

Chapter 196 Shrew

As they said, a new broom swept clean.

On his first official meeting as CEO, Travis did not waste time putting on an air of superiority.

The department heads sat bolt upright, their muscles tense.

In the past, these people held Isaac in the highest esteem.

Now, though, due to their lack of familiarity with Travis, they could not help but be cautious.

"I'd like each department to report on their progress over the past six months and their outlook for the rest of the year, starting with the accounting department." Travis took his place at the head of the table, looking stern and condescending.

He had just been promoted, so he could not help but feel more than a little cocky.

Overconfidence, however, could lead to complacency.

The head of the accounting department gave a lengthy presentation and discussed the department's performance over the past half year, among other topics. According to him, a lot of money was put into other projects, but none of them yielded any positive results.

He then gave the newly appointed CEO a copy of the invoices.

Travis' face darkened.

than that sum explained why they went unnoticed.

The board of directors and the employees trusted Isaac's judgment because he had brought the company a great deal of success over the years.

For this reason, nobody thought to verify the company's financial standing.

Now, however...

Travis did his best to contain his ire.

He was not surprised by any of the following reports from various departments. There were ongoing financial losses, interruptions, and the need for additional funding for several projects.

In summary, he received more bad news than good.

In the end, Travis concluded the meeting earlier than expected.

After everyone had left and the door to the meeting room had been closed, Travis finally lost it. "Isaac, you damn bastard!"

For a while, Audrey remained silent in her seat.

She had expected that things would not go as smoothly as she had hoped, but she had not anticipated it to be like this at all.

"Travis, we can't let the board of directors know about this, or else they'll blame us for the loss. We'll be completely defenseless if that happens. They need to be silenced, and I think we can only do that by completing two projects immediately."

Travis thought the same.

He sighed. The current circumstances had worn him down considerably.

"We have a wide variety of projects at our disposal, and surely some of them will yield a profit." Audrey continued, "Don't be discouraged, dear. You're still young. You have

plenty of time to work this out."

Rather than concede that he was not as talented as Isaac, Travis dove headfirst into the company's affairs with Audrey in an attempt to save, recreate, and rebrand the Paramount Corporation.

Travis had been so preoccupied with work that he forgot to make time to take Lilith out.

Lilith was always in a trance lately; her mind was constantly occupied with depressing thoughts.

She went out of her way to seek Travis after he failed to call her or ask her out, but he was too busy with work to meet her.

She had considered the idea that he had abandoned her because he had inherited the Johnston family's wealth now, and she could not accept it.

Right now, she was sitting in the café all by herself, feeling down on her luck.

Camila and Glenda had just gotten out of the supermarket. They were parched, so they decided to drop by a café, where they ran into Lilith.

On her table, Lilith's frail appearance made her look miserable.

Camila, holding Joe in her arms, pretended not to notice her as she made her way to a secluded spot near the window with Glenda.

After her failed attempt to humiliate Camila, Lilith was given the punishment of mopping the sports center for two days, making her the company's laughingstock.

Several of her co-workers even went so far as to make fun of her for it.

She had considered quitting more than once, but she had no one to turn to for help because Travis would not even call her. In the end, she was forced to keep working despite the ridicule that she received.

Despite Camila's inaction, Lilith was convinced that she was also mocking her, like everyone else.

"Don't be so smug, Camila. One day, you'll run out of fortune. You can't be lucky forever," Lilith spat when she reached Camila's table.

Camila stopped playing with Joe to look at her. In a calm tone, she replied, "I have no idea when my luck will run out, but I know that you're having a hard time right now. Your unhappiness is written all over your face."

"You..." Lilith's face flushed with anger as she snapped, "What are you being so arrogant for? Your man has been fired from Paramount Corporation. You're not..."

"My man was kicked out of the company, yes, but he never left me. He never treated me any differently. I'm still well fed, and I have bodyguards, drivers, and servants to help me. Even though he's no longer CEO of the Paramount Corporation, he's still wealthy and influential enough to provide for my needs. You, on the other hand, seem to have lost a lot of weight lately. What's the problem, Lilith?"

Camila was not the boastful type.

She only said that to rile up Lilith.

She learned from Willie and Isaac that Travis had been extremely busy recently. She heard that he was always in his office, working nonstop. He had just assumed power, so he was expected to show everyone why they should follow his orders.

When she saw Lilith not looking so great, Camila immediately assumed that she and Travis were having trouble in paradise.

Her words successfully struck a nerve in Lilith.

She wanted to lash out at Camila but knew she could not.

"Don't get ahead of yourself!" Lilith growled.

Camila shrugged. "I'm not getting ahead of myself. Anyway, take care, Lilith."

"You'd better watch your back from now on, Camila!" With that, Lilith stormed out of the café.

"Who's that? She's so rude. She's pretty, but she's such a shrew," Glenda commented with a frown.

"That's Lilith Erlich, Travis' girlfriend. She might become part of the Johnston family one day," Camila said.

She shrugged.

She did not care because she and Isaac would never consider the Johnstons as their family.

Glenda hummed in understanding.

She did not ask anything more.

She was quite well-informed about what was going on in the Johnston family, but she never shared such information with anyone. She also did not have the habit of sticking her nose where it did not belong.

In short, she knew her place.

"I think we should go back," Camila said as she got to her feet.

Glenda followed suit, suggesting, "Do you want me to carry Joe? You've been carrying him the whole time. You must be tired now."

"No, it's okay," Camila declined with a grateful smile.

Now that she had the freedom to carry and hold her baby whenever she wanted, she would not waste it.

Once they got home, Glenda and the driver went to the back of the car to retrieve the things they had purchased and brought them into the house. Then, Glenda put them away in their appropriate cabinets.

Camila was about to go to the bedroom with Joe in her arms when she passed by the study and heard Isaac's voice. He sounded somewhat surprised.

"What did you say?" Isaac questioned.

Willie ducked his head and replied, "That woman is Fidelia."