

Zillionaire 1001

Chapter 1001:

With theatrical resignation, he spread his hands in mock surrender. "If my presence troubles you so deeply, feel free to make your exit. Linsey's perfectly capable of attending to my needs."

Collin's expression remained stone-cold as he delivered his cutting response. "In your dreams."

"Alright, I just said one thing, and you two are already arguing." Linsey approached with a steaming bowl of chicken soup, setting it carefully on the overbed table before pressing a spoon into Gorman's palm. "Here, maybe some food will finally shut you up."

Gorman accepted the spoon with a grin, but it didn't last long. He looked up and said, "Linsey, I'd rather eat the food you picked out. Let's send Ms. Ellis's delivery to Collin."

"Stop fussing and just eat," said Linsey, already thumbing through her phone. "I'll call the restaurant and ask them to send the meals I ordered back to the house for Zenia and Zander. We'll stick with what Joanne brought."

With a shrug and a trace of resignation, Gorman murmured, "Guess I'll have to settle for this stuff."

Linsey didn't bother replying. Once she finished the call, she looked over at Collin and said, "Come on, eat."

Night had already crept in, and Collin had spent the whole afternoon looking after Gorman.

They ended up eating quietly, the hospital room filled with nothing but the sound of clinking utensils.

Linsey didn't eat much. When she finally set her cutlery down, there was still a decent amount of food left on her plate.

Without saying a word, Collin reached over and polished off her leftovers like it was second nature.

That made Linsey chuckle. “If I knew you’d want more, I wouldn’t have changed the delivery address. The kids could’ve just eaten Glenda’s dinner instead.”

Collin gave a small smile and shook his head. “No worries. I’m good.”

Gorman saw everything. The warmth between them wasn’t lost on him, and his expression turned somber. Even the way he chewed slowed down.

As they wrapped up the meal, Collin stood and began clearing the table. That was when Linsey remembered the look Joanne had earlier and said, “Joanne showing up like that had nothing to do with Collin.”

Gorman froze for a beat, then realized she was throwing his earlier jab right back at him.

Still tidying up, Collin looked pleased and addressed Linsey. “I knew you’d believe me. No way you’d let someone’s lies get in your head.”

Gorman was the “someone” he referred to.

Annoyance made Gorman’s chest feel tight, and he turned to her. “Linsey, you must’ve seen how she kept glancing at Collin when she walked in with Dolores and Dustin.”

Taking a calm sip of water, Linsey set her glass down. “Yeah, I noticed. Honestly, her look at Collin was just curiosity—same as when she checked you and Dustin out. There wasn’t anything special about it.”

Chapter 1002:

Nothing more to say, Gorman let silence settle in the room.

His plan to stir up trouble between Linsey and Collin had seemed clever at first, but it was obvious now that he had misread them. Had Linsey really doubted Collin, there was no way she would have made up with him so quickly after coming back to Grester.

Whatever they had been through, Linsey's faith in Collin was now set in stone.

And deep down, Gorman recognized that Collin trusted Linsey just as much—even if he didn't want to admit it out loud.

The more Gorman dwelled on the matter, the deeper his gloom grew. He turned his head slowly, his face hardened by the weight of his sorrow.

In that moment, a long-held truth struck him clearly: No one could ever come between Linsey and Collin now.

After throwing away the trash, Collin went to the bathroom to wash his hands. He then took a seat beside Linsey.

He said quietly, "Joanne's chance to come along with Dustin today probably has something to do with her new connection to the Walton family. She's now a Walton."

Despite not keeping up with Dustin much lately, Collin still managed to gather the relevant details.

Taking a moment to organize his thoughts, he continued, "Joanne's parents don't come from money. She's always been exceptionally smart, though. Her grades were excellent, and her school eventually sent her overseas, where she ran into Haven. Back then, Haven was doing alright, but her grades were far from impressive. Joanne, on the other hand, published a string of noteworthy academic papers and turned out to be a natural in finance."

Linsey kept her focus on Collin, curiosity written all over her face. "With a record like that, I bet Dustin's mom thinks the world of her."

Collin nodded. “She’s got this easygoing yet sharp personality. Honestly, she’s the type who could manage things at the Wade Group and still keep Dustin in check. Hester couldn’t ask for anyone better.”

After a moment of thought, he added, “Still, nobody knows if she’ll actually end up with a spot at the Wade Group.”

Linsey pressed her lips together, her confusion barely hidden. “I won’t go into everything else, but something about Joanne just feels... off.”

Casting an uncertain glance Collin’s way, she continued, “Don’t get me wrong, I’m not trying to make this about myself. I genuinely feel like Joanne is paying more attention to me, but not in a bad way—it just leaves me a little confused.”

A crease formed between Collin’s brows. “Are you sure that’s not in a bad way?”

Before Linsey could respond, Gorman interjected, “You have to remember, Joanne and Haven got along well. It’s no coincidence that Kase chose Joanne to step into Haven’s shoes—part of it’s down to that old connection.”

A low chuckle escaped him. “Honestly, I wouldn’t be surprised if Joanne had a hand in some of Haven’s past moves, staying out of sight the whole time.”

Collin’s eyes narrowed. “If we’re talking about people who helped Haven, you should take a good look in the mirror.”

Memories still nagged at him. If Gorman hadn’t brought Haven into Linsey’s life, maybe none of those doubts would have crept in between him and her.

Chapter 1003:

“And if you’d never gotten mixed up with Haven, would I have even had the chance to step in?” Gorman retorted.

Pressing her fingers to her forehead, Linsey let out a sigh. “We were talking about Joanne, weren’t we? How did this turn into another one of your arguments?”

Her words snapped both men out of it. Whatever edge had been in their voices vanished, and almost in unison, they both offered Linsey a smile—warm and a little apologetic.

Linsey’s frown lingered. Thoughts of Joanne still spun in her mind. “Even though Joanne and Haven seemed close, she didn’t exactly look heartbroken when Haven went to jail.”

Collin’s voice dropped to a thoughtful tone. “Maybe she saw Haven’s mistakes as a lucky break. Those stunts Haven pulled paved the way for Joanne to step up and claim her place with the Walton family. She’s always had the skills, just not the background—until now. Kase trusts her, and with the Walton family behind her, joining the Wade family is within reach.”

Picking up on Collin’s reasoning, Linsey added, “She’s basically made it. Doors are opening for her everywhere. Whatever she’s doing now, it’s probably all calculated to help her get exactly what she wants.”

Gorman laughed and said, “If marrying into the Wade family was really her goal, Joanne would be doing everything possible to impress Dustin. So why would she just let Dustin and Dolores leave by themselves?”

He added, “She even went out of her way to buy an expensive meal and bring it to you in person.”

Turning to Linsey, he continued, “Linsey, it’s clear where Joanne’s true interest lies. It isn’t with Dustin—it’s with you.”

That earned a helpless smile from Linsey. “Come on, don’t make things up. She’s not interested in me. Maybe she just likes my looks...”

Abruptly, Linsey’s voice trailed off. Surprise flickered across her features as she locked eyes with Collin, uncertain of what to make of her own words.

Recognition dawned in Collin's expression as well.

"She really is focused on your face," Collin said, his voice leaving no room for doubt.

The memory of four years ago flooded Linsey's mind. Not only had she gotten her heart broken, but she had also stumbled upon the truth about her parents—and discovered a brother, Jeffery.

People had always commented on the uncanny resemblance between Linsey and Jeffery.

No matter how she turned it over in her mind, Linsey couldn't come up with another reason for Joanne's fixation.

The thought of Jeffery's rare blood disorder surfaced next, an old worry she couldn't quite shake.

A question pressed its way out. "Did Jeffery ever recover from his blood disorder?"

Collin responded with a slow shake of his head.

The answer made Linsey's chest tighten, sorrow mixing with worry.

"I haven't heard any news from the Lawsons, but if something serious happened to Jeffery, everyone in this city would know. Even so, the Lawson Group's been on a steady decline for years."

Chapter 1004:

Collin's words brought a quiet relief, letting Linsey exhale softly. As far as she was concerned, she felt little connection to Jeffery or the Lawsons.

Still, the knot lingered—Jeffery was her brother by blood, no matter how distant their lives had become. Losing him for good would bring a sting she couldn't quite ignore.

Collin caught the turmoil flickering in Linsey's eyes. His tone softened. "Don't worry. I'll ask someone to check on the Lawsons and see what's really going on."

A faint smile touched Linsey's lips. "There's no need to fuss over it. Honestly, I'm not that invested in what happens to them anymore."

The disappointments from four years ago had already drained any lingering hope she might have had for that family.

Now that she had a home of her own, the old connections felt more like faded memories than anything truly important.

Later that night, Linsey and Collin slipped quietly into the house, finding Dolores and Glenda already finished tucking the kids into bed.

"How's Gorman holding up?" Dolores asked softly, reaching out to take Linsey's hand, her touch warm.

A calm smile formed on Linsey's lips as she answered, "He's all right for now. We've arranged for some caretakers to stay with him. I'll stop by tomorrow to check in."

Hearing that, Collin's mood soured. His brow furrowed. "You're planning to go tomorrow?"

"I gave Gorman my word. I can't just go back on it, right? Besides, you'll be coming with me, so what's the issue?" Linsey responded, meeting his eyes without hesitation.

Weariness crept into Collin's voice. "I've got a big meeting at the office in the morning."

He paused, considering a compromise. "Maybe we can reschedule for the day after tomorrow?"

A moment passed before Linsey replied, "Don't worry about me. If you've got things to handle at work, I'll go on my own."

No way was Collin letting that happen. The thought of Linsey taking care of Gorman alone just didn't sit right.

Even now, Collin couldn't shake the regret that weighed on him for not saving Linsey before Gorman did at the bridal shop that day. He believed that if he had been the one to protect Linsey from harm, many of the problems that followed might never have happened.

A dark cloud seemed to settle over Collin's face, prompting Dolores to cut in smoothly. "Let's do this—tomorrow, Linsey and I will head over to the hospital together. That way, Gorman gets more help, and Glenda can keep an eye on the kids. Honestly, those little ones have been nothing but patient lately."

Pausing for a moment, Dolores continued, "Just make sure both of you say a proper goodbye to the kids in the morning. They barely saw you today, and they were pretty upset at bedtime."

Linsey shot Dolores a grateful look and gave her sleeve a quick tug. "Sounds good. We'll go to the hospital together tomorrow," she said, turning to address Collin. "This works out for everyone, right?"

Chapter 1005:

Jealousy flashed in Collin's eyes. Even Dolores had to step in and manage things now.

After taking a moment to consider, Collin answered, "I'll have Dustin come with you two tomorrow."

Dolores stiffened for an instant, then quickly averted her gaze, unsure of how to respond.

Linsey's eyes widened in surprise. "Wait, doesn't Dustin have a meeting tomorrow?"

With a casual arch of his eyebrow, Collin replied, "It's okay if Dustin doesn't show up at that meeting. I bet he'd rather spend time with Dolores than sit through my agenda anyway."

Dolores's cheeks flushed, and her gaze bounced around the room. Flustered, she didn't linger. "You both should get some sleep. Sweet dreams."

Morning arrived, and Linsey and Dolores reached the hospital right on schedule.

Entering the hospital room, they immediately caught the flicker of surprise on Gorman's face.

"Did something happen?" Linsey asked, placing a bag of fresh fruit on the table. She studied Gorman with genuine concern. "Are you feeling any pain from your injury?"

Not missing a beat, Gorman pulled himself together and met her gaze. "Honestly, I wasn't expecting a visit from you today."

A subtle pause hung in the air as he shifted his attention to Dolores, who had trailed behind Linsey into the room. That quiet grin touched his lips. "Bringing Ms. ___."

Davidson was an even bigger surprise.

Dolores gave a little scoff and lifted her brow. "Oh, so you're not excited to see me? I had to clear my packed schedule just to come with Linsey and help out. Don't forget—you saved Linsey's life, so you're getting VIP treatment."

Taking her time, Linsey crossed the room, pulling the curtains wide to flood the place with sunlight.

"I am glad you're here," said Gorman, his tone smooth and warm. "Still, with Linsey and the caregivers around, I might be a bit overcared for."

Choosing to play innocent, Dolores let a sugary smile linger. "No, no, that won't do at all. You need real attention with an injury like this. Plus, if Linsey tries to manage on her own, Collin will feel sorry for her and bring in an army of helpers just to be safe. By tomorrow, you might not have room to breathe in here."

She added with a playful huff, “Just wait, soon enough you’ll have every excuse to complain about overcrowding.”

No one could mistake Dolores’ meaning. Her intentions were plain as day.

The real reason she had joined Linsey was to make sure Gorman didn’t have a single opening to get close to her.

None of this was about Collin. That thought never crossed her mind. She just wanted to keep Linsey out of trouble.

All Dolores wanted was for Gorman to recover quickly and disappear from Grester. Maybe then, Linsey’s days could finally settle back into peace. Past memories of Gorman’s obsession with controlling Linsey still lingered fresh in Dolores’ mind.

Chapter 1006:

From Dolores’ perspective, Collin might not have treated Linsey perfectly, but at least he wouldn’t hurt her. Gorman was another story entirely. He had done things most people could never accept. Because of that, Dolores would never let Gorman near Linsey again.

Gorman caught the strained smile on Dolores’ face and could tell she held no warmth for him. A bitter sense of irony washed over him. After everything he had tried, he hadn’t gained Linsey’s trust and had even alienated everyone close to her. That thought left Gorman wondering if he had truly been wrong all along.

At that moment, the hospital room door swung open.

Dustin strolled in, relaxed and full of easy confidence. Behind him trailed several men, each carrying shopping bags.

“Put the food on the table, supplies in the cabinet, and leave those bags on the sofa,” Dustin ordered.

His team moved briskly, quickly covering every surface in the room with their packages.

Gorman's face tightened, and he took a few steadying breaths to keep his frustration in check.

Even Linsey started to think Dustin was going too far. With a furrowed brow, she said, "Dustin, what's all this? Gorman needs to rest. Please ask everyone to leave."

Dustin heard her and quickly motioned for his team to clear out. He turned to Linsey and said, "Sorry, Linsey. I just wanted to help Mr. Green recover. That's why I brought all these things."

Dolores blinked, clearly puzzled, and quietly moved closer to Dustin. Lowering her voice, she asked, "Did Collin tell you to do all this?" A moment ago, she had wondered if she was being too harsh by mentioning Collin's care for Linsey in front of Gorman, who was lying there injured. Now, looking at Dustin's over-the-top display, she suddenly felt like she was actually being gentle.

"No, this was all my idea," Dustin answered immediately, his tone almost casual. "I just wanted to show I care. What does Collin have to do with it?"

"Alright, then sit down for now. We'll let you know if we need anything else," Dolores said, shaking her head and gesturing to a chair before casting a quick glance at Gorman on the bed.

The friendship between Dustin and Collin was well known, so Dustin's visit today could only mean one thing—Collin had a hand in it. Every time Gorman saw Dustin, he couldn't help but think of Collin.

To him, anything Dustin did might as well have come straight from Collin.

A faint smile appeared on Gorman's lips as he said, "Thank you, Mr. Wade and Ms. Davidson, for your concern."

He knew exactly what they were trying to do.

Collin hadn't shown up in person, yet somehow his presence in the room felt stronger than it had yesterday. Both Dolores and Dustin served as reminders that he would never get close to Linsey again, though Linsey insisted on caring for him herself out of guilt.

Thoughts raced through Gorman's mind, dark and tangled. The sadness in his eyes seemed to grow heavier, settling in his chest.

Suddenly, a sharp knock broke the tense mood in the room.

Chapter 1007:

Everyone turned to the door, curiosity flickering in their eyes. It wasn't time for the nurse to check in, so they all wondered who could be knocking now.

"Maybe it's your guys again?" Dolores gave Dustin a light pat on the shoulder. "Go take a look and see who it is."

"It can't be my men. I already sent them away," Dustin responded, getting up and shaking his head. "Maybe it's someone Collin asked to come by."

He swung the door open and was so surprised by what he saw that he almost shut it again to steady himself.

"What are you doing here?" His voice held a mix of surprise and confusion.

Linsey and Dolores, still sitting in the room, called out in unison, "Who?"

A gentle, familiar voice answered, "It's Joanne. I hope I'm not intruding."

Dustin peered at Joanne, who stood in the doorway with a bright, cheerful smile. He doubted she felt sorry at all for showing up again. Hearing her speak, Linsey and Dolores exchanged a quick, questioning look.

"Come in, Ms. Ellis," Linsey was the first to reply.

After all, they had already eaten the meal Joanne brought yesterday. Turning her away now would feel wrong.

Even so, Linsey couldn't shake the feeling that Joanne's visit was a little odd.

"Could you step aside, Dustin?" Joanne smiled politely at him before gliding past him, not bothering to acknowledge him.

Dustin rolled his eyes, convinced she had no interest in him at all. He eased up, reassured by the thought that Joanne had no romantic interest in him.

Dolores, on the other hand, didn't feel nearly as relaxed as Dustin. The sight of Joanne put her immediately on guard, and a sense of caution washed over her.

She couldn't help but question what Joanne's real intentions were, or if her interest in Collin was even genuine.

After a brief pause, Dolores decided that with Collin gone, this was the perfect time to observe Joanne more closely.

Joanne set down the health supplements she brought. "Just a little something for you, Mr. Green. I hope you don't mind."

Gorman gave a light laugh, motioning to the overflowing table. "No need to worry, but with all these supplements, I might still have leftovers when I'm fully recovered."

Joanne just smiled politely, not saying anything more on the subject. Watching this, Dolores became convinced that Joanne wasn't truly interested in Gorman's recovery.

Soon after, Joanne reached into her bag and took out a small, decorative box, handing it to Linsey. “Ms. Brooks, I never got the chance to get you something yesterday. I thought I’d make up for it today.”

Linsey’s eyes widened in surprise before she managed a composed smile and accepted the box. “There was no need for that, Ms. Ellis. We should be the ones thanking you for bringing us food yesterday.”

“It’s really nothing,” Joanne said gently, keeping her gaze on Linsey. “This bracelet is a new release I picked up not long ago. I thought the style and color would look lovely on you. Please, accept it.”

Chapter 1008:

Linsey opened the box to find a diamond bracelet, simple yet graceful. She recognized the brand immediately—it was a luxury item, and the latest model at that, making it a rare gift. Joanne’s generosity stood out.

“Thank you,” Linsey said softly, her feelings a tangled mess. What puzzled her even more was that Joanne, who hardly knew anyone in the room, had chosen to give a present only to her.

Dolores froze in surprise. After a moment, she realized her earlier assumptions had been wrong. Joanne’s real target was Linsey—not Collin.

For a split second, Dolores even wondered if Joanne was purposely trying to challenge her.

First, Joanne had managed to use Hester to take Dustin away from her. Now, she seemed focused on getting Linsey’s attention.

Dolores tried to shake off the thought, finding it both silly and frustrating. Still, she struggled to understand what Joanne really wanted.

It didn’t add up. Joanne barely knew Gorman, but she had joined them yesterday and showed up again today, seemingly by choice. It was obvious to anyone watching that the main reason for her visit was to give Linsey that bracelet.

Joanne used to be close with Haven, and since Haven disliked Linsey, it made no sense for Joanne to go out of her way for her.

If her goal was to marry into a wealthy family, cozying up to Hester would have made more sense. With Hester's support, Joanne could have married Dustin. Or, if she wanted to be the wife of CR Corporation's founder, she should have focused her efforts on Collin.

The more Dolores thought about it, the more confused she became. Her head throbbed as she tried to make sense of Joanne's intentions.

"You're welcome. I'm glad you like it," Joanne said, giving her a gentle smile. Her manner stayed calm and friendly, as if she didn't notice the tension in the room.

She turned to Gorman and added, "Mr. Green, I've dropped off the supplements, so I'll let you get your rest."

Linsey and Dolores exchanged a look of surprise. Neither of them expected Joanne to leave so quickly.

It looked as if Joanne's only reason for visiting was to drop off some supplements for Gorman and bring a present for Linsey.

Linsey pressed her lips together and gave Dolores a quick, thoughtful glance. Quietly, she stood up and said, "Let me walk you out." Even after seeing Joanne several times, Linsey still hadn't figured out what she was really after.

She believed that by spending a bit more time with Joanne, she might be able to piece things together. Linsey never liked feeling uncertain. Whenever she had doubts, she always searched for answers.

Joanne's face brightened when she heard the offer. "I'd like that."

Dustin, who had been quietly watching, stepped out into the hallway as well and motioned for his two assistants to join them. He planned to keep a close watch until he could be sure about Joanne's

intentions. Anything happening to Linsey would make him answer to Collin, and he wasn't about to risk that.

Joanne seemed unfazed by the extra company. As soon as they were outside, she slipped her hand gently around Linsey's wrist. "Linsey, do you mind if I call you that?"

Chapter 1009:

A smile spread across Linsey's face. "That's fine with me."

They continued down the busy hallway, walking side by side as people bustled past in every direction. Lost in thought, Linsey almost bumped into someone rushing by.

"Watch out." Joanne reacted quickly and pulled Linsey aside, keeping her out of harm's way.

Startled, Linsey took a moment before murmuring, "Thank you."

Joanne's gentle nature made her seem like a warm older sister as she replied, "Don't mention it."

While they walked on, Joanne said out of nowhere, "To be honest, I was taken aback by the way Haven treated you before..."

"Haven was absolutely infatuated with Mr. Riley. I tried talking sense into her more than once, but nothing I said made a difference. I blame myself, too. When she asked me to help get Kylee out, I should have known something wasn't right."

Joanne's smile turned bitter as she continued, "But honestly, Haven never listened to me. In our friendship, I was always the one going along with her plans. There wasn't much more I could do."

Linsey listened quietly, her face calm and unreadable. Everything about Joanne's voice and expression felt genuine, giving Linsey little reason to doubt her story.

Linsey didn't know Haven well, but she did know that Haven had grown up spoiled and always wanted her own way. Because of that, Linsey found it possible that Joanne was telling the truth.

"We can leave that in the past. Haven has already paid the price, and Gorman is getting better. He'll be healed soon," Linsey answered in an even tone.

They soon arrived at the elevator.

Joanne let go of Linsey's wrist at just the right moment, flashing her a warm smile. "Thank you for walking me, Linsey. We should have lunch together sometime."

Linsey started to reply, but a familiar voice called her name from behind. "Linsey?"

Linsey spun around in surprise.

Not far away stood Jeffery, a brother she hadn't seen in four years. Time had drawn their features closer, and now their resemblance was unmistakable.

The moment Jeffery recognized her, his face lit up with happiness. He walked toward her without hesitation. "Linsey, I can't believe it's really you!"

Linsey was so shocked that she just stared at him in disbelief.

Only yesterday, she had mentioned Jeffery's name to Collin, never expecting to see him today.

Suddenly, Linsey remembered that she wasn't alone. She cast a quick sideways glance at Joanne.

Only moments ago, Joanne had been cheerful, but now she looked absentminded.

That was all Linsey needed to finally understand—Joanne's true reason for coming was connected to Jeffery.

With the answer clear, Linsey turned back to Jeffery and offered a genuine smile. "It's been a while."

Jeffery's eyes softened as he looked her over, clearly happy to see that she was alright.

Chapter 1010:

"You really seem to be doing well," Jeffery said with conviction. "When did you come back?"

Linsey replied in a gentle tone, "Two months ago."

Jeffery nodded slowly, a quiet sigh slipping out. "I'm glad you're home." There wasn't a trace of blame in his manner, even though Linsey hadn't let him know about her return.

He understood that he didn't have the right to fault her for anything. Even though the truth about her background was revealed four years ago, Linsey never saw the Lawson family as her own.

Now, with all of that behind them, he couldn't expect her to have any real attachment left.

For him, being able to stand here and trade small talk felt like proof of just how forgiving Linsey truly was.

"Wait, why are you at the hospital? Are you feeling alright?" Jeffery said, and suddenly his face brightened with concern.

Linsey shook her head and answered honestly, "It's not for me. A friend is in the hospital, and I've been here to help him."

Jeffery's shoulders relaxed as he heard that. He suggested, "While you're caring for your friend, don't forget to look after yourself too."

Jeffery took a short pause, then said sincerely, “If you ever need anything, just let me know. I’ll always be here.”

Linsey noticed the genuine warmth in his manner and set aside her usual distance.

“I’m fine for now. Collin is always there if I need anything,” Linsey said, meeting his gaze. “But I do appreciate the offer.”

Her thoughts drifted to his health—she remembered hearing about his blood disorder four years ago.

With Joanne still nearby, Linsey decided to ask carefully, “And you? How are you feeling these days?”

Maybe it was a late spark of sibling intuition, but Jeffery immediately caught on to what Linsey was really saying. He could sense a touch of worry in her steady voice, and his smile softened with real warmth.

“I’m alright. These past two years have been peaceful, and I’ve had the chance to recover, so my health has gotten better bit by bit,” he said.

When she heard him say that, Linsey gave a small nod. From Jeffery’s words and his steady appearance, she gathered that his blood disorder must be under control now. He wouldn’t have been standing here speaking with such ease if things were any different.

Linsey recalled something Collin had mentioned yesterday—how the Lawson Group had been on a steady decline these past years, most likely because Jeffery had been prioritizing his recovery. Naturally, the company’s matters meant little when placed beside something as vital as his health.

“Nothing matters more than making sure you’re well,” Linsey said. Thinking back, she realized that most of her old resentment toward Jeffery had faded away. After all, it was clear Jeffery truly cared about her.

Jeffery offered her a warm, genuine smile.