

You Made Me This Way Chapter 21-25

Chapter 21

At that moment, Anton turned around and glared furiously at my family members before saying, "The three of them should be on remand, right? Now, there can be another offense of libel added to their previous offenses. This is quite a serious offense, so hurry up and escort them out of the place!"

The policemen instantly surrounded my parents and Henry. At that point, my mother fell to the ground in fright, and she was completely stunned. She crawled toward me, "Annon, I'm really sorry for the way I've treated you. I'm sorry! But I was just a weak female and I didn't know what to do. Forgive me, please. Could you forgive them too? We've learned from our mistakes. We're really sorry!"

"Nonsense! You've broken the law, so there's no use seeking help from anyone. Escort them out and take them into custody. Make sure to treat this matter seriously!" Mr. Lowe was furious to the point that his eyes turned red. He instantly instructed the policemen to escort them out of the door.

The dangerous situation was finally resolved, and Damon, who was splayed on the ground, was dragged out of the place. Sally, who was wearing high heels, angrily stomped her feet and said, as she walked off, "I won't give up on this project, so watch out!"

Anton came over and patted me on the shoulder. "Young man, you've suffered so much. As an elder, I really have to say sorry to you."

After Anton had said that, he left the place with an ashamed expression, and Nylah was the only one left with me in the office. At that moment, she was still clinging tightly to my arm.

"Annon, I'm so sorry. I originally thought that you'd stolen the formula...."

"Nylah, it's alright. Let's start work. We only have three days left till the deadline to hand over the end products for the government project. We don't have much time left." I tried my best to force a slight smile on my face as I looked at her.

However, that afternoon itself, as soon as we had entered the production line, the factory bustled with activity. Sally had contacted our debtors, and everyone was crowded in front of the entrance to our production room. They formed a barricade to stop our workers from starting work. They also threatened that they would kill anyone that attempted to operate the machinery.

Furthermore, as soon as Nylah appeared, those strapping blokes instantly surrounded us and spoke quite arrogantly.

"President Scott, it's time for you to pay the debt. The payment is more than two months late. I'm not here to cause trouble for you, but my men need money to survive too." A young man with a gold chain around his neck sneered at Nylah, and his protruding belly was quite obvious.

"Mr. Gillin, I understand the tough situation you're in too. Could you give me one more week? Once we complete this job, we'll be able to turn the tides. I'll pay you everything—the principal amount and the interest—then!" Faced with the gang of thugs, Nylah was slightly apprehensive, but she toughened up and put up a strong

front.

However, Jared had a pouch tucked under his arm and responded quite rudely, “Your factory is about to go bust, so how are you going to pay the debt?”

Meanwhile, Nylah suppressed her fear and took a deep breath before saying, “We’ve obtained a government project. Once we complete it, we’ll definitely be able to turn things around. Mr. Gillin, I just need one week. One week later, I’ll compensate you by paying extra interest on the debt.”

“That’s bullshit! Don’t assume that I wouldn’t dare to hurt you just because you’re a woman! Since you’ve got money from the government, pay the debt first! You owe me money, so you should pay me. Don’t even trigger my anger; otherwise, I’ll set the entire factory ablaze!” He glared at me furiously with a threatening stance, and his neck was flushed red with agitation.

As soon as the workers crowded around him heard his words, they immediately voiced their displeasure. After all, the money was meant to be used to pay the staff and to purchase raw materials. If the money was used to pay off the debtors, what would the staff survive on then?

“Jared, get out of here right now if you treasure your life. This money belongs to us workers here, and we need it to sustain our livelihood. If anyone dares to snatch this money from us, we’ll definitely fight them to the end!” Suddenly, an old worker wrinkled and full of white hair strode forward.

TO

“Where in the world did you come from? Do you know what I do for a living? I’m a loan shark! Haven’t you heard of that?! Step aside, you old fogey!” Jared glared at the old worker while pointing his finger at the man.

“What if I choose not to step aside?” The old worker had a resolute look on his face, and he took a step forward immediately. Subsequently, the one hundred workers behind him took a step forward too.

I did not expect that this old worker here could garner so much support from the workers. At that point, even Jared—who was quite well-built—was shocked by the scene. I thought that the situation was resolved then, but Jared suddenly changed his manner, and he smiled appeasingly. “Sir, it’s your boss who owes us the money, so we shouldn’t go against each other. I’m the victim too, so we should seek payment from her, right?”

As soon as Jared said that, the honest old worker set his sights on Nylah and said, “President Scott, we need the money right now. My kid is in university, and I haven’t given him any living expenses for the past two months. He has been working part time to cover his expenses, and he has had a tough time. You can’t take advantage of honest workers like us!”

In response, Nylah bit her lower lip and took a deep breath before saying, “Eric, I understand the tough situation everyone is in. I’ll instruct the finance department to pay everyone first.”

“How dare you! If you pay them first, I’ll smash your equipment right away!” Jared gestured, and the blokes surrounding them instantly lifted the iron drills in their hands. They made a threatening gesture to rush into the production line.

“Why are you guys still standing there?! Stop them! If the factory gets destroyed, how are you guys going to survive from now on?!” I quickly turned to Eric and spoke up anxiously.

However, he lowered his head and heaved a sigh, stomping his feet. "Is there any future left in this factory? Everything's turned bad, and it's rotten to the core. President Scott, we'll leave after getting our pay. The only person we need to thank would be your mother, but it's too bad that she's no longer around..."

As soon as Nylah heard that, she clamped her lips tight and couldn't stop the tears from streaming down her face. "Eric, I'm sorry. It's my fault for not running the company properly. Please help me this time, alright? I promise this will be the last time!"

Judging by the current situation right now, only the workers of the factory could stop these thugs here. However, Eric replied by saying, "Nylah, we've helped you plenty of times. We're just ordinary men here, and we need to feed our family and put food on the table too. We can't continue wasting time here, and we definitely wouldn't want to perish with the factory."

At that moment, Nylah burst into tears and slowly squatted on the ground with her face buried in her lap. She looked like a desolate orphaned child.

"Eric, the president treated us quite well."

"Yeah, Eric. How about helping her just this once? If it wasn't for President Scott, we would still be living in the countryside struggling with menial work."

"Eric, it has been more than ten years, and I'm still quite attached to the factory. I can't just stand by and watch as the factory gets destroyed by thugs."

As soon as Nylah heard that, her sobs turned louder and I was affected too. I could feel the tears welling up in my eyes. These workers here were ordinary, less well-to do men, and yet they were the most loyal ones during a critical moment.

At that point, Eric lifted his head and spoke up with gusto. "Jared, all of us here will fight anyone who attempts to trash our factory!"

Eric's dominance was not just a threat, and the workers behind him stood in solidarity with him.

The thugs were frightened by the scene, and Jared frowned in response. His sight landed on Nylah, and he walked around in a circle twice before saying, "President Scott, if I end up fighting your workers, you will be the one accountable for all of this. Would you be able to afford the hospitalization bills?"

"President Gillin, give me one more week. I'll definitely keep my word!" Nylah was not lying about that. Once they got through the Economic Conference and the garment they designed became well-known, there would be investors willing to invest in the company then.

"I want the money today though!" Jared smiled perversely with wide eyes and suggested, "Or how about you keep me company for a night. We can have a chat and drink some tea in a hotel room. As long as you're willing to come with me, I don't even mind extending your payment deadline for one more year! Otherwise though, I want the money today and I don't care even if your men will throttle me to death!"

As soon as I heard that, I couldn't contain my anger all of a sudden. This was my bottom line and I was fine with him seeking his debt, but I would not allow him to insult Nylah!

' I stood up from Nylah's side and stared at him while saying, "How much does she owe you? I'll pay you the money!"

"Hoho! Where did you come from? Don't overestimate yourself, kid!" He looked at me from the side of his eyes and showed his thuggish side.

"Name it! How much is it?!" I stared at him coldly. Back then, in prison, I didn't even fear the prison bully, so I definitely wasn't scared of a mere thug of society like him. In terms of risking their lives to get their way, these guys were pretty much harmless, in comparison to the men in prison.

He spat furiously on the ground and turned to me with a tilt of his head. "F*cking b*stard! She owes us two million and six hundred thousand! Pay me right now! If you can't come up with the money, I swear I'll tear you apart!"

Just then, Nylah immediately got up from the ground upon hearing that, and she turned to him angrily, "It should be two million. Where did that six hundred thousand come from?"

"You've delayed the payment for two months now, so six hundred thousand is the penalty figure," Jared hollered at her and sneered coldly, "If you're willing to keep me company for one night, I can waive the six hundred thousand."

Nylah was about to say something when I reached out to stop her. I looked at Jared and said, "Get lost immediately once you've received the money! If I hear another word of insult toward President Scott from your mouth, you won't be able to walk out of this place in one piece!"

"Oh my gosh! What the heck! No one in Milch has dared to speak to me so rudely!" He clenched his fist and looked at me with disdain as he spoke, "You're just a poor lowlife! I'll wait and see how you come up with two million and six hundred thousand! Pay me right away! I want it now!"

"Are you out of your mind? Where are you going to get that money from?" Nylah was shocked, and she grabbed my arm instantly.

Chapter 22

I did not actually have that much money, but I would bank on it. I bet that Lauren the person introduced to me by Master Campbell would give me the money.

I took out my cell phone and dialed Lauren's number immediately. Everyone had their eyes on me at that moment, and they stared intently at this ordinary young man in a cheap suit as they waited to find out how I would come up with two million and six hundred thousand.

The phone went off, but awkwardly enough, the other party didn't answer the call for quite some time. I hung up the phone and redialed her number as Jared burst into laughter. "Bro, stop the pretense! Two million and six hundred thousand is a huge amount that you wouldn't even be able to get even if you sold yourself!"

As soon as he said that, the thugs around us started to jeer too. "He's such a pretentious prick! Has he even seen that much money before?"

"Stop the nonsense and come on over. Our boss wants a taste of you and our men are keen to try you too!"

"Hi, it's me. I've encountered some trouble. Two million and six hundred thousand is fine, right? Okay. I'll send you the bank account number right away. Sure. Thanks."

After hanging up the phone, I turned to Jared and said, "Give me your bank account number!"

As soon as I said that, everyone looked at me with wide eyes.

Nylah also had an incredulous look in her eyes as she looked at me. "Did y-you actually manage to get the money?"

Meanwhile, Jared anxiously clenched his teeth and asked, “Y-You... Where the heck did you get so much money from?”

Actually, Lauren didn’t answer the phone, and I had said that to stall for some time. Hopefully, I will be able to trick this group of people into leaving first.

In fact, we didn’t have much time left because the deadline to hand over the stock for the government project was in less than four days. If we didn’t deliver on time, even if we had the money, Nylah’s factory would not be able to continue operations too...

I took a deep breath and replied, “What’s your bank account number? Give it to me now! The process of transferring such a large sum of money is quite complicated, so it would take at least half a day to sort things out.”

At that point, Jared looked at me with flickering eyes, and he suddenly changed his mind, “It should be three million, not two million and six hundred thousand! Your payment is two months late, so the penalty would cost at least five hundred thousand a month!”

“How much is it exactly! Be precise! I’ll transfer the money to you right away, and there won’t be any issues at all!” I stared at him and asked with a cold expression.

“I-It’s three million! I want the entire amount in my bank account, and if you pay me anything less than that, I won’t let you continue operations!” He glanced at me guiltily, and his eyes flickered as he spoke.

At that point, I realized that they were not here to seek payment at all. They were here intentionally to disrupt our production line so that we would screw up the government project.

“Just be frank with me. How much money did Sally pay you to do this? How much was your tip? We’ll pay you double that amount.” This was the only logical explanation.

“Hah! You’re quite arrogant! I’ll be frank with you then. She promised that we would be able to get two percent of the shares of Rose Enterprise if we managed to ruin this project.” Jared squinted and spoke with his hands crossed in front of him. “Bro, forget about it. She’s not one you can mess with. Once she sets her sights on you, you’re basically dead meat.”

As soon as I heard his words, I inched next to Nylah’s ear and whispered to her softly. She frowned, but finally, she nodded her head with a pained expression. “Mr. Gillin, Papillon Enterprise is willing to hand over ten percent of the shares to you in exchange for the money we owe you.”

“What?! President Scott, you must be kidding me! Your run-down little factory looks like it’s about to go bust anytime. Are you seriously thinking that I would give up three million for this?! I may be uneducated, but I’m not stupid!” He glared at her with contempt in his eyes, and his chubby face glowered.

“So do you accept this or not?! Give me a definite answer!” I spoke up firmly.

“No! Let me warn you too! I’m just a thug, and my mission is to ruin your project! If you think you can fight me, why don’t you call the cops to lodge a report?” He sat down by the roadside and behaved like a scoundrel.

I knew that he was not afraid of me calling the cops because even if they were taken into custody, they could easily send their other subordinates to come over and disrupt us one group after the other and mess up our production line. This was the general tactic of those thugs, and I had experienced it plenty of times in prison. The cops had their hands tied too.

ME

“Okay, Jared. So you’re definitely not interested in the ten percent worth of shares from our factory, right?” I sneered coldly.

“I’m not interested! If I even change my mind and go along with your suggestion, I vow I’ll clean all of the toilets in the factory with my tongue!” He smashed a fist on the grassy ground and spoke confidently.

I nodded and made another phone call. This time, I turned on the speaker function.

“Andrew, right now, I’m the only one who holds the formula to produce ‘military gray, so what do you have to offer?”

Meanwhile, Andrew was significantly shocked to receive a phone call initiated by me.

“Annon! I’ll offer you fifty-five million as long as you agree to sell it to me. I can transfer the money on the day itself!”

At that moment, I kept a tight grip on the phone as I glanced at Jared before saying,

“Andrew, did you not hear me properly? I’m the only person holding this formula right now. The Spencer family no longer has the exclusive right to use it.”

“Sixty million! Annon, this is the highest price we can offer. You’ve got to understand the situation, though. The price of this formula is astronomical and has exceeded expectations.” Andrew was quite anxious, but he clenched his teeth and replied.

“I’ll have to think about it then.” After I had said that, I hung up the phone and glanced at Jared once again. “Have you heard of ‘military gray’? That’s the formula for a specific color, and right now, President Scott’s company holds the exclusive right to use it.”

At that point, Jared was stunned. He patted himself on the backside and stood up in haste. His mouth was agape and he seemed to have something to say.

“Do you know the net worth of ten percent of Papillon Enterprise’s shares? The net worth of the entire company is about...” I turned to look at Nylah.

“It’s about a billion.” Nylah pursed her lips; at the same time, she looked at me approvingly, and there was also a look of worship in her eyes.

“Yes, the factory is worth about a billion, the formula is approximately six billion, so in total that would be seven billion! If only you had agreed to our suggestion earlier, your money would instantly be worth seventy million instead of thirty million. Once we gain recognition from the government project, we will have plenty of cash flow. By then, your shares would be worth much more than before. You would practically be doing nothing, and there would be money ready for you. You would earn interest faster than a loan shark! Sadly, though, you’ve missed the chance!”

“Henry, I’m sorry! I’m well-known to be a dumb arse, so could you not take my earlier words seriously?!” The b*stard was quite used to being shameless, so he changed his mind almost instantaneously and turned back on his words.

“I thought that someone mentioned earlier that they wanted to get President Scott to keep them company in a hotel room? Was I mistaken then?” I frowned and glanced at him.

“Sir, I’m just an imbecile without a brain. I’m stupid and I spew nonsense all the time. I hope I haven’t offended President Scott with the nonsense I spouted. I’ll definitely reflect on my behavior.” He was quite abashed as he spoke solemnly.

“You mentioned that you would clean the toilet, right? The toilets in our factory are filthy. Oh, by the way, President Scott, I heard that there has been a water disruption issue at the factory since last night, and we haven’t been able to flush the toilets, huh?” I turned

around and asked Nylah..

“Pft!” She smacked me gently as she tried to stifle her laughter. Subsequently, she turned her head in the other direction.

“I’ll clean the toilets! As long as you agree to let me join the company, I’ll do that right away!” He tugged on my elbow and mentioned anxiously, “Mr. Hushton, you do know that there are a lot of risks involved in the loan shark business and we have a bad rep out there. The reason why I agreed to do this for Sally was that I wanted to turn over a new leaf and find a proper job. You guys are educated people, so please give me a chance to turn over a new leaf.”

I pointed at Nylah and said, “You shouldn’t ask me. Ask President Scott. She’s the boss.”

Jared instantly knelt on the ground and was full of smiles. “President Scott, from now onward, I will do your bidding without any questions at all.”

“She frowned and turned to look at me questioningly. I realized that we were basically courting trouble by inviting a thug like him to join the company, but right now, there seemed to be no other better solution.

I heaved a sigh before saying, “After you’ve joined the company, you will have to provide services to the company. If anyone comes to the factory to cause trouble, you should know what to do, huh?”

Jared instantly got up and assured us while patting his chest. “I’ll definitely rip anyone who dares to cause trouble into pieces.”

“That’s great. During the entire production period, the job of guarding the factory will be entirely yours. If anything happens to affect the production, we’ll revoke your shares!” I looked at him and spoke up without hesitation.

Chapter 23

I remembered Master Campbell had always said this to me as encouragement in the past. He used to emphasize that people were born to be useful and that there would surely be different skills found in every person.

Although Jared and his men were the lowlifes of society, there were advantages to their identities too. The security system at the factory was evidently lacking. Most importantly, Nylah could not afford to hire more men and pay their wages.

Therefore, Jared and his men could be utilized as the bodyguards of the factory, and not only would they save a considerable sum of money by employing security guards, but the company would be safe as well. They were definitely much more dependable than ordinary security guards. After all, he owned part of this factory too.

After I had made the necessary arrangements for Jared, Nylah and I started handling work on the production line. When the template for the garments had been prepared, we had to organize the specific jobs on the production line and rearrange the workers from different sections of the factory to start work on the production line. After organizing all this, night had fallen.

Luckily, everything went perfectly according to plan, and the entire factory buzzed with activity as we started production. We managed to complete six hundred garments for all of the government officials in the entire Milch council and individual local town councils one hour before the stipulated deadline. The quality of the garments was maintained too.

"This is it! That's how things should be!" Anton came over to collect the garments and quickly tried on the new attire in Nylah's office. He couldn't contain his happiness.

"Nylah, you have a treasure here. Annon is definitely a great staff!" Anton stroked the elegant golden embroidery on the clothing and said with a wide mouth. "No matter what it takes, you have to make Annon stay, even if..."

Anton paused for a moment before looking at her meaningfully as he continued, "Nylah, you should know what I mean!"

At that point, Nylah's face blushed bright red. "Gosh, Uncle Anton, what are you on about?! I don't get it."

"You're such a silly girl. This is a hard-to-come-by opportunity. You should learn from my mistakes and don't follow my path of always missing the perfect opportunity. Look at where I am today. I'm only holding such a minor position." Anton shook his head as he glanced at me approvingly before saying, "By the way, the conference will start at 2.00PM. Come along and join the conference. You could gain some insight from it and get to know some investors."

"Uncle Anton, we're such a small company, so we're not invited to attend the conference," Nylah spoke up self-mockingly with a tilt of her head.

"You've completed the garment design for our leaders after all, so you've done well and there should be no problem for you joining in on the sidelines." Anton took a sip of water and suddenly mentioned, "By the way, in the afternoon, the relevant departments will be holding a session to auction off some land, but don't be affected by their exaggerations. You must not get involved, got it?"

"Gosh, I know that. Even if I wanted to join in, I wouldn't have the money anyway." Nylah smiled while saying.

However, I frowned and spoke up calmly. "Uncle Anton, which area of land are they auctioning off?"

Anton got up and replied, "They've changed the area this year. They're auctioning off the Northdale area and some farming land along both sides of the river. There are rumors that the town center will be shifted to the northern area, but I'll be frank with you guys right now. Don't go along with anything unless you've seen the official notification."

After Anton had said that, his cell phone rang. He was told that the stock from the warehouse was all loaded, so he had to go back quickly with the garments.

After Anton had left, I felt a rush of excitement as I quickly turned around and went to stand in front of Nylah. "Nylah, we have to buy the land in Northdale!"

Suddenly, there was a loud 'pfft' and Nylah sputtered out all of the water in her mouth.

"Are you out of your mind?! Although the property industry has been quite a lucrative one for the past few years, Milch is different! Are you familiar with the Northdale region? Sorry to be blunt, but it's just the countryside. No one would develop that area! Who would they be targeting anyway if they built houses there?!"

I replied, "Didn't you hear Uncle Anton's words? The town will be shifted toward North so it will definitely end up shifting to Northdale!"

"Annon, I know that you're quite capable but in some ways, you're still quite childish in your ways." She pursed her lips and smiled as she sat on the chair and crossed her milky-white legs. "More than ten years ago, there were rumors that the town center would be shifted to the South so my mom bought land in that area. However, the area became an industrial zone, and the price of the land depreciated largely. In the end, she

had no choice but to build a factory on that piece of land.”

As soon as she said that, she took off her high heels and kicked me with her feet before continuing, “Five years ago, there were rumors that the town center would shift to the West side of town and the land in Gilded West was snatched up by the non-locals for investment purposes. The prices of land soared exorbitantly but look at it right now. It’s an industrial zone and there’s pollution everywhere.”

“So...” She paused for a moment and looked at me smugly. “Do you still think that such rumors that appeared out of nowhere can be trusted?”

“It can be trusted!” Although rumors that came out of nowhere should not be trusted, Master Campbell’s words could be. The advice from all of my teachers from prison could definitely be trusted!

Four years back, Master Campbell had held a discussion with some leaders in the library of the prison and they had mentioned that the town center would definitely be shifted North in the future. Northdale would become the most prosperous part of Milch. However, Nylah completely ignored my words and she brushed me off by waving her hands at me. “Gosh, that’s enough. I’ll go with you to get a decent suit. Come with me to the conference in the afternoon. Don’t keep harboring such nonsense in your mind. We don’t have the money anyway.”

That’s right, Nylah is as poor as a church mouse right now. Where can we get the money to invest in the property industry? This is a great opportunity! If we don’t grab this opportunity right now then in the future we won’t stand a chance!

Just as I was at a loss for what to do, Nylah smiled at me and said, “Hey, I got this for you. It is the brand of cigarettes you usually smoke, right?”

She held a pack of cigarettes in her hand and she handed them to me. “I noticed that you kept asking for cigarettes from the workers in the production line but you kept trying to avoid me.”

She pursed her lips and her pretty eyes lit up into a smile. “Here you go. Go ahead and take a puff. It’s fine for men to smoke and drink occasionally. Don’t forget to offer cigarettes to people when you meet them at the conference this afternoon, alright?”

“Thanks, Nylah.” I lowered my head and felt slightly awkward. After all, I was quite young to be smoking and I kept having the feeling that it was inappropriate.

Unexpectedly though, Nylah was completely fine with that.

I took the cigarettes and had just walked out of the office when the cell phone in my bag rang. The call was from Lauren.

“I’m sorry, I was in a meeting the entire morning so I didn’t have my phone on me. Why did you call me?” Her tone of voice remained quite cold but her voice sounded quite attractive.

“Could you lend me some money?” I had intended to ask her to lend me some money to pay Jared initially but now I reckoned that it would not be too late to get the money from her to buy the land.

“How much are you after? Just name the figure.” Lauren was quite straightforward.

“T-Twenty million!”

At that moment, I couldn’t quite believe that I had actually said that to her as soon as I voiced up.

In my entire life, the most I had ever held in my hands was two days ago when my mother stuffed two thousand into my hands.

However, I realized that in the property world, twenty million was honestly peanuts and it would hardly make a dent in the market at all.

“How much did you say you wanted?!” Lauren, who was usually quite composed, hollered loudly all of a sudden?”

“If you don’t have twenty million, ten million would be just as fine,” My voice trembled as I spoke and I deduced that she was not going to lend me the money.

“You must be out of your mind! You’ve just come out of prison so what are you going to do with such a huge sum of money?” She chided me like an older sister admonishing her brother.

At that point, I took a puff of my cigarette and replied, “I want to buy some land. This afternoon there will be an auction for some land in Northdale during the Economic Conference and I want to invest the money there!”

Lauren instantly responded, “You must be out of your mind! No one in their right mind would invest in land in Northdale! Heed my advice and don’t even think of doing that, otherwise, you’re definitely going to lose all your money!”

“Have you heard of ‘military gray’? It’s a formula for a specific fabric color and if you agree to lend me the money then I’ll use that as collateral. In one year, I promise I’ll earn enough money to pay you double the interest!”

I was determined not to miss this opportunity.

Chapter 24

On the other end of the phone, Lauren remained silent and soon after that, she heaved a long sigh.

“I’ve heard bits and pieces of what you’ve just mentioned. That formula should be worth at least fifty million, right?” Lauren’s voice became calm once again.

“Yes! I’ll use this formula as collateral. If you have the money, then would you please help me just this once based on our association with Master Campbell? I won’t let you down!” I took a deep breath and I didn’t expect that she had gotten wind of the news So soon.

“Annon, I have hardly ever given advice to anyone but because you’re his student, so listen to me. This is just a tactic used by the government to attract out-of-town investors. After the auction, the value of the land will drop significantly in no time. The investors wouldn’t be able to make a profit from selling off the land, so they would have no choice but to develop the land by building properties in Milch. This is quite a common tactic used by the government, so don’t fall for it.”

I spoke into the phone, “Lauren, thanks for your kind reminder. I’ve made up my mind about this. If I fail in this venture after taking action, then the formula will be yours to keep. If I succeed in this though, I’ll pay you double the interest.”

After further consideration, she reverted to her previously cold self. “I’m quite surprised by your character. I can’t believe that Master Campbell has actually misjudged a person’s character. Send me your bank account details soon and you can keep the formula for now. If I need it in the future, I’ll ask for it from you then.”

After she had said that, she hung up the phone instantly. At the same time, I heaved a deep sigh of relief. Although everyone seemed to have negative comments about the land in Northdale, if we looked at things from the perspective of city planning and investment, then that location would be worth a fortune in the future!

In the afternoon, Nylah invited me along for lunch and we headed to the mall to choose some clothes. The suit was exorbitant as it cost five thousand. Despite that, Nylah didn't bat an eyelid and she even mentioned that it fitted well.

Since we had some spare time, I requested that she take me to the bank to sort out a bank account. Subsequently, I sent the bank account number to Lauren.

Although I had never met Lauren in person, I was very impressed by her efficiency and in less than two hours, I received a notification by text message that I had received the money in my bank account. The number of zeros behind the amount was quite long and I had some difficulty trying to get the exact figure.

Inside the town hall building in Milch, it looked pretty run-down but it remained immensely dominating and it definitely looked quite prestigious. The event was held in the main hall of the building and I realized afterward that there were too many people in attendance, which made the regular meeting room not big enough to accommodate everyone.

After we had obtained our permit to join the conference, we finally were allowed into the event hall at one-thirty in the afternoon.

That was the first time ever that I had seen a crowd bigger than the usual board meeting of a school.

Nylah and I sat in the corner full of excitement and she pointed to the crowd while speaking, "Pick anyone in here and each of them would be worth billions. If a bomb went off in here right now, tens of billions would be gone just like that."

At that point, I burst into laughter at her words. Actually, Nylah was a very interesting person; She was full of positivity, very cheerful, and witty too.

"Nylah, I thought that you wanted to marry a rich guy? Look around you and see whether you can find someone suitable. I'll ask for their business card on your behalf." I purposely teased her.

"Go away! Our factory's still operating quite well. I'll consider that if we go bust!" She rolled her eyes at me and grabbed the water on the table before gulping it down.

Meanwhile, I sat by her side and looked at her silently. Suddenly, I realized that there seemed to be a special enchanting pull from Nylah. As long as I was next to her, I would hardly feel anxious and I no longer had all the dark thoughts that I used to have. On the contrary, there was a warm, fuzzy feeling within me,

After she had finished her water, she pouted with a jealous look on her face as she glanced at the first row. "My mother used to be seated in the third row but now I've gone to the point of being placed in the corner. Anon, am I really a good-for nothing?"

I shook my head and looked at her with a serious expression as I smiled. "Nylah, someday you'll also be seated at the front row and it will be the center spot of the first row!"

After I had said that, the entire room suddenly descended into silence and I thought that the event was about to start at that point. However, I took a look at the clock and realized that it wasn't quite 2.00PM yet.

At that moment, both of us turned to look at the entrance where the crowd had their eyes on and I immediately gasped loudly. She's stunning. How can there be such a stunning lady in this world?

She had shoulder-length hair as she looked refined and was full of elegance. There was clearly a discerning look in her dark eyes.

She was about the same height as Nylah and she had flawless, translucent skin. At the moment, she wore a red dress that fluttered in the air as she walked into the room. Somehow, each step that she took exuded a sense of aloofness.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, the woman walked into the room escorted by several men and she walked toward the front row of the room. Subsequently, she took a seat at the center position.

“Is she the type of female that guys like?” Suddenly, Nylah asked.

“Yup.”

Ah?! Heh! I scratched my head and thought, Well, I don't think that it's considered liking her. To be more accurate, we admire her. It's just an admiration of beauty.

That was because she was so unattainable that someone like me could merely admire her. Besides, I knew myself quite well, so I knew not to harbor any wishful thoughts.

“Nylah, you're much prettier than her,” I spoke up softly and slightly diffidently.

“You're lying!” She rolled her eyes at me unhappily and lowered her head slightly.

Actually, I wasn't lying as Nylah was indeed quite beautiful. At least to me, she was one of a kind.

If she dressed up in such a luxurious dress, had a sapphire gemstone around her neck that was as large as the lady's, and walked in escorted by a group, then she would definitely be comparable to that lady.

That was why I intended to repay her by giving her that center spot someday and by then, she would have the eyes of the crowd on her too. I would definitely achieve that!

Shortly after that, it was time for the opening ceremony of the conference. As soon as the leader of the government official turned up, there was another uproar in the room once again.

That was because the garments donned by our leaders were made of military gray and the design of it was distinctly Tresalian. The golden embroidery glimmered subtly and it was a very great depiction of the stately and distinguished look of our government officials.

Subsequently, the people in the crowd started to whisper amongst themselves.

Everyone was curious about the designer of the garment and they also admired the color of the material too. That was quite evident amongst the female investors and they were engrossed in discussions about the garment.

This was Nylah's ultimate value of bidding on the government project and by making use of the government officials as an advertisement, her goal was to appeal to the rich investors to obtain vast profit from then on.

The conference came to a start after the speech made by the leader. Although most people were bored to tears, I was quite alert the entire time and I didn't miss any single piece of useful information.

Firstly, the leader started his opening speech by mentioning the Capital of Textile before he included the topic of property development in his opening speech. Therefore, I deduced that the economic growth of Milch would soon be related to the textile business and property development.

Secondly, as the leader introduced Milch as a golden opportunity for investment, I noticed on the projection the projected breakdown of the town area. Milch was segmented into four sections, which included Northdale, Eastland, Gilded West, and the development zone.

Gilded West and the development zone belonged to the industrial area and they were close to the town center. All these years, the two areas were mainly focused on economic growth so the issue of pollution and smog had already affected the town center quite badly. As for Eastland, there were several prisons there so undoubtedly, the town center would not be shifted there.

As such, I was quite sure that the government was definitely going to shift the town center this time. After all, the pollution had already affected the lifestyle of the people quite badly.

Although Northdale was considered the countryside, the area was quite beautiful and close to nature. It was way apart from the two large industrial zones, so it was definitely the perfect spot to move the town center.

Most importantly, Master Campbell had once said that Milch had amassed a huge amount of cash flow from the industrial development all these years so there was nothing stopping its development and it was more than ready for an upgrade toward a financial hub.

Therefore, this shifting of the town center was definitely in preparation for an upgrade of the city.

It was definitely a wise decision to purchase the land in Northdale.

Chapter 25

After the long-winded opening speech had ended, the Economic Conference Forum came to a proper start.

The leaders in charge of the economic side of the town council and individual local councils came on stage to speak one after the other and they introduced their future economic plans for their local council and the benefits of investing with them.

The most interesting thing was that the leader of Northdale was the last one to give his speech and as soon as he spoke, the entire room burst into laughter,

That was because the first sentence that he said was, "The focus of Northdale's future economic plans will be on the finance and service industry."

Nylah, as well as the rest, couldn't contain their laughter upon hearing that. After all, Northdale was the countryside and they hadn't even succeeded in the farming industry but now they were planning to dabble in the finance and service industry?

Not only Nylah, but the rest of the local investors around us also started to whisper amongst themselves.

"That's such a joke. He's just being funny here. Is he taking us investors as fools?"

"This current government is the most clueless bunch of people I've ever seen!"

"I've been tricked twice! I swear I won't buy any land even if they come up with all sorts of awesome future plans."

On stage, the leader of Northdale was indeed putting forward all sorts of awesome future plans and he also came up with the proposed blueprint for the future town planning of Northdale.

The leaders of the town council and the other local councils couldn't stand the jeers of the investors so they quickly got up and left the scene. In the end, the leader of Northdale was the only one left on stage as he continued speaking about his flighty plans.

Nonetheless, I kept an intent eye on the screen and studied the blueprint of the

proposal quite closely. It was at that moment when I realized that the blueprint was quite detailed.

“Hah! They’re just using the same thing and it’s basically the proposal for Gilded West from a few years back. They’ve just shifted the plans to Northdale.”

“Did you notice that the proposal seems much more detailed than before?”

“Well, that’s pointless too. They’ve tricked us twice, so surely they would have to make more effort this time!”

At that point, the leader of Northdale suddenly added, “In the future, if the town center gets shifted to Northdale, your investments in Northdale would then bring you returns of leaps and bounds!”

“Pfft!” Instantly the crowd erupted into laughter. No one seemed to trust those words anymore. After all, Northdale was too impoverished. Besides, the government had already reneged on its promise twice now. However, I knew that the government had done so to stimulate the economy of each area and it was for the sake of the people. Without the first two instances of the government reneging on their words, how else could they attract investment to the area? How else were they able to build up two large industrial areas? How else could Milch-impoverished in the past-develop into such an economically stable town in less than ten years’ time?

In this aspect, although the government had humiliated itself, the people of Milch had benefited from this. Honestly, I was quite impressed. The leaders of Milch were truly there to do something and change things, despite appearing quite useless.

After the leader had finished his speech, immediately after that, the next session was the auction of the land in Northdale. Of course though, the land auctioned off was quite a tiny parcel of industrial land.

There were not that many people who placed a bid and it was just a handful of out-of-town investors. They were loaded so they were merely taking this as a gamble and they placed bids on several parcels of land just for fun. If they made a profit then they would naturally be quite happy about it but even if they made a loss, it hardly mattered to them at all.

However, I placed a bid on one hundred acres of industrial land, on behalf of Papillon Enterprise, with the twenty million in my hands that I had borrowed.

“Are you out of your mind?! Why are you buying farmland that costs two hundred thousand for an acre?! Besides, I thought that you didn’t have any money?! You’ll be penalized if you can’t afford to pay after winning the bid!” Nylah was significantly shocked and she pinched my arm hard.

“Nylah, this is industrial land that only costs two hundred thousand for an acre, so it’s definitely a bargain for us! It would be stupid of me to pass up this opportunity!” I looked at her excitedly and spoke up.

However, Nylah bit her lower lip and looked at me solemnly. “Annon, I’ll say this one more time. This is all a tactic by the leaders. They’ve obtained farmland from the farmers by paying less than ten thousand for an acre and then by changing it into industrial land, they’re selling it for more than several hundred thousand for an acre to the investors. That’s how they gain our money! Do you get it now?!”

After she had said that, she hastily pulled me up from my seat and headed toward the door as she spoke, “Let’s go and talk to Uncle Anton right now and get him to persuade the leader of Northdale for us to give up on this land. Behave politely and offer some

cigarettes to them as soon as you see them, alright?"

However, I shrugged off her hand and smiled at her with a look of gratitude in my eyes.

"Nylah, thanks for showing so much concern for me. One would have to take risks to earn money so whatever it is, I have to win the bid for the land this time!"

"So, you think that you're the only smart guy in the room? There are so many investors inside so do you think that they're dumber than you? Are you taking them for fools? If this was a great investment opportunity then why aren't they fighting over it? Don't be silly. This is just a tactic!" At that point, there were tears in Nylah's eyes as she grabbed my arm forcefully.

"Nylah, I am not going to change my mind. Thank you for your concern but this decision to bid for the land is one of my own and I have the money for it too. You won't be implicated in this." After I had said that, I turned around and went back into the room. That entire day, Nylah gave me the silent treatment out of anger. However, the next morning, as soon as she woke up, she frantically knocked on my door to ask, "Annon, where did you get the twenty million from?!"

I rubbed my eyes and got out of bed before opening the door with a yawn. "I borrowed it."

Instantly, her expression changed and she was dumbfounded. The tears streamed down her face and she looked at me intently for quite some time before saying, "You're out of your mind! How are you going to pay back twenty million?! The land in Northdale will definitely depreciate and become a worthless piece of land in less than a year!"

"Nylah, we have the formula for military gray anyway so even if I make a loss on this venture, I can just easily sell the formula. You don't have to worry about the money." After I had said that, I steered her toward the doorway but she refused to leave my room.

"I'm getting changed so do you want to stay and watch me?" I stifled my smile and spoke up.

"You're a scoundrel!" She turned and left the room.

The Economic Conference went on for three days consecutively and subsequently, the government and the local corporations of Milch entered into further in-depth discussions with the investors regarding the collaboration projects.

Due to the fact that I had borrowed a large sum of money, Nylah was much more enthusiastic about garnering investment than before and she dragged me around to talk to different investors about investing in our company.

The garments of the government officials were designed by us this time so we garnered plenty of attraction from plenty of investors. Furthermore, Anton acted as our referrer and we spoke with many investors within three days after that.

I had assumed that we would easily gain investors but unexpectedly, the third day had nearly passed us by and none of them were interested in working with us.

Finally, one of the bosses from Westlake told us the truth.

"President Scott, according to our research into your company for the past two days, we've found out that your company structure is too disorganized. The distribution of shares is scattered all over, there are political issues within the management level, your family members interfere in the business, and there are thugs holding a share in the company. Your company has basically ticked all of the boxes for everything to avoid in an investment. That's why even though your product is exceptional, no one would dare

to invest in it!”

As soon as Nylah heard that, she was dumbfounded. As for me, I could feel a constant throb in my eyelids.

Perhaps I was too naive in this by not delving deeper into the situation of the company. I had assumed that we would be able to appeal to the investors with our product, but I had overlooked such a lethal shortfall of the company.

- Master Campbell previously mentioned before that knowledge was not a sign of experience. There were plenty of things for me to learn in the actual society.

The worst thing that happened was that as soon as we arrived at the factory in the afternoon, a bunch of women rushed toward us angrily.

“You little brat! How dare you distribute our shares to someone else?!”

Eventually, I found out that these people were in fact Nylah’s family members and they were the family members she refused to acknowledge.