

I Love You, Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard)

I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 11

Chapter 11

When they heard what she said, Ivor and Ged looked at Bonnie.

“You know that?” Ivor asked with a frown.

“Uh–huh,” Bonnie replied.

The old professor at the research institute had texted her the date this morning

He had asked if she was okay with the 28th of this month and offered to change it if she wasn't.

“Oh? How did you find out?” Ivor narrowed his eyes.

“Well...”

Bonnie frowned. “I can't tell you the specifics. All I can say is that It's set for the 28th.”

Ged pulled Ivor aside and whispered, “I really can't stand her, you know! Yes, she's pretty, I'll give her that, but she's so full of shit!”

Ivor rubbed his chin and looked at Bonnie.

He had always been good at reading people.

But he couldn't seem to detect any hint that she was lying, which puzzled him.

“My dad says every major corporation in Pyralis–no, I mean in all of Arvador–is eager to work with Ms. Bonita's research team to secure exclusive rights to the new nanomaterial. Isn't your company interested in it too?”

“It's a brand new nanomaterial! You'll make a killing once it starts being used in manufacturing and research. I'm sure it'll help drive many advancements in technology too,” Ged spoke excitedly.

“Of course we’re interested, but we might not be able to secure the rights to it, even if the Knight family is the richest in Pyralis. Many major powers in Arvandor will be after it.”

Bonnie looked at him as he finished his sentence.

“You’re interested in securing the rights to the new nanomaterial?”

Ivor asked, “Why? Can you help?”

Bonnie nodded. “Since Sigmund saved me once, I can help you if that’s what you want.”

Ged couldn’t take it anymore.

“Thanks, but no thanks! I’m sure Ivor doesn’t want to trouble anyone.”

“It’s no trouble at all. I just need to let the team know,” Bonnie said, casually.

Ged shot to his feet and raised his voice.

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“Stop pushing it, okay? If you weren’t a girl, I would have”

“Enough, Ged.”

Ivor stood up as well.

“But she’s so-”

“We never have to see her **again** after the one month engagement. There’s no point getting angry

with her.”

But Ged was still upset.

Bonnie could tell that they didn’t believe her.

She didn’t mind, since her parents had never believed her either.

There was no point wasting her breath.

“I always keep my promises. The research institute will announce its collaboration with the Knight Group on the 28th.”

Then, she got up **and** left.

“I feel sorry for you, Ivor. You’re stuck with her. Having a wife who’s such a show off like her, even for

a month, will embarrass you forever!” Ged stared after Bonnie and shook his head.

Ivor looked away from her. “Have you talked to the Shepherd’s friend?”

Ged took a sip of water to calm himself down.

“Yeah, the Shepherd **wants** a showdown with you after the press conference about the **nanomaterial**.”

“Why after?” Ivor was puzzled.

Ged thought about it and **said**, “Do you think the Shepherd will be at that event? Could he be interested in securing the rights to the nanomaterial too?”

Ivor thought it was possible.

If that was the case, maybe they could meet him during the press conference.

A few days later, Ged rushed into Ivor’s office.

“Holy shit, Ivor! Something incredible has happened.

Ivor stopped working and looked at Ged.

“Are you talking about the press conference?”

“You know?” Ged took a deep breath and said, “I can’t fucking believe it. It really is on the 28th!”

Ged had heard his parents talking about the date of the press conference while he was having

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breakfast with them.

And it was indeed on the 28th!

“Bonnie was right!”

Ivor steepled his fingers and thought about the moment when Bonnie told them about the press conference.

She hadn't seemed like she was lying. His hunch had been right.

"How did she find that out even faster **than** we did?" Ged was bewildered.

"Maybe my grandpa found out and told Bonnie," Ivor ventured a guess.

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"Oh, yeah!" Ged said angrily, "That must be it. How else could a high school student know something like that? Sigmund must **have** used his connections to get the information **so** he could tell Bonnie and help her impress you!"

Ivor thought so **too**.

"Has Sigmund asked you to take her to the press conference? If he does, I strongly suggest you say no. Every major power in the country will be there. If she starts talking nonsense again, it'll be really embarrassing for you!"

"My grandpa didn't say anything about that."

"That's good."

Ged was relieved. "If Sigmund insists that you bring her, you need to find a **way** to get rid of her."

**

On her way home from school, Bonnie sneezed.

She had a strange feeling that someone was talking about her.

Suddenly, a luxury sports car approached with a load of red roses in the back seat.

It pulled up right in front of her. The driver handed her a large bouquet of roses.

"Care to join me for lunch, Bonnie?"

As he spoke, Dwayne brushed his hair.

Bonnie glanced at the roses and slowly said, "Are you trying to date me?"

"Smart girl! **What** can I say? I really love smart women."

“You’re Sacha’s boyfriend. Are you sure about this?”

“Well, I can break up with her if you want.”

Dwayne looked very pleased with himself. He thought he was so charming and wealthy that Bonnie would throw herself at him.

But Bonnie just frowned and said coldly, “What do I care if you guys break up? Do you think every girl will throw herself at you just because you’re rich? Just seeing your face makes me want to puke.”

Dwayne’s sports car and wealth had failed **to** impress Bonnie.

After all, she wasn’t hurting for money.

Dwayne immediately thought of the man who had picked her **up** at the school entrance and the limited–edition Maybach.

“Do you think I don’t know you hired that guy to pick you up the other day, Bonnie?”

And you must have borrowed the car. Wait, did you sleep with someone to get it-

Before he could finish, Dwayne suddenly shrieked in pain!

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 12

Chapter 12

Bonnie had given Dwayne a hard slap across his face. She glared at him.

Dwayne glared back. “What the fuck?”

He tried to grab her angrily.

Bonnie swiftly slapped him again and again.

She hit him so hard that Dwayne spun around like a top, and his cheeks started to swell.

“Motherf—Dwayne shouted.

“Yes? Do you want more?”

Bonnie raised her hand, and Dwayne cowered.

Bonnie snorted, then turned and left.

Dwayne grit his teeth and glared after her with bloodshot eyes.

“Just you wait, bitch!

“You’re so going to regret this!”

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It was the 20th, a few days before the press conference.

Every major news outlet had been taken over by news about the new nanomaterial breakthrough.

As they dined that evening, the Shepards were watching the news on TV.

“Earlier this month, the research team headed by Ms. Bonita successfully developed a new nanomaterial after a year of relentless experiments. This has caused a sensation in Arvandor and sent shockwaves around the world!”

Gresham admired the news and said, “That’s quite an achievement, isn’t new nanomaterial within a year.

“I hear Ms. Bonita is very young. She’s only around Trina’s age.”

“Really?”

Trina was astonished.

it? To be able to develop a

Vera passed a piece of roast beef to Trina. “You’re already an overachiever, honey. There’s no need to compare yourself to Ms. Bonita, who’s in a league of her OWN.

“Your mom’s right. You need to study hard now, so you’ll be able to join Ms. Bonita’s research team during your junior year internship.” Gresham passed Trina the mashed potato.

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“Don’t worry. I’m president of the Scientific Research Club right now, and everyone knows I’m great at research.

“Even my professor told me I was talented and offered to recommend me to Ms. Bonita’s research institute for my internship.”

Trina turned to look at Bonnie with a scheming look on her face. “Bonnie’s doing pretty well too.”

Gresham and Vera looked distressed as Trina mentioned Bonnie,

Vera frowned and asked, “Why do you say that?”

“Because she’s ambitious! Didn’t you say she was going to get Into Pyralls University?”

“And she wants to be top scorer in the entrance test too. What a goal!

“Me? I just barely made it into college.”

Trine pinched her own thigh as she mocked Bonnie to stop herself from laughing.

Vera turned grim, and Gresham fell silent.

Trina continued, “Haven’t we been invited to the press conference? We should bring Bonnie along to broaden her horizons.”

“Well...”

Gresham and Vera hesitated.

They knew what Bonnie **was** like.

She often skipped classes, got into trouble for fighting, and loved to show off.

She had once shown them a trophy from an international competition **and** claimed she had won it.

She had done the same with a chess competition medal and many others.

If they did bring Bonnie to the press conference, she might get into trouble there.

Vera said sternly, "The college entrance test is just around the corner, Bonnie. Don't even think about going to the press conference, okay? Just stay at home and study."

Bonnie raised an eyebrow **and** looked at Vera **as if** she was **an** idiot, but she didn't say a word.

The 25th was **Sacha's** birthday.

Dwayne had booked the most expensive VVIP room at Regal Karaoke.

Eda Howard held Bonnie's hand and said apologetically, "Sorry for making you come, Bonnie, but I'd be so bored without you."

"Come on, what are friends for?"

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As soon as Bonnie said that, Tilda Garraway mocked, "Stop acting like you're better than us, Bonnie.

"So what if you're pretty? If it weren't for Sacha, we would never be able to hang out at such a fancy place." Some other students chimed in, trying to butter up Dwyane

"Give her some credit. The guy who picked Bonnie up the other day drove a Maybach, didn't he?"

"Oh, please! We would have known if he was really her boyfriend. Anyone with a brain can tell what that was all about.

"Bonnie must have hired him to put on a show for all of us. Why **hasn't** he shown up these past few days?"

"Dwayne booked the fanciest VVIP room at the most luxurious karaoke joint in Pyralis. I bet Bonnie would have done anything to be here."

Bonnie glanced at the room at the **end** of the corridor.

That VVIP room? She had been here plenty of times.

Dwayne saw Bonnie looking at it and thought she was longing to go inside.

He felt pleased as he was certain she was going to throw herself at

him soon.

At that moment,

the manager arrived.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Dwayne, but someone else has booked the VVIP room.

Π

Sacha, who was nestled in Dwayne’s arms, said, “Oh, no. I promised my classmates we’d get that

room.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll handle it.” Dwayne gave her waist a playful pinch, then glared at the manager. “I made a reservation in advance. That room is fucking mine!”

“I’m sorry, but a VVIP is using it. How about you take another room?”

“A VVIP? Aren’t I a VVIP too?” Dwayne retorted.

The others backed him up..

“Yeah, Dwayne’s dad owns the Caesar Hotel, okay?”

“Just get out of our way if you want to keep your job!”

“Ignore him, Dwayne. Let’s just go in.”

Dwayne looked at others, and his gaze lingered on Bonnie.

He clenched his teeth, went around the manager, and threw the door open.

“I’m taking this room. Get the hell out-”

When he saw who was inside, Dwayne stopped short in alarm.

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The other students looked in, puzzled..

There were several men and women on the sofa. An arrogant-looking young woman stood up.

“Dwayne Moss? What the fuck are you doing?”

Dwayne paled.

He approached her obsequiously. "I'm sorry, ma'am. I didn't know you were here.

"I deserve to be punished, don't I?"

Dwayne punched his own face.

Sacha and the other students lowered their heads.

Even Dwayne didn't dare mess with that woman!

As they wondered who she was, the young woman looked at them and was stunned.

"Is that you?"

She hurried over to the girl standing behind them and held out her hands earnestly.

"Please be my mentor, ma'am!"

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 13

Chapter 13

Mentor?

They looked at the person Kay Steele was talking to and realized it was Bonnie!

Everyone, including Dwayne, widened their eyes in astonishment.

Bonnie recognized Kay. She was the girl who had wanted to learn kickboxing from her.

"Just give up, okay? I'm not going to teach you anything."

Kay looked at Bonnie desperately. "Come on. I promise I'll be a good student. Please? I'm begging you!

H

Everyone looked at Bonnie in disbelief.

Was the VVIP who had terrified Dwayne really begging Bonnie for something?

Your mentor?”

“What’s this about, Ms. Kay? Why do you want her to be Dwayne asked tentatively.

“It’s none of your goddamn business!” Kay rolled her eyes at Dwayne and continued to plead with

Bonnie.

“Please, Ms. Bonnie. If you agree to mentor me, I’ll do anything you say.” Her abrupt change of attitude showed how little regard she had for Dwayne.

“I told you

you, I’m not taking students,” Bonnie said with a frown.

Kay dropped the subject when she saw that Bonnie was getting impatient with her. “Are you here for karaoke? Why don’t you join us?”

“She’s the birthday girl. You should ask her.”

Bonnie looked at Sacha.

Kay shot Sacha a meaningful glare.

Sacha shuddered. “Since Ms. Kay has invited us to join her, why **not**?”

Kay chuckled. “She said yes, Ms. Bonnie.”

“Alright then.”

Kay sat beside Bonnie and started talking nonstop.

Sacha felt a little neglected. It was her birthday, after all.

“Are you okay, Sacha?” Tilda asked, concerned.

Sacha played the victim and shook her head with tears in her eyes. “I’m fine.”

But anyone could tell she **was** not fine at all.

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Sacha's friends whispered among themselves.

"Bonnie is so inconsiderate! She knows it's Sacha's birthday, but she's trying to steal the limelight."

"But why would Bonnie know a VVIP like Ms. Kay?"

"She must have done something sneaky to meet her, of course. What a conniving, shameless bitch!"

Kay heard them.

"Hey, assholes! If it weren't for Ms. Bonnie, you wouldn't be able to have your party here.

Since Kay had said it herself, the others could only lower their heads.

"You're the ones who were being inconsiderate, you idiots!"

Kay looked at Bonnie.

"Do you mind if I kick them out?"

Bonnie raised her brow and said, "Go ahead."

"How could you,

you, Bonnie? They were just talking. Don't be so petty." Sacha spoke up.

Bonnie smiled at her. "You're done? Good. You can leave now. You too, Dwayne."

Dwayne, **Sacha**, and others were exasperated.

"Hey, what are you waiting for? Get lost!"

Kay **waved**, and several bodyguards marched toward them.

Dwayne and others quickly hurried out of the room.

"Do you like the way I handled that?" Kay asked Bonnie.

"Thanks for getting rid of them. I don't like to owe anyone favors."

“So will you mentor me?” Kay asked excitedly.

“I need to check with the guy who taught me kickboxing first.

“Who is he? I bet he’s a master!”

“His last name is **Burns**. He lives in the mountains.”

Kay’s eyes went wide.

“Are you talking about Cary Burns, the guy who’s over a hundred years old?”

“Uh–huh.

“Oh my God! He’s the greatest kickboxer in the country. **So** that’s why you’re so good! I heard that all **his** students are kickboxing experts.”

At that moment, Bonnie received a text from Cary that read, “I don’t mind if you start teaching.”

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Kay heard the message notification, craned her neck to look, and leapt to her feet in excitement when she saw what it said.

The phone dinged again as another message from Cary popped up.

“My second student has just returned to Arvandor. **You** should meet up with her.”

His **second** student? Bonnie had never met her before.

She had only heard Cary say that her senior was an amazing kickboxer.

“**Okay**, I’ll go see her when I’m free.’

And so she agreed to teach Kay kickboxing.

On the 28th, the press conference for the new nanomaterial was about to begin.

Bonnie arrived at the venue early in the morning. Just as she was thinking about going backstage, Vera stopped her.

“Bonnie? How on earth did you get in here? You didn’t sneak in, did you?”

Vera grew worried. “You should leave right now. Ms. Bonita and her team will be holding the press conference here later. This is **no** place for you to fool around.”

“I didn’t sneak in, okay?”

Bonnie needed to rush backstage. Many industry leaders had arrived, and reporters were armed with their cameras and microphones, ready for the press conference to begin. As the leader of the research team, she had to give a speech.

“Why do you lie so much? You-”

The voice of the host on stage interrupted Vera.

“The press conference is about to begin. Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen.”

As she saw the VIPS taking their seats, Vera glared at Bonnie.

“What are you standing there for? Go find a seat!”

Bonnie frowned. “I have things to do.”

“Just come with me!”

Vera grabbed Bonnie’s wrist and pulled her toward the seats.

The host continued, “It’s time to begin the press conference, ladies and gentlemen. Ms. Bonita will start us off with some opening thoughts.”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 14

Chapter 14

As he said that, everyone looked expectantly at the stage.

“Ms. Bonita’s going to show up any time now, Ivor!” Ged could hardly contain the excitement in his

voice.

Ivor looked calm, but his gaze betrayed his true feelings.

Trina palmed her chest. “I’m **so** nervous, mom! My greatest idol is about to appear.”

Vera’s hand started to sweat as she anxiously tightened her **grip on** Bonnie’s wrist.

“Stay calm. We’ll go talk to her after she’s done.”

Bonnie tried to **pull** her wrist from her mother’s hand. “I need to go to the restroom.”

“What? Ms. Bonita is about to go on stage, and you want to go to the restroom **now**?”

“I really need to go.

“You’re going nowhere, young lady.”

A minute passed, but Ms. Bonita still didn’t show up.

“What’s going on? Where’s Ms. Bonita?”

The crowd whispered among themselves.

The host sweated profusely. Just as he was about to go backstage to ask about Bonnie, he spotted her sitting among the attendees.

What on earth?

What was she sitting there for?

Bonnie frowned and glanced at Vera, who **was** holding onto her tightly.

The host caught on and quickly arranged for someone to help her.

Very **soon**, an elderly professor walked toward the family.

“Hello, I’m Professor Terry. I’m a researcher working for Ms. Bonita.”

Gresham and Vera were surprised **that** he would come over to talk to them.

“It’s an honor to **meet** you, Professor Terry. What can we do for you?”

The couple were excited, but they kept their cool.

Professor Terry wasn't as esteemed as Ms. Bonita in Arvador, but he **was** a heavyweight in the academic world.

Someone like him wouldn't just come over to talk to them for nothing.

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"I'm here for..." Professor Terry looked at Bonnie.

Trina was standing next to Bonnie, so the couple thought he was referring to their adopted daughter and felt proud.

"You're here because of Trina, aren't you? She's famous at her college, but we didn't expect you to have heard about her as well."

"It's Trina's dream to work for you. She's planning to apply for an internship at the research institute during her junior year. We hope you'll look out for her when the **time** comes."

"Uh, is she? She needs to work hard then..."

Professor Terry cleared his throat and tried to play along.

In her eagerness to talk about Trina, Vera had forgotten all about Bonnie.

Bonnie seized the opportunity to head backstage.

The host sighed in relief. "Sorry about that. Without further ado, let's give a warm welcome to Ms. Bonital"

Bonnie took **the** stage in a surgical mask and hat.

She took the microphone and deepened her voice as she said, "This breakthrough in the new nanomaterial was the result of the collective effort of the whole team. So **please**, give each and every

one of them your warmest applause.

Bonnie looked at a group of professors sitting in the front row and started introducing them one by

one.

"Professor Jamie Harper.

“Professor Riley Chambers.

“Professor Charlie Knowles...”

The crowd applauded as they were introduced.

The old professors were moved to tears as they received Ms. Bonita’s gratitude.

“Don’t you think Ms. Bonita looks like Bonnie, Ivor?” Ged asked, puzzled.

Ivor shook his head and said, “You’re imaginative, I’ll give you **that**.”

Ged chuckled. “Anyway, Bonnie said they would announce their collaboration with The Knight Group. She’s so full of shit.”

Just as he finished saying that, Bonnie continued. “Next, I’m going to announce something important.

Curious, everyone listened attentively.

Bonnie looked at Ivor.

“Hmm?” Ivor noticed her gaze and was puzzled.

“What’s the matter, Ivor?” Ged looked over his shoulder and asked.

‘Ms. Bonita seems to be looking at me...!

“I’m glad you haven’t lost your sense of humor.” Ged chuckled.

Ivor frowned. Could he have been mistaken?

Bonnie continued, “I know many of you have come here to secure the rights **to** the new nanomaterial, but I’ve already decided which company we’re going to work with

A commotion broke out.

“What? She’s already decided? I wonder who that lucky son-of-a-bitch is!”

“I tried to get as much funding as I could just so the research institute would choose my company. I guess all my efforts were useless!”

“Don’t keep us in suspense, Ms. Bonita. Tell us which company you’re going with

Bonnie announced, “I’ll be working with the Knight Group.”

Ivor was stunned.

Scenes of Bonnie showing off flashed across his mind.

“Holy shit! Did I just hear that? That’s... that’s...” Ged was stupefied.

“It looks like there’s more to Bonnie than meets the eye, Ivor!” Ged did not think that this was a coincidence.

Bonnie had been right about the date of the press conference.

And now the research institute had announced their collaboration with the Knight Group just as she said they would!

Ivor was a smart man, and he **shared** Ged’s opinion.

When the press conference ended, Ivor noticed the Shepards were all present except for Bonnie.

He grew thoughtful.

Suddenly, he got up and walked toward the stage.

Bonnie was mobbed by the crowd as soon as she left the stage.

The security guards tried to hold them back in vain.

“Stop **pushing!** Get more guards over here to protect Ms. Bonita!”

“**Ms. Bonita**, what do you plan to research next?”

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“Ms. Bonita, our TV network would like to invite you for an exclusive interview. Could you spare us some time? It won’t take long.”

“Care for dinner with **me**, Ms. Bonita?”

The situation started growing out of control as everyone tried to get to her.

“Get out of the way! I want an autograph.”

Bonnie was a good fighter, **but** there was nothing she could do in a situation like this.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened!

A camera that was thrust upward tipped her hat, and her long hair fell out.

Bonnie's mask was nudged off her face too.

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Chapter 15

Oh, no!

Bonnie was alarmed.

It was a huge crowd, and many reporters were broadcasting live.

If anyone found out her true identity, she would be embroiled In International disputes and targeted by assassins.

Just as she was panicking, someone covered her head with a jacket.

She heard a steady **and** familiar voice.

"Please make way," said the voice calmly and authoritatively.

The man who was protecting her **was** the King of Combat, Jim Ray, who served as Ms. Bonita's. bodyguard.

Bonnie smiled.

"When did you get back?"

"I just did." Jim frowned. "Sorry, I should have been here earlier."

"It's not your fault. So, how was the International Fighting Championship? Did you win?"

Jim took out the champion's medal from his pocket and placed it in Bonnie's hand.

“This is for you.

Bonnie wasn't surprised that he had won.

“Are you sure? It's the champion's medal.”

“Well, consider it a congratulatory gift for the nanomaterial breakthrough.”

Bonnie pocketed the medal.

“What do you want in return? You know, for winning the championship.”

“A treat will be fine,” Jim answered readily.

“Deal.”

The crowd watched them **leave**.

Ivor frowned as he watched Bonnie go.

“What are you standing there for, Ivor? Ms. Bonita is leaving. Didn't you have something to ask her?” Ged nudged Ivor, puzzled.

Ivor thought for a moment and said, “We caught a glimpse of her face. Don't you think she looks a lot.

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like someone?”

“Who?”

“You know.”

“Huh? Who are you talking about?”

As he saw Ged's bewildered look, Ivor wondered if he might have made a mistake.

2/2

After all, based on his investigations, Bonnie used to live in the countryside, where she often skipped school and scored zero on her exams. And she hadn't graduated from high school even though she

was 20 years old.

There was no way she could be Ms. Bonita.

They might look alike, but that didn't mean anything.

"Come on." Ivor dismissed the possibility and hurried after Bonnie.

"Please wait, Ms. Bonita."

Bonnie looked over her shoulder at Ivor with a frown.

Why was he here? Had he seen her face? Was he beginning to suspect who she was?

Bonnie remained calm.

"Yes, Mr. Ivor, what can I do for you?"

"I don't believe we've ever met. Could you tell me why you've chosen to collaborate with my company?"

Ivor narrowed his eyes and studied her discreetly.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 16

Chapter 16

"Well, I'm from Pyralis like you. And on top of that, you're the richest guy in the city. Why wouldn't I work with you?"

Ivor was stumped.

"If there's nothing else, I'll get going," Bonnie said dryly.

Before Ivor could ask any more questions, Jim put himself between him and Bonnie.

"You heard her, Mr. Ivor."

Ivor could tell Jim was trying to get rid of him.

Worried that Ivor might upset Bonnie, Ged quickly whispered, "Ms. Bonita isn't a very social person. You should be glad she even talked to you, okay? We should leave now."

But Ivor had a strange feeling that he would be able to solve this puzzle if he continued to pursue the

matter.

"Anything else we can do for you?" Jim said, icily.

"No, no, we're leaving." Ged pulled Ivor away.

"What's gotten into you, Ivor? Everyone knows that Ms. Bonita doesn't like talking to anyone.

Besides, her bodyguard is Jim Ray, the King of Combat. I heard he just won the International Fighting Championship. We don't have our bodyguards with us right now. He'll kick our asses if things turn ugly!"

Ivor looked away from her. "Do you see Bonnie anywhere?"

"Bonnie? Why?" Ged looked around. "Come to think of it, it looks like she left a while ago.

Ivor grew pensive again when he heard that.

Meanwhile, Vera and Gresham were looking for Bonnie.

"How strange. Did she get lost on her way to the restroom?"

"I'd rather she go missing than embarrass us in front of everyone."

They looked at Trina. "Trina, you need to make every effort to meet Professor Terry's expectations. and secure a place at the research institute during the internship recruitment next month, okay?"

"I'll do my best and make you and mom proud!" Trina was both pleased and excited **as** she thought she had caught Professor Terry's attention.

"If you can get into Ms. Bonita's team, we'll throw you a fancy party and invite everyone to attend."

"Thanks, mom!"

Chapter 16

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At the hotel, Jim frowned, upset.

“Are you really going to get engaged to Ivor? He doesn’t deserve you!”

He thought no one was good enough for Bonnie.

Bonnie took a sip of juice and shrugged. “You know I don’t like owing anyone any favors. And anyway, Sigmund did once save me and my foster parents.”

“Even so, you’d be making a huge sacrifice!”

“Sigmund is adamant that I repay him this way. Besides, it’s only for one month. After that, I don’t have to see Ivor ever again.”

“Even if it is for one month, I would-

“Hey, don’t dwell on him. Let’s talk about you instead. Did anything interesting happen during the championship?”

Jim felt a little better as he saw that Bonnie wasn’t taking Ivor seriously.

‘Bonnie’s right. We don’t need to keep talking about an outsider.’

The next day, Ivor came to pick Bonnie up after school.

“We’re getting engaged tomorrow. Grandpa wants you home to get ready for that,” Ivor said impassively.

“Sure.” Bonnie’s tone was equally dry.

Ivor studied her face in the rearview mirror. After a **moment** of silence, he asked, “How did you know Ms. Bonita would choose **to** work with my company?”

Chapter 12

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 17

Chapter 17

Bonnie looked up when she heard his question.

She knew Ivor would ask her that, so she had prepared an answer.

“I know someone who works at the research institute.

“Who? He must be someone important if he found out the news so early,” Ivor said.

“You could say that. But I can’t tell you who he is right now.”

Ivor narrowed his eyes. “That day, you told me you could help me secure the rights to the nanomaterial. It sounded like you were the person in charge.

Bonnie didn’t respond.

Ivor chuckled. “Ged says you’re full of shit. I heard that’s why your parents don’t like you.

“The collaboration didn’t happen just because you said it would. You knew Ms. Bonita would work with my company, which was why you told me that the other **day**.

“Well, you can think whatever you want,” Bonnie said nonchalantly.

Ivor was a little upset that she was dismissing him.

“Was that really what happened?”

Bonnie was getting impatient. She frowned. “What does it matter? You said you didn’t want to have anything to do with me when we first met. Why are you so interested in me now?”

“I’m not.”

“Good. Like I said, you’re not my type. You’d better not fall for me.”

The car grew quiet again as they ignored each other.

Bonnie’s phone dinged. It was a text from Heath that read, “Are you done with work? The Knight wants to have a game with you.”

Bonnie replied, "I'll do it the day after tomorrow." She would be tied up with her engagement.

tomorrow.

"Okay, I'll tell him that."

Ivor's phone dinged as he received a text message.

It read, "The Shepherd says the day after tomorrow."

Ivor was elated.

Bonnie looked up and saw him smiling in the rearview mirror.

Chapter 17

She was surprised that a man like him could smile like that.

It did make him seem pretty charming.

2/2

When Bonnie arrived, she saw Neville waiting anxiously in the doorway. He dashed over when he saw

her.

"You need to leave now! My mom's back. She's going to give you a hard time!"

Neville tried to push Bonnie away.

"Huh? I don't even know her! Why would she do that?" Bonnie was puzzled.

"Because she doesn't approve of your marriage with my brother! My mom's a fierce woman, and she doesn't listen to anything my grandpa says. She came back from overseas just to get rid of **you!**"

Bonnie was suddenly reminded of what Heath had told her about the Knights.

As the wife of Sigmund's second eldest son, Ivor's mother was a tough cookie.

She had never been afraid of the wealthy Knight family. Five years ago, she had given Ivor's father Willard Knight, a good beating before she left the family and went abroad.

Just as Bonnie remembered that, a woman dressed in a nun's habit emerged from the house.

"Are you Bonnie Shepard? You're quite pretty, I'll give you that. But you and Ivor hardly know each other. I'll never approve of your marriage.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 18

Chapter 18

Bonnie looked at the woman who was dressed in a non's habit.

Was this Ivor's mother? Had she become a nun?

"I don't care who you are, Bonnie, but you need to leave Ivor alone. You'd better leave town while you can and never set foot in Pyralis ever again!" said Maisie coldly

Undaunted, Bonnie said, "I agree with you. This is absurd, but I don't have feelings for each other, and I don't want to marry him. But I owe Sigmund, since he saved me and my foster parents. If you want to stop the engagement, you'll have to talk to him. And if you want me to leave Pyralis, you'll have to make me."

"Hah! You say you don't want to marry my son? Swear on your mother's life then!" Maisie glared at Bonnie.

"Not everyone wants to marry your son, okay?" Bonnie was upset. "And why should I swear on my mom's life?"

She glanced at Ivor.

"If you need proof, I don't mind kicking your son's ass in front of you."

Ivor narrowed his eyes.

"Looks like you're just as difficult as my investigations said you were. I'm definitely putting a stop to this marriage!"

“You can’t! They’re getting engaged tomorrow.” Sigmund emerged from the house, leaning on his

cane.

“Have you lost your mind, Sigmund? How could you ask my son to marry a woman like her?”

Maise looked at Bonnie disdainfully.

Sigmund furiously rounded on his second son, Willard. “Aren’t you going to tell your **wife** to behave?” Willard looked scared. “You know she doesn’t listen to a word I say, dad. She wouldn’t have been gone for five years otherwise!”

“And you call yourself a man? Don’t be such a pussy!”

“You can’t blame me for this, dad! It runs in the family, doesn’t it? When mom was still around, you used to grovel at her feet all the time!”

“I” Sigmund flushed. He was stumped, but collected himself and tapped Willard with his cane.

“Your elder brother has more guts than you!”

“Come on. He got kicked out of the house by his wife and had to sleep in the office just two days ago. How is he better than me?”

Chapter 18

2/2

Sigmund was exasperated.

He regained his composure after a while and looked at Maise.

“I’ve made up my mind about the engagement, and there’s nothing you can do about it. Anyway, I haven’t been feeling well lately. I’d better go back to bed.”

He quickly fled upstairs.

“Coward!” Maisie was used to Sigmund pretending to be sick. She turned and glared at Bonnie.

“I’m warning you. You’ll be sorry if you show up tomorrow!”

Bonnie wasn’t afraid.

“It’s up to me whether I show up or not. I’m not afraid of you.”

Maise narrowed her eyes. “Oh, yeah?”

Bonnie raised an eyebrow and sneered.

Maisie snorted. “Just you wait!”

“Whatever.”

As he saw his mother and Bonnie arguing, Ivor started to feel worried.

The next day, Bonnie was stopped by Maisie and her bodyguards when she tried to leave home.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 19

Chapter 19

“I told you you’d be sorry if you showed up.”

Bonnie looked calmly at the two burly bodyguards.

“Do you think they can stop me?”

“Why not? They’re the best of the best. You’d better come with me now, and I’ll let you go after the engagement party. If you don’t cooperate, we’ll show you no mercy.”

Bonnie checked the time. “The party’s starting soon, and I’m never late to anything. You’d better leave with your men now, or I’ll show you no mercy.”

“Fine. You asked for this!”

Maise took two steps back and looked at the bodyguards. “Seize her, but try not to hurt her.”

“Yes, ma’am.” The bodyguards reached out with their thick arms and tried to grab Bonnie.

Bonnie threw a roundhouse kick and sent one of them tumbling over the other. The bodyguards fell on the ground, groaning.

Maise’s eyes went wide in surprise. “You know kickboxing?”

Bonnie raised her brow. “Are you sure your bodyguards are the best of the best?” she taunted.

“They let their guard down, that’s all. It doesn’t mean you’re any good!”

“Get up!” Maisie shouted at the bodyguards who were still lying on the ground.

The men scrambled to get up. They had underestimated Bonnie and let their guard down. They knew they had to redeem themselves now, or their reputation would be at stake.

The bodyguards stopped holding back and attacked Bonnie from both sides.

Bonnie darted behind one of them with lightning speed.

“What the fuck?”

Before the man could respond, Bonnie knocked him out cold.

Astonished, the other bodyguard stood frozen.

“What are you standing there for? Attack!” Maise shouted.

The man pulled himself together, growled, and threw a punch at Bonnie with all his might.

She dodged easily and kicked him in the stomach.

The bodyguard flew backward and crashed onto a wall as if he had been hit by a train and passed out.

Maise widened her eyes in disbelief.

Chuutor ve

Boune marched over to her. “Will you get out of my way now?”

“I most admit I underestimated you, but I can’t let you go no matter what.”

“Do you think you can stop me?”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 20

Chapter 20

“Lean try.”

Bonnie narrowed her eyes and stepped forward.

Maisie held out a hand against Bonnie’s shoulder. “Don’t make me do this. You might have been able to defeat those clowns, but you’re no match for me.”

Bonnie was taken aback. She hadn’t expected Ivor’s mother to be a fighter.

“We’ll see about that.”

Bonnie grabbed Maisie’s arm, stepped across her, and yanked her out of the way in a diagonal motion.

‘She was holding back while fighting the bodyguards! She’s more powerful than she wanted me to believe,’ thought Maisie in alarm.

“You leave me no choice, young lady!”

Maisie held up her fists in a steady fighting stance.

Bonnie was surprised when she realized that Maisie **was** a skilled kickboxer.

They charged and fought fiercely in a flurry of blows.

At the Knight Residence, the engagement party was

full swing.

Sigmund looked at the gate with a frown.

“Why isn’t Bonnie here yet? Why hasn’t she answered my calls?”

Ged said, “Maybe she realized she wasn’t **good** enough for Ivor.”

Sigmund smacked the back of Ged’s head. “One more word from you, and I’ll throw you out!”

“Hey, that hurt!”

Sigmund snorted and asked the butler. “I told you to send **someone** to look for Bonnie. Is he back yet?”

At that moment, the servant hurried over.

“Bad news, sir! Mrs. Maisie and Ms. Bonnie are fighting.”

“What?!” Sigmund, Ivor, and Willard shouted at the same time. Ivor and Willard exchanged a **glance**.

“Where are they?” Sigmund quickly got to his feet.

“I’ll take you there.”

Ged whispered to Ivor, “Your future wife is something else. Is she really fighting with your mom? She’s a goddamn kickboxing expert!”

Chapter 20

3/2

Ivor frowned and got into the car. He was also surprised that Bonnie could fight.

Meanwhile, Bonnie and Maisie had exchanged several strikes, but no one could gain the upper **hand**. In the end, they pushed each other away and stumbled back, astonished.

“Do you know Cary Burns?” Bonnie and Maisie asked at the same time. Stunned, they stepped closer to each other in excitement.

“Are you Cary’s second student?”

“You must be Cary’s last student!”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 21

Chapter 21

They quickly figured out that they were both students of Cary Burns.

“Cary told me you just got back to Pyralis,” Bonnie said.

“He told me he’d taken in one last student, but because I lived abroad all these **years**, I never had **the** chance to visit. I didn’t think it was you! He always speaks highly of you, you know.”

“I didn’t think you’d turn out to be my senior either. No wonder you’re so **good.**”

“Come on, you’re the real genius. Cary is right. You’re **a** natural.

“You mastered kickboxing even though you’re only 20. You’ve only been training with him for a short time, **too.**

“All your seniors, including me, had to work hard for a long time, you know?”

“To be honest, you’d beat all of us if we were your age.”

As Masie spoke, she smoothed down Bonnie’s hair and dress.

Ivor and others arrived just in time **to** see it happen.

They gaped, **and** their eyes widened in disbelief.

“What the hell is going on, mom?” Ivor asked.

Masie held Bonnie’s hand and laughed. “I just sparred with her and discovered that we both learned kickboxing from the same person.”

Ivor was **stunned.**

“For real?” Ged’s jaw dropped.

The others who had arrived thought they had misheard.

After all, Maisie had learned kickboxing from Cary, **the greatest** kickboxer in Arvador. **It** was a shock

to find that Bonnie **was** his student too.

“Are you sure,

mom?” Ivor glanced at Bonnie discreetly.

“**Of** course, **I am!** She’s Cary’s last student,” said Maisie with certainty.

Ged felt he had been so wrong about Bonnie. He **had** always thought that she was a complete loser, but **now** it seemed that he had seriously underestimated her.

Maisie nudged Bonnie toward **Ivor**. “Come say hello to my teammate.”

Ivor was exasperated.

Bonnie **patted** his shoulder.

Chapter 21

27

“I didn’t know you were my senior’s son. Now that I do, I’m going to look out for you.”

Ivor couldn’t take it anymore.

He pushed her hand off his shoulder.

Sigmund hurried over. “Why are you all talking about kickboxing? You’re getting engaged today!”

He took a deep breath and looked at Maisie. “Will you still object to their marriage?”

Masie turned to hold Bonnie’s hand again. “**To** be honest, **my** son isn’t good enough for you. As your senior, I think you should say no to the engagement.”

Ivor was speechless. Ged tried hard not to laugh.

“However,” Maisie continued, “as Ivor’s mom, I wish you would say yes.”

Bonnie smiled. “I’ve made a deal with Sigmund. If Ivor and I still don’t like each other in one month, we’ll go our separate ways.

“I see.”

Maisie didn't know about that.

"Oh, Ivor's grandma gave this to me. I want you to have it."

Masie removed her bracelet and tried to put it on Bonnie's wrist.

"Woah, this is **too** much!"

"Come on. It's a gift."

"But-

"What? Don't you like it?"

"I do!"

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 22

Chapter 22

"Then it's yours, okay?"

Maisie **managed** to put the bracelet on her wrist.

"It looks good on you, doesn't it?"

Bonnie smiled.

Ivor felt a mix of emotions as he saw his mother and Bonnie being so friendly.

"It's getting late. Let's get the party started." Maisie took Bonnie's hand and led her to the car while continuing their conversation affectionately.

Ged walked behind Ivor and patted his shoulder silently.

Ivor shot him a glance and slapped his hand away before going after them.

After the engagement party ended, Bonnie stayed at the Knight Residence.

She had promised Sigmund she would live with them for a month.

After dinner, Ivor brought Bonnie to the second floor.

“This is your room.”

“Okay, thanks,” said Bonnie politely.

Ivor said dryly, “I’m just doing what my grandpa told me to. Besides, you’re a guest.”

Bonnie knew Ivor was trying to tell her to mind her boundaries.

“I’ll be staying in the room next to yours as he wanted. You shouldn’t enter it without my permission, and I won’t go in your room either,” Ivor continued.

Bonnie said, “Don’t worry, I won’t go to your room. I’ll never fall for you either.”

“Good.”

They went to their rooms.

The next morning, Bonnie received a text message from Heath.

“The Knight is waiting for you at the private club. What’s your ETA?”

Bonnie yawned. “I’ll be right there.”

“You were sleeping, weren’t you?”

“I was exhausted, so I overslept. I’ll go as soon as I wash up, okay?”

“I’ll drive you.”

Chapter 22

“You’re going too?” Bonnie asked.

“You bet your **ass** I am!” Heath sounded excited. “This is the ultimate game between two of the greatest chess players of all time. I wouldn’t miss it for the world!”

2/2

In a private room of the club, Ivor could hardly contain his excitement.

Ged walked in and saw Ivor looking at the door, but he looked disappointed when he saw that it was just Ged

“You thought I was the Shepherd, huh?”

“Why isn’t he here yet?” Ivor looked anxious despite himself.

He had always been poker-faced, but he loved chess too much.

“She’s on the way.” Ged sat down.

“Who do you think is more likely to win, Ivor? You or the Shepherd?”

“It’s hard to say.”

Suddenly, they heard footsteps, and the sound of the door being pushed open.

Ivor and Ged looked at the door.

The **door** to the private room opened, and Bonnie walked in!

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 23

Chapter **23**

“Why are you here?” Ivor frowned.

Ged added, “You have the wrong room.

“Oh, sorry.” Bonnie stepped outside and checked the room number.

“Heath, you said the room number was 007, right?”

Heath was puzzled. “Yeah, this should be it.”

Bonnie opened the door again and walked **in**.

“Why are you back?” Ged asked, baffled.

She looked at them and said, “You guys have the wrong room. We’re supposed to meet someone in

Room 007.

“Hey, I booked the room, okay? You’re the **ones** who must have made a mistake,” Ged said confidently.

Bonnie frowned and asked, “Are you sure?”

Ged showed them the booking information on his phone.

“See for yourself!”

Astonished, Bonnie looked at Ivor, then at Ged. “Which one of you is the Knight?”

Ivor and Ged stared at Bonnie and the good-looking man beside her in astonishment.

“You’re here for the game?”

Ivor stood up. His gaze wavered between Bonnie and Heath and eventually settled on the latter.

The Shepherd was young indeed.

“Yup,” Bonnie answered and asked again, “So which of you is the Knight?”

Ivor sat down beside the chessboard.

It was clear that it was him.

Raising her brow, Bonnie tried not to look surprised and sat down across from Ivor.

Ivor’s eyes **widened** in disbelief.

“You’re the Shepherd?”

“My family name is Shepard. Isn’t it obvious?” Bonnie said blandly.

Ivor bolted to his feet and frowned.

Chapter 23

2/2

“What the fuck?” Ged gaped at Bonnie. He **was** even more shocked than when he found out she was the last student of Cary Burns.

“You’re the Shepherd? Oh my God! This can’t be happening!” Ged thought he had lost it. He scratched his head a few times, but could not seem to recover from the shock.

Ivor was equally astounded, although he did not show it. He narrowed his eyes and looked at Bonnie.

“Don’t you want to play chess with me? I’ve been waiting for this day too. Sit down so we can begin.”

Bonnie flipped a coin and covered it as it fell on the back of her hand.

“Heads **or** tails?”

Ivor tried to remain calm and **sat back** down.

“**Heads.**”

Bonnie revealed the coin. “You make the first move.

In a chess game between experienced players, one wrong move could lead to defeat.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 24

Chapter 24

Ivor played fast and hardly needed to think.

It was the same with Bonnie. The minute Ivor made his move, she made hers. All anyone could hear was a series of thuds as they moved the chess **pieces**.

Heath and Ged watched the game closely and almost cheered out loud several times. They were amazing! This was the ultimate showdown, all right. There was no telling who would win.

Half an hour later, Bonnie picked up a glass of water and took a sip. Ivor made his move and looked up at Bonnie. His gaze lingered as he was enchanted by her poise and grace.

Bonnie put down her glass and saw Ivor looking at her.

“Is there something on my face?”

Ivor caught himself and frowned.

“It’s your turn.”

“Oh.”

Bonnie made her move.

After some time, Ivor suddenly slowed down and studied the chessboard with a frown.

Ged started feeling anxious. Was Ivor going to lose?

Bonnie waited quietly.

After a minute, Ivor made his move.

Ged was **relieved**.

It was Bonnie’s turn to ponder her next move. Heath anxiously picked up a fan and started to waft it

at her.

Bonnie threw Heath a glance, silently telling him to relax. Embarrassed, he pumped his fist at her.

Ivor narrowed his eyes when he saw their interaction.

A thud sounded as Bonnie made her move and met Ivor’s gaze. “Your turn.”

The intense game continued, but neither Ivor nor Bonnie could gain the upper hand.

After a moment, Bonnie and Ivor stopped playing.

“I think we should **call** it a **draw**.”

“I agree.”

“We’ll play again next time.”

“Hav,”

Bonnie got up and stretched her limbs,

“It’s noon. Are you hungry? Let’s grab some lunch,” Heath said.

Bonnie patted her stomach. “I’m starving. Come on.”

“Where should we go?”

“Let me think.”

They talked as they headed out.

Ivor started feeling Jealous as he saw how close they were.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 25

Chapter 25

“The engagement might not have been our idea, but don’t forget that you’re still my fiancée for a month, Bonnie. You shouldn’t date any other guys, okay?”

Bonnie looked over her shoulder and said drily, “Just date some other girls, and we’ll call it even.”

Ivor **was at** a loss for words.

“Let’s go,” said Bonnie to Heath. They left together.

Ivor stated after her and pursed his lips.

Ged **couldn't** help **but** say, "Bonnie is really something else. She fixes robots, she fights, and she's also turned out to be The Shepherd. I guess she's not the loser we thought she **was**. You should cherish her, Ivor. She might be full of shit sometimes, but I think she's **good** enough for you."

Ivor frowned, and his gaze became pensive.

1/2

After having lunch with Heath, Bonnie went home to pack her clothes.

"What are you doing?" Vera was puzzled.

"I'm going to move **out** so I can focus on preparing for the college entrance test," Bonnie said as she filled her luggage.

"Where are you **going**? Have you found a place?"

"Uh-huh."

"Where is it? What's the rent?"

Vera **was** worried that Bonnie would find an expensive place to **stay**.

Bonnie knew what she **was** concerned about. "It's not as expensive as where Trina moved to."

But Vera was alarmed.

Two years **ago**, the rent for Trina's place was more than 3,000 dollars. A cheaper place would still **cost** around 2,000 dollars a month.

"Can't you find a cheaper place? I'll try to find one for **you**."

Vera opened a rental app as she spoke and said, "Look at this. **It's** only a few **hundred** dollars a

month, and there's an en suite bathroom."

Bonnie looked at the photo. The room looked like it was in terrible condition, **and** it didn't even **have** a

desk.

“So am I **supposed** to study on the bed?”

Chapter 25

212

Vera supposed that Bonnie did need a desk.

“How about this on? There’s a bed, a desk, a closet, and even an air conditioner. It’s a bit more expensive though. Around 400 bucks.” Vera seemed very concerned about the cost.

Bonnie narrowed her eyes.

“You never complained about the rent when Trina moved out.”

“You’re n not her, okay?” Vera blurted out. Bonnie just stared. Vera caught herself.

“Well, it’s not that I’m partial to her, but her results were great, and it seemed likely that she would get into Pyralis University.”

Charter 26

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 26

Chapter 26

“And you? It’s not that I look down on you, but you should know better.

“Getting into a third–rate college would be a miracle for someone like you.

“So what’s the point of moving to an expensive place? That would just be a waste of money.”

Bonnie smiled confidently. "I told you I could get Into Pyralls University, didn't I?"

Vera felt a little guilty about what she had just said, but she was also starting to feel annoyed as she thought that Bonnie was bragging again.

"I've had enough of this, Bonnie!

"If you w

you want me to pay your rent, apologize to me right now! If you promise not to brag again, I'll get you the place that costs 400 bucks a month."

"I was never going to ask you to pay for it," said Bonnie firmly.

"Oh, yeah? **How** are you going to pay for it, then?" Vera was exasperated.

Bonnie chuckled.

"What's **so** funny?" Vera frowned.

"You give Trina everything she wants even though I'm your biological daughter. It's funny if you

think about it."

Livid, Vera widened her eyes.

She **found** her voice after a moment.

"You want to blame me **for** that? Trina **has** worked hard to make me and your dad proud! She's a great student, she's won piano competitions, joined the equestrian club, and so much more. She's done a lot for this family!

"**Your** grandpa and grandma's birthdays are coming soon, and she's even bought them presents with the money she's saved in the past year. You? All you do is fool around! Why should I spend so much. on you?"

Annoyed, Bonnie said, "When have I ever spent your money? **I've** always supported myself! And I'll get grandpa and grandma better gifts than Trinal"

Vera crossed her arms and laughed dismissively.

Bonnie lost her patience. "That's it. I'm leaving."

She left with her luggage.

“Come back!” Vera shouted after her. “Do you hear me, Bonnie? **Get your ass** back here. If you don’t, I’ll never pay your rent!”

Chapter 26

Bonnie Ignored her and eventually disappeared from view.

“Fine! Let’s see how you survive without me!”

It was dark when Boule reached the Knight Residence.

She saw Ivor sitting on the sofa as if he was waiting for someone.

Before she could ask who he was waiting for, Ivor spoke first.

“Why are you back so late?”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 27

Chapter 27

Bonnie raised her brow. She had a strange feeling that he sounded jealous.

“I had to tell my family I was moving out,” she said, as she dragged her suitcase toward the stairwell.

“Let me help you.” Ivor strode over and took the suitcase from her.

Bonnie threw Ivor a baffled look. Wasn’t he upset?

“It’s okay. I can do it.”

Bonnie tried to take the suitcase back.

But Ivor refused to let it go and carried it upstairs himself.

He reached her room, pushed the door open, and went in.

Bonnie was bewildered. Didn't he say he would never set foot in her room?

She went into the room and thanked him politely.

"Thanks."

"You're welcome."

After two seconds, Bonnie saw that Ivor wasn't leaving and grew puzzled.

"You can go now."

Ivor frowned.

"Let's play another round."

Bonnie realized he wanted to play chess with her.

"It's late, and I need to go to school tomorrow. We'll do this some other time, okay?"

Ivor checked his watch. "Huh, I guess it is late."

The room fell into awkward silence again.

Bonnie stared **at** Ivor. Why **wasn't** he leaving?

Ivor frowned. He realized Bonnie was probably going to tell him to leave and quickly said, "So how did it go with your family?"

"I told them I'd be staying somewhere else for a month."

"And they agreed to that? They didn't ask you anything? Weren't they worried about you moving out?" Ivor asked.

"I lied. I said I was moving out to prepare for the **college** entrance test."

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Ivor knew Bonnie had been doing badly at school. He hesitated for a moment and said, "I graduated from high school years ago, but I can tutor you in subjects like English and math."

He wanted to tutor her? Did he really think she was struggling at school?

“Thanks, but no thanks. I don’t need any help.”

Ivor thought he had upset her because he had been too blunt.

“Sorry, I didn’t mean to hurt your feelings.”

Bonnie smiled. “I’m doing fine at school, and you could never hurt my feelings. Anyway, you should leave, Mr. Ivor.”

But Ivor remained where he **was**.

Bonnie got into bed, propped herself up on her side, and smiled at him.

“You don’t plan on sleeping here with me, do you?”

Ivor’s eyes lit up as he saw her curves and seductive yet innocent smile.

He couldn’t help but start to feel warm, and his ears started to turn red.

He turned around, coldly pushed the door open, and left the room.

The next morning, Bonnie got out of bed and went downstairs. She saw Neville anxiously scratching the back of his head.

As she approached him, she realized he was doing his homework.

“What’s the matter? Didn’t you finish your homework yesterday?”

Neville quickly shushed her.

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“I was right, huh?” Bonnie said..

Neville looked embarrassed and desperate. “Are you going to refuse to mentor me because of this?”

“Why would I? I’ve never done my homework. Hell, I never even bothered answering any exam papers,” said Bonnie casually.

The questions were too easy for her. **She** would rather spend her time solving problems at the research institute.

“You’re so cool!” Neville gave her a thumbs–**up**, then frowned.

“I don’t have time to talk right now. This applied problem is really tough, and I need to solve **it** quickly. Otherwise, my teacher will give me a hard time.”

Bonnie saw **that** he was really anxious, so she said kindly, “I can help you if you don’t know how to answer that.”

“Huh? You’ll help me? How could you possibly know how to do this?” Neville was surprised.

just elementary school math. I’m not stupid, **you** know.”

“No, no, I’m not saying you’re stupid, but I attend the finest private school for the elite. All the teachers there have at least a doctoral degree, so the questions they **give** are so hard that not even college students know how to answer them.”

“Wait.” Bonnie pulled Neville’s workbook over and started to answer some of the questions.

A few seconds later, she pushed it back toward Neville.

“Take a look. Let me **know** if you have any questions.”

Neville stared at her **solutions** with wide eyes. He **was** impressed that she had made them so easy to understand.

Bonnie got up from the sofa. "I won't be having breakfast here. I need to go to school."

Neville stared after **her** and tried to recover from the shock.

"I thought she was doing really badly at school. Not even high school students could answer these questions!"

Just as Neville said **that**, a **deep** voice came from behind him.

"What are you talking about?"

"I'm talking about Bonnie. She's really amazing. She even-" Neville caught himself.

He wanted to tell Ivor about what had happened, but he couldn't risk Ivor finding out that he hadn't finished his homework yesterday.

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2/2

"Oh, what was I saying?" Neville scratched his head and walked to the dining table.

"You know **what**, I can't remember. Just forget what I said. I need to have breakfast and go to school

now,"

At the mention of "school", Ivor thought about Bonnie and her beautiful face.

"Have you seen Bonnie?"

"She's gone to school."

"Without breakfast?" Ivor frowned.

"Yeah."

Ivor looked concerned.

Bonnie entered the classroom.

Some students were reading, and some were gossiping.

"**My dad** told me the hottest bachelor in Pyralis has gotten engaged!"

"Are you talking about the CEO of the Knight Group?"

“Who else? I wonder who the lucky girl is?”

“I’m so jealous!”

“Why are you jealous? Let’s be realistic about this. There’s no way we could ever meet the richest man in the city. I’d be happy to meet a rich guy like Sacha’s boyfriend.”

Sacha smiled proudly **as** she heard them mention her **name**.

She saw Bonnie leaning against the window and narrowed her eyes maliciously.

“Bonnie, I’m curious about something. How on earth did you meet Ms. Kay? Not through her uncles, I hope?”

Everyone in the classroom looked at Bonnie, waiting for her answer.

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As they had wondered the same thing, the students stopped what they were doing and stared at

Bonnie.

Sacha was very mean to imply that Bonnie had become a mistress to an older man. Anyone else would have gotten mad, but Bonnie just glanced at Sacha and said nothing.

Bonnie’s silence infuriated her classmates. They were already upset about what had happened at Regal Karaoke, so they started to attack her verbally.

“Don’t bp

“Don’t be **a** snob. **So** what if you know Ms. Kay?”

“I bet Ms. Kay will tell you to fuck off once she finds out who you really are! Hell, she might even give you a good beating.”

Bonnie finished drinking her yogurt and turned to them.

“You’re in school to study, not to gossip about other people. You should focus on your studies. I feel bad for your parents, you know.”

Her classmates couldn’t believe what she had just said.

“Hey, Bonnie, don’t you have any shame? You’re always getting zeros in exams. You’re the one who needs to focus on your studies!”

“Getting zeros doesn’t mean I’m a bad student. I just didn’t want to waste my time answering the papers because they were too easy. Instead, I spent my time solving the P versus NP problem.”

The P versus NP problem was one of the seven most challenging mathematical problems in the world that had baffled many geniuses.

But she **had** solved it in less than a day, to the shock **of** mathematicians around the world.

A student laughed. “Do you really expect us to believe that?”

“A loser like **you** solved the P versus NP problem? That’ll happen when pigs fly!”

The students laughed as they ridiculed Bonnie.

“If you’re as good as you say you are, Bonnie, you must be trying to get into Pyralis University.” Tilda mocked.

“Pfft, are you kidding me? Pyralis University is the best university in our city, and only the cream of the crop **can** get **in**. I don’t think a single person in this whole school will be able to do that, let alone anyone from our class. If Bonnie can do it, I’ll shave my head!”

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Chapter 30

“Count me in!”

“Me too!”

The students continued to ridicule Bonnie.

She looked at them calmly and said, “Well, how about a bet?”

“What are we betting on?”

“Whether I can get into Pyralis University. If you lose, you’ll all have to shave your heads.”

“All right! But if you lose, you have to shave yours as well.”

“Deal,” said Bonnie.

A student held up her phone.

“I’ve in

recorded what you said. Bonnie, if you **lose** and don’t do as you promised, we’ll put this online and show the world what a liar you are!”

Almost every student at school heard about the bet before the day was out. Sacha and her gang had spread the news to make Bonnie a laughing stock and ensure there was no turning back.

If Bonnie ended up breaking her promise, she would lose everyone’s respect.

Bonnie had been harassed in school all day, so she thought she would be able to find peace at the Knight Residence. But when she returned, she became the target of two uninvited guests.

“A country bumpkin like you doesn’t belong here, Bonnie! You’re not worthy of my cousin! I can’t believe my grandpa wants him to marry you! And how could Aunt Maisie give you her blessing? I don’t care what she said. You need to leave Ivor immediately!”

Halle Knight disliked Bonnie because she wanted her best friend, Rowena Paul, to marry Ivor.

Bonnie chuckled. “Who the fuck you think you are? Why should I listen to what you say?”

“I–You–” Halle was so exasperated that her face flushed.

Rowena, who had come in with Halle, glared at Bonnie. “You’re so rude. Halle is Ivor’s cousin. How could you talk to her like that?”

“So what if she’s Ivor’s cousin? She’s the one who’s being rude. I don’t need this shit, okay? Just leave

me alone.” Bonnie turned to leave.

Infuriated, Halle lost her **cool** and tried to slap her.

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Chapter 31

Bonnie squinted, raised her hand, and pinched Halle’s arm.

“Let me go, you bitch! How dare you fight back when you’re the one who insulted me. You’re **nothing** but a pathetic nobody. How dare you?”

Bonnie’s face was cold as she exerted more pressure on Halle’s arm. It started to creak as it bent.

“Ouch! Eek! That hurts! **My** arm’s going to break! Bonnie, you bitch. I’m ordering you to stop!”

Rowena tried to stop her as well. “Don’t do anything rash, Bonnie. She’s one of the Knights. If you hurt her for real, they won’t let it slide, and even Mr. Sigmund won’t be able to cover for you!”

“Are you threatening me? I’ve never backed down from a threat.” Bonnie sneered and pressed down

even harder.

‘Crack!’ Just like that, Halle’s arm was dislocated. “Arghh!” she screamed at the top of her **lungs**.

“W–Why, you...” Rowena was at a loss for words. She didn’t think Bonnie would actually do it! What a

terrible woman!

Bonnie stared at Halle coldly. “I’ll give you one last chance. Apologize, or I’ll do more than dislocate your arm. I’ll straight up ruin it!”

Halle caught the devilish look in Bonnie’s eyes just as she was about to yell at her. She had a hunch that she’d meet a far more terrible fate if she continued to challenge Bonnie.

With that in mind, Halle gritted her teeth and said reluctantly, “I’m sorry.

H

“Tell me again. Who’s the bitch?” Bonnie eyed Halle’s other arm as she spoke.

“Bonnie Shepard! Don’t go too far! Otherwise, I’ll...”

‘Crack! Crack!’

“I’m sorry! Forgive me! It’s me! I’m the bitch!” Halle begged pitifully as tears streamed down her

cheeks.

Bonnie shoved her away so fiercely that she stumbled and fell. Halle sprawled **across** the ground, tears and snot all over her face. Her earlier arrogance was all but gone.

“Are you okay, Halle?” **Rowena** asked, concerned.

arm !!

“It hurts so much! I think she broke my arm.”

Rowena flung herself against Bonnie in a rage, “**You’re so** cruel, Bonnie! How could you treat Halle like this? She’s just a girl!”

“What’s the matter? Do you want **a** taste of this too?” Bonnie said solemnly. She cracked her knuckles.

Rowena knew just how terrible **Bonnie** could be. She fell silent and took a step back, ensuring a safe

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distance between them. Then, she took out a check and said, “Here’s five million dollars. Take it. The only condition is you have to stay away from Ivor.”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 32

Chapter 32

“Five million dollars? Do you think I’m some kind of beggar?” Bonnie looked at the check disdainfully. The country paid her way more **than** five million dollars as a monthly salary, and that **was** even before taking the dividends into account.

“You’re asking for way too much! You’re just a nobody. The Shepards might have taken you back, but I hear that you aren’t exactly popular there. They don’t give you any pocket money.

“Five million is nothing to sneeze at. The Shepards would fall on their knees and thank me if I gave them all this money!”

Rowena crossed her arms on her chest, lifted her chin, and looked down at Bonnie.

“Really? Five million dollars might seem like a huge amount of money to you. You’re from a middle- class family, after all. But it means nothing to someone like me. Take my outfit, for example. This alone is worth several million dollars.” Bonnie pointed at the clothes she was wearing.

“Hahaha! Did you just say your outfit is worth several million dollars? Are you sure **you’re** not talking about some third–world country currency?”

“You can’t even tell who made my outfit. You’re clueless.” It was Bonnie’s turn to look **down**

Rowena.

Rowena frowned and started looking closely at Bonnie’s outfit. Her eyes widened when she saw the

logo. Then, her surprise turned to mockery.

“You’ve done it now, Bonnie. You wanted to look **good** so badly that you slapped Hamish Evans’s unique logo on some random outfit.”

“I know you didn’t recognize it, but I didn’t know just how clueless you were. This is not a counterfeit.”

“Clueless? I think you’re the ignorant one. You flipped through some magazines and thought anyone could wear Hamish Evans’s clothes. He only makes three outfits a month. All kinds of famous and wealthy people fight over every piece he makes.

“There’s no way a hillbilly managed to get one of his outfits. I’m a huge fan of his. I know about all his designs, and I can say for sure that he **hasn’t** made anything like what you’re wearing!”

“That’s because Hamish designed this outfit specifically for me. Of course you wouldn’t have seen it.

Rowena burst into laughter. “Did you hear that, Halle? She said Hamish designed that outfit specifically for her. Why doesn’t she just go ahead and say that Hamish works for her and designs an outfit for her every day? How shameless!”

Halle ignored her painful arm and joined the mocking. “That’s why I said she doesn’t deserve cousin Ivor! She dragged his name through the mud when she was engaged to him. Get her out of here now, Rowena. **She’s** making me sick.”

Chapter 32

Rowena pulled off a jade bracelet from her wrist and reached out to Bonnie, “My grandmother spent a lot of money on this bracelet for my eighteenth birthday. Do you know how much it was? I’m sure you’ll be shocked.

“This cost ten million dollars! Ten million! What do you think? Are you surprised? Take it. You’ll never wear a piece of jewelry more extravagant than this one. I’m giving it to you out of the kindness of my heart.”

Bonnie looked at the bracelet coldly and extended her hand as though to take it.

“Heh!” Rowena despised her. ‘Why isn’t Bonnie keeping up her aloof pretense now? Was it because she thought five million dollars wasn’t enough?’

As she moved to put the jade bracelet in Bonnie’s hand, Bonnie snatched her hand back. Just like that, it fell out of Rowena’s hand and straight onto the ground.

‘Smash!’ The jade bracelet shattered into several pieces. Rowena screamed in shock. “My bracelet!”

Halle couldn’t believe what had just happened. She was about to yell at Bonnie when she saw Ivor coming out of his study.

An idea sprung in her mind and she yelled, “That’s too much, Bonnie. Rowena just said something **you** didn’t want to hear, but you went ahead and smashed her jade bracelet on the ground! Her late grandmother gave that to her! How could you be so cold?”

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Chapter 33

Rowena instantly guessed why Halle was spinning the story that way. She put on a heartbroken face, Tysats streamed down her face as she said, “Plat was my Jade bracelet. It’s the only thing I have to remember my grandmother by.

“she doted on me when she was still with us, I was so miserable when she passed away. The jade bracelet was the only thing I had left of her.

How could you do this, Bonnie? I just asked you to be nice to Ivor. You can hit me or argue with me, but you shouldn't have smashed my bracelet...”

Halle made her way to Ivor, gritted her teeth, and started complaining. “You need to stand up for Rowena, Ivor! Bonnie smashed her bracelet and broke my arm. Look at it. It hurts like hell!”

Ivor looked at Bonnie. “Did you break her arm?”

“I guess you could say that. I didn't break it, though. I only dislocated it because I was thinking of Grandpa Sigmund. Otherwise, I would've broken it for sure.” Bonnie spoke in a tone so light **you** would have thought she **was** talking about something mundane.

Halle was about to lose it. “Look at her, Ivor. She hurt me and smashed Rowena's bracelet, but she's still acting so full of herself, I won't stand for this! You need to teach her a lesson. Better yet, break her arms and legs before you kick her out of here!”

“I did hurt you, I admit. You deserved it, after all. But as for Rowena's bracelet...” Bonnie cast a casual glance at Rowena, who was crying her eyes out, and said, “You should have shown more respect for your grandmother.

“I don't know why you'd try to chase me away by offering me the bracelet your late grandmother gave you. You're such an animal. **Oh**, wait. Animals do have some semblance of respect for their elders. It would be an insult to say you're an animal. You're worse than an animal!”

Rowena was speechless at Bonnie's blunt retort. In the end, Halle stepped forward and spoke for Rowena. “What nonsense are you saying? When did Rowena say she would give you the bracelet? You're the one who snatched it and smashed it in a fit of rage when she refused to let you take it.”

Bonnie sneered and looked at Ivor. “Do you believe me or them?”

“I believe you.” Ivor said immediately. Bonnie was surprised to hear such a straightforward answer.

“You can't trust her, Ivor! She's just a second-rate, miserable bitch who doesn't deserve you at all!” As she said that, Halle was met with Ivor's terrible gaze. Just as she was wondering what she had said to deserve such a look, he slapped her right across her face.

'Slap!' The sound resounded clearly through the room. Everyone was shocked, even Bonnie. Halle covered her cheek and stared at him incredulously.

“D–Did you just slap me, Ivor? Why did you do that?”

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“Why? the’s engaged to me Technically, she’s your cousin in–law. You need to respect my fiancé How dare you swear at her and call her names. As her future husband, I have a duty to teach you a lesson on hy behalf!”

It felt as if the temperature of the room had dropped. Halle couldn’t help but gawit. Rowena, on the other hand, was green with envy **and** staring daggers at Bonnie.

hvor had never stood up for anyone like this. Not even Bonnie herself had thought he would take her side all the time

After a long period of silence, Halle burst out crying. “I can’t believe you’re on her side, Ivor. What

sakeg you think she can be my cousin–in–law? I won’t stand for this.

“I thought you didn’t want to marry her. Why would you teach me a lesson on her behalf and slap me, then? I won’t let this rest. I’m going to tell my parents about this.”

“Alright. You won’t let this rest, huh? I’ll tell the butler to show me the security footage.” Ivor turned to give an order to the butler, who was standing at the side of the room.

“At once.” The butler left to do his master’s bidding.

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Halle started feeling worried. She looked at Rowena, who said anxiously, "There's no need to watch the security footage, Ivor. After all, Grandpa Sigmund likes her. I might not care about her, but I need to show him some respect."

"What's done is done. My grandmother's been gone a long time anyway. I can hold on to the bracelet forever, but she won't come back to me. I'll do Grandpa Sigmund a favor and let this slide." Then, Rowena took Halle's arm and **said**, "Let's go, Halle."

Ivor stopped them. "Who said you could leave?"

Rowena and Halle stopped in their tracks and looked at each other. They didn't get it. Why wasn't Ivor letting this go? He was a privileged, capable man. There was no way he **loved a** nobody like Bonnie!

Ivor stepped briskly toward them. "Apologize to Bonnie!"

"W-We didn't do anything wrong!"

"Alright. I'll check the security footage and send it to everyone in the family," He said coldly. That shook both of them to the core. Their faces turned pale.

The coldness and the cruel indifference in Ivor's eyes were unmistakable. "Apologize to Bonnie, and do it properly. Otherwise, I'll make you two regret what you did!"

The struggle was real **for** both Halle and Rowena!

"I'm going to **count** to three." Ivor didn't give them any time to think and began to count.

"One."

"Two."

Halle and Rowena almost turned blue in the face as they struggled to keep silent. They gritted their teeth. This was the biggest humiliation they had ever experienced in their lives! However, they had no choice but to cower before Ivor.

"We're sorry!" Halle and Rowena apologized at the same time. They even bowed to Bonnie.

"You can go now." Ivor said with a blank face.

Halle and Rowena did not waste **a second** and turned to **leave**.

Bonnie walked to Ivor **and** said, "Thanks for standing up for me. I didn't really need your help, but I have to **say** I owe you a favor. I don't like having that **hanging** over my head. How do you want me to repay you?"

He pointed upstairs. "Play chess with me."

Bonnie nodded. "Sure, but I have **to** see to some business outside. Let's do it tonight instead."

"Sure."

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2/2

"Come to my room tonight. I'll be waiting." Bonnie said it casually, but her tone sounded a little tempting to Ivor.

She was gone by the time Ivor snapped out of his trance.

"Where's Bonnie?"

"She left just a second ago."

Frowning, Ivor went up to his study. He was going to continue his work, but he found himself walking to the window involuntarily. That was when he saw Bonnie getting into a Rolls-Royce. A man was waiting by the car.

"Huh?"

Was that Jim Ray, Ms. Bonita's bodyguard?!

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Ivor was surprised. He wanted to take a closer look, but the man got into the car as well.

“It couldn’t have been Jim Ray.” He shook his head. Jim was Ms. Bonita’s top bodyguard. Why would he be with Bonnie? He must have been mistaken.

Meanwhile, in the Rolls–Royce, Jim was asking Bonnie worriedly, “How was everything? Was anyone from the Knight family mean to you?”

She found his question very amusing. “Do you think I’d let anybody be mean to me?”

He didn’t feel better just because she had answered him lightly. “Did Ivor do anything to you? Was he mean to you?”

“He treats me the way he would any ordinary person. He’s not exactly hostile toward me.”

“That’s fine, then.”

“Oh. Speaking of, he helped me out of a pickle just now.”

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“What? What happened?” Jim sounded very worried. She told him everything that had just happened at the Knight family’s place. Jim’s face was stern to begin with, but it grew fiercer and darker when he **heard** the whole story.

“I can’t believe Halle and Rowena tried to pick a fight with you. Leave it to me, Bonnie. I’ll charge them with treason for humiliating a researcher of the nation!”

She looked at Jim, whose face was cold and grim, and shook her head. “You don’t use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. There was no need to involve you in this. And anyway, **I** already taught them a lesson!”

“You let them off the hook too easily!”

“I have to agree with that, but you need to remember that Sigmund is Halle’s grandfather. I would have been much harsher on them if it **wasn’t** for him.”

Jim frowned and hesitated before looking at Bonnie sternly. “You need to tell me **if** anything like t happens to you again. Your safety is the nation’s top priority.”

“**Alright.** I’ll let you know right away next time **I** get into trouble,” She promised him.

that

However, Jim didn’t exactly feel reassured. “Maybe **I** should just stay with the Knight family. That’ll make it easier for me to protect you.”

She raised her eyes, “No way. You’ll expose my identity to the whole world if you stay with the Knight family just to protect me. I hid my identity for a reason, and it’s not about keeping a low profile.

“I just don’t like the idea that reporters and paparazzi will dog me the moment I step outside, or **that** I’ll cause congestion in traffic because I want to buy food or go shopping. I’ll lose my **freedom** and privacy. I just want some peace and quiet, **that’s** all.”

Chapter 15

2/2

“You say that, but those petty characters in the Knight family will always try to cause trouble for you. I believe you’ll be able to handle them easily, but what good will I be as a bodyguard if I can’t protect you?”

“I said no. End of discussion,” Bonnie said firmly. Jim pursed his lips and lowered his gaze, a plan already forming in his mind.

Bonnie went back to the Knight family’s place after working at the research institute the entire day. Something was different today. Several dozen bodyguards were standing in the courtyard, all of them wearing sunglasses.

“What’s this?” She asked curiously.

Alfred answered, “It hasn’t been safe in Pyralis lately. We’ve seen reports of burglaries in mansions and **villas**. The criminals are so bold that they’d rob someone in broad daylight. Mr. Ivor gave the order to hire some skillful bodyguards.”

“I see.”

As Bonnie cast a **casual** glance at the bodyguards, a six-foot-five man caught her attention. He looked familiar. She felt **as** if she had seen him somewhere before.

“You should return to your room, Ms. Bonnie. I’m going to test them now. Things will get pretty violent. I’m worried it’ll upset you.” Alfred said.

“It’s alright. I’ll watch the tests.” She said lightly.

He was about to say something when it occurred to him that Bonnie had fought with Ms. Maisie during the engagement party. She was right. Why would Ms. Maisie’s fellow disciple be upset by some **tests**?

As they were getting ready for the tests, Bonnie found a place and took a seat.

The six-foot-five man among the bodyguards cast a glance at Bonnie swiftly and quietly.

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Bonnie caught his glance and stared at him fiercely. The six-foot-five man was startled and proceeded to pretend that nothing had happened. He stared straight forward and waited for the test

to start.

“The test will begin now. Form two rows, and we’ll hold the duels one by one,” the butler **said** to the bodyguards.

The group began the duels according to his instructions. The first round of duels disqualified half of them. Then, he held another round of duels and cut the numbers in half again. Now, there were only Twenty-four bodyguards left.

should do it.” Alfred nodded in satisfaction. “Take a break, everyone. I’ll pick a captain in twenty minutes.”

After twenty minutes went by, Alfred arranged for them to duke it out amongst themselves. The six-foot-five man was very skillful. He sent his opponents flying in no time.

Alfred was about to make him captain when Bonnie spoke up. “I don’t think it’s enough for the Knight family’s bodyguard to be good in a fight. That’s **too** easy. They should have some medical knowledge as well.”

He was stunned. The disdain in his eyes was unmistakable. “You’re just a student, Ms. Bonnie. It would be better for you not to get involved. After all, this is about the security of the Knight family.”

Alfred might have said **that** in a respectful tone, but he did look down on her. He couldn't believe Bonnie really thought she was mistress of the house.

She, on the other hand, paid him no mind. She needed to confirm her suspicions. "In 1998, the **wealthiest man** in Aquilonia, Nox Turner, died of poisoning. His bodyguard had zero medical knowledge, so he didn't realize that a toxin could be produced by combining certain foods. It induced **a** heart attack.

"In 2005, the royal princess **of** Xentara accidentally breathed in an odorless, poisonous gas and slipped into unconsciousness. She remains in a vegetative state to this day. Many incidents like **that** have happened. Do you think you'll be able to take responsibility if someone **tried** to poison one of the Knights?"

Bonnie might **have** spoken calmly, but Alfred was unnerved. He wasn't happy about this. He felt as if she was challenging his authority. So, he said spitefully, "Maybe you should test them then, Ms. Bonnie. You must have worked out something before you interrupted my tests."

If she wanted to show off, he'd put her on the spot. In any case, Bonnie was a terrible student. She was probably just trying to **show** off. There **was** no way she could think of something to actually test the bodyguards with.

"Sure thing." Bonnie accepted the challenge and ordered some pens and papers to be brought to her. She wrote down ten questions in no time and gave them to a gobsmacked Alfred.

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He verified the questions with the doctor he hired for his tests. To their disbelief, they were substantial questions! She wouldn't have been able to come up with these questions if she hadn't done some profound research in the toxicology field.

The doctor regarded her in admiration. "I can't believe you have such a deep knowledge of toxicology, Ms. Bonnie. Could you give me some pointers?"

Alfred was totally shocked. When Bonnie gave the word, the bodyguards went on to take the

additional test. Only a few of them could give the correct answers, but the six-foot-five man managed to get a perfect score.

She checked his answer sheet and chuckled. She walked to the man in question and asked with a smile, "What's your name?"

"Tim Reid."

“Tim Reid...” Bonnie muttered, “Hmm. What a fine name. It reminds me of someone.

The man’s fingers twitched slightly.

“Do you want to know who it reminds me of?” Bonnie grinned widely.

“I—I’m **not** sure about that.”

She kept grinning and said lightly, “**It** reminds **me** of the King of Combat, Jim Ray.”

Alfred was very displeased. “Watch your tongue, Ms. Bonnie! If Ms. Bonita and Mr. Jim find out what **you** said, it’ll bring catastrophe to the Knight family. You’ll be the person who caused their downfall!”

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Chapter 37

Bonnie looked at Alfred, stunned.

He held up his chin triumphantly and said condescendingly, “Mr. Jim is no ordinary man, Ms. Bonnie. He’s an extremely proficient fighter and very proud. How could you compare these bodyguards with someone as great as him? You’d better watch out. They might come after you!”

“Oh. This Jim character is quite something, huh?” She chuckled. A bead of sweat flowed down the side of Tim Reid’s forehead. In fact, he **was** Jim Ray in disguise. He held himself back from his strong desire to tear Alfred apart and remained where he stood.

Alfred had more to say. “Mr. Jim’s working for someone even more important. You might have heard of Ms. Bonita, the world-renowned researcher who successfully developed the world’s latest

nanomaterial.

“If you offend Mr. Jim, you’ll offend Ms. Bonita as well. Not even Mr. Sigmund will be able to help you then. They won’t do him any favors,” Alfred thought he had intimidated Bonnie a little and gained some of her respect. But Bonnie looked calm as usual, almost as if she wasn’t fazed in the least.

Alfred was displeased. “It looks like you don’t understand the full gravity of the situation, Ms. Bonnie.”

“What do I need to understand? Do you think Mr. Jim and **Ms. Bonita** would stir up trouble with me over something so trivial? Do **you** think they have time for that? Are you calling them petty?”

She shot a cold glance at him and kept going, “If that’s what you’re trying to say here, they’d probably want to teach you a lesson instead.”

Alfred’s face turned green. He didn’t have anything to say. He wanted to teach Bonnie a lesson, but she had schooled him back. And everything she said had a point, so he **couldn’t** even argue with her!

At that moment, Ivor returned from work.

“Have you chosen the bodyguards?” He asked as he looked at Alfred.

“You’re looking at them. They’re the best of the best. That’s especially true when it comes to the new captain. He’s very formidable.” Alfred pointed at Jim **and** praised him non-stop.

Ivor scanned Jim for a while before turning his gaze to his assistant and bodyguard, Floyd. He

ordered, “**Spar** with him and size him up.”

“Roger that, Mr. Ivor.” Floyd stepped forward and asked, “Should I go easy on him?”

Jim spoke before Ivor could. “That won’t be necessary.”

“Oh? Confident, aren’t you?” Floyd did some warm-ups and said, “Fair warning. Even the black belts are no **match** for me. I’m in a different **league** from the people **you** just defeated”

Jim gestured confidently. “Let’s begin.”

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“Every fighter has **his** pride. Very well. You have my respect.” Despite what Floyd said, he had already made up his mind to take his opponent down a peg. But he still didn’t want to humiliate Jim.

Floyd just wanted him to know that there would always be someone stronger than him. If Jim couldn’t let go of his pride, it would stop him doing a good job as the Knights’ bodyguard. It was better to chip away at some of his pride now.

Bonnie walked over to Ivor and said, “I suggest Floyd fight with everything he’s got.”

Ivor raised his brow and asked, “Is he really that good?”

“What do you think would happen if Floyd went up against me?” Bonnie answered his question with another question.

After thinking for a while, Ivor reached an answer. “He might not win.”

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Honnte glanced at Jim, who was warming up, and said, “If I went up against him, I’d only stand a slim

hance of winning “What she said gave Ivor quite a shock.

“Begin!” Alfred shouted. He was acting as referee for the fight. Floyd moved in on **Jim**. They were both skilled fighters, and traded blows incessantly. It was a sight to behold, dazzling the onlookers.

Ivor began to believe what Bonnie had said. “He’s definitely strong

Bonnie was silent, Jim was pulling his punches because he was trying to conceal his identity. Otherwise, he would have knocked out Floyd immediately.

Five minutes later, gusts of wind rose as Jim and Floyd's fists collided fiercely. Then, they both stepped back.

"Wonderfull! You fought well! I like you!" Floyd laughed and patted Jim on his shoulder. He made it look like they were two evenly matched fighters who were admiring each other.

Jim gave Floyd's hand a sideways glance. He would've thrown Floyd over his shoulder out of pure

instinct if it wasn't for Bonnie,

"The way you fought reminded me so much of Mr. Jim. Are you a fan of his as well?" Floyd couldn't help but ask.

"You're a fan?" Jim asked.

"Of course!" Floyd got excited when they started talking about Jim. "I really admire Mr. Jim! I've watched every single match of his. They were exhilarating! My only wish in life is to spar with him and have him show me some pointers. I'll die a happy man if my wish comes true!"

Jim was about to lose it. Bonnie nearly burst into laughter as well.

"That's enough, Floyd." Ivor said lightly.

Floyd was a little embarrassed. "U-Understood, **sir**. Please excuse me. I lose my composure whenever

I talk about Mr. Jim."

Ivor looked at Bonnie. "It hasn't been safe recently. You should pick some of these men to be your

bodyguards."

She raised her fists. "Do you think I need bodyguards?"

He stared at her **hands** involuntarily. Her skin was **so** fair and tender that it looked like silk, soft and

smooth to the touch.

He had seen the way she fought. Bonnie could easily match his mother in terms of combat. She was Cary Burns's apprentice, **too**.

But Ivor still thought she was weak and vulnerable. She **needed** protection. He **was** thinking of a way to convince her to take the bodyguards with her when she changed her mind.

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“I might have been trained in combat, but I could slip up sometimes. I guess it’s a good idea to have someone to back me up. I’ll pick one of them.”

“Yeah. That’s right.” Ivor nodded.

Pointing at Jim, she said, “He’ll do.” She did it so she could help conceal his identity.

Out of nowhere, Ivor said somewhat menacingly in her ear, “What is it? Is he your type? Do you like him?”

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Bonnie rolled her eyes and said, “So what if he’s my type of guy? What does that have to do with you?”

Out of nowhere, Ivor gripped her arm. “I knew it. You like him!”

She **had** never seen him behave this way. He had always been aloof, arrogant, and coldly distant. But this time, she saw **a** flash of rage in his eyes!

Perhaps she was mistaken, she thought.

“What’s with the sudden fit of anger, Mr. Ivor? Allow me to remind you of our agreement.

There was a hint of fleeting confusion in his deep, black eyes. It went away as quickly as it came. Ivor composed himself and gave her a cold, sidelong glance. "I've **made** it clear that you're supposed to be my fiancé this month! I **hope** you'll behave like it!"

"Okay. I won't cheat on you this month. You **have** my word."

A hint of darkness flashed in his **eyes**. He spoke grimly, "Are you trying to say you'll do whatever you want after a month?"

Bonnie was **at** a loss. "Are you pretending to be ignorant or are you genuinely confused? **I'll** be a free woman by then. Whatever I do won't concern you anymore. So, mind your own business!" With that, she withdrew her hand from his grip.

Ivor clenched his fist involuntarily, but he relaxed it a second later. As he trained his gaze on her, her words ran through his head.

"I'll be a free woman by then."

He couldn't explain why, but he felt uneasy.

Bonnie had long stopped looking at him. Instead, she looked at Jim and said, "Come with me. I have some work for you."

A flash of menace showed in Ivor's eyes again. He stared at Jim sharply and condescendingly. Suddenly, he said, "I've thought about it. You should come to my room tonight."

Bonnie was puzzled. She didn't think that Ivor would try to lure her into his trap. "Didn't we agree to go to my room?"

"Eight

o'clock tonight. I'll be waiting." Ivor refused to explain himself any further and left.

As soon as **he** was out of sight, **Jim** asked worriedly, "Why are you going to his room at night? Eight o'clock is a late time. Is he trying to do something to you? He seemed really hostile just now. He's clearly up **to** something!"

Bonnie thought nothing of it. "What's he going to do to me? We agreed to meet at eight o'clock tonight because I promised him a game of chess."

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"Chess?"

“Mm–hmm.” She nodded, “He’s the Knight.”

Dumbstruck, Jim said, “I can’t believe he’s the Knight! He’s the heir to the family business. I don’t know how he found the time to play chess.”

Then, he saw that Bonnie was staring right at him and felt a little guilty.

She crossed her arms and said, “Why did you apply to be a bodyguard here?”

“I did it **to** protect you,” he said unapologetically.

She rubbed the side of her head. “Aren’t you worried that someone might find out who you are? What will we do if they uncover my real identity through you?”

“Don’t worry. I’ll tread very cautiously. No one’s going to find out about me.”

“Don’t jinx it!”

He scratched the back of his head, embarrassed, “They’re not going to find out this time. I promise.”

It was eight o’clock. Bonnie had arrived at Ivor’s room. She hesitated a little as she raised her hand to

knock on his door.

Jim’s words came back to haunt her. Ivor hadn’t been acting like himself **today**. Jim might have exaggerated, but she had also sensed that Ivor wasn’t easy to deal with. She could clearly see his imposing aggression every time she interacted with him.

However, she was well–versed in combat, she thought.

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It was just a game of chess. What could possibly happen? What were the chances of Ivor forcing himself on her?

'Knock Knock Knock. She rapped on his door.

A deep, charming voice responded, "Come in."

Bonnie smelled a wonderful cologne as soon as she pushed the door open. Ivor definitely used the good stuff.

Ivor was sitting in a **chair**. A chessboard had been set up **in** front of him. He had even gotten someone to prepare tea. Ivor took a slow sip as steam wafted over his sharp eyes. The steam lingered, giving his handsome features an almost ethereal sense of **charm**.

"The tea master brewed this. Have **a** taste."

"Sure." Bonnie didn't bother to stand on formalities. She lifted the cup and tasted the tea. "This is Mariage Frères. It's been brewed very well, too."

He raised his brow and asked playfully, "How do you know it's Mariage Frères?"

Mariage Frères was one of the most prestigious tea companies in Parisia. It produced extraordinary teas in small quantities. Most people had never even heard of it.

"Is it hard for ordinary people to tell what it is?" Bonnie answered nonchalantly and set the cup down. on **the** table.

"Have you tasted it before?"

"I have. I've tasted all kinds of teas. You could say I've tasted every tea imaginable." She said. Ivor would have dismissed **what** she said as lies in the past, but he hesitated to think that of her now. Bonnie might be young, but she was far more skilled than the average person.

"How **surprising**. You might be young, but you seem to have some experience with tea. Are you going to tell me that **you're** a tea master next?" Ivor poured her another cup of tea and said

condescendingly.

"You could say that," she said with a blank face. "I could've brewed better than this."

Ivor **was** speechless. Bonnie said that she had tasted **every** tea imaginable, but anyone who was rich enough could do that. However, it was simply arrogance to say that she could brew better tea than a

tea master.

Tea-brewing was a skill that took practice. Even if Bonnie were to learn it from scratch, she wouldn't have been able to surpass a tea **master**.

"I employ a famous tea master, Quenton Hill. If you're a tea master yourself, you must have heard of

him."

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"Quenton? Is he working for you?" She put down her cup of tea and asked.

Quenton?!

For a second, Ivor thought he had misheard her. Quenton Hill had won several championships in the World Tea Art Tournament, and he was also senior consultant of the International Tea Association.

He brewed divine teas. He could turn even the most humble tea leaves into something hauntingly aromatic. Ivor had spent several million dollars to hire Quenton to be his personal tea master, but here Bonnie was, talking about the tea master as if they were friends!

"Where is he? It's been a long time since I last saw him." Bonnie asked excitedly.

"He's gone home," Ivor said lightly, instead of exposing her for the **fraud** she was.

Bonnie looked like she was disappointed with his answer. She put up such a good act that Ivor had to wonder if she was delusional.

That worried him. If she kept lying to people, someone would expose her one day. She would be opening herself up to harsh remarks and embarrassment when that happened..

Perhaps he should teach her a lesson by bringing her down a little. That would teach her to be more humble. Making up his mind, Ivor said, "I have some tea leaves here. You said you could brew

something better than Quenton. I'd love to have a taste. Just how good can your tea be?"

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Bonnie checked the time and casually said, “We still have some time on our hands and it’s been a long time since I last brewed any tea from Mariage Frères. I guess I’ll just think of this as practice.” With that, she started brewing.

She took the tea leaves and started washing them. This was to remove any dust on its surface, but it was extremely difficult to do. One misstep could compromise its taste.

She proceeded to pour the water in **and** pour it out again. Every movement was effortless and swift, **so** as not to compromise the tea leaves in the slightest.

Next,

she brewed the tea. She did it so gracefully that the whole scene looked like a painting. She was beautiful to begin with, and she looked like an elegant deity with the aromatic scent floating through the room.

Ivor sat across from her, completely drawn in. His gaze never left Bonnie for even a fraction of a second.

“There. Enjoy.” She gave him a cup of tea. He snapped out of his trance. He cleared his throat, took the cup, and tasted the tea. His eyes widened in shock as the tea flowed down his throat.

“How does it taste?” She asked.

“Wonderful...” He looked at her in complete awe. He had never known that tea could taste this way! The tea Master Quenton had brewed paled in comparison. It was tasteless, even.

“It’s mellow, full-bodied, and there’s a hint of sweetness. As you said, you brew better tea than Master Quenton,” Ivor complimented. “How did you learn to be so impressive at brewing tea?”

“Is it

really so impressive? I just need to boil some hot water and read the color of the tea. It's way easier than learning kickboxing with my master up on the hills." Bonnie rested her chin on her hands.

He couldn't believe she was an expert tea master. And to think he was trying to bring her down a little. It had ended up being her who had taken him by surprise instead!

Ivor fell silent and he felt a little embarrassed. Bonnie was an expert tea master and exceptionally good at chess. To top it off, she had learned kickboxing from Cary and was his favorite apprentice.

Any one of these accomplishments would have commanded immense respect from the entire world.

It was abrupt, but he started to cast his mind back to the things she had said to him back then.

He didn't deserve her.

It was beginning to look like she was right. Ivor was suddenly annoyed with himself. He had been condescending to her when he hadn't known any better.

"Let's begin." Bonnie sat by the chessboard.

Ivor collected his thoughts and sat down. He directed all his focus on the game of chess. They played

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several matches. He won and lost some of them. They even ended a few matches in stalemates.

At one o'clock in the morning, Bonnie didn't make a move after Ivor had ended his turn. When he raised his head, he found that she was asleep. She looked peaceful and her fair skin was tender beneath the light.

He froze and stared at her **for** some time, oblivious to the fact that he was looking at her with a tenderness he didn't know he had.

The night was chilly. She could catch a cold if she slept like that.

Ivor rose slowly and walked to her, wanting to wake her up. He could smell a pleasant scent as he leaned in close. It didn't smell like perfume. Instead, it smelled like herbs.

Confused, he lowered his head and leaned in closer. Then, her beautiful eyelashes caught his attention. They were long and curled at a charming angle.

He lowered his gaze and stared at her lips.

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Her lips were moist and a blush pink. He could almost imagine just how sweet they must taste....

Ivor gulped.

At that moment, Bonnie opened her eyes abruptly, and their gazes met.

It was awkward. Ivor continued to lean in **as** if he was under her spell. They were so close to each other that their noses almost touched. It felt strange.

“What are you doing?” She kept a clear head and backed off, trying to keep her distance from him. She looked at him, alarmed.

He was startled at first, but collected himself and rose, “I was about to wake you. **You** might catch a cold, sleeping out here.”

She studied him, but she didn’t discover anything funny from his expression. Then, she thought about the way he usually treated her and thought that maybe she was making something out of

nothing. Anyway, there was no need to dwell on it anymore.

Bonnie looked at the chessboard and realized they hadn’t finished the last match.

Ivor said with concern, “I’m sorry. It’s my fault. I forgot about your SATS. You should probably go back to sleep. We’ll leave the chessboard as it is and continue the match after your SATs are over.”

“That works for me.” With that, she left the room. Ivor looked at the closed door, then at his room,

and felt a little empty inside.

On the other hand, Bonnie had just gone into her room and switched on the light when she saw Jim standing by the window. She pursed her lips and said, “Looks like you’re coming and going as you please, but you better watch out. There are a lot of skilled men here at the Knight’s. We’ll never be able to explain ourselves if someone sees you climbing into my room in the middle of night.”

“That’s because you’re the one who decided to come back to your room in the dead of night.” He frowned. “Why did you spend such a long time in Ivor’s room?”

“We were playing chess.”

“You’ve been playing chess until now?”

“You wouldn’t understand. Let me put it **this** way. Our desire to play chess is just like your desire to spar. Do you remember how we met back then?”

“I sure do.” He scratched the back of his **head**, embarrassed. He had wanted to spar with someone back then. Fate had brought him to her. He had pestered her and asked to spar with her ever since he found out she was a formidable fighter.

“Trust me when I say there’s nothing for you to worry about. Hurry up and leave. If someone comes into my...” She was cut off by an abrupt rapping on her door.

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‘Knock knock knock.’

That surprised both of them.

“Who is it?” Bonnie gestured to Jim to remain still.

“It’s me.” She could hear Ivor’s deep voice.

“What is it?”

“You forgot your phone in my room.

“Oh.”

That seemed like a good reason for him to be here, which meant she had **no** excuse to stop him from coming in. If Jim jumped out of her window, Ivor would certainly hear the commotion, **so** she pointed to the restroom. Jim caught her meaning and hid in there.

Ivor scanned her room with a deep stare when she opened the door. “What took you so long?”

“I was just in the restroom,” She lied calmly.

He looked at the restroom and said, “Why’s the restroom door closed if you were just in there?”

Her heart pounded but she kept her face blank. “Force of habit.”

Ivor kept staring at the restroom. He squinted and said lightly, “The toilet in my restroom wasn’t working. I’ll need to use yours.” He charged toward her restroom and swung the door open.

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But there was no one in the restroom.

Ivor’s frown grew deeper. He thought he had heard a man’s voice in her room. Could he be overreacting?

“I don’t need to use your restroom anymore. You should get some rest,” He said lightly.

“Sure. Please close the door on your way out,” Bonnie said lightly too.

Nothing **was** out of the ordinary.

“Sure.”

She rushed to the restroom the moment he left. Where was Jim? The window in the restroom **could** only open a little, and it was so small it wouldn't have been possible for Jim to get out through it.

Then, she heard a 'Swoosh!' and Jim dropped from the ceiling.

"That was a close one. I would've been caught if I hadn't acted fast enough."

"You were lucky, but you shouldn't act so rashly again." She started to chase him out of her room. Alright. That's all the time you have. Hurry up and go. Remember, don't climb into my room unless it's an emergency!"

"Loud and clear." Jim left, feeling dejected.

Bonnie received a call from Vera the next morning. Her mother asked her to have breakfast over at their place.

Bonnie had just left when Quenton stepped foot into the Knight premises.

"Was what you said last night true, Mr. Ivor? Did that girl brew better tea than I did?"

Ivor took a teapot from the fridge. There was still some tea left in it. "This must be stale now after last night, but I believe your keen senses will allow you to taste the brewing skill behind the tea nonetheless."

Quenton poured himself a cup of tea. His eyes glinted as he tasted it. "Spectacular! The taste of the tea leaves should have been lost after an entire night, but it tastes wonderful regardless. The key lies in the rich aroma. It surprisingly benefited from the cold brewing!"

"Where's the girl, Mr. Ivor? I have to see her!"

"She's just gone out. I'll let you know as soon as she returns."

Quenton sat on the couch and said "I'm not going anywhere. In fact, I'll do nothing until I meet her today." He was an old **man** over sixty, but he looked as excited as a child who was refusing to leave the **candy** store until he got his candy.

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Ivor fell into a deep thought.

Bonnie's tea brewing skill must be beyond his understanding for Quenton to react like this. She was just a young lady. How exactly did she learn all of these skills? The more he got to know her, the **more** mysterious she became

His lips curled into a smile and he locked his gaze on the teapot the way a predator looked at its prey.

At the Shepard's place, Vera was filing her nails. She said nonchalantly, "Since you're going to take your SATs tomorrow morning, you should stay here tonight, Bonnie. I'll have Lorraine make your favorite food and make sure you eat well. I wouldn't want you going around saying I treated you poorly."

Bonnie sneered. "It sounds like you're doing all this not because you're worried about me, but because you're worried about being the butt of gossip."

"What kind of nonsense is that?!" Vera yelled angrily. Bonnie was right, and she had been exposed.

"Am I wrong? I remember you made Trina's food yourself when she was taking the SAT's. But now that I'm the one taking them, you're telling the servants to do it instead. You sounded condescending,

too."

"Is that how you talk to your mother, Bonnie? She hasn't been feeling well. Are you still going to ask her to prepare food for you herself? Are you really so heartless? That's not how I raised you!" Gresham could stand it no longer, so he raised his voice and lectured her.

Bonnie couldn't be bothered to argue any further. It didn't matter what she said or did. Her parents would always **favor** Trina over her. If she didn't know any better, she would have thought she was the one who had been adopted.

"If that's all, I'm leaving."

"**Look** at you. Do **you** think you're tough just because you're an adult now? Are you really leaving just because I said **something** you didn't like? Are you trying to give me a heart attack?" Furious, Gresham took a broom lying against the wall of the living room and moved to strike Bonnie with it.

At that moment, Trina stepped forward and begged for Bonnie to be spared like the two-faced hypocrite she was. "Don't hit her, Dad! She didn't mean it. She was just born like that. Her SATs are **tomorrow**. **You'll** affect her grades if you hit her. This is the most important test of her life! It'll decide her entire future!"

"I'll affect her grades?"

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Chapter 44

“She’s always flunked her tests. How could I affect her grades?” Gresham was infuriated.

“Do me a favor, Dad. Please stop being mad, okay? She’s been alone out there for a few days now. She must have had a hard time. Now that she’s **finally** back home, you’re going to hit her. What’s the public going to say about us?”

And just like **that**, tears started rolling down Trina’s face. Gresham’s heart broke at the sight and he threw the broom aside.

“Oh, Trina. You’re softhearted and way too kind. You defend Bonnie every time she makes a mistake, but she’s never appreciated it.”

“I don’t mind. We’re family, and she’s my sister. I have to help her. It’s the right thing to do.”

Vera hugged Trina, her eyes filled with love. “My dear Trina... You’re so thoughtful that you break my heart.”

“I know you and Dad love me with all your heart, Mom. I’m just sorry I’m not your flesh and blood.” Trina sounded a little dejected and distressed.

It was nauseating.

Bonnie was well-versed in human psychology. She could tell at a glance that Trina wasn’t the least bit depressed or upset. Her eyes were shifty and her lips were stiff. She’d also touch her nose from time to time. All those microexpressions were clear indicators that she was just putting up an act.

It was too bad that Ver they favored Trina!

and Gresham were eating it all up. They couldn’t have made it clearer that

“My wonderful child. We might not have given birth to you, but you are closer to us than anyone else could ever be, even our own daughter.”

That brought more tears to Trina’s eyes.

“That’s right, Trina. I’ll fight anyone who says you’re not my child. Here. Take my credit card and stop crying.” Gresham even comforted her by giving her his card.

“Heh heh...” Bonnie’s abrupt sneer spoiled their touching family moment.

“I told you. You have a favorite. You just won’t admit it. You said so yourself. She’s closer to you than your own daughter could ever be. You’re lucky I’m tough. Anyone else would have had a meltdown, or be so depressed they’d take the easy way out.”

Vera and Gresham were displeased. They couldn’t deny that they had said that, so they couldn’t think of anything to say to Bonnie.

But Trina refused to let her gain the upper hand. “Don’t blame Mom and Dad, Bonnie. They didn’t

mean that. They were just...”

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“Shut your trap!” Bonnie said disdainfully

“Bonnic...”

“I’ll cut out your tongue if you so much **as** say another word.” Bonnie made a snipping gesture with her hands.

Vera couldn’t stand it anymore. “You’re being mean to Trina again, Bonnie! I’ll...”

“Did you ask me to come home just so you can bite my head off? Are you trying to make me flunk the SAT’s tomorrow? Alright, then. You’ll regret it if anything goes wrong with my grades.”

Vera was stumped. She couldn’t think of a single thing to say to Bonnie. Gresham decided it wasn’t a good idea to speak too.

Vera suppressed her anger and said, “Your grandparents are going to celebrate their seventieth birthday. Like I said before, you need to get their presents ready. Don’t embarrass us and make us the laughing stock of our relatives.” Then, she transferred five hundred dollars to Bonnie.

How ridiculous, Bonnie thought. Vera said she didn't want to be the laughing stock, but she had only given her five hundred dollars. She looked at her mother coldly and said lightly, "I'm curious about something. How much did you give Trina to buy a present?"

"So you're jealous of Trina, as always. She's way more mature than you are. I tried to give her some

money,

but she refused. She's saved up enough to buy a present herself. She's a good girl. You can learn something from her."

Bonnie quickly understood what was going on. Her lips curled into a smile and she transferred the money back to Vera.

"What's the meaning of this? Wasn't that enough?" Vera gave her a sidelong glance. She was about to yell at Bonnie when she saw the money. It was fifty thousand dollars.

"Will you look at that? I refused your money, and I've given you fifty thousand dollars. You can go ahead and buy a present on my behalf. What do you think? Am I better than Trina? Am I more mature than her too?" Bonnie raised her eyes and looked at Vera.

Vera's eyes widened, "Where did you get this money? Be honest with me, Bonnie. Have you done something illegal? Please **don't** tell me you've become someone's mistress....

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 45

Chapter 45

Vera was cut off by Bonnie's fierce stare before she could finish. She suddenly felt as if her life was at

risk.

Rage built up in Bonnie, but it went away as fast as it came. “You sure do have a way with words. If I didn’t know any better, I would have thought you were my enemy, not my mom.”

Vera felt a little awkward. It **was** true. They didn’t like Bonnie, but she was still their flesh and blood. It must have been humiliating for Bonnie to be accused of something like **that** without proof.

But that didn’t mean Vera would apologize. Instead, she said begrudgingly, “There’s no need to get upset, Bonnie. I was just worried that you might have fallen for some kind of scam. Tell me the truth. Where did you get this money?”

“I worked for it.” Bonnie didn’t want to waste another second with them, so she rose and said, “I’m leaving. My SATs are tomorrow.”

Vera couldn’t help but sigh as Bonnie left. She looked at Gresham and said, “Do you think she’ll be able to go to a third–rate college at least? What will I tell my family if she fails to do even that?”

He sighed as well. He looked frustrated and said, “I’m thinking the same thing. My brothers and their families will rub it in our face if she can’t get into college.”

o worry Trina took Vera’s arm in one hand and Gresham’s in another. “I don’t think you have to about her, Mom. Dad. I know Bonnie will get into one of the third–rate colleges. She won’t embarrass you.”

But even though she said that, she was sure that Bonnie would flunk the test. She was going to make a big deal out of it and ensure that all the wealthy families in Pyralis found out.

That way, Vera and Gresham would continue to love her and only her, even though they hadn’t given. birth to her. Bonnie would never have a place in the Shepard family!

na were

Halle and chatting in the car.

“I heard something, Rowena. Master Quenton is at the villa. He’s a world–renowned tea master and he doesn’t come here often. I know you love tea brewing, so you have to convince him to take you under his wing.”

“You have a point. I asked him to take me in as his apprentice, but he rejected me last time. I went on to hone my tea brewing skills for an entire year after that. I’ll definitely get his respect this time.”

When they arrived at Knight Villa, they saw a cab pulling up. They exchanged glances when they saw it. No one besides Bonnie would hail a cab like a penniless commoner.

Bonnie saw Halle and Rowena when she got out of the car, but she ignored them and went straight

into the villa.

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“What’s wrong with her? I can’t believe she went in without so much as a greeting. How uncivilized. I **can’t** take it. I need to teach her a lesson. I won’t **stand** for this!” Halle started to charge at Bonnie when Rowena grabbed her arm.

“She just came back, Halle. Do you think she’s here for Master Quenton as well?”

“She’s a nobody. No way Master Quenton would even bother to look at her!”

“But... What if Ivor put in a word for her? Do you think Master Quenton would...?”
Rowena said

uncasily.

Halle was stunned for a while before saying nastily, “You have a **point**. I’m going to give that penniless bitch a warning so strong that she’ll keep her mouth shut!

She took a few brisk steps and blocked Bonnie’s path. “Hold it right there, Bonnie!”

Bonnie looked at her coldly. “**What?**”

ng to become

Halle glared at her and said, “Let me make something clear. Rowena is the one who’s Master Quenton’s apprentice. If you so much as ask Ivor to put in a good word for you and sway Master Quenton’s decision, **I’ll** make you regret it!”

Rowena came over and said, “I’ve admired Master Quenton for a long time, Bonnie. I started learning how to brew tea a year ago just so I could become his apprentice one day. This is a big deal for me. I’ll give you a million dollars if you stand back.” She sounded very condescending.

Master Quenton?

Bonnie was puzzled, but then she remembered Ivor's text. The tea master would like to discuss teat brewing with her.

Huh? Was that the same Quenton who had a comparatively inferior tea brewing skill and begged her to take him under her wing?

Surprise, surprise. It looked like his meager tea brewing skill was popular out here.

Bonnie looked at Halle and Rowena with a strange expression on her face and said, "Don't worry. I'll

stand back."

"If you won't agree, then I'll..." Halle was starting to threaten her when she realized that Bonnie had agreed to stand back.

That was smart of her.

Halle and Rowena let out a sigh of relief. Then, they hurried over to the entrance of the villa.

"That bitch is being smart today." Halle was relieved.

Rowena laughed coldly, "Of course. It's a million dollars we're talking about. She has nothing. I bet she's never seen money like this in her life."

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 46

Chapter 46

Halle and Rowena were busy mocking Bonnie as they made their way to the entrance.

Bonnie was right behind them.

Meanwhile, Quenton could barely contain himself in the living room. “Where is the lady who brewed this tea?” Immediately after that, he saw Ivor turning to look at the entrance.

Ivor’s gaze, which had been cold and dark, turned soft as he said, “Here she is.”

Quenton jumped up, looked at the entrance, and said as his beard trembled, “It’s you?!”

Rowena had just stepped foot into the entrance when she saw an excited Quenton.

Was it possible that Master Quenton really wanted to take her on as **his** apprentice because he knew just how much she had improved over the past year?

She flashed a sweet smile and was about to introduce herself to him when he walked right past her and straight toward Bonnie.

“It’s really you, Master Bonnie! Just as I thought. If anyone can brew tea made by Mariage Frères **so** masterfully, it must be you!” Quenton said admiringly.

Rowena was shocked and gawked at them. Halle’s jaw dropped so far it almost hit the ground. Did they hear him right?!

Master Quenton was a VIP of the Knight family. Rowena wanted the renowned tea master to take her on as his apprentice. And here he was, showing immense respect to Bonnie, who was a nobody. It looked like Bonnie knew her way around tea brewing too.

Ivor trained his gaze on Bonnie when he saw Quenton’s reaction. He stared at her sharply as if he **was** trying to see through her.

“It’s been a while, Quenton.” Bonnie greeted him. Her tone shocked everyone present!

Quenton was a prestigious tea master, and that was how she talked to him? She didn’t even use his title of “Master“!

Rowena was delighted at this development. As she started to call Bonnie out for speaking so rudely, Quenton spoke. “I threw myself wholeheartedly into the art of tea brewing, Master Bonnie. I dare say I’ve made great strides. Will you take me under your wing now?”

He was asking to become her apprentice?!

Ivor knew Bonnie had great tea brewing skills, but he couldn’t hold back his shock when he saw what was going on.

Halle was shocked beyond words too. It took her a while to find her voice and she stuttered, Rowena. D–Do you still want to become M–Master Quenton’s a–apprentice?”

“R

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If she did, she would prove herself inferior to Bonnie!

Rowena’s jaw was about to drop. Tears welled up in her eyes, and she said, “Let’s go,” so softly that only the two of them could hear it.

She couldn’t bear to stay here a second longer! Bonnie might not have said anything, but her mere presence was an insult to her!

So, Halle and Rowena left, feeling dejected.

Bonnie, on the other **hand**, didn’t even realize they had left. She talked about the art of tea brewing with Quenton at length and rejected his request to become her apprentice again.

The only one who had benefited from this was Ivor. He sat there, sipping his tea, and watched quietly as both tea masters exchanged their takes on the art.

Ivor drove Bonnie to the exam venue himself the next morning. “Don’t be nervous about the SATS. Just be yourself.”

“Sure. Thanks for driving me here. I won’t be nervous.” Bonnie had told him the truth, but he thought she was just trying to boost her confidence.

“I’ve heard about your bet with your family. I’ll find a way to send you to Pyralis University no matter the test result. As for the Best Scholar Award, I’m afraid...” He might be wealthy, but even he couldn’t get her that.

“I’ll definitely get the Best Scholar Award.” Bonnie got out of the car and made a phone call.

The principal of Pyralis University was in his office, taking a sip of tea when he received a phone call from Bonnie. When he saw who **was** calling, he rushed to answer the call.

“Are you going to take over the university at last, Bonnie? All you have to do is come over and I’ll get the procedures done. You’ll become principal of Pyralis University with immediate effect!”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 47

Chapter 47

“Let’s just forget about **that**. It’s too much trouble.”

That

brought the principal down. “You can go ahead and **hang** up now then.”

Bonnie remained quiet for a while before saying, “I have something important to tell you.”

“Have you changed your mind?”

“No.”

“I’m going to hang up **now**.”

She remained quiet again. The principal might not be interested in what she had to say, but he didn’t hang up the phone either. “What is it?”

“Here’s a tip. Stop letting wealthy kids into your university through unconventional ways. It’s affecting your institution’s reputation.” Ged told her once that his grandfather was the principal of Piralis University. He could pull some strings to get her in. Ivor had said the exact same thing too.

The principal wondered how Bonnie had the time to worry herself about something so trivial, but he nodded. “You’re right. I can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to this. The longer I ignore it, the more it’ll encourage people to enroll their children illegitimately,”

He gave the order to his men to take care of this matter. The university released an official announcement on their social media account.

“Piralis University will screen its applicants more strictly...” The subtext was that no illegitimate

means would be tolerated.

This announcement shocked not only the city of Pyralis but the whole of Arvandor. It was true that it was no easy feat to enroll in Pyralis University, but they had always reserved three slots for those who were willing to pay.

get her

What was with the sudden **change**?

Ivor read the official announcement with a deep frown. He had just promised Bonnie he could. into that university. **Now**, it was going to be hard.

use their

This didn't just affect Ivor. Every **parent** who wanted to pay their way to enrollment or use connections to get their children into university was worried sick. They were very concerned and tried to **find** out what on earth **had** happened.

Why the sudden change?

But nobody knew that it was because of Bonnie.

When Trina saw the news, she couldn't have been happier about it. She had been a little worried that Dad and Mom would use some of their connections to enroll Bonnie into Pyralis University to protect

their reputation.

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But now, everything was working in her favor. Bonnie, that piece of **trash**, was going to get it now.

Any fool could study hard and get into university, but she knew that Bonnie would never be able to pull it off!

The SATs started as scheduled.

As the test drew to an end, Bonnie walked out of the venue and saw a Maybach parked across the road. As she walked over, the car door opened. Ivor got down and held out an umbrella for her.

The women around them were green with envy. A hot guy was meeting Bonnie and treating her well after she had finished the SATs, It seemed like she had won the game of life.

Bonnie even heard one of them muttering, “Heh. All she cares about is dating. **I’m** sure she’s going to do poorly in the SATS!”

Excuse me, but I’ll be the highest scorer in the SATs, she thought..

“When did you get here?”

“I never left.” Ivor **said**. He handed her a milkshake. She saw that it was a banana milkshake, her

favorite.

“Don’t you always say that milkshakes aren’t good for us?”

“Well, you like it. I guess it’s okay to indulge ourselves sometimes.”

She took a sip and enjoyed it a lot. Ivor kept staring at her. She looked like **an** adorable kitten lapping at milk. She was being more ladylike than she had ever been.

She saw him reach out to **her** with his slender fingers as she finished drinking the milkshake. They were very fair, but callused.

He wiped her mouth. It tingled. Her eyes widened. This felt strange.

Ivor noticed and smiled slightly. A **flash** of humor was visible in his deep eyes.

“What are you doing?” Bonnie collected herself and asked him.

“I’m wiping off some **milkshake** from your face.” He replied sternly. His tone made her feel like he had taken advantage of her, but she couldn’t think of a way to respond.

It was a little frustrating, and she wasn’t happy about it. So, she got in the car without saying another word and rested her eyes.

Suddenly, Ivor offered her a slice of cake. She was startled at first, but when she took a look at it, she was pleasantly surprised.

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 48

Chapter 48

Ivor had bought a tiramisu cake from her favorite bakery. This was the best flavor of all the cakes

there.

It was a very famous bakery that sold limited quantities of cake every day. The tiramisu flavor **was** especially popular. He might have sent his assistant to buy it, but still, it must have been troublesome

for him.

“How did you know this was my favorite flavor?”

a

“I took a wild guess,” He said with a smirk.

No way that was true.

“It’s nice and fresh. Hurry up and eat it.”

Bonnie was a little mad that he had teased her earlier, but it would be a **waste** if she didn’t eat the tiramisu. She stabbed a piece and put it into her mouth.

She enjoyed it a lot, even more than the banana milkshake.

“How were the SATs?” Ivor frowned.

Bonnie was humble. “If everything goes right, I’ll have a perfect score.”

Ivor put a hand to his forehead, but decided not to make her feel bad after thinking about it. It didn’t matter if she didn’t do well in the SAT’s. He’d find a way to help her.

“Okay. You should go back and get some rest.”

Bonnie looked at Ivor and knew that he didn’t believe her, but she wasn’t bothered. Everything would be revealed when they announced the test results.

Back at her place, she wanted to get some rest when it suddenly occurred to her that her grandparents

birthday party was this weekend. They loved Orson's paintings.

If she remembered correctly, his paintings fetched a high price. One of his pieces would make the perfect present. In any case, it would be a piece of cake for her to get her hands on one. She made a call

to **Kay**.

"You found the time to call me, Master! Did you call to tell me you'll teach me more kickboxing? It **has** to be! Where are you? I'll come to you now!"

Bonnie slapped her forehead when she heard how eager Kay was.

"I'll teach you some kickboxing later. I'm calling you because I need a favor."

That made Kay more excited. "A favor? Go ahead and tell me what it is, Master. I'll travel to the deepest depths of hell for you!"

"There's no need to do that. I just want your grandfather to paint me something. My grandparents

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are about to celebrate their **birthdays and** they're both fans of his."

"Alright. Leave it to me! What about the theme, Master...?"

Time flew by and the weekend arrived. Bonnie went to her grandparents' birthday party with a present in hand. Her cousins surrounded her the moment she stepped **foot** into the hall.

"The SATS results are out today, Bonnie. How did it go? What's your score?" Fernanda asked her mockingly.

The results were out?

Bonnie was stunned. She **had** forgotten **about** it. It wasn't like she was careless. It was just that the SAT's were too easy and she had been thinking about how to make a breakthrough in her research for the past few days. She simply didn't **have** time to think about the SATS.

It was easy to let something she already had a handle on slip her mind.

“Her score? You have too high **an** opinion of Bonnie, Fernanda. She’s always flunked her tests,” Ysabel said, looking at Bonnie scornfully. She was arrogant and liked to boast.

“I don’t think she flunked it. She must have gotten some of it right.”

“I think she did flunk it.”

Vera heard all this and felt extremely embarrassed. She stood far away from Bonnie and pretended that she didn’t know their relatives were making fun of her.

“Never mind the SATS, Bonnie. What did you get for Grandpa and Grandma? We’ve given them our presents already. Trina gave them a horoscope statue that’s worth a hundred thousand dollars.”

“I have something.” Bonnie took out the painting scroll. Ysabel laughed before she could open it.

“Hahaha. Is this really happening? Did you paint something for Grandpa and Grandma with your own hands, Bonnie? How tacky!”

“Good grief. If I didn’t know any better, I would have thought your family was broke. This is a present for our grandparents, after all. You sure were mindful of the cost. This is hilarious!”

The surrounding guests couldn’t help but burst into laughter. Bonnie ignored them and walked over to her grandparents, Harold and Yolanda.

“Happy birthday, Grandpa. Grandma.” She gave them the painting. Harold and Yolanda were extremely displeased. They had heard the exchange between Bonnie and the rest.

Many guests

represent at th

party. If she really had painted something herself, they would be

greatly humiliated!

Gresham’s daughter was beyond redemption! She **had** really embarrassed them!

They shouldn’t have welcomed Bonnie back from the suburbs. Trina might not be their real granddaughter, but they’d much prefer her over Bonnie.

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“Okay. You can put it aside and...”

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Out of nowhere, someone cut Harold off and said mischievously, “Bonnie made that for you, Grandpa. No matter how bad it is, you should take a look!”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 49

Chapter 49

Fernanda spoke innocently. It seemed like she was speaking up for Bonnie, but she just **wanted** to **make** Bonnie look bad. The others wanted to see how Bonnie was going to **embarrass** herself too, so they all chimed in.

“That’s right! She’s your granddaughter. It doesn’t matter if she did a good job or not. You have to look at it. Otherwise, Ms. Bonnie will feel bad.

Vera gave Bonnie a look, hinting at her to tuck the painting away so she wouldn’t embarrass all of them. But Bonnie didn’t notice her mother **at** all. She said lightly, “Maybe I should open up the painting for you, Grandpa.”

Gresham and Vera regretted not preparing a gift for Bonnie to give her grandparents.

They were in for it now. Everyone was going to mock Gresham and his family for being tacky after what happened today! They should never have let Bonnie attend the birthday party. T

Ysabel was faster. She was worried Bonnie would realize what was going on, so she quickly unrolled the painting.

Everyone was stunned **and** drew a sharp breath when they saw the painting!

“Is this a painting by Master Orson?”

“Do you mean Orson Steele, whose paintings can sell for tens of millions of dollars?”

“Seriously? Are my eyes fooling me? Master Orson stopped painting for the public a long time ago! He only paints for the people close to him!”

Gresham’s eyes widened in surprise. “How is this possible?”

Vera looked at the painting and rubbed her eyes over and over again.

“This is his personal seal!” Ysabel’s hands trembled uncontrollably.. His paintings used to go for fifty million dollars! If she had spoiled the painting, she wouldn’t have been able to pay for it.

Trina grew angry when she saw how everyone had been shocked by Bonnie’s gift.

It was impossible. How could a nobody like her have a painting from Master Orson? It must be at

counterfeit.

Before everyone could recover from the shock, Trina said in a worried tone, “How could you make a counterfeit painting and give it to Grandpa and Grandma to make yourself look good?”

“I know you want to make them happy, but this is a dishonest way to do that. It puts me, Mom, and Dad to shame. More importantly, Master Orson will be mad if he heard about this. You’ll drag the entire family down with **you!**”

Then, it hit everyone. That was right! Bonnie was a girl from the suburbs. There was no way she’d know Orson. She wouldn’t have the money to pay for it or the connections to get in touch with him.

Chapter 49

This must be a counterfeit painting!

All the Shepards regarded Bonnie with furious, hateful stares.

2/2

“How could you do this, Bonnie? You’ll drag the entire family into trouble because of your pride.”

“That’s right. We’re one of the wealthy families of Pyralis, but there’s no way we’re in the same league as the Steeles. They could crush us easily! How dare you make a counterfeit! This is insolence!”

Grant, the second son of the Shepard family, looked at Gresham and said, “I told you. You shouldn’t have taken her back in. She’s spent a long time in the suburbs, so her character is questionable at best.

“But you two didn’t listen to me. Look at where we are now. She’s made a huge **mess**, and she’s about to drag the whole family down with her! You should just kick her out of the family and be done with it!”

Gresham and Vera were infuriated. They glared at Bonnie and had a strong urge to slap her. When Hadwin saw what happened, he felt relieved that he had called off the wedding with Bonnie. If she had really ended up being his fiancé and offended Master Orson, the Rhodes family would be caught

in the crossfire too!

The guests muttered among themselves.

“This is such bad luck. I can’t believe we have a walking disaster in the family.”

“You said it. If I had a daughter like her, I would have grounded her in the house for the rest of her life

so she couldn’t embarrass us.”

“That’s where you’re wrong. I would have choked her to death the moment she was born. What a jinx!”

“I always thought I had it rough! My son’s always fooling around and can’t hold down a job. He only knows how to spend money on girls. But now that I see the kind of daughter Gresham has, I feel relieved.”

Trina looked triumphant when she saw that everyone was letting Bonnie have it. She composed herself and looked at Bonnie again. “Hurry up and apologize to Grandpa and Grandma, Bonnie. Ask them to forgive you.”

Bonnie looked at her indifferently. “Why should I apologize when this isn’t a counterfeit?”

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I Love You Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard) CHAPTER 50

Chapter 50

“Bang!” Harold smacked his hand on the desk and glared at Bonnie, enraged, “You gave us a counterfeit but you’re still trying to act like you’re right? You’ve gone too far!”

“There, there. Don’t be **mad**, Grandpa. Mind your health. That’s just how Bonnie is. It’s not worth jeopardizing your health over this.” Trina went over to Harold quickly and patted his back lightly.

Yolanda was infuriated as well. She gritted her teeth, stepped forward, and tore the painting to pieces before throwing it into a nearby trash can.

Trina was feeling better about herself now.

Bonnie had gone through all that trouble to gain favor with their grandparents and everyone else, but it didn’t matter in the end. All she had to do was use a little trick, **and** it had rendered her efforts useless. There was no way a nobody could ever get the best of the rich!

But Trina pretended to be worried and tried to resolve the issue at hand. “This is big, Grandpa, Grandma. You should tell everyone to keep this to themselves so Master Orson won’t find out about it. The Steeles probably wouldn’t hold us responsible as long as we keep it under wraps.”

“That’s right. I was so mad I almost forgot. It’s a good thing you thought about it, Trina!” Harold looked at her gratefully and turned to make an announcement.

“I hope all you’ll all do me a favor and refrain from spreading tonight’s incident around. You’ll have my thanks for that, everyone.

H

“There’s no need for that, Mr. Harold. We won’t say a word about what happened tonight.

“Exactly! This all just boils down to an ignorant child not knowing any better. But it might lead to disaster if you don’t handle it properly. We’ll keep this a secret for you this time, but I can’t make the same promise if it happens again.

“You have to discipline her. There are all kinds of big shots here in Pylalis. What will you do if she gets you in bigger trouble? It might not be that easy to solve the problem next time!”

went on.

The Shepards grew even more scared as the guests wer

Bonnie was bewildered. Everyone was out of their minds. She had just said the painting was the real deal. Wasn't it a disaster when Yolanda **tore** up the painting? Why were they giving her such a hard time?

She said helplessly, “I told you the painting was genuine, Grandpa, but you went ahead and destroyed it. You're in the wrong here.”

Everyone in the hall was stunned at what she said. Harold was so mad he almost passed out. He raised his hand. “Bonnie Shepard. I'm going to slap you so hard, you'll...‘

H

Suddenly, someone exclaimed from outside the door, “Master Orson of the Steele family is here!”

Silence fell in the hall immediately.

“Master Orson? Is that the same Master Orson we were just talking about?”

eriously? Master Orson is a prestigious man. None of us here could possibly reach someone of his status even if we wanted to. What's he doing here?”

Soon, Orson appeared with his granddaughter, Kay, in tow.

“Good grief! It really is **Master** Orson!”

“What's he doing in a place like this? Is this a dream?”

“**Well**, it's Harold and Yolanda's birthday today. Could Master Orson be here to attend their party?”

“If that's the case, he must really respect Harold!”

Harold and Yolanda stood up in excitement and shock. Had Master Orson come here to attend their party? They had never met him before, though!

But if he wasn't here to celebrate their birthday, there was no reason for him to be here.

“**Master** Orson!” Harold couldn’t be bothered with Bonnie anymore. He **went** over to welcome Orson. His hands were trembling and he could barely walk.

“Thanks for the invitation, **Harold**.” Orson burst into laughter.

Had **Master** Orson just called him by his first name?

Harold was pleasantly surprised as the guests looked at him in jealousy.

“I’ve come to attend you and your wife’s birthday party, Harold. I painted something for you. I was supposed to give it to you personally, but I think your granddaughter, Master Bonnie, has already **given** it to you. I have some other gifts with me. I hope you’ll like them!”

Everyone was shocked and cast glances at Bonnie.

Harold’s mouth opened wide, and there was a humming in his head. He stuttered and asked, “E- Excuse me, Master Orson. D–Did you just say Master Bonnie...?”

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