Limits 481

Chapter 481

"So what if you're smart, Joanne? Your parents are fruit vendors. You'll be selling fruit after you graduate too." Melanie Pabst couldn't help but sneer out of jealousy. Melanie was the same woman who had taunted Joanne while sitting in a BMW.

Despite her poor academic performance, she harbored a deep resentment toward Joanne. She couldn't understand why Joanne, with her impoverished background, acted so superior.

No matter how good her grades were, she'd still end up inheriting her family's fruit-selling business.

Joanne's face turned pale instantly, and her eyes welled up with tears. She had endured similar insults before, but never like this.

This was the first time she had been humiliated in front of Jack. She didn't want him to see that she carried such a heavy burden beyond her studies.

Jack gave a cold laugh. "Oh, so you come from a wealthy family? Acting like a little princess now, are we?"

Melanie puffed out her chest proudly. "My dad is a top official of the district's urban management bureau. He's in charge of people like your parents. If I ever see them setting up their stall, I'll have my dad's men shut them down."

"Melanie, why bother arguing with people like them?" A man in a jacket with a beer belly sneered, shooting Joanne and Jack a look of disgust.

Another man, Paul Humphrey, smiled and chimed in. "There's nothing wrong with kids being honest," he said. "Good grades don't always mean a successful future. They might not even find a stable job."

These people's children all had poor grades and felt nothing but hostility toward Joanne.

Earlier, they had shown up in luxury cars worth hundreds of thousands. Yet, because someone like Jack-who simply rode an electric bike-had reported them, they ended up with fines or had to park miles away.

No wonder they disliked Joanne.

The parent-teacher meeting had just ended, and Jack was about to leave with Joanne.

Suddenly, a young woman rushed in, panicked, and shouted, "Joanne, this is bad! I just saw Cain and a bunch of guys at the school gate-they're waiting to corner you!"

Joanne's face turned pale. She turned to Jack and asked, "What do we do? They're definitely here for you."

Cain had always been a bully. He had even hit a student's parent in front of the academic dean once. Gang fights were a regular occurrence for him.

Jack was a bit surprised. He hadn't expected Cain to gather his gang so quickly for revenge.

Seeing how frightened Joanne looked, Jack thought for a moment. Then, he pulled out his phone and called Boris.

At that moment, Boris was busy boasting to the big shots of Perthter City about how powerful he was.

Seeing Jack's incoming call, he didn't dare delay and answered immediately.

"Jack, what do you need? Just say the word."

Jack said, "I just finished attending my sister's parent-teacher meeting at Crestfield. Now, some punks are trying to corner me. Can you bring some men over?

"Make sure it's a show of force. I want them to know who they're dealing with. Oh, and one more thing-I want Joanne to walk out of here like a proud princess!"

This was also for Joanne's future.

Even if Jack managed to get her out safely this time, there was no guarantee it would end there. Someone like Cain could easily hold a grudge and come after her later. He didn't want Joanne living in constant fear.

He wanted to make a statement-so that these punks wouldn't dare harass Joanne again.

However, Boris hesitated.

Bringing men to make a statement was easy. He could bring as many as needed.

But making Joanne stand tall and truly feel like a princess? That was a whole different challenge.

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A man next to Boris, eager to curry favor, chimed in, "No problem! We'll round up the crew, call in everyone we know, and roll up in the flashiest cars we can find. We'll make it as grand as it gets!"

The moment Jack hung up, influential figures across Perthter City jumped into action. They skipped meals and drinks, immediately making calls to rally their people.

In no time, the entire city was in chaos.

The high rollers and playboys, fresh from the casinos, the bedroom, and the gym, jumped into their luxury cars. Engines roared as they sped through the city, all converging on Crestfield in a dazzling display of power and extravagance.

Meanwhile, Jack walked slowly out of the school with Joanne.

Sure enough, when they reached the school gate, they saw a group of thugs arguing with the security guards.

It turned out these thugs wanted to inspect people coming in and out. Security stood their ground, refusing to allow it, and a confrontation ensued.

Jack immediately recognized that the leader was Cain, with whom he had clashed before.

Cain's face still bore the bruises from his last beating. He scanned the school entrance with an air of arrogance, determined not to let anyone slip past him.

Suddenly, a sharp slap broke the tense atmosphere.

One of the thugs had slapped a security guard across the face. He then pointed at the guard and snarled, "Move it, mutt! If you don't get out of my face, I'll chop you up too!"

The guard, visibly shaken, quietly retreated back into the guardhouse, too afraid to intervene any further.

The thugs grew even more brazen, openly mocking and provoking others.

Joanne recognized Cain, who was blocking the door. She clutched Jack's hand tightly, her voice trembling as she said, "Jack, I'm scared. Can we wait a bit before leaving?"

He gently patted the back of her hand and reassured her, "Don't be afraid. Stick with me. Nothing's going to happen."

With that, he pulled out his phone and called Boris again. The call was answered quickly, and Boris said, "Jack, don't worry. We're almost there! Got a whole crew coming, so we hit a little traffic. We'll be there in a minute."

What Jack didn't know was that his call had set the entire city into a frenzy.

Less than a minute after he hung up, the roar of car engines could be heard outside.

The first wave of reinforcements stormed in!

Seven or eight luxury cars pulled up one after another. There were a few Mercedes, BMWs, and even a flashy Ferrari.

The arrival of these sleek, high-end cars instantly elevated the scene.

Everyone turned to look, secretly wondering where this convoy of rich people came from.

Not far away, Cain and his crew stood frozen in disbelief. They were completely baffled by the arrival of a group even more brazen than they were.

A muscular man stepped out of the Ferrari, clearly fresh from the gym, with sweat still glistening on his skin. Sean, who had been beaten up by Jack earlier, stepped forward and approached the man.

He arrogantly asked, "Hey there, buddy! Are you here to help out Cain, too?"

He assumed this was some man Cain had called in. But before he could finish his sentence, the muscular man slapped him across the face.

Sean staggered backward, clutching his cheek, barely managing to stay on his feet. He gaped at the man, stunned that someone had dared to treat him this way.

The muscular man cursed, "What kind of punk dares to talk to me like that? Who the hell are you to boss me around?"

Cain and his group were taken aback. His face turned pale as he glared at the muscular man, trying to figure out who he was.

But things were far from over.

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After the first fleet of luxury cars arrived, a second, third, and even fourth convoy pulled up to the scene.

These fleets were just as luxurious and imposing, with each car worth a fortune. They nearly blocked the entire school entrance, transforming it into an impromptu high-end auto show.

Every car was just as extravagant and expensive as the next. The entire area looked like a high-end auto show. The school gate was nearly blocked off by the sheer number of cars.

The guard was so shaken that he shrank back, practically curling into himself. He kept his head down, not daring to make a sound.

Even Cain, born into wealth, couldn't help but stare in amazement at the row of luxury cars before him. He couldn't help but wonder who had the power and influence to pull off such a spectacle. The sheer scale of it was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

By now, no one was paying attention to Cain and his men anymore. In the presence of these true power players, they seemed insignificant. They were nothing more than a bunch of nobodies trying to act tough.

On the other hand, Jack had no idea that all these cars were there for him.

He had simply called Boris to make some arrangement. He never expected Boris to go all out like this.

With time running short and him not being a local in Perthter City, Jack didn't expect much. He figured Boris would, at most, gather a few men to hold the fort.

This overwhelming display wasn't just for show. It was proof of Jack's growing influence as a major player in Alnewgo.

Though Alnewgo was far away, it was nevertheless an international financial hub. Someone who dominated Perthter City might not even count as a minor player in Alnewgo.

Being able to carve out a name in Alnewgo-that was the true mark of power.

That was why these men were all eager to get on Jack's good side. After all, who knew when they might need a favor from him in the future?

As Jack waited for Boris, his phone rang.

Boris' boisterous voice came through the phone. "Jack, where are you? My men and I are waiting for you outside! Should we roll out the red carpet, too? That'll make it even more impressive."

Jack replied, "I don't see you. Where are you?"

"All those cars outside-I called them in to back you up. Didn't you ask me to make it grand? Well, this is as grand as it gets!" He laughed proudly.

"Good. I'm on my way." Jack hung up, glanced at the impressive fleet of luxury cars outside, and smiled faintly.

He took Joanne's hand and walked out.

She was so nervous her palms were sweating. She thought these luxury cars were called by Cain and never imagined they were men Jack had summoned.

As Jack and Joanne stepped through the school gates, Boris lifted his hand. Instantly, the hundred or so men lounging against their luxury cars straightened up. Their eyes, filled with respect, were fixed on the man who had carved his legend in Alnewgo.

Jack looked every bit as young as the legends made him out to be.

But his eyes were sharp and filled with brilliance. He carried a natural charisma that made people instinctively lower their heads in respect.

"Jack... we're not in danger, are we?" Joanne clutched his hand tightly, her voice trembling nervously.

Boris was the first to step forward, followed by the leaders from various districts of Perthter City.

There were no uniform chants, but their eyes were filled with respect and awe for Jack.

Jack had built his reputation and secured his place in Alnewgo. He was nothing short of a legend-a true force to be reckoned with.

Some of the younger men, puzzled by his youthful appearance, whispered among themselves.

"This is the guy we're here to show respect to? He looks so young. What's his deal? Does he really deserve our respect?"

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"You're such a fool!" one of the men hissed. "He's the legend who took down all

the big shots in Alnewgo! Not only that, but he also defeated over a thousand men with just a few accomplices by his side!"

Any doubt the men held for Jack was dispelled after hearing Jack's illustrious history, and they immediately showed him their respect.

"Boss! Everyone's here!" Boris informed Jack respectfully while also directing his gaze toward Joanne.

"You must be Joanne. The name's Boris Jonsen, Little Princess. I'm business partners with your brother. You can call me Boris."

Although Boris had a fierce appearance, he spoke amicably to Joanne. He was also smart enough to hide his real identity from her, telling her that he and Jack were business partners to elevate Jack's reputation.

The other gangsters who had followed Boris from Perthter City also greeted Jack enthusiastically while showing him the utmost respect.

With a surprised expression, Joanne looked at Jack. She wondered what was going on and if anyone could give her any answers. Jack was getting more and more mysterious in her eyes.

Joanne had grown up in a poor family and had to endure many insults and degrading comments from the people around her. She had never seen so many luxury cars in one place-not to mention that they were all here for her.

But what made Joanne most proud was how the other men were treating Jack. They were clearly people who held certain positions of power, and yet they were here to pick her up and also stuttered nervously while speaking to Jack.

Next to her, Melanie could only nod her head in shock. She had turned speechless from the sight of Joanne being treated like a princess and having everyone's attention on her.

Joanne had always been a nobody, a daughter of a pair of lowly melon farmers. Melanie had never seen Joanne being treated so preciously, and it was completely out of her expectations.

"Let's go! We're going to be in trouble if we don't leave right now!"

Melanie's potbellied father sprang into action, recalling how he had intentionally scorned Jack earlier. He was worried Jack had brought such a large group of men with him to deal with him. If they didn't leave now, he just might get beat up.

Cain watched the scene unfold from a distance away, his expression darkening with each passing second. He had no idea that Jack was such a formidable figure. Were the people that surrounded Jack and Joanne all here to pick them up?

Meanwhile, Cain's own group of rowdy men were sending nervous looks at him. Their eyes were filled with fear and cold sweat drenched their backs.

"Cain, should we rush them and show them who's boss?" Sean asked Cain in a small voice.

Cain slapped Sean hard across his face and bellowed, "If you've got the balls, then by all means go ahead!"

Sean was dizzy from how hard Cain had slapped him. He didn't dare to speak carelessly any longer. Even a fool would understand that if they rushed Jack's group right at that moment, the only outcome waiting for them would be death.

Cain glared at the group for a while longer before finally muttering, "Fuck, don't think you're all that just because you know a few hotshots. Just wait, I'll show you who's boss sooner or later."

He snuffed out his cigarette with more force than necessary before he entered his Audi. He didn't spare a single glance back before speeding away from the scene.

Jack guided Joanne into a stretch Hummer. He had originally planned to take her and Boris for dinner, wanting to use the opportunity to also introduce her to a few reputable figures in Perthter City. His goal was for Joanne to get to know people who could take care of her while she was in school.

But Jack could see that Joanne was still a little frightened and uncomfortable, despite the men acting courteously and politely toward her. There was nothing else that Jack could do.

He excused himself from the group of men to bring Joanne home, but not before directing Boris to bring the men to Perthter City's most extravagant hotel. He wouldn't join them-Boris would entertain them in his place-but he would foot the bill for their luxurious dinner.

Chapter 485

When Jack brought Joanne home, he reminded her, "Don't tell Mom and Dad about what happened today. I don't want them to worry."

Joanne nodded in agreement. However, she was still curious and asked, "Jack, what do you actually do? Were they really your business partners?"

No matter how Joanne tried to wrap her head around it, the men she had seen today looked more like gangsters than businessmen.

Jack hastily nodded and said, "Of course, would I lie to you? Where do you think the money I give Mom and Dad comes from?"

Joanne mulled over Jack's words and decided that what he was saying was reasonable. Not only had Jack earned a lot of money, but more importantly, Joanne trusted in Jack's character. Besides, many successful businessmen these days got their start in the underbelly of society. It probably wasn't easy for them to change their gangster-like ways even after they had made it big and earned some money.

Joanne nodded and decided to drop the subject. Later that night, Jack received a phone call from Leo, who was currently in the capital. Leo had boarded the plane toward Linkhaven City, and he had also wined and dined with a group of friends after he landed.

It was already afternoon when Leo landed in Perthter City. He had interacted with Jack in the past and wanted to spend time with him while he was in the city. Thus, Jack decided to pick Leo up from the bus station personally.

Even from afar, Jack could see the way Leo was swaggering along like he owned the place. He had a few companions with him-Mona, a fellow Alnewgo University student who often hid her true feelings whom Jack had met a few times, and Chase Rockford, a good friend of Leo's.

Apparently, Chase was studying in Saint Lucio Military Academy. He was extremely fit and muscular, and he ran in the same circle as Leo, Zane, and Neil back in the capital.

After Chase heard how Zane and Leo had found a man that they were willing to acknowledge as superior to themselves, he had tagged along with Leo specifically to meet Jack.

However, the Grant siblings were not present. Leo's trip to Perthter City was also not only to meet up with Jack. His father was also working in Perthter City.

Mona didn't have the best impression of Jack, considering she wasn't the type who appreciated a man that advocated violence. She much preferred a man who was talented, charming, and skilled in all sorts of aspects.

Mona also had a prejudice against Jack, thinking that he was only good at fighting. Furthermore, unlike them, Jack wasn't from a prestigious family and did not have the blood of the elite running through his veins.

If Jack wanted to impress Mona, he would have to show her what he was truly capable of. Unfortunately for Jack, Mona had yet to witness anything impressive from him.

Thus, Mona decided to go off on her own to meet up with her friends in Perthter City the next day, leaving Leo and Chase to accompany Jack. Mona made her swift exit after dinner was over.

Meanwhile, Jack, Leo, and Chase were chatting up a storm amongst themselves. Although it was the first time Chase was meeting Jack, they had no trouble communicating with each other as he was willing to discuss anything and everything.

Jack was most surprised by how Chase had already achieved the rank of captain. Considering Chase was still a student, he must have contributed something spectacular for him to achieve such a high ranking.

Leo downed a whole bottle of beer in one go. His brow furrowed as he said, "Jack, our families have been observing us like hawks after we returned to the capital this time around. Zane, Neil, and myself are on the verge of going mad. Thankfully, Chase and I managed to slip away. So tell us, what sort of fun can one get up to in Perthter City?"

Jack snickered after recalling how he was going to face off with Shawn tomorrow. "You guys came at the perfect time, there's going to be something fun tomorrow!"

Chase and Leo were ecstatic. They didn't expect that there would be something exciting waiting for them the moment they stepped foot in Perthter City. The next morning, Wesley and Eddie gave Jack a call, inviting him to join them for a party at Dynasty Hotel. Jack brought Leo and Chase with him to meet with Wesley and Eddie.

After discovering how Wesley and Eddie were childhood friends with Jack, Leo decided to take the initiative to greet them warmly.

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"Nice to meet you," Leo greeted. "I'm one of Jack's buddies. You can call me Leo."

Chase also politely greeted Eddie and Wesley. The pair exchanged looks with each other, both wondering when Jack had made friends with Leo. They were confused because Leo had an intimidating air about him.

After exchanging greetings, the group got into a taxi and headed toward Dynasty Hotel.

When they arrived at their destination, they noticed that the parking lot was

already filled with luxury cars. There were Lamborghinis and Koenigseggs, just to name a few.

It was obvious to see that whoever was having their wedding at the hotel was someone of great power.

Shawn stood at the entrance of the hotel, greeting and welcoming the arriving guests. He had cleaned up well for today, but the bride who was standing by his side wasn't Calista, but another petite woman.

Jack was surprised at first, but when he thought about how much of a playboy Shawn was, it wasn't all that surprising that he had dumped Calista for a new flame.

The bride was covered from head to toe in precious jewels. What was most astounding was the ten gold necklaces that adorned her neck while all sorts of gold bracelets were also clasped around her wrists. Just these gold accessories alone would weigh her down heavily.

Shawn was all smiles as he stood at the entrance and greeted every arriving guest. They were all reputable people, and Shawn often greeted them with one title or another to show his respect.

There was suddenly the sound of honking behind them. A man poked his head out from his BMW and glared at Jack and his party. "Are you guys blind? Why the hell are you blocking the road?"

Coincidentally, the man who honked at them was the same man who had been involved in a conflict with Jack. It was Cain, and he was as arrogant as ever. However, Cain did not realize that he was raising his voice at Jack.

Leo's expression twisted in annoyance. "What the fuck are you saying? This is the pedestrian sidewalk! I ought to give you a good beating to teach you a lesson!"

Leo had always been a fearless man. He was courteous when meeting Jack's friends, but now that he had encountered someone who was rude to him, Leo was determined to leave a lasting impression on him.

Cain's eyes had widened to the size of saucers. He was about to lose his temper when an excited voice echoed from the passenger seat of the BMW. "Wesley! You guys made it!"

A beautiful woman greeted them. Her name was Sunny Beller, and she had been in the same class as Feena.

Seeing how Cain was about to lose his temper, Sunny tugged his hand and muttered, "Cain, these are my classmates. Can you please leave them alone?"

The tone that Sunny used was near-pleading. Cain's smile didn't reach his eyes when he said, "Shawn is getting married today. I'll keep out of trouble for his sake."

His statement made it clear that he wasn't doing it for Sunny's sake. Sunny chewed on her bottom lip and didn't dare say more. It was already a miracle that she had managed to stop Cain from getting into a fight with Leo, there was nothing else she could ask of him.

Sunny had only pursued Cain because she was interested in his family background. In Cain's eyes, Sunny was a person with no dignity. However, Sunny did not regret her actions.

It was only thanks to her chasing after Cain that allowed her to ride in the BMW. It didn't matter if she was crying while riding in it. She still attracted the envious gazes of the other women around her.

Sunny also knew that if she hadn't stopped Cain earlier, it was highly likely that Jack and his friends would get dragged into a scuffle. At best, they would get away with just some light injuries. At worst, they would be beaten to an inch of their lives before they were disposed of like garbage.

Sunny had seen firsthand how Cain reacted after hitting a pregnant woman with his car while he was driving under the influence. He had gotten out of the car to beat the woman.

Later on, Cain had used his connections to imprison the woman in a makeshift jail. She had been locked in the jail for a week-the reason being that she had tried to make a run for it after scratching Cain's car.

Cain had only allowed the pregnant woman to leave after her husband's family came to beg Cain for her release. They had kneeled outside Cain's villa for several days before he was willing to let her go.

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After that incident, Sunny fully realized the importance of having power. It was the reason why she had thrown away her pride to pursue Cain despite him being younger than her.

It didn't matter how Cain treated her. Sunny had achieved her dream of marrying into wealth, and she wouldn't suffer the consequences of being poor.

Sunny's life had turned around for the better after marrying Cain, which also pleased her greatly. In Sunny's eyes, Jack and his friends were pitiful people who didn't have a strong family background to support them.

What good was being able to enroll into a prestigious university? It wouldn't help with advancing one's future in the long run.

Leo also refrained from getting involved with Cain. He had wanted to drag Cain from his car to teach him a lesson, but since Sunny used to be classmates with Jack and his friends, he held himself back for her sake.

Looking at Leo's smiling face gave Cain the wrong impression that Leo was afraid of him. He cursed them out before driving his car away to secure a parking spot.

The crowd entered the hotel and made their way to the two pre-booked private rooms, noticing that most people had already arrived.

Leo introduced himself to everyone he came across, unfortunately giving off the impression that he was an idiot. "I'm a friend of Jack's! My name's Leo, it's nice to meet you."

Meanwhile, Chase behaved much more reservedly, though he smiled amicably whenever he met someone new. Feena arrived soon after and immediately became the center of attention. She had become a new generation idol celebrity after her drama was broadcasted and exploded in popularity.

Jack's appearance also turned quite a few heads. The last time most of the people present had seen each other was during the bonfire party by the river that had been organized for their high school graduation. Thus, many of them only found out today that Jack was the one who had secured the title of top scholar of science in their province.

Many of them realized that their class was full of hidden talents. Not only did they have a famous celebrity amongst them, but they also had a top scholar in their ranks.

It wasn't surprising that Feena had managed to forge a successful path to being a celebrity. After all, she was beautiful and talented. She was also from an illustrious family, so all she needed was a chance to make it big.

Jack, on the other hand, had only left his mark during the final month of their high school days, shocking many of them.

Seeing how his old classmates were happily engaged in conversation with one another, Jack used the excuse that he needed to use the restroom to slip away. He entered the grand hall where the wedding would take place.

The hall was decorated to match the wedding's atmosphere. In the corner, a group of inconspicuous men dressed in working garb were gathered as they smoked together.

The one at the very front of the group was Boris. Noticing Jack's arrival, Boris tossed his cigarette butt away and hollered, "Jack! You're here!"

Jack nodded in response. He asked with a smile, "Is everything ready?"

"Yes. This is going to be an unforgettable wedding," said Boris as he winked at Jack, his face one of utmost confidence.

Jack and Boris exchanged knowing smiles, aware of what the other was thinking without needing to express it in words. Since the wedding hadn't started yet, Jack returned to where his old classmates were gathered. They were still chatting happily amongst themselves.

The atmosphere of the gathering slowly shifted as everyone began to compare their achievements with their peers. Those who managed to get into a good university were put on a pedestal and fawned over. Feena was also in the spotlight since she had become a celebrity.

Leo, Chase, Wesley, and Eddie were also engaged in conversation. When Eddie heard that Chase was studying in Saint Lucio Military Academy, he mentioned how the university he was studying at also had a military academy right across the street and how he had made many friends there.

After discovering that Chase was studying at the military academy that was nicknamed "General's Cradle", Eddie couldn't help but be shocked. From what he understood, Saint Lucio Military Academy operated on an invite-only basis. Only those with considerable influence were allowed to enroll in that academy.

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A man named Keith Domingo was also struck by surprise after discovering that Chase was studying in Saint Lucio Military Academy.

Greyson Luther hailed from Linkhaven City and was accompanying his girlfriend for the wedding. He was from a prestigious family himself, so he knew of the reputation of the military academy. He asked Chase, "Are you really studying there?"

"Yes," Chase affirmed with a nod.

"I also have a friend who's studying in Saint Lucio," Keith added. "His name's Max Idian. I heard he's been making a name for himself in the academy, have you heard of him?"

Chase shook his head. "I haven't," he replied.

Keith withdrew from the conversation after hearing Chase's answer. Since Chase hadn't heard of Max, Keith was convinced that Chase was lying about being a student of Saint Lucio Military Academy. Even if he was enrolled there, he probably wasn't anyone significant.

Naturally, Chase noticed the disinterest in Keith's eyes, but he didn't particularly care, just like how he didn't care about the other students who were enrolled in Saint Lucio Military Academy. He typically only communicated with the principal, teachers, or other high-ranking officials there.

Leo's phone started ringing suddenly. After answering the call, the polite expression he had on morphed into one of outrage. "So you still know how to show up, you fucker. Get your fucking ass over here and greet Jack. I'll have your head if you're late!"

Leo cut the call after he was done ranting. He only showed respect to those who had a connection to Jack. If it was anyone else, he would have slapped them across the face a long time ago.

"Who was that?" Jack asked curiously.

"A stupid idiot named Yohann Freston," Leo explained in a huff. "He heard I was going to be in Perthter City and insisted on meeting me. If the motherfucker's father hadn't been promoted recently to the top dog position in the province's Security Police Board, I wouldn't give a rat's ass about him."

Leo had mentioned the "top dog position in the Security Police Board" casually, not quite realizing the importance of the title to an ordinary citizen. Meanwhile, Keith's expression had changed drastically after hearing Leo's words.

Keith considered himself somewhat of an important figure in Linkhaven City. He was acquainted with many other important figures of his generation in Linkhaven, such as Max and also Yohann.

But what type of man was Yohann? To put it simply, he was an extremely powerful figure in Linkhaven City. His father was recently promoted to the top position in the province's Security Police Board while Yohann himself was a man who didn't know fear.

Back when his father was still only a deputy, Yohann had been caught up in a fight with a nephew of another powerful figure. He had even broken the leg of the nephew in the fight, showing how he did not fear any consequence that might befall him.

Keith was a small fry compared to a big fish like Yohann. Thus, it was hard for Keith to believe the man who had been politely greeting and introducing himself to everyone just earlier had Yohann under his beck and call. He had even threatened to have Yohann's head if he was late!

Keith wondered if Leo was just making things up. He also considered the possibility that he had misheard Leo. After all, who would dare threaten Yohann with bodily violence? He quickly convinced himself that he had misunderstood Leo. Either that or Leo was weaving an elaborate lie.

Keith chalked up the name "Yohann Freston" to being an old-fashioned name that originated from a faraway and rural village. As for his father who held the top position in the Security Police Board? Keith decided to ignore it altogether.

The atmosphere around them was raucous. Other than Jack, Leo, and Keith, who was unnaturally sensitive toward the name "Yohann Freston", no one else had paid attention to their conversation.

Suddenly, the thunderous sounds of firecrackers being set off echoed into the room, signalling that Shawn's wedding was about to begin.

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The deafening sounds of the firecrackers being set alight continued on for the next half hour. Vexed beyond belief, Leo grumbled, "What the fuck, this isn't a circus!"

The other guests were also frowning. Although it was common practice to set off firecrackers during a happy occasion, setting it off for 30 continuous minutes was too much. The Corts hogging the space to set off their firecrackers also meant the other couples who were getting married today wouldn't be able to set off theirs.

The other couples would miss out on setting off their firecrackers, but due to the Corts' unique family background, nobody dared speak up to go against them.

The sounds of the firecrackers only stopped after 30 minutes had passed. Slow, melodious music began to echo from the grand hall. A famous television host from Linkhaven City was in-charge of emceeing Shawn's wedding.

To Leo and Chase, Jack said, "Are you guys ready for the show?"

Leo rose to his feet instantly. He loved being in the thick of the action and was especially excited considering Jack was the one who was leading the charge this time around. Chase was busy chatting with Wesley and Eddie, so he didn't follow after them.

Leo and Jack stepped out from the private room and stood in the corner of the grand hall. The wedding was about to begin. Nearly 100 tables had been set up for the occasion and all the seats were filled, contributing to the lively atmosphere in the hall.

The host was emotionally recounting the fairytale-like story of how the groom and bride met and fell in love, earning thunderous applause from the audience. Meanwhile, Shawn and his bride were standing to the side, waiting to be invited on stage by the host at any moment.

"Next, let us welcome our groom and bride of the day onto the stage!"

The lights in the grand hall dimmed after the host ended his sentence. A massive golden lotus flower began to slowly rise in the center of the huge stage.

The petals of the flower unfurled as it made its ascent, revealing the gorgeous bride dressed in fiery red within. The bride stepped out from the flower like the rising sun, setting the entire venue aflame with her dazzling presence.

The bride's entrance was such a divine sight, striking awe and adoration into the hearts of everyone in the audience.

Suddenly, the spotlight was directed to the ceiling. Shawn stood atop a lift that had been decorated to look like a rainbow-hued cloud, dressed in a crisp suit. He cradled a bouquet of 99 roses in his arms as the lift descended to the stage.

He sank down onto one knee after slowly making his way over to the bride. He stared at her feelingly and offered the bouquet of roses to her.

"Rose, I love you. You're the only one for me. You're the only woman I'll ever love in my life, whether it be in the past or the future."

Shawn pressed a kiss to the back of Rose's hand that was as pale as snow. "Will you marry me?"

At that moment, Shawn had convinced everyone that he was a born romantic. Even Rose was moved to near tears.

"How romantic!"

"He's kind, romantic, tall, handsome, and rich! He's got the whole package!

"You've hit the jackpot if you manage to bag a man like him."

"This has to be the most romantic wedding I've seen in my life!"

Countless women were electrified by Shawn's charm. The wedding would have gone down in Perthter City's history books if a group of rowdy men from the outskirts of the city didn't interfere with the event. There were luxurious cars, a handsome and reputable groom, and a beautiful and wealthy bride.

Unfortunately, a group of rowdy men from the outskirts of the city were also at the event to stir up trouble.

Without any warning, a tanned man by the name of Jackson McKay shot to his feet and hollered, "You damned Cort bastard! Who do you think you're fooling with that pure and innocent farce? How dare you say that she's the only woman in your life after you knocked up my daughter?

"You son of a bitch! I'm going to air out your dirty laundry for the whole world to know if it's the last thing I do!"

Chaos engulfed the scene after Jackson's shocking declaration.

Shawn's and Rose's expressions twisted in horror in response.

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A woman who looked to be Shawn's mother leapt to her feet and screamed, "Where did this beggar come from? Why hasn't security taken him away yet?"

Jackson was undeterred. He slammed his hands down on the table and continued, "So you're not going to own up to what you did, you jackass? Everyone in the village knows you're the one who got Daisy pregnant. I won't let you off the hook if you're not going to take responsibility for your actions!"

The situation at hand was rapidly spiraling out of control. The security guards swarmed forward to apprehend Jackson but were stopped in their tracks. Jackson was surrounded and protected by his fellow villagers, so the security guards did not dare act rashly.

Meanwhile, Boris' female underlings who had strategically infiltrated several tables began to sow even more discord amongst the guests.

"Oh, poor Daisy! She was violated by this monster! I heard that the child is already five months old."

"What a heartless beast. Daisy asked for compensation from him, but he threatened her, saying he would beat her up before throwing her down into the ravine."

"He doesn't even want his own child. I can't believe a husband could be so cruel. Does he have no compassion?"

There were too many guests in the grand hall, making it difficult for the Corts to notice that a few strangers had slipped into the wedding right under their noses. The guests nodded in agreement with the criticisms Boris' women raised and began to chime in with their own opinions. Those who were familiar with Shawn's character also began to expose his real self.

"The truth is I've heard about Shawn's wrongdoings since long ago. I just didn't want to expose him in front of everyone since we're related."

"How come I've never heard about this? Hurry and tell us!"

"Are you even a citizen of Perthter City? How can you have not heard about what Shawn gets up to? Apparently, he's fast friends with the venereologists in most of the hospitals. They earn up to hundreds of thousands of dollars from him alone."

"You must be joking!"

Shawn's face turned as white as a sheet after hearing the discussions that were taking place below the stage.

Meanwhile, Rose's face had turned as red as a beet. She glared at Shawn and demanded, "Is it true? Did you get Daisy pregnant?"

Shawn failed to find the words to defend himself. He had always lived a callous life and he rotated through the women by his side as if they were nothing but toys for him to play with. He actually had no recollection if he ever slept with a woman named Daisy.

But Shawn quickly regained his composure and said angrily, "No! You have to trust me, Rose. I've never fooled around with others, you have to believe me!"

Rose could see the guilt lined in Shawn's expression, but since today was supposed to be her grand wedding day, she refused to let what was supposed to be one of the best moments of her life be ruined.

Rose announced to the hall, "I trust my future husband. Security, please escort these uncivilized men out of the hall! If they refuse to cooperate, then we'll have no choice but to call the police."

Despite knowing that Shawn was keeping things from her, Rose had to bring the situation back under control. The security guards sprang into action, rushing forward and apprehending Jackson and his group of men.

The men cursed up a storm, but they knew they were outnumbered when more guards began to show up. They couldn't fight back, so they conceded and let themselves be taken away.

The mood in the grand hall had clearly shifted after the incident. The guests whispered amongst themselves, criticizing Shawn under their breaths.

Shawn was furious and embarrassed. He felt like a lab rat, captured and forced under the spotlight to be poked and prodded by the guests as they pleased. He could only pray to the heavens to end this wretched wedding as soon as possible.

Rose fixed a stiff smile onto her face, but even the guests could tell how much she was forcing herself to put up appearances. The emcee was also shocked by the sudden turn of events. It was the most awkward wedding that he had ever hosted in his life.

Shawn waved his hand, gesturing for the emcee to leave the stage so they could move things along. After the performances were wrapped up, Shawn could swiftly do his rounds of toasting, after which the wedding would come to a close.