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Chapter 531

Kyle leaned against the window of his Rolls-Royce, smoking a cigarette. His

designer sunglasses, worth tens of thousands, rested on the bridge of his nose. His custom-tailored suit gave him an air of sophistication.

In contrast, Gigi's boyfriend, Josiah, appeared somewhat awkward. His

appearance and style were a far cry from Kyle.

Meanwhile, Remy's boyfriend, Edison, had a bold, fashionable look. With his slicked-back hair and checkered shirt, he exuded an artistic flair.

All four girls had dressed up meticulously, looking even more stunning than usual. Among them, Bella stood out the most. Even though her roommates were beautiful as well, they couldn't compare to her. No amount of effort could overshadow her radiant charm.

Once everyone had gathered, they headed to Majestic Hotel.

However, there was a problem. Majestic Hotel was 12 miles from Alnewgo

University. The Rolls-Royce couldn't fit everyone in one trip.

Luna couldn't help but ask, "Jack, where's your Bentley? Why didn't you bring it to drive us all?"

Jack shook his head, indicating that the Bentley wasn't available.

Luna and her boyfriend, Kyle, exchanged a peculiar look.

Bella quickly interjected, "I'll bring my MINI!"

She was clever enough to realize that the Bentley belonged to Drakengard Games. Now that Jack had been removed from the company, the car was no longer his.

Luna nodded. "Alright. I'll take Remy and her boyfriend first. You can bring Gigi and hers."

Bella agreed and drove off toward Majestic Hotel.

Throughout the ride, Gigi's boyfriend, Josiah, remained as reserved as ever. He only spoke when spoken to. Jack tried to make conversation with him, but Josiah only responded with brief, short answers.

Finally, they arrived at Majestic Hotel.

Gigi, who had never been to such a luxurious five-star hotel before, couldn't help but exclaim in awe, "Wow! This hotel is gorgeous!"

Surrounded by such opulence, Josiah couldn't help but feel a bit overwhelmed

too.

For Josiah and Gigi, who came from ordinary families, it was like stepping into a whole new world. In contrast, Jack and Bella appeared completely at ease.

The group made their way to the private room they had reserved and ordered a variety of dishes.

At the table, Luna and Kyle naturally took center stage.

Kyle captivated the table with stories of his time at Osmo and his encounters with high society. Everyone hung on his every word, utterly enthralled.

With his Osmo education and polished manners, he exuded effortless charm. His subtle touch of humor only made him even more impressive in the eyes of the women at the table.

Curious, Gigi couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Newman, what industry are you in? You're quite accomplished."

He smiled and replied, "I run a high-tech company."

"Wow! That's incredible. Your company must be really profitable, right?" she pressed further.

Still smiling, he spoke with a hint of pride. "Companies like this don't make huge profits, but we might get listed on Masdaq back in Osmo."

Luna quickly added, her voice brimming with pride, "I heard their company's valuation is close to two billion Osmarion. That's about ten billion dollars!"

This news left Gigi, Remy, and even Bella shocked and envious.

For Bella, in particular, that number struck a chord. Clarice had once shared her expectations for a future son-in-law. One of her requirements was a net worth of ten billion dollars.

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If only Jack had what Kyle had, all her problems would be solved effortlessly. However, reality was not so kind, and a bitter feeling welled up inside her.

At this moment, Gigi hesitated slightly. Then, she tentatively said, "Your company is huge. Surely, you're hiring, right?"

Kyle nodded with a smile. "Of course! We welcome exceptional talent from any field."

She immediately seized the opportunity. "Do you need computer science majors?" "Yes, we do," he confirmed.

Gigi's excitement grew, and she quickly introduced her somewhat reserved boyfriend, Josiah, "This is my boyfriend, Josiah Dunn. He's a senior majoring in computer science at our university, and he's ranked in the top two in his class. He's looking for an internship. Although he's not the most talkative, his technical skills are truly solid. Do you think..."

Seeing her hopeful expression, Kyle hesitated.

Noticing this, her face immediately fell. Josiah, too, felt awkward but didn't know what to say.

Sensing the tension, Luna quickly intervened with a smile, "Gigi, don't blame Kyle. Even though he's the boss, the company has its own rules. They usually only recruit students from top-tier universities."

Gigi looked puzzled. "Isn't Alnewgo University good enough?"

Alnewgo University was undoubtedly one of the top five universities in the country. It even ranked within the top 50 globally.

However, Luna explained, "Alnewgo University is excellent domestically. But Kyle's company recruits internationally. They usually only hire students from Green Ivy."

"But... Alnewgo University is better than Green Ivy!" Gigi argued anxiously.

This made Kyle's expression darken slightly.

Luna, unfazed, replied, "That's just your personal opinion. In the eyes of most, Green Ivy Academy has a stronger reputation than Alnewgo University."

At this point, Edison couldn't hold back and interjected, "I wouldn't bet on that! I have a few classmates from Green Ivy. They specifically chose to pursue their graduate studies at Alnewgo University."

Luna smiled dismissively. "Are you sure? I haven't heard of that. What I often hear

is that our graduate students tend to leave for other colleges."

The atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

To lighten the mood, Kyle laughed heartily. "Well, Alnewgo University is quite good. If you're interested in joining our company, you can submit a resume. I'll see if it's a good fit."

Although Gigi knew it might just be a polite gesture, there was still a glimmer of hope. So, she quickly thanked him.

Bella smoothly changed the subject to fashion and other topics that interested the women.

As the conversation moved on, the tense atmosphere became lively again.

Jack, however, wasn't particularly interested in chatting with Kyle. Instead, he found himself intrigued by Josiah.

"You're Josiah, right?" He initiated the conversation. "You're a computer science major, right?"

Josiah chuckled. "Yeah, I'm about to graduate."

Jack was amused by his reserved demeanor. "Haven't you started looking for an internship yet?"

"I've checked out a few, but they're all big companies. I always get eliminated during the interview stage," Josiah replied helplessly.

Even with a degree from a prestigious university, landing the right job after graduation wasn't easy.

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"Which major companies do you prefer?" Jack inquired with meticulous interest.

In reality, he was considering recruiting Josiah.

As Haven grew more popular, Jack wanted to build a core team. He hoped to recruit talented, trustworthy professionals.

If Josiah's technical skills proved exceptional, he wouldn't mind having him join Haven.

When it came to this topic, the usually taciturn Josiah became eloquent. "My top choice is Neurovance Group. Although their current market value is not high, their distinctive role in tech research gives me confidence in their future.

"I've also applied to Omnitel Group. They're best known for selling phones, but at their core, they're an internet company. I believe they'll keep refining their edge and take off.

"Then, there's Pentime Group. They actively seek professionals and offer great pay. It's too bad I didn't make it past their interviews..."

At this point, Josiah flushed with embarrassment.

The companies were quite satisfied with his expertise. But his nervousness and awkwardness in interviews made him stutter. So, it was no surprise he got rejected.

"By the way, can you program and write codes? Can you handle computer-related issues like fixing bugs?" Jack inquired further.

Josiah nodded repeatedly. "These are all basic knowledge in computer science. While I wouldn't claim to be extremely skilled, I can handle most situations."

At this point, Gigi couldn't help but interject, "Josh became the school vice president because of his exceptional professional skills. The programs he's written have won many major awards!"

Jack smiled slightly and asked, "Can you show me those works?"

Gigi looked at him in surprise. "Aren't you a finance major? Why are you also interested in computer science?"

He explained with a smile, "No particular reason. I have a friend whose company is recruiting new employees. Although it's a new company, I believe it has a very promising future."

Josiah asked curiously, "May I ask the name of the company?"

"Haven," Jack replied.

Hearing this name, Josiah felt somewhat puzzled.

Meanwhile, Kyle was happily chatting with a few women when he suddenly cut in, stunned, "Did you say Haven?"

"Yes!" Jack confirmed.

Luna, Gigi, Remy, and Bella looked at Kyle with puzzled expressions.

Logically, someone as experienced as Kyle shouldn't have reacted so strongly to

a new company.

Luna couldn't help but ask, "Is something wrong?"

Kyle glanced at Jack, then smirked. "He won't get in."

Gigi frowned slightly. "Why not?"

But Kyle shook his head and didn't explain further.

Chapter 534

Only those who knew how quickly Haven was expanding in the overseas market would be aware of how formidable the company would be in the future. Thus, only the cream of the crop would be able to join Haven's ranks.

It was around 10:00 pm when dinner ended. After returning to the dorms, Jack video-called Claude to understand how Genesis would apply to be a public-listed company on the Masdaq Stock Exchange.

Claude told him that everything was proceeding smoothly. Genesis was meeting all the compulsory qualifications while negotiations with the relevant government personnel were also going well.

It was clear to see that the big shots of Fall Street were keenly interested in Genesis becoming a public-listed company. Based on Legend of the West's explosive popularity, the investment experts believed that there wouldn't be another game in the near future that would be able to challenge Legend of the West's ability to rake in the cash.

Everyone was convinced that Genesis had a bright future. The investment bank managers were also willing to support Genesis in its endeavor to turn into a public-listed company since it was an excellent investment target.

After Jack was done speaking to Claude, he approached Samuel and explained Haven's current state of affairs to him. He also asked Samuel regarding the recruitment of new staff for the company.

Samuel was officially an employee of Haven, and although Jack had not given him a proper role, he was already one of Jack's best assistants. Furthermore, Samuel was already involved with most of the internal issues in the company.

"The company is expanding nicely. Based on today's data, Haven currently has over 290 million registered users. We predict that we'll exceed 300 million users by tomorrow."

Samuel was filled with excitement as he spoke, and he was also full of respect for Jack. After fully understanding what Haven was all about, he was shocked by how quickly the company had expanded and the unlimited potential it had for the future.

Samuel never dreamed he would be lucky enough to be part of the pioneer team of such an impressive company. Seeing how supportive the overseas users were toward Haven, Samuel got a taste of what it was like to be responsible for changing someone's life for the better. It was a feeling that he never expected to experience in his life but it had become a reality.

What was most shocking to Samuel was how Haven was created by his roommate of two years, Jack. For someone who came from an insignificant background like Samuel, what had happened to him was practically straight out of a fairytale.

The next morning, Jack received a call from Bella.

Josiah had already prepared several documents that detailed his personal information, how he won the prizes, as well as his résumé. He had handed the stack of documents to Gigi, who passed them to Bella to give to Jack.

Although Josiah wasn't yet fully aware of how Haven operated its business, he was very serious when it came to looking for a place to carry out his internship. He had already prepared all the required information and sent it to Jack first thing in the morning, even though Jack had only reminded him to do it last night.

When Jack returned to the dorm to flip through Josiah's documents, he realized that Josiah was an exceptional talent. He had won several awards in the university's computer science department. In fact, other than the luck-based ones, Josiah had bagged all the other rewards.

Jack felt like he had stumbled onto an undiscovered treasure. He called Bella and asked her to tell Gigi to relay a message to Josiah. He wanted Josiah to visit Haven's rented office for an interview tomorrow afternoon.

Coincidentally, there were no classes scheduled in the afternoon for the next day, so Jack and Samuel drove to Haven's rented office. Jack didn't even have time to

sit down and have a sip of water when he received a call from Josiah.

"Excuse me, is this Jack Holland? I'm Josiah Dunn. I'm currently outside of Skyline Tower. Is Haven's office inside?"

Jack told Josiah the floor the office was on and went to the entrance to welcome him personally.

Josiah was led further into the office by Jack, and he could see how the entire place was bustling with activity. It was completely different from what Josiah had imagined. Considering how new Haven was, he had assumed that the staff would be twiddling their thumbs with nothing to do.

What surprised Josiah the most was how not only did the scale of the company look impressive, but he could also see the pride that curved the receptionist's lips when she smiled at him. She looked as if she was extremely proud to be a part of Haven.

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Jack took Josiah on a short tour of the office. "You can familiarize yourself with the company's environment for now. Zone B is where the IT department works, so you can head over and introduce yourself to your new colleagues."

Josiah was frozen on the spot with a bewildered expression. He had assumed that someone from HR would interview him, and he had even practiced a myriad of questions that the interviewer might throw at him last night. But it appeared that he didn't need to go through the interview process at all.

The door to the general manager's office was suddenly thrown open. An elated voice resounded from within. "Hurry up, everyone! Come into my office to look at the background data. We've crossed 300 million registered users!"

Jack's interest was also piqued by the sudden announcement. "We have more than 300 million registered users now?"

Realizing that Jack was in the vicinity, the general manager exclaimed excitedly, "Boss, you're here! Come and take a look. We've finally hit the 300 million users milestone!"

As Jack strode into the general manager's office, Josiah came to a realization. Wherever Jack went, Haven's staff, including the general manager, would unconsciously fall into step behind him. It was as if Jack was the actual boss of

the company.

When Josiah greeted these staff, they would respond enthusiastically and their eyes would be filled with unbridled envy. Josiah had been confused by their envious looks at first, but he was enlightened with the answer to their behavior

now.

A female staff, who was exceptionally beautiful, approached Josiah and spoke to him softly. "Hey, handsome. Are you Josiah Dunn? I'm Abigail Moss, and you can call me Abby. So, what's your relationship with our boss?"

Confusion was written all over Josiah's face when he asked, "Who's the boss?"

Abigail frowned lightly before saying, "The hot guy who came in with you earlier!"

"He... He's the boss?"

Josiah felt like he had been struck by lightning. He never would have guessed that Bella's boyfriend was the president of this company. Even Gigi had never told him about this.

"That's right. He's the founder of our company."

Noticing how Josiah was unaware of Jack's identity, Abigail assumed that they were not particularly close. Her behavior toward Josiah also turned a little less welcoming.

Meanwhile, Josiah nodded his head robotically before he sank into the seat that was temporarily prepared for him. He began to familiarize himself with websites that were in foreign languages.

After all, Haven was expanding rapidly toward becoming a website that was used by people all over the world. The staff were in the midst of preparing interfaces in Aelish, Kranish, Fronch, and Vexburgian.

Josiah understood why the Haven leaders were so ecstatic earlier. When he accessed the site, a huge banner popped up at him, congratulating Haven for reaching the milestone of having over 300 million registered users. There were also over 50 million people online on the site at the same time. The numbers were truly astounding.

Josiah was still in shock. He had initially assumed he had joined a fraudulent company when he first dropped by Haven.

However, having over 300 million registered users was a legendary feat. For an app or a website to have such a staggeringly large number of users, they were usually owned by a prestigious company within the country.

However, Josiah, who was a computer science major, didn't have a clue about Haven.

Josiah stealthily pulled out his phone and searched up Haven. Several results popped up, but the one that attracted Josiah's attention the most was how Haven had been named one of the top 10 social media apps in the world.

It was also the app that had attracted the most users upon launch, climbing from

10 million to 100 million users, before finally breaking 300 million users in the shortest amount of time. No other app could compare.

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Haven had also been named the app that had the most potential on the global scale, being able to rival other famous social media apps such as Facebook and Tiktok.

When Josiah recalled how Jack had kept quiet while Kyle talked their ears off the night before, Josiah's heart was suddenly gripped with emotion. He realized a true powerful figure preferred to keep a low profile.

Josiah would never have guessed that the "small and unknown" company that Jack spoke of would actually be so impressive. Haven operated many large-scale businesses and also had a bright future ahead of it.

Although Josiah wasn't very knowledgeable when it came to the topic of finance, even he could understand that a company of this prestige could not be compared to another company that was only worth two billion dollars.

Josiah felt as if a potted plant had fallen from the sky and smashed onto his head. At the same time, an invisible weight pressed down on his heart. Jack had invited him to join Haven because he trusted in Josiah's abilities, so it was now up to Josiah to work as hard as he could to prove that he deserved a spot in the company.

Jack finally exited from the data center while Josiah was busy browsing through the company's data. He asked, "Have you introduced yourself to your colleagues? What do you think about the working environment here? If it suits you, you can try working here for now."

The entire IT department shot to their feet upon noticing Jack's appearance. Josiah wasn't far behind, scrambling to his feet in a rush.

After learning of Jack's identity, Josiah couldn't help but feel a little anxious. He was unable to summon the calm and confidence he had before. He assumed his tendency to let his nerves get the best of him when faced with an important figure was the reason he had been rejected by his previous companies.

Jack patted his shoulder and encouraged him, "Don't be nervous. Just do your best. I believe in your capabilities."

"Yes!"

Seeing the confidence shining in Jack's eyes, the storm of panic in Josiah's heart calmed. Since Jack had placed his trust in him, Josiah had to work hard not to let him down.

When Jack returned to the university, he contacted Claude once again. Claude had gone to Osmo to network with different investment companies and financial institutions. These entities had shown their keen interest in Genesis and had expressed their support to aid Genesis in becoming a public-listed company in Osmo.

Claude informed Jack to clear his schedule to travel to Osmo. He had done his best to lay the stepping stones, and all that was left was to make the final push.

Jack needed to be in Osmo to personally meet with the investment banking analysts and financial tycoons of Fall Street. Once he touched base with them, the process of turning Genesis into a public-listed company could begin. They could start preparing Genesis' financial reports as well as plan for roadshows around the world, with the main target being Osmo.

As for the compulsory qualifications that Genesis had not yet achieved, he was sure that the tycoons of Fall Street would find loopholes to overcome those hurdles. After all, Genesis had proven itself to be a company that produced flying colors.

It was outstanding news, and Jack knew that he had to travel to Osmo no matter what. However, if Jack didn't want to fail his classes, he had no choice but to put in a request of absence. Jack headed over to the teachers' office to meet with his homeroom teacher.

Jack's homeroom teacher was a man named Uriah Hestington, who was in his mid-50s. He was an old scholar who preferred to do things the traditional way.

Jack hadn't interacted much with Uriah. After all, a homeroom teacher's role in a student's life was considerably different in university compared to high school. When in high school, a homeroom teacher acted like a student's parent, caring for them in all sorts of ways. But in university, other than when it was compulsory, a student would meet with their homeroom teacher not more than once a month. It was more common for them to meet with their counselor if they had issues to discuss.

Jack didn't hold any positions in the class, and he wasn't even the dorm representative, which was why he had barely interacted with Uriah before this.

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When Uriah found out that Jack wanted to request for a 10-day leave of absence, he felt quite troubled. The truth was Uriah had already developed an impression of Jack. Unfortunately for Jack, the negatives outweighed the positives.

Uriah remembered that Jack had enrolled in Alnewgo University's School of Finance thanks to his status as top scholar of his province. He had caused quite a stir at the time. However, after he arrived at the university, he hadn't shown any spectacular results. He didn't hold any positions in class, win any scholarships, or even applied for any clubs.

On the contrary, Jack had left a bad impression on Uriah due to the fights he had gotten into and also how he regularly skipped class. It didn't help that Jack had requested to be absent during an important time of the school year. Uriah couldn't help but frown as he listened to Jack's request.

After asking for more details from Jack, Uriah pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose before saying, "Jack, I can approve this request of absence for you, but you have to remember that your studies are your first priority. You enrolled in Alnewgo University because of your status as top scholar of your province, but now your results are trailing behind the other students."

Uriah's warning tone made it clear that he disapproved of Jack's recent performance. Jack nodded and replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Hestington. I'll work hard."

Uriah penned his signature on the request slip. He looked at Jack, eyes filled with disappointment, before waving his head and dismissing him. Uriah sighed deeply as he watched Jack's silhouette grow smaller and smaller. He had no doubt that Jack was a smart man, but he didn't have much hope for his future.

Proud, unserious, and self-deprecating

that was the type of man that Jack was

in Uriah's eyes. Even if Jack was a genius, such flaws would eventually send him hurtling into the abyss.

Uriah had also found out that Jack was from a family that wasn't too well-off. Despite that, he was dating a woman from the School of Music. Their romance had caused quite a stir on campus too.

"All that glitters is not gold."

That was how Uriah viewed Jack. He shook his head helplessly.

The next day, Jack boarded a plane that was headed for Osmo. The trip held the utmost importance to him. Not only would it affect his future, but also his love life. To save on his expenses, Jack bought a ticket in the economy class of the plane. He let his eyes slip shut to rest them after finding his seat.

Suddenly, a mouthwatering scent of perfume wafted into Jack's nose. An incredibly sexy woman approached Jack and asked him in a coy voice, "Hi, hot stuff. Is this Seat 2C?"

Jack nodded in response as he studied the woman from the corner of his eye. She was wearing an eye-popping shirt that had a plunging neckline, showing off her milky white and well-endowed chest. When she bent over to store the small bag she had with her, Jack caught a glimpse of the deep valley in between her breasts.

Jack believed that any man who laid their eyes on a gorgeous woman like her would be overcome with the desire to take her to bed and have his way with her. He stared at the woman for a few seconds before quickly shifting his gaze away.

The woman then asked Jack to help her put her other luggage in the overhead compartment. He got up to comply with her request.

The woman shot him a grateful smile as she reached her hand out and greeted, "Nice meeting you, hot stuff. My name's Ruth Rayson. What's your name?"

She made no attempt to hide how she was checking Jack out, her eyes glittering when she noticed Jack's muscular chest. Jack chuckled internally at Ruth's direct behavior. It was obvious that she had been brought up overseas in a different culture.

"I'm Jack Holland," he answered with a smile.

"That's a very nice name. Glad to make your acquaintance," Ruth responded.

Jack felt pleased being able to interact with Ruth, who was overflowing with charisma. His heartbeat quickened every time he caught a whiff of her elegant perfume and whenever he glimpsed her curvaceous body. Her clothes looked like they were going to burst apart from how curvy she was every time she stretched her back or bent over, filling Jack with unbridled excitement.

"Hey, can you exchange your seat with me?"

A soft voice echoed next to Jack's ear before a good-looking man appeared before him. "I'm friends with Ruth. If you don't mind, could I exchange seats with you? My seat is in the first-class cabin."

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"First-class cabin?" Jack parroted back in surprise.

Meanwhile, Ruth barked out an unimpressed laugh. "Benji, I'll switch back to my original spot if you move here. I already told you that you're bothering me."

Jack understood what was happening. Ruth's original seat had been in the first- class cabin, but she had moved to the economy-class cabin to avoid Benji.

Thus, Jack shook his head and said, "I'm sorry. I much prefer this window seat, especially when I have a beautiful woman as my seatmate. I'm not willing to switch seats."

"Thank you for the compliment," Ruth said with a smile.

Benji Moreno's expression immediately twisted into one of displeasure. His face darkened as he asked, "Have you ever traveled in the first-class cabin, buddy?"

Jack answered honestly by shaking his head. Jack had always thought that just being able to travel on a plane was a luxury. He had never dreamed of flying first- class.

A smile stretched across Benji's face. "Let me tell you this—the comfort of flying first-class is something that you can't possibly imagine. You should take this opportunity to experience it. A first-class ticket is thousands of dollars more expensive than your economy-class ticket. I'm sure you're not willing to spend that kind of money on a flight ticket normally, are you?"

Jack returned Benji's smile with one of his own before replying, "I'm not interested in flying first-class, and I'm quite comfortable here. I won't be changing my seat."

"Fuck you!"

Unable to help himself, the curse word burst forth from between Benji's lips. His expression turned even more upset. "You won't even switch your seat for a first- class one? I see why you're cursed to wallow in poverty for the rest of your life."

"Please mind your speech," Jack said in a low voice.

Benij wanted to throw a tantrum, but after noticing how muscular Jack was, he only moved his mouth soundlessly for a few seconds. In the end, he turned around and returned to his seat in the first-class cabin.

Ruth nodded at Jack and said, "Thank you."

"No problem," Jack said.

"Have you really never flown first-class before?" Ruth asked curiously.

For a woman like Ruth, flying first-class was to be expected since she never had

to worry about money. She couldn't believe that someone as attractive as Jack had never flown first-class before.

Jack nodded, which made Ruth giggle lightly. They ended up dropping this topic of conversation. The plane had already taken off by then, and Ruth eventually started feeling sleepy.

Meanwhile, Jack was looking out of the window at the clouds that the plane was cutting through. He felt a little bored, so he also closed his eyes to get some rest.

After some time had passed, Jack felt a weight fall onto his shoulder.

It was Ruth. She had fallen asleep with her head on his shoulder. She seemed to be deeply asleep, her rosy lips parted slightly with a small line of drool leaking from the corner of her mouth.

Jack's eyes traveled lower to roam Ruth's voluptuous chest that had been exposed when she lowered her head. He could feel his heartbeat speeding up at the sight.

Jack drank in the alluring sight before shifting his gaze elsewhere. It almost felt like a crime to Jack to disturb someone who was having a good dream, especially if the one dreaming was a woman as beautiful as Ruth.

He ended up taking a nap as well until he was awoken by a slight movement. When he cracked his eyes open, he realized that Ruth had shifted closer to him while she was sleeping. She had moved her head from his shoulder to his chest and looked very comfortable with her head pillowed there. She had even wrapped her arms around him, treating him as her lover as she dreamed.

Jack felt quite awkward at the sudden development. He still didn't think it was right to disturb her rest, but he also felt uncomfortable leaving things as they were. It wasn't everyday that Jack could experience being embraced by such a sexy woman, which was why Jack decided to close his eyes once more to rest while he waited for Ruth to wake up on her own.

Later, as the plane almost arrived at its destination, it started to make its descent. Ruth didn't look like she was going to wake up anytime soon, so Jack had no other choice but to pat her on the shoulder lightly. "Ruth, we've arrived in New Vork."

"Huh?"

After opening her sleep-heavy eyes, Ruth realized that the plane was indeed descending. She rubbed her eyes and noticed that she was leaning against Jack. She had even drooled all over his chest.

Ruth smiled at him charmingly with sleepy eyes and murmured, "Thanks for letting me lie on your chest. Your embrace is really warm."

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The plane finally landed on solid ground. Ruth thanked Jack as he helped her grab her luggage from the overhead compartment.

Benji had also walked over from the first-class cabin. His tone was filled with condescension as he sneered and asked, "How was it? It must've been nice to sit next to a pretty woman on a flight for the first time."

Jack replied, "It was good. This experience has improved my impression of traveling via plane."

Benji pressed his lips together before he could call Jack a bumbling idiot. He would have done so, but Jack didn't appear to be someone who was easy to bully.

Night had fallen by the time Jack exited the airport. When he had peered below while he was still on the plane, he had seen the dazzling neon lights that lit up the entire city. When Jack looked around, he was surrounded by foreign faces, and he realized at that moment that he was truly in a strange place away from home.

This was Jack's first trip to Federia. He had trouble believing that he was currently standing in the legendary New Vork, the largest city in the world. By all appearances, the city certainly lived up to its title of the financial capital of the world.

As he stood waiting outside the airport, Ruth asked Jack curiously, "Is someone coming to pick you up?"

Jack pondered for a moment before answering, "I think so."

He had already sent Claude his flight itinerary earlier, but he had turned off his phone during the flight. Even though he had switched to a New Vork sim card, Jack wasn't sure if Claude would show up on time.

Ruth smiled at him while Benji shot him a disdainful look. He asked loudly, "Ruth, isn't Mr. Walter here yet? He's going to pick us up with the sports car, right?"

Ruth glared at Benji for being too obvious in trying to show off. Benji stuck his tongue out at her in response. He wanted Jack, who could only afford to fly economy, to understand the vast difference between them. Jack had picked up on the insult in Benji's words, but he couldn't be bothered to take the bait.

He noticed a middle-aged man sweeping the sidewalk under one of the streetlights nearby. His facial features made him look like an Everreachian.

The man noticed the pack of Red Lights that Jack was holding before he shot him a smile. He then said to Jack in fluent Zargonian, "Hi, there. Are you from Zargonia? The name's Leonard Dasher."

Jack felt a little more at ease in this foreign country after hearing Leonard speak Zargonian. He nodded and offered a cigarette to him. Leonard accepted it and looked very much like he was enjoying himself when he took a long pull. A nostalgic expression crossed his features.

Looking at Leonard's shabby appearance as he swept the streets, Jack could guess that he had led a tough life in Federia. He wondered how many people had arrived in Federia with lofty dreams only to have them shattered by the cruelness of reality.

Leonard took a long pull from the cigarette again before asking, "First time in Federia?"

Jack nodded.

Leonard was all smiles as he said, "Then, you must be here for Federia's green card. Don't worry. Although you'll be confused and suffer through many hardships since it's your first time here, everything will get better in due time.

"Everyone starts from the bottom when they first arrive in New Vork. You just have to work hard, kiddo. Since you've made the choice to leave Zargonia, you should fully enjoy this paradise of freedom. Just look at me. I may still be sweeping the streets, but I'll be able to obtain my green card soon and become a full-fledged Federian."

A proud smile stretched across Leonard's lips as he spoke, and he looked like he was waiting for Jack's praise. After all, many Zargonians who had just arrived in Federia would feel overwhelmed by being in a foreign country. Most would end up working in the bottom rungs of society, and Jack appeared to be one such person. Jack answered calmly, "I'm not in Federia for a green card. I have some business here to attend to."

A look of disbelief crossed Leonard's face. "Who wouldn't want a green card after coming to Federia? The freedom and democracy afforded to the Federians are things you cannot possibly comprehend.

"Even though I'm just a simple street sweeper, I'll have the right to vote after obtaining the green card. With it, we can be the masters of our own lives. The lifestyle here is much better than Zargonia!"

"How long has it been since you returned to Zargonia?" Jack asked. "Our country has advanced considerably since then."

"Is that so?" Leonard asked, his tone suggesting that he didn't believe Jack. He

still believed that the Zargonians were struggling with poverty while he was the one who was living in a utopia on earth.

Chapter 540

A video started playing on the big screen installed above the airport. In it, a Federian was welcoming an Everreachian.

Leonard pointed at the screen and asked, "Do you see that Federian? He's the mayor of New Vork, and he's a great man!

"Apparently, the Everreachian was originally a child from a poor Zargonian family. He made some contributions to New Vork, which is why the mayor is welcoming him now. He also received a green card and is now a famous figure in the city."

A hopeful look appeared on Leonard's face as he spoke. It was as if a green card was his life's goal. Jack couldn't be bothered to entertain him any longer.

"A youngster like you should work hard for the green card! There will come a day where the mayor of New Vork will also welcome you at city hall. It would be a great honor for you!" Leonard said encouragingly.

To the side, Benji and Ruth had heard the exchange between Jack and Leonard.

Benji pursed his lips and countered, "What's the point of telling him all this, old man? Do you think it's that simple to get a green card or to be welcomed by the mayor of New Vork? The mayor is a busy man. He wouldn't have the time to entertain you."

Leonard nodded after considering Benji's words.

A pair of bright headlights suddenly shone on them as a trendy sports car approached and stopped before Ruth and Benji.

The bald man in the car said with a grin, "Ruth, you're here too? Hurry and get into the car with Benji. Your aunt has been dying to see the both of you."

Next, a group of luxury cars drove over. Claude had finally arrived with his entourage to pick up Jack. At the front of the group was a black Rolls-Royce that was surrounded by a myriad of black sports cars, making for an impressive sight. Anyone who laid their eyes on the entourage would undoubtedly be filled with

awe.

The appearance of the group of cars attracted the attention of everyone in the vicinity. They looked on with curious gazes, wondering who the group of cars were here to welcome. A string of bodyguards exited as the car doors were thrown open. They hurried over to the Rolls-Royce to open the door for the people who were seated inside.

Claude alighted from the car, accompanied by a stylish Federian who was on the chubbier side. After he was informed of Jack's identity, he quickly held his hand out to him.

His tone was dripping with respect as he said, "Welcome to New Vork. Just your presence here has elevated the status of this city. I've prepared a special dinner for you in my home tonight. I hope we can spend a pleasant evening together."

"This is the honorable Jack Holland," Claude introduced Jack to the man. "This is the mayor of New Vork, Francisco Estonia. He came specifically to welcome you, and he hopes to have dinner with you."

Jack smiled at Francisco. "Hello, it's my honor to make your acquaintance."

Francisco responded with a boisterous chortle. "You're too polite, Mr. Holland. Being able to meet you is my honor."

Claude and Jack entered the Rolls-Royce and sat on the luxurious seats. Under the supervision of the bodyguards and police cars, they were chauffeured to Francisco's official residence.

Meanwhile, Leonard watched them leave with his lit cigarette still hanging between his lips. The appearance of the mayor of New Vork floated to the forefront of his thoughts. He was stunned speechless when he lifted his head to double check the appearance of the mayor on the big screen.