.

Alistair was a top talent who had been guaranteed a place at Harvey University and had come back after studying abroad. Sean was careful to treat him with deference, as even Carlisle had instructed him to do so. Carlisle would be coming personally as well.

"Th-thank you, Mr. Woodsen." Alistair hastily stood up to take the cup of tea. He felt surprised and pleased at Sean's enthusiasm. He was so nervous that he was stuttering slightly.

Alistair had taken the noon flight, and by the time he got to Riverland and alighted from the plane, it was already 2:00 pm.

There was a traffic jam because it was New Year's Day, and he had only reached Alumni Network around 4:00 pm.

When he saw Sean, who was much younger than him despite being the CEO of Alumni Network, Alistair doubted his abilities for the first time in his life.

From what he knew, Sean was just a first-year university student at a Tier 2 university.

What did it matter if Alistair had outstanding grades?

So what if he had been guaranteed a place at Harvey University?

When it came to luck, his experience meant nothing.

Sean sat in his chair and smiled as he asked, "I saw on your resume that you've tried to start up your own business twice, but you failed both times. With your experience, it seems implausible for you to fail twice in one year."

"Ahem." Beside them, Isla coughed meaningfully.

Sean had asked a very offensive question! Wasn't it adding salt to Alistair's wounds?

Sean needed to work on being more tactful.

Sean realized that he had said the wrong thing and laughed awkwardly. "Sorry, I'm just very forthright. Please don't take it to heart if I've said anything to offend you!"

Carlisle had never failed in his endeavors, which was why Sean felt that a genius like Alistair shouldn't have failed twice in starting up his own business. That was why he had asked such a blunt question.

"It's alright," Alistair smiled and said.

He continued, "Starting a business is always filled with risk and uncertainty. Being highly educated and having ample experience does not guarantee that you'll succeed in doing it. As the standard of education in the country rises, the numbers of those who are highly educated will increase, and it's implausible for all of them to be entrepreneurs."

"Why don't you make a third attempt?" Sean continued to ask.

"Funds for the business is one reason, and the other is that I feel I'm a little too rash and impatient. I want to work for a while to focus on myself." Alistair pushed up his glasses, as if trying to conceal his guilt.

There was a series of knocks on the door.

Isla immediately went to open it.

Selena was standing outside.

"Selena?"

Chapter 655

Isla greeted Selena meekly.

Sean smiled and greeted her as well. "Selena!"

Selena wasn't just the board secretary for Aurora Holdings. She was also the director of the secretariat. All the secretaries of the company were managed by her.

Only Carlisle and Gareth had authority over her.

Selena nodded and walked into the office. She said to Sean, "Mr. Woodsen, Mr. Zahn wants me to take Alistair to his office."

"Alistair, go with Ms. Johansen."

"Alright, Mr. Woodsen." Alistair grabbed his backpack and resume and followed Selena to Aurora Holdings.

Carlisle was making tea.

Selena led Alistair into the office. "I've brought him, Mr. Zahn."

Carlisle pointed at the chair opposite the tea table. "Please sit down."

Selena also had a workspace in Carlisle's office, so she returned to her seat and resumed work.

Alistair walked nervously to the tea table.

He had correctly guessed that there was a company supporting Alumni Network with capital. The leader of Aurora Holdings looked about Sean's age. He must be an extremely wealthy heir from a prestigious family.

Carlisle poured Alistair a cup of tea. "Have some tea."

"Thank you, Mr. Zahn!" Alistair became nervous again. He was much more tense compared to when he had met Sean.

He guessed that the person in front of him was the true founder of Alumni Network.

Facebook had only managed to get one million registered users from its establishment in February 2004 until January 2005.

Conversely, Alumni Network had only launched less than two months ago and had already surpassed eight million registered users. They had eight times the number of users that Facebook did.

It was a business miracle.

Although Alumni Network had paid a high price, it also served to show how courageous the founder was.

"This is my resume, Mr. Zahn." Alistair handed his resume over with both hands.

Carlisle took it and glanced through it. His intense eyes sparkled slightly.

Alistair would become the founder of the largest food delivery empire.

ManyPal and Family Frame were both related to social networking services.

In the past life, Alistair would launch SchoolSpace this year after his previous endeavors failed.

However, due to the lack of funds, he ended up selling SchoolSpace cheaply to Callum Palmer for two million. After that, SociableNet was conceived. It was the ultimate social platform and had a market value of almost ten billion.

"Are you coming to Alumni Network to learn about how we operate, or do you have some other motive?" Carlisle set the resume aside and fixed an intense gaze on Alistair.

Alistair felt that Carlisle could see right through him.

Alistair's pupils constricted, and his heartbeat sped up. He said uneasily, "Mr. Zahn, I... I just want to get a stable job to pay my debts. To tell you the truth, after I tried to set up my own business twice, I'm now heavily in debt!"

He had come with an ulterior motive, but he hadn't expected Carlisle to see right through him. Carlisle looked as if he wasn't even 20 yet.

Carlisle's expression softened slightly. He smiled and said, "You're a business genius. Failing twice won't deter you, and you'll continue to try. You've come here to see if we've got any plans for the market outside of school campuses, don't you?"

"H-how did you know?" Alistair could no longer bear to sit. He stood up and stared at Carlisle with his mouth wide open.

Carlisle had read his mind.

Did he have telepathic powers?

Alistair was filled with fear and uneasiness.

At that moment, he wondered if there was a traitor among his people.

Carlisle picked up his teacup, took a sip, and smiled. "Don't be nervous. Let's sit down and have a chat."

Alistair took a deep breath and calmed himself before sitting once more.

Carlisle smiled slightly as he explained, "You're curious about how I know, aren't you? Your resume has your experiences in starting up businesses. I've also done research on ManyPal and Family Frame. Both are inextricably connected with social network services and have failed, whereas Alumni Network has become explosively popular at all the tertiary educational institutions of the country.

"If I were you, I would also look for business opportunities with Alumni Network. Its growth is unbeatable, and I'm currently leading in the field of campus social networks, so you have no choice but to look for opportunities outside of it.

"However, you're uncertain whether we've made plans for that, so you came here to check things out."

Alistair was shocked again after hearing Carlisle's analysis.

Carlisle was terrifying! He had analyzed it so logically and completely exposed Alistair.

After a long moment, Alistair said slowly, "You've analyzed it very thoroughly, Mr. Zahn. You might not know this, but I started observing Facebook three months ago. I even thought of a name for my social network and was planning to call it SchoolSpace. You just did it before I could!"

Chapter 656

"Is there any point in saying that now?" Carlisle smiled and shook his head. "Or are you trying to point out that you have a better sense for business than I do?"

Opportunities would not wait for anyone, and no one could go back in time.

Once an opportunity was missed, that was that.

Carlisle felt that what Alistair had said was laughable.

Besides, even if Alistair had managed to create SchoolSpace before Carlisle did, Carlisle would still have been able to surpass them with his reward system for recruiting new users as well as the innovative functions he would introduce to social networks in the future.

"You need luck as an entrepreneur. I think you just got lucky!" Alistair was agitated.

He stood up and pressed his palms on the desk as he leaned forward and said aggressively, " If I hadn't waited and hesitated, the field of campus social networks might have been mine!" Selena's brow wrinkled slightly, and she picked up her phone to call security.

There was an enormous bang as Francis barged inside, wearing a black suit.

Carlisle waved a hand. "It's alright. You can go out."

Francis retreated outside, but he did not close the door.

Selena put down her phone.

Carlisle seemed to admire Alistair. Otherwise, he would have kicked him out by now.

Carlisle poured a piping hot cup of tea, lifted it to his lips, and blew on it. He said expressionlessly, "You're a soon-to-be PhD holder, aren't you? Don't you think that what you just said is very immature?"

There was no room for regret in this world.

There wasn't time for what could have been, either.

Being born again wasn't something that happened to everyone, but Carlisle happened to be one of them.

Business legends and finance tycoons would become his stepping stones on his journey to success.

"I'm sorry." Alistair gradually calmed down. He grabbed his backpack and got ready to leave. "Wait." Carlisle put down his cup of tea. "I have a project here that you might want to try." Alistair had potential. Three years from now, he would establish BeautyTeam, and in the decades after that, he would build up his empire until it had a market worth of 100 billion. Carlisle wanted a piece of the pie in the field of delivery services.

If he invested in Alistair's venture of delivery service and told Alistair the developmental direction, there would be no room for any competition.

"It's alright. Thank you, Mr. Zahn." Alistair thought Carlisle pitied him or was laying a trap for him.

If there was a good project, why wouldn't Carlisle do it himself?

Did Carlisle really think of Alistair as an idiot?

"Don't you want to hear about what this project is?" Carlisle asked casually as he drank his tea.

"I'll continue on the path of social networking services!" Alistair strode off.

Carlisle was exasperated and amused. He muttered to himself, "That's why you'll continue running into obstacles for a few years..."

Later, Alistair would launch a platform for chefs called ChefNet.

However, the website was shut down by the authorities because of inadequate monitoring.

After that, Alistair would finally create BeautyTeam.

Since Alistair was unwilling to do it, Carlisle would do it himself.

With Alumni Network, which had supremely high traffic, it would be easy to create a platform for ordering food online.

"Mr. Zahn." Alistair suddenly walked in.

Carlisle was startled. "I thought you'd left."

Alistair scratched his head shyly. "I was just in a temper... I apologize for my impulsiveness just now!"

Chapter 657

"There's no need for that. Have a seat." Carlisle's lips curved slightly.

He was perfectly willing to hand over the delivery services to Alistair, as only Alistair could bring BeautyTeam to its full potential.

Alistair returned to his seat and sat down.

Selena stood up and said, "Mr. Zahn, I'm going to the restroom."

Secrets about setting up a business weren't meant for her ears, and she knew when to retreat when appropriate. That was part of the professionalism of a secretary.

"Go ahead." Carlisle nodded.

Selena left the office and closed the door behind her.

"Ms. Johansen!" Wendell appeared beside her.

He was wearing a suit and had a pair of sunglasses tucked into his shirt collar.

His hair was spiky and gleaming as if he'd put mousse on it.

Selena smiled formally. "How can I help you, Mr. Webb?"

"Um... It's New Year's Day today. I-I'd like to invite you to dinner..." Wendell's dark skin had flushed slightly. He was extremely nervous.

Selena crossed her arms over her chest and said with interest, "Are you interested in me?" "Huh?" Wendell was flummoxed.

He had fallen for Selena at first sight, and he had been asking around for advice.

It hadn't been easy for him to muster up the courage to invite her out for a meal.

How could she ask him so bluntly about his intentions?

What should he say to her?

Should he say yes or no?

Francis' lip curled as he said, "You coward. Do you think you'll be able to win anyone's heart with nerves like that?"

Wendell had never thought of himself as a coward.

Back in the day, he had never even feared facing down guns and cannons.

However, he could not even raise his head in front of Selena.

Selena smiled slightly and said, "My younger sister's coming today. I'm busy."

Then, she went toward the restrooms.

Wendell looked like a burden had been lifted off his shoulders. He wiped the sweat off his brow. "Damn it. That's even more stressful than facing down guns!"

Francis stuck both hands in his pockets and said, grinning, "You two resemble each other. Are you related?"

"Don't be an idiot!" Wendell glared at Francis.

Wendell rarely felt attracted to anyone.

If he turned out to be related to Selena, he might as well jump off a building.

In the office, Carlisle was telling Alistair about the idea of ordering food online.

Alistair was immediately fascinated by the thought of it.

The field of campus social media was already occupied by Alumni Network. It would be hard to progress further.

Since Carlisle already knew why Alistair had come, it probably meant he already had plans for social networks aimed at society in general. That would mean there was no future for Alistair in social networking services.

Chapter 658

Carlisle's idea about food delivery service did sound interesting.

Everyone needed food. There were many workaholics who skipped meals in order to save time.

Alistair was one of them, especially when he was completely absorbed in his work. If there were an online platform for people to order food, there would be a large demand for it in the market.

Alistair picked up his tea, which had now turned completely cold. He took a sip and asked, "Restaurants won't have time to deliver food during meal times, will they?"

Carlisle nodded and smiled. "That's why we need to set up a huge delivery team."

He took out a piece of paper and a pen and drew a huge square on the paper. "This is our food order platform."

After that, he drew smaller squares inside the large one. "These are the delivery teams."

In the large square, he drew ten circles. "These are the businesses who join our platform." Finally, he drew ten triangles at the bottom of the largest square. "These are the clients." Carlisle continued to explain, "The businesses who join us can upload their menu. Clients will choose the items they want and pay the bill through Internet banking. Our platform will then deliver the information about their order to the respective restaurants.

"While the restaurants prepare the food, our platform will send the information about picking up and delivering the food to the nearest delivery staff. The delivery staff will then pick up and deliver the food according to the information we send them."

"How will we profit from this?" Alistair asked a crucial question.

Carlisle smiled and said, "The businesses will have to take one dollar off their prices when they join our platform. They'll have to sell a dish that costs eight dollars for seven dollars, but we'll show the clients that it costs nine dollars. That's a difference of two dollars.

"The delivery fee will be set according to the distance. If it's within one mile, it'll cost 50 cents. If it's within two miles, 60 cents. For three miles, 70 cents. The delivery team will earn the delivery fees, and we'll profit from the two-dollar difference in the meal prices."

"If they can only get a couple of cents for every delivery, would anyone be willing to do it?" Alistair asked with uncertainty.

He continued, "They can't walk such a long distance, after all. Nowadays, the cost for Motorent has a base price of three dollars for any distance within three miles!"

"They don't have to make one delivery at a time. They can pick up ten deliveries at the same time, which would get them a couple of dollars for one delivery. If they're diligent, they could earn tens of dollars a day. Even one hundred would be possible!" Carlisle explained. "If the delivery staff can earn one hundred dollars, won't we be able to earn several times that?" Alistair was immediately excited. He felt as if he could see the roads of the vibrant city filled with his delivery staff on their way to deliver food to the clients.

"The road ahead is tough. Once smartphones appear on the market, that will be the time when food delivery platforms can really shine," Carlisle murmured to himself as he sat on

his chair.

"Smartphones? What's that?" Alistair was confused. He only felt that Carlisle was becoming more and more mysterious to him.

Carlisle smiled and said, "Nothing much. You'll find out in the future."

Alistair did not continue asking. He looked at Carlisle and the draft plan on the table. He said in a low voice, "How do you plan to collaborate, Mr. Zahn?"

Carlisle thought for a moment and said, "Aurora Holdings will invest ten million, and I want 51 percent of the shares."

"Th-that's too much... I can't come up with that much money..." Alistair had turned pale with fear.

If Carlisle gave ten million for 51 percent of the shares, he would have to come up with approximately nine million to get the remaining 49 percent.

Carlisle looked at how nervous and uneasy Alistair was. He laughed and said, "I didn't ask you to pay. You can think of it this way. I'm employing you to work for me with 49 percent of the shares in this delivery service platform."

"You're investing too much!" Alistair was not confident.

He hadn't even spent up to one million on his business ventures, but Carlisle planned to invest ten million at the drop of a hat.

Carlisle had been the one to suggest the project, and he was the one providing the funds for it.

If Alistair didn't do well, he would probably never have the heart to start a business again. "Alright, let's not dawdle." Carlisle glanced impatiently at Alistair. "It's settled. If it succeeds, everyone will be happy. If it fails, I'm the one who's losing the money, and your losses will be minimal."

"I won't disappoint you." There was a determined look in Alistair's eyes.

"That's the spirit! You've got to be bold and confident to do business. I'm not scared, so why should you be?" Carlisle smiled.

He had never thought of doing delivery services, but since Alistair had come to him, he decided he might as well make Alistair start up the delivery services in advance. It would save him from making unnecessary mistakes.

After that, Carlisle gathered the executives of Aurora Holdings to explain the investment details.

In the middle of the meeting, he received a call from Sharon.

"Happy New Year, Carl!"

"You too."

"Aren't you in Riverland, Carl? I'm here too!"

"Hm? When did you come over? Why didn't you give me a call in advance?"

"I got here at noon today. I didn't want to disturb you at work, so I didn't call you. My friend's older sister invited us for dinner at the Imperial Hotel tonight. I've told my friend about it, and you can come too!"

"Alright, I'll be there," Carlisle answered in Caulitornan. He said in a low voice, "I'm in a meeting. I'll call you later."

Chapter 659

"Alright! You've got to come!" Sharon was afraid Carlisle would stand her up, so she reminded him once more.

Carlisle hung up and continued with the meeting.

His intense eyes swept over everyone, and he asked indifferently, "Do you have any more questions?"

Felicia and Lilian looked at Hamish Fuller, the head of the investment department.

The meeting didn't have much to do with Felicia and Lilian.

They only needed Carlisle to agree, after which they would draft a contract and get the funds from the finance department.

"If Mr. Zahn can trust him, there'll be no problem." Hamish was 35 years old and had graduated from Sunnyside University with a degree in investment.

After he graduated, his mentor introduced him to a job in a capital company as an investment consultant.

In five years, he had been promoted from a consultant to a manager.

Three years ago, he resigned and returned to the country to start a wealth management company.

However, things didn't go well for long. The company had just been established when there was a global pandemic.

For two years, everyone had been fighting for their own survival. The company hadn't managed to get a single client from the time of its establishment until the day it closed down. Hamish had ended up spending all the savings that he had accumulated while working for five years.

In the second half of the previous year, Hamish closed the company down and took a break for a while. After that, he noticed Anthony on the forums, and through Anthony, he joined Aurora Holdings.

As Aurora Holdings wasn't planning to open up for external investments yet, Anthony arranged a position for him as head of investments.

Carlisle stood up and said, "That's settled then. Alistair, go to Yorksle and register the company tomorrow. Mr. Fuller, please follow up on this project. Within three days, you must transfer the investment funds to Alistair."

"Give the company a name, Mr. Zahn." Alistair suddenly spoke up from Carlisle's right.

"BeautyTeam." Carlisle did not even hesitate.

Alistair scowled as he muttered, "What does that have to do with food delivery services?" Carlisle wanted to retort and say that Alistair should have the answer to that question. "You can come up with a name, then. I'll take care of the funds for investment and decide on a direction for development," Carlisle said before leaving the office.

Alistair thought about changing the name of the company while setting it up, but in the end, he stuck with the one that Carlisle had given him.

He felt that the word "beauty" had a good meaning, while the word "team" emphasized the importance of their team.

The team was always the most important part of setting up a company. The mindset of the team would be an important factor in success.

At the Imperial Hotel, Sharon and Sophia were taking photos by the musical fountain in the plaza outside.

Sophia was holding a Canon A75 digital camera, which had only been released to the public the year before.

Selena gave it to her as a gift after she managed to get into university. It was worth approximately 2400 dollars.

It always caused a commotion when she took it out in class.

"Alright, Sharon! It's your turn to take photos for me." Sophia ran over and gave Sharon the camera. "You've used it before, so you know how to take photos with it, right?"

Sharon nodded and said, "I know how to use it!"

She went to the spot where Sophia had been standing before that and began adjusting the focus. "Strike a pose, Sophia!"

Sophia cocked her hip and pouted for the camera as she raised her right hand in a victory sign.

It was a trendy pose at the time, and it would still be trendy ten years from now.

"I've taken the photo!" Sharon ran happily back to Sophia.

Sophia looked at the photo and said proudly, "I look so pretty!"

Sharon giggled and said, "I take pretty good photos, don't I?"

"Yes, it's pretty good! I'll go and find someone to help us take one together!"

Sophia looked around, and her gaze alighted on a young man who was on the phone while he stood next to the fountain.

The young man was dressed in a suit and wore glasses. He looked like the perfect gentleman.

When Sophia looked at him, the young man just happened to finish his call and look up. "Hello, mister! Could you help us take a photo?" Sophia waved at him, smiling sweetly. "Alright." The young man pushed his glasses up his nose and walked over.

Chapter 660

The man took excellent photos.

The subjects of his photos had very natural expressions, and the focus was perfect.

Sophia flipped through the photos, looking delighted. She asked excitedly, "Do you study photography, mister?"

The man smiled gently. "I did study it for a few months. I guess you could say that I'm half a professional."

"You're way too humble. The photos you took are much better than the ones we took!"

"You're too kind." The man chuckled and suddenly asked, "Is your name Sophia?"

"H-how did you know that?" Sophia grabbed Sharon's arm and took a few steps backward.

"Is Selena your older sister?" the man continued asking.

"W-who are you? How do you know me and my sister?" Sophia looked wary.

"My name's Kyle... Has your sister ever mentioned me?"

"Huh? You're Kyle?" Sophia's jaw dropped in astonishment.

"Hm? Has she mentioned me to you?" Kyle asked, looking interested.

"Yep. She said you've been trying to get her to date you since you were in university. She might have agreed if you were slightly older!" Sophia said excitedly.

Kyle was pretty handsome, and he looked like a gentleman. He was dressed entirely in branded clothes and probably came from a well-off family. If Selena married him, Sophia would have a rich brother-in-law.

"I came to confess to your sister today. Please help me out later." Kyle pleaded with them as he pressed his hands together.

"Wow! A confession! Will you give her lots of roses like they do on television?" Sophia almost jumped up in excitement. She had never seen someone confess before.

"Look at the sky!" Kyle pointed upward.

There were two airships flying in the sky.

One of the airships had "Selena" written on it, while the other had "I love you".

"How romantic!" Sharon screamed in excitement. She looked as if she had never seen anything like it.

Sophia's eyes reddened. "My sister is definitely going to say yes!"

Kyle took out his wallet and gave them both a thousand dollars each. "Take this money and buy yourself some snacks. Remember to put in a good word for me with Selena later."

"T-this doesn't seem appropriate..." Sharon looked at Sophia awkwardly.

"What's wrong with that? I think it's great." Sophia took the two thousand dollars and gave Sharon a hundred.

Why shouldn't they take free money?

Since Kyle had even gotten airships, two thousand dollars would be nothing to him.

If Kyle wanted to date Selena, he would have to pay the price.

At that moment, a cab stopped by the roadside, and an attractive figure got out.

She was tall and slender and wore a black turtleneck sweater with a purple coat. Her long hair swung to her waist, and there was a smile playing about her lips. She seemed approachable and aloof at the same time.

"Selena!" Sophia's eyes lit up, and she ran over at once.

Selena held out her arms to hug Sophia. She smiled gently and said, "You must have been waiting for a long time."

Sophia burrowed into Selena's embrace and grinned mischievously. "You've gotten bigger, Selena!"

Selena blushed slightly and pinched her cheek. "You little scamp! You're so cheeky!"

Sophia broke free of Selena's embrace and pointed at Kyle, who was standing by the fountain.

She said, "Selena, your suitor is here. He's very romantic. Look at the sky!"

Selena looked up at where Sophia was pointing.

The airships weren't flying very high, so the words on them could be seen clearly.

Selena's expression flickered slightly, but she sighed. "It's been three years, and he still hasn't given up."

Sophia chortled and said, "Selena, you're already 31. I'm also an adult now. You don't need to look after me anymore, so you should say yes to him. Age isn't that important as long as you're happy."

Selena had a faraway look on her face. After a moment's silence, she asked, "Do you think he's a good person?"

"Yes. Although I've only interacted briefly with him, he seems very nice. He's gentle and kind. You'll definitely be happy if you marry him!" Sophia nodded vigorously. Selena laughed amusedly and took Sophia's hand as she walked toward Kyle.