

N Destiny 1621

Chapter 1621 Demolition Payment

It was Ellen's first time in a sports car, hence the nervousness and thrill running down her spine. | didn't know Mr. Tillman is loaded.

"Is there anyone else in your family?" Jared initiated a conversation. "No. I'm the only one," she replied naturally. "You? Alone?" He looked at her in surprise.

"Yup. I'm all alone. My brother is gone a long time ago, and my grandmother passed away two weeks ago." She could not mask the overflowing sorrow.

"I'm sorry for your loss," he apologized for pricking her sore spot. She shook her head. "Thank you."

Ellen's address was added to the navigation system. She felt guilty to have him take the long route just to send her home. When they arrived at her place, his brows furrowed. "Is this where you live?"

"Yeah, it's my grandmother's place, but it'll be demolished soon."

The corner of Jared's lips slightly curved upward. If his memories served him right, that was within the area he planned for demolition.

"Thanks for the ride! Be careful on your way back." She bent over to bid goodbye.

He nodded before driving into a street in the rain. It was not until the sports car vanished from her sight that she finally came back to her senses. Red tinges crept onto her cheeks, and there was something familiar about that man for some reason. Despite his sophisticated grace and the social strata difference between them, she was not afraid of him.

Meanwhile, Jared gave his subordinate a call on his way home. After inquiring about the demolition area with the address he had, his conjecture hardened into certainty.

“Why are you there, Mr. Presgrave? That’s the Lockwood Village.” “My friend needed a ride back home.” “Your friend lives there?” The subordinate doubted that Jared had a friend living in such a place.

Meanwhile, at Aguirre Residence, Olivia was worried about her daughter, who was in low spirits despite going to work every day. So, she decided to chat with Selena.

“What’s wrong, baby girl?” Olivia held a bowl of bird nest soup into the room. “Mom, can’t you just drive Ellen out of the company? She’s such an eyesore!” Selena turned her head sideways. “Just don’t mind her.”

“I remember that time she didn’t want to give me her toy when I wanted it during our younger days. I simply borrowed it for a while, yet she accused me of stealing. Dad even told me off because of that!” Selena brought up their younger times.

Olivia secretly did not favor Ellen as she scoffed. “Someone like her is bound to be a non-starter.”

Her affirmation lifted Selena’s spirit. When Selena finished the bird’s nest soup, she had a question unanswered. “Mom, we won’t go bankrupt, will we?”

“Of course not. We need not worry about money.” Olivia reassured her confidently.

The weight on her mind disappeared because she did not earn herself a living through work. She had one clear goal—winning her boss’ heart and marrying him!

For the following week, Ellen did not encounter Jared and received a call from the demolition contractors, saying they would visit in the afternoon someday to take some measurements of the place. It seemed like the procedure went smoothly as it was approved.

Everyone in Lockwood Village was elated about the news. Thanks to its strategic geographic location, many could rake in a fortune. Those who earnestly hoped for demolition finally had their wish granted.

Needless to say, Ellen bumped into Selena every day at work. The latter seemed haughty; their gazes met every time, but she did not approach Ellen.

The month was about to end when the villagers received the demolition payment, but there was nothing in Ellen's bank account.

Therefore, she dropped by the demolition company for inquiry. The contractor told her that the payment was canceled because her name was not included in the family's registration.

Since she had to register her name under the family before collecting the money, she needed to look into the problem.

Chapter 1622 Olivia's Pretentious Kindness

By the time Ellen arrived home, Lilac's family had stopped by. They heard of the demolition payment, so they paid a visit to claim their share.

"Ellie, part of the amount belongs to you and me. Isn't this how inheritance works?" Her uncle, Garrett, cut to the chase. She was stunned momentarily as mixed feelings churned in her stomach.

"That's right! Ellie, you've been living with Jessica, but you're not her biological granddaughter. We're supposed to be her immediate family according to the law," Nicole chipped in.

"So, we should split it into six among my mother, the three of us, your uncle, and you." Ellen was at her wit's end. Grievance stifled her chest as Jessica once told her that the house would belong to her and no one else.

Every nook and cranny of the place carried precious memories; it was her home. "What's with the silence, Ellie? Perhaps, you don't wanna share? Are you trying to hog everything?" Garrett's wife was making assumptions.

"T-That's not it." Ellen clasped her hands together and lowered her head.

“That’s final, then! You should register your name. Once you have the money, you gotta transfer our portions to us. You know what to do.” Garrett wrapped it up.

Lilac’s silence indicated her agreement with their decision because of her dire need for money to have a better life.

Although she was aware that Jessica bestowed everything on Ellen, the amount of money was too much for her to ignore! Sharing it amongst the family wouldn’t hurt, would it?

Everyone left once the discussion was over, leaving Ellen sitting in a corner like a fragile animal that could not resist. Tears finally escaped from her eyes, and pain squeezed her heart as she observed the furniture at home.

At that moment, her phone rang. She glanced at it and quelled the waves of emotions. “Who is this?”

“Ellie, it’s me! | heard that Aunt Jessica’s house is going to be demolished. Any updates yet?” Olivia inquired.

“Aunt Olivia! | haven’t received the money yet. The contractor asked me to make an appeal to register my name to Grandma’s.” “Did Garrett and the others drop by?”

“Yeah, they left not long ago.”

“| knew it! How could they? Ellie, don’t resent them. This is how the world works.” Olivia pretended to be the nice aunt.

“|-| don’t resent anyone.”

“So, are you going to listen to them?” Olivia tested the water.

What else could Ellen do? Could she even say 'no'? Unless an impartial head of the family made the call, she had no other options. Besides, she was not Jessica's biological granddaughter. It was only foster care at most; bringing it to the court would be a futile struggle.

"Don't worry, Ellie. Appeal and receive the payment first. We'll see what we can do then. I'll have Uncle Connor put in some good words for you," said Olivia. "Thank you, Aunt Olivia." Ellen could not be any more grateful.

Once the call terminated, a pang of relief hit Olivia. It's easy as | expected. Since she has no one to rely on, she'll be creamed off for sure.

Ellen applied for an appeal the next day, but she was stuck in the procedure. In truth, Jessica's absence rendered it difficult as it required a lot of documents.

When Monday came, she had no choice but to put it on hold to go to work. Astoria would be leaving the company in a few days, so it was impossible to apply for leave during the handover.

The workplace gave Ellen warmth, for Astoria treated her well and even asked other colleagues to look after Ellen in her stead.

Chapter 1623 Luxurious Restaurant

Everyone got off work on time, but Ellen decided to stay. She loved working overtime alone in the spacious area. Sitting at the receptionist's desk, she took her time organizing the documents and identifying every problem that occurred.

Time flew past without her realizing and it struck 7.00PM. A silhouette exited the elevator, revealing a sculpture-like face. Ashen of light on him added lusters of grace to his every movement.

As he strode over from the elevator, he noticed the girl sitting behind the receptionist's desk and frowned. Is she working overtime again for free?

Receptionists had redundant jobs, hence the fixed salary. Hearing the rhythmic click, Ellen raised her head and met eyes with the incoming man. Her slightly weary eyes lit up instantly.

“Working overtime?” She smiled. “Yeah. It’s quite late. You should get going too.” The way he spoke sounded as if the boss was speaking, but she shrugged it off because of his young face. He must be worried.

“About that... Can I buy you a meal?” She invited him for a meal on the spur of the moment. Jared, who intended to leave, halted and looked back at her for a few seconds. He checked the time through his wristwatch. “My pleasure. Let’s go.”

Her mind went blank at his cool acceptance. Holy moly. Just how bold am I to invite him for a meal? And to think that I hit a home run!

Squealing on the inside, she hurriedly tidied up the desk and accidentally dropped a file onto the floor. After picking it up, she banged her head against the chair. Judging from the loud sound, it had to hurt a lot.

Jared came up to her upon hearing the noise. “No need to rush. Take your time.”

“Done.” Ellen took her bag and scurried out of the receptionist’s desk, revealing the red tinge on her forehead.

The sight of the red mark pricked his heart a little. “Be careful next time.”

“I will. It’s just—I didn’t expect a ‘yes’ from you.” She added, “I know a decent restaurant nearby. Let’s shoot off!”

“I made a reservation. Let’s go.”

“Huh? I’m the one buying you a meal, though?” A confused Ellen blinked her eyes. Why is he the one making a reservation? “It’s on me tonight. You can have it your way next time.” Jared never let women foot the bills.

Ellen’s cheek was burning in embarrassment. It was as if she invited him just to get herself a free meal. She entered the man’s sports car, which coursed its way along the street. Sitting on the passenger seat, she felt the gazes land upon her.

She sneaked a few peeks at the man beside her. A sophisticated aura seemed to be shrouding him under the streetlights as if they were of a different world.

“Where are we going?” She became curious. “You’ll know when you’re there.” He frequented a particular restaurant for meals. It served high-quality food but was not open to the public.

The car was driven into a garden before stopping at a vast field. Ellen scrutinized the stunning area in surprise, ignorant of such scenery at the city center. With the wispy fragrance from the rose garden and enchanting night sky, it was a rare sight to behold in the city.

“It must be expensive to have a meal here.” To not put her under pressure, Jared answered, “It’s affiliated with the company, so every expense made can be reimbursed.”

She bought his words due to the great employee welfare at Presgrave Group. The moment she entered one of the lounges in the restaurant, she exclaimed once again. This is not a place | could step foot into in the past.

While they were ordering food, she noticed that the prices were excluded from the menu. She heard of most of the ingredients, but never once had she tasted them because it was not something ordinary people could afford.

Chapter 1624

Ellen ordered only one dish before handing over the menu to Jared, who ordered six dishes in one go. At that moment, her phone, which displayed Garrett's phone number, rang and tightened her chest.

“Excuse me, Mr. Tillman, I have an incoming call.” She glanced at the room before taking a seat on the couch. “Hi, Uncle Garrett.”

“What are you doing, Ellen? Why haven't you registered your name? Are you doing this because you don't wanna share the money?”

“Sorry, Uncle Garrett, but I have work-” “What's so important about work? This is of utmost urgency! need the money, so stop dilly-dallying!”

Tears of grievance pooled in her eyes, prompting her to lower her head. “It's not on purpose, Uncle Garrett. I'm just busy with work

“I don't care. You'd better give me the money by Friday while I'm still nice,” he threatened.

Ellen was a nonentity to Garrett's family. Besides, she alone could do nothing even if they treated her like a rat. It was safe to say that money had awakened the evil in them.

“I'm sorry, Uncle Garrett.”

“You only have a few days. If you don't settle the issue by then, I'll cause a stir at your workplace. Let's see if you're allowed to work still when the time comes.” He hurt her with mean words before terminating the call.

Ellen's body trembled as despair surged in her. If Jessica were here, she would not have allowed such a thing to happen..

Knowing that the call had ended, Jared swept a glance at her only to see tears trickling down and wetting her grey dress. He sprang up and crouched in front of her. “Did something happen?”

She blamed herself for showing her forlorn side to him, so she quickly wiped her tears off. “Nothing. Something flew into my eyes. That's why.”

Yet, the unbidden tears streamed nonstop. Those gorgeous, teary eyes could easily make one feel bad.

The weird sensation flooded Jared again as he watched her crying, stifling his chest so hard that he could barely breathe.

“You can talk to me about anything.” His voice sounded airy.

Ellen bit her rosy lip. “Wouldn’t that be annoying?”

“Not at all. Just feel free to talk to me.” He seated himself next to her as he was all ears.

She took a deep breath while thinking, Where should I start first? I think he should know the entirety of the situation, or he won't

be able to follow.

“My parents passed away when I was young, so my uncle fostered my elder brother and me, but my brother left because of a serious illness. I didn’t even get to see him in his last moments.” Ellen felt hot behind her eyes, and he drew a few pieces of tissue for her since it was close to him.

She wiped her tears while continuing, “Then, my uncle sent me to my aunt's place. Jessica treated me like I was her granddaughter. We only had each other, but life was great. To me, she was my grandmother.”

At that point, another stream of tears ran down her cheeks, and she choked on her voice. “But she left me too. I’m all alone again.”

Jared sympathized with her past. “So, is someone giving you a hard time now?”

“It's all because of my grandmother’s demolished house. She did not apply for adoption, so she’s not my official guardian. Instead, my uncle is the one on the papers.”

Chapter 1625

“Now, my relatives want their share of the demolition payment. I’m still new to the company, and there’s a lot for me to catch up with, so couldn’t go to the authority to transfer my name yet. My uncle called because he’s angry that went to work instead of solving the issue first. If I drag things out any longer, he said he’s going to make a scene at work so that I’ll lose my job.

Now that Ellen recounted the whole story, she felt utterly helpless. She had no intention to be all crybaby in front of such a handsome guy, but she could not help it. It hurt too much.

“How could they? They’ve seriously gone overboard.” Even Jared was exasperated as an outsider.

“It’s not like I’m doing it on purpose, but I can’t apply for leave when there’s a handover going on. Astoria is going to leave the company to get married soon. If I don’t receive training for my jurisdiction these days, I won’t be able to continue my work,” she explained.

“The payment is meant for only you. They don’t have the right to take it from you. You don’t have to split the money,” he reasoned.

“But I-I’m not Grandma’s family on paper. I won’t be able to get the money either.” Ellen was at her wit’s end.

“You can if you apply for an adoption certificate. No one can take the money away from you.” “But my grandmother is not around anymore. Is it still possible?”

“Why not? You’ve been living under the same roof for sixteen years, and she acknowledged your relationship. Even if the law is dead, you can find something to prove it.”

“It’s not as easy as it sounds. I’m stuck at the procedure.” Ellen had no alternatives to solve the problem.

“I can Jared could not resist the urge to intervene in the issue. Although he did not know why he could not bear the sight of her dwelling on sadness, it pained him to see her cry.

“Huh? You can?” As it was a situation where she needed help desperately, it warmed her heart to have someone offering help. “Yes. I have a bunch of great lawyers who can help.

“Really? That’s great! I can’t be any more grateful to you!” She expressed her gratitude to her savior.

The waiters began to serve the dishes just at the right time. Jared urged her to fill her stomach first and promised to seek help from a

lawyer. “Ellen, you should keep the money for yourself. Don’t share it with others. They don’t see you as their family, so you shouldn’t mind them.”

“But-” “As long as you become your grandmother’s legal adoptive daughter, it’s rightfully yours. No one can take them.”

Still, Garrett and the others’ forceful attitude seeped into her mind. “Got it.”

“Just tell me if you need anything.”

“No, you’ve gone out of your way to help me come this far. I shouldn’t trouble you anymore.”

Ellen was grateful. “Could you pass me your phone for a moment?”

She gave him her phone obediently, and the man frowned at the seriously damaged phone screen. Quietly, he dialed his number with her gadget.

“This is my number. Ring me up if there’s trouble.”

Sweetness and warmth sprang in her chest. She felt honored to have his contact number.

Following that, Jared even drove her home and eased her up by saying there was nothing to worry about regarding the demolition payment. His friend would be able to help her.

Despite the gratitude, Ellen felt sorry to have him take it upon himself. She made up her mind to do everything she could to repay his kindness in the future. If she did not have the chance to do so, she would remember everything he had done for her wholeheartedly.

At 9.00PM, she received a call from Connor. He heard of Garrett's demand and assured her that he would meet Garrett to talk over it.

Chapter 1626

Ellen was aware that it would end up like water off a duck's back to Garrett and the others anyway. They had proven their stance toward the situation and set their heart to get the money.

Now, she would be able to receive the money as long as she could receive an adoptive certificate to prove herself as Jessica's granddaughter.

On the other hand, Connor was so livid that he lost his appetite for dinner. "How could they possibly do that? Who says that we must share the money with them?"

AgUILTY Olivia was standing behind him. "Probably because they're jealous that Ellen will have the money all for herself."

"What right do they have to demand the money? Aunt Jessica treated Ellen like her biological granddaughter, so she's the only one with the rightful inheritance for that house."

"That's true, but Aunt Lilac is on the bread line. They won't let such a chance slip through their fingers. Besides, Aunt Jessica didn't legally adopt Ellen before she passed away." She dared not reveal that she was the one who led Lilac behind the curtains.

After Connor attempted to pull some strings, he realized it was not something easy to be settled.

"Why don't we give up on our share? | bet no one can stop Aunt Lilac." Olivia was happy as long as Ellen would not get the all for herself.

Bitterness crept into Connor as it would stave off his guilt if Ellen had that money to sustain her life.

Early in the morning, Ellen woke up to receive a notice from the human resource department. She was granted a three-day leave, but she thought it was strange because she did not apply for it.

While questions sprouted in her mind, she had another incoming call from the lawyer Jared introduced her to. "Miss Reiss, are you available today? We can apply for the adoption certificate." "Yes, am," she quickly replied. "Okay, I'll be on my way to pick you up."

She had packed up the necessary documents, hoping that they would be of help. Later, a black SUV parked in front of her, and a middle-aged man escorted her into the car. The sheer look of his neat suit was enough to tell that he was someone elite. His name was Burton Yarrow, and she addressed him as Mr. Yarrow. She narrated the whole story while they were on their way.

"Don't worry, Miss Reiss. It's not that difficult." "But | asked the authority, and they said it won't be easy."

"It's okay. Just leave it to me." Burton's voice was as gentle as the spring breeze to Ellen. She figured that it was all thanks to Jared, whose friend was equally capable as he was.

Unbeknownst to her, Burton did not accept her case because of a friend's request. It was an order from his boss, so how could he possibly not do as he was told? Not only was a failure not accepted, but he also had to treat her gently.

He could not understand how Jared came to know a poor girl. Although Ellen was a looker, they would not have had reasons to know each other.

Yet, his only duty was to win the case; he had no right to butt in their business. "Please come with me, Miss Reiss. | will need your signature or fingerprint later."

With the prepared materials, Ellen followed him. into an office, while Burton brought along some .materials obtained from other means. Compared to her documents, they were more legally susceptible. The authorized person asked his assistant to fill out a document right after he perused them.

She filled up the document and inked her fingerprint on it accordingly. So, is this it? As expected, she soon received a newly printed adoption certificate.

“Keep it. If you lose it by chance, you can reapply for another one. Now, I'll accompany you to the demolition contractor to proceed with the demolition payment.”

Chapter 1627

“Thank you so much, Mr. Yarrow. I can't be any more grateful to you.” “You don't have to. Instead, Mr. Presgrave=” Ellen was surprised when Burton mentioned that very person. “Aren't you Mr. Tillman's friend?”

Burton soon comprehended the situation and quickly corrected it. “Yes, yes. Mr. Tillman is the one you should thank. He asked for my help, but it was just a trivial matter to me. It's nothing big.”

She nodded. “I will thank him.” She received the demolition payment, which was worth about a million dollars. Her mind went blank the moment she comprehended the amount. Was it always this much?

“Congratulations, Miss Reiss. You'll be able to live a better life with this money.”

“Thanks. I didn't expect myself to have the privilege to enjoy such a fortune either.” Never in her wildest dream had she expected herself to be this lucky. Nonetheless, her heart still ached at the fact that Jessica passed away .before the house was demolished. Otherwise, Ellen could have taken the chance to take her on a trip elsewhere.

Burton left after driving her home. She sat in the living room and stared at her online bank statement, which baffled her into speechlessness.

At that moment, her phone rang because of a call from Garrett, whom she did not have the nerve to leave hanging. “Hey, Uncle Garrett.”

“Got the money yet?” It was an authoritative tone. “Yeah.” She did not lie to him. “What? For real? How much is it?” He was all excited about the idea to split the money.

“I have an adoption certificate, so I have the right to inherit the fortune. Sorry, Uncle Garrett.” She mustered a lot of courage to level with him.

“What?! Are you not going to share it? Ellen Reiss, you greedy brat! You can’t spend all of it on your own! I don’t care. You must split it among us.” The adoption certificate did not mean a thing to the persistent Garrett.

“Uncle Garrett, I’m the rightful heiress by the law. So... The money belongs to me.” She attempted to reason with him.

However, it enraged him. “And who exactly are: you, Ellen Reiss? Don’t blame us for doing this to you. If you don’t do as we say, you’ll never get away from us.”

Tears of grievance wet her eyes, but she fought them back. “I’m truly sorry, Uncle Garrett.”

Subsequently, she ended the call. He spammed her with multiple calls thereafter, but she did not wish to answer them. Other relatives dialed her number in ones and twos, so she simply switched off her phone.

Knowing that they would fly to her place, Ellen decided to crash at someone’s place for the night to avoid them. At the same time, Olivia received a call from Garrett. “Hey, Gary.” “She’s ridiculous, Olivia. Ellen Reiss, that brat, got the money and doesn’t have the intention to share! She even mentioned

having an adoption certificate.” “How did she get that?”

“I don’t care how the hell she got it! I estimated the house price in that area and bet she has about a million. That brat is trying to hog everything!” Ire prevailed over his reasons. It was as if the money belonged to them.

Even Olivia could not help the jealousy. Although it was not a large sum to her, she rendered it 'too much' for Ellen, hence the need to split it up.

"You should be nicer to her. | bet she'll split it among you guys," she encouraged.

Garrett and his family did not intend to give in just like that. If they claimed their share, each of them would at least have a hundred thousand!

Meanwhile, Olivia tried to give Ellen a call, only to realize that the girl had turned her phone off. That's weird. Where did she get herself an adoption certificate? Connor asked around, and they said it's difficult to apply for one.

Chapter 1628

By then, Ellen was already hiding out at a hotel. When she recalled Lilac and her family's attitude, anxiety and terror overcame her, for she never knew that her relationship with them. would end up so ferocious.

While lying in bed, she grabbed her phone and suddenly remembered she had to thank someone, so she found Jared's number and typed out her gratitude in text..

"Mr. Tillman, thank you for helping me with such a huge favor. It's thanks to you that | got back the compensation funds. Next time, I'll treat you to a good meal.

After sending that text, she did not expect he would reply so quickly, 'You don't have to thank me. The money is supposed to be yours in the first place.

Ellen wanted to tell him more about her current situation but went against it later because she did not want to bother him, so she bid him goodnight.

The following day, she did not dare to turn on her phone because her phone would blow up once she did.

.That was because the Andino siblings were out looking for her! Moreover, they found out from Olivia where Ellen was working- the Presgrave Group's reception area. That was why the Andino siblings decided to wait for her there.

With Selena's help, she received news that Ellen had not been coming to work these two days because she was on leave and would return to work tomorrow. Therefore, the Andino siblings knew when she worked as well.

When Selena heard from her mom that Ellen had received a million dollars of compensation funds, she, too, was jealous. All her current expenses did not even reach such a massive amount, yet Ellen had already become rich overnight.

Selena also knew that Lilac's family was chasing after Ellen for her compensation funds, and her thoughts were the same as her mom's

-both wished that Ellen would divide and distribute the money among them. There will be an exciting show at the company tomorrow. I'll get Mom to inform me, and I'll head to the lobby to watch the show!

On the other hand, Ellen was ready to head back to work. At 8.30AM, she arrived at the company and changed into her uniform. Then, she sat in her seat and began organizing the documents.

"Ellen, someone came looking for you yesterday. He says he's your relative," said the .colleague beside her, who leaned over. Shock took over Ellen's face. "What did he look like?"

"It was a man, but he doesn't have a good attitude. Did you offend some big shot?"

Hearing that, Ellen became nervous as she remembered that Selena knew where she worked, so Garrett and the others should be aware too.

"No, they're my relatives," Ellen answered honestly. "What kind of relatives are they? would've thought they came here to settle scores with you!"

At that moment, Ellen felt like she was sitting on pins and needles. Will they be coming again today?

Around 9.30AM, Selena received a call from her mom, saying that the Andino siblings had left home. Her lips hooked into a smile as she thought, This time, Ellen will lose her job! That's not all, for she will also be humiliated!

At 10.00AM, Ellen suddenly felt anxious. It was then that she saw the Andino siblings appear at the entrance to the lobby, and her face instantly paled. Though they were the ones who were being unreasonable, they seemed more assertive and terrifying.

"So, you do work here, Ellen," Garrett called out. He was already in his late forties, yet he did not look like an elder. Instead, he behaved more like a debt collector.

"Ellie, we don't mean to make things difficult for you. Just divide the money according to how we discussed it! Hm?" Nicole suggested gently.

"I won't share any of the money with you." Ellen decided not to give in at the last moment. No matter the reason, she did not need to share her money. It was not out of greed but to defend her rights.

"Hmph! Look at this brat. She's so greedy at a young age and wants to keep all the money to herself." Garrett's tone was filled with sarcasm while looking at his siblings.

Chapter 1629

"Ellen, if you want to continue working here, you'd better do as we say. Or else, we'll cause a huge commotion and make you lose your job!" Ajax Andino also took his stand.

"You can't do that. This is a workplace. You can't cause a scene here," Ellen anxiously told them. "Sir, this is not the place for that, so please leave," the receptionist warned them sternly.

"What does this have to do with you? If you interfere with our matters again, I'll mess with you too!" Garrett roared.

By then, Selena had arrived and was watching the scene with her arms crossed. She came forward and greeted, "Uncle Garrett, you came."

"Lena, come. Be the judge of this situation. Ellen agreed to share the money but then changed her mind. How could she do that?" Nicole grabbed Selena and pulled her over to their side.

The receptionist noticed that things were worsening, so she immediately called security. "Is this security? Some are causing a scene in the lobby."

Just as she spoke those words, Garrett dashed over and snatched the phone away from her. His actions were so savage that they startled Ellen, and she came out from behind the reception table and pleaded, "Uncle Garrett, please stop causing a scene here! | beg you. Please leave!"

"If you don't give us our share of the money. you'll never know peace here!" Garrett threatened. Instantly, Ellen broke down as tears pooled in her eyes. She felt so weak and helpless at that moment.

Meanwhile, Selena watched happily without uttering anything, wanting to see how Ellen would end this commotion. Suddenly, Nicole grabbed Ellen and ordered, "Ellen, come with us!"

"I'm not going anywhere." Ellen struggled to break free. Following that, she felt a large palm delivering a slap on her snowy-white cheeks, leaving a vivid palm print.

She went deaf for a few seconds, and everyone else on the scene was rendered shocked. Yet, the culprit remained unfazed. "If you disobey us again, I'll punish you!" ordered Garrett.

Just as he was about to drag her away, an angry voice suddenly hollered in the lobby. "Let her go." That voice sounded cold and sharp, which stunned the Andino siblings and made them turn around.

As Ellen was in front of them, she looked up and saw Jared approaching her. Instantly, she was surprised and embarrassed- surprised because he came to her rescue and embarrassed because of her situation.

Selena was also one of the first to turn around. Her eyes instantly bulged, and her lips parted slightly as her mind was blank yet excited at the man's appearance. Oh my gosh! It's him! It's Young Master Jared!

While she was frantically tidying up her hair and clothes and revealing what she thought was a beautiful and elegant smile, Jared arrived beside Ellen. Then, he glared at Garrett, who was gripping her wrist, and shoved his hand away before drawing her to his side, threatening, “Who gave you permission to cause a scene here?”

Back at the reception, the receptionists were also shocked. Oh my! Who is the man that came to Ellen’s rescue? Isn’t that the president?

At that, Selena’s emotion turned from surprise to shock. How is this possible? How did Ellen and President Presgrave know each other? And why is he protecting her?

Meanwhile, the Andino siblings were eyeing the young man who had suddenly appeared. Garrett snorted. “Ellen, even if your boyfriend comes to your rescue, you’d still have to leave with us today.” Ellen’s originally blushing face had now turned even redder. She had just muttered the word ‘he’ when she saw Jared turning to

look at her and declare, ‘Yes, I am her boyfriend.’”

He used his eyes to hint at her not to explain their relationship because he needed an identity to interfere with this matter anyway. Hence, acting as her boyfriend seemed like a good idea.

Ellen blinked blankly for a few seconds. Then, her heart started racing, and her cheeks became even warmer.

On the other hand, Selena felt like she was about to faint, and her nails were digging into her palms. She could not believe that Ellen was now Jared’s girlfriend. Moreover, Ellen did not deserve nor have the right to be his girlfriend!

Yet, the man held Ellen’s cold wrist and announced, “With me here, you will never get to mistreat my girlfriend.”

Garrett was used to acting unreasonably. For the sake of money, he was not afraid of the young man before him, even though he knew he was not a pushover at first glance.

“I don’t f*cking care who you are, but Ellen has to leave with us.” He was even cursing at Jared.

“Uncle Garrett...” This time, it was Selena who panicked because, as their relative, she would never allow them to be rude to Jared.

At that moment, eight tall and burly security guards surrounded them, with two standing before Jared to protect him.

“Do you think I’m afraid of you? Even if your president is here, I’ll still take her with me.” Though Garrett was acting arrogantly, he was terrified. He did not want to go to jail without snatching a single penny.

The security guard leader wore a stern face as he warned, “Sir, our president is standing right before you. If you dare to treat him impolitely, we will throw you out of this building.”

Ellen was scared out of her wits, but when she heard the security’s words, she was so shocked that she could not register what was happening. The president of Presgrave Group is standing before us? Isn’t that... Jared?

Meanwhile, Selena took a few steps back in shock as she dared not stand beside the Andino siblings anymore. She hid at the side and enviously watched Ellen, who was standing before the tall and well-built figure, looking small and frail..

On top of that, Selena looked at the man she thought she would never meet again suddenly appearing before her, and her heart began thumping wildly.

When the Andino siblings heard that, they were dumbfounded. What? This young lad is the president? Instantly, they were terrified by the young man’s identity. Nicole tugged on Garrett’s clothes. “Garrett, let’s head back!”

However, Jared was not going to let them off so readily and threatened, "The compensation fund belongs to Ellen only, so if | find out whichever one of you tries to take that from her, | will get my lawyer to send you to jail."

"By what means? We are supposed to get a share in the compensation. What's more, we are her elders."

"You are all money-grubbers bullying a weak woman because of money. Do you think you're worthy of being her elder? Jared reprimanded without mercy.

Ellen's palms were drenched in anxiety. In the meantime, she felt sad for herself. After all, who would want to be enemies with their relatives?

Still, she got to witness her relatives' true colors because of this incident. A human being to another, they did not even treat her like one while fighting for a share of the money. As of now, she could still feel the burning pain on her cheek.

Selena stood by the side, feeling hurt and uncomfortable as she watched Jared protect Ellen by speaking up for her and backing her up. Who am I? Just a speckle of dust that he won't care.

"Get out of my company." After warning them, Jared ordered security to kick them out of the company.

Receiving the order, the security guard leader beckoned the others. "Get them out of here."

Therefore, the Andino siblings were pathetically dragged toward the door. Garrett yelled while trying to push the security guards away. "Ellen,. you b*tch! | will not give up on this. You can't hide from me forever."

When Selena saw her family getting kicked out, she immediately seized the chance and clutched Ellen's arm. Then, she asked concernedly, "Ellie, are you alright?"

Stunned, Ellen looked confusedly at her concerned face. Hasn't she always acted like she doesn't know me?

"It's all my fault. I wanted Uncle Garrett to stop, but he had already slapped you. They are so mean. We're his family, after all." Selena's inexplicable words made her seem like she was also a victim in this incident.

Jared's gaze landed on Selena, which she mistook as recognizing her. However, she was not expecting him to ask, "Ellen, who is this?"

"She's."

"I'm her cousin. We're very close, just like real sisters. Thank you for saving Ellie, President Presgrave. Otherwise, I wouldn't have known what to do!" Selena's visage was full of gratitude as she carefully observed the man before her. At that point, her heart was pounding out of her control.