Limits 661

Chapter 661

With the sound of the whistle blowing, the competition began.

It was the new team's serve.

Jack's two teammates were in sync. They passed the ball to each other and worked well together. They seemed to have the basic skills.

However, Jack was the newly joined teammate. He couldn't even get his hands on the ball and could only focus on defense.

Isaac and Joshua's teammate was a physically frail boy with mediocre ability.

He was someone whom Isaac and Joshua randomly selected when they arrived at the court.

This frail teammate volunteered to guard Jack, believing that Jack was the easiest to defend without the ball.

However, Joshua and Isaac shook their heads and said, "Guard the other two. We'll guard him."

They had said "we" instead of "I". This shocked the spectators, with many wondering if their ears were deceiving them.

Two Calisota Universities Basketball Association tournament quarterfinals players wanted to guard one person. They must have misheard them!

Only Isaac and Joshua knew how capable Jack was.

Even if Jack didn't have the ball, they dared not let their guard down for one second. Any second of negligence could result in Jack overpowering them.

This defense strategy gave Jack's two other teammates room to shine.

After consecutively scoring two points, their confidence was boosted. They were even more unwilling to let Jack play offense.

However, they did not score the third point, so the other team passed the serve.

One of Jack's teammates started instructing Jack, "You won't be able to guard against professional players like them. Just guard the skinny guy. We'll guard the other two."

It looked like Jack's teammates were confident after consecutively scoring two points.

Jack didn't say anything else. After all, he didn't want to guard Isaac and Joshua on his own volition.

Jack decided to let the other two defend against Joshua and Isaac and watch everything unfold.

As for the special training for Isaac and Joshua, it could wait until there were fewer people. By then, no one would see him overpower the two.

Jack's two teammates locked down on Isaac and Joshua, successfully blocking Joshua's three-point shot.

Just as they undermined the abilities of the Calisota Universities Basketball Association players, Isaac unleashed his full power.

Isaac leaped high into the air, finishing an alley-oop dunk right over one of Jack's teammates, knocking him to the ground in the process.

This made Jack's teammate seem frail in comparison.

At this moment, Jack's teammates witnessed the fury of the Calisota Universities Basketball Association players.

They were as insignificant as bugs before Isaac.

The dunk was simply spectacular! The crowd erupted in enthusiastic applause.

The female junior shouted, "I love you, Isaac Horne!"

"You're amazing, Isaac! You are my idol!"

"Who's the person who did an alley-oop dunk? He's so talented!"

"Shit! I can't believe you don't know who this is. That's Isaac Horne, our campus' star player! He led our university team into the quarterfinals in the Calisota Universities Basketball Association tournament. He's an absolute powerhouse!"

The crowd erupted in cheers and applause.

Isaac served the ball and passed it to Joshua.

With a smooth change of direction, Joshua took a three-point shot. With a clean swish, the ball effortlessly sailed through the hoop.

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Joshua's swift, commanding strides left Jack's team scrambling to keep up.

The crowd's excitement surged as they commented.

"Who is that guy? His shooting's laser-precise, and his footwork is so smooth. He's playing like a pro!"

"That's Joshua Saunders. He's our school team's star point guard. Haven't you ever heard of him?"

The energy in the crowd intensified. With two players hovering near professional caliber, and a third who looked unremarkable at best, the team felt unstoppable.

Honestly, even if someone's grandma joined that lineup, they'd probably still cruise to victory.

"Just wait. Those three clowns are going to be defeated so badly!"

Feena was worried for Jack. He hadn't got a single point, while the opposing team had already scored three. She was in disbelief. Jack had always been an exceptional player-how could he possibly lose?

Feena couldn't help but shoot back. "Who says they can't win? I think they have a chance of winning. Do you see the player in white? He's a great player but hasn't got the ball yet."

Feena was referring to Jack.

The short-haired boy scoffed and replied, "Nice try, princess. You should get your eyes checked. You can't win a basketball match with a pretty face. No one at Alnewgo University can outplay these two. Joshua and Isaac are our star players."

The long-haired boy nodded in agreement. "What's the point of being handsome? They'll be retreating in embarrassment soon enough."

Hearing them insult Jack left Feena with a bitter taste in her mouth. Yet, she had to admit their arguments made sense.

Jack had been a star player in high school, but this was college. Moreover, he was busy with his career, and his skills inevitably declined. A loss wouldn't be surprising when he was going up against semi-pro players.

As much as it pained her, Feena had to admit Joshua and Isaac's gameplay earlier was outstanding, their chemistry undeniable. Jack wasn't entirely at fault for the loss.

Feena finally let go of her frustration. Although she liked Jack, she also

understood everyone had their strengths and weaknesses. There was no point in forcing things.

Still, Feena wanted to support Jack. She called out, "Come on, Jack!"

A girl who had a crush on Joshua sneered, "Come on? Please. No amount of cheering is gonna help him now."

Just then, Isaac caught another perfect pass from Joshua and slammed the ball in with a dunk.

Jack's two teammates were utterly demoralized. It felt like they were up against professional players; Isaac and Joshua's teamwork was impeccable.

All Jack's teammates wanted was for the game to end so that they could leave. Every second on the court was pure embarrassment.

Isaac banged the floor and taunted, "Jack, we didn't ask you here to go easy on us. We want to beat the real you!"

Joshua nodded. "Yeah. Don't waste our time playing like a noob."

Jack nodded and said to his teammate, "You'll guard him. I'll focus on guarding Isaac. Watch out for Joshua at the three-point line-don't go for any reckless steals. Just stick to him, stay close."

Jack realized that if he didn't start giving it his all, this game would be a goner.

Sensing the shift in Jack's attitude, Isaac lit up with excitement.

"Jack, are you finally taking this seriously? Don't go easy on us. We want the real you. If you hold back, we'll chase you off the court!"

The crowd stirred in shock. What? Did they know each other?

Moreover, Isaac asked the ordinary-looking guy to show what he was capable of.

The crowd on the sidelines could hardly believe their ears.

Joshua added, "Give us everything you've got. That's the greatest sign of respect to us."

Chapter 663

Jack's two teammates followed his command and began defending seriously. They felt a huge sense of relief seeing Jack take the initiative to guard Isaac. Moments ago, one of them had tried and failed to stop Isaac. It felt like they were up against a towering figure. Not only was it impossible to hold him back, but Isaac would also throw down powerful dunks every so often to humiliate them.

Now that Jack had stepped in, it felt like a weight had been lifted off their shoulders. After all, no one wanted to lose face in front of the girls watching from the sidelines.

Now that Jack was guarding him, Isaac could no longer dominate the court with effortless dunks or easy rebounds.

In fact, Isaac was starting to feel a bit nervous. Only he and Joshua knew just how insane Jack really was.

The memory of Jack tearing up the court like a god during their freshman year was still vivid in their minds.

Joshua was starting to feel the pressure too. He knew their chances of winning would shrink to almost nothing once Jack got serious.

Joshua had to ensure every shot counted. There was no room for error.

Joshua faked out his defender with ease, slipping past him effortlessly. As he spotted an opening and prepared to shoot, Jack appeared in front of him like a ghost.

Joshua jumped and attempted to score. Just then, Jack leaped with him and blocked his shooting angle.

Although Joshua jumped at an incredible height, all he could see was Jack's massive hands closing in.

A loud smack was heard and Joshua's shot was blocked.

Isaac jumped, trying to grab the rebound. However, Jack's second leap was quicker, higher, and more explosive.

The crowd stirred in disbelief. They hadn't expected Jack to be so talented.

Who was this guy? Why haven't they heard of him before?

After grabbing the rebound, Jack made a pass to his teammate beyond the three- point line.

His teammate hesitated for a split second, then decided to pass the ball right back to Jack.

Jack showed no fear as he faced off against Isaac. He leaped upward and slammed the ball down with both hands.

The entire hoop shook from the sheer force of the dunk.

The crowd was stunned. Jack just blocked Joshua, grabbed a rebound over Isaac, and then delivered a dunk. It was nothing short of jaw-dropping.

Even Jack's teammates stood wide-eyed, mouths open in shock. They hadn't expected Jack to be so skillful.

Fully confident in Jack, his teammates passed him the ball without hesitation. Isaac and Joshua quickly rushed in to double-team Jack, but he was too fast.

With a series of lightning-quick crossovers-moves flashy enough to make a pro highlight reel-he slipped past both defenders and finished with a smooth layup. The crowd erupted in cheers. Jack was incredible!

Goals this brilliant were hard to come by even in professional leagues. Jack's performance redefined what the audience thought was possible.

Those who had confidently expected Jack to fail were now stunned into silence. It felt like they had just witnessed something out of a dream.

Feena's eyes lit up, captivated by Jack's skills. Her heart started to race.

Isaac and Joshua were also amazed by Jack's incredible skills. If they learned

that move, they could tear through any defense. They didn't care about the crowd and approached Jack.

Chapter 664

Isaac asked urgently, "Jack, how'd you master that move? Teach me. I want to wreck opponents with it in the quarterfinals!"

Joshua nodded vigorously too.

The crowd was uncertain if they'd misheard. What? The school's star players and CUBA quarter finalists were asking a commoner for basketball tips.

Moreover, they clearly knew each other. The crowd was starting to wonder if Jack was a hidden basketball legend.

"Okay."

Seeing Isaac and Joshua's sincerity in learning, Jack nodded and explained, "Watch my footwork. Start with a left-handed dribble, then cross through the legs to shake the first defender. When the next player comes to defend, spin past him. Now you're near the rim. If possible, finish with a dunk."

Jack demonstrated the move as he spoke before finishing with a powerful dunk. His movements were fluid yet explosive. It was nothing short of stunning.

While the move sounded simple in theory, executing it required quick reflexes, exceptional ball control, and tremendous explosive power. Only near-perfect players could execute such a move. And Jack did exactly that, right in front of Isaac and Joshua.

The crowd was buzzing with curiosity. What was Jack's caliber? Where on earth did this top-tier player come from?

On the court, Isaac and Joshua listened attentively to Jack's instructions like students learning from a master. They felt no shame; only those who truly understood Jack's skill level would understand their willingness to learn.

Isaac and Joshua's motivation was clear.

With the Calisota Universities Basketball Association quarterfinals approaching, they were determined to improve their skills and lead Alnewgo University to greater heights. This humility and dedication to honing their craft was exactly what would get them there.

When Jack effortlessly sank another three-pointer, someone in the crowd suddenly shouted,

"Oh my gosh! I remember now. He's the 'Campus Jordan' from two years ago!"

That sentence triggered everyone's memories. The freshmen and sophomores were still a bit lost, but the third and fourth-year students knew exactly who he was.

It had been over two years ago, right when they were just stepping into college life.

It was a game between the School of Music and the School of Finance. The former was leading by more than twenty points heading into the fourth period. The outcome felt inevitable.

However, a bench player from the School of Finance checked in and defeated the School of Music.

The gameplay was legendary. In just one game period, Jack racked up 25 points, 10 assists, 13 rebounds, and five steals. That game didn't just end with a comeback. It ended with a legend.

Campus Jordan showcased every weapon in his arsenal-monster dunks, catches, and steals. He even defended against an opponent who weighed over 100 pounds. The crowd chanted "MVP" throughout the game, leaving witnesses questioning if they were dreaming.

When footage of Jack's god-tier performance was uploaded on Alnewgo University's campus network, it reached 100,000 views overnight. From then on, the mysterious legendary player was given the nickname "Campus Jordan".

Students at Alnewgo University hailed that game as one of the most untouchable records in the school's history. It was a performance so iconic, that it could only be admired, never replicated.

But two years had passed since then.

The player once nicknamed "Campus Jordan" had vanished from the basketball scene. Eventually, people forgot about him. Only those who truly loved basketball and had strong recollections of that match would remember him.

The guy who shouted just now was a student from the School of Music who had witnessed that historic match firsthand and never forgot the way it unfolded.

His reminder had caused the third and fourth-year students to relive the moment. No one expected the once-forgotten legend to return.

Was he back to reclaim the court? Was this the beginning of a new reign?

The freshmen and sophomores had never heard of "Campus Jordan". When they asked about him, curious about the stories they'd overheard, the seniors would patiently recount that unforgettable exciting game. Jack turned the tide in the final moments and became the campus legend.

They'd go on to mention how, in one jaw-dropping match, he nearly achieved a quadruple-double— and did it all in just a single quarter. If the freshmen didn't believe it, the seniors would point them to the campus video which would never be taken down.

No wonder Isaac and Joshua approached Jack with such genuine respect, eager to learn from him.

Compared to the main players in the Calisota Universities Basketball Association, Campus Jordan was the real hidden legend.

Chapter 665

Finally, the sales office gave Jack a call. It was time for him to come and view the property.

Jack called Feena right after. "My villa has been paid. Didn't you say you wanted to help me take a look? Are you free today?"

"Of course! I'll head over to your campus now. Wait for me!" Feena replied cheerfully.

10 minutes later, she arrived at the university and met with Jack.

The latter picked her up in the flashy Ferrari that Emily had gifted him, and they set off together to see the new place.

The villa was located across from the main residential area of the Woodlawn Manor development. It was a standalone building.

While most villas in the area were three stories high, Jack had opted for two two- story villas.

One villa was for Jeffrey, Helena, and Joanne. The other was meant to be a future love nest a home for himself and the woman he cherished.

Spacious and comfortable, the layout was more than enough to meet his needs for years to come.

As the car pulled up to the entrance of the villa, the gatekeeper saw the luxurious Ferrari and waved them through without question, offering only a few brief words of courtesy before letting them in.

After parking, Jack led Feena into the villa. Surrounded by the lush beauty of the neighborhood, the latter couldn't help but gasp in admiration.

"It's beautiful!"

The villa community wasn't just beautifully designed—it was downright picturesque. Not far from the homes lay a serene artificial lake.

White swans glided gracefully across the water, while a few small paddle boats floated leisurely in the distance. On the lakeshore, students wearing scarves recited poetry, their voices carried gently by the breeze, adding to the peaceful and harmonious atmosphere.

Surrounding the lake were neatly trimmed lawns and tall trees. As the wind swept through, ripples danced across the water's surface, and the branches swayed gracefully.

Though Feena's father was a well-known tycoon in Perthter City, their family had only purchased a

standard apartment in Alnewgo. It was a step down compared to Jack's villa.

Jack's villa sat right by the lake. While slightly smaller in size than some of the other homes in the area, its unbeatable location made it uniquely desirable. It was also one of the key reasons Jack had chosen it.

"Wow! This bedroom is amazing! What I love most is that the moment you wake up, you can see the lake right outside your window. I think you should open up this wall and install floor-to-ceiling tempered glass with curtains on all four sides. Just imagine how beautiful that would be!" Feena exclaimed.

She wandered into the next room. "This must be the kitchen? It's pretty spacious. You can tell the designer is experienced. I'd say you could turn this into an open kitchen or maybe even add a fireplace in the center."

Feena continued, "You could set up an oven over here, or a soy milk maker or some other kitchen appliances. The kitchen's so spacious. You could even put a folding chair in the corner.

"Just imagine sitting right here, with a view of the lake. On lazy days, I wouldn't even go out. I'd just lie back in that folding chair, read a book, and when my eyes get tired, I'd look up and enjoy the lake. And if I got hungry, I'd just bake a batch of cupcakes right here."

Feena's ideas came pouring out as if she were already living there.

Jack nodded along, clearly impressed. He was taking mental notes as she spoke. Feena evidently had a knack for this; she truly understood how to enjoy life. Taking her advice was bound to be the right move.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. Jack quickly hurried over to answer it. Outside stood a young man and woman peering curiously into the house.

The man had a well-defined, square-jawed face while the woman beside him was attractive, but compared to Feena's effortless charm, she came across as rather plain.

"Excuse me. Are you the owner of this house?" the man asked in surprise. He was not expecting someone as young as Jack to live in such a luxurious villa.

Jack nodded and replied, "Yes, I am."

Chapter 666

Just then, Feena walked out from the kitchen, having heard voices at the door. The moment the man saw her, his eyes lit up, and he suddenly became much more enthusiastic.

"Oh, this must be your girlfriend, right?" he asked, smiling broadly. "Hi there! I'm Irwin Panitz, and this is my wife, Lydia Irby. We live right next door. We're in the middle of renovations. I saw your door open, so we thought we'd drop by and say hello. We should get to know each other since we're neighbors."

Jack smiled and replied, "Hello, I'm Jack Holland."

Feena nodded with a warm smile. "I'm Feena Barrett. Hello."

She didn't correct Irwin's assumption that she was Jack's girlfriend. On the contrary, a flutter of sweetness rose in her chest. She snuck a quick glance at Jack from the corner of her eye, her cheeks subtly tinged pink.

Lydia glared at Irwin. Ever since Feena stepped into view, Irwin's eyes had been lingering on her. Fuming, she felt hostile toward both Feena and Jack.

Noticing Lydia's stare, Irwin quickly looked away, though inwardly he couldn't help but marvel at Feena's beauty.

Irwin turned to Jack and asked, "So, Jack, what line of work are you in? Why did you get such a small villa? Most folks who buy in this area don't really worry about money—usually, they go for something bigger. I mean, the price is just under 2,600 dollars per square foot?"

Irwin pointed toward a large villa not far away and continued, "See that one over there? Besides the one next door, I bought that one too for my parents. They really like the environment here. Said it feels peaceful and adds years to your life. Since they liked it, the price didn't really matter."

Irwin pulled out a lighter and lit a cigarette, a trace of smugness in his expression. He was trying to impress Feena. Though his words were phrased modestly, it was clear that he was showing off.

Lydia lifted her chin slightly and added, "You both look pretty young. Still in college, right? Did your parents buy this place for you? Well, either way, it's great that we'll be neighbors. My husband and I are both lawyers, so if you ever need help with anything-prenups, property disputes, relationship issues-we've got a solid network here in Alnewgo."

As Lydia spoke, she reached into her bag and handed Jack a business card.

Then, she glanced at Feena—a quick, deliberate look that came off more as a warning. But even so, she couldn't help but admit that Feena was genuinely beautiful.

Jack took the card, giving it a quick glance. Lydia was a senior attorney from a well-known law firm. He accepted the card politely and slipped it into his pocket. Irwin asked, "So, what do your parents do?"

Jack smiled faintly. "They're farmers. They work the land back home."

He didn't elaborate as he had no interest in sharing more than necessary with someone he'd just met.

Feena blushed slightly and said, "My dad runs a business."

Irwin's and Lydia's expression shifted slightly as they thought Feena's father had bought the villa.

After all, from what Jack had said, his parents were farmers. There was no way someone from that background could afford a villa in this neighborhood. Someone with a wealthy businessman for a father could.

Irwin and Lydia thought Jack was living off Feena. Maybe he was just good- looking and lucky enough to catch Feena's eye.

Irwin felt irritated. Why didn't he meet a pretty girl like Feena? If he'd met her first, Jack wouldn't even stand a chance with her.

Chapter 667

Irwin said passive-aggressively, "Oh, I see! Well then, we should definitely keep in touch. Especially you, Feena. If your dad ever runs into any business trouble, I might just have a way to help."

As he spoke, his eyes roamed over Feena.

Lydia yanked Irwin by the arm and dragged him out of the villa. When they stepped outside, she snapped, "What's wrong with your eyes? You were practically gawking at her."

Caught red-handed, Irwin shrank back and let out a weak laugh. "Come on, don't be like that. I wouldn't dare."

But in his head, he was still fantasizing. Feena was like a sweet ripe peach, desired by all men. What a shame for her to end up with a guy like Jack. If only Irwin met her first.

Inside, Jack and Feena didn't bother fretting over Irwin and Lydia.

Feena wandered through the house, checking the bedrooms and the living room.

Jack inspected the utilities to make sure everything was turned off properly. When he returned, he found Feena standing quietly in the middle of the living room, lost in thought.

"Ready to go?" Jack asked.

Feena took one last look around the space, then drew in a deep breath. "Let's go!"

Jack didn't notice the flicker of reluctance in Feena's expression.

As Feena walked Jack through the house, pointing out where things could go and how the space might be arranged, she was secretly imagining her own future home.

In her mind, there was a wide, open kitchen with a reclining chair always ready in the corner.

There was a big oven that could bake all kinds of delicious bread.

She pictured herself lying back in that chair, book in hand, gazing at the shimmering lake. If she got hungry, she could simply reach out and grab a piece of freshly baked bread.

She also imagined jars tucked under the cabinets—the kind her grandmother used, with delicate ridged glass-filled with chicken wings, marinated the way she liked them.

She dreamed of a duplex villa-nothing too grand, just cozy enough for a quiet life.

Every time Feena came home, a soft, warm light glowed through the window. Inside, the person she loved and their child would be waiting for her beneath the light.

The home Feena envisioned looked so much like this one; the layout, the warmth, even the external view outside. But the house wasn't hers.

Feena and Jack stepped out of the villa and gently closed the door behind them.

As they walked toward the car, they happened to run into Eleanor who was showing another couple around the neighborhood.

The moment she spotted Jack, her face lit up and she rushed over to greet him. "Mr. Holland, did you get a chance to look around your villa? Are you satisfied with everything?"

Jack smiled and nodded. "I'm pretty happy with the house so far."

The car slowed to a stop. After Jack exchanged brief words with Eleanor, the driver started the car again.

Meanwhile, Irwin and Lydia drove off in their BMW car.

As Irwin watched the bright red Ferrari gradually disappear from view, he scoffed and said, "I couldn't tell Jack was a mooch."

He couldn't help but feel frustrated-both at Jack and at the fact that someone like Feena wasn't with him instead.

Lydia couldn't help but sneer, "Are you feeling sorry for yourself? Do you wish you were the one living off Feena? How do you know if Jack is taking advantage of her?"

Irwin replied disdainfully, "His parents are farmers. How could he afford a villa like that on his own? The girl probably just likes his looks or his height."

Lydia rolled her eyes and retorted, "Maybe he is self-made?" However, she didn't sound convinced by her words.

Irwin wasn't in the mood to argue with Lydia. He drove the car closer to Eleanor and greeted her warmly.

Chapter 668

"Hello, Ms. Whitmore. Are you showing houses today?"

Irwin pulled out a cigarette and handed it over to Eleanor, knowing full well she smoked.

"Yeah. I'm just walking a few clients around since I'm free. It's peaceful out here. Perfect for walking."

Irwin nodded before glancing toward the road, where the Ferrari was disappearing around the corner.

He said curiously, "You seemed to be having a good chat with that couple just now. What do they do?"

Eleanor's eyes widened in surprise. "You don't know them? They're your

neighbors! You should definitely get acquainted. I'm not sure who the girl is, but the guy... Well, his name might knock you off your feet."

Irwin's expression darkened. "Are you exaggerating?"

Eleanor lowered her voice and replied, "He's Jack Holland, founder of Genesis Games. His company's valued at over a hundred billion dollars."

"Oh, really? He's rather wealthy."

With that, Irwin nodded and got into the car.

Lydia remained silent. They both knew Genesis Games.

The embarrassment hit hard and fast as they thought about the way they'd boasted about their wealth and status earlier.

Meanwhile, the Ferrari was speeding down the road, heading back toward campus.

Feena sat quietly in the passenger seat, her gaze fixed on the view outside. The streets of Alnewgo flew by in a blur of color and motion. Her eyes shimmered with tears.

Suddenly, Feena turned to Jack and asked, "Are you planning to make that place your home with Bella?"

Jack could tell something wasn't quite right with Feena. "That'll be our home if she comes back."

Then, he glanced at Feena. A breeze drifted through the open window, lifting a strand of her long hair.

Feena tucked the hair behind her ear, trying to keep her composure, but her chest felt tight. She could no longer control her emotions.

Then, Feena mustered her courage and looked Jack in the eye. "I think I'm jealous of Bella."

Once upon a time, Jack had been just another forgettable guy on campus. But he was now tall, handsome, rich, and talented.

From the way he spoke, it was clear that the house belonged to Bella. It would probably never belong to Feena.

Feena's lips curled into a faint, bitter smile. She never imagined she'd feel jealous of another girl. That just wasn't like her.

She'd always told herself to hold her head high, to walk forward without regret. She didn't want to waste her time with Jack. After all, there were many men available.

But it wasn't until she saw the home Jack had prepared for Bella-their cozy little haven in Alnewgo-that Feena truly understood. If she didn't take the initiative now, Jack would never chase after her again.

From the look in his eyes, it was clear that Bella was his true love.

Moreover, Jack was a proud and clever man who knew better than to linger where he wasn't wanted.

Feena knew she should let go of Jack and release the weight in her heart. After all, he had already found his happiness. She ought to wish him well. Yet every time the thought crossed her mind, it felt like a knife twisting in her chest.

However much she willed it, she couldn't bless him. Not truly.

Deep down, Feena knew Jack held an important place in her heart. A thought coiled through her mind. If Jack did marry Bella one day, or if she had a boyfriend, would Jack still help her without hesitation? Would he still protect her like he did now?

Feena knew the answer was no. By then, Jack'd have someone else to protect; someone he'd spend the rest of his life taking care of. That girl would be loved, but it wouldn't be her.

Feena had always imagined that the man she'd fall for would be flawless. And the more she pictured that man, the more she realized he looked an awful lot like the one sitting next to her right now-his looks, character, figure, and wealth.

She asked herself, "Who else could ever take Jack's place in her heart?"

Chapter 669

In the stillness of midnight, Feena often wondered what if she'd answered Jack differently that night by the river after graduation.

Would she be the blissful girl now? Would they be building their dream home by the lake, with her waking to lazy mornings in his protection, watching seasons change from their gourmet kitchen's chair?

But Feena had rejected Jack. Owing to her pride, those possibilities belonged to someone else now.

A tear escaped before she could stop it. She scrubbed it away angrily, but the hollow ache remained.

"Why are you jealous?" Jack asked.

Was Feena jealous of his new house? That made no sense-her family was wealthy, and she was practically a celebrity.

Feena just shook her head and stayed silent.

"You're crying?" Jack finally noticed her reflection in the rearview mirror.

She shook her head and replied, "It's nothing. The sand caught my eye." He didn't press further, and they drove in silence to Eirene Music Academy.

The next morning, Wesley called to inform Jack that Nina's parents were visiting the campus. He asked if Jack was available and hoped that Jack and Feena could join him for lunch with them.

Wesley wasn't feeling confident about meeting his girlfriend's parents. Having Jack and Feena there would make everything feel a lot smoother.

Feena, being the well-known star she was, wore sunglasses and a hat to keep a low profile. As the weather turned cooler, she dressed in a pair of fitting jeans, a white shirt, and a silk scarf, finishing the look with a pair of retro shoes.

Her simple yet elegant outfit perfectly showcased her graceful figure, which made Jack smile with admiration.

Wesley was waiting for Jack and Feena at the school entrance. Nina hadn't yet arrived because she was busy caring for her parents at the hotel.

Jack learned from Wesley that Nina's parents had recently found out about her relationship. So, they had come to the school to meet Wesley. If Nina's father approved of Wesley, he and Nina might be getting engaged soon!

It's also worth noting that Nina's father was a successful businessman, while her mother was a section chief. This put a lot of pressure on Wesley, whose parents were ordinary workers.

Wesley spared no expense to impress Nina's parents. He had chosen an upscale restaurant on campus for lunch. Apart from Jack and Feena, he also invited several of his college friends to dine.

As they entered the restaurant, Nina hurriedly grabbed Wesley by the arm and brought him to meet her parents.

Upon hearing that Wesley had gone to pick up Jack, her parents were somewhat displeased, feeling it showed a lack of respect. Wesley immediately apologized to them.

Meanwhile, Jack and Feena stood on the balcony of the private dining room, enjoying the view and chatting casually.

Soon, the food arrived. Nina's parents took the place of honor and often spoke to Wesley harshly.

Wesley nodded along, constantly agreeing, too nervous to challenge them in any way.

Chapter 670

It was painfully clear Nina's parents disapproved of Wesley. Their condescension was palpable.

When Nina headed to the restroom, her mother, Sonia Cruey, a construction department section chief, said, "Wesley, I heard your parents are blue-collar workers?"

Seeing Wesley nod, Sonia raised her voice and continued, "Let's be honest. You're hardly suitable for our daughter. We're sending her abroad to study soon. Birds of a feather flock together, after all. I can't help

that she's fond of you. Just promise you'll better yourself. Would you support my decision to send her for overseas studies?"

These cutting remarks were saved for this private moment when Nina went to the restroom. After all, Nina was protective of Wesley and would never tolerate such bluntness.

"Absolutely. I'll work hard to give Nina a good life," Wesley replied earnestly.

Nina's father, Alonso Atkin, retorted, "Hah! You make it sound so easy. Do you know how much it costs to study abroad for a year? People like you from suburban places wouldn't understand.

"I make a few hundred thousand dollars a year. It might seem easy, but every day I have to put on a fake smile. It's not as easy as it looks.

"Given your modest background, we'll lower our standards. We'll be satisfied if you can earn tens of thousands of dollars a year within two years of graduation."

"Yes, I'll make sure to do that," Wesley quickly responded, beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

Just then, Sonia noticed Jack and Feena. She asked, "Did you pick them up just now?"

Wesley replied, "Yes! They're my childhood friends. Let me introduce them to you."

Sonia waved her hand, brushing off the suggestion. "No need for introductions. It would be better for you to distance yourself from friends made in the suburbs. After all, you'll be joining the high-class society if you marry my daughter." Wesley gave an awkward look. It was as though they were denying his past. Alonso continued, "I agree with Sonia. Friends are really a form of value investment. I've always kept my distance from those who are shady or follow the wrong path. They won't help your career; in fact, they might even hold you back."

Sonia added, "I agree with Alonso. Back in the day, he loved playing cards, and his classmates from middle and high school would always drag him out to play- those were the ones with no ambition.

"Back then, Alonso was losing money and not focusing on serious work. Subsequently, he met influential people like the heads of the local Bureau of Industry and Commerce, the Construction Bureau, and the Public Security Bureau. That's when his business really started to take off.

"So, making friends is truly an investment. Just look at those classmates of yours from back in school. It'll be a blessing if they're not causing trouble."

Nina returned from the bathroom and overheard Sonia and Alonso's lecture. Her expression darkened as she asked, "Mom, Dad, why are you talking about that?" "Hey, did we say something wrong?" Alonso shrugged and puffed on his cigarette. "We're just looking out for you. If your husband doesn't get his act together, you'll be the one who suffers."

"Dad, do you even know who Wesley's friends are?" Nina couldn't help but speak up for Wesley.

Sonia scoffed. "Who are they? Are they more impressive than your father?"

Nina felt embarrassed for her parents. She whispered, "Stop looking down on others. They're Wesley's friends. Jack Holland is the CEO of a company worth billions of dollars, while Feena Barrett is a superstar."