The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 575 ReadOnline

Chapter 575 Not Something Decorated With Gold and Diamonds Everyone beneath the stage was sent into an uproar when they heard the woman's announcement echoing throughout the restaurant. "Wow! 1 million dollars in cash! I told you there was no way Mr. Thiel's granddaughter would give her a mere bonsai tree! That's simply just unrealistic! I knew it! There was a trick behind the tree!"

"I have seen everything today...1 million dollars in cash as a birthday gift! I've never heard of anyone giving this much money before!"

"This new boyfriend Tanya has found this time is seriously great. Looks like the Thiels won't be bullying her anymore."

The shocked voices echoed in the restaurant while Tanya was still stuck in her previous daze. She could not even begin to imagine that Javier could fork out 1 million dollars just so that she was not humiliated by her family members.

Aside from shock, she felt a little touched. She then grabbed Javier's hand and softly said, "I'm not worth that much, though." Javier gave her a gentle smile. "For you, it's worth it." After saying those warm words, Javier looked at the crowd. He laughed before saying, "My apologies, I'm a rather direct and crude person, so I've accidentally slapped you guys with humiliation. If any of you are unhappy with this... "I wouldn't mind if you guys fork out 1.3 million dollars to hurl at me! Come on, let's have a money fight!"

Javier was very arrogant and not the usual kind. He had gone so far that he could not take back his words at this point, and many people beneath the stage were very unhappy.

However, Javier could not be bothered to please them since all he cared about was his pleasure.

Meanwhile, these people may have been unhappy, but they could do nothing but glare at Javier.

Some even went against their conscience and smiled at Javier, nodding their heads and even bowing down to Javier, all because he was rich!

This was how direct they were in front of a man who had all the money in the world!

"Hahaha! Excellent, excellent! My grandson-in-law may have been a little arrogant, but I hope everyone understands that youngsters should indeed have some fight to seem a little more powerful and ambitious. This is a wonderful trait." Siegfried came out to calm everyone, even giving Javier the title of being his grandson-in-law at the same time,

despite never meeting him before. Of course, Javier knew all too well what Siegfried was planning. He wanted to use Javier's wealth to boost the Thiel family's ego.

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However, since it was for Tanya's sake, Javier chose not to expose Siegfried's conspiracies to avoid an awkward situation.

After that, Siegfried waved his hand toward Tanya and Javier. "Why are you two sitting over there? Come over here."

Siegfried gestured for them to sit at the host table, but Caspian, who had been completely humiliated, was unhappy about this.

"Grandpa, we aren't allowed to add seats to our tables, so why don't you have them return to their seats?"

Siegfried immediately shot Caspian a fierce glare. "Why don't you and Charlie move somewhere else then?"

Although it sounded as though Siegfried was scolding them, his grandsons were cowards who did not even fight back after being scolded and moved somewhere else.

When passing by Javier and Tanya, Caspian even angrily said, "Just you wait, I'll get you both back for this!" Javier chuckled and replied, "It still wouldn't be as spectacular as how much humiliation you've just received."

Caspian was infuriated, but there was nothing he could do. Hence, he had no choice but to swallow the bitter pill and hold back his anger.

Tanya was in a good mood now. She was enjoying the envious gazes cast by everyone as she sat at the host table.

Most importantly, Siegfried was looking at her with a huge smile on his face. This was the first time she felt that she was respected. She was now feeling joyous, and she knew that this was all thanks to Javier, to which she was very grateful. Tanya had had a little too much to drink because of how happy she was during the dinner party.

Meanwhile, Javier did not drink a single drop. He managed to refuse a number of drinks offered to him respectfully with the excuse that he would be driving that night, including Siegfried's. 'You've got to be kidding me, Siegfried. I'm only here because of Tanya. Otherwise, you wouldn't be worthy enough of sitting at the same table as me, you old geezer!

Siegfried still had a flattering smile on his face despite being refused. "Good, good. I'm very happy to see that Tanya has found a wonderful man who loves her. I'm very happy today. Come, everyone! Let's drink!"

Siegfried tried to lessen the tension in the room by bringing up the hype himself. However, he was the only one who knew whether that drink he just took tasted good or had a bitter aftertaste.

When the birthday party ended, Javier brought Tanya along and left. Tanya seemed to be

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staggering while walking as she had drunk many glasses that night. Fortunately, it was not to the point where she had to puke. Instead, she was only in a daze and could not keep her head up.

Javier brought her to the car and dumped her in the front passenger seat.

Of course, when they returned home, there was an inevitable yet intense battle to engage in...

After that was all over, Tanya lay next to Javier and seemed very happy. "Thank you, Javier. Thank you for doing so much for me. I have nothing more to repay you aside from myself." Javier chuckled and said, "Then you can carry on repaying me with the same payment method. I love your body very much anyway." Tanya shot an embarrassed glare at Javier. "I'm not covered in gold and diamonds, so I'm not even worth that much money."

Javier smiled and leaned his head close to hers. "In that case, I'll have to see if you are worth more than gold and diamonds..."

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Chapter 574 Happy Birthday Siegfried Thiel, Tanya's grandfather, finally showed up after she had sat down for almost 20 minutes.

Although he was now 70 years old, he was still looking very healthy, as though he had only just turned 60.

Standing on the stage on the red carpet, he faced his guests and said a few kind words before announcing that the party had begun. Then, the second and third generation of the Thiels stepped up and offered Siegfried a drink and some auspicious words. Tanya

did not step up, however. She noticed that her grandfather seemed to be enjoying himself, so she did not want to ruin the mood.

During the party, the person in charge of the gifts stepped up and shouted, "Caspian Thiel, seven 3.5-ounce gold fish in celebration of Mr. Thiel's 70th birthday!"

"Charlie Thiel, a single gold horse weighing 35 ounces in celebration of Mr. Thiel's 70th birthday!"

Sure enough, both Caspian and Charlie knew that their grandfather was a man who loved money, so they had both given him gold as a gift.

Besides, we now know why Charlie had seemed to be gloating when he had faced Caspian.

The gold fish were worth more than 30,000 dollars, while the gold horse was worth more than 45,000 dollars. How could Charlie not be gloating when he had a 15,000-dollar advantage? At that moment, Charlie even seemed proud of himself, thinking that he was definitely going to take over the logistics company. Meanwhile, Caspian was obviously displeased. Hence, he sent his secretary to look for the person in charge of the gifts so he could add 30,000 dollars in cash to his pile. This way, he would give Siegfried more than 60,000 dollars, which would definitely put Charlie to shame, and he would be able to get the logistics company. Charlie realized that things were taking a turn for the worse for him, so he hurriedly informed his subordinate to add another 30,000 dollars. He did not care whether Caspian would be happy about it or not. All he cared about was making that logistics company his! Both Casper and Charlie wanted to add to their gifts, but the person in charge was a rather by the-book person. "There's no such thing as adding to the gifts after they've already been given. You can leave the money if you want, but I'm not going to announce it."

The two cousins' subordinates hurriedly took the money back the moment they heard this.

30,000 dollars as a sign of respect for grandfather? Go to hell! Why would I give the money if

you're not going to announce it?!

However, Charlie was obviously happy about this. In fact, he even sent Caspian a text message. 'Infuriating isn't it? You can't spend 30,000 dollars even if you want to now. I'm going to get an entire logistics company with a single golden horse. Nice!' Caspian had an urge to throw his phone away when he read this message. "Tanya Thiel, one Cypress Bonsai tree in celebration of Mr. Thiel's 70th birthday!"

Everyone below the stage was shocked. Some people did not even know who Tanya was, but they were able to guess who she was when they heard Caspian and Charlie talking to her.

That's a pretty embarrassing gift Siegfried's granddaughter has given him...A bonsai tree? Seriously?'

Tanya, who was sitting in a corner, did not even dare raise her head out of fear that everyone would be looking at her.

Fortunately, the person in charge continued announcing the gifts, leaving no chance for the crowd to cast disdainful gazes at her. Hence, she was able to escape this humiliation. Unfortunately, this might be what Tanya thought was happening, but Javier did not agree. Hence, while the person in charge was about to announce the next gift, he suddenly stood up. "Hang on, there was a mistake in your last announcement! Tanya's gift isn't a bonsai tree. It's a money tree!"

Javier's statement immediately caused the crowd to look toward his table. Tanya, who was originally thankful that she had managed to escape humiliation, desperately wanted to step on Javier's foot with her high-heeled shoe.

They already stopped paying me any attention, so why the hell would you ask them to humiliate me?!

The person in charge was slightly stunned upon being interrupted. She then turned back to look at the gifts, and the bonsai was clearly in sight. Although she could not tell if it was actually a Cypress Bonsai tree, she knew for sure that it was not a money tree. After all, there was no way she would not have been able to recognize it when she saw one! She then shot a glare at Javier, thinking that he was only messing around with her, before getting ready to continue her announcements.

Right at that moment, Charlie suddenly spoke up. "You there! You little brat! I won't fault you for being ignorant, but could you stop bullsh*tting? Everyone here has got stellar vision, so you shouldn't be claiming something as ridiculous as that a bonsai tree is a money tree to try and fool us."

Next to Javier, Tanya reached out and pulled hard on the edge of his shirt, but Javier refused to sit down.

He even said, "There's a bank card inside that plant with about one million dollars inside, which isn't much. It's just a small gesture to congratulate Mr. Thiel for turning 70 years old. This is why I said it's a money tree. Are you happy with that explanation, Charlie?"

The entire venue fell silent when Javier said this.

Immediately, both Charlie and Caspian laughed out loud, their voices filled with scorn.

"Are you a f*cking idiot? Do you think a million dollars is an amount you can just come up with by saying it out loud? Is it really going to pop up just because you willed it to?" "I don't care who you are, you little brat, but you'd better sit your *ss back down, or I'll have security boot you out of here!" Led by the brothers, the crowd began mocking Javier relentlessly. None of them thought that the one million dollars was real. In fact, it was not just them. Even Tanya herself did not believe it.

She softly whispered, "I know you're doing this for my sake, but you shouldn't bluff. It's only going to embarrass us even more when this gets exposed." 'Embarrass us? Of course it's going to be embarrassing... Just not for us!'

Javier did not pay Tanya any attention, nor did he get involved in the brothers' argument. Instead, he directly yelled out to the woman on the stage. "Go over to the plant and take a look The card is still in there!" Of course, she would not be that obedient. After all, her responsibility that night was only to register the gifts. Hence, Javier himself approached the tree and gently scooped out some soil. Under everyone's watchful gazes, which were filled with scorn, Javier did indeed pull out a bank card.

The card had not been buried deep in the soil, as Javier had planted it at the last minute. At that moment, Tanya was slightly stunned, and anxiousness soon welled inside her heart. She was worried that the people there would want to verify how much there was inside the card.

'If they realize that there isn't a million dollars in the card, I'll be so embarrassed that I won't even know what to do.' In fact, Tanya's concern came to pass...Caspian was slightly stunned when he saw the card, but he immediately stood up. "You there! Go bring the card machine over! I'm going to expose this brat's fat lie right on the spot! Let's see if he'll keep up that arrogance after that!" Under Caspian's instructions, the restaurant staff very quickly brought the machine over. Caspian held the machine in his left hand and the bank card in his right hand. He then looked at Javier with a mocking expression. "You're not going to tell me you forgot what the password is now, are you? That would be such an embarrassing excuse!" Javier sneered, "Of course not."

Then, he told Caspian the password, allowing the latter to check the card's balance himself. In the end, the moment the balance appeared on the screen, Caspian was so dumbfounded that his eyes instantly widened. He was now standing on the spot, completely stunned.

The crowd felt curious, so they kept urging him. "How much is there inside? Tell us!" Caspian wanted to say it out loud, but he knew it would be a slap in the face the moment he said it. After all, there really was a million dollars in the card!

At that moment, he did not even know how to face Javier, as his face was filled with embarrassment.

At the same time, he was also very shocked. 'Who the f*ck is this guy? How could he fork out so much money so easily?!

As Caspian was feeling stunned and dumbfounded, the woman on the stage, who wanted to follow through and do her duty, stepped up and took a look at the card machine.

Then, she shouted, "One money tree with a bank card worth one million dollars in celebration of Mr. Thiel's 70th birthday!"

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Chapter 576 I'm Going to Have Him Properly Interrogated! When Tanya woke up the next morning, she recalled what Siegfried had said the night before.

She then remembered that while she was in a daze from drinking too much, Siegfried had said that she was a capable woman who chose the right man. Also, he had said...

"Everyone keeps on saying I'm going to give away the logistics company to whoever gives me the most valuable gift, but that's all complete nonsense! Tanya was the one who built the company from the ground up, so I'm going to hand it over to her! I only took it over to make some adjustments for the company to develop on a larger scale.

"I will now announce that Tanya is still the general manager for the logistics company!"

Now that Tanya recalled all this, she could not help but laugh out loud. However, this was not because of how happy she was but mocking peals of laughter at her grandfather. Seeing how much Tanya seemed to be enjoying herself in her own thoughts, Javier asked," Why are you laughing like a crazy woman so early in the morning?" Tanya said a few things about last night before adding, "I'm laughing because of how courteously he spoke to me despite being my grandfather. Plus, he even put on such a fake show in front of so many people. Doesn't he find himself humiliating at all?"

Compared to how understanding she was before, Tanya was now filled with disdain toward Siegfried.

When Javier heard this, he merely smiled and thought nothing of it. "It's very normal. You need to remember one rationale. You shouldn't treat everyone as your family, even if they really do have the same surname as you. Think about it this way. You are raising three dogs, so you will always love one of them more than the others, not to mention the one who could show affection to gain more favor "On the other hand, your grandfather is the family leader of the Thiels, so he obviously shouldn't just consider his personal preferences but the family traditions as well. Even if Caspian and Charlie are both nothing more than little sh*ts, they're thick-skinned men who are cruel and relentless. This makes them much more suitable to survive in society. "If the Theils were to fall in their hands, I'm sure your family could grow even more in the future…"

Javier said this much to Tanya because he wanted to wake her up and slowly help her understand her grandfather's methods.

However, she still found it difficult to understand one thing. "Why would he return me to my logistics company then?"

Javier smiled. "Although I might sound a little narcissistic by saying this, I can still tell you that he did that because of me."

Tanya now understood what was happening. If it were not for Javier, it would still be hard to tell who would receive the logistics company in the end!

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Because of this, Tanya showed Javier her deep gratitude...

Now that Tanya had just taken over the GM position at the logistics company, she needed to go there and work on the handover.

Javier did not accompany her because it was just a trivial matter. Plus, there was no need for him to do so since Tanya would have to grow used to being independent. After Tanya left, Javier lay in bed and napped before getting out of bed and showering.

Surprisingly, he immediately heard someone knocking on the door after he was done. He saw a middle-aged man with a burly figure when he opened the door. The burly man said, "Good morning, Mr. Kersey. I'm Mr. Thiel's driver, and he has asked me to invite you to his place." Javier glanced at the man. "He knows my name already?"

The middle-aged man nodded, so Javier replied, "He still dares to ask me to see him despite knowing who I am? Who does he think he is? Does he think he's all high-and-mighty now just because he has more money in his pockets?"

The middle-aged man was now in an awkward spot. If Javier were any other ordinary person, he would definitely attack the guy to protect his employer.

However, the man standing before him was obviously no ordinary man but the chairman of Reivaj Group. Most importantly, he was a very powerful young man.

How powerful was he, you ask? In Siegfried's words, Javier could cause a storm by letting out a fart!

Thus, right after that, Javier sent the middle-aged man away. "Ask Siegfried to come to meet me himself if he wants to talk!" 'Of course, respecting our elders is a Chinean virtue, but that depends on who the elder is.

Am I supposed to respect an old man or woman who's asking to be whacked? Come on that wouldn't be realistic.'

This was why Javier had not grown fully accustomed to that principle and why he directly said that Siegfried had to come to him if he wanted. 10 minutes later, Siegfried personally visited and said, "Javier —" "Are we very close to one another?" Javier immediately mocked Siegfried without even giving the latter a chance to speak Siegfried felt very embarrassed, but there was nothing he could do about it. Usually, he would lash out in anger if faced with such rudeness, but the man before him was the chairman of Reivaj Group. As such, he had no choice but to smile no matter how unhappy he was.

"Mr. Kersey, you see...I only treated Tanya how I did in the past because I wanted to groom her to become better."

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Siegfried began explaining his past actions, but Javier merely sat on the sofa with his legs crossed as he smoked. "You and I both know what happened with Tanya, so you can stop trying to sugarcoat the truth. You're only trying to find the most suitable successor to the Thiel Family. You don't even care who you've hurt during the process. "I can understand your attitude and thoughts, but understanding it doesn't mean I agree with it. So, now that I'm in Tanya's life, I want only here to take control of the family.

"You have the right to refuse this, but I also have the right to mobilize my resources to wipe Thiel Group from the face of Earth. So, would you like to test me?" Javier was very ruthless with his words, to the point where he had become domineering and unreasonable. However, Siegfried could do nothing but smile and nod when faced with such disrespect. Javier was not lecturing Siegfried entirely. Instead, he gave him a glimmer of hope that he had never experienced before. "Let Tanya slowly develop herself. Meanwhile, I'll have Reivaj Group mobilize its resources and cooperate with Thiel Group appropriately to help your company grow. So, I do not wish for anyone to cause any problems during this process, understand?" Upon hearing that Reivaj Group would help pull the Thiels to greater heights, Siegfried was instantly so excited that his face turned completely red, and his hands were even trembling.

Never had he once thought that Javier would do such a thing for his family.

'I'm sure our family will reach even greater heights now that Reivaj Group is in the picture. In fact, it might even be heights that reach the heavens.

However, Siegfried knew all too well what Javier's motives were, so he hurriedly put on a sincere smile. "Don't worry, Mr. Kersey, I'm definitely going to have everyone in the family behave themselves and not pull Tanya back. Also, I will slowly transfer my authority to her and even guide her into becoming a better leader!" Javier was now at ease seeing Siegfried's sincerity. After sending Siegfried away, Javier began thinking about the vaccine.

Suzanne should have already received the fruits, and she probably has begun her research. 'I hope everything goes smoothly and the vaccine gets produced. Not only will I be able to earn a huge sum from this, but I'll even be able to promote Reivaj Group overseas, allowing me to enter the criteria of being nominated for the Lasker Awards. 'Once I win the award, I'll have a much higher chance of meeting Dad.' While he was pondering about this, someone suddenly kicked the door down.

Immediately after that, Caspian brought four young men with him and charged inside. "I want that piece of sh*t captured! I'm going to have him properly interrogated today!"

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Chapter 577 Slavish Mentality Despite the warning issued against Siegfried and his trouble-making, wayward posse of offspring, Caspian Thiel still made his way to the lion's den. It almost seemed as though Siegfried was not nearly timely enough to pass the message before one of his own had decided to meet his maker.

A moment later-more specifically, two minutes after the arrival of four gung-ho young men – Javier was on his couch while Caspian, who had tried to bolt out of the door unsuccessfully when things had turned south, knelt in front of him.

Javier scanned the faces of the four young men who were knocked out of their daylights on the floor. Then, his eyes settled on Caspian's fearsome features. The man did not have the slightest inclination to bend his knees before Javier. He simply had no choice because Javier had beaten him so much that his legs had given away. Javier studied the scowl etched on Caspian's face with mocking glee. "So, what's your business?" "Yeah, f*ck you too!"

If anything, this man did not lack a spine. Javier spied an electric hair dryer nearby and turned the dial to the strongest mode before sticking it inside Caspian's mouth. He ignored the latter's resistance until he could hear Caspian squeal in agony from the back of his throat. He was stomping his feet uncontrollably too, like a boxer admitting defeat and begging his opponent for mercy.

Javier grinned. "Wanna talk sh*t to my face again?"

Caspian waved wildly and stammered as much as he could under the circumstances. One could make out his promise not to "talk sh*t" again.

That was nice of him, was it not? To err was human. It was the thought of changing for the better that counted.

Javier removed the hair dryer, and Caspian bolted right up to the table, his hands and feet scrambling for a glass of water. It did not quench his thirst enough, so he sprang toward the bathroom and drank from the faucet.

His throat still felt like it was dry enough to burst into flames. Plus, it hurt.

When he returned to see Javier again, Caspian looked ready to plead for mercy. He could glare at the former with as much resentment as he dared, but his tongue was done lashing out. "So, tell me. Why are you here again? Trying to check on me, maybe? Check on what?" Javier asked. Caspian faltered and stammered hesitantly. He saw Javier's eyes settle on the hair dryer again and instantly spoke up. "I was trying-"

He could not finish his own sentence. The arid, cracking pain in his throat had made talking a torment that could only end with a coughing fit. Caspian sputtered. To his horror, there were a few spots of blood on his hand. The severity of the damage was palpable.

Seeing blood alarmed Caspian, who backtracked and turned, ready to flee out of the front door. He managed to take only a few steps before a glass was chucked against his skull, causing him to trip and fall flat on his chin.

"I didn't say you could leave, did I? Why are you in such a hurry, huh? Oh, you really think you can just come and go on a whim, don't you?" Javier remarked mockingly. Caspian's panic spiked. In a burst of adrenaline, he stopped mincing his words again. "You just won't rest until someone pulls you out of this miserable existence, will you?!" he snapped, his voice cracking and tonally aberrant but still intelligible enough that Javier registered his threat. "Do you really think I can't hire someone to kill you?!" Javier lit a cigarette and stared at him. "I was thinking of showing you mercy as long as you displayed some awareness and respect. But boy, you just reminded me how wrong my impression of you was! You don't possess an ounce of intellect, do you? You just keep digging your heels into the accelerator, making your car veer off the cliff. I can't stop you from killing yourself even if I want to! "You win, okay? I admit defeat-I can't save you. Go ahead and die, just like you've always wanted!" Javier finished before bringing the hair dryer close. Caspian could feel his fear coursing through his veins. His throat felt like it might be hurt again!

As it turned out, though, his fear was too optimistic. Javier had not planned to hurt his vocal cords or anything. No, he wrapped the electric cord around Caspian's neck and began to pull instead.

Caspian's fear shot through the roof, and his face turned blue. He flailed his hands against the floor, his veins popping out of his forehead and his eyes bulging from the effort. It was at that moment that he realized that this was more than just an empty threat. Javier had meant it when he had said he was going to kill him!

How he regretted it! He should never have offended Javier! He should have never bullied Tanya! He regretted everything he had ever done up to this point in his life!

Perhaps it was too late for him to even feel sorry for his deed. ...Or so he thought. Maybe some god decided to show him mercy. Just as he was starting to see dark spots clouding his vision, and just as his consciousness was about to melt into the void, the pressure around his neck vanished. The constricting weight was gone, and he could breathe now! Breathing had never been so exhilarating before!

Javier frowned at the broken cord. "The hell is this quality? How flimsy is it to break just like that, huh? Just imagine if it broke while being used! It could have caused death by accident!" he grumbled.

Caspian almost shouted profanities upon registering Javier's "concern." Really?! He was p* ssed at the cord for snapping because it could have caused death? How about him literally causing Caspian's death through strangulation, huh?

Displeased as he might be, Caspian kept what he thought to himself. He was too terrified to voice it, which was only natural considering his brush with death just seconds ago. He was not

foolhardy enough to want to do it again. "God, I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! I really am! Please let me go! I'm never doing any of this again!" Javier was quite pleased with his willingness to admit that it was fault and beg for mercy, so he cast away the cord he had broken on his own. "Fine, fine. Your sincere tone has really moved me, you know? I'll let this slide," he replied. "Besides, the fact that this cord snapped must mean God thinks you deserve a second chance...Go. Oh, but before you leave, I'm warning you: If you ever cause me trouble again—" Caspian did not wait for him to finish before dropping down to his knees, his arms waving hurriedly. "No! I won't ever do it again, not ever! I'll be just a slobbering, loyal dog nodding and obeying everything you and Tanya say from now on! I'll never betray you! Never!" Now, this was the kind of attitude Javier wanted! Had Caspian adopted this groveling manner from the get-go, he would have never needed to suffer so much!

After sending Caspian away, Javier called Suzanne, though no one picked up. She had to be busy at the research center, which filled him with hope for good news.

Caspian, who hurriedly weaseled his way to the hospital, received a call from Siegfried. The conversation was a revelation to him, as he found out about Javier's real identity. Suddenly, his bitter displeasure was gone. He was too scared to resent Javier even in his mind! Javier was a bad*ss! And in Caspian's eyes, that made Javier a high-andmighty, godlike being. He was the kind of man who had money and power so abundant that he could have anything and everything he wanted. He could have Caspian's life if he so desired. The only way for him to survive was to obey. Obey, obey, obey. Everything else was out of the question. The thought of obeying Tanya irritated him a little, but the thought of vaulting to a higher status through Javier was still a boon! This was a mentality so slavish that what could have been shame and loss of dignity became pride...Well, it was weird.

That night, Tanya returned home in good spirits. The company had been running smoothly that day, and the Thiels had not caused any trouble. Everything was so sweet that her gratitude for Javier multiplied as much as her joy. This was why, as soon as she came back from work at night, Tanya proactively tossed the bed with him...

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 578 ReadOnline

Chapter 578 Do You Still Know Me? Javier stayed at Tanya's place for three days before returning to the research center by plane. Suzanne and her team had just obtained the preliminary result, and while her AIDS vaccine had previously come with the nasty side effect of kidney failure, that problem had now been eradicated. The ingredients and composition of the vaccine had more or less been finalized, and the only thing left to do was conduct more clinical trials to ensure that no other side effects would arise.

To express his gratitude to Suzanne and her team, Javier gave them all a hefty monetary reward and held a celebratory evening banquet. It was a merry event, so everyone was pleased with their boss' generosity.

The only one who did not seem very happy was Javier himself. At least, that was what Suzanne thought. She ambled to his side and dropped down on a seat, asking, "What's wrong? You don't seem happy." Javier flashed her a smile. "That's not true at all, ma'am. I'm obviously ecstatic! The only reason I don't look the part is because there's something else on my mind." "And what's that?" she asked.

Javier turned his attention to her smooth, lean legs and replied matter-of-factly, "I was trying to come up with a plan to make you mine." Suzanne's cheeks flushed. Her colleagues were all around! How...embarrassing would it be if they heard them?!

She shot him a glare and skedaddled, lest her prolonged stay made Javier get handsy...

As she walked away, her hips gently swinging with her every step, Javier watched her silhouette disappear into the crowd. His attention returned to the issue that had been plaguing him.

The AIDS vaccine was still a secret for now, but when it started being commercializedor even before then, when the inevitable marketing promotion started taking place—the Raiders would quickly set their eyes on the next big loot. Javier wondered if they should stop being on guard. Offense was the best defense, after all. Maybe it was high time he enticed the enemy and invited them over to his place. Not for a chat, of course. For a beating.

With a scheme in mind, Javier left the banquet early, excusing himself by saying he had work to do. He returned to his house, called Renly and Angelina, and invited them to a video meeting

Renly was shocked to hear about the AIDS vaccine. "Really, pr*ck? It's not painful enough for us to hear that one of your latest secret developments has succeeded? You have to brag about it to our face too?"

Although Angelina did not think it was Javier's intention to brag, she shared Renly's jealousy. But when she was reminded of the fact that this success belonged less to a competitor and

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more to her own beau-well, what was there for her to complain about? She and Javier were already an item. It did not matter who was the one making money. It was great either way. Renly was a little upset by the sight of Angelina chortling. It made him feel self-conscious about being the outsider among the trio... Nevertheless, Javier had not started today's video conference to share his success and smug glee. "What I'm trying to get at here is that once the AIDS vaccine is out, the Raiders will draw their knives too."

Renly was smart enough to understand his implication with minimal prompting. "Oh. So since they are coming anyway, you're suggesting we bait them." "With the three of us working together, they won't stand a chance!" Angelina chimed in. "As soon as they step into our trap, we'll take them out from the root!" And that was why it was always a breeze talking to people with a brain. Javier never needed to waste his time spelling his intentions out.

They spent the rest of their conference working on the details. Both Angelina and Renly had agreed to join forces unconditionally. The people they would provide would submit to Javier's command, as he was the one leading the effort. It was not very surprising that these two would be so willing to agree. Every single one of their competitors had joined the Raiders, after all. They were not doing it for Javier. They were doing it for themselves and their own families. When they finished divulging the details, Renly

made his closing remark. "Really takes a filthy schemer to think the whole world is out to get him, Javier. While everyone's merrily toasting to their medical success, the first thing you think about are those out to get you. Pfft. A snake is always worried about other snakes, amirite?"

Javier grinned. "Thanks for the compliment, Mr. White. But I'd prefer it if you saved all this high praise for the next time I turn my sights to you, yeah?" "Shameless pr*ck."

Renly left the chat, but Angelina was still online. Upon seeing the third wheel leave, she reclined in her chair and set her legs on her desk, spreading them open. While her eyes were on Javier on the screen, she licked her lower lip seductively. She was irresistible. "I've missed you, my king." She breathed with a deep groan, like sin incarnate. Every word was undergirded with so much sex appeal that any hot-blooded man would feel his pants tighten. "Can you tell? How much I'm missing…you…" Javier's blood was stirred, but he could do nothing to sate it. He could not crawl through the screen and reach Angelina even if he wanted to! All he could do right now was gawk at a ripe, pink fruit he could not reach.

Angelina was enthused by his reaction. She just wished to watch him get hard while he was unable to act on his lust.

In the end, Javier signed out before she did. He could not bear to see her any longer. Any longer and his "partner" would get longer too. Still, the effect of her seduction had settled in. Javier was indeed aroused.

Not one to suffer alone, he quickly put on his clothes and went outside. He stepped into the room belonging to Hotel Garcia's Audrey Mendez. What could he be planning to do? ...Well, that was no mystery, was it?

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 579 ReadOnline

Chapter 579 A Golden Goose "Urgh! I swear, this is literally the only thing you ever do with me, you b*stard! I told you, we can't keep doing this anymore!" Audrey protested once their romp was over.

Javier smiled and nodded noncommittally as he listened to her rant. He took her protest seriously, but-well, changing his nature was a different matter altogether.

Audrey was pretty aware of this, and therefore, a little glum. Javier always promised he would never do it again, only to break his promises as though they were nothing. He would come to her, let loose, deplete her strength until only the bare minimum remained, and then they would lie down side by side, exhausted and satisfied.

After her protest, Audrey rose to go to the bathroom. She knew there was no point in avoiding his libido, so she skipped closing the door altogether. "I heard you people are almost done packing up to leave. If you guys ever move out, warn me, please," she told him between breaks while taking a shower. "I need to prepare the hotel before it's open to the public again."

Honestly, Javier had not paid this course of events any attention. But now that Audrey had mentioned it, he was reminded of something he should probably give proper consideration...

Two minutes later, he shared his thoughts. "I sincerely believe that Hotel Garcia will join Reivaj Group and become the hospital's hotel."

Audrey stiffened in the middle of her shower. "But why? Reivaj Group is a juggernaut already! Can't you leave my modest little hotel alone?"

"Hey, you misunderstood. You will remain the boss by being the sole shareholder while joining Reivaj Group," he replied. "The profit you make will still be yours. Besides, being affiliated with Reivaj Hospital ensures a steady stream of incredible earnings, wouldn't you agree? How else could my hospital keep sending their employees to stay here?" Audrey understood what he meant. Javier was trying to help ease the hotel's operation and management.

Still, after some thought, she rejected his goodwill. "I'm used to doing things alone, Javier, so I'm not interested," she replied. "Sorry, but I'm not keen on putting myself in a position to be terrorized by you all the time."

"Terrorized"? Now that, Javier thought, was quite the apt word choice. What a shame that it was also an unnecessary descriptor, though. Lying on the bed, he turned on his side and drank in the sight of Audrey's naked body. "Don't tell me you seriously believe that if you don't join the group, I'm gonna stop seeing you! That's impossible, I'll tell you that much. You're a hottie, Audrey. How can I possibly let someone like you slip away from my fingers?"

His glaringly direct answer left the woman speechless. It was as if she had found herself entangled with a boar!

A boar who satisfied her completely, though, to be fair. A boar she could not muster even an ounce of genuine repulsion against, which was yet another fact that upset her.

A few moments of silence later, at the height of her powerlessness, Audrey made a gun

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gesture with her hands and aimed at Javier and his smug smile. "You're under arrest for being a colossal jerk, Mr. Javier Kersey!" she cried. It seemed that she had so little to offer in the form of a rebuttal that she had gone straight to roleplaying. Of course, the fact that she had turned to roleplaying ended up serving Javier more than it did herself, as it just made him want a second round... A few days later, Javier announced the success of his AIDS vaccine. The world of medicine reeled in shock as the media, both local and foreign, reported it en masse. Professional medical bodies and establishments rushed to verify the news and gauge its veracity.

Many foreign experts at first believed this was a marketing strategy meant to spread Reivaj Hospital's name. Using a life-saving medicine as a marketing tool and PR prop was despicable, they stated, and should therefore be censured. After three days of verification from multiple medical establishments, however, the same media and experts changed their minds.

They now extolled the miracles of Chinean medicine and expressed their fawning admiration for Reivaj Hospital. They claimed that the world would be a better place if there were more hospitals as responsible and ethical as Reivaj and that the latter's existence was a miraculous blessing to the world. Their compliments were so gushing and their descriptions so buttery that they almost made one forget that they were the same people who had been looking down on Reivaj and Chinean medicine a while ago.

At the very least, the news and the media whirlwind that followed helped spread the reputation of Reivaj Hospital's AIDS vaccine even further. It was a cue for Javier, Renly, and Angelina to prepare as they waited for the Raiders to make their move. To ensure they would take the bait, Javier even deliberately created an opening. He placed the research papers and schematics in a security van heading to a national regulatory agency on its way to obtain national approval. The three were sure that the Raiders would recognize their best chance to strike.

To their surprise, the entire journey was very smooth. Nothing happened. Not even a deliberate traffic congestion took place. It seemed as if the Raiders cared very little for the vaccine. But how could they possibly not be interested?

Every organization's priority was profit. No one would fight a war if they had no money to obtain arms. And now, here came something as lucrative as the AIDS vaccine-a golden goose ripe for the taking. How could the Raiders possibly let this go?

But they did.

A month passed, yet nothing happened. No one coveted the vaccine. The Raiders, whose move Javier had been anticipating, seemed to have vanished from existence altogether. As Renly put it, "The hell is up with them? Why aren't they making a move when I'm already itching for it?"

He was a little crass and direct, perhaps, but he was not wrong. Had Javier not been her beloved, Angelina would have swooped in and stolen it herself. It was a golden goose, for goodness's sake! The kind tailored for market clamoring and consumers hungry to use it. The kind that was unique only to Reivaj Group, as no one else had invented something quite like it!

All that meant that if one were to own it, they would sit on a mountain of gold. So why had no one come to snatch it yet?

Javier was nonplussed. He had been banking on these marauders taking it, and yet all the effort he had made to set up a trap had brought him nothing. In the end, he had to give up on the plan. Giving up the bait did not mean he had given up on vigilance, though. Just because his intended mark had not taken the bait, it did not mean they might not come for him once he decided to abandon his plan. Javier was going to reinforce all kinds of security around the vaccine. He was not going to give anyone an opening. Within the same month, Javier received an invitation from the Lance-Kerr Awards.

"To the esteemed Mr. Kersey,

'Your fine work in Chinea is well-known. We have heard about your philanthropic work providing free healthcare for the needy, thus garnering a remarkable reputation in your country, as well as enriching the world as a whole. Your medical research facility has also developed an AIDS vaccine, which has given millions of people hope. With this vaccine, innumerable lives will be saved, so it's hard to overstate how beneficial your magnanimity is.

For these reasons, we cordially invite you to attend the Lance-Kerr Awards three months from now. We look forward to your presence.' He had finally gotten it-an invitation from the Lance-Kerr Awards!

This meant that three months later, Javier would finally be able to meet his long-lost father, Kaiser Kersey!

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 580 ReadOnline

Chapter 580 I Wanna Make Money Off Of You Javier could not wait for the day of the Lance-Ker Awards. But before that time came, he got something else instead-a phone call from Chessie, to be exact. She told him cryptically that there was something she hoped he could help her with.

Javier knew Chessie. She would not plead for his help even if someone stuck a gun to her head, so the fact that she was asking him right now, in a voice this

uncharacteristically meek and soft, shocked Javier. He asked her what had happened, but the young woman simply asked him to meet her at her place.

There was little work for him to do lately. Javier had someone else to help him oversee the research and development of the vaccine, so he was free to attend this mysterious meeting. As soon as the call ended, he bought the earliest plane ticket he could find and immediately headed to Chessie's part of the country. He reached the city at night and met Chessie by the entrance of the airport. She was as beautiful as he remembered, and tough as a nail too. She never stopped looking like the same self-assured young woman who was willing to spend 90 bucks on a night with him. This time, though, Javier sensed a new air of forlorn helplessness in her eyes. What could possibly defeat someone as unbeatable as Chessie? Javier drew her into his arms and squeezed. He asked her again what had happened, but the young woman simply pressed herself against his chest and murmured, "Let us have dinner at the hotel. We'll talk about it then." He left the airport with her and drove to the hotel. Chessie was aware of her man's culinary preferences. She knew he was not too fond of fancy food, so she ordered some simple local cuisine. Javier never ceased pelting her with questions even in between bites, so a very hesitant Chessie finally spilled the beans. "I know I shouldn't be asking you to help, but I'm at my limit. I couldn't do it myself, so I ended up, well..." Javier cut her hesitant words short. "Chessie, you're my woman." That was all it took to embolden Chessie. To be his woman was to be promised that, regardless of why she asked him for help, he would always say yes. She did not even need to ask.

Chessie obviously understood the implication, which was why warmth seemed to return to her smile. Even so, her explanation was undergirded by an awkward, stifling attitude, which only piqued Javier's curiosity even more. Just what could have possibly made someone as fiercely independent as Chessie feel helpless enough that she'd had to ask Javier for help? After a few more questions, she finally relented. "I, uh, have a cousin. The name's Alois Fontaine. He works as an anti-narc officer…" She began recounting the details of her plight. Chessie's cousin, Alois, had joined the army as soon as he had finished high school. Stationed at the border, he had worked to bust drugs and stymie efforts to smuggle them into the nation. Once he had been discharged, he had joined the local police force and taken up the work he had been doing again as an antinarcotics officer.

Thanks to his diligence, acumen fine-tuned to sniffing out criminals, and the good head on his shoulders, Alois had successfully cracked many drug-related cases. The downside to this success was that it had painted a target on his back. Still, with his civilian identity kept a secret and his behavior in the force sufficiently deceptive to throw criminals off his scent, his private life had never been exposed or figured out.

Then, on one particularly unlucky day, one of his mates from his hometown had come to visit and go sightseeing. Being a citizen journalist, the friend had accidentally met Alois, who had subsequently appeared on the former's social media account with detailed tales of his valor.

Alois had never experienced the lapse in good sense necessary to gloat about his work, let alone done so in front of an old mate from his hometown. The friend, however, was determined to gain likes and clicks, so he had made things up. To make his report seem even more trustworthy, the friend even showed a picture of Alois back in middle school and exposed his family's home address and everyone's career.

The friend had succeeded, at the very least. He gained a tidal wave of clicks at the expense of Alois' exposed identity. As soon as he was outed, drug cartels targeted his family and killed them all. Alois himself died, trampled into a gory mess by an unmanned truck as he had been rushing to the funeral.

How could a gigantic truck like that be unmanned? It was not possible at all...but it was pre mediated murder, and the killer behind the wheel was never found.

It was this absence of proof that had made the crime a cold case in court, but everyone knew who was behind it. It was the same group of criminals Alois had caught. They were the ones who had come out for vengeance. It was an act of provocation written in raw, fresh blood and aimed at the anti-narcotics officers.

As for the citizen journalist who had unwittingly heralded this tragedy, his reporting was promptly rewarded too. While he was cooking at home, his gas cylinder exploded, and the man was killed on the spot. The police later found evidence of forced entry through the window, as well as signs of deliberate sabotage on the exploded cylinder.

These drug criminals were flagrant about violating both the law and humanity, all just to serve a singular purpose. It was a warning to all anti-narcotics officers, who now knew that not even their friends would be safe from their wrath, let alone their families. The events subsequently took the local community by storm as fear skyrocketed in the face of the criminals' cutthroat methods.

Knowing what had befallen her cousin had enraged Chessie, who was determined to unleash her wrath unto the criminals and their families. An investigation she had conducted later convinced her that she had limited power against her sworn enemies, even though she was the leader of an underworld organization. Her enemies, as she had found out, were more than just organized criminals.

They were butchers.

They were the kind of savages who would gladly show off how many people they had killed if skulls hanging from one's belt was fashionable. While the gang Chessie led toed the line of illegality, these people had gleefully crossed the border of inhumanity. Worse even, the cartel had turned out to be structured much like a mafia family holding power beyond Chessie's

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expectations.

As the young woman remarked, the police knew exactly who was behind the murders. They simply could not apprehend them due to lack of evidence. "But me? I'm not a cop. I don't need evidence to mete out justice...but I do need power, and frankly, I don't have that."

She paused before continuing. "As you know, my parents died when I was very young, so my aunt practically raised me. Alois was like the brother I never had. I know who the sons of b* tches who killed him and his family are, yet I lack the power to avenge them, which just guts me!" Chessie was crying. She was shockingly crying. Then, she slapped herself over and over again, infuriated by her own powerlessness. Javier had to hold her hands to stop her from harming herself.

"It's alright. Hand the information to me and I'll handle it," he said.

Just because Chessie could not do it, it did not mean Javier was similarly hamstrung. There were plenty of things beyond a run-of-the-mill gang's reach, and the reason was often as simple as genuine inability. After all, if they were capable of doing so much, there would not be a need for mercenaries at all.

Javier's plan was simple and brutal: He would have Mackenzie bring some of his men over and kill them. Kill them all.

Chessie was not surprised by Javier's willing involvement, but she was thankful all the same. Only Javier would ever bring her back when she was at her most powerless and vulnerable state. Only Javier would give her strength, courage, and a pair of powerful hands that would hold up the burden saddled on her shoulders.

The two of them left the restaurant and returned to Javier's suite. There, in the living room, Chessie passed the information she had collected to Javier. "The Sommers had four sons and a daughter. The sons' names are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, and Uriel Sommer. Their daughter's

in the drug trade, though no concrete conclusion could be drawn about the other three. The patriarch of the family, their father, is also an uncertainty. I don't know if he's involved in the trade, but word has it that he's a pious, religious man. So, maybe not, I guess?"

The fact that the old man had named his sons after the four most famous archangels had not been lost on Javier. His piety was certainly unabashedly upfront if one were to judge solely based on his naming choices. Still, piety had, historically, always been a rather good cover for something a lot more grotesque. Could the Sommer patriarch be hiding under a useful mask?

Javier remembered the Sommers' details by heart. This was a serious issue for him, and Chessie was not the only reason why. The old fox had instilled in him a reflexive contempt for drugs, telling him that while no Kersey should ever touch them, they were allowed to destroy them.

The Kerseys would never withstand the existence of any drugs. Never. Nonetheless, there was one thing that had captured Javier's interest a lot more than these dour, serious things.

Chessie's alluring figure was just too delicious to pass up. "Say, Chessie? I haven't made money off of you for a while now, have I?" Javier prefaced his suggestion. "Come over here. I'm offering top-notch service for 90 bucks tonight…"