I Love You, Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard)

I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 101

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Bonnie felt a little **puzzled**. After some thought, she realized Trina **was right**. She **could present** evidence **before Vera** and Gresham, **but** they **still would not believe a word** she said. **Worse, they** would

treat her harsher than before.

They would even lecture her **to** learn from **her** mistakes. **Besides** that, there **was** also a good reason why she kept her identity as the nation's leading researcher a **secret**.

Her parents had a favorite child, and that was none other than Trina. Moreover, they **always** looked

down on Bonnie.

In the past, she used **to win** various awards and trophies **for** things such as piano **competitions**, **chess** tournaments, F1 trophies, and **more**. She had **shown** all **of** them **to** Vera and Gresham, **but** all she **got**

in return was more lectures.

They chastised her for forging her accolades **just** to gain their **favor**. They even told her how disappointed they **were** in her.

Additionally, Trina would fan the flames. That **was** why they grew **increasingly** distrustful of Bonnie over time.

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After some thought, Bonnie's **foster** parents, who had raised her in **the** countryside, treated her pretty well. However, Vera and Gresham were her biological parents. The truth was that everyone wanted nothing more than their parents' **love**. Bonnie learned the hard way that her birth parents would never love her as much **as** they did with

Trina. Bonnie's childhood was the primary **reason** for that. The **couple** looked down on Bonnie because she was **a** country bumpkin.

Gresham's family had repeatedly taken digs at him and his wife because **of** her background. That was why they could never let it **go**. She **would** always be a blemish **on their** otherwise perfect life.

That was why Trina was not the only **wrong one here.** Her **stepsister** merely exploited her

vulnerabilities and pulled focus on them.

"I'm tired of talking to **you**, Trina. I won't waste **more** time with **you**." Collecting her thoughts, Bonnie began to cut to the chase. "Where I live is none of your concern. It'd be wise for you to behave and lock yourself in your **room.** If I ever catch you **doing** something humiliating again, I'll make you regret it."

Trina was outraged. "Do **you** think Mom and Dad will ground **me for** that long? Perhaps **you've** forgotten, but my engagement party with Hadwin **is** three days. It's also my birthday. That reminds me. Your birthday is on the same day as mine.

"I'm cordially inviting **you** to my engagement party **with** Hadwin. I **sure** hope I'll see **you** on **that day**, Bonnie."

Bonnie was stunned.

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'Her birthday is in three days? Gosh, it slipped my mind.'

Trina chuckled and continued, "Mom and Dad always forget about you whenever we celebrate our birthdays. At best, **they'd** prepare a thoughtless gift for you. My heart breaks for you whenever we celebrate our birthdays, Bonnie.

"Here's **an idea**. You can pretend you don't know what I did, and I'll put your name on the birthday cake this time. Since it's **my** twentieth birthday, Mom and Dad will prepare a twenty–layer cake for **me.** You can share my glorious moment by having your name on it.'

Bonnie would have rolled her eyes at Trina **if** her stepsister were standing before her. Soon after, Bonnie hung up because **she** did not intend to waste time arguing. Jim frowned and asked, "Are you going to let her off the hook just like that?"

"I wasn't going to initially, but Trina **will get** mad if I **ignore** her. **If that's the** case, why should I waste my breath arguing with her?" Bonnie **responded casually**.

"You have a point, but she **still** annoys me. Trina has always schemed **against you,** but I can't believe she hired someone to tail you. How about I work her over discreetly?"Jim smiled menacingly.

"Simmer down. You're the renowned King **of** Combat. You'll sully your reputation if you take things seriously with that hypocritical girl." Bonnie smiled and shook her head.

"I'm doing it for you. What's **so** disgraceful about that? Anyone who I don't care if it does anything to my reputation!" He barked sternly.

crosses you will suffer my wrath.

Ivor pulled Bonnie to his side, saying, "You guys are too close for my taste. Mind you, Master Jim, Bonnie's my fiancee. I can protect her myself. Don't you think you overstepped your boundaries by saying those things?"

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"She might **be** your flancee now, but **she's been my close** friend for a long time. **You can do** your thing **while I do** mine. We **shouldn't** get **in** each **other's** way."

Jim then sensed **Bonnie's glance**, **signaling** him to leave. Things could take an **unexpected** turn if he stayed any longer, and he might end **up exposing** his identity. Jim said, "Oh, look at the time. **I should** be going."

"Sure. Take it easy and stay safe."

Then, both of them recalled the car and looked at it simultaneously.

'Uh, it doesn't look like I can drive it away.'

Floyd looked **at** Jim admiringly and said, "I'll call a mechanic **to** fix your car, Master Jim. **He'll** fix it before you know it."

Bonnie approached the car and opened its hood. "It's not that severe. **You can** save **yourself** the trouble **of** calling a mechanic. I know how to fix it."

"You know how to fix cars too?" Ivor and Jim questioned her simultaneously.

Bonnie turned and nodded. "My cars used to have plenty of hiccups **back in** my racing days. It broke down on **a** hill, and there was **no** one within a fifty–mile radius. It was **so** troublesome to find a

mechanic, so I learned how to fix my cars myself."

'She races cars, too?!'

Ivor was pleasantly surprised. It turned out they had a shared hobby. Not only did he love it, but it was one of his favorite ways to unwind himself. Ever **so** often, he'd ask Ged and the others for a race or a

cruise around the hills in the suburbs.

Jim was shocked and then grew worried, asking, "Why do you insist on doing such dangerous things? You're a crucial figure for our nation. I can't afford to let anything happen to you. How am I supposed

to answer

"}

"There, all fixed!" Bonnie deliberately raised her voice and interjected.

Apparently, Jim always forgot the important things whenever he **got** worked up. If Bonnie had not interrupted him in time, he would have exposed her real identity.

"Ahem..." Jim noticed Ivor and Floyd looking at him curiously. **The former** cleared his throat and added, "I meant, how am I supposed to answer to your parents?"

lvor's expression turned solemn, but he said nothing.

Meanwhile, Jim changed the topic and awkwardly got into the driver's **seat**. **"You** seriously got it fixed **in** just a minute? Let me see. Would you look at that?! You really did fix it. **Just** how talented are **you?"**

"You're too kind. It was **just** a minor issue." Bonnie stole a glance at lvor and noticed nothing strange

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about his expression. Still, it was hard to tell if he was suspicious.

"Well, then. I'll take my leave now."

"Sure. See you!" Bonnie waved at Jim before turning and looking at lvor. "Come on, let's go home." "Hold on," lvor said as he removed Bonnie's coat and put his coat on her.

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Bonnie did not know how to respond while Jim took the coat from her, pouted, and drove off. It was not the first time Bonnie had put on a man's coat, but the warmth from Ivor's coat felt different

Before she could identify this unusual feeling, Ivor grabbed her hand and said, "Can I ask you something?"

"What is it?" Bonnie frowned, thinking he must have seen through her act earlier

Although Ivor was quiet for a moment, he seemed unwilling to let her hand go. He stared into her eyes and asked solemnly, "Have you ever fallen in love with anyone?"

Bonnie was stunned. She thought he was about to ask about Jim or her real identity as the nation! leading researcher. She asked, "What made you ask me that?"

"You have to answer me first since I was the one who asked first,"

"What kind of love are you talking about?" Bonnie was no fool and knew what he meant, but she could not resist questioning him.

"I mean the kind of love that compels you to be with Jim," Ivor responded profoundly,

Bonnie raised her brow and said, "Oh, that's what you mean, I thought you meant the not-so-serious kind of love."

"What a mischievous young lady,' lvor thought.

"Hmm, I've yet to love anyone that way since I'm always busy. My romantic life just isn't part of my packed schedule. I'm not really into it, either. I think the single life suits me best."

"Do you want to give it a shot?" Ivor looked at Bonnie humorously.

She turned to look at him, asking, "Give it a shot? Who am I supposed to fall in love with? Are you volunteering?"

He smiled. After all, this was not the time for a romantic confession. "Your birthday's three days from now. You'll get your answer then."

Bonnie was about *to* resume walking when she heard what he **said**. Confused, she looked at him intently. "What are you going to do?"

"You'll know soon enough."

"What if I want to know about it now?" She had a hunch that Ivor would make some grand gesture on her birthday, which was the same **day as** Trina and Hadwin's engagement party.

"I can tell you now, but you'll have to do something for me in return."

"What do I need to do?"

lvor took Bonnie's hand and guided it **to** his cheeks. "Kiss me, and you'll have your answer.

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Her lips twitched, and then she withdrew her hand, thinking it was a waste of time.

'I would've been better off returning to my room and getting some sleep.

Ivor watched as she left. He could not resist bursting into laughter,

Bonnie heard his unbridled laughter and felt a chill down her spine. She then picked up her pace and entered the villa.

"Hahaha..." He laughed heartily again before trailing off into silence. After turning to look toward where Jim **drove** off, Ivor recalled what he said earlier. He was also very mindful of how Jim and Bonnie Interacted.

'If I remember correctly, Jim said Bonnie's a crucial figure for our nation.'

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Three **days later**, **Gresham**, **Vera**, and Hadwin's parents reserved the **entire** hotel **for their children's** engagement party. Many guests attended, **and** most came **from** society's **upper** echelon.

Hadwin's mother, Demetria, was delighted with her future daughter—in—law as she led Trina around to show her off to the guests. "This is my future daughter—in—law, Trina. Here's some interesting tidbits. She's so impressive that Professor Terry has high hopes for her."

"Professor Terry? Who's that?" One of the noblewomen asked.

"Why, don't you know? I wouldn't have brought **him up** if he were some random professor. Professor Terry leads a team of researchers in **Ms.** Bonita's research institute." Demetria **gloated**.

The crowd gasped in shock and went on to butter Trina up.

"Jeez! I can't believe such **a** prestigious professor admires Trina. I must say, **I'm** jealous **of** you, Demetria! Not only is your son capable, but he **also has a** keen eye **for** picking out a wife. What a steal."

"I'm not as fortunate as you, Demetria. My daughter–in–law only knows to argue **with** me. The thing is, she's not nearly as capable as Trina. All she knows is to throw snide remarks with that wretched mouth of hers. Look at Trina, though. Professor Terry of Ms. Bonita's research institute admires her.

Bravo!"

"Should I address you as Ms. Trina?" One of the noblewomen asked.

"Trina **is** fine." She said gently.

"I heard your internship is about to commence. Now that Professor Terry favors you, will your internship be in Ms. Bonita's research institute?"

Trina sneered inwardly and forced a smile. After all, she did not tell the Rhodes family that she had crossed the professors in Bonita's research institute. Simultaneously, Hadwin also did not bring it up

because he was trying to preserve his reputation.

"Um... I'm not sure about that. After all, I'm just a college student."

"Oh. Stop being so modest. If Professor Terry favors you, then you'll surely get into the research institute. Wouldn't you agree, Demetria?"

"Exactly! She's going to the research institute." Demetria chuckled.

Trina bit her lip to suppress her frustration.

"There's more. Trina's also getting into Pyralis University as one of **the** honor students." Demetria continued to praise her daughter–in–**law**.

"Geez. She's pretty and capable. How I wish my daughter is half as good as her."

"Hmm, now that **you** mentioned it, Trina wasn't supposed to marry your son, was she?"

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Demetria turned solemn, saying, "Her elder sister is a **good**–for–nothing. She often skipped classes **and** loitered around. She couldn't master anything she learned and is **a** pathological llar. Even her parents hated having **her** around."

"Is **she** as bad as you say? The way my daughter **put** it1 believe **Trina's** sister's name was Bonnle got into **Pyralis** University with a perfect score. Apparently, she also won the Best Scholar Award."

"Are you serious?" It seemed some of them did not know about this.

"I'm as serious as a heart attack." Demetria had a terrible headache whenever she heard people talking about Bonnie.

"I heard that, too. **Still**, is that supposed to impress me? Bonnie grew up in the countryside. She's gruff and ill-mannered. She **doesn't even** look at me when I talk to her. For Heaven's sake, I'm her

future mother-in-law.

"She ought to show me respect. The **way** I heard **it**, she **got in a fight** with someone and got arrested."

"Sheesh! How uncivilized."

"Bonnie's from the countryside? The fault **isn't** with her. **It's** the environment **she** grew up **in**."

Trina could barely hide her satisfaction when she heard the insults about Bonnie. The former approached Vera and asked, "Mom, why isn't Bonnie here **yet**? **Is it because** she's unhappy that you have her my old dress? I guess it's my fault.

"She fancied the dress I'm wearing now. **If** only I had given it to **her**, maybe she would've shown up today."

"Why do you always have to be so thoughtful? The Rhodes family custom-tailored this dress for you. What makes her think you should give it to her just because she wanted it? Who does she think she

is?"

Vera might have sounded like she was scolding Trina. However, she was speaking up for her. It made

Trina feel better about herself.

'Hmph, you can't win against me, Bonnie! You'll have to wear my old dress to the engagement party. After all, I've picked out the most hideous outfit for you. You won't show up at all if you know what's best for you. You'll only hurt yourself **if** you do.'

Trina was in her thoughts when she heard a commotion at the entrance. "Yowza! Who's that? She's gorgeous!"

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'Who's stealing my limelight?!'

Trina glared at the entrance, and her eyes widened in anger.

'Is that Bonnie?!'

What infuriated Trina most **was** that although Bonnie wore the old and hideous dress, the latter exuded an outstanding charm that elevated the dress to another level.

Trina had worn that dress once and thought it looked like a burlap sack. She even despised it. That was why she picked it for Bonnie. **Since** the latter had no suitable dresses for the engagement party, Trina thought the ugly dress would humiliate Bonnie.

However, **the** dress looked nothing **like a burlap sack** on Bonnie. Instead, she looked gorgeous and outstanding.

At that moment, Trina **realized the dress** was not **as hideous** as **she** thought. She simply did not have **the** figure for it. Once Trina realized it, things worsened for **her**. She **was so** furious and jealous that she could breathe fire.

Moreover, Bonnie put on light makeup and had her hair up, revealing her **slender** neck. She could grab the limelight wherever she went when she looked like **this**.

Suddenly, Trina had a hunch and whipped around to look at Hadwin. As expected, he was gawking at Bonnie. It was evident that he was surprised and enchanted. Trina felt gravely threatened. She detested Bonnie, gritting her teeth as she walked over.

"Woah. You look incredible, Bonnie! I've never seen you putting any effort into your looks. What brought on the change tonight?" Trina purposefully phrased her sentence that way so the guests would know Bonnie was out to shame her tonight.

Bonnie noticed the guests muttering about her. Still, she smiled at Trina and said, "Have you considered a future in the entertainment industry? You love putting on an act, after all. You gave me this dress and told me to doll up.

"You told me that members of the high **society** would attend your engagement party and that I have to be mindful of our reputation. Mom **also** constantly reminded me about it.

"I'm wearing your old dress. Are you pointing fingers at me because I wore it too extravagantly and stole your limelight? Sheesh. You should've said so sooner. I would've come with something more

modest."

"You say that, but-"

Bonnie glanced at Trina disdainfully from top to bottom.

"Your figure and looks are lackluster, at best. I could come wearing a burlap **sack** and still look hotter than you. It's no contest."

Trina reddened with fury. Although she was more beautiful than most guests, things looked different when she compared herself with Bonnie.

Bonnie looked like a glowing star, while Trina looked like a firefly that was struggling **to** shine. **The** latter felt jealousy overflowing in her heart.

Trina burst into tears in response, saying, "H–How could you say that about me? I know I'm not as pretty as you, and you're making me look bad because I took Hadwin from you.'

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Bonnie scoffed. "Hmph, are you still trying to mislead everyone, Trina? I didn't want to do this, but you keep **saying** stuff that would make yourself look good while trying to undermine me. What makes you think **I'd** just let you push me around?"

"Th-that's not what I meant." Trina continued weeping,

"Save your breath. Tears won't make you right. You claim that I tried to

make you look bad because you took **Hadwin away** from **me**, right? I **don't** care for an incompetent fool like Hadwin, but you're right.

"You took him away **from** me by **sleeping** with him while we were engaged. You can claim you two love each other all **you want**, but **you're still** a homewrecker. You're just trying to make yourself look good when you dabbled in **infidelity**," **Bonnie said coldly**.

The onlookers exchanged **glances** and started muttering amongst each other.

"I know Bonnie **is a good**—**for**—**nothing,** and **Hadwin is** probably **too** good for her. Still, I must say, she made some fine points. Trina **is** a homewrecker who stole her sister's fiance."

"I beg to **differ**. Hadwin didn't care for Bonnie because she was a lazy waste of space. People like her don't deserve to marry into the Rhodes family."

"Must Iremind you that she's the best scholar in our city? How does that make her a loitering waste of space? If that's true, what does that make **the other** students? Some of them couldn't even get into Pyralis University."

"That's besides the topic at hand. Let's focus on the important stuff here. I've heard some rumors that Hadwin was already sleeping **with** Trina **before he called off** his engagement with Bonnie. Tsk tsk tsk. Judging from that alone, Trina **is undoubtedly** a homewrecker."

Trina was speechless. **She intended to mislead everyone into** thinking Bonnie was the bad guy. She did not expect Bonnie to **retaliate** and turn **the** table **on** her.

Bonnie sneered and said as **if she were** speaking to a **simpleton**, **"Stop** trying to **play** games with me,

Trina. I'm in a different **league** than **you. Your petty** tricks and worrisome intelligence are nothing to

1. me.

"I've been ignoring you because I couldn't be bothered to waste my time on you. Make no mistake. If you insist on playing your games, I'll shame you at your own engagement party."

Trina balled her fists and glared **at** Bonnie.

"Sit in your **shame** like **a dog. There, that's** more **like it**. **Hold it** in." Bonnie continued **to** hurl insults at Trina **before** turning **to leave.**

Trina **thought she was about to** lose her mind, **but she** could not think **of** a **retort to** Bonnie. Moreover,

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the latter had a hold over her. Trina remained seething when she saw Bonnic approaching **the** twenty -layer cake and taking a life.

"What's she doing?!"

Everyone else was just as shocked and puzzled as Trina. They all stared at Bonnie curiously as she motioned to cut the cake. However, the figurines depicting Trina and Hadwin were in the **way**. So, she removed them and flung them aside.

Immediately after, she cut the cake and helped herself to **a** slice.

Everyone's jaws dropped while Bonnie took a bite and nodded in approval. "This cake **is delicious**. Where'd you get it from? I simply must buy some for myself."

An eerie, pin–drop silence hung over **the** banquet hall while Vera and Gresham did everything they could to keep a low profile. They initially intended to lecture Bonnie, but they realized it would not have benefitted them.

Suddenly, a lady in a light yellow gown emerged from **the** crowd and approached Bonnie. "You're impressive, Bonnie! Other women wouldn't dare **to** speak up for herself **even** if her younger sister stole her fiancé.

"You, on the other hand, showed up at their engagement party and made a mess of it. Not only that, you even ate a slice of their cake. It's one **of** the greatest comebacks I've ever seen!" Bonnie turned and asked, "Who are you?"

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The young lady extended her hand and introduced herself. "The name's Avril."

Bonnie shook her hand out of courtesy, saying, "I didn't eat the cake out of spite. I'm just hungry and needed to grab a bite."

Avail's eyes widened **as** she stared at Bonnie, realizing she was not bluffing **or** lying

'She's telling the truth. How intriguing. This Bonnie character is something else.'

Meanwhile, **Hadwin** stormed over grimly. "**What's** the meaning of this, Bonnie? **I'll** admit **I** underestimated you. You aren't **as** useless as **I thought** you were. **Still, you don't** hold a candle to Trina. She's an excellent student and is better than **you** in every **way. You** only **won** the Best Scholar Award because you got lucky."

"Hey, watch your tongue!" Avril rolled **her** eyes, arms akimbo. She looked at Hadwin and barked, What do you mean she got lucky?! Do you have any idea what it means to win the Best Scholar Award? Stop making it sound worthless.

"Bonnie is the Best Scholar in Pyralis. Do you even know our city's population? Not even the biggest

city in the world can match us, not to mention minor cities. Also, this year's SATs were much more challenging than they had ever been.

"I'm something of a genius in our school, and I only managed to scrape by the SATs because my parents hired a professor from Pyralis University to tutor me. On the other hand, Bonnie aced the SAT with a perfect score!

"How do you think it's dumb luck that she won the Best Scholar Award? Try repeating what you said to all of the students who partook in the SATs and see if they'd drown you in their spits! Get off your high horse, jackass!"

Hadwin's grim expression deepened **while** Trina grabbed his arms and smiled, saying, "Let it go, dear. Bonnie can eat all the cake she wants. She's right, anyway. We've been friends since childhood.

"We were engaged the minute we **were** born. That's why **we've** been looking after each other ever since. Still, I didn't know Mom and Dad weren't my birth parents until it was too late. I'm not the one who was engaged to you.

"Bonnie was. Technically, I did become **the** homewrecker by stealing you away from **her.**" She started sobbing halfway through her little **speech**. She effectively silenced anyone who called her a

homewrecker.

The onlookers had forgotten about the **fact** that Bonnie and Trina were swapped in the hospital when they were newborns.

The Shepards and the Rhodes **decided** on this marriage way **before** Bonnie and Hadwin were born. Trina could not have known that she was not the Shepards' biological daughter **at** that time. On the contrary, that **made her** engagement with Hadwin seem **all** the more convincing.

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With that in mind, Bonnie was the homewrecker instead. She was the one who came into the picture later and stood between Tvina and Hadwin.

1. e. How are you this hypocritical? You're mouthing off, but you spun the tale in such a way that no one could point their fingers at you. Are you trying to mislead everyone into thinking Bonnie's the homewrecker

How absurd. Your pity story could never bluff anyone with a working brain. **If** you **didn't** know about the swap at the hospital, how do you suppose Bonnie knew about it? If the **swap** hadn't happened, **you** would ye been toiling away at a farm while the sun beat down on **you**.

"Purthermore, Bonnie is the legitimate daughter who should've lived a wealthy, comfy life. **She's** the one the Rhodes wanted their son to marry, I can't believe **you're using** your childhood friendship with Hachon as a bargaining chip.

hell with it, you bitch! You're the one who stole **Bonnie's life** from her. You're trying **to** twist the truth in your favor when you should be feeling guilty. It's baffling that **you** dare to **accuse** Bonnie of coming between you and Hadwin."

Trina did not expect Avril to be so quick–witted. The former was already having trouble with Bonnie, and now she had to deal with Avril, too.

Avril continued, "If you're going to steal Bonnie's fiance, be forthright. You should say you and Hadwin love each other and that Bonnie doesn't deserve him. I would've admired your honesty **if** you did, but you didn't.

"You might look gentle and vulnerable, but you're just throwing Bonnie under the bus, which leads to everyone demeaning her."

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The guests became uneasy after listening to Avril's rant. They never considered **it** before, but things looked clearer now. Ultimately, **they** realized Trina had misled them into thinking Bonnie was **the** bad

guy.

Trina **had** phrased her **words** to make **it** look like she **was** defending Bonnie, and **it** ended up riling **them** up and turning them on Bonnie. **However,** Trina was **not trying** to defend her **sister**.

After **careful** contemplation, the guests realized Trina was manipulating **them** into thinking Bonnie was **the** villain. Now **that** they saw through her tricks, they regarded Trina **disdainfully**.

Trina had lost **her** advantage and was at a loss. Ultimately, she **could** only continue playing **the** victim. She wept **as** she said, "**Th–that's** not what I meant! Stop twisting my **words**. Why would I do anything like that **to** my sister?"

Harold witnessed everything and could not resist roaring **at** Gresham, "You failed as a father! Is this how you've been educating your daughters? What **is** the matter with Bonnie**?!** Hadwin was right. So, what if she aced the SAT with perfect scores?

"She's outrageous and tends to bring shame to the family! I'd rather she had a good character than winning the Best Scholar Award."

Harold was furious at Bonnie for a different reason. Yolanda tore up Master Orson's painting over a misunderstanding at his birthday party. So, he went **to** ask her for another painting from Master Orson. To his surprise, Bonnie turned him down.

He even remembered what she had said to him back then.

"Do you think I can just order Orson around? Do you think he'll make another painting simply because I asked him to? He did it last time because I took Kay as my apprentice. Let's say I ask him for another painting.

"How do you suppose I should answer if he asks about the previous one? Am I supposed to tell him that you guys tore it up?

The more he thought about it, the angrier he got at Bonnie. If it were up to him, he would have told Gresham to send her back to the countryside where she belonged. He would **do** that if Bonnie said anything unpleasant to him or his wife.

They'd then send Bonnie packing and ensure she could never return to Pyralis.

Meanwhile, Avril had enough of Trina. The former **realized** something and said, "Wait, if it's Trina's birthday today, then it's yours, **too**, Bonnie! Where's your cake?"

Bonnie casually glanced over Vera, Gresham, and the **others** before saying, "They've never prepared a birthday cake for me in my life."

Avril was utterly dumbfounded. "Son **of** a bitch! I always knew Trina is your parents' **favorite** child, but I never thought they'd **be** this horrible."

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None of the guests noticed it before Avril brought it up. When she brought it up, they realized today= was also Bonnie's **birthday**. When they shifted their gazes at the cake table, they saw two cakes there.

One of them was the wedding cake, **while the** other one was Trina's birthday cake. Indeed, **the** family had left Bonnie out. The Shepards might have favored Trina **over Bonnie**, but was it too much to ask that they keep appearances up?

Gresham and **Vera** felt humiliated, but they were cursing **at** Bonnie internally. If they **had** known something like this would happen, they would have locked her up in the house instead. The

engagement party would have gone perfectly without Bonnie there.

"Bonnie, **do** you at least have a birthday present?" Avril asked affectionately.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 109

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Bonnie remained quiet for **a** moment before answering, "Yeah, I have loads of birthday presents."

Although none of her family gave her presents, she received loads from her friends and colleagues. There were so many that she could **fill** a train.

Avril noticed Bonnie's brief pause and thought maybe Bonnie was lying. **The** former assumed Bonnie must have gotten no present **at** all but said **she** did **to** preserve her reputation.

'My heart can just break for her!'

Avril removed her

necklace **and gave it to** Bonnie, saying, "**This** is **my most cherished** necklace. **I hope** you like it."

"Um…"

Avril crossed her arms and said, "There can only be two reasons **for you** to turn down the offer. **It's**

either you hate it, or you don't want to be my friend."

Since she put it that way, Bonnie could only accept it.

At that moment, Trina looked down on Bonnie, thinking, 'How pathetic that you only get one gift, Bonnie. Look at my pile of presents. There are so many that I can probably load a car with them. It's my birthday, and you're not going to steal my limelight.'

Suddenly, fireworks exploded in the sky and disrupted her thoughts.

'Is somebody playing with fireworks? It sounds like quite the show.'

Everyone was curious about it and hurried out of the hotel. Then, they saw a magnificent sight. There were fireworks as far as the eyes could see, exploding and glowing against the night sky.

"Wow! They're wonderful! This grand gesture **must** cost a fortune. Just how many fireworks are there?" One of the guests uttered.

Immediately after, the fireworks exploded to form a brief phrase, "Happy birthday, Bonnie!"

'Wait a minute. Bonnie?!'

Everyone gazed at her and realized she was just as shocked as them. Then, they realized it was a surprise for her.

"Perhaps the fireworks are **for** someone else with the same name." One of the guests took a wild

guess.

Trina sighed in relief.

"That was scary. I thought someone wasted all their money to make **such a** grand gesture for **Bonnie.**"

Trina mocked, "How unfortunate, Bonnie. I know the fireworks aren't for you, even though it says your name. Still, **you can** pretend they're for **you** since it's **your** birthday, **too**."

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"Trina, can you stoop **any** lower? I could just throw up right now. I used to think you were impressive for getting into Pyralis University. I also thought you were multi– talented. The last thing **I expected was** for you to be this laughable.

"You guys are Bonnie's family, yet you **didn't** prepare any presents for her. Now you're telling Bonnie to pretend the fireworks are for her. **You** suck **so bad!**"

The other guests started muttering, **too**. It was **clear that** they **found** Trina distasteful as well.

"I didn't mean anything by that. Also, I did prepare a gift for Bonnie." Trina pointed at the pile of presents and looked at Bonnie, saying, "Take your pick. The only gift you can't pick is the one Hadwin gave me. I can't possibly give that to you. I- I'm sorry."

"Hmph, you can keep them. I have more than enough presents." Bonnie checked the time and

remembered her plans with Heath. Although he said he would celebrate her birthday at midnight, **it** was just seven now. There was plenty of time **left**.

A moment later, more than a dozen Bentleys pulled over at the hotel entrance. Then, several dozen bodyguards stepped out with rose bouquets. They stood in a file and approached the guests.

Everyone was baffled by the sudden turn of events, but Bonnie recognized the sunglasses -wearing man at the forefront as Floyd.

Hadwin's father, Draco, emerged from the crowd and asked, "How can I help you, sir?"

Floyd replied, "We're here to celebrate her birthday."

'Her? Who's her? Does he mean Trina?'

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 110

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Trina stepped **out of the** crowd excitedly and glanced sidelong at **Bonnie**. **The** former then extended her hand **to accept the** bouquet from Floyd. **She** asked, "Who arranged for this for my **birthday?**"

"Pardon me, but I don't mean you," Floyd responded **blankly**.

Trina felt embarrassed **and** froze. Meanwhile, Floyd **strode** toward Bonnie and **said**, **"My** master wishes you a happy **birthday**, Ms. **Bonnie."**

"Please convey my gratitude **to** him." Bonnie accepted the **bouquet** and **glanced** at Trina **mockingly.**

Trina blushed with embarrassment, fury, and regret as she withdrew her hands.

"Hahaha!" Avril burst into hearty laughter.

Meanwhile, Trina **was so** ashamed that she wished she **could** hide in a **hole**. Vera then approached Bonnie and looked at the bouquet, frowning **as** she said, "Who would **give you** these?"

Everyone else was just as curious as **to** who would make such a grand gesture. They even wondered what kind of big shot Bonnie might know. **From** the looks of it, the person must come from a family wealthier and more prominent than the Rhodes.

Everyone gazed at Bonnie as she said, "The CEO of Knight Group.'

The crowd fell silent for a moment. Some rolled their eyes, while others outright called Bonnie a liar.

Even Vera was furious at Bonnie's answer.

'Here she goes again. She just can't go by a day without lying!'

However, Bonnie had expected such reactions and merely glanced at her mother nonchalantly. On the other hand, Trina joined those who accused Bonnie of lying, "Why

don't you just tell the truth? Who could have made such a gesture when you've **been staying** home **for** a long while now?

"You're living alone out there. What will **we** do **if you** get entangled with a horrible man who coerced you into doing something against your **will? We'll** be concerned about you."

Bonnie glared at Trina, knowing she was at it again. The latter tried **to** mislead everyone into thinking Bonnie had a sugar daddy.

'She just doesn't know when to quit. It looks like it's time to teach her another lesson.'

Bonnie said, "Is that why you hired someone to tail me?"

Trina **froze** again, wishing she **could** slap herself. She had **forgotten that** Bonnie had an advantage over her. The former regretted making such **suggestions**.

"I didn't want to say that, Trina, but **you** keep trying **to** shame me. You can't push me around." Bonnie meant what she said **as she was** genuinely enraged.

She glanced at Hadwin and added, **"You** claimed **you** two are childhood friends. **You** did a **good job**

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painting a beautiful picture. What everyone doesn't know is that you two had sex with each other long ago"

Trina was shocked to the core, "Wh what nonsense is that, Bonnie? Why do you think I'd do something like that?"

Vera glared at Bonnie and warned, "Quit it, Bonnie, Stop trying to ruin Trina's reputation."

Bonnie glanced at her coldly, retorting, "Where were you when she misled everyone to slander my name? Why didn't you step forward and defend me?"

"She was just worried about you, You're the one who twisted her words,"

"Hmph!" Bonnie scoffed and swept her gaze across the guests. "Anyone can tell she was slandering my reputation, I also overheard some **of** them making cutting remarks about me, So, am I twisting **her** words, **or** did she mislead everyone into thinking the worst of me? Which is it, Mom?"

Vera said through gritted teeth. "You're embarrassing yourself. Why can't you wait until we get home before spouting such nonsense?"

"Why should I?" Bonnie said defiantly, "Why can't I retaliate when Trina insulted me in front of all these people? Is it because you and Dad raised her yourself? Is it because I'm a country bumpkin, and it ruined our family's reputation?"

Bonnie's assessment was accurate. She had unveiled the deep, dark secrets Vera and Gresham had been trying to bury.

"Wh–Why, you little- This is outrageous!" Vera was so mad that she swung a slap at Bonnie,

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Bonnie **noticed the** incoming slap and stepped **back** to avoid it. She then said, "I remember first **going to the countryside.** You slapped me then because Trina framed me for **pushing** her down the stairs, even though **she did** it on purpose.

"At that moment, I swore to myself that it would be the last time I let Trina set me up. I decided that no one could slap me if I didn't do anything wrong!"

"That's outrageous! What did I do to deserve someone as heartless as you? You're such a sorry excuse of a daughter!" Vera was exasperated.

Harold stared **at** Gresham bitterly **and** roared, **"It's** bad enough that Bonnie embarrassed **herself**, but she **made** such a huge mess **of** Trina's **engagement** party. Everyone will laugh at us over this!"

Yolanda had also grown **sick** of Bonnie. "I told **you** she's a country bumpkin! **You** can try to **teach** her **all you** want, but nothing will help. Good on you for not listening to me. Take her back **to** where she came from. Take her as far away as **possible**."

Gresham sighed, approached Bonnie, and raised his hand.

"What, are you going to slap me too?" Bonnie stood her ground indifferently.

Floyd was worried about how things would turn out and quickly texted lvor to tell him about everything that was happening there. Ivor's expression grew grim when he read the text and replied, "Video **call** me now."

"Right away." Floyd made a video **call**, and Ivor accepted it.

Almost immediately after, the latter understood the situation. The entire Shepard family had pitted themselves against Bonnie. They were frowning at her as if they could not wait to **get** rid of her.

It was a heartbreaking sight for Ivor.

Gresham stared at Bonnie solemnly. "You have one last chance **to apologize** to Trina. If you refuse, I'll disown **you**!"

"You've never treated me as your own to **begin** with." Bonnie stared back at him defiantly.

"Why, you-" Gresham was outraged. "It seems you **refuse** to apologize, after all. If you don't give a damn about your status as one of the Shepards, then **suit** yourself. From now on, the Shepards disown you. Crawl back to the countryside and **live** the **rest** of your life **with** your pathetic **foster parents!**"

His words upset Bonnie. She retorted, "Watch your tongue! They might be from the countryside, but you don't have the right to insult them. Although my parents were born and **raised** there, they're down to earth and have worked tirelessly their whole lives.

"They did everything to provide for **their** kids selflessly, unlike you. You merely **care** about your damn reputation."

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Vera roared, "Is that the way to talk to your father, Bonnie? You're such an outrageous and rebellious child. Karma will get you one of these days!"

Although you guys are my birth parents, it doesn't mean **you** can do whatever you want **to me**. You can't just humiliate me and punish me." Bonnie swept her gaze across Harold, Yolanda, and the other Shepards.

She added, "I know all **of** you want **to** get rid of me. **You** think I brought **shame to** the family. You've wanted to chase me out long ago, especially Grandpa and

Grandma. You asked me to put in another request with Orson because you tore up his painting, but I turned you down.

"You two have detested me even

more **ever** since. **What** happened **today is** simply **the last straw**. I knew you guys would think I'm a bad **fit** for **the** family. Well, **the** feeling is **mutual**. I'm more than happy to cut ties **with the** family. I **want** nothing to **do** with you all!"

"Fine then!" Harold slammed his cane. "It doesn't matter if you thrive or fail in the future. Get out of my sight now!"

He was confident peace would return to his family once Bonnie left.

Trina barely stifled laughter. She knew she would no longer have to worry about losing her status in

the family. Still, she **thought** it was **a** shame as **a** life without Bonnie would be mundane.

Even so, Bonnie remained unfazed, saying, "It's decided, then."

She turned and barely took a step when she heard Harold's voice from behind her, "I want you to

make an official announcement on Twitter, Gresham. Let everyone know that we've disowned Bonnie. I don't want her future debacles to drag our family's name through the mud."

The guests felt a shiver down their spine at what he said.

After the announcement, Bonnie was no longer associated **with** the Shepards. From that point, nothing she did could reverse it, even if she fell on her knees and begged for Harold's mercy.

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"Right away, Dad. I'll have my assistant announce it on Twitter," Gresham sighed and looked at Bonnie with disappointment.

'I could've tolerated Bonnie being a good–for–nothing, but she **keeps** making messes. Some big shot in Pyralis must've sent those bodyguards and bouquets. Since that big shot didn't show up and sent these men instead, then he must be Bonnie's sugar daddy.

"That's why he can't show his face. Once he **exposes** his identity, his wife **will** fight with him and Bonnie. I'm not even willing to imagine it.'

Now that the Shepards had disowned Bonnie, she would have to bear the consequences **of** her actions

alone.

"Your chariot awaits, Ms. Bonnie." Floyd opened the car door for her.

She stopped and glanced at him and, saying, "I need a favor."

"Anything you please."

"First, I'll send you a video clip. Then..."

"Loud and clear. You may take your leave first, Ms. Bonnie."

After receiving the video clip, Floyd turned and approached Trina. "Ms. Bonnie forgot **to** mention it earlier, but she just told me she prepared **a** birthday present for you."

Trina had a bad feeling about it when she heard that.

Floyd gestured at the big screen and announced, "May I **direct** your attention to the screen, everyone?!"

Everyone looked at the screen in puzzlement. Soon after, they started gawking at it. A man and a lady were passionately doing foreplay in the video.

"Perhaps we should do this in the **hotel**, Hadwin. What will we do if someone **sees** us?"

"Come on, we're in the countryside. **There** are **more** mosquitoes here **than** there are people. You're getting scared over nothing."

"I'm just worried about someone seeing us..."

"If you're that concerned, we can pick up where we **left** off in **the forest**." Hadwin led Trina into the thicket of the forest. Looking at the time **stamp** in the **video revealed that** it was four **years** ago. It meant that Bonnie did not lie about Hadwin cheating **on** her **with** Trina.

Meanwhile, Trina paled, and Hadwin grew grim.

Avril stepped forward and spoke **up** for her newfound **friend**, **"Well, well**, well. It turns out Bonnie didn't lie. You Shepards had wrongly **accused Bonnie**, after **all.**"

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Gresham and the gang did not know what to say.

"Shame on you! The Shepards are one of the most prestigious families in Pyralis. **Will** you guys seriously do nothing about it?" Avril growled, arms akimbo.

Fernanda emerged from **the** crowd and retorted, "That doesn't mean Bonnie's innocent. **It** doesn't matter if Hadwin and Trina slept together. Bonnie shouldn't have shown the video clip in front of so many people. Her **actions just** put the entire family **to** shame."

"Exactly!" Ysabel chimed in, "She got disowned because she didn't give a damn about our reputation. Grandpa and Uncle Gresham did the right thing!"

Avril was beside herself with rage. "Oh my god. Are there no sensible **people** left in the Shepard family? You guys are the ones who couldn't wait to shun her. You even announced it on Twitter to tell the world that she's no longer one of you.

"After everything **you** guys have done, what makes **you** think she'd care about **your** reputation? Bonnie was too kind to you all. If I were her, I would've done **so** much more."

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Chapter 113

Avril's father, Daken Smith, tugged at her arms. "That's enough, Avril. Let's go home."

"People must own up to our mistakes. That's how people better themselves. You taught me that ever since I was a little girl, Dad. Does that **apply** to kids only and **not** adults? How's that fair?"

Dalem had no good comebacks to that.

"How's it acceptable to disown one **of your** family members because they wanted to preserve their reputation?" Avril said **as** she swept her gaze across the Shepards. She shook her head and chuckled when she knew no one dared **to** retort.

"Bonnie's highly intelligent. It **looks like the Shepards** are **cold** and heartless, after all. I guess **it's** good she severed her ties with you **all.**" **With that**, Avril **got into** her **car** and ordered her chauffeur, Go after Bonnie."

"Avril!" Daken yelled and chased after her.

,,

The engagement party was such a **mess** that the Shepards and the Rhodes felt discouraged to keep it going.

Harold stepped onto the stage with his cane and addressed everyone, "Please accept my sincere apologies. Bonnie behaved poorly and brought shame to the family. She was the black sheep of our family.

"I'm not in the mood to say anything more about her. After all, she's no longer one of us. As for the earlier video, the truth is, we knew Trina and Hadwin were an item long ago. We and the Rhodes love how they found each other and give our full support to them.

"If Hadwin hadn't called off the wedding with Bonnie, we would've done the same thing and married him to Trina anyway. That wretched Bonnie pulled a wicked one over Trina to take revenge on her.

"I can't believe she hired people to tail Trina, recorded that video, and showed it here. Bonnie's actions could ruin Trina's reputation and bury her future. My family won't tolerate such a vile human being in our ranks.

"With that in mind, I implore everyone to avoid thinking of her as one **of** the Shepards and hold us accountable **for** her hideous actions in the future."

"You did the right thing, Harold. You can't trust someone who puts an entire family to shame. We would've done **the** same if we were **in** your shoes."

"What a shame, though. Bonnie **is** Pyralis's Best Scholar and had connections to Master Orson**.**"

"I guess winning the Best Scholar Award is **an** impressive feat, but her character tells me she won't amount to anything **once she's out in the real** world. As for Master Orson, I was stunned as to how someone like her got to know such **a** prestigious figure. I finally realized that she had used her sugar daddy's connections."

"you have an excellent point! That explains so much. Master Orson must've attended Harold's birthday party because Bonnie's sugar daddy pulled some strings."

The more everyone demoaned Bonnie, the grimmer Vera's expression became. After all, she was Bonnie's birth mother, no matter how worthless Vera thought her daughter was,

How bumiliating! Bonnie's one of the biggest mistakes I've ever made in my entire life!!

Simultaneoushy, Vera understood something else.

"That explains why Bonnie had lunch with the professors at Ms. Bonita's research institute. Her sugar daddy must've used his connections to pull that stunt, Forget it. I'll stop wasting time thinking about ber.

What matters is that Bonnie is no longer one of the Shepards. I'll just pretend I gave birth to Trina instead.

Meanwhile, Avril finally caught up to Bonnie on the freeway,

"How are you holding up, Bonnie?" Avril held Bonnie's hands and asked with concern while Daken stood to the side, smoking a cigarette.

Bonnie could tell Avril's concern was genuine. It was heartwarming to know that Avril cared so much about her. "Don't worry about it, I got used to it long ago,"

"They're a bunch of heartless bastards! It's good that you cut ties with them," Avril growled, "Do you have a place to stay? Perhaps you should come to my place. I'm sure my parents will agree."

Bonnie looked at Daken while Avril asked pitifully, "You'll agree to it. Won't you, Dad?"

Daken exhaled a cloud of smoke and smiled before walking over.

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Chapter 114

"Since you're Avril's friend, you're more than welcome to my home. You can join us if you're okay with it. If you ever feel like leaving one day, I'll help you out."

Although **the Shepards** were a bunch of heartless monsters, Bonnie never discounted the fact that **there** were genuinely kind–hearted people **in** the world. She was about to politely turn down their **offer** when **a black Maybach** approached them.

"Hmm?" **Daken** stared at **the car** and was surprised. Puzzled, he said, "**I think that's a** limited edition Maybach."

Avril's eyes widened as she asked, "Are you sure, Dad? Is it the Maybach you always talk about?"

She might not have known much about cars, but her dad did. **Technically** speaking, **every** man was knowledgeable about cars the same way women **were** with handbags. In that case, Avril knew a thing or two about cars because her **dad** constantly talked about them.

"I think it is," Daken said as the black Maybach pulled over before Bonnie.

The window lowered halfway through, and **he heard** a deep voice coming from inside, "Get in."

"Okay." Bonnie nodded and looked at Avril and Daken. "I appreciate the gesture, but I have a place to

stay."

Avril could not help but look at the man in the car. However, it was dark inside, and she could barely

make out his profile by the glow of **the street** light. Still, she realized the man was **young** and

handsome.

"Um, are you guys close, Bonnie?" Avril could barely bring herself **to** ask such a question.

Bonnie grinned and said, "You must also think I have a sugar daddy and that I'm well on my way to being a homewrecker."

"N–No. That's not **what** I meant at all. **I'm** just worried about a bad guy tricking you into getting into

his car."

"Don't worry about it. I'm not having an affair with this guy or anything."

Avril gazed at Bonnie and decided she was not lying. Moreover, the former had a hunch Bonnie was not someone who would have an affair with a married man. It simply was not who Bonnie was.

On the other hand, Trina would undoubtedly do something like that if an opportunity presented itself.

"Are you sure you're not coming to stay with us?"

"Thanks for the offer, but I do have a place to stay."

Avril realized Bonnie was insistent on staying **elsewhere** and did **not argue. Still**, the former could not help but ask as she watched the **black** Maybach drive **off** into the distance, "Who do **you** think was in the car, Dad?"

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"t's hard to say for sure." Daken shook his head and flicked his cigarette aside. "Don't overthink it. If she considers you her friend, she'll tell you about it in the future,"

"I guess you're right. It's like what you said. Everyone has secrets. We should take a step back and give them space. That's what friends do." Avril did just that and let the matter rest.

lvor rook Bonnie to a seaside villa. She regarded the place **in** puzzlement and asked, "Why'd you bring me here"

lvor smiled and clapped. Immediately after, colorful **lights** came to life from the **villa to the** surrounding trees. Then, they continued to light up all over the coastline.

Thud thud thud!

A moment later, **a** pleasant melody echoed **as** Floyd wheeled **a** pink cake in the shape **of a** castle toward Bonnie.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 115

Chapter 115

"Mr. Ivor ordered this custom-made birthday cake for you, Ms. Bonnte."

Bonnie looked at the cake and noticed it was several times bigger than the one Trina got for her engagement party. "**Do** you honestly think I can finish all that?"

lvor had waited for her to say something. He thought hier gesture would move her, but this was her response instead, "What a waste."

Although she said that, a warm, cozy feeling rose within her.

"It's **okay. If** you can't finish it, I'll tell Floyd to cut it up for my employees. I'm sure they can finish it. **That** way, we can share the joy with more people." Ivor responded with a smile.

Bonnie gawked at him after hearing what he said.

He looked at the villa and added, "You'd better get a move on. I prepared more surprises for you inside."

Although **Bonnie** was puzzled, she opened the doors.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

Party poppers echoed, and confetti burst into the air. Bonnie was stunned by the poppers and the decoration **inside**. There were roses from floor to ceiling and even on the staircase handrails.

Bonnie would have thought she had mistakenly entered a rose garden if she had not known better.

"So, what do you think? Do you like it?"

Bonnie averted her gaze from the roses and frowned as she stared at lvor, asking, "Um, what are you trying **to** do?"

"Look around you. What do you think I'm doing?" He asked.

"Are you going to confess your feelings for me?"

"Exactly! That's why you're my fiancee."

She rolled her eyes at him, saying, "I'm not your fiancee anymore after tonight."

"Hence, the surprise." A moment later, Ivor got down on one knee and took a ring from his pocket. I'm not going **to** say anything romantic to you. Instead, I'll cut to the chase. I want you to be my wife and to be the mother of my **child**. I also want you to be the grandmother of my grandchildren. That's about it."

Bonnie's lips twitched. Countless guys had confessed their love for her, but none of them had ever been as forthright as lvor.

'He wants me to be all that. That means he wants to be with me for the rest of his life!'

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After a prolonged silence, she took a step back and said, "If my memory serves me **right**, **I** told you marriage is never a part of my plan. I'm only interested in building **my** career. So, **you** should give up on the idea"

"Give up isn't in my dictionary," Ivor said confidently.

Bonnie raised a brow in amusement. **"As I recall, you** used **to** say that I **don't** deserve could never fall in love with me."

you

and that you

"That's because I was a fool. I didn't know better." Ivor responded briefly.

She had no comebacks for that. No one would since he put it that way.

"I'm curious. What do you love about me?"

"Not a clue."

"Huh?" Bella was surprised.

"Mhm." He nodded.

"Did you just confess and propose to me when you don't even know what you love about me? How serious are you?" Bonnie did not know how else to respond.

lvor was **a** six–footer and only took a single step to get closer to Bella. The chandelier shined on him and cast a shadow that enveloped Bella. Ivor looked at her with profound affection as if he cherished her beauty.

"Who ruled that one has to love a person's specific traits? Can't I fall in love with you because of who you are? There aren't rules that say I can't love **you** because of some inexplicable force."

Bonnie could not think of anything to retort Ivor's reasoning.

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"Ahem. It's late. I'm going to hit the hay." With that, Bonnie turned and headed for the door.

"I won't give up, Bonnie. Get ready for more attempts." Ivor watched as Bonnie left.

"Do whatever you want."

Smiling, he caught up to her and asked, "Does that mean I have a shot?"

"I didn't say that."

"You didn't turn me down, either."

"Fine. I'll do it now-" Bonnie could **not** finish her sentence **because** lvor suddenly pressed a finger on her lips. "Stop. Let me have this."

His finger felt slightly rough **to** the touch, and Bonnie swiped it **away**. "I **don't** like people touching

1. me.

))

"Okay. You have my word." He regarded her **joyfully**.

Bonnie stared at him and thought this particular promise was hollow. **Still**, she did not want to waste time mulling over it.

The following day, she packed **her** stuff first thing in the morning. Ivor approached her door and asked with a frown, "Do you have to leave so **soon**?"

"We agreed that our engagement would last for only a month. I've stayed ten **days** longer to compensate for the one day I stayed at my former parents' place, **as** you asked." Bonnie replied while packing the rest of her things into a suitcase.

"Do you have anywhere to stay if you leave now?" He asked concernedly.

"I'll start looking for one while I stay at a motel."

"If that's the case, you should stay here until you find a place. How about it?" "Thanks, but no thanks." After packing up, Bonnie carried her suitcase downstairs.

Sigmund then hurried over with a cane and asked, "Are you leaving, Bonnie?"

"Good morning, Grandpa Sigmund. Please don't **try to** make me stay. I know I owe my life to you, but I've followed our agreement by getting engaged to your grandson and staying here for a month. That reminds me. Please **call** off our engagement."

Ivor was startled, saying, "I disagree."

Bonnie turned to look at him and asked, "Are you serious?"

"**Dead** serious." **Ivor** looked **so** gentlemanly that it was the last thing she expected him to **say**.

"No one can force me into a marriage against my will."

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"I'm not forcing **you in** any **way.** I'm just asking you **to** reconsider it." He could accept Bonnie wanting to leave **but** could not **bear** her **calling** off the engagement.

"Really? Is that how you do it? I can't tell because of how pushy you are now."

"That's enough, **you two!**" Sigmund said, "Bonnie, we agreed that you could call off the engagement **if you** two **didn't** fall in **love with each** other within a **month**. Ivor has ended up falling for you, which nullifies our agreement.

"How about **you** give him another month? **If you still don't** have feelings for him, that's his fault, and I'll stay out **of** it."

Bonnie said solemnly, "I've decided to leave, Grandpa Sigmund. Also, you must call off the engagement today."

"All right, fine. I know how stubborn **you** are. No **one** can change **your** mind once you've decided something. I'll call off the engagement now since **you** insist on leaving "

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 117

Chapter 117

"I disagree, Grandpa!" Ivor **said** as he pursed his lips, **displeased**.

"That won't help. **Can't** you see that Bonnie has made **up** her mind? You'll only **worsen** things **if** you keep pushing her! **What** I say goes. From today **onward**, you're no longer **engaged to** Bonnie.

"Also, since you're so worthless, I want **you out of** the villa and step down from **your** position in the company. Your only task is **to** follow Bonnie wherever she **goes**. If **you** need money, **cling** to her. She **can afford to** support you, **after all**. **You** can return when she agrees to marry **you**. lvor's eyes glinted with coldness as he turned to Floyd, saying, "Tell my dad that Grandpa fired me. **He** has **to** take over the company from today onward."

He then looked at Alfred and ordered, "Pack my stuff. I'll leave with Bonnie."

Bonnie was at a loss when she saw how serious lvor was.

'Are Ivor and Sigmund this childish? Give me a break, guys.'

"You said you're leaving with me. Did you ask me if I'm comfortable with that?"

Ivor said confidently, "It doesn't matter. I'll sleep by the door **if** you don't let me sleep in the same **room.** I have nowhere else **to stay** since Grandpa has kicked me out **of** my home.'

"Yeah, that's right. Follow Bonnie's footsteps every day, **Ivor**. I'll suspend all your debit and credit cards. If she refuses to support you, you might as well starve **to** death." Sigmund stroked his beard as he spoke.

It seemed Bonnie had no choice but to go along **with** it. She sighed and said, "I can stay here for now, but I'm moving out as soon as I find a **place** for myself. That's the best I can do."

Meanwhile, Ivor and Sigmund knew it was wise to quit while they **were** ahead. They merely smiled and kept quiet. Suddenly, Bonnie received a **call** from Avril.

Buzz, buzz, buzz.

"Hello?"

"Do you have some time to kill, Bonnie?"

"Is there anything you need?"

"I want to hang out with you." Avril invited Bonnie out **because she** wanted **to** cheer her up. After all, anyone in Bonnie's shoes would feel depressed after what happened yesterday.

"I'm pretty busy-"

"Don't **give** me that. Well, it's my birthday today. I think I told you about **it** yesterday, right? Come **on**, I gave **you** a birthday present. Can't I ask you to hang out with me on my birthday?"

Of course, Bonnie could not reject Avril's request when she put it that way.

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2/2

"All right, where are we going?"

"Let's go to the pedestrian zone."

Later that day, the duo met at the intersection leading to the pedestrian zone. Avril probed, "Did you have a good sleep last night?"

"Hmm, I feel rested. It wasn't too bad," Bonnie said truthfully. She **could** finally have closure now that Gresham and the other Shepards had disowned her.

"Sheesh**. You** just love acting tough by keeping everything inside, huh?" Avril **refused to** believe Bonnie was unfazed about yesterday's events.

Although Gresham and Vera were Bonnie's birth parents, **they poured all** their love **into** their stepdaughter instead. They then shunned and disowned Bonnie in front **of** so many **people**. **Worse**, her ex–fiance was now engaged to her stepsister.

Bonnie said, "You're overthinking it. I mean it when I say I've moved on."

"Fine, let's not discuss such gloomy things today. Since today's my birthday, it's my treat. **You** can buy anything you want, and I'll pay for it. Onward to the shopping mall over there!" Avril led Bonnie straight to the third floor of the shopping mall.

"Do you know about the history of Bohemian Boutique?" Avril pointed at the boutique before them.

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Bonnie's brows twitched. **Of** course, **she** knew about Bohemian Boutique as it was one of the boutiques **Tang Fusion Studio** owned. Hamish had named **it** after Bonnie using the first two letters of her **name**, which she **found cheesy. Still**, she could not **care** less about **it**,

Avril noticed

Bonnie's **silence** and **thought she** knew **nothing** about **the** boutique. "This boutique belongs to Tang Fusion **Studio**. The **famous** fashion designer, **Hamish**, is the general manager and the **chief** designer there.

"It has franchises worldwide. Everyone knows it's the top brand in the fashion industry. The outfits here are costly, too." Avril scratched her neck embarrassingly and blushed a little. "Um, I know I said you can buy anything you want.

"You can buy as many as you like from other brands, but I can only afford an outfit or two if they're from **Bohemian** Boutique."

Bonnie chuckled in **response**, thinking Avril was refreshingly honest. The former said, "Come on, let's **go**

1. in. Let me know **if you** like anything. I'll buy it even if you like every outfit here. After all, it's your birthday **today.**"

Since Bonnie owned **this company**, she did not have to pay for anything. On the other hand, **Avril** considered her words a joke. Even so, she appreciated the gesture very much.

When they entered, Bonnie picked a blue and purple dress, saying, "Do you want to **try** this one?"

"Woah! Good eyes, Bonnie! This dress looks excellent. Hey, **wait a** minute. Why are we picking outfits for me? We've got this backward. We're here for you to buy an outfit."

"Go ahead and try **it** on." Bonnie had no intention of explaining things to Avril. Instead, she took the dress straight to Avril.

Suddenly, someone yanked at the dress, saying, "What a nice dress. It's mine now."

Bonnie frowned and turned to look at the lady. The former recognized the young lady as a member of the Dyngard family, one of the high society families. However, Bonnie could not remember the young lady's name.

Avril glared at the young **lady** and said, "You've crossed the line, Brittany. We took that dress first."

Brittany raised her chin and retorted, "Did you pay for it?"

"Did you?!" Avril yanked at the **dress**, **too**. From her perspective, Bonnie seemed fragile. Avril feared Brittany might have yanked at the **dress too** hard and caused Bonnie **to** stumble.

"I'm about to pay for it." Brittany fished a credit card out **of** her purse.

"That's ridiculous. I'm going to pay, too."

"Are you doing this on purpose, Avril? There are so many dresses here, **yet** you insist on fighting with

(18

me over this one.

**

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"For crying out loud! I've seen a fair **share of** unreasonable **people**, but you take the cake, Brittany. We were here first and took the dress before you did. Are **you** seriously twisting the **story and** accusing us of fighting with you over it?" Avril said, **exasperated**.

The store manager came over with a **smile.** "**There's** a **similar** dress over there, missies. Perhaps –"

"I want this one!"

"Me too!"

Anyone familiar with the brand knew that every dress had **one** size for **each** design. Avril and Brittany were still fighting over the **dress** when Bonnie yanked it **away** from both **of their** clutches.

"What do you think you're doing?!" Brittany roared **at her**.

"This dress is mine. You don't have the right to take **it** from me." Bonnie retorted indifferently.

"Heh, how absurd. Your family disowned you, you bumpkin. What makes you think you can fight me?" Brittany turned to the store manager and the sales assistants, saying, "Keep your eyes **on** her. She can't afford to shop in high–end boutiques such as yours.

"She's probably here to steal your outfits. You guys should know better than anyone how expensive your outfits are. If any one of these dresses goes missing, **it'll** take about a year of your pay to make up for it."

After hearing Brittany's words, the store manager and sales assistants grew somewhat worried. Meanwhile, Avril grew furious **as she** said, **"What** do you mean she can't afford to shop here? Stop looking down on her, Brittany.

"Although Bonnie's family disowned her, she's the Best Scholar in Pyralis. There's no telling how successful she'll become in the future. The way I see it, she'll make a name for herself in the next few

years!"

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ups! What's so great about the Best Scholar Award? There's a Best Scholar every year. **Most of** them make nothing of themselves. Instead, they tend to fade into the background," Brittany sounded unbearably snobbish.

She added, "Also, my parents say Bonnie doesn't respect her elders, picks on her **younger** sister, and is a pathological liar. It doesn't matter if she had a perfect score on the SAT, **She'll** offend **plenty of** people when she's in the real world because that's just who she is. She'll fail to make **a** name for herself and ruin her reputation,"

Avcil was outraged, asking, "Who do you think your parents are? **They can't** predict the future. **They** wouldn't know how Bonnie's future will go,"

"You bore me." Brittany lifted her chin and glanced at Avril disdainfully before turning to Bonnie." I'm warning you, bumpkin. Play **nice**, and give **me** the dress. You have **no** choice anyway. There's something I should've said earlier. My family is a business partner with Tang **Fusion** Studios.

"We have priority in buying anything we like in Bohemian Boutique," Brittany took a VIP card from her purse and showed it to the store manager, You should recognize what this is. **Tell them** I have priority here,"

The store manager nodded. "This is a VIP card distributed by the headquarters. **You can buy** any dress we have. Please give us a minute, Ms. Brittany, **I'll** pack this one for you."

She then approached Bonnie and sald, "Please forgive **me**, Ms. **Bonnie**, I'll have **to** ask you **to pass** me that dress. Other designs in our boutique are just as exquisite. I'll recommend some of **them** to you later. What do you think?"

Brittany interjected, "Tsk! You fall as a store manager, I didn't want to say **this**, but I have **to**. You don't have to be **so** courteous to a country bumpkin **like** her. You're **the** store manager whose main task is to promote business for your boutique. **She can't afford** anything **here**, yet you're treating her with respect.

"You're wasting your time and energy with her. If I were **your** superior, I would've **fired** you." Brittany was displeased to see **the** store manager treating Bonnie so-courteously. Instead, Brittany wanted to **see Bonnie getting** kicked out **of** the boutique.

"Well..." The store manager looked embarrassed,

Suddenly, she heard an indifferent voice beside her, **"She** did the right thing. During Bohemian Boutique's founding, **the** foremost rule they established was to provide **top**–**notch service to any**

customer.

"No staff should look down on anyone who enters the boutique. **It's one of** the first things every staff must know during orientation."

The store manager's **eyes** widened as she looked at Bonnie. **The** store manager **thought**, 'How **does** she know **all** that**?**'

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"This is **unacceptable! Let's go**, Bonnie!" **Avril** did not like **how** things turned **out**, but **there** was nothing **else** they **could** do. She **was okay to stay** and shop, but Brittany **was** harassing Bonnie. Brittany even called Bonnie a **bumpkin and said other** horrible **things to** her.

"What's **the** hurry**? We'll leave** when we buy **the** dress." Bonnie **patted** Avril's hand and smiled, trying **to soothe** her.

Avril gawked at her.

Bonnie turned **to** the **store** manager and **said**, "She said her **family's** a business partner with Tang Fusion Studios, right? **Well**, I know a **guy**, **too**. Just give **me** a **minute to** make a call."

"You know a **guy**? Hahaha!" Brittany held **her** belly and **laughed** heartily. "**Who do you** know, Bonnie? Are **you** telling **me that** you know the higher–ups? **Your** reputation precedes **you. Indeed**, you're such a pathological liar!"

Bonnie ignored Brittany's ridicule and **called** Hamish.

"You only ever call when you need something, Ms. Bonnie. So, what do you need this time?" Hamish had grown accustomed to Bonnie being the titular chairman. However, she did not even care about any of the company's affairs.

It was **so** bad that Hamish wondered if it was **a** good thing for Bonnie **to** trust him so much with the company. **He** could steal the company from her for all she knew.

"I'm in **the** Bohemian Boutique at **the** pedestrian zone. Here's **the** thing..." Bonnie proceeded **to tell** him the whole story.

"All right. Give me a minute while I call the store manager."

Brittany looked **at** Bonnie scornfully. "Did you manage **to call your guy?** I **don't** have time for this. **I'll** be generous and give **you** one more minute. **If your** guy doesn't-"

Suddenly, the store manager received a call from the regional manager.

"Mr. Hamish is calling."

'Say what?!'

The store manager's **jaw** dropped.

'I'm merely a store manager among the **countless** boutiques. At most, **I** get **to** talk to the regional

manager. Is this really happening?'

She was surprised and concerned.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 120

Chapter 120

The **store** manager's heart pounded **with anticipation** and fear when Hamish **called**. He asked, "Do you **have a** customer named Bonnie there?"

The store manager glanced at Bonnie and recalled Brittany **addressing** her as Bonnie. The manager **replied**, "Yes, sir. She's **here**."

"Let's cut **to** the chase. She can **take** any **dress** she likes **from** the boutique **and** doesn't have **to pay** a cent. Don't worry **about it**. Whatever she takes **will go to your** commission."

The manager was shocked. She hung up the phone and stiffly turned **to** Bonnie. "I–I'll pack this dress for you right away, **Ms.** Bonnie."

'What on earth just happened?'

The same question **crossed** Brittany's and Avril's minds.

"Sure. Thank you." Bonnie gave the store manager the **dress** and told Avril, "Let's keep looking."

Avril could not find her voice until after a good while. "Wh–what just happened, Bonnie?"

Bonnie responded smilingly, "Didn't I just tell you that I know a guy?"

Avril's eyes widened.

'Who in the world is the guy she knows? How does Bonnie know someone who's even more powerful than the Dyngards, who are supposedly business partners to Tang Fusion Studios?'

Brittany was furious when she saw the manager packing the dress. "Hey! Who said **you** could pack that for her? My family is the business partner **of** your headquarters! **I** want the **dress.** You have **to sell**

it to me!"

The manager smiled politely and said, "I'm sorry, Ms. Brittany. I can't sell it to you."

Avril did not know what was happening, but she loved seeing Brittany getting humiliated. "Come on, Brittany, stop making a scene. You look uncivilized when **you** shout in public. They're not selling you the dress, and that's that. Are **you** seriously begging them to sell it **to you?**"

She deliberately spoke louder to draw other people's attention to Brittany. It was high time that bitch had a **taste of her** own medicine. After all, Brittany had also raised her voice to insult and humiliate

Bonnie earlier.

Brittany trembled with rage when the manager finished packing the dress and handed it to Bonnie, saying, "Your **dress**, **Ms.** Bonnie."

Brittany stared at the bag and realized the manager purposefully gave the dress to Bonnie **in** front **of** her. Gripped with **rage**, Brittany swiped the dress away.

"You can't do that, Ms. Brittany."

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Realizing that the manager was about **to take** the dress away, Brittany slapped her. "You're a nobody, bitch. How dare you taunt me? Know your place!"

The manager palmed her cheek as her eyes reddened, looking pitiful and miserable.

"Damn you, Brittany! How **dare** you slap my employee!" Bonnie's temper flared as she strode forward and slapped Brittany. She struck Brittany so hard **that** she **spun** before slumping onto the

floor.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 121

Chapter 121

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Brittany sat on the ground and covered her swollen cheek, staring at Bonnie incredulously, "D–Did you just hit me? How dare you! Not even my parents had ever hit me."

Bonnie scoffed and said, "That's why you act so snobbish. You might've been born into a wealthy family, but that doesn't mean you can treat others so poorly."

Brittany retorted, "Not only did you insult me, but you also badmouthed my parents! Who do you think you are, you smart–mouthed bitch?!"

Brittany was about to lose her mind as she scrambled to her **feet** and lunged at Bonnie. However, Avril exclaimed, "Bonnie, watch out!"

Bonnie's eyes were cold as she swerved out of the way and punched Brittany's chest. As the latter wore high heels, the punch pushed her backward and caused her to stagger before losing her footing and falling on her ass.

Rip!

Brittany's skirt tore from the bottom to the top.

"Ahh! No!" She tried to cover herself with her purse.

"You had it coming." Avril had no sympathy for people like Brittany. Then, the former realized something and said, "Was that a kickboxing move, Bonnie? What a surprise! You're excellent at it,

too."

She knew Bonnie got to know Orson because Kay wanted to learn kickboxing from her. However, everyone thought Bonnie only knew run–of–the–mill moves and managed to fool Kay. That was why nobody thought anything of it.

Looking back, everyone had underestimated Bonnie.

"You bitch! Things won't end well for you. Now, I know who you were talking about when you said you know a guy. It's the same person who picked you up last night, isn't it? Shame on you for becoming a homewrecker!" Brittany's words were awful.

Avril did not even consider it until Brittany brought it up. The former believed Bonnie would never have done something like that. Avril said, "You don't have any evidence, Brittany. So, stop accusing Bonnie of being a homewrecker. Your mom's the only homewrecker here!"

"What did you just say?!"

"Do you think denying it will help? Everybody knows your mom was the homewrecker who wormed her way to marrying your dad. She did it by kicking your dad's ex–wife out of the house. Good on you for sitting in your high horse!"

"That's a load of crap! My mom was the woman my dad fell in love with! They've been friends since childhood. That bitch was the one who stole my dad away from my mom. That makes Bonnie the

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homewrecker! If that isn't true, why did her parents disown her?

2/2

"They did it because they feared she'd do something so shameful that'd bring the whole family down

with her!"

Bonnie had had enough of Brittany and texted Hamish. A minute later, a group of security guards entered the boutique. Brittany pointed at Bonnie and roared, "There's the troublemaker who hit me! Hurry up and kick her out of here!"

Avril grew worried when she saw the security guards. She was about to explain the situation when she saw them carrying Brittany by her armpits and taking her away.

"L–Let me go, damn it! I'm a member of the Dyngard family. We're the business partners with Tang Fusion Studios. Let me go, or I'll make all of you regret this. Bonnie, you bitch! I'll have my revenge someday!

"I'll make you regret crossing me. You'll kneel before me and beg for mercy! You're not off the hook either, store manager. I'll report you to my dad when I get back home. He'll report you to the headquarters, and you'll suffer the consequences of your actions!" Avril shook her head helplessly. "Impressive. She never stopped running her mouth even while the guards removed her from the boutique. She's only embarrassing herself. Do you want to follow them and see how the guards deal with her, Bonnie?"

"You can go ahead. I don't like attention." Bonnie responded lightly.

"Okay, I'll be back before you know it. Stay put."

When Avril left, Bonnie texted Hamish again.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 122

Chapter 122

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"The Dyngards are hurting my company's reputation. Call off the collaboration with them. **I no** longer want them as our business partners." After sending the text, Bonnie looked at the pale store manager and asked, "Are you okay?"

"I–I'm okay." Although she said so, she looked a little miserable. The manager also came from the countryside. Still, she had to protect her dignity. She had been nothing but diligent, committed, and professional in her job. Even so, she got slapped over nothing.

"Let me see that. You're pretty hurt. You're not fine at all," Frowning, Bonnie said, "I'll have someone send you to the clinic. The company will cover all the medical expenses. Also, you did an excellent job today. I'll put in a word with Hamish and tell him to give you a promotion."

The manager forgot all about the pain and stared at Bonnie, dumbfounded. At that moment, Avril returned with her phone in her hand.

"Tsk tsk tsk... You missed out on the whole thing, Bonnie. Brittany looked so pathetic that I felt sorry for her. The security guards tossed her out of the premises, and she fell in the most embarrassing way

possible.

"Hahaha! Frankly speaking, she brought it on herself. Also, she's my bitter rival. She had always

acted like a snob because her company's net worth was higher than my family's. I can't believe they're business partners with Tang Fusion Studios. The universe ought to be more fair!"

"They won't be Tang Fusion Studios's business partners anymore," Bonnie responded lightly.

"Huh? I beg your pardon." Avril was stunned. She wondered why Bonnie would say something like

that.

"Never mind. Come on, let's continue shopping." Bonnie had no intention of explaining herself.

"You betcha. I'm so happy today that I'm going to shop until I drop. Um, it's just that I was supposed to buy you a dress, but you bought me one instead. Oh, that reminds me. How much did that blue and purple dress cost? I'll transfer the money to you."

"I don't have to pay for it," Bonnie said casually.

Avril responded, "I'm serious, Bonnie. We're talking about a dress from Bohemian Boutique. Am I supposed to think they gave it to you for free? You're not the owner of Tang Fusion Studios, after all. Just tell me how much it is, and I'll pay you back."

The duo strolled away from the boutique as they chatted. Meanwhile, The manager was still staring at both of them, dumbfounded. She did not look away until they disappeared from her sight.

Then, the sales assistant came over, looking as shaken as she was. "Wh–what in the world just happened? Who is that Bonnie person?"

The manager fell into deep thought with her mouth slightly agape.

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'Who on earth is she?'

Her eyes continued to widen as she pondered on it. A minute later, she raised her head and looked at the name of the boutique plastered over the door.

"That customer's name was Bonnie... Our store's called Bohemian Boutique..." The manager gasped.

"Gosh!"

'Could it be?!'

Brittany got home and started smashing things. "Damn that bitch! Ugh! I've never been **this** humiliated!"

Her mother, Nia Dyngard, came over and asked, "What's the matter? Why are you so riled up?"

Seeing that her parents were home, Brittany started sobbing pitifully. "You have to stand up for me! Someone treated me very harshly today!"

Nia's expression grew grim when she heard what her daughter said.

"Who would dare pick on my daughter?! They must have a death wish! Who was mean to you, Britt? I'll teach them a lesson for you!"

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 123

Chapter 123

"It's Bonnie!" Brittany gritted her teeth and roared.

"Bonnie Shepard? The one who got disowned by her family?" Nia was genuinely surprised.

"Yeah, she's the one! I was shopping in the mall earlier and..." Brittany proceeded to recount everything to her mother.

Nia was furious by the end of it. "Damn that bitch! It isn't enough that she tormented the entire Shepard family. Now, **she** has her eyes on you. She's just a lowly and worthless country bumpkin. How dare she pick on you!"

Brittany's father, Dermot Dyngard, exhaled a puff of smoke and said, "Let's not be hasty. So, what you're saying is Bonnie tried to steal a dress from you at Bohemian Boutique?"

Brittany added, "She's such a shameless bitch! I'm sure you remember the Bentleys that night, Dad. I'm certain she has a sugar daddy. That explains how someone like her can afford a dress from Bohemian Boutique."

Nia said, "That punk deserves to be disowned by her own family. I agree with their decision."

"You have to avenge me, Mom!"

Nia frowned and asked, "Sure, but where am I supposed to find her now?"

Brittany answered, "Let's start with the Shepards' villa. They might've disowned her, but she used to be one of them. For all we know, Bonnie could have returned to them."

"You're right. We're going to the Shepards' villa to demand an explanation from them."

Soon after, they marched into the villa together. Vera smiled and welcomed them charmingly, "To what do I owe the pleasure, Mr. Dermot and Ms. Nia?"

Dermot and Demetria were cousins. Both the Dyngards and the Rhodes were far more powerful and

influential than the Shepards. Naturally, Vera had to keep them happy.

"We're here for Bonnie!" Nia said, exasperated.

Vera was stunned, and then her expression grew grim. "What did she do now? Did she offend you?"

"Good on you for knowing the kind of character your daughter has. She was mean to Brittany and

humiliated her!"

Vera grew more grim when she heard that. "As you know, Bonnie is no longer one of **us**,

Ms. Nia."

"Are you sure about that? Do I have your word that you'd never welcome her back?"

"Not a chance." Vera guaranteed.

"What makes you think I have to believe you?" Nia did not believe a word she said. "Bonnie might have trouble surviving alone in the real world and come crawling back **to** beg for forgiveness

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someday. I don't see how you, her birth mother, would remain unfazed by it."

Vera looked at Gresham, who sighed and said, "Give me a minute, Ms. Nia."

He then instructed his assistant to make another announcement on Twitter.

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"The Shepards won't tolerate a troublemaker like Bonnie. If she comes crawling back to us and begs for forgiveness, we will never forgive her or take her back. You might accuse us **of** being heartless, but you should know that she brought it on herself.

"Should she get into any messes or offend anyone in the future, we will not intervene. We, the Shepards, have nothing to do with her."

Nia read the tweet and clicked her tongue. "What a heartless tweet! With that said, I fully support you. It's the right thing to do. Since we got what we came for, rest assured we won't be picking any bones with you."

After resolving the conflict, the Dyngards and Shepards became friends again.

Gresham addressed Nia and her family, "Please, have a seat in the dining room, Mr. Dermot. Ms. Nia, let's have dinner together. That reminds me. You secured a collaboration with Tang Fusion Studios, correct?"

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"Yeah, we finalized everything last month. We also signed the contract not long ago. It seems you've been keeping tabs on things," Dermot knew Gresham was trying to butter him up, but he welcomed it

nonetheless.

"Excellent! You're such *a* class act, Mr. Dermot! I can't believe you locked in a collaboration with Tang Fusion Studios. I'm highly impressed!" Gresham took a cigarette from his pocket and lit it.

"It's nothing remarkable. Perhaps Tang Fusion Studios liked our proposal. We put a lot of work into

it, after all."

"That's humble of you, Mr. Dermot. Tang Fusion Studios is one of the most prominent group companies in Pyralis. It'll take more than a sound proposal to get their approval. I'll bet it's because of you and your reputable company."

Gresham was about to continue praising Dermot when the latter's phone rang. "It's a call from my

assistant. Please excuse me."

"Sure, go ahead. I'll tell my chef to prepare more dishes for dinner." Grasham turned and made his way to the kitchen. However, he had not even taken two steps when he heard Dermot's agitated voice.

J

"Run that by me again! Why would Tang Fusion change their minds about our collaboration?"

Gresham stopped and turned to look at Dermot. Even Nia and Brittany looked at him. Dermot

reddened with anger as he asked, "Why would they claim we offended someone important? When did we do that? Did you ask for the details?"

His assistant replied, "I don't know the specifics, Mr. Dermot. The project manager called me a minute ago and accused us of not respecting them. He also said they'd never work with us."

Dermot began to panic and was about to lose it.

Gresham gulped and asked softly, "What happened, Mr. Dermot?"

'How am I supposed to fucking know?!' Dermot almost lost his cool and roared at Gresham.

A moment later, Dermot glared at his daughter so fiercely that she felt goosebumps all over her body, asking, "Wh–why are you looking at me like that, Dad?"

"Did you offend anyone today?" Besides his daughter, who had a knack for picking fights, Dermot could not understand why Tang Fusion Studios would cancel their collaboration with his company.

"I-I didn't offend anyone! All I did was have a little spat with Bonnie."

"Bonnie?" Dermot frowned.

"It can't be her!" Brittney was able to guess some of her dad's thoughts based on his earlier phone conversation. "I mean it. I didn't offend any important figure. As for Bonnie, she's just a bumpkin. Do you honestly think she's some kind of big shot?"

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2/2

'Bonnie? A big shot? It won't take a genius to figure out the answer as a resounding no.'

"Wait a minute. Could it be Bonnie's sugar daddy?" Brittany had an epiphany. When she said it out loud, everyone in the dining hall was flabbergasted.

Dermot turned to look at Gresham and asked, "Does anyone know who Bonnie's sugar daddy is?"

Gresham paled, saying, "Um, we're not sure, but do you think Bonnie's behind this? It's Tang Fusion Studios we're talking about here. I don't think they would give up on collaboration because Bonnie asked them to."

Dermot replied, "Regardless, she's the prime suspect here. Also, she was mean to my daughter, and I won't let that slide. Do you have her phone number? I want to talk to her in person."

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"Well, I do, but..."

"But what? Are you still trying to protect her?"

"Why would I? There's no way I'd protect that deceitful punk. Fine, I don't care anymore! **You** can have her phone number." Gresham took his phone and gave Bonnie's number to Dermot.

Dermot made the phone call immediately after.

While Bonnie continued to shop with Avril, she got a phone call from an unknown number. "Hello? Who's this?"

"Bonnie, I presume."

"Yeah, that's me. Can I help you with anything?"

"I'm Brittany's father."

"Did you call to pick a bone with me? Is this about Brittany?"

"Yeah, we'll get back to that. Tang Fusion Studios called off collaboration with my company so suddenly. Do you have something to do with it?"

Bonnie raised her brow with a hint of mockery as she admitted, "Yeah, that was me."

Dermot never expected her to admit it outright. He began to doubt her a little.

'Did Bonnie really do it, or is she pretending to have done it to intimidate me? That way, I won't dare to speak up for my daughter.'

"You did it? How do you have that kind of power to pull it off? The collaboration is a multi–million – dollar project. My company made an intricate proposal to secure it. What makes you think I'll believe you?"

Bonnie chuckled and said, "What makes you think I'll tell you where I get my power from?"

"Why, you little-" Dermot turned red with rage. "I'll repeat my question. Did you, or did you not have something to do with it?"

"Not at all." Bonnie played him like a fiddle.

Dermot was at a loss for words for seconds before he stammered, "Y-You goddamn-"

"What's wrong? Are you going to ask me **the** same question again? Then, yeah, I did it." Bonnie

smirked.

"You're fucking toying with me!" Dermot felt like he could just explode.

Meanwhile, Gresham and Vera exchanged glances when they saw how worked up Dermot was. That was why they hesitated to give Bonnie's number to him. They feared she would drive him up the wall.

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As expected, that was what happened.

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"That's just fine! This conversation isn't going anywhere. Still, you picked on my sweet girl. What are **you** going to **do** about it?"

"Let it scab."

"Listen here, you little shit-

"

Beep!

Bonnie hung up before he could finish.

"Son of a bitch!" Dermot smashed his phone, causing an awkward pin–drop silence to fall over the dining room.

Realizing that things had taken a bitter turn, Gresham hastily said, "That's how she is, arrogant and unruly. It's not just you, Mr. Dermot. Vera and I used to take her crap the whole time."

He said this to emphasize the fact that they were not on Bonnie's side. Instead, they agreed with Dermot and assured him that they had to suffer Bonnie's insufferable behavior.

Initially, Dermot was about to let Gresham and his wife have it. However, the former decided otherwise after hearing what Gresham said. On the contrary, Dermot began to pity Gresham. "What a rotten luck to have a daughter such as her."

"When you think about it, we're quite fortunate. The universe gave us Trina. That girl makes us proud," Gresham said gratefully.

"Hmph! I can't believe Daken looked the other way when his daughter befriended Bonnie. He'll feel my wrath soon enough. I'll make sure he regrets it!" Dermot grunted.

Meanwhile, Avril looked at Bonnie with concern. "Are the Dyngards giving you trouble?"

"It's just a minor hurdle. Don't worry about it," Bonnie reassured her.

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Chapter 126

"Ah, it's a pity that the Smiths aren't as good as the Dyngards. Otherwise, we can compete with

them."

Bonnie silently contemplated, 'Being inferior now doesn't mean it'll be the same in the future. Still, it'll take a while to surpass them.'

Bonnie returned to the Knights' residence at night after a day **of** shopping. Ivor's tense and stern expression relaxed upon seeing her. He was genuinely afraid she would not come back. "Are you hungry? I'll tell the kitchen staff to prepare a meal."

"No rush. I need to use the restroom first." Bonnie casually placed her phone on the coffee table and

entered the bathroom.

Immediately after, Ged appeared energetically. "Mr. **Ivor**, have you heard? The project on Lenfield Villa has just been finalized. The side whose racer wins the drift challenge will take ownership of the project."

"I received the news not long ago," replied the nonchalant lvor.

"So, who are you sending to participate?" Ged asked curiously.

lvor frowned. "If only we could find Windbreaker."

"You mean the legendary car god?"

"If we can get her to participate, we'll have a ninety-nine percent chance of winning."

"Absolutely! My idol will guarantee victory!" Ged exclaimed excitedly, "Oh, I also heard that your family's archenemy has found the Vulture. He's a formidable opponent, too.

"Lately, he's become the widely known racing king. He even claimed to make Windbreaker admit defeat," Ged became increasingly frustrated as he spoke, "Vulture's nothing special since he's a

newcomer.

"He's just undefeated in racing so far. It's because my idol, Windbreaker, has been out of the scene for a few years. If she were around, he'd shut up!"

"All right, no need to get worked up. Besides, Windbreaker has been silent for two years. It's probably hard to find her," Ivor sighed in disappointment.

Ged also sighed, saying, "I'm upset. I'll play a couple of rounds of Wildrift to soothe my angry heart. I wonder if Ms. Bonita has time to team up. I'll send her a message and ask if she's free."

Ding!

Bonnie's phone played a notification sound as it lay on the coffee table. Ged paused and looked at it, asking without much thought, "Why is Bonnie's phone here?"

"She's in the restroom." Ivor raised his chin toward the bathroom.

2

1/2

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2/2

"Oh. Hmm, I wonder why Ms. Bonita isn't replying to my message." Ged sent another message to ask Bonita if she was free to play with him.

Ding!

Bonnie's phone rang again.

"Huh?" Ged was puzzled as he stared at Bonnie's phone. From his angle, he could only see the screen light up but not the content.

Ivor also noticed something was amiss, wondering if it was just a coincidence.

Ged dared not overthink it and chuckled. "Mr. Ivor, who do you think is messaging Bonnie? Could it be your love rival?"

Ivor noticed Ged teasing him. The latter suggested, "Why don't we take a look?"

Ivor squinted at Bonnie's phone.

"Don't just sit around. What if it's really your love rival? Besides, Bonnie's still in the bathroom. You can take a peek without getting caught." Ged's words tempted lvor

After glancing at the bathroom again, Ivor reached for the phone.

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Chapter 127

When the phone suddenly rang, Ivor instinctively retracted his hand, looking somewhat pale. Ged burst into laughter but quickly covered his mouth when he saw Ivor's icy glare.

'I can't blame Ged for laughing.'

The usually calm lvor felt an unexpected guilt due to a phone call. Soon after, Bonnie came out of the bathroom and asked, "Was my phone ringing?"

"Yeah." Ivor feigned ignorance and leaned into the sofa while stealing glances at Bonnie.

The latter picked up her phone and subconsciously looked at the duo when she saw the caller ID. "You two didn't peek at my phone just now, did you?"

lvor frowned, displeased. "Why, is there something you're hiding, or did someone special call you?"

Initially, Ivor took Ged's words with a grain of salt. However, he could not help but feel suspicious after seeing Bonnie's reaction. She looked at him strangely, wondering why he would say such a thing.

Nonetheless, she ignored him and took her phone upstairs. She saw that Hamish had called her. Judging by Ivor's expression, he probably did not see it.

"Hello, why'd you call so suddenly?"

"Why would you ask me that? Tang Fusion Studios is your company, not mine. Besides, if you can call

I can call you, too." Hamish was puzzled.

me,

"So, what's up?"

Hamish sighed. "All right, let's get to the point. Do you know about Lenfield Villa?"

"Yeah, what about it?"

"All of Pyralis' big shots are vying for its development rights. Whoever secures it will make a fortune. Ultimately, they agreed on a drag race competition. Whoever's representative wins will get the Lenfield Villa's development rights."

Bonnie nodded and said, "Then, let's find someone skilled enough to represent our company in the

race."

"It's not that simple." Hamish frowned. "I don't know if you've heard of Vulture, but he has gained a reputation in the racing world recently."

"I haven't paid attention to the racing world in the last couple of years."

"You're right. You probably don't care, but Vulture is formidable and pretty ruthless. I heard those who race against him typically end up crashing. Sheffyn Entertainment recruited this tough guy, which caused headaches for various parties.

"I called you to ask if you know a skilled racer to recruit for our company. After all, you have a wide

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network of connections."

Bonnie rubbed her chin and considered it before asking, "Is Vulture as formidable as *you* say?"

"Give me a moment. I'll send you a video of Vulture racing. You'll know what I mean *once* you've

watched it."

"Okay." A few minutes later, Bonnie finished watching the short video Hamish sent. She turned solemn, muttering, "Yeah, he's a formidable drive, alright. Ordinary people are *no* match for him."

"Yeah! I think someone like Windbreaker is the only one who can beat him. Still, can we even find her?

Hamish sighed.

Bonnie smiled. "Windbreaker? I know her."

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Hamish was stunned. "Do you seriously know her? Don't tease me!"

"Not only do I know her, but we're also pretty close," Bonnie replied smilingly. Her confident tone assured Hamish that she was not joking.

"That's impressive, Ms. Bonnie! Everyone's searching for Windbreaker. I didn't expect you to know her. Oh, even though you're familiar with her, she supposedly retired two years ago. What if you can't persuade Windbreaker to come?"

"Don't worry. She'll come."

11

Hamish still felt a little uneasy. "How sure are you, Ms. Bonnie? **If** you aren't, I'll need to prepare a few backup options. It'd be embarrassing if we don't have a representative for the race."

"You can relax. Windbreaker will one hundred percent show up." Bonnie sounded confident.

"All right, I'll stop worrying then." Hamish then changed the subject, "Also, I've canceled our collaboration with the Dyngards. Since that's the case, we need to find another company to partner with. Do you have any suitable candidates?"

The first person Bonnie thought of was Avril. Although Bonnie could have given the project to the Smiths directly, she was concerned about their capabilities.

After some thought, Bonnie said, "You can invite tenders and give favorable treatment to the Smiths. Choose them if their proposal is acceptable and won't cause losses to our company."

"Right away, Ms. Bonnie."

Afterward, Bonnie called Avril, saying, "Visit Tang Fusion Studios with your dad tomorrow and participate in the bidding."

Avril was puzzled, wondering what was happening. Before she could ask about it, she heard her father and his assistant discussing project matters as they entered the house.

"I didn't expect the collaboration between Tang Fusion Studios and the Dyngards to fall through when they seemed so certain." Avril blinked and paused for a moment before regaining her composure. She said, "Um, Bonnie, are you talking about the project the Dyngards and Tang Fusion Studios were supposed to collaborate

on?"

Bonnie replied, "Yeah, that project. You should tell your dad to devise a proposal and apply for it. If the proposal isn't rubbish, Tang Fusion Studios will collaborate with him."

Immediately after, she heard a knock on the door and asked, "Who is it?"

"It's me." Ivor's low and attractive voice echoed.

Bonnie spoke into the phone, "I still have something to attend to. Let's talk later. I'll hang up now.

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What's wrong, Ivor?"

"There was a sudden thunderstorm just now, and Tracey had an accident on the way here. Since there's no one available to cook right now, I came to ask what you wanted. I'll cook for you today."

"You can cook?" Bonnie was surprised.

Although Ivor had references, he did not feel the need to bring it up. "I can make lots of dishes. Anything you want."

Bonnie scrutinized Ivor skeptically.

"So, what would you like?" Ivor felt a little uneasy under her gaze, but he remained calm on the

surface.

2/2

After some thought, Bonnie revealed a mischievous smile and said, "I want clam chowder, lasagna, barbeque ribs, pot roast, and cobb salad. That should be all. You probably can't make them anyway.'

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lvor's heart sank when he heard Bonnie's outrageous requests. On the other hand, the latter chuckled

inwardly.

Ged, who had followed lvor, slapped the staircase railing and laughed heartily, saying, "Damn, that's

hilarious!"

Bonnie suppressed her laughter and said, "How about something simpler, like chicken noodle soup?"

lvor sighed in relief. He would rather be in an intense corporate meeting than cook the dishes Bonnie mentioned earlier. After all, he had barely cooked before.

"All right, wait a moment. I'll be quick." Ivor turned to Ged and said, "There won't be noodles for you.

11

"Hey,

I wasn't laughing at you just now! I was laughing at myself."

Avril looked absent-minded after her call with Bonnie. The former had something to say but ended up swallowing her words. Daken noticed his daughter's absent-mindedness and asked, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

"Ahem! Dad, did Tang Fusion Studios cancel its collaboration with the Dyngards?"

"I just got the news. Everyone suspects the Dyngards had probably offended someone they shouldn't have." Daken lit a cigarette as he spoke.

Avril recalled Bonnie saying something about the Dyngards no longer being business partners with Tang Fusion Studios yesterday. Bonnie's words echoed non–stop in Avril's mind, and she wondered if it was just a coincidence or if Bonnie was psychic.

"Avril? Hey, what's wrong with you?" Daken's voice brought Avril out of her thoughts.

"Um, Bonnie just called and said we should participate in Tang Fusion Studios's project bidding

tomorrow."

"What's that?" Daken was stunned.

"She also said our company should devise a proposal and that Tang Fusion will prioritize cooperating with us if the proposal is decent." Avril continued, her heart filled with unease.

Daken held his cigarette blankly for a moment. A moment later, he frowned and asked, "**Is** that a joke or something?"

"I don't think Bonnie jokes around like that, Dad." Avril's words caused Daken to fall into deep thought again. She added, "Dad, there's another thing. Bonnie and I ran into Brittany at the mall today."

"So, you and Brittany had a conflict, and the Dyngards' collaboration got canceled?" Daken was

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shocked.

Avril gulped and asked, "Do you think it could be a coincidence?"

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"Not necessarily." Daken pursed his lips and squinted. "Do you remember Bonnie picking you up in a Maybach yesterday?"

"I remember, 80- "Avril's eyes widened. "Bonnie contacted someone in the store. It was most likely a higher–up of Tang Fusion, or maybe even the CEO!"

"That's highly likely. Don't spread this information for now. After all, that's just our speculation. Even if it's true, don't discuss it with anyone. It's Bonnie's private matter. If she doesn't want to disclose it, you shouldn't either."

"I understand, Dad. It's just It can't be Mr. Hamish of Tang Fusion Studios, right? He's quite handsome and is also the chief designer. He's skillful, but he's already thirty–five."

"What's wrong with being thirty–five? Men age like fine wine, especially in their thirties. They're at the peak of their charm by that age." Daken disagreed with Avril's viewpoint.

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