

Chapter 151

“Are you kidding me, didn’t I just see you holding it?”

They arrived at the entrance, and other rich young men advised him.

“Yeah, but just now I had to pee, didn’t I? The car stopped somewhere on the way and I peed in the woods. Damn it, I was holding on the admission ticket, and after I finished peeing, I don’t seem to remember holding anything in my hand, I guess that’s when I lost it!”

The group started poking fun at him, but they were clearly just joking as friends.

Everyone was getting a bit anxious.

“Let’s look for it again, but if we can’t, we’ll go back and get it...”

“That’s pretty far from here!”

They discussed and explained to the female receptionist about how he had the ticket but he lost it, and if he was still allowed to enter and such.

The female receptionist directly denied their entrance.

“What’s the matter?”

At this moment, a middle-aged man in a suit walked towards the group of men and women.

“Oh, you must be Yancy Zimmerman.”

The middle-aged manager originally had an indifferent expression across his face, but when he saw the person who had lost his ticket, his face brightened up.

“Do you still remember me? I had dinner with your father, Mr Taylor Zimmerman, in a restaurant in the county state. You were there with us!”

The middle-aged manager smiled.

“Oh, I remember, are you Ted Lopez, the manager of the tour company?”

“Yes, yes, yes it’s me. So, what’s all this commotion here about?”

Ted asked with a smile.

Usually, Yancy had an easy-going personality and everyone loved to joke around with him, but his family’s billion dollar assets were considered big in the County state.

And it was obvious that Yancy was the main focal in the group of men and women.

So, no matter how much they fooled around, once they heard that Yancy is in trouble, none of them would leave his side.

Especially the girls.

“Hahaha, well, Mr Lopez, I lost my entrance ticket, but if I go back to search for it, that wouldn’t be such a great idea. So, is it okay if I can enter without the ticket?”

Yancy smiled, thinking in his mind, everything would be fine.

He tried to brush it off and was ready to step inside.

“No, Yancy!” Ted stopped him. “If it were the usual old days, you could do whatever you want, but this time, it is a special occasion. I’ll just give you a direct explanation. On the surface, this cruise party was seemingly organized by Mr Holden for a group of rich young people to have fun and party. But in actual fact, Mr Holden actually wanted to invite Mr Crawford from Mayberry!”

“Mr Crawford?”

Yancy and the others looked at each other.

“Ahem, I don’t think you’ll know who Mr Crawford is based on my direct explanation, but you must’ve known about the commercial street at Mayberry, right?”

“Nonsense, the street was known as the Gold Fountain of Mayberry! That street was always bustling and crowded. I used to want to go to Wayfair Mountain Entertainment, but I almost could not afford it!” said Yancy.

“Ahem, forget about Wayfair Mountain Entertainment. Actually, the entire Mayberry Commercial Street is owned by one person, and that person is Mr Crawford!”

“What!”

Yancy was shocked.

The pretty girls next to him were all shocked as well.

Some of the second-generation rich people were indeed rich, but they got the money from their parents. As for someone like Gerald Crawford, who had his own big industry, he was simply way too up there. They were wondering who were the ones supporting him from behind.

The entire crowd was shocked.

“Yancy, that is why the entrance rules are stricter this time. They’re afraid some nasty people or the paparazzi would sneak in or something.”

Ted explained, patiently.

“Okay, okay, then we’ll go back and look for the ticket!”

They drove back and searched for half a day, but to no avail.

“F*ck, does this mean I can’t get in?”

Yancy said bitterly.

There was only one admission ticket per person, and this was not a commodity that one could just buy.

And at that very moment, the female receptionist who had been standing quietly by the side, suddenly turned red.

She was dying to say something just now, but she did not dare because what the manager had said was a little too frightening.

She did run into a very suspicious person going in earlier that evening.

Should she say or not?

She was afraid she would get fired if she said it, but if she did not, thinking about it, she felt like she should as this was a very grand event.

She could not bear the burden even if it kills her.

In the end....

She decided to say it out loud.

“Mr Lopez and Mr Zimmerman, you don’t have to worry. Maybe the reason you can’t find your ticket was because someone must have picked it up!” The female receptionist immediately spoke up.

“What? By whom?”

Yancy asked.

Hadley Zamora, the female receptionist, immediately told everything that she had seen about the suspicious man right on the spot.

“Why didn’t you call out to me then, if something like this happens, we’ll all be in trouble, didn’t you know that!”

Ted slammed his thighs.

He hated the sound of this person whom Hadley had described to the very detail.

In that instance, he ordered Hadley to look for the person.

As for Yancy and the others, they went in and mingled with the crowd.

Gerald seemed to not know anything that was happening outside. He was enjoying the wide, beautiful golden beach.

As he listened to the sea whistling, he figured the party that will be held tonight would be really cool.

Next to the beach was a hotel overlooking the ocean.

Gerald took the admission ticket and entered the hotel under the guidance of another male receptionist.

Earlier that day, Aiden Baker gave him a call.

They were still in their rooms and they had not woken up yet. They never thought Gerald would come so early.

They immediately went out to find Gerald.

“Stop right there, someone please stop him!”

Suddenly, Ted ran all the way here and saw Gerald was about to enter the elevator. He immediately shouted at him.

Gerald saw a group of people running towards him.

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Gerald was surprised. He stopped to see what they were up to.

“You! Show me your admission ticket right now!”

Ted Lopez’s anger was overwhelming.

To be honest, Gerald looked nothing like a rich young man.

He doubted earlier that this could’ve been a mistake, but after taking a look at Gerald’s clothing.

This definitely was not a mistake!

Ted hated him to the bone.

“Didn’t you check my admission ticket earlier!” Gerald pointed at the female receptionist.

“If I didn’t check, how would I know that a loser just sneaked in!”

“Mr Zimmerman, this is the person, I think he picked up your admission ticket!” Hadley shouted at him, rudely.

After saying that, she approached Gerald and snatched away the admission ticket from his hands.

“Geez, the world is really big and there are all kinds of people, and people like you really think you can just join tonight’s cruise party!”

A few girls covered their mouths as they snickered, their eyes were filled with contempt.

Only then did Gerald understand.

He had a feeling that they called out to him because they suspected that he had picked up someone else’s admission ticket, and it just so happened that someone had lost a ticket, so the first person that they suspected was him!

Gerald was left speechless.

“Mr Lopez, call the police, this person must be trying to plot something bad!” The girls said.

Hedley had already taken out her phone and was ready to call the police.

“Mr Crawford, so you’re here!”

Just then, Aiden Baker and the others arrived.

They came running over.

“Huh? Aiden, it’s you!”

Yancy said at the same time.

“Nice to meet you, Aiden!”

The few beautiful girls beside Yancy greeted him respectfully.

The Baker family's assets were over a hundred million dollars in total.

"Oh, Yancy, so it's you guys!"

The group, like Aiden, were all third-year students at Johnhurst University.

Of course they all knew Aiden Baker, the big bully of Johnhurst University.

"Mr Crawford, do you know them?"

Aiden laughed and asked Gerald.

"I don't know any of them. They accused me of stealing their ticket and sneaked in, they were even going to call the police to arrest me!"

Gerald smiled bitterly.

"What? Steal their tickets? Who the f*ck said that?"

Aiden was furious.

Hadley was stunned. She had heard of Aiden Baker, and he was considered quite famous, just like Mr Holden.

But why was Aiden so polite towards this loser?

And what did Aiden just call him?

MrCra...Crawford?

“Mr Baker, please let me explain, I think there might be some misunderstanding. We were just suspicious of this young man and we only wanted to check his admission ticket. After all, you know how important this cruise party is!”

“Hehe, of course I know! Ted Lopez and Yancy Zimmerman, do you both know who this person is?”

Aiden pointed at Gerald.

“He’s Gerald Crawford, the owner of Mayberry Commercial Street. Do you seriously think he would steal your tickets?”

“What? He’s Mr Crawford?”

The crowd had their jaws dropped all the way to the ground.

“Oh! Mr Gerald, I’m really sorry!”

Hadley's legs were trembling.

She immediately bent and bowed at him.

The words that came out of Aiden's mouth were obviously valid.

"Umm, Mr Crawford, I'm really sorry. I really didn't expect..."

Ted felt a lump forming in his throat, he tried to apologize respectfully.

Not to mention, the girls who stood next to Yancy and mocked Gerald were simply nymphomaniacs.

So, he was the super-duper rich guy, Gerald Crawford!

Ah!

And they have just said something so mean towards him.

Ugh!

Gerald was used to all the mockery. He did not feel like he needed to slap them across their faces. Even if he wanted to, he would have slapped Hadley right in the face when she tried to stop him earlier.

He was only here for a simple meet-up, and he did not want to cause a scene.

All he did was to flash a tight smile across his face, then he headed into the hotel with Aiden Baker and the others.

His phone rang again, and it was Elena Larson calling.

“Mr Crawford, have you settled in yet? I’m afraid I won’t be able to get over to you!”

“What’s the matter? Is something wrong?” Gerald tried to listen closely as Elena sounded quite anxious.

“Argh, I think I’m about to go mad! As you know, I’m at my cousin’s house now, and guess what. My cousin wants to introduce a boyfriend to me, but I don’t want to! My cousin is not letting me go and there’s no way I can hide, argh, Gerald, what should I do!”

Elena had always been well-mannered, but from her tone, Gerald could tell that she was really frustrated and helpless at the same time.

“Oh, it’s simple, just tell them you have a boyfriend!”

“But here’s the problem, I got all excited and told her that my boyfriend is already here, but I can’t go out to meet other guys and such. My cousin started forcing me to introduce my said boyfriend to her, but where am I going to find a boyfriend? This is such a mess!”

Suddenly, Elena lowered her voice, “Gerald, can you do me a small favor?”

“Oh sh*t, what do you mean by that?” Gerald’s eyes widened.

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Gerald knew what Elena meant without even thinking about it!

She was definitely trying to get him to pretend he was her boyfriend so she could use him to deal with that cousin of hers.

Gerald had done enough pretending, though, let alone pretending as her boyfriend.

“Gerald, please, I beg you, please pretend you’re my boyfriend. Aiden and the others look too much like gangsters; they are not as composed as you are. You’re the best candidate for me. If you’re not going to help me, my cousin will definitely hook me up with that guy, and I really don’t want to meet him!” begged Elena.

Although Gerald wanted to refuse, he could really find no reason to. After all, Elena had helped him a few times before, and now she was just asking him to return the favor. It was a simple request, and it would be embarrassing if he refused.

“Alright!” Gerald nodded and agreed.

After hanging up the phone, Gerald did not go upstairs with Aiden and the others. Instead, he took a taxi to Elena’s cousin’s house.

Her cousin’s family was also quite wealthy, having owned a villa in Rivington City.

When he arrived, Elena was already at the entrance waiting for him.

And next to her was a girl who looked to be Elena’s age.

No matter how Gerald looked at it, the scene reminded him of the time when he went to Mila Smith’s house. One day, would he run into all of them by pretending to be someone else’s boyfriend?

Gerald got out of the car and greeted Elena.

“AH! My gosh, cousin, is this Gerald? Is he the boyfriend you mentioned earlier? Why did he get a cab here?”

The girl next to her was relatively fair and pretty, but when he saw Gerald, he looked at him with a mix of resentment and disappointment.

It seemed Elena didn’t reveal his identity.

The rich and fair girl had no idea who he was at all.

Judging by how he dressed, he looked like some poor loser no matter which way he was looked at. Besides, wasn't he ashamed of taking a cab here?

She was disappointed.

"Amber, what are you talking about? Gerald is a very nice person! What's wrong with him being my boyfriend!"

Smiling sweetly, Elena ran over and held Gerald's arm.

Alas, how nice it would be if Gerald was really was her boyfriend, Elena thought to herself.

"Alright, alright. I hope my parents and relatives won't say anything when they see him later!"

Amber curled her lips, not bothered to look at Gerald any longer.

She turned and went inside.

“Damn... didn’t you say I only had to meet your cousin? Why are there so many other people?” Gerald was stunned.

“They only came after I called you. I’m so sorry, Gerald... help me just this once!” Elena popped out her tongue.

“Alright, just this once!” replied Gerald helplessly.

What Gerald had in mind before he came here was actually quite simple. Once he met up with Elena’s cousin’s family, her cousins would definitely start comparing him with other guys. He would then bring out some of his assets and let them play compare.

It was that simple.

But now, all of Elena’s aunts and uncles were there, and that gave him a headache.

It turned out everyone heard that Elena was coming today, and her family and her cousin’s side were usually quite close.

They even had ties with one another when it came to business dealings.

What more, they heard that Elena had found herself a boyfriend.

So, they all came here.

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“Is he your boyfriend, Elena?”

Upon entering the house, a group of young men and women of about the same age approached them before the adults even spoke a word.

Each one of them sized up Gerald.

It wasn't long before these people revealed their mind.

‘Wow, Elena is so beautiful, and yet she has such horrible taste? It's obvious that her boyfriend is far from it!’

“Elena, we were going to ask you to join us at the cruise party together, but you always say you have something to do. Hmmm, so you brought your boyfriend with you!” said one of the girls.

“Yeah, but what a coincidence... we can go together!” Elena smiled and held Gerald's hand, never letting it go once.

None of her cousins greeted Gerald at all.

Elena knew that they looked down on him too.

However, she didn't dare reveal Gerald's identity without his consent. Seeing that Gerald seemed alright, she was relieved.

But Gerald was far from happy, numbed from attending such occasions too often. He simply chose to remain silent and keep his composure.

"Okay, Elena, have a seat!"

At this time, a middle-aged lady stood up. She was Elena's aunt, Ruby Larson.

She ran her own beauty company, making tens of millions of dollars in annual profits.

Her skin was maintained exceptionally well, and she was used to seeing many wealthy. When she saw an ordinary person like Gerald, she felt extremely uncomfortable.

"You must be Gerald! Where do you live? What does your family do?" Ruby asked.

The group of rich heirs sneered at Gerald's direction.

"I don't think he will answer that question. His family must be from the countryside, and they own a farm, right?"

“Ugh, I really can’t fathom how Elena could find such a shabby-looking guy when she’s so pretty and rich? If he was my boyfriend, I would’ve jumped out of the building and died!”

“Look at him; he’s been quiet from the moment he entered the house. Obviously, he’s nervous because he has never seen such a nice house before. He must be overwhelmed by the luxurious surroundings. He’s no competition for Dickson Wayward!”

“Fuck! What are you talking about? He, a competition for Dickson Wayward?”

On one side, several men and women were crossing their arms as they gossiped about Gerald.

When Amber heard that they were comparing him to Dickson Wayward, she immediately frowned in disdain.

Who was Dickson Wayward anyway? He was the guy that Ruby introduced to Elena; his family owned a hotel chain. He was a graduate of Johnhurst University and the president of the Department of Economics and Management’s student body!

‘He’s someone with great achievements. This guy right here will never be a match for him!’

Gerald heard everything since they were all chatting loudly.

He wasn't angry, only slightly depressed.

Did a person's wealth really matter that much? When did the criteria to differentiate between a good or bad person change from morality to wealth?

If you had the wealth, everything that you said and did was always right; but if you were poor, you were nothing!

Gerald reminisced about all the things that happened in the past.

Only then did he look at Amber. "My family is now in a small town in the country. My parents run a small business!" Gerald said truthfully.

"Pfft, he really is from a small rural village! His parents probably just run a small kiosk in town... my goodness!"

Amber and the others were even more despicable.

Ruby, who had not said anything about letting Gerald sit down, became more serious when she heard this.

"Then what kind of merits do you have to fall in love with Elena? What nerve!"

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"Auntie, don't say that!"

Elena glared at her with widened eyes.

She really did not expect such cruel words to come out from her aunt's mouth.

She really had no idea who the person standing in front of her was. He was truly a great tycoon and a great patron of the Larson family!

Elena was a little shocked.

After being scolded so much, Gerald was only slightly agitated. The words and mockeries seemed to have numbed him.

Ruby was about to reprimand Gerald even more. She wanted to make him understand that he had to stay away from Elena.

Suddenly, her phone rang, and she picked it up to answer the call.

“Oh? Dickson Wayward? Huh? Didn't I say I'd let you come next time? What? You're already at the door? Okay, okay, I'll go get you now!”

The call was from Dickson Wayward. Ruby had already told him that he wouldn't be coming today.

But who knew that Dickson would still insist on coming here?

It was Elena's boyfriend who was coming over, after all, Ruby thought. She was quite pleased with Dickson and wanted Elena to get to know him, perhaps, even get to pull a few strings.

But what if Elena's boyfriend was even better than the handsome Dickson Wayward?

What if her boyfriend was even richer than the already wealthy Dickson Wayward?

What if...

Ruby had thought of countless what-ifs, but this wasn't what she had expected.

She did not even want to say it.

Elena had to break up with Gerald, or she would let her dad what kind of mess his daughter was in!

"Woah WoahWoah, Dickson is here! Elena, since Dickson will be attending the cruise party as well, you can get to know him more, right?"

Amber and the others had already put Gerald aside. As of now, they intended to set up Dickson with Elena.

Right at that moment, Dickson entered the house with Ruby.

“Dickson, you’re looking great!”

Amber smiled sweetly when she saw him.

Dickson was tall and handsome. He wore silver and gold rings and watches on his hands, and it made him look rich.

“Haha! Amber is really getting better with her sweet compliments!”

Dickson shook the watch on his arm and smiled.

His gaze slowly shifted, and that was when he spotted the beautiful, heavenly Elena Larson.

“Let me guess, she must be Elena Lawson, that pretty cousin of yours from Mayberry, right?”

In actual fact, Dickson had met Elena a long time ago. They were both from Johnhurst University, and how could he not notice an impeccable beauty the likes of Elena Larson?

With just a mere glance, Dickson found himself falling in love with her.

She was simply too beautiful, so beautiful his heart was about to explode!

So, when Dickson heard Auntie Amber's intentionally planned meeting, he was over the moon. But then, he was suddenly told that their meeting was canceled.

Anyhow, a socialite like Dickson wanted to know why she had to cancel the meeting. The more he was not allowed to come, the more he insisted on coming!

"Well, hi there!" Elena greeted politely but immediately stood next to Gerald after that.

Was he really that unattractive?

Dickson felt grim.

It was then that he shifted his gaze to Gerald.

"So, you're Elena's boyfriend?" Dickson laughed confidently, attempting to give off the impression that he was a generous and capable person.

"I am!"

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“So you’re saying you’re also from Sunnydale University? I’ve never seen you around, though!” Dickson was smiling the whole time.

“No. I’m from Mayberry University.” Gerald knew how to stay calm no matter what kind of vibes the other people were giving him.

“Mayberry University is fine. Anyways, what does your family do? How did you make Elena fall for you?” Dickson asked.

“Well, Dickson, allow me to tell you. He came from a small village, and his family runs a tiny grocery store! How do you still not understand by the way he dresses?” Amber answered.

The highest state of ignorance was pretending someone didn’t exist even when he was just right in front of you. Although it was hurtful, nobody would actually point it out. However, Amber had been doing that to Gerald all along, and it showed how much she despised him.

“Oh, it must have been tough studying in Mayberry coming from a small village. Do let me know if you’re in any kind of trouble. My father knows the dean, and I can get things settled for you. If you need a loan, you could always come to me too. I’m from Sunnydale, but I’m actually well connected! Anyways, have you taken any sort of loans before?”

Dickson soon noticed that Amber had been ignoring him...

“Yes, I did apply for a three-year loan. I used the money to pay for tuition!” replied Gerald.

Gerald initially intended to prove that Elena was wrong, but now he decided it best to keep a low profile.

There were three reasons for it:

One, Gerald did apply for a loan and did indeed pay the tuition fee with that money.

Two, even if he was trying to help Elena, there was no need to go to such an extent. Gerald realized that Elena wasn't just pretending that he was her boyfriend, but she actually wanted to develop a different kind of relationship. It wasn't him being narcissistic. He could actually feel it. Even though Gerald did fancy pretty girls and would easily fall for any one of them, he wasn't a bad person in general.

Gerald had always wanted his girlfriend to connect with on a deeper level, but Elena was definitely not that person. This was because the first time they met, Elena injured his face, resulting in Gerald not wanting to date her.

Three, he did not want to expose his true identity. He was uncomfortable each time he became the center of attention. He never understood why anyone would like that.

“Damn! You had to pay your school fees with a three-year loan? You must be broke!”

“Fuck! This is big news. How could someone be so poor they had to apply for a three-year loan? I’d be embarrassed even if I had to just apply for one. I’d probably kill myself!” Amber and the girls mocked.

Ruby frowned, thinking Elena must have gone crazy to have chosen a guy like him!

Why would she choose someone like him!

“They say children from poor families are more independent. Well, it does seem right. But if you require money, you can always approach me. I’ll gladly lend it to you since Elena, and I are schoolmates. We can be friends too!” Dickson smiled.

Even though it was a small gesture, it was clear they were mocking him.

Being the student president, he was clearly good with words. Every sentence that came out of his mouth subtly insulted Gerald.

“There is no need for that, but thank you anyway.” Gerald smiled and politely rejected his offer.

“You’re always welcome. Anyways, since you’re studying at Mayberry University, have you been to the nearby attractions? You should go check out Mayberry Commercial Street and Wayfair Mountain Entertainment. How could you not when you’re already at Mayberry, right? Why not I show you around after this?. My father knows the CEO of a restaurant on Commercial Street. I could bring you there!”

“Hey Dickson, don’t you remember what Elena's family does? Even if Gerald pays a visit, Elena could bring him!” said Amber smiled as she smiled.

“Oh, right. How could I have forgotten? I only remember that Gerald is a pretty poor pauper who hasn’t been anywhere before. Well, it seems like he’s been frequenting Mayberry Commercial Street after being in a relationship with Elena.”

“Oops... definitely my fault for having bad memory! Hahaha!” Dickson hit his head as he laughed it off.

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Dickson had been showing off his family’s connection with Mayberry in the rest of the conversations while poking fun at Gerald.

It would be unreal if Gerald was not angry at all. At this point in time, he would have really loved to punch Dickson in his face. All Dickson could ever do was to just show off and mock people. Other than those things, he had no greater purpose.

That afternoon’s family gathering was quite awful. They continued talking after lunch, and soon, it was past noon.

Gerald had been awake since early that morning, and he was starting to get exhausted.

Amber suddenly shouted, shocking Gerald. “ Dickson, Elena. It’s almost five, and the party is about to start soon! Let’s go get ready now. It’s not nice to be late!”

“Right! Yoel Holden organized it, after all. We mustn't be late!” Dickson said.

“Okay, you should get going now. Dickson, please take good care of Amber and Elena!” Ruby said, leaving Gerald out of the conversation deliberately.

“Yes, ma’am!” Dickson replied.

They went to pick up their cars, and Gerald hopped onto Amber’s Porsche. It was only because Elena insisted. If it wasn’t for her, they would probably not have let Gerald into the car.

Elena held onto Gerald’s arm tightly, a gesture to tell him that she was sorry. She never thought they would be so mean to him. She apologized on behalf of her family.

Gerald shook his head with a bitter smile on his face.

As they were talking, they reached the entrance of Mayberry Beach.

“Does Gerald have an entrance ticket?” Dickson wanted to ask that question early on. Still, he waited until they all arrived at the entrance before asking just to embarrass him.

“I do have it!” Gerald nodded as he reached into his pocket for the ticket.

“You must have gotten it from Elena. Seriously Elena, why are you even so nice to him! Don’t you know? You’re just going to ruin his life if you bring him into our world. Why not just let him live his own life?” Amber complained.

Amber didn’t usually sound like an adult, but now, she was acting like one. There was even a hint of sophistication in the tone.

She would usually treat Elena with respect, but she had enough for today. It was the gathering of the wealthy, and everyone there would be really rich. She understood that her sister really loved this Gerald and intended to show him their world. But wouldn’t it hurt his pride after seeing so many rich people inside?

“That’s quite enough, Amber. Don’t be a nuisance!” Elena was frustrated.

“You two have to stop arguing now, okay. Let’s just go in and have a look, alright? If there’s anything that Gerald is afraid of answering, I’ll answer it for him!” Dickson took advantage of the situation.

“Dickson, you’re such a gentleman!” Amber complimented as she rolled her eyes at Gerald.

It was only five in the afternoon, yet the beach was already crowded.

“Dickson is here!”

“Amber, you’re here too! We have already started up the barbeque!”

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A few rich young men waved at Dickson when they arrived. They all seemed to know each other.

“Wow, so many friends are here. Come, Elena. Let me introduce them to you!”
Dickson said.

The youths in question were playing around while eating and drinking, all having a blast.

Gerald was exhausted, not in the mood to meet new people anymore. He really needed a place to rest, then find out where Aiden and the others went.

“You guys have fun. I’ll be heading to the washroom. You guys don’t have to look for me!” Gerald told them and left by himself.

“Is he really just heading to the washroom, or he is embarrassed to let anyone know that he’s from a poor family?”

“I know, right! Doesn’t he know what social setting this is? And he’s probably regretting now!”

Everyone was talking about him.

Elena wanted to follow Gerald, but she knew she had troubled him way too much today. She didn't want to bother him anymore.

"Who was that person? He just went off without saying anything?"

One of the young men was unhappy.

"Don't bother. Just a stupid peasant!" Amber replied.

Meanwhile, Gerald was already on the other side of the beach. He loved the feeling of walking by himself.

After grabbing a glass of wine from a waiter holding a tray, he lay on a chair and slowly sipped the drink.

Finally, his ears were free!

His phone rang. It was Zack.

"Mr. Crawford, how did the party go?"

Gerald had mentioned the party previously, and he knew all about it.

"It's alright!" Gerald smiled bitterly.

“That’s good to hear. I hope Yoel has been treating you well... there are things I shouldn’t tell you, but I’ll just let you know anyways. The person that organized the party, Yoel Holden, has a profound connection with your sister. He organized this gathering all because of you!”

“Huh? What does it have to do with me?” Gerald was confused. If the party was because of him, then why did he get the ticket from Elena?

And what did the son of the richest man of the county have to do with his sister?

“Hmm. Holden’s family only sprung up because of the support that Ms. Jessica gave. Yoel’s mother was your sister’s godmother. Understand it now?”

Gerald would have never known that such a history existed. It seemed he was the only one clueless about his sister’s developments.

“I’m only telling you all these things because this family can be quite pretentious, just like how they tried to get close to your sister after learning about her actual identity. They acted as if they helped her during her poor days and when she had become successful, they pretended that they wouldn’t try to get any advantage out of it. Your sister was touched by their actions hence the support she’s giving to them!

“But then again, they have been really loyal to Ms. Crawford too!”

“I believe this Yoel Holden is pulling the same trick to get your attention, and since you’ve told me about the party, I’ll be really guilty if I didn’t tell you all of this!”

“Okay. Thanks a lot, Zack!”

“You’re welcome, Mr. Crawford. It is my pleasure!”

Gerald hung up the phone after that conversation.

Through the call, he had gained some information that made him feel differently about some things.

Zack was not very fond of the Holdens, and he implied that their family was using dirty tricks too. What were they up to?

It was Gerald’s first time being in a situation like this, and he did not want to ignore what Zack said either because that would make him feel guilty.

Gerald drank as all these thoughts flooded his mind.

“Hey, look! That guy has been watching us for quite some time now. He must be having dirty thoughts because we are in bikinis!”

“Huh? No way?! Why on earth would there be people like that?”

Suddenly, Gerald noticed a bunch of pretty girls wearing bikinis staring at him coldly while murmuring to themselves.

Chapter 159

The bikini-clad girls were playing volleyball by the beachside while Gerald lay down by the chair. He was too tired, and he was not even sure where he was looking, but the girls got the wrong idea.

They thought he was staring at them with dirty thoughts.

At first, those girls thought it would be acceptable to be slightly exposed to the guys since they were out here to have fun, but the man staring at them was way too undesirable. He even daydreamed while watching them!

The girls thought they knew very well what was going on, and they felt disgusted.

“Look! He’s so disgusting, and he’s getting excited while looking at us!”

“He must be looking at Crystal. Her outfit is more daring than her usual ones today. Even that rich young man over there was even trying to get a picture of her. Once he heard that she’s very close with Yoel Holden, though, he immediately backed off!”

“I know, right? This guy must have a death wish. He probably even has all of our pictures on his phone. He’ll bring them back to his hotel room and jerk off with it. Oh my goodness... that is so disgusting!”

“What do you think, Crystal?” All the pretty girls looked toward a girl with long hair, fair skin, and a hot body.

She was gorgeous and was probably the center of attention of the whole volleyball court.

Most men knew that she was very close to Yoel Holden, and they would not even dare to look at her.

This automatically made Gerald an outlaw.

Crystal brushed her hair with her fingers. “Hmm... I’ve seen all kinds of dirty men before. Sisters, let’s go check his phone and if he really did sneak some photos of us. We shall beat him to death!”

“That’s right! If it was Yoel or Aiden, it would have been fine, but it’s a dirty little peasant! What humiliation!” the girls went on, as they stormed toward Gerald.

Gerald wanted to run, but it was too late.

“You! Were you staring at us the whole time while thinking about dirty stuff?” one of the girls shouted, her large breasts bouncing as she walked.

“I...I wasn’t!” Gerald spoke the truth as he was innocent. He wasn’t even paying attention to them.

He did not even realize that there was such a pretty girl among them. If he had noticed her, he would have been long staring at her by now.

“Ya, right! Who are you trying to fool, huh? You’re already drooling all over the place. I’ve never seen such a disgusting person like you! Show us your phone!”

“Yes! Show us your phone, you disgusting pervert! You better listen before Yoel comes and screws you up!” the girls yelled at him.

Crystal was hugging her arms and looking very satisfied.

It was true that Yoel was popular, and he and Crystal were close, but until today their relationship was still not confirmed.

Crystal knew that things that were easily obtained weren't even worth a penny. It was why she’d always kept her distance from Yoel no matter how hard he tried to win her heart.

She had fallen for him already since she knew Yoel was the son of the county’s richest man, a genuinely wealthy heir.

Just like she planned, as long as she kept her distance from him, he would try even harder. This would give Crystal the upper hand since the girls always saw her as the leader.

“I told you, I did not take any pictures of you all!” Gerald smiled helplessly.

Even though these girls were pretty, they were not friendly at all, and who would not stare at a bunch of pretty girls in bikinis if they were just right in front of you!

It was getting awkward, and Gerald wanted to get away.

“Where do you think you’re going? Get him, sisters!”

The pretty girls surrounded Gerald to stop him from fleeing, pinning him to the ground while a few sat on top of him.

Chapter 160

The girls pinned him against the sandy beach.

“Don’t you dare offend me, you perverted peasant! You’re finished when Yoel gets here!” Crystal scoffed.

A girl handed Crystal a bathrobe to cover up.

“Guys! There’s some big news. A group of girls is ganging up on a guy over there!”

“Huh? What happened?”

“A pervert guy apparently staring at the bikini girls playing volleyball. They were unhappy that he was staring, and they fought!”

“Let’s go check it out!”

People were coming over to the other side of the beach after hearing what happened.

Dickson, Amber, and Elena heard about it amid the barbeque and immediately went over.

“Elena and Amber, let’s go and have a look. I would really like to see which brother has fallen.”

Elena did not want to follow them at first, but she wanted to leave anyway, to check if Gerald had gone back to the hotel. She nodded and followed them.

When they reached the other end of the beach, a few girls were sitting on a guy, pinning him down as he struggled.

Dickson, Amber, and Elena were stunned.

“Gerald?”

Elena could not believe what she just saw. She almost thought she was dreaming. How could a fine young man like Gerald get beaten up by a bunch of girls?

Amber gulped.

“Hey, Dickson, Amber... isn't he the guy you people brought over?”

One of Dickson's friends scowled.

“No, no, we don't know him. Oh my goodness, he's so disgusting!” shouted Amber. She wanted to cover her face in embarrassment.

Being poor and ugly was not even a big problem, and now, he had become dirty and perverted while his girlfriend was still around. Amber could not take it anymore.

“Amber, it's probably his first time seeing girls in bikinis, and he went out of his mind! Hahaha!” Dickson started laughing loudly after seeing that Elena's face had bunched up. He thought she was embarrassed and disappointed, and that made him feel even better.

“I don't even know how you got in here, pervert. Now speak! Did you take pictures?” Crystal hugged herself while she stepped on Gerald's head.

Fuck!

What a disgrace!

Gerald was so pissed off the last time he promised himself that a situation like this wouldn't happen the second time. That said, the last time he was ganged by a bunch of girls, it was because of Elena and the others.

He promised himself there would be no third time!

Just when Gerald was going to beat up someone.

“Look! The Luxurious Cruise is here. Yoel is here!” someone shouted.

Everyone turned and looked toward the sea.

A luxury yacht pulled up by the Mayberry Beach harbor. A fat young man in a bathrobe and sunglasses stood standing on the deck. By his side were all manner of girls in bikinis. They were all around him, feeding him with wine.

On the corner of the deck were also many rich young men. It was Aiden and the rest. Since they were all subordinates of Jessica, they shared a close relationship.

“Yoel!”

“Yoel!”

“Yoel!”

Everyone was shouting the name of the wealthy young man.

Chapter 161

Yoel Holden was the son of County's State wealthiest man. He was also the leader of the rich youths around the whole Gangnam district.

Not only that, many young women were fond of him, all hoping they would have a perfect encounter with him one day. Yoel might just fall for their beauty one day, they thought.

But these were all pipe dreams as Yoel Holden wasn't someone they could so easily snuggle up to.

The cruise ship blared its horn as it docked by the port.

The cabin doors were opened, and down came Yoel with women on his left and right. He wasn't exactly good looking, nor was he tall, even slightly fat, but the pretty girls kept on shouting, "He's hot!"

Amber was the loudest on their side, hoping to capture Yoel's attention.

Dickson, on the other hand, stared at him in jealousy. He was dying to be him and wished he could become like that someday.

Even if he could not turn out like him, turning out as Aiden wasn't so bad. Being Yoel's best friend, most men would undoubtedly share Dickson's desires as well.

Yoel took off his Armani sunglasses that were worth a couple of grand and threw it on the beach as if it was a piece of trash.

He then walked toward Crystal, noticing how extraordinarily sexy and pretty she was today. "Crystal, you look wonderful today!" Yoel smiled gently.

Even though his eyes were two tiny slits, many girls were still very fond of him! "Yoel, you're hot today as well!" they cooed.

Crystal brushed her hair and went back to being a dainty princess. She only wanted Yoel to notice her, hence the super exposed outfit.

Since the internship was approaching and Yoel had been after her for three years, it was hard to say if he would still do so after it was over. Thus, she had to confirm her relationship with Yoel as soon as possible.

An intelligent woman should always know the right timing.

"Come here, Crystal. I would like you to meet a significant guest of the day!"

"Huh? Important guest?" Crystal was shocked. All these years being around with Yoel, she had never heard him mentioning important guests. She had never thought anyone would be important enough to be too important in his eyes.

Yoel nodded, looking around the audience of wealthy young men and women.

“Everyone... what a happy and joyous occasion. It’s nice to meet all of you! I would like to introduce someone very important to all of you!”

“You all probably know how my family got a part in County’s State? It was all because of my dearest godsister’s help and now, my godsister’s blood-related brother. Gerald is here today!”

Yoel attempted to make a big entrance for his godbrother, Gerald, as a surprise!

Of course, all these were just for impressing Gerald and a more promising future for their family.

“What? Who is Gerald? What does he do? My dad has mentioned him multiple times!”

“How could you not know who Gerald is? You must have heard of Mayberry Commercial Street right? It’s one of Gerald’s properties. It’s not his family business, but it’s listed under his own property, get it?”

“What the fuck? The whole Commercial Street belongs to him?”

Everyone turned completely speechless.

Because it would also mean that Yoel's father's entire net worth was worth no more than a piece of Gerald's property.

Chapter 162

"Dickson, could Gerald really be that great?" Amber was shocked.

"I've only heard about this guy recently, that he has lots of potential. Come to think about it, Holden's family could only become this successful thanks to Gerald's sister!" Dickson crossed his arms as he explained it to everyone.

"Damn! Does it mean we get to see who this Gerald person is?" Amber was super excited.

At the same time, Yoel looked at Aiden. "Aiden, where is Gerald?" he asked.

Yoel used to call Aiden by his full name, but ever since he found out that he and Gerald were best friends, he now addressed him on a first-name basis. That said, no matter how he mentioned his name, there was still a big gap between them.

"He arrived a long time ago, but he probably just went out!" Aiden was looking all around for Gerald.

"Yoel, should we look for him at the hotel? We shouldn't let him wait since he's such an important guest," replied Crystal as she nudged Yoel's arm.

Crystal was all blushing. At first, she thought Yoel was everything, but now, there was apparently someone else even greater! And since this Gerald was already here, she would really love to meet him.

Crystal believed that since her relationship with Yoel wasn't confirmed, she might just get Gerald's interest. Everything in a relationship had to be as tough as hell!

"I agree, Yoel. We should look for him personally!" A few guests suggested the same idea too.

"How could I have missed this point!" Yoel's face had changed. He thought Gerald would be at the beach when he arrived. He would then invite him to join them respectfully. It was all supposed to end well, but what he didn't expect was the fact that Gerald wasn't even at the beach at all.

If that were to be the case, it meant he was waiting for his godbrother to see him, and that would be a terrible idea!

"You're right. Let's find my godbrother, but we don't need too many people!" said Yoel.

"Please bring us, Yoel?!" shouted the girls who were sitting on Gerald.

"We were hitting a pervert just now. Could you bring us to see Gerald?" the girls asked as their eyes watered.

“Alright! I’ll bring you girls along. Aiden and Crystal, let’s go find my godbrother!” Yoel replied.

“There’s no need for that!” Gerald raised his head, spitting out a mouthful of sand.

The girls moved their butts away, and Gerald could finally breathe properly.

“I was here all the time!” groaned Gerald as he rolled over the sand.

“What?” Everyone was shocked when they heard that.

Aiden immediately took a good look at the guy who got beaten up by the girls.

“Gerald! You’re here!” he screamed.

Chapter 163

“What? He is Mr. Crawford?!”

Upon hearing Aiden’s words, the crowd looked toward their direction in shock.

Dickson’s eyes widened in disbelief while Amber’s jaw dropped.

“Hey man, are you my godbrother Gerald Crawford?” Yoel asked anxiously. He never thought that Gerald would appear just like this.

“Yes, indeed!” Gerald answered while struggling to get up. He hissed and took a breath. His body felt numb from bearing the weight of the few pretty ladies who sat on top of him.

“Someone, help me up!”

“Oh my! Mr. Crawford, Mr. Crawford!”

The pretty ladies who were standing nearest to Gerald were stunned. Their screams drowned out Gerald’s voice.

Elena felt afraid and was almost shocked at what she saw. Nevertheless, she still rushed over to help Gerald get on his feet.

Last time, Elena had offended Mr. Crawford before, but Mr. Crawford was not too harsh on her because of her father.

However, this incident seemed very serious. Elena was uncertain as to how Mr. Crawford would be angry about this. She stood aside in silence without daring to say a word. Her brain could not process any response at the moment.

“Mr. Crawford! Who beat you up like this?” Yoel asked as he immediately lunged forward to help Gerald up with his hand.

This scene left Crystal and the few pretty ladies in bikinis dumbfounded. They realized that the VIP of the day was actually Gerald, also known as tycoon Mr. Crawford! Oh my goodness, they thought to themselves, what have we done?!

Since Mr. Crawford found favor in those pretty ladies' eyes, Gerald went over to visit them. However, they ended up putting Mr. Crawford to shame, wasting the opportunity of getting to know who Mr. Crawford was.

Argh! Crystal started to regret this, but Dickson and Amber had the worst feelings of regret.

Dickson had spent the whole day beating Gerald up and showing off his connections and how great his family was. Gerald, however, simply smiled in silence while Dickson was flaunting what he had.

Dickson believed that his ridicule on Gerald had succeeded, causing him to lose his face to the point he couldn't reply a word. Fuck, he thought. Gerald was actually laughing at how stupid he was!

Amber couldn't process what was going on. She looked at Gerald with terror, dying to speak, but the noise of the crowd would just drown her voice out.

"Mr. Crawford! Mr. Crawford!" screamed the pretty ladies started screaming.

"Anyone noticed how Mr. Crawford looks so elegant and handsome?!"

“Yes, indeed! Look at Mr. Crawford. He rocks in such a plain outfit! Ordinary people ain’t his match!”

“I wonder if Mr. Crawford is still single? Goodness me! Mr. Crawford is so reserved. He’s such a gem! I want to be his girlfriend!”

Numerous ladies loudly discussed Mr. Crawford, expressing their utmost adoration toward Gerald. With that many girls finding favor in ‘Mr. Crawford,’ Gerald was elated. It was his first time after all.

“Mr. Crawford, I’m sorry!” Crystal apologized and bowed in embarrassment. A group of ladies followed suit and bowed as well. Crystal even squeezed her chest a little, hoping to attract Gerald’s attention.

“These ladies were really disrespectful a while ago, Mr. Crawford. How should we punish them?” Yoel asked, but he already had an answer in mind. He even caught Crystal’s flirtatious antics.

Since he was young, girls would automatically flock to Yoel. With the emergence of Crystal Lester, a clingy yet playing-hard-to-get girl, Yoel Holden did not want to lose this opportunity. He simply wanted to experience what it was like pursuing a lady.

Deep down inside, Yoel actually felt like beating silly Crystal to death for rudely roughing up Mr. Crawford and screwing his perfectly prepared plan of a cool Mr. Crawford introduction.

Gerald glared at Crystal and the other girls.

Chapter 164

Gerald was honestly so done with the ladies. They mustn't be led off the hook!

"It was simple. As punishment, get the ladies to have a volleyball match with us, but in bikinis!" said Gerald bluntly.

"What? It is that simple?" Crystal responded with joy.

Crystal started overthinking, "Perhaps Mr. Crawford pitied me and took the initiative to make peace? I am, after all, stunning. Which guy wouldn't be enchanted by me?"

"Of coursey'all wouldn't be doing it here! It'll be at Rivington City's most popular street!" replied Gerald.

Crystal's mind went blank. Shocked, she let out a loud scream. How embarrassing was that!

"Hmph, y'all should thank Mr. Crawford for the punishment! Alright, it's getting dark now, and many have left. See you at noon tomorrow noon on Rivington City's most crowded street. I'll be organizing a volleyball match!" Yoel announced before giving Gerald a nudge, a gesture inviting him to board the cruise ship as well.

"Mr. Crawford, I love you! Oh my!" a few girls screamed, grabbing locks of Gerald's hair as he passed them and entered the cruise ship.

Gerald even had a few pretty ladies in bikini's holding on to his arm intimately. Tonight's VIP was indeed, Gerald, Mr. Crawford!

"Sister Elena, sister Elena!" shouted Amber while stomping her feet anxiously.

The moment Elena Larson heard her younger cousin's voice, she backed off from following Gerald into the cruise ship.

"Gerald is really Mr. Crawford from Mayberry Commercial Street! Why didn't you tell me this earlier? He's very handsome, truly handsome indeed! I was wrong, it's all my fault. Elena, you must explain this to Mr. Crawford!"

"Hey Amber, haven't I reminded you many times that you gotta be more reserved when speaking? Anyway, don't worry, it doesn't seem that Mr. Crawford will blame you. I'll tell you the details after this. Oh yes, never tell others that Gerald is actually Mr. Crawford. Keep it to yourself. Mr. Crawford isn't willing to reveal his identity, and as long as he wants it to remain hidden, you must never spill the beans!"

"What? But sister Elena, so many people have seen Mr. Crawford today!"

Elena shook her head while pointing to the side. "See those bodyguards in black walking back and forth?"

Amber saw more than ten expressionless bodyguards in black outfits. They were dealing with all the rich heirs who were present. The youngsters nodded were nodding in compliance with everything the bodyguards had to tell them. Clearly, no one dared to defy their orders.

“Is this the true boss?” Amber was stunned.

Afterward, the Cruise Ship Festival then began on the sea.

This was Gerald’s first time boarding a cruise ship. He found it really cool, seeing the sea at night while listening to the whistling sea breeze.

The issue of Gerald’s own identity turned out better than what he had imagined, so his mind was at ease. Gerald would still live his simple life as usual. At least for now, he didn’t fancy Yoel’s extravagant lifestyle. These were the reasons why Gerald called for Aiden to settle this matter before this.

Otherwise, it would be like insisting a freely-swimming water-only fish to come ashore and climb a tree. It would be absolutely impossible given such a short period!

During the gala, Gerald, Yoel, and Aiden almost spent the entire night having fun before finally going to sleep at dawn. It was also the same for the other youngsters from wealthy families on the cruise ship, in extremely high spirits.

The next day, Gerald followed Yoel and the rest to the sea again. The Cruise Ship Festival went on and only ended in the afternoon.

“Brother... I’ll be going on a trip to Mayberry in three days. Since I’ll be there, I’ll look for you again!” laughed Yoel jovially on their way back from the sea.

“Business in Mayberry?”

“Are you going to join Mountain Top Villa’s exhibition?” asked Aiden with a smile.

Yoel nodded, “My dad absolutely insisted that I experience it myself!”

Gerald was already lost in thought. Mountain Top Villa sounded like a nice place, considering he really wanted to buy a condominium right now. “I have not heard of Mountain Top Villa before. Is it very luxurious?” he asked.

Shocked, Yoel cleared his throat before saying, “Brother. Mountain Top Villa is so much more than just a luxurious place!”

Chapter 165

Gerald caught interest in Mountain Top Villa, so he wanted Yoel to elaborate on it.

“Hehe, brother, how should I say this...” Yoel chuckled before he continued, “Mountain Top Villa is no longer just a simple residential area. It actually represents an honorable identity of sorts. As its name suggests, the villa is located on the highest peak of Mayberry’s cloudy mountain top. The surrounding area has already been made into an estate; as if sitting above the clouds themselves, you can enjoy a birds-eye view of Mayberry City’s mountains and rivers!”

Yoel's heart yearned for this villa.

Could it really be as perfect as what Yoel described?

Gerald asked, "By the way it sounds, this property must be quite expensive, aye?"

Gerald was very determined to buy a house this time. He decided to spend a couple of hundred grand to buy a villa, making it a lot more convenient to store his car and other things. His search for a new home led him to ask about Mountain Top Villa's price.

"What?!" Yoel was so shocked he spat out some wine. "F*ck! This is not just quite expensive, brother! Wanna know how much it costs? Exactly 1.0465 billion dollars!" he exclaimed, eyes as wide as golfballs.

Yoel's father would have surely spent 1.0465 billion if it was used to invest in a business. On the other hand, spending 1.0465 billion for a villa of no business value would be equivalent to a total waste of cash. Unless they had an endless supply of cash, even the very rich wouldn't have spent such money on something like that.

Yoel was still quite afraid of this property purchase price. Although he had invited many wealthy families youngsters to join him today, he only spent a sheer 90,000 to 105,000 dollars.

“This amount of money is definitely nothing to you, brother. I remember your elder sister spending something like 149.5 million to 299 million dollars just to buy a customized car!”

Yoel gave Gerald the feeling of wanting to try out new things. He knew such small amounts of money meant nothing to Gerald anyway.

In reality, however, Gerald could imagine the pain in his flesh. Spending 1.0465 billion just to buy a residential home would be way too extravagant! Gerald shook his head, deciding to be more realistic instead. Perhaps he would buy villas worth between 149.5 thousand to 299 thousand instead.

“But that’s alright, bro. We’ll just go and have a look in three days. That wouldn’t hurt, right?” said Yoel unwillingly.

If Gerald ended up buying it, Yoel would get to stay there too. Now that would be a true luxury!

“Alright, we’ll take a look at Mountain Top Villa when I’ve got the time!” Gerald thought it won’t be nice to reject Yoel, so he agreed despite knowing Yoel’s motives. Behind his meticulous preparation of the pomp and splendor, all Yoel wanted was to get closer to Gerald. Besides, being thought highly by others wasn’t something he hated.

A bunch of youngsters from wealthy families surfing happily could be seen. They were enjoying themselves and looked to be having a great time.

Of course, Gerald took the number one spot for most girls. Wherever he went, girls would follow, each doing their very best to convey their amorous intent. They repeatedly stole glances at him, hoping to get his attention.

However, Gerald was already exhausted, too tired to continue messing around with the bunch of pretty ladies. It would be the afternoon in no time, and the festival on the cruise ship had ended as well. He even declined Yoel's invitation to explore another place.

Gerald was, after all, different from Yoel. It didn't even matter if Yoel earned no college credits. It would be Monday tomorrow, and Gerald needed to attend college!

Aiden, in charge of driving, sent Gerald back to college.

Upon returning to his dorm, Gerald found nobody at his unit. It seemed Harper Sullivan and the others must have gone surfing the net again.

Gerald had been tired for two days straight. He planted his head on his pillow, instantly sleeping like a baby until he was awoken by the sound of the door opening.

"Harper, isn't Gerry back?"

"What? He's back? Why is his phone switched off then?"

Harper, Benjamin, and the rest had returned. They looked at Gerald excitedly, joking and laughing as they went along.

“Oh, it’s been some time since I switched my phone off. I was too tired, and I didn’t charge it. Hey, I’ve slept till six p.m. You guys were surfing the net for that long?” asked Gerald as he glanced at his watch. He’s been sleeping for more than three hours.

Chapter 166

”D*mn it! Still surfing the internet? Gerald, I really suspect that you must have gone on a vacation for the past two days, or did you go to pleasure town? Don’t you read the news in our class group chat?”

Benjamin asked excitedly.

Before this, Gerald simply told them that he was going out with a friend but he did not tell them exactly what he was going to do.

Therefore, Benjamin and Harper did not know what Gerald had been up to over the past two days.

As for the pleasure town that Benjamin had just mentioned, Gerald had really been there.

They were all the same, they were all big beauties!

At this time, Gerald smiled before he said, “What pleasure town are you talking about? So, tell me, what is happening in our class?”

“Before you left, didn’t Felicity enter the popularity competition for the star anchor? In the end, Felicity won the competition directly and she became the absolute top anchor, the star anchor in the same city live broadcast platform. That day, Felicity earned more than thirty thousand dollars of rewards! D*mn it!”

Benjamin was really envious and hateful. He really envied the fact that other people could earn so much money in one day. He hated it that he wasn’t a woman too!

“Well, yesterday, many newspapers and media came to interview Felicity and the headlines were even more domineering: A girl from Mayberry University, who does live broadcasts for a few hours a day, earns more than thirty thousand dollars!”

“Oh, in short, all kinds of related reports have already been launched. This is all because of the propaganda from the newspaper. Ever since this afternoon, some people from the Mayberry Television Station also came to do a special interview with Felicity. Just now, we also recorded a video as Felicity’s classmates. I even showed my face!”

Harper explained everything.

Gerald understood this.

Felicity was famous now. After interviewing her, they naturally had to conduct some other peripheral interviews too. This was similar to the interview column of the television stations. After the interview, they would then interview the person’s classmates, family, and friends.

This was all usually planned in advance.

Hahaha. Gerald really did not expect that using his identity as Ordinary Man to give Felicity some gifts and then investing some funds in the same city live broadcast would have such an effect.

He actually indirectly provided some free publicity for Felicity.

This made Gerald feel a little dumbfounded.

“Gerald, hurry up and change! Felicity is treating all of us to dinner tonight. She will be buying us dinner at the Homeland Kitchen where you bought us dinner the last time. She has already booked the place! All of our classmates will be coming too!”

Harper patted Gerald’s bed before he went to change his clothes.

“Okay!”

This time, Gerald quickly agreed.

After all, he was almost done resting and he was already hungry.

Secondly, Felicity became famous all because of him. So, what was the big deal if he went to eat at the celebration banquet hosted by her?

This was reasonable and justified!

Gerald hurriedly changed his clothes before he ran downstairs with Harper and the others.

At the school gate.

A large group of Gerald's classmates was already waiting here.

Felicity was no longer the same person that she used to be. She used to be just a small-time anchor who was earning just a little money. Now, she was a real internet celebrity who was making a lot of money.

Therefore, she was naturally everyone's focus of attention.

"Sister Felicity, are we going to call for cabs?"

Blondie was following closely behind Felicity. Ever since Danny had beaten up the son of a wealthy and powerful man in Mayberry City with his cousin brother, Chad, he had been in a very miserable state. He did not even dare to come to school at all. Now, only Blondie was left in class.

"Why should we call for cabs? I have already contacted the service company and asked them to send ten Audis over here. We will go by car. By the way, Blondie, can

you count the number of people who have already arrived and check to see who else is not here yet?”

“I’ll do it now!” Blondie happily replied before he got to work immediately, as though he was managing his own affairs. After that, he shouted, “Don’t talk anymore! I will call out everyone’s name!”

He was done very quickly.

Blondie ran over before he said, “Sister Felicity, only Harper and the boys from his dormitory are not here yet. Layla said that she is feeling unwell and she is resting alone in the dormitory!”

“Okay, I got it. Why are Harper and the boys taking so long just to change their clothes?” Felicity asked coldly as she put on a branded wine-red sunglasses while crossing her hands in front of her chest. After all, she was an internet celebrity now so she would have to be more stylish.

“They are here! They are here! Harper and the boys are here!”

At this time, a girl shouted.

Harper and the other boys, a total of six of them were running over to them.

“Eh? Didn’t Gerald go out to play? Why is he back already?”

“Yes! Oh my. Perhaps he hurried back as soon as he heard that we would be going out to eat. Who knows if he had already spent all of his lottery money? Maybe he is just saying that he went on a vacation, but he was probably out working!”

Gerald had not even arrived yet but the ridicule had already sounded...

Chapter 167

“Gerald, you’re here too? You know how to come when we are going out for dinner but why weren’t you there when all of us from the class were recording the interview for Felicity then? Hahaha! The attributes of a pathetic person would never change!”

A girl who was very close to Felicity could not help but scolded him.

Many girls had already gradually changed their views on Gerald. They would even smile faintly at Gerald when they saw him now.

How should this be explained?

Some time ago, Gerald suddenly got rich. He got very rich.

He really attracted many girls’ favor at that time.

They felt that it would be great if they could get together with Gerald. They would be able to buy some really pretty bags, especially since this Gerald was quite handsome.

However, Felicity had already hit the jackpot.

She became an online celebrity who could make a lot of money.

This gave all the girls in her class a very huge booster. So, what if they were girls? They felt that as long as a girl was willing to work hard and head in the right direction, she could also become rich, famous, and successful.

Therefore, many girls in their class also came up with an idea. They wanted to try and do live broadcasts too. It would be even better if they could sign a contract too!

“Forget it. Just bring him along with us. Another person would not make a big difference anyway.”

Felicity replied as she fixed her sunglasses. When she used to say anything contemptuously in the past, Felicity would glare at Gerald. However, now, she could not even be bothered to even look at him at all.

Just then, Cassandra and everyone else had already arrived. All ten of the Audis had already arrived.

The lineup of the ten Audis was really spectacular.

Many students also looked in this direction enviously.

Even the owners of the Audis also took out their cell phones to take pictures of Felicity.

“Instructor! You can take the same car as me! All my classmates can just get in the other cars!”

Felicity said as she placed great emphasis on her image.

Her classmates quickly got into the cars, one after the other.

Harper and the boys from his dormitory also got into the car.

At this time, Gerald saw that there was no one sitting in the Audi at the end. Therefore, he was about to open the door of the co-pilot seat so that he could sit in it.

“Stop! What do you think you are doing, Gerald?”

Felicity’s cold voice sounded from a far distance.

“I am getting into the car!”

Gerald replied.

“Hehehe. That car is not for picking up students. That car is to pick up some of my good friends from the live broadcast guild. You can sit in another car!” Felicity was really annoyed. Why was this pathetic person causing trouble for her every time?

“There are no other cars but I can see that no one is sitting in the co-pilot seat in the car that you are sitting in. I will go there then!”

Gerald replied. After all, she would not be expecting him to go on his own, right?

“Pfft! Gerald, what are you thinking? You are actually thinking of sitting in the same car as me?”

Felicity honestly felt like giving Gerald a few slaps. What was her status now? Could she really be seen with someone like him?

“Felicity, what is the matter? Aren’t we leaving yet?”

At this time, Cassandra also got out of the car.

“Ahh! It’s all Gerald’s fault. When I was calling for the cars, I did not count him in at all so I only called for ten cars. Everything is fine now! I have to send a car over to pick up my good friends! Gerald is not sitting in it anymore!”

Felicity replied coldly.

Cassandra glanced at Gerald in disgust. This person was really superfluous!

After that, she said impatiently, “Gerald, why don’t you take a cab there by yourself? I will reimburse you for the cab fare later! Okay, okay, Felicity, let’s go now!”

Cassandra yelled at Felicity before they left in a hurry.

Why was she rushing to leave with Felicity in a hurry?

This was because Cassandra just thought of a topic to talk with someone. Therefore, she was planning to chat with him now.

Gerald did not ask Harper or the other boys to accompany him. He simply said that he could take a cab on his own, after borrowing Harper’s power bank.

After the convoy left.

Gerald turned on his cell phone.

He clicked on his WeChat and it was his new WeChat account.

Felicity had sent him so many messages that his inbox was almost full.

There were also some pictures of Felicity.

“Brother Ordinary Man, Felicity will send you some of my most beautiful pictures so that you can have a look at it, okay?”

“Brother Ordinary Man, are you there? Do you think that Felicity is not beautiful? Grievous!”

“ ... ”

Chapter 168

There were too many. It was filled with pictures of Felicity.

There were even a few shots of her beautiful legs. To be honest, the scale was quite big.

Gerald could feel his heart pounding as he looked at the pictures.

“Am I beautiful, Brother Ordinary Man?”

“It’s okay. The photos are average and not too exciting! Hehe!”

Gerald sent a suggestive message to Felicity, perhaps because he was a little angry at her.

Unexpectedly, Felicity replied to his text message in a few seconds, “Oh, you are so hateful, Brother Ordinary Man! I will definitely make you feel satisfied when I have the time!”

Felicity’s reply made Gerald’s heart feel a little excited.

At this time, Cassandra suddenly sent a new text message to him.

“Brother Ordinary Man, what are you doing? Everyone in our class is going out to attend your dear Felicity’s celebration banquet today. Hmph! You should have been the protagonist today since you were the one who turned Felicity into a celebrity! By the way, are you interested in Felicity? Why aren’t you pursuing her?”

Cassandra secretly sent this text message to Gerald.

To be honest, she had a very strong sense of jealousy inside. She did not know why but the image of the boyfriend that Cassandra had sketched in her heart, was similar to Ordinary Man even though she had never seen Ordinary Man before.

“Can’t catch up. My car is not here yet!”

He was annoyed and immune to it. Why was he always the one being targeted?

Gerald replied angrily. The cab that he called for had not arrived yet.

“Hahaha, isn’t it easy for Brother Ordinary Man to just buy a car with your financial resources?”

Cassandra replied once again.

She obviously got the wrong idea. When Gerald said that his car was not here yet, she actually thought that she was saying that he had not received the car that he had bought!

At this time, the cab that Gerald called for finally arrived. Gerald continued chatting with them a little before he ended the conversation. The only thing that really aroused his interest was the photos that Felicity said that she was going to take for him.

He would really have to take a good look at those pictures when the time came.

As he was speaking, Gerald had already arrived at Homeland Kitchen.

At this time, the ten Audis had already stopped at the entrance of Homeland Kitchen. This simply proved how arrogant and mighty Felicity was at this time.

“You! Why are you clumsy? If you can work, then work properly. If you cannot work, then you should just get lost! Just look at you. I have seen so many part-timers but I have never seen anyone like you! I want you to get lost now! Besides that, I also want you to pay for the loss of this ‘Buddha Jumps over the Wall Soup’. Leave one hundred and fifty dollars behind!”

Gerald was about to go upstairs when he saw a woman grabbing a girl dressed as a waitress as she dragged her out.

“Sorry, manager! I am really sorry! I have a wound on my arm so I couldn’t hold the dish properly!”

“What? I don’t care if you are injured or hurt! Do you know who the Miss Felicity who went in just now is? She is the most honored guest in our Homeland Kitchen. Fortunately, you did not drop the dish and scald Miss Felicity just now. Otherwise, you would never be able to pay for the consequences of your action!”

The female manager yelled as she poked the girl’s forehead hard.

The girl simply lowered her head as she listened but she did not dare to hide.

Perhaps, there was something wrong with Gerald’s perspective. From his perspective, the girl’s skin was bright and fair and her hair was hanging down. At first glance, she made people feel a lot of pity for her.

As for the female manager, she was obviously a new manager.

Moreover, Gerald knew this new manager.

“Jane, why are you yelling?”

Gerald did not expect that Jane would have already become the new manager of Homeland Kitchen.

“Ahh?”

Jane shook her whole body suddenly when she heard the sound behind him.

It was like a fish who had been stranded for a long time, suddenly seeing a torrent rolling in front of it.

Or more like a farmland that had been dried up for a long time, welcoming the joy before the dark clouds!

“Mr. Crawford?”

Jane was so excited that she was about to cry.

“Are you shouting so loudly because you are afraid that other people will not be able to hear you?” Gerald asked lightly.

“Ahh! I do not dare to anymore, Mr. Crawford. I was just very excited to see you!” The matter when Jane made Chad and the others misunderstand that Gerald was her boyfriend or something had already reached Zack’s ears the last time. Therefore, he

had already given Jane a warning. If Mr. Crawford did not agree, she would not be allowed to contact him or interfere in his peaceful life!

Of course, Jane obeyed all of his instructions.

In fact, Gerald did not have any resentment or resistance toward this senior sister, Jane. On the contrary, she had already shown her favor to Gerald countless times and Gerald had already regarded her as half a friend.

He smiled bitterly at this time before he asked, “By the way, Jane, when did you become the manager of Homeland Kitchen? Aren’t you working at the Mountain Wayfair Entertainment anymore?”

“Ahh? Mr. Crawford, don’t you know about it? Mayberry Commercial Street is undergoing some huge changes now. It seems as though something big had happened. Mr. Lyle has also been replaced. The Mayberry Commercial Street will also be facing a reshuffling!”

Jane was very surprised.

“Facing a reshuffling?”

Gerald was also taken aback. He did not even need to think about it to know that this should all be his sister’s idea.

What was she trying to do?

Chapter 169

It turned out that the change Jane was referring to was that Gerald's sister, Jessica, had already handed the management of the Mayberry Commercial Street over to someone else after Zack resigned and left his post.

As for the person who had been sent over here, Gerald did not ask about it, nor did his sister, Jessica tell him anything about it at all.

He could just ask her about it later then.

It was also precisely because of this reason that Jane, who was working well in the Mountain Wayfair Entertainment was eventually transferred to become a manager at the Homeland Kitchen instead.

Although it seemed like she was getting a promotion, in actual fact, she was being demoted.

Speaking of it, this had something to do with Gerald too.

At this time, Gerald turned his gaze on the girl who was standing aside again. To be honest, Gerald was not simply just feeling pity or sympathy for Gerald. Instead, Gerald suddenly thought of his previous self when he saw this girl.

At that time, he had been so poor that he could not even afford to eat or feed himself. He would have to take on several jobs on the weekends and it was already a common thing for him to get beaten and scolded.

“Jane, you can go and get busy with something else now. Didn’t she just smash a bowl of ‘Buddha Jumped over the Wall Soup’? She did not hurt anyone anyway. Just ask the kitchen to prepare another bowl then!”

Gerald ordered.

Jane did not dare to go against his words. After glancing at the girl, Jane headed to the kitchen.

Jane naturally knew that Felicity was Gerald’s favorite anchor. That was the reason why she regarded Felicity as the most distinguished guest amongst all the other distinguished guests. Otherwise, why else would Mr. Crawford use fifteen million dollars to invest in the live broadcast platform just to please Felicity? This was also the reason why Jane felt very suffocated and jealous deep in her heart.

“Thank you... thank you!”

The girl lowered her head before she bowed slightly in front of Gerald.

“You are welcome!”

Gerald smiled faintly.

He really wanted to see this girl raise her head. Gerald wanted to take a good look at her whole appearance. This was because this girl's side profile was really very beautiful. She had the kind of beauty that was seriously overlooked.

However, when he saw her being so cautious and afraid, Gerald did not want to continue teasing her anymore.

After he was done speaking, he headed upstairs.

Upstairs, the dishes had already been served to Felicity and the others.

There was no doubt that Gerald was placed on the most inconspicuous table and he was sitting amongst the most inconspicuous classmates in their class.

The people sitting on the main table were people such as Cassandra and some of Felicity's close sisters from the guild.

He had already met them the last time.

The four banquet tables were all placed in one very large room and it was naturally very lively inside.

“Hello, hello, classmate! Can you help me to charge my cell phone?”

Gerald was not speaking at the banquet table and he was eating the chicken, braised pork ribs, and so forth because he was already starving to death.

At this time, a girl came over to ask for Gerald's help because his seat was blocking the socket.

“Hehehe. It's you!”

The girl suddenly sneered when Gerald raised his head.

She was none other than the live broadcast anchor, Sara. He had met her in the park before. The girl was actually rather beautiful and gentle. However, she was really a very judgmental person.

She had been very demure when she attended Felicity's celebration banquet and she had been very gentle and demure when she was speaking to Felicity's classmates.

This was because she had already found out that the local tycoon, Ordinary Man was actually a student from Felicity's department at school. When she asked Felicity about this in the past, Felicity did not want to tell her the truth. However, the truth had already been exposed now.

So, Sara thought that it would be great if she could get to know more handsome guys in the Department of Language and Literature. That way, she would have a justified reason to go to the Department of Language and Literature to visit and play

frequently in the future. What if she accidentally had an encounter with Ordinary Man and gains his favor then?

After all, Sara felt that her appearance and beauty was not any worse compared to Felicity.

Unexpectedly, when the person looked up at her, she realized that it was Gerald who had an oily and grease all over his mouth because he was eating.

This made Sara feel a little disgusted and disappointed.

After all, she had already personally witnessed how stupid and pathetic this person was the last time.

“Oh, it’s you! Come, I will help you to charge your phone!”

Gerald had already seen her earlier but he did not go over there to greet her. He immediately wiped his hands with a piece of tissue paper as he got ready to take her cell phone in his hands.

“Hehe. Forget it. Classmate, can you help me to charge my cell phone!”

Chapter 170

Sara spoke to the student sitting next to Gerald.

After charging her cell phone, Sara glanced at Gerald before she returned to her seat at the main table.

She obviously already despised Gerald very much, but at this point, she despised Gerald even more.

As for this fact, Gerald could only smile indifferently. After all, he was already used to it. He seemed to be born with attributes that made all the beautiful women naturally despise him. Alas...

“Classmates, today is a very important day for me. Here, in addition to thanking all my classmates for taking such good care and looking out for me, I also want to thank my Brother Ordinary Man who has made me who I am today. Even though he did not come here today because he does not want to expose his own identity, I can clearly say that there will be no Felicity without him!”

“I am going to drink three glasses in a row!”

After that, Felicity drank all the red wine in one go.

There was warm applause inside the room.

“I suspect that Brother Ordinary Man is interested in Felicity and he probably likes her very much!”

Felicity’s roommate suddenly said at this time.

This sentence was very appealing and it immediately attracted everyone's attention at this time.

“No, no, no. Mary, don't talk nonsense! If Brother Ordinary Man really likes me, then he would have already come forth to meet me!” Felicity replied with a certain coldness in her heart.

She had already asked herself this question countless times.

Why was Brother Ordinary Man so good to her?

Did he like her?

If he really liked her, then he would have already revealed his identity a long time ago. Although Felicity had a very high standard for guys, and any tall, rich and handsome guys could rarely ever catch her attention at all, in Felicity's heart, the usual tall, rich and handsome could not be compared to her Ordinary Man at all!”

If he even had the slightest interest in Felicity, even if Felicity had to pursue him and wait for him, Felicity would be more than willing to do so.

Although both of them had not met before, Felicity's cold heart had already melted a long time ago when she chatted with her Brother Ordinary Man and because she would always rescue her whenever she was facing any crisis.

Therefore, this question really made Felicity feel very unpredictable and confused, and her heart was beating frantically.

“I am simply saying the truth. If he did not like Felicity, then why would he spend so much money just because of Felicity? Therefore, I think that this is almost certain. However, everyone knows that Brother Ordinary Man is a very low-key person. He does not like to be disturbed. Therefore, I am guessing that he is simply expressing his feelings to Felicity and giving her a hint that someone had always been interested in her. Then, when the time is right, he will finally reveal his true identity to Felicity!”

“It is really a pity that you are not writing a mystery novel, Mary. However, your analysis is actually really reasonable. Maybe, Ordinary Man will officially confess his love for you during our graduation day, Felicity. Therefore, during this period of time, even if you have already started your own career, you should not get too close to other boys, Felicity!”

Another girl also chimed in.

“I know!” Felicity replied as she nodded. In fact, she did not have any other boys in her mind right now aside from her Brother Ordinary Man, even if she found out that any of these boys were richer than him!

“I am going to get my cell phone!”

Sara put her wine glass down with a bang. When everyone was saying that Ordinary Man liked Felicity and was interested in her, this made her feel very jealous and uncomfortable.

No one would be able to imagine the extent of Sara's jealousy and envy when Ordinary Man invested fifteen million dollars in the live broadcast platform because of Felicity that day.

She felt so much jealousy, as though Felicity had just snatched her boyfriend from her.

At this time, she came to Gerald's side.

"Get out of my way!" Sara said rudely as she grabbed Gerald's clothes and pushed him aside.

Gerald was wondering whether this woman was insane.

He wanted to hand her cell phone over to her quickly just so that she could leave immediately.

However, as soon as Gerald's hand touched her cell phone, it felt as though he had lit the gunpowder.

"Who are you? Why did you touch my cell phone? Just take a look at yourself! Do you think that you have the right to touch my cell phone?"

Sara slapped and brushed Gerald's hand away in anger.

“What is so great about you? Aren’t you just a pathetic jerk? Why did you touch my belongings? I don’t want this cell phone anymore!”

Slam!

Sara was acting hysterically as though she had gone insane. She picked up her cell phone before she slammed it on the ground directly.

She also picked up the glass of red wine in front of Gerald before she splashed it directly on Gerald’s face.

The atmosphere was very quiet in the room.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Gerald, whose face was dripping with red wine, was also dumbfounded...

Chapter 171

Gerald was truly shocked when Sara splashed the entire glass of red wine directly on Gerald.

Insane! This woman was absolutely insane!

“Sara, what is wrong with you?”

Felicity asked nervously because she did not know that Sara was seriously jealous because of her.

“I am fine, Felicity. I really feel very unwell today. So, I will go back first!”

Sara did not even want her cell phone anymore and simply left the room after grabbing her bag.

She also could not understand what was wrong with herself?

Brother Ordinary Man was indeed very powerful but he did not even know about her existence anyway. So, why was she so jealous because of Brother Ordinary Man?

Everyone did not know this.

They did not know how uncomfortable Sara felt when everyone was talking about how Ordinary Man had a crush on Felicity.

Women were born to be extremely jealous creatures.

This was even more apparent when a beautiful woman was facing another beautiful woman.

Therefore, even though she was angry, she could not get angry at Felicity. That was the reason why she chose to vent her anger and frustrations on this pathetic jerk, Gerald instead.

Anyway, she had never respected or looked up to Gerald before. Therefore, she simply ignored Gerald and left.

“Hmph! Gerald, this is all your fault! You must have made Sara angry and that is why she is leaving earlier! I really regret it. Why did I allow you to come along with us today?”

Felicity said as she glared coldly at Gerald.

Gerald did not have time to be bothered about Felicity. He wanted to take revenge against Sara.

Therefore, he also followed suit and walked out of the room directly.

Oh! She was thinking of leaving after she poured red wine all over his face and scolded himself like this?

Gerald was no longer the same Gerald that he was before.

She really wanted to give Sara a slap across her face.

However, after running out of the room to chase after her, Sara's figure was nowhere to be seen at all. This made Gerald feel very angry and furious.

At this time, Gerald suddenly received a text message on his cell phone.

At first glance, it was a text message sent by his classmate, Layla.

It seemed as though Layla seemed a little unwell today. So, that was the reason why she did not come to attend Felicity's celebration banquet today.

Gerald's eyelids started twitching when he saw the content of the message.

"Gerald, can you tell me why people often suffer and feel a lot of pain? I will only drag my family down with me. I cannot do anything to help my family at all. I have worked hard and struggled my whole entire life but I cannot be compared to others at all. I am completely useless. My father cannot even lift his head high and my family cannot even afford to buy my sister any new clothes. Now that my sister is ill, as her elder sister, I am so powerless and helpless and I can only watch her suffer because we cannot afford to send her to the hospital. My family has already spent all their money to pay for my education but I can't even do anything for them in return!"

"Gerald, why don't you tell me how I can set myself free from all this pain and sufferings?"

Layla sent a very long text message to him.

Gerald suddenly understood that something had happened to Layla's family. She could not do anything to help her family and she is blaming herself for it. Gerald could hear that something was not right, based on Layla's last sentence.

This made Gerald panic a little.

Layla was a member of the poverty group. She usually did not speak much but Gerald had been observing her in secret. Although she was very inferior on the surface, she had a very competitive heart and spirit.

She wanted to be better than everyone else.

Moreover, he could see that she had greater pursuits and she really wanted to live a carefree life.

She had even stronger ambitions compared to him.

However, the reality was often very cruel. The more a person hoped for something, the more it would happen to go in the opposite direction.

Therefore, this depressing problem in Layla's heart had already existed for more than just a day or two. Now that her sister had fallen ill, her family must not have any money and she did not have any money too.

Therefore, this must have seriously hurt her self-esteem.

Gerald understood this feeling very well.

He was worried that she would do something stupid. Therefore, Gerald hurriedly said:

“Layla, where are you? Are you in the dormitory?”

“Yes, I am here!”

Layla responded very quickly. There were very few people that she could chat with in class. Gerald was the one that she could talk to the most.

Since Gerald did not know where the live broadcast anchor Sara had gone, Gerald knew that he would definitely face the ridicule of Felicity and the others if he went back now.

However, Gerald did not want to expose his own identity.

Although he did not have a very close relationship with Layla, both of them had worked together for the past three years because they were all members of the poverty group. Therefore, Gerald could not bear to see Layla continue suffering like this.

He did not return to the room and he called for a cab before he headed directly to the girls' dormitory and registered his name with the aunty downstairs.

Chapter 172

He arrived at Layla's dormitory door.

"Gerald?"

Layla, who had cried until her eyes were red and swollen, opened the door. She was obviously very surprised when she saw Gerald.

"Layla, are you okay? I came to see you!"

Gerald quickly replied.

"I am fine. I do not want to trouble you. Anyway, I feel that my existence in this world is superfluous and I will only drag many people down with me if I continue living in this world!"

Layla sat on the edge of her bed as she covered her eyes and started crying again.

"What nonsense are you talking about, Layla? In fact, I used to be just like you. Ever since I was young, my father told me that my family was very poor and we owed people a lot of money. My sister did not even finish high school and she went out to work at a young age because of me. My sister was actually very smart and she did very well in her studies but she gave up on her high school exams because of me!"

Gerald wanted to persuade Layla. Perhaps it was because both of them were very poor, Gerald could not help but think of his past self.

It proved to be very effective. Layla stopped crying as she looked at Gerald.

Gerald continued speaking:

“Do you know how much psychological pressure I was facing at that time? Do you know how much responsibility I was carrying on my shoulders at that time because my family had placed all of their hopes on me? That was the reason why I tried hard to study desperately. I desperately wanted to stand out so that I would not be looked down on.”

“But what could I do? I was still being bullied and insulted often. I feel inferior when I compare myself to others. Because of my own inferiority, I did not even dare to speak to girls when I saw them because I was afraid that they would look down on me!”

“In fact, they really looked down on me and they would often talk and gossip about me. However, I would often tell myself that I have to continue living a good life because all of these humiliations would pass eventually. Moreover, I also begin to understand one truth!”

Gerald was filled with emotions as he spoke.

Layla hurriedly asked, “What is that truth?”

“A person should think and do things according to the stage that they are at. This is the only way not to be in too much pain and suffering. You are still studying and gaining more knowledge at this time, but you are constantly thinking about how you are going to earn money and make more money. Is that realistic?”

“Yes, I really want to make a lot of money but I cannot do it. However, it is only natural for you to say all this now. After all, you won the lottery and you have better luck compared to everyone else!”

Layla replied depressingly.

“I am indeed luckier than others. However, you have to believe that something like that will happen to you one day too! In short, all things will pass sooner or later. You do not have to feel so stressed and depressed all the time because of this. Instead, what you should be thinking of now is a solution to this matter!”

Gerald advised.

Layla lowered her head before she said, “Okay, okay. I understand now. Thank you, Gerald. Let me think about it!”

Gerald had never persuaded anyone before this, nor did he know how to persuade anyone at all.

However, since he knew about Layla's problem now, and since she was actually a pretty good classmate, he definitely had to help her since he encountered this incident himself.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

At this time, there was a loud slamming noise outside the dormitory door.

It felt as though someone was going to break down the door from the outside.

After that, Layla walked over and opened the door immediately.

At this time, a chubby middle-aged woman rushed into the room. She had a very broad face and her eyebrows were tattooed and it looked as though she had two caterpillars crawling on her face.

"I was wondering why you didn't open the door! You little b*tch! It is simply because you have a man in your room! Your dad was even saying that you were studying hard at school! Pfft! You little b*tch!"

"Mom! Don't say that! Gerald is my classmate and he came here to see me!"

Layla cried out.

“Don’t call me mom! I am not your mother! You! What are you looking at? Are you trying to force yourself on my daughter? Do you believe that I will call the police now?”

The middle-aged woman took out her cell phone immediately.

Layla started panicking and she immediately said, “Gerald, you should leave first. Thank you for everything today!”

“Okay!”

Gerald really wanted to scold this crazy woman but he knew that he should not say anything because no matter what it was, she was still Layla’s mother.

“How can a mother be acting like this?”

Gerald simply muttered a sentence before he left.

He really could not help but wonder if Layla’s mother was really her biological mother since she was scolding Layla and calling her a little b*tch as soon as she saw her.

After encountering and getting scolded by crazy women, one after the other today, Gerald was in a bad mood.

He wanted to go and take a walk in the park to relax a little.

At this time, his cell phone suddenly rang. It was a phone call from his sister, Jessica.

Gerald answered the phone immediately and he was about to ask his sister about Mayberry Commercial Street.

Unexpectedly, his sister's nervous voice sounded over the other end of the line as soon as the call was connected:

"Brother! Something bad has happened. Your sister has gotten into big trouble!"

Chapter 173

"Ah? Sister, what big trouble could you possibly get in?"

Gerald felt very nervous.

He had a very close and deep relationship with his sister. Gerald was not lying to Layla when he mentioned that his sister did not take the high school examination in order to support his own education.

Both the siblings were very poor at that time.

Therefore, his sister dropped out of his high school examination directly.

There were also countless unforgettable things that his sister had done for him.

“Don’t mention it, brother. You should already know some of the strict and perverted rules that our family has! One of these rules is that no matter how much money you spend, you have to keep a record of it!”

“Even if you spend a small amount such as a few millions of dollars, all of it has to be reflected in the family’s records. You should not hide anything from the family at all! This is also the same for you! All of your spending on your bank card now are all recorded in our family’s records!”

“Oh, oh, yes. I know this!”

This was a rule of the Crawford family. You could spend as much money as you had and you could use the family’s money at will as you pleased. However, you would not be allowed to hide the money from the person who is at the helm of your family. That would be their father.

They were also not allowed to hide any money under any other names.

“Sister, do you have any unrecorded money?”

Gerald asked.

“Yes! D*mn it! I just found out about it today! When I had just gotten out of my poverty, I used the fifteen million dollars that mom gave to me for various

consumption. One day, I drank a little too much and I wanted to eat something from a franchise so I asked my assistant to buy one for me!”

“D*mn it! Do you know what the idiot did? He bought this franchise over for nine million dollars! That franchise was not popular at that time but after so many years, that shop suddenly became very popular and it has already made a profit of more than three hundred million dollars now! I did not pay any attention to this matter at all because who would have expected that fool to buy the franchise over directly?”

“Then, I thought of spending the three hundred million dollars in secret! However, after spending only half of it, dad suddenly became aware of the situation! He was wondering why there seemed to be no movement in the family’s money even though I have already bought so many things! I am really scared! I broke the family’s rule so I will have to live a life of poverty for one month! Our dad is very old-fashioned and he really abides by the rules. It would be useless even if mom tries to intercede on my behalf!”

“I was wondering what the big deal was. Don’t you just have to live in poverty for one month? It will pass by very soon!”

Gerald could not help but wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. His sister really loved to make a fuss.

“No! Brother, I cannot even stand living in poverty for one day, let alone one whole month! I don’t care! No matter what it is, you have to help your sister!”

His sister was about to cry over the phone.

“Okay. Okay. How am I supposed to help you?”

“Well, you can help me to spend the remaining one hundred and fifty million dollars for me within the next seven days! Don’t leave even a single cent behind! Dad cannot supervise you in detail since you are not living with the family now!”

“Huff!”

Gerald nearly spurted out some blood.

“Spend one hundred and fifty million dollars in seven days?”

To be honest, it was not that Gerald had not seen this much money. After all, his sister had formerly invested in the Mayberry Commercial Street under his own name. He had hundreds of millions of dollars coming into his account every month.

Therefore, Gerald was really not short of money at all.

He was already prepared to do some investment or something with his money.

However, it would simply be too extravagant to spend one hundred and fifty million dollars in consumption!

It would be fine if he were to invest the money but wouldn't it be a waste for him to spend the money for fun? After all, he was not like his sister who seemed to have a feud with money and spent several hundreds of millions in consumption every month.

"It is just one hundred and fifty million dollars anyway. Can't you spend that amount of money? How about this, brother? Why don't you buy a transportation tool then? I will recommend a German company to you and you can order an airplane for yourself!"

Gerald: "..."

"I don't care! I don't want to have to live in poverty for a month! In short, you have to use up all of that money for me in seven days! I will get someone to transfer the money over to you immediately!"

After she was done speaking, Jessica hurriedly hung up the phone.

She should just accept it if she had to live in poverty for a month. It would be better than forcing him to spend one hundred and fifty million dollars just like that. It was really difficult for him!

Gerald could not help but pull his own hair.

He would be able to spend the money really fast if he bought an airplane. However, he did not have any use for it now!

Moreover, Gerald was still spending as though one dollar was worth a hundred dollars, really cherished money.

Dang!

Chapter 174

Very soon, Gerald received a text message from his bank, indicating that the money had already arrived.

His sister was really efficient.

But how was he going to spend this money?

Ugh!

If he invested the money, then his family would definitely find out about it. Perhaps his father would not notice it if he bought something.

One hundred and fifty million dollars! How many items would he have to buy then?

This was really stressful!

Gerald smacked his own forehead and he had no intention of taking a stroll anymore. Therefore, he decided to return to his dormitory to lie down instead.

Three days passed by and Gerald had not thought of a good way to spend the money yet.

In those three days, three things worth mentioning had happened.

The first thing was that Layla had asked for leave from school because her mother had forcefully dragged her away from school.

Gerald was very angry about this and he really wanted to help Layla. However, Layla's cell phone was not connected and he could not contact her at all.

He had been planning to ask her about the situation in the past two days so that he could give her a sum of money.

Another thing was that Felicity had really become an important figure in school. She participated in some activities organized by the same city live broadcast platform and she even became the ambassador for the front cover of the live broadcast platform. She really gained some fame.

The third thing was that Zack intended to upgrade the same city live broadcast platform to become a software for all the netizens across the country. He also planned to invest an additional thirty million dollars to prepare for a pre-platform diversion battle!

Gerald gave his approval and he invested the money immediately. After all, this was his first investment in the industry and Gerald really wanted to build it up and make it famous as soon as possible!

At this time, Gerald was eating breakfast alone in the cafeteria!

He could hear the people next to him, chattering non-stop.

“Hey! Do you know that the Mountain Top Villa is going on sale today? The original price of the villa was one hundred million dollars but the price of the villa has already risen to one hundred and nineteen million dollars today!”

“It is the day of the exhibition but who would buy a house that is worth one hundred and nineteen million dollars? That is not an investment!”

“But I think that the Mountain Top Villa is really worth one hundred and nineteen million dollars. I saw some of the pictures that were exposed on the internet. D*mn it. The villa is simply too gorgeous! If you live in the villa, you will feel like you are living in a heavenly palace!”

“Well, people say that it is a villa but actually, I feel that it is just a tourist attraction. This is because the price of the tickets just to participate in the exhibition already costs tens of thousands of dollars. Moreover, they are even limiting the number of people!”

“D*mn it! That is too ruthless!”

Gerald listened as the people who were eating at the next table continued chatting and discussing amongst themselves.

At this time, Gerald suddenly remembered that he had already made a promise to go and play with Yoel at the exhibition for the Mountain Top Villa today.

At this time.

Gerald's cell phone suddenly rang.

It was naturally a phone call from Yoel.

“Brother, I am coming to pick you up now so that we can go and participate in the exhibition for the Mountain Top Villa together! I already have your admission ticket with me!”

Yoel said as he laughed.

“Umm...you don't need to pick me up. I know the address for the Mountain Top Villa. I will go there on my own. You can just give me my admission ticket when I arrive later.”

“Oh, oh. Okay, if it is the VIP passage, then let it be the VIP passage then. I don't mind. I have to trouble you then.”

“Okay. I will have to decide if I want to buy it after looking at it. If it is really good, then I am planning to buy a villa at the Mountain Top Villa. Hehe. Okay then. I will go over there after I am done eating!”

Gerald ended the phone call with Yoel helplessly.

This kid was still encouraging him to buy the villa.

It would not be good to keep him waiting.

Therefore, Gerald quickly gave Harper a phone call to ask for leave. After that, he hurriedly gobbled up the egg fried rice on his plate before he stood up.

It was only then that he suddenly realized that there was no movement in the cafeteria at all and everyone was staring at him in astonishment!

Chapter 175

As soon as Gerald stood up, he realized that many people in the cafeteria were all looking at him in astonishment.

This was especially so for the men and women who were all discussing and talking about the Mountain Top Villa just now.

It was probably because Gerald had been too engrossed in his phone call earlier and he had forgotten where he was when he was chatting with Yoel.

Therefore, his words must have amazed and shocked the people around him.

“Pfft!”

Someone broke the silence as he burst into laughter.

“D*mn it! This guy is so ridiculous. He wants to go and take a look at the Mountain Top Villa?”

“Hahaha! Is it possible that the pressure of getting employed is so great that it is turning people into a lunatic?”

“What? He even stated that he was going to be a VIP guest. Hahaha. Let’s kneel down to welcome him. Hahaha!”

“Dumbass...”

Everyone started laughing.

Some people started to ridicule Gerald without giving him any face at all.

Gerald simply wiped his mouth before he shook his head with a wry smile on his face. After all, he had no way to explain himself in this situation!

After leaving the school gate, Gerald called for a cab before he came to the foot of the Mountain Top Villa, where the exhibition hall was.

The entrance.

It was surrounded by luxury cars.

There were constantly very powerful and important figures walking in and out.

Gerald could clearly see two passages leading inside as he stood at the entrance.

One was the VIP passage and the other was an ordinary customer passage.

Of course, relatively speaking, the ordinary customers here were also all extraordinarily.

“Hmm? Where is Yoel? Didn’t he say that he would be waiting for me in front of the entrance of the VIP passage?”

Gerald could not see Yoel at all.

Was there another entrance to the VIP passage?

Gerald thought to himself for a while before he raised his foot to walk into the exhibition hall.

“Gerald?”

Suddenly at this moment, a surprised female voice sounded from behind him.

Gerald turned around and he saw a female dressed in a black uniform. She had a very good figure and a very stunning appearance.

Gerald could not help but freeze in place.

“Cousin Rita?”

Wasn't this Mila's second cousin, Rita? She was the one who was trying to make things difficult for him at Mila's grandmother's birthday banquet!

Later on, Gerald could remember that Rita had a very complicated expression on her face when she finally found out that the Lamborghini belonged to him.

Originally after this incident, Gerald thought that he would not meet Rita again so soon.

Moreover, what happened with Mila in the end was still inconclusive. Both of them had only met up occasionally to eat together in the past two days.

However, Gerald really did not expect to see Rita here again, only a few days later.

Moreover, there was also a badge in front of Rita's chest: Design Director, Rita!

D*mn it! Rita designed the Mountain Top Villa?

He knew that Rita was very amazing, very smart academically, and also very cold and arrogant. However, he really did not expect her to be so capable.

How old was she?

She was only twenty-five years old!

Seemingly satisfied with Gerald's expression, Rita smiled faintly before she said, "Hehehe. Today is the day of the exhibition for the Mountain Top Villa. What are you doing here?"

"I am here to..."

"Don't tell me that you are here to participate in the exhibition! You can just have a look at it. I can honestly tell you that you will never be able to afford this villa! I know that you won tens of millions of dollars in the lottery and you bought a luxury sports car for yourself. However, you should not even be thinking about buying this villa. I

don't know how much money you have left but if you are interested in buying a house, I can recommend a few which are sold at regular prices to you!"

Rita had already adjusted her glasses frame and spoke coldly before Gerald could even finish speaking.

Yes. Rita had been really shocked when she saw the luxury sports car that was worth three million dollars last time.

She had always wondered whether Gerald could be it.

As a result, no. Gerald was only a pathetic person who won the lottery.

To think that she felt so sorry and apologetic that day, just because of him.

Now that she thought about it, she felt that she had been really ridiculous. That day, she even thought about competing with her cousin sister to gain Gerald's favor!

Vomit! Vomit! Vomit!

Chapter 176

She felt like throwing up!

"I just want to take a look!"

Gerald could feel the contempt in Rita's words and he really did not want to get into any entanglement with Rita. Therefore, he simply replied to her like that.

“Hehe. It's good that you have this kind of thinking. Besides that, Gerald, since you are my sister's boyfriend, I have to remind you that you should not compare yourself to those rich heirs. Those rich heirs' families have so much more money and assets compared to you! What about you? You are just being idle and wasting your fortune away. You will definitely spend all of your money sooner or later! To be honest, based on your ability, I can hardly believe that you will be able to support my sister!”

Rita was as proud as a peacock.

Yes. Gerald, you are really amazing. You won tens of millions of dollars and you are driving a three million dollars Lamborghini. After finding out some information, Rita could only think that Gerald must really be stupid or have some brain damage!

She had no other feelings or emotions for him anymore!

Therefore, she reprimanded and scolded Gerald unceremoniously as soon as they met.

She wanted to take revenge for the last time.

“Rita, is this the brother-in-law you were talking about? The one who bought a Lamborghini after winning the lottery? He looks pretty handsome but why is he acting like this?”

“But I can tell that he is rather reserved. I am afraid that he must not have been to this kind of big event and seen so many people before, right? Alas, we cannot blame him. This kind of country bumpkin who has already been poor for a long time has very little knowledge but suddenly came into so much money. Therefore, it is inevitable for him to have the nouveau riche mentality!”

“Exactly! He will only regret it when he has already spent all of his money. However, it will already be too late at that time. Sigh. Instead of thinking of ways to improve himself, he is actually spending tens of thousands of dollars just to buy a ticket to participate in such a high-end event?”

There were two women and one man standing behind Rita at this time.

The two women were really beautiful and they were really on par with Rita. Besides, the man was also very handsome and he looked like a rich heir.

The few of them were all about the same age and they looked like they were twenty-five to twenty-six years old.

When the few people saw Rita being so contemptuous towards Gerald, they also started habitually speaking contemptuously towards Gerald without any hesitation at all.

This made Rita feel rather embarrassed.

“Gerald, did you spend tens of thousands of dollars to buy a ticket again? Where is Mila? Does she know about this?”

Rita asked coldly.

“She knows about it. We even had dinner together last night. However, it is not convenient for her to come today! As for the admission ticket, I have not bought it yet!”

He was telling the truth. Gerald often ate with Mila in the past two days, and he really wanted Mila to come and have some fun with him. However, she could not come with him because she was feeling a little uncomfortable as she was having her period!

“Oh my god! People like you really make me feel very anxious!”

To be honest, Rita really wanted to scold Gerald.

However, no matter how pathetic Gerald was, he was still Mila’s boyfriend. She would still have to give Mila some face, right?

Therefore, Rita forcefully endured and held back her anger. At this time, she saw that Gerald was still persistent about going into the exhibition hall.

Therefore, she could only say:

“You are lucky that you ran into me today. I have a few admission tickets assigned to me. In addition to my friends, I can give you one. You can go to the exhibition hall with my friends. Remember not to speak any nonsense after you go in!”

Rita exhorted before she threw one of the admission tickets at Gerald impatiently. As the design director, she naturally had a few admission tickets assigned to her.

“Dawn, Nyla, and Samuel, I will be responsible for giving an introduction of the Mountain Top Villa when we enter later. So, please take him along with you! He does not know anything at all!” Rita said.

“But I have to meet with a few of my friends from the business community later. If I bring him with me...well, okay then. I will just ask him to look for a place to sit down later!”

Samuel felt that he was in a very difficult position.

If he knew that this would happen, he would have bought a ticket himself.

After all, tens of thousands of dollars for an admission ticket was just a trivial matter to him. However, why would he bother to spend any more money since he could depend on his relationship with Rita?

Now, it was really degrading for him to bring a lowly person like this, along with him!

However, he still agreed to it.

“Samuel, who are you going to meet later? Can you bring us along with you too? Can you introduce us to them too?”

Dawn and Nyla were really very beautiful women. Both of them were willingly staying by Samuel’s side as they took the initiative to get closer to him.

“Okay! Okay! Let’s bring him in with us first. Sigh!”

After sighing, everyone prepared to go in.

Gerald did not expect that there would be so much trouble when he was just here to take a look.

However, since Rita had already asked him to enter with Dawn and the others, Gerald felt that it would not be good for him to reject her offer directly.

Therefore, he took the admission ticket before he walked towards the VIP entrance.

“D*mn it! Are you insane? Come back here!”

When Rita saw Gerald walking towards the VIP entrance, she could not help but yell at him.

“That is the VIP entrance, which is specially prepared for the richest men from all the various cities in the Sunnydale Province. Are you mentally insane?”

Dawn was also very anxious and she cursed directly at Gerald.

“Oh. So, you guys are not going through here?”

Gerald asked as he shook his head helplessly...

Chapter 177

“Gerald, aren’t you foolish? It feels like you have been studying in college for three years for nothing. Don’t be in a daze anymore. Hurry up and follow Samuel, Dawn, and the others into the exhibition hall. Seriously! I really do now know how my sister can actually be interested in someone as lowly as you!”

Rita replied coldly.

No one wanted to continue talking about this matter anymore.

After all, Gerald was also very embarrassed at this time. Therefore, he had no choice but to ignore Yoel and followed Samuel and the rest into the exhibition hall.

The VIP passage and the ordinary passage have very different seating positions.

Those who entered from the VIP passage were all seated at the front row of the exhibition hall.

And those who entered from the ordinary passage like Gerald could only be seated at the back of the hall.

“Eh? Samuel, is it you? How are you? How is your father?”

“Uncle Light, you are here too? We are good! We are all good! My father is often thinking of you!”

As soon as Samuel entered the hall, he met with quite a few of his acquaintances. A middle-aged man also came in to greet him.

“By the way, Samuel, are these two beauties with you? Which one of them is your girlfriend?”

“They are both my classmates. I do not have a girlfriend yet, Uncle Light!”

Samuel replied as he smiled.

On the other hand, he was also waving his hand to greet some other people that were familiar with him.

To be honest, he was feeling a little proud because he knew so many people as he felt that he was reputable at any scene!

“Hello, Mr. Wyatt Light. I have read your introduction in the Mayberry Economic Times!”

Dawn said something very dignified as she adjusted her hair in a ladylike manner.

“Those are all trivial things. By the way, Samuel, as an uncle, I have to tell you that marriage is the most important thing and top priority in life. Therefore, you should not miss out on some very precious people. Otherwise, you will definitely regret it!”

After that, Wyatt shook hands with Dawn and Nyla.

Wyatt specialized in the chain supply of kitchen and bathroom equipment. He should not be underestimated because his business was actually quite big.

“Uncle Light, I will remember everything that you just said! By the way, didn’t Melanie come with you today?”

“That girl of mine! She saw a few of her classmates from Sunnydale University and she went over to greet them. She is also in her third year of university but she is still so reckless. She really makes me very worried. I really want to find a good boyfriend for her. Hey! That girl is back!”

Wyatt replied as he smiled.

“Melanie, say hello to your handsome brother, Samuel, and his two beautiful friends!”

“Hello, Brother Samuel! Hello, two beautiful sisters!”

Melanie greeted them with a smile on her face.

She was very tall, and her hair was tied into a ponytail. She was wearing a very expensive set of sports attire. She looked extremely beautiful and sexy.

At this time, Melanie fixed her gaze on Gerald who was following behind Samuel. She saw that Gerald did not have very good taste in clothing and he was not dressed very well.

Melanie frowned but she still said, “Hello!”

“Oh! I did not notice him. This is?”

Wyatt also reacted and asked immediately.

“Umm. Uncle Light, his name is Gerald. Director Rita asked me to bring him in so that he could take a look around and gain some insights. He came from a small place and has never seen this kind of big scene before!”

Samuel could not help but scratch his head.

This was so embarrassing!

Why did he have to bring this kind of person in with him?

As for Gerald, he was ridiculed by Samuel.

However, when he saw Wyatt looking at him as he raised his hand, Gerald thought that he wanted to greet him and shake his hand. Therefore, Gerald thought that it would be rude of him not to return the greeting.

Gerald nodded as he smiled at him before he also raised his hand.

Little would he have expected...

“Well, Samuel, you can accompany Uncle Light today! Come and sit next to me!”

Unexpectedly, Wyatt directly removed his gaze from Gerald before he raised his hand to pull Samuel’s arm as he asked Samuel to come and sit next to him.

He ignored Gerald completely.

He left Gerald’s hand dangling in the air. It was really embarrassing!

Melanie had also obviously lost her interest in Gerald and she simply sat on the other side of Wyatt!

“Pfft! You are so embarrassing! Why don’t you put your hand down already? Why don’t you think of who Mr. Light is? Why would he possibly shake hands with someone with no name or status like you? Do you really think that you are like Samuel and that people would give you face too?”

Chapter 178

Dawn was speechless.

“That’s right. But Dawn, there is a really true saying. A person with no temperament or class will never be able to have any temperament or class. No matter how rich they are, they will never have any class at all! Just look at Samuel. He is not only very wealthy at home, but he also has a very good temperament and class. Ahh! Take a look at Gerald again. He won the lottery but he turned out to be nothing at all.”

Nyla looked at Gerald and she was completely speechless as she shook her head.

If a person did not have any self-knowledge, then what difference would he have from a corpse?

Both of them were thinking this to themselves.

To be honest, Gerald was feeling a tightness in his chest now. It felt really uncomfortable to be snubbed despite showing good intentions.

However, he decided to sit down first. They could just say whatever they wanted to!

Gerald sat down.

Of course, he was seated at the back.

At this time, Melanie turned around. When she saw that Gerald was sitting behind her, she knitted her brows tightly together.

After that, she stood up before she walked toward Samuel and smiled before she said, "Brother Samuel, can we change our seats?"

"Ahh? Why do you want to change seats? Isn't it good for Gerald to be sitting behind you?"

"Oh! I don't want that! Please change seats with me!"

"Okay, okay. Although Gerald comes from a small place, he is actually a pretty clean and decent person. It is really okay!"

"No! You know that I am a clean freak so I really do not like this kind of person the most! Please! Please!"

Melanie continued pleading and it seemed as though she was about to cry.

“Okay, Samuel, why don’t you just change places with Melanie then? I also have to say something about you. People are easily influenced by their surroundings and the companions that they hang around with. You should not hang out with these dubious and shady people. Have you forgotten what I told you before? You can only stand higher and get farther in life by mixing with powerful and influential people.”

Wyatt replied coldly at this time.

The two families were family friends. Moreover, Wyatt had always had a very straightforward attitude. He was also very strict when it came to educating the younger generation.

Samuel only nodded silently in response.

When Gerald heard these words, he was so angry that his face turned pale immediately.

Even if he was impolite, he should still have to have the minimum amount of respect for someone that he had just met.

What did he mean by dubious and shady?

Was he a dubious and shady person, just because he did not look as rich as Samuel?

Dawn and Nyla simply laughed. They listened quietly as Wyatt educated and gave Samuel some advice.

They felt that the words of this successful businessman would definitely be of great help to them in life.

At this time, more and more people were entering the exhibition hall.

A beautiful hostess stood on the high platform of the exhibition as she took control of the venue and tried to calm everyone down.

“Dear sirs and madams, welcome to the exhibition ceremony of the first launch of the Mountain Top Villa! Before the official opening ceremony begins, let us give a warm round of applause to welcome the distinguished guests from the Sunnydale Province!”

“Let us welcome the founder of the Holden Group, the richest man in the County State, Howard Holden, and the young master, Yoel Holden!”

“Great!!”

“The father and son from the Holden family are both here. Based on the young master’s spending habit, do you think that the Holden Group will buy the one hundred and twenty million dollars villa?”

“That is impossible. Even if they have the money, the company will have huge competitors. If they are to compete with one another, then they will have to consume a lot of money. Who would have as much as one hundred and twenty million dollars just to buy a house? Do you know that once the competition begins, even one hundred and fifty dollars will determine the outcome of the two big groups, right?”

“That is right. It is impossible for the Holden family to buy the villa. They are currently the richest family in the County State but there are also many other powerful companies in the County State. They could easily use this one hundred and twenty million dollars to fight a good defense war!”

The crowd continued discussing this matter amongst themselves.

Yoel and his father walked into the exhibition hall, following these sounds.

However, there was an obvious palm mark on Yoel’s face. It seemed as though someone had slapped him.

Gerald naturally knew that it was his father who slapped him.

As for the reason why? It could be because Gerald sent a text message to Yoel earlier, stating that he did not see him anywhere and that was why he had already entered the exhibition hall with someone else without waiting for him.

To put it bluntly, Yoel got slapped because of him.

At the same time, Yoel also raised his head to look for Gerald in the exhibition hall. However, at this time, there were two to three hundred people in the hall and it was not so easy to find Gerald so easily. After all, Gerald was being blocked by Samuel at this time.

“Next, I would like to extend a grand welcome to a VIP of the exhibition event, and also a representative of the Mayberry Commercial Street, Zack Lyle! Mr. Lyle!”

“D*mn it! Mr. Lyle is here too? Is Mr. Lyle thinking of buying the villa? I think that would be more likely. After all, Mr. Lyle has no competitors at all in Mayberry City!”

The crowd of people continued discussing amongst themselves.

“It is impossible for Mr. Lyle to buy the villa. Do you know the reason why, Samuel?”

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“Ah? That is impossible, Uncle Light! Mr. Lyle is the richest man in Mayberry City! Therefore, I am certain that he definitely has the ability to buy it!”

Samuel was very surprised.

“Hehehe. You are wrong. In the past, Mr. Lyle was indeed very capable. However, I received news that Mr. Lyle has been transferred from Mayberry Commercial Street. Mayberry Commercial Street will be managed and run by someone else in the future!”

“Even though Mr. Lyle has already been transferred, Mr. Crawford had taken him in. So, at this time, even if he has the strength and capability to buy the villa, he will not buy it!”

“Ahh? So, it turns out that Mr. Lyle has been transferred away?”

“Yes. Mr. Crawford is still keeping him by his side. Therefore, he will definitely restrain himself a little!”

Samuel nodded repeatedly, indicating that he understood what Wyatt was saying.

“Brother Samuel, dad, what are the both of you talking about? Who is this Mr. Crawford? Why haven’t you mentioned him to me before?”

Melanie asked as she was very curious at this time.

She could tell that this Mr. Crawford was very amazing and powerful just by listening in to their conversation.

It seemed as though the entire Mayberry Commercial Street belonged to him.

Both Dawn and Nyla were stunned.

They have never been exposed to this kind of information and they naturally became very interested in this matter.

“Of course, I have never told you about this. This was because your father only found out about this fact yesterday. Some of my friends told me about the story of Mr. Crawford. Of course, Zack is also a very amazing and capable man but he is just working for Mr. Crawford. The whole Mayberry Commercial Street belongs to Mr. Crawford!”

“Oh my God! Oh my God!”

“D*mn it!”

Melanie, Dawn, and Nyla were all stunned.

“Besides that, have you heard of Yoel before?”

Wyatt asked as he smiled bitterly.

“Of course, I know Yoel! He is a top rich heir. He has a garage for all of his sports cars alone! He even held a party for all the rich heir some time ago!”

Melanie said.

How did she know all these so clearly?

This was because Melanie had also been invited to the party.

However, she happened to have her period that day and she could not go because she was in so much pain.

This was a very great regret for her because there were not many girls who did not worship Yoel.

“Hehehe. Yoel is actually Mr. Crawford’s godbrother. The Holden family is also closely related to the Crawford family. That is the reason why they could rise so much and become the richest family in the County State within a few years!”

Samuel and the others opened their mouths wide in shock. Unexpectedly, there were so many background stories behind this.

At this time, everyone has finally arrived.

The host also introduced Rita to the crowd again. After that, she asked Rita to introduce the Mountain Top Villa to everyone.

Although Gerald had been holding his anger in for a long time, he did not lose his temper.

When he saw Rita introducing the villa, he looked up and glanced at the background that had appeared on the screen.

Just a single glance.

And Gerald was also fascinated. The Mountain Top Villa was built on the mountain, straight into the clouds and it really looked like a heavenly palace.

It was extremely luxurious.

To be honest, Gerald was really moved.

One hundred and twenty million dollars was really a whooping high price!

If it was some time ago, even if he owned a lot of assets, Gerald would not spend one hundred and twenty million dollars just to buy a house no matter how moved he was.

However, it was different now.

His sister gave him one hundred and fifty million dollars and she wanted him to spend it within seven days.

He had been worried because he did not know how he should spend the money.

Wasn't this a god-sent opportunity? He would be able to kill two birds with one stone!

The more he looked at it, the more excited Gerald was.

It took her two full hours to fully introduce the villa.

Everyone yearned for it.

But no one dared to buy it.

Rita was very satisfied with everyone's expressions and she smiled as she said immediately:

“The Mountain Top Villa is priced at one hundred and twenty million dollars. Is anyone in this room interested to buy it?”

Rita asked as she smiled cordially.

“I...do not want to!”

At this time, an old boss stood up and shouted before he sat down quickly.

Everyone present started laughing out loud!

Zack also started laughing at the scene.

There were always some bosses who loved to joke like this!

Rita went on to say, "Gentlemen, this villa will not be auctioned. It will be sold on a first come first served basis. Whoever can pay the price of one hundred and twenty million dollars first will own this villa!"

Chapter 180

"Hahaha! No one is buying it indeed!"

Samuel replied as he smiled.

Wyatt smiled bitterly. "I already told you that as long as the person was a smart businessman, he would not waste one hundred and twenty million dollars on the villa unless..."

"I want it!"

Before Wyatt could even finish speaking, he heard a voice that was not very loud but was still loud enough that everyone in the whole hall could hear his words.

"Huh?!"

Doubts were flying in the air at this time.

Everyone was staring at this side.

Wyatt and Samuel were also dumbfounded as they turned their heads back to look at the person.

This was because the person who shouted this sentence was none other than this hillbilly that Samuel had brought in with him. It was Gerald!

“D*mn it! Gerald, are you crazy? How dare you shout so arrogantly? Do you know what is going to happen if you said that you are going to buy the villa but do now have enough money to pay for the villa?”

“It’s over! He is not here to gain insight! This person simply came here to die!”

Nyla and Dawn were also shocked and they really felt like killing Gerald.

“Ah! A person who does not know his own place!”

Wyatt fixed his gaze on Gerald. Was this really an occasion that should be used for grandstanding? He really did not know how to behave at all!

Gerald did not care what they were saying about him.

He simply stood up before he started walking towards the stage directly.

“Crazy! He must be crazy! That pathetic guy is really insane!”

Rita was also staring at Gerald in shock at this moment!

In short, aside from a few people, everyone was all a little dumbfounded.

“Gerald, what are you doing here? Hurry up and leave now!”

Rita said angrily.

She also pushed Gerald a few times.

“Why should I leave when I want to buy this villa?”

Gerald asked as he smiled bitterly.

“Nonsense! How could you possibly afford this villa?”

Rita was seriously annoyed.

“Did you think that I will not be able to afford it just because you say that I will not be able to afford it?” Gerald asked as he sneered coldly. After that, he looked at the

bank's dedicated financial staff who was standing at the side before he said, "You guys, come over here. I will swipe my card!"

The several bank commissioners were all a little confused. After all, the person standing in front of them did not look like someone who would be able to take out even a few thousand dollars. He was even saying that he would swipe his card!

However, they would have to do it since the customer was asking for it.

Therefore, they walked over as they brought a payment machine with them.

Gerald swiped his card on the payment machine before he entered his password and used the biometrics recognition function.

"Ding! The transaction is successful. The transaction amount is one hundred and twenty million dollars..."

The cold system voice sounded.

What followed was complete silence from the audience.

One hundred and twenty million dollars. This person actually had one hundred and twenty million dollars?

Oh my God!

Rita heard everything the most clearly. She covered her mouth directly as she dropped the microphone to the ground.

Her mind was a complete blank at this moment!

Gulp!

Samuel, who was sitting in the audience, could only swallow his saliva.

He was extremely confused. Dawn and Nyla also had a very shocked expression on their faces.

After all, from their very first meeting, Nyla, Dawn, and Samuel did not only despise and look down on Gerald, but they did not treat him as a person at all.

They simply thought that he was a country bumpkin.

They felt that it was really degrading for them to have him by their side.

But now, they felt as though they were getting countless slaps in their faces now.

They were looking down on him? They might not even be able to earn as much money as he had even if they worked for an entire lifetime!

He was a super-wealthy man!

“Brother Samuel, he...who is he?”

The expression on Melanie’s face also changed.

“I don’t know...I only know that his name is Gerald Crawford! Hey! Look! Why are Mr. Lyle, the father and son from the Holden family, and the other wealthy businessmen walking toward the stage?”

Samuel replied intermittently at this time.

Chapter 181

Zack, Howard, and his son went up the platform together.

They stood in the same row subconsciously.

To everyone’s surprise, they gave Gerald a 90-degree bow.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Crawford. Congratulations on purchasing the Mountain Top Villa successfully.”

They said in unison, just like they had discussed it, and reached an agreement beforehand.

A loud bang was heard.

As soon as they said that, it appeared like a great blow was thrown into the crowd, and they were shocked immensely.

“Mr. Crawford! So it turns out that he’s Mr. Crawford!”

“Oh my God! Is he the Mr. Crawford from Mayberry? Is he the absolute national millionaire, Mr. Crawford?”

They gaped in surprise and excitement.

“What? Mr. Crawford? So Gerald is that Mr. Crawford!”

Rita staggered and retreated weakly.

During their family reunion before, somebody made a guess that Gerald was the absolute national millionaire, Mr. Crawford.

However, Rita had denied it there and then.

It was because Gerald did not seem like it at all.

But the scene before her soon shocked her deeply, so much so that she was about to faint.

‘Mr. Crawford! Gerald is that Mr. Crawford!’

No wonder one hundred million dollars meant nothing to him.

He did not even seem surprised when he touched the luxurious car which cost around two thousand dollars.

It was because he was a prestigious and wealthy young youth—Mr. Crawford.

He was the heir of the most wealthy and influential family.

Rita’s facial expression became complicated. She was filled with deep regret.

At the same time, Wyatt’s facial expression worsened. He was regretful too.

A while back, Mr. Crawford wanted to shake hands with him. He even smiled at him.

That was such a good chance for him to get close to the wealthy people and gain some benefits from it.

But what did he do? He did not even glance at Mr. Crawford.

Besides, what else did he say? He even condemned Mr. Crawford, claiming that he was a mere nobody.

He even started to give him a hard lesson, but Mr. Crawford only smiled without saying anything.

At the same time, Dawn, Nyla, Samuel, and Melanie gaped in shock.

In short, they were filled with deep regret.

Gerald stood on the platform. He looked at them who appeared quite shocked before him. He did the same thing, he smiled casually.

He did not have to be infuriated by them.

It was better that way. It was so much better than beating them up vigorously.

Gerald looked at Rita beside him. "Rita, I've purchased the villa now. Shouldn't you give me the key and then bring me there to take a look at the Mountain Top Villa?"

"I... Yes, Mr. Crawford!"

Rita said that with much difficulty.

She did not even know how she should address Gerald.

She then turned around and brought them along. Soon, they reached the foot of the mountain where Mountain Top Villa was.

“Rita, we would like to go too. Could you please plead with Mr. Crawford and ask him to bring us along?”

Two beautiful women—Dawn and Nyla rushed toward them now.

When they reached Rita, they purposely spoke louder, just to let Gerald hear them and realize that they indeed regretted what they had done.

They did not even care about the deep humiliation which engulfed them when they did so. They couldn't care less about it.

The most important thing was they needed to please Mr. Crawford so that he would forgive them. They believed that they would be able to gain something from there. Even though Mr. Crawford might not admire them, they would be able to stay by his side and be his servants given how beautiful they were.

“I... I can't do that!” Rita was still in shock. How could she help to plead with him?

“Mr. Crawford, could you please let us go up there and take a look? We were wrong just now. We’re deeply sorry! May we know how we can seek your forgiveness?”

Both Dawn and Nyla became teary.

In fact, Gerald felt that he was slightly sorry toward them when he saw them like that.

They changed their attitude too drastically in so short a time.

Gerald directly retorted given what they said just now. “Fine, if you want me to forgive you, act like a dog and bark in front of me!”

He said those words in anger, asking them to get lost immediately.

A few barks were heard.

Unexpectedly, they started barking like a dog in front of everybody.

At the same time, they twisted around and said, “Mr. Crawford, do I look like a dog now? What kind of female little puppy do you want to see? Why don’t you ask me to act for you?”

They stuck out their tongues at Gerald.

Chapter 182

“D*mn it!”

Gerald felt like he was about to have a headache.

Those two women were indeed the most shameless women Gerald had ever met in his whole lifetime, even more so than Xavia.

He asked them to bark like a dog, and they did so without any hesitation.

Actually, both Dawn and Nyla had risked everything they had. They would certainly cling onto Mr. Crawford vigorously no matter what he asked them to do.

It was indeed such an effective tactic.

Gerald was speechless now. He waved his hand. “Just come along if you want!”

“Mr. Crawford!”

At that moment, Wyatt shouted. He raised both of his hands and bent his body slightly. He then squeezed out of the crowd and ran toward Gerald.

“Mr. Crawford. I didn’t know who you are just now. I was wrong. Please forgive my bad manners. I’m Wyatt Light. We were introduced to each other just now.”

Wyatt held both of his hands in midair, wanting to have a closer contact with him, shaking his hands.

Mr. Crawford was indeed not someone who Wyatt could afford to offend. He would definitely be able to ruin Wyatt any minute.

“But I don’t know you!”

Gerald said softly, then he put his hands in his pockets.

“This... Mr. Crawford... My daughter and I offended you just now. Please forgive us. We’re deeply sorry.”

Wyatt appeared quite upset. He waved his hand immediately, and Melanie stepped forward pitifully.

‘It turns out that this pathetic man is Mr. Crawford. It’s so unexpected!’

“Mr. Crawford, I was wrong just now.”

“Oh? Don’t you have mysophobia? I sat behind you just now. You were so anxious that you changed your seat. Now, it seems like you don’t have that now. Why are you standing so close to me? Aren’t you scared?”

Mr. Crawford smiled, and that was all he did at the moment.

“I...”

Melanie blushed deeply. ‘Am I not attractive enough for him?’

Gerald smiled bitterly and shook his head. He did not bother about them anymore. He then turned around and went up the mountain with Zack and the others.

That was the first time Gerald condemned the others. In fact, he was quite infuriated just now. After venting his anger out like that, he felt much better.

Besides, his extremely pompous and arrogant second cousin——Rita followed closely behind him, holding the key in her hand. It made Gerald feel that it was indeed wonderful being a rich person.

In fact, Rita was in a dilemma too. It was because she started to hold different feelings and emotions toward Gerald at that moment.

She felt that Gerald appeared quite handsome, outrageously so.

Rita was humiliated deeply, but she knew that it was a good thing. It was because it seemed like there was a new chance for her after all, being married into a rich family.

From what she could see, Gerald did not appear to hate her.

Besides, she would now be the butler for the Mountain Top Villa from now on. She would surely have much contact with Gerald.

‘Sister, does it mean that I’ll do something bad to you?’

That afternoon was indeed quite interesting.

Gerald strolled around the villa for around one to two hours. He then brought them and went down the mountain at around four o’clock in the afternoon.

When he reached the foot of the mountain, there were a few messages in his class group chat all of a sudden.

It was the class representative, Cassandra who posted a few photos and words in the group.

“Please help to share it on your social media!”

“Help our classmate. Her younger sister is seriously ill, and she isn’t able to earn money too. Please donate some money and help them to resolve this issue. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!”

At first glance, one realized that Cassandra was the one who was in charge of the shooting of the photographs and the writing of the content.

It was Layla Hack.

Cassandra asked her to hold up a sign with the words “Please help me!” scrawled on it and stood on the platform in the class. She seemed to be asking for everybody’s help.

At that moment, Layla seemed extremely paled, and she closed her eyes tightly. She was grasping the sign tightly in her hands. Clearly, her fingernails were stabbed deeply into the paper sign.

“Friends, this is the photograph and details I designed for Layla for the fundraising campaign. Is there anything you think that I should improve on? If no, I’ll report it to the department. If you think that there’s not a problem with it, please reply with the number ‘one’ here.”

Both Blondie and Felicity wrote their reply. “1!”

“.....”

It was indeed that woman!

How could she crush one’s dignity like that?

Gerald did not know when Layla had returned to the college. He was also unaware when the fundraising campaign started.

But Gerald knew instantly that it was Cassandra's idea, using such a tactic for fundraising and publicity purposes.

It was because Gerald was forced to do exactly the same thing by Cassandra before. She claimed that it was a way to show their compassion and improve the class's honor and reputation.

"D*mn it!"

Gerald knew exactly how Layla felt at that moment since he experienced it before.

He could not even bear that kind of humiliation. How about Layla who had much more self-esteem than he?

"Yoel, get a car. I need to return to college this instant!"

Gerald said immediately.

Chapter 183

Soon, Gerald reached the college.

He went straight to his own department classroom.

When he reached the west entrance, he saw that it was crowded.

There were a lot of students from different departments, and they almost blocked the road.

Gerald saw Harper and the others who stood in the crowd. So he squeezed his way into the crowd.

Then only he saw what was happening.

A girl was standing at the west entrance, holding up a sign pitifully.

She lowered her head greatly.

But Gerald recognized her at first sight. It was none other than Layla.

Beside her, there were Cassandra, Victor, and the president of the student union—Whitney.

At that moment, Layla acted like a background image, giving the others the chance to snap their photographs with her.

“Gerald, here you are. It’s so frustrating!”

Harper patted Gerald’s shoulders slightly.

He then said angrily, “Layla is indeed in some crisis now. But the class representative is over the line. It’s fine if they want to hold a fundraising campaign. But why do they have to force Layla to hold up a sign like this and stand here in front of everybody?”

Benjamin said, “If they don’t create such a commotion, how would our department gain our popularity? Just take a look at it now. The class representatives, Victor and Whitney, have worked busily for the entire afternoon for Layla’s fundraising event. They then asked Layla to stand there like that just so they could show off about it.”

“Besides, this event has attracted the attention of the college. They claim that they have to put significance on it, and they must help that particular student to resolve her crisis!”

Actually, there were quite a lot of students who knew the inside story of that event. They were quite angry about it.

The others who knew not what happened would have another kind of mindset. “Just look at her! How pitiful she is! Her family has run out of money. So she’s more than willing to stand in front of everybody, trying her best to raise funds for her younger sister so that her illness could be cured.”

“She’s so pitiful!”

So a lot of them were willing to donate some money for her.

But for those who knew the inside story were perfectly aware of the fact that it was all planned and arranged by Cassandra. Something happened in the morning. Layla returned to the college and asked for help from Cassandra.

In the end, Cassandra thought of such a plan for her. If Layla refused to do so, she would not help her with that other request.

“Mr. Zach, here you are!”

Cassandra shook hands with a middle-aged baldheaded director. After that, that middle-aged director took out his donation—two hundred dollars and put it into the donation box.

“Mr. Zach, let’s take a group photo!”

“Sure!”

The sound of the shutters was heard.

They took a group photo.

“Hey! Tyler! Max! Here you are!”

At that moment, Victor’s friends came too. He greeted them smugly. Those friends came from another department, and they were friends in the student union.

“Yes!”

Then, they donated a few hundred bucks too.

Soon after that, they snapped some group photos there.

Gerald watched the whole scene there. He realized that the entire donation process had almost the same procedures.

‘How could it be called a donation? It’s just some kind of show, showing off one’s honor!’

Gerald was so angry that his face turned pale.

He pitied Layla who now appeared hopeless and desperate. At the same time, she felt slightly guilty too.

He was the first one who knew that something was wrong with Layla’s family. She trusted him and told him about it.

Moreover, he advised her and gave her hope.

But for the next few days, he did not manage to help her to resolve that crisis in time.

That was why she was put in such a difficult position.

Gerald was not such a kind and generous person. But whenever he saw a scene like that, he could not help but think about himself. It was because he had experienced the same kind of thing before.

‘No! I can’t let this go on anymore! Layla might even lose the desire to live then!’

Thinking about that, Gerald rushed into the crowd and pushed Victor away, who was still taking a group photo. He snatched Layla’s sign away and threw it down.

“Gerald, you-!”

Layla sounded hoarse. Clearly, she had cried multiple times now.

“Layla, you don’t have to be the background for them. If they do want to help you sincerely, they would never do such a thing to you. I’ll help you with the money. Just go back to the classroom first!”

Gerald said angrily.

“There are a lot of kind people in this world. If someone is in great trouble, the others would surely lend a hand if they noticed it.

But how could Cassandra and Victor do such a thing? You manipulated this incident and made yourselves look quite good about it. You really shouldn’t do a thing like this!”

“Gerald! Have you gone mad?”

Whitney stared angrily at Gerald. ‘When did he become so bold?’

Chapter 184

Gerald, are you even aware of what you are talking about right now? I must warn you now. Get lost this instant. Otherwise, you’ll be expelled!”

Cassandra valued her dignity and fame so much.

She was outraged when she heard Gerald condemning them like that.

Victor was even more so.

“You’re just a poor pathetic person. Don’t feel so smug about yourself just because you won a lottery. How dare you shove me away!”

Then, Victor grabbed Gerald’s hair and dragged him along. He then slapped Gerald’s face directly.

Victor was certainly a bad-tempered man. He came from a rich family. When was he being treated like that?

Besides, Gerald was not as strong as he was.

Gerald felt quite painful, being slapped by him.

“Please don’t beat him up anymore. Victor, I’m begging you. Don’t beat him up! I don’t want this donation anymore. Just don’t beat him up!”

Layla was deeply frightened. She then rushed toward Victor and grabbed him since that incident happened because of her.

“Get lost! Two pathetic poor people! How dare you touch me!”

Victor shouted loudly.

He even wanted to throw himself at Gerald, beating him up.

A loud bang was heard.

Suddenly, Victor felt that his vision was blurred and blocked by something black. A red thing materialized in front of her, being enlarged slowly.

It was Gerald. He took up a brick from beside him and smashed it hard on Victor’s head.

Gerald used quite a great force.

The brick was broken.

A loud cry was heard.

Victor held his head, fell on the ground, and howled in agony.

“He beat him up!”

The others were in deep fright.

Both Whitney and Cassandra were scared out of their wits.

How harsh and savage Gerald was!

“Oh gosh! That poor man beat Victor up!”

“He doesn’t want to live anymore. Didn’t he know what kind of an influential person Victor’s father is?”

“It’s all over now! He won’t be able to stay in this college anymore!”

“How could he stay still? Even if the college expels him, how could he be able to stay alive and leave the train station of Mayberry!”

The others were deeply shocked. It was because there were just some kinds of people in this world where one could not afford to offend or annoy. Otherwise, their whole lives would be ruined.

“Victor, are you alright?”

“D*mn it! How bold he is to beat you up! He’s such a b*stard! Go and call your father up quickly! Slaughter his entire family!”

“That’s true, Victor. We cannot let this b*stard get away with it!”

“Victor, you’ve lost so much blood!”

Soon, he was surrounded by a group of women. They supported him and helped him up. They appeared to be filled with much pain.

Besides, they stared at Gerald angrily.

Indeed, they adored Victor deeply. He was both handsome and rich. But Gerald was nobody but a poor pitiful person. He would certainly be punished for beating Victor up.

“D*mn it! I definitely will not let him get away with it! Just send me to the hospital first. I’ll call my dad right away!”

Victor was seriously injured, and he might suffer from a concussion. At that moment, he was sent to the hospital by an ambulance with the others' help after he said that fiercely to Gerald.

“Gerald, just you wait!”

But what about Gerald?

He sneered. ‘Wait? I won’t!’

Actually, Gerald had always wanted to beat Victor up.

In the past, Gerald was ordered by Victor to go and do some work for the student union. When he was slow with his work, Victor would kick him several times. He even beat Gerald up several times too.

Besides, when he met Mila in the lecture hall at first, he was almost beaten up by Victor for dirtying Mila’s shoes. But Victor was stopped by Mila.

Usually, he did not mention those things, but he remembered them distinctly.

He heard Victor condemning them as two pathetic poor people just now. Soon, he was filled with immense anger. ‘Victor, you busied yourself for Layla just now! But now you condemned her like that! Do you even respect her?’

So, Gerald picked up a brick and smashed Victor's head. He managed to vent his anger out on Victor. He felt quite good about it.

Someone sneered. "Gerald, how bold you are! But I just want to see how you continue to stay here, studying for the course! Whitney, come along with me. We're going to meet the department director. Before Victor's father comes, we need to get rid of Gerald and resolve this issue. Otherwise, something disastrous might happen given how his father is."

"Fine, Cassandra!"

Whitney became speechless. She then looked at Gerald and shook her head.

It seemed to have an underlying meaning.

'Just wait for your severe punishment...'

Chapter 185

Gerald did not bother about their sneers and sarcastic remarks.

He only took out his phone and sent Zack a message, telling him what happened with Victor and his family affairs.

Then, he dragged Layla back to the classroom.

Harper knew that Gerald was now facing great trouble.

The Wrights were indeed a wealthy family.

Victor's father was involved in international business, and they were indeed rich.

Besides, his father was a local in Mayberry, so he could be considered a powerful and influential person there.

But Harper and the others still stayed with Gerald, disregarding those things.

"Gerald, are you hiding in the classroom? The department director wants to meet you!"

At that moment, Whitney opened the door of the classroom where Gerald was. She then crossed her arms in front of her and said lightly.

"By the way, you're Harper, aren't you? Go and help to pack up his things. If not, he has to do it himself after he returns to the classroom later."

She did that just because of the sake that Gerald had bought branded clothes for her before.

So Whitney reminded him.

Then, she left directly.

Gerald then followed behind Whitney and reached the door of the department director's office.

Cassandra and a few women who were close to Victor were also waiting at the door.

They sneered. "How dare you do such a thing! Go into the office now! The department director wants to meet you alone!"

Cassandra smiled coldly.

"Don't think that you'll get away with punishment as light as being expelled from the college. Let me tell you. Your whole life is ruined now that you have beaten Victor up!"

The other women said angrily.

Gerald smiled casually. He opened the door and entered the office directly.

Mr. Reeds was the department director.

He was called Jacob Reeds.

He was a middle-aged man who wore glasses.

At that moment, he was drinking tea and reading the newspapers.

The moment Gerald entered the office, he put the teacup down harshly on the table.

“Gerald, it surprised me to see you beating people up. Your results are exceptional, and you have such good manners. Besides, you’re an honest man too. It never occurs to me that you would be so impulsive. You’re indeed a fool!”

Jacob scolded him sternly.

“Mr. Reeds, he started it!”

Gerald said calmly.

Jacob sneered. “I don’t care who started it. The fact is you beat Victor up. You’re wrong for doing such a thing! Let me tell you, you’ve created such trouble this time around. Besides, how could your family background be compared to Victor’s? How about this? I have an application form here, applying to leave the college. Just sign it and leave this instant!”

Jacob stared at Gerald in contempt.

So what Jacob said just now in his favor was nothing but just mere civilities.

But Gerald never thought that it would be as serious as that until he was expelled from college.

Now he realized that Jacob had made up his mind to expel him from the college.

It was because Victor came from a wealthy family, and Gerald was poor.

If Victor beat him up that day, all Victor needed to do was just to apologize to him and pay for the medical fees.

But if it was the other way around, he would then be expelled from college.

He could not help it.

Since he was forced into such a state, he had no choice but to sign the form.

Gerald put his phone on the table, took the pen, and got ready to fill in the form, including the reason to leave the college.

Jacob smiled disdainfully.

Surprisingly, Gerald's phone rang all of a sudden.

The caller ID showed that it was a call from Mr. Raine.

It was a call from the minister of the Ministry of Education—Mr. Raine.

During the previous week, his sister—Jessica asked Gerald to contact Mr. Raine a few times because of the affair of investing in Scothow Elementary School.

But Gerald did not get to answer the phone. He was filling up the form quickly.

However, that call attracted Jacob's attention beside him.

“Is this... Mr. Raine? Why do you have his phone number?”

Certainly, Jacob was not in a position to be acquainted with Mr. Raine. But he remembered Mr. Raine's contact number distinctly.

‘Why did Mr. Raine call Gerald up? Why did he contact Gerald?’

“You... Why are you still in a daze? Faster pick up the phone!”

Jacob's facial expression worsened. He stood up directly and asked Gerald to answer the call.

‘Oh gosh! Even the chancellor dares not neglect an important person like Mr. Raine!’

“Why are you in such a rush? I haven’t even finished filling in the form yet. I’ll answer it when I’m done!”

There were a lot of people who would call him up. Normally, Gerald would answer the call right away.

But he did not want to do so, seeing how anxious Jacob became.

By the way, Gerald had eaten twice with Mr. Raine before. They knew about each other well.

They did not have to be so civil toward each other.

“Why are you still filling in the form? Go and pick it up! Why is Mr. Raine calling you up? Faster pick it up!”

The call went dead.

Nobody answered the call for a long time, so it was hung up directly.

Jacob sneered. “Gerald, you’re indeed a dumb person! You deserve it for being...”

The phone rang again.

“Come! Faster pick up the phone!”

This time around, Jacob quickly snatched the pen in Gerald’s hand away directly.

He then helped Gerald to answer the phone and put it near his ear.

However, Gerald did not even stretch his hand out to take the phone from Jacob. He sat there just like that. On the other hand, Jacob leaned toward Gerald and held the phone in his hand, holding it near Gerald’s ear. That scene appeared rather hilarious.

But Jacob could not care less about other stuff for the sake of his future.

He did not care what business Mr. Raine had on his mind, calling Gerald up. He decided to greet Mr. Raine at the end of the call.

“Mr. Raine, hello!”

Gerald smiled slightly.

“Gerald, I called you just now. Why didn’t you pick it up? Are you busy?”

Bernard smiled and said.

Bernard had met Gerald a few times, and he had quite a good impression of Gerald.

The moment Gerald heard about the project of doing charity by establishing Scothow Elementary School, he promised to take the whole project over without any hesitation. He even provided the funds immediately.

Besides, a rich youth like him was such a friendly and humble person. Bernard soon got quite close to him.

“Hmm, I was busy filling in the drop out application from just now. The department director has prohibited me from studying here from now on! By the way, Mr. Raine, what’s the matter?”

Gerald smiled. He thought that it was a call from Zack, but he never thought that it was Mr. Raine after all.

“You...”

Jacob wanted so badly to cover Gerald’s mouth.

From the way Gerald addressed Mr. Raine, Jacob started to feel quite nervous.

‘Oh my God! They have quite a close relationship.’

Hearing what Gerald said, Jacob became much nervous.

“It’s like this. Our project regarding the Scowthow Elementary School has been delayed before because of insufficient funding. Now it’s almost fully built. We’ll be able to use it after two more months. I called you up just to see if you’re free tomorrow. Please come over because we’ll have a small function here!”

“Fine, no problem!” Gerald nodded.

“No, it seems that something is wrong. Gerald, what did you say just now? A drop out application form?”

Only now did Bernard recover his senses and realize what Gerald had said just a while ago.

“Hmm? That’s right! My department director expelled me from college. I’m now filling in the form before him.”

At first, Gerald planned to fill in the form and tackled Victor after that. Only then he would go and meet Jacob again to see if he could take some senses into him. He just wanted to see if things were still the same.

But now he wondered if he could ask Mr. Raine to say something in his favor.

“Gerald, give him the phone!”

Gerald smiled and nodded. “Here you are! He wants to talk to you!”

“Sure!”

Jacob soon straightened his body up and smoothed his collar slightly. “Mr. Raine, hello. You... Yes! It’s nothing but an absolute misunderstanding! Sure! What? Is he that Mr. Crawford? Oh my God! Of course! I’ll definitely keep it a secret! Sure! No problem! Don’t worry about it!”

Jacob swallowed slightly.

What Bernard said at last shocked Jacob tremendously.

Certainly, everyone knew or had heard about Mr. Crawford of Mayberry.

Besides, Gerald was that Mr. Crawford.

“Are you done?” Gerald smiled and said.

“Mr. Crawford... Yes!”

Jacob’s facial expression became so interesting all of a sudden. He was filled with contempt at first. Now, he was trying his best to fawn on Gerald.

“Oh, then I’ll continue with signing my name here. I’ve done filling in the form now, except signing my name.”

Gerald took up the pen again.

“No!”

Jacob shouted loudly. He then grabbed Gerald’s hand tightly.

Chapter 187

“Mr. Crawford, it’s a misunderstanding! It’s nothing but a misunderstanding!”

Jacob was deeply anxious.

“What is the misunderstanding? I couldn’t even survive now in Mayberry. Faster let me leave college!”

Gerald wanted to sign the form.

“Mr. Crawford, I was wrong. I was indeed wrong. Actually, I could just give you a light punishment for it. But I listened to the others and wanted to expel you from the college.”

If the chancellor knew that he wanted to expel that Mr. Crawford of Mayberry from the college, he would certainly be ruined.

Even if the chancellor knew nothing about that, he would certainly be ruined and punished severely given that he wanted to expel Mr. Crawford.

“Fine. Then what to do next regarding this incident? Cassandra asked a student to do such a thing in public. It certainly hurt that student’s self-esteem greatly!”

Gerald did not even know when he started to have some slight changes.

When he was dealing with things now, he was not the shy and cowardly man he was before.

Now, he would say what he wanted to say directly.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Crawford. I’ll deal with it justly.”

“Besides, donate seventy thousand dollars to Layla under the name of ‘Ordinary Man’. I’ll give you the money later. Thank you!”

“You’re being too courteous!”

Jacob smiled happily.

Gerald then nodded slightly.

He then got up and left.

Outside of the office.

Somebody sighed. “Gerald will certainly be expelled from school. He’s been having a pathetic life here for three years since. Now, he’s unable to graduate too.”

Cassandra crossed her arms in front of her in resignation and smiled bitterly.

“It’s good that he’s been expelled. It would be much better if he couldn’t leave Mayberry intact. How bold of him to beat Victor up!”

They were still angry at Gerald.

At that moment, the door was opened.

All of them wanted to rush toward Gerald and sneered at him vigorously again, including Cassandra.

“Gerald, please be careful. There’s a small staircase here after the refurbishment.”

That scene before them shocked them greatly. They widened their eyes.

They soon saw Jacob helping Gerald down the staircase, supporting him gently.

That staircase was just one or two centimeters high. It was not even a staircase. Why did Jacob appear like he was afraid that it might hurt Gerald?

'Oh, God! What is happening?'

Cassandra gaped.

"Mr. Reeds, Gerald, he..."

"What about him? I know what happened now. I've been meaning to ask you, Cassandra. If Gerald didn't tell me about it, I wouldn't even know that you asked a female student to stand in public, holding up a sign. You even took group photographs there, didn't you?"

"Ah? I clearly told you about it just now..."

"I don't know about it. By the way, the thing you did was outrageous, humiliating a student like that. At first, our department wanted to award you since you're the best teacher. But let's forget about it now!"

"What? Mr. Reeds, I've worked so hard for that award for these past three years, earning all the honors for the department."

Cassandra was completely stunned.

“It’s still a problem we need to discuss with the college whether we want to keep you as a teacher here with us given the kind of teacher you are. How dare you talk about that award still?” Jacob sneered.

After that, he turned and looked at Whitney who appeared shocked as well.

“About you, you’ve been the president of the student union for three years now, but you didn’t manage to do anything. If anything bad happened, you would always look for help from the department. What else could you do other than this? Just retain the post as the president of the student union first. If there’s a better candidate, we’ll ask you to resign!”

“Ah?”

“What’s wrong?”

Jacob shouted at Whitney before he returned to his office with his hands behind his back.

Whitney thought, ‘D*mn it! I didn't even say a single word!

‘Why?!’

‘Why is that so?’

As Whitney and Cassandra were thinking about that, they turned to look at Gerald coldly.

Gerald only smiled bitterly. Then, he turned and left. Soon, he would hear some news regarding Victor.

They always condemned him and looked down on him. Now it was time for him to take his revenge on them.

Gerald returned to the classroom, and he realized that Harper and the others had left.

He also returned to his dorm and lied down in bed. He told Harper and the others that it was fine now. He looked at the time and realized that it was six o'clock in the evening. He decided to play with his phone for a while before he turned in.

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At that moment, Cassandra sent a message to his other social media account.

“I’m outraged! Ordinary Man! I want to go and kill myself! What should I do?”

Cassandra said so.

Actually, Gerald became angry when he saw Cassandra’s name.

“If you don’t want to live on, just go and die! What more can you do?”

Gerald made a swift reply.

“Oh! You’re so annoying! I just want to tell you some of the things which upset me.”

Gerald was tongue-tied.

He did use quite a vicious tone.

But how could Cassandra use such a sweet tone on him, behaving like a spoilt child.

Gerald did not know how to reply to his message.

“Humph! I always care about you, but you never care about me. I’m so sad!

“But I still want to tell you about it. You know what, Ordinary Man. I could only pour out my feelings and speak freely with you.

“Something happened today. Do you know about the fundraising campaign for my department? Just because of one pathetic poor b*stard from my class, the campaign was ruined. Layla now has no money to pay for her younger sister’s medical fee. What’s more important is that I was robbed of the chance to gain the award of the best teacher just because of him!”

“I’ve donated money for Layla. I donated seventy thousand dollars to her! And regarding that teacher award, it serves you right!”

Gerald scolded her directly, disregarding her feelings.

“How annoying! Why did I feel that you like to tease me? Humph!

“Oh gosh!”

Gerald became utterly speechless now.

He wondered if others felt quite happy even though they were scolded by him just because he had become rich now.

It might be so.

At that time, Felicity sent a message to Gerald too. “Are you there? Ordinary Man?”

Gerald had had enough of those women.

“Get lost! I’m unavailable!” Gerald scolded.

“Oh! Ordinary Man has turned quite wild now. You’ve scolded me!”

Gerald was again tongue-tied.

It seemed to be true indeed. After he became rich, the others felt quite happy with it even though he scolded them.

Then he ignored their messages directly.

Gerald logged into his own main account and chatted a short while with Mila.

Then, he turned in.

The next morning, Gerald woke up early in the morning because of the function which Mr. Raine mentioned to him before. It was because no one would notice it if he woke up early and went to get his car.

After all, he needed to stay low-key.

Gerald reached the park.

“Humph! Isn’t that the poor man? Don’t you know how frustrating it was yesterday? He was not even expelled!”

“That’s true! He beat Victor up, and he could still stay alive up until now. It’s such a miracle!”

“Something’s wrong. Look at him! It’s only six o’clock in the morning. Where is he going early in the morning? Does he want to run away?”

“Yes! He clearly wants to run away! Sisters, that b*stard beat our Victor up. We must not allow him to get away with it! Go and stop him!”

The minute Gerald entered the park, he soon found himself face-to-face with four women.

They were none other than the four women who condemned him viciously for Victor the previous day.

It seemed like they came to the park for a morning run.

Unfortunately, they bumped into Gerald.

“Humph! B*stard! Where do you plan to run away to?”

The woman who seemed to be their leader said coldly.

Gerald took out his Lamborghini car key, looked up, and signaled to the Lamborghini car behind them.

“I’m not running anywhere. I just want to drive my car around!”

Gerald said coldly.

After that, he pressed his car key.

A chirping sound was heard.

The lights of the car flashed and the door opened automatically...

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The door of the car was opened.

The four women were stunned.

‘What?’

‘Does this luxurious car belong to Gerald?’

‘Isn’t he a poor man from our department? How could he afford to drive such a beautiful and luxurious car?’

They turned to look at Gerald, and their facial expressions changed drastically.

That car alone was much more expensive than Victor's Audi car. They sneered. 'So what about Victor? It's so much better than Victor's!

'How cool this Lamborghini car is!'

The leader from among the girls became pale. She then rushed toward Gerald and said nervously, "Gerald, is this car really yours? Is this yours?"

"If not, is it yours?"

Gerald seemed to be used to that kind of woman and their tones. He soon said coldly.

"Ah! This car is so cool! Is it around one to two million dollars?"

That woman soon got near the car. She completely lost herself by then. 'Look at this luxurious car! If I'm able to even sit in this car for even once, I'll be so happy that I might die!'

The other three women rushed toward the car too. They looked at Gerald in admiration.

"Around a million and eight hundred thousand dollars!"

Gerald started the engine of the car, and a charming growling sound was heard.

“Wow! It’s so cool! Gerald, where are you going? Can you let us have a ride too?”

The woman smiled seductively and asked Gerald.

“Get lost!”

Gerald scolded them coldly.

In fact, they were quite beautiful. But it was a totally different thing. They condemned Gerald for Victor’s sake just now, but now they wanted him to give them a ride. A good thing like that would never happen.

After that, he drove the car and left directly.

“Gerald! You...”

They were being ignored by Gerald. They became so angry that they stamped their feet.

Unexpectedly, Gerald was an extremely wealthy person.

They felt as if they had suffered a great loss. They had offended a truly wealthy man just because of a stupid Victor. It was just not worth it.

How about Gerald?

After he scolded them, he drove his car directly to the outer area of the conference hall.

Although it was still quite early, Bernard and the other leaders were there now.

There were two parts in the function. The first entailed a meeting on the establishment of the school which would be held an hour later. Gerald needed to attend the meeting with a few other leaders in an isolated meeting room.

Gerald funded the establishment of Scothow Elementary School, and he had helped to establish around twenty to thirty such schools. The schools were built specially for the children of the workers who worked outstation, providing an educational platform for them.

It was quite a big contribution.

Certainly, he was rather highly valued and esteemed.

The second part of the function entailed a meeting with the teaching faculty and staff in the main conference hall.

Only two months were left before they started recruiting the students. They needed to arrange for the selection of the teaching staff in advance and provide training for them.

Gerald had to join the first part of the function and was forced to listen to Bernard talking ceaselessly about various things for around two hours.

However, Gerald did not plan to join the second part of the function, holding a meeting with the teaching faculty and staff.

It was because he did not have to raise any opinion there.

Besides, he felt pressurized, being with a bunch of teachers. Their academic levels were certainly not on par with each other. They were quite knowledgeable and it would pressurize Gerald.

Since he was free, he decided to take a look at one of the schools near the venue of the function.

After all, it could be considered a particularly meaningful thing which he had done.

Gerald did not drive his car. He walked to the school instead.

Since that school was almost completely built when they resumed the project, it had now come to the furnishing stage after only two months. The entire school was now planted with trees and plants.

Undeniably, the surrounding of the school was quite good given the large funding he provided.

He snapped two photographs of the school, planning to send and share them with his sister later.

“Stop! Don’t you know that you’re prohibited to snap photographs in school? Didn’t you see the warning on the sign?”

At that moment, he heard a cold and stern female voice.

Gerald was frightened.

He turned around and saw the sign. It claimed that snapping photographs were prohibited there.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t notice that. I’ll delete it right away!”

Although he helped fund the establishment of that school, Gerald did not find anything special in what he had done.

So he complied and deleted the photographs.

“Eh? Are you... Gerald?”

Surprisingly, he found himself being recognized by that woman. He turned around and saw a woman in a black uniform. Did she know him?

“Lilian, do you know him?”

There are two other women and a man beside Lilian. They now asked Lilian curiously.

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“I know him! He’s my classmate from high school. What’s wrong, Gerald? We haven't seen each other for around three years now. Have you forgotten about me?”

Lilian said in surprise. But other than surprise, she seemed to be filled with a kind of sarcasm at that moment, mocking Gerald.

It was the kind of feeling one had when she finally realized that the person whom she thought had long disappeared appeared in front of her again. After so many years, the b*stard whom she thought had long been dead appeared out of nowhere. She was filled with that kind of surprise.

In fact, looking at Lilian like that, Gerald was stunned too. He was tongue-tied...

Certainly, he knew who Lilian was. They were in the same class since sophomore year. When they were about to go into different courses in junior high, they were put in the same class again.

At that moment, Lilian seemed to be the art committee member. She was good at singing and dancing.

However, there was nothing special in their relationship back then.

A girl like Lilian would certainly like those boys whose families were rich and were esteemed in high school. Gerald did not have those qualities.

Further, their school was located in town, and Lilian was a resident there. So her taste and family background did not allow her to befriend a person like Gerald.

For three years in high school, the things they said to each other were less than what they said to each other when they met each coincidentally there at the school just now.

So they certainly did not keep in touch with each other after they graduated from high school.

Although Gerald noticed Lilian's disdainful gaze just now, he still cherished things of old.

"Yes, we haven't met each other for three years now. I almost couldn't recognize you. You're so much prettier now!"

Gerald smiled slightly.

“Hey! It’s indeed been a long time. Even you can learn how to praise others. But why did I feel quite awkward about it, listening to your praises?”

Lilian crossed her arms around her chest and smiled coldly.

“Lilian, let’s introduce him to us since he’s your old classmate...”

That woman noticed that Gerald appeared pleasing to the eye, so she smiled and said directly.

“What the hell! Fiona, could you please stop fawning on every man you met all the time? Do you know what kind of a person Gerald was during my high school?”

‘Oh my god!’ Lilian was tongue-tied.

Her best friend always acted like that. She was obsessed with finding herself a boyfriend every time she met a slightly handsome man.

But she thought that Fiona really needed to keep her eyes open.

Lilian could not help but admit that Gerald was indeed quite handsome, but he was just a...

“What’s wrong?”

“Gerald was an infamous poor person back in high school. Do you know what he usually ate during lunch hour at that time? He ate only plain bread with a few pickled vegetables. Besides, his uniform was so shabby that the pants around his knees were all torn. He even put patches on them. But he did not even want to buy a new uniform!”

“What? How is it possible that there’s such a poor person?”

The beautiful woman—Fiona stuck out her tongue, claiming that she was indeed frightened and shocked.

“I don’t believe you! Lilian, are you exaggerating the facts?”

That man smiled bitterly. “If I was as poor as that, I think it’s better if I kill myself!”

“What? Was I exaggerating the facts? Gerald, tell them whether what I said is true.”

Lilian became anxious.

She just wanted to prove to the others that she was right. Regarding how he condemned Gerald and upset him, Lilian did not even think about it. For her, Gerald was just a gossip topic.

Gerald sneered. “Yes, it’s true!”

Gerald smiled faintly, realizing that Lilian's temper and characteristics had not changed at all.

Although she annoyed him, he did not appear angry at all.

After all, what Lilian said just now was true. He did not care even if they looked down on him given that it was meaningless if he exposed his real identity and showed off his wealth before them.

“By the way, Lilian, why did you come to this school? From what I see, are you the teacher here? Did you find your job so soon?”

Gerald asked her. When he left the conference hall, he found that all of the teachers there were in that uniform.

“Yes, we completed our internship fast. Besides, I have a teacher qualification certificate. Certainly, I get it all done and settled. From now on, I'll be leading a life here in this big city—Mayberry. How about you? I heard that you're studying at Mayberry University. Have you found a job yet?”

After all, Lilian was quite mature now after all those years. Although she looked down on Gerald, she still inquired after him politely.

“Me? Not yet. I'm still wondering what I should do from now on!”

Lilian smiled.

“To be frank, Gerald, I thought that you’ll be much improved after you went to college. Surprisingly... If you couldn’t do it, just return to your hometown. See if you could find a job in the town. If not, you could always return to your village and buy some land. You can start with farming or something else. That’s how university students nowadays start their business!”

Lilian crossed her arms around her chest. Right from the start, she felt that Gerald was a good-for-nothing. After having a casual conversation with him, her opinion of him worsened.

He was about to go for an internship, but he still did not know what kind of thing he wanted to do in the future.

Looking at how Lilian advised him, he only smiled bitterly and nodded repeatedly.

Beside them, that man nodded too. He then said, “What you said is right. It’s difficult for university students to find a job nowadays. Some small companies do not have a promising future. The large companies want only the talented ones. Just look at Mayberry university, only the most exceptional ones will be able to find good jobs. How about the others? They either rely on some connections or their families in order to have a promising future.”

Another girl beside them added, “That’s true. The people who suffer the most are the ones like Gerald. He doesn’t even have the capabilities and eloquence. Besides, he’s quite poor both economically and in the cultural aspect too.”

They were immersed in a heated discussion, and Gerald stood there having nothing to do.

At last, Gerald managed to say something after they were done. “Are the four of you the newly recruited teachers here? It’s not bad indeed. The salary given is quite good too since the investor has provided a huge amount of funds. The living arrangement which they prepared is quite good too!”

Gerald just wanted to chat with her as an old school mate.

“What the hell? Gerald, don’t pretend that you know a lot here. You said those things just because you want to show off in front of us. I’m well aware of that. What do you have to be so smug about? I know about your situation clearly. Do you want me to spill everything?”

Lilian said rather helplessly.

Gerald only touched his nose slightly and smiled bitterly.

“By the way, let me tell you something since we bumped into each other here today...”

At that moment, Lilian looked up, as if she had thought about something.

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Gerald looked up. “What’s up?”

“We’ve got a gathering between old friends tonight. It happens every couple of months. I’ve never mentioned it before—but since we’ve bumped into each other, this is me letting you know!

“Also, Sharon will be there.” Lilian stifled a little laugh. “Come to think of it: Back in high school, you’d come first place in grades, and she’d come second. The two of you were close—in fact, you were after her, weren’t you?”

Gerald didn’t reply.

Sharon Leslie, an old friend from high school. It was true that they got along well back then.

It was also true that Gerald had harbored feelings for her, but that had been before... all of this.

Had he pursued her? He hadn’t dared.

Early on, during their first year of high school, they’d chat together often. Later, even on those few occasions when he’d tried to strike up a conversation, she hadn’t replied. And so, they’d drifted apart.

Three years had passed in a flash.

“Tee-hee! Come on... you know, last month, Sharon’s boyfriend was treating us to some eats, and then the topic of you came up! Sharon wanted to know what Gerald was up to—no one could answer her at the time, but now... you free tonight?”

As she spoke, Lilian stole a peek at Gerald, searching for a hint of despair.

But no such expression was to be found in his features.

“Tonight? Yeah, I can make it!”

“Great, great. You have to come, then—let everyone have a look at you!”

Surreptitiously, Lilian snuck out her handphone and stole a snapshot of Gerald, which she sent to the chat group for the gathering:

“Guess who this bozo is?”

“Who? Looks familiar... I’ve definitely seen him somewhere before!”

“Same here, but... he just doesn’t look like anyone worth remembering! Ring a bell with any of you?”

Sharon Leslie: “Is that Gerald?”

“Oh, yeah!” Lilian gushed. “You two were buddies back in high school, huh? Only took you one look—it’s Gerald!”

It’s exciting to be the one who brings up something that gets everyone excited. That was the main reason why Lilian had suddenly decided to invite Gerald to the gathering.

They had a lot of former schoolmates in Mayberry—there was a handful in her class alone. Perhaps they wouldn’t recognize Gerald, but they were guaranteed to have heard his name before.

If he showed up at the gathering, she was certain he’d be the hot topic of the night.

Just look at the uproar in the chat group right now...

Sharon Leslie: “Were we buddies in high school? I don’t recall anything like that! Hehehe...”

Lilian’s fingers flew over the keypad. “Alas! Found yourself a hunk in Sunnydale now, so your ex doesn’t matter anymore?”

Sharon Leslie: “Get out of here! What do you mean ‘ex’... How about you ask him along to our gathering? We should catch up—we’re all old friends, after all!”

“Alright!”

Lilian turned to Gerald. “Everyone’s eager to see you again—especially Sharon. She even said it herself. Since you’ve got time tonight, just come for the gathering! If you’re worried about whether you can afford it, I’ll cover you for the time being!”

Gerald had just been about to turn her down. Truth be told, he hadn’t made a lot of friends back during those years. He’d have nothing to talk about with everyone there.

But now that Lilian had said all that, he couldn’t very well say no anymore.

“Alright, tonight then!” Gerald nodded his agreement.

Lilian gave him the venue, then went on her way.

Gerald shook his head in exasperation. “Lilian’s teaching at my new school. It’s a small world after all!”

He’d been planning to take a stroll through town, but talking to Lilian had ruined his mood for that.

Well, it was noon, and he was hungry, so Gerald headed out anyway.

At the school gates, there were three children in tattered clothes, perhaps four or five-year-olds. They were peering inside.

“Is this a school, brother? It doesn’t look like what Ms. Queta was talking about...”

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Her face smeared with dirt, the little girl was talking to the boy beside her.

“Maybe they haven’t started classes yet—that’s what’s missing!” The boy wiped away some snot. “I wanna go too!”

Another somewhat chubby boy piped up, “You need money to go to school. We don’t have any money. Ms. Queta is already working several jobs to feed us. We can’t ask her for any more!”

“I’m hungry!” the little girl whined.

“I’ll find you some bread in a bit!”

“Why are you urchins crowding the gates? Get lost!” A security guard came out, hollering in fury.

The three children leaped up in fright.

The guard was in his fifties, the sort you might find at a construction site.

The children were visibly terrified by him, and on the verge of fleeing—but they kept on gazing at the school, just a little longer...

Gerald spoke up: “They’re only looking. That’s fine, isn’t it? It’s not like you paid for this school.”

“Kid, I didn’t say anything about you going inside earlier, but don’t be putting on any airs with me! You don’t own this school any more than I do... now, get lost!”

The man was red and blustering. He had clearly had a few pints to go with his lunch—his breath reeked of alcohol.

“Here, buy yourself a real drink.” With a little smile, Gerald reached into his wallet and tossed him a hundred bucks.

This money obviously wasn’t being offered as a compliment. Gerald made a note to recommend the man to be fired later. A lousy old drunkard in charge of security, probably hustled in by a friend in the company.

“Yo! Alright, alright! Thanks a lot, man!” Then the guard left.

Gerald knelt down and smiled at the children. “You kids wanna go to school, too?”

The girl in the middle nodded vigorously. “I do!”

The other two were more cautious and watched him wordlessly.

Truth be told, seeing these three young children, yearning to go to school like this... it tore at his heart.

No one understood that feeling better than him.

That was why he couldn't resist the urge to do something for them.

"Anyone hungry? How about I take you guys out for lunch?"

"Ms. Queta says we shouldn't talk to strangers—and we absolutely mustn't follow them anywhere!" The two boys stepped out in front of the girl.

Gerald laughed and nodded. "Alright... then I'll buy some stuff and bring it to you here!"

With that, he ran off to the KFC opposite and procured a pile of burgers, fried chicken, and drinks.

"You don't have to follow me anywhere. Just take it and eat it. Besides, I'll help you go to school, too!" Gerald patted the girl on the head and handed the food to them.

"Thank you!" The children's eyes came alight.

The moment they received the food, they began gobbling it down.

“Why are you just eating something that he gave you?”

It was the dulcet sound of a woman’s voice—pleasant, yet anxious.

“I can’t apologize enough, sir. How much was all that food? I’ll pay for it!” the woman babbled nervously.

However, when Gerald saw who she was, his eyes shone.

“It’s you!”

Chapter 193

Gerald recognized her straight away.

He had met her in Homeland Kitchen just a few days ago. Jane had been scolding her—back when she still worked for them.

She’d left an impression on him. Even just seeing her from the side, he had known that she was an extraordinary beauty. Seeing her again now, she’d immediately seemed familiar to him, and then he’d placed her.

“You know me?” she whispered, gathering up the three children protectively.

She was evidently frightened of him. What if he was involved in human trafficking?

“Yes, we bumped into each other in Homeland Kitchen. Have you forgotten me?”
Gerald smiled at her.

The woman spent a moment in recollection, then brightened up. “Oh, it’s you, sir!
Thank you for helping me out, that time!”

That time, she was being scolded so hard she didn’t dare look up from the floor. It was
only when she was leaving that she had stolen a brief glance at Gerald.

Meeting him again now, what she recognized was his voice.

He had saved her that time.

Also, he was rich!

“Don’t mention it. At least you won’t have to keep your guard up around me. Have
you been looking after these three children?” Gerald inquired curiously.

“Yup, yup!” Queta Smith nodded, bringing over the three kids.

As they walked along together, she told him the story: It turned out that these three
children had been wandering urchins who had managed to escape after being
kidnapped by slavers.

With such muddled circumstances, no orphanage had been willing to take them in, and so they'd been wandering the city on their own, begging for scraps... until Queta found them, and took them all under her care.

She mainly worked as a kindergarten teacher and also did some other work on the side, thereby earning enough to keep them all fed. She had even been saving up money to send them to school.

Good thing Queta often worked with kids. She'd taught these three well.

What a mess. And the three children were all siblings.

His heart wrenching terribly, Gerald asked, "What about your family?"

"I don't have one—I grew up in an orphanage." As she told him this, Queta hung her head and picked at her clothes.

What a phenomenally beautiful woman she was, though her radiance was being obscured by long hardship.

And she was being very reserved in Gerald's presence. He knew it was because she was afraid he would tire of her.

Queta wouldn't know that Gerald used to be the sort of person who never felt he was good enough, either.

The two of them were about the same age. Gerald used to think he'd gotten the short straw in life, but Queta here had it so much worse: A young woman with no parents, caring for three kids on her own.

How often did you come across a woman like this, these days?

Gerald was deeply moved with admiration for her.

"Where do you stay?" he asked.

"Over there!" All three children pointed towards an ordinary residential area, not far from the school.

"Would you mind if I swing by for a bit?" he asked with a chuckle.

After a moment's consternation, Queta nodded.

The whole area was basically a collection of old squatter shacks.

When they reached her place, Queta brushed off a stool and offered it to him. Then she shooed the three kids away to go get a bath. The children had been trying to do their part, collecting some refuse to sell every day. That was why they were covered in grime.

“Queta Smith, my name is Gerald Crawford. Shall we be friends?”

“Friends?” She was taken aback. Queta knew that Gerald was a powerful man since he had been able to order around that manager person.

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Why would such a powerful man be interested in her friendship?

Gerald wouldn't just come out and say why, either. Today was just a chance meeting.

He was a soft-hearted man and held particular sympathy for people who were suffering.

Of course he could just solve their problems straight away: Find them a nicer place to stay in, put all the kids in school... all it would take was a few words from him.

However, from the moment Gerald saw Queta again, his heart had been racing wildly out of control. Some subtle emotion was compelling him to get closer to her, to get to know her better.

He didn't understand this feeling.

Yet, thinking back now, he'd known from the first time he laid eyes on her... Just one look from the side and her face had been burned into his memory.

A girl he'd met purely by chance. How could he be feeling this way about her?

He didn't have the slightest clue. All he knew was that, from the moment he met her, he'd felt like he'd known her forever.

The two of them began to talk, warming towards each other with each passing moment.

Without noticing, an entire afternoon had gone by.

"Queta, Yasmin, I'm going now. I'll visit again in a few days!" Gerald waved goodbye to the girls and took his leave.

After spending the day with them, his heart felt light, his soul at peace for the first time in an eternity.

Then his phone rang. It was Lilian.

When they'd last parted ways, Gerald had asked to exchange numbers with her. Reluctantly, she'd agreed.

"I say, Gerald... I invite you to be a part of this gathering, and you're going to be late for your first time?" Lilian's voice was sharp with reprimand. "I said to meet at five. Where are you?"

"Oh, something came up, so I was held back. On my way now, maybe ten minutes!"

Doot... doot... Without another word, she'd hung up on him.

Gerald smiled wryly.

He should have just stayed out of this 'old schoolmates' trouble. What a d*mned headache!

But he had already given his word, so he had to keep it now. He returned to the car park, started up his car, and made for the hotel where the reservation had been made.

He arrived, parked the car, and found the table.

"Took you long enough, Gerald! You've really kept everyone waiting for you, you know?" Lilian's face contorted hideously at the sight of him.

"My God, it's really Gerald! After all these years! No patches on your clothes... have you started dressing like normal people?"

"Hahaha! Oh, Gerald, I hear you're in Mayberry University? That's a swanky place! How have you been doing lately? The internship is coming up soon—found yourself a spot somewhere, yet?"

“Have a seat first. Gerald, tell us all about what you’ve been through, these past few years.”

They were in a private dining room, with a massive table that could easily seat two dozen. That was the number of ‘old friends’ who were in attendance this evening, including a handful of former high school classmates of his. It was a crowded and cozy affair.

Gerald smiled at everyone, then spotted a girl at the head of the table: Sharon Leslie!

The prettiest girl in class, and his best friend in high school. They used to study together all the time.

As a matter of fact, each had been harboring some measure of affection for the other.

However, Sharon hadn’t wanted to get involved with someone from his sort of background.

Likewise, Gerald hadn’t dared to get involved with someone from her sort of background.

There had been too great a fault in their stars.

And so, they’d never been much more to each other than just friends.

“It’s been a while, Sharon. Have you been well?” Gerald smiled at her. Sharon had changed tremendously. She’d learned how to use make-up, and her appeal was now far beyond what he remembered.

A first-class beauty without question.

“I’m doing great. Why don’t you find a place to sit down!” Sharon replied with a smile and in a tone that was neither malicious nor dismissive.

After three years without contact, anything they had had between them had long vanished.

They were just strangers, now.

“Alright!” Gerald spotted an empty seat, and he moved to take it.

“Who said you could sit there?” Before he could actually do so, however, another girl—another ex-classmate—snapped harshly at him, giving him a fright.

Chapter 195

“Did anyone say you could sit here? This spot is reserved for my boyfriend! Goodness gracious... it’s one thing to have been a loser back then, but after three years of university, you still haven’t improved one bit! Go, scram, get lost!”

Gerald couldn’t even remember her name anymore, and he couldn’t be bothered to pick a fight with her at the moment.

That left the seat by the door, where all the food would be brought in.

Realizing that this had been everyone's intention all along, Gerald simply resigned himself to it.

Actually, there was an empty spot beside Sharon, too. However, she'd left her handbag on there, indicating that she was saving the seat for somebody. Certainly, she'd made no move to offer it to him.

Lilian grinned at Gerald, then turned and asked, "Sharon, when's Murphy gonna get here?"

"That guy... Hmph! Always wishy-washy about everything. Every time, he'll say he's almost there—but you're still gonna have to wait a while!"

Although she sounded upset, in truth her heart sang with pride.

"Yo, yo, yo! Is Sharon talking about Murphy, as in the Murphy who graduated and immediately became sales manager of an upmarket business along Mayberry Commercial Street? Are the two of you not getting along, then?"

"Right? Back when he was still a student, Sharon clung to him everywhere. Now that he's a Mayberry big shot, you're full of complaints? Actually, you just want us to be jealous of you, right?"

“Honestly speaking though, could you tell us how he landed that job? Gosh, sales manager at Mayberry Street... I wouldn’t trade it for a dozen state appointments!”

No sooner had Sharon mentioned her boyfriend than the whole table was abuzz about him. The air was thick with the smell of envy.

“Hah, I wouldn’t know about that!” Sharon laughed. “When he gets here, he can tell you himself!”

Right on cue, the doors opened, and two men walked in.

“Murphy, you’re here!” Everyone greeted the tall, thin man with warm smiles.

So this was Murphy—Sharon’s current boyfriend.

The other guy was that other girl’s boyfriend, and he casually took the seat that Gerald had almost stolen.

“Speak of the devil... Murphy, we were just talking about you! Anyway, check out who’s joining us today! Let me introduce you... That guy over there? Meet Gerald!” Giggling, Lilian pointed out Gerald, who was sipping at his drink.

“Oh? So this is that penniless tramp, Gerald? Pleased to meet you!” Wearing a look of awe, Murphy came over to shake hands.

Frowning, Gerald remained in his seat and ignored him.

It was only at this point that he was really starting to get annoyed by all this.

He had been too naïve, expecting this to be a simple reunion between old friends he hadn't seen in years.

He craved the odd bit of socializing, too.

However, it was only after he'd arrived that he began to suspect that Lilian might have had other motives behind inviting him here. Gerald had been brought here to be the party clown, the evening's amusement.

No one here really cared about him, not even Sharon—Gerald didn't even know who she was anymore.

This whole thing had turned out to be a huge disappointment.

Gerald had no interest in this Murphy guy.

Murphy, on the other hand, was beaming at him. "Ahaha, what a character you are, Gerald! Sorry, I was only joking around. I heard from Sharon that the two of you used to be good friends."

“Hmph! Gerald, Murphy was offering to shake hands with you, just now! Where are your manners?”

“That’s right! Murphy, you don’t have to apologize to this guy at all! Just ask Sharon—he’s a total deadbeat!”

Chapter 196

“Ahaha, don’t say that! He goes to Mayberry University, you know—after he graduates, he might very well find himself a job along Mayberry Commercial Street, too!”

Everyone wanted to get in on the merriment.

“Oho? Then we’d basically be colleagues! Let’s get along, Gerald!” Murphy chortled.

He wanted to keep this conversation going. He would often have to hear about everyone bringing up this old friend of Sharon’s.

It had made him curious about what she’d seen in a penniless guy like Gerald.

Sometimes it even made things awkward for him.

That was why, the moment this guy was introduced to him as Gerald, Murphy couldn’t resist having a bit of fun at his expense, just to see how he’d respond.

So far, it appeared that this Gerald had no social skills to speak of whatsoever. Once he started working life, it would be a carnival with him!

“Haha... Leave him alone, Murphy! For a guy like him to get a job in Mayberry Street, the boss would have to be deaf and blind!”

“Oh, yeah—Murphy, you never told us how you scored that Sales Manager job over there!”

The focus had been returned to Murphy, anyway.

“Oh, that’s a long story—but I suppose it could be because this is my field of specialty. But my boss thinks I’m still kinda green, so my salary’s only 45k per year for now. Ahh, I still have such a long way to go!”

“Whoa! That’s amazing, man!”

A fresh graduate commanding that level of pay was a rare thing. What’s more, he could still climb further up the coveted Mayberry corporate ladder.

Lilian was green with envy toward Sharon now. She was her equal in terms of looks—but Lilian was more carefree, while Sharon was more reserved. The latter approach apparently made a woman more desirable.

At the moment, Sharon was beaming with pride.

Unbidden, her gaze sought out Gerald, further down the table.

A quiet pang of sorrow arose in her heart, followed immediately by horror—imagine if, during those years, she'd succumbed to a moment's sentimentality and had become an item with that guy... what would her fate have been?

“Ahah, I just got lucky. Lilian, you and the others have done pretty well for yourselves too—I hear you're an elementary school teacher now? Is that for real?”

Lilian nodded. “Yup, yup!”

“That's wonderful to hear. From now on, we can all continue to grow with the Mayberry family. I'm planning to get my own place in the district in a couple of years... and then, I shall marry Sharon!”

Chuckling merrily, Murphy added, “Oh, yes—Gerald, bro, what are your plans for after you graduate? Gonna apply for a government position? Have you got a job lined up for yourself? Interested in sales? Design? Perhaps admin work?”

“I'd recommend that last one for you. A government office would be a tough fit for you. Speaking as someone working in sales, honestly, you'd be terrible at this sort of thing, Gerald. As for design, it sounds great on paper, but the reality is a nightmare! It takes a sharp, logical mind... another talent you don't seem to be blessed with. No, it's gotta be something less cerebral, a basic desk job where all you need to know is how to work a simple calculator—that's perfect for you!”

After Murphy said all this, everyone watched Gerald contemptuously.

The food was already on the table. Gerald ate, keeping his own counsel. The only thing he said in reply was, “We’ll see how it goes. Whatever works. No need for your concern.”

“Yo, yo, yo! There’s that attitude, again... Can’t handle the truth?”

“That’s it! It’s bad enough how hopeless you are, but you won’t even listen to good advice? Alas, your future looks bleak!” Lilian moaned.

As they went on heckling Gerald in this way, unbeknownst to any of them, trouble was brewing outside their private room.

A group of youths were having a disagreement with one of the staff:

“I said we’ll pay extra, understand? We’re a big group—it has to be this room!” snapped a crude sort of fellow. “Name your price, d*mn it, and then kick everyone out of there!”

Chapter 197

“Sir, there’s just no way! Their food has already been served!”

“You still don’t get it? Don’t you know who you’re talking to? Three minutes, that’s all I’ll give you—and if you can’t get it done for me, your manager will do it in your place. Try me!” the man blustered arrogantly.

“Alright... I’ll give it a shot.” The waitress hurried inside and explained the situation.

Lilian and the others would have none of it.

What was the meaning of this? They had gotten here first—they had even begun eating already! Now, you come in here and say, what, switch tables? Just like that?

Who do you think you are!

“No way. Tell them we’re not moving!” Lilian was glaring, her temper suddenly flaring.

“Oho? I’d like to see just who that is hollering in there, thinking she’s hot stuff!”

The doors to the private room opened, and the other group strode right in.

It was building up toward a brawl.

Murphy was their champion on this side. He had nothing to fear from your run-of-the-mill rich brats—especially not now that he was working for the Mayberry group. Everyone looked toward him in anticipation.

Murphy cleared his throat and stood. “My friends, we did reserve this room first. Changing places now is simply not an option—that’s just unreasonable. How about this, next time, I make it my treat? We can have a meal together at Homeland Kitchen along Mayberry Commercial Street!”

He was cool and collected, smiling amicably.

It was a statement bearing multiple payloads: They were standing their ground, and he had connections to Mayberry.

“Gods! Everyone and their mother claims to be from Mayberry these days! You think just because I don’t work there myself, that means I don’t have any big friends in Mayberry?”

Saying this, someone appeared at the doorway, strolling through with both hands in his pockets.

“Mr. Ziegler! So it was you, sir?” Seeing this man, Murphy’s stern countenance instantly gave way to effusive fawning. Even Sharon had to avert her eyes from the sight of this.

Yancy Ziegler was a big kahuna attending Sunnydale University and had been painting the town red regularly with the Bakers!

He also used to be a recurring fixture at cruise parties, where he was said to have made friends with someone of note!

This was big. Yancy was not your typical rich brat at all!

“Oh, you know who I am?” Yancy said pleasantly.

“How could I not? I’m friends with Ken, and he’s always going on about you!” Murphy was in total doormat mode now. Gone was the cool champion from a moment earlier.

“I see... one of Ken’s boys, huh?” Yancy smirked. “I came here to have dinner... is switching tables for my sake really too much to ask?”

“Meaning no offense, I swear, but... Mr. Ziegler, we’ve already started here, you see... Couldn’t you just see this as doing me a favor?”

“Pah! Like I owe you any favors.” Yancy was done playing nice. “Enough horse crap—will you move or not?”

Murphy swallowed hard. So did everybody else at the table.

Mr. Yancy Ziegler was not someone to be taken lightly.

Murphy’s usual routines were worthless here. One word to Aiden and he could kiss his precious job in Mayberry Street goodbye.

Though his cheeks were burning now, there was nothing for it but to grit his teeth and say, “Understood! We’ll move!”

“Gosh, but there are so many dishes on the table... How shall we do this?” Lilian suddenly chirped sweetly. Just a moment ago, she had been a raging tigress.

Though she was still discussing the same matter as before, this time, she had become a mewling kitten.

“Gerard can move everything over to our new table. Clear the room for Mr. Ziegler!” one of the other girls suggested.

“Right! That’s the way we’ll do it, then!” Everyone else nodded in agreement.

Yancy, meanwhile, froze in place.

Gerard?

He peered down at the young man, sitting with his back toward him, just quietly eating away without another care in the world.

Truth be told, when Yancy had first walked in here, he had glanced at that same guy and thought that he looked familiar.

Now that his name had been spoken, Yancy burst into action, hurrying over to Gerard for a better look.

He very nearly shrieked aloud. It was Gerard Crawford!

“Gerald! S-s-so you were here!” Yancy stammered, remembering what Aiden had said last time.

Behind him, those henchmen who had also met Gerard before were too stunned to move.

Chapter 198

Who would have thought that Mr. Crawford would be here, hanging with this sort of crowd?

“Oh? Mr. Ziegler, you know this hobo, Gerard?” Murphy asked in surprise.

For some reason, when Yancy Ziegler greeted Gerard Crawford by name, Murphy and many of the other guys present at the scene were overcome with jealousy. How was it that Yancy knew that guy but not them?

What was this?

“How the hell is it any of your business whom I happen to know? Get the hell out of my sight!” Hearing what Murphy had called Gerard, Yancy was roaring with rage.

The blood drained out of Murphy's face.

Gerard set down his chopsticks before calmly replying, "Ah, it's you, Yancy. I remember you from my last visit to Sunnydale. Oh, yes—did you find yourself a ticket after all?" He had deliberately modified past events slightly.

"Oh, yes! I did indeed! Thank you so much, Gerard! Really, thank you!"

Yancy bent over in a deep bow. Considering how he was always bowing and scraping in Aiden Baker's presence, what more Gerard Crawford?

"Thank you, Gerard!" All the men behind Yancy followed suit.

And that was hello.

"No problem. If I could ask something in return, Yancy... Let me keep this room?"

"Of course, of course!" Yancy didn't know what business Gerard had here, but if he said jump, Yancy would only need to know how high. After exchanging a few more quick pleasantries, he grabbed his people and withdrew without delay.

Peace returned to the private dining room.

Silence reigned as everyone stared at Gerard with mouths agape. This guy wielded that sort of clout?

How could this be possible?

“Gerard, how... How do you know Mr. Ziegler? What was he thanking you so much for?” Her stomach churning horribly, Lilian anxiously spoke first.

“Oh, he misplaced a bus ticket one time—but I found it for him!”

What?

Everyone stared with eyes as wide as the dinner plates on the table.

Who was he trying to kid? All that just now, for a bus ticket?

Gerard himself had only just realized that this off-handed lie might have come off as a bit of a stretch.

“Hmm... Maybe it was a plane ticket. Can’t remember anymore.”

“Huh?” Both Lilian and Sharon were still flabbergasted. Not even a plane ticket would account for this!

Scratching his head, Gerard tried to figure a way out of this. “I honestly don’t remember what sort of ticket it was, but he was really grateful for it. Hahaha!”

That should do it—and Gerard felt that he had just about had his fill now. He didn't see any point in hanging around for much longer. Making up some excuse about having things to do, he made his escape.

Following his departure, everyone in the room stared at one another. Obviously, Gerard had been hiding something... but how could he possibly have anything to do with Yancy Ziegler?

Why couldn't it have been them, instead? Why, if it had been them, then...!

Some were seething with envy. Others, like Sharon and Lilian, were wrestling with complicated emotions.

It occurred to them that Gerard could quite possibly experience a complete reversal of fortunes through his acquaintance with Yancy. It seemed completely plausible.

In that event, both girls felt as if they now understood the true meaning of regret.

The thought of seeing that day arrive filled them with abject horror.

Argh, what was there to be done!

“Haha, I don't think Yancy will have that much to do with Gerard. Gratitude is only worth a couple of favors, after all. How much could a tramp like Gerard ask for from

someone like Yancy? Basically nothing!” Sensing the agitation in the room, Murphy declared this with a smile.

At this, everyone was able to relax a little.

Gerard had simply walked away although he could very well have wrung them all out on the spot. For the sake of the affection he once held for Sharon, he had stayed his hand. No matter what she was like now, he wouldn't forget that she had helped him out before in the past.

This made them even.

Rubbing his belly in satisfaction, he began to wonder if Queta and the kids had eaten yet. Perhaps he would bring them something.

And so, he ended up at Queta's place once again... and again, for the next seven days in a row. He headed there whenever he had any free time, chatting with her and playing with the kids... it was a blissful haven for him, and he was always in a good mood there.

Even better than hanging around in school.

Moreover, he was growing closer to Queta every day.

Having secured her contact information, they messaged each other often as well.

Had he fallen in love? Not even he could say... but he certainly liked her enough.

This whole week spent chatting with Queta, he was occasionally slow in responding to Mila's own messages. One night, Mila abruptly sent him the following:

'Gerard... have you been chatting with other girls besides me?'

Chapter 199

At present, Mila and Gerard were in a relationship one level beyond friendship. However, Gerard had yet to pursue her in earnest—all they really did, for the most part, was chat.

Mila kept joking about how Gerard was her pretend-boyfriend, giving him the impression that she had never thought about going any further with him.

And yet, she was always throwing these little tantrums.

Basically, their relationship status was unclear.

Mila's latest message to him: "I'm asking you a question. Why aren't you replying? Have you been chatting with another girl these days?"

Girls are sensitive creatures, able to detect the slightest change in the wind.

Recently, Gerard's behavior had become highly suspicious. Back then, he would always reply to her instantly. Nowadays, a full minute could pass without any answer.

It was a disconcerting situation for Mila.

Gerard didn't want to lie to her. Anyway, there was no point.

"Yup. Just chatting." That was his reply.

"Heh. You didn't have to add that last bit. Even if you weren't just chatting, it's not like I'd know. You're an amazing guy. I already expected lots of pretty girls to be after you. The one you're talking to must be quite the looker. What's her name? Do I know her?" A whole barrage of text tumbled out from Mila.

"I doubt it. Myself, I've only known her for a week. As for her looks... perhaps it's her heart that's beautiful."

All this while, Mila had been playing all sorts of games with Gerard.

It made him feel like she didn't see him romantically in the slightest.

She only saw him as a friend, even knowing that he was positively loaded!

Gerard, in turn, had no ulterior designs for Queta. She was just a friend he got along with easily. More than that... he hadn't given the matter much thought.

“Oho! An angel with a beautiful heart? That’s really something! So the great Mr. Crawford has been ignoring his girlfriend because he’s already found another one!”

“I haven’t been ignoring you! Anyway, aren’t you always calling me your fake boyfriend? And she’s not my girlfriend!” That should clear things up.

Mila sent him an emoji.

“Tell me who exactly she is to you, then: Your best friend? Your lil sis? Help me understand!”

Seeing this message from Mila—especially that ‘lil sis’ part—Gerard’s heart clouded over.

He had thought that they were growing closer. He’d imagined that they were one step away from falling in love.

So... the truth was that Mila had only seen him as a brother. It made sense, of course—although he had wealth, in terms of charisma, he was probably nowhere near Mila’s boyfriend standards!

“Nothing like that. We’re just friends. I like her gentle nature and I admire her bravery! I truly respect the way she goes through life!”

“Wow! She sounds amazing! One day, I shall simply have to meet her. You must introduce her to me!”

“Sounds great. Once you’ve met her, I’m sure you’ll like her too. She’s just swell,” Gerard told her. “One more thing, Mila!”

Eh?

He’d just been about to ask if she was free tomorrow, but before he could finish typing, a bright red exclamation mark suddenly popped up next to the chat bar.

‘You are not Friends with this person!’

What was going on, here?

Hadn’t they been chatting away merrily? Why had she deleted him?

Panicking, Gerard called Mila directly.

An automated recording informed him that her phone had been turned off.

What in the world was going on? Gerard scratched his head.

He wouldn't know that up until just now, Mila had just been lying in bed, chatting with him.

Chapter 200

With the speed of Gerard's responses slowing down recently, Mila had spent the past few days in anxious speculation.

Then, she had ventured a casual inquiry—since it wouldn't do for her to press too hard on such details.

Sure enough, Gerard had been chatting up another woman!

Mila's heart was wracked with sorrow, as though something had been stolen right out of her own heart. In this short time, she'd gotten used to having Gerard around, always being there for her.

Now, she had to share his attention with another girl.

She wasn't happy about this, but she didn't say so outright. Instead, she'd made inquiries as to who she was, how pretty she must be... hints to let Gerard know that she was absolutely furious now!

What happened next? Gerard began talking about what a wonderful, gentle soul she was!

Grrr... Was she to stand there and take this?

Every message she had sent after that had been dripping with acid. Hinting that he was just a bro to her... she had only said that to get back at him a little. Then she went on asking about the other woman, saying that she'd really like to meet her.

Then she had deleted him and vehemently slammed her handphone against the wall, so hard that it shut off!

"What's wrong, Mila? Are you okay?" her roommate asked in worry.

"I'm fine! Good night!" Mila buried her head under the blanket.

"We're sorry, but the device you're trying to reach is currently offline..." Despite numerous attempts, Gerard still couldn't get through.

What on earth was going on with Mila?

He was just a little crestfallen. After all that hard work, he had almost been ready to believe that he really had a chance with Mila, but then... sigh!

Time for bed. Forget about all this nonsense.

The next morning, Gerard went to the cafeteria to have breakfast with Harper and Benjamin.

The moment he stepped into the hall, Harper nudged him and pointed. “Gerard, dude... look who it is!”

Following his gaze, Gerard spied Mila having breakfast with two of her roommates!

Last night’s affair still weighed heavily on his mind. Why had Mila blocked him, all of a sudden?

Straight away, he walked over there and sat down across from her.

“Mila, why did you block me last night?” he asked.

“Huh? Did I? I don’t recall doing anything like that. Maybe I accidentally clicked something? No way, why would I block you?” Mila dithered back and forth in a sing-song voice, but her eyes were smoldering with rage.

Gerard pulled out his handphone. “It’s true! Look... you’ve really blocked my number!”

Bam! Mila slapped her chopsticks down onto the table, and hissed, “Is everyone finished? Let’s get out of here!”

With one last baleful look at Gerard, Mila turned on her heels and marched off.

“What the hell happened last night, Gerard?” Harper exclaimed. “Mila always used to be so sweet to you—how did the two of you become like this, now?”

“I don’t know... One moment we were just chatting as usual, next thing you know... Maybe she’s gotten tired of me...” Gerard gave a short, disparaging little laugh.

“Impossible. Something like this doesn’t just happen for no reason. Girls crave attention. Go after her! Do you like her or not?”

Perhaps this was the problem with Gerard. Because he cared about Mila, he kept tip-toeing around her feelings. If anything started to go wrong, he gave up straight away.

It also had something to do with his past experiences.

He had only just recently become able to talk to girls without blushing and stuttering too much. As for the subject of understanding a woman’s heart... That was probably something he might still need to work on a little.

‘She clearly stated that she was only a little sister to me. If I try to pursue her, I might ruin our friendship too!’ Gerard wrestled with his inner thoughts.

But Harper was right. Girls craved attention. Perhaps he ought to give her some?