

## **Zillionaire 1311**

Chapter 1311:

A wave of panic washed over the colleague operating the computer. "Someone's tampered with our setup. The display is full of scrambled code, and none of the design files will open."

Lara's frustration boiled over as she confronted him. "What do you mean? You were right here. How could anyone mess with the system under your nose?"

Regret written all over his face, the colleague admitted, "I had to run to the bathroom because of a stomachache. I never thought someone would take advantage of that."

"You should've gotten someone to watch it while you were gone!" Lara scolded, her voice rising.

Linsey's tone was gentle as she stepped in to keep the peace. "Don't blame him, Lara. Accidents happen. Let's focus on recovering the files."

Springing into action, the colleague offered, "I'll go get an IT specialist right away."

"There's no time," Linsey decided, pulling up a chair and settling in front of the computer. "I have some experience with code. Let me try."

Her fingers flew across the keyboard as she worked, eyes fixed in concentration. Lines of code flashed across the big screen, catching the attention of everyone in the room.

Within moments, Linsey entered the final commands. Instantly, the lost design drafts filled the screen in stunning detail.

An audible gasp swept through the crowd as the images appeared.

Letting out a breath, Linsey stood, collected herself, and returned to the microphone. "Thank you for waiting," she said with a bright smile. "Let's take a look at our design drafts together."

Those twenty minutes on stage slipped by almost instantly, and when the presentation ended, the room burst into lively applause.

Dustin joined in, clapping, then leaned over to Collin and said with genuine admiration, "I had no idea Linsey was so versatile. She's got skills in design, hosting, and even programming. Honestly, I'm tempted to poach her for the company right now."

Collin listened, a hint of pride coloring his deep voice. "Go ahead and try," he replied, smiling.

With the presentation over, guests began to mingle around the venue. Linsey made her way offstage, immediately surrounded by colleagues showering her with praise. She responded with a gentle, humble smile.

In the midst of the chatter, a striking man stepped up, greeting her warmly. "You must be Ms. Brooks?"

Linsey nodded, a glimmer of curiosity in her eyes. "That's me. And you are?"

His smile grew as he handed her a business card. "I'm a manager from the Calderon Group. Your presentation was fantastic. Have you ever thought about making a change? We can offer better benefits than Wells Group."

A teasing voice chimed in, "Why not join CR Corporation instead? You can set your own terms."

Turning, Linsey spotted Collin sitting in his wheelchair beside Dustin.

Realizing who Dustin was, and fully aware that his own company couldn't hold a candle to CR Corporation, the man quickly backed off, embarrassment written all over his face.

“Wait, did you just say I could really work at CR Corporation?” Linsey’s eyes shone as she asked, disbelief and excitement evident in her voice.

Chapter 1312:

Dustin gave a confident nod. “Absolutely. I’m the CEO, so the decision’s all mine.”

“Oh my God,” Linsey exclaimed, overjoyed.

She seized Dustin’s hands, her excitement spilling out. “So you’re the CEO of CR Corporation!”

The move caught Dustin off guard. He glanced down at his hands, feeling an icy shiver, as if someone had just pressed a blade to his throat.

Dustin stiffened, glancing nervously at Collin, whose expression had turned thunderous. Doing his best to sound innocent, he protested, “Hey, this wasn’t my idea; she grabbed me first.”

Collin didn’t bother responding to him. His attention was locked on Linsey, eyes burning with fury. “Linsey, are you testing me? Don’t think I won’t cut those hands off.”

The fact that she had dared to hold another man’s hands right in front of him was almost too much for him to believe.

“My fault. I just got carried away,” Linsey said, quickly pulling her hands back but still beaming at Dustin. Without missing a beat, she added, “Yes, I’d love to work at CR Corporation!”

That answer caught Dustin off guard. Hadn’t she planned to stay at Wells Group just to spite her ex? He didn’t expect her to accept his offer so easily.

Then again, it made perfect sense.

Considering Linsey's talent as a designer, it was clear that anyone in her field would leap at the opportunity to work for a powerhouse like CR Corporation. Besides, with a direct invitation from the president himself, her quick acceptance was hardly surprising.

Dustin's doubts faded, and he grinned. "Perfect. My secretary will reach out soon to work out the details."

"Sounds good!" Linsey replied, her happiness impossible to hide.

She had hoped this presentation might open a door for her to join CR Corporation, but she never imagined they would approach her first.

A burst of laughter escaped Linsey, but she quickly fell silent the moment she caught sight of Collin's serious expression.

"We're leaving. Now," Collin said, his voice clipped.

He didn't even wait for Linsey to respond, leaving with a stony face.

"What's gotten into him? Why is he so angry?" Linsey muttered under her breath.

"Well, Collin's just being jealous," Dustin said with a playful grin, reading the situation clearly. "Go patch things up with him."

The event wrapped up smoothly, and Linsey said her goodbyes to her coworkers before heading out early.

Stepping out of the hotel, she found the night had grown deep and quiet.

As she slid into the Rolls-Royce, a frosty tension hit her immediately. Before she could open her mouth to address Collin, he cut in with a sharp question. "Do you like Dustin?"

“Of course,” Linsey replied with a firm nod.

Collin’s face clouded over, his jaw tightening.

Just as he seemed ready to snap, Linsey clarified with sincerity, “It’s not really about liking him—it’s more admiration. Do you know why I got into design? It all started because of the founder of CR Corporation.”

At that, Collin’s anger melted away, replaced by a spark of curiosity. “Because of me?”

Chapter 1313:

“What?” Linsey blinked, confused.

Collin leaned back, his tone matter-of-fact. “Dustin’s just the face of the company. I’m the actual founder of CR Corporation.”

The next morning, Roland came to rouse Linsey for breakfast.

As she descended the staircase, she spotted Collin and flashed him a warm smile. “Good morning!”

“Morning,” Collin replied from the dining table, a faint grin tugging at his lips.

Roland, however, stood frozen, stunned.

He had never seen Linsey act so warm toward Collin before.

It felt so surreal he wondered if he was still dreaming.

Linsey eagerly took a seat across from Collin, pouring him coffee with care. "Is Roland's breakfast to your liking? Want me to whip up something else?"

Collin raised an eyebrow, his voice laced with teasing. "What, trying to poison me?"

Normally, Linsey would snap back at his sarcasm.

But ever since learning last night that the true founder of CR Corporation, the one she had been looking up to, was Collin, her entire demeanor had shifted. At first, she had been skeptical, but when Collin called Dustin in front of her to confirm, she believed him.

Now, hearing his jab, Linsey gave an awkward laugh and admitted, "I'm actually a decent cook. I just... had a bias against you before, so I made the food taste awful on purpose."

Collin set down his fork, intrigued. "Then go make me something now."

"Okay!" Linsey nodded enthusiastically.

Excited at the chance to cook for the one she respected, she hurried to the kitchen without a second thought.

Five minutes later, she returned with a steaming, appetizing breakfast. Eagerly, she asked, "So, how is it? Is it good?"

"It's great," Collin said, giving an honest nod.

Linsey's face lit up with joy. "Have more if you like it! Anytime you want me to cook, just say the word. I'll get up early to make whatever you want."

Collin didn't respond to her offer directly. Instead, he eyed her with a playful smirk. "What's with you today? Why the sudden kindness?"

“Because you were my inspiration in college!” Linsey gushed, her admiration spilling over. “To me, you’re absolutely incredible now.”

Collin soaked in the praise, clearly enjoying it. If he had known that revealing his role as CR Corporation’s founder would work such wonders, he would have done it ages ago, saving them countless arguments.

Linsey’s voice chimed in again, bright with excitement. “I’ve got the day off. Are you free? I have so many design questions I’d like to ask you.”

“Sure,” Collin replied, his tone slow and deliberate, hinting at a catch.

Linsey tilted her head, curiosity piqued. “What’s the condition?”

Collin didn’t mince words. “Answer one question for me first. Get it right, and I’ll be happy to help with your work-related questions. Get it wrong...”

Before he could finish, Linsey cut in confidently, “I won’t mess this up. I promise, if I know the answer, I’ll be completely upfront—no lies.”

Chapter 1314:

Truthfully, she had no secrets from Collin. She was an open book around him, which made her wonder what he could possibly want to know.

Her curiosity growing, she pressed eagerly, “So, what’s your question?”

Collin went straight to the point. “What’s your plan to get even with Felix?”

The question clicked, and Linsey’s eyes lit up with understanding.

She answered candidly, “Originally, I planned to grit my teeth and stick it out at the Wells Group for a bit, save up some cash, then launch my own small studio, poaching some colleagues and key projects along the way...”

Collin interrupted before she could finish. “Why put up with that? How much could you even make there? If you want to start a company, I’ll back you with funding.”

Linsey shook her head. “I know the pay’s not great, so I scrapped that idea. Last night’s event wasn’t even my responsibility, but I figured if I shined, I would catch the attention of some industry big shots. If they offered me a job, I would jump ship to a better role, taking Wells Group’s design team and projects with me.”

“So, what’s your plan now? Start your own company or join CR Corporation?” Collin asked, leaning forward slightly.

“CR Corporation, no question!” Linsey declared, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. “I’ve dreamed of working there since college! Plus, I can negotiate my own salary and benefits. Isn’t that better than the grind of starting my own business?”

She had the skills to run a company, but the thought alone exhausted her.

Years ago, when the Wells Group hit a rough patch, Felix had buckled under pressure, leaving Linsey to carry the load. She barely slept, constantly fretting over...

Potential crises, losing weight, and mental peace in the process. After weighing her options, a high-level executive role felt far more appealing.

Collin nodded, respecting her choice, and didn’t press further.

But he wasn’t convinced her plan to hurt Felix went far enough. “How does that really hit him where it hurts?”

Linsey's tone was serious, her eyes glinting with determination. "Don't underestimate the Fashion Design Department I built from scratch. It accounts for half of Wells Group's revenue. If I walk away with the core projects and design team, Felix will take a massive hit."

She could already picture Felix's furious expression, and the thought brought a rush of satisfaction.

But for Collin, her revenge felt too tame compared to the pain Felix had inflicted on her.

In his mind, Felix deserved to lose everything—bankruptcy at the very least.

Collin kept his thoughts to himself, his face calm as he nudged her gently. "Come on, eat up."

After breakfast, they retreated to the study, diving into a lively discussion about design.

Collin knew a lot about design. Facing Linsey's questions, he answered with clear and concise explanations.

Chapter 1315:

Linsey sat in awe and even grabbed a notebook, eager to write down everything she could.

Minutes turned into hours. Before long, more than two had slipped by.

Collin mentioned taking a break, and Linsey readily agreed.

While he sipped water to soothe his throat, Linsey flipped through her notes, a lingering question forming in her mind.

She glanced up at Collin and asked, "Would it be all right if I asked you something personal?"

He gave a small nod, showing he was open to her question. "What sort of question?"

Without wasting time, Linsey went straight to the point. "You're obviously talented, so why do you keep your role as the founder of CR Corporation a secret? Why let Dustin be its face?"

A short silence passed before Collin started to respond. "The reason is..." Right then, his answer was cut short by the sudden ring of the phone on the table.

Checking the screen, Linsey quickly apologized. "Sorry about this. I have to take the call."

She picked up, and Lara's voice rang out, full of excitement. "Linsey, want to hear some juicy news?"

The question left Linsey confused. "What happened?"

"Remember that computer issue at last night's event? They finally found out who did it!"

Before Linsey could say anything, Lara added, "It turns out Cynthia was behind the whole thing."

The news left Linsey stunned. "How did you learn about all this?"

"Since you had the day off, you missed all the action. Felix called a meeting to announce that what happened was intentional, and he decided on the spot to fire Cynthia. After that..."

Lara's voice slowed, thick with satisfaction. "Cynthia refused to go quietly, so Felix had security come and force her out. She lost her temper and started blaming Joanna, saying it was Joanna's idea all along. But Joanna denied everything, which only made Cynthia angrier. Right in front of everyone, Cynthia shouted that the design drafts were never missing, and that Joanna was the one who told her to create problems for you."

Linsey's eyes gleamed with anticipation as she asked, "Then what? What happened next?"

Lara answered with a rush of excitement, "It only got wilder. Joanna kept pretending to be innocent, but Cynthia finally snapped and tried to attack her! Felix jumped in to pull them apart and got hit by Cynthia herself."

Hearing all that, Linsey jumped to her feet, unable to hide her curiosity. "Are they still going at it?"

"They are! Want to come and watch? You have to see this for yourself!" Lara let out a laugh before adding, "Felix asked us to help separate them, but honestly, none of us bothered. Those two always make things difficult for us."

Linsey usually avoided office drama, but since these two had given her so much trouble and were now turning on each other, she felt a spark of satisfaction and couldn't resist the urge to see it unfold. "Hang on for me, I'm coming back to the office right now!"

Chapter 1316:

She ended the call and looked over at Collin. A bright, barely concealed grin spread across her face as she made up a reason. "Collin, something urgent just came up at work. I have to go."

She had no idea that Collin, sitting close by with his sharp hearing, had caught every word, even though she hadn't put the phone on speaker.

Not wanting to let on, Collin simply acted as though he knew nothing. He kept his expression neutral and nodded. "Go ahead."

The drive from Vista Villa to the Wells Group took Linsey roughly thirty minutes. She hurried, anxious that she would miss the drama entirely. To her relief, she arrived just as the chaos was peaking.

The moment Linsey burst inside, she found the office in shambles. Shouts and shrieks echoed off the walls, making the place feel like it could collapse at any second.

Cynthia had Joanna pinned to the floor, her grip merciless. Felix hovered nearby, desperate to step in, but with Cynthia wielding a fruit knife, he kept his distance, too scared of getting hurt.

Joanna screamed in pain as Cynthia pulled her hair, frantically calling out to Felix, “Felix, do something! Help me!”

Felix’s face twisted with worry as he tried to reason with Cynthia. “Please, Cynthia, let her go. We can talk this out calmly.”

“Talk this out?” Cynthia scoffed, eyes wild. “Joanna’s the one behind all the mess, but everyone sides with her because she plays the victim so well. I’m done with it.”

“Cynthia—” Felix barely got a word out before Cynthia cut him off with a shrill scream, shouting, “I’m done! If I’m sinking, Joanna is going down with me!”

Without another word, Cynthia lifted the knife high, pointing it straight at Joanna with wild intent.

Joanna screamed again, her voice raw with fear, tears streaming down her cheeks. “Please! Someone help me!”

Even as Joanna screamed for help, no one dared to move. They were paralyzed by fear at the sight of Cynthia’s knife.

In that tense moment, only Linsey sprang into action.

Seizing the opportunity while Cynthia was distracted, Linsey lunged forward, boldly grabbing Cynthia’s arm and trying to wrest the knife away.

“Let me go!” Cynthia shrieked, thrashing wildly in Linsey’s grasp. “I’m going to kill that bitch!”

Driven by a surge of anger, Cynthia’s strength became almost impossible for Linsey to handle.

The knife in Cynthia's grip edged dangerously closer to Joanna's forehead, forcing Linsey to yell at Felix and the others, desperation in her voice. "Don't just stand there! Help me!"

"Oh, right..." That snapped Felix out of his trance, and he lunged forward to help subdue Cynthia.

Together, they wrestled with her, struggling to pry the knife away.

Chapter 1317:

Felix managed to snatch the knife away at last, but just as he thought it was over, Cynthia lunged forward and slammed her elbow into his chest, knocking the wind out of him.

The knife slipped from his fingers, spinning through the air in a wild, uncontrolled spin.

Everyone else recoiled in horror, scrambling backward, while Joanna, bruised and battered, was too weak to get up.

In a terrible twist of fate, the sharp point of the blade plunged into Joanna's abdomen.

A wet, sickening sound filled Joanna's ears.

Her eyes went wide in shock, her back arching as blood poured out, unstoppable.

Pain unlike anything she'd ever felt shot through her.

"Ahhh!" Joanna's scream ripped through the office, chilling everyone to the core.

"Joanna!" Felix called out, his voice trembling.

Joanna collapsed, utterly exhausted, her blood pooling beneath her. Her eyelids fluttered, her breathing faint and shallow.

At that moment, the wail of police sirens grew louder, and uniformed officers stormed into the room, quickly moving to arrest Cynthia.

Minutes later, the ambulance pulled up to the building.

Two paramedics burst through the entrance, working alongside the office staff to carefully transfer Joanna onto a stretcher. Without delay, they wheeled her toward the exit.

Felix started to follow when a police officer's stern voice stopped him cold.

"Who owns this company?"

"I am." Felix's hand shot up, his face still pale with shock. "Officer, is something wrong?"

The policeman's eyes locked onto Felix with practiced authority. "We'll need you down at the station for questioning. Standard procedure for our investigation."

"Okay."

Felix gave a quick nod.

Before leaving, he turned to one of his workers. "Kirby, take care of everything."

"Understood, Mr. Wells." Kirby stepped forward as Felix hurried after the officers.

Immediately, the office erupted in anxious whispers.

“God, that was horrifying. I thought they were just arguing, but Cynthia completely lost it. She actually tried to kill Joanna.”

“My heart’s still racing. For a second there, I thought that blade was coming straight for me.”

While everyone else huddled in heated conversation, Linsey slipped away unnoticed.

Her hand reached for the door handle, but her right arm shook violently from the pain. Crimson droplets traced down her forearm, gathering at her fingertips before spattering onto the floor below.

Chapter 1318:

“Linsey, Kirby told us what happened...” Lara burst in, then froze at the sight before her. “You’re hurt!”

Linsey managed a weak nod. “Just a small cut from when I tried to grab the knife away from Cynthia. Really, it’s nothing serious.”

“Nothing serious? Your entire arm is soaked in blood!” Lara quickly shut the door and guided her to a chair. “Sit down right now. I’m getting the first aid kit to patch you up properly.”

Linsey sank into the seat gratefully. “Thank you.”

While carefully bandaging the wound, Lara couldn’t resist asking, “You clearly don’t like them, so why did you jump in to save Joanna?”

Linsey let out a soft laugh. “I wasn’t really thinking in that moment. Something inside me just couldn’t stand by and watch someone die.”

Lara shook her head with a heavy sigh. “Honestly, Felix has lost his mind. Trading away someone as genuine as you for that manipulative witch.”

“That chapter’s closed now.”

Linsey's voice carried quiet finality, the painful memories already buried where they belonged.

Before Lara could launch into another rant, Linsey smoothly changed direction. "Actually, Lara, I'm planning to resign."

Lara's hands froze mid-wrap, her eyes going wide. "Already?"

Linsey nodded matter-of-factly. "After the event showcase, CR Corporation's CEO was impressed enough to offer me a position there."

She met Lara's gaze directly. "Want to make the jump with me?"

"Are you kidding me? CR Corporation is every designer's ultimate dream job. Of course I want in!" Lara practically bounced with excitement before catching herself. "But their standards are supposedly sky-high. I'm not sure I'd even make the cut..."

Linsey's smile was reassuring. "I know exactly what you're capable of. I wouldn't be asking if I didn't think you could handle it. Don't stress about it. I've already worked out the details with CR's people, and they're letting me bring someone along."

The news hit Lara like lightning. She threw her arms around Linsey in pure joy. "God, you're the most amazing boss in existence! I'm sticking with you forever!"

Meanwhile, across town, Felix wrapped up his statement at the police station and immediately rushed to the hospital without stopping for so much as a glass of water.

The emergency room doors swung open as a doctor emerged.

Felix shot up from his chair, anxiety written across his face. "Doctor, how's my girlfriend doing?"

The doctor's face was grave. He didn't sugarcoat the truth. "We managed to pull her back from the edge. Still, the blow to her head caused damage to her brain, and she lost a dangerous amount of blood from her abdomen. She slipped into hemorrhagic shock. It's possible she'll never wake up. You need to be ready for that."

Felix stared back at the doctor, unable to process it all. His shock froze him in place. Even when the doctor walked away, Felix just stood there, lost in a haze of confusion. It seemed disaster refused to let up.

Chapter 1319:

Arriving back at the company, Felix quickly realized the situation had only gotten worse. Linsey had rallied fifteen designers to resign all at once. With the entire design team ready to follow Linsey out the door, Felix was suddenly left with an empty department.

Stunned by the mass exodus, Felix barely moved until only Linsey was left in the office with him.

He turned to her, desperate and confused. "What's going on here? After what happened today, you're about to walk away with everyone?"

Linsey's eyes were cold and steady. "This is your company, Felix, not mine. I don't give a damn about it. I'm leaving because it's time to move forward, and that's perfectly within my rights. If you think you can stop me, try taking me to court."

Frustration tightened his jaw. "You can't be serious..."

Anger rising, Felix finally managed to force out an offer. "If you stay, I'll give you a raise."

She didn't even hesitate. "That means nothing to me."

Without another word, Linsey turned on her heel and headed for the door. Just as she reached the threshold, Felix's nerves finally broke. He called out, panic in his voice, "Linsey, wait!"

She didn't slow down. The door closed behind her without a backward glance. Boiling with anger, Felix swept everything off his desk in one wild motion and yelled, "Linsey, you'll regret this!"

Pulling out his phone with jittery hands, Felix didn't hesitate to punch in the number he knew by heart.

A forced grin replaced his earlier scowl the moment the call connected. "Hello, Mr. Riley. It's Felix speaking."

The reply was cold as ice. "What do you want?" New novel chapters are published on [find·novel·net](#)

Forcing enthusiasm, Felix added, "You mentioned last night that if I tracked down the person who set Linsey up and called them out in front of my employees, you'd reward me with a big contract from CR Corporation. I did exactly what you asked."

Their conversation continued for a few more minutes, but Collin wasted no time ending the call.

Felix's mood lifted after Collin agreed to arrange everything right away. Winning the partnership with CR Corporation would be his turning point. He pictured the company's name shining once more, attracting new talent by the dozens, and imagined Linsey regretting her choice to leave.

Meanwhile, inside CR Corporation's president's office, Collin flung his phone onto the desk and reached for a glass of red wine, swirling it idly.

Since he had put the phone on speaker, Dustin had caught every word and now turned to Collin, his eyebrow raised in disbelief. "Are you actually going to work with the Wells Group?"

Collin's response was casual, even amused. "All I said was that I'd throw him a project. Nobody promised it would make him any money."

At first, Dustin thought the situation made little sense. Felix had once dated Linsey, and considering Collin's usual temper, he couldn't figure out why Collin would willingly go out of his way to back Felix's company.

Chapter 1320:

Now that he had heard Collin lay out his reasoning, the entire picture became clear.

Collin was quietly building a trap meant for Felix, one that would eventually leave him ruined and penniless.

A slow whistle escaped Dustin before he shook his head. "You're sharper than ever."

Collin shifted his attention to his laptop and added, "Check your email. You'll find all the details there. I want this plan followed to the letter. Felix will never make a comeback."

"Understood," Dustin replied, nodding. Still, a hint of curiosity lingered in his voice. "If you've got everything mapped out and the right people lined up, why have me handle it personally?"

With a hint of a smirk, Collin replied, "Linsey doesn't trust how far I'll go. If things blow up, someone else will need to take the heat."

Dustin stared in disbelief. "Seriously? I put my heart into this, and you turn me into your scapegoat!"

Collin, sounding completely unbothered, said, "I'll give you \$50 million as compensation. You'll get it all at once."

At the mention of money, Dustin's mood shifted immediately. "Relax, I'll make sure Felix ends up with nothing. I'll take care of it!"

Linsey finished work early and made her way home.

Stepping through the door, she immediately saw that Ivy was already there. "Ivy..." She hurried over, a bright smile spreading across her face as she greeted her. "Why didn't you tell me you were coming? I would've loved to pick you up myself!"

Ivy squeezed Linsey's hand, her eyes warm and full of affection. "That's too much of a bother for you. I can come over without any trouble."

She paused, holding onto Linsey's hand, her tone softening. "But Linsey, I actually need a favor this time."

"You need a favor? Of course, I'll help if I can!" Linsey answered immediately. "Just tell me what you need."

From behind her, Ivy pulled out a heavy photo album. The look in her eyes turned a little sad. "Tomorrow is Collin's birthday. He always loved his birthdays as a kid. I used to plan his celebrations, but now I can't keep up with what's popular. All my ideas seem boring. Could you help throw him a party and make sure he has a great time?"

Linsey understood what Ivy wanted, but she hesitated. "Ivy, I'm not sure I'm all that creative when it comes to birthdays..."

"Well, what did you do for your birthdays before?" Ivy asked, curious.

Linsey pressed her lips together, thinking back. "I used to..."

The memories stopped her for a moment as she thought about her past birthdays. Aside from the last celebration Collin had arranged for her, Felix had never really bothered with her birthdays—not once during the more than five years they spent together.

Linsey paused for a few moments before giving a different answer. "I hardly ever celebrated my own birthday. When I planned something for someone else, I usually cooked a good meal or reserved a table at a restaurant, then bought a cake and a present."