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"As a member of the Nolan Family, Eugene's father as well as a senior employee of the company, I think there's no one more suitable than myself. I've already spoken to the chairman, and he isn't against this idea. Now, we would just like to listen to what the shareholders have to say."

As the shareholders were already bribed by Edward, they would speak up for him as expected. One of them took the lead and said, "Master Nolan, your leadership is clear for all to see. I have no opinions about it."

After he said that, someone else immediately chirped along, "I don't have any opinions, too." "As President Nolan's father, no one else is more suited for the post than you, Master Nolan!"

All of a sudden, almost half of the shareholders in the conference room had voiced their opinion, except for Amos, who was seated across from him.

Amos snorted before he said, "You do seem a little anxious to take over your son's position as the president of the company while he's still hospitalized, don't you?"

Edward's face fell. Previously, Amos was the only one who didn't want to join their side, but it wasn't because he was siding with Eugene; it was because he wanted this position as well.

"I'm not trying to take up the president position, and anyone who is capable can take up the post. It's all for the sake of the company's development. Furthermore, we can't be leaving such a huge corporation without a leader, can we? I just think that I'm more suitable, but if you think there's someone else more capable, you can recommend them, Amos!"

"How are you suitable for this position?" Amos sheered. "It's true that you're Eugene's father, but are you that close with him? Everyone knows what happened back then. I'm also a shareholder of the company and a member of the Nolan Family. When it comes to ability, I'm just as capable as you, if not better."

Knitting his brows tightly together, Edward said, "Isn't this the reason we're having a meeting this time? So many shareholders are here, and even our father is here. You don't have to think that you're better than me, and neither do I have to justify why I'm more suitable. Everyone present can see it for themselves, so let Dad and the shareholders decide on this matter!"

"Do you think I don't know you?" Amos snapped. "All these years, you've been active, and almost all the shareholders here have been bought over by you."

Slamming the table, Edward sprang up from his seat. "Amos, that's too much. When have I been active?"

"That's enough, you don't have to put up an act. Even if you're not active, what about your wife? She personally went to my house, but was chased away by me because I don't want to be in cahoots with you!"

"Amos Nolan!" A furious Edward shouted, "Aren't you active as well? The people seated here are either on your side or mine. We're just the pots calling the kettle black, but do you have to spell it out?"

Amos snorted. "Don't throw accusations at me. I didn't do anything like that. Did I visit your house?"

After she patted Edward with assurance, Lara then stood up slowly. With a smile, she said, "What's to hide about this? Is it worth it that you're so angry over it? It's true that we visited the shareholders, but only because we would like to hear their opinions so that we can have their support and conform to the people's views.

We didn't force our ideas on anyone at all, just like when I visited your place. It's great if you'd support us, but did we say anything when you didn't? However, I can't leave you out of this because what if you pick on my fairness? I just didn't think that you would put it so harshly about why we visited the shareholders. Should we live with our doors closed then? Going by your way, can the company continue to grow?"

Chuckling sarcastically, Amos responded, "I must hand it to you, Lara. No wonder you're able to keep a tight watch over Edward all these years. That's because of that glib tongue of yours! So, it's just a regular visit even if you promise them some things and give them some assurance?"

Lara giggled. "Even during the election period, the candidates are given the chance to speak. In order to receive support, of course you have to do what you promised to. Not only did I make promises, I'll even go through with them. In contrast, do you only speak and not mean it?"

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A snigger escaped Amos' mouth. "I didn't visit any of the shareholders like you did. The people who support me are doing so willingly. I guess there's a scale in those shareholders' hearts, and they know who will do best for the company's development as the president, unlike you, who tries to get things done by saying a few words!"

"Don't you have any shame at all?" Edward hollered in anger. "So, you didn't visit them and they're willingly supporting you? Aren't you boasting a little too much? Who was the one who walked out of Richard's house last night? Say Richard, wasn't Amos at your place last night?"

"I was just dropping by to say hi. What's the problem if I went to his place for a drink? Do I need your permission?" Amos snapped.

"Do you even believe the things you said yourself?" Edward retorted. "According to your saying, then what I did was also dropping by to say hi."

Wearing a helpless expression, Richard tried to intervene. "Stop arguing. As long as it's for the good of the company, it doesn't make a difference who the president is!"

"I just didn't think that he could say something so heartless," Edward grumbled. "The shareholders who are supporting you must be blind!"

Then, Amos slammed the table and sprang up. as well. "How can you say that? The ones supporting you are blind too! For your whole life, you've been a wimp, and besides this woman in your heart, who else is there? Don't forget that your son is still in the hospital!"

As Merlin watched his sons argue, he was glad that he was living in modern times and not in ancient times. Otherwise, he might end up witnessing a scene of his sons fighting over a throne.

Just for the sake of a mere company president position, they were willing to throw their brotherhood out the window along with the relationship that they had as father and son. What a sad situation it is, he thought, his eyes staring into the distance with a touch of melancholy. If their mother is still alive, will she be heartbroken to see this?

Suddenly, Amos turned to Merlin. "Dad, are you going to support a person like Edward?" "Do you think he'll support you instead of me? You still have no idea about this at your age now?" Edward argued..

The shareholders in the room shifted their gaze from one man to the other as though they were watching an interesting debate. Sure enough, there were a lot of arguments within an influential family! The Nolan Family was really complicated with its load of dark secrets. Eugene was still alive, but they were already arguing with each other so badly.

If he had really passed away, there would be more people involved and fury would probably send Merlin to an earlier death! In fact, that wasn't so far from the truth now. Livid from the anger, Merlin slammed the table and roared, "Stop arguing!"

In an instant, Edward and Amos shut their mouths and the conference room fell silent. Merlin took deep, heavy breaths as his chest

rose and fell with the rhythm. Even though Eugene had warned him about this and he knew that the situation was within his control, he was still so mad that he had no words to say for a long while!

Curtis hurriedly stroked his back and assured him in a soft voice, "Take care of your health, Master Merlin. The doctor has advised you not to get too worked up."

Hearing that, Merlin gradually calmed himself down. That's right! Both of them are ingrates, and I shouldn't waste my time getting angry at them.

Lifting his eyes, he scanned the faces bearing different expressions before he finally fixed his gaze on Edward. "Is it really worth it for the position of the company's president? Is this a throne where you can disregard your brotherhood, ignore your sick child and nephew, and embarrass yourselves in front of so many shareholders? Is it really worth it?"

Sitting down sheepishly, Edward answered, "Dad, I'm just being kind, but I didn't know that Amos has so many opinions about me."

Richard threw him an indifferent look. "Shut up. You sound so rhetoric, saying that it's for the sake of the company and that you're being kind. If you're really thinking for the company, you should just do the job as it's supposed to be done. Why do you need to fight for the position of the president?"

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As he spoke, he turned to Amos. "And you, too! As his elder brother, you even have the cheek to call him out when you're just the same as him! The president of the company is merely hospitalized and the doctor didn't announce anything yet, but the both of you are already: fishing in troubled waters. Who has my support, you ask?

None of you! The likes of you are not fit to take this position! The people seated here are either Eugene's uncles or cousins, all of whom are the closest to him. How could you bring yourselves to scheme and fight for his position as the president when his life and death is still uncertain?"

Although Merlin was in his twilight years, every word he said had an influential impact! Everyone was either glancing at each other or lowering their heads in deep contemplation as none of them dared to disrespect Merlin. After all, he held twenty-five percent of the shares in Nolan Group, and this was enough to control the entire group!

Taking the initiative to stand up, Lara then placed a glass of water in front of Merlin and said gently, "Don't be mad, Dad. Both you and Edward have seen Eugene, and we all know clearly about his situation in our hearts. I know you're unwilling to accept this reality, but the shareholders seated here are all thinking for the sake of the company's development.

While we are able to do our jobs, the direction of the company's future development in addition to the stock market which is falling frequently needs someone from the family to stabilize the situation in the Nolan Group. After all, this concerns everyone's pockets,

and yet, Eugene is lying in the hospital. Just as you said, we're his closest kin, so of course we're upset as well, but we have to continue living our lives, don't we?"

After she finished speaking, she received a lot of agreement as the shareholders nodded. Looking at her, Merlin no longer had a nonchalant look as before. Today, his eyes seemed inexplicably fierce, and his voice was also cold. "If it was not for you, Edward wouldn't have turned out like this today!"

An astonished Lara gawked at Merlin with an aggrieved expression. Meanwhile, Edward furrowed his brows tightly and pulled her into his arms instinctively. "Dad, what are you saying? What about me?"

"Shut your mouth!" Merlin scowled. "Dad, I know you have opinions against me because Edward married me back then, and you keep thinking that I destroyed him. However, what you think is right may not be the right thing and what you think is good may not necessarily be good either. All these years, Edward and I have been loving to each other and I've served you attentively. I think I've done everything a daughter-in-law should do, but you shouldn't keep picking on me!"

Despite her humble choice of words, her tone was rather aggressive! While maintaining his gaze at her with eyes as sharp as blades, he spat, "That's because Edward has no idea of your true colors!"

Knitting her brows tightly, Lara somehow had a hunch that some things were slipping out of her control and she stared at Merlin's composed face with confusion. Then, she watched as he whispered something to Curtis next to him, after which Curtis stood up to open the door of the conference room.

Everyone else was equally baffled, thinking that the things Merlin had just said was very profound, and they all turned to look in the direction of the door.

The door of the conference room was pulled open by Curtis, and the person appearing at the door was the same person whose life and death they were discussing earlier-Eugene!

Dressed in a dark-colored suit which was ironed so smoothly that it clung tightly to his sturdy figure, he showed no emotion on his stunning face as his entire being was encapsulated in a layer of cold air. When his icy eyes slowly scanned across the room, the noisy conference room suddenly became so silent that a pin drop could be heard.

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He was holding a beautiful woman with his left hand while his right hand was clutching an adorable child. They walked into the conference room under everyone's shocked gazes. Besides the ground- stepping sound coming from this family of three, there were no other noises heard in the room.

At that moment, everyone had different thoughts. Some became onlookers and were ready to witness the family drama unfold while others silently lamented for the two people who just fought for the president's position. In fact, there were some who were already worried about their precarious position. Glancing at Eugene, Merlin asked aloud, "Are you alright?"

Eugene replied, "I'm fine!" With a puzzling look on his face, Edward stared at Eugene, who was slowly approaching him. The doubts in his heart were more than his regrets for not gaining the position of president. Edward was fine with it since he did not have much interest in the position in the first place. He fought for it mainly because he did not want to disappoint Lara. Nonetheless, Eugene still naturally would be the company's president now that he had returned.

In comparison to the fight for the position, Edward was more puzzled when he saw that Eugene was really fine. Judging from his state that day, I really thought he was going to die soon. Now, he stands here looking fine. Although Edward was not very delighted, he was still considerably relieved anyway. With that, his mood was still inexplicably more relaxed.

However, Lara squinted her eyes in a fierce manner as she looked at Eugene's high-spirited appearance. He doesn't look like someone who's about to die soon. Could it be that he arranged everything on purpose?

At once, Curtis immediately ordered someone to move three chairs over. Then, he placed them beside Merlin sequentially. Eugene first pulled out the chair and allowed Olivia to sit down before North followed. Finally, he took his own seat. After that, he scanned the people in the room without saying a word. Even the shareholders were too afraid to meet his eyes. They avoided his gaze when Eugene looked over.

After a long time, Eugene gradually started speaking, "Turn off your phone during my meeting. Keep quiet, and don't let me hear things that are non-related to the meeting. Is everyone clear?"

In a swift, everyone obeyed and switched off their phones. Then, they sat properly and quietly in their seats, fearing that their names would be called out..

Looking at everyone, Eugene held a pen in his hand, spinning it leisurely. Secretly observing Eugene, North followed him and spun the pen in his hand. However, the pen fell off without spinning a full circle.

In the quiet conference room, only the sound of North's pen falling on the table was heard. Olivia angrily glared at the mischievous little fellow.

In the meantime, Eugene also glanced at North with a soft expression. Holding the pen in front of him, Eugene demonstrated his pen-spinning action in slow motion.

And thus, North followed Eugene's example and did it again. However, he still failed. Seeing that, Merlin laughed heartily. Then, he said, "North, come and sit down at my side. I'll teach you."

Upon hearing that, North responded by saying, "Okay!" Hence, he took the pen, took his computer, and slipped his butt off the chair. Since Curtis was very sensible, he helped North move his chair to Merlin's side..

At the same time, Eugene also stood up to make room for him. As such, his seat position was no longer in the middle. This whole tender act completely shocked everyone, making their jaws drop. Is this our stern-faced president? How can he actually be so considerate and pampering? Wasn't he just ordering us to keep quiet a while ago?

In an instant, everyone's gazes landed on Olivia and North again. How much love does he have for them to the point that he can pamper other people's children like his own? No! We're afraid that we can't even pamper our own children to this extent. Not only does he bring them along with him to the meeting, but he even humbled himself in front of them!

Disregarding the emotional turmoil in everyone's heart, Eugene said again, "All the shareholders are here, am I right? What sort of a mega-scaled project to discuss that it was necessary to alert my aging Grandpa to this state?"

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Eugene's voice was flat, and his facial expression looked like he was engaging in a small talk. However, no one thought he was actually chit-chatting with them.

Wasn't he just calculating what we have done? Everyone lowered their heads, wishing they could hide like quails. As of this moment, they all secretly regretted their decisions. Why did we believe Edward and Amos' words? They said Eugene is dying soon. If so, who's that sitting here?

"Why aren't you all saying something? Didn't you all rave just now?" Eugene spoke again. Even after his voice fell, no one made a sound. The entire conference room was silent.

We know what we're doing. We're trying to turn Eugene into a mere figurehead, but who dares to say this out? One is Eugene's father while the other is his uncle. They're closely-knit kinsmen. Regardless, they're still a family until the end of life. What's the point of us shareholders getting involved in this matter?

Seeing that no one still dared to utter a word, Eugene shifted his gaze to Amos. "Amos, speak!" Amos' heart jolted instantly as he looked at Eugene in astonishment. Why does he demand me to speak? It wasn't me who egged on this matter!

However, he did not dare to have any complaints when his eyes met Eugene's sharp gazes. This nephew of mine is not mediocre. One can imagine how terrifying he is, considering he can stay alive until today and survive from Edward and Lara's torments since his teens.

Amos stuttered, 'T-This... I-It's your Dad. H-He thought you were critically ill, so he wanted to elect a new president. We even visited you last time, but we couldn't see you in person. Didn't I ask Master Merlin about your condition earlier? I told them we should wait for your return. The company will only be able to thrive well in your hands."

After Amos' voice fell, Edward glanced at him with contempt. "Amos, are you not ashamed at all to say this?"

Hearing that, Amos refuted, "What's the matter? It's a fact! Do you dare to say that you don't want to be the head of the Nolan Family? Do you dare to say that you don't wish to claim the position of president? Everyone sitting here heard every word you spat!'

Edward retorted against Amos, "And do you dare to say that you didn't? Do you dare to say you have no thoughts of claiming the position? I wonder who was the one who said that he was better than me a while ago?"

Even though they saw the two engaged in an argument, no one dared to get involved this time. What was more, no one even dared to speak in a whisper. In the meantime, Eugene leaned back lazily against the back of the chair and listened to their words.

"Who said I was critically ill?" As soon as Eugene spoke, both Edward and Amos immediately fell silent. Then, they looked at Lara. Wasn't Lara the one who said Eugene couldn't make it at the beginning? She also said that Eugene was not suffering from allergy at all. She said he was poisoned. The doctor said Eugene would be saved if he woke up within 72 hours. If he couldn't wake up within that time period, he would die. We even saw the medical note!

At this moment, Lara increasingly felt that she had been deceived. I took Eugene's bait! I don't believe that my assistant would dare to lie to me. In all likelihood, everything she inquired about was arranged by Eugene in advance. At the thought of that, an inexplicable panic surged in her heart. How much does Eugene know?

Looking at Olivia, Eugene asked, "Olivia, didn't you tell my family that I was fine?" Olivia responded, "I did. I also don't know from whom they heard that you're critically ill."

As if he was not aware of anything, he looked at Richard. "Uncle Richard, who was the one telling you guys that I was critically ill?"

Glancing at Lara and Edward, Richard explained, 'At first, Lara called us saying that you were critically ill. Then, we also saw reports about you on the Internet at that time. Hence, we went to the hospital to visit you together, but Doctor Maxwell didn't let us in

because she was afraid we would disturb you. And thus, we let your dad in to check on you. When he came out, he also said that you were not in a good state. He said that you were very haggard. Later, Lara asked her assistant to disguise as a patient and inquired with the doctor about your condition. The doctor said you were actually poisoned and not allergic at all. Furthermore, with the uproar on the Internet, we all thought you were critically ill."