

Triumph 31

[Chapter 31](#)

Trouble seemed to have finally come. However, he did not expect it to come so soon.

"I am Lola's father, so shouldn't I be doing this?" Skylar chuckled.

Yulia glared and coldly said, "Don't change the topic. You know exactly why I'm asking you this."

"Was it because of Judy?" Skylar asked.

Yulia nodded and said, "Yeah! You were able to control the entire news network with a single phone call back then. I believed you when you told me that your comrade worked at the national news station. Oh and after that, I believed you again when you told me that you have a comrade who happens to be a police chief when Yvonne and Nicholas were released from custody with another call. However, Judy was so polite to you today. Tell me, would she even offend Harry for an average looking veteran?"

Skylar stopped eating and looked at Yulia as he said, "The truth is, I've only met her once before today. Her grandpa was practicing some martial arts and I just gave him some pointers then. She was even hostile to me because of it. However, I believe that her grandpa must've said something to her that made her change her mind about me. Look, I have no idea why she even stood up for me today."

Skylar was telling her the truth and although he had his suspicions, he had no idea how much Judy's grandfather knew about him.

However, Yulia was staring at Skylar peculiarly. It seemed as if she was trying to find hints of guilt from his expression.

The only thing was, Skylar was completely unfazed as his eyes looked very clear. This only made Yulia question herself again. She wondered if she was overthinking again.

"Mommy, I want to watch daddy cook too." Suddenly, Lola jumped off the couch and ran to the kitchen.

Yulia glanced at Lola and told Skylar. "I don't care if you're a nobody or not, but you can't hurt Lola. I... I'll fight you if you do!"

Skylar burst out laughing when he heard that. He said, "Oh don't you worry, I won't ever hurt Lola and I won't ever hurt you too. I will play my part as the man of the house and protect you from any danger as long as you have the Dragon Seal."

Hearing this eased Yulia's tense heart as she suddenly trembled. However, before she could react to it, Lola came to her side and tugged her clothes.

"Carry me, mommy!"

"Okay, I'll carry you so you can watch daddy cook."

Yulia shook her head and decided to set her emotions aside.

It did not take long for the kitchen to be filled with laughter.

Soon, a hearty dinner was served.

"Daddy's cooking smells really good!"

Lola could barely contain herself as she stared at the dishes while seated on her little chair.

Yulia was delighted too. It almost seemed like anything from the kitchen could be transformed into such delicious meals in Skylar's hands.

"Mommy, I want to eat that, and that..." Lola pointed at every dish while holding onto her little bowl.

So, Yulia served her everything and said, "Enjoy now, sweetie."

However, Lola ignored her as she waved her little spoon around excitedly before gobbling up her food.

"Hey, slow down there. No one is going to take it from you..." Yulia said in a concerned tone.

However, Lola replied with a mouthful of food, "Daddy's cooking is too good now! It's so much better than anything we eat out there."

"Oh you sure have quite the silver tongue there."

Yulia laughed and assumed that Lola was only praising Skylar because she did not have a father figure growing up.

"I'm serious, mommy! Just try some!" The little girl exclaimed.

Yulia's eyes lit up the instant she tried some of Skylar's food.

Whoa... this is really good! The oysters are... really good too!

It seemed that she was wrong about Lola. Skylar's cooking really was better than the food she tasted in other restaurants out there.

Yulia was completely stunned by this. She never expected that Skylar could make something this delicious.

So, she ignored any etiquette as she began to gobble up her food with Lola.

Soon, every plate was cleaned up by the trio. Not even a single drop of soup was spared.

"Daddy's cooking is the best in the world! Could you cook for me everyday, daddy?" Lola asked.

It seemed that Yulia was also a little excited to know.

A simple meal had completely rid her mind off whatever concerns she had for Skylar.

"Of course! Both you and your mother are the most important people in my life. I'd do anything for you, let alone cook for you," Skylar replied with a gentle tone.

"Yay! That means I'd be able to eat daddy's cooking everyday now! This is awesome!" Lola was so happy that she jumped up in joy.

It was getting late after they finished cleaning up the kitchen, so Skylar was getting ready to leave.

Besides, their apartment was much smaller than the mansion. If Yulia did not tell him to stay, he dared not stay.

However, before he could say anything, Lola suddenly asked, "Hey daddy, could you sleep with mommy and I tonight?"

Upon hearing that, Skylar looked at Yulia as they blushed immediately.

It seemed that the little girl had always wanted that ever since the first day...

[Chapter 32](#)

"Hey Lola, daddy..."

Before Skylar could finish, the little girl sobbed, "No way. No way. I want to sleep with daddy and mommy."

"I'm begging you, Lola..."

"Other kids could sleep with their dads everyday but me... Mommy, you promised me that we'll sleep together when daddy comes back. Daddy, do you not like mommy and me anymore?"

Lola approached and hugged Skylar's leg before nuzzling up against his leg with her tear stained face.

Hearing that ached Skylar's heart as he carried her immediately. However, he had absolutely no clue what to do next.

He knew that he would be completely fine, but he still had to make sure that Skylar was fine with the arrangement.

Yulia was very conflicted about the situation too. On the one hand, she owed her daughter way too much and could not bear to refuse her. On the other hand, she was worried that something bad might happen if Skylar and her were to share the same bed.

Besides, regardless of how excellent of a person Skylar was, she only knew him for three days.

"Just talk to daddy, mommy. He'll listen to you," Lola said after wiping her tears.

So, Yulia looked at the sad little girl before asking Skylar, "Hey... you don't have plans tonight, right? Why... don't you stay the night?"

"Look daddy, mommy wants you to stay, so stay and sleep with us!" Lola exclaimed while shaking Skylar's neck coquettishly.

Skylar felt a little uncomfortable when he noticed how generous Yulia seemed.

However, just as he was about to say something, his phone rang. It turned out that his step-father had called him.

"Hey Skylar, tomorrow is Naomi's wedding. I need you to make some time and come over earlier tomorrow," Nathaniel said in a very delightful tone.

"Don't worry dad, I'll be there," Skylar replied.

"Sure, I'll send you the address later." Nathaniel hung up the call after that.

After that, Skylar told Lola, "Hey Lola, I really have things to do tonight and I can't stay with you or your mom. I won't be able to see you tomorrow either..."

However, before Skylar could finish, Lola began to sob.

The duo felt really awful when she cried.

"Hush now, Lola. I promise that I'll be home the day after tomorrow, okay? Look, I'll sleep with you and tell you a bedtime story then, okay?"

Skylar snuck a glance at Yulia when he said that. It seemed that he was only trying to give Yulia some time to prepare by postponing their sleepover.

Apparently, this was him being a gentleman.

Yulia was no fool either and knew that Skylar was considering her feelings, so she gave him a grateful smile.

"Really?" Lola stopped crying and asked Skylar that.

"Of course. Don't you believe me?" Skylar asked with a smile.

Lola nodded and said, "I do! I know you'll fulfil everything you promised!"

"Yeah, good girl."

Skylar could not help but give her a kiss.

Lola smiled and said, "You should kiss mommy too, daddy!"

Yulia nearly passed out after she said that. She could not believe that the little girl would lay so many traps for her.

However, Skylar laughed when he noticed Yulia's reaction. He said, "Oh Lola, you really are a sweet child!"

After that, he gave Lola another kiss.

Yulia was still upset when Skylar called Lola a sweet child. That was because she raised Lola only for her to butter up to Skylar as soon as he appeared. She was jealous of that.

"Don't just kiss me, daddy. Mommy has been waiting for you all day now. She might get mad later."

Lola leapt out of Skylar's arm and placed Skylar's hand on Yulia's body.

This made Yulia tense up as she stared cautiously at Skylar.

So, Skylar grinned and pretended to pull her closer.

"Hey... that's enough now..." Yulia panicked and leaned back instinctively.

However, she could not escape Skylar's grasp since he was hugging her waist.

Yulia grew even more anxious when she noticed how close Skylar was getting to her.

Although she had a daughter already, what happened back then was an accident.

She could not change what happened that night and besides, she kept herself pure after that. She never even felt another man's hand.

So, she was no different from a girl who never dated before. All she could do then was close her eyes and think that if Skylar dared to take advantage of her, she would never let him stay by her side again.

Suddenly, Yulia began to tremble as she felt a quick touch coming from her lips while a warm breath brushed across her cheeks...

[Chapter 33](#)

So, Yulia slowly opened her eyes and noticed that Skylar had placed his thumb on her lips when Lola was not looking before pretending to kiss her.

He transferred a kiss!

Yulia was stunned by this.

She never expected him to not even touch her when she was worried about him taking advantage of her.

"What's the matter? Are you disappointed?" Skylar teased.

Yulia blushed and said, "No way! Stop spouting nonsense now!"

"Why are you so flustered then?" Skylar teased.

Upon hearing that, Yulia decided to ignore him as she said, "Say goodbye to your father now, Lola."

Skylar chuckled and left while Lola looked reluctant to watch him leave.

Meanwhile in the jeep.

Dianne handed Skylar two very intricate looking boxes and said, "Here's the necklaces that you wanted, boss."

So, Skylar opened the boxes to take a look. They were none other than the two most eye-catching necklaces at the exhibition earlier. They were the Star of Cullinan and the Red Dust.

Apparently, he had told Dianne to buy them earlier. Since it was rare for him to find out it was something Yulia liked, he would obviously get it for her.

As for the other necklace known as the Red Dust though, he had planned to give Naomi the necklace as a wedding gift tomorrow.

"Hey boss, I noticed Nichiolas entering the same building before you arrived. I have reason to believe that he's planning to do something to Madam. Do you want me to do something about it?" Dianne

asked.

"Nicholas dropped by again?" Skylar asked as his gaze turned cold and said, "I want you to follow him. You can ignore him if he was just ranting nonsense to Yulia. However, if he dares to lay a finger on her, you have my permission to kill without mercy."

"Yes sir!" Dianna replied before getting out of the jeep and disappearing into the night.

After that, Skylar drove his way back to Ocean Hill.

Meanwhile at Yulia's home.

While Yulia was watching cartoons with Lola, her doorbell rang.

"Has daddy returned?" Lola, who was starting to get sleepy, shot up excitedly to open the door.

"Daddy, daddy, have you come back to sleep with mommy and I?" The little girl ran excitedly to open the door.

Yulia followed behind and asked, "Did he forget something?"

However, she was stunned as soon as she said that.

That was because Skylar was not at the door. In fact it was none other than Nicholas, who had a conflict with them again earlier that day.

Lola's smile faded away the instant she saw Nicholas. She looked disappointed instead.

Yulia cautiously asked, "What are you doing here at this hour?"

When he felt the difference she treated him and Skyl

It seemed that he had pursued Yulia for a very long time then. However, not only did he never touch her hand, he was not even allowed into her home. However, Skylar, who he deemed useless only had to spend a couple of days with her to be treated so specially. He felt that Skylar had not only been allowed to stay in her living room, he might even be allowed into her bedroom too. What felt more insulting to him was how unbothered Yulia seemed after knowing that Skylar had a mistress. He was displeased when he thought about how Skylar was blessed with the company of two different women.

He had decided that he absolutely had to sleep with Yulia and would toss her aside after he got bored of her. He wanted her to feel what it felt to be abandoned.

However, as hostile as his intentions were, he did not let anything slip as he forced a sincere look and

said, "I am here to apologize, Yulia. I was being too impulsive earlier and said some horrible things to you. I hope you won't take those words to heart."

Since Skylar was absent that night, Yulia dared not butt heads with him, so she nodded and said, "Sure. I will pretend nothing happened earlier today."

However, before Nicholas could feel too happy, Yulia continued, "You can leave now and we will have absolutely nothing to do with each other anymore in the future."

Yulia shut the door immediately before Nicholas could say anything else.

Meanwhile at the mansion on Ocean Hill.

Skylar was beaming with joy while he sat on the couch.

It turned out that Dianne had told him everything Yulia had said to Nicholas earlier. This made him incredibly happy.

It seemed that he was starting to have feelings for Yulia in the short two days they spent together. Moreover, he could clearly tell that his feelings had nothing to do with the guilt he felt before.

Soon, the following day came. It was none other than Naomi's wedding day.

Skylar had arrived at the Fuller family home very early in the morning.

Their home was decorated with all kinds of wedding decorations while plenty of guests were present. It was an incredibly lively scene.

Both Winona and Nathaniel were incredibly busy at the moment.

"Do you need help with anything, dad?" Skylar asked as soon as he entered.

Nathaniel hugged his shoulders and said, "Your mother and I are fine here. Oh, Naomi is in her room with her friends. You can ask them if they need help with anything."

"Hey, is that even a good idea? I mean, I'm a man and they're a group of girls though."

Skylar wanted to refuse him. However, Nathaniel whispered, "Remember the person I told you about last time? Rufus' daughter is here, so you can come up with some excuse to get closer to her... You know, aside from Naomi, she's the prettiest in the group!"

[Chapter 34](#)

Skylar was completely speechless to hear that.

He wondered if his step-father would be surprised if he found out that his granddaughter was already in preschool. However, he still could not tell Nathaniel the truth yet, since Yulia did not exactly agree to be his yet. So, he could not rush things then.

So, Skylar had to accept Nathaniel's offer reluctantly as he nodded and went to Naomi's room.

Meanwhile at the same time.

A group of women had gathered around Naomi as they gossiped amongst themselves.

"Whoa Naomi, your necklace is really pretty. How much was it though?" A girl with a ponytail asked.

"About three-hundred thousand I think... Brian bought it for me and this series actually has a very romantic name. It's called the Blue Ocean's Myth," Naomi replied while feeling the pendant around her necklace.

The girl with a ponytail was Naomi's cousin, Ash Munoz.

Ash was very envious of Naomi after hearing that. This only made Naomi feel even more smug about herself.

See, choosing Brian was the right choice after all. I'd be able to be the center of attention anywhere I go. Gosh, I'm glad I didn't wait for Skylar like a complete fool. I mean, he's nothing but a penniless footsoldier. He didn't even have a job after he's discharged. I don't think he even has thirty-thousand dollars, let alone three-hundred million. However, none of this matters now. I'd be able to live an easy life after I marry Brian. I'd be able to attend countless parties everyday, so why would I even bother with a nobody like Skylar anyway?

However, just as Naomi was lost in her thoughts, Ash asked, "Hey, I heard that Brian had brought you to the exhibition two days ago. Could he have bought it there?"

Naomi shook her head and chuckled as she said, "No. He bought it from Goldspan Jewelry at Ocean Street. But, I did go to the exhibition though and I was so drawn by the prized jewel in the exhibition. It's called the Red Dust. It's such a shame that it's too expensive though! That piece is more than four-hundred million dollars. Even Brian was shocked by its price tag. So, I could only go for my second choice and picked the Blue Ocean's Myth."

As soon as everyone heard about the exhibition, their eyes glimmered and began talking about it.

"Oh Naomi, I love the Red Dust too. It's just so stunning and elegant. Gosh, if I could wear it on my wedding day, everyone would be so drawn to me," One of her bridesmaids said.

Another girl with glasses said, "I actually prefer the Star of Cullinan. It's very low profile, but the detail is excellent."

This girl was none other than the girl Nathaniel told Skylar about. Her name was Sally Gutierrez

A short haired girl chuckled and said, "I love them both, but they were bought by a mystery wealthy person though."

"Good gosh, both necklaces would cost that person 1.3 billion dollars! I wonder who exactly is that wealthy!"

"I'm actually more interested to find out who that person would give the necklaces to. Oh, how I envy the girl who'd get the necklaces. I'd be driven mad if I was the lucky girl."

"What if the wealthy person was an old man?"

"I'd be willing to accept him!"

"Gosh, you sure are shameless!"

The girls gossiped amongst themselves.

Suddenly, someone yelled at the door. "Naomi."

When Naomi turned, she could see Skylar walking in her room.

She frowned and coldly said, "Oh, you're here, Skylar."

"Is he your long lost brother, Skylar?" One of the girls asked.

Naomi nodded.

Ash glanced at Skylar and said, "Yeah, he's Naomi's adopted brother. I have no idea what my uncle sees in him. I mean, he even agreed to let Naomi marry him before he was enlisted. However, he lost all contact the second year he was enlisted. So, he returns after Naomi is about to get married? Gosh, who knows what he's actually thinking."

Ash gave Skylar a peculiar glance after that. This made the entire room awkward.

Especially Sally. It seemed that she had decided to completely write Skylar off in her heart.

It seemed that her family had wanted her to get to know Skylar after he returned. However, she never expected him to be this unreliable.

Skylar ignored Ash and was not bothered by how the other girls judged him. He took out a box and told Naomi, "Hey Naomi, I was at the exhibition yesterday and bought you a necklace as your wedding gift."

"The exhibition?"

Ash intentionally raised her voice and said, "It wouldn't be the Red Dust that Naomi wanted, right? Oh gosh Skylar, could you be the mystery wealthy buyer?"

"How did you know?"

Skylar was a little surprised because aside from Dianne, he had never told anyone about it before.

Pfft! Ash burst out laughing with the other girls. They all felt that Skylar was pretty good at boasting without substance.

"Gosh Skylar, you're really disgusting." Ash looked disgusted before pointing at the necklace around Naomi's neck as she said, "Why don't you take a good look at this. This happens to be the latest product by Goldspan Jewelry, the Blue Ocean's Myth. This necklace is about three-hundred thousand dollars. Aren't you ashamed of yourself for giving her this garbage?"

[Chapter 35](#)

Garbage? Her comment rendered Skylar completely speechless.

Although Four-hundred million was pretty much pocket change to Skylar, calling an antique necklace that was worth that much garbage would be a little foolish.

Naomi looked incredibly disappointed when she heard that.

She used to think that although Skylar was poor, he was at least honest. However, she did not expect him to become a boastful and materialistic man after six years.

"I didn't expect you to be like this. Just take your necklace away. I don't want it," Naomi said in a cold tone.

Skylar was stunned to hear that as he immediately pulled his hand back.

It turned out that he never expected that Naomi, the sister he grew up with would say something like that to him.

It seemed that time really could change a lot of things, especially feelings.

So, Skylar sighed and left the room.

"Oh please, even if you want to brag about it, you should at least find out how much a Red Dust cost. A single unit is about four-hundred million dollars, not four thousand, nor was it forty thousand dollars. It's four-hundred million dollars! If Brian couldn't even afford it, let alone a poor footsoldier like you?" Ash mocked.

However, Skylar simply shook his head while she mocked. It seemed that none of them could ever experience how it felt to have too much money. The astronomical price tag was nothing more than pocket change to him. They were nothing more than a group of entitled women.

"Skylar? You're out so soon? Are you not interested in any of the girls?" Nathaniel asked.

"Nope." Skylar shook his head.

He could not be bothered to lower his standards to meet theirs.

Nathaniel whispered, "So, how did it go? Did you get to speak to Rufus' daughter?"

Skylar shook his head again.

This stunned Nathaniel as he said, "Don't worry, son. Everything will be fine when you meet the perfect girl. I mean she is the most popular girl in her school, so it's natural for her to be pickier than normal girls. But, my son isn't so bad. You've contributed so much for our country, so you are more than qualified to have her!"

Skylar's heart felt warm after seeing how kind Nathaniel was to him, so he gave the box to him.

"Hey dad, I just got a call about a little hiccup on a mission. I had to take care of it. This is Naomi's wedding gift and there are just too many people in her room. I wasn't comfortable giving it to her then, so you can give it to her later." Skylar excused himself from the wedding.

He had decided that it would be pointless for him to stay since Naomi was clearly unwilling to meet him. He was fine as long as he was being a responsible brother.

After knowing that Skylar had work, Nathaniel allowed him to leave as he walked him to the door after putting the box in his pocket.

Soon after half an hour had gone by, Brian's entourage arrived with fireworks. The leading car was the groom's car and it turned out to be a red Porsche. Brian could be seen holding a bouquet of flowers in the backseats.

After some quick games, Naomi was led out of her room by a group of people.

However, Brian was scanning the area and seemed very unfocused before he entered his car.

"What are you looking for?" Naomi asked.

"Where is your brother though?" Brian asked.

"Are you talking about Skylar? What do you want with him?" Naomi asked in a stunned voice.

"I mean he's your brother though. Shouldn't he attend your wedding?" Brian questioned her back.

However, Naomi still did not find the conversation odd as she said, "Oh, he actually dropped by earlier, but he didn't stay for long."

As dissatisfied with Skylar as she was, she was unwilling to tell Brian what happened in her room earlier. She knew that it would be bad to gossip since Skylar was still her brother at the end of the day.

Brian lowered his gaze after hearing that and felt slightly conflicted. It seemed that although he was worried to meet Skylar, he was quite looking forward to meeting him as well.

Since the wedding was going to be a celebration, if he was able to get close to her brother, he knew that his family's future would be bright. However, he did not have that chance.

The entourage soon arrived at Brian's family mansion after twenty minutes.

His family mansion was brightly decorated and it was packed with people. Most of the attendees were his family's business partners and there was a stretch of luxury by the road.

Although his family was not exactly the most affluent in the city, they worked hard in Cloudtopia for years and was quite respected. So, plenty of powerful people were present then. All of them were very well dressed as his family members looked very happy.

The person that was responsible for greeting the guests was Brian's aunt, Mandy Faulkner.

A man that was dressed in uniform and was in his fifties strode into their home.

This stunned Mandy for a moment and after getting a good look at the man, she greeted him excitedly. "Oh, Mr. Crawford, what are you doing here! Oh, please come in, I'll have someone bring you tea."

Mandy was excited because the man in front of her was the most powerful man in the city. A single word from him would be enough to convince a crowd of people to work for him. This made her wonder just when exactly did her family gain such a high reputation.

Mr. Crawford replied, "Someone told me that your family is hosting a wedding, so I decided to join the

party. You guys wouldn't mind, right?"

"Oh, you're too kind, Mr. Crawford. Your presence is our greatest honor. We are more than happy to host you. Please come in!"

Although Mandy had no idea why Mr. Crawford was present, she knew that greeting him with a huge smile was the right thing to do. So, she immediately summoned two stunning women to serve Mr. Crawford.

However, before she could collect herself, a few more powerful people entered.

"Mr. Lawson! Mr. Zach! Mr. Wexler! Mr. Shepard!"

[Chapter 36](#)

Mandy was stunned by the arriving guests.

It seemed that if those people were to work together, they would be able to stir up a storm big enough to engulf the entire city.

This made her wonder just when her family gained such a reputation to attract the attention of the group of incredibly powerful people.

Mandy was nervous initially. However, after seeing how polite they were, she let out a sigh of relief.

However, it did not take long for her to assume that this was all thanks to the effort her family put into the last two years that made them important. She wondered if they were here to extend an olive branch for their family by attending the wedding.

Yes, that has to be it! Mandy felt cocky with that thought.

"Say, where do our family sit?" Nathaniel and Winona asked.

Mandy frowned when she noticed them. She distanced herself from them and coldly said, "You will be seated next to the entrance."

Hearing this turned Nathaniel's expression bitter.

The only reason why he asked Mandy that was because their seats were already taken by someone else. He thought that this was a mistake, but it turned out that it was intentional.

He found this arrangement unacceptable since strangers were able to sit at the VIP table but they, who

were Naomi's parents, were seated next to the entrance.

"What's the matter? You want to sit at the VIP table?" Mandy laughed and continued, "Look, poor people like you should just forget about it. Don't you know just how bad your family is doing? If Brian wasn't charmed by your daughter and was adamant in marrying her, your family would have no right to even interact with us. Regardless, your family is seated at the table near the entrance. You can leave with your daughter if you aren't happy about it!"

"You..." Nathaniel was so furious that it rendered him speechless.

However, Winona decided to back down as she said, "It's alright, let's forget about it. Today is a big day for Naomi. I mean all of our family and friends are here. It's fine if we're treated poorly. Let's not humiliate our daughter."

"Yeah, I mean it's still a hall, so it doesn't matter where we're seated at. Besides, I noticed that the VIP table was occupied by a lot of very powerful people." Nathaniel's aunt added.

His other relatives nodded and acted as if it did not bother them at all. However, they all had ulterior motives.

It seemed that they were all waiting for Brian to boost their wealth, so how could they allow Nathaniel to sour their relationship for his pride?

Nathaniel clearly understood what they were thinking about, so he glared at them. However, he decided to hold his anger back for his daughter as he walked to the entrance with a bitter look.

It seemed that Naomi had heard everything that happened earlier. Although she felt awful about it, the ceremony was about to begin and there was nothing she could do.

Besides, she knew that marrying Brian was completely out of her league. She knew that she had to bite her tongue in order to enjoy the glory Brian's family had to offer. Fortunately for her, Brian was kind to her, so she would be fine with him around.

All Naomi could do was comfort herself like this.

"How could you treat Naomi's parents like this aunty?" Brian questioned Mandy with a frown.

Apparently, he was not doing this for Naomi's family. Instead, he was worried about Mandy offending Skylar. He knew that Skylar and Nathaniel were so close to each other that they could pretty much be biologically related.

[Chapter 37](#)

Unfortunately for him, Brian's words were pointless to Mandy.

It seemed that not only was Mandy unremorseful, she told Brian, "Listen here Brian, you are the future heir of our family's business. You should really think about who's important and who isn't. Who cares about that poor brat? If she wants a place in our family, she should really give you a son then. As for her poor relatives, well, they're only using you. So, you can't keep thinking about their feelings!"

"Aunty... I..."

However, before Brian could argue, Mandy interjected immediately. "You shouldn't be making small talk with me. Look, you're the star for today, so hurry up and greet the guests. Those people over there are people who can help expand our family business."

More guests arrived at that moment, so Mandy immediately greeted them with a smile. So, Brian had no choice but to greet the other guests inside with Naomi.

Soon, the seats were completely filled as the wedding was about to begin.

With the host's announcement, Brian took Naomi's hand from Nathaniel's grasp before walking up on stage through the red carpet.

The couple looked perfect together.

After some very entertaining opening speeches by the host, both families would make their statements.

Brian's family had the right to begin first according to tradition. However, the person who came on stage turned out to be Brian's aunt, Mandy.

She was wearing a dark red dress and looked especially elegant under the lights.

However, everything changed as soon as she started speaking.

"Greetings everyone. As the representative of the Groom's family, I believe Brian is already perfect, so I don't have much to say. However, I do need to say a few words to you, Naomi... Although our family isn't exactly affluent in the city, your family is not even close to being on par with our family's standards. Everyone who came over today are very important people. The guests your family invited are nothing more than poor peasants. None of them are even worth anything. I'm not going to talk about the past, but Brian was adamant on marrying you. So, our family relented, but I do need to be blunt about some things. Your job after marriage will be giving our family heirs. You will have to take care of your children and aren't allowed to work. You are not allowed to meet your friends alone and you should really stay away from your poor relatives. Don't you dare hold Brian's bright future back."

Mandy did not care about Naomi's feelings by making such statements.

So, as patient as Naomi was, her face turned pale after listening to Mandy.

The guests seated at the VIP table looked serious, but they remained silent.

Nathaniel was already furious before the wedding, but this pushed him over the edge as his body trembled.

"Why did Brian's family even allow her to speak? She's too judgemental! So, are you saying that your family is out of our league and Brian isn't the one obsessing over Naomi? If it wasn't for him, Naomi would've married Skylar already. Marrying him would make me even happier!"

It seemed that Nathaniel did not care about Brian's family's reputation. That was because Skylar was significantly better than Brian ever was. However, his daughter had grown up and had her own life to live, so he had to accept it.

"Hey Nathaniel, let's just forget about it. Look, didn't you tell us that we shouldn't stir up any drama here? Naomi will only end up humiliated if we do," Winona said.

Although she was very unhappy about this as well, she had to keep herself calm for Naomi.

[Chapter 38](#)

When she noticed how furious Nathaniel looked, Mandy changed the topic immediately. "Where's Skylar? Didn't he come over to your house earlier in the day? Why isn't he here then?"

"He left for some emergency work, but he promised me that he'll be here."

Nathaniel calmed down a little when Skylar was mentioned. After that, he seemed to have recalled something as he said, "Oh that's right, Skylar has a gift for Naomi."

He took out the box from his pocket and said, "I'll give Naomi his gift right now then."

"What's the rush? You can give it to her anytime, right? Can't you see that we're in a wedding now? Weddings have plans and schedules, so who knows what you're up to with that little box!" Mandy panicked and stopped Nathaniel.

Nathaniel glanced at Mandy and scoffed as he said, "Yeah, but I'm going to disrupt the wedding now. Or else, I have no idea what this woman might say to offend our family! Besides, Skylar is Naomi's brother and if it wasn't for his work, he would've been up here now. So, I will send his blessings to Naomi as his father. Tell me, do you have a problem with that?"

He shoved Mandy's hand away and walked straight to the stage after that.

"Oh no, he's blinded by rage and I can't believe he's going to use that scruffy-looking box to disrupt the wedding."

"He can't be serious, right? Skylar is a penniless footsoldier and his gifts must've been something cheap."

"Oh no, we're doomed. I understand that the groom's family has always looked down on us, the stunt he pulled only makes us the laughing stock of the entire city!"

Nathaniel's relatives panicked and began complaining about Nathaniel. Everyone felt that Nathaniel was being arrogant and had completely humiliated them.

However, as soon as Nathaniel got on stage, Naomi exclaimed in shock, "Dad!"

Before she could say anything, Mandy interjected with a frown, "I'm not done, so you can leave right now. You can come up here when the host calls for you! Gosh, I can't believe that I still have to explain the rules for you. You really are living under a rock."

Nathaniel ignored her and said, "I am here to give my daughter her brother's gift."

He handed the box to Naomi before Mandy could react.

"Isn't this... the same box Skylar wanted to give Naomi before we left?"

"Yeah, it really is the same one! We even joked about it being a Red Dust. I didn't expect him to not get the joke and even ask us how we knew. Gosh, it's hilarious!"

"Who knows, it might actually be one, but it could be a counterfeit!"

"What is he thinking? Must he do that in front of so many people? Has he not humiliated our family enough?"

Naomi's friends looked shocked and felt so ashamed that they wanted to burrow into a hole to hide.

Naomi obviously recognized that box, so she dared not accept it and decided to let Nathaniel continue holding onto it.

"Dad, I thank Skylar for the gift, but I am still in my gown and this is quite inconvenient for me. Why don't you hold onto it and give it to me after the wedding." Naomi replied bluntly.

However, Nathaniel was unwilling to back down, so he said, "You should still open your brother's gift!"

[Chapter 39](#)

Naomi's expression turned pale as soon as he said that.

"Please just take it with you, dad."

"What's wrong with you, Naomi? This is from your brother, are you not willing to even take a look at it? Are you worried about the gift not being expensive enough and embarrassing yourself as their daughter-in-law?"

Nathaniel was a little furious at this point.

"Dad..." Naomi was rendered speechless.

"Why don't you just open and have a look, Naomi. I mean, it won't take that much time anyway," Brian comforted.

o

Naomi felt even worse after that. She wondered why he would not even consider her feelings when he told her to open it.

She understood that her family was already looked down upon by people, so how could she possibly face anyone in the future if she revealed the item to be something cheap. Besides, this was the most important day of her life.

It seemed that Mandy had suddenly changed her mind as she said, "Since Brian wanted you to open it, why don't you go on ahead and do just that. Since your father insisted on giving you his gift at this moment, it must be something incredibly rare. Look, even I am getting excited to find out what's in it!"

Mandy obviously had ill intentions toward Naomi.

So, Naomi nervously accepted the box.

"What are you dawdling about? Could you be so starving that you aren't even able to open a box? Or, are you waiting for me to do it for you?" Mandy rushed her impatiently.

The only reason why she changed her mind was so that Naomi could be humiliated in front of everyone.

It seemed that she was more than willing to make things difficult for a girl from a poor family. Besides, her family did not have any support anyway, so she had nothing to worry about.

After listening to what Mandy said, Naomi closed her eyes, took a couple deep breaths and opened the box.

She felt very suffocated when she closed her eyes and did all that.

She could hear plenty of people mocking her through the silence.

Soon, the seconds ticked by and suddenly someone exclaimed, "That's a Red Dust!"

"A Red Dust? Was it the red necklace from the exhibition three days ago?"

"I think it is!"

An uproar broke out from amongst the crowd.

"Impossible! I heard that a mysterious wealthy buyer bought the Red Dust. How could it possibly be here? I mean, Skylar is nothing more than a penniless footsoldier, so how could he possibly afford it? This must be a counterfeit," Ash exclaimed.

A counterfeit?

Suddenly, Mr. Shepard said, "Everyone, the necklace she's holding is the real deal."

Since the exhibition was hosted by his family, his words would hold a lot of weight.

"Why is everyone so shocked? Is that a really expensive necklace?" Nathaniel's family wondered.

The necklace around Naomi's neck was an insanely expensive necklace to them. This made them wonder if the necklace Skylar gave could possibly be more expensive than that.

However, as soon as they asked that question, a lady from the table next to them said, "What's the matter? Is a four-hundred million dollars necklace not good enough for you?"

"Four... Four-hundred million?" Everyone was so shocked that they were completely speechless.

Meanwhile, Naomi slowly opened her eyes when she noticed the commotion. Her heart trembled as soon as she saw the necklace.

It really is the Red Dust.

She was staring at the necklace for quite some time and wanted to remember every little detail on that necklace. She could not believe that the necklace she had been drooling over for days would be given to her as a wedding gift.

Suddenly, Naomi's vision started to blur as tears began pouring out of her eyes...

[Chapter 40](#)

Apparently, she began thinking about Skylar and how she mocked him earlier. She was also starting to have flashbacks of their childhood. It turned out that Skylar never stopped being nice to her.

So, waves of intense pent up emotions washed over her as Brian's family's insults had caused her to dissolve into a puddle of tears.

"Where's Skylar, dad? I really want to thank him." Naomi sobbed.

"He told me that he had work to do. Let me call him for you."

Nathaniel called Skylar after that.

After accepting her father's phone, Naomi said, "I'm so sorry, Skylar."

She wanted to thank him initially, but everything ended up being an apology instead.

Skylar was stunned when he heard that, so he asked, "Are you crying, Naomi? What's going on? Were you bullied by Brian's family? Just tell me and I'll help you take care of everything."

However, hearing this only made her sob harder.

It turned out that Skylar would always jump to her defense regardless of the situation Naomi was in when they were younger. He did that even though he was not sure if he could beat his opponents in a fight.

So much had changed in the last six years, but it seemed that Skylar never stopped defending her.

"Oh Skylar, it turns out that you loved me the most, but I was a fool. I can't believe that I was mean to you. I'm so sorry Skylar."

Naomi apologized while she was completely covered in tears.

Skylar laughed when he heard that, so he said, "Oh, you silly girl. Come on now, there's no need to apologize to me, I'm your brother, aren't I? So, how could I really stay mad at you?"

"It's almost time for one of our family members to give their speech now. Could you join dad for that?" Naomi asked nervously.

After pondering for a brief moment, Skylar agreed.

However, before Naomi could get too happy about it after the call ended, Mandy questioned her, "What do you think you're doing? We're in the middle of a wedding, so how could you tell us to wait for your brother? Are you going to be held responsible for disrupting the wedding?"

"This is my wedding, so why can't I decide on what to do?" Naomi snapped back at her.

Mandy's expression dimmed as she said, "You should really know your place here. It's you who wanted to marry into our family, so we'd obviously have the final say on the wedding. It's all because of how stubborn you are that caused our family's bad luck!"

Naomi remained silent for a brief moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "If you don't want me to wait for Skylar, then you can cancel today's wedding."

Brian panicked, so he told Mandy, "Let's just do what Naomi wants. We'll wait."

However, Mandy would never back down to a penniless peasant, so she scoffed, "Cancel the wedding? Great then! We still have a whole bunch of options to pick from without you! How dare a peasant like you tell me what to do?"

Even if Skylar had given Naomi such an expensive necklace, she had decided that he was just pretending to be rich. If no one was present, she would definitely have relented. However, she knew that there were a lot of important people present, so this meant good fortune to her family. Therefore, she could not care less about who Skylar really was.

"Who were you calling a peasant?"

Suddenly, a cold voice could be heard saying that from the outside.

So, everyone turned toward the voice.

All they could see was a well-dressed young man walking into the hall.

That man was none other than Skylar.

"Who are you?" Mandy asked with a frown.

However, Skylar ignored her question and said, "Do you think that my sister is a peasant and isn't worthy to be married into your family? Do you think that my parents are complete nobodies and have no right to be seated at the VIP table? Do you really think that my entire family are peasants?"

Skylar kept bombarding her with questions while approaching her. He sounded very furious.

However, the odd thing was just how heavy his footsteps sounded to everyone when he walked

So, the entire room was instantly silenced.

He raised his brows and sized Mandy up before asking her, "So tell me, who do you think I am?"

