Chapter 13

Several minutes later, the door to the CEO's office slowly creaked open, and a pale looking Liam stepped out. He looked completely defeated, his eyes red and puffy, his shoulders slumped. Even the once valiant spark in his gaze had faded, replaced by a hollow, lifeless stare.

It was clear what had transpired in the CEO's office had deeply affected him.

To put it plainly, it had shattered his worldview, leaving him completely unmoored. What he thought he knew, it turned out he knew nothing at all

The man he had scorned and dismissed as a mere pauper was, in fact, the new chairman and yet, he was so humble.

Meanwhile, he, a mere Chief Liaison, had strutted around with his inflated ego, throwing his weightless weight around and acting as though he owned the whole world, even daring to insult the chairman and order for his legs to be broken and for him to be thrown out. Hah! How laughable.

With his gaze fixed on the floor, Liam made his way back to the conference hall.

Marcus and Sarah had been waiting anxiously. On one hand, they couldn't wait to learn of Robin's fate — whether he had been taught the lesson he deserved, and on the other hand, they were eager for news about the approval of the partnership deal. They could barely even sit, choosing to stand.

The moment they spotted Liam reenter the hall, their faces lit up with

excitement. They quickly rushed over to him. In their excitement, they failed to notice Liam's appearance and sullen mood.

Sarah beamed, "Chief Liaison, Liam, I'm sure you must have been treated like a VIP, right? After all, it's not every day the chairman personally sends for a subordinate. After today, I'm certain you're about to rise to glory."

Marcus chuckled. "Hahaha. Exactly! The CEO must have been pleased with him for ordering that loser, Robin, to be punished and thrown out."

Loser?

Liam's stomach twisted. His face turned even paler, and a cold shiver ran down his spine. If Robin was a loser, what was he?

But Marcus and Sarah, too caught up in their fantasies, failed to notice his reaction.

"Chief Liaison, Liam," Sarah grinned smugly, "tell us, has that trash been taught a lesson? Did the CEO have him beaten and locked up?"

Marcus nodded eagerly. "Yes, Liam! Spill the tea! That Robin — a mere country bumpkin, a low-level dog who doesn't know his place — he must have been beaten within an inch of his life, right? Hahaha! He deserved it. Come on, tell us how it all went down."

SMACK!

Without warning, Liam's hand lashed out, striking Marcus hard across the face.

"You idiot!" he roared. "You nearly ruined me! If anyone's having their legs broken, it's you! You're the one who'll be beaten to an inch of your

life and tossed into jail!"

Stunned silence fell over the hall.

The crowd stared at Liam in shock and confusion. Weren't he and Marcus close? Why had he suddenly slapped him?

Hushed whispers broke out, rippling through the guests as they exchanged bewildered glances.

But Liam wasn't done. Ignoring the hushed whispers around him, he turned sharply to Sarah and without hesitation, slapped her even harder than he had Marcus. The sharp, hair-raising crack of his palm against her cheek echoed through the hall.

This bitch had been the biggest instigator!

Then, breathing heavily, Liam yanked a document from his suit pocket and flung it into Marcus's face. "This is your proposal — rejected!" he snapped. "We want nothing to do with you and your Tozer Group!"

His chest heaved with anger as he took a step back. "Furthermore, I don't know you, and you don't know me. Don't ever call me or show your face to me again!"

He shot a cold glance around the hall. "Security! Security! Escort these fools out of the building and never, for any reason, allow them entrance into Eagle Industries again!"

At his command, two security guards immediately appeared in front of Marcus and Sarah. One of them happened to be the guard Robin had sent flying earlier.

"You two again?" On sighting the troublemakers, he frowned, his nose

crinkling in disdain. It seems these two never learn their lesson!

"Are you going to leave on your own, or should I throw you out like earlier?"

The guests sucked in a sharp breath. Chief Liaison, Liam was really serious about this!

But he, Marcus and Sarah had been chatting happily just minutes ago. He had even promised Marcus that he would surely secure the partnership deal. How had things turned like this in minutes?

What did Marcus do to offend him?

They couldn't understand it!

Clutching their stinging cheeks, Marcus and Sarah couldn't understand it as well. They were as stunned as they were confused.

Just how did things go wrong so fast?

Marcus's brows furrowed deeply as he looked at Liam. "Chief Liaison, Liam," he said, his voice hoarse with disbelief, "what's going on? How did I offend you?"

But Liam didn't spare him a glance. His jaw was tight with frustration as he impatiently barked at the guards, "What are you waiting for? Kick them out!"

Marcus clenched his teeth. Liam had slapped him, canceled the partnership deal, and cut ties with him, yet, he refused to offer even the faintest explanation. If it had been anyone else, Marcus would have never let it slide — especially not the slap.

But this was Liam.

What could he do?

His voice low and bitter, Marcus muttered, "No need, we'll leave on our own."

Grabbing the still-stunned Sarah by the arm, he turned to leave, his head hung low in shame. Each step felt heavier than the last, his mind racing with unanswered questions.

How had he offended Liam? And what did Liam mean by he almost ruined him?

A figure suddenly appeared in his mind.

Robin.

Could this be related to him?

No, Marcus quickly shook the thought away. There was no way this could be related to that pauper.

RING!

Marcus's thoughts screeched to a halt at the sound of his phone ringing.

He fumbled for it, his hand trembling slightly when he saw the caller ID.

His father.

His throat went dry. He must have heard.

Bracing himself, Marcus slowly answered.

Before he could utter a word, his father's furious roar exploded through the phone, loud enough for everyone in the silent hall to hear.

"You brat! What have you done? How could you have offended Liam? You've ruined the company's future!"