Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 181-Mia glanced at her phone but refrained from answering, sensing that it probably wasn't good news she was about to receive.

The persistent ringing, however, showed no signs of stopping.

With a sense of resignation, Mia reluctantly answered the call, "Hello?" "You brat, what's going on? Why didn't you pick up when I called? Don't you know I have something urgent to discuss with you?" Mia replied coldly. "What's the matter?" On the other end of the line, Mary exclaimed, "Mia, transfer a hundred thousand dollars to me right away!" "A hundred thousand? Why don't you just rob a bank?" Mia knew that whenever Mary called, it surely involved money, and this time was no exception, with a demand for a hefty sum right from the start.

"Mia, spare me the act. Your husband is loaded. After all, you're in charge of your family's finances. Now that your biological family is in the picture, there's no way you're short on a hundred grand.

"I've been considerate enough not to bother you recently, but if you can't come up with the money, I'll make your life a living hell" Upon hearing this, Mia couldn't help but frown. "What do you need a hundred thousand dollars for?" she inquired.

"Your younger brother, Ted, has a girlfriend who is expecting, and they're getting ready to tie the knot. They need financial support right now.

"Considering he's your brother, you wouldn't want to see him facing difficulties in getting married, would you?" Mia retorted with a cold tone, "I don't have the money. I'm using Aunt Patricia's funds to pay for my college tuition." Mary's tone turned sharp as she quipped. "Come on, Mia, stop lying. Didn't you win a million dollars in that design competition?

"With Aunt Patricia's money at your disposal, don't tell me you're strapped for cash. I'm giving you one day to transfer the money to my bank account. Otherwise, I won't let you off the hook." After ending the call, Mia frowned as she stared at her phone. Without hesitation, she decided to block Mary's number.

She wasn't Mary's personal ATM, ready to dispense a hundred thousand dollars on demand.

As Mia gently caressed her belly, she couldn't help but recognize that she, too, was in need of money.

Having endured bullying from Mary's twins growing up, Ted getting married held no significance for Mia. Even uneasy expression.

Later that evening, upon returning home from work, Mia couldn't help but notice Patricia's uneasy Turning her gaze toward her, Mia inquired, "Aunt Patricia, did Mary discuss something with you on the phone?" *She called asking for money, didn't she?" Patricia replied.

Mia nodded. "Yes, she demanded a hundred thousand dollars within a day. But where am I supposed to get that much money? m still paying off my mortgage every month." "Mia, there's no need to stress about this. I just got a call from a neighbor at our old place. It turns out Mary and her family paid a visit there, trying to find out where we live now.

"However, I didn't disclose anything, so they shouldn't be able to track us down." "I understand. I won't give them any money." Mia reassured Patricia.

Mia assured her that if Bob and Mary showed up and caused trouble, she could count on her six brothers, who wouldn't hesitate to stand their ground in any conflict.

Bob and Mary managed to maintain peace for an extended period, likely out of concern for avoiding conflicts with Mia's brothers.

In the countryside, having a predominantly male household provided an advantage in physical altercations.

Nonetheless, Mia remained undeterred by the situation. The following day, she attended her classes as usual.

Approaching her, Riley informed, "Mia, your adoptive parents contacted the college. They claim they've been unable to reach you and have something important to discuss." Mia grew uneasy. "I don't want to meet them. They're demanding a hundred thousand dollars to fund my brother's wedding.

"How am I supposed to cough up that amount of money?" Riley, familiar with Mia's family background, chose not to press the matter.

Throughout her classes, Mia found herself somewhat distracted.

To her surprise, Bob and Mary were able to locate Mia's college and were even familiar with her previous educational background.

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 182-This was certainly bad news.

After class, Mia discreetly exited the college, concealing her identity with a hat and mask, wary of being spotted by Bob and Mary:

After all, they were entirely capable of resorting to disruptive actions, such as blocking the college entrance.

Upon reaching the roadside, Mia carefully surveyed her surroundings, ensuring there were no suspicious figures around.

Finding none, she breathed a sigh of relief and decided to hail a taxi for her journey back home.

"Mia, stop right there!" Suddenly, a red sports car pulled over by the roadside, and Shelly emerged, visibly agitated. "Where else do you think you can hide?" Mia maintained her composure. "I haven't been hiding." "Then why are you wearing a mask and hat on such a scorching day if you're not trying to hide?" Shelly retorted.

She intercepted Mia, obstructing her path. "You're the one who ratted me out to my family.

"Now, I'm stuck with a measly monthly allowance of fifty thousand dollars, which is nowhere near enough for my expenses.

"Come with me to clarify things with Timothy. The whole Wilhelmina incident has nothing to do with me. It was all her fault, and I have zero connection to it." The financial strain had become unbearable for Mia lately. She avoided social gatherings with friends and hesitated to visit shopping malls. The experience was utterly agonizing.

As Mia observed Shelly's irritable demeanor, she couldn't help but reflect on the lavish lifestyle Shelly had once led.

Accustomed to a life of extravagance and consistently indulging in opulence, the unexpected freeze of her credit card was undoubtedly distressing for Shelly.

mothy's strategy ha Nonetheless, Timothy's strategy had proven remarkably effective.

Maintaining her indifference, Mia casually remarked, "Well, it's not like I'm the one who cut off your credit card. So, this is none of my business.

"Besides, Wilhelmina openly confessed that this incident is linked to you. Are you trying to claim innocence?" "It had nothing to do with me in the first place. You simply have too many enemies, and Wilhelmina targeted you out of personal animosity. How does that implicate me?" Certainly, Shelly wasn't going to admit any involvement in the matter.

With everything sorted out on Wilhelmina's end, Shelly was confident that she wouldn't risk speaking up. So. for now, Shelly felt safe.

Aware that Shelly wouldn't admit any wrongdoing, Mia chose not to engage in pointless arguments.

Suddenly, she noticed a middle—aged couple approaching from across the street—weren't they Bob and Mary?

It was all Shelly's fault for holding her up. Otherwise, she would have left already and wouldn't have been caught in this situation.

Mia instinctively lowered her head, hoping to avoid them. However, Mary's voice rang out from across the road, "Mia, you brat! I see you. How dare you hide?" Clicking her tongue in annoyance, Mia contemplated a swift escape.

However, Shelly seized her, questioning. "Where do you think you're going? Aren't those your adoptive parents?

Why hide? Talking to them might be a good idea, don't you think?" "Shelly, let go of me!" Mia yelled.

"You want me to let go? Fine, but you have to get in the car and come with me to meet Timothy." Observing Bob and Mary approaching, Mia acted without hesitation, jumping into Shelly's car.

Compared to confronting Timothy, she was even more averse to getting entangled with her adoptive parents.

at that moment.

Shelly promptly sped away, leaving Bob and Mary trailing behind in the distance.

Mia glanced back, catching a glimpse of them running and uttering curses. A faint smile crept onto the corner of her mouth. Fortunately, she was fast!

In a triumphant tone, Shelly declared, "Consider yourself saved this time. However, you'll have to explain everything to Timothy later." Turning toward her, Mia inquired, "What exactly is it that you want me to explain?" "I want you to clarify that this situation has nothing to do with me. It's crucial to have Timothy reinstate my credit card limit immediately." you honestly think Timothy is gullible? If he didn't uncover any wrongdoing, how could he have decided to block your credit card?" Upon hearing this, Shelly's frustration grew. "Mia, are you unwilling to clarify matters with Timothy? If so, I'll take you back immediately!" Deep down, Mia harbored an intense desire to unleash a torrent of profanities.

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 183-Just as Shelly was on the verge of turning around, Mia swiftly Interjected, "Let's discuss matters calmly, there's no need to be impulsive." Mia was determined not to become entangled with her adoptive parents again, having finally distanced herself from her old neighborhood.

Despite any resentment that Bob and Mary might harbor, Mia was aware that they couldn't exert any control over her.

She was adamant about preserving the tranquility of her current life.

Wearing a smug expression, Shelly continued to drive forward.

Before long, Mia noticed the Barrett Group nearby. She hadn't anticipated coming here.

Parking her car in the designated spot, Shelly proudly remarked, "Mia, this place is unfamiliar to you, isn't it?

Allow me to give you a guided tour this time.

"Back when you were the Barrett family heiress, you didn't consider this building worthy of visiting. However, I'll gladly show you around now. Don't bother thanking me!*

Mia gazed at Shelly impassively and remarked, "Actually, there's a question I've been meaning to ask." Shelly arrogantly tilted her head back, inviting. "Go ahead, ask." "How do you keep up that haughty attitude?" Mia quipped.

Shelly became furious. "What do you mean?" she shot back.

"The way you just spoke, one would think you're the CEO of the company or something." Mia sarcastically remarked.

Expressing frustration, Shelly stomped her foot. Yet, upon realizing she still needed Mia to accompany her for the meeting with Timothy, she begrudgingly swallowed her pride.

"Enough of the nonsense. Hurry up and follow me." Mia remained silent and followed Shelly into the elevator.

She observed Timothy's customary workplace, which exuded opulence, fitting for a major corporation.

Shelly headed straight for the top floor and addressed the people in the secretary department, demanding. Where's Timothy?" "Mr. Barrett is currently in a meeting, and it hasn't finished yet. If you to wait in the guest room for the time being." matters to discuss, you're welcome Struggling to maintain her composure, Shelly insisted, "I'll just go to Timothy's office and wait." "I apologize, Ms. Barrett, but entering Mr. Barrett's office in his absence is not permitted. I hope you Feeling embarrassed, Shelly turned away.

Mia hadn't anticipated Timothy's stringent rules. Despite being a member of the Barrett family, Shelly didn't appear to enjoy any special privileges here. Wearing a sly expression; Mia remarked, "See, I was right." With a hint of unease, Shelly retorted, "What's with the scrutiny? You weren't even considered worthy of being here in the first place. Timothy has always been a principled person." Mia remained silent, and the two proceeded to the conference room.

th However, to their surprise, the room wasn't empty. Maya was present.

As the three women convened in the conference room, a subtle awkwardness permeated the air.

Observing Shelly and Mia together, Maya's eyes betrayed a hint of wariness. "Shelly, why are you with her?" Did Shelly decide to align herself with Mia?

Mia hadn't anticipated Maya's presence either, and evidently, both Shelly and Maya were receiving the same treatment.

w was an Well, unwavering workaholic after all.

Shelly appeared somewhat tense and hastened to clarify. "Maya, don't get the wrong idea. I brought Mia here to meet with Timothy regarding my credit card issue." Hearing this, Maya recalled the suspension of Shelly's credit card following the Wilhelmina incident.

Nonetheless, she hadn't anticipated Shelly to be so incapable, giving in and seeking help from Mia within a few days—what a pushover!

Maya swiftly put on a facade of sisterly affection and remarked, "Shelly, haven't I told you before? If you ever find yourself short on money, you can always come to me." "But Maya, I can't keep depending on you all the time. It doesn't feel right," Shelly protested.

"What's the harm in that? We're practically family now. Take my card and feel free to use it. Buy whatever your like." As Maya handed her credit card to Shelly, a twinge of regret surfaced within her. Nevertheless, to secure Shelly's allegiance, she felt she had no other option.

Reluctantly. Maya had to make a sacrifice for the sake of a greater goal.

Feeling somewhat touched, Shelly accepted the credit card. "Thank you, Maya. Oh, wait, I should refer to you as my sister—in—law now."

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 184-Maya wore a triumphant smile, yet underneath, a sense of unease lingered as she glanced at Mia.

Addressing Shelly, Maya suggested, "Shelly, why not let her go? When we meet Timothy later, I'll handle the credit card matter with him." For some inexplicable reason, Maya didn't want Mia to meet Timothy, especially at this critical juncture.

Shelly rolled her eyes and nodded. "Sure, Mia, you can go. You're not needed here anymore." Mia had no intention of lingering any longer. After all, Shelly had coerced her into coming in the first place.

This turn of events suited Mia just fine. It might have even simplified matters for her.

As Mia exited the guest room, preparing to leave, she coincidentally encountered a group of people emerging from the adjacent conference room.

Leading the group, Timothy was attired in a dark suit, radiating his customary air of aloofness. He had his head bowed, engrossed in conversation with Heath beside him.

Spotting Mia, Heath's expression immediately darkened. "Sir, Ms. Mia is here," he reported.

Timothy instinctively glanced in Mia's direction, his brows furrowing as he spotted her standing there.

Why did Mia decide to come over?

A trace of surprise flashed in Timothy's eyes, but he kept his emotions hidden. Speaking in a low voice, he instructed, "Tell her to wait for me in my office." Timothy was convinced that Mia must have had a reason for coming over.

Heath quickly approached Mia, saying, "Ms. Mia, Mr. Barrett requests that you wait for him in his office." Wait for Timothy?

A hint of confusion flickered in Mia's eyes. "Actually, I'm just passing through. The person looking for Timothy is in the guest room." Aware that Maya was present, Mia didn't want to stay and risk embarrassment.

Having said this, Mia turned and headed toward the elevator.

Watching Mia depart. Timothy pressed his lips together. Was she playing the cat–and–mouse game again?

Why did she arrive and depart so quickly?

At that moment, the door to the guest room swung open.

Maya emerged with a gentle and happy expression, approaching Timothy. "Tim, are you done with your work?" However, Timothy paid no attention to Maya, his gaze remained fixed on Mia standing by the elevator.

Mia resisted the urge to glance back as she stepped into the elevator. Despite briefly catching sight of At that moment, she was nothing more than an Indifferent ex.

As the elevator doors closed. Timothy's expression became somewhat strained. He turned to look at Mayal and Shelly, asking, "What are you two doing here?" Upon hearing this, Maya struggled to maintain her composure. Without a second thought, Shelly stepped forward and asked Timothy, could you kindly reinstate my credit card?

"The Wilhelmina incident has nothing to do with me. If you have doubts, you can ask Mia. She's right here As she uttered these words, Shelly realized that Mia had already left. She could only exchange a hopeful glance with Maya, awaiting an explanation from her.

Maya's expression took on a hint of awkwardness as she expressed, "Yeah, Tim, just a moment ago, Mia clarified that this incident is unrelated to Shelly, and she didn't place any blame on her.

"It would be fair to restore Shelly's credit card." Timothy pursed his lips and directed his gaze at Shelly, questioning. "Did you bring Mia here?" He was still puzzled by Mia's unexpected presence at the company.

Shelly quickly nodded. "On our way here, I explained everything to Mia, and we came to a mutual agreement. That's why she's willing to come as a witness." Timothy's tone turned cold. "Have you apologized?" Shelly's demeanor subtly shifted, and she confessed with a tinge of guilt, "Yes, I've apologized. Otherwise, Mia wouldn't have come over with me." "You're lying." Timothy easily discerned that Shelly was being untruthful. He spoke sternly,

"You'll need to offer a sincere apology to Mia and earn her forgiveness. Only then will your credit card limit be reinstated." Upon hearing this. Shelly could only turn to Maya for help, recognizing that apologizing to Mia would be a greater challenge than confronting her own mistakes.

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 185-Confronted by Shelly's stare, Maya summoned the courage to speak, "Tim, initially, this was just a minor Issue. Wilhelmina orchestrated everything, so please don't hold Shelly responsible." With a cold expression, Timothy curtly replied, "I have things to attend to. You can leave." Feeling somewhat Kustered, Maya continued. "Tim, there's something I need to discuss with you. For our engagement ceremony, Dominic and my brothers will also be present." Maya specifically came to inform Timothy about this matter.

Indeed, their engagement held profound significance for her.

After all, with Timothy now divorced from Mia, she considered herself the most suitable partner for him.

confident that no one could rival her.

Lowering his eyes, Timothy retorted. "So what? Our engagement was never real in the first place, and you know it better than anyone else." Maya's breath caught for a moment, and she spoke with a pleading tone. "Tim, could you please help me maintain a sense of dignity in front of my brothers? After all, Connor thinks our engagement is genuine.

"If he discovers next week that it's merely a transaction, and particularly if you're absent, what if Connor reconsiders his decision regarding Grandma Laura's surgery?" Timothy, his gaze reflecting a distant coldness, remained silent before walking away.

Maya stood alone, her eyes expressing hesitation.

Next to her, Shelly anxiously inquired. "Maya, have you talked to Timothy about reinstating my credit card?" Maya, her eyes turning red, responded, "Shelly, you've seen Timothy's attitude toward me. I'm afraid there isn't much I can do to assist you." Growing increasingly anxious, Shelly exclaimed, "How am I supposed to handle my credit card situation? Do I really have to apologize to Mia? It feels utterly unbearable." Shelly had always held a

contemptuous view of Mia, consistently belittling her both openly and discreetly.

Now, compelled to apologize to Mia, Shelly felt as though she was being pushed to the brink of despair.

Despite Maya's disheartened mood, she maintained her composure and quickly reassured Shelly, saying, "For the time being, just use the credit card I gave you.

"As time passes, Timothy is likely to forget about this incident. Mia deliberately complained to Timothy to portray herself as the victim.

"If you approach Mia, you'll be falling into her trap," Upon hearing this. Shelly's discontent intensified. "But wouldn't that mean Mia is getting away with it? I cannot just swallow my pride like this.

"Wilhelmina, that incompetent fool, can't even handle such a minor issue properly. I even gave her two designer bags. Shelly complained.

Maya's lips curled with disdain. In her perspective, Shelly was just as incompetent, struggling to deal with someone as insignificant as Mia.

Nevertheless, Maya understood the importance of maintaining Shelly's allegiance for the time being. Once she married Timothy, she wouldn't have to deal with such foolishness anymore.

Out of the blue, Shelly recalled something, "Maya, when I was searching for Mia today, I learned that she has been avoiding her adoptive parents. It appears they are not the easiest people to deal with.

"If Mia's adoptive parents managed to locate her, she could face significant trouble." A glint of amusement crossed Maya's eyes. "That's a clever approach. With Timothy and Grandma Laura safeguarding Mia, even I wouldn't dare to harm her casually. It appears to be the only viable option." "I can't fathom what's admirable about Mia. I've heard she was adopted from an orphanage. How woman with such a humble background be considered worthy of someone like Timothy?" w can a Upon hearing the term "orphanage." Maya's gaze immediately took on a somber expression. After all, she too came from an orphanage, though she considered herself luckier than Mia.

If it weren't for her intelligence back then, she might still be grappling at the bottom now.

Nonetheless, Maya quickly brushed aside these thoughts. After all, she was now the heiress of the Lane family, destined to live a life of luxury and privilege for the rest of her days!

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 186-Regardless, Mia would never be able to surpass Maya.

As Mia exited the Barrett Group, she briefly glanced back at the imposing skyscraper before walking away from the premises.

After returning home that evening, Patricia took Mia's hand and shared, "Mia, I have some wonderful news to share. It appears our old neighborhood might be undergoing redevelopment." "Redevelopment? Are you serious?" Mia hadn't considered the possibility of her old neighborhood being redeveloped. Could this be a stroke of luck?

Just when she was in dire need of money, did she Ironically become eligible for compensation?

Patricia was equally excited." Yes, it's true. I revisited our old neighborhood today and chatted with some neighbors. The word on the street is that we'll have a meeting in a few days to voice our opinions.

"I've heard they're considering two options—one is to provide a new house, and the other is to offer compensation in cash." Mia held Patricia's hand. "That's fantastic news. When the time comes, we'll weigh our options and decide which one suits us best." "I'm sure Bob and Mary will eventually catch wind of this, and I anticipate there might be a commotion again. It's wiser to inform your brothers sooner rather than later.

"Let's see who can come and visit us. This way, it can prevent Mary from rallying her family to harass us." Having endured mistreatment for so many years due to her vulnerable position, Patricia now yearned for a moment of triumph.

When Mia's six brothers showed up to support her, let's see who dared to cause trouble then.

Understanding Patricia's intent, Mia nodded and said, "Alright, I'll discuss it with my brothers later, After dinner, Mia tidied up and settled into bed. She sent a message to her family's WhatsApp group, briefly explaining the situation regarding the demolition of her old neighborhood.

Eva was the first to respond, "Demolition is a positive development! Mia, you're truly fortunate." Dominic chimed in with some playful flattery. "Our Mia is like a little lucky star, I've been selling so many houses recently. It must be because of Mia's influence." Soon, all of Mia's brothers joined the conversation, showering her with exaggerated compliments and playful banter.

Mia couldn't help but feel a mix of amusement and exasperation.

She replied, "That's not the point. The main concern is that once Bob and Mary find out, they'll undoubtedly "I'm wondering if any of you have the time to come and help me handle the situation." Dominic texted promptly, "Absolutely, I'm available. I was planning to take a break and come over in the next couple of days anyway." Nathan chimed in, "Perfect, I haven't taken my annual leave either." Connor assured, "How convenient. I'm currently in Bern City and can come over at any time." Claude added, "I have a concert in Bern City, but I can arrive early." Jason contributed, "I can come for a business trip." Liam concluded, "The film I was working on has just wrapped up. I can head over for a vacation." Reading the text messages from her six brothers, Mia felt a warm sensation in her heart.

She gently touched her belly, imagining that when her baby was born, they would also have many uncles caring for them.

The next day, with no college classes scheduled, Mia went straight to the studio for work.

For now, her top priority was to earn money.

Shortly after stepping into the studio, Mia was startled by the loud voices of Bob and Mary approaching from behind. "Mia, you brat! How dare you make it difficult for us to find you!" As Mia turned around and spotted Bob and Mary, an uneasy expression crossed her face. "How on earth did you two locate this place?" It shouldn't be possible. Bob and Mary shouldn't be aware of her workplace!

Mary approached, hugging Mia's legs and wailing. "Ted has been forced into this situation. Don't you feel guilty for avoiding us like this?"

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 187-Mary's antics reduced Mia's voice to a whisper. "Let's discuss this outside." "Uh-huh, I don't want to. Let's sort things out in front of your colleagues. About why you don't wanna help us. Back when you were on the brink of death in the orphanage, we were the ones who adopted and raised you.

"And you're not acknowledging us as your parents? How could you be this ungrateful?" Mary had fully unleashed her potential in mixing truth with fabrications, hurling backlashes against Mia.

Meanwhile, Bob, who played the role of an honest family man, recounted to the watching colleagues. "We're at our wit's end. Raising Mia took up a lot of our savings. But now she's avoiding us when we need money." Mia shot a cold stare at her brazen adoptive parents. "You didn't pay for my studies." Mary whined, "How ungrateful of you! Who else could have paid for your studies other than us, Mia? You won so many cash prizes and have a decently paid job, but now you refuse to give us even a cent of it." At that moment, Felix strode out of his office with a frown. "What's going on here?" Mary continued with her acting. "You must be Mia's boss. Is her salary high? We're her parents. You should've transferred her pay to us." The absurdity almost had Mia chuckling, for she had never met such shameless people.

Impressively enough, her adoptive parents could always take shamelessness to a whole new level.

Felix asked, "Are you Mia's adoptive parents?" "Yes, we are. It wasn't easy to raise her, but she turned into an ungrateful child. We need the money to save someone. You should give us her salary." He snorted coldly. "Give you her salary? On what grounds? You're demanding this shamelessly!" This stunned Mia and Bob as they didn't expect Felix to react that way.

Felix continued, "As far as I know, Aunt Patricia had raised her and paid for her education. And her so—called adoptive parents turned her into a maid after they had their own child." Felix defended Mia further. "If it wasn't for Aunt Patricia's kindness, I wonder where Mia would've ended up. How dare you come and demand money from her?" Mary and Bob's reactions seemed unnatural after Felix's confrontation.

Mary simply showed her true colors. She didn't bother to put up the act of a good adoptive mother anymore. hurling profanities, "I don't give a fig about that. We raised Mia, so she should give us money. Otherwise, let's take this to court. We have nothing to be afraid of." Bob shamelessly added. "If you don't give us her salary, we'll come by your studio and cause a ruckus every day. We'll make a tent here too. Let's see who'll outlast the other." Mary made herself comfortable on the floor. "Yes, this place looks decent. It's spacious, bright and furnished KITE BONNORS BAGH BENT ENGANT BARch chenwirst acts coming from the other quarts diári e Mia, who was well—acquainted with her adoptive paerts thick—skinned nature, was unfazed by the debacle that just ensur She turned to fella. "Som for causing anu trouble again, farba, 21 moin hom—me question testay." my au long as the redemed, there wouldn't be any reason for Mary and Boch to cause a affe at the shade.

Foto frowned. Me, you should reallo think this though." Mary Chuned in.

My nu? Su bandy resign. Give it arour best shot "

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 188-Mia turned her attention to Bob and Mary. "In your dreams! I'd rather lose my job and sleep on the streets than give you money!" "Watch your language, Mia Bowen! Do you think I won't hit you here?" Bob, always vile—tempered, seemed ready to resort to physical measures.

Felix stepped forward, grabbing him by the collar. "You can try me." One by one, male colleagues in the office marched forward intimidatingly, while some female colleagues stood by Mia's side. It was a showdown.

"Why don't we take a moment to teach you about the law, old lady? Torturing Mia when she was little is against the law. She could report you to the authorities, you'd be taken away," one colleague stood up for Mia, talking pointedly to Mary.

"I know, right? How shameless of them to come here and demand money!" some women remarked.

Seeing themselves losing the fight, Mary and Bob took a few steps backward.

Mary placed her hands on her waist. "Just you wait, Mia Bowen. If you don't give us the money, we'll come back again!" After the couple left, the helpless Mia looked at her supportive colleagues. "Thanks for helping out. I'll treat you all to something later." Felix replied with a smile. "It's nothing. We can tell they're up to no good. How are you going to deal with this?

They don't seem like the type to give up until they get what they want." Mia forced a smile. "That's why I chose to resign." "No can do. That's out of the question. If you don't have money, I can lend you some," Felix offered.

"No. It's not about the money. I just don't wanna give in to their taunts. If I start giving them money, they'll leech off me until the end." Mia understood her adoptive parents' characters very well. So, she knew the exact solution for it.

Felix came up with another solution to help Mia. "If so, you can fake your resignation. You can come to work.

again when they stop causing a ruckus." "Thanks, Felix." Mia still felt guilt gnawing at her conscience.

After all, Felix had made her an exception many times.

The commotion caused by her adoptive parents at the studio triggered a sense of remorse within her.

"You're welcome. We're friends, Mia. Feel free to reach out to me whenever you're having a hard time. Don't be a stranger." Felix assured her, prompting squeals from the other employees.

A helpless smile played across Mia's face as she went to order coffee for her colleagues.

Shortly after, she received a call from an unknown number. "Hello? Who is this?" "Mia, did your adoptive parents come to you?" the mystery caller asked.

"Are you the person who told them where I work?" Mia questioned, her voice tinged with suspicion.

It puzzled her how her adoptive parents managed to find their way to the studio.

Shelly must have them!

"Mia Bowen, if you want a peaceful life, tell Timothy to unfreeze my cards," Shelly threatened.

"Shelly Barrett, a proper apology might have helped. I could've talked to Timothy about unfreezing your cards." Mia answered calmly.

Shelly screamed. "Mia Bowen! Are you demanding an apology from me? Wake up, girl!" "That's my line. Need me to put in a good word for you? Wake up, this is not a dream." Mia then hung up and blocked the number.

Mia stayed under the radar the entire day. Since she didn't have to go to work, she buried herself in books in the study hall at her college.

Felix called. "Mia, your adoptive parents stopped by a while ago. I told them about your resignation and an outstanding compensation for unfinished duties. They ran off so quickly I couldn't catch them. I doubt they'll come back." Mia beamed, appreciating his clever idea.

She focused on her homework and revision with peace of mind. As the sun was about to set, she received an unexpected call.

She looked at the caller ID and wondered why this person had reached her.

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 189-Mia double-checked the caller's name on her phone-it was indeed Timothy.

Perplexed, she mused, "Why on earth is he calling me? Could he have dialed the wrong number?" The persistent ringing prompted her to answer reluctantly, "What do you want, Mr. Barrett?" "Your adoptive parents tracked down the villa and demanded money from me." Mia was mortified, and a wave of embarrassment surged through her. "Drive them out. Don't give them a single penny." "Deal with it yourself. I'm busy," he curtly replied before ending the call.

After tidying up her belongings, Mia hailed a cab to the villa.

Standing before the house, memories flooded her mind. After all, she hadn't visited the place since moving out.

A brief hesitation hung in the air before she pressed the doorbell.

The heated argument inside was audible even before the door opened.

It seemed like her adoptive parents weren't alone—Sharon's voice joined the fray.

Mia's heart sank to the pit of her stomach as she wondered why Sharon would be there.

Contemplating a quick escape, Holly swung the door open with a smile. "Mrs. Barrett, you're finally back!

Come on in." Suppressing her unease, Mia entered and whispered, "What is she doing here?" "I have no idea. Anyways, things are complicated now," Holly replied.

Fully aware of the complexity of the situation, Mia acknowledged that if Holly hadn't opened the door promptly, she might have turned away.

The moment Mia showed herself in the living room, all eyes fixated on her.

Mary initiated the confrontation. "Mia, you've finally graced us with your presence," she said sarcastically.

She continued, "Tell your mother—in—law you hold the reins in this household! Your husband claims you make the final decisions, but she seems to disagree." Sharon was livid, her hands shaking uncontrollably with anger. "Answer me, Mia Bowen! Who's the person with the final say here? Who are you to handle my son's finances?" Sharon had initially arrived with plans to redecorate the house for Timothy's second marriage.

Never in her wildest dream did she expect Mary and Bob's unexpected visit.

Mia sighed inwardly before addressing Mia with a frosty gaze. "There's something I haven't disclosed. Timothy and I are divorced." "What?" Mary's expression soured.

"Mia Bowen, why keep such huge news from us? Why divorce someone as wealthy as him? Have you lost your mind? Mary lamented.

Sharon sneered, "Must I remind you that someone like Mia isn't fit for my son? Especially with her embarrassing parents. I'm relieved they divorced. It would have been a stain on our family if words got out." Mia, who already hard a

taste of Sharon's sharp tongue before, turned away, pretending not to hear those awful remarks.

She looked across her shoulder at her adoptive parents. "Did you hear that? I was driven out of the place because I didn't deserve all this. I have been living elsewhere for a long time now. I hope you'll stop coming over here. It'll be a disturbance to others." Mary voiced her skepticism, "Even if you're divorced, he must've given you a lot of money. Give it to us!" Bob concurred, "This is how it plays out in dramas. You must've received assets during your marriage. Hand over the money, and we'll be on our way." "I hate to break it to you, but I parted ways with him without receiving a single penny. I was only able to marry him because of how shameless I was back then. We signed a prenuptial agreement—I won't get anything after the divorce. So, give up," Mia said.

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 190-Mia's cutting remark rendered Mary and Bob speechless.

Meanwhile, Sharon's pride took a hit. "It's 100 thousand dollars, right? I can cough it up, but you have to quit bothering my son. He's about to tie the knot with a girl from a wealthy family—a perfect match." Swiftly, she penned a check and tossed it on the floor.

Mary snatched it up eagerly, greed written all over her face. "That's mighty generous of you. You're spot on about Mia too—an orphan with no background. Ungrateful to her parents, too. It is great news that they're divorced." Sharon smirked. Mockery flickered in her eyes. "Take the money and get out of my sight." Fearing theft, Mary quickly stowed the check in her purse.

With haste, she turned and left, not sparing a word for Mia.

Mia took a deep breath. "I'll repay you someday." Supporting her adoptive parents financially was never her plan. Sharon paying for it wasn't either.

Sharon scoffed, "No need. That sum is a mere salon visit for me. It's nothing. In fact, it's worth it to rid myself of a huge headache.

"You don't have to pay me back. Do I have to remind you how much your pay is? Just keep an eye on your family. Stop disturbing us. We're worlds apart."

Mia took her phone out to wire the money to Timothy, then glanced at Sharon. "I wired the money to Timothy.

Don't worry, I won't bother you again." "Why do you still have my son's contact? What are you planning to do with it? Since you're legally divorced.

there's no need to keep in touch," Sharon questioned.

In the face of her ex-mother-in-law's request, Mia deleted Timothy's contact. "Better now?" "That's more like it. Maya's family, the Lanes, will be at the engagement ceremony this weekend. That's the background my daughter-in-law should have.

"You know, you should know your place. When searching for a man, don't think of hooking up with someone out of your league. For example, don't dream of snagging someone like that famous actor," Sharon said with condescension.

Mia's expression hinted at mockery. "Snagging someone out of my league depends on my capability. If I could marry Timothy, why not someone even better?" The atmosphere tensed unexpectedly.

"Mr. Barrett, you're back," Holly greeted aloud.

Mia's back stiffened momentarily. She glanced over her shoulder at him, his eyes holding a profound depth.

Her hands slightly curled into fists as she straightened her back. Showing timidity at this moment was the last thing on her mind.

Sharon stood up with a smile. "Tim, you're back. You heard Mia, didn't you? Marrying someone better? It's hard to believe she doesn't know her place. How can she have such ridiculous dreams? This is so amusing to me." Timothy walked into the living room with an expressionless face, but the way he loosened his tie gave his annoyance away.

Sharon continued, "Tim, Mia's adoptive parents showed up and caused a scene. They claimed she made decisions in this household and handled the finances. I had no idea she was feeding them empty boasts. How hilarious!" He responded passively, "I did mention that." Stiffness struck her body. The surprise caught her off—guard, and she couldn't utter a word.

She refused to believe Timothy said those words himself.