Limits 631

Chapter 631

"Still, those two women just now are really pretty. Glen, you've got so many

women around you-more than you can handle. Why don't you let us have a shot at them? Give us a chance to impress them too!"

This sparked a round of laughter.

Glen shook his head helplessly. "If you've got what it takes, then I don't mind you trying. But although these kids may hang around me, they're not just anybody!"

"Who are they?" The group leaned in, curious.

Glen smirked proudly. "See that one called Zane? He's the leader of the group. His father used to be a top official in Perthter City. Now, even though he's been transferred to Alnewgo, he's still one of the most powerful figures there.

"Charlotte and Neil's father is also a deputy mayor in Alnewgo. Oh, and his uncle is the Mr. Grant I just mentioned. He's just been appointed to govern Perthter City."

The moment he said this, the young men's expressions changed.

These were all friends from Glen's circle, coming from decent backgrounds, but compared to Zane and the others, they paled in comparison.

No wonder Glen valued Zane's group so much they had such impressive connections.

A scruffy-haired young man sighed. "No way! You'd never guess just by looking at them!"

Another with a buzz cut marveled, "Glen, I had no idea you were so well- connected in Perthter City! Even the kids of Alnewgo's top brass are tight with you."

A blonde-haired woman gazed at Glen with admiration. "You're amazing! You've got those kids wrapped around your finger. You've got to look out for us from now on!"

He grinned smugly.

She teased further, "The way they look up to you, you could probably get them to do anything for you, even fetch you drinks. You're destined for success."

Glen's expression turned slightly serious, feigning annoyance. "Watch what you say..."

His friends erupted into playful jeers, and he chuckled helplessly.

"Good grief! You lot just can't go a day without stirring the pot, huh?"

The banquet officially began, marking the start of Glen's birthday celebration.

Guests first gathered around the table to enjoy the feast, followed by a grand cake being wheeled out for everyone to share.

As the lively birthday song filled the air, the atmosphere reached its peak.

After the meal, an energetic dance party kicked off. The event featured Angleria- style dancing-trendy and especially popular among young people.

Just as Jack, Zane, and the others were gathered around the table, laughing and chatting. Glen's two friends-Tony Faerber, with his scruffy hair, and Pax Zambrano, the one with the buzz cut-walked over and greeted Zane's group warmly.

Glen joined them and introduced them to Zane. "Zane, these are two of my closest friends. They're about as good at tennis as I am. You like tennis, right? They could give you some tips."

Zane nodded in agreement and exchanged a few pleasantries with Tony and Pax.

Soon, the two newcomers struck up lively conversations with Charlotte and Mona. Since they were friends of Glen's, both women responded with warm politeness. Seizing the moment, Tony extended an invitation to Charlotte. "Char, when the music starts, would you like to dance with me?"

Not to be outdone, Pax turned to Mona with a similar invitation. "Hey, gorgeous. How about a round of Angleria waltz later? If you don't know the steps, we'd be happy to teach you. It's all the rage in high society right now!"

A flicker of hesitation crossed Charlotte and Mona's faces. They barely knew these men, and the whole situation made them uneasy.

Noticing their reluctance, Pax quickly added, "What's wrong? Aren't you scared of getting on Glen's bad side?"

As soon as he finished speaking, he deliberately moved closer to Mona, even pressing his body against hers. It was a blatant attempt to take advantage of the situation.

Chapter 632

Mona noticed what Pax was doing, but she could only shift her body slightly away because he was Glen's friend. Tony tried to do the same to Charlotte, but she had a stronger bearing and forced him to halt his advances with just a single look.

Seeing that Mona didn't say anything to reject him, Pax turned even more daring and tried to touch Mona's behind.

Mona was greatly upset by his actions. She had never met someone so shameless in her life. She glared at him, hoping he would take the hint. But Pax only grinned at her without a hint of embarrassment, making it obvious that this wasn't the first time he had done such a thing.

Noticing how uncomfortable Mona and Charlotte were, Jack spoke up in a cold tone, "Can the two of you please be more respectful?"

Jack's words attracted the attention of Zane, Neil, and Leo. Although Pax had swiftly retracted his hand, they had seen where his hand had been. Zane stared daggers at Pax, but the latter didn't show even a shred of remorse.

In fact, he even challenged Jack's accusation. "What did you say? I didn't do anything!"

"The placement of your hand made them uncomfortable. Please respect their boundaries," Jack replied without missing a beat.

Pax turned to Mona and asked, "Did I touch you, Mona? I just bumped into you a little, right?"

Zane also asked in a low voice, "Mona, did he do it on purpose?"

He sounded extremely upset. It was clear that he was already convinced that Pax had harassed Mona. If he got confirmation of Pax's unsavory acts, he was going to lose his temper. It was the responsibility of the men to protect the women in their circle.

Mona hesitated as she glanced at Pax. She then gave an answer that was completely unexpected. "There's no such thing. He... he didn't do anything to me."

Her words stunned Zane, Jack, and the others. They didn't think that Mona would take Pax's side.

Pax, who had been feeling a little guilty, completely changed his tune after hearing her answer. He pointed at Jack boldly. "Did you hear that? How dare you try to slander me? You better apologize to me right now, if not I'll make you regret it." Pax had heard the conversation between Glen and Jack when the former asked about the latter's background. Jack was just a simple farmer's son. Pax might have not

been completely confident if his opponents were Zane, Neil, or the others, but he was perfectly sure that he could take on Jack. After all, if he couldn't handle a mere farmer's son, he wouldn't be able to show his face.

"Do you think I'll apologize to you?"

Jack's answer was frigid, completely ignoring the threat that Pax and Tony posed. His response nearly made the two of them go into a rage, but they knew that Zane, Neil, and Leo weren't people they wanted to offend.

Glen wasn't by their side either, so they would certainly be the ones who suffered the most losses if a fight broke out. Pax and Tony were smart men, so they ultimately swaggered away, but not before Pax shot one last glare at Jack. They weren't just going to take Jack's offense lying down and would make sure that Jack regretted his actions sooner than later.

After Pax's and Tony's departure, Neil rushed to ask Mona, "Mona, did he do anything to you just now?"

Everyone immediately knew what had transpired when Mona's face flushed red.

Zane continued impatiently, "You should have just been honest just now, Mona. Jack had already caught him red-handed. We wouldn't have let him off the hook so easily."

He was extremely angered by how Pax and Tony had tried to threaten Jack earlier.

Chapter 633

Jack had solidified his position and earned the acknowledgement of most of the people present, which was why Zane wasn't going to allow anyone to trample all over him.

Mona didn't have much of an opinion on Jack, but she still spoke up in a small voice after Zane's insistent questioning. "I... I just thought that since he had such a good relationship with Glen... That's why..."

"That's why we should just let him do as he pleases?"

Zane sighed lightly before saying, "Fine. If anything comes up again, you have to tell me immediately."

To the side, Charlotte chimed in with an incensed voice, "We need to show them that we don't condone this sort of barbaric behavior."

When Charlotte recalled Pax and Tony's infuriating demeanors-even wanting Jack to apologize to them-she got so angry that she wanted to slap them hard across their faces.

The conflict didn't affect the banquet from proceeding as planned. Music started echoing throughout the hall after the cake-cutting was completed. Many of the guests stepped onto the dance floor and started performing ballroom dances that they had learned from abroad.

Those who were dancers showed off their skills while those who were less talented stood on the sidelines and looked on enviously. From the perspective of a guest, Glen's circle of friends was incredibly expansive. There were students and also businessmen and bureaucrats from Perthter City.

After the guests were informed of Zane's identity, they flocked toward him and his group. But when they spotted Leo's and Neil's unfriendly expressions, they maintained a distance from them. After the conflict with Pax and Tony, they were even more hesitant to approach.

Not only did Glen befriend so many scions of high-ranking officials, but he was also the leader of them. It impressed everyone present, making them wonder just what sort of authority he wielded. In their eyes, he was an incredibly outstanding individual.

Jack didn't know how to ballroom dance, so he sat on one of the couches and sipped on his beverage, feeling a little bored.

Meanwhile, Zane, Neil, and Leo had been invited to dance by a few beautiful women. Mona had also been invited, so Charlotte was the only one left to accompany Jack. The both of them nursed their drinks as they stared disinterestedly at the dance floor.

Although many men offered their hand toward Charlotte to ask her for a dance, she rejected all of them. Jack, on the other hand, had spotted Pax and Leo with their heads put together. He looked on with a frown as they whispered to each other, getting the feeling that they were up to no good.

Suddenly, the two of them rose to their feet. Under Jack's baleful gaze, they started arguing with each other before their fists eventually came into play. Charlotte had also noticed what was happening and thought it was odd. Their fight had started so suddenly, and she wondered if an argument had broken out between them.

Jack only smirked coldly as he watched the scene unfold. Before anyone could go up to them to advise them to stop, Pax grabbed a slice of cake that was sitting on the table. Everyone assumed he would throw the cake at Tony, but Tony redirected his hand lightly, changing the trajectory of the cake so it flew towards Jack's face instead.

Shocked by the sudden turn of events, Charlotte yelled for Jack to look out. But Jack was faster-he reacted swiftly and easily dodged the cake that was hurtling toward him with a simple turn of his head.

Seeing that the cake had missed its mark, Pax was infuriated. He grabbed a wine bottle from the table and brandished it at Tony. "You dare to raise your voice at me? I'm going to end you with this bottle!"

Charlotte reminded Jack to be careful once more, but he was already well prepared. When the wine bottle came rocketing toward him, he maneuvered his body to the side, causing the bottle to shatter into a million pieces when it collided with solid ground.

Pax's anger turned white-hot when he realized the wine bottle had missed Jack as well. He gave up on the act and rushed toward Jack while Tony dashed at Jack from the other side. They were effectively flanking Jack, and anyone with eyes would be able to see that their target had been Jack all along.

However, Jack didn't feel any fear as he sidestepped their attacks. He shoved them away, causing them to lose balance for a few seconds. They stumbled back and crashed into the tables that hadn't been cleared out yet.

A loud crashing sound resounded around them as the tables collapsed under their weight. The wine and cake that had been on the table also fell to the ground in a chaotic mess.

The guests who were nearby screamed shrilly as they jumped to their feet and backed away from the wreckage. Meanwhile, Pax and Tony were covered in grime while they lay on the floor, looking extremely unkempt.

The commotion had attracted the attention of all the guests. Glen hurried over after hearing the loud noises. "What's going on?" he asked.

Pax dragged a hand down his wine and cake-covered face before pointing at Jack.

Chapter 634

"It's all that fucker's fault!" Pax exclaimed as he pointed at Jack. "Deal with him, Glen!"

Tony also nodded in support of Pax's accusation.

Glen scrutinized Jack coldly before asking in a deep voice, "What happened here?"

Meanwhile, the hotel security guards had also rushed onto the scene. They surrounded Jack and waited for Glen's orders. Everyone could sense the fury burning in his question.

It was his birthday today, and all he wanted was a lively party that went off without a hitch. He refused to allow anything to happen that would ruin his happy occasion. Anyone who tried to stir up trouble would face his wrath.

Charlotte stepped forward to defend Jack. "Pax was the one who started it, Glen. f you don't believe me, you can check the surveillance footage."

If

Glen was known as the very image of justice since was a young child. She hoped that he would be fair and return Jack's innocence. Besides, everyone present had functioning eyes and could see that Pax and Tony were the real troublemakers. She had no reason to lie to him.

Pax continued to lie through his teeth shamelessly. "Glen, Tony and I were just arguing amongst ourselves when this bastard suddenly threw some cake at us. He even said that he was going to turn today's birthday banquet upside down." He turned to the crowd and questioned them, "Everyone here can vouch for me, right?"

Pax's and Tony's men immediately responded in the positive.

"That's right!"

"He was the one who was trying to stir up trouble."

Charlotte's expression turned somber when she realized that most of the people were siding with Pax. "They're the ones who started it, Glen. They even tried to take advantage of me and Mona earlier."

Pax hurried to counter her words. "Don't make things up!"

Glen waved his hand as he spoke. "Char, I know how to deal with this, you don't have to worry about what comes next."

His expression was severe as he swept his gaze over the people and the chaotic surroundings.

His eyes finally fell on Jack before declaring, "My goal today was to host a wonderful party that would leave a happy memory in everyone's hearts after it was over. I wanted everyone to leave in high spirits, but it's clear to me now that things have spiraled out of my expectations."

Glen sucked in a deep breath before pointing forward. "The exit is there. You know what to do."

He thought of himself as a man with great self-restraint, but he refused to allow anyone to cause trouble at his own birthday party. Besides, he was already showing Jack a lot of respect by asking him to leave of his own accord instead of having security drag him out of the venue.

Of course, Glen only extended this courtesy to Jack because of Zane and the others. After all, Jack was merely the son of a pair of farmers. He deserved no such respect from Glen.

Charlotte's face twisted into an incredulous expression. "Glen, you-"

She didn't expect Glen to side with Pax. Not only that, but he wanted to throw Jack out of the party as well? Was he really the righteous Glen from all those years ago? In the past, they loved to orbit around Glen because he was smart and fair. He was someone who everyone looked up to.

What Charlotte didn't know was that Glen was a businessman now who knew how to play his cards. Compared to Pax and Tony who hailed from prestigious families, Jack wasn't someone who Glen considered important enough to invest his time into. He didn't care even if he did offend Jack.

Everyone turned to Jack, pinning him with jeering and insulting gazes. It was extremely humiliating to be asked to leave by the host of the party. It was clear that Jack was being bullied due to his low status and position.

Chapter 635

Pax whistled before he insulted Jack, "What's wrong? Glen already told you to leave, so what are you still doing here?"

Tony cackled in response to his words, finally feeling like he was above Jack. Everyone around them started to point at Jack while exchanging whispered words. They were treating him like a laughingstock.

Meanwhile, Charlotte's expression was steely. She was greatly upset that Jack was being mistreated, even more so than if she was the one who was the target of the mistreatment.

When the atmosphere had reached the peak of awkwardness, someone from behind the crowd shouted, "Wait!"

Jack turned around to see Leo scuttling toward them. He looked at Glen unhappily before saying, "Glen, Jack is also an important buddy of mine. We all hope that you can investigate the situation first before making a decision, just like how you would in the past.

"You shouldn't treat this matter so callously. Besides, everyone here witnessed how they were the ones who started causing trouble first."

Zane and Neil also came to stand next to Jack, making it obvious who they supported. Glen's expression twisted into one of displeasure due to the unfriendly tone Leo had used with him. He didn't used to speak like that to him in the past.

Glen took a deep breath and did his best to school his face into a neutral mask. "Leo, you should be enjoying yourself in the private room with the others! Trust me, I'll make sure to handle this issue flawlessly."

But Leo, Zane, and the others continued to stand sentinel by Jack's side. Only Mona looked a little conflicted, though she ultimately shimmied closer to Zane. Glen's composure cracked slightly when he noticed that even Mona had taken Jack's side. He hissed, "Zane!"

His voice was clearly displeased and it was obvious that he wanted Zane to side with him. He still considered himself the leader of their group while Zane, Neil, and Leo were his followers. He was still caught in the mindset where his word was absolute and no one could challenge him.

But Zane had ultimately chosen Jack. "Glen, I think you should investigate this matter further."

Charlotte nodded and added in a quiet voice, "We stand by our friend."

Compared to Glen, Jack was their real friend. Glen grinded his teeth in anger upon hearing their words. A few moments passed before a smile suddenly broke across Glen's face. "How about this then? Since he's your friend, let's get him to the security room to tidy up his clothes first!"

Glen guessed that his relationship with Zane and the others had turned a little distant since it had been years since he last interacted with them. He had no need to get into an argument with those he

considered to be his followers. As for Jack, he would still be forced to leave after he was escorted to the security room.

Charlotte refused to budge on her stance. She was going to fight for Jack's innocence no matter what. "Glen, they're the ones who struck against Jack first. You should tell them to apologize to Jack!"

Leo added, "Glen, please handle this matter properly."

Zane, Neil, and Mona were also looking at Glen determinedly. Glen was momentarily stunned before his expression turned even more upset. He didn't expect that they would be so insistent on sticking their necks out for Jack's sake.

Glen had even boasted to his friends earlier that his word was law when he interacted with them. If he told Zane to go west, he wouldn't dare go east. But now his words had come back to bite him. He couldn't help but wonder what type of person was Jack Holland that would inspire Zane and the others to support him so steadfastly.

But there was one thing that Glen was certain about, if he didn't handle this matter properly, it would deal a heavy blow to his business.

Glen always put himself in a higher position of authority whenever he spoke to Zane-like an elder brother speaking to his younger brother-but if he had to arrange the guests of his banquet according to the power they wielded, Zane was most definitely the one who would come out on top.

Chapter 636

It would be excellent if the people found out about Zane's identity. If they didn't, then Glen would also create opportunities for people to find out.

He wanted everyone to know that not only was he a businessman, but he also had a strong background that was connected to high-ranking officials. These connections benefited Glen and Dynasty Hotel immensely.

However, his connections were now strained because a fool who didn't know his place had stumbled into his birthday banquet. If things continued to progress this way, it might even force Zane over the edge and into the role of his opponent.

It was completely out of Glen's expectations. He could already predict the outcome if Zane left his banquet with a bitter taste on his tongue today. Both he and Dynasty Hotel would be forced to face challenges they didn't have to in the past.

Even if the powers backing Zane didn't make an appearance, those with keen eyes in the business and health departments would notice the change and start to relentlessly harass Dynasty Hotel. Faced with the possibility of such a grim reality, Glen had no choice but to compromise.

A flurry of emotions flashed across his face before he forced himself to smile. "Zane, I didn't know you had such a strong bond with this friend of yours! You should have said something sooner instead of giving me an attitude.

"Since he's a friend of yours, then he's also a friend of mine, Pax, and Tony. Come on, let's all drink together and leave all of this in the past."

Glen then patted Jack's shoulder and said, "Don't take this to heart, buddy. Come on, let's drink together."

Jack looked at Glen with disdain. If it wasn't for Charlotte's sake, he would have slapped Glen hard across the face.

Since things had unfolded the way it did, he couldn't find any reason to continue staying at the party. It would only make things difficult for himself if he continued to linger around if only for Zane and Charlotte's sake since Glen didn't welcome his presence.

Furthermore, Jack could sense the loathing hidden behind Glen's fake smile. "I have something to do, so I'll be taking my leave first," he then looked at Zane, Charlotte, and the others and said, "Thank you for keeping me company. You should continue to enjoy yourselves!"

Jack had no relationship with Glen but the same could not be said of Zane and the others. He didn't want to be the reason for their relationship with Glen falling apart. Neil was the first to speak up. "We're the ones who invited you. If you're leaving, then we're going too!"

They had deepened their bond after so many years of friendship, so they were now companions who stuck closely together. Leo also nodded and added, "Neil's right! We won't let you leave by yourself."

He then looked at Zane, who only nodded to express his agreement. Their fates were intertwined, and they moved as one. Naturally, Charlotte was also on Jack's side.

Only Mona showed any hint of hesitation, though after weighing the pros and cons in her mind, she ultimately decided to stand with Zane and the others.

Human beings were realistic creatures by nature when feelings did not come into play. They could easily detect who was worth throwing their support to for the sake of their future.

Besides, Mona was also disappointed in Glen's behavior. She felt that there was truth in the saying that people would change with time. Perhaps the Glen that she used to look up to in her youth no longer existed.

Glen found himself caught between a rock and a hard place. If he wanted Jack to stay, then he would have to throw away his pride and admit that he was wrong. Apologizing would deal a heavy blow to his reputation, but if he didn't, then his relationship with his little group of followers would never be the same again, which would have an even heavier impact on him.

A woman dressed in the Anglerian-style stepped forward to speak up for Glen. "Zane, why are you acting this way? Have you forgotten how Glen used to take care of all of you? You should respect him instead of siding with an outsider to go against him."

It seemed that the woman was well-acquainted with Zane and the others.

Chapter 637

Zane's tone was cold when he replied, "You should keep your thoughts to yourself."

The woman was so shocked that she didn't dare to speak again. Meanwhile, Jack continued to walk toward the exit with Charlotte trailing behind him. Zane, Neil, Leo and Mona also followed after them.

Glen's entire body was trembling with rage at how the group treated him as if he was as insignificant as the air around them. They had completely trampled on the friendship they shared with him. If he let them go today, it would deal a huge blow toward both him and Dynasty Hotel's future businesses.

When it came down to it, Glen was just a businessman. If he had to go up against the government, his chances of emerging victorious were slim to none. He couldn't afford to ignore the authority that backed his followers from behind the

scenes.

"Stop right there!" Glen finally yelled out when he saw how Jack and the others were about to step through the exit.

Zane turned his head to shoot him a frigid glare while Jack also calmly turned around. They were greeted with Glen, whose face was twisted with fury. "Trust me when I say that you're going to regret it if you walk through that door!"

Zane and the others were stunned momentarily. They couldn't believe the words that just came out from Glen's mouth.

Was he actually threatening them?

Leo's and Neil's faces warped with rage while Charlotte and Mona looked on with shock. Glen's explosion of anger had left them feeling distant from him as if he was a stranger.

Was he really the same Glen who they had looked up to once upon a time?

An icy smile stretched across Jack's face. "What? Are you planning to take my life?"

"Go ahead and leave if you'd like to find out," was Glen's harsh reply.

Glen couldn't control Zane, Neil, and the others, but he didn't believe that he couldn't even control the son of a pair of farmers. Neil's face darkened instantly. Gone was the bashful man from earlier as he spoke in a cold tone, "Glen, you have to understand that things are different from the past. You have to take responsibility for your words!"

The warning was clear in his tone. They were no longer engaging in casual banter like before, instead they were being completely serious with Glen. They were telling him that their past friendship would not hold much weight if they were forced to protect Jack's and Zane's interests.

The Anglerian-styled woman's eyes widened to the size of saucers. She couldn't believe what she was witnessing. She had never seen Neil talk back to the ringleader of their group so determinedly.

She wondered if Zane had also followed in his father's footsteps to become a politician and no longer prioritized maintaining the pure friendship he once shared with Glen.

Surprised gasps erupted amongst the onlookers. They could all recall how Zane and Neil used to rely on Glen in the past. It was hard to believe that they would turn on him in the span of a day. Was the farmer's son that important to them?

Zane wasn't going to let Glen off the hook that easily either. He was an adult now and no longer just his playmate from when they were children. Everyone had to protect their own pride within their circle. If Glen continued to be obstinate, then Zane wouldn't show him any mercy.

Meanwhile, Glen was well aware that he would be inviting a great misfortune upon himself if he made an enemy out of Neil, especially since his uncle, Frank, was currently the mayor of Perthter City. His face had turned as white as a sheet, and he was beginning to regret his impulsive words from before.

Just when the situation had plateaued into a stalemate, the sounds of footsteps echoed from beyond the door.

A group of formidable men entered the hall, led by a rotund man whose face shone greasily. The man was Gareth Yarbrough, the CEO of Dynasty Hotel, and he was currently ushering an important figure into the banquet hall.

Chapter 638

The important figure was none other than Frank Grant, the mayor of Perthter City, who Jack had met once before. Gareth had found out that Frank was in the area dealing with some business and had insisted on inviting him to Glen's birthday banquet. It didn't matter if he only stopped by for a short while.

Frank's appearance caused an uproar in the banquet hall. Those who knew who he was couldn't help but let out surprised gasps. Meanwhile, Gareth was beaming at the fact that he was able to invite Frank to make an appearance at his son's birthday banquet. It would be a great honor for Glen.

Frank wasn't surprised in the slightest when he noticed Zane and the others. But what surprised everyone else the most was how Frank had ignored both Neil and Zane in favor of approaching Jack first. He greeted him warmly and asked, "Jack, my little buddy, are you having fun?"

His actions sent everyone spiraling into further chaos. They noticed that Frank had not only addressed Jack as his "little buddy", but he had also reached out both hands to shake Jack's hand. His gestures were usually reserved for esteemed guests or individuals of the same standing as him, but he had offered it to someone who was considered a junior to him.

Glen's heart hammered in his chest wildly as he wondered what was going on. Even Zane and Neil were feeling a heavy weight in their chests, not

understanding why Frank was treating Jack so amicably. Only Charlotte was privy to the reasons behind Frank's actions, but even she thought that he was going a little overboard.

Frank did not share her opinion. Jack hadn't only saved his life, but he had also indirectly promoted the advancement of national diplomacy, which Frank considered to be great achievements. After shaking hands with Jack, Frank noticed that something felt off in the banquet hall. He asked, "What's going on?"

Neil explained everything that had transpired to him. After he was done, Frank nodded before directing his gaze toward Glen, who had an uncertain expression on his face. His voice was light when he said, "If that's truly the case, then you're in the wrong in this situation. As the focus of today's event, you should treat every guest with respect."

Frank's words made cold sweat run in rivulets down Glen's back. He nodded hastily before going over to Jack. He lowered his head and stuttered, "I... I'm sorry. It was... my fault earlier."

However, Jack only smiled coldly. He knew that Glen's apology was insincere because Frank coerced him into it.

Frank didn't say anything in response to Glen's actions, instead he turned to Gareth and said, "Gareth, I just remembered that I have something that I need to deal with, so I won't be joining the rest of your son's birthday banquet. Let's get together again another time."

Gareth looked at Frank with surprise. "Mr. Grant, didn't you say you had time earlier? Why did something suddenly come up?"

Lucius Peterson, Frank's secretary, realized his intentions and swiftly explained the situation to Gareth in Frank's stead. "Mr. Grant does indeed have a meeting later. I nearly forgot about it myself."

Since Lucius had confirmed the validity of Frank's words, there was no reason for Gareth to be insistent. But based on how Frank treated Jack, it was clear that he had taken his side after finding out what had transpired.

The way the incident had unfolded was shocking to say the least, and Glen would ultimately be the one whose reputation suffered the most.

His disrespect toward Jack had come back to bite him, forcing him into an awkward position. Glen's mind buzzed with white noise as he watched Frank leave Dynasty Hotel with Jack and the others in tow, and he couldn't help but wonder what he did wrong.

He couldn't understand why someone with Frank's position and power would be so determined to support a junior who seemingly had no significant background. But despite how he couldn't wrap his head around the sudden turn of events, it was unfortunately the reality of the situation.

Chapter 639

Glen, who was normally a rational person, lost all his composure in an explosion

of anger.

Pax raised his wine glass and tried to give him a toast. "Don't be angry, Glen. Here, have some wine to take the edge off."

Glen responded by shoving Pax aside and yelling at him, "Fuck off!"

Things wouldn't have turned out this way if it weren't for Pax and Tony. Glen even delivered a powerful kick to Pax in his fit of anger, causing Pax to fall miserably to the ground, though he did not dare to retaliate. To the side, Tony's face had drained of color, and he quickly hid himself in a corner to avoid Glen's wrath. Naturally, Jack, Zane, and the others were unaware of the chaos that was unfolding within the hotel. The air outside was crisp and refreshing. Frank had already left with Lucius and his party, leaving Jack and the others behind.

With gratitude warming his heart, Jack turned to look at Zane, Neil, and the others. He said, "Thank you for backing me up today."

Neil couldn't help himself and smacked his fist lightly against Jack's chest. "What are you thanking us for? Do you really need to be so formal with us considering our tight bond? Who's going to help you out if not for us? Besides, their attitudes were way too horrible, and they were practically trying to insult our intelligence."

Leo nodded and added, "I didn't think that Glen was that type of person. I see him for who he really is now."

"He has turned into someone completely unrecognizable after spending a few years abroad," Zane muttered as he sighed to himself.

"To be honest, I've never liked how those who studied in Angleria carried themselves. They think they're better than everyone else just because they went abroad and learned how to ballroom dance. All those bastards scorned me because I didn't know how to dance. It's fucking ridiculous," complained Leo.

Jack smiled and said, "I'm sure everyone didn't get to have their fill of food earlier because of what happened. Why don't we find somewhere to sit down and keep eating? You guys can decide on the place. My treat."

Besides, it was difficult to fill their bellies since they were attending a birthday banquet. After hearing Jack's words, everyone present realized that their stomachs were feeling a little empty, so all of them responded enthusiastically to Jack's suggestion.

Neil exclaimed excitedly. "Great idea! I need to find a way to get rid of my bad mood anyway. Since you've made such a gracious offer, then I have no choice but to take you up on it and eat till your bank account is empty!"

"Perfect!" Zane agreed. "Even better if the place serves white wine. The red wine that they were serving at the banquet earlier was so bland. I'm not a fan of the wines that are brought in from abroad, so I was pretty annoyed."

Charlotte nodded and chimed in, "I haven't drank in quite some time. I'm going to drink every single one of you under the table today!"

The group chattered joyfully amongst themselves as they made their way toward a nearby restaurant and enjoyed a feast together.

Gratitude overflowed from Jack's heart. Compared to Zane and the others, Jack was just a regular citizen, making the difference in status between them all the more prominent. But Zane's, Neil's and the others' sincerity had made it possible to bridge the yawning distance between them, allowing them to become real friends.

Of course, Jack couldn't forget Leo, the man who was willing to take a knife for him, who he had formed an unbreakable bond with.

The life of a student was innocent and filled with wonderful moments, even if there are bumps here and there along the journey.

Jack hoped that the genuine friendships he shared with these people would be able to stand the test of time. He hoped that even if they were to go their own ways to find their purpose in different corners of the world, they would still keep these warm memories close to their hearts.

...

Meanwhile, in Tarthy City, Emily and Quintis were taking a leisurely stroll in the garden of their estate. They could see the bustling town of Seresto in the distance.

Since it was nearing the new year, excitement permeated the surrounding air. Even those who were standing atop a mountain could see how Seresto was bathed in a kaleidoscope of colors as fireworks exploded and lit up the sky above it. It was a breathtakingly beautiful sight to behold.

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In comparison to the bustling city, it was rather calm in the Lycan Estate's garden. Emily and Quintis found it more and more difficult to endure the passing days as the new year approached.

Ringing in the new year was meant to be an occasion that was celebrated with family members, but despite how much hardship they suffered to reunite with their missing son, Jack had chosen to celebrate the new year with another family.

Although it made sense, since the Hollands had raised Jack since he was a child, it was still a hard pill for any parent to swallow. But Emily and Quintis couldn't help but feel as if a knife was being driven into their hearts whenever they recalled this reality. They had never experienced what it was like to ring in the new year as a complete family unit.

Tristan had also returned to the capital to celebrate the new year with Vincent and his parents. But Emily wasn't willing to go to the capital to spend the new year, though she found it difficult to explain the reason for her reluctance to them.

Emily's longing for Jack continued to deepen as the bell that signified the new year was rang. It worsened to the point that she lost her appetite. The next morning, Emily asked Quintis to accompany her on a stroll around the garden. She asked, "Quintis, why don't we visit Nic this year?"

She was always thinking about seeking out Jack-it was the proof of her unconditional mother's love for him. Quintis was stunned for a moment, although it cannot be denied that his heart was also filled with longing to see Jack once again. He wasn't good at expressing his feelings, but he still harbored a strong love for his son.

However, Quintis felt conflicted by Emily's suggestion. "I'm afraid... that it wouldn't be appropriate. He told us not to bother him, after all."

"That's... that's true..."

Emily's expression instantly turned crestfallen, but her disappointment was quickly wiped away as her eyes brightened again. "Then, we won't bother him directly! We just have to go to Perthter City to be a little closer to him. We can invite him out for a meal after he's done celebrating the new year.

"It can be a day after the new year, or two days, or even three days after! If those days don't work, we can even wait until two weeks later to ask him to have dinner with us!"

Emily strongly believed that Jack would agree to having a meal with them after witnessing their sincerity of traveling over hundreds of miles just to meet up with him. She knew that unlike his cold exterior, he actually had a soft heart.

No matter when their dinner may take place, as long as the three of them could share a meal together, Emily would treasure the occasion for as long as she lived.

She didn't hope for more and only wished to be able to see Jack and have dinner with him. It would be enough for her if they could just have a conversation and exchange their thoughts and opinions.

"But we have to do something since we're going to Perthter City, right?"

It was obvious that Quintis had been moved by Emily's words. However, he still thought that it was inappropriate for them to travel to Perthter City without rhyme or reason. Perhaps they should prepare a gift for Jack? Although, it seemed that Jack didn't have much interest in gifts.

"You're right! We can participate in Seaton High School's anniversary celebration!" Emily suggested out of the blue.

Seaton High School-the institution that Jack studied at during his time as a high schooler-would be hosting their decennium celebration in the next two days. Whenever she had any free time, Emily would send people to investigate Jack's life while he resided in Perthter City. She would even extract information from his neighbors.

Even though she had missed out on witnessing Jack grow up with her own two eyes, she could placate some of her regret by learning about what he got up to while he was growing up. Emily was greatly interested in any little thing that concerned Jack and wished to know how Jack's life was while he was living in Perthter City.

Through the investigations, Emily had discovered in shock that Jack had been expelled from Crestfield High School at one point. Thus, he had enrolled into Alnewgo University as a student of Seaton High School instead.

Jack was without a doubt their pride and joy. Still, Emily had felt white-hot rage burn within her when she found out that he had been expelled from Crestfield High School right before the college entrance exams. If Jack hadn't been able to enter Alnewgo University because of that incident, she would have definitely taken action against Perthter City.

For the time being, Emily had discovered that both Crestfield High School and Seaton High School were having celebrations on the same day.