

Zillionaire 511

Chapter 511 Just Stop Talking!

Every detail of the check, signed by Jeffery, was magnified for the crowd on a large screen.

Moments later, Linsey ripped the check to shreds, scattering the pieces above her.

The fragments fluttered down, resembling a gentle snowfall.

Linsey stood firm, her face a mask of scorn and detachment.

As he locked eyes with Linsey, a shiver ran through Jeffery's heart.

He was shocked by the audacity of this woman, whom he had seen as fragile.

Not only Jeffery but all the guests were stunned by her bold act.

"Ah, so that's the real story! Jeffery tried to buy Linsey's silence to protect Carol."

"The Lawsons think too highly of themselves! They're just one notable family in town. What right do they have to act so superior?"

"Everyone knows the Lawson family is still controlled by their parents. How dare Jeffery and Carol act that way?" "Tonight is meant to celebrate Carol's birthday, yet her parents are noticeably absent. Definitely suspicious." Carol trembled with rage, her voice rough as she glared at Linsey, seething with the urge to make her disappear.

"Linsey! Enough! Just stop talking!" Carol yelled.

Jeffery withdrew his gaze from Linsey and quickly steadied Carol.

Glaring at his shocked subordinates nearby, he instructed sharply, "Contact hotel management immediately. They won't escape responsibility for this disaster!"

"We'll get right on it, Mr. Lawson!"

The subordinates nervously hurried to follow his orders.

But Linsey unexpectedly intervened, her voice steady and calm. "No need to trouble your staff, Mr. Lawson. It's already too late. Before stepping onto the stage, I started live-streaming everything from my own account. By this point, I'd say many have already witnessed tonight's drama."

A stunned silence swept over the crowd as Linsey's revelation sunk in.

Several guests instantly pulled out their phones, eager to confirm the news.

"Oh wow, Linsey wasn't bluffing-she really went live!"

Chapter 512 You're The

Victim Here

Linsey couldn't help but feel a twisted sense of gratitude. Ironically, the slander against her had worked in her favor-drawing massive attention to her in record time.

If not for the controversy, there was no way a designer like her would have gained this many online followers

so quickly.

The thought brought a subtle smile to her lips.

Earlier, she had been too polite, too accommodating in front of the Lawson siblings. That mistake had made her

an easy target.

But tonight had been an eye-opener.

Being overly submissive only meant getting picked on.

Though her expression remained calm, a steely determination flickered in her eyes.

In stark contrast, Jeffery-usually so composed-was seething. His jaw tightened

as he stared at Linsey, who bore a striking resemblance to him.

Only now did he realize-she had never planned to let this slide.

She had merely played along, pretending to accept his check to lower his guard,

all while keeping proof of his attempt to silence her.

Well played.

In all his years, no woman had ever made a fool of him like this.

Just as Jeffery was about to step forward and put an end to this, Carol-who had

been screaming hysterically- suddenly froze.

Her eyes widened, pupils turning unfocused.

Her breath quickened in an instant. "Ahhh! Jeffery... I feel awful..... I....."

Panic flickered in Carol's teary eyes as her flawless makeup failed to mask the growing paleness of her face.

Jeffery's irritation vanished in an instant. His expression shifted to alarm as he caught her sagging body. "Carol! Carol, what's wrong?"

She gasped, clutching her chest. "Jeffery... I-I can't... breathe..."

Jeffery's heart clenched. He recognized the signs immediately. Carol was having a heart attack.

"Move! Everyone move! Call an ambulance!" he barked.

The room fell into stunned silence.

Carol let out one last desperate gasp before her eyes rolled back, and she collapsed completely.

Jeffery didn't hesitate. Scooping her into his arms, he stormed out of the banquet hall, urgency in every step

Chaos erupted in his wake.

Linsey, still standing on stage, could only watch, stunned.

Beside her, Millie murmured at just the right moment, "Carol has a congenital

heart condition. It looks like she's having an episode."

Linsey's chest tightened at the words.

She turned toward the exit where Jeffery had disappeared, a flicker of concern crossing her face. "Will she be

okay?"

Had she just triggered a heart attack?

A sudden wave of guilt crept in.

But Millie, ever perceptive, quickly reassured her. "This isn't your fault. You're the victim here."

Then, lowering her voice, she added, "Besides... I have a feeling there's something off about Carol's so-called heart condition. I'll tell you more when I get the chance."

With the Lawson siblings gone, the guests had no reason to stay. One by one, they filtered out, murmuring amongst themselves.

Before long, the banquet hall was nearly empty, leaving only Linsey, Millie, Millie's friends, and a few dazed hotel staff behind.

Chapter 513 I Can't Thank You Enough For Tonight

After she finished her speech, Millie waved to one of her friends and exclaimed, "Okay, you can shut down the

live stream now."

The friend who had been managing the streaming on Linsey's account gave a nod and promptly stopped the

broadcast.

"Let's go to the hospital now; your injury shouldn't be ignored any longer," Millie said, turning to Linsey with

concern.

The blood from Linsey's wound had already dried, making future medical attention more difficult.

With a weak smile, Linsey responded, "Really, it's okay."

She then turned to Millie, her eyes filled with genuine thanks, and said, "Millie, I can't thank you enough for tonight. Without you, I wouldn't have cleared my name or stood my ground."

Millie chuckled and replied, "Oh, it was nothing! It felt like payback for what Carol did to me. I thought you gave in. When you shared your plan, supporting you was a no-brainer!"

Observing the hotel staff clearing the area, Linsey looked uncertain and

murmured, "I wonder if the Lawson family will blame the hotel for tonight's events. If they do, I'll handle any compensation claims."

Before Linsey could say more, Millie placed a finger on her lips and softly said, "No need to worry, my family has a stake in this hotel. They can't really push us around."

This leverage was crucial for their successful collaboration earlier.

Realization dawned on Linsey.

That explained why the hotel staff had been so compliant with Millie's commands.

That was the reason.

Above all, Linsey felt deeply thankful for Millie's support that day.

"Don't be so formal. I like you. Just invite me out for dinner sometime as your way

of saying thanks," Millie said, smiling as she patted Linsey's shoulder.

Linsey nodded without hesitation. "Sure thing."

"Come on, we need to get you to a doctor," Millie said, gently guiding Linsey forward, mindful of her tender sprained ankle. "We can't let this wait, or it will take a while to heal."

At that moment, the sharp ring of Linsey's phone cut through the air.

She paused to answer it, taken aback to see Dustin's name on the screen.

With a quirk of her eyebrow, she took the call.

"Linsey!" Dustin's voice rang out, laced with panic and on the verge of tears. "I'm sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I missed your messages while I was caught up. Are you okay? I've been an idiot, and it's all because of Collin-

Linsey had barely processed his apology when another voice interrupted.

"Where are you, Linsey?" Collin's voice came through, rough with concern and unmistakable remorse.

Caught off guard, Linsey replied, "Aren't you supposed to be away on business in the next city over?"

From the other side, Collin's response was choked with emotion. "Sweetie, I'm sorry. There was trouble with the Lawsons tonight, and I wasn't there to support you."

He continued anxiously, "Are you still at the venue? How's your ankle holding up? Did anyone from the Lawson family bother you?"

Chapter 514 I'm Really Sorry, Honey

As Linsey absorbed Collin's concerned questions, a sudden rush of sadness swelled inside her, causing her nose to tingle.

She bowed her head and let out a soft sniffle, unable to contain her emotions.

Why did the sound of Collin's voice suddenly make everything feel so emotional?

"I'm on my way to the hospital now," Linsey said softly into the phone as she walked towards the exit with Millie.

Millie, sensing the gravity of Linsey's conversation, remained quiet but offered steady support as she helped Linsey into the car.

On the other end, Collin was about to reply when his driver suddenly said, "Mr. Riley, we've hit a snag in traffic due to an accident ahead."

Dustin responded immediately. "Try a detour, even if it takes us a bit longer."

Linsey picked up parts of their conversation and quickly figured it out. "You're still in the next city, right?"

Collin clenched his jaw and responded softly, "Yes I just got the message that you sent to Dustin. I had asked

him to assist me with a project yesterday, and we both got tied up at work tonight. I'm really sorry, honey."

This cleared up a lot for Linsey.

While she had been confined in the storage room, she didn't want to trouble Collin or burden Dolores. So, she

reached out to Dustin instead

Now she realized that Dustin hadn't responded because he was preoccupied with Collin all along

Linsey never held Dustin or Collin accountable for the night's events.

She whispered reassuringly, "It's fine. I need to clear something up. I kept tonight's issues to myself because I didn't want to alarm you. You were far away in another city, unable to make it back swiftly. My plan was to fill you in once things had calmed down. I never imagined you both would end up at the same place."

Regret washed over Collin. In hopes of selecting the perfect engagement ring, he had beckoned Dustin

Grester to assist him.

The timing was unfortunate, as Linsey had faced unexpected troubles.

To Collin, a ring was trivial in comparison to Linsey's well-being

"From now on, I promise to cut down on unnecessary trips from Grester. What matters most is staying by your side, Collin said.

Moved by his words, Linsey smiled as she said, "You have commitments though, right? Tonight was a one-time incident, and it's already taken care of. Millie was a big help."

"Millie?" At the mention, Collin and Dustin looked at each other.

Dustin remembered Millie of the notable Burke family in Grester. "Millie from the Burke family,"

Acknowledging this, Collin said, "Understood. I'll make sure to express our gratitude to her appropriately."

Linsey assumed by this he meant sending Millie a token of appreciation.

That seemed appropriate.

As the conversation stretched on, Dustin chimed in, weary of being left out, "Look, could you maybe not tie up my phone the whole trip? We still have a long drive ahead. Am I just supposed to sit here doing nothing?"

Chapter 515 He's Ideal

When she heard Dustin's words, Linsey couldn't hide her astonishment. "You're not seriously considering

driving back to town tonight, are you?"

Collin's voice was resolute as he replied, "After what you've been through, how could I stay away? I need to return immediately. I just wish I had been there sooner."

Nearby, Dustin was at a loss for words.

Couldn't Collin just end the call and give his phone back? Was this how he repaid him after he had been assisting him all day?

He better be awarded the seat of honor at their wedding!

Linsey responded, "Everything's under control now. I just need to stop by the hospital to have my wound taken care of. It's minor. Please, go ahead and finish your tasks. That way, you won't have to come back later to complete any leftover business."

But Collin's mind was set solely on Linsey. "No, I have to be by your side. I've already taken care of everything necessary here. What's left isn't crucial. What matters is that I'm there for you at the hospital."

Linsey found herself unable to counter his determination.

"Fine, I'll wait for your return." She paused, then, recalling Dustin's earlier grumble, she chuckled, "Let's give Dustin his phone back now. I'm going to hang up."

During the entire exchange, Millie had been silent, but now she looked over, startled.

What? Could it be that Linsey knew Dustin Wade?

After ending the call, Linsey noticed Millie's intrigued expression.

Caught off guard by her gaze, Linsey inquired, "What's on your mind, Millie?"

Driven by an intense curiosity, Millie blurted out, "Who was that on the phone with you?"

Linsey answered with sincerity, "My husband."

Millie gasped in disbelief. "You're married?"

Until tonight, Millie had no knowledge of Linsey, nor had she ever come across any gossip about her.

Millie had no idea that Linsey had married Collin, the eldest son of the Riley family.

Realizing Linsey had wed so young made Millie feel somewhat disappointed.

"Wow, I had no idea you were married!" Millie exclaimed, her voice filled with surprise. "You're quite the catch. I'm eager to hear about your husband. Just so you know, if he's nothing special, I might just suggest you reconsider!"

Linsey chuckled at Millie's playful threat. Rubbing her chin thoughtfully, she responded, "Well, I find my husband quite handsome and extremely competent. In my eyes, he's ideal."

Millie sensed the affection in Linsey's tone. "That's wonderful! It sounds like you two really have a strong bond,

which is reassuring."

However, Millie's expression soon changed to concern. "But remember, tonight's event won't go unnoticed by the Lawson siblings. Carol was so upset she had a heart attack. Knowing how protective Jeffery is, he's likely to

seek revenge."

Linsey's face grew concerned as the weight of the situation settled in.

"You make a good point. My husband and I don't have much influence, we'll need

to avoid the Lawsons as much as we can."

Millie didn't hold much hope for Linsey's husband's influence.

Coming from one of Grester's leading families, she was confident her own family could withstand any challenge

from the Lawsons.

If Carol tried to cause trouble, Millie knew how to retaliate.

But Linsey? What would she do in the face of such a challenge?

Chapter 516 We're Cutting All Ties With Lawson Gro...

Millie sighed. She gave Linsey's shoulder a reassuring pat. "If Carol or Jeffery ever come after you again, just let me know. I'll deal with them. No matter how influential the Lawsons think they are, they can't touch me I'm from the Burke family. You and your husband don't have the power to go against them alone. Don't take unnecessary risks."

Linsey felt a deep sense of gratitude. "Thank you, Millie."

Though she agreed, she knew she couldn't keep relying on Millie whenever trouble arose. That would be unfair. For now, she and Collin could only tread carefully, steering clear of unnecessary conflicts with the Lawsons. She hoped things would settle down. But at that very moment, Collin-who was on his way back to Grester- had no intention of letting this go.

"Collin, the Lawson family crossed the line tonight," Dustin said, taking back his phone. "I just checked Twitter -Linsey's livestream has gone viral. It's all over the Internet. Jeffery trying to buy her silence was bad enough, but Carol actually locked her in a storage room and tormented her for who knows how long. Every bruise on her came from Carol."

Collin's expression grew even colder.

Seeing his reaction, Dustin felt a chill creep down his spine. After a moment's hesitation, he asked, "Collin, what's the plan? Should we at least send the Lawsons a warning under your name as the founder of CR Corporation?"

Since CR Corporation had business ties with Lawson Group, a direct message from Collin could force Jeffery to

back off.

But before Dustin could finish, Collin's icy voice cut in. "That won't be enough." Dustin paused. "What are we going to do, then?"

Determined to stand by his friend, he quickly added, "Collin, whatever you decide, I'm with you. The Lawsons have gone too far this time. They need to face the consequences."

Collin's face remained unreadable as he gave his command. "Have our official account release a statement tonight. Effective immediately, we're cutting all ties with Lawson Group."

Dustin had expected Collin to take action, but he hadn't anticipated something this drastic.

He took a deep breath, struggling to process it. "Collin, we already have a contract with them. Technically, Jeffery and Carol didn't violate any business terms. If we pull out now, we'll be hit with a massive penalty-the fine is \$2 billion."

Collin didn't even flinch. He shot Dustin a sharp look and replied flatly, "Does \$2 billion mean anything to me?"

Dustin was momentarily stunned.

Was Collin worried about losing that kind of money?

Not a chance. As the mastermind behind CR Corporation, Collin was among the wealthiest figures in Grester- perhaps even the entire country. A two-billion-dollar penalty was nothing more than spare change to him.

But for Lawson Group, losing CR Corporation's support would be catastrophic, especially since Jeffery had been banking on this partnership for Lawson Group's medical expansion.

Chapter 517 I Won't Let Anything Happen To You

Collin's voice was calm yet firm. "I originally partnered with Lawson Group because I respected the Lawson family's long-standing reputation for discretion. For over two decades, they maintained a low profile, and the Lawsons devoted themselves to charity work. I agreed to work with them out of genuine regard for their values."

Frowning, he continued, "Though Carol is arrogant, I assumed Jeffery would at least reflect some of those principles. But in the end, he's nothing more than a self-important fool who believes the world should cater to

him."

Dustin let out a sigh of resignation. "I recall that a few years ago, Jeffery actually had a solid reputation. But somewhere along the way, he changed. Lately, he's become unbearably arrogant."

A thoughtful expression crossed his face. "Do you think Carol's influence turned him into this? She's always been the spoiled, domineering type."

Collin didn't argue. Instead, he nodded slightly. "Spending years around someone like her would inevitably leave a mark. But that's not my concern."

He adopted a defiant tone. "The real issue here is simple-whether it's \$2 billion or \$20 billion, we won't flinch.

The real question is whether the Lawsons will actually see a dime of it."

Collin's eyes darkened, carrying an unmistakable edge. The sight sent a shiver through Dustin, reminding him of something he had nearly forgotten-before marrying Linsey, Collin was feared for his ruthless decisiveness.

Unable to suppress his curiosity, Dustin asked, "Are you planning something else?"

Collin didn't bother explaining. "Just do as I said."

Dustin didn't press further, but one thing was clear-the Lawson family was doomed.

Of all the people they could have provoked, they had chosen Linsey.

Shaking his head, Dustin almost pitied them.

Meanwhile, Jeffery remained oblivious to Collin's next move. He sat by Carol's hospital bed, watching over her with unwavering attention.

"Jeffery, my chest hurts so much... Am I dying?" Carol clutched her heart, her

voice weak, her expression one of pure distress.

Jeffery immediately reassured her, "No, don't think like that. I'll bring in the best doctors-I won't let anything happen to you."

Hearing his gentle words, Carol felt a fleeting sense of security.

But then, something clicked in her mind.

When Linsey stood on that stage earlier, she had exposed Jeffery's attempt to bribe her in front of everyone.

That alone proved how much Jeffery cared-he had done all of that for her.

And it also confirmed that Alexa had, indeed, acted under Jeffery's orders.

But none of that mattered compared to the humiliation she had suffered tonight! The more she thought about it, the more her anger festered. "Jeffery, what do we do? Linsey had the audacity to livestream my party! How could she stoop so low?"

Tears brimmed in her eyes, threatening to spill over.

Choking back a sob, she whimpered, "Today was supposed to be my birthday, and she completely ruined it! If I had known this would happen, I never would have extended her an invitation."

Jeffery gently wiped the tears from her face, his expression hardening, "Carol, why did you invite Linsey? From what I know, she doesn't come from any notable family in town."

Chapter 518 Jeffery, Don't Worry About Me

Carol's expression stiffened briefly before she cast her gaze downward, concealing the flicker of unease in her

eyes.

She spoke softly. "Jeffery, do you remember the day I visited CR Corporation to meet Mr. Riley?"

Jeffery gave a small nod. "Yes, I remember."

Sensing that she wasn't in the best mood, he decided against reminding her to keep her distance from Collin Carol continued, her tone carrying a hint of grievance. "Just as I was about to leave, Linsey stopped me. She told me I wasn't good enough for him-that only she had the right to be by his side."

Jeffery's expression darkened instantly. "What did you just say?"

Carol glanced at him, her delicate features showing just the right amount of vulnerability.

No one-not even Alexa-knew the truth about Linsey's husband being the actual founder of CR Corporation. Alexa had always assumed Linsey was simply trying to get close to him, and Carol was certain Jeffery thought

the same.

That gave her the perfect opportunity to twist the truth.

"Jeffery, you warned me before that Mr. Riley was already married. I admit I have feelings for him, but I'd never interfere in someone's marriage. So, I told Linsey exactly that." She spoke gently, choosing her words carefully, making sure they sounded completely sincere. "But to my surprise, Linsey said she already knew- and that it didn't matter. She was determined to stay close to him anyway." Jeffery's jaw tightened, his opinion of Linsey sinking even further. "Then why did you still invite her?"

Carol bit her lip before pouting slightly. "She brought it up in front of Mr. Riley. I couldn't exactly reject her outright..."

She glanced at Jeffery again, her voice soft and pitiful. "We're working with CR Corporation. I didn't want to cause any trouble for you."

Jeffery hadn't expected this turn of events. With a sigh, he took Carol's hand, his expression serious. "Carol, don't think like that. Our partnership with CR Corporation is mainly to find a cure for your heart condition. If you were mistreated because of this..."

He trailed off.

The deal with CR Corporation was a major opportunity for Lawson Group, and pulling out now would come with serious financial consequences.

The penalty alone was a staggering amount-one they couldn't afford to lose.

Carol, unaware of his hesitation, put on a gentle and understanding front. "Jeffery, don't worry about me. Just focus on your work. I don't want to dwell on what happened tonight."

Her obedient, considerate demeanor only deepened Jeffery's guilt.

He frowned slightly. "Mr. Riley is devoted to his wife. He wouldn't risk everything for just another designer in his company. Carol, don't worry I won't let this slide." Carol's heart leaped with satisfaction. This was exactly what she wanted to hear. But just as she was about to speak, Jeffery's phone rang abruptly.

He answered, and his assistant's panicked voice came through. "Mr. Lawson, bad news! CR Corporation just announced they terminated the partnership!"

Jeffery shot to his feet, his sudden movement startling Carol.

Chapter 519 Why Would

They Suddenly Back Out

"What's the matter, Jeffery?" Carol stared at him in shock, a growing unease settling in her chest.

But Jeffery barely registered her voice. "What did you just say?" he demanded, his pulse quickening.

CR Corporation had cut ties with them?

That was impossible.

But his assistant's next words crushed any lingering hope.

"Mr. Lawson, it's true! CR Corporation has already made an official announcement across multiple public platforms. On top of that, their representative personally reached out to finalize the contract termination..."

Jeffery felt a sharp pain throb in his head. Pressing his fingers against his temple, he muttered, "This doesn't

make sense. We just secured this deal. Why would they suddenly back out?"

His voice edged with frustration, his usual composure slipping.

From the hospital bed, Carol's eyes widened in disbelief. She clutched his sleeve, her grip desperate. "Jeffery! What's happening? Why would they do this? There has to be a mistake!"

Her panicked voice only aggravated his growing irritation.

For the first time, the sister he had always protected felt unfamiliar to him.

Annoyed, he yanked his arm free and turned away, his tone cold. "Something went wrong. I need every department to investigate immediately. I want to know exactly what happened. I'll try to reach Mr. Riley

myself."

His assistant hesitated on the other end, his voice thick with uncertainty. "Mr. Lawson, CR Corporation has already transferred the two-billion penalty fee to our company's account. And..."

He paused, as if unsure how to continue.

Jeffery's mind reeled.

Two billion... Already transferred.

That meant there was no room for negotiation.

In normal business dealings, even if complications arose, there was always a chance to renegotiate terms.

But CR Corporation had severed ties without hesitation-without even a conversation.

And they had made it public.

Lawson Group hadn't just lost a partnership. They had angered CR Corporation's founder

"Mr. Lawson? Are you still there?"

Jeffery barely heard him. He staggered toward the wall, leaning against it as he tried to steady his breathing "Go on," he forced out.

After a brief silence, his assistant finally continued, his tone laced with something between disbelief and unease. "They also wired an additional five million with a note attached. It says, Jeffery's scare tactics are quite something."

Jeffery's entire body tensed. Five million. Scare tactics. The meaning behind those words was crystal clear.

CR Corporation's founder was retaliating. For what? Jeffery didn't need to guess. He had offered Linsey five million to buy her off.

But why?

Why would Mr. Riley go this far for Linsey?

Why was he willing to break a multi-billion-dollar deal-just for Linsey?

Wasn't he already married? Wasn't he deeply devoted to his wife?

What on earth was happening? He couldn't comprehend it.

Jeffery's jaw clenched, his fingers curling into fists.

A chilling realization crept into his mind.

Could Linsey be his wife?

Chapter 520 They Also Transferred An Extra Fiv...

At that moment, Carol hesitantly spoke from behind. "Jeffery, are you okay?"

Jeffery snapped out of his thoughts and turned around, meeting Carol's anxious, uncertain gaze.

His heart tightened. Had he really just ignored her like that?

Taking a sharp breath, he realized how his frustration had bled into his actions toward Carol, who had nothing to do with any of this.

"I'm sorry, Carol. I was too caught up in my thoughts earlier. I shouldn't have brushed you off like that. Please don't be upset, okay?"

Of course, Carol wouldn't make a fuss at a time like this.

She knew Jeffery still cherished her, but if she pushed too hard, he might eventually grow tired of it.

So, she played the part of the considerate sister, shaking her head with a reassuring smile.

"I'm not mad, Jeffery. And don't stress too much-whatever happened, we'll figure out a way through it." After a pause, she hesitated before cautiously asking, "Is this about CR Corporation?"

Jeffery exhaled slowly, her understanding demeanor offering him a brief moment of relief.

But the moment she mentioned CR Corporation, his expression darkened again. Running a hand over his temple, he muttered, "Yeah... CR Corporation unilaterally terminated our partnership.

Although Carol had already overheard parts of the conversation, hearing Jeffery confirm it sent a jolt of shock through her.

She instinctively blurted, "Terminated? How? I know our company isn't as big as CR Corporation, but our collaboration benefited them, too! And the contract was signed days ago-why would they suddenly cut ties? Did they give a reason?"

Jeffery's face grew even more grim. He studied Carol intently before speaking. "Earlier, you said Linsey has been clinging to Mr. Riley. Do you know how he actually feels about her?"

Carol stiffened. The realization hit her-Linsey was the founder's wife. A flicker of panic flashed in her eyes.

But she quickly smothered it, forcing herself to respond with certainty. "He must find her insufferable! He probably wishes_she'd stop bothering him and just leave CR Corporation."

Jeffery's brows knitted together. "If he truly couldn't stand her, don't you think he, as the company's founder, would have the power to fire a mere designer?"

Carol faltered, caught off guard. After a beat, she awkwardly replied, "I heard Linsey's design skills are top-notch. Maybe he's keeping her around because of that?"

Even as she said it, she knew the excuse sounded weak.

If Mr. Riley didn't actually despise Linsey, then why had he kept her identity hidden?

Jeffery, however, wasn't convinced by her explanation.

His expression remained unreadable as he shifted his gaze. "CR Corporation didn't just pay the two-billion penalty fee for breaching the contract. They also transferred an extra five million, with a note mocking my attempt to pressure Linsey tonight."

His voice grew heavier. "Mr. Riley cut all ties with us-because of Linsey.