

# Trading My Ex for His Uncle (Nyla)

## Chapter 1001

Eddie was silent for a moment before dialing Gabriel's number. "Mr. Hackett, Ms. Wilkie is downstairs at Nyce Tech and wants to see you."

Soon after, Eddie hung up and told Jane, "Mr. Hackett is at Villa No. 1 in Fantas Paradise."

Jane smirked. "Thank you, Mr. Morrison."

She then got into the car and left.

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Jane pulled up to Villa No. 1 in Fantas Paradise and couldn't help but feel conflicted as she gazed at the luxurious villa.

A few years ago, when Fantas Paradise was first put on the market, many tried to purchase Villa No. 1, with offers reaching up to 100,000,000 dollars.

Despite the lucrative offers, the owner refused to sell it.

At the time, rumors circulated that the villa's real owner was the boss of Nyce Tech, though no one knew who that was.

Eddie, the general manager of Nyce Tech, attended numerous social events. Countless people tried to inquire about the company's owner, but he never revealed a thing.

Jane never imagined that the owner of this villa would turn out to be Gabriel.

She took a deep breath, pushed open the car door, and stepped out.

Because she had been expected, the security guard immediately let her in.

Entering the villa's living room, she was further disturbed by its extravagant decor.

Gabriel had so much money, yet he had pretended to be poor in front of her. It was all a ploy to lower the Wilkies' guard, allowing him to infiltrate the Wilkie Group and gradually dismantle it.

She had worked so hard for years to become the company's general manager, only to lose it all because of his schemes.

A wave of resentment and anger surged within her as this thought crossed her mind.

Gabriel sat calmly on the sofa, looking at her with indifference. "So, you've come to see me. Have you made up your mind?"

Jane sneered and sat across from him. "Gabriel, I wasn't planning to divorce you even before I knew you were Nyce Tech's owner. Do you really think I'll do so now?"

"Nyce Tech was my property before we got married. If you're thinking of taking it from me, stop dreaming," Gabriel replied.

"Nyce Tech may have been your pre-marital property, but it's made quite a bit of money since we

married, hasn't it? If I apply to the et

court for a financial investigation, do you really think they won't find

anything?" Jane taunted.

Gabriel narrowed his eyes, his gaze growing colder. "What do you want?"

"I won't agree to a divorce. You're moving back in with me, and I want to join Nyce Tech," Jane stated, laying down her terms.

Gabriel chuckled. "Jane, have you not woken up yet? You think I'd let you into Nyce Tech?"

"I already know about the scam you

ret

and Starlite pulled on the Wilkie Group for billions. My grandfather knows too, and he's going to deal with you. Once Nyce Tech is sued, it'll be over for you," Jane threatened.

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"Jane, you need evidence to back your words. The contract was signed between you and Starlite, and Shane has already gone abroad.

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"What proof do you have that I was behind Shane's actions? Even if the Wilkie Group sues, it should be Starlite, not Nyce Tech," Gabriel countered.

Jane gnashed her teeth. "Starlite is a subsidiary of Nyce Tech. Now that Starlite is in trouble, Nyce Tech should take responsibility!"

"You probably don't know, but at the

beginning of this year, Starlite became an independent company. It's no longer affiliated with Nyce Tech, though that hasn't been made public," Gabriel explained.

"What?!" Jane gasped, her eyes widening.

## Chapter 1002

Jane's anger flared as she stared into Gabriel's calm eyes. "You've been plotting this all along, haven't you?"

Gabriel smiled. "Jane, you're a little smarter than Theo, but you're still not cut out for business."

After all, he had only set a trap, and she had foolishly walked right into it.

Jane clenched her hands tightly, leering at Gabriel as she said through gritted teeth, "Gabriel, you're cruel!"

"Same to you," Gabriel quipped.

After a brief silence, Jane gradually calmed down.

"Gabriel, everything you've done is to swallow up the Wilkie Group. But now my grandfather has teamed up with Prospectus Technology. You'll never get your hands on it!" she hissed.

"If I can't have it, so be it. I never really wanted it anyway," Gabriel replied.

His current target was Prospectus Technology. His goal was to bankrupt the company and take Nyla from Damon.

As for the Wilkie Group, without Prospectus Technology, it was just another paper tiger, like the Sumner Group.

Jane asked again, "So now you're set on divorcing me and chasing after Nyla, is that it?"

Gabriel stopped pretending and nodded. "Yes, Jane. I've never loved you. I married you not because you're special, but because I thought it didn't matter who I married."

Upon hearing his cruel words, Jane's chest ached.

She had truly loved Gabriel during their years together, but everything—the affection, the tenderness he had shown her had been an act. How could she accept that?

"I will never agree to a divorce. You can forget about it," she spat.

Gabriel stood up and looked down at her. "Then there's nothing to discuss. You can leave now."

Without another word, he turned and walked away.

Jane quickly stepped forward and blocked his way. "Can't you just live a good life with me and our son? Nyla doesn't even love you!"

Gabriel shoved her hand aside and

looked at her with a mocking expression. "She doesn't love me, but you love me now? If I weren't Nyce Tech's owner, would you be treating me this well?"

"As long as you're willing to give up custody of our son, I'll give you 5,000,000 dollars as compensation." "5,000,000 dollars? Five years of my life and the son I bore for you are worth that much?" Jane questioned.

Gabriel asked, "How much do you want, then?"

"I want half of all the money Nyce Tech has made since we got married," Jane demanded.

Gabriel smiled. "Jane, do you really think you're worth that much?"

Jane's face turned pale.

It took several seconds before she

coldly replied, "If you don't give it to me, I'll drag out the divorce. If you dare pursue Nyla, I'll expose her as the mistress who destroyed our marriage online."

"Don't you dare!" Gabriel hissed.

The chill in his gaze wrapped around Jane, leaving her struggling to breathe.

Jane met his gaze, unafraid. "You think I won't? If Nyla gets bashed by netizens because of you, she'll probably hate you even more."

Jane had thoroughly investigated Gabriel's pursuit of Nyla five years ago. She knew Nyla didn't like him at all-it was Gabriel who had relentlessly stalked her like a madman.

Her resentment deepened as she thought of his possessiveness over Nyla and his fake affection toward her over the past five years.

Jane hated both Nyla and Gabriel.

If she couldn't have peace, neither should they!

Suddenly, Gabriel gripped her throat,

growling, Jane, I hate being

threatened, especially with her Do you really think that because Damon

is helping the Wilkie Group, I won't dare touch you?"

## Chapter 1003

The suffocating sensation gripped Jane like a vice. Her face flushed as she reached up, struggling to pry Gabriel's hand off her. Her efforts, however, were futile.

Gabriel's smile deepened as he watched the pain twist her expression. "The Wilkies have already abandoned you. If you know what's good for you, sign the divorce papers, take the compensation I'm offering, and leave. Otherwise, you'll walk away with nothing."

He released her, tossing her aside carelessly like discarded trash. Without sparing her another glance, he turned and walked away.

Just as Gabriel was about to return to his work in the study, his phone rang. It was Wren.

"Gabriel, your stepfather's company is in trouble... He's threatening to divorce me now... What should I do?!" Wren's voice was frantic, panic clear in her tone.

"What does his company's trouble have to do with his wanting a divorce?" Gabriel asked, his voice cool and uninterested.

Wren gritted her teeth, clearly reluctant. "I caused a scene at Prospectus Technology, and now Damon knows about it. Prospectus has pulled all collaborations with his company...'

Gabriel didn't even look up, his tone indifferent. "What you should be doing right now is apologizing to Nyla, not calling me for advice."

The silence on the other end was telling.

If Wren had been willing to apologize, she wouldn't have called him in the first place.

"You want me to apologize to Nyla?" Her voice dripped with disbelief.

"You went to Prospectus Technology and caused trouble. Doesn't that warrant an apology to Nyla?" Gabriel replied flatly.

"Don't you have a big company? Just a word from you, and Raymond's company will survive this crisis-" Before she could finish, Gabriel interrupted sharply, "I can help his company, but why should I?"

If Wren hadn't stirred things up with Nyla, Raymond Wilkie's company wouldn't be in trouble, and they wouldn't be facing divorce. Everything that was happening now was her doing.

"Please, Gabriel, just help me this time. I'm begging you," Wren pleaded, her desperation evident.

Gabriel's expression remained unchanged. "Didn't you always want a divorce? Now that he's agreed to it, isn't this exactly what you wanted?"

Wren's face flushed with anger. "Harrison is impossible! I groveled and begged him, but he still won't forgive me. I can't just let everything go!"

"I'm not getting involved in your problems anymore. Go apologize to Nyla, or lose your life as a rich wife. The choice is yours," Gabriel concluded and hung up.

Furious, Wren nearly hurled her phone against the wall. She took several deep breaths to calm herself before turning toward the study.

"Darling, Gabriel... is not in a position to help..." she lied.

Raymond snorted. "Not in a position, or simply unwilling to help?"

"It's really not a good time. Prospectus Technology is also targeting his company, and he's struggling to deal with it... If he" Wren began explaining, but Raymond cut her off. "Enough!" Raymond waved his hand

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dism. You don't need to say

more. Since he won't help, we'll just prepare the gift and go to Nyla ourselves to apologize."

Wren nodded reluctantly. "Alright. I'll have the service staff prepare the gift."

That evening...

Raymond and Wren arrived at Damon's villa with the gift, only to be stopped by a maid at the door. They didn't even get to see Damon or Nyla.

## Chapter 1004

"Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie, Mr. Sumner said he's not seeing anyone today. Please go back," the servant informed them.

Raymond's expression darkened.

This wasn't simply a refusal to see guests-it was clear they didn't want to see them at all.

He had just witnessed Theo being escorted inside moments earlier.

Forcing a smile, he said, "It's fine. We'll wait here. If Mr. Sumner changes his mind, please let us know." The servant's expression remained indifferent as he replied, "Suit yourselves."

With that, the door was shut in their faces.

Wren frowned. "He refuses to see us. Why are we still waiting here? It's freezing cold..."

"Shut up!" Raymond snapped, his voice frigid. "If it weren't for your foolish actions, I wouldn't be begging

Damon to forgive us. From now on, stay out of matters involving Jane and Gabriel. Don't show up in front of Nyla again,

I'll divorce you!"

Wren stiffened, unable to respond. She could only glare at Raymond, her emotions tangled between anger and helplessness.

It was her fault for acting impulsively and dragging Raymond's company into the mess.

"Fine," she muttered, her gaze dropping as she turned away from him.

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The two of them stood outside the villa for over two hours before the door finally opened again. Theo stepped out, surprised to see Raymond. "Uncle Raymond, you're here to see Mr. Sumner?" Although they shared the same surname, their relationship was distant, limited to occasional meetings during holidays or special occasions.

"Yeah... I heard about the partnership between the Wilkie Group and Prospectus Technology. Did you come to discuss business with Mr. Sumner?" Raymond asked.

Theo didn't want to reveal too much and simply nodded. "Yes, I have some work to do. I'll be leaving now."

Raymond quickly stepped forward, his expression troubled. "Theo, I've never asked you for a favor before, but could you help me with something?"

"What is it, Uncle Raymond?" Theo asked.

Raymond explained, "It's... well, Wren

misunderstood that Mr. Sumner's

girlfriend, Nyla, was involved in

Jane's marriage to Gabriel. She caused trouble at Prospectus Technology, and now she regrets it.

"She insisted we come here to apologize in person to Mr. Sumner and Ms. Kinsey, but Mr. Sumner is still angry and refuses to meet with us. Could you speak to him and ask him to see us—"

Before he could finish, Theo immediately refused, "Uncle Raymond, that's not fair. You're putting me in a difficult position. Do you really think I have the influence to get Mr. Sumner to meet with us?"

Seeing Theo's displeasure, Raymond quickly added, "All you need to do is speak to Mr. Sumner and ask him to meet with us. You don't have to ask for any special favors-just let him know we're here. I'll owe you one, alright?"

Theo rolled his eyes. Did they really think he had the power to get Damon to see them?



"Uncle Raymond, I don't have that kind of influence. I'm not about to beg for you. You're on your own with this one," Theo said.

He then brushed past him and got into his car, driving off without a second glance.

Raymond's expression soured as he watched Theo's car disappear. He realized that Theo was only being polite by calling him "Uncle Raymond." There was no way he truly respected him.

Wren huffed angrily. "Theo has no manners! He didn't even greet me properly. No upbringing!"

Raymond shot her a cold look. "Greet you? Do you think you deserve that?"

Wren paled.

Staring at him with disbelief, she asked, "What do you mean by that, Raymond? Why don't I deserve it? No matter what, I'm still your wife!"

## Chapter 1005

Raymond scoffed. "Wife? Not for much longer."

"Are you really going to divorce me?!" Wren stared at Raymond, her eyes wide.

Though in her 50s, Wren had taken excellent care of herself and appeared to be in her early 30s.

When they first married, Raymond hadn't been drawn to her looks. Instead, he had married her because a fortune teller had told him that Wren would bring him good fortune.

The first two years of their marriage had been prosperous for Raymond's career. His business had expanded rapidly, growing several times in size.

Now, however, because of Wren's foolishness, his company was on the verge of bankruptcy.

On top of that, Raymond had been seeing a mistress, planning to make her his official partner. Wren had to step aside.

"We've been married for years, but if it weren't for the mess you caused this time, I would never have considered divorce. This is all on you," Raymond blamed her.

Seeing Raymond's cold, heartless attitude, Wren fell silent for a long time. Finally, she asked, her voice low, "Have you really thought this through?"

"Of course. Your actions almost ruined the company. If I keep you around, I'll probably offend even more people.

"I've treated you well these past years. Let's part on good terms. I'll give you 150,000 dollars as compensation," Raymond replied with a serious expression, showing no sign of joking.

Wren's heart began to race.

With Gabriel ignoring her and Harrison refusing to take her back, she'd have nothing left if she lost Raymond too.

She gritted her teeth and said, "You know the true power behind Nyce Tech is my son, Gabriel. If you divorce me now, you'll regret it."

Raymond mocked her, "If Gabriel really cared about you that much, why didn't he help when you called him for assistance?"

He had been standing nearby, overhearing their conversation.

Gabriel had made it clear that he wouldn't help Raymond's company, especially knowing the mess was partly due to Wren's actions.

Gabriel was refusing to help now-what made Wren think he ever would?

Seeing Wren fall silent, Raymond sneered. "Got nothing to say?"

"It's because I had a fight with him a few days ago. Once he's cooled down, he'll listen to me," she retorted.

"He's been hiding his company from you for years. Do you really think he'll listen to you now? If he did, his company might have already collapsed," Raymond ridiculed.

"You!" Wren trembled with rage, pointing at Raymond. "Don't go too far!"

Raymond didn't want to argue further and coldly replied, "I've got a meeting to attend. You can stay here and wait. When Mr. Sumner is willing to meet with you, the you can return."

With that, he turned and left.

Not long after Raymond left, Wren followed him.

She went straight to Gabriel, hoping he would help save Raymond's company. However, Gabriel's attitude remained unchanged he wasn't going to get involved.

Wren was filled with

disappointment. "Gabriel, I raised you with so much effort. If it weren't for me, Would you have what you have today? I'm just asking for your help once, and you're being so heartless. How could I have raised such an ungrateful son?"

Gabriel looked at her expressionlessly and retorted, "Mom, you caused trouble with Nyla and still won't admit your mistake. Why should I help you?"

Upon seeing that he was only defending Nyla, Wren's chest ached with anger. "Is that it? If I apologize to Nyla, then you'll help your Uncle Raymond's company?"

## Chapter 1006

Gabriel looked at Wren calmly and said, "If you're willing to publicly apologize to her, I'll agree to your request."

"A public apology? Are you trying to ruin me?!" Wren shot back.

She already believed she was not in the wrong. A public apology would turn her into a laughingstock. "You can choose to refuse," Gabriel replied indifferently.

Wren was furious but felt powerless. She knew that the Gabriel standing before her was no longer the son she could control.

Taking a deep breath, she suppressed her anger and said, "Fine, I'll do it."

Gabriel nodded. "Alright. I'll have someone come over to record your apology video. It needs to be posted online today."

Wren hadn't expected him to act so quickly, but she was already trapped. There was no turning back. Besides, she needed Gabriel's help to save Raymond's company.

True to his word, Gabriel acted swiftly. Within half an hour, a videographer arrived, and Wren was seated on the sofa, ready to record her apology.

It took three or four takes before Gabriel was finally satisfied.

Once the videographer left, Wren turned to Gabriel and asked, "Are you happy now? Can you help Raymond's company like you promised?"

Gabriel's expression remained cold as he replied, "Go home for now. Have him come see me first thing tomorrow morning.

At those words, Wren let out a sigh of relief.

She nodded. "Alright."

With this, Raymond should stop pushing for a divorce.

Not long after Wren left, Gabriel instructed his team to post the apology video online.

The video quickly caused a massive stir.

The Wilkie Group was well-known in Saintornia, and recent controversies had already made them a hot topic among internet gossip bloggers.

Several bloggers uncovered that Wren was Jane's mother-in-law.

When Wren's apology video went live, the Wilkies instantly became a trending topic.

to discuss how

At the time, Jane was meeting with her lawyer of Gabriel's assets she could

the event of a divorce. Contin

When she answered the call, Pedro's furious voice came through. "Jane, get rid of those trending topics online right now!"

He didn't even give her a chance to respond before hanging up abruptly.

Confused, Jane checked her phone and quickly found the trending posts Pedro had mentioned.

She took one look, and her expression darkened.

In an attempt to appease Nyla, Gabriel had made Wren record an apology video.

As a result, the Wilkies were now being mocked online, along with Jane herself.

People ridiculed her for marrying a cheap man and commented on how his mother was dragging him down.

Only a handful of people knew that

Gabriel was actually the man behind Nyce Tech, so most assumed he was just an ordinary overseas returnee. Many saw Jane's marriage to him as "marrying ben her."

Noticing Jane's sour expression, the lawyer hesitated before speaking. "Ms. Wilkie, if you have other matters to attend to, we can reschedule our discussion. In the meantime, I'll dig deeper into Nyce Tech's financial situation so we can have a more detailed conversation later."

Jane snapped out of her thoughts and nodded. "Alright, I appreciate your help."

"It's my duty. I'll take my leave now, and we'll set up another meeting soon," the lawyer replied. "Okay, I'll walk you out," Jane offered.

After seeing the lawyer off, she returned to her living room.

Her expression grew darker as she stared at the news on her phone.

She took a deep breath, went upstairs to change, and then left the house.

## Chapter 1007

At Prospectus Technology, small private chat groups among employees buzzed with activity as everyone discussed Wren's apology video.

The entire company was aware of the scene Wren had caused earlier, and clips of her outburst had circulated in various employee group chats.

When Damon found out, he issued a strict notice forbidding employees from sharing the video further. Anyone caught distributing it would have their bonuses docked.

To incentivize compliance, he offered a 400-dollar reward for the anonymous reporting of violators.

No one dared share the video openly anymore, but discussions about it continued in private.

"Wren looked so arrogant in that video. How did she apologize so quickly? Did Mr. Sumner threaten her?" "Considering how much Mr. Sumner cares about Nyla, that's definitely possible."

In the lab...

Leon noticed the trending video and immediately handed his phone to Nyla. "Take a look at this, Nyla." Nyla glanced at the video on the screen.

Upon seeing Wren apologize so earnestly, a flicker of surprise crossed her face.

Given Wren's personality, she wouldn't normally apologize. Could someone have forced her?

She handed the phone back to Leon and passed him her experiment log. "Record this for me. I'll be back in a bit."

Stepping out of the lab, Nyla pulled out her phone and sent a message to Damon, asking if he was behind Wren's apology.

Damon responded quickly.

Damon: [No, I had Spencer look into it. It was most likely Gabriel's doing.]

Nyla frowned slightly but didn't reply. She put her phone away and returned to the lab.

Whether or not it was Gabriel's doing, it didn't change her feelings. She wouldn't forgive Wren.

At Raymond's villa...

Jane sat across from Wren, her face cold.

"Mom, Gabriel went too far this time. Forcing you to publicly apologize like that-he's humiliating you and dragging the Wilkie name through the mud!" Jane exclaimed.

Wren's expression darkened. "What else could I have done? If not for you and Wilhelm, I wouldn't have caused a scene with Nyla.

"But it almost cost your uncle's company! Gabriel used your uncle's company to threaten me. What choice did I have but to agree?"

Seeing Wren so agitated, Jane took a deep breath and said, "Mom, I'm sorry. You've had to suffer because of me."

Before realizing Gabriel was Nyce

Tech's owner, Jane had always been indifferent to the mother-in-law she didn't like. She avoided interacting with her whenever possible.

The situation was different now. She couldn't let go of Gabriel just yet. Perhaps this mother-in-law could still be of use.

Wren huffed indignantly. "At least you know!"

Jane moved to sit beside her, gently

patting her back to soothe her. "Mom, now that Gabriel is so focused on Nyla, he's ignoring both me and Wilhelm-and even you his own mother. We need to think of a way to stop him."

"This is your fault!" Wren snapped. "You've been with him for five years and couldn't win his heart. Now that Nylais back, he's already asking for a divorce. You're useless!"

Jane's hand froze mid-pat, her expression darkening briefly.

She'd done so much for Gabriel over the years. She'd gotten him into the Wilkie Group's gaming company

and borne him a child-what more could she have done?

"Mom, that's not fair. I've done everything a wife should do. Who could've predicted Nyla would return?" she retorted.

## Chapter 1008

Besides, Nyla didn't even like Gabriel. It had always been him chasing her.

What was Jane supposed to do-crack open his head and make him stop liking Nyla? Wren frowned, clearly irritated.

"Alright, I'm not in the mood to talk about this. Go home," she said, waving Jane off.

Jane protested, "Mom, we haven't even discussed how to bring Gabriel back to me and Wilhelm. I need your help."

"What do you want me to do?" Wren asked.

"Later, call Gabriel and tell him Wilhelm has a fever and wants to see him. Get him to come home," Jane requested.

Wren hesitated. Gabriel's attitude toward her had grown increasingly cold. If he found out she was conspiring with Jane to deceive him, it could further damage their relationship.

Seeing her reluctance, Jane sighed. "Mom, do you really want to watch him chase after Nyla? With the way things are between you two now, do you think Nyla will treat you

kindly if they end up together?" "That's impossible! Nyla doesn't like him. They won't end up together," Wren stated.

"She didn't before, but now that people know he's the owner of Nyce Tech-which isn't far off from Prospectus Technology in standing that might change." Jane stopped there, letting Wren think it over. "I... I still don't think it's possible. Go home. I need to think about this," Wren said finally.

Suppressing her frustration, Jane stood up. "Alright. Take your time. I'll head back."

As Jane left the villa, her expression turned icy. It looked like she would have to handle this on her own.

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That evening, Jane personally picked Wilhelm up from school.

When Wilhelm saw her, his face lit up briefly before he pressed his lips together.

Since Gabriel had left, Jane had changed a lot. She hit him often, and he was scared of her.

Jane pretended not to notice his

wary expression. Smiling warm/et

she approached him. "Wil, what's wrong? Aren't you happy Mommy came to pick you up?"

Wilhelm stared at his shoes, saying nothing.

He was happy but also afraid-afraid his mother would turn into the scary version of herself who hit him for no reason.

When he didn't respond, Jane crouched down to his eye level and gently touched his head.

She coaxed, "Wil, Mommy wasn't in a good place before and did a lot of wrong things. I know I was wrong, and I promise I'll never hit you again. Can you forgive me?"

Wilhelm hesitated for a long while, enough that Jane's patience was wearing thin. Finally, he nodded. "I forgive you."

Jane's smile widened as she replied, "Good. To make it up to you, let's go out for a special dinner tonight, okay?"



Wilhelm's dull eyes brightened

instantly, though he held back his excitement and cautiously glanced at her. "Really, Mommy? We can go?"

"Of course! I came to pick you up just so I could take you out for a nice meal," Jane said.

"Okay!" Wilhelm cheered.

"Let's go then," Jane urged, extending her hand.

After a moment's hesitation, Wilhelm placed his small hand in hers.

The two of them headed to the car, and soon, Jane was driving him to an upscale steakhouse.

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Once Jane had ordered food for Wilhelm, she looked at him seriously and asked, "Wil, do you want your dad to come home?"

Wilhelm thought for a moment before nodding. "Yes, I want Daddy to come home."

## Chapter 1009

Wilhelm thought that when Gabriel was home, Jane never hit him without a reason.

But ever since his father left, his mother had become unpredictable. Sometimes, even the sound of him making noise while eating would lead to punishment, forcing him to stand in the corner.

He missed the mother who would kiss him and speak to him gently. He didn't want the mother who hit him for no reason.

"But Daddy's out there with another woman now and won't come home," he said.

Although he was young, he understood a lot of adult issues.

Lately, Gabriel hadn't been around. With Jane's constant hints, Wilhelm had started to believe that Gabriel had left because of a bad woman, choosing her over their family.

"Mommy, when I grow up, I'll protect you. I won't let any bad woman bully you!" Wilhelm vowed.

Tears welled in Jane's eyes at his words, her heart filled with a mix of emotions. Yet, her moment of hesitation lasted only a second before her resolve hardened.

The only way to give Wilhelm a complete family-and for her to get what she wanted-was to make Gabriel come back home.

She smiled at Wilhelm, her voice soft. "Wil, the most important thing right now is finding a way to bring Daddy back. Mommy has a plan, but I need your help. Will you help me?"

"Mommy, I'll do anything if it means Daddy will come home!" Wilhelm promised.

Jane stroked his head, praising him, "You're such a good boy."

"What do I need to do, Mommy?" Wilhelm asked.

"For now, you don't need to do anything. Just enjoy this meal. By tomorrow, Daddy will be back home," Jane coaxed.

Wilhelm's eyes widened in disbelief. "Really?"

Would his father come back after he finished the meal?

Jane nodded. "Really."

"Okay!" Wilhelm chirped.

Soon, the server brought their steak to the table and offered to cut it for them.

Jane smiled and refused. "No need. I'll do it myself. Could you check on the desserts, though?"

"Of course, ma'am," the server replied before stepping away.

Jane carefully cut Wilhelm's steak

into bite-sized pieces and placed them

in front of him. She placed a fork

and

in front of him and said,

"Go ahead and eat."

Wilhelm, who loved steak, eagerly picked up his knife and fork to take a bite.

Just then, he paused, hesitating for a moment before offering the piece "Mommy, you've worked

hard.

You eat first." Can get

Jane smiled as she accepted the bite. "Thank you, Wil. Now eat up, I've got plenty here." Wilhelm nodded. "Okay!"

After finishing his steak, the desserts arrived.

Jane slid the hazelnut cake toward him. "Here, Wil, try this. After dessert, we'll head home."

Wilhelm's eyes sparkled with curiosity as he looked at the cake. "Mom, what are these on top?" "They're hazelnuts. They're really tasty-try them," Jane offered.

"Okay!" Wilhelm agreed, picking up a spoon and, as was his habit, offering the first bite to Jane. She gently waved it off. "Mommy doesn't like cake. This one's all for you."

"Alright," Wilhelm replied.

Upon taking his first bite, his face lit up with delight. "It's so good! I've never had a cake this tasty before." He quickly took another big bite.

Watching his happiness, Jane couldn't help but smile. "Slow down. Don't eat too fast, or you'll choke."

When Wilhelm had eaten nearly half the cake, Jane stopped him. "That's enough for tonight. Eating too much before bed isn't good. If you like it, I'll bring you back another time

QUMS

## Chapter 1010

Although Wilhelm wanted more, he hesitated briefly before obediently putting down his spoon. "Okay, Mommy," he said.

His compliance sparked a brief flicker of guilt in Jane's eyes. But the feeling vanished as quickly as it had come, replaced by a calm determination.

After settling the bill, she led Wilhelm back to the car.

As soon as they were on the road, Wilhelm began squirming in his seat, scratching himself furiously. His small face scrunched in discomfort as he complained, "Mommy... I don't feel good. I'm itchy all over..." Jane glanced at him and saw red spots breaking out across his skin.

"Hold on, Mommy's taking you to the hospital right now," she said.

She sped toward the nearest hospital, reaching it in less than ten minutes.

By the time Jane pulled into the ER, Wilhelm's face was covered in hives. He was clawing at himself, leaving red marks all over his pale skin.

Jane rushed to unbuckle him and carried him inside, moving quickly toward the emergency desk.

A doctor approached immediately and asked, "What happened?"

"Food allergy," Jane said anxiously.

"Lay him on that bed over there," the doctor instructed.

As the medical team got to work, Jane stepped aside and called Wren, her voice shaky with panic. She explained what had happened and begged her to come to the hospital.

Wren was startled and immediately called Gabriel.

"I understand. Which hospital are you at? I'll be there right away," Gabriel said.

...

When Gabriel arrived, an hour had passed.

Wilhelm had been moved to a private VIP ward, where he was resting with an IV in his arm.

Gabriel's expression turned icy as he looked at Wilhelm's fragile state, his face still covered in scratches. He turned to Jane, his voice cold. "Step outside. I need to talk to you

Jane didn't move, her face as cold as his. "Anything you have to say, you can say here."

Gabriel let out a mirthless laugh before grabbing her wrist and pulling her out of the room.

Once they reached the end of the corridor, he released her, his voice sharp and accusatory. "Why did Wilhelm suddenly have an allergic reaction?"

Jane rubbed her reddened wrist, her

irritation rising. "You're asking me? What right do you have to question me? You haven't been home in ages. Would you have ever come back if Wilhelm hadn't had an allergic reaction?"

"You know he's allergic to hazelnuts. Ever since we found out, I've made sure there aren't any in the house. Do I need to investigate this myself?" Gabriel questioned.

For a moment, Jane's eyes flickered with guilt, and she avoided his gaze.

"I just took him out for steak tonight. The hazelnut cake was mine. How was I supposed to know he'd sneak a few bites while I was in the restroom?" she said.

Gabriel's expression turned to one of cold contempt as he pushed, "I'll have the restaurant's surveillance footage pulled. We'll see if that's the truth."

Jane scowled. "You don't trust me?"

"Should I?" he asked, his tone cutting.

"You!" Jane ground her teeth, nodding sharply. "Fine! Think whatever you want. Don't bother checking the footage-assume I did it!"

"I only believe in surveillance footage," Gabriel insisted.

Seeing his determination, Jane clenched her fists. She was on the verge of erupting.

Taking a deep breath, she glared at Gabriel. "Yes, I did it on purpose! I knew it was the only way to make you show up! Gabriel, this is all your

fault! you weren't so selfish your

Wilhelm wouldn't have had

suffer!"

## Chapter 1011

Looking at Jane's self-righteous demeanor, Gabriel remained expressionless. His gaze was indifferent, as if she were a stranger of no consequence.

His lack of reaction agitated Jane even more.

"Gabriel, why aren't you saying anything? Why?!" she shouted.

Gabriel's voice was calm. "Because I think you're pitiful."

"Pitiful?!" Jane repeated, then burst into laughter. "Do you think you're any less pitiful than I am? You abandoned your wife to be with Nyla, but has she even spared you a second glance? In the end, you and

I are no different-we're both pathetic losers."

Gabriel showed no visible reaction but said, "Jane, I'm not like you."

"What's so different about you?" Jane demanded.

"I can make my own choices. You can't. Take this situation, for example I can ensure you'll never see Wilhelm again, but there's nothing you can do to stop me," Gabriel stated.

Jane froze, her laughter faltering. An overwhelming sense of unease gripped her. "What are you going to do?"

Gabriel waved his hand, and two bodyguards stepped forward, grabbing Jane by the arms.

"For the sake of your own goals, you were willing to harm your child. Someone like you doesn't deserve to

be a mother. I'll be taking Wilhelm with me. From now on, don't even think about seeing him again," Gabriel announced.

"What?!" Jane's eyes widened in shock. "Gabriel, what gives you the right to do this?! I won't let you take Wilhelm! Over my dead body!"

Gabriel indifferently remarked, "Too noisy."

One of the bodyguards covered Jane's mouth and dragged her away.

She struggled desperately, letting out muffled cries, but it was no use. She was soon forced into an elevator.

...

At the hospital's main entrance, the bodyguards unceremoniously dumped her onto the ground.

The impact made Jane see stars, but she ignored the pain and got up, prepared to run back to the hospital.

She had carried Wilhelm to full term and given birth to him. What right did Gabriel have to take him away?

Jane braced herself, expecting the

bodyguards to stop her, but they didn't even glance her way. Instead, they got into a car and drove off.

Her anxiety intensified as she raced toward the elevator.

By the time she reached the ward, Wilhelm's bed was empty. The boy was nowhere to be found.

Jane rushed to the nurse's station.

"Where's my son? Where's Wilhelm?" she demanded breathlessly.

The nurse looked confused. "His father took him just now. The discharge procedure has already been taken care of."

Jane went pale. She bit her lip, panic rising.

A sudden thought struck her, and she bolted downstairs.

Too impatient to wait for the elevator, she took the stairs-but in her panic, she misstepped and tumbled down.

When Wilhelm woke up, he realized he wasn't in the hospital anymore.

The unfamiliar room made him uneasy, and he quickly climbed out of bed.

As his feet touched the floor, the door opened, and Gabriel walked in carrying a bowl of soup.

"Daddy!" Wilhelm's face lit up with

surprise and joy. He ran to Gabriel who caught him with one arm while balancing the bowl in the other.

"Careful," Gabriel said with a smile.

"Daddy, where is this? Why am I here? And where's Mommy?" Wilhelm asked.

Gabriel's smile didn't waver. "This is our home now. Are you hungry?"

Have some soup. The helper'sel.ne

making your favorite barbecue ribs for lunch."

## Chapter 1012

"Okay," Wilhelm answered.

He accepted the bowl and took a couple of sips, then looked up at Gabriel and asked, "Daddy, where's Mommy?"

Upon seeing the cautious look in Wilhelm's eyes, a complex expression crossed Gabriel's face.

He crouched down to the boy's level and said gently, "Wil, from now on, you'll live with Daddy. Is that okay?"

Wilhelm froze, tears welling up in his eyes. "Daddy, does that mean you don't want Mommy anymore?" Jane's words echoed in his mind-that Gabriel had a bad woman outside and didn't want them anymore. Now that his father didn't want his mother, it wouldn't be long before he didn't want him either, especially if he had a child with that bad woman.

Gabriel sighed and spoke softly. "Wil, this is an adult matter that you won't understand. Daddy isn't abandoning Mommy. We're just going to live separately. But no matter what, both of us love you very much."

"You're lying!" Wilhelm cried, throwing the bowl to the floor, where it shattered into pieces.

He burst into tears and ran toward the door. "You're a bad daddy! You've found a bad woman outside, and once you have a child with her, you won't want me anymore! I want to see Mommy-I don't want you!"

The floor was littered with ceramic shards, and Gabriel worried that Wilhelm might hurt himself. He quickly scooped the boy up in his arms and carried him out of the room.

"Wil, listen to Daddy. I will never stop loving you," he reassured him.

Wilhelm refused to stop crying and struggling, demanding to see Jane.



After a long, fruitless attempt to comfort him, Gabriel reluctantly decided to have someone contact Jane. Before long, one of his assistants approached hesitantly. "Mr. Hackett, Ms. Wilkie fell down the stairs at the hospital and broke her leg. She's being treated now and can't come."

Gabriel pressed his lips into a tight line. "Understood."

He turned to look at Wilhelm, still sniffing on the sofa, and called over a maid.

"Keep an eye on Wilhelm. If he's hungry, prepare him something to eat, but don't let him sneak out," he instructed.

Gabriel suspected that, given Wilhelm's current state, the boy might try to run away to find Jane. He couldn't allow Wilhelm to return to her, only to be used as leverage again.

"Yes, sir," the maid replied.

After giving these instructions, Gabriel went to his study to work.

Not long after, Raymond arrived with Wren.

As they stepped into the house, they saw Wilhelm sitting on the sofa, his eyes red and puffy from crying. Wren rushed to his side. "Wil, what's wrong? Why are you crying so much? Where's your dad?" Upon seeing Wren, Wilhelm's tears began to flow again.

He threw his arms around her and sobbed. "Grandma, Daddy doesn't want Mommy anymore! I want to see Mommy! Daddy won't let me!"

Seeing Wilhelm in such a state broke

Wren's heart. She fumbled to wipe away his tears, comforting him "There, there, don't cry. I'll talk

your daddy, okay?"

"Really?" Wilhelm looked up at her with hopeful eyes.

Wren's heart melted due to the tear tracks on his cheeks. She quickly nodded. "Of course, sweetheart." As she spoke, Gabriel entered the living room.

He glanced briefly at Wren soothing Wilhelm, then turned his attention to Raymond. "Let's discuss this in the study."

"Ah, yes, of course," Raymond replied nervously, rubbing his hands together.

He had never thought highly of Gabriel, dismissing him as someone who lived off his wife. But now, Gabriel had risen to become a

successful entrepreneur, while

Raymond's own company wasel

the verge of bankruptcy, forcing him to seek help. His feelings were complicated, to say the least.

## Chapter 1013

Raymond and Gabriel stayed in the study for over an hour before emerging.

By then, Raymond's expression had shifted from initial unease to radiant joy, his face brimming with smiles.

It seemed the fortune teller had been right-Wren was indeed his lucky star.

Despite his company's brush with bankruptcy, Gabriel not only promised to inject 70,000,000 dollars into it but also agreed to partner with them on future projects.

The potential profits were enough to make it impossible for Raymond to hide his grin.

Seeing his cheerful demeanor, Wren let out a breath of relief.

Setting Wilhelm down from her lap, she turned to Raymond and asked, "So, you reached an agreement?" "Yeap. I need to get back to the office, though. I'll have the driver pick you up later," Raymond replied. "Alright. Will you be home for dinner?" Wren asked.

"Of course! Tonight, we'll celebrate properly," Raymond promised.

After Raymond left, Wilhelm tugged on Wren's sleeve. "Grandma, when are you going to talk to Daddy about letting me see Mommy?"

"I'll go right now," Wren answered.

"I'll go with you," Wilhelm said.

The two headed to the study and knocked on the door.

"Come in," came Gabriel's voice.

Wren pushed the door open and stepped inside. "Gabriel, I heard from Wil that you're not letting him see his mother?"

Gabriel set down the document he

had been reading and cast a cold glance at her. "Mom, you can't even manage your own family matters, so maybe stay out of mine."

"I don't intend to meddle in the issues between you and Jane, but Wil is my grandson. He's just a child. "How could you deny him the chance to see his mother? You left him crying in the living room-what if something happened to him?" Wren explained.

Gabriel set the document aside and told Wilhelm, "Wil, step out for a moment."

Wilhelm shook his head. "No! Daddy, I want to see Mommy! I want to be with her!"

"Are you sure? Have you already forgotten how she used to hit you?" Gabriel reminded him.

At these words, Wilhelm shrank back, fear flashing across his face. Clearly, he remembered the terrifying experience.

After a moment's hesitation, he

nodded. "Mommy didn't mean to hit

me. She told me she was going through a hard time and promised it wouldn't happen again. She even took me out for something delicious yesterday..."

Looking at Wilhelm's innocent face, Gabriel frowned. He didn't want to tell Wilhelm that Jane had taken him out yesterday to deliberately trigger an allergy in order to force a meeting with him.

However, if Wilhelm didn't fully see her true nature, he would keep begging to see her. Over time, he might even come to resent Gabriel, his own father.

After a pause, Gabriel asked seriously, "If you had to choose between Daddy and Mommy, who would you pick?"

"Daddy, I don't want to choose. I want both of you. I want us to be a happy family again," Wilhelm replied. "You have to choose. Either me or your mother," Gabriel insisted.

Tears welled up in Wilhelm's eyes, and he began to sob. "I don't want to choose! I want both of you! I don't want you to get divorced!"

Wren's heart ached as she watched Wilhelm cry.

She scowled at Gabriel. "What kind of father are you? If he misses his mother so much, let him see her. Why force him to make such a cruel choice?"

Ignoring her, Gabriel turned to Wilhelm and said, "Since you won't choose, I'll decide for you. I'll send you back to your mother's place."

## Chapter 1014

Wilhelm froze at Gabriel's stern expression, shrinking behind Wren and peeking at his father with frightened eyes.

Without looking at him, Gabriel called for a maid. "Take him to the Wilkies with the driver later." The maid nodded. "Understood."

Just as the maid was about to lead Wilhelm away, Wren pulled the boy behind her and snapped, "Gabriel, can't you see how scared he is?"

Gabriel finally lifted his gaze to her, his tone icy. "Weren't you the one who brought him to me and insisted I let him see Jane? Now that I've agreed, what more do you want?"

Wren stiffened but quickly composed herself. "I only brought him because he was crying so pitifully. That doesn't mean I want him to live with Jane again."

She wasn't stupid. It was clear that Wilhelm was better off with Gabriel than with Jane.

If the divorce went through, Jane would eventually remarry, and who knew how much Wilhelm would

suffer in her new household?

At least with Gabriel, Wren could visit Wilhelm often, and he would have a stable life.

"I've already told you, this is my business. Stay out of it," Gabriel warned.

Wren was angry. "I have no choice but to interfere. Just look at Wil-what have you and Jane done to him

with your constant fighting? You're his father. Can't you stop being so selfish?"

With a sharp crack, Gabriel slammed his file onto the desk, silencing the room.

Wren, who was quite afraid of Gabriel, turned pale and didn't dare speak again.

In the silence, Wilhelm's sobs echoed through the study. "Waaah! Bad Daddy! I don't want you! I want Mommy!"

At Gabriel's signal, the maid quickly stepped forward and carried Wilhelm out of the room.

Once the study was quiet again, the oppressive atmosphere made Wren feel suffocated.

She hesitated, then cautiously said "Gabriel, just remembered something I need to take care of

T'll

come back another day to visit Wil."

"Wait." Gabriel's cold voice stopped her in her tracks.

"Do you know why I brought him here?" he asked.

"W-Why?" Wren managed to ask.

"Last night, Jane deliberately fed him something he's allergic to, hoping to force me to meet with her," Gabriel explained.

Wren's eyes widened in shock. "What?! She did that to her son?!"

She recalled Jane's phone call the previous night and felt a chill run down her spine.

Jane had called her because she couldn't get through to Gabriel, manipulating her into arranging the meeting.

The more Wren thought about it, the more alarmed she became.

For Jane to go so far as to harm Wilhelm, her child-who knew what else she was capable of?

"No. Wil can't go back to her. If she can use his allergies to get her way once, who knows what she'll do next? They can't meet anymore!" Wren exclaimed.

Gabriel's expression remained cold. "I didn't tell Wil about what she did. I didn't want to hurt him."

"How can you not tell him? And you still planned to send him back

him.

her? That's like throwing  
wolves!" Wren exclaimed

Gabriel gave her a pointed look. "Didn't you bring him here, insisting he see Jane?"

## Chapter 1015

Embarrassment flickered across Wren's face as she muttered, "I didn't... I just didn't know the situation before, okay?"

"If you don't know the situation, then don't meddle," Gabriel rebuked.

After a moment of silence, Wren stole a glance at Gabriel and softly said, "Gabriel, this time it's my fault. I'm sorry. But Wil absolutely cannot be sent back to Jane. Who knows how she'll treat him? She's already proven she's capable of terrible things."

Just thinking about Jane intentionally causing Wilhelm's allergic reaction made Wren's skin crawl. What kind of mother could be so cruel?

"I know what I'm doing. From now on, if Jane contacts you, don't respond," Gabriel instructed.

Wren quickly nodded. "Okay... I understand..."

"If there's nothing else, you can go. I have work to do," Gabriel dismissed.

"Alright... I'll leave now..." Wren answered.

As Wren walked out of the villa, she finally let out a sigh of relief.

Just as she was about to call her driver, her phone rang.

Seeing that it was Jane, she let out a cold laugh before answering.

"Jane, you've got some nerve calling me," she said.

"Mom, what's that supposed to mean?" Jane asked.

"You know perfectly well what it means! You deliberately caused Wil's allergic reaction just to force Gabriel

to meet you. A person like you doesn't deserve to be a mother. I won't help you anymore, so stop calling me," Wren scolded before hanging up.

She then blocked Jane's number.

...

Jane hurled her phone at the ward's wall with a loud crash, startling Wendy.

"Ms. Wilkie, what's wrong?" Wendy asked nervously.

Jane's face was cold and sinister. She didn't answer, and Wendy dared not ask further. She silently picked

up the shattered phone and set it on the table, sighing deeply.

After lunch, Gabriel instructed a maid to bring Wilhelm back to Jane.

When Jane saw Wilhelm, she didn't appear particularly happy. Instead, she fixed her gaze on the maid who had brought him over and asked, "Where's Gabriel? Why didn't he bring Wil himself?"

"Ms. Wilkie, Mr. Hackett is busy with work, so he asked me to bring Mr. Wilhelm. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave," the maid answered.

"Stop right there!" Jane snapped, her eyes blazing with anger. "What does Gabriel mean by this? Is he done taking responsibility for his son?!"

"Ms. Wilkie, I was only asked to send Mr. Wilhelm. I'm not aware of anything else," the maid replied.

"Get out!" Jane shouted. Her fury made her look terrifying.

Wilhelm was frightened by her appearance and instinctively took a step back. When Jane had hit him before, she had looked exactly the same as she did now.

The maid nodded slightly before promptly leaving.

Once the room quieted, Jane turned to Wilhelm, her voice icy. "Come here."

Wilhelm shook his head. "Mommy, I told Daddy I want us to live together as a family, but he wouldn't agree. Mommy, I did what you

asked-please don't hit me, okay?"

His voice wavered as tears welled up in his eyes.

Jane's gaze turned cold, but she softened her tone. "Don't worry. Mommy won't hit you. I just want to know was your dad treating you well?"

Wilhelm hesitated for a moment, then shook his head. "No... Daddy wasn't good to me. I had to cry and beg before he finally agreed to send me back to you."

## Chapter 1016

Jane smiled and praised, "You're such a good boy, Wil. Come here-Mommy wants to tell you something."

Hesitant but trusting, Wilhelm slowly moved closer to her.

The moment he was within reach, Jane grabbed his collar, her expression dark and menacing. "When I called you earlier, why didn't you come immediately?"

Terrified, Wilhelm turned pale, tears brimming in his eyes. "Mommy... I was scared..."

"Scared of what?" Jane demanded.

"Scared you'd hit me... Waaaah..." Wilhelm cried.

When Wilhelm had been staying with Gabriel, he'd worried he'd never see his mother again.

But now, seeing her up close, she seemed frightening-nothing like the gentle mother he used to know. Jane's patience snapped at the sound of his crying. "Shut up! If you keep crying, I'll throw you out!" Wilhelm immediately clammed up, though he couldn't stop the little hiccups that followed. His face was streaked with tears, making him look pitiful.

Just then, the door to the room opened, and Wendy walked in carrying some medicine.

Seeing Jane gripping Wilhelm with such fury, Wendy quickly stepped in and pulled the boy away. Her frown deepened as she noticed Wilhelm's pale face and hesitant, silent tears.

"Ms. Wilkie, what's the point of this? No matter how things go with Mr. Hackett, Wilhelm is still your son. If you and Mr. Hackett divorce, he'll be your only hope. If you don't treat him well now, don't expect him to be filial later," Wendy reminded her.

Jane let out a derisive laugh. "Hope? I can't even rely on Gabriel. You think I'm going to rely on a kid?" "Ms. Wilkie, no matter how you feel, Wilhelm is still your flesh and blood. If you don't care for him, who will?" Wendy pressed.



Jane's face twisted with bitterness. "Care for him? And who's going to care for me?"

Seeing that her words weren't getting through, Wendy sighed wearily and dropped the subject. She tidied up the room and was about to take Wilhelm back to the villa when he refused to leave. "I want to stay with Mommy," he said firmly.

Wendy's heart ached as she looked

at

early frightened but

still unwilling to leave his mother. A child's love for their parents truly was unconditional.

"Alright, then I'll stay with you both," Wendy replied.

Wilhelm nodded vigorously. "Okay!"

That evening, Pedro was reviewing some documents in his study when the butler entered to announce a visit from Gabriel.

Pedro froze for a moment, then his face darkened. "He's got the nerve to show up?"

Remembering how Gabriel had spent five years ingratiating himself with the Wilkies, only to betray them and nearly destroy the Wilkie Group, Pedro felt his anger rise.

"He says he has a business proposal for you. Should I let him in?" the butler asked. A business proposal?

Pedro sneered. "Bring him to the study."

He wanted to see just what Gabriel had to say.

Soon, Gabriel was led into the room.

"Grandpa," he greeted.

"Don't call me that. I'm not your grandfather," Pedro said coldly.

Gabriel remained unfazed. With a faint smile, he walked over and sat opposite Pedro.

"Grandpa, there's no need to be

angry. I'm here today to discuss

very lucrative business opportet

Gabriel remarked.

Pedro shot back, "I wouldn't dare do business with you. Who knows when you might stab me in the back again?"

## Chapter 1017

Gabriel smiled. "Grandpa, rest assured-I'm not here to scheme against you. I've come to return the gaming company to the Wilkie Group free of charge."

Pedro's sharp eyes narrowed coldly. "You're being this generous? I don't buy it."

"Of course, I have conditions," Gabriel replied evenly.

"And what are they?" Pedro asked.

"I want a divorce from Jane, full custody of Wilhelm, and for the Wilkies to send Jane abroad permanently. She's not to return," Gabriel stated firmly.

Pedro raised an eyebrow, surprised.

Returning such a lucrative gaming company just for a divorce? As for sending Jane abroad-that was already part of his plan.

Pedro remained silent, but Gabriel showed no impatience. He sat quietly, waiting for a response.

After a long pause, Pedro finally spoke, his tone icy. "How do I know you're not bluffing? You could strip the company of its core assets and leave me with an empty shell."

Gabriel chuckled. "Of course not, Grandpa. That gaming company may generate hundreds of millions annually, but it's nothing to me. Returning it doesn't hurt my bottom line. All I want is the divorce." "This requires careful consideration. You may leave for now," Pedro said curtly.

Gabriel stood, adjusted his sleeves, and smiled. "Very well, but I suggest you act quickly. My patience is limited. Even if you refuse, I have other ways to ensure the divorce happens it just might get messy." Pedro's expression darkened. "Is that a threat?"

"Not at all, just a friendly reminder," Gabriel replied before leaving.

Watching his retreating figure, Pedro struggled to reconcile this confident, composed man with the seemingly meek grandson-in-law of years past.

How could Gabriel have founded Nyce Tech? And yet, the impossible had happened.

As soon as Gabriel left, Pedro instructed the butler to summon Jane to the house.

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Waid hesitantly, "Mr.

Wilkie fell down the

of Paid hesitantly, "Mr.

last

elairs

and fractured her leg

She's still in the hospital."

W4

"Even in the hospital, she can still come home. I need to speak with her," Pedro insisted.

"Yes, sir. Right away," the butler replied.

...

About an hour later, Wendy wheeled Jane, her leg in a cast, into the Wilkie residence.

"Ms. Wilkie, Mr. Wilkie is waiting for you in the study," the butler announced.

"Why is Grandpa in such a hurry? Did something happen?" Jane asked.

The butler shook his head. "I'm not sure, but Mr. Hackett visited earlier." Jane's face darkened. "What did he want?!"

"I don't know. He spoke privately

with Mr Wilkie and left soon after et

You'll have to ask him yourself the butter answered.

After guiding Jane to the study, the butler and Wendy stepped out, leaving her alone with Pedro.

As soon as the door closed, Jane demanded, "Grandpa, why was Gabriel here? What did he want?"

"He's willing to return the gaming company to the Wilkie Group-on one condition: you must divorce him," Pedro said.

Jane's initial joy at hearing about the

gaming company quickly turned to rage. "No way! I won't agree to it. He can forget about divorcing me!"

## Chapter 1018

Jane's words were met with Pedro's cold stare, causing her to stiffen. "Grandpa, don't tell me you're actually considering this!"

"That gaming company generates hundreds of millions in profit every year," Pedro said pointedly. "So what? You're willing to force me into a divorce for the sake of a company?" Jane questioned. "Jane, recovering that company would stabilize the Wilkie Group's finances. And let's face it, there's no love left between you two. Dragging this out serves no purpose," Pedro replied.

Jane laughed bitterly. "Grandpa, you've said it all, haven't you? What more can I say? But don't forget- Gabriel has Nyce Tech. If I divorce him, we lose half of Nyce Tech."

Pedro shook his head at her naivety. "Nyce Tech was established before your marriage. Even if some of its profits were earned after, he's had plenty of time to hide assets. You won't get a dime."

The fact that Gabriel had been able to remain so low-profile within the Wilkies for years proved how difficult it would be to trace any hidden assets. He might be wealthy, but Jane had no claim to any of it. "But we're married. If I can prove he's transferred assets, I can claim those profits. Five years of Nyce Tech's earnings-do you really think a gaming company compares?" Jane insisted.

"He won't give you the chance to find that proof," Pedro said bluntly. "All I care about is retrieving the gaming company. If you agree to the divorce, I'll transfer 10% of the Wilkie Group's shares to you." Jane had once seen 10% of the Wilkie Group as a tempting offer, but now it seemed insignificant. "Grandpa, 10% of the Wilkie Group versus half of Nyce Tech? I'll take the latter," she stated. Pedro studied her for a long moment before speaking slowly. "What you can hold onto is what truly matters. Go home and think it over. I expect your answer in a few days."

"I don't need a few days. I can answer now. I refuse to divorce him," Jane said firmly.

Pedro's face grew colder due to her stubbornness. "You don't have a choice. Take the 10% and divorce him, or get nothing-and still divorce him. The decision is yours."

Jane clenched the armrests of her wheelchair, her face contorted with rage. "Grandpa, you're forcing me! You're not giving me a real choice!"

"Choices are for those with leverage. You have none. Do you really think you're in a position to

negotiate?" Pedro challenged.

His words hit her like a bucket of ice water, dousing any remaining resistance.

He was right. She had no leverage. Whether it was Gabriel or Pedro, both had the power to force her hand.

If Pedro were on her side, she would have a chance to fight it out with Gabriel. But now that both men were aligned against her, she had no way to resist.

"If you push me into this divorce, you'll regret it someday," Jane said bitterly.

Pedro's voice was indifferent. "If that day comes, I'll deal with it. Right now, I'm focused on saving the company. Your foolishness brought us to this point. You have only yourself to blame."

Taking a deep breath, Jane extended her hand. "Fine. I want the shares first." Pedro wasted no time, summoning a lawyer to draft the share transfer agreement. Within hours, the documents were signed and sealed.

## Chapter 1019

After receiving the shares, Jane said coldly, "Tell Gabriel to send the divorce papers to the villa. Once the one-month cooling-off period is over, we'll finalize the divorce."

Pedro nodded, a rare smile crossing his face. "There's no need to wait a month. You can get divorced today."

Time was of the essence. Neither he nor Gabriel had the patience to wait.

Jane scoffed, her expression mocking. She had expected this seemingly smooth process to come with strings attached.

"Fine. Have Gabriel come over," she said.

...

Gabriel arrived quickly.

After transferring ownership of the gaming company back to Pedro, he and Jane headed to the courthouse to finalize the divorce.

As Jane held the divorce certificate in her hand, she couldn't help but laugh bitterly. Her life had truly become a joke.

Outside the courthouse, Gabriel glanced at Jane, who sat in her wheelchair, and handed her a document. "Jane, consider this my compensation for five years of marriage. From now on, we'll go our separate ways," he said.

Jane opened the document and saw that he was offering her 100,000,000 dollars as compensation. She sneered. "How generous of you."

"I'll head back with you now to pick up Wilhelm," Gabriel replied.

Jane fell silent for a few seconds before looking at him coldly. "Are you planning to stop me from seeing my son in the future?"

"It's best if you don't see him unless necessary," Gabriel answered.

Seeing the indifference in his eyes, Jane said nothing further.

The drive back to the villa was silent. Neither of them spoke a word.

When they arrived, Wilhelm saw them return together and ran over excitedly. "Daddy! You're back?"

Gabriel looked down at his son, his expression softening. "Yes, Wil. Go upstairs and pack your things. You'll be moving to a new home with me."

"Is Mommy coming too?" Wilhelm asked cautiously, his eyes full of hope.

Gabriel reached out to pat his head and replied gently, "Mommy's not coming. It'll just be you and me. From now on, you'll live with Daddy. Okay?"

"No!" Wilhelm screamed, shoving

Gabriel's hand away as he backed up. "I don't want to go with you! want to stay with Mommy! I don't want to be with you. You'll let the bad woman hurt me!"

Gabriel frowned and turned to Jane, his voice cold. "Is this what you've been telling him?"

"I only said you didn't want us anymore, and I wasn't lying, was I?" Jane retorted.

"Explain it to him properly," Gabriel ordered.

"What's there to explain? You left us and forced me into a divorce. It's all for Nyla, isn't it? Did I misunderstand something? Or are you planning to chase after Nyla now?" Jane shot back.

Gabriel's icy gaze bore down on her, anger radiating from him.

"Jane, do you have a death wish?" he hissed.

She met his glare with defiance. "Oh? Are you planning to kill me now? Go ahead. We're divorced now, and I'm of no use to you anymore, am I?"

Fury burned in Gabriel's eyes. If Wilhelm hadn't been there, he might have lost control.

Jane raised an eyebrow with a smirk. "What's the matter? Angry? Frustrated? This feeling you have right now? It's what I've been living with every single day since you abandoned me and our son and forced me into this divorce.