

I Love You, Miss Genius (Bonnie Shepard)

Chapter 701

Adan saw how worked up Reece was and pulled him down. "What's the matter with you? I know you changed your mind about Ms. Bonnie, but you're pitting yourself against many higher-ups and

shareholders. Don't you think that's too much?"

Reece did not know how to explain things to Adan. The former's brows furrowed when he thought of Bonnie's identity as Bonita. Then, he shook Adan's arm off and roared, "You know nothing, Adan! Don't get in my way!"

Adan sighed helplessly and shook his head. "So, it's true. Someone did put a spell on you."

He was not the only one who thought that. All of the higher-ups and professors shared a similar sentiment. Some even thought Bonnie had cloned Reece. Otherwise, he would not have defended her so earnestly.

As everyone else was puzzled, one of the more influential higher-ups said, "Reece isn't in the right mind to be in this meeting. Get him out of here. We will decide what happens once he's gone."

He looked at the security guards at the door and barked, "Escort Reece out of the conference room, please!"

"Understood, sir!" The two security guards entered and stood beside Reece.

The latter stared at the particular higher-up, angry at him for deciding things himself. Reece warned, "I-I assure you that you'll regret this!"

The higher-up ignored his warning and said coldly, "Ms. Bonnie has done enough to the university's reputation. If we allow that clown to continue, she'll drag the university's status down."

"Say what you want, Reece. I won't change my mind about expelling Bonnie from the university."

"Listen here, you-"

Reece was about to argue when he heard a voice behind him, "Who said they'd expel Bonnie?!"

Everyone turned to the voice and saw Russell walking in with his cane. He ran the university for decades and had shown nothing but dedication and integrity. Pyralis University would not be where it was without him.

That was why everyone stood up when they saw him. The higher-up who had been adamant about Bonnie's expulsion approached Russell and said patiently, "Mr. Russell, I know you have high hopes for Ms. Bonnie. I'd love to help you if I could.

"However, the truth lies before us. We can't appease the public if we take Bonnie's side and fail to provide a satisfactory solution."

"The truth?" Russell glanced at him coldly. "Have you investigated things thoroughly? Have you confirmed Bonnie did all those things?"

The professors and higher-ups exchanged glances before lowering their heads. None of them had investigated it thoroughly enough to find the truth.

The particular higher-up fell silent for a while before finally saying, "We might not have investigated anything, but the whole thing is getting out of hand. I believe there's some truth to it. Countless students saw it, too. Allowing Bonnie to stay on campus will have unimaginable repercussions."

Thwack, thwack!

Russell struck the floor with his cane and roared, "How dare you expel the university's president without proper investigation? Do you all honestly think she wields no power? What makes you think she'll let you walk all over her?"

"If that's the case, she wouldn't have become the university president! Use your heads and think for once!"

'Ugh! I wish I could tell these idiots about Bonnie's real identity. Then, they'll know just how stupid they sound. How dare they even mention expelling Bonnie?!

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Chapter 702

'I promised Bonnie I wouldn't tell anyone unless it was an emergency. I can only bear with it,' Russell thought.

The higher-ups, who were adamant about Bonnie's expulsion, remained quiet. They did not know how to respond to Russell.

At that moment, Deandre Pearson, who was on the left of the conference table, said, "Mr. Russell, this isn't the first time Bonnie has done something like this. She has given rise to many scandals, but we've disregarded them.

"This time, the subjects of her scandals are too much to ignore. There are even two groups of people, for Heaven's sake. That's proof that Bonnie's character is questionable, at best. Why else would this trouble keep coming after her?

"If I may, Mr. Russell, do you think someone has so much time to make up the whole thing to defame her?"

Deandre was Selina's uncle. He had held a grudge against Bonnie since she expelled his niece. After finally getting some dirt on Bonnie, he would not let this chance slip through his fingers. "None of you can tell right from wrong! How foolish!" Russell's hand began to tremble as he held his cane. He was furious.

However, Deandre continued, "People like Bonnie are beyond redemption, Mr. Russell. You should save your breath and let us expel her as soon as possible. That way, we'll finally be free of her and her troubles. After all, we've received plenty of complaints from the students."

Russell sighed, trying to suppress his emotions. Even so, he could not bear it. Ultimately, he roared and told them the secret he had kept inside, "I called you foolish, yet you refused to believe me! Would Ms. Bonita have done something so outrageous?! Answer me!"

A pin-drop silence hung over the conference room. Everyone was shocked by Russell's words. The higher-ups, shareholders, and professors' eyes widened in surprise.

'What?! Bonita? Bonnie, the newly promoted university president, is the world-renowned Bonita?!'

'How's that even possible? Bonnie's rise from a student to the president is shocking enough. To think that she's none other than Bonita herself—'

'That's just '

'If Bonnie is Ms. Bonita, why the hell would she enroll in Pyralis University? How are we supposed to believe that?!'

...

Meanwhile, neither Bonnie nor Niko and the middle-aged couple would back down. Things had become increasingly intense between them. At that moment, Avril emerged from the crowd and yelled, "Bonnie, I'm sorry it took me so long!"

Two guys-Toby and Jim-were behind Avril. The trio appeared and stood before Bonnie, keeping her in the middle to protect her. Bonnie felt a wave of warmth in her chest when she realized it. "What are you three doing here?"

Avril explained, "I saw you surrounded by the crowd much earlier, but I was worried I couldn't handle them. I didn't want to worsen things if I came alone, so I thought of getting you some backup." She glanced at Toby and Jim. They were the backups she mentioned.

Jim looked at Bonnie from head to toe and asked worriedly, "Are you okay?"

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Chapter 703

Bonnie nodded and said softly, "I'm fine."

Niko and the middle-aged couple became even more agitated when they saw the trio protecting Bonnie. They pointed at her and said even harsher things.

Avril grew furious when she heard them. "I'm warning you! Keep it civilized, or I'll rip your tongues out!"

The middle-aged woman was the loudest among the trio. She wailed at the top of her lungs, "Hah, did you hear that, everyone?! Not only is that homewrecker cocky, but she's working with her friends to intimidate us and shut us up. They won't tell us the truth. The law means nothing to these people!"

After hearing her words, the onlookers thought Bonnie and her gang were unreasonable.

'It's bad enough that girl stole the poor woman's husband from her, but her gang is threatening to rip that couple's tongues out. What terrible people.'

Once again, the onlookers defended the middle-aged woman.

"Hey, Bonnie, was it? You won't quit until you get these poor people killed, huh? Nothing's worse than morally corrupted people like you."

"You're too much, Bonnie! You and your friends are unreasonable! No wonder you're friends. It seems birds of a feather do flock together."

"I can't stand them anymore. I'll livestream the whole thing and show all of Arvandor just how wicked and loathsome that Bonnie person is." The guy took his phone and prepared to stream everything. However, before he could do that, he heard a rumbling above. He looked up and saw dozens of helicopters flying his way. Then, armored cars pulled over by the roadside. Everyone's jaws dropped, wondering what was happening.

The formation was massive and exaggerated. Some even thought they were dreaming or in the middle of a movie production. Before the crowd could recover from their shock, they saw a team of army men dashing toward them.

The soldiers seized Niko and the middle-aged couple before tossing them into an armored car. Everything happened so quickly that the onlookers were still in a daze. They only regained their senses once the armored cars drove off into the distance.

The guy who intended to livestream the whole thing gulped and tucked away his phone. He trembled and stammered, "Wh-what just happened? D-Did those three come to our university just to cause trouble?" "What kind of question is that?! Even the military got involved. Those three must've committed serious crimes."

"Even so, there's something I can't understand. The military arrived just as those three were picking bones with Bonnie. Did those guys get arrested because of Bonnie?"

"That's outrageous. It would've been much more believable if you said those three blindly accused Bonnie. To say the military got heavily involved because of her is a different story. I don't buy it." "Maybe those troublemakers did commit a heinous crime. Then, they blew it out of proportion at the university, giving their location away to the army. Naturally, the army would arrest them." "Hmm, you're right. That's more plausible."

While the crowd discussed the situation intensely, the higher-ups and professors saw everything that had happened through the conference room window.

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Chapter 704

Initially, the higher-ups and professors did not quite believe Russell when he claimed Bonnie was Bonita. They thought the former university president made it up to protect her. However, after seeing what had happened, they no longer doubted him.

After all, the military would not have sent out that many troops and armored vehicles if Bonnie had not been Bonita. The higher-ups and professors were embarrassed when they remembered how they spoke about Bonnie.

Bonnie was the world-renowned Bonita, a pillar of scientific research. All of Arvandor revered her. She had made considerable contributions to the science world. Someone like her would never do something as wicked as abandoning her husband and son, much less become a homewrecker.

It became evident that someone had crafted an intricate plot to frame Bonnie for something she never did.

After realizing the truth, one of the professors stood up and growled, "Damn it! I can't believe those three dared to slander Ms. Bonnie like that! We must form an investigation team and get to the bottom of this. We must clear Ms. Bonita's name! All the scientific researchers in Arvandor hold integrity and honesty close to their hearts. We can't stand idly by while such people humiliate Ms. Bonnie."

His words garnered approval from the higher-ups and his fellow professors.

"You're right! We must find out the truth. If we can't clear Ms. Bonita's name, the most prestigious people in Arvandor will stop respecting us."

"Let's form an investigation team now!"

A sense of relief filled Russell's eyes when the others took Bonnie's side.

"It's great that you finally see the truth. I'll leave this matter in your capable hands. Keep Ms. Bonita safe, and don't let anyone pick on her."

Everyone in the conference room responded, "Understood, Mr. Russell!"

"Leave it to us!"

"We'll protect her!"

Meanwhile, Adan stood in a corner. It took him a while to recover from the shocking revelation. Then, he looked at Reece and said, "Damn it. You kept that secret for so long. Why didn't you tell me who Bonnie was earlier?!"

'That explains why Reece kept siding with Bonnie. It's because he knew the truth all along. I would've done the same thing if I had been in his shoes and encountered the earlier incident. I might've been more worked up than he was. After all, Ms. Bonita is the pillar of the scientific world!'

Reece straightened up his collar and rolled his eyes at Adan. "If I told you sooner, you would've competed with me to show Ms. Bonita how capable you are."

'I'm no fool. Of course, I don't intend to let others have the same privilege. Helping Ms. Bonita resembles contributing to Arvador. I'm proud to do something like that!'

Adan chuckled helplessly. "You're pretty cunning, Reece."

"Not at all. You're just too silly." Reece could not help but feel proud of himself.

"All right, that's enough chit-chat. I have to volunteer to be the first member of the investigation team. I intend to get to the bottom of this and see who's foolish enough to slander Ms. Bonita!"

Meanwhile, the crowd below was still trying to figure out what kind of heinous crime the three troublemakers did.

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Chapter 705

Suddenly, Avril stepped forward and said, "Why are you guys still guessing? They got arrested because they came to the university to frame Bonnie for something she never did. That's how it'll end for anyone falsely accusing her of anything!"

"I want everyone to be careful with your words and actions. Don't choose sides and slander innocent people without evidence to support your accusations!"

At that moment, one of her fellow students asked, "Are you sure that's what happened? Bonnie's just a student, so why would the military send so many teams and armored vehicles for her?"

The student asked what was on the other onlookers' minds. Everyone listened, awaiting the answer.

Meanwhile, Avril wondered how she should explain herself. She saw everyone's curious gazes and got worried.

'Oh, man! I should slap myself! I was so caught up that I told everyone the truth about what happened.'

"Uh, well... I mean... Here's the thing... Don't you think those people must've done bad things and offended some big shot? Otherwise, the military wouldn't have sent such a big team to arrest them. A-As for Bonnie, anyone who offends her will regret it!"

"That's it?!" The onlookers shook their heads. They thought Avril said all that because she was gearing up for a big revelation. Ultimately, she tried to make Bonnie look good by creating a story.

Even so, Avril stood up for Bonnie when the others joined in slandering her. After learning the truth, they realized someone had tried to set Bonnie up. Still, the onlookers had verbally attacked Bonnie without first knowing the truth.

Soon after, someone approached Bonnie and apologized, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said such harsh things. Please forgive me."

Now that someone had taken the first step, several more people followed suit.

"Forgive me, Bonnie. I shouldn't have believed what those troublemakers said. Although you skip many classes, it isn't the same as being a homewrecker."

"Yeah, we said terrible things to you without knowing the truth. We should've been more reasonable. I hope you can forgive us."

Bonnie noticed how genuine they looked. She said leisurely, "I can forgive you for verbally attacking me. Still, I hope you understand how powerful words can be. They aren't just things we use to converse. If misused, they can cut as deep as a knife. We're all adults here, so we must take responsibility for our words and actions. I hope you all think twice before speaking or doing anything next time.

"Don't accuse people without a second thought. Otherwise, you'll meet the same fate as those three troublemakers."

The students were terrified when they recalled the troublemakers' arrest. They nodded and said, "We understand, Bonnie."

"Thanks for the heads up."

"Okay then," Bonnie said, "Hurry up and go to your classes. You shouldn't linger here."

The students nodded and dispersed while Avril watched. Then, she darted to Bonnie and asked, "Who could've been so vicious, Bonnie? I can't believe they sent three actors to make a scene at the gate. It's obvious the culprit is trying to ruin your reputation!"

Someone flashed in Bonnie's mind, but it was merely a guess. Since she could not be sure of it, she shook her head at Avril and said, "I'm not sure right now. I'll have to investigate first."

Avril exclaimed despite herself, "The culprit is an asshole! We must teach them a lesson they won't forget once you discover who they are!"

"Naturally," Bonnie said, determined, "I wouldn't do anything to anyone unless provoked. Now that someone has done that, I'll ensure they suffer more than me."

Avril was about to say something when she heard Bonnie's phone ringing. The former forgot what she wanted to say and told Bonnie, "Your phone's ringing."

"I heard it," Bonnie responded, removing her phone from her pocket.

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Chapter 706

Bonnie raised her brows when she saw Ivor's name on her phone. She answered the call, "I thought you were supposed to be working. How'd you find the time to call me?"

Then, she heard his anger-laden voice, "I called because you didn't tell me something happened on campus!"

"How did you find out?" Bonnie was initially stunned. Soon after, something occurred to her, and she gave Avril a sidelong glance. "Did you tell him?"

Avril stuck out her tongue but remained silent.

'That's a yes to me.'

Bonnie rolled her eyes at Avril and said, "What a blabbermouth."

She looked away from Avril and spoke into the phone, "I didn't need your help for such a trivial matter. I handled it myself."

Ivor's eyes darkened. "You've always been like that, Bonnie. You would rather do everything yourself, no matter what it is. I'm your fiance, which means we're on the same team. Your behavior makes me feel like I'm still an outsider to you."

"Ivor, I don't consider you an outsider. I just figured I could handle it myself. I didn't want to bother you with my problems. That said, I have a hunch who did it. All I have to do now is send someone to investigate and confirm my suspicions."

"Are we thinking about the same person?"

The couple paused before simultaneously uttering the suspect's name, "Eloise."

The timing was perfect, making them giggle. Afterward, Ivor said warmly, "Eloise is after you because of me. Maybe I should handle her instead."

"That won't be necessary," Bonnie rejected it decisively. Then, she squinted, her eyes brimming with coldness. "It's not like I didn't give Eloise a chance. However, she has just crossed a line and exhausted my patience."

"It's time for me to teach her a lesson and show her how it'll end for her because she tried to steal my fiance away!" Bonnie's words made Ivor grin.

He was so full of love that he reminded Floyd of a love-struck high school boy. Ivor looked like he was ready to do naughty things to someone. Floyd was standing beside Ivor when he noticed the look on the latter's face.

Floyd felt goosebumps all over his body and could not resist rubbing his arm, thinking, 'I can't. It's hard for me to look at Mr. Ivor now.'

Ivor did not notice Floyd's expression. The former's voice was as affectionate as he said, "I'll do as you say, then. You can deal with Eloise. I won't butt in."

Floyd heard how affectionate his boss sounded and cringed.

'He's too corny. I can't deal with this anymore.'

"I-I have to deal with something, Mr. Ivor. I need to return to my office now." Floyd made up an excuse and left Ivor's office swiftly.

'It looks like I won't be having lunch today. I've lost my appetite completely.'

Bonnie heard what Ivor said and responded to him before hanging up her phone. Then, she glanced sideways at Jim and said, "I need you to investigate Eloise."

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Chapter 707

Meanwhile, Eloise awaited the good news at her family's villa. At that point, the trio she had sent to Pyralis University should have given her an update, telling her that they had destroyed Bonnie's reputation and gotten her expelled.

However, no one called Eloise to update her. Instead, she discovered that the trio had gotten arrested. She gazed at her phone and watched how the army captured them. Shock and rage overwhelmed her as she tightened her grip on her phone.

'I can't believe how dramatic things turned out! Even the army got involved. That bitch managed to slip through my fingers again!'

Eloise panted in anger at the thought. She felt like she could explode at any moment, clutching her chest and panting heavily. Ultimately, Eloise failed to calm down and shot up from her bed. She then grabbed an object from the table and smashed it on the floor.

"Useless piece of shit! They're all worthless! I can't believe I spent so much money hiring them! Bonnie, you bitch! Just die already, you fucker! Die, die, die!" Eloise proceeded to smash more things. Crash! Clang!

The sounds of objects breaking echoed throughout her room. Afterward, she finally calmed down and cleared her head to think about the army arresting the people she had hired.

'It's strange. The whole thing was blown out of proportion, but it wasn't too big a deal. The military shouldn't have shown up. Did they intervene for Bonnie?'

However, that notion quickly disappeared.

'That's impossible! Bonnie's just a student, and the unremarkable Shepards even disowned her. She's also just a country bumpkin. Why would the military deploy its troops for someone like her? It must be something else.'

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door. Then, Eloise heard her mom yelling, "Dinner's ready! You can come out now!"

"Coming, Mom! Go on downstairs without me. I'll be there in a second." Eloise did not want her mother to see the mess in her room, or she would get an earful.

"Be quick! You're going shopping with me after dinner. I don't want you to be holed up in your room all day." Sharron looked at the closed door and sighed helplessly.

'Eloise has changed since Bonnie showed her up. Her temper has worsened, and she spends all day in her room. Eloise rarely even leaves the villa. If she keeps this up, I fear she'll ruin herself.'

'I can't understand it. I've seen Bonnie-she has nothing over Eloise besides her looks. Why did Ivor insist on choosing Bonnie instead of my daughter?'

As the Gallaghers had dinner, they suddenly heard a helicopter outside.

Whir!

Chester put down his cutlery and looked out the window. He frowned when the sound approached. "Is someone flying a helicopter to our villa? How can they be so clueless? Come on, let's check it out."

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Chapter 708

Sharron stood up and said, "I'll come too."

Before the family knew it, they heard someone kicking in their front door. Immediately after, about a hundred men in army uniforms entered their villa and gathered in their living room. Sharron paled and hid behind Chester. "Wh-what are they doing here, honey? Why would they barge into our home?"

Chester felt intimidated. Still, he was the man of the house. So, he quickly calmed himself and soothed his wife, patting her hand and saying, "Stay calm. I'll ask them why they're here." Sharron nodded and said tremblingly, "Okay."

Chester patted her hand again before approaching one of the army men. "Excuse me, why did you barge into my home without warning? We've done nothing wrong, either. Don't you think you owe us an explanation?"

"Mr. Chester, do you honestly think the army would show up at your doorstep if no one in your family committed a crime?"

Chester heard Jim's deep voice before turning to look at him. The latter wore combat boots as he emerged from behind the army men.

"M-Master Jim?!" Chester was shocked when he saw Jim. A profound sense of fear and respect rose in the former's chest as he stammered, "P-Please be straight with me, Master Jim. What did my family do for the army to barge in here?"

Jim swept his imposing gaze across the living room and saw Eloise. He said, "Maybe you should ask her."

He stepped toward Eloise forebodingly and said, "I'll need you to come with us, Eloise."

Eloise's heart dropped as she staggered backward and hid behind her father. "Th-there must be a misunderstanding. I've been home for the past few weeks. I couldn't have committed any crimes. Wh-what makes you think you can arrest me?"

Although Chester might have been mad at his daughter for not living up to her potential, he still chose her side when something this big happened. "She's right, Master Jim. My daughter has been home and rarely leaves the house.

"She couldn't have done anything. You should check in with your superiors again to see if you have the wrong girl."

Even Sharron stepped forward to defend her daughter, "Eloise is a frail and delicate lady. What kind of crime could she have committed? I'm sure you've made a mistake."

At that moment, Jim assumed an imposing demeanor. "I'm telling you I'm taking her away. There is no negotiation."

Then, he glared daggers at Eloise. "Final warning, Eloise. I'll take you away by force if you don't cooperate."

Eloise felt intimidated by his glare. She began to tremble and hunch in fear. "Th-that's outrageous! How will I know what'll happen once you take me away? I refuse to

cooperate! I-I'm not going anywhere!" "Pardon me, then." Jim strode toward her so quickly that it shocked her.

Immediately after, she tried to escape. Before she could put her thoughts into action, Jim grabbed and twisted her arms to her back, pinning her down.

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Chapter 709

A loud thud sounded, and the next thing Eloise knew, her face was on the coffee table. At that moment, an excruciating pain shot up her wrists and cheeks.

Jim had pinned her down in the most humiliating way. She had never felt such embarrassment. Then, tears welled in her eyes as she looked at her parents. She pleaded with them in a choked-up voice, "Mom! Dad! Help me! I don't want him to take me away!"

Sharron began to cry when she saw how poorly her daughter was treated. Although the former was frightened, she mustered up the courage to look at Jim and asked, "Don't you think you should give us a reason for arresting my daughter?"

"You army buddies barged into my home and are taking my daughter away for no good reason. If this gets out, it'll ruin your reputation."

Chester added, "Master Jim, I know you command massive respect within the army. Still, my daughter didn't commit any crimes. It's unreasonable for you to arrest her."

Jim glanced at Eloise sidelong. "Tell them what you did today, Eloise."

Something flashed in her mind, but she immediately dismissed it. "I've been home all day and did nothing wrong! You might be a part of the army, but you can't accuse me without evidence! I'll never admit to something I never did. You won't intimidate me that easily!"

Jim sneered, "Fine. If you don't say it, I will. You hired some people to frame Bonnie for something she didn't do. You've committed a serious crime of slander by doing that. I'm exercising my right as the army leader. I'll make you confess your crime!"

"B-Bonnie?" Eloise was stunned. Suddenly, she remembered the video she had watched earlier. She recalled the army arresting the people she had hired to slander Bonnie.

'I thought the army would never deploy so many troops and armored vehicles for someone like Bonnie. Now, the army has barged into my home for Bonnie's sake. Worse, they're arresting me as well!

'I thought Bonnie was just a regular student. Even so, the Shepards are an average family among the countless families in Pylalis. Bonnie's no one special, so why would so many army men help her? Eloise could not understand how Bonnie could possess such a powerful influence. Eloise questioned Bonnie's background.

"That's right. It's Bonnie," Jim said firmly. Then, he gestured at a nearby soldier. "Take her away."

"Copy that, sir." Two soldiers grabbed Eloise on either side before dragging her away.

Chester and Sharron tried to stop them, but Jim stood in their way instead. "Sir, Ma'am, please stop. It's about your daughter's actions, so we're only here for her. However, if you two insist on getting in our way, we'll consider it an offense. If that's the case, we must punish your whole family."

Chester and Sharon froze at the blatant threat. None of them dared to move a muscle. They could only watch as the soldiers dragged their daughter away.

Jim glanced at them coldly before ordering the soldiers around him, "Let's move."

"Understood, sir!" The soldiers marched out of the villa, leaving Chester and Sharon in the living room.

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Chapter 710

Bonnie sat in the lecture hall and opened the file on her table. After reading several pages, she saw Jim from the corner of her eyes. He disguised himself as a security guard and stood at the door. Once he noticed her looking at him, he gestured for her to go outside. Bonnie nodded and closed the file. Meanwhile, some of her fellow students

saw her leaving. They could not help but mutter to each other. "That security guard seems to be hanging out with Bonnie a lot. Do you guys think there's something funny happening between them?"

The student's friend glared at him and scolded, "Hush! Keep your voice down."

"What's wrong? Why are you so worked up? I was just speaking my thoughts."

"Do you ever use your head? You saw what happened to those three troublemakers earlier. They were arrested for slandering Bonnie. Many others had crossed her, too, and things never ended well for them. "It happened to Trina and Eliose. How are you still spouting nonsense? Are you trying to get yourself in trouble, too?"

The student was frightened when he heard what his friend said. Then, he quickly covered his mouth.

At that moment, one of the students stared at Jim as the latter left. The former said, "Hey, guys, look at that security guard. I know he's wearing a mask, but don't you think his stature and hair remind you of someone?"

This particular student was a fan of Jim's. The former had read every piece of information about Jim on the internet. The more he looked at the security guard, the more he thought the person resembled Jim. "Did you guys see that? That guard's overall impression is so similar to Master Jim." The student glanced at his two friends, hoping they thought similarly.

However, his friends looked at him disdainfully. One asked, "Why would someone as famous as Master Jim work as a campus security guard? You must be blind or something."

"Yeah, you could've said that guard looked like anyone else, but you had to say he looked like Master Jim. You should make an appointment with your optometrist."

The student glanced at Jim again and scratched his head, grumbling, "But I honestly think that's him."

Meanwhile, Jim told Bonnie about Eloise's status, "We've put her behind bars. Do you want to interrogate her yourself?"

Bonnie waved and responded, "That won't be necessary. Just send a lawyer to handle it. Eloise has crossed the line one too many times. She has tried to steal Ivor from me on several occasions. It's time to let her reap what she sowed."

Jim nodded. "Understood. I'll see that it's done."

Chester used his connections and talked to many people. Finally, he secured a chance to visit his daughter in prison. When Chester and Sharron arrived, they noticed how pale Eloise looked. Chester felt heartbroken and enraged.

"Goodness, Eloise. How can you be so foolish?! You could hire people to do whatever you want, but you didn't have to send people to cause trouble at Pyralis University. The whole mess cast a terrible light on the university. I'm willing to believe someone from the university informed the military to arrest you."

Eloise shook her head as tears rolled down her cheeks. "I didn't do it! You have to get me out of here! Please, Mom and Dad!"

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Chapter 711

Sharron did not expect things to escalate to this point. The heartache the former once felt toward her daughter turned into blame. "You still refuse to admit your mistake? You've disappointed me, Eloise." Eloise cried and repeated, "It wasn't me, Mom! I swear it wasn't!"

Chester's expression darkened when he heard his daughter's cries. He stared at her and said, "Yeah, it wasn't your doing."

Sharron was stunned as she turned to look at her husband. Puzzled, she said, "Honey, we know what happened. Why are you defending her?"

"I'm not. It's just that Eloise must deny it, no matter what. She mustn't admit to it," Chester explained. He turned to his daughter and asked, "I know you well. You never leave evidence behind whenever you do such things."

"They can't do anything if you don't admit it. Now, how much did you pay those three people? I'll figure something out for you."

Eloise noticed her father being supportive. She stopped hiding things and said, "Half a million."

Chester frowned when he heard that. "They were just three people. Why'd you pay them so much?"

Eloise felt guilty as she nervously confessed to her father, "It was risky. If the payment were too low, they wouldn't have agreed to do it. I had no choice, Dad."

"You were too desperate, Eloise! It would've been fine if you were successful, but look where you are now. How much do we have to spend to fix this?" Chester complained.

Even so, he devised a solution, "I'll give them an additional half a million, but only if they take the blame and claim it was all their fault. That way, even the military can't do anything to you."

Chester felt like he was bleeding money. However, it would be worth it if he could get his precious daughter out of prison. After all, she understood her mistakes. Normally, Chester always scolded Eloise because of Ivor's affairs.

Initially, Eloise thought her father would abandon her when she got arrested. She never expected him to be willing to help her.

She felt moved as she looked at her father tearfully, saying, "Thanks, Dad. After this, I'll stay home and learn to manage the company from you. I'll never do something this foolish again."

Chester felt relieved. He believed having her return as a sensible daughter was worth much more than a million dollars. "It's good that you've learned your lesson. Only your family will treat you this well. "Everyone else is nothing. When you return home, focus on managing the business and stop thinking about Ivor. Do you understand?"

Eloise had loved Ivor for so long and even provoked Bonnie multiple times. Eloise would have made fewer mistakes if she could have given up on Ivor. However, she pretended to regret her mistakes to appease her father and make him willing to help.

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Chapter 712

"I understand, Dad. I'll listen to you and Mom from now on." Eloise then remembered what her father said earlier. She asked innocently, "Dad, when will you pay those guys to take the blame for me? I can't stand this awful place for another minute."

Chester was about to answer when he heard a voice from behind, "They wouldn't dare admit to this crime even if you paid them a billion bucks."

Chester, Eloise, and Sharron frowned and turned toward the voice to see Sienna approaching.

Eloise asked, "Why are you here? Did you hear us?"

Sienna crossed her arms and looked at her coldly. "Yeah, I heard everything."

Sharron ran up to Sienna and said anxiously, "Could you not tell anyone about what you heard for the sake of your friendship with Eloise? She was just blinded by love and made a foolish mistake. Eloise isn't a bad person. Give her a chance to change. We'll discipline her once she's out of here."

Sienna rolled her eyes at Sharron. "Not a bad person? Slandering someone to ruin their life isn't a bad thing, huh? If that's not bad, what is?"

Eloise and the others sneered. The former never expected Sienna to be so direct and hit her soft spot. Eloise's eyes reddened, but she quickly adjusted her emotions and appealed, "Sienna, this is crucial to me. If you tell anyone what we said, my life will be over."

"Please give me a chance to change. Don't tell anyone what you heard. I beg you."

Sienna glanced at her disdainfully. "Whether or not I tell on you is irrelevant. I told you they wouldn't dare admit to this crime even if you paid them a billion dollars. You did this, so you bear the consequences. No one can help you."

Her words stunned the trio. Soon after, Eloise gulped and asked, "Wh-what do you mean?"

Meanwhile, Chester sensed something and frowned. "Sienna, if you know something, say it. Don't beat around the bush. Eloise is our only daughter, so we must handle this situation properly, or we'll feel ashamed as parents."

Sienna was about to answer. However, she decided against it and said, "Stop questioning me. You'll find out soon, anyway. When you go to court, the judge will give you the answer."

She thought of something and muttered, "Forget it. I'll just tell you. It doesn't count as breaking my promise to her since you'll soon find out anyway."

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Chapter 713

Eloise stared at Sienna, perplexed. The former asked, "What are you talking about? Can't you be clearer?"

Sienna looked at Eloise with a hint of sympathy in her eyes. "Do you know why Jim led a team to arrest you? You must be wondering why there was such a huge commotion." Eloise was still confused, asking, "So what?"

Sienna shook her head. "You're usually so clever, Eloise. Your grades were even better than mine in college. Can't you see such an obvious answer?"

Eloise already had a guess but dismissed it because she thought it was impossible. After hearing Sienna's remarks, Eloise's prior speculation intensified.

'Is it true? Is it just as I thought? Is Bonnie-'

Eloise paled as she clenched her fists. Meanwhile, Sienna noticed her former friend's reaction. The former raised her brow and said, "It seems you already know the answer."

Although Eloise had only speculated, Sienna's remarks validated her suspicions. The former's expression grew paler as her thoughts swirled. Finally, Eloise muttered, "How can that be? No, that's impossible. There must be a mistake. She deceived everyone!"

"You say it's impossible, but that's just your impression of Bonnie. If she isn't, why would Jim lead a team to arrest you after what you did to her?"

"Also, Ivor has always admired excellence and someone who can stand with him as his equal. Ivor wouldn't have fallen for her if Bonnie wasn't who she was. He's no fool, y'know."

Eloise's lips twitched, but she could not speak. The person she had always looked down on and hated had an unattainable status. Of course, Eloise could not accept it.

Sienna looked at Eloise and continued, "That's why I said your people won't take the blame for you no matter how much you pay them. After all, no one would dare slander Ms. Bonita." 'M-Ms. Bonita?!'

Chester and Sharron became wide-eyed and pale.

'Our daughter offended Ms. Bonita?! That's ridiculous! Why did it turn out like this?!'

Eloise's jaw hit the floor as she began to sweat. She trembled violently, finally understanding what Sienna's previous warning meant.

Eloise thought Sienna had refrained from acting against Bonnie because of her strict upbringing. However, Sienna's reason for not confronting Bonnie and instead protecting her became apparent. That was because Bonnie was Ms. Bonita.

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Chapter 714

'I was wrong from the start. I made a considerable mistake!' Eloise thought.

Chester regained his senses and looked at Sienna for a solution. He pleaded, "Please help my daughter. I'll pay you however much you want."

Sharron also looked at Sienna with eager eyes. "Sienna, I know you have a way to save my daughter. Please help her. She's my only daughter. I can't continue living if she stays in prison!"

Eloise gradually regained her senses from extreme fear. She looked at Sienna pleadingly and said, "S-Sienna, please help me. I realize what I've done and won't dare to do it again!"

Sienna remained silent as she looked at her crying friend. The former looked at Eloise for a long while before finally saying, "Ms. Bonita is the pride of Arvador's scientific research community, yet you hired people to slander her.

"You've gone too far. Do you think there's room for negotiation in this matter? Even if Bonnie forgave you, the country wouldn't."

Eloise and her parents' expressions grew paler. Ultimately, the trio fell to their knees and muttered, "It's over."

Meanwhile, a limited edition Maybach sped along the bustling road. Sitting in the back seat, Ivor said sternly, "Floyd, turn at the next corner and head back."

Floyd was puzzled, asking, "Mr. Ivor, that road doesn't lead back to the villa. Do you have other private matters to attend to?"

"Mhm," Ivor responded briefly with a hint of darkness in his eyes, "Head to the Gallaghers' residence."

When he mentioned the Gallaghers, Floyd instantly understood his boss's purpose in going there. Floyd did not question it and simply did as Ivor said. "You got it, boss."

Chester and Sharron got home, looking exhausted. When they lifted their heads, they saw Ivor leaning against his car.

Chester paused with a sense of foreboding in his heart. After taking a deep breath, he stiffly approached Ivor and asked, "What brings you here?"

Ivor stood upright and gazed at Chester coldly. "Mr. Chester, I believe you already know why I'm here. There's no need to ask such a question, right?"

Chester clenched his fists and then relaxed after a heavy sigh. "Just say it. What do you want us to do after what happened with Bonnie?"

Ivor did not beat around the bush. He said, "Considering our families' long-standing friendship, I don't want to handle it too harshly. So, I won't touch what your family owns. However, you must all leave Pyralis and promise me you'll never contact Bonnie again."

Chester had guessed that Ivor was here to help Bonnie. Still, the former did not expect Ivor to tell the whole family to leave Pyralis.

"But, Ivor, my family has lived in Pyralis for generations. If we "

Before he could finish, Ivor interrupted.

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Chapter 715

"Chester, I'm here to inform you, not negotiate. You have no room for bargaining. You either break ties with my family or leave Pyralis. It's your choice." Ivor sounded calm, but Chester still felt his coldness. Although the latter felt scared, he gathered the courage to plead with Ivor, "Can you give us another chance? We'll discipline Eloise properly this time and prevent her from doing such reckless things again." "I thought I

gave you a chance before. You didn't cherish it," Ivor said, "Again, do you want to break ties with my family or leave Pyralis? If you choose the former, I'll make it happen now."

If not for the long-standing friendship of the Gallagher and Knight families, Chester would probably have bankrupted his family by now. However, Ivor offered Chester a choice, which was merciful enough. Chester looked into Ivor's cold eyes and knew he could not negotiate. Soon after, the former sighed and lowered his head in defeat. "Give us three days, Ivor. We'll pack up and leave as soon as possible." Ivor responded, "I hope you keep your word. If you and your family fail to do what I asked, I will take action."

Chester sighed again, looking resigned. "Rest assured, I will keep my word."

"Hmm," Ivor hummed and returned to his Maybach. "Floyd, let's head back." "Right away, boss."

Sharron began to cry as she watched the car leave her sight. "It's over for our family!"

Chester heard his wife's sobbing voice, and a profound helplessness filled his eyes. "Since things have turned out this way, we should pack and leave. We need to find a new place to settle down." "What about Eloise? We can't just abandon her," Sharron's voice was hoarse, and the thought of her daughter being in prison made her cry even more violently.

"She's an adult, and it's time she pays for her actions. She will never realize her mistakes if we don't let her suffer." Chester was bitter. "Of course, I won't abandon my daughter. Let's settle somewhere else first. We'll return to pick her up when she finally leaves prison."

Sharron wiped her tears and agreed hoarsely, "Okay, honey."

That afternoon, Bonnie returned to the villa and saw Ivor setting dishes on the table. "What's all this? Are the housekeepers on leave today? You didn't have to bring these dishes out?"

"No, I just happened to have spare time, so I wanted to get the food on the table quickly and eat with you when you return." Ivor put down the dishes and pulled Bonnie to her chair. "Your timing is impeccable, Bonnie. You returned as I was about to finish setting the table."

Bonnie replied smilingly, "I know how good you are to me. Still, you don't need to show it to me like this."

"Why not? I want you to know that I love you, no matter how big or small my actions." Ivor looked at Bonnie affectionately.

However, the latter rolled her eyes and said, "It's strange. I'd feel uncomfortable if you didn't flirt for a day."

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Chapter 716

Although Bonnie said that, Ivor's words caused her to blush a little.

Ivor smiled shamelessly and peeled a lobster claw for Bonnie before putting it on her plate. "I just imported this lobster from Aresstin this morning. The meat is tender and delicious. See if it suits your taste." Bonnie took a bite and praised, "Yeah, the meat is fresh!"

"You can have more if you want. I'll peel the rest for you." Ivor continued to peel the lobster for Bonnie. Before she knew it, a pile of lobster meat was on her plate. Meanwhile, Ivor's plate remained empty. Bonnie noticed it and placed half her lobster meat onto his plate. "Don't just feed me. You should have some, too."

"I'm fine. I'll eat once you're full." Ivor liked doing things like these for Bonnie. Although it was trivial, seeing Bonnie eat made him feel content.

"Don't be like that, Ivor. Let's eat together, or I'll get annoyed." Bonnie put on a stern expression and glanced at Ivor's plate, signaling him to eat.

"Okay, if my honey wants me to eat, I'll eat. I know you care about me. You always remember to share food with me."

Bonnie did not understand the connection to caring. However, she did not dwell on it since Ivor had interpreted it that way. After all, she had grown accustomed to his behavior. "Whatever you say, Ivor. Come on, let's eat."

"All right." Ivor lowered his head and ate the lobster, occasionally glancing at Bonnie. The overwhelming tenderness in his eyes overflowed at that moment.

On the other hand, Bonnie continued to eat her meal casually. She had long grown immune to his gaze because Ivor often looked at her that way. Of course, she still felt delighted.

The butler watched the couple eating together and could not help but smile. He muttered, "Mr. Ivor and Ms. Bonnie have such an excellent relationship."

A housekeeper added, "Yeah, I've never seen Mr. Ivor smile like that. He seems to smile a lot more since Ms. Bonnie came. He's more cheerful, too."

Another housekeeper said, "You're right. Mr. Ivor and Ms. Bonnie are a match made in heaven. I believe they will always be happy."

Although the couple only enjoyed a meal together, their happiness and sweetness could make one envy them. The butler and housekeepers felt blessed to witness such a thing.

After all, the housekeepers and butler would have better days with Bonnie and Ivor, who have such an excellent relationship.

After eating, Bonnie returned to her room to organize some documents. Suddenly, her phone rang, and she picked it up. She saw Jim's name and muttered, "Why's he calling me? I wonder if something happened with Eloise."

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Chapter 717

Jim's voice sounded through Bonnie's phone, "There's been a small issue with the Gallaghers."

"Can they still bounce back from what happened?" Bonnie raised her brows in surprise, wondering how stubborn the family could be.

"It's not what you think," Jim explained, "Chester suddenly sold Gallagher Group's shares and listed his properties for auction through a real estate company. According to the information I received, the Gallaghers plan to leave Pyralis. No one knows where they're going, either."

Bonnie thought of someone and smiled helplessly, saying, "I know who's behind that. You don't need to worry about it, Jim. If the Gallaghers want to leave, let them."

Jim also vaguely realized something. "All right, then."

After hanging up the phone, Bonnie went to Ivor's study and knocked on the door.

Knock, knock.

Immediately after, an attractive voice sounded, "Come in."

When Bonnie opened the door, she saw Ivor sitting at his desk. He looked up, and an indescribable joy filled his eyes. "Honey, what are you doing here? Do you miss me already? I get it. You don't want to be away from me even for a moment."

'Gosh, he always spouts such nonsense whenever he sees me.'

Bonnie rolled her eyes and sat opposite Ivor. "Stop it. I have something to ask you."

Ivor noticed her expression and asked solemnly, "What is it?"

"Are you the reason the Gallaghers are leaving Pyralis?"

"You're well-informed, Honey. How'd you find out so quickly?"

Bonnie heard his response and knew he was behind it. She said, "You didn't need to do that. Eloise was the one who crossed me. Punishing her alone should be enough. There's no need to involve her whole family."

Ivor stood up and went to hold Bonnie's hand, saying, "Dealing with Eloise was your idea, but I thought the Gallaghers should be accountable, too. That's why I took action without your consent. You won't blame me for that, will you?"

Bonnie could not help but smile. "There's nothing to blame you for. I just think it was unnecessary. Still, you already did it."

She only came to Ivor's office to confirm that he got involved, not to convince him otherwise.

"Oh, that's fine, then." Ivor relaxed. Then, he thought of something and held Bonnie's hand tighter, saying, "Did you tolerate Eloise for so long because of my family's long-standing friendship with the Gallaghers? You only acted now because you didn't want to put me in a tough spot, huh?"

Bonnie nodded, not denying it. "Mostly, yes."

She would not have tolerated Eloise's antics for so long if it were not for that. With Bonnie's temper, Eloise would have been in prison long ago.

Even so, Bonnie's answer softened Ivor's heart completely.

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Chapter 718

"Bonnie, I'm delighted you're considerate of me, but you shouldn't make such sacrifices, even for me. I'd rather endure my pain alone than watch you suffer. Promise me that you won't hesitate to do what you want if you encounter any issues concerning me."

Ivor's sincere words filled Bonnie's heart with warmth. She smiled and held his hand protectively. "I understand. Don't worry. I'll never put myself in harm's way without reason."

"That's good." Ivor stared at her and then kissed her red lips.

Bonnie blushed when she felt his lips on hers. She looked more attractive then, and Ivor could not control himself. He kissed her cheek, released her hand, and stepped back, saying, "Uh, you should return to your room first. I'll stay here and calm down."

Bonnie noticed something and glanced at Ivor's lower half. Seeing his expected response, she smiled and said, "Since you can't control yourself, should I give you several shots to keep you from having improper thoughts?"

That was the second time Bonnie had said something like that. Ivor feared she might do it and numb his feelings. He said, "Honey, you shouldn't joke about such things. Any man would feel impulsive when he's with the person he loves. If not, it means he doesn't love her enough."

Bonnie noticed his nervousness, and her smile became more pronounced. She reassured him with a laugh, saying, "Fine, I was just kidding. I'll leave now."

Ivor sighed in relief and smiled helplessly.

The following day, Bonnie went to the research institute and saw Toby running to her with a report. "Ms. Bonita, there's some data here that I don't quite understand. Can you help me?"

Bonnie glanced at the report and concluded, "There are two errors here, and the distribution map is incorrect, too."

"Wait, what? How's that possible?" Toby's eyes widened in shock. "I painstakingly prepared this data. How did I make mistakes?"

'I've worked hard on this for so long, yet I still made mistakes. Gah, I can't accept it!'

"Don't worry too much." Bonnie did not want to discuss it in the hallway, so she walked ahead and said, "Let's go to my office. I'll point out your mistakes and redraw the distribution map for you. Then, you can see where you went wrong."

"Thank you so much, Ms. Bonita!" Toby was eager to learn, so he followed Bonnie with his report.

When they reached the office, Bonnie took Toby's report and outlined his mistakes in just a few seconds before redrawing his distribution map.

After seeing the new map, Toby felt enlightened. "So I missed a step, causing the data to deviate. I asked several professors for help, but even they couldn't find the problem. Of course, you saw it at a glance. You're amazing, as always, Ms. Bonita!"

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Chapter 719

Bonnie said smilingly, "It's just a small matter. No need to take it so seriously."

Toby scratched his head and said, "Being your assistant is a genuine honor, Ms. Bonita."

Bonnie raised her brows at him. "Don't you think you're overdoing it with the flattery today?"

Toby chuckled. "It isn't flattery if it's genuine, right?"

Bonnie smiled helplessly and waved. "You realize you made a mistake in your experiment procedure today, right? Go and redo it. Don't repeat the same mistake, okay?"

"Okay, I'll do that right away." Toby nodded and left Bonnie's office.

Pyralis University's students would be shocked if they saw Toby behaving so sheepishly. After all, Toby, the campus hottie, was typically quiet and reserved. He would never flatter anyone, but he showed that side of him to Bonnie.

Bonnie withdrew her gaze from him and was about to put on her hazmat suit to enter the laboratory. However, her phone rang, and she noticed it was a call from Xavier.

"Xavier, what's wrong?"

Xavier's hearty voice sounded through the phone, "There's nothing wrong, Ms. Bonita."

Bonnie chuckled but did not tease him.

After not hearing a response from her, Xavier added, "I'm calling to congratulate you in advance."

"You're congratulating me? For what?" Bonnie pondered with a hint of confusion in her eyes. I don't recall achieving anything recently."

Xavier's cheerful voice echoed, "I heard you've been progressing tremendously in your research on the upgraded nanomaterials. Success is just a matter of time with your capabilities. That's why I called to congratulate you in advance."

Bonnie knew Xavier called about the upgraded nanomaterials. Although she did not directly mention it, she asked, "Every cloud has a silver lining. There must be more to your call than this, right?" Xavier responded, "You've misunderstood, Ms. Bonita. I called you to express my care and concern for you."

"Oh, is that so?" Bonnie smirked and said, "I thought you wanted to cooperate with my latest research."

Xavier chuckled awkwardly. "It seems nothing can escape you. Now that you mentioned it, is there a chance for my family to strive for this cooperation?"

He knew the possibility of Bonnie agreeing to cooperate with him was slim. Considering her relationship with Ivor, she would prioritize the Knights over the Sheffyns.

Instead of answering his question, Bonnie asked, "Do you think you stand a chance?"

Xavier smiled and analyzed, "I think my chances are slim. After all, I've considered your relationship with Mr. Ivor. You wouldn't choose me over me, would you?" That question was an analysis and a test.

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Chapter 720

Xavier thought, 'Ms. Bonita's thoughts are unreadable, but I'll strive for an opportunity to work with her, even if it's only a one percent chance of success.'

Bonnie leaned into her office chair and casually replied, "You're mistaken. I don't intend to cooperate with the Knights this time."

Her answer piqued Xavier's interest. "You're not choosing the Knights?"

"That's right."

Xavier was shocked as he asked, "Would you mind telling me which company you intend to cooperate with, then?"

Bonnie replied, "Tang Fusion Studios."

Xavier was surprised and enlightened when he heard that. Ultimately, his emotions turned into envy as he said, "So, you're planning to cooperate with Mr. Hamish."

"That is correct."

"Of course, your relationship with Mr. Hamish is excellent. It even makes others jealous. It seems I can only watch from the sidelines again this time," Xavier sounded quite regretful.

Bonnie shrugged. Her choice to cooperate with Tang Fusion Studios was not because of her relationship with Hamish but because the company belonged to her. Since she had given the last cooperation to the Knights, she naturally wanted to give her company a chance.

Bonnie thought she should benefit herself and her people this time instead of giving it to others.

"There's nothing wrong with that. Still, I hope you're not too sad, Xavier. I heard your company recently secured a tourism development project. If it goes well, it'll elevate your company. You should focus on tha and stop worrying about cooperating with me."

"Haha, I guess so," Xavier chuckled, "Nothing can escape your attention, Ms. Bonnie. Indeed, I secured a tourism development project. I hoped you could bring me good luck, but that's not happening." "Xavier, you can't have your cake and eat it, too. That tourism

development is good enough." Bonnie understood Xavier's thoughts and feelings as a businessperson. However, she had to remind him not to be greedy.

"You're right, Ms. Bonita. I was too impatient." Xavier sounded humbled when talking to Bonnie.

Even before calling her, he knew the likelihood of securing this cooperation was slim. Although their conversation confirmed his suspicions, he did not feel too disappointed.

Bonnie checked her watch and said, "All right, it's getting late. I should head to the lab now."

"You got it, Ms. Bonita. I won't keep you any longer." After hanging up the phone and putting it aside, Xavier muttered, "Hamish is so lucky. I wonder how he got acquainted with Ms. Bonita. I would've gotten this cooperation if I had met her earlier. What a pity."

Immediately after, someone knocked on his door.

Knock, knock, knock.

"Come in."

Xavier's assistant entered and said, "Sir, Mr. Shane Fernandez from Gemedica Group is waiting for you in the conference room. He says there's something important he needs to discuss with you."

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Chapter 721

"Mr. Shane is here? I wonder why," Xavier sounded doubtful.

'Shane's a crafty old fox. Did he come to trap me? Still, I can't refuse to see him since he's already here. Well, there's always a solution to a problem. First, I need to see what Shane wants. If it's a trap, I'll find a way to escape it.'

With that in mind, Xavier composed himself and told his assistant, "Go ahead and bring him in."

"Right away, Mr. Xavier." The assistant nodded and left.

Soon after, he brought Shane to Xavier's office.

Shane began with his usual pleasantries, "Mr. Xavier, it's been a while. I heard your recent developments have been quite impressive. Do you have any suitable projects to recommend?"

"Don't joke with me, Shane. Although I've closed a few deals, they're hardly worth mentioning compared to what you're used to. I hoped to make money with you, but you've beaten me to it. "You're flattering me too much. Unfortunately, my capabilities don't warrant such praise," Xavier reciprocated with equal politeness. He poured some whiskey for Shane as he spoke.

The latter raised his glass and said, "You're too modest, Xavier. Nonetheless, I came to discuss an important matter with you."

He gave Xavier's assistant a meaningful glance. Xavier understood Shane's intention and told the assistant, "You may leave now."

Xavier's assistant nodded and replied, "Understood, Mr. Xavier."

Xavier returned his attention to Shane, saying, "Okay, it's just the two of us now. You can speak your mind."

Shane put down his whiskey and sighed as if in distress. "I believe you've noticed the Knights growing more robust over the past six months. While the Knights may be the wealthiest family in Pyralis, our combined strength isn't much weaker.

"However, we may fall far behind if we ignore them and allow them to grow. If that happens, catching up will be a tremendous challenge."

Xavier did not immediately respond. Instead, he sipped his whiskey while pondering. Of course, he had noticed the Knights' growth, especially with Bonita's help.

Not only would the gap between them and the other wealthy families widen, but it might also become insurmountable. The Knights might even leave the other families far behind in the future.

'I guess this is just how things are. No one can blame Ivor for accumulating such good fortune and marrying such a capable person. I feel envious beyond words.'

Shane noticed Xavier's silence and thought he had struck a chord with the latter. With that in mind, Shane pressed, "I have a proposal, Xavier. Our families should join forces to bring down the Knights. "They're a formidable competitor, after all. With them out of

the picture, our families can advance together. Surely, we'll surpass the Knights soon enough."

Xavier shook his head and replied, "I'm sorry, Shane, but my family is facing internal turbulence. There are significant disagreements within my collateral branches. I must handle my family matters and don't have the bandwidth to focus on anything else. I suggest you find someone else."

'What a joke! Going against Ms. Bonita is like going against all of Arvador!'

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Chapter 722

'If I agree with Shane, I'll drag my whole family down. I wouldn't dare to go against Ms. Bonita even if I had a hundred times the courage!'

Shane was shocked and puzzled upon hearing Xavier's refusal. The former thought Xavier would agree since the Knights and Sheffyns had been rivals for many years. Therefore, Shane was confident that cooperating with Xavier would be easy.

He did not expect Xavier to refuse so decisively.

'Xavier talking about internal conflicts is nonsense! He brought everyone in line when he took over his family years ago. The Sheffyns have been growing stronger under his leadership ever since!'

Shane refused to believe there would be internal strife within the Sheffyns. He knew Xavier made it up to reject him.

'Why did Xavier reject me? No matter how hard I rack my brains, I can't think of a reason.'

As he was in deep thought, Xavier's voice broke the silence, "I advise you not to go against the Knights, Shane. Just focus on your family and grow peacefully."

Shane became even more puzzled when he heard that. He asked, "Why, Xavier? You shouldn't be this scared of the Knights, especially with your capabilities."

Shane pondered, 'Did Xavier reject me because Ivor is controlling him? That must be why Xavier doesn't dare to act recklessly. Still, what could threaten Xavier? He became Sheffyn Group's CEP because of his outstanding capabilities, not because of his background.

'Xavier stands out from his family and commands their respect. He's such an influential figure, yet he's foolish enough to let Ivor control him? It can't be.'

Shane could not think of any other reason why Xavier would reject him besides that.

Ultimately, he asked, "Xavier, is Ivor controlling you? If you need my help, just say the word. Don't be polite. I'll do everything I can to help."

Xavier did not respond to that. Instead, he said, "I thought I told you. I need to deal with my family's internal conflicts and don't have the resources to focus on other things. If you insist on going against the Knights, find someone else to help you."

Although his words were tactful, his two refusals made Shane understand that he would not cooperate, no matter what.

After realizing Xavier's firmness, Shane stood up gloomily and said, "If you're unwilling, I'll go to Mr. Hamish at Tang Fusion Studios. He has a broad vision, and I believe he'll agree with me."

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Chapter 723

"I wish you good luck, Shane," although Xavier responded calmly, he gloated inside.

'Bonnie and Hamish's relationship couldn't be any better. If Shane wants to approach Hamish to go against Ivor, it'll be Shane's demise. I can already imagine how miserable Shane looks after getting rejected by Hamish. It'll be worse than when I rejected him.'

Shane realized he had failed to persuade Xavier and intended to leave. The former stood up and said, "Well, then. I'll take my leave."

"Take care, Shane." Xavier watched Shane leave with a meaningful smile.

'Things are getting interesting.'

Bonnie sat across from Hamish at Tang Fusion Studios and discussed their cooperation on the latest nanomaterials. She had entrusted him with an important task, and he listened attentively. "Don't worry, Bonnie. I'll do my best since you entrusted me with it."

Bonnie smiled and patted his shoulder. "I've always trusted you. You'll have no issues with this project, considering your capabilities. No pressure, okay?"

"You got it." Hamish nodded solemnly and was about to say something when someone knocked on the door. He had to swallow his words and respond, "Come in."

His assistant entered and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Hamish. Mr. Shane from Gemedi Group is outside. He says he has something important to discuss with you." 'Shane, as in Shane Fernandez? I remember him, but we never talked much. I wonder why he's looking for me.'

After some thought, Hamish looked at his assistant and said, "Let him in."

"Right away, Mr. Hamish." The assistant left and brought Shane into the office shortly after.

Shane entered and immediately praised, "Mr. Hamish, I heard you've been doing well recently. If you don't mind, I'd like to work with you someday."

Hamish calmly glanced at him and responded modestly, "You flatter me, Mr. Shane. I don't earn as much as you think, y'know. Surely, I can't compare to you."

After exchanging pleasantries, Shane noticed Bonnie sitting there. He turned to Hamish and asked, "Mr. Hamish, who might this be?"

Before Hamish could answer, Bonnie said, "I'm Mr. Hamish's friend. I'm just here to chat with him. You can talk to him directly if you have something to discuss. Just pretend I'm not even here." After glancing at Bonnie, Shane turned to Hamish and said, "Mr. Hamish, I—"

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Chapter 724

Hamish waved and interjected, "If she says not to mind her, we won't. Please have a seat, Mr. Shane."

Shane stopped overthinking and sat down to discuss halting the Knights' development. He said the exact words he had told Xavier, with Hamish now the target.

"Mr. Hamish, you're a visionary. That's why I came to you for help. Getting in the Knights' way will benefit our companies significantly. You wouldn't refuse this proposal, would you?"

Hamish was drinking water when he heard that. He immediately spat it out and coughed violently. "Cough! Cough, cough! Ahem!"

Hamish glanced at Bonnie and thought, 'I wonder how Shane will react once he realizes Ivor's fiancée is sitting across from him.'

'Also, Bonnie isn't just that-she's also the chairwoman of Tang Fusion Studios. Saying he wants to go against them is a death sentence.'

Meanwhile, Bonnie remained calm after hearing Shane's proposal. She showed no emotional fluctuations whatsoever.

Shane did not notice Hamish's gaze toward Bonnie. Instead, he heard Hamish coughing hysterically and asked with concern, "Are you okay, Mr. Hamish?"

Hamish patted his chest and gathered himself before responding, "I'm fine. Thank you for your concern, Mr. Shane."

Upon hearing he was okay, Shane continued, "Mr. Hamish, what do you think about my proposal? Would you consider working with me?"

Hamish did not know how to respond and sneakily glanced at Bonnie. The latter sensed it and looked back at him calmly.

She withdrew her gaze from him and looked at Shane, asking softly, "Is there a reason for that? Do you have a grudge against the Knights, or is it because you don't want them to hinder your development?"

Shane was stunned as he turned to Bonnie with a hint of doubt.

'Didn't she tell us to pretend she isn't here? Now she's interrupting. What's her relationship with Hamish?'

Shane was confused, looking at Hamish. However, the latter simply shrugged, confusing Shane even more. Of course, Shane did not respond to Bonnie. Instead, he continued to analyze the situation and persuade Hamish.

"Please consider my proposal. After all, the Knights are becoming stronger every day. It's suppressing companies like ours. Although I admit Tang Fusion Studios's momentum is strong, it'll be challenging for you to keep up if the Knights continue to outgrow us."

Hamish remained silent and gazed at Bonnie occasionally. Meanwhile, she remained indifferent, as if she were not involved.

Seeing that Hamish seemed undecided, Shane frowned. Still, the latter refused to give up. "So, Mr. Hamish, it's urgent to suppress the Knights. Once we bring them down, we can share their wealth and broaden our horizons. Then, maybe we can become the second richest in Pyralis."

Once he finished speaking, Bonnie lightly tapped the tabletop and said, "Mr. Shane, you haven't answered my question."

Shane was not in a good mood because Hamish had been silent the whole time. The former's expression grew cold as Bonnie pressed him for a response. "It's a private matter, and I have no answers for you, miss."

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Chapter 725

Bonnie raised her eyebrows, showing little emotion.

After responding to Bonnie, Shane turned to Hamish again and asked, "Mr. Hamish, do you want to cooperate with me? Can you give me a definite answer? If you keep silent like this, how am I supposed to know what you mean?"

Before Hamish could say anything, Bonnie's voice rang out again.

"Okay."

Shane didn't expect Bonnie to speak again. Her tone carried a hint of unfriendliness.

"What... do you mean?"

Bonnie met Shane's eyes and spoke coolly, her expression remaining unaltered. "I mean, I agree."

Initially, Shane thought Bonnie was deliberately causing trouble. However, her words made him realize that something was off.

Recalling that Hamish had remained silent during the entire exchange, even though this individual didn't seem like a senior corporate leader and had a youthful appearance, Hamish hadn't interrupted her when she talked, indicating that her position with Tang Fusion Studios shouldn't be low.

Thinking it over, Shane's gaze towards Bonnie gradually changed, and his tone became much softer. "When you say you agree, can you tell me if your decision represents the entire Tang Fusion Studios?" "It means I agree," With a sly smile, Bonnie met Shane's gaze.

"But it's not with your Fernandez family. It's with the Knight family."

After hearing these words, Shane's face changed drastically, and he stood up abruptly from his chair.

"So, you're intentionally playing me?"

He had been happy for a short while because of Bonnie's response. But he was back to nothing within a few seconds!

"How am I playing you? Did I say I was going to cooperate with your Fernandez family?" Bonnie's face still wore a faint smile.

To Shane, this smile seemed like a naked mockery. His face turned livid, and he clenched his fists, wanting to retort to Bonnie's words. But he couldn't find the right words to counter. After all, Bonnie hadn't explicitly said she would cooperate with the Fernandez family.

Seeing Shane remaining silent, Bonnie casually took out her phone and made a video call to Ivor.

Ivor almost instantly answered, followed by his magnetic and gentle voice.

"Honey, aren't you busy? Why do you have time to call me?"

Bonnie remained composed. "There's something important I need to tell you."

"What is it?"

Bonnie glanced sideways in the direction where Shane was, then leisurely said, "The chairman of Tang Fusion Studios is considering allying with your Knight family. Are you willing?"

When Shane saw Ivor appear in the video, his heart surged with shock, and his gaze toward Bonnie was filled with suspicion.

He didn't take this young girl seriously when he first came in. Who would have thought that not only did she have a say in front of Hamish, but she also seemed to have a close relationship with Ivor? This made him think deeply about what identity this girl held.

Upon hearing Bonnie's words, Ivor looked deeply at her for a moment, unable to guess her intentions. Therefore, he didn't rush to answer but instead asked, "An alliance? Can you represent Tang Fusion Studios in negotiating with me?"

Bonnie pursed her lips, smiling but not saying anything.

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Chapter 726

Then the camera turned to Hamish, and Bonnie said with a smile, "Since Mr. Ivor thinks my words don't count, then you speak."

Hamish nodded with a smile, "Yes, that's what I mean. Since Bonnie is here, I'll let her convey it."

Ivor did not respond immediately. He lowered his gaze, concealing the inscrutable emotions in his dark eyes.

After a moment, Ivor looked at Bonnie and asked, "Do you want me to cooperate with Hamish?"

Bonnie wasn't foolish. She could tell that the man was testing her.

"Yes, I do," she replied.

"Alright." Ivor said indulgently, "If you want it, then I agree."

He immediately instructed Floyd, "Arrange a meeting with Tang Fusion Studios to discuss cooperation."

"Yes, boss." Floyd left to make the arrangements.

Ivor withdrew his gaze from Floyd and refocused on Bonnie.

"Come back early tonight."

"Okay."

"Forget it. I'll pick you up instead."

Bonnie didn't refuse Ivor's request.

"Okay."

After the call ended, the office fell into a brief silence.

Shane's temples pounded with rage as he fixed his longing gaze on Bonnie and considered how she had deceived him. He asked, "What's your relationship with Ivor?" Bonnie shrugged indifferently, looking nonchalant. "Can't you figure it out? It seems your intelligence is lacking a bit."

Shane choked, and his face turned livid.

However, his brain was working quickly, and he was starting to ponder.

'I remembered Bonnie's gentle demeanor and tone when she called Ivor. She even called him honey...'

Shane recalled the announcement of Ivor's marriage a while ago. It wasn't hard to guess that Bonnie was probably Ivor's fiancée, whose identity hadn't been publicly revealed!

But what surprised him even more was the close relationship between Bonnie and Hamish.

Furthermore, Xavier did not prohibit Shane from seeing Hamish, but he also showed a mysterious smile.

At that time, he didn't understand why Xavier was smiling like that.

Now he realized that Xavier must have known about the relationship between Bonnie, Hamish, and Ivor. He was waiting to see Shane make a fool of himself!

It turned out these people knew everything, but only he was kept in the dark like a fool.

The more Shane thought about it, the angrier he became. His face turned ugly. A malicious glint flashed in his eyes when he looked at Bonnie and Hamish.

"Haha. You've all played me like a monkey. Do you think I'm easy to bully? Just wait! I won't let this matter go. Let's see who will have the last laugh!" After leaving the company building angrily, he turned to his assistant.

"Find Finley for me. I must defeat Ivor in next week's business cooperation."

"But she's an expert in the jewelry design industry! She's elusive; it's hard to find her!"

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Chapter 727

"I don't care. Even if it costs everything, you must find her for me!"

Shane's fists clenched tightly, and his eyes were filled with boundless hatred. He was determined to teach Bonnie and the others a lesson, letting them know how formidable he was. "Yes, Mr. Shane."

Hamish turned to Bonnie beside him.

"It seems that Shane is planning revenge. Should I send someone to take care of him?"

A sharp glint flashed in his eyes as he spoke, and he made a throat-slitting gesture.

She gave him a disdainful look while twitching the corner of her mouth.

"Are you serious? You're making us seem like some sort of terrorist organization. Can't you be more civilized? We're law-abiding citizens."

Hamish furrowed his brow, obviously unwilling to let Shane off so easily.

"Are we just going to let this villain continue to cause trouble?"

Bonnie shrugged nonchalantly, her tone indifferent and dismissive of Shane.

"Why bother? When the enemy comes, we'll just deal with him. If he dares to come, a slap will do."

Hamish nodded in agreement. With Bonnie's abilities, squashing Shane would be easier than squashing an ant, so there was nothing to worry about.

"Then you handle it. If you need any help, just give me a call."

Bonnie lightly smiled. "Do you even need to say that? I won't be afraid to bother you if there's something."

Hamish smiled. "Haha, I'm afraid you won't be."

Bonnie rolled her eyes and looked at him as if he were a fool. "Do I look like someone who would be afraid to bother you?"

Hamish chuckled but didn't say anything, wearing an expression that clearly said, 'Of course not.'

As Bonnie shook her head and opened her mouth to speak, her phone vibrated in her pocket.

She saw that it was a call from Ivor.

After pressing the answer button, the man's magnetic voice came through the phone.

"Honey, I'm outside the Tang Fusion Studios building. Come down."

"Huh?" Bonnie sounded puzzled. "When did you get here?"

"Just after I hung up with you."

"Okay, wait for me. I'll come down now."

After hanging up the phone, Bonnie looked at Hamish and said, "Ivor is waiting for me downstairs. I have to go back. You can message me if you have any questions about collaborating with the research institute."

Hamish made an "OK" gesture and joked, "Go ahead, don't keep your man waiting."

Bonnie rolled her eyes at him again, stepped into the elevator, and headed to the entrance.

Looking around, she spotted the Maybach parked not far away. She smirked and walked leisurely toward the car.

She opened the door and sat down, only to have a big, powerful hand grab hold of hers right away.

"Honey, did you miss me today?"

Bonnie was caught off guard by the man's affectionate gaze.

Ivor appeared to have deep pools in his eyes where someone could easily drown if they weren't careful.

Bonnie awkwardly averted her gaze, a thin blush spreading across her face.

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Chapter 728

"We see each other every day. What's there to miss?"

"Don't you miss me?" Ivor held Bonnie's hand tightly, interlocking their fingers and gazing deeply into her eyes.

"I think about you every moment. What should I do? So you must think about me too. That's only fair."

Bonnie twitched at the corner of her mouth. "I didn't force you to think about me."

Ivor lowered his gaze, pretending to look dejected.

"So, in your eyes, am I such an unnecessary existence?"

Bonnie knew Ivor was pretending, but seeing him like this still made her uneasy.

She reached out and patted his shoulder. "How could that be? You're the person I need the most."

Ivor's eyes brightened again. Smiling slightly, he took Bonnie's hand in his.

"Honey, I knew you cared about me."

Although Bonnie felt helpless, seeing him so happy because of her words also brought a hint of sweetness to her heart.

Floyd, who was driving, involuntarily shuddered.

'Mr. Ivor and Ms Bonnie have been interacting like this every day. How come they're not sick of each other? I am already feeling goosebumps just watching them.'

The two of them leaned quietly against each other for a moment. Suddenly, Bonnie heard Ivor's voice, carrying a hint of jealousy.

"Is your relationship with Hamish that good that he comes here every other day? And now you're even making decisions for his company."

She smiled charmingly. "Is that all? Do you want to say anything else? Just say it all at once."

Ivor, who had first been envious, smiled upon hearing Bonnie's remarks.

"Do you even know what I want to ask you?"

"More or less."

Ivor raised the corner of his lips and chuckled lightly.

She said, "You go first. Let me see if I guessed it right."

"I heard that the reason why Tang Fusion Studios has developed so rapidly is because there's a formidable backer behind them, and this backer is most likely the chairman of their company." Bonnie still maintained her charming smile. "Good analysis, keep going."

Ivor turned his head and looked at her with a smile, showing an indulgent yet helpless expression. "Can't you give me a definite answer?"

Bonnie shook her head. "Isn't your guess good enough? Why the rush? Keep guessing."

Ivor's gaze swept over Bonnie, speaking in a half-joking, half-assured tone, "I want to know if the mastermind behind this company is none other than you, Ms. Bonita?"

Bonnie knew that the man's intelligence would make discovering the truth about this situation easy.

Bonnie pursed her lips. Then she rummaged through her pocket for a piece of candy and gently placed it in the man's palm.

"You answered well. This candy is your reward."

She had just picked it up from the company's front desk. Ivor also got the answer to his question from her actions.

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Chapter 729

Ivor discovered that Tang Fusion Studios was Bonnie's long ago. However, he didn't expose it because Bonnie never admitted it. It wasn't until today that he got a definite answer.

"Since this is a reward from you, of course, I'll keep it well," Ivor said as he was about to put the candy into his pocket.

Bonnie held his hand, and she raised her eyebrows at him when he looked over.

"Aren't you going to eat it?"

Ivor asked with a smile as he toyed with the candy in his hand, "Do you want me to eat this candy?"

"Why not?"

"Alright." Ivor readily agreed.

As the two began discussing the matter of candy, Floyd kept glancing back through the rearview mirror.

His eyes were filled with even more shock, and his mouth fell open.

'No way? Seriously? Is Mr. Ivor going to eat that candy? He has never eaten sweets and is almost completely insulated to things like sugar.

'But now, Mr. Ivor agreed to eat candy just because Ms Bonnie asked him to?'

As a single man, he could not comprehend, questioning whether the power of love was really that great. 'Is it so great that it makes Mr. Ivor dare challenge things he has never

tried?' Ivor put the candy in his mouth, looking like he was enjoying it. "The candy is sweet."

Floyd wished he could give Bonnie a thumbs up.

Indeed, Bonnie is worthy of being Mr. Ivor's wife. She was not only able to persuade the boss to accept something he had never done before, but she also managed to make him enjoy it. These two had been having an unbelievably wonderful relationship since they first began dating.

Of course, Floyd was the first and foremost victim, being the third wheel.

Hearing what Ivor said, Bonnie showed a faint smile.

"Well, if you behave well next time, I'll reward you with more candy." Although it sounded like coaxing a child, Ivor felt so content that he smiled brightly.

"Yeah, I'll do my best." The conversation between the two made Floyd shake his head again.

Bonnie was able to transform Ivor, who had previously been distant and reserved, into someone as affectionate as a puppy.

In his office at the Gemedi Group building, Shane was furious and was hurling documents across the floor.

"You useless bunch! Can't you even find one person? What's the use of me spending so much to support you?"

The few high-ranking executives bowed their heads, afraid to raise their voices.

"Trash, all trash! Useless bunch of trash!" Shane's face turned red with anger.

He paced the office with his hands behind his back, and his snake-like glare was firmly focused on the few high-level executives before him.

"Tell me, when are you going to find Finley? Give me a definite answer!"

The high-level executives exchanged glances and lowered their heads farther, preventing eye contact. Finley's whereabouts were mysterious and always elusive.

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