

Love Spell 701

Chapter 701

"Apart from those who know Carlisle, everyone pretty much ignored him!" Sienna couldn't help giggling.

She said in a snarky tone, "Wasn't he acting all cocky? He's the owner of a Rolls Royce, after all. Why didn't anyone clap for him?"

Yuriel smiled slightly. "Mr. Zahn is one of the up-and-coming entrepreneurs of Riverland. It's probably his first time attending a charity gala. Is there anything you would like to say to everyone?"

Carlisle took the mic from Yuriel and smiled as he said, "I will donate ten million and ten thousand dollars to Riverland Charity Foundation on behalf of Aurora Holdings!"

There were speakers in all four corners of the banquet hall. Carlisle's young but deep voice was magnified through the speakers and echoed in the banquet hall. Everyone present heard it very clearly.

Silence fell at once. One could have heard a pin drop.

Most of the entrepreneurs who were present looked shocked.

The younger entrepreneurs' eyes bulged as they stared at Carlisle in disbelief.

Sarah and Sienna felt as if their brains had ceased to function. Their jaws dropped so widely that one could have stuffed an egg in their mouths.

Sarah recovered very quickly. She turned pale and shook her head, and her voice trembled as she said, "That's impossible.... It can't be possible... H-how could he possibly be able to donate ten million?"

Austin had earned about 20 million dollars by trading, and he had given her ten million to start up her business. After that, he earned another ten million, which was why he bought her a Porsche.

However, Austin had lost all his money last week, including interest. He only had eight million dollars left in his personal account and had just donated three million. If Yuriel hadn't given him three million, Austin would only have five million left.

Sarah only had two million left out of the ten million she received to fund her business. Austin and Sarah's assets combined only amounted to about seven million dollars.

However, Carlisle had donated ten million and ten thousand in one go.

He had donated much more than Shein and Yuriel.

Sarah bit her lip and felt that she had a fool of herself when she was mocking Carlisle just now. She was like a total clown.

Sienna laughed coldly. "Sarah, I suspect that Carlisle's check is fake. Let's ask Mr. Gust to verify it."

She and Sarah were on the same boat, so whenever she met Carlisle, she would say a few cutting words to him. She could not accept how rich Carlisle was.

Sarah's eyes dimmed. She looked bitter as she said, "I remember now. Carlisle has the two hundred million dollars that Mr. Spencer invested."

Sienna's eyes widened, and she said, "Now that you mention it, I remember too! Mr. Spencer invested two hundred million in Dragonaire Studio, didn't he?"

"Yes..." Sarah nodded.

"That company has been soaring in popularity lately. They seem to have developed a game called... Journey Games? The guys at our college talk about it every day." Sienna wrinkled her nose and looked displeased.

She said, "I'm worried Carlisle's Dragonaire Studio will develop and progress well."

"I don't believe he'll keep having such good luck!" Sarah said coldly.

Yuriel was the richest man in Riverland, after all. He would not lose his composure just because Carlisle had donated so much more than he had. When Carlisle announced that he was donating ten million and ten thousand dollars, Yuriel's brow only furrowed slightly. Carlisle produced a check with the amount written on it and flashed it briefly at the cameras of the media reporters present. After that, he put the check into the charity box.

Yuriel gathered himself and smiled brightly. He complimented Carlisle. "Mr. Zahn has shown great character and responsibility at such a young age. As the richest man in Riverland, he puts me to shame!"

His smile dropped, and he said in a reprimanding tone as if he were talking to a child, "I do have something I would like to correct. You are donating ten million and ten thousand dollars on behalf of Aurora Holdings as well as all affiliated companies under Aurora Holdings."

"One must always keep their word. I said that the ten million and ten thousand were given as a representative of Aurora Holdings, so it means that it is only on behalf of Aurora Holdings." Carlisle emphasized the word "only".

Yuriel's eyes gleamed. "What do you mean by that, Mr. Zahn?"

"Aurora Holdings' affiliate, Alumni Network, will donate one million!"

"Aurora Holdings' affiliate, Dragonaire Studio, will donate one million!"

"Aurora Holdings' affiliate, Xenos Technology, will donate one million!" "Aurora Holdings' affiliate, Govan Technology, will donate one million!"

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As four clear voices rang out, the entire banquet hall fell silent once more.

Sean, Owen, Ryan, and Logan had spoken.

The CEOs of the four companies walked toward the donation podium with their checks.

Yuriel was dazed.

Had Carlisle gone mad?

With the ten million and ten thousand from Aurora Holdings, Carlisle donated 14 million and ten thousand in total.

Dragonaire Studio was still under development.

Govan Tech was working on phones, so Yuriel disregarded it completely. He was sure that it would make a loss.

Xenos Technology made semiconductors. He had heard they had been investing huge sums of money in research and development lately.

These companies were currently spending exorbitant amounts of money, and only Alumni Network was beginning to make a profit.

Yuriel happened to know one of the manufacturers advertising on Alumni Network. The week before, he attended a luncheon where he learned about their method for advertising and its pricing.

Alumni Network only had one advertisement position and would display the advertisements in rotation. Even if they were collaborating with several large clients, they would probably only get a profit of about three to five million per month.

It would take them at least two or three months to earn the 14 million and ten thousand back, and within those three months, Carlisle would still have to pay the staff of all five companies, including Aurora Holdings. This would also be a huge cost.

Yuriel had earned a net profit of 130 million last year, and it had already been a wrench for him to donate ten million. How could Carlisle have the confidence to donate more than Yuriel?

However, Yuriel kept his thoughts to himself.

He felt Carlisle's extravagant spending habits would make it hard for him to succeed, especially as he had been reckless enough to enter the mobile phone industry.

Yuriel suddenly felt that he had been worrying needlessly about Carlisle.

At that thought, he smiled.

While a few people lined up to put their checks in the charity box, Yuriel suddenly received a message from his wife.

His brow furrowed slightly, and he walked over to the side to call Austin.

As soon as Austin picked up, he said excitedly, "Dad, I know what you're going to say. Carlisle is too much of a threat to us. We should have cut things off at the root."

Austin had just discovered that the game Dragonaire Studio developed already had more

than three hundred thousand registered users, and it was only January. By March, it was estimated to have more than one million, which was to say that it was possible for Dragonaire Studio's game to have one million players on the day of its launch. That was a terrifying thought.

Yuriel was slightly startled. His face turned dark, and he said angrily, "Have you been watching too many superhero movies?"

Austin forced his rapidly beating heart to calm down. "Why did you call me, then?"

Yuriel lowered his voice and said, "Kiara will be back by spring. You know what to do, don't you?"

On the other end of the phone, Austin was silent for a moment. He sounded conflicted as he said, "Alright, I understand..."

After hanging up, Austin downed his glass of wine in one gulp.

The year he turned 20, he had still been studying at Yorksle University.

In a momentary lapse of judgment, he had slept with a young woman who was in her first year of university.

After that, he discovered she was part of the Mocuwait Shaws.

The Mocuwait Shaws!

They were just as terrifying as the Murrays.

Luckily, the Shaws were reasonable, and they agreed to let Kiara Shaw marry Austin.

The only condition was that they would have to wait until Kiara came back from studying abroad.

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The news of how the up-and-coming Aurora Holdings and its four affiliated companies had donated a total of 14 million and ten thousand would be sure to attract high viewer ratings if it was released.

Newspapers may even be able to sell a few more copies.

"Mr. Zahn, I'm a reporter from Riverland Evening Bulletin. Can I interview you?"

"Mr. Zahn, I heard you built your company up from scratch. Is this true?"

"Mr. Zahn, did you donate 14 million and ten thousand for charity or to increase exposure and awareness for your company?"

"Mr. Zahn, what is your opinion on the future development of the Internet?"

"Mr. Zahn-"

'Mr. Zahn-"

The reporters of all the major media outlets surged toward the stage, their camera shutters clicking frantically.

Carlisle maintained a calm demeanor in the face of the crowd of reporters and their questions.

He smiled and said, "I'm sorry, we're only here to do charity today. I won't accept any interviews for now."

Francis and Wendell had rushed over the minute the reporters started crowding around Carlisle.

When they heard Carlisle say that he wouldn't be accepting any interviews, they immediately stopped the reporters who were trying to approach him.

"Sarah, h-have Carlisle and the others gone mad?" Sienna's eyes were wide. The extreme shock was making her incoherent.

Carlisle's donation of ten million and ten thousand had already caused a buzz in the crowd, but his affiliated companies had even donated one million each.

Did their money grow on trees?

Sarah bit her lip hard. Her nails were digging into her palms so deeply that she felt as if they were sinking into her flesh.

The things she had said to Carlisle were echoing in her head. She remembered saying, " Carlisle, haven't you been trying to prove yourself? I hope you won't donate less than I do." He hadn't donated less than she had.

He had donated ten times more, with an extra ten thousand as well.

Even the four affiliated companies under Aurora Holdings had donated the same amount as Sarah.

Sarah finally saw the difference between herself and Carlisle.

No wonder Carlisle had said she wasn't worthy of drinking with him.

He was perfectly entitled to say such a thing.

Sarah had used ten million to start her business, but she lost almost all of it after two months.

Carlisle had started from nothing, but he had managed to open four companies and a holding company in just three months.

"Sienna, I've lost." Sarah closed her eyes, and tears trickled down her cheeks.

"No... You haven't lost yet..." Sienna's eyes lowered as she looked at Sarah's stomach. "If you really are pregnant with Austin's child, you'll become the daughter-in-law of the Gust family. When that happens, Austin will be sure to help you go against Carlisle as long as you want to. If Austin can't do anything, surely Mr. Gust will be able to!"

Sarah caressed her belly and pressed her red lips together. She said, "I hope so."

Sienna took Sarah's arm and smiled gently. "I'll go to the hospital with you." "Alright."

The two of them left the banquet hall arm in arm.

The charity donations were still ongoing.

"Wind Semiconductors will donate one million!"

"Swiftfunds Financial Investments will donate three million!"

When Josie heard the name of Swiftfunds Financial Investments, a look of surprise flashed in her eyes. However, it disappeared almost immediately.

Shein looked away from Christine and glanced at Phoebe, who was chatting animatedly to Gareth.

Finally, he looked at Zachary, who was beside him. He asked, "How much money did you invest in Wind Semiconductors?"

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"37 million," Zachary answered carelessly.

He was feeling very troubled.

At the beginning of the year, he managed to get 50 million to start a company. There hadn't been any good projects available, so for the preceding year, all Zachary had done was play games and have fun. After investing in Wind Semiconductors, he had pretty much used up all 50 million of his funds.

Recently, he even had to think twice while equipping his gaming guild. He didn't even know what he had spent the remaining ten million on.

Yuriel had given Austin Fashion Breeze, and he had even let Fashion Breeze operate independently. Fashion Breeze was ranked in the top five of Riverland's fashion industry. Once Fashion Breeze and Hermes agreed on a collaboration, their fame would rise sharply. It wouldn't be long before they could get rid of Lethan's Islo Clothing.

When that was accomplished, Austin would finally have made his official debut in the business world.

However, all Zachary had was a tiny web portal.

He had always seen Austin as his biggest rival because they came from similar family backgrounds. They had both been born into wealthy families who were among the most elite in Riverland.

When Austin donated three million, he attracted so much attention while Zachary sat in the audience, unnoticed by anyone. This had discouraged him and made him feel that Austin was already overshadowing him.

Shein picked up his teacup and took a light sip. He smiled and praised him. "Wind Semiconductors had over 96 million in revenue last year. They made a net profit of 27 million. You showed remarkable foresight in making this investment!"

It said that fathers knew their sons best. Shein could already tell what Zachary was thinking based on his expression. Zachary was still much too flighty, and he was still too focused on having fun. If he kept behaving that way, he could not possibly manage a company well. That was why Shein was unable to let Zachary take over some of his bigger companies. Selena, Laurel, and Isla were at Carlisle's table. All three of them were from out of town and unfamiliar with the local big enterprises. Therefore, they were taking the charity banquet as an opportunity to expand their connections and exchange information sources. Carlisle noticed that several of the other companies' board secretaries seemed to know Selena. The moment they met her, they would hug her or shake her hand.

The secretaries who interacted with Selena had all been sitting at tables where the most wealthy businessmen were seated. The businessmen had all donated more than five million. "Carl, shall we go and expand our connections too?" Sean asked.

The other entrepreneurs were walking around, shaking hands, and greeting one another. Sean felt that it seemed silly to sit there blankly. He was the CEO of Alumni Network, after all!

"Go ahead. I'm not stopping you, am I?" Carlisle asked, chuckling.

Sean lacked experience in the business world, and it would be best if he could look around for a bit. Talking to experienced entrepreneurs could also stimulate his growth.

However, there was no need for Carlisle to do so.

In his previous life, he had frequent business meetings and met many company owners. They would always deliberately cause trouble for him during social gatherings, which was why Carlisle had often been forced to drink until he blacked out. In fact, he had been sent to hospital several times for gastrointestinal bleeding after being forced to drink too much.

Now that his companies did not have much to do with the businesses present, it didn't matter whether he interacted with them.

Besides...

Carlisle looked at Shein and Yuriel, who were standing in the crowd. People were lining up to toast them.

One had to be tough to command authority.

If they made it, connections and resources would just come up to them.

Sean took Lily to another table.

They hadn't just picked a table at random. First of all, they found a familiar young entrepreneur.

The entrepreneur was the older brother of Sean's friend, who was in the luxury car rental business.

As they already knew each other, the two of them clinked glasses and had a drink together. After making small talk for a while, they headed to another table.

"We're going for a walk too, Mr. Zahn," Logan stood up and called out to Carlisle. She dragged a reluctant-looking Hank with her as she left the table.

Phoebe asked tentatively, "Christine, shall we go for a walk, too? Aren't we planning on doing business loans in the future?"

"Business loans?" Gareth looked surprised. "Are you going to lend money to businesses?"

Christine explained, "Ms. Thompson wants us to make a range of products to appeal to different client demographics. One of the suggestions was to launch business loans. This mainly targets smaller businesses that need to accomplish capital turnover in a short period of time.

"However, it will take a long time for it to become a reality. After all, companies need funds of tens of millions, not just a couple of thousand. They might not even be satisfied with eight million!"

Gareth took a sip of red wine calmly. He smiled and said, "You two should focus on thinking about how to solve the problem of clients being overdue on their loan payments."

Christine sneaked a glance at Carlisle and saw that Carlisle was sitting opposite them. He was drinking with Daniel, Owen, and the others. She pressed her lips together and said in a small voice, "Ms. Thompson has already provided a solution. However, she told us not to tell Carlisle about it."

Gareth moved his stool closer to Christine and said with interest, "What's the plan? I won't tell Carlisle about it."

Chapter 705

Daniel was drinking when he saw Christine and Gareth from the corner of his eye. Their faces were inches from each other's.

Daniel couldn't help feeling bitter.

At the same time, he felt a sense of insecurity rise inside him.

Although his family was fairly well off, and Ryan was the CEO of Xenos Technology, he was still nothing compared to Gareth.

Carlisle respected Gareth.

Even Ryan had to speak respectfully to Gareth when they met.

Not only that, Gareth was handsome.

He really was the epitome of a tall, rich, and handsome man.

How could Daniel compare?

Daniel sighed and picked up his glass. He gulped down its contents in one go.

Why was life so difficult?

He had expected to start dating freely once he got into university, but his love life had been full of unexpected challenges.

First, he had fallen for Wanda, the woman of his dreams, who turned out to be Carlisle's girlfriend.

After that, he tried to pursue Christine, but she didn't seem to have any feelings toward him at all.

Now, it seemed that Christine was about to get lured away by Gareth.

However, it was true that they were a good-looking couple and seemed compatible.

Daniel was the kind of person who could let things go easily.

He would not persist when he knew that there was no hope.

Sometimes, things happened or didn't happen for a reason. There was no point in forcing it.

Carlisle's brow furrowed tightly as he asked, "If we choose to produce wafers on our own, how much would we need to invest?"

Ryan was talking about the current difficulties that Xenos Technology was facing. They were facing a tricky problem. There were no suppliers willing to supply them with silicon wafers, which was one of the essential materials needed for manufacturing chips. Ryan explained, "Wafers and chips are both cutting-edge technology equivalent to aerospace ventures. If we think of a chip as a spaceship, the wafers would be the mother ship. "Producing wafers requires many kinds of equipment, such as silicon manufacturing equipment, lithography equipment, ion implantation equipment, oxidation furnaces, diffusion furnaces, cutting equipment, and many more. Some of the equipment must be imported, and the cost of purchasing can range over one million to tens of millions of dollars!

"Apart from that, wafer factory operations require large quantities of energy, water, gas, and other sources. This will also be a huge expenditure. Venue construction, hiring technical staff, and training are also necessary. I would estimate that without 500 million in funds, we won't be able to establish a wafer factory at all."

Ryan looked discouraged as he said, "We have experience in chips, and it's only a matter of time before we can develop the artificial intelligence chip you mentioned. However, we have no technical knowledge or experience in wafers. An investment of 500 million would be on the low side. Holden Microchips International invested-

Carlisle asked, "Are there any wafer factories in Riverland?"

Ryan laughed wryly and answered, "Currently, only six factories in the country can manufacture wafers. They are Holden Microchips International in Yorskle, Premier Technology in Mocuwait, Dracochip Technology in Sunderhen, Aura Chips in Grencity, Pinnacle Chips in Southland, and Microconductors in Caulitorna.

"We used to work with Premier Technology, but the collaboration ended when our company almost went bankrupt and closed down. We contacted Premier Technology again, but they told us that their orders are currently stabilized, and they're still in the midst of constructing their new factory. They won't be taking any new orders for now."

"What about the other companies?" Carlisle hadn't expected there to only be six companies that could manufacture wafers.

Additionally, all six companies would become leaders in the field of chips in the future.

There was also another company called Orion.

However, it had only been established a year before and wasn't very well-known yet.

"The other companies refused to take our orders as well. I suspect that Terrence is behind it. Ryan squinted in suspicion.

Stable orders?

Temporarily not taking orders?

That was ridiculous.

Premier Technology had the capacity to produce a large volume of orders.

All six of the manufacturers who could manufacture wafers were big companies. It wasn't hard for them to fulfill the needs of the small semiconductor companies in the country. Now that all six companies had placed restrictions on Xenos Factory, there was clearly something wrong.

The first thing Ryan thought of was that Terrence was making things difficult for him. "Terrence...." Carlisle narrowed his eyes. He suspected Terrence, too.

When Govan Technology and Riley Phones arrived, Terrence threatened to make all the chip companies in Riverland stop supplying chips to Riley Phones.

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After that, Carlisle acquired Xenos Factory, so Terrence used his connections to make all six wafer OEM companies cut off supplies to them.

"Do you still remember me, Mr. Zahn?" A lazy drawl came from behind them.

Ryan turned and saw Terrence walking over to them. He was holding a wine glass.

Carlisle did not turn around. He picked up his wine glass and took a sip of red wine, looking as if he did not deign to pay Terrence any attention.

"Terrence, you're despicable!" Ryan glared angrily at Terrence with his fists clenched.

Terrence's expression darkened. He pretended to be angry as he said, "Ryan, that is no way to speak to your older cousin."

A vein throbbed in Daniel's temple, and his eyes bulged with anger as he said angrily, "Terrence, how could you have the audacity to call yourself our relative?"

His voice was raised in agitation, attracting the attention of several entrepreneurs.

Terrence's brow furrowed slightly. "I'm not here to argue with you. I came to have a drink with Mr. Zahn!"

Ryan said accusingly, "Terrence, tell me the truth. Are you the reason all six of the wafer OEM companies are refusing to accept my order?"

"Is that happening to you?" Terrence looked surprised, as if he had had no idea at all.

Carlisle spotted a flash of triumph in Terrence's eyes.

It was obvious that Terrence was behind it.

Carlisle was confused.

How had Terrence managed to make six large enterprises simultaneously refuse to work with Xenos Factory?

"Stop acting dumb. Who else would it be if it's not you?" Ryan scoffed.

"You must think very highly of me. I'm just the owner of a small company. Could I make six large companies listen to me?" Terrence looked scornful.

This stumped Ryan.

Terrence was right. All six manufacturers were huge corporations.

Why would they listen to Terrence?

Terrence walked over to Carlisle, whose head was still turned slightly. He smiled and said, " Mr. Zahn, it's been a while. You've expanded your business so much in just a couple of months. Aren't you afraid that you've taken on too much?"

"That's none of your business." Carlisle had been tolerating Terrence for a long time. Now that Terrence was addressing Carlisle directly, he could give him a straight answer.

Terrence's brow furrowed. "Hey, kid, you'd better show some mann—"

There was a thump.

"Ouch!" Before Terrence could finish speaking, he felt something hit him hard on the bridge

of his nose. He clutched at his nose and screamed.

There was a thunk as an ashtray dropped onto the floor.

"W-who threw that at me?" Terrence swept an angry glare around the room.

Gareth said lazily, "I did."

Terrence held his nose with his right hand and stuck his neck out rigidly. He asked, "Why did you hit me? What have I done to offend you?"

"Would it be enough to say that you annoy me?" The look in Gareth's eyes had turned sharp.

"Alright, just you wait..." Blood was seeping through the cracks of Terrence's fingers as he held his nose.

He used his other hand to pull his phone out of his pocket. He made a call.

At that moment, Zachary walked over. "What's going on, Mr. Scott?"

Terrence said coldly, "I got hit. I'm going to make sure he won't be able to leave today!"

Zachary's brow furrowed. "Which of you hit him?"

Gareth's gaze swept over Zachary. "Are you going to stand up for him?"

Zachary's lips twitched slightly. He whispered something to Terrence.

At the same time, a tipsy-sounding voice came from Terrence's phone. "Hello? Terrence? I'm drinking..."

"What? The office is on fire?" Terrence exclaimed.

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"Alright, alright. I'll head over right now!" Terrence's expression changed. He turned and walked straight to the door.

Once he had stepped out of the banquet hall, Terrence's legs became weak, and he almost fell to his knees.

Zachary had only said one thing.

He had told Terrence that Gareth was from Yorksle and that even Sheldon had to treat him with respect.

No wonder he was so arrogant. He had such powerful people backing him up.

"Damn! Why am I so unlucky?" Terrence spat out a mouthful of frothy blood and covered his nose as he walked toward the elevators.

The charity gala finally ended at 10:00 pm.

After Carlisle returned to Willow Grove, he turned on two heaters to heat the place up before calling Solomon. He instructed Solomon to find out how to contact the chairman of Premier Technology.

There was a knock on the door.

Carlisle said, "Come in."

Wendell and Francis pushed the door open and came in.

Both of them rubbed their frozen hands together and huddled around the heater to get warm.

"Are we really going fishing tomorrow?" Francis asked.

"It's almost spring. I wouldn't want anything to happen before that. If we don't get rid of this assassin, I won't feel assured." Carlisle turned the heater up.

"Where are you planning to go fishing? We can scope the place out in advance," Francis said. "Let's go to the hot springs instead." Carlisle changed his mind.

It was just too cold. Even the Shorelin River was frozen, and it would be much more practical to go for a dip in the hot springs than to sit on the ice and fish in the cold.

At around 11:00 pm, Wendell and Francis left.

Not long after they had gone, Solomon sent Carlisle the mobile phone number of Bernard Long, the chairman of Premier Technology.

However, it was too late at night, so Carlisle decided to contact him tomorrow.

The next day, which was the ninth of January, the temperature dropped to 37 degrees Fahrenheit.

It had snowed the night before, and there was a white blanket of snow over everything. 37 degrees wasn't the lowest temperature in the country, but it was the lowest temperature Cascade State had ever experienced.

Most schools and companies had the day off due to the disruption of electricity supplies and traffic.

Carlisle washed up and sat on the sofa. He tried to turn on the heater, only to realize there was no electricity.

He went to his wardrobe to find the huge jacket that Francis had given him two days ago.

Francis had specially bought the jacket from a safety equipment store, and it was supposed to be very effective at keeping out the cold. All the staff in the neighborhood were wearing it. Carlisle had to admit that it did keep him very warm.

Carlisle pulled out his phone and called Selena to ask about how work was progressing in each company.

Selena said, "Xenos Technology and Govan Technology both have diesel-powered generators, so work is going on as usual. Windex Building currently doesn't have any electricity, so there are only a few workers working on shifts in some of the departments." "What about Alumni Network?"

"The Alumni Network servers have all stopped operating."

"Purchase some generators as a backup and get Alumni Network back to operation as quickly as possible," Carlisle instructed.

Alumni Network was a social platform. At the very least, it had to be operational 24 hours a day. At the moment, Alumni Network's servers had stopped working, and users could not even enter the log-in page. Therefore, users could not socialize on the website like they usually did.

However, it was his fault. He had been focusing on Holly Fisheries and had neglected to notify each company to prepare generators in advance.

Selena said, "The purchasing department has contacted pretty much all the generator suppliers in the country over the past couple of days, but there is practically no stock. Let me ask if there are any other companies who have generators that we can borrow."

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After the call had ended, Carlisle called Lethan to ask if they had any extra generators.

Lethan said heartily, "How many do you need?"

Carlisle was startled. "How many do you have?"

"I still have six."

"Lend them all to me. I just happen to need six here."

"Alright, I'll get someone to deliver them to Windex Building—"

"That'll be too much trouble. I'll tell someone to get them," Carlisle said quickly.

"Oh, you don't have to worry about that." Lethan hung up.

Carlisle laughed and informed Selena that he had managed to borrow generators. There was a knock on his door.

Francis walked in with a lit coal burner while Wendell had some meat and vegetables.

Carlisle hung up and said, "It's so early in the morning! You guys aren't planning to have a barbeque, are you?"

Francis grinned and said, "It'll warm us up!"

"You can go ahead then. I don't have time for that." Carlisle glanced at the time. It was almost 10:00 am.

He continued making calls.

This time, he called Bernard, the chairman of Premier Technology.

There was a busy signal, but after a while, a mature-sounding woman answered the phone." Hello, who is this?"

Carlisle almost blurted out that he was from Aurora Holdings. However, news of Aurora Holdings had only just started spreading in Riverland's business world. Premier Technology was a large corporation in Mocuwait, so they probably wouldn't think anything of a small company like Aurora Holdings. They might not have heard of it at all.

However, Alumni Network was explosively popular, and most entrepreneurs would have heard about it.

"Alumni Network?" The woman sounded thoughtful. She said, "Isn't Alumni Network a social networking site? What kind of business would you have with us? We manufacture silicon wafers."

"I would like to speak to Mr. Long." Carlisle could tell from the woman's tone that she wasn't just an ordinary staff member.

If she had been a secretary, she would have been more polite after hearing Carlisle mention that he was the founder of a particular company. However, the woman sounded impassive, and there was even a slight hint of contempt in her voice.

"Mr. Long isn't in at the moment. If you have anything to say, you can say it directly to me." "Do you have the authority to make decisions?"

"Of course I do. As long as it doesn't involve selling the company or buying shares, there's nothing that I can't do at Premier Technology," the woman said confidently.

"Are you really that amazing, madam?" Carlisle pretended to be surprised and used a more formal term of address. If she had that kind of authority, he deduced that she must be Bernard's daughter. He couldn't think of anyone else that it could be.

"What did you call me?" Eleanor Long was startled. She had a younger brother who was extremely rebellious and had never respected her as an older sister. She felt a strange sense of affection to hear Carlisle addressing her so respectfully in his youthful voice.

"I called you madam. I'm 18 years old, so I'm probably younger than you are. You don't mind me calling you that, do you?" Carlisle said gently.

"N-No problem..." Eleanor smiled.

However, the smile dropped off her face very quickly. "So, what do you want with my father?

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"Since you can make the decisions, madam, I'll just get straight to the point with you." "Alumni Network is just one of the companies I established on a whim. I also have a mobile phone company and a semiconductor company. The semiconductor company that I own used to be one of your business partners, but the collaboration ended last year due to some circumstances"

"Xenos Technology?" Eleanor suddenly interrupted him.

"Yes, Xenos Technology!"

"Go on." Eleanor leaned back against the sofa in her family's mansion and crossed her legs. "Has Premier Technology stopped taking orders lately?" Carlisle asked.

"Our company has been facing strong competition lately, and over the past few years, many chip companies have built their own wafer factories. Our company is solely an OEM company. How could we stop operating?" Eleanor explained.

She frowned and asked, "Are you saying that our company refused to accept an order from Xenos Technology?"

Chapter 709

"Yes. It isn't just Premier Technology, either. The other five wafer manufacturers have all refused Xenos Technology's orders as well." Carlisle was straightforward with her.

He wanted to know if refusing to do business with Xenos Technology had been a decision that had been made jointly by the upper levels of each company.

"Well..." Eleanor's expression changed slightly. "It's conceivable that Premier Technology might join forces with the other companies to sanction a company, but Holden Microchips International would never participate in sanctioning a small local company.

"Besides, whenever we do that, it's always against foreign companies who drive down the market price or slander us in the international business world. People like that are just terrible clients!"

"There must be someone among the high-level executives of your company who's the culprit." Carlisle breathed a sigh of relief.

As long as it wasn't a decision made jointly by the highest-level executives, there would still be room to maneuver.

He continued, "By the way, Wind Semiconductors had a conflict with Xenos Factory. I'm guessing that Terrence, the chairman of Wind Semiconductors, has bribed all the high-level executives in these companies."

"Since you've addressed me as madam, I'll help you out. However, you've got to treat me to a meal!" Eleanor said.

She was studying at Fort University and was working toward a double major in management and economics. She kept up to date with the current trends in the business world and also studied up-and-coming companies with potential value. Alumni Network had been one of her main targets recently.

Bernard, her father, had once given Alumni Network high praise. He had predicted that if Alumni Network was open to the public, it would be able to catch up to Electronic Arts within ten years.

The founder of this up-and-coming company must have a lot of potential. Eleanor felt that it was necessary to form a connection with him.

Besides that, if the company had refused to take the order, it showed that there was a problem in their internal management. If she ignored these problems, it was only a matter of time before it would damage the company's profits and reputation.

As soon as Eleanor finished the call, Bernard came back from his morning run. He was dressed in workout clothes.

Bernard only had Eleanor when he was in his 40s. He was now 72 years old, and although his hair was white, he was still full of energy and was very healthy. He walked over to the sofa and sat down, his eyes filled with fondness as he asked, "Who called?"

"Carlisle," Eleanor said, a smile playing about her lips.

"Why would he be calling me?" Bernard picked up his phone in surprise and looked at the call records. Carlisle and Eleanor had only talked for about two minutes.

"Carlisle has a semiconductor company under his name called Xenos Technology. They

mainly produce mobile phone CPUs. Our company worked with Xenos Technology for a long time, but last August, they stopped the partnership due to their own issues. Xenos Technology wishes to reinstate our partnership, but our company refused," Eleanor said truthfully.

"We refused to work with an old client?" Bernard's expression darkened. He decided to call the company's general manager at once.

Any company that wants to succeed would need the support of loyal clients.

Due to a technology blockade, the industry of chips and wafers was at the mercy of countries in the West. It wasn't easy for them to survive, and Premier Technology was one of the few wafer OEM companies in the country.

Why would they want to suppress the development of technology in the country?

It was ridiculous.

"Dad, let me handle this." Eleanor had already made a promise to Carlisle, and she wanted to practice her skills in management.

"You must prioritize this. Semiconductors and chips are advanced technologies and will be crucial in deciding the country's future technological standards. The country wants to support the development of these things. How could we try to hold them back?" Bernard said severely.

"Alright, alright, Dad. Calm down. I'll be sure to make an example of the culprits," Eleanor said comfortingly as she went over to massage Bernard's shoulders.

Bernard was slightly mollified. "Xenos Technology didn't try looking for anyone else despite getting rejected by us. It must be due to our longstanding cooperation. They're supporting us as loyal clients. We must have disappointed them with how we've behaved!" Eleanor stuck out her tongue. "The other companies have also refused to manufacture wafers for Xenos Technology."

Bernard looked surprised. He said, "If someone was able to make all six of the country's wafer OEMs reject business with Xenos Technology, he must be very influential."

"I'll find out who's behind it," Eleanor said, her eyes narrowed.

"Let's just manage our affairs. What the other companies do has nothing to do with us." Bernard took a cup of tea from the housekeeper and took a sip. "Ellie, go to the office right now and deal with this. Take the order from Xenos Technology within three days!"

"Alright, I'll head to the office right now." Eleanor took a private car to Premier Tower. She walked straight into Bernard's office.

'Ms. Long!'

"Mr. Earle, notify the deputy business manager to come to the office!"

"Yes, Ms. Long!" Luther Earle obeyed and went to call the business department director.

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After less than three minutes, the deputy manager of the business department, Emeric Burton, arrived at the office.

After three hours of investigation, everything became clear.

Xenos Technology needed eight-inch wafers, but Premier Technology could only make wafers that were four, five, or six inches. That was why they had rejected Xenos Technology. In the office, Eleanor sat in the chairman's seat. She frowned slightly and said, "Is that really the case?"

"Absolutely." Emeric stood ramrod straight, but he lowered his eyes slightly.

Eleanor said calmly, "Contact Xenos Technology right now. Let me talk to them."

Emeric hesitated for a moment before saying in a low voice, "Ms. Long, there's another reason why we rejected Xenos Technology. In the first half of last year, Xenos Technology and Wind Semiconductors engaged in six lawsuits, and Xenos Technology lost every single

one.

"There are rumors that the previous chairman of Xenos Technology developed a mental disorder due to stress at work. He became jealous of the newest mobile phone CPU developed by Wind Semiconductors and became so obsessed that he tried to appeal the case. We should cut off all ties with small companies like them who don't have good integrity!"

"Rumors?" Eleanor laughed coldly. "That means there's no basis for this, is there?"

Emeric jumped and said tentatively, "I... I'll find out at once!"

"Go!" Eleanor said, nodding.

Emeric turned and left the office.

"What an old fox. He has a watertight defense. I should have let Dad take care of this," Eleanor muttered to herself.

She instinctively felt that there was something off about Emeric, but he had provided an explanation with clear logic and evidence. It was flawless. It would be hard to get a hold over him.

At the work desk beside her, Luther smiled and reminded her, "Ms. Long, if you give him enough time, he'll even be able to forge a mental disorder diagnosis report for you..."

"Oh, right! Thanks for the reminder, Mr. Earle." Eleanor got up and rushed out.

In order to find out what was going on, Eleanor spent three whole days investigating the case.

On the 12th of January, the temperature rose slightly, but it was still between minus eight and night degrees Fahrenheit.

For the past few days, Carlisle had gone punctually to Dranite Springs Resort every day at 3: 00 pm.

Whenever he went, he would book a mid-sized hot spring pool all to himself.

Carlisle sat in the hot spring pool and closed his eyes. There was a glass of red wine and a plate of fruit laid out next to him. A few pretty attendants were scattering petals into the water for him and adjusting the water temperature whenever he wanted. They even provided massages.

"We'll grow old together and watch the snowflakes fall..." Carlisle's phone rang, and the attendant, who was massaging him, helped him get his phone.

She said sweetly, "Mr. Zahn, you have a call..."

Carlisle took the phone, and the attendant stepped aside tactfully. "Ms. Ellie!"

"Carlisle, I've finally figured it out."