

## Chapter 368 Take The Initiative

Melissa raised her hands in contempt.

"The biological laboratory project is very large, as you know. Do you think a contract from the Green Group is easy to get?"

"So you haven't been able to do it yet." Howell's voice matched his frosty tone. "I told you, today is the deadline."

"I know that."

Melissa was not panicked about it at all. She looked out over the seemingly endless river and pushed her flying hair behind her ears.

She had a lot of time to understand what was in Howell's mind.

Howell had to be much more nervous than her because he had taken quite a risk to accomplish his goal. Something terrible must have happened within the Sherman Group.

If he couldn't get a contract with the Green Group, there was a probability that the Sherman Group would fall into a state of collapse.

After she'd thought about this, Melissa decided to gain control of the situation.

It might be just the opportunity she needed.

A determined look entered her eyes as she surveyed the scene around her.

"I only have the task of getting you an opportunity, Howell. You'll have to take the responsibility of getting a contract with them."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mean this." She paused and then continued by saying each word slowly for emphasis. "If you're going to be a part of the project, you'll have to invest thirty million dollars into it, at least."

Howell's smile faded away. He'd wanted to use this project to bolster the Sherman Group. He needed his company to get to that higher tier, but he had forgotten about all the fiscal problems.

Thirty million dollars! His company did not have that much free capital.

The wind blowing in the night air was making him very agitated. His eyes became filled with anger until he sneered, saying, "Melissa, it's time for you to make some financial offerings to me since I helped raise you, don't you think? Otherwise...who knows?"

"Otherwise you're going to tell my children the truth?"

Melissa chuckled, although her eyes still retained their intensity.

"I think you should think twice before you try to gamble with the Sherman Group. You still need me to broker a deal to meet with the Green Group management. How else would you ever meet with Zaid?"

"You!"

Howell's eyes narrowed into slits as his breath came out in loud heaving noises.

He really wanted to respond, but he knew what she said was true. He walked angrily along the ship railing instead.

He realized now that Melissa was not like she had been before. He could not control her any longer as he had five years ago. She had even outsmarted him at every level until he was unable to do anything at all.

Finally, he was only able to respond with a sarcastic smile, "If you don't want to do it to help me, then you should think about your own mother."

"Shut up! You don't deserve to speak of my mother. The Melissa you knew died five years ago. I have washed my hands of the Sherman family." Melissa turned away from him as she continued to speak. "If you want to keep the Sherman Group alive, you'll have to figure out how to do it on your own. Three days afterward you take the money and I'll hand

you the contract."

After she spoke, she walked straight over to the stairs.

There was no more she needed to say to him. Howell had to follow what she said. He had no choice.

Crash!

She could hear glass breaking behind her.

Melissa kept moving and went down to the second floor.

She had achieved what she'd wanted tonight. From this point she was going to try and help Vivienne any way she could.

When she stepped back into the banquet hall, a hand pulled her over to the bar counter.

A frown creased her face as she asked in confusion, "Why did you do that, Leilany?"

"Don't go over there right now." Leilany was frantic in her response. "The people of the Mayfield Group are having some kind of conflict. We shouldn't get involved."

"What do you mean?"

Melissa continued to frown as she asked the question.

She quickly scanned the crowd and followed everyone's gaze.