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When Leonard recalled how he had boasted about himself in front of Jack, he felt embarrassed beyond belief. He wondered how a young man from Zargonia had managed to earn such a respectful welcome from the mayor of New Vork. Not only that, but Francisco had also prepared a dinner banquet just for him.

Was it as Jack had said? Did an earth-shattering change happen in Zargonia over the past few years?

Benji and Ruth had also witnessed the entire scene unfold. They had watched as Jack was ushered into the Rolls-Royce by the bodyguards. The police cars had cleared a path on the road, allowing the Rolls-Royce to speed away into the distance. Their faces felt hot as if they had been slapped.

Ruth's eyes were sparkling with excitement. She never expected to be so surprised by the man she had coincidentally met on the plane.

The bald man exclaimed, "That chubby man is the mayor of New Vork, isn't he?"

Ruth answered proudly, "The man that was with the mayor is my friend. He just arrived from Zargonia and hasn't moved here yet."

"That's amazing!"

Anyone who had immigrated from overseas to Federia was aware of how difficult it was to adjust to their new life. However, the young man had garnered the care and attention of the mayor of New Vork upon his arrival. It was truly an amazing feat.

Francisco and Claude had become fast friends after getting to know each other. If Genesis wanted to become a public-listed company on the Masdaq Stock Exchange, not only did they need financial support, but they also needed political support.

Of course, to obtain such support, they needed to produce a certain amount of financial compensation. Franscico was more than willing to acquaint himself with Jack, who was still young but was already a billionaire.

In New Vork, politicians were easily and rapidly replaced. However, a capitalist had a stable and immovable position. A politician might be booted out of his position after a few years since it was still a job at the end of the day.

Meanwhile, a capitalist had a long and stable future. To put it in simple terms, a capitalist who was worth billions could work in any position. They could even work as the president of a company if they wanted to.

On the other hand, a politician wanting to become a capitalist that was worth billions wasn't so easy in comparison. Francisco had considered the possibility of joining Genesis as a high-ranking official once he resigned from his position of mayor of New Vork.

That night, Jack, Claude, and Francisco had dinner together while also engaging in lively conversation. The next day, with recommendations from Francisco and Claude, the capital giants of New Vork developed a keen interest toward Genesis. They even hosted an extravagant welcoming party for Jack, who they've already predicted to be the next billionaire.

During the party, Jack made friends with a few capitalists. One of them was an alumni who also hailed from Zargonia-Alexi Bloomsfield, who was worth billions. Alexi was interested in Genesis and had expressed his desire to use the funds he had to purchase a large amount of Genesis' stocks once it became a public-listed company.

The reality was that any high-tech company that had a high market value was spearheaded by a lucky and ambitious youngster. The success of the company was oftentimes put into motion when the person was struck by a moment of inspiration

Jack and Alexi became friends when they realized they were both from Alnewgo University. In fact, Alexi could be considered as Jack's senior. Although Alexi was already in his early-40s and had found success, he still remembered the four years he had spent in Alnewgo University clearly and fondly.

As they were chatting about the university, Alexi suddenly asked, "Did you know?

Alnewgo University will host its centenary celebration soon."

Jack nodded in response. "I've heard. The university has already started preparations for it."

He had first heard about the celebration during Clarice's dinner banquet. Since Clarice was a successful person in her own right, the guests had speculated that she would definitely receive an invitation for the celebration. As more time passed, news of Alnewgo University's centennial celebration had also spread far and wide. Alexi continued, "The university has sent out invitations to all the successful alumni all over the globe."

As a successful businessman who had made his fortune in Fall Street, naturally Alexi had also received an invitation a long time ago.

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"Have you received an invitation?" Alexi asked suddenly.

Jack was stunned momentarily before he answered, "No. I'm still studying at the university, so I don't think they'll send me an invite."

Furthermore, it was a little known fact that Jack was the founder and president of Genesis. It was only natural that he wouldn't receive an invitation.

Alexi's eyes widened, and he shook his head vigorously. "How can this be? Genesis has been doing so well, so you should definitely be considered the cream of the crop amongst the Alnewgo University alumni.

"I'll give a call to Mr. Tripp. If you step into the spotlight, the other students of Alnewgo University will look to you as their role model. You're the pride of the university after all!"

Alexi's tone suggested that he was dead serious. Being able to lead a company that was worth billions of dollars while still being a university student was no simple feat. It was undoubtedly a great honor, and Jack would become the new standard of success for the new generation of Alnewgo University students.

Promoting Jack's successes was something that the university should seriously consider. When compared to other prestigious universities such as Fullerton University, it would also bring in a large amount of capital.

However, Jack hurriedly waved his hands to reject Alexi's offer. "There's no need for you to do that. I'm not all that interested in the celebration."

Jack vastly preferred to keep a low profile while he worked. He didn't want to be exposed under a spotlight. Becoming a public figure would no doubt put a target on his back. Jack had learned his lesson the hard way after what happened to him while he was at Drakengard Games.

Seeing how vehemently Jack was rejecting his offer, Alexi had no choice but to acquiesce to his wishes. Alexi didn't quite understand Jack's line of thinking. In his eyes, Alnewgo University would be proud to have an alumni as outstanding as Jack. Thus, Alexi still decided to inform George of Jack's achievements of his own accord.

A black Volkswagen Phaeton was stopped in front of Alnewgo University's female dormitory. Bella's face was streaked with tears as she stood with Clarice at the entrance.

Looking at Bella's pleading face, Clarice felt her heart waver a little. However, when she thought about how she was taking action for Bella's future, she steeled her determination once more. Clarice didn't want Bella to repeat the mistakes she had made in her youth.

Too many young women were willing to give up their material wants for the sake of love. However, once they were older, they would regret it when they were forced to live an uncomfortable life. There were no time machines in the world, so it would be much too late to regret their choices by then.

Clarice thought of herself as a wise person. She believed that Bella would understand her intentions and thank her one day. As for Jack, while it cannot be denied that he had some talent, it was also common for a talented person to be buried by society.

It took a keen eye to discover a diamond in the rough. The unpolished diamond would remain worthless if it wasn't discovered by the right person, and what society lacked the most weren't the diamonds, but the discoverers.

Clarice was unwilling to risk Bella's future. She hoped to nurture Bella, so she could live a wonderful life in the future.

Bella's future husband should be a wealthy man who had a good family background and an excellent education. He should be someone who was able to stand by her side as they lived an elegant life. He should also be able to withstand her stubbornness and extravagant spending habits. He shouldn't be someone who needed to work himself to the bone just to survive.

"Mom, can you please give me one more day?" Bella's sorrowful eyes were filled with pleading.

However, Clarice was not moved and shook her head. "I've already made an appointment with Faith Chesterson of Montclair Conservatory. She will interview you personally, so we have to leave tomorrow afternoon."

The truth was that the supposed interview was just an act. Even if Bella had no professional experience in the field of music, Clarice would do everything in her power to ensure that she was able to transfer schools.

Furthermore, Bella was an outstanding student, which made Clarice immensely proud of her. It made Clarice even more determined to thoroughly sever the relationship between Jack and Bella.

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Bella chewed on her bottom lip. A mixture of longing and helplessness swirled in her eyes. She hadn't prepared for the sudden departure, and she wasn't even given a chance to bid farewell to Jack.

Clarice let out a soft sigh. "Do you want to see him?"

Bella stayed quiet but her silence in itself was her answer. If she transferred to Montclair Conservatory, would she still have a chance to see Jack? She knew that Clarice would do everything in her power to stop that from happening. Her heart wasn't ready.

"If you're going to miss him that much, there's still some time tomorrow morning for you to meet him."

Claire had no choice but to concede to Bella's wishes, figuring that sometimes a light hand was better than a heavy one. If she forbade Bella from meeting Jack on her last day at Alnewgo University, there was no guarantee that Bella wouldn't resort to extreme measures.

Bella said goodbye to Clarice before returning to the dorm. With tears streaming down her cheeks, she dialed Jack's number for the rest of the day. However, Jack didn't answer her calls. The next morning, Bella went directly to Jack's dorm to look for him, only to find out that he was away on a leave of absence. No one knew where he had gone.

Bella's heart overflowed with disappointment. Would she really lose her last chance at seeing him?

"Big Bun, where have you gone?" Bella thought to herself. "Why aren't you here when I need you the most?"

Heartbroken, Bella returned to her dorm with teary eyes and wrote a letter for Jack. She handed the letter to Samuel and asked him to pass it to Jack.

Bella did her best to contact Jack until the very last moments before her departure. Out of time and options, she grabbed her luggage and got into the car with Clarice. The car sped along the road that led them to the airport.

The airplane would depart in the next few minutes. Bella gazed at the direction Alnewgo University was located, her eyes welling with tears of despair once more. She was hoping for a miracle, hoping that Jack would magically appear before her with a smile on his face.

However, Jack was nowhere to be found even as the announcement for boarding reverberated around the terminal. Bella knew in her heart that a miracle was not going to happen, just like how she never

expected Jack to become a successful individual who was worth billions before he stood before Clarice and herself.

"Big Bun, where are you?" Bella wondered in her heart. "Why have you disappeared? I'll appreciate it even if you just showed up to send me off.

"Do you know that I'm leaving? We might never see each other again because of my mother. How I wish you would suddenly appear or travel across the vast seas to visit me. It's a shame that it'll never actually happen..."

Bella's tears spilled down her cheeks. She held so much fondness for Alnewgo University and the land it was built on. Alnewgo used to be her home, the place where she lived and studied.

Now, she was forced to travel to a strange and foreign land. Although the pinnacle of music education was there, the place wouldn't have any of her friends or the person she loved.

At that moment, Bella's heart was gripped with unwillingness and fear of the future. Before she got onto the shuttle bus, Bella looked back once more at the terminal entrance, hoping that a familiar silhouette would manifest. However, her hopes were dashed when she only saw unfamiliar figures amongst the bustling crowd.

In the end, Bella was forcefully tugged onto the shuttle bus by Clarice. The bus shuttled them toward the plane, where they got onto it before it took off toward the capital.

Meanwhile, Jack had completed his discussions with the tycoons of Fall Street regarding the plans to make Genesis a public-listed company. He was just about to board the plane that would send him back to Alnewgo.

News of Genesis and Fall Street's collaboration had already made headlines on various financial media outlets, swiftly becoming a hot topic of discussion. Jack Holland, a handsome and talented man who hailed from the eastern part of the word, was planning to turn his company that was worth billions into a public-listed company in the Federia market. Jack would undoubtedly become the next young billionaire of the new generation.

The financial times of Euphoria and Federia poured their endless praises on Jack. It was his brilliant mind that created the spectacular world of "Legend of the West", allowing the loyal players to have a taste of the world's utopian potential.

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The Zargonian press had also reported on the young man who was poised to become the next billionaire. Although "Legend of the West" was still a ways off from debuting in the country, the local news ran reports that introduced how the game had created a miracle amongst its players that hailed from Euphoria and Federia.

The news also reported speculations on the young man's potential wealth gain after Genesis became a public-listed company. He would undoubtedly become a billionaire once that happened.

Even if the company's equity was diluted after becoming public-listed, it would still rapidly propel Jack into the spotlight of being the youngest billionaire in Zargonia. These reports created a buzz amongst those who paid close attention to the financial news. Many of them wondered who Jack was and which illustrious family he was heir to.

Wendy was amongst those who paid close attention to these reports. She had read the news about Genesis' plans to become public-listed in Osmo, and also how Jack was poised to become the youngest millionaire in Zargonia on her computer. A smile curled her lips upwards.

An image of Jack being engaged in conversation with the tycoons of Fall Street formed in her mind, and she was amazed by how quickly Jack had amassed his wealth. It was clear that Jack was destined to be a miracle-maker.

When she recalled the conflicts, misunderstandings, and entanglements she had gotten involved in with Jack, Wendy felt a sweetness spread through her heart. She wondered if she should prepare a celebration for Jack after he returned. After all, this was his first big step toward a successful life.

Samuel had also noticed the Osmonian financial reports on Genesis' founder, Jack. Although the reports didn't have any photographs attached, the name "Jack Holland" and reports of how the man had specifically taken leave to travel to Osmo was more than enough for Samuel to make a connection with the Jack in the reports to the Jack that he knew.

It was the first time that Samuel realized that Jack was also the boss of Genesis. He was astounded by the sudden revelation. Before the auction, Samuel would have considered his speculation nothing but a fantastical fairytale. However, after the auction, Samuel knew that his thoughts were far from farfetched.

Especially after Jack drew the grand blueprint of Haven on the thirty acres of wasteland, as well as how Haven had reached the impressive milestone of having over 300 million registered users. Jack had been steady and calm through it all, making Samuel even more convinced that the "Jack Holland" in the reports must be the Jack he knew. Only he could create such miracles, Samuel was utterly convinced of that fact.

"What the fuck? Samuel, you're actually looking at the financial times? Never mind that though, this youngest billionaire in the country sure is something else!" Isaac exclaimed while patting Samuel's shoulder. "Looking at the reports is fine and all, but you have to remember that it doesn't have anything to do with us."

"No, it has something to do with me," Samuel replied. After all, the youngest billionaire was his fellow classmate.

Isaac didn't quite understand the meaning behind Samuel's words, but he nodded along and said, "You're right. There's a small connection since we're all part of the School of Finance. Do you think we'll be able to achieve his status of being a billionaire one day?"

Ronnie, who had been scrolling through his phone while laying down to the side, chimed in, "Stop dreaming. We should be happy if we achieve even a tenth of his wealth!"

Although all students of Alnewgo University had their own pride, they were also realistic people. They would be satisfied if they managed to earn even 100 million dollars in their lifetime.

"I haven't seen anyone in the entire dorm, including myself, who possesses this sort of potential," Ronnie declared, confident in his analysis of all the occupants in the male dormitory.

Isaac and Joshua, who was on the phone with Queenie, nodded their heads in agreement. They also hadn't seen anyone who had that sort of potential.

Only Samuel did not agree with them, and he countered, "I don't think that's true.

In fact, I think someone in our dorm has already reached that level."

As for who that someone was, only Samuel knew the answer.

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Ronnie glanced at Samuel before asking, "You think so? Who is it?"

"I know who it is!" Isaac cut in before Samuel could get a word in. "It's Luca, isn't it? He hasn't shown up in the dorm for so long that we've nearly forgotten about

him."

Both Ronnie and Joshua thought that Isaac's answer made sense.

Luca had turned into a nationally famous singer. He had already held two concerts this year alone, and the stadium had been jam-packed with his fans even though it had a seating capacity of over 100 thousand people. There were also rumors that Luca was gearing up for a world tour. It was obvious that he was now a top star in the music scene.

When it involved Luca's achievements, their roommates' successes paled in comparison. If anyone tried to compare their achievements with Luca, they were fighting a losing battle from the start.

Although Luca probably wasn't a billionaire yet, he very well could be one in the future. After all, Luca had advanced far ahead compared to his peers in the dormitory. He had ascended to a level that was far above the others.

Even though everybody was drawing the wrong conclusion, Samuel didn't rush to explain himself. The truth was that Samuel, Isaac, and Joshua had once believed that Jack would not make it big in the world.

He understood that he was just one of the fortunate ones who knew about Jack's little secret and also was lucky enough to be a part of it.

Samuel also understood that what he needed to do was be grateful and not boastful. For whatever reason, Jack clearly did not like having the spotlight on him, so Samuel would protect his secret for him.

Most people paid little attention to the financial news, such as Phoebe, Feena, and Bella.

Feena was a rising star in the entertainment industry, and she was also expanding her career into the music industry. Rumor was that she had signed a contract with a large entertainment company in Tarthy City with the hopes that the company would support her endeavors to become a celebrity that was a household name. As for Phoebe, she had returned to Zargonia after she completed her student exchange program.

Meanwhile, Bella was currently seated quietly in one of the classrooms in Montclair Conservatory, listening to the professor's lesson. The autumn sunlight felt nice and warm on her skin as it shone through the windows. However, Bella's attention was not on the class. She was staring out of the window at the trees, daydreaming.

Her seatmate was a new friend that she had made. She was busy looking through all the articles that were related to the young billionaire back in Zargonia.

Bella had no interest in the mysterious figure though. Her thoughts had flown thousands of miles away to roost in Alnewgo University's male dormitories, specifically in Block 12, Room 502.

Bella wondered if Jack had received the letter she had left for him. She wondered if Jack felt upset that she wasn't around anymore. It was a shame that they could not escape the strings of fate and were forced to return to their respective roles in society.

Although Jack was an outstanding man in Bella's eyes, Clarice did not share her opinion. Jack had not achieved the status of a billionaire that would change Clarice's view of him. Perhaps Jack would reach that status one day, but who knew how long that would take.

Time did not wait for anyone. Youth and beauty were fleeting. How many years would pass before he achieved that prestigious status? Bella assumed it would take years and the past would be far behind them by then.

Despite knowing all of this, Bella still wished to call Jack and make contact with him. Unfortunately, Clarice had gotten rid of every possible way she could get in contact with him.

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Unbeknownst to Bella, two lines of tears rolled silently down her cheeks.

Emily and Quintis were unaware that Genesis had plans to become a public-listed company. They had run a background check on Jack, but it was before Jack had established Genesis and Haven.

In their eyes, Jack was a failure when it came to running a business. However, it did not affect their love for him. Who hadn't experienced failure in their youth? As long as Jack continued working hard, he would eventually achieve success one day.

They drove an impressive Ferrari sports car toward Alnewgo University with the intention to give Jack a surprise. They hoped that Jack's animosity toward them would lessen after he accepted their gift.

They only found out that Jack was on a leave of absence after arriving at Alnewgo University. The news greatly disappointed Emily and Quintis.

A week later, Jack's trip to Osmo had reached its end, and he flew back to Zargonia. When he alighted from the plane, it was already close to four in the afternoon. Jack hailed a cab back to the university to get ready to have dinner.

When he pulled his phone out to contact Bella, he realized that her number was out of service.

Jack was momentarily stunned. He wondered why Bella had changed her number in the short span of a week. He hurriedly looked through his WhatsApp, Instagram, and other social media, wanting to check if

Bella had sent him her new number. If not, he would ask her directly for the reason for the sudden change.

His intention wasn't to blame her, he was just confused. Although they had some minor arguments in the past, Jack still believed that Bella would be honest with him about why she had changed her number. Briefly, he wondered if Bella had changed her number because she couldn't contact him while he was in Osmo.

What bewildered Jack the most was how he couldn't find a trace of Bella on any of his social media apps. It was as if Bella had disappeared like a wisp of smoke from his life. Just as Jack was wallowing in his confusion, Samuel returned from dinner.

Samuel's eyes lit up when he noticed Jack, but he smartly decided to refrain from questioning Jack about Genesis' plans to become a public-listed company. If Jack wanted Samuel to know about it, he would naturally tell Samuel on his own terms.

Jack also didn't share what he had done while he was away in New Vork. He only asked Samuel about how Haven had been in the last week. Only when Samuel assured him that everything had been running smoothly, was Jack able to relax.

Suddenly, Samuel appeared to have recalled something important. "Oh, right! Jack, your girlfriend seems to have transferred away from Alnewgo University. But before she left, she handed me this letter to give to you."

"What letter?"

Surprise filled Jack's heart. He had thought that Bella would leave eventually, but he never expected her to leave so soon.

He recalled how he had been completely focused on the matter of Genesis becoming a public-listed company when he was in New Vork. As a result, he had neglected Bella. He guessed that Bella had written the letter to him because she couldn't get into contact with him.

Jack tore open the envelope with careful hands. A pleasantly-scented letter came into view. Her handwriting was neat and tidy on the parchment, though Jack could see traces of dried teardrops on the paper. It was obvious that Bella had been crying while writing the letter.

As he read through the letter, Jack was taken back to that summer day when he first met Bella.

The sun had been blazing in the sky when he first ran into her. The Jack of that day would never have predicted that so much would happen between the two of them. Perhaps it was what fate had destined for them.

He remembered clearly how his relationship with Bella had progressed from fake dating till they developed genuine feelings for each other and how she got so jealous because of him. He could also remember her occasional fits of stubbornness and willfulness.

But Bella's personality changed as they spent more time together. The more she fell in love with him, the more gentle and demure she behaved around him. What Jack recalled most clearly was the selfless sacrifice Bella had made on his birthday.

Jack had assumed that he would grow old with Bella, just like how she envisioned. But fate had other plans for them. It allowed them to have a taste of sweet happiness before heartlessly ripping it away.

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The letter that Bella had left behind didn't have a signature or an address, but Jack would not mistake Bella's unique handwriting for anyone else's.

"My dearest Big Bun, by the time you get this letter, I might already be flying toward the capital. I didn't want to leave, but I was given no choice in the matter. I'm not sure when I'll be returning to Alnewgo after I leave.

"Perhaps the next time I return, I'll just be a passing visitor. But I have no idea when I'll be back.

"That's right. I've decided to leave you. I don't know how long I'll be gone or when I'll be back. It could be a month or a year, or it could even be a decade or longer.

"Please don't be sad over me. Don't be upset, okay? Promise me that you'll have a smile on your face after reading this letter.

"The moon waxes and wanes, and all parties must eventually come to an end. But I don't want our story to end with a dirge. I truly hope that you can accept this new reality with a smile on your face.

"Please forgive me for how distant I've been in recent days. I was worried that the more time I spent with you, the more difficult it would be to sever our relationship. I was afraid of making a decision I would regret.

"It took me a long time to decide if I wanted to write this letter to you, but my longing for you won out in the end. Please forgive me for not leaving any way for you to contact me. I'm afraid that I'll be unable to leave if I hear your voice.

"Do you remember how I once said I wanted to mold you into my perfect lover? At the time, I thought you would be the best partner for me, the best husband and father. Every time we were together, I would dream of our future. You had also proven yourself with your actions that you had the capabilities to carve out a wonderful future for me and our future children.

"In my heart, you're an irreplaceable hero. I truly believed that we would be able to grow old together one day, but reality has come to shatter that dream.

"I still remember the first time we met like it was yesterday. You looked so silly, but the smile on your face had been a genuine one. From that moment, I knew that you were someone special.

"Every moment that we've spent together has left a deep impression on my heart, especially that one night in winter when you drove your Bentley through the snowstorm. You told me about your achievements outside of school. And then there was that unforgettable night we spent together...

"But at the end of the day, we're still regular people. My mother once said that unless you have 10 billion dollars, she would never agree to us dating. I know that it's an impossible dream, but I couldn't go against her word.

"I once again ask for your forgiveness for leaving without a word. The future that we painted together was too beautiful to the point that it scares me. It was too unrealistic.

"I'm about to leave Alnewgo. I wanted to take our dreams with me, but I realized that the dreams were too heavy with you in them, so I might be leaving them behind forever before I go.

"I don't know when I'll return. It might be in five or ten years. I wonder if my dreams would still exist then? Could we still treat each other honestly like how we did when we first met? Please don't chase after me, okay?

"I'm looking forward to the day when you appear like a hero before me once again and use all your strength to destroy any obstacles in our path so that we can pick up where our relationship dropped off. I know that all of this is just an impossible dream. The distance between us is as vast as the Atlanticus Ocean, making it impossible to cross."

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"I'm leaving now, my Big Bun. Goodbye!"

That was the last line in Bella's letter.

At the very bottom of the letter was a sketch of a woman crying. Jack gripped the faintly-scented letter in his hand tightly. The dried teardrops on the parchment was enough for Jack to imagine how Bella had been shedding tears while writing the letter.

He could pick out the helplessness and desperation that Bella had to have felt as she wrote the letter. It was as if an unbridgeable canyon had opened up between them.

Jack looked up to the sky, to the direction Bella's plane must have flown toward the capitol. He wanted to know what made Bella give up on him, but he knew that he would never get an answer.

Bella had gotten rid of all possible venues of Jack contacting her before she boarded the plane. Perhaps there might come a day when they run into each other again.

But how long would that be before that happened? Would they have their own significant other by then? Would they have their own children, or would they have already grown old to the point where their hair had turned white?

Jack didn't have any answers. He was famous amongst the inhabitants of Alnewgo University's male dormitories for having an unbreakable will.

However, at that moment, all Jack wanted to do was drown his sorrows in alcohol. He ran downstairs and bought a carton of beer before hauling it to the rooftop of the dorm. He downed one bottle after the other.

Jack was eerily calm as he drank the beer. Nobody knew what he was thinking. As he drank, he stared up into the sky.

He realized that Bella had left a deep mark in his heart. But everything was over. He poured the beer onto the letter that smelled faintly of lavenders.

The words on the parchment turned blurry as the ink ran, while some even disappeared completely. It reflected Jack's relationship with Bella. Everything had ended even though it felt like it had just only started.

That night, sleep eluded Jack as he tossed and turned in bed. It wasn't the first time he had run into a hurdle in his love life, but he had assumed his love for Bella was about to bear fruit. Who knew that she would be the one to hurt him the most.

Jack finally understood that a love between a man and a woman was not to be trifled with. When he loved someone to the point of no return, it was expected that he would have this type of extreme reaction.

Jack was still unable to find sleep even in the early morning. He decided to forgo it altogether in favor of returning to the rooftop to smoke. He smoked one cigarette after the other. It was only when dawn began to break did he crawl back to his dorm and finally lost consciousness.

When he next awoke, it was already past two in the afternoon. His heart was still filled with agony, but he knew that he needed to pull himself together. He still needed to ensure that Genesis would successfully transition into a public-listed company.

Once he achieved that, he would also rise to unimaginable heights of success, and he would become famous in the financial world. Only then would Jack be able to proudly and confidently face Clarice head on.

Jack returned to his usual self. He started paying closer attention to Josiah, hoping that the man that he had personally invited to join Haven would not disappoint him.

Josiah had skills that impressed even Jack, who was no slouch when it involved computer programming. Jack had to admit that Josiah was an excellent talent when it came to the field of computer science.

Josiah, as Alnewgo University's cream of the crop in the computer science department, was astoundingly skilled. He even had a memorable nickname amongst his peers-"Ace Brain". The nickname was given to him to praise his undeniable prowess when it involved matters related to computer science.

Samuel was also thoroughly impressed by Josiah's abilities. He had tried his hand at troubleshooting difficult to detect bugs in different codes but had struggled with the task.

On the other hand, Josiah had detected these same bugs easily and had also written them out of the code swiftly. Samuel had been so impressed by Josiah's skill that he had half a mind to ask Josiah to take him under his wing.

Jack called Josiah and set up an appointment for them to meet. When he and Samuel arrived at the dorms that housed the male computer science students, they noticed that Josiah was on the phone with his girlfriend, Gigi.

Josiah was telling her about his new job. Not only did he find a satisfactory job, but he also enjoyed working at Haven very much.

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Although Haven wasn't a massive company that was worth billions of dollars, it was in the midst of expanding rapidly. Thus, even an intern was treated well.

More importantly, Josiah was able to grow alongside Haven. There was a chance for him to rise up into the higher ranks and be responsible for Haven's success in the future. Josiah believed that if he worked hard, not only would he have a bright future, but he would also be rewarded handsomely for his efforts.

Josiah could draw on his expertise in the computer science field and apply his skills to the fullest while he worked at Haven. He was thrilled at the prospect of joining a company that had unlimited potential. His future was suddenly filled with endless possibilities.

Gigi was also happy for Josiah for being able to find a company that suited him so well. However, Josiah had refrained from telling Gigi that it was Jack who had introduced him to Haven. He also hid Jack's real identity from her.

Josiah wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed, but he wasn't completely foolish. Since Gigi and even Bella was not privy to Jack's true identity, Josiah had surmised that Jack wished to keep a low profile. Josiah was terrified of the consequences if he accidentally let the truth slip from his big mouth.

Just as Jack was about to bring Samuel and Josiah with him for a meal, so they could discuss some work matters while eating, an eye-catching Maybach suddenly appeared and stopped at the entrance of the dormitory. The Maybach then honked at them twice.

A man and a woman alighted from the car as the doors were thrown open. The man had a cigar hanging between his lips and had an imposing bearing. The woman was sexy and flirtatious, making one's heart race. When Jack laid his eyes on the two newcomers, he froze on the spot.

The newcomers were Patrick and Wendy of Drakengard Games. Patrick's bearing was completely different from before. He was no longer the simple man he once was and had been replaced by someone who was arrogant and looked down on others.

Jack wondered why Wendy and Patrick had appeared together. Were they perhaps dating? It wasn't impossible, considering how they presented themselves.

Jack frowned deeply, feeling uncomfortable. Although he didn't feel anything significant toward Wendy, they still had a short fling in the past. Furthermore, Wendy had lost her virginity to Jack.

Jack quickly smoothed out his troubled expression into a passive mask. He wanted to leave as quickly as possible, pretending he hadn't seen them.

However, Patrick had noticed him. But he didn't bother with Jack. Instead, his attention was on Josiah. He offered a hand for Josiah to shake and laughed boisterously.

"Josiah, it's nice to see you again! Aren't you thrilled that I'm visiting you?" "Hi, Patrick!"

Josiah didn't know about the bad blood between Jack and Patrick, so he greeted Patrick with a wide smile. He had worked under Patrick for a short time in the past and knew that he had made it big in life.

The company that Patrick owned had released many games that were popular. There were even rumors that he was preparing to turn Drakengard Games into a public-listed company on the local General Enterprise Market.

Patrick had an impressive reputation. He had been invited twice to guest on Celestial Network's finance program to share his experiences. Both his peers and his juniors had recognized him as a famous person who had succeeded in life.

His significant achievements even made the teachers in the university change their initial impression of him. No longer did they bring up the incident where Patrick was expelled for being the creator of the illegal plug-in. They would much rather discuss how hardworking Patrick was when he was a student of Alnewgo University, or what he got up to while he was around campus.

It was as if Patrick was a part of the Alnewgo University student body, bringing honor to the university's name with his successes. Humans were realistic creatures-this was something that Patrick had come to realize in the last two

years.

As a result, Patrick had changed to become more pragmatic and utilitarian, preferring to ensure whatever he did was under the spotlight. As long as there was an opportunity to show off, Patrick would not let it pass him by.

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Wendy had her gaze pinned unwaveringly on Jack. She didn't expect to see him again so soon. A mysterious smile curled her lips upward as if she was cooking up a ploy.

Meanwhile, Patrick completely ignored Jack's existence. He asked Josiah,

"Where are you going?"

Josiah answered honestly, "I'm going to get lunch with my two friends."

Patrick shot an icy glare at Jack. "You want to eat lunch with these sorts of people? Where? The cafeteria? That place is below you! Follow me. I'll bring you to a place that serves real food.

"I also heard that you're looking for a job. Why don't you come work for me at Drakengard Games? I'm sure you've heard of how amazing my company is. I can guarantee you that there isn't another company like it anywhere else!"

Due to the fact that he was expelled by Alnewgo University in the past, Patrick was fond of boasting in front of the students. He wanted to get back at those who had looked down on him. He made sure to maximize his boasting especially when his previous classmates came up to him to get in his good graces.

However, Josiah rejected Patrick's offer, much to his astonishment.

"Thank you for looking out for me, Patrick, but I've already found a job."

"You have?" Patrick's expression immediately twisted in annoyance. "Which company? How can it possibly be better than mine?"

Patrick harbored high hopes for Josiah, considering how skilled he was. He didn't expect someone else to snatch Josiah away from right under his nose, so he was beyond furious.

Josiah glanced at Jack before shaking his head. "I'm sorry, but I can't tell you that, Patrick."

Patrick wasn't a fool. He had noticed Josiah glancing at Jack, so he turned his attention to Jack with a hardened expression. "Why are you working with a useless person like him? You're underestimating yourself."

Wendy, who had been busy observing Jack from the sidelines, stepped forward and added with a bright smile, "If you come to Drakengard Games, we can offer you a management role after your assessment is over."

Wendy bumped her pale arm against Patrick's as she spoke, giving off the impression that she was very close to him. She then shot a teasing look in Jack's direction.

Patrick shivered when he noticed how close Wendy was to him. He never dreamed that a gorgeous lady like her would get close to him like this.

Jack only barked out a sharp laugh before saying, "Sorry, Josiah has already joined our company. You should look elsewhere for other talents. However, let me give you a friendly reminder-don't be too arrogant, or your actions will come back to bite you."

Patrick's tone was dripping with disdain as he shot back, "Who the hell are you? What makes you think you have any right to speak?"

Samuel and Josiah decided to intervene, unwilling to remain as bystanders any longer.

"Patrick, I'm already working with Mr. Holland. I won't be joining you at Drakengard Games, but thank you for your offer," Josiah explained, making his stance clear.

Patrick scoffed as he glared at Josiah. "You're such an idiot. You're letting a golden opportunity slip through your fingers."

He turned to Wendy and said, "Let's go. We've wasted our time here."

Wendy nodded. But before she left, she shot one last glance at Jack and took in his dark expression. She could feel an uneasiness building in her heart.

Had she gone too far while teasing Jack? Was he angry at her?

However, she also felt just a hint of sweetness. His upset expression proved to her that she still had a place in Jack's heart.

After they got into the car, Patrick let his simmering anger explode. "That fucker, Jack, has established another company? What fucking company is it?"

Wendy glanced at Patrick with disinterest in her eyes and didn't say a word. She was busy replaying the scene of her teasing Jack in her mind. She wondered if Jack was angry with her.