When She Stops Playing Nice by Hale Saxon

Chapter 241

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Gabriel shot back with a cold, piercing glare.

Although he was aware that Gina would take the initiative to talk to Max because she believed he might be the long-lost son of her adoptive parents, Max's approach to Cina gave him a feeling that his intentions were not pure.

He didn't want, nor did he like, Max having too much contact with Cina.

But he couldn't stop it.

Gabriel felt a lump in his throat.

"Back for a visit?" Gina asked.

Max shook his head. "Looking for someone."

"Who?"

Instead of answering Gina's question, Max inquired with a jesting tone, "What, are you offering to help me search?"

"If you need it, I can. Gina said

mestly.

Max smiled broadly, "Great, I'll search for a while, and if I can't find them, I'll ask for your help."

The elevator arrived.

Max was somewhat surprised. "It seems we have rooms on the same floor."

He glanced at Gabriel and asked Gina, his tone slightly changing "You two, sharing a room?"

"No." Gina denied it.

Max's expression turned subtle, with a hint of a smile in his eyes "How about we have dinner together tonight?"

"No time, Gabriel said coldly, rejecting Max on Gina's behalf.

Max laughed in annoyance. "Mr. Jackson, I didn't say I was inviting you."

Gina interjected, "I have plans tonight, indeed no time."

Max furrowed his brow. "Just the two of you? Having dinner together, adding me shouldn't be too much, right?"

Gabriel's face darkened. "Persistently pestering, is that interesting?

Max looked somewhat helpless. "Mr. Jackson, do I need to remind you that I wasn't talking to you, and you really don't have to respond to me?"

Gina felt like the two were on the verge of an argument, and she wanted to stop their unprovoked confrontation. "It's not just us. There's also a friend of mine.

"Oh. Max didn't insist on adding him to their group anymore.

"Then let's make a date when you're free, and I don't mind if there's one more person." Max said with a pointed implication.

Gina didn't see much difference between having dinner with two people or one. She nodded and said, "Sure, okay."

Max was in high spirms, "Goodbye"

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"Goodbye."

After finishing her work, Cathy returned home to find Andy looking a bit pale.

Instantly worried, she asked, "Andy, what's wrong with you?"

Andy was somewhat excited. I'm fine, Cathy. I'm going to make a lot of money. I've found a way to make a lot of money. Ill be able to buy a car and a house soon, and then, marry you."

Cathy had once looked forward to marrying Andy, but after experiencing some things recently, she became less expectant and acted more indifferently. "What way to make money"

"Be a long-term blood donor."

Cathy thought it sounded incredible. "What? What kind of way is this?"

"You don't understand, do you? This way is a new discovery of mine. Andy didn't say that it was Olivia who told him, fearing that Cathy would find out that he had an affair with Olivia some time ago.

Andy introduced to her. "I know a private hospital that is very short of blood supply and needs blood donors, the kind that requires a contract."

"It's real and reliable. I donated 600cc today. They gave me a deposit of 10 thousand dollars first and let me go to donate blood as required next time. After that, I can go and get the remaining 10 thousand dollars."

*600cc

As a nurse, Cathy was very clear about the amount of blood drawn, which was already quite a lot, and the blood station would not recommend selling as much as 600cc when someone came to sell blood.

"Isn't this selling blood?" Cathy asked in doubt.

"It's not the same. Is selling blood the same as this? It's not just about getting money after drawing blood!"

"So what?" Cathy always felt that this matter sounded a bit strange.

"Cathy, why don't you also do this long-term blood donor job? Its not troublesome, and the money is quite easy to earn."

Cathy didn't want to agree. "Don't you think this way of making money is very wrong?"

"At first, I didn't believe it either, but I went to the field and personally verified that this is indeed a real and reliable way to make money, so I came to tell you," Andy explained.

Cathy shook her head. "I think it's unreliable. Prover Hospital is also a private hospital, but it doesn't have this kind of thing about looking for long-term blood donors." Sear*ch the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Andy was growing impatient. "As private hospitals, of course, every hospital has its own situation, right? Cathy, don't you want to work hard for our home together?"

Cathy sighed. "I do. I really do, but I just feel something is off.

"Could it be a scam?"

Andy suddenly exploded. "Enough, will you ever stop? What about that job you found planting medicinal herbs? It's also like the job, which is easy but you still get a high salary!

"Do you think I'm incapable, unable to find a good way to make money? Cathy, you've changed. You've started to look down

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on me"

"I haven't. Andy. The high salary for planting medicinal herbs is because Miss Miller is geen Cathy explod

do

Andy completely lost his cool "Yes, Gina sever benelictor So you think met my ene

was his benefacto

I didn't mean it like that Cathy felt more and more blesse d*ke she and swe different wavelengths, and all she didn't want was for Andy to brow

Andy looked like he was ready to give up use if you det bleve me get Could I pose by arm

"If you don't want to do it, just say

Andy,

Don't beat around

Before Cathy could finish her sentence. Andy went into the nooga mat Cabinol the dar with a bang

After a while, Cathy cooked the meal and knocked on the door Andy as to t

Andy opened the door aner a long time. Without even looking at Cathy, he sat down at the chaing cable and stared eating

Cathy hesitated for a mortent Kaid. "Andy, about being a blood donor vos

have a look"

Andy stopped what he was doing somewhat pleasantly and sumpingly. You agreed

Cathy nodded helplessly

Andy was very happy "Cathy, I knew it. You love

you, but I'm not ready for the car and house yet. So, Team only work, hand to make money, right? You're willing to help me and let my little family move forward, which made me so happy

Cathy smiled indifferently. As long as you re happy"

Andy looked at Cathy affectionately Cathy, the reason I want to wolve you in being a blood donor is that I can get a benefit from involving one more person"

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Cathy didn't have much of a reaction.

Andy happily planted a kiss on Cathy's check. "Cathy, thank you for supporting my career. If you have any friends who want to do this, just bring them along, okay?"

Cathy felt that this whole thing sounded very strange, but she didn't want to argue with Andy, so she just gave a perfunctory

nod.

Gabriel dropped Gina off at the Quaria building

Michael, who had been waiting at the entrance of Quaria, immediately greeted Gina as she got out of the car, but his face turned sour as soon as he saw Gabriel.

Last night, the three of them had dinner together, and the atmosphere was filled with tension. Michael and Gabriel just couldn't stand each other..

Michael thought Gabriel was superfluous, hindering his get-together with Gina.

Gabriel thought Michael was spoiling his and Gina's alone time.

Throughout the meal, they silently gave each other bad looks.

"Gina. I've already informed the design department to welcome you. Everyone is waiting for you. Let's go."

Michael wanted to quickly make Gabriel stop trying to be present around Gina.

"Gina, don't overwork yourself. I'll wait for you after work."

Gina turned her head and nodded to Gabriel.

"Gina, let me give you a heads-up about the situation in the design department first."

Michael was not willing to show weakness and drew Gina's attention back to him.

Gina was a bit confused, always feeling that Michael and Gabriel were competing in secret.

What were they competing for?

They exited the elevator.

Michael's phone rang. "It's an important client. I'll take this call.

"Okay"

Gina nodded and walked toward the design department first. As soon as she reached the entrance, she was sprayed with confetti

"Welcome to the design department!"

After the crowd cheered, they looked at Cina in surprise.

Gina didn't know they had prepared a welcome ceremony, and they were not sure if Gina was the designer they were waiting

for

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"Is she the exclusive designer Mr. Clark is going to bring today?"

If so, where was Michael?

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Before Gina could admit anything, a somewhat shrill voice rang out. "You've mistaken someone, haven't you? Where does she look like an exclusive designer?"

Everyone's gaze fell on Alison, who was dressed impeccably with a sharp, professional look. She scrutinized Gina from head to toe, feeling that the so-called exclusive designer was nothing more than a pretext.

The main point was that Michael wanted to insert someone into the design department.

Alison had a low opinion of such parachuted high-end talents.

Moreover, Quaria had never had such a precedent, and now. Michael, whom she had always respected, had actually done such a thing, which made Alison feel a bit disappointed.

But after all, Michael was the company's president, and she couldn't possibly get angry at the CEO.

So, she was hostile towards this exclusive designer she had never met.

And because of this matter, she was in a bad mood and had no good attitude to Gina, who had wandered into the design department. "Newcomer? The newcomer should stay where they should be. What are you wandering around for? You're so restless. I really don't know how you got into Quaria."

"Alison, even if she's a newcomer, you shouldn't be so rude to her, right? Maybe she's here to work in the design department?"

Zelda appeared in everyone's line of sight.

Someone whispered.

"Zelda... Has she fallen in love with our design department recently? Why is she running here all the time..."

"Hey, don't you know? Zelda had a bit of a conflict with Alison some time ago, and Zelda probably didn't accept it and always came to provoke Alison from time to time.

Zelda stood considerately in front of Gina. "Don't be afraid. Actually, many of our colleagues at Quaria are very easy to get along with

"You really are, Alison. You're scaring the newcomer."

Zelda pointed at Alison. "She is the director of the design department. If you are in the design department, she will be your direct superior in the future."

Alison didn't like Zelda to begin with, and seeing her meddling, she rolled her eyes. "What does our design department's matter have to do with you from the marketing department?"

"I just can't stand you bullying newcomers!" Zelda said righteously. S~Earch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"What are you arguing about?"

Michael arrived late, and the scene finally quieted down.

"Good morning, Mr. Clark."

Michael saw the glitter on Gina's hair and smiled. "Has the welcome already taken place?"

Alison was a bit surprised, "Mr. Clark, is she the exclusive designer you mentioned, Gina Miller?"

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Michael nodded. "Yes, that's right."

Zelda dramatically covered her mouth with her hand. "Miss Miller, so you're the new exclusive designer? I thought you were just a new employee."

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sorry. I didn't realize. I truly didn't see that you were the exclusive designer. You are so young and yet so accomplished. That's incredibly impressive."

After Zelda finished speaking, she gave Alison a triumphant look glad she had known early on that Gina wasn't an ordinary

person.

Today, she had helped Gina out of a difficult situation. Although it wasn't a huge favor, it would at least make Gina remember her. This small act of kindness might bring her great benefits in the future.

Alison was in a different situation. She had offended this influential exclusive designer on the first day, and her future days. would not be easy.

If Alison had a hard time, Zelda would be happy because Alison had offended her before.

Served her right!

Alison calmly accepted the fact that Gina was the exclusive designer.

And she gave Zelda a disdainful look, thinking of her as a sycophant

Seeing how

young Gina was, Alison became even more convinced that Gina was probably a person without real talent, and she felt sorrow that the design department would be stuffed with mediocrity.

"Since everyone has already welcomed Miss Miller, I think I dont need to introduce her too much, do I?"

"Mr. Clark!" You didn't see it when you came late ju

just now. Miss Miller was bullied.

Zelda could not miss the opportunity to throw Alison under the bus.

Michael was surprised. "Who?"

Zelda pointed at Alison. "Of course, it's Alison. She thought Miss Miller was a newcomer who had taken the wrong path and got angry with Miss Miller."

Michael's expression became serious. "Alison, is that true?"

Zelda quickly answered, "Of course it is."

"So many people saw it." Zelda pointed at the crowd from the design department.

Alison responded quickly as well, I'm sorry, Miss Miller. It was my fault. I shouldn't have lost my temper."

Zelda sneered. "Tsk, you shouldn't have lost your temper? I think it's because you thought Miss Miller was a newcomer, so you dared to vent your anger on her so recklessly, right? Do you think Quaria is your home and you can vent your anger on whoever you want?"

"I don't think your apology is sincere. It's because you found out that Miss Miller is an exclusive designer, so you changed your attitude, didn't you?"

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Alison denied it. "That's not it

She apologized again and bowed to Gina. "Miss Miller, I've been in a bad mood lately, and I'm sorry for offending you."

Although she wanted to stand firm and declare that she just looked down on those who got ahead through connections, reality didn't allow it. She had worked extremely hard and devoted a lot of effort and blood to get to her current position as a director.

Alison didn't want to jeopardize everything she had gained in six years by offending someone with connections.

Thinking of this, Alison couldn't help but laugh at herself. Being born into the right family was really a technical skill. She had to work tirelessly for six years to become a director, while this exclusive designer was probably the daughter of some Quaria shareholder.

Judging by Michael's attitude toward her, perhaps they were childhood sweethearts with a particularly good relationship.

To say she wasn't envious was a lic

She took a deep breath and asked Gina, "Miss Miller, is there anything I can do to make it up to you?" Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Everyone's gaze fell on Gina.

They thought Alison was done for this time, having offended this influential exclusive designer, and her position as director was probably not secure.

Even if she wasn't fired, she wouldn't have a good time at Quaria in the future.

Gina said indifferently, "You don't have to do anything. I accept your apology. Everyone, you don't need to continue welcoming me. Let's get to work. Oh, and please prepare the design concept and drafts for the new products for the next quarter. Let's have a small meeting in half an hour."

She looked at Alison. "Is that okay?"

Alison was stunned. She couldn't believe that Cina didn't take advantage of her privileges to embarrass her. She regained her composure. "Yes, it's okay."

Zelda was also confused and wondered, 'No, isn't this woman crazy? Shouldn't she give Alison a severe warning and let the people in the design department know that from now on, the leader of the design department has changed? And warning everyone to be polite to her?"

Perhaps because Gina was Michael's mistress, she knew that if she acted arrogantly and was too domineering, she would be in serious trouble if Michael's wife found out.

Zelda thought today she could see Alison in big trouble, but unfortunately, Gina was a coward who couldn't be supported She was too weak. It was really boring.

Zelda secretly rolled her eyes.

Michael wanted to accompany Gina, but he had a lot of things to do. "Gina, I'm going to work now. Call me anytime if you need anything

"Okay Gina nodded.

Gina glanced at Zelda, who immediately put on a different face, smiling broadly as she said, "Miss Miller, you carry on with your work. I've got to get back to my own work too: Good luck!"

Zelda spread her artas, seemingly wanting to give Cana a farewell hug, but Gina declined. "I'm sorry, I don't like to have too

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much physical contact with people I'm not very familiar with."

Zelda was taken aback, pretending not to be bothered as she forced a smile. "Okay, I understand. Bye.

As soon as she turned around, Zelda's expression changed. She thought to herself, This b*tch is probably intentionally Trying to embarrass me in front of all these people. D*mn it!"

Half an hour later, the design department meeting began.

Cina looked over the design drafts by the main designer responsible for the new product series.

"The creativity is all very good. I'd like to hear more about the design ideas for the new products.

"Love and beauty are themes that jewelry cannot be separated from, and coincidentally, the date for the next new product release is around Valentine's Day, so the design concept is also centered around love..."

Gina looked thoughtful. "I have no objection to centering around love, but I think the theme of love should not be limited to romantic love."

"You mean, you want us to expand our thinking to include friendship, family, and such?" Alison asked.

Gina nodded. "I hope everyone can design the new products around the theme of love without blood relations. In this world, the love from people without blood relations to you is like a gift from heaven.

"Such love is as pure and clear as a diamond...

Alison looked at Gina, feeling as if she was reminiscing about someone.

Gina paused. "Expanding around this theme, is that okay with everyone?"

"Okay"

Everyone nodded. The exclusive designer was introduced by Michael himself. How could they dare to have any objections?

But Alison still felt uncomfortable. "Miss Miller, I think this theme is not just your understanding of expanding the concept of love, but rather, you want to use Quaria's next quarter's new products to commemorate someone, right?"

Everyone held their breath as they looked at Alison.

She was really daring to say that.

Wasn't she afraid of offending Gina even more than she already had?

Why invite trouble for herself?

"Yes," Cina nodded.

Alison showed some dissatisfaction. "Miss Miller, as the exclusive designer, are you expecting all of us to serve your personal desires? Who are you trying to declare your love to, to commemorate this person who has established some kind of love relationship with you?"

The love of family," Gina replied..

"She has passed away. You're right. I have personal motives, and as an exclusive designer, I will only participate in the design of the next season's new products. After that, I will not be involved in new product design. I hope everyone can help me fulfill this wish," Gina said.

Alison thought Gina would arrogantly retort to her. After all, she had the capital to do so.

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Unexpectedly, Gina was quite candid despite her privileges....

Alison's feelings were mixed.

"No problem," the crowd responded.

The meeting continued for another 15 minutes before it ended.

Alison was in the break room making collec.

A subordinate approached. "Miss Hammond, you were really hold today, repeatedly contradicting Miss Miller. Aren't you afraid of being retaliated against?"

The deep meaning was to be careful her director position might not be secure.

Alison sighed. She was also worried about losing her job. Tll hold back in the future.

The subordinate laughed. "Hey, Miss Hammond, I know you can't stand this kind of relationship-based favoritism, but sometimes we have to bow to reality, right?"

"I heard that Gina might be Mr. Clark's mistress, or perhaps a mistress of some other shareholder"

Alison frowned. "Can't she just be a shareholder's daughter? Why do you all think she is a mistress?"

The subordinate was taken aback. "Ah, I know. But I heard others say

V SO.

"Don't spread rumors. Such defamatory remarks without any solid evidence could get you sued for slander"

The subordinate quickly nodded. "Okay."

Outside the break room, Gina heard their conversation clearly.

Alison and her subordinate stopped speculating about Gina's identity and switched to discussing work topics.

During lunchtime, Gina didn't accept Gabriel's invitation to dine at the Grand Restaurant in Oriata City, nor did she agree to

have a specially invited chef abroad cook for her. Instead, she chose to eat in Quaria's staff canteen.

"Miss Miller!" Zelda was surprised to see Gina in the canteen.

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Gina offered a nonchalant nod in response.

"Since it's your first time in the cafeteria, you probably don't know what's good here. Let me help you choose."

"No need."

"Oh, come on. We're all colleagues. Don't be shy."

Zelda, being overly familiar, grabbed Gina's hand, but Gina did like such physical contact and pulled away.

This left Zelda a bit embarrassed. "Oops, I forgot that you don't like this kind of contact. I was out of line."

She was just too eager, wanting to quickly establish a good relationship and become friends with Gina.

"It's fine." Gina said, not taking offense.

Zelda led Gina to pick up some dishes that she believed tasted very good.

After sitting down. Zelda had no interest in eating but tried hard to find topics of conversation. "Miss Miller, you should taste this. The food here is quite delicious."

"Sure."

Zelda tried to make small talk with Gina, who quickly finished her lunch and then took her leave. "I'll get back to work now."

"Okay, Zelda replied with a smile.

Zelda watched Gina leave with a beaming smile, but as soon as Gina was out of sight, her expression changed. "A connected person pretending to work hard is really amusing."

In the afternoon, Gina spent a few minute

drawing five design drafts.

She presented the drafts to Alison. These are my designs for this time. I'm leaving them with you to compile and submit."

Alison took the drafts from Gina.

The five design drafts were exquisitely designed and flawless, leaving her stunned. Alison had thought that Gina, as a connected person, probably lacked real talent. Moreover, she had learned from Michael that although Gina was a student a the prestigious Trowell University, she studied computer science

Alison was incredulous: "Did you draw all of these yourself?"

"Of course" Gina smiled.

"Do you need me to draw one here for you to see?"

"No need "It was as if a knot in Alison's heart had suddenly untied. It turned out that Michael had not made an exception to insert a designer who was all name but no substance into the degn department. Quaria was still the company that relied on strength, not background

to

Alison had underestimated Cina, thinking that because she was young and had no impressive resume, she must not have any design ability. It was a misunderstanding

Alison looked at the five design drafts again and marveled once more at the talent that was truly a gift from heaven, something that couldn't be envied, as the drawings were just too good

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She was a genius.

Suddenly, she noticed a problem. "Miss Miller, your drawings are excellent, but your style is very similar to that of our mysterious chief designer at Quaria. Are you imitating her style? I wouldn't recommend doing that. You're so talented. You should have your own style."

Gina smiled. "Okay, thank you for the reminder. I'll pay attention to it in the future."

Gina's modesty and politeness once again overturned Alison's perception of those with connections. Perhaps it was her own

stereotype.

She felt that Gina must come from a prestigious family, and her upbringing must also be excellent. Before, Alison was too suspicious.

Gina came to the interview area again.

Every year, for the final round of talent recruitment in the design department, Michael would be present. Gina did not inform Michael in advance that she would come and planned to observe the situation on the spot.

The interviewees were either nervous or calm, and Gina felt a sense of achievement looking at these newcomers who were about to join Quaria

Gina was about to enter the interview room to be a temporary interviewer when she spotted a familiar figure in

the

crowd.

It was Olivia.

Was Olivia here for a Quaria interview?

Gina raised her eyebrows.

Olivia noticed that there seemed to be a gaze on her. She looked up and saw Gina's face turn pale.

Why can I run into this bi*ch everywhere? Persistent as a bad penny!' she wondered.

She suddenly remembered hearing from Nicolas that Gabriel had brought Gina to Oriata City.

So Gabriel accompanied Gina to Quaria for the interview?

Huh, it was quite a show.

Olivia felt sour in her heart.

Olivia wanted to pretend she didn't see Gina, but the gaze had already met, and she could only avert her eyes.

Bur Ch

Gina walked straight up to her. "You should leave."

Olivia was puzzled. "Gina, can we put our grudges aside for now? Please, I beg you to give me a break for one day, okay? I'm here to look for a job. Besides, if I don't find a job, how can I pay you back?"

Gina said indifferently. "You won't make it into Quaria."

Gina knew all too well what level Olivia's designs were capable of

Olivia gritted her teeth. "Whether I can get in or not is something the interview will reveal, isn't it?"

"There's no need for an interview. Quaria won't hire someone who entered a plagiarized work in the National Higher Education Design League Contest"

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Gina noticed the Chanel bag on Olivia's shoulder. "I see you don't seem to be short of money, even without working

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Olivia's heart skipped a beat, but she put on a brave face. "It's a Eike bag. I just need something to carry my things for the interview."

She didn't want to confront Gina directly. "Can't you give me a chance to make a living?"

"No way."

Gina said calmly, "From the day I returned to the Miller family, you schemed against me, and later even tried to take my life, Olivia. Now, what qualifications do you have to ask me for a chance?

Olivia was furious and frustrated, hating that she had nothing and no backing, while Gina had everything and could do as she pleased with her.

"I have to take this interview today, Gina. I know I can't beat you, and I admit defeat, but this is Oriata City, not Norwood. What is Oriata City also your territory?"

Gina smiled. "Neither Oriata City nor Norwood is my territory, but if I wish, neither can tolerate you."

Olivia was completely enraged. "You've got quite the attitude, don't you?"

Gina's gaze turned cold. "Leave. I don't want to see you at Quaria

"You don't want to? Then I'll make sure to hang around in front of you. What deliberately got in Gina's face.

s the matter

Is it hurting your eyes?" Olivia

Gina pushed her away. It wasn't a strong force, but Olivia made a scene by falling to the ground. "Ah! She hit me! She's hitting me!"

Gina looked at Olivia, who was rolling around on the ground, with a calm expression.

In her view, Olivia had already exhausted her tricks, resorting to such ridiculous petty tactics to annoy her, which was just laughable.

Olivia's commotion attracted a crowd, and security quickly arrived. "What's going on here?"

Olivia played the victim, pointing at Gina. I had a little dispute with this lady, and she started pushing me and wanted to hit

me."

The security guard looked at Cina.

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"Miss, if you two have a dispute, please talk calmly and don't resort to violence. Your disturbance here atfects the order of our company. Both of you, please leave."

Michael was drawn out by the noise outside the interview room. When he saw Olivia, he didn't even need to ask Gina what had happened.

No matter what Olivia had done, just showing up and causing trouble in front of Gina was an offense in itself.

"Mr. Clark, the security guard greeted.

Olivia instantly realized that the man was probably the CEO of Quaria

She suddenly had a bad feeling. Michael might know Gina. The look he gave her was too strange. It was clearly their first meeting today, but she saw disgust and hostility in Michael's eyes.

"Get her out of here, Michael said, looking at Olivia,

The security guard immediately understood but was still polite to Olivia, intending to let her leave on her own. Olivia, however, shouted ungratefully, "Everyone here is here for the interview, right? Be careful. The interview at Quaria is not fair at all The CEO of Quaria, because of my personal grudge against this lady, and the two of them being friends, directly disallowed me from interviewing.

"This is personal revenge in the name of justice! Everyone should recognize this lady's face clearly. If you work at Quaria, you must be respectful to her, otherwise, if you offend her by accident, you will be stripped of the interview qualification!"

Olivia loudly mocked. She originally wanted to say that Michael and Gina might have an affair, but because she had been sued once before for slandering Caleb, she learned her lesson and didn't dare say that.

People outside the interview room started to whisper..

Olivia smiled with satisfaction and looked at Gina triumphantly

Seeing that she was unwilling to leave, the security guard directly escorted her out.

Michael glanced at the people who came for the interview and said, "Everyone, focus and prepare for the upcoming

interview."

The CEO had spoken, and no one dared to gossip anymore.

Gina walked out of Quaria.

After Olivia was driven out, she gritted her teeth and shouted at the security guard, "Don't touch me!"

The security guard let her go-and left.

Seeing Cina come out, Olivia sneered and tidied her hair, trying to save her last bit of dignity. "Haven't you had enough of watching my jokes? Do I have to come out and continue watching?"

'Gina, don't think you've won. As long as I'm alive, you're not the final winner! Olivia only dared to be resentful in her heart.

Gina looked at Olivia with contempt. "Yes, I want to see you living in my shadow, looking miserable."

"You!" Olivia was so angry she felt like her lungs would burst.

Gina said indifferently, "Do you think your little outburst just no could affect me in any way?"

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"Let me tell you. This is not Norwood. It's not my territory. Similarly, this is not Trowell University. You are not the Olivia you were before. You don't have your followers, your accomplices, and... the status as Ethan's fiancée.

"You can no longer

onger stir up trouble with a few words."

Olivia was both angry and helpless. She simply turned her head and left quickly. She didn't want to admit that Gina was right. Gina was friends with Michael. No one would offend Gina for Olivia, a stranger to them, and jeopardize their own

future for her sake.

Thinking of this, Olivia was so angry that she started crying.

"Why? Why didn't the fire at the beginning burn Gina to death? Why could Gina get out of trouble every time with a narrow escape? I'm unwilling. I am not willing to accept it!' she roared inwardly.

Gina turned and walked back into Quaria.

She went to the restroom first.

When she came out of the restroom, Gina heard some arguing at the door.

"Miss Hammond, if you can get my daughter through the interview. This one million dollars will be yours."

"I'm sorry, madam. You've go

got the wrong person. Quaria's interviews are based on merit. Everyone has to compete with their own abilities, not on family background."

"Do you think one million dollars is too little? How about 16 million dollars?"

"It's not about the money. No matter how much you offer, my answer would still be the same."

Gina recognized the voice of another woman and it sounded familiar, so she walked out and saw that the person talking to Alison was Jasmine's mother.

Hannah was startled when she saw Gina and wondered if she had seen it wrongly. "Gina?"

"It's me, Mrs. Bush. Out of respect for the elder, Cina spoke up.

"Are you here for the interview too?"

I'm not, but you seem to be here for Jasmine's interview, right?" Gina asked.

Hannah straightened her back. "It's none of your business. Don't gossip here. Just leave."

"If you're trying to bribe her way into Quaria, then it is my business."

Hannah sneered. "Are you feeling that your interests are being violated? I'm sorry. I just love my daughter and favor her. Whatever my daughter wants, as a mother, I will try my best to strive for it."

"Cina, you, a person abandoned by your family, probably can't understand this kind of love." Hannah sneered.

"Also, aren't you the dean of Prover Hospital? Managing your hospital day by day, isn't that enough to keep you busy? Why are you meddling in Quaria's affairs?"

Gina was not hurt by Hannah's words. "If Jasmine wants to get into Quaria, she should show her real skills. It's not about relying on you to pull strings for her. It's not allowed at Quaria

Alison was somewhat surprised, not expecting that Gina's views were consistent with her own, and she felt a bit happy.

Hannah became angry. She thought Jasmine's designs were excellent, but Jasmine's works didn't even make it past the first round, not even through the initial selection. Not wanting Jasmine to be sad, she prepared to use the money to take care of

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everything, but she didn't expect to encounter a design director who was stubborn, and now she ran into another stumbling block, Gina. She was really frustrated. search the FindNøvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I guess I am too unlucky today, so I ran into you. Don't meddle too much. Why? Just because you say it's not allowed, it isn't? Who do you think you are?"

Alison retorted. "Mrs. Bush, please pay attention to your words. Miss Miller is correct. To get into Quaria, one must be based on strength. No one can get into Quaria through

connections. Moreover, Miss Miller is our exclusive designer at Quaria. She is qualified to express her opinion on this matter."

Exclusive designer?

Hannah was incredulous. "When did this happen? I didn't hear about it

"Just these past two days."

"Exclusive designer? Who specially appointed her?" Hannah asked.

Alison paused. "Our CEO, Mr. Clark."

Hannah pondered for a moment, then sneered.

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She roared, "Gina, you keep saying no one can get into Quaria through connections, but you got into Quaria through Mr. Clark's so-called special appointment. Don't think I don't know what's going on with this special appointment.

"Do

you think I don't know that your major in college was computer science? What qualifications do you have to get into Quaria besides having an unclear relationship with Mr. Clark? Your ability is just to seduce men!

"You shameless bit*h, leading Gabriel on while flirting with Mr. Clark at the same time!"

Alison directly negated Hannah. "Madam, don't make false accusations. Miss Miller can complete five highly detailed design drafts in less than half an hour. Does your daughter have this ability?"

Hannah didn't allow anyone to say anything bad about Jasmine. You've got some nerve? You think you're the design director of Quaria and you're great? Do you even have the right to question my daughter's ability?"

She raised her hand and wanted to slap Alison.

Gina had Gabriel's support, so Hannah didn't dare to do anything to Gina, but to a small design director, she could still deal with it.

Gina raised her hand to stop Hannah. "If you want to hit someone indiscriminately, I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

Hannah was furious and broke free from Cin*'s hand. "Fine, Gina, you're really capable!"

She angrily turned and left...

Alison looked at Gina and expressed her gratitude a bit distantly "Miss Miller, thank you, if it weren't for your blockage just now, that slap would have landed on my face."

"You're welcome, Gina responded indifferently, and then the two went their separate ways to get busy.

At Blossom Grand Hotel, Jabari pushed Jasmine's wheelchair and planned to take her out for a walk. In the corridor, Jasmine spotted Gabriel for the first time and immediately became excited. "Gabriel! It's Gabriel!"

Jabari was startled by her. "Can you not be so excited? You have so many injuries on you."

He looked up and indeed saw Gabriel at the other end of the corridor.

Gabriel was naturally also attracted by the commotion on Jasmine's side. Jasmine covered the scars on her face with and sunglasses. If it wasn't for her loud and harsh voice, he wouldn't have recognized her for a while. Even after rece her, Gabriel didn't plan to give Jasmine a good attitude.

Gabriel turned his head and continued to walk toward his room, Jasmine anxiously said to Jabari, "Jabari, hurry up an me in front of Gabriel quickly."

Jabari wanted to persuade Jasmine not to make a spectacle of herself, but then he thought Jasmine would not possibly to him. On the contrary, if he didn't do as she wished, she would definitely get angry with him.

She was still a patient now....

With a sense of helplessness, Jabari could only comply and pushed her to Gabriel Jabari took the initiative to greet him. "Gabriel, what a coincidence, are you also staying at this hotel?

If it weren't for Jabari speaking, Gabriel wouldn't have stopped atall and would have just gone straight into his hotel room.

"Yes."

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Gabriel's expression and tone were very indifferent.

Jabari felt a burst of embarrassment.

Jasmine tried to suppress her excitement. "Gabriel, don't get me wrong. I didn't come to Oriata City to pester you on purpose. I'm here to interview for a designer position at Quaria.

Jabari was somewhat surprised that Jasmine was speaking so eloquently today,

Gabriel's expression had a moment of subtlety, but he remained cold. "Oh."

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Although Jasmine knew she couldn't get a bit of care from Gabriel, she still felt disappointed because Gabriel didn't cheer her on.

She tried to control her emotions. "Gabriel, can you cheer me up?"

Gabriel's expression was stiff. "If you feel well-prepared, that's good."

Jasmine pinched her palm tightly. She just wanted a cheer. Such a request was not excessive, right?

Wasn't she being good enough today?

"Even though you are well-prepared, that also depends on whether someone with ulterior motives blocks the way!" Hannah, with a very ugly expression, came out of the elevator and said.

When Jasmine saw Hannah coming back, she was very excited. "Mom, how is it? How is my interview result?"

Jasmine's work was eliminated in the first round of the selection, and in order not to make her precious daughter sad, Hannah didn't tell her the truth.

She even told Jasmine that she got into the second round.

She also said she already received a notice for Jasmine from Quaria to go to the second round.

Jasmine was definitely not suitable to go to the interview in her current situation, so Hannah said that she could take Jasmine's work to the second round.

At first, Hannah didn't take this matter to heart because she felt that with her family's conditions, she could buy a position. for Jasmine at Quaria, even if it meant spending money. She just didn't expect to run into that wretched Gina.

Hannah looked distressed and even gave Gabriel a bad-tempered look.

"Jasmine, with your talent and level, getting into Quaria is very secure. Unfortunately, I ran into Gina at Quaria today, and she deliberately prevented you from getting into Quaria."

"What?"

Jasmine was incredulous. If it weren't for that wretched Gina meddling and ruining her and Gabriel's engagement, she wouldn't have become what she is today. She hadn't made Gina pay a hundred times over, and now Gina dared to go against her and make things difficult for her?

"On what basis does she do this?"

Jasmine became agitated, and Jabari warned. "Don't get excited. Your current health condition is not good."

He looked at Hannah, who seemed too angry, and also wanted to know what had happened at Quaria, otherwise, Hannah wouldn't have said these things so recklessly, clearly words that could stimulate Jasmine.

Hannah snorted coldly. "Cabriel, don't y

think that Cina has become more and more arrogant under your support? Who

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you think

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does she think she is, actually preventing Jasmine from getting into Quaria? Is she worthy?"

Because she was the founder of Quaria.

But Gabriel didn't say this out loud. Since Gina herself didn't wait to reveal her identity, he wouldn't say it either.

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"Gina has always been clear about her public and private matters. She must have her reasons for not letting Jasmine into Quaria," Gabriel said with a stern face.

Even if Gina wanted to exercise her privilege as the founder and not let Jasmine into Quaria, he wouldn't say anything. He was such a double-standard person. Moreover, Gina's behavior couldn't be considered personal revenge in public. Jasmine's disrespect for Gina in the past was all deserved.

Hannah sneered. "She has her reasons? Gabriel, I suggest you wake up. Do you know why she has the ability to prevent Jasmine from getting into Quaria? Because she seduced the CEO of Quaria, Michael!"

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"You might be cu*kolded on without even knowing it!" Hannah neered.

Gabriel's face turned very pale. "Mrs. Bush, be careful with your words."

Hannah laughed angrily. "I'm just trying to warn you out of kindness. Otherwise, being neither related nor close, why would Gina, who is not a design major, become a designer specially recruited by Michael into Quaria?

"If she's not greedy and fickle, why hasn't she publicly declared that she's your girlfriend after meeting you? Gina is just leading you on!"

Jasmine, hearing this, felt both happy and angry.

She was happy that Gina was a fickle woman, and Gabriel would definitely not like her anymore. She was angry because Gina was not only shameless but also insatiable, flirting with other men as well.

"Gabriel, it doesn't matter if I don't get into Quaria, but you can't be deceived by Gina! Jasmine said.

Hannah looked at Jasmine with pity, walked in front of Jasmine, squatted down, and gently held Jasmine's hand. "My silly girl, when you think of others, you should also see how much that person has ever thought of you!"

An abrupt sneer came from the man who was walking up the stairs.

It was Max

Max looked at Gabriel with a smirk. T'm sorry, Mr. Jackson. I didn't mean to eavesdrop on your conversation. It's just that my room happens to be on this floor as well."

Max glanced at the Bush family. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

His gaze fell on Hannah. "Madam, I just heard you slandering Miss Miller?"

Hannah was confused. "Who are you? Why are you also defending Gina? Oh, I get it. Gina has been involved with so many people. No wonder she's shameless!"

"Madam, don't spew nonsense without evidence," Max said impatiently.

Hannah was taken aback, not expecting to be scolded by a younger generation. "What did you say?"

"Madam...

Max was about to repeat himself when Gabriel interrupted him. His words are vulgar, but they make sense."

Hannah was furious. "You, you... Has Gina bewitched you all? Making you so devoted to her? This is absurd."

"Gabriel! No matter what, Gina not letting me into Quaria is her fault. You have to help me get an explanation. If you don't help me, I'll go to Mr. Neil... Jasmine said.

She couldn't believe that Gina could still be in the right about this matter.

Gabriel frowned. "Be honest with yourself. Do you really have the qualifications to join Quaria?"

Jasmine felt as if she had fallen into an ice cave, not expecting that Gabriel would actually question her without any mercy don't have the qualifications, does Gina? What remarkable work does she have? She didn't even study design, did she?"

"The fact that she didn't study it doesn't mean she can't do it. Before she publicly revealed her identity as the dean of Prover Hospital, did you know that she understands business and medicine?" Gabriel refuted Jasmine.

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Jasmine couldn't help but cry

Hannah

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Hammalt couldn't bear to see her beloved daughter being wronged and immediately prepared to push Jasmine's wheelchair back to the room.

Jabari was also a bit embarrassed because of the situation "Call. I'll leave lost?

Before leaving. Jabari took a look at Max, and he was a bit curios Was Max one of Gina's admirerst

In the corridor, only Jabari and Gabriel were left, and when their eyes met, there was a hint of gunpowder.

Max said casually, "Mr. Jackson, it seems your unwanted romantic entanglements are quite troublesome

"What does it have to do with you?" Gabriel said coldly.

Max smiled. "I just helped you out of a difficult situation, didn't Withs that attitude, I should have known not to help you. Do you think I wanted to help you?

Max walked toward his room. "I'd be more than happy to see yo

Gabriel felt that Max had an ulterior motive in his words.

ntangled with unwanted romantic interests"

Was he implying that if he was entangled with other women, May could take the opportunity to pursue Gina?

Gabriel clenched his fist and warned. "Do you think you have the qualifications to compete with me?"

Max's smile faded, and he turned his head to look at Gabriel without any expression. "Mr. Jackson, sometimes it's better not to be too confident."

Gabriel snorted coldly and said nothing. He strode into the hotel suite with long steps.

At Quaria, Alison sat in her office, staring at an A4 sheet of paper in front of her without any idea. Gina had already given the theme for the new product design, but she was at a loss. Everyone under her had handed in their drafts one after another, but she hadn't made a single design draft.

This made her feel very anxious and she even started to doubt whether her talent had been exhausted. If she couldn't draw a draft, how could she still hold the position of director and lead the designers under her to create Quaria's glory?

Alison was anxious and melancholic.

A knock on the door interrupted Alison's chaotic thoughts.

"Jade, what's the matter?" Alison looked up and said.

Jade walked up to Alison and said. "Miss Hammond, for the follow-up new product production, we need to go to the processing center to monitor and control the quality. I don't want to be with Alban. Can you change someone else??

"Why can't you be with Alban?" Alison was puzzled.

"I just don't want to be with him," Jade said a bit hesitantly.

Alison saw that Jade had something to hide "You have to tell me the real reason, and I can consider it and agree

o your

request

Jade sighed "He confessed to me, and I rejected him. Now, it's very awkward between us."

"Is that all

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Yes."

Alison sighed. "Can't you even be colleagues after you rejected his confession?"

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Jade didn't know what to say. "Tm afraid that if we continue to interact, he will think he still has a chance. Mainly because he just confessed, and it's in a very awkward stage now. I think it would be better if 1 avoid hirm for a while, and after a period of time, when it's less awkward, we can get along as ordinary colleagues

Alison didn't agree. "Everyone else has their own tasks at hand, and the follow-up for you two to go to the processing center for supervision was arranged a long time ago If you suddenly change your mind, it will disrupt the rhythm of the entire department. It's just a bit awkward. At work, you only communicate with him about work matters, and after work, you ignore him. In this way, can he still think he has a chance!

"I think as an adult, he also has self-esteem, right? Moreover, if he continues to pester you, you can tell me, and I will help you solve it. Alson said

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Jade appeared somewhat disheartened. "Alright, fine

After Jade departed. Alison still couldn't gather her thoughts. Growing restless, she didn't want to linger in the office any longer. Rising abruptly, she made her way to the rooftop of Quaria, seeking solace in the open air.

Expecting solitude. Alison was surprised to encounter Gina there. Gina stood by the railing, lost in contemplation. Not wishing to startle her, Alison cleared her throat to announce her presence.

Gina turned, acknowledging Alison's arrival.

Alison hesitated, then spoke awkwardly. "Did I interrupt you?"

Gina shook her head. "Not at

Alison took a deep breath, intending to find a secluded spot for reflection. However, with Gina's presence, finding tranquility proved challenging.

Suddenly, she confessed. "I'm not neglecting my duties. I needed a moment to clear my head."

Gina offered a reassuring smile. "I understand."

Alison breathed a sigh of relief, a flicker of worry crossing her mind that Gina might spill about her rooftop escape to Mr. Clark

"You look troubled, is it work-related?" Gina, usually reserved, initiated a rare conversation with someone she wasn't very familiar with.

Alison felt a pang of distress, yearning to unburden herself but unsure whom to turn to. As luck would have it, Gina asked, and she spilled. "Yes, because I can't quite grasp the theme you've given: love that isn't tied to blood can still be as strong as a diamond. If the theme focused solely on romantic love, I think it would be easier to expand upon..."

Gina seemed contemplative. "Would you like me to explain why I chose this theme?"

"Sure." Alison felt as if Gina was offering her a personal tutoring session.

Gina succinctly recounted to Alison that she had been abandoned by her biological family but had found a maternal love that was not bound by blood.

Alison was astonished. 'Incredibly, there are mothers who favor their adopted daughters, even to the extent of sacrific their biological daughter, even her life... they don't deserve to be called mothers."

Gina chuckled. It was all in the past.

"Do you understand the theme better now?" Gina asked in return.

Alison indeed found some clarity after hearing Gina's personal story. "Thank you. Rest assured. I won't share what you've shared today with anyone else."

Gina nodded casually. In truth, whether Alison disclosed this to others didn't concern her much. After all, hadn't her estrangement from the Miller family been widely publicized?

Alison then hurried downstairs to attend to her duties.

Gina lingered on the rooftop, seeking a moment of solitary peace. Her phone chimed, and it was Neil calling.

Gina answered, "Neil"

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"Gina, are you busy? Did I catch you at a bad time?" Neil inquired

"Not at all," Gina responded softly.

"That's good to hear. I have something I'd like to ask you," Neil sol

"Of course, go ahead." Gina nodded..

I heard Jasmine went for an interview at Quaria and bumped into you... Neil began.

"So, I used my privilege to prevent her from entering Quaria, is that correct?" Gina interjected Neil's words.

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Neil hesitated. While Jasmine's tearful plea for his intervention wasn't exactly as Gina described, it wasn't far from the truth

either.

"Gina, I trust you, which is why I'm asking about this," he said. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Jasmine never showed up for the interview, not even passing the first round of auditions. It seems her mom was keen for her to land a spot at Quaria and attempted to sway the Head of the Design Department, but she ran into me instead."

Gina paused there, confident she had shared enough. Neil could likely guess what happened next.

Neil was speechless. Gina's version of events was completely different from Jasmine's.

Jasmine cried on the phone, accusing Gina of seeking revenge. Despite their rivalry, Gina shouldn't have resorted to such underhanded tactics.

Naturally, Neil sided with Gina

"Alright, Gina, I understand the situation now. Sorry to bother you." Neil needed to respond to the Bush family. Jasmine had called him in tears, hoping he would speak to Gina and prevent any malicious retaliation against her so she could join Quaria.

Last time, he had intervened out of friendship and directly arranged for Jasmine to be admitted to Prover Hospital. This time, he couldn't intervene further; it wouldn't be fair to Gina.

Gina didn't feel inconvenienced. "No worries. I'm free at the moment. By the way, Neil, have any health issues been bothering you lately?"

I'm doing fine." Neil's tone brightened at Gina's concern. "Gina, Gabriel mentioned you've been busy lately. Don't o yourself. Remember to take breaks. If you need assistance with work, like investments, or anything else, give me a Though I'm getting on in years, I can still lend support with a few small tasks to back your endeavors!"

Gina grinned. "Sure thing, Neil. If I need help, I won't hesitate to ask."

Neil was pleased. "Excellent."

After ending the call, Gina glanced at the time. It was nearly the end of the workday, and Gabriel might be waiting for downstairs at this hour

Gina descended the stairs promptly. When she reached the entrance of the company building, she indeed spotted Gabri Custom Rolls Royce.

Gabriel stood tall and poised beside the car, attracting the attention of passersby, who couldn't resist stealing a second

Some Lold girls even approached him to ask for his contact information. "Excuse me, would you mind leaving your contact

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Expressionless, Gabriel-gestured. Tm waiting for someone

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The girl turned to look, and upon seeing Gina's silhouette, two words involuntarily popped into her mind: a perfect match

"I'm sorry. I didn't realize you had a girlfriend. Goodbye."

Gina observed the girl's swift departure, teasing Gabriel. "Someone caught your eye? Looks like you're quite the charmer. Mr. Jackson."

"Td rather not be the center of attention. Gabriel replied.

Gina sensed a hint of disappointment in his tone.

Unable to suppress a smile, she found Gabriel's reaction rather endearing

"I've made a reservation at a restaurant

But before Gabriel could finish, his phone rang, cutting him off. It was Ashley, his cousin who was a few years older than

him.

"I'll take this call, Gabriel said with a slight frown.

"Alright." Gina nodded.

"Hey, Ashley." Gabriel's tone was indifferent.

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Ashley's voice came through the phone, "Gabriel, long time no see. I heard from Neil that you're in Oriata City. I've just landed here, too, and I thought catching up would be great. Could you swing by the airport to pick me up?"

"I've got other plans, Gabriel politely declined.

"Busy with a date, huh?" Ashley teased.

Gabriel hesitated, uncertain how to respond without Gina's offical agreement to be his girlfriend.

"Why don't you bring her along? Family should meet, right?" Ashley persisted.

Sensing Gabriel's reluctance, Ashley added, "Just pass the phone to her. I want to speak with her."

"No need. I'll arrange for someone to pick you up," Gabriel said before ending the call.

Within seconds. Ashley called again. Gabriel was about to hang up, but Gina asked, "Is everything alright?"

Gabriel shook his head. "My cousin who settled abroad with her mother when they were young. She returned home and landed at Oriata City airport, asking me to pick her up. But I've already arranged for someone to do so. It's all taken care of."

Observing Gabriel ignore the call, Gina noticed the screen dim and light up again.

Gabriel intended to hang up, but Gina interjected, "Answer it."

Gabriel finally answered Ashley's call.

Ashley sounded somewhat irritated. "Gabriel, can't you spare a moment to meet me at the airport? After all, we're siblings. Or do you no longer consider me part of the Jackson family since our parents' divorce?"

"I didn't mean to imply that," Gabriel explained.

When they were younger, they had a decent sibling relationship. However, as they grew up, they drifted apart, especially after Ashley left with her mother. Contact between them gradually decreased, and their bond weakened. Nevertheless. Gabriel didn't want their relationship to suffer over not picking her up from the airport.

"Why then? Because your potential girlfriend doesn't want me to disturb your romantic time together?" Ashley retorted unhappily.

"It's simply because I don't want to," Gabriel replied bluntly.

Ashley fell silent.

"Would you fetch me? How much of your time would it take these days? Couldn't you take a break from work and accompany Cina to Oriata City? Is our sibling bond so fragile that you can't spare even a moment from your date?"

Gabriel couldn't fathom why Ashley insisted he pick her up. From his perspective, their sibling relationship wasn't that de

But he didn't want to endure Ashley's complaints any longer. Tlcome to pick you up. Just wait for me," he asserted before promptly ending the call.

He glanced at Gina, who was nearby and had heard the conversation, and said, "I'm off to pick up Ashley."

"What about our lunch plans? Gabriel's concern lingered. If he wasn't by Gina's side, he might become a target for schemers like Michael or Max.

"I'll wait until you've finished picking up Ashley." Cina responded

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A playful glint sparkled in Cabriel's eyes. Tll be back soon."

At Oriata City Airport, Gabriel accepted Ashley's luggage, and she naturally pushed it toward him.

Gabriel gestured to David, who quickly approached, aiming to take Ashley's luggage.

However, Ashley held on. "Gabriel, could you lend a hand with this?"

David hesitated, puzzled,

Gabriel was puzzled but preferred to save time on this trivial matter with Ashley. Without a word, he pushed Ashley's luggage toward the car's trunk. David hurriedly stepped forward to assist in stowing it into the trunk.

Then Ashley asked again, "Gabriel, would you mind opening the car door for me?"

David was perplexed and wondered what was going on with Ashley. Was she treating Mr. Jackson like a servant? It seemed rather peculiar

Nevertheless, Gabriel didn't dwell on being treated as such; he opened the door.

Ashley adjusted her sunglasses, clearing her throat before realizing the backseat was empty. Bewildered, she exclaimed. "Gabriel, your potential girlfriend didn't come along?"

Gabriel responded indifferently, "Why would she be here?"

Ashley chuckled wryly. Just a moment ago, she had been trying to manipulate Gabriel, intending to show Gina that within the Jackson family, apart from Neil, she, as the elder sister, held significant sway over him. Despite Gabriel's apparent infatuation with Gina, Ashley trusted her wit and charm to bring him back to reality.

Furthermore, she wanted to assert her significance in Gabriel's life. If Gina aimed to become a part of the Jackson family. she would have to pass Ashley's tests. Becoming a daughter-in-law of the Jackson family was no easy fear!

However, with Gina's absence, Ashley's efforts seemed futile.

With an irritated sigh, Ashley entered the car, paying no heed to whether Gabriel had even had his morning coffee, and slammed the door shut with a decisive thud. It was as if she had just declared war on Gina.

David stood there, his disbelief palpable. Had Ashley lost her mind, or perhaps her manners?

Seeing Mr. Jackson himself playing the role of a servant was quite the spectacle. What more could she possibly deman

Gabriel brushed off these minor annoyances. All he wanted was to get Ashley out of the way so he could find Gina.

"Which hotel did you reserve?" he asked.

Ashley didn't respond directly. "Could you first take me to the mall? I need to pick out a handbag

Gabriel frowned.

Noticing his hesitance, Ashley persisted, "Alright, if you're not willing to accompany me shopping for a handbag, then I won't tell you which hotel I've booked. I'll sit in your car, and tonight, I'll sleep in it, too. You don't have to bother with me. Do whatever you want. I'll stay right here in this car

David thought, 'Feels like I've invited a queen into the car

Gabriel's temples pulsed. If it weren't for the bond of family, he might have just thrown Ashley out of the car then and there.

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As they arrived at the mall, Ashley was the first to step out. She glanced at Gabriel, who remained seated, and said, "Come on, accompany me to pick out a bag. After all, I have no clue what my future sister-in-law might fancy. I'd hate to get her a gift she won't appreciate."

Gabriel was taken aback. "You're buying a gift for Gina?"

Gina?

She seemed somewhat familiar with her.

"Yes, any objections?" Ashley challenged.

"No need," Gabriel replied.

Ashley was puzzled. "Why did you decline on her behalf?"

Gabriel explained. "She's not a fan of handbags."

Ashley wasn't particularly interested in Gina's preferences. The idea of giving her a gift was merely an excuse to meet her. She suspected Gina's refusal to accompany Gabriel was a deliberate display of power.

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Ashley seethed with frustration, struggling to contain her irritation. "Well, what's her fancy then?"

"Diamonds."

Ashley recalled her conversation with Harry, learning that Gabriel had spent a staggering 600 million dollars on a woman who wasn't even his girlfriend.

The revelation had stunned her, prompting her resolve to return home and size up Gina in person. What sort of woman was she, capable of enchanting Gabriel, who had never shown any inclination toward romance?

Unable to resist a jab, Ashley remarked, "Sounds like she's got a taste for the pricey stuff, huh?"

Gabriel's expression darkened. "If you don't feel like buying a gif, you don't have to. Gina likes diamonds, but she can afford them herself. She doesn't need anyone else to lavish them on he

Ashley was left speechless, genuinely grasping the notion of playing favorites.

Swallowing her pride, she muttered, "I didn't mean anything by it."

"Fair enough. You know my future sister-in-law better than I do. Care to lend a hand picking something out then?"

With a tug, Ashley pulled Gabriel out of the car.

Scanning the surroundings, Ashley's gaze settled on Quaria. "Lets try here. Their jewelry is exquisite, and they're a renowned international brand."

Gabriel couldn't suppress a wry smile. Ashley had quite a discerning eye.

With Ashley leading the way, Gabriel followed her into the store.

Ashley deferred to Gabriel's choice, and he settled on a 373-cara diamond brooch valued at 4 million dollars.

A flicker of disbelief crossed Ashley's expression. Was she being taken advantage of by offering such an extravagant gift to a woman she barely knew?

Gabriel discerned Ashley's insincerity. Sensing that she didn't genuinely intend to gift anything to Gina, he decisively produced his black card.

However, Ashley, out of pride, intercepted Gabriel's gesture. "What's this supposed to mean? I said I wanted to give her There's no reason for you to foot the bill."

Cabriel graciously withdrew the black card, gesturing for Ashley to proceed with her payment.

With a hint of bitterness, Ashley reluctantly swiped her card, hoping Gina would appreciate the gift despite her ingratitude

In the peaceful ambiance of the Quaria lounge, Gina received a WhatsApp message from Gabriel.

Gabriel: [Ashley's eager to meet you and brought a gift for you, intending to hand it over personally. She's suggesting we grab lunch together, Gina, do you mind? If you do, I'll decline her offer.

Gabriel appended the address of the restaurant, which he had already reserved.

Sensing Ashley's persistent stance earlier, Gina felt that missing this meeting might prompt Ashley from seeking future

encounters.

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Gina: [I don't mind. I'll be there.]

Gabriel: [Alright. I'll come to pick you up]

Gina: [No need. I'll drive over myself.]

Meanwhile, Ashley intercepted Gabriel's actions. "Can't she drive herself? Just let her come on her own?"

Gabriel chose not to engage with Ashley's remarks, offering no response.

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As Gina entered the private room at the restaurant, Ashley immediately sat up and adjusted her attire upon hearing the door. Without turning to acknowledge Gina, Gabriel stood and greeted her, "Gina."

Looking at Ashley, who remained stoic in her seat, Gina extended a greeting, "Hello, Miss Jackson."

Ashley turned toward Gina with a composed demeanor, offering a courteous smile as she nodded. "Hello, Miss Miller. Please, have a seat."

Gabriel guided Gina to the chair beside him.

Ashley presented a box containing the brooch and pushed it toward Gina with a smile. "A gesture for our initial encounter."

"Thank you." Gina responded, her tone tinged with surprise as she opened it. "Jewelry from Quaria..."

Clearing her throat, Ashley remarked, "Indeed, jewelry from a prestigious brand. I trust it meets your taste?"

Initially planning to assure Gina she would appreciate it, Ashley refrained from being too direct in Gabriel's presence, opting for a more refined approach.

"I find it quite charming. Thank you, Miss Jackson, Gina acknowledged.

Ashley responded with a slight nod

As the trio began their meal, Gabriel felt somewhat restrained in his conversation with Gina due to Ashley's presence. Meanwhile, Ashley, maintaining her dignity, resolved not to initiate further conversation unless prompted by Gina.

Gina felt a tension in the atmosphere and glanced at her phone.

Max had reached out with a message.

Since their encounter at the hotel, Max hadn't initiated contact until now.

Max : [I've got some news for you, and it might not be what you want to hear.]

Intrigued, Gina replied, [What kind of news? Go ahead, spill it.]

Max sent over a series of photos. One showed Gabriel and Ashley at the Quaria store, purchasing a brooch. Ashley had her arm around Gabriel's, but he seemed uncomfortable with the gesture.

There were several snapshots of the two strolling side by side.

Max (It looks like Gabriel is a scoundrel. He's acting all devoted to you on the one hand, yet behind the scenes, he's playing the field. If I hadn't stumbled upon this, you'd have been none the wiser.]

Though Max's words were conveyed via text, Gina sensed a hint of admiration between the lines.

Cina: [That lady in the photo is his sister J

Gma added softly: His blood cousin

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Max:...not interested

Gina smiled subtly.

Ashley, already annoyed by Gina's lack of conversation, seized upon Gina's momentary distraction with her phone to express her displeasure.

Setting down her fork, Ashley remarked, "Miss Miller, do you always be engrossed in your phone during meals? That's rather poor etiquette, wouldn't you agree?"

Gina glanced at Ashley, slightly surprised. She perceived Ashley's disdain for phone usage during meals. Without a word, Gina politely stowed her phone away. "My apologies."

Ashley's momentum faltered at Gina's gracious apology, leaving her unsure how to proceed.

After a moment's pause, Ashley continued, "You should pay more attention to etiquette in the future. Certain standards must be upheld if you truly join the Jackson family. After all, we're a prominent family!"

Gina furrowed her brow but remained silent.

Seeing Gina's lack of response, Ashley grew even more annoyed Miss Miller, did you not hear what I just said?"

"Ashley, let's eat," Gabriel interjected, his expression frosty

Once again, Ashley's momentum was disrupted.

Alright, she held her tongue.

Ashley took a deep breath, relieving the frustration she'd been holding in.

She watched as Gabriel, incredibly attentive to Gina, offered her bite of food and then turned to her. "Gabriel, pass me the the vegetables, please."

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