

When Life Takes a Turn Chapter 19

His shouting drew everyone's attention, and they all turned to him at once. The four youths had also stopped stomping on the fruit.

"Ma'am, are you hurt?" Zayn asked the elderly woman gently as he helped her to her feet.

"I'm not hurt, but my fruit, oh my fruit..." Tears rolled down the old woman's cheeks when she saw the scattered mess of fruit on the floor.

Zayn was furious. He glared at the four young people coldly. "You're all just kids, yet you're bullying an old lady. What happened to your manners? Did nobody teach you?"

"Who the heck are you to be such a busybody?"

"Where did this piece of trash come from? I bet you're trying to play the hero, right? I'll give you three seconds to leave before I thrash you too!"

"Look at him dressed in his flea market attire. You can tell that he's a pauper."

"Get lost now if you don't want to get beaten up."

They called Zayn out by mocking him continuously. One of the men was about to walk over and push him down.

A man in white recognized Zayn.

“I know you. Aren’t you that good-for-no thing son-in-law who married into the Carter family?”

Zayn also recognized the man. It was Howard’s brother -in-law. They met each other on a few occasions, but Zayn had forgotten his name. He was a jobless man who idled all day.

“You’re Howard’s brother-in-law, right? I can tell that you’re an educated man. Where are the values of respecting the elderly, caring for the young, and having a sense of decency that your teacher taught you, huh? You’re over 20 years old, but here you are bullying a helpless old woman. Don’t you have any shame?” Zayn said while glaring at him.

Zayn’s words got the other bystanders to call out the bullies, and the crowd began condemning the four youths.

Howard’s brother-in-law immediately pulled a long face. He walked over with his wide gait and pointed at Zayn’s nose while shouting, “It’s none of your business, you worthless rat! Had my brother-in-law’s family not supported you financially, a useless piece of trash like you couldn’t even afford to eat sh*t! How dare you try to discipline me?”

Zayn creased his brows. He was not in a good mood, so quarreling with this man just seemed tiresome. He said to the old woman, “Ma’am, let me take you home. I will compensate you for your loss personally. Is that alright with you?”

The old woman shook her head pitifully as she looked at the trampled fruits strewn over the floor. With a heavy sigh, she said, “No need, young man. This matter has nothing to do with you. There’s no need to compensate me. Just think of it as my bad luck for encountering a bunch of brutes.”

Her comment immediately enraged the bullies. One after another, they began clamoring, “Old f’tcker, who are you calling brutes, huh?!”

“You have a death wish, don’t you?!”

In their tirade, they insulted Zayn as well. These young people were obviously educated, yet their curses sounded exceedingly unpleasant and offensive.

Zayn could not bear to take it anymore so he shouted back at them. They were just about ready to come forward and beat up Zayn.

Meanwhile, a voice came out of the crowd. It sounded both surprised and excited. Soon enough, a man dressed in a suit and leather shoes dashed over. "Zayn Larson!"

Zayn immediately furrowed his brows upon seeing him, as it was none other than Howard. It was the same man whose verbal attacks had left Zayn in tatters at the hotel earlier.

Howard's brother-in-law was elated by the sight of him. He dashed over to Howard in quick strides. "Howard, you're here just in time. This scumbag Zayn had the audacity to call me a brute and even badmouthed you as well!"

Upon hearing his brother-in-law's remark, Howard immediately had an ominous feeling. Then, he saw Zayn's ice-cold expression and felt chills run down his spine. He stared at his brother-in-law and said through clenched teeth, "Did you insult him?"

His brother-in-law was so agitated that he did not notice the change in Howard's expression. He was still under the assumption that Howard had his back. He spoke as though he expected to be praised, "That's right, Howard. I know that you're especially revolted by this good-for-nothing, so I scolded him in a very humiliating manner earlier..."

Thud!

Before he could finish his sentence, Howard delivered a heavy kick to his belly, and the impact sent him rolling on the ground. He screamed in agony, dumbfounded because he could not figure out why his brother-in-law would hit him when he normally treated him well.