

Chapter 827 Ugly Phenomenon

Upon grasping the essence of the banquet, Julie felt a sense of discomfort.

As the most affluent entity in Salem, the Red Murray Group held the power to profit from any collaboration. Their approach leaned more towards outsourcing work rather than seeking genuine partnerships.

The investment event orchestrated by the Red Murray Group today was essentially a form of bribery. Companies had to offer bribes to gain favor, while the Red Murray Group capitalized on both ends, maximizing their gains.

The harsh reality was evident: Without monetary contributions, there was no chance of being considered. Unfortunately, this was the very area where Julie lacked resources.

The Pearl company, despite Julie's support over the years, remained relatively small in scale.

Julie had limited funds available, and the amount she could allocate for bribery was even more constrained. A small sum wouldn't attract attention and would likely be futile.

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Observing Julie's predicament, Yesenia sighed and redirected her criticism toward Liam.

Mockingly, she remarked, "You're utterly useless. You're here but unable to contribute anything. All you do is stand there. It appears the cooperation is out of the question now."

While they conversed, Elian confidently submitted his envelope and strode over with arrogance.

Noticing Julie's anxious expression, Elian taunted, "Just a dry document? The president would not even consider you people, a bunch of paupers! Others are offering car keys, property certificates, or like me, bank cards. Look at you, poor and stingy people. You'll surely offend the president. Soon, you won't have a place in Salem anymore!"

With each word from Elian, Julie's anxiety heightened.

According to Elian, she had reached a critical point. Failure to contribute meant not only a loss of potential cooperation but also risking the displeasure of the wealthy Murray family in Salem.

At this moment, Liam, standing beside her, calmly said, "Julie, don't dwell on this too much. We don't need to give anything. Maybe the president will disapprove of this corrupt environment."

Elian was momentarily stunned by Liam's words, he then burst into laughter and mocked, "You're so naïve and foolish. Do you think you're living in a fairy tale?"

Yesenia, in a less than friendly tone, snapped at Liam, "If you can't contribute constructively, just keep quiet. You're completely embarrassing me!"

Seeing this unfold, Julie grew more distressed. She detested this kind of action. But in the business realm, certain elements were beyond her control.

At this critical juncture, Liam decisively sealed the envelope. Before anyone could react, he swiftly approached the stage and dropped it into the mailbox, making a choice on behalf of Julie.

By the time Julie and others realized what had happened, it was too late to intervene. Yesenia was furious. She whispered angrily to Liam, "What are you doing? Are you trying to ruin Pearl company?"

Liam sneered and calmly replied, "I won't harm Pearl company. If Red Murray Group selects partners solely based on bribery, then we shouldn't collaborate with them!"

Although he expressed this, Liam pondered from a different angle. If Salem's leading company, Red Murray Group, truly operated in such a corrupt manner, it signified a deeper decay within the entire business environment of Salem.

Given his status as a Five-Star General, Liam held a strong sense of duty. Confronted with such a disturbing situation, he willingly took it upon himself to intervene and resolve the issue personally.



Chapter 828 Who Will Be His Partner

Julie sighed in resignation, casting a glance around the hall with a complex expression. All she could do was wait for the outcome.

Soon, the letters were all put into the mailbox, and the staff transported them backstage, methodically categorizing each one.

The event was an investment promotion meeting, not an auction. The final decision still rested with Tristan on selecting which company would become partners with them.

However, past experiences suggested that the amount of money given and received as bribes often swayed the results.

Yet, behind the scenes, the process was more intricate than the businessmen outside had perceived.

In the backstage, Tristan, accompanied by a vigilant team, scrutinized the letters meticulously.

Envelopes were torn open. Precious jewelry and bank cards were tossed aside indifferently.

With a stern expression, Nolan commanded, "Search carefully. Ensure you find and bring me the envelope concerning General Liam Hoffman!"

Amidst the sea of letters, the task was not exactly arduous,

but it consumed time.

Outside, attendees exchanged uncertain glances and engaged in hushed discussions.

"What's taking so long? What's happening?"

"Are all the participating companies exceptionally powerful? Mr. Murray seems unusually hesitant."

"It shouldn't take this long to make a decision."

Little did they know that Tristan was as anxious as they were. What started as a routine investment promotion meeting took an unexpected turn when Nolan received word from Bowen that Liam was also in attendance.

This presented a unique opportunity for Tristan. He wanted to please Liam. Although he had instructed the guards to let Liam's family in without an invitation, it fell short of Tristan's eagerness to align with Liam's interests.

Liam's presence had undeniably altered the dynamics of the gathering. Tristan's focus shifted solely to cooperating with him.

Pleasing Liam became his sole objective. In fact, he was willing to bear all the costs associated with this collaboration.

After an intense search, Tristan's subordinate finally found an envelope linked to Julie's Pearl Company.

He eagerly reported, "Mr. Murray! I've found the letter! It's from a relatively small company!"

In response, Tristan, displeased with the choice of words,

delivered a sharp kick and rebuked, "Mind your language! Julie's Pearl Company, associated with General Hoffman, is the most promising enterprise in Salem now!"

Cursing aside, he carefully examined the envelope and felt a wave of relief.

Outside, impatience grew among the crowd, and the discussions reached a crescendo. Order was restored only when the host came out with Tristan.

Amidst the gaze of the audience, Tristan ascended the stage, adorned with flowers. He was dressed in a top-grade suit.

As he stood motionless, his gaze involuntarily flickered towards Liam in the gathering, contemplating the impending speech.

Aware that overt flattery towards Liam wasn't the path to tread, he cleared his throat and articulated in a resonant tone. "Having perused each of your letters, I've pondered the matter. In my assessment, the media realm stands out as the most valuable and promising avenue for collaboration in the current market."

This declaration stirred excitement among the media professionals below the stage, their anticipation for the outcome palpable.

After a brief pause, Tristan continued, "Now, what I'm about to express may not be music to everyone's ears. Upon opening the envelopes, I discovered your peculiar addition, 'accessories,' if you will. However, one envelope stands apart, devoid of these

'accessories.' It contains only a document introducing their company."

