

## Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 36 - Tips

Since the moment Joseph came in, he noticed that his grandfather looked absent-minded. Also, his right foot was wrapped in bandages. Although his grandpa was old, he usually was quite alert. But this time he didn't even react until Joseph sat down next to him. It made him wonder what his grandfather was thinking about. Joseph was confused about his behavior.

"What's wrong? This joke isn't a funny one!" Leonard came to his senses and understood what Joseph meant. He had been lost inside his own head for a while. How could this b.rat say that there was something wrong with his brain?

"Come on, let's eat." Ignoring Leonard's temper, Joseph opened the lunch box and handed it to him.

Leonard took the lunch box and began to eat silently. However, when he saw that Joseph was also eating silently while watching the financial news on TV, he sighed deeply. 'Such a stupid! When I ignored him, he'd do the same to me. He wouldn't even try to talk to me or comfort me. He'd just enjoy himself silently. How could this stupid guy find me a beautiful granddaughter-in-law?'

After a while, Leonard couldn't anymore stand the silence between them, so he began, "When are you going to find me a granddaughter-in-law?" When Joseph didn't answer immediately and kept on watching the TV, he added disappointedly, "You are 28-years-old, Joseph. All of your friends' children have grown up, and you're still unmarried. When will you introduce your girlfriend to me?"

"Grandpa, are you okay? What stimulants did you take today?" Joseph heard his grandpa's grumbling and responded. He shifted his gaze from the TV to Leonard.

"You bastard, what kind of stimulants can I take? Are you trying to piss me off?" Leonard added, clearly annoyed now, "I just want you to get married as soon as possible. Am I wishing for impossible?"

Again, his righteous indignation had turned to grievance. Joseph felt helpless about his grandfather's childish temper. When he was about to answer, Leonard said again, "Do you like men? Then the future of our family will be ruined by you..."

Leonard stared at Joseph with trepidation. He was clearly expecting a negative answer to that. It made Joseph nervous. He rubbed his forehead. In fact, he was confused about his sexuality. If it was in the past, he'd have said, he wasn't interested in women. Because, to be honest, he never had any feelings for women before. But since the appearance of Ashley, he knew that he liked women. He didn't even reject her, because he truly liked her. Whenever he'd see her, he always wanted to get close to her. He felt attracted towards her. After thinking for a while, Joseph gave the answer what Leonard wanted. "Grandpa, don't worry. I like women."

Learning that from Joseph, Leonard obviously felt relieved. He was about to ask again but stopped when Joseph continued, "I have a girlfriend, Grandpa. You don't need to worry for me."

"But if you really want to talk to me right now, tell me what happened to your foot." Leonard's relieved expression replaced by concern immediately. He wanted to confirm about his grandson's confession, but was stopped before he even got a chance to speak.

'Did he just say, he had a girlfriend?' Leonard was stunned. Not only Joseph liked women, he had a girlfriend as well. 'Who was she? Ashley?' Leonard wanted to ask about her, but he didn't know where to start. As Joseph just implied, he didn't want to talk about it anymore, which literally meant, it'd be nearly impossible for Leonard to get more information from Joseph.

After dueling in his mind for a while, Leonard briefly explained what had happened today. He skipped telling him the reason of his fall, instead, he exaggerated about the girl who was enthusiastic to help him. During the whole time Leonard was talking, Joseph said nothing. Leonard was annoyed, because it was hard to tell from his expression whether he had heard the whole story or not. At last, he helplessly added, "That girl's name is Ashley. The one I saw in the restaurant last time."

Joseph was taken aback hearing her name. 'Was it really her? Well, then it wouldn't be a problem for her to get along with my grandpa in the future. She really would be the best bride for me.' Joseph felt satisfied from the bottom of his heart. But he couldn't tell his grandpa about it now. It would be nice to have the big surprise in the end. Joseph collected his thoughts before turning to look at Leonard, and replied indifferently, "Okay." Then he added, "We should thank her seriously next time."

Hearing such an uninterested answer, Leonard thought he might have mistaken about his girlfriend's identity. It wasn't Ashley. Since Joseph already had a girlfriend now, that might be why he didn't show any interest in this matter.

Both of them were lost inside their own thoughts. A while later, they decided to change the topic of their conversation.

A peaceful week passed by after that in a blink of an eye. Ashley still lived a busy schedule of her work life. Lina stayed busy with the so-called wedding plan the whole week. So, she didn't get much time to make trouble for Ashley. It was rare for Ashley to live a happy life, which she lived this past week. She even promised her brother to go to the party on the weekend.

As usual, after work, Yasmin and Ashley walked out of the Synder Group's building holding hands and headed for Ashley's apartment. Today, the two of them were free. So, they decided to cook dinner by themselves in Ashley's apartment, which was nearby and chat in the meantime.

Before going to Ashley's apartment, they went to the nearby market to buy food ingredients. Both Yasmin and Ashley lived alone. As they were used to cooking for themselves, their cooking skills weren't bad. After an hour of busy work, they successfully made three dishes and a soup. While eating their dinner, they watched TV and talked a lot. It was a leisure time for both of them.

Yasmin told Ashley about her experience of meeting Zachary's parents last week which was arranged by her parents. Speaking of that, she also told her about sharing the same bed with him.

"What? You're actually telling me that nothing happened between you two?" Ashley asked with confusion. When Yasmin shook her head and sighed, Ashley nodded her head thoughtfully and concluded, "Well, it seems that he is really gay. Or perhaps, your charm has been greatly reduced."

"Damn it! He is indeed gay. It's nothing to do with my charm!" hearing her friend's words, Yasmin said furiously.

"Well, then congratulation!" Ashley said in her flat tone then sighed sincerely. Rumors said that the guys they met were both homosexuals. But it proved that the one she had met was not. Thinking of the fact that she lost her

virginity to Joseph, Ashley was depressed. “I truly was unlucky,” she complained.

“Why did you say that?” Yasmin asked in confusion. She found it suspicious when Ashley said that. Sometimes, she really couldn’t keep up with her friend’s thought.

“It’s nothing. I’m okay. Please go on.” Without answering Yasmin’s question, Ashley asked her to continue her ‘sad story’.

Yasmin furrowed her eyes at her friend, but then continued to tell what had happened after she and Zachary arrived in the Olkfield. She even emphasized on the fact that their parents had become good friends right away.

When Yasmin was talking, Ashley made a few comments from time to time. At last, she also told Yasmin what had happened recently. The two friends chatted for a long time.

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“By the way, I’m going to a business party the night after tomorrow. If you want to come, I’ll ask my brother to get you an invitation.” Ashley suddenly remembered of the party and asked Yasmin whether she wanted to go as well.

“What party? Where?” Yasmin asked.

“Recently, there was an article in the newspaper about this business party. Didn’t you notice?” Ashley asked.

“Oh, yes. I know about this party. It’s very high-end, isn’t it?” Of course, Yasmin knew about this party. That news article created quite a hype about it and attracted a lot of attention from people belonging to various social statuses. The party was arranged in Ariosa which was known for high-end business class people. That meant, the party would mostly have chief business class people, famous celebrities from every industry and from other countries as its guests. After thinking for a while, Yasmin asked, “How can your brother get an invitation for this high-society party?”

Ashley had never told Yasmin about her true identity. So, it was normal for her to be curious. The two of them had always been in a casual and easy

friendship. Yasmin never asked about her family background, and Ashley never cared to disclose any details. "I'm sorry. I didn't tell you about my real identity before. My brother is Mike Guzman, the current CEO of the Guzman Group."

"I see. It's okay, Ashley. We don't need to care about these details to keep our friendship." Noticing Ashley felt apologetic for not telling her before, Yasmin comforted her immediately. She paused momentarily before adding, "In fact, I didn't tell you my identity either. My father is the Mayor of Olkfield."

Yasmin's identity definitely surprised Ashley. However, she smiled and said, "We are even now."

Neither of them expected that the other would have such a distinguished identity. But, once recalling the entire process of their becoming acquaintance to being friends, they weren't any more surprised that both of them had a big family background.

Both of them grinned at each other. They didn't care about their family background. Their friendship was not based on noble statuses of their families. So, there was no concealment or cheating. Inadvertently knowing it only increased the understanding between them.

"Okay, so you're the daughter of the Guzman family. But why do you still work as an ordinary manager in the Synder Group?" Yasmin asked in confusion.

"You are almost the same. You are the daughter of Olkfield's mayor. But you come all the way here to work as a manager. Why?" Ashley retorted.

"Well, it seems that we are really like-minded. Come on, let us toast for our long friendship!" Yasmin said excitedly as she picked up her glass on the table. She knew that her friend also wanted the same.

Ashley smiled and clinked her glass with Yasmin's and toasted for their friendship.

As the night grew, Yasmin wanted to go back to her apartment. Despite Ashley asked Yasmin to stay in her apartment tonight, she refused her request. As all the important documents that were needed for tomorrow's

meeting were in her own apartment, she had to go back. So, she left after dinner. After Yasmin got in a taxi and left, Ashley went back upstairs.

It was already ten at night when Yasmin returned to her apartment. With all the doors of her neighboring apartments closed, it was extremely quiet. When Yasmin was searching her bag for the door key, someone tapped on her shoulder from behind.

Reflexively, she grabbed the person's hand and twisted it before elbowing him and pushed him away. She hastily turned around, planning to kick him in the gut when she heard the familiar voice. "Oh my God, woman! Have mercy! I'm Zachary. Stop hitting me!"

Zachary rubbed his hand where Yasmin had grabbed it tightly. She would have really knocked him down if he wasn't taller and more experienced than her. It would've been a shame if he was knocked down by a skinny woman. If he hadn't stopped her already, he would've been seriously injured. Because she was preparing for a second round of attack. By the time Zachary looked at Yasmin, she was already pointing the flashlight on him to confirm his identity. She rolled her eyes seeing him, then turned back to open the door. This woman was too strong, and he shouldn't underestimate her.

After watching the horror movie with Yasmin last time, Zachary realized that she was not a feminine woman. Now seeing her strong self-defense skill, he almost doubted if she was even a woman! But jokes aside, he had no idea what his future would be like if he fell in love with such a tough woman.

Meanwhile, Yasmin opened the door and was about to close it on Zachary's face as if he wasn't even standing there. But Zachary put his hand on the door and refrained her from closing it. The next moment, he walked into her apartment without her invitation and straight went to the sofa and sat down leisurely.

Yasmin scowled at Zachary's cheekiness. He entered her apartment with such audacity as if it was his own home. She didn't know what made him so cheeky.

Zachary looked defiantly at the woman who was staring at him with a frown. Obviously, this idiot didn't want him to stay here, but he wanted to stay here tonight, and he would continue to stay here often in the future. Zachary was ambitious of spending more time with Yasmin.

The two of them stared at each other for a while. Then, Zachary broke the silence. "How could you be so rude being a woman? You just beat me and didn't even apologize for that. Now, you don't even want to entertain your guest. I don't know who'd dare to marry you in the future?"

Yasmin was furious hearing Zachary's words. She really wanted to punch him and kick him out. But she held back her impulse. It wasn't appropriate for her to have too many conflicts with him right now. Besides, she was confident that defeating this brainless man was an easy work for her.

"Talk about yourself. I'm not wrong to defend myself from my stalker at this time of night. It's your fault. You are to be blamed for being too weak." Yasmin bent over and grabbed the glass of water that Zachary poured for himself. She chugged it down in one go, then said, "I always treat uninvited guests like this. So, you can just leave now. Besides, it's none of your business if no one dares to marry me in the future."

"Oh, wait. Let me make it clear first. I wasn't stalking you. I'm your next door neighbor. You're not that pretty yet to attract men's attention," Zachary retorted.

After coming back from Olkfield, Zachary found out Yasmin's address and moved in here directly after making agreements with the previous resident next door. Zachary was positive that as long as he showed up in front of Yasmin frequently, she'd eventually fall in love with him. The good part being neighbor is, they would be very close to each other. Therefore, Zachary, who had always been action-oriented, had moved in next door to Yasmin to win her over.

He had planned to cultivate a good relationship with his new neighbor Yasmin tonight. But he didn't know that she wasn't at home. He checked several times and every time found her door locked. He felt depressed at one point. He was waiting for her at the stairs nearby, when she finally came back. But unfortunately, he was greeted by her self-defense skills! So, he had to show her his domineering side.

Being ignored by Yasmin constantly, he couldn't help but retort this time. Zachary realized that the original strategy of conciliation wouldn't work on Yasmin. This woman couldn't understand his tenderness. She wasn't even considerate towards him, which made him lose his temper. Perhaps, in the course of time, she'd understand his feelings.

“Oh? So you live next door? Then you go to your home now. I don’t have time for you.” Yasmin was frustrated with Zachary continuously belittling her charm. She pulled up Zachary from the sofa and pushed him out of the door.

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Yasmin pushed Zachary out of the door. “Goodbye!” Before he could even react, she quickly closed the door in his face. Standing outside her door, Zachary’s face turned gloomy.

‘She is the rudest person I have ever seen in my life,’ Zachary sighed deeply. But he was determined this time. If she was being rude to him, then he had plenty of time to teach her a lesson. He’d definitely make this rude woman fall in love with him.

He stared at the closed door for a few seconds, then turned around and went to his own apartment. After she violently drove Zachary out, Yasmin breathed out an air of relief. This guy had been haunting her since they met, and he was always against her. Such an annoying person!

Yasmin huffed while looking for her pajamas in the wardrobe. After taking a shower and drying her hair, she put on her pajamas and went to bed.

Zachary too slept well at night. Next morning, he woke up early, feeling fresh. In fact, he was very happy being Yasmin’s neighbor.

Feeling cheerful, he excitedly freshened up, then went to Yasmin’s door and rang the doorbell. He was holding an invitation letter in his hand. What happened last night was completely out of his expectation. So, he had completely forgotten to talk to Yasmin about this party. In fact, he went to meet Yasmin mainly because he wanted her to become his female companion for tomorrow night. The invitation had Yasmin’s name written on it. It was the entry pass for the party.

Zachary stood outside Yasmin’s door and rang the doorbell several times, but it wasn’t answered for a long time. It made his mood sour. He was about to take out his phone to call her, when the door abruptly opened. Zachary took in Yasmin’s appearance who was still in her pajamas and slippers. Her hair was

messy. She leaned against the door and stared at him with her big sleepy eyes. Although she was still sleepy, her glare told Zachary that she wanted to kill him right now. Despite her image was very “casual” at this moment, he could not help but feel a little intimidated by her glare. However, he pretended to be calm and smiled at her.

‘Bastard! It’s Zachary again! Why couldn’t he just let me sleep peacefully?’ Yasmin cursed Zachary internally. He still had the nerve to smile brightly at her. How dared he disrupt her dreams like this? Yasmin had no feelings for Zachary’s handsome face right now. She just wanted him to disappear from her sight. She wanted nothing but to go back to sleep again.

Usually Yasmin left for work at 9 o’clock every day, and it took forty minutes to reach her company. In order to enjoy her hobby of sleeping to the fullest, she usually got up at 8 o’clock, then spent fifteen minutes tidying herself up before leaving her apartment. She bought her breakfast and ate it on the way, and finally reached her office on time.

But today morning, the doorbell rang out of the blue. Yasmin had to wake up from her sleep before time. At first, she thought she had misheard. After all, no one ever came to look for her in the early morning. However, the annoying doorbell kept ringing, and she had a hunch that it would not stop any sooner. Yasmin looked at the alarm clock on her bedside table. It was only seven in the morning. Suddenly feeling a burst of anger, she put on her slippers and rushed to open the door. Seeing Zachary standing outside her door with a smile plastered on his face, she became furious.

Obviously, Zachary sensed Yasmin’s anger. Perhaps, it was a morning temperament. When he saw that she was about to slam the door in his face again, he quickly reached out to block the door. He slipped into her apartment again without her consent and closed the door behind him carefully.

“Dear Yasmin, don’t be angry. I was only helping you out to get up early and go to work out of kindness. Also, I have something important to talk to you,” said Zachary flatteringly.

Yasmin noticed how Zachary entered her apartment shamelessly once again. She was about to get into her bedroom and ignore him, when Zachary grabbed her arm and showed her an invitation letter. She couldn’t help frowning noticing the ingratiating look on Zachary’s face.

Seeing the impatience on Yasmin's face, Zachary explained in a hurry, "This is the invitation to the business party of Saturday evening. Are you coming?"

Yasmin frowned, but took the invitation from Zachary's hand anyway. Since her friend Ashley would also attend the party, she wouldn't mind accepting the invitation.

Although she received the card from him, the flattering look on Zachary's handsome face didn't ease her anger. She cleared her throat and said seriously, "Mr. Estrada, I want to tell you something. First of all, we're not quite familiar with each other. Please don't come to my house anytime you like, and don't address me in such disgusting way. Second, I don't need you to wake me up out of kindness. Next time you disturb my dreams, I will kill you! And last but not the least, if there is nothing else to say, you can just leave. I have no time to talk to you." After saying that, she made a gesture towards the door, obviously asking him to leave.

Hearing what she just said, Zachary's face turned murky. 'Damn it! How could she say that we weren't familiar with each other? She didn't care about me at all and wanted to drive me out! I have had enough!'

Yasmin noticed the expression on Zachary's face suddenly changed. She thought he would leave wisely. Instead, Zachary walked towards her with a dark expression. Yasmin couldn't figure out what he was thinking of doing. But seeing him getting closer, she felt nervous. She tried her best to calm herself down while staring at him unwaveringly.

Zachary noticed that Yasmin had gone into her defensive mode. To intimidate her more, he raised one of his eyebrows and smirked evilly at her. He stretched out his hand to grab her again. "Are we really not familiar with each other?"

Yasmin frowned looking at the overbearing expression on Zachary's face. When she heard him ask that question, she realized he had taken her words seriously. She just asked him to leave her place so that she could sleep some more. What was wrong with that? Besides, they really weren't that familiar with each other except for the agreement. Where did she even lie? After dodged his advancement cautiously before nodding firmly, she was nothing but being honest here.

At first, Zachary just wanted Yasmin to think again about their familiarity. But when she nodded seriously, it made him angrier. He suddenly grabbed her

chin and raised it to make her look in his eyes and said in a serious tone, “Girl, say it again.”

Yasmin felt baffled by Zachary’s suddenly changed persona. She tried to pluck off his hand from her face, but failed. She could only glare at the culprit who was out of his mind right now. But her glaring did nothing to alter his mind. She gritted her teeth and said, “We are not familiar with each other! There, I said it again. Now, let go of me!”

Yasmin noticed Zachary’s face darkening at her response and his attitude became more oppressive. The man in front of her was being ridiculous at this moment. “What’s wrong with you? Let go of me! The relation between us is based on a contract. That’s it. What are you doing now?”

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While cursing angrily, Yasmin tried to break free of Zachary’s hold. But even if she struggled with both of her hands and feet, it was useless against his firm hold. Zachary skillfully blocked her every attack every single time. Yasmin realized that earlier she could only knock him down easily because he didn’t resist. But he was indeed strong. However, Yasmin was not a girl to back off so easily. She could be persuasive in order to win over this tall man. Yasmin thought for a while. Since she couldn’t resist him physically, she had to win by words. She became more frantic and rebuked, “Zachary, you bastard. What’s wrong with you? Let go of me!”

However, her endless verbal abuse did nothing to Zachary. He looked at her delicate face, which had turned red because of anger and resistance, and he couldn’t resist himself from leaning down and pressing his lips on hers abruptly. Time stopped as soon as he kissed her. Both of them felt dazed in each other’s arms.

Yasmin froze for a quick second feeling the soft touch of Zachary’s lips on her own. She was shocked. But Zachary didn’t give her any time to react. He placed a hand on her back and with the other one he held her head to stop it from moving. He kissed softly on her lips. A while later when Yasmin finally came to her senses, she started wiggling and opened her mouth to rebuke again. But Zachary took the opportunity and pushed his tongue into her mouth lithely, deepening the kiss.

Yasmin was flabbergasted in the beginning. It took her a while to realize that Zachary had been kissing her thoroughly. She wanted to resist, but Zachary didn't let go the opportunity and entangled her tongue with his own. His skillful kisses made her feel things she didn't expect was possible. Her body began to soften involuntarily. Even though her mind told her to resist, her resistance was dispelled one after another. At last, seeing no other option, she used her own unique skill. She pretended to enjoy the kiss and eventually bit Zachary's tongue hard when his vigilance was in much relaxed state.

"Ouch!" Zachary let go of Yasmin's lips immediately after feeling the pain. Looking at her ruddy face which was full of complacency, Zachary licked his lips and said, "You are a wild cat. Aren't you? Nonetheless, you taste good. Now what? Have we become familiar with each other?"

As soon as Yasmin's hand was released, she wiped her lips with the back of her hand rudely. Then she glared at Zachary and said, "Zachary, you bastard! The agreement says that we can't have intimate contact with each other. You shameless man! You've broken your promise!"

Yasmin's outburst of anger stunned Zachary. Just as he was wondering why she reacted that way, she pushed him out of the room with her fiery strength. She shouted at him, "From now on, we are really not familiar with each other!"

Zachary was flabbergasted. Yasmin's extremely resisting reaction made him realize that she had no feelings for him. A sense of frustration that he had never experienced before arose in his heart. He stared at the closed door in front of him for a few seconds, then turned to go back in his apartment.

Meanwhile, Yasmin, who had successfully driven Zachary out of her apartment, couldn't calm down for a long time. She was extremely annoyed. At first, she was confused about Zachary's persistence in the question of whether they were familiar with each other or not. Then, she was uncomfortable when he held her forcefully. But when he kissed her all of a sudden, it shocked her immediately. In the end when he announced triumphantly that now they should be familiar with each other, Yasmin was so done with him. In fact, she was angry with herself. Because when she was being kissed, she felt something towards him, and it was embarrassing because he was gay!

Yasmin thought, perhaps, it was Zachary's way of punishing her as she kept disobeying him. That was why he kissed her forcefully. But what frustrated her more was, she actually enjoyed the kiss. Did he feel some twisted pleasure in her embarrassment?

After this incident, Yasmin was not in the mood to go sleep anymore. She changed her clothes absentmindedly, then brushed her teeth and washed her face. Then she left her apartment, bought her breakfast on the way and went to the office.

She arrived at her company about half an hour in advance. Her colleagues who were already present there, asked her how come she was early today. Their unnecessary queries made her even more annoyed. She replied them haughtily, "I'll come early from now on!" Even though everyone doubted her response, she successfully dismissed the crowd. All the people in her department knew that Yasmin came to office just on time every day. Not before that. Her work efficiency was high but she was lazy. In between her working hours, she often took time to rest, chat with her colleagues, and so on. Therefore, no one believed that she would be on duty before time in the future.

Yasmin kept telling herself not to take the matter of Zachary to her heart all day long. Although she felt something towards him while kissing him, it didn't mean that she had a crush on him. It was just the feeling that her first kiss was stolen by him. She spent the whole day reminiscing about the kiss.

Soon it was time for the party. Yasmin refused Ashley's invitation on the excuse that she didn't want to go to a noisy place. Although the latter didn't understand why she suddenly said something that was contrary to her personality, Ashley let the matter drop. Ashley herself, didn't like noisy places with too many people, but she had to go because she had promised her brother to be his female companion. In addition to Mike's gentle request, she agreed to attend this high-end party with the purpose of finding a suitable lady to be her sister-in-law. Of course, her brother didn't know that.

That night, Mike specially hired a professional stylist to style Ashley's hair and makeup. When everything was ready, the two of them took a car and left for the party. The party was happening in the most famous reception place in the Ariosa. With the unique architectural style and special reception facilities, the area was looking stunning and luxurious. The place was famous for organizing important meetings and high-level parties all the time.

When Ashley and Mike arrived at the party, a lot of people were already present there. The appearance of this beautiful couple attracted a lot of attention from the guests. Mike was wearing a well-tailored suit. His handsome face and gentle temperament showed his nobility and elegance, which attracted many women present in the party. Ashley was wearing a fitting red and white sleeveless long dress which revealed her fair arms and shoulders. Her enchanting figure looked graceful like a goddess. Her hair was up in a high twisted bun, and two curly bangs were hanging on both sides of her fair and exposed forehead. All of the single men gave their full attention to her elegant look and noble temperament. Seeing the outstanding appearance of the two, everyone tried to guess their relation. Along the way, with his sharp eyes, Mike shoved away the men who looked at Ashley covetously, while Ashley quietly glanced at all the socialite divas.

People came to greet them soon and gave them similar compliments like, "It's my honor to meet you, Mr. Guzman. Your girlfriend is very beautiful." The Guzman Group was very famous in the city. Although its business scope was not as wide as the Empire Group, it was outstanding in its own field. Mike was the president of the Guzman Group. He was known as one of the most potential new generation entrepreneurs, next to Joseph. He also ranked on the golden bachelors list in the country. Therefore, many people already knew Mike. In fact, he was a well-known face as many financial magazines often printed his photographs along with their articles.

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Being in this kind of situation was nothing new for Mike. In fact, he had already gotten used to it. So much so, that he managed to effortlessly take everyone's compliments and respond to each of them. While Mike was casually shooting the breeze with other guests, Ashley silently stood next to him, wearing a plastic smile on her face. From time to time, she would also take part in the conversation, which made the people around her admire her more.

As the siblings were busy chatting with the big names from various fields, a couple who stuck out like a sore thumb suddenly arrived. It was Charlie and Lina. Most of the guests in attendance had heard that the heir of the Synder Group was about to get married. The word on the street was that the bride-to-be was a no-name, beautiful clerk, and it seemed that the only reason they were going to tie the knot was because the girl got knocked up. The rumors

about this famous bachelor seeing someone had become the flavor of the month in Ariosa recently.

Everyone's eyes fell on the beautiful woman walking hand in hand with Mr. Synder, who had a bespoke suit on. She was wearing such a stunning dress, and her accessories were glimmering in the light. This woman exuded the elegance of a noblewoman. Having said that, a few people with sharp eyes couldn't help but notice that even though she was beautifully dressed, she was wearing flat shoes. It seemed that the rumor was true. Thanks to Mike and Ashley giving the party such an amazing opening, the crowd only took a few glances at Charlie and his female companion and then went back to whatever they were doing.

A few moments later, there was another fuss, and the crowd's whispers grew louder and louder. Word was going around that the legendary figure Joseph, who was better known as the "Poker Face Yama" in the business circle, was going to attend this party. As soon as the people heard this, their hearts became filled with excitement.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that almost everyone in the business world had probably heard of Joseph's legendary achievements in the business field, as well as his cold and ruthless style and his astonishing appearance. To this day, only a handful of people had had the opportunity to see him in person. There were a lot of people who aspired to be like him. What was more, there were a lot of single ladies who wanted to see this Prince Charming with their own eyes. When they found out that they would finally get the chance to meet this legendary figure, everyone started to look forward to his arrival.

Of course, there was an exception. Sitting all by herself in the corner, Ashley couldn't care less about what was happening or how psyched the crowd was. If she hadn't met Joseph herself, she probably would have been just as excited as the other guests. But, the fact was that, not only had Ashley met Joseph, she even shared an intimate moment with him. Although she wasn't really sure what was going on inside his head, after he kept making such an unreasonable request, it gave her the impression that he was not a good man. This was the exact reason why she wasn't looking forward to seeing him at all.

When Mike went to the restroom, Ashley, who wasn't really the type who liked to socialize with others, walked away from the crowd. After walking around,

she found a sofa in the corner and decided to sit there and enjoy a drink by herself. At that moment, most of the guests were looking at the entrance, eagerly waiting for Joseph's arrival. She was glad to have the chance to be alone, even if it was just for a moment.

After a while, the noise inside the venue suddenly died down, and no one was taking their eyes off of the entrance. A luxurious Rolls-Royce suddenly came into view. Seeing this, a lot of people struggled to get in front to get a good view. When the car finally pulled over, two tall and imposing figures walked toward the entrance of the party one after the other.

Under the bright lights, these two tall and imposing men's faces were in clear view. Their handsome faces and exceptional character made it seem like they were princes who came straight out of a fairy tale.

The two men who arrived were Joseph and Zachary. The moment they walked towards the red carpet area, the crowd subconsciously split into two to make way for them. Joseph's handsome and striking appearance was like a masterpiece created by God. He was so captivating that everyone couldn't take their eyes off him. However, he had a rather intimidating air about him that no one could dare to look at him directly. Because of this, those who were looking at him from both sides ended up shifting their attention towards Zachary, who was also a very handsome man. However, he had relatively softer facial features compared to Joseph, and he seemed a bit more approachable.

Gazing at the two handsome men in front of them, a lot of people felt so lucky to get the chance to see them up close; and a lot of maidens' hearts were secretly pounding in their chest. That being said, at that moment, the speechless crowd couldn't help thinking about another rumor that was going around about Joseph—he was suspected of being gay. After seeing these two men walking on the red carpet one after another, they were pretty much convinced that the rumors were true. However, no one could say anything out loud because of how intimidating Joseph seemed.

Things had always been like this for Zachary. 'Whenever I follow Joseph, who is as handsome as he is intimidating, all eyes will eventually fall on me. I'm inferior to him,' Zachary thought to himself.

When Zachary glanced at the guests surrounding them from the corner of his eyes, he couldn't find Yasmin's figure anywhere. Although he had already expected it, he still couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed. When he saw how

furious Yasmin was two days ago, it made Zachary realize just how much she hated him. So, he decided not to look for her anymore. Before doing anything, he wanted both of them to calm down first. Besides, he was still trying to figure out what he should do next. Perhaps it would be better for the two of them to just be friends. He shouldn't try to force her too hard. Zachary already knew that Yasmin might not come to the party since she probably wanted to avoid him, but finding out that she really didn't come made him realize that Yasmin didn't want to have anything to do with him at all. This left him with an overwhelming feeling of emptiness deep inside. When this thought crossed his mind, the elegant smile on Zachary's face disappeared instantly, and the expression on his face became as cold as Joseph's.

As they made their way into the crowd, Joseph's thin lips remained pursed the whole time. His deep dark eyes swept across the guests present who wore different expressions on their faces. The intimidating aura he was giving off made a lot of people who wanted to take this opportunity to see him up close give up the idea.

He wore this cold expression on his face the entire time. Leonard asked him to socialize with these business personalities, thinking that it would help the further development of the Empire Group, including his own development and connections. This was the only reason why Joseph agreed to come here. Truth be told, he didn't give a damn about the prospect of development that his grandfather was hoping for. Joseph had studied in the United States for many years and had cultivated a certain amount of skills. He would never use them unless the situation really called for it. For this reason, Joseph was not interested in socializing with these so-called businessmen and politicians. He had no interest in their flattery. In his opinion, this kind of luxurious party wasn't any different. It should be safe to say that almost everyone present came here because they had something to gain from it. Most of them came here hoping to hook up with someone and find a rich husband, get a rich wife, or to build connections that could help them become more successful.

After greeting a few people at the party, Joseph wanted to find a quiet place to rest. He looked around for a while, and a familiar face caught his eye. A woman was lazily resting in the corner and minding her own business. She didn't seem to fit in with the crowd at all. And she looked so attractive in Joseph's eyes. Without a second thought, Joseph walked toward the corner to say hello to her.