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Chapter 1441 The Plot Twist

The relevant documents were placed in front of everyone.

As soon as Alejandro arrived, his eyes were uncontrollably drawn to the sealed envelope on the table. He knew better than anyone what was inside and couldn't tear his gaze away.

Noticing his intense focus, a colleague beside him teased, "What's wrong with you, Alejandro? You seem nervous."

Alejandro paused as he registered the words. He was wary of giving away his anxiousness and hurriedly waved his hand dismissively. "Oh, I'm just dealing with stomach issues lately."

"That's important to watch out for. Health is key at our age."

Alejandro nodded vigorously and pretended to sip from his teacup to mask his nervous gaze.

He knew the policy announcement was likely to favor the land Kenton had secured. Now, it was just a matter of waiting for the official announcement!

Soon, a middle-aged man in a white button-down shirt and black trousers entered the room. Everyone immediately stood up to greet him. "Mr. Rhode."

Finnian Rhode waved his hand. "Please, sit down. I assume you all know this conference's purpose. The top officials decided last month that we need to clear the canal, which requires land acquisition. The results are on the table.

"Alejandro, you've been around for a long time. What's your opinion on which piece of land is more promising before we open the sealed document?"

Alejandro, though surprised by the sudden spotlight, quickly composed himself. After all, he had been working as an official for years.

"Mr. Rhode, based on my understanding, the land in Ravenshire is relatively undeveloped with fewer people and expansive terrain. It has great potential for development." He finished with a slight smile.

After hearing Alejandro's opinion, Finnian gestured for him to sit down. His reaction made Alejandro even more certain of his assumptions.

Finnian then took the sealed document and carefully unwrapped it. He extracted a few pages and glanced at the contents before a smile, tinged with disbelief and intrigue, spread across his face.

He handed the papers to Alejandro. "Alejandro, I remember that you recently signed a project for this land. Why don't you announce the results?"

Upon hearing that his project was involved, Alejandro's face lit up with a broad smile. This was practically a done deal!

He barely registered anything as he took the papers. "The land selected for the policy this time is the farmland to the west of Valen Village."

"The farmland to the west of Valen village?" Alejandro repeated in disbelief, his eyes widening in shock. He even lifted the paper higher, hoping the words would change, but they remained the same.

He didn't want to look at the rest of the details as he didn't care about the area or the intended use. His head was spinning as if there weren't enough oxygen reaching his brain.

Meanwhile, Finnian was watching him closely. He noted the horror on Alejandro's face. Having called his name several times with no response, he finally raised his voice. "Alejandro! What's wrong with you?"

Alejandro quickly steadied himself and placed a hand on the table for support. "Sorry, Mr. Rhode. I've been feeling unwell lately and have been experiencing some tinnitus."

Finnian said no further and glanced at his secretary, Cameron Halton.

Cameron nodded, noting down the scene.

"Take a seat." Finnian didn't make things hard for Alejandro and continued, "Valen Village will retain its original appearance, while all the farmland on the west will be used for development and construction." Finnian's words echoed in Alejandro's head, but he barely registered his words. His mind was numb as he slumped into his chair, looking almost defeated.

After all, the land selected for the project was not just any land. It was the very plot he had tried to deceive Wynter with!

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Chapter 1442 Strike Gold

Instead, it was now the land Kenton had purchased at a high price that would remain unchanged for the next decade. It was essentially a worthless plot of land!

The policy could have applied to any piece of land. Why did it have to be the one Wynter had gotten?

Alejandro was doomed! Everything was doomed!

Alejandro couldn't help but tug at his hair as he pretended to feel unwell while bracing himself against the desk.

In reality, his mind was racing with questions. How did this ignored land suddenly slated for development? It felt as if fate itself was playing with him!

Finnian placed his pen down after his announcement. "Our department has been very busy lately. Some of you may inevitably feel tired, and when people are tired, they are more prone to making mistakes. Hence, I remind everyone not to harbor any wishful thinking.

"Alright, I have another meeting this afternoon. Discuss this during your internal briefing later and quickly implement the development policy."

Finnian was the first to leave. He was indeed busy and highly efficient.

Meanwhile, Alejandro remained seated, still stunned by the announcement.

A colleague called out to him, "Alejandro, what are you waiting for? You should tell the investors who bought the land this great news."

Despite his inner turmoil, Alejandro managed to force a smile. "I'll call her shortly and tell her to hold off for now."

His colleague continued, "I wonder who bought the land. How fortunate of them!"

Alejandro felt the weight of the situation bearing down on him. He finally stood up after the conference room cleared out and stared at the government policy memorandum in his hand. The discomfort he felt wasn't just due to the land but was also because of Finnian's final comment. That was definitely a warning.

Alejandro knew that he had been skating on thin ice and toeing the line of propriety. His involvement with the Wray and Montclair families and his promise to Kenton to set Wynter up were clearly violations as a cadre.

Yet, he justified his actions by thinking that he had to show Kenton some respect given his connections with the higher-ups. It wasn't just about the money. The most important thing was that "that man" could see his loyalty.

Otherwise, the urban village wouldn't have remained stable for so many years and turned into the powerful force it was today. Everything had been done according to "that man's" intentions!

Alejandro reassured himself that, no matter what, he had endured hardships for them even if he hadn't made notable contributions. He probably wouldn't end up like Alden, who committed suicide, after being discarded like a pawn.

Moreover, Finnian had only given him a warning without saying much else. After all, "that man" was still above him.

Alejandro still had to deal with the group of people outside.

He glanced out the window to find Kenton standing right in front of his Bently, flanked by several figures from the Chamber of Commerce. They didn't look at all like businessmen and instead resembled a horde of bandits.

Alejandro had always viewed Kenton as someone who had simply achieved success through luck.

However, he was increasingly convinced that Kenton's success was rooted in ruthless and unscrupulous methods.

He even harbored suspicions that Kenton might have blood on his hands. However, he decided to keep these thoughts to himself. After all, he didn't dare say much about this.

Alejandro had no intention of leaving as long as Kenton and his men remained outside.

He instructed Skyler Avery, who usually helped with drafting his speeches, to keep a close eye on the situation outside. Ideally, he wanted the security guards to disperse them.

Skyler looked distressed and shook his head. "Mr. Calico, everyone in our department knows that Mr. Wray is one of your major backers. We rely on him for investment and development. It wouldn't be appropriate for the security guards to chase him away."

"Understood. You may leave. I need to rest for a while, so if anyone asks for me, just say I'm busy," Alejandro said.

Alejandro had hoped to avoid the situation for as long as possible, but that was undoubtedly impossible. As soon as he finished speaking, Skyler's phone rang.

"Mr. Calico, it's Mr. Wray. He's already called three to four times."

It wasn't just three or four times. There were even more missed calls on Alejandro's phone.

"Ignore it and pretend you haven't seen it." Alejandro wiped his sweat and felt a tumult of anxiety. Outside, Kenton's patience was visibly wearing thin.

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Chapter 1443 Retribution for the Wrays

The Chamber of Commerce members tried to calm Kenton down. "It must be a significant policy. Otherwise, the meeting wouldn't be taking this long."

"Exactly, Mr. Way. Don't worry. It's probably inconvenient for Mr. Calico to answer the phone now."

People had to turn their phones off once a conference started, after all. Kenton understood this. What he didn't understand was why even Skyler wasn't answering his phone. "Fine! We'll wait a little longer!"

But it was already noon. They all had their own companies to manage, and waiting out here while starving felt very degrading.

However, when they thought about what they were about to get their hands on, they suddenly felt much better. They were all continuously reassuring each other, convincing themselves the conference hadn't ended yet.

It wasn't until someone of the same rank as Alejandro came out with a lunchbox that their faces darkened. "Mr. Vox, where are you headed? Has the conference ended?"

Kenton was known as the philanthropist in the city and a frequent visitor to their office. Hence, Kairo Vox wasn't overly formal.

"The conference ended a while ago. Mr. Rhode has already left. Why are you waiting here, Mr. Wray?" Ended? Kenton suddenly realized something and asked urgently, "What about Mr. Calico? Where is he?"

"Oh, him? The policy has been applied to the land he signed off on. He's probably celebrating right about now."

The way Kairo spoke was very intriguing. It was the kind of remark that could only come from someone from their line of work. It left people unable to decipher his real meaning.

He didn't say it was the land Kenton had gotten. Instead, he pointed out that the policy was applied to the land Alejandro had signed off on.

Kenton was brimming with overconfidence when he heard this and assumed Kairo was delivering good news. He immediately burst into laughter. "Well, Mr. Calico must be really busy! It's a big deal, after all!"

"It certainly is," Kairo, a sly fox, responded with a knowing smile. "Well then, gentlemen, please continue waiting. I'm off to get my lunch."

"Go right ahead." Kenton tried to maintain his gentlemanly demeanor.

However, in Kairo's eyes, Kenton was nothing more than a blood-sucking capitalist preying on ordinary citizens. The Wray family's previous land acquisitions were marred by controversy.

There was an incident where they forcibly demolished a newlywed couple's house and broke the groom's leg. In the end, they didn't even compensate them. Instead, they turned the situation around and accused the victim of initiating the conflict.

Ordinary people stood no chance against someone with the Wray family's wealth and influence. Legal battles would get dragged on. Worse yet, the Wrays had Alejandro as their protector.

The usual rhetoric was, "So what? What can you do about it? You can't send the people financing the city's development to jail! Those foolish commoners don't understand the law. It's probably because they lack proper education."

Every time Kairo heard such statements, it boiled his blood. He had tried to report the corruption, but they

never seemed to reach the higher-ups. It was as if someone was intercepting the complaints.

Most in the Bureau of Land Management knew about the shady deals between Alejandro and the Wray family. They'd orchestrated this entire land plot to trap the Quinnel family, who had come from Kingbourne.

But now, the tables had turned. Not only did the trap fail, but it also catapulted the Quinnell family into a position of prosperity. Meanwhile, the Wray family was about to face massive losses! This was retribution!

Feeling rather cheerful, Kairo treated himself to an extra plate of bacon.

In stark contrast, Alejandro felt as though time was crawling painfully slow. He stared at the Bently still parked outside and knew there was no way he could leave through the main entrance. Even Skylar couldn't cross the street for lunch at the cafeteria.

Alejandro figured that he could sneak out through the side entrance. He even changed his outfit to avoid being recognized.

The side entrance was indeed quite empty. After all, it was an area known only to internal staff and new hires.

Alejandro hastily walked out through the side entrance and finally reached his car. But just as he was about to unlock it, a cheerful voice sounded behind him.

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Chapter 1444 The Truth That Shattered Him

"Why are you rushing off, Mr. Calico? Mr. Wray's been waiting for you! Come on, let's go break the good news!" a man called out, dragging Alejandro toward Kenton. 'Mr. Wray was thinking ahead. He's worried you might miss us, so he told us to wait by your car.

Alejandro, consumed by despair, cursed in his heart.

Upon noticing him, Kenton misread his expression as excitement and gave him a hearty pat on his shoulder. "Are you really that thrilled, Alejandro? Relax, it's just a piece of land worth millions. Look ahead-this is only the start. Take a deep breath and tell us the good news. We've been waiting for ages!"

As he stared at Kenton, Alejandro knew he could no longer hide the truth. He was doomed either way, so he might as well come clean now. Besides, Kenton might hesitate to act against him at the Bureau of Land Management.

With that thought, Alejandro felt more relieved and adjusted his glasses. "The policy has been affirmed," he shared before pausing.

Kenton eagerly replied, 'Yes, we know that. You're talking about our land, right? This calls for a celebration, Alejandro! This time, the Wrays will be..."

As he reached for the car door, he saw Alejandro shake his head. Realization dawned on Kenton. "I see-you're worried about your reputation with your colleagues around. Let's catch up after work, then!"

Alejandro decisively clenched his fists and closed his eyes. "That's not what I meant, Mr. Wray. The land slated for further development isn't the one you acquired."

Kenton was left flabbergasted. After all the time and money he invested, it turned out his land wasn't the one selected. How could this have happened?

The other businessmen's countenances shifted drastically. After all, they had each invested one million dollars in the venture.

"Could you be mistaken, Mr. Calico? It can't be that Mr. Wray's land wasn't chosen." Someone expressed his doubts.

"That's right! You assured us that it's in the bag!" another fumed.

As the group moved to expose their secret deal, Alejandro hurriedly shouted, "That's enough! We're at the Bureau of Land Management!

He wondered if the group weren't worried that their loud commotion might draw attention to their shady dealings.

The businessmen quieted down and gritted their teeth. "What's the meaning of this, Mr. Calico? You can't just walk away after taking our money.

"I didn't simply walk away! I told you there would be major changes this morning. No one can predict the exact land chosen, and we have just received the confidential documents

"The higher-ups made this decision, so there's nothing I can do!" Alejandro shot back angrily.

At that moment, Kenton came back to his senses and demanded glumly, 'If my land wasn't chosen, then whose land was it? I'll buy it for double."

Alejandro didn't dare to meet Kenton's gaze. He stammered for a moment before blurting out, "It's Wynter's land!"

It fell silent instantly. While the businessmen stood frozen, Kenton turned completely mad. He had dropped his composure and shot Alejandro a piercing glare, as if he could tear him apart.

"Who did you say bought the land?' Kenton growled.

With a hushed voice, Alejandro stated, "I know this is hard to accept, but no one expected this. That land..."

Before Alejandro could finish, Kenton seized him by the collar and roared, 'Shut up! You negotiated that land with Wynter and let her get it for a few million dollars!

"You told me it was a wasteland and suggested offering it to Wynter to sweeten the deal, so we could keep her under control. But now you're telling me that shitty land of hers has been chosen for commercial development!

"Meanwhile, I've spent hundreds of millions for nothing! Instead of profiting, we've let Wynter acquire valuable land at a bargain price!"

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Chapter 1445 Abandoning the Wrays

At that point, Kenton couldn't care less about his reputation and only sought revenge. His emotional turmoil had overshadowed any consideration of his standing.

If it weren't for the sensible businessmen intervening, Kenton might have punched Alejandro.

Even so, his sudden outburst at the Bureau of Land Management had already drawn notice. Given Alejandro's position as a public servant, the police soon arrived to address the disturbance.

However, Alejandro didn't wish to escalate things further nor explain himself to his watching colleagues. The thought of being taken into custody and interrogated filled him with embarrassment. Worst of all, he might risk losing his job!

When questioned, Alejandro quickly dismissed it. "It's just a misunderstanding between friends,' he replied, deciding it was best to steer clear of discussing any business details.

Though Kenton was infuriated, he didn't want to end up in police custody, either. "I lost my temper for a moment. I'll apologize to Mr. Calico later," he said in a low voice.

With both parties having stated their cases, there was no need for mediation. And given their prominent status in Hawford, it would be disastrous to make a scene in the government building. In the end, the police merely offered some advice and left.

Kenton had never been so humiliated. He and his associates were convinced that the policy would work in their favor, only to end up looking foolish in front of the Bureau of Land Management officers. How would he face the other business people if word got out?

"You'd better prepare for the consequences, Mr. Calico. Just so you're aware, that person' is who you need to answer to, not me," Kenton said.

While he straightforwardly pointed out their mutual interests, Alejandro had more to consider. Facing his colleagues' curious stares, Alejandro recalled Finnian's words and only wished he could cut his ties with Kenton.

He had intended to caution Kenton that the higher-ups might be aware of the situation, as Finnian's warning suggested. But now, all Alejandro wanted was a month of solitude to save his own skin.

Kenton's outburst quickly became the talk of Hawford's business community, reaching the ears of both the Chamber of Commerce members and normal business people.

"Did they seriously get into a fight at the Bureau of Land Management?" one exclaimed.

"Yes, the police even showed up. I guess it's tough to swallow the fact that the land you've invested hundreds of millions in turned out to be worthless,' another shared.

"A worthless land? I thought the Yarwoods were interested in it, too," someone said.

"They were, but they only handed over the documents," came the reply.

The revelation led some shrewd listeners to discern the underlying deception.

"It seems like the Yarwood family's head really hates Mr. Wray's guts," a man said with a scoff.

The Yarwood family had taken no further action after submitting the documents-it was simply a tactic to drive up the land's value. Kenton had fallen right into the trap and ended up with nothing.

"It seems like we need to reassess our Cascadian business partners. Mr. Wray's tactics and insights clearly fall short when it comes to dealing with the Cascadian market.

"His handling of interpersonal relationships is even worse than my assistant's. Doesn't he understand that offending a public servant in Cascadia is a serious mistake?" Douglas Armstrong criticized sharply with a foreign accent.

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Chapter 1446 Filled With Regrets

"I need to have a word with him tomorrow. Let Mr. Wray's secretary know we're withdrawing our financial support," Douglas instructed.

"I'm afraid it's too late to change that, Mr. Douglas," the assistant, Ellison Grimes, replied.

When Douglas looked puzzled, Ellison reminded him in a hushed voice, "We planned to disrupt the Cascadian market by investing gold at a low price, and we transferred some funds to Mr. Wray ten days ago."

Douglas was momentarily stunned before cursing loudly in frustration. There was no turning back now that the money had been transferred.

"Don't worry, Boss. Everything's under control. We've got the best trader working behind the scenes. If any problem arises, we can deal with them immediately," Ellison hurriedly reassured him.

Unfortunately, that was their only option.

Although the financial magnates were initially pleased with their scheme in the Cascadian stock market, they were left anxious by Kenton's failure. They decided to end their collaboration with Kenton once they secured their profits.

"If Kenton's land wasn't the one approved for development, then whose land was?"

It was an inevitable question on everyone's mind. No one wanted to miss the chance to double their profit-an opportunity that only came once in a lifetime. Even if they weren't entitled to a share, they still hoped for an

answer.

"It was Wynter's land,' the gossiper revealed softly.

Those who heard the news were struck dumb with disbelief. All ended up muttering vacantly, "Wynter Quinnell? That girl's going to make a fortune!"

"She's not the only one-I heard others have a stake in it as well," someone added.

The Chamber of Commerce members might have been indifferent if Wynter were the sole beneficiary. However, they turned mad upon learning that others were involved.

"Who are the ones involved?" someone demanded.

"Who else would it be? Must be Orson and his friends. They are close to Wynter, after all, came the reply. Those members had previously distanced themselves from Wynter for fear she would ask for funding. However, they now learned that those close to her had a stake in that valuable land. Some members broke down in despair while others gave themselves a hard slap.

Such sensational news was bound to disseminate quickly and widely, even reaching the ladies who spent their time on poker and beauty routines. However, they weren't genuinely pleased as they always held the Blaise family in low regard.

Given her ties to the Whitmans, Ophelia should have been pleased for Wynter as her success was linked to the family.

Yet, Ophelia was far from thrilled. She was so frustrated that she couldn't even bring herself to continue with her mesotherapy session.

To make matters worse, some ladies pressed Ophelia with questions. "Speak up, Mrs. Whitman. Hasn't Cyrus been following Wynter around these days? He must have a stake in that land as well, so it's your treat today!"

Another lady chimed in, "She's right. I just saw the news, and that land is massive. I bet he'll make billions from it. By the way, how much did Cyrus invest?"

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Chapter 1447 Partaking in the Glory

"I suppose there was no need for a huge investment. That land wasn't worth much, anyway. I heard that they got it for just five million.

"With a few hundred thousand dollars, they could turn a huge profit! It's a piece of cake for the Whitmans, don't you think, Mrs. Whitman?" one of the ladies teased.

The incessant chatter became too much for Ophelia to handle. No longer interested in her beauty treatments, she hoped to reach home soon to ask Cyrus if he could still reach out to Wynter.

Noting Ophelia's pale face, a righteous lady interjected calmly, "Let's not tease her too much. Haven't you heard? The Whitmans had decided that the land wasn't worth it and pulled their investments."

The revelation left the other ladies astounded. Such a decision was considered a breach of business etiquette. "It's hard to believe that Mr. Whitman Senior would agree to that. Someone expressed her doubts.

The lady smiled faintly and explained, "Mr. Whitman Senior isn't that heartless as he's very fond of Wynter. I heard that he didn't personally oversee this due to his illness. The decision was left to Mrs. Whitman, wasn't it?"

Ophelia was filled with shame as she was called out. She might have looked pale earlier, but now she felt like she was about to faint.

She had risked offending both Reuben and the Quinnell family by telling Cyrus to pull his investments. While she had intended to secure a promising future for her son, she now feared she might lose more than just Cyrus prospects.

Unable to bear the situation further, Ophelia excused herself and hurriedly left the club. She didn't even realize her shirt was fastened incorrectly in her haste.

Once in the car, she impatiently called home, only to find that Cyrus was no longer at the house.

Ophelia felt that the world had come crumbling down, suffocating her with despair. She could no longer keep her cool and shrieked, "What do you mean he's gone? When did he disappear? Why are you telling me this now?'

The maid was shaken by her sudden outburst as she explained, "This morning-or, it might have been yesterday. Mr. Cyrus hasn't come out of his room since he returned. We believe he has escaped through the windows.

"You mentioned he wasn't a good mood and told us not to bother him, so we've been leaving his food at the door. We have never gone inside once."

Ophelia wasn't interested in the excuses. At that moment, Cyrus' whereabouts were irrelevant. What mattered more was the valuable land that Wynter acquired, and Cyrus had to have a stake in it.

With that in mind, Ophelia instructed, "Head to my mother's place instead of home."

The driver, a member of the Montclair family, complied unhesitatingly. Ophelia had always felt more secure with the Montclair family and often sought Tamia's advice on important matters. But now, all she felt was profound regret.

Ophelia believed there was a chance to remedy the situation, but she needed to discuss it with Tamia. As Wynter's aunt, she felt it was only fair that Wynter included Cyrus in such a significant project.

Ophelia even planned to have Noah persuade Wynter on the matter when the time was right.

Since Wynter yearned to mend the rift between the Quinnells and the Whitmans, it seemed like the perfect opportunity. Of course, a meaningful action was also necessary to prove her sincerity.

As Ophelia was lost in her thoughts, Cyrus had arrived at the Whitman residence to offer his congratulations. That said, he was also dumbfounded upon learning the news

Cyrus had never meant to betray Wynter nor demand money from her. Rather, he had hoped to be a

supportive cousin. He surely hadn't expected that the land would be expropriated by the authorities.

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Chapter 1448 I Am Sorry

Though Cyrus was happy for Wynter, he doubted the rumors' credibility. After reviewing the document multiple times, he finally showed it to Reuben. "Look at the land Wynter's secured, Grandpa!"

Reuben had known that Wynter had a strategy in place. After a chat with his old friend, he was convinced that she wouldn't be easily deceived.

Instead, Wynter had misled the Wray family by acquiring a piece of land, keeping Kenton in the dark about her involvement in the stock market.

Both Reuben and Fabian agreed that it was worthwhile to invest five million dollars in fabricating a false impression, seeing it as a way to draw out corrupted figures. They didn't expect that Wynter's land could be profitable, though.

Instead of turning the land into a fruit plantation, Reuben was considering selling it at half price.

Yet, the document officially stated that the land was intended for commercial development. That was more than just a financial opportunity-it marked a major milestone for the family business!

Reuben rose from his seat as his hands trembled in excitement.

The Whitman family had no prior history with real estate and had never been involved in the industry. However, it was a common dream for businessmen to see their property developed by the government.

"Where's Wynter? Where is she now?' Reuben asked with a beaming smile. He was thrilled to show off Wynter to the public. Though she was typically modest, she turned out to be a quiet storm.

Marie, who was preparing the medicine, hurried over upon hearing the commotion. Holding her hand, Reuben said in a hoarse voice, "Sevie has a real talent for business. You've taught her well, Marie."

In the past, Reuben had been struggling to find someone worthy of managing both the Quinnells' and Whitemans' vast business empires. It wasn't just about the families' business approaches but also their initial aspirations.

Unfortunately, none of Reuben's children could fully grasp the vision. Even if they did, it was challenging to turn it into reality.

Despite his outstanding performance, Taylor could only manage half of the family business. Any attempts to expand further might lead to potential problems.

However, Cyrus was different. He had shied away from the challenging routes from a young age, and the Montclair family had deliberately pampered him.

Recognizing that children should develop at their own pace, Reuben kept his wishes to himself. That said, he was content with how things had turned out. He might not live to see his own wishes realized, but he could honor his ancestors' legacy with Wynter's involvement.

Cyrus could tell that Reuben was genuinely thrilled. It was a side of Reuben he had never seen before.

As far as Cyrus remembered, Reuben had always been full of secrets. He was an avid reader who seldom lost his temper and enjoyed practicing calligraphy alone.

To outsiders, Reuben was a classic example of a sophisticated businessman. However, Cyrus was aware of the deep disappointment Reuben felt in his solitude, especially when it came to Cyrus himself.

Cyrus hadn't fully understood Reuben before. After following Wynter to work, he began to grasp the older generation's perspective.

Take Orson for example. Despite the minimal revenue, he remained dedicated to his business rather than undergoing a transformation.

His commitment wasn't only to support his disabled employees but also keep local brands alive in people's minds. With their freshness and quality, foreign goods could easily capture the market share with some marketing.

Even so, there were those working to preserve the domestic goods. Although those brands went unnoticed now, they would eventually emerge to meet future needs. That was the older generation's persistence. At that moment, Cyrus was overcome with a surge of emotion and blurted out, 'I'm sorry, Grandpa!"

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Chapter 1449 A Brighter Future

Reuben was momentarily stunned before caressing Cyrus' head. "There's nothing to apologize for. It seems like you've figured something out. I guess learning from Wynter has been worthwhile.

"I honestly thought you might give up or feel threatened by her, worried she would take over your position as the Whitman family's heir, but you didn't. Wynter has told me about your actions, including your private support to Orson.

"When your mother demanded you withdraw the investments and confined you, you escaped the house to tell Wynter the truth. Despite knowing the risks for potential losses, you still offered all your savings to her.

"You didn't go back on your words or betray your cousin, nor did you naively believe others as you once did. You have developed your own judgements. To be honest, I didn't expect this from you."

Reuben sighed and continued, "I was too stubborn back then and didn't consider your stance. I'm truly proud to have a grandson like you, Cyrus."

His words struck a chord with Cyrus, who confidently met Reuben's gaze for the first time. He never realized that his once-formidable grandfather had grown old until then. Reuben's hair had turned white, and his face showed signs of aging.

In the past, Cyrus instinctively turned away whenever he saw Reuben. But now, all he felt were regret and distress.

Cyrus reached out to hug Reuben as tears silently streamed down his face. Marie watched the heartfelt moment with a warm smile when Noah and Taylor arrived at the door.

"You can finally rest assured, Noah. Cyrus has truly matured. He'll become a strong and dependable member of the family," Taylor said.

Noah took a deep breath, as if he was trying to hold back his sorrows. He knew exactly who to thank for such a touching development.

That said, his way of showing gratitude was straightforward -he transferred around 30 million dollars to Wynter's account, along with two messages.

"I know you're not short of money, but the stock market is unpredictable. You might not be able to access cash immediately. Consider this the pocket money I should've given you in the past 17 years," Noah texted.

It turned out Wynter was nowhere to be found when the news broke, and even the Whitman family wasn't certain of her whereabouts.

They were all concerned whether she had sufficient funds in her account, given that she hadn't accessed any funds from the Quinnells' savings account.

Meanwhile, filled with anxiety, Fabian asked, "Is Sevie still unreachable?"

"No, but Mr. Albert mentioned she might not be able to answer the phone since the afternoon stock market is about to open," Alexis replied as he glanced at his watch. There were still 15 minutes before the stock market opened.

In truth, Wynter wasn't intentionally staying out of reach. Time was running out, and she sought to ensure that everything was impeccable.

She had actually predicted the affairs regarding the land acquisition, drawing inspiration from her review of the map.

As a reborn soul, Yvette had witnessed such policy reforms in her previous life. In other words, those changes were an established reality.

Such was a strong individual's mindset. Instead of dismissing Yvette's ability, Wynter took advantage of them to achieve her own goals.

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Chapter 1450 Things Are Getting Better

Wynter had adopted tactics similar to those of seasoned businessmen. While the world believed she was too young and rash to achieve greatness, the reality was different.

Those who followed Wynter knew that she excelled at drawing insights from a single event and always kept her true strengths hidden.

Yvette, for instance, had certainly survived longer than Wynter in her previous life.

According to her own dream, Wynter found herself dying of illness after Shane abandoned her. As a result, she had never accessed the information that Yvette gained about the future.

In that regard, Yvette was more formidable than anyone else as she could foresee what lay ahead.

Since discovering Yvette was reborn, Wynter had been contemplating how to counter her. That was when her expertise in criminal investigations came into play.

By analyzing Kenton's actions through counterfactual reasoning, Wynter figured out that land acquisitions and stock market investments were lucrative opportunities according to Yvette's prediction.

Since Kenton had set his eyes on the city center's east, the piece of land designated for development was likely nearby.

With that insight, Wynter focused her attention on the same area. When Cyrus brought out the map, she analyzed it logically and discovered a piece of arable land in the urban villages.

As Dalton noted, the land sat atop the celestial force. It was also essential for transportation between the north and south, making it the top choice for development.

Wynter intentionally misled Kenton into believing she was interested in Valen Village and drained his funds. After all, a few hundred million was no small sum.

It would've been one thing if Wynter hadn't secured the land, yet she got it on the same day as Kenton. But while she reaped substantial profits, he faced a devastating loss.

To the world, Wynter was still an ignorant scion. However, Kenton was the Wray Group's CEO. If his backers learned that his decision led to a costly mistake, it wouldn't end well for him.

Since Kenton had schemed to sow discord and turn everyone against her, Wynter decided to give him a taste of his own medicine.

As she adjusted her golden-rimmed glasses, Wynter smirked. "Things are going to get better. I do hope Mr. Wray, who enjoys oppressing the domestic brands, can hold out." Dalton flashed a charming smile beside her, finding her arrogance endearing. Wynter's remarks undoubtedly hit Kenton's sore spot. Had he stayed out of stock

investments, he could've fought back and kept his company operating normally.

Instead, he was driven by greed and attempted to collaborate with foreign forces to launder money by setting Albert up. It appeared he wouldn't be able to hold on much longer.

In the afternoon, Kenton was seething in his office. He fumed over being outdone by Wynter and the confrontation at the Bureau of Land Management. In a fit of rage, he smashed all the valuable antiques on his desk.

As Kenton had yet to receive the call from the foreign investors, he hadn't realized the situation's severity. At that moment, he was having one of his usual tantrums.

He was so disgruntled by the outcome of his land that he had forgotten a crucial detailhe had bought the land based on Yvette's prediction, including the stocks at a steep price.