

Guardian 611

Chapter 611 A Million Dollars

“Hello, Mr. Yale. Is there anything I can do for you?”

Reminded by the reviewing panel's hypocrisy, Darcy sounded rather indifferent.

“Our committee has reviewed your proposal again, Ms. Quint, and we believe you could be eligible for funding. “Why don’t you drop by, and we’ll have a talk?”

To Darcy’s surprise, Federick was not just fobbing her off.

He had audited her business proposal once more.

Federick turned out to be serious and responsible with his work.

Maybe she got the wrong idea about Federick.

He might not be in cahoots with those people. He probably did everything he could so as not to rub the Sunrise Lees the wrong way.

“Thank you, Mr. Yale. I will be there right away.” Darcy ended the call with a thrill. “Who is Mr. Yale?” Kaze asked.

Darcy replied enthusiastically, “He’s the head of the reviewing committee and a faculty member of the University of South River. He said he looked into our proposal again and believed we have a good chance of getting the grant.”

“I’ll go with you.”

Kaze got up and grabbed the car key.

He wanted to sort out the issue with the reviewing panel too.

“Just wait outside, Kaze.”

Once at the office building, Darcy went into Federick’s office alone.

“Ms. Quint, | think | made things clear on the phone, so I’ll cut to the chase.”

Federick pushed his glasses up his nose bridge and added, “Your application for the support fund can be approved.” “That’s great, Mr. Yale. Thank you.”

Darcy was overjoyed.

Quartet Group applied for 500 million dollars in grants.

Nevertheless, Darcy did not expect to acquire the full amount. She would be grateful to just get 100 million dollars. The government funding worth up to 10 billion dollars might sound like a lot, but there were many companies in need of help. Besides, the Quints and Lees were granted six billion dollars combined.

The remaining four billion dollars was not enough to go around.

“Quartet Group will utilize the five-hundred—million—dollar grant where it matters and make a positive impact in the commercial environment. We are committed to creating jobs, boosting the economy, and improving the quality of the people's lives,” Darcy replied earnestly.

“Ms. Quint, what gives you the impression that you have gotten five hundred million dollars?” Federick gave Darcy a strange look, finding her naive.

“Oh, how much is it?” Darcy asked awkwardly.

Federick stuck one finger out. “A million dollars.”

“A million dollars?”

Darcy's eyes burned with rage.

A million dollars was not enough to buy property in Lilyrose.

Besides, Quartet Group was not a small business in Lilyrose.

The Quints were able to walk away with two billion dollars.

She was brushed off with a pittance.

“A million dollars is a lot, Ms. Quint. We have to consider many other companies in the city too. We can't just give you everything.”

Federick removed his spectacles for a wipe before putting them back on.

“A million dollars doesn't come for free, Ms. Quint.”

He ogled at Darcy, his eyes traveling along her voluptuous figure. Federick rose to his feet and walked away from his desk to approach Darcy.

“I heard you did your masters at the University of South River. Have you considered getting a PhD? I can be your supervisor.”

While talking, he reached out to hold Darcy’s hand.

Clomp! Clomp!

Darcy stepped back and snapped an angry look at him. “Have some self-respect, Mr. Yale.” She had met many indecent men like Federick in her lifetime.

Darcy took all precautions the moment she sensed something was not right. “You're a smart woman. I guess I don't have to beat around the bush anymore.” Federick said with a smile, “I decide how much you get, Ms. Quint. If you are with me, I can approve ten million dollars in grant.”

He had lewd thoughts about Darcy when he first laid eyes on her. The only reason he took some time to reveal his true colors was to gain the upper hand.

He needed to put Darcy through an emotional roller coaster before getting her to meet his demands.

Chapter 612 An Animal

“Mr. Yale, you have underestimated me.”

Darcy said coldly, “I rather not take dirty money.”

She would not agree even if billions were offered to her, much less 10 million. dollars. Federick was insulting her to expect she would sleep with him for 10 million. dollars. “Can money be dirty?”

Seeing that Darcy stood firm on her ground, Federick's patience wore thin..

He had toyed with many students over the years.

All it took was a little carrot and a stick, and they all came crawling to him.

It infuriated him that he could not get through to Darcy.

Federick got up and walked to the office door.

Click!

He locked the door!

"What are you trying to do, Federick?"

Struck by a thought, Darcy turned white and uttered angrily, "We are in a professional setting where people come and go. You won't get away with assaulting me."

"So you do know we are in the office of the reviewing committee." Federick sneered, "Since Quartet Group's business proposal failed to make the cut, you met me privately to sway my decision.

"Haven't you realized that it's lunchtime? No one is in the office. Ms. Quint, it's odd that you would come to me at this hour, right?"

"You're an animal, Federick. | can't believe you!"

Darcy shook with rage.

It dawned on her that Federick invited her over during lunch.

She walked right into his trap.

“Thanks for the compliment.”

Federick threw his jacket aside.

His chest looked beefy under his shirt. It appeared Federick had kept up with a workout routine. “You smell so good, Ms. Quint. | was captivated by your fragrance from afar Hahaha...” He drew close and pounced on her with open arms.

Thud!

The loud noise shook the entire building.

The locked door burst open.

The wooden frame came off by the hinges, and the structure collapsed. “Ah!”

Shocked, Federick jumped and turned around.

Achill crept up his spine when the young man came at him.

The young man harbored such terrifying strength.

Was he a superhuman?

“Who are you? Who let you in?” Frederick yelled in fear and rage.

“Im her husband.”

Kaze kicked him in the stomach with a stoic face.

Bang!

Federick fell back and crashed into the bookshelf with a scream. “Kaze!” a

Darcy's rattled nerves calmed at the sight of Kaze.

“It's okay. I'm here.”

Kaze held her.

“You're here.”

Darcy nodded and looked back at Federick whose body hung over the desk.

He was knocked unconscious.

His nosebleed stained the documents on the table.

“Is he alright?” Darcy asked worriedly.

She felt comforted that justice had been served on Federick.

However, Darcy was worried she might put Kaze in more trouble as Kaze injured the man severely.

Kaze never held back from punishing those who abused her.

“Don't worry. He won't die. Come on. Someone else will handle the distribution of government funding.”

Kaze wrapped her in his arms and got ready to leave.

“What happened? Was there an earthquake? Why did the door fall?” A group swarmed in from the corridor.

They were experts and staff members on the reviewing panel.

They exclaimed and gasped at the horror in the office.

“Did you attack Mr. Yale? You can't leave!”

The group stopped Kaze and Darcy.

“Call the ambulance and the cops!”

Chapter 613 Twisting Facts

“Mr. Yale is a faculty member of the University of South River. You're vile to lay your hands on him!”
YOUT

us

“You are Darcy, the chairman of Quartet Group. It’s a unanimous decision of the committee that your proposal didn’t make it past the preliminary review. | can’t believe you would take up a personal vendetta against Mr. Yale. That's

outrageous of you.” The group was up in arms, criticizing Darcy sternly.

“It’s not what you think. Federick threatened me to sleep with him and tried to force himself on me. My husband hit him to save me. It was an act of self- defense,” Darcy jumped in to explain before things could get way more out of hand.

However, the group only believed the truth in front of them. No one would take her word for it.

“Bullshit! Mr. Yale is a highly respected member of the community. He would never threaten you to sleep with him. Who are you trying to fool?”

“| can’t believe you'd try to play the victim and push the blame on Mr. Yale. Hel can’t speak for himself after you beat him up.” “For someone so beautiful, you sure are revolting.” By then, Darcy knew no amount of talking would get through to them.

“Don’t waste your breath with them. I’ve called the cops, and the police will soon be here to make the arrest,” a bespectacled man in his thirties uttered.

He narrowed his eyes at Kaze and Darcy before hissing through clenched teeth, You will pay for hurting my supervisor. “You have no idea the influence my supervisor carries.

The man was Malcolm, a student of Federick.

He was one of the experts on the reviewing committee.

“Influence?”

Kaze smiled. "I'm sure you're talking about his influence among the rich and powerful. Are you planning to get the Lees to take revenge on us?"

"What are you trying to say?"

Malcolm grimaced.

"Need | make myself clear?"

Kaze said indifferently, "You abused your power and approved four billion

dollars in funds to the L

The Lees would probably reciprocate the favor by

standing up for your supervisor."

Many in the group scowled.

Kaze observed that those looking guilty were the experts in the committee.

Realization hit him.

The committee funneled six billion dollars to the Lees and Quints, raising concerns about bias and rigging. Federick, the head of the committee, was not the only issue.

The entire committee was in on it too.

“What do you mean by abuse of power? That's slander.”

Malcolm said angrily, “We approved a four-billion—dollar grant to Lee Solutions. as the God of War instructed.

“Lee Solutions is a huge corporation. The group will be able to contribute greatly to the city's infrastructure and benefit the people.

“What's wrong with that?”

His words met with the agreement of other experts. These experts colluded and twisted the facts. Darcy was enraged.

“What about the two billion dollars to the Quints?”

She questioned furiously, “Since the Quints offered you five hundred million dollars in commission, how much are the Lees giving you?”

“You!” Malcolm and the others were shocked.

He was unaware that Darcy was part of the Quint family.

Malcolm was surprised that she would know about something so confidential. “I would advise you against making false accusations, Ms. Quint. Don't make baseless claims without proof.”

Malcolm said viciously, “The God of War set up the funding to pay back to the citizens, but I must question your intentions to spread rumors.

“That's right. Their words might sound like slander against the support fund, but they are undermining the God of War instead.

“Let the police do their job. These individuals could be working under the instruction of foreign hostile forces.”

Darcy was infuriated by the group’s brazenness.

These experts were corrupted and smeared the God of War’s good name.

Yet, they turned it around and put the blame on them.

Kaze smirked in rage.

His good intentions were taken advantage of.

Now, he was used as a scapegoat for these people’s misdemeanors.

They were asking for it.

Blare...

A piercing police siren came from outside the building.

Malcolm pointed at the duo and sneered maliciously. “Here comes the police. You’re dead meat.”

Chapter 614 You Asked For It Footsteps approached. The chief of police, Don, arrived at the scene with officers in tow.

“Chief Braders, arrest these two individuals at once. They waged a personal vendetta against Mr. Yale and slandered us for taking bribes.”

Malcolm recognized Don.

115 BEARS

When the reviewing panel was selected, Don and Johnson the Mayor

to welcome them.

Johnson was courteous to the experts on the committee.

Malcolm ordered Don around the moment the latter arrived.

Ignoring Malcolm, Don turned to Kaze and Darcy.

He was relieved to see them safe and sound.

were the

Don nodded at Kaze before facing the group with a stern look. He waved his arm. "Take these experts away for questioning." The police officers went to apprehend Malcolm and the others.

"Why are you arresting us?"

"This is an outrage. We are the experts. On what charges are you arresting us?"

The dumbfounded experts exclaimed angrily.

Kaze and Darcy should be the ones cuffed.

“What's the meaning of this, Chief Braders? | told you to arrest them, not us!” livid, Malcolm shouted..
“I am putting you under arrest.”

Don scoffed. “I’m arresting you under suspicion of your questionable conduct as a member of the reviewing committee. We are launching a formal investigation on you.”

“Questionable conduct?”

Malcolm yelled in rage, “I get it. You are in cahoots with them. You are setting us up!”

“We didn’t take bribes from the Quints or the Lees. Why are you charging us without proof?” “That’s right. | took nothing from the Quints. What five hundred million dollars? That’s unfounded.” These people were unapologetic as if they had nothing to hide..

All the experts in the committee accepted the bribe from the Quints—ten billion dollars each. The dozen experts received over 100 million dollars altogether.

Federick alone took more than 300 million dollars.!

However, they did not accept the money so blatantly.

The money was funneled to them through other legal means.

They received the money through royalties paid to their publication or other awards.

The lump sum could not be traced from their bank transactions.

That was the reason they were able to act so righteous.

“Don, I guess you don’t want to be the police chief anymore to pull this stunt. Don’t you know the authority we have?” Malcolm said aggressively.

They were held in high regard by the city councils and powerful families.

Don had nothing on them.

“You will release us and apologize if you know any better. Otherwise, you will lose your badge.” Don asked chillingly, “Who said I was arresting you for taking bribes?”

“Is it not?”

Malcolm and the others were taken aback, but they clamored to be released.

“You asked for it.”

Don scoffed. “Since you won't come with us peacefully, I'll conduct the questioning here.”

He waved his arm.

Soon, a group of beautiful women was led into the room.

These women were dolled up rather tastefully.

They held a clutch bag in hand, and everything about them screamed escort.

“Um...”

Color drained from the faces of Malcolm and the others when they saw these women.

“Please identify the suspects,” Don said without looking back.

One woman pointed at Malcolm. “He was my client last night. He didn’t last very long, and he is into hardcore kinkiness. I can’t believe he’s an expert in any subject.”

Chapter 615 The Arrest of the Experts

“Mine is an old man with one foot in the grave. I can’t be more repulsed.”

The group of beautiful women identified each and every expert.

Two of them even pointed their fingers at the same person.

Malcolm and the others turned flushed in the face.

All their secrets were laid bare.

Even the most innocent knew what was going on at that point.

Malcolm and the other refined—looking experts sought escort services together last night.

“Cut the bull crap. Why did you provide services to them if you felt disgusted? It's always about the money,” Don lectured in annoyance.

He then turned to Malcolm’s group and uttered curtly, “Samus Quint arranged the meeting for you after midnight.

“We have records of Samus’ bank transactions. He paid more than five thousand dollars for each service. | guess he went for premium escorts.

“We also obtained video surveillance of them entering your hotel rooms.

“What do you have to say for yourselves?”

The other members of the reviewing committee looked at the experts in disdain. These experts were always quick to point out the faults of others and presented themselves as respectable. Yet, their conduct behind closed doors was questionable.

They were disgraced.

“Samus was their pimp. Ew!”

Even Darcy was disgusted.

There was nothing more to be said.

The case was solid with testimonies and evidence to back it up.

The investigation had not led Don to the team of experts taking bribes.

Still, the charge of seeking escort services was enough reason to take them away.

“| would appreciate it if the investigation could be carried out discreetly, Chief Braders. We're academicians, so if word gets out...”

Malcolm lost the cocky attitude.

He pleaded with Don.

“That’s up to you to decide. Are you going to cooperate?”

Don waved his arm. “Take them away!”

The dozen experts were taken into custody with their heads hung low. Federick was carried into an ambulance.

Don drew close and said, “We can only charge them with a misdemeanor, Mr. Lee. They will be released after paying a fine and serving a short sentence.

“It's not going to be easy to get them for bribery as the money doesn’t funnel straight to them.”

Darcy did not think much of the situation because Don had always been respectful to Kaze.

She said, “Try and get as much evidence as you can, Chief Braders.

“These people exploited the God of War’s good intentions and discredited him. They are evil and should be punished.” Don was thrown off the loop at the mention of the God of War.

He nodded. “Alright. I'll see if | can get them to start talking.”

Johnson arrived at the scene.

He went to apologize to Kaze right away. “I’m so sorry, Mr. Lee.”

“| invited these experienced experts to the panel to assess companies eligible for funding, but they messed up.

“I have kicked them out of the committee. The city council is now directly involved with reviewing business proposals. I will personally see to it.”

Johnson hated these experts.

The big assignment came directly from Kaze.

Johnson was desperate to prove himself to Kaze.

However, the experts ruined things for everybody.

The representative sent by the local government took over the job promptly.

With anticipation reflecting in Darcy's eyes, Kaze patted her shoulder. “Submit your proposal for evaluation, babe.”

Chapter 616 Black Friday Sales

“You are a prominent businesswoman in the city, Ms. Quint. I’m sure your proposal will make the cut.” Johnson curried her favor. “Thank you, Mayor Brooks.”

Darcy was overjoyed and even nodded at Johnson while walking away. Johnson broke out in a cold sweat.

The nod was too much of a courtesy to accept.

“Mr. Lee, um...”

Kaze waved his arm, showing that he did not mind at all.

Relieved, Johnson said, "I have looked into six billion dollars approved to the Quints and the Lees. The money has been wired to them.

"I got my people on the case to get the money back."

"I see," Kaze responded.

Soon, Johnson got a call.

His face turned horrified.

"What's wrong? The money can't be recovered?"

Kaze scowled, but it was not surprising.

The Quints might cough the money back out.

However, the Sunrise Lees would not honor the wishes of a mayor.

"My contact mentioned that the Quints and Lees are at the auction as we speak, buying the top three families' assets like there's no tomorrow. No one can

compete with them.

"They have spent most of the money," Johnson uttered uneasily.

He wanted to slap himself there and then.

Johnson told the finance department to make the support fund a priority to impress Kaze. Hence, the money was wired right after the reviewing committee approved the proposal. Normally, the processing would take much longer.

“It hasn’t been long, and they nearly spent six billion dollars. These families didn’t even evaluate the assets before buying them. They really think this is a Black Friday sale.”

Kaze scoffed. “They probably bite off more than they can chew.” “Should we stop them, Mr. Lee?” Johnson asked.

“Why should we? Let them buy off the assets. The bank can give them a loan if they need more money. They can take all they want.”

Kaze waved his arm.

“Erm?”

Johnson could not understand Kaze’s intentions.

He did not stop the Quints and the Lees from gaining control over Lilyrose. In fact, Kaze seemed to be helping them.

Kaze answered with a pretentious smile, “The top three families expanded their businesses blindly until they were too big to fail. You know better than me how bad the investments were.

“Didn't the Quints and Lees claim they would boost the city’s economy? Well, it's time for them to step up to the plate.” Johnson widened his eyes.

Now, he understood where Kaze was coming from. He was trying to screw those. families over.

“That’s smart, Mr. Lee.”

Johnson gave a thumbs-up with respect.

It did not take long before Darcy showed up, beaming.

“The proposal passed, Kaze!”

She was happy to share the red stamp on her evaluation report.

Darcy could not figure one thing out. “Quartet Group only applied for 500 million dollars, but the committee approved a billion dollars.

“I asked the panel, and they said that the records show that the company is trustworthy.

“Trustworthy? Quartet Group was no more than the Hansers’ shell company not too long ago.” Darcy was confused.

Kaze said with a smile, “Who cares? You got a billion dollars in funding!

“Quartet Group might not have a good reputation, but my wife does. No one will doubt my wife's ability to do business in Lilyrose.

“Besides, the money won't be exploited in your hands.”

Before Johnson left, he and Kaze came to the decision that Quartet Group would be granted a billion dollars. !

Johnson wanted to approve a bigger grant but Kaze said no.

With Darcy walking away with a billion dollars, only three billion dollars were left. in government funding.

Other companies should get a piece of the pie too.

Besides, the behavior of the Quints and the Lees had stirred public outrage. Darcy would become another public enemy if Quartet Group took a lion's share too. 1

Business was all about sharing the pie.

Chapter 617 The Butterworth Queens' Involvement "Pipe down, or people might think we are so full of ourselves." Darcy pinched Kaze, but the joy was written all over her face.

She said in haste, "I need to get back to the office. | can't let the God of War down. | need to make the most out of the one billion dollars."

The support fund was transferred to the corporate account rather swiftly.

Darcy was motivated and driven with ambition.

She had her eyes set on the top three families' assets and intended to put in her bids at the auction. Nevertheless, she did not go at it blindly like the Quints and Lees,

She put her team in charge of evaluating the value of the businesses.

Besides, Darcy did not have massive funds like the Sunrise Lees.

She did not want to stretch herself thin.

Kaze kept Darcy company in her office, but she did not have time for him. Hence, he left.

He exited Clover Center.

Snow's Maybach was waiting at the side of the road.

She was not the only one waiting by the car. Mathias was there too.

"Mr. Chairman."

"M-Master."

Snow greeted him as usual while Mathias adopted a different form of address.

Kaze glanced at Mathias with a pretentious smile. "What? Why are you stammering? Is the word beneath you?" "It's not. Not at all."

Mathias chuckled awkwardly.

Kaze uttered with a smile, "Just call me by my name. It will be problematic if someone catches the heir of the Queens addressing me so humbly."

"Sure, K-Kaze."

The man and the woman carried themselves with poise. Yet, they humbly stood before Kaze.

The passing people and cars could not help but stare at them.

“Find a restaurant for lunch. Get in.”

Kaze waved his arm.

Snow opened the car door.

Once Kaze got in, she got into the car through the other door and sat next to Kaze.

Mathias blamed himself for missing the opportunity of being a gentleman and sat in the front passenger seat.

He sighed to himself.

No one would have thought that the loser son-in-law of an upper—middle—class family turned out to be the God of War. Mathias found out that the mysterious chairman of Perfect World Group whom Snow, his goddess, served, was Kaze. It only took him a second to accept the reality.

Mathias no longer had any ideas about Snow.

Snow was the princess of the Frost family..Yet, she went as far as becoming Kaze’s personal assistant. She ran daily errands and sorted out all the trivialities.

Kaze was likely testing her loyalty and strength by giving her these tasks. By the looks of things, Kaze seemed satisfied with Snow’s work ethic and efficiency.

Snapping out of his thoughts, Mathias turned over and said, “The Queens have brought funds into Lilyrose as your instruction. We are at your disposal.”

Matthew learned his nephew, Mathias, would be working for Kaze.

The head of the Queen family expressed that it was Mathias' honor to serve Kaze. He pledged that the Butterworth Queens would be at Kaze's service too.

"Alright."

Kaze nodded.

Following the fall of the top three families, those formerly under their sway sought out new sources of power and influence.

The Sunrise Lees were not the only ones trying to dominate Lilyrose.

According to Snow's report, other rich and powerful families were tempted to dip their fingers too.

Lilyrose was a small city.

It was a city of wealth.

The Sunrise Lees could not possibly monopolize the resources. Everybody wanted a piece of the pie.

Kaze understood the greed among the rich and powerful. Lilyrose would face a crisis at the hands of these people.

He asked the Queens to invest in the city.

At least with him watching over the Queens' shoulder, they would think twice before turning to the dark side.

Kaze asked Snow, "What's the update on the Quints and Lees?"

Chapter 618 Mountain Dew Estate

“They are still in a bidding frenzy.

“The Quints just asked for a loan, and they are using their newly purchased assets as collateral for a one-billion-dollar loan. “I approved the loan as you have instructed, Mr. Chairman.”

Snow was still the chairman of Lilyrose Bank.

She could be considered the queen of all the bank systems in Lilyrose.

“Master Quint is an idiot. He’s so self-absorbed that he thinks he can play the game like the Sunrise Lees.”

Kaze shook his head.

He had no qualms about sharing his real opinion about Master Quint behind Darcy’s family’s back.

Kaze lost all respect for the old man.

“Darcy wants to join the auction. Pick a larger-scale business with good prospects for me, Snow. I want to get it for her.” Kaze added, “The one billion dollars she has isn’t enough.”

Knowing Darcy, she would not borrow money blindly just to expand her business. She would not go beyond her risk tolerance. Hence, Kaze decided to buy a firm for her.

After much thought, Snow answered, “You can consider Sky Ocean Corporation. Perfect World Group has run an assessment on the company.”

Ray represented Perfect World Group in bidding for the top three families’ assets. Kaze nodded. The company must be good because it was recommended by Snow.

Nevertheless, Kaze murmured, “Darcy will be exhausted by her multiple roles in Quartet Group and Sky Ocean Corporation. Maybe these two companies can merge and register under a new name.”

Darcy was a workaholic. Kaze simply did not want her to overwork herself.

Snow checked her phone and replied, “Mr. Chairman, Sky Ocean Corporation will be auctioned tomorrow at Dynasty Hotel.” “Dynasty Hotel?”

Kaze frowned. “Can't it happen at a further place?”

“Further?”

Mathias was confused.

Snow shot him a cold look.

Mathias shut his mouth and got angry a

of a good subordinate.

himself for not embodying the essence

His only job was to follow his boss' orders. He should never ask why.

“Preferably somewhere nice we can spend a night or two.

“I want Darcy to work and relax. A lot has happened, and she's drained.”

Kaze realized he divulged a little too much information.

He had an ulterior motive.

Travel was the best way for a couple to draw closer.

If a woman was willing to go on a trip together with a man, the man had a good chance of making his move.

"I know of a nice place on Mountain Dew. Mountain Dew Estate was the Goldings's summer home. The property is also undergoing foreclosure."

Snow said with a straight face, "I'll give Mayor Brooks a call to have the auction there instead." "I'll buy the property and give it to Ms. Quint," Mathias said.

They had a quick meal at a restaurant.

Kaze then returned to Horizon Mirror Mansion.

Darcy was soon driven home in the company car.

"Pack a bag, Kaze. Drive me to Mountain Dew Estate. The judicial auction will be held there tomorrow.

While getting her things, Darcy whined. "I don't know who decided to change the venue at the last minute. It was supposed to be at Dynasty Hotel. Now I have to spend the night at Mountain Dew Estate.

"It's so annoying."

Mountain Dew Estate was

in a town in Lilyrose's jurisdiction.

It was a summer resort with an altitude of nearly 10 thousand feet.

The road up Mountain Dew was winding. The area was well known for its multiple road bends. Traffic was horrendous there.

Darcy would miss the auction if she were to make the trip tomorrow morning.

"Oh, I'll stay with you there. | won't drive home tonight."

Kaze had something to hide.

He did not have the guts to admit that he changed the venue.

Chapter 619 Raining on Son-In—Law's Parade

"If you're staying at the resort tonight, what about work tomorrow?" without suspecting a thing, Darcy asked without looking up. She knew that Kaze had sought employment with Shangrila Group.

Kaze replied, "It's okay. Winnie will take care of things in Shangrila Group. It's fine if | skip a day of work."

"That's not the right attitude to work. Ms. Souffle is so kind to offer you a job. You should take the work seriously. The least you can do is ask for some time off." Darcy lectured him.

"Alright. I'll take the day off."

Left with no alternatives, Kaze called Winnie to ask for leave.

“My friend in junior high, Nancy, is a hotel manager at Mountain Dew Estate. I'll sort out the reservations with her.” Darcy called to make reservations.

“Book two rooms. ”

Agnes walked into the room.

She stared at Kaze warily.

Still feeling concerned, she called Sky over.

“Sky, you should go with your sister to Mountain Dew Estate too.”

Sky noticed Kaze glaring at him. It then dawned on him.

“What's so fun about the resort anyway? | wouldn't take my Ferrari 488 there. The road will scrape my suspension.” He quickly ran off.

“Rose can go then. She can share a room with Darcy.”

Agnes summoned Rose to the room.

“Aunt Agnes, Darcy is going there to work. | might interfere with her business.

Rose looked at Kaze and shook her head in refusal.

Even though Darcy and Kaze were married, they had been sleeping in separate rooms.

She was sympathetic to Kaze.

The youngsters knew how to take a hint.

Darcy was oblivious to Kaze's intentions, but they saw right through him.

"I'll go. I'll share the room with Kaze."

Landon swaggered his way over. He gave Kaze a smug look.

Landon wanted to keep an eye on Darcy and Kaze for Kiev.

"Yeah, right. What about your homework?"

Rose pinched his ear and dragged him out of there.

"I'm warning you, Kaze. If anything happens to Darcy, I won't let you get away with it." Since Agnes could not do anything about the situation, she gave a stern warning

to Kaze.

Kaze gave his word nonchalantly.

The eye could not reach where the foot could not go.

He would not be under Agnes' watchful eye once they were at Mountain Dew

Estate.

Kaze and Darcy set out to their destination.

It was a two-hour drive before they arrived at the resort.

Nancy, Darcy's friend in junior high, greeted them at the entrance.

"I'm so sorry, Darcy. Because the location of the auction was switched to here. last minute, we had a lot of bookings for today. "We only have four of the five rooms reserved for you."

Due to Agnes' insistence, Darcy reserved individual rooms for herself and Kaze.

The remaining three rooms were for her employees.

"I'm fine with four rooms."

Darcy nodded blushing. She was not the innocent lady she once was. Agnes' protectiveness and Kaze's excitement throughout the journey did not go unnoticed:

She knew one thing might lead to another if she shared a room with Kaze. However, she was not against the idea.

"Alright. Just head to the reception for check-in," Nancy said with a smile and took Darcy's luggage. While they were checking in, a man and a woman stepped in from outside.

The woman was well-dressed, spotting a pair of sunglasses, and walked with her head held high. The man fell back a little with an ingratiating smile.

The staff working in the lobby was surprised.

It was not every day they got to see Wendell, their general manager, seeking anybody's favor.

“I heard that someone wealthy bought the resort today, Wendell. Do you know who it was?” the woman asked while strutting.

“I don’t have the details yet. I got a call that the new owner will be staying here tonight.” Wendell flattered her with a smile. “But, Deborah, you’re wealthy too.

“Other than the Lee family from Sunrise City, your family spares no expenses to take over the top three families’ assets.”

Chapter 620 You'll Regret Cutting Ties With the Quints

The woman with Wendell turned out to be Deborah.

She was attending the auction tomorrow on behalf of the Quints.

Wendell’ flattery pleased Deborah.

The Quints had put elites like the Vikroms, Logmans, and Joestars in the shade.

Now, no one would call the Quints an upper—middle—class family. In fact, word had gotten out that the Quint family was now in the top 1% in Lilyrose.

“That reminds me. Mr. Narian of the Lee family will be staying here too,”

Wendell told Deborah.

“I know.’

Deborah did not seem surprised.

Instead, she said beamingly, "I'm meeting him alone tonight. He'll come to me when he gets here." "The whore is already hooking up with Narian," Wendell thought to himself.

He was jealous.

Wendell went to the same

college as Deborah.

She was pretty wild during college.

Wendell had once gotten together with the woman.

Now that Deborah was banging Narian, he did not stand another chance.

Worst of all, he had to facilitate the couple's rendezvous.

The Goldings developed Mountain Dew Estate into a travel destination.

Wendell became the general manager by sucking up to Frank.

The top three families were no longer in power.

Wendell did not know anything about the new owner of the resort yet. The unknown made him restless and anxious. Hence, Wendell must take caution and curry favor with Deborah and Narian.

"Huh? Why are they here too?"

Deborah suddenly took notice of Darcy and Kaze checking in at the front desk.

“Do you know them, Deborah?” Wendell asked.

Deborah sneered. “Yeah, and you do too. It’s my idiot cousin and her moronic husband.”

“So, it's them.”

Wendell knew who they were now.

Deborah approached Darcy.

“I heard Quartet Group was granted a billion dollars, Darcy.

“Tell me who did you have to sleep with to get the money,” Deborah raised her voice and said out loud. Many corporate teams, who came for the auction, were in the lobby.

Darcy immediately got envious and contemptuous looks from the crowd.

“I'm sure there's funny business going on since Quartet Group received a billion. dollars in funding when the company has no resources or connections.”

“I know Darcy. A lot of drama and controversies revolve around her. She doesn't have respect for herself, so I'm not surprised she would sleep with someone to get the funding.”

“Wasn't there a rumor about the chairman of Perfect World Group bankrolling her?”

Kaze's face fell when he heard the comments. He snapped a chilling look at Deborah. He would deal with her later.

Without a word, he went to those who badmouthed Darcy.

Darcy frowned.

She turned and stared Deborah down.

"I got the funding on my own merits and not by being a pimp for the experts on the reviewing committee.

"Your brother must still be in custody, Deborah. Otherwise, Grandpa wouldn't send you here." Darcy snapped back.

"You reported Samus, didn't you?"

Deborah was livid. "How dare you snitch on my brother and screw us over, Darcy. You are becoming unruly.

"Does the family even matter to you?"

"I thought I had cut ties with the family."

Darcy's eyes flickered with misery. She struggled to come to terms with renouncing the family. Nevertheless, she steeled her heart at the reminder of the Quints' behavior.

"You'll regret cutting ties with the family."

Deborah gritted her teeth, unable to do anything to Darcy.

Smack! Smack!

Horrified screams, coupled with slapping sounds, filled the room.