

Zillionaire 221

Chapter 221 You're Truly

A Devoted Husband

Linsey still remembered the promise she had made to Dustin earlier in his car-to speak highly of him in front of Collin.

This gesture would likely lessen the chance of Dustin steering clear of future meetings with Collin.

Knowing how seldom Collin made friends, Linsey was keen to prevent a fleeting impulse from ruining his relationship with

Dustin

Yet, Collin perceived the situation through a different lens. He noted Linsey's genuine appreciation for the photograph,

which coaxed him into extending a reluctant olive branch toward Dustin.

After agreeing to keep the photograph, Collin made sure to caution Dustin. "This is a one-time thing. Do not take photos

without permission again."

Linsey softly patted Collin's shoulder, urging gently, "Come on, don't be so mean."

Collin paused, seemed about to justify himself, then finally admitted in his defense. "I wasn't being harsh. Just giving a

reminder."

Dustin, observing all this, marveled quietly to himself.

He recognized that soliciting Linsey's assistance had been a wise decision. The shift in Collin's demeanor was immediate

and remarkable.

It struck him then-had he ever noticed how adept Collin was at modulating his emotions?

Simultaneously, Dustin experienced a quiet shock.

Collin, typically so resolute and unwavering, was now taking heed of a woman's advice.

Was this moment more a testament to Linsey's influence or a nod to Collin's newfound adaptability?

Linsey laughed lightly, flicking away some dust from Collin's jacket.

Collin raised his hand, signaling her to stop, and murmured, "It's dirty. Don't touch it."

"Then go change quickly. I'll have the staff clean up the kitchen," Linsey said as she turned to seek the maids out.

Collin moved toward Dustin, inquiring, "What did you want to talk about?"

Dustin adopted a grave tone. "It's something important."

Collin seemed unfazed. "I need to change first, then have dinner with Linsey. She's been on her feet all day and hasn't

eaten much. I've already troubled her enough..."

As Collin continued to elaborate on his concern for Linsey, Dustin cut in. "Alright, I get it. You care about your wife. No need to explain further. I really do have something crucial to discuss. Let's head to the study."

Linsey, having just spoken to the maids, caught Dustin's plea and glanced at Collin.

To her surprise, Collin immediately declined. "I'm busy. Come back another time."

Linsey swiftly intervened. "Collin, please head to the study and speak with Mr. Wade. I'll take care of things here with the

maids."

She approached him, leaned down, and whispered softly in his ear, "Mr. Wade is your friend and our guest. Remember to be polite."

Collin's expression clouded with a frown, and he seemed poised to argue, but the stern look in Linsey's eyes halted him.

He paused, then offered her a conciliatory smile and gently took her hand.

"Alright, I understand. Don't overdo it, okay? Let the maids handle everything and make sure they prepare something nice for you to eat," Collin conceded.

Linsey nodded in agreement and gestured for Collin's assistant to come and push his wheelchair.

After changing, Collin made his way into the study with Dustin.

As soon as the door closed behind them, Collin caught Dustin giving him a peculiar look.

Collin scowled. "What's with that look?"

Dustin shook his head, took a seat on the sofa, and let out a heavy sigh. "How did

I not see it before? You're truly a devoted husband. It seems you follow your wife's suggestions without any resistance."

Chapter 222 Linsey Isn't A

Prize To Be Won

Collin remained composed, his voice even as he responded, "What's the issue with following my wife's suggestions without any resistance? Linsey genuinely cares about me, and I'm content to let her be in charge."

He then teased Dustin. "That's more than I can say for you. Have you even found a woman who can keep you in line? You've flitted from one relationship to another and still haven't found someone to settle down with."

Dustin's expression tightened at the pointed remark.

It was a hard truth. Throughout the years, Dustin had wandered from one fleeting romance to the next, yet none of those relationships had blossomed into something real. Each woman was drawn to his wealth and status, hoping to gain his

favor.

This pattern had led him to a deep skepticism about love, culminating in his decision to remain unmarried.

By stark contrast, Linsey's love for Collin was heartfelt. She looked beyond his material possessions and his challenges, focusing instead on supporting him as his wife.

Indeed, Collin was a lucky man.

The more Dustin pondered this, the more his irritation grew. He retorted, "Collin, are you truly so sure Linsey will always

be there for you?"

His laugh was hollow. "Watch out. I might just charm her away from you."

His words were impulsive, but the immediate shift in Collin's demeanor was unmistakable—his voice grew icy. "You dare?"

Dustin stiffened as Collin's piercing gaze bore into him, sending an icy shiver down his spine. Dustin hurriedly backpedaled.

"No, no, I was only joking!"

He knew a confrontation with Collin could escalate quickly.

Trying to defuse the situation, Dustin quickly added, "Remember, Collin, Linsey asked you to treat me well since I'm a guest. She would be upset to hear you were harsh with me. She's put so much into this family, and you're not even cooperating. She might end up crying over this!"

Collin inhaled deeply, working to calm his rising anger. After a brief pause, he replied coldly, "I'll overlook it this time."

But before Dustin could feel relieved, Collin added sternly, "But bear in mind, Linsey isn't a prize to be won. Avoid making such jokes in the future, or you might regret it."

Dustin was taken aback, not expecting his casual remark to strike such a nerve.

In retrospect, Dustin acknowledged his rash behavior.

Linsey was Collin's cherished partner, not a person to be toyed with.

Dustin wiped the cold sweat from his brow, overwhelmed by a creeping fear he couldn't dismiss.

Collin had masked his true temperament so effectively in Linsey's presence that even Dustin had nearly forgotten how daunting he could be.

It was common knowledge in Grester that provoking the founder of CR Corporation was a grave mistake.

Dustin exhaled slowly, reminding himself to tread more carefully in the future.

Observing Collin's deep affection for Linsey, Dustin understood that even if he upset Collin, he couldn't risk alienating

Linsey.

Deciding to steer clear of the precarious subject, Dustin swiftly changed the topic. "Right, right, I almost forgot. I came to

you today for something important-really important."

Collin cast him a wary look. "Spit it out."

Dustin's expression grew grave. "Gorman is returning to Grester."

At this news, Collin paused. "Gorman's been overseas for years. What's bringing him back to Grester now?"

Chapter 223 Look Into Woman's Identity And...

Dustin leaned in, his face lighting up with a mysterious grin. "I heard Gorman was coming back to find a woman."

"A woman? Who?" Surprise flickered in Collin's eyes as he looked up at Dustin, eager for more details.

Dustin let out a chuckle. "Remember two years ago? Gorman was ambushed overseas. He was gravely injured, on the brink of death, and a woman saved him. After he recovered, he spent two years searching for her but never found her." Dustin paused, reflecting. "Now, his return to town probably has everything to do with finding his savior."

Collin responded calmly, "Anyone brave enough to save Gorman in such peril must be quite remarkable."

Yet Dustin, with a sly grin, had already moved ahead in his thoughts. "Collin, consider this: Gorman has attempted to take your life multiple times. Now that we're aware of his motive, why don't we locate his savior first? If we find her, we'll gain some leverage over him."

Without hesitation, Collin dismissed the suggestion. "There's no need for that," he declared firmly. "This is a personal matter between Gorman and me. We shouldn't involve an innocent person."

Dustin sighed, clearly disappointed with the rebuttal.

Once Collin decided on a course of action, he rarely wavered. Nevertheless, Dustin attempted another angle.

"We don't need to harm her. Just finding her and making contact might turn her into a valuable ally," Dustin suggested.

Dustin continued to press his point. "Consider Gorman's ruthlessness. With him back in town, it's uncertain what he's planning. We must stay one step ahead."

Collin's expression remained stoic, showing no sign of agreement. Seeing this, Dustin played his last card, the one thing that might sway his friend.

"If you won't consider your own safety, think of Linsey. Your marriage to her is well-known around Grester. If Gorman discovers your true identity, he won't hesitate to target her. While you focus on keeping bystanders out of this, Linsey could already be in danger. What will you do then?"

The mention of Linsey's name instantly altered Collin's expression.

He could handle Gorman's plots against him, but the thought of Linsey in danger was something he couldn't bear.

With a frown, Collin admitted, "You're right. Gorman will stop at nothing to reach me."

"Exactly!" Dustin clapped his hands, his face lighting up with satisfaction.

The mention of Linsey had clearly made a significant impact.

Collin paused, considering his next steps. After a moment, he conceded, "Fine. Look into the woman's identity and whereabouts. But remember, no harm comes to her. Just ask for her cooperation."

"Got it, got it," Dustin replied, rising to his feet and heading out of the room.

Meanwhile, Linsey had just finished assisting the maids with cleaning the kitchen, who was now busy preparing dinner.

Noticing Dustin making his way out, Linsey called after him, her curiosity piqued. "Mr. Wade, you're leaving already? Aren't you staying for dinner with us?"

Chapter 224 Your Friend Is Quite The Narcissist

Dustin looked back at Linsey.

He had pressing matters to attend to and couldn't linger for a meal with the couple.

Moreover, knowing Collin's tendency toward jealousy, he thought better of staying.

With a mischievous smile, Dustin said, "Really, there's no need. I'm just too charming. If I hang around any longer, you might start falling for me. Collin is a good friend, and it would just make things awkward."

With those words, Dustin quickly left, leaving Linsey dumbfounded on the sofa.

When Collin entered the room, he noticed Linsey's puzzled look and asked, "What's wrong?"

Linsey managed a weak smile. "Your friend is quite the narcissist. I had him pegged all wrong."

Collin arched an eyebrow. "Just ignore him."

"Alright, let's eat before I keel over. I'm really hungry." Linsey stood up and assisted Collin into his wheelchair.

The two settled at the dining table, sharing stories and laughter as they savored their meal.

Linsey arrived at the office punctually the next day.

To her astonishment, Kylee was already there, much earlier than anticipated.

"Kylee, what brings you here so early?" Linsey inquired.

Kylee responded with a bright smile, "You mentioned last night that the dress was ready. I was so thrilled, I hardly slept a

wink. Please, let's go try it on. I can hardly wait."

"Certainly." Linsey agreed, and after stowing her belongings, she escorted Kylee to the studio where the dress was kept.

As they approached the glass cabinet, Linsey unlocked it and carefully extracted the mannequin inside.

"Be cautious," Kylee advised softly from behind.

Unseen by Linsey, Kylee's expression turned cunning.

Linsey then gently lifted the cloth covering the dress, unveiling the completed gown to Kylee.

Kylee exclaimed with delight, her expression brightening, "Oh my! It's stunning!"

Just then, Coen entered and caught sight of the dress Linsey had crafted. He nodded in approval. "Impressive. Linsey has consistently wowed Anthea, proving her exceptional talent as a designer."

Kylee turned to Linsey with a gratified smile. "I'm so glad I chose you back then."

Linsey flushed slightly. "Kylee, would you like to try it on now?"

"Absolutely, please assist me," Kylee agreed.

Together, they removed the dress from the mannequin and proceeded to the adjacent changing room.

Once Kylee slipped into the dress, she admired herself in the mirror.

Linsey made fine adjustments from behind.

"How does it feel? Are you pleased?" Linsey queried. "If there's anything amiss, I can fix it right now."

Kylee touched her waist. "The waist feels a bit snug. Could you loosen it slightly? I've indulged a bit too much since my

return."

Linsey nodded in response. "Of course, I'll ease it out just a touch."

Kylee suggested a few additional minor tweaks.

"When the red carpet day arrives, I'll wear this dress and snap a few photos for an

online promotion," Kylee beamed. "Let's connect on Twitter then."

"Okay." Linsey nodded in agreement.

Chapter 225 Linsey Won't Be On Top Forever

After Kylee departed, Coen showered Linsey with praise.

"Linsey, at first I pegged you as just another novice, but you've consistently impressed me. Keep pushing yourself. It's only

a matter of time before you're leading our design team, and I wouldn't be surprised if the entire fashion world soon recognizes your talent!"

Coen was all smiles. "And when that day comes, I'll be reaping some rewards too—think promotions and pay raises."

Linsey responded with a modest smile. "I owe it all to your mentorship, Coen. You made it possible for me to finish this gown so seamlessly. Thank you for everything you've taught me."

Her gratitude made Coen's smile broaden. He took the opportunity to laud her in front of their peers, urging them to take a leaf out of her book.

While most colleagues headed to the cafeteria for lunch, Linsey stayed behind in the studio, perfecting the gown.

"Wow, Linsey's commitment is something else. It's no wonder she's held in such high esteem."

"I'll admit, I was a bit envious of her apparent good fortune at first, but now, seeing the effort she puts in, it feels justified. She truly earns her accolades."

"Indeed, I heard she's been the first in and last out every day for a fortnight, working tirelessly."

"Linsey's really carving out her niche. With Kylee's upcoming red carpet appearance, she's bound to see an influx of orders." Curiosity filled the air as one colleague pondered aloud, "What does the gown Linsey crafted for Kylee look like? We've yet to see it. Kylee was here for a fitting early today, and from her and Coen's reactions, it must be quite the masterpiece."

"Absolutely, it's bound to dazzle. We'll all see it at the red carpet event soon. Can't wait!"

At that moment, Cynthia passed by with her lunch, overhearing the commendations.

With a scoff, she remarked sarcastically, "Oh, please. The red carpet event hasn't even happened yet. For all we know, Linsey's design might flop, and if it does, it'll reflect poorly on all of us."

Her comment caused a stir among the group.

"Cynthia, you should hold off on the negativity. Maybe focus on honing your own skills instead. You've missed your targets the last two months. Fall short again this month, and Coen might not keep you around."

Visibly irked, Cynthia had no comeback. She said resentfully before she walked away, "Just you wait. Linsey won't be on

top forever."

The others exchanged knowing looks, returning to their conversations.

"She truly despises Linsey more than anyone else."

"Let's just ignore her and enjoy our lunch."

At last, the day of the red carpet event arrived. CR Corporation and Kylee shared

promotional photos on Twitter, featuring Kylee in the stunning gown.

The moment the photos hit the Internet, excitement surged.

"Is that really Kylee?"

"Mom, look! Your favorite actress is shining in the spotlight again!".

"This gown is absolutely breathtaking"

"Kylee's usual soft, gentle style has been transformed. This unique gown makes her look incredibly striking!"

"The futuristic theme of the gown suits Kylee perfectly, lending her an air of mystery. I'm totally captivated by it!"

You

Chapter 226 Linsey, You're Our Shining Star!

"Honestly, the dress keeps true to Kylee's signature style while introducing something fresh and unique. It's absolutely

stunning!

"I've been a fan for years. Kylee, you've got my love forever!"

"Kylee's beauty is unparalleled, and she masters every style. Now, who can call her one-dimensional?"

"Has anyone noticed who designed this dress? It was actually crafted by a designer from CR Corporation."

"It appears CR Corporation's designers hadn't embraced this style previously. Could there be a new virtuoso among them?"

Curiosity piqued, numerous netizens delved into CR Corporation's roster of designers but found no leads.

Amidst the growing speculation, Kylee pinned a comment and tagged Linsey's account. "Stop guessing, everyone. It's this talented young woman-an outstanding designer!"

The netizens were taken aback.

"Wow, a newcomer designed this? That's remarkable!"

"Linsey, your name is one to remember."

"She recently joined CR Corporation and already she's designed such a magnificent dress. Quite the feat!"

"Linsey, please design for our favorite celebrity. We're tired of those lackluster outfits."

In no time, Linsey's Twitter profile witnessed an explosion of new followers.

Fans and netizens alike thronged to her page, lauding her designs. Some implored her to design for other celebrities.

The buzz was palpable and charged with enthusiasm.

Moreover, CR Corporation was inundated with inquiries, many requesting Linsey specifically.

Coen couldn't hide his delight and made his way to Linsey's desk. "Linsey, you're our shining star! We'll be celebrating

your success after this red carpet event."

Her colleagues came together, echoing words of congratulations.

"Linsey, congratulations! Your fame has soared. We're all thrilled for you!"

Linsey responded with a smile, "Thank you."

Coen chuckled. "This dress promotion doesn't just benefit Linsey and the

company-it's good for all of you too. Some clients are now showing interest in our other designers."

The entire office erupted with excitement..

"Really? Wasn't this Linsey's design? Why are they asking about us?" a colleague asked curiously.

Coen smiled. "People online are saying that if Linsey, a newcomer, can create such outstanding work, our seasoned designers must be even more impressive. Naturally, they're eager to collaborate. In short, the universal acclaim for Linsey's design is a huge win for all of us!"

Colleagues laughed joyfully, thanking Linsey as they clasped her hands.

"Linsey, we owe you so much!"

Linsey was amused and touched by everyone's gratitude. "You're all talented-just missing opportunities. I'm glad to help."

Away from the excitement, Cynthia stood quietly at a distance, observing without a trace of resentment.

Instead, she smiled slyly and let out a soft, cold chuckle.

Chapter 227 You'll Find Out Soon Enough

Cynthia knew all too well that Linsey's surge in popularity was just a fleeting episode.

The more accolades Linsey amassed now, the steeper her decline would be.

With a smirk, Cynthia reveled in anticipation of Linsey's downfall.

Soon, everyone would turn against Linsey, criticizing and shunning her. No longer would they admire her.

Taking a deep breath, Cynthia could barely contain her glee. She whipped out her phone and tapped out a message.

"It's time to start."

Shortly after, a response popped up on her screen. "OK."

With a smug grin, Cynthia strolled to the break room for a glass of water, her steps light with satisfaction.

Imagining Linsey's imminent disgrace and public disfavor, Cynthia felt a surge of pleasure.

She was so lost in her thoughts that she began to hum.

Several colleagues entered the break room, taken aback by Cynthia's buoyant demeanor.

They shared puzzled looks.

Expecting Cynthia to be livid about Linsey's newfound acclaim, they were baffled to find her not just calm but actually cheerful, humming a tune.

Had Cynthia gone off the deep end?

Curiosity got the better of one colleague, who asked, "Cynthia, what's got you in such a good mood?"

Offering a cryptic smile, Cynthia replied, "You'll find out soon enough."

Meanwhile, the buzz about that evening's red carpet event was building. Online, people were already praising Linsey's

innovative designs.

However, the scene shifted dramatically when renowned designer Jude Todd made his entrance.

Jude's tweet, tagging both Kylee and Linsey, instantly captured the attention of numerous netizens.

"Today was supposed to be just another day. I was at home working on new designs when I received a message from a friend. They mentioned that Kylee's red carpet dress bore a striking resemblance to a design I had released earlier. Shocked, I logged into Twitter, a platform I hadn't checked recently. There it was- several trending topics. I need to question CR Corporation, a company that's been established for years and boasts a wealth of talented designers. Why would you need to mimic the work of an ostensibly outdated designer like myself? Has your organization become so complacent with its influence? And Linsey, you are young, bursting with potential and a promising future ahead. You could easily draw upon

your own talent. So, why resort to plagiarism? I urge all netizens to see for themselves. Visit the Grester Design Platform's official website. I uploaded this design just two weeks ago, and the dress Linsey crafted for Kylee is nearly identical, save

for a few tweaks. I am not here to grab headlines-I simply seek a public apology. Without one, I will proceed with the

evidence I possess to ensure the plagiarist faces consequences."

This post electrified the internet.

Kylee, a newly popular actress working to re-establish her career, had already been capturing significant attention.

CR Corporation, a titan in Grester, had for years maintained an unblemished reputation.

The revelation of their designer's alleged plagiarism swiftly catapulted the post to the top of the trending list, igniting widespread outrage.

Chapter 228

Condemn An Innocent

Jude, once the star of the design industry, held a spot at the pinnacle, used to be chosen by top celebrities for his unique

creations.

However, his presence had faded recently due to a prolonged creative drought.

"Wow, things are heating up! Twitter hasn't buzzed like this in a long time."

"Look at that! Kylee is wearing a dress by a designer accused of plagiarism. That's just absurd."

"Please, don't attack Kylee. She's caught up in this too. The blame lies squarely with the inexperienced designer. Kylee was merely trying to support a newcomer, and this is the thanks she gets? What did she do to earn this backlash?"

"I'm livid! As a fan of Kylee, I've been eagerly anticipating tonight's red carpet. Why did it have to go wrong? CR Corporation, you need to step up. Stop dodging us! Drag that naive designer out and make her apologize to Kylee. Do it now!"

"Linsey, you should be ashamed of yourself for copying from an established designer. You owe everyone an apology, and maybe it's time you exited the industry."

"The Russell family, enough with the cover-ups. It's tiresome watching your blindly devoted fans defend you. Clearly, that rookie designer was merely a tool in Kylee's scheme."

"Let me put it this way. Kylee has been looking forward to this red carpet event for a whole month. She's well aware of the caliber at CR Corporation. She reached out to them well in advance to craft her dress,

knowing full well the competition she'd face tonight. Would she really risk her reputation by knowingly choosing a plagiarizing designer? Open your eyes, everyone. Kylee has been framed! After her stint abroad, she's merely trying to reclaim her standing among the domestic elite."

"Linsey, you should come forward and clear the air. Are you trying to sabotage Kylee? After she went out of her way to promote you, this is how you repay her? Bravo. We will steer clear of CR Corporation's designers from here on."

Within half an hour, Jude shared a new update.

"I began sketching this design six months back and completed it just a month ago. After some refinements, I released it on the official platform. It baffles me how Linsey could have copied my work and even convinced Kylee to showcase it on the red carpet. This is a slap in the face to the art of design, and I demand stringent action! Moreover, having worked with Kylee before, I know she's decent. I doubt she'd stoop so low. There's definitely more to this story. A thorough investigation is needed to clear Kylee's name. Let's not condemn an innocent."

Jude's recent post all but confirmed suspicions that Linsey had hidden the fact that Kylee's dress was a copy.

"Linsey is truly audacious, daring to imitate Jude's design. Jude has far more experience than she does."

"It's really brazen. Kylee always draws the spotlight, and to plagiarize like this is akin to flirting with disaster."

"Perhaps Linsey ran out of original ideas and figured Jude, being considered past her prime, wouldn't draw too much

scrutiny."

"Perhaps it's not Linsey who copied Jude's designs, is it?"

"Who are you supporting here? Doesn't the timeline of the release hint at plagiarism?"

"Absolutely, and Jude has a solid reputation. Why would he falsely accuse an unknown newcomer?"

Chapter 229 Can You Offer

Any Clarification

"I concur with the earlier comment. I had never heard of Linsey before this."

"Ever since Kylee announced her choice of a red carpet dress designed by a newcomer, I've been skeptical. How could someone so inexperienced craft such an exquisite gown? I kept silent as the praises rolled in, but it always seemed

suspicious."

Within hours, the initial acclaim for Linsey turned into harsh criticism on Twitter, accusing her of plagiarism.

"Are you ignoring this situation? Are you trying to sabotage Kylee? Could her competitor have sent you?"

"Kylee has earned numerous accolades over the years. It struck me as odd that she would choose an unknown like Linsey when she could easily afford a seasoned designer."

"How dare you, a novice, so boldly copy the work of an esteemed designer? Your career might as well be finished."

"Wait, this name sounds familiar- Linsey from Grester, wasn't she involved in that Wells family scandal?"

"That's right! It all makes sense now. There's more to Linsey than meets the eye."

"I found a photo of her. She's pretty. She seemed amiable initially, but looks can be deceiving."

"Could there also be more to the story with her so-called kidnapping? Linsey might just be the real antagonist."

The internet exploded with the scandal of Kylee's dress and the plagiarism allegations.

Enraged, Kylee's fans demanded answers from her studio.

"What are you all up to in that studio? Why can't you provide Kylee with a dependable designer?"

"It's time to overhaul the studio! Kylee is back to advance her career. Shouldn't the studio step up its efforts? How could you allow such an oversight during her debut on the red carpet? Do any of you even take your roles seriously?"

"I am at a loss for words. Kylee is entitled to better than this chaos. When will she truly be valued?"

"Remember, your earnings are courtesy of Kylee! Could you please pay more attention? What's the plan for tonight's red

carpet event?"

Kylee's studio, rather than addressing these concerns directly, swiftly removed the photos featuring her in the gown Linsey

had designed from their platforms.

This deletion was perceived by many as an admission of guilt, further cementing the accusation that Linsey had copied

someone else's design.

In the midst of this, Kylee's manager phoned Coen.

"Coen, what exactly is happening? Can you offer any clarification? Your

designer's actions have tarnished Kylee's reputation

severely. How is she expected to appear at tonight's event? You're aware that Kylee now fears even to glance at her phone,

breaking down in tears at each query from her fans! Coen, what's your plan for making amends?"

Coen, taken aback by the rapid escalation, was equally troubled. "Don't worry, I'm on it."

However, Kylee's manager pressed on relentlessly. "There's no time to delay with an investigation! Linsey, the novice

designer, clearly copied from Jude's creations. The dress is a total loss. We need an immediate replacement, something pre-made would suffice. Send it quickly so Kylee can change!"

Chapter 230 I Didn't Plagiarize Anything!

Coen massaged his temples, his frustration evident. "Uh, Evie, this might be a misunderstanding. Maybe Linsey didn't

actually plagiarize. We can still salvage this."

He had initially hoped Linsey would clinch Kylee's design order, paving the way for a promotion and a raise. Now, with this

scandal unfolding, it seemed like sheer bad luck.

Evie Harmon, Kylee's manager, snapped, "Don't feed me that nonsense. Plagiarism is plagiarism. Kylee's about to step onto

the red carpet, and the only sensible move is to switch designers immediately! Coen, let me be clear. If you disregard my

advice this time, Kylee will sever ties with your firm. It all depends on your next move."

Coen's heart sank.

The prospect of losing Kylee as a client over an issue with Linsey was unthinkable.

"Evie, I hear you. I'll do exactly as you suggest," Coen replied, attempting to soothe her with a smile. "We have a host of

talented designers, but given the timing of the red carpet event, they might need to offer off-the-rack dresses."

"That will be acceptable," Evie stated decisively. "As long as it matches Kylee's taste and hasn't been displayed online, it

will work. We're pressed for time."

"No worries," Coen assured her. "Has Kylee expressed any preference for a designer? We'll ensure she's satisfied."

Evie responded, "Kylee mentioned her cousin Cynthia Keller, a designer in your department. Start with her. See if she has any ready-to-wear pieces that fit the bill. If not, any qualified designer will do."

"Understood, understood," Coen replied, relieved. He then cautiously added, "What should we do about Linsey?"

After a brief pause, Evie scoffed coldly. "Linsey's blunder is grave-she must face strict consequences. Coen, keeping someone like her could drag down your firm and risk other client relationships. It would be disastrous."

Coen paused before responding solemnly, "Got it. I'll take care of it."

Meanwhile, Linsey was oblivious to the online backlash. She was deep in her work, perfecting new design techniques.

Earlier that day, Kylee had reached out, asking her to come to the red carpet event after her shift.

Linsey's phone had been buzzing softly for a while, but she ignored it, assuming the vibrations were merely alerts about the gown's public unveiling earlier that day.

Suddenly, a colleague approached Linsey, her expression troubled. "Linsey, why are you still here working? Haven't you seen what's happening online? You're in a lot of trouble."

Linsey looked up, her expression one of startled confusion. "What?"

Her colleague paused, clearly struggling with how to deliver the news. "You really haven't seen it? A well-known designer

has accused you of plagiarism on the Internet....."

Linsey's eyes widened, her brows knitting together in disbelief. "What? That's impossible! I didn't plagiarize anything!"

"You should look at Twitter right away," the colleague suggested, her tone laced with sympathy.

Where once there might have been envy from her peers, now there was only pity.

Though the accusation of plagiarism was yet to be proven, public sentiment was clear, and it strongly suggested that Kylee would not be wearing Linsey's design on the red carpet.

Feeling a heavy sense of dread, Linsey quickly grabbed her phone and opened Twitter.

As soon as she logged in, she was bombarded with a flood of harsh comments.

Her complexion grew pale as she read through the messages, her realization dawning about the severity of the situation.