

Wrong Table 1241

Chapter 1241 Innocence's Dilemma

What should I do? Shane wrestled with the question internally.

"Ms. Wenlocke, you have an important meeting later," the secretary reminded her.

"Alright, I got it," Ms. Wenlocke replied. She was aware of the upcoming crucial meeting but didn't want

to keep the guests from M&L Group waiting too long. Therefore, she decided to greet them first, as

Smith had emphasized Shane's significance and advised against disrespect.

After exchanging greetings, Ms. Wenlocke turned to Shane with a warm smile. "Mr. Murphy, please

wait for me,"

she expressed. "We can continue our conversation tonight.

Shane's unease heightened upon hearing her words. He pondered, What? Tonight?! I initially

dismissed it as a misunderstanding, but now it seems that I'm being targeted. The business world is

more chaotic than I thought!

Lola and Lily exchanged a quick glance, entertaining the notion that there might have been some

confusion.

We have become close to Shane because he holds an important position in our network and is favored

by Mr. Berry.

Yet, why would Ms. Wenlocke, a prominent figure, be showing interest in Shane? Is it simply because he is young and promising, or does it seem like an older person is always pursuing younger individuals?

After Ms. Wenlocke and her secretary departed, Shane found himself in a state of bewilderment.

Turning to Lola and Lily, he sought their counsel, "Lola, Lily, what do you think I should do now? That older woman is repulsive!" As he spoke, he instinctively covered his chest, projecting an image of a man valuing his integrity.

Lola and Lily shared his disgust yet found themselves in a dilemma. They pondered, If the older woman holds a peculiar interest, what options do we really have?

Lola chimed in, "Shanny, you might have to sacrifice for the company."

"That's right," Lily agreed. "This could benefit you. Sacrificing one night could earn you a million. It's a good deal!"

Both advised Shane to consider giving in, playfully outlining their principle with a touch of humor.

“Only a hundred bucks?” they scoffed, “Who do you think I am?”

Their attitude remained unchanged even when the offer increased to a thousand. They firmly declared,

“I’m not that kind of person!”

At ten thousand, a softer response emerged. “Ugh... Fine, I’ll be yours from now on.”

While joking about a hypothetical hundred thousand, they teased, “Darling, it doesn’t matter how many people you bring tonight.”

For a million, their casual reply was, “I don’t care if you bring humans tonight.”

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Despite Lola and Lily’s advice, Shane clung to his principles. His discomfort with Ms. Wenlocke

heightened his reluctance to heed their suggestions.

He anxiously paced for two hours, desperately hoping the night wouldn't arrive so soon.

By six o'clock in the evening, he finally made up his mind.

I won't let an older woman take away my innocence! Despite my average appearance, I still hold a genuine longing for love!

As he prepared to sneak out of Titan Group alone, he was interrupted by a call from Emmanuel.

"Shane, did you sign the contract?" Emmanuel asked.

Shane hesitated, "Manny, can I... not sign it?"

"How can you not? It's very important for us, and we can't afford to let it fail. I have just sent you the terms. Review and ensure to include them in the contract," Emmanuel stressed the deal's importance, unaware of Shane's internal struggle.

From Emmanuel's perspective, he believed he had already dealt with Smith. Signing the contract and confirming the details seemed straightforward, especially with two female assistants available to assist Shane. What could be problematic?

However, Shane remained oblivious to Emmanuel's undisclosed arrangements. Upon hearing

Emmanuel's words, he could only sigh and reply, "Well, Manny, I'll try my best!"

After the call, Shane was overwhelmed with disappointment. He pondered, This is not the life I envisioned.

I have always dreamt of marrying a woman who possesses the qualities of Audrey Hepburn – someone pure, kind- hearted, and younger than me, with a maximum age difference of three years. We would cherish our virginity, remain devoted to each other, and live a fairy tale-like existence.

But now, it seems like an old witch is fixated on taking away my innocence! A million dollars may be tempting, but I never imagined that my love and purity could be valued at such a price!

Chapter 1242 Unexpected Negotiations

Adding Manny's emotions complicates the situation. He has been there for me since we were young, and I owe him for helping me enter the company and for the best moments of my life.

Santiago's advice about not owing favors in our line of work resonates in my mind. Now, Manny needs me to secure this contract.

How can I escape and potentially cause him a significant loss?

No, I can't do it!

After collecting his thoughts, Shane declared, "Let's pretend I'm being possessed! Close my eyes and act like I don't know anything!" Then, he returned to the Titan Group office.

Meanwhile, Lola and Lily were unaware of his plan to run away. It was already past 6 p.m., and they were leaving work. Coincidentally, they saw Shane returning to the office. They encouraged him, "Shanny, we're counting on you tonight! Our bonus depends on you, so keep it up!"

They're not the ones being possessed; of course, they can talk without feeling the pain. Shane returned to the reception room alone, sighing as he went.

At this time, Ms. Wenlocke had just finished an important meeting and entered the meeting room to meet Shane,

but the meeting room was empty.

As she was about to leave, she suddenly noticed a foul smell.

Ms. Wenlocke wondered, Strange! Who would dare to bring something sour in since all the employees of Titan Group know I'm a clean freak who loves cleanliness and fresh air?

To confirm the source of the smell, she took a deep breath and detected it from a coat hanging on a

nearby chair.

However, Shane walked in and witnessed the scene!

As Shane watched Ms. Wenlocke sniffing his coat, fear overtook him, and he almost lost control of his bladder.

He quickly turned around and ran outside, gritting his teeth and cursing in his heart, How strange! Why is the old witch so interested in me? Now, she even fell in love with my belongings! I'm so charming that it becomes a problem for me. Sigh!

Unaware of Shane's presence, Ms. Wenlocke put the coat back with a disgusted expression. She fanned her nose and walked out.

She thought, If it were one of the company's employees with such a sour smell, I would fire them.

However, I must tolerate it since it is from the person in charge of M&L Group.

As Ms. Wenlocke was leaving the room, she accidentally collided with Shane, who was entering the meeting room.

"Ah!" she exclaimed.

She thought, If it were one of the company's employees with such a sour smell, I would fire them.

However, I must tolerate it since it is from the person in charge of M&L Group.

As Ms. Wenlocke was leaving the room, she accidentally collided with Shane, who was entering the meeting room.

“Ah!” she exclaimed.

Startled by the collision, Shane accidentally knocked her down. However, he quickly held her with one hand to prevent any harm to her old bones, acting out of humanitarianism.

At that moment, their eyes met, and everything seemed to freeze.

Ms. Wenlocke felt relieved and blinked her eyes, thanking him with a smile, “Young man, thank you for catching me!”

Shane felt goosebumps all over his body as he heard her words. He wondered, D*mn! Is she flirting with me? He quickly helped her up, wiped his arm, and responded coldly, “You’re welcome.”

“Mr. Murphy, shall we start discussing business? By the way, have you had dinner?” Ms. Wenlocke asked him warmly, considering Mr. Smith’s instructions to treat the guest well and finalize the contract details.

Shane shook his head, indicating that he had not eaten yet.

Ms. Wenlocke suggested, "Then, let's go to the hotel together. We can have dinner and have a thorough discussion afterward."

"A thorough discussion?! How... How thorough?" Shane nervously asked, feeling a chill run down his spine at the mention of a thorough discussion.

Ms. Wenlocke responded with a smile, "This is our first collaboration. We must understand each other well."

She pondered, How can we not have effective communication for such a significant project?

However, Shane misunderstood her intention! He thought, Oh God, please save me! I don't want to go deep, and I'm afraid I can't!

Shane followed Ms. Wenlocke to the elevator and soon arrived at the underground parking lot.

Standing in front of a sleek red Porsche, Ms. Wenlocke maintained her cheerful demeanor and asked,

"Mr. Murphy, can you drive?"

Still lost in his wild thoughts, Shane was once again startled subconsciously, muttering, "Drive?"

He pondered, After reading numerous free novels, I certainly understand the implied meaning of

driving! Does this old witch just bluntly ask if I know how to engage in intimate activities? Isn't that too

bold? I'm a very innocent man!

"Of course, I'm talking about driving my car, Ms. Wenlocke clarified with a chuckle. She couldn't help

but wonder, Does he think he could drive all the way from Yeringham to this city?

Chapter 1243 Deal Or Dilemma

Shane recoiled in fear. He silently pleaded, F*ck! Someone, please get a priest to exorcise this old

witch. I don't want to be with her!

"No, I can't drive, especially not your car!" Shane vigorously shook his head and threw up his hands.

He thought, / would have escaped long ago if it wasn't for Manny.

Shane expected Ms. Wenlocke to be angry but was surprised when she smiled kindly and replied,

"You're still very young. You probably haven't obtained your driver's license yet. Don't worry, I'll drive

and can even teach you how to drive."

He was utterly stunned! He thought, I'm prepared for this, but it seems she wants to teach me how to

intimate slowly!

"Let's go. Get in the car." Ms. Wenlocke remained enthusiastic, mindful of the collaboration instructions

from higher-ups, not wanting to cause any trouble.

Shane quickly avoided her outstretched hand and headed straight to the back seat. Ms. Wenlocke, sitting in the driver's seat, was displeased with his behavior. She thought, I have been in business for so many years and have never seen such an impolite child!

She urged, "Mr. Murphy, aren't you being too distant? Come sit in the passenger seat."

Shane had no choice but to reluctantly brace himself and sit in the passenger seat.

Ms. Wenlocke resumed her smile, assuming he had not chosen the passenger seat due to safety concerns. She reassured him, "Don't be afraid. I've been driving for many years; my driving skills are excellent. Many male colleagues in the company have been in my car, and they all praise my driving skills."

Shane gritted his teeth and shut his eyes, screaming within, This is insane! It seems that I'm not the only one who's fallen prey to this old witch. She has been using her power to take advantage of many men!

I'm not exceptionally good-looking, so why me among all possible targets? It appears that she prefers young men and doesn't even spare outsiders like me. This is just too much to handle!

Seeing his distressed expression, Ms. Wenlocke asked, “Mr. Murphy, what’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

“No... Nothing. I just don’t like your car...” Shane subtly hinted, but it was useless.

Ms. Wenlocke simply drove off. She mused, You can’t drive or own a car. If you don’t like mine, can you magically fly to the hotel?

The two arrived at the hotel, greeted by a feast in a private room. Just as they were about to sit down,

Ms. Wenlocke’s phone rang-a call from Smith.

“Mr. Murphy, I’m sorry. I must take this call,” she conveyed, leaving the private room to ensure her conversation with her superior remained confidential.

Tense all over, Shane felt as if he had been granted a reprieve and quickly devoured his meal. By the time Ms.

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Stunned by the sight, she exclaimed, “Mr. Murphy, you eat so fast!”

“I can’t help it. I’m a fast eater,” Shane chuckled.

“I just do everything quickly, you know?” he subtly hinted, hoping this old witch didn’t favor speed.

With a smile, Ms. Wenlocke replied, “No worries. Take a bath and change your clothes. We can discuss everything in detail later.”

Shane felt overwhelmed, thinking, Why must she be so explicit? Is she expecting me to take a bath,

change my clothes, and wait for her to take advantage of me?

Shane felt the urge to escape, but he reluctantly nodded and made his way to the room, driven by the memory of Emmanuel's kindness.

He promised himself, Just this once! After repaying Manny's favor and getting this one-million commission, I will never do this again!

With this thought in mind, Shane used the room key that Ms. Wenlocke had given him to access the presidential suite. He entered the bathroom and found solace in the bathtub, where he cried helplessly.

Meanwhile, Ms Wenlocke had finished her meal and was prepared to locate Shane. She had instructed him to take bath and change his clothes, as they emitted an unpleasant odor that she could not tolerate

At that moment, Smith arrived at the hotel and encountered her

"Good evening Mr. Smith Ms Wenlocke greeted

Smith inquired is my room prepared?

Chapter 1244 The Perceived Perversion

"Sure, Mr. Smith. I'll take you there," Ms. Wenlocke said warmly, leading Smith to the room with a smile.

Since it was his property, Smith had not brought any bodyguards.

Beep beep...

Shane was enjoying a soak in the bathtub when he heard a room card being swiped. He let out a sigh, got out of the bathtub, and put on his bathrobe. He knew he had to finish quickly, sign the contract, and leave.

Since he was sacrificing his own comfort for Emmanuel's sake, he was determined to face the challenge. He

closed his eyes and shouted, "Ms. Wenlocke, bring it on! A real man is not afraid of death!"

What is happening?! The scene left both Ms. Wenlocke and Smith bewildered and startled.

In particular, Ms. Wenlocke couldn't help but wonder something. Why is this young man, Shane

Murphy, from M&L Group, in this room? Why is he wearing a bathrobe??

The air suddenly became quiet.

The atmosphere suddenly grew tense. Shane sensed something odd and quickly opened his eyes. He exclaimed in fright, "You guys, you..."

He thought, D*mn! This old witch not only aims to take advantage of me, but she also wants to arrange

a threesome, bringing in another old man?! To top it off, he's a foreigner!

"You...you're too perverted, I can't take it!!" Shane's frustration boiled over as he accused Ms.

Wenlocke, gripping his bathrobe tightly before hastily exiting the room.

He exclaimed internally, I can't handle this! I really can't tolerate this kind of perverted game!

"You...you... he must be sick!" After he left, Ms. Wenlocke finally reacted, her face ablaze with anger

as she cursed. She pondered, Why on earth did M&L Group send such a person to sign a contract?

Are there no other candidates?

"Ms. Wenlocke, what's going on?" Smith's anger was palpable. He wondered, How could there be

another man in my presidential suite?

"Mr. Smith, I... I don't know either," Ms. Wenlocke responded with genuine innocence.

in his frustration, Smith demanded that she leave first, as this collaboration held immense importance

for Emmanuel and was even more crucial for his Diamond Titan Military Technologies.

Shane ran away in a rush after leaving the hotel, with tears rolling down his face. "No, I can't accept

this dark and perverted deal. I'm sorry for Manny's expectations!"

At that very moment, his phone rang, and Emmanuel called.

Emmanuel had just spoken to Smith and vaguely understood the situation. He asked Shane for clarification and

Emmanuel had just spoken to Smith and vaguely understood the situation. He asked Shane for clarification and asked, "Shane, what happened?"

Emmanuel couldn't help but wonder. I had planned to help Shane raise a million to get married, but why did things go wrong?

"Manny, I'm sorry! I can't accept their terms!" Shane's voice quivered with distress.

"What terms did they propose?" Emmanuel's curiosity was piqued.

He thought, Smith always respects me. He's eager to get the new engine energy. He shouldn't have made any harsh

conditions. What kind of grievances could Shane have suffered that caused him to cry?

Shane hesitated before replying, "She... Ah, I'm too embarrassed to say!"

Emmanuel, already impatient, demanded sternly, "Speak up

He was waiting to sign the order and return home to address Gautier, who was growing increasingly

intense, seemingly eager to steal his wife.

Shane continued, "That old witch is a pervert. She wants to take advantage of me because I'm young, strong, good- looking, and well-built. She even invited an old man to join us."

"Manny, you know me. I'm innocent and pure. I would never agree to something like that!" Shane asserted with a righteous expression.

Emmanuel's frustration was evident as he furrowed his brow and exclaimed, "Are you serious, Shane? You're talking nonsense!"

What about his attractive and well-built physique? Isn't there a limit to shamelessness?

Why would Ms. Wenlocke from Diamond Titan Military Technologies choose you to take advantage of?

Familiar with Shane's tendency to overthink, Emmanuel couldn't help but question the situation. His intelligence heightened his skepticism, suggesting a possible misunderstanding in the matter.

"Manny, don't scold me! Would I make up something like this? Lola and Lily also noticed the same thing. Could it

be false? You have no idea how obvious she was." Shane hastily recounted his experience to

Emmanuel, describing Ms. Wenlocke's actions-from discreetly providing him a room card to subtly

smelling his clothes, dropping hints about driving, and even suggesting he take a bath and wait for her.

Chapter 1245 A Contractual Twist

Emmanuel was surprised by the story he heard.

Despite knowing Shane's shameless nature, he firmly believed that Shane would never lie to him.

Determined to resolve the matter, he promptly contacted Smith to discuss it.

"What?! Did this really happen?" Smith exclaimed in disbelief.

His immediate response was a furious assurance to Emmanuel, "Mr. Wolf Warrior, rest assured. I will

handle this matter seriously! Furthermore, I will personally discuss the contract with your company's

representative tomorrow to ensure your satisfaction!"

"Please investigate if there is any confusion or misunderstanding. I will arrange to deliver the data and

design concepts for our new energy products immediately. I'm looking forward to our cooperation,"

Emmanuel spoke sincerely, as this collaboration was crucial for the Quillen family and the foundation of

everything.

That night, Smith received a document from Emmanuel containing the design concepts and data of the

new generation of fighter jets and warship engines.

Reading through it, Smith was deeply impressed by Emmanuel, the Northern Region Wolf's profound insights and technical concepts on military and weapons.

The document had an invigorating effect on Smith, sparking excitement about the new engine energy products.

As a gesture of his sincerity, Smith chose not to investigate any misunderstandings. He promptly terminated Ms. Wenlocke's employment, holding her accountable for causing unease to the representative sent by Wolf Warrior/

Unbeknownst to Smith, Emmanuel's document was meticulously inspired by the "Heart of the Sun" and the "Energy Diagram of Nine Palace." Nonetheless, Emmanuel retained some core technologies.

While acknowledging the necessity of profit, he exercised caution to prevent the transfer of the most advanced technology to foreign entities. Emmanuel imposed critical restrictions on the final product to avoid unforeseen circumstances.

The following day, Ms. Wenlocke was shocked by the news of her dismissal. As for Shane, Emmanuel instructed him to stay at Titan Group for further discussion.

Witnessing Ms. Wenlocke's dismissal, Shane went a step further and made faces at her. He thought,

What a terrible role model. How can you not feel ashamed of exploiting men at your age?

Despite not fully understanding the events, Ms. Wenlocke glared at Shane with resentment and vowed not to let him go in the future.

Meanwhile, Smith dispatched another trusted aide to discuss contract details with Shane. With the assistance of Lola and Lily, they successfully negotiated and signed the original order of 75 million after a morning of discussions.

The official order, however, had to wait until Emmanuel handed over the new energy products to Smith and

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"Haha, here's to a successful collaboration!" Holding the contract, Shane shook hands with the new male general manager, who used to be his subordinate under Ms. Wenlocke. The general manager was talkative and even offered to take them to the airport personally.

In the car, Shane mentioned the incident from last night, expecting the new general manager to join him in mocking Ms. Wenlocke.

To his surprise, the general manager exclaimed, "Mr. Murphy, you must have misunderstood

something! Ms. Wenlocke is very professional. We used her car, and by that, I mean her actual car!

You must be overthinking!”

“What?!” Shane was surprised and asked, “Then why did she secretly give me a room card?”

The new general manager laughed as he looked at the room key still in his hand and replied, “Mr.

Murphy, that was our CEO’s presidential suite last night. He had asked Ms. Wenlocke to reserve it for

him. It must have accidentally fallen into your gift bag.”

“This...” Shane was immediately embarrassed, realizing this was a huge misunderstanding. Lola and

Lily were equally embarrassed as they had contributed to Shane’s misunderstanding of Ms. Wenlocke.

Shane continued to ask, “Then why did she sniff my unwashed clothes and ask me to bathe and wait

for her?”

The new general manager smiled bitterly, explaining, “Mr. Murphy, forgive me for being blunt, but your

clothes had a certain smell. Ms. Wenlocke is very sensitive to such smells. She probably asked you to

take a bath and change your clothes because she didn’t want to talk to you while you smelled like that.”

Upon hearing this explanation, Shane was embarrassed and asked, “What should we do now?”

Chapter 1246 The Chamber of Commerce

Shane didn't intend to do it: Upon discovering the truth, he felt overwhelming guilt. He stood up abruptly

and said, "Lola, please take the contract back for now. I need to find Ms. Wenlocke and apologize to her."

Within their circle, they despised owing favors, let alone mistreating good people.

Unfortunately, Zaron told him, "Mr. Murphy, I'm afraid it's too late. Ms. Wenlocke has already left the city

by plane during our negotiation."

Shane instantly felt disheartened. It's over now. I hope I won't encounter Ms. Wenlocke again...

Meanwhile, Emmanuel had not yet returned to the Quillen residence. Terence was discussing matters

alone with

Mackenzie in the living room.

In front of them lay an application form to join the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce.

"Grandpa, do we really have to join the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce?"

Mackenzie was unaware of Emmanuel and Terence's previous conversation, let alone Emmanuel's

ultimate goal.

Therefore, she was not particularly enthusiastic about joining the Chamber of Commerce.

Joining the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce certainly had significant benefits, but it also entailed numerous conflicts of interest. If they were not careful, they could make enemies. It was a double-edged sword.

“Yes, my suggestion is that we must join.”

Terence no longer managed the company’s affairs, but he had not completely let go of the future direction of the Quillen family.

He told Mackenzie, “If the Quillen family wishes to live in peace, it is sufficient to maintain our current state. From my perspective, I certainly would not want to stir up more trouble and strive for glory.

However, you and Emmanuel are different as you are still young. If you do not have dreams, what’s the difference between you and a passive bystander?”

“Of course there is a difference.” At that moment, Beatrix, who had returned from outside, happened to overhear their conversation.

Joining the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce was not a major secret. Terence and Mackenzie did not

plan to conceal it from their family, so they openly discussed it in the living room.

After all, such a matter might require the unity of the entire family to succeed.

“If Mackenzie and Emmanuel do not wish to join the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce and lack greater ambitions, then they are considered two passive bystanders, which is certainly different from being a single passive bystander, Beatrix added.

Upon hearing her jest, Mackenzie smiled nonchalantly. She understood her meaning.

“If Mackenzie and Emmanuel do not wish to join the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce and lack greater ambitions, then they are considered two passive bystanders, which is certainly different from being a single passive bystander,” Beatrix added.

Upon hearing her jest, Mackenzie smiled nonchalantly. She understood her meaning.

“Yes, I also agree to join the Chamber of Commerce.” Lara suddenly interjected, raising both hands excitedly. “Moreover, if we marry into the Verkade family, joining the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce will become much easier. We might even become one of the 20 official members of the National Chamber of Commerce. It’s a splendid future.”

The National Chamber of Commerce consisted of over 200 non-official members, with only 20 official

members and seven permanent directors.

Each member represented a family or an interest group. They all had a voice in the Chamber of Commerce.

The power held by the seven permanent directors was unimaginable to ordinary people.

The Zelinsky family of Zovince was one of the seven permanent directors.

“Tch!” Beatrix immediately scoffed upon hearing Lara’s words. “I thought that after 20 years, we could finally agree on something, but you’re still as naive as ever. Do you think our family cannot become one of the 20 official members without marrying into the Verkade family? What a joke!”

“You’re the joke!” Lara retorted, starting an argument with Beatrix once again. “Now the Quillen family and the Verkade family are the leaders in Yeringham. If the two families unite, they will inevitably become a formidable force in Nuthana. Who would dare to ignore them? By then, if we want to join the National Chamber of Commerce and become official members, who in Nuthana would dare to object?”

In fact, what she said made a lot of sense. However, it was too idealistic as she overlooked many details, such as emotional considerations.

Sure enough, Beatrix burst into laughter and responded, "Alright, let's consider a marriage alliance.

Mackenzie is already married, so she's not a suitable candidate. Plus, I have no interest in marrying

into the Verkade family. It seems that you marrying Gautier would be the most appropriate choice.

Would you like me to assist you in proposing?"

"Shut up!" Lara exclaimed, clearly agitated. "If Gautier has feelings for me, then of course I would be

delighted. However, he is interested in Mackenzie. Aren't you interfering with their potential match?"

Chapter 1247 Invitation

"Haha!" Beatrix chuckled coldly before retorting, "Am I the one interfering with the matchmaking?

Mackenzie is happily married to Emmanuel, whom she loves. Yet, you still insist on trying to pair her

with Gautier. Isn't that interfering with the matchmaking? You're such a hypocrite! Did you learn

Westeria's traditions while studying abroad in Westeria?"

"You... You!" Lara wanted to argue with Beatrix again.

However, with Terence and Mackenzie present, she didn't dare to do so. She could only hold back, her

face turning red.

"Mackenzie, think about it. Otherwise, wait for Emmanuel to come back and discuss it with him."

Terence's attitude had completely changed. He didn't participate in the argument between his two

granddaughters as he stood up and stretched.

Marilyn quickly came over to help him back to his room to rest, showing great care.

Mackenzie also returned to her room, feeling a bit gloomy. She really didn't know where Emmanuel had gone these past two days. He still hadn't come back.

Just as she was thinking this, someone knocked on the door before walking in.

It was Emmanuel. "Mackenzie, I'm back."

Just as Mackenzie was contemplating how to respond to her husband, who hadn't been home for two days, her phone rang.

Emmanuel glanced at it. The caller ID showed it was Gautier.

"Why is this man calling in the middle of the night?"

He felt a pang of jealousy. After being intimate with Mackenzie, his mindset had subtly changed.

He wasn't as indifferent towards Mackenzie before.

There was a hint of smugness in Mackenzie's smile as she said, "Are you jealous? You haven't been home for two days. What if I'm stolen by someone else?"

Emmanuel was speechless. If she could be easily stolen, he wouldn't have been able to marry her.

Nevertheless, while he knew this, he still felt a twinge of jealousy.

If Emmanuel hadn't come in just then, Mackenzie wouldn't have really wanted to answer Gautier's call.

Now, even if she wanted to make him jealous, she had to answer.

"Hello, Mackenzie." Gautier was also a bit surprised that the call was answered.

"Mr. Verkade, what's up?"

Even though Mackenzie answered the call, her attitude toward Gautier was still very cold.

"I heard that the Quillen family wants to apply to join the Nuthana Chamber of Commerce. I want to discuss something with you."

Mackenzie was taken aback. She then asked knowingly, "Who told you?"

"Lara did."

Gautier's answer made Mackenzie a bit angry.

The fact that the Quillen family had just discussed tonight had reached Gautier in less than half an hour. It was clear that the Quillen family's secrets couldn't be known to Lara. Otherwise, the Quillen family would have no secrets from the Verkade family.

“Why don’t we, the Quillen and Verkade families, join forces and apply as one team? This way, the chances of success will greatly increase. There’s also a chance to become one of the 20 official members,” Gautier continued.

He was afraid that Mackenzie would suddenly hang up the phone before he could even state his purpose.

He wouldn’t have been so humble when talking to Mackenzie before he confessed his feelings.

He was very clear that his status had now become subservient to her.

He finally understood Hubert’s previous pain.

“That’s true, but why should we join forces? We’ve always been enemies, haven’t we?” Mackenzie said coldly.

“There are no permanent friends or enemies in business. How about this? I’ll invite you to dinner tomorrow night to discuss it in detail. I have a 450 million order that I can transfer to Terence Group. You should be interested.”

This was where Gautier was smarter than Hubert, who had never succeeded in inviting Mackenzie to

dinner before.

“We’ll see.” Mackenzie still didn’t agree, but she didn’t refuse outright either.

After ending the call, she glanced at Emmanuel and smirked, “Mr. Lowe, how do you feel at this moment? Should I accept a dinner invitation from another man?” have no grounds to prevent you from accepting a business invitation,” Emmanuel replied with a wry smile. “However, I’m concerned about you going out alone with another man, especially Verkade.”

Mackenzie shared the same worry. Gautier had assisted Hubert in drugging her in the past. If

Emmanuel hadn’t arrived in time the consequences would have been unimaginable

Chapter 1248 No Turning Back

“Mackenzie, do you think the Quillen family must ally with the Verkade family to dominate Yeringham and become a formal member of the National Chamber of Commerce?” Emmanuel asked earnestly.

“Not necessarily,” Mackenzie replied seriously. “I actually have another way, but it may not be easier than allying with the Verkade family.”

“Oh! I’d love to hear it,” Emmanuel responded with interest.

“The Quillen family will participate in the Nuthana Grand Martial Showdown.”

“What?!” As soon as Mackenzie finished speaking, Emmanuel was taken aback. He never imagined

that she would

be interested in such an event.

“Your reaction seems a bit excessive, doesn’t it?” Mackenzie, with her keen observation, stared at

Emmanuel and asked.

“Yes, I’m quite surprised.” Emmanuel laughed and tried to cover it up as he said, “Aren’t women

generally uninterested in fighting and killing?”

“I’m not like Claudette, a gentle and virtuous woman,” Mackenzie said coldly.

The sudden mention of Claudette caught Emmanuel off guard. He was surprised at how difficult it was

to deal with her words now.

In fact, he received a call from Ashton today. She led a team to investigate that strange plantation.

They indeed found no second person, no tunnels, secret passages, or hidden rooms, which dispelled

Emmanuel’s various doubts.

After all, Ashton had mentioned that many beautiful women were captured and taken to the deep

mountains and forests. They were secretly imprisoned by men as playthings, suffering torture and living

a life worse than death.

This was Emmanuel's greatest fear.

Now that Claudette had not been found, he was worried but somewhat relieved in this regard.

"Why aren't you speaking? Are you lost in memories when I mention your old flame?" Mackenzie

regretted it. She shouldn't have mentioned Claudette's name, which gave Emmanuel a legitimate

reason to think about other women in front of her.

"Mackenzie, let's talk about business." Emmanuel knew that Mackenzie would be jealous of Claudette,

so he quickly brought the topic back. He was full of survival instinct.

"My opinion is that we can sign up for the showdown. After all, it's a major way to enhance the family's

reputation and popularity. However, we can also talk to Gautier. Maybe he is sincere. As long as the

conditions are not excessive, it's worth considering."

In business, he couldn't always mix personal affection and work. He could negotiate with people he

didn't like as

In business, he couldn't always mix personal affection and work. He could negotiate with people he

didn't like as long as it benefited the Quillen family and the Terence Group.

The most important thing was that Mackenzie insisted on participating in the showdown to expand the reputation and influence of the Quillen family. By then, he would definitely have to contribute to the Quillen family. He would then have to confront the Chapman family.

At that time, he would be overwhelmed, and his true identity would be exposed within minutes. He didn't want things to go in that way.

In fact, what he said was exactly what Mackenzie thought. She directly responded, "Well, let's do that."

On the other side, after hanging up the phone, Gautier found his father standing behind him.

"Gautier, did you make an appointment with Mackenzie?"

"Well, there's no turning back after you make a decision. Since I've taken the first step, I can only keep going. I'm going to take over Hubert and continue to be Mackenzie's loyal flatterer." Gautier laughed at himself.

Being a popular man of Yeringham with countless gorgeous pursuers, he was now going to be a flatterer. His feelings were indeed unpredictable.

William sighed slightly and nodded silently. "Now that Magnus is dead, it's indeed the best time for us

to break free from the control of the Zelinsky family. However, the Zelinsky family and the Quillen family are mortal enemies. If we ally with the Quillen family, we will stand against the Zelinsky family.”

“Dad, do we have a choice now?” Gautier retorted.

After pondering for a moment, William let out a sigh and placed his hand on Gautier’s shoulder. “I’ll leave the decision up to you. I’m just concerned that we won’t be able to satisfy either side. And if that happens, our family will be finished. This is strictly business.”

Gautier also felt an immense amount of pressure.

The business world was filled with countless options. Some individuals soared to great heights through a series of wise choices, while others lost everything due to a single misstep.

Nevertheless, being renowned as a business prodigy in Yeringham, Gautier possessed a certain level of confidence.

The following day, Emmanuel received a phone call from Alessandra, requesting his return to assist Jack with the wedding preparations.

As Emmanuel hesitated to respond, Mackenzie, who was standing beside him, took hold of his phone and replied, “Mom, Emmanuel needs to accompany me for something important right now. I’ll make

arrangements for

Chapter 1249 Dinner

Indeed, a daughter-in-law's word was worth a thousand words from a son.

"Alright then. Thank you for your assistance, Mackenzie," Alessandra said.

"Mom, it's my pleasure."

Mackenzie ended the call and walked out of the front yard with Emmanuel. They were ready to attend

the dinner Gautier had invited them to the previous night.

"Mackenzie, Emmanuel, where are you headed?" Beatrix hurried over after noticing them.

"We're going to have dinner with Verkade."

"I'm coming too!" _

Beatrix insisted on joining Mackenzie and Emmanuel. After all, it wasn't an intimate candlelit dinner for

just the two of them, so she wouldn't be a third wheel.

Mackenzie had no choice but to let her come along.

However, as soon as the three of them got in the car and reached the mansion gate, they ran into Lara.

"Hey, Mackenzie, where are you going?"

“Dinner.” Mackenzie’s answer was much simpler this time.

She didn’t want to bring Lara along, knowing that she had feelings for Gautier.

“Are you going to have dinner with Gautier? Take me with you.” Lara also wanted to join them.

However, Mackenzie didn’t agree. “Too many people would be inconvenient. Emmanuel, let’s go.”

“Okay.”

Emmanuel drove off without letting Lara get in the car.

Beatrix even deliberately rolled down the rear window and made a face at Lara.

Lara was furious. She didn’t understand why Mackenzie was so biased towards Beatrix. In fact, it was

clear that she was much more capable than Beatrix.

“It must be because of that man, Emmanuel! As long as I can get Emmanuel out of the Quillen family

and make Gautier my brother-in-law, Mackenzie will definitely favor me in the future,” she muttered to

herself and quickly drove away from the mansion.

Half an hour later, Emmanuel, Mackenzie, and Beatrix arrived at the Willow.

“Mackenzie, you’re here?”

Upon seeing the three of them walk in, Gautier immediately came over to greet them.

He was undoubtedly dressed to the nines, looking like a prince straight out of a fairy tale. His

appearance immediately caused many women to scream.

For sure, Beatrix couldn't help but suspect that these women were hired to play along.

She used to think that Gautier was handsome, but he was not necessarily more charming than

Emmanuel. She couldn't understand why those women were so indifferent when they saw Emmanuel

but acted like they were infatuated when they saw Gautier.

"Let's find a quieter spot." Mackenzie remained composed.

If there was any woman in Yeringham who could be personally greeted by Gautier, it would be none

other than Mackenzie.

In the eyes of other women, she was deserving of the envy and jealousy of Gautier's admirers.

"Okay."

Gautier didn't show any displeasure because Mackenzie brought others to the appointment. He led the

three of them to the specially decorated dining area and pulled out the chairs for the Quillen sisters with

gentlemanly grace.

Then, with a charming smile, he told Emmanuel, “Mr. Lowe, please have a seat.”

“You startled me. I thought you weren’t welcoming me because you didn’t pull out a chair for me.”

Emmanuel smiled casually and sat down next to Mackenzie.

It had to be said that birds of a feather flock together. Gautier, who associated with Magnus, shared some similarities with him in terms of demeanor. However, he also had his own unique traits.

Gautier wasn’t as profound as Magnus and perhaps not as hypocritical. Nevertheless, his smile made Emmanuel feel even more dangerous than Magnus.

This man was definitely a hundred times more challenging to deal with than Hubert.

Just because Emmanuel had been slapped three times by him and yet he could still wear such a smile without holding any grudges, Emmanuel had to be cautious around him. He wondered what tricks Gautier would play tonight.

“Haha! It appears that you’re not as serious as the rumors suggest, Mr. Lowe. You actually have a good sense of humor, Gautier responded with hearty laughter to Emmanuel’s words.

Then, he extended his hand towards Emmanuel. “Why wouldn’t I welcome you? We may have had some conflicts in the past, but now I wish to reconnect

Chapter 1250 Deeper Motive

Gautier's arrangement today was incredibly clever. Needless to say, the setting was beautiful.

Moreover, the dining area was strategically placed in a public space, yet far enough from other customers.

This way, there were plenty of people around who could observe them and witness their reactions, but couldn't overhear their conversation.

"Mr. Verkade, I apologize. You spoke for quite a while just now. I can't recall what you said. What exactly is your position?" Emmanuel apologized.

Mackenzie couldn't help but smile. Emmanuel was clearly mocking the other party's pretentiousness. If

Gautier truly wanted to make friends, he wouldn't need to showcase such a lengthy title in his introduction.

Emmanuel's little trick seemed to have exposed Gautier.

"Mr. Lowe, just call me Gautier."

"I'm Emmanuel Lowe, the current Deputy Head of the Business Department at Terence Group, and the husband of the CEO of Terence Group. It's a pleasure to meet you." Emmanuel mimicked Gautier's

words, even prolonging his introduction before shaking hands with him.

Gautier's charming smile became slightly strained, but he calmly withdrew his hand.

Then, he snapped his fingers. Soon, several formally dressed waiters brought forth a lavish and romantic meal.

"Mr. Verkade, you've truly gone to great lengths. Isn't this the Westeria romantic meal? As uninvited guests, are Beatrix and I intruding on your careful preparations?" Emmanuel's words were cutting.

Gautier clearly intended to have a romantic meal alone with Mackenzie. No man could tolerate someone else making advances towards his wife in this manner, including Emmanuel.

If he had known Gautier's intentions, he would not have accepted Mackenzie's invitation last night.

Instead, he would have reluctantly agreed to her invitation to the boxing ring.

Mackenzie rarely witnessed Emmanuel behaving this way. However, she thoroughly enjoyed seeing his current demeanor.

Beatrix watched the scene with great interest. In fact, she came here to witness the clash between Emmanuel and Gautier. The spectacle of two men vying for a woman was too thrilling.

"How could that be?" Gautier, a highly educated MIT graduate who had studied psychology, was not so

easily thrown off by Emmanuel. He still smiled charmingly and said, "Our restaurant has a particular style. Please don't overthink it, Mr. Lowe."

The implication was that Emmanuel shouldn't be so petty.

Nevertheless, it was impossible for Emmanuel not to overthink it.

You have confessed your feelings to my wife several times. I have tried to convince myself that you are trying to do business with her. However, you openly make advances towards her. How can I bear it?

On the contrary, Mackenzie was still pondering what Gautier would say. She interrupted, "Emmanuel, Mr. Verkade knows I'm your wife. How could he pursue me? Choose your words carefully."

"I suppose so." Although Emmanuel was angry, he still cooperated with Mackenzie. He nodded and said, "However,

Mr. Gautier's brother has attempted to drug my wife on multiple occasions. I'm genuinely concerned."

Gautier was no pushover either. Not only was he unembarrassed, but he also took the initiative to raise his glass to

Emmanuel. "If such a thing has occurred, I sincerely apologize. On behalf of Hubert, I apologize to both

of you.”

Emmanuel observed his expression for a moment before raising his glass.

In reality, he had another motive for deliberately provoking Gautier, which was to intentionally test him.

Now, it appeared that Gautier not only desired Mackenzie’s beauty but also genuinely wanted to

collaborate with the Quillen family.

Emmanuel wondered what his deeper motive was.

The onlookers couldn’t help but discuss the scene they had witnessed.

Among them, some had witnessed the previous incident where Emmanuel slapped Gautier. They

couldn’t help but wonder how they were so harmonious today.

They still hoped to see Emmanuel and Gautier fight again, and for Gautier to finally lose his temper and

have his bodyguards rush up to teach that arrogant man a lesson.

Nevertheless, they maintained a facade of conversation and laughter in front of Mackenzie. It was

unbelievable.

They wondered if one of them had abandoned Mackenzie, and they became friends after the

argument.

If that were true, it would be overly dramatic.

“After the toast, Gautier maintained his pleasant and graceful demeanor as he greeted the guests, saying, ‘Everyone, please enjoy your meal.’”

Beatrix was astonished. Does Mr. Gautier truly feel satisfied with being sidelined?

“Mr. Gautier, let’s cut to the chase.”