Limits 671

Chapter 671

"B-Billions of dollars?" Alonso was so shocked that he almost stumbled, his eyes wide open in disbelief.

Sonia turned to Feena, who by now had taken off her sunglasses. She instantly recognized Feena as the famous actress from the drama series she'd watched! Sonia was left speechless.

Seeing Nina nod in confirmation, Sonia and Alonso were left dumbfounded, wishing they could take back everything they'd just said.

Jack and Feena didn't seem to mind. Instead, they smiled and tried to lighten the mood.

After all, this was Wesley's first meeting with his future-in-laws. They certainly didn't want him to leave a bad impression.

With Feena and Jack's help, the conversation soon flowed more smoothly.

Sonia and Alonso couldn't keep up their high-and-mighty attitude anymore-trying

to act superior in front of these two accomplished figures? That would be a mistake!

Moreover, with Wesley being so polite and respectful, the atmosphere gradually became more relaxed and friendly.

After learning that Jack was the founder of Genesis Games and Feena was a superstar, Nina's parents warmed up to Wesley. They began subtly trying to build connections and get closer to Feena and Jack.

Both of them handled the situation with ease, doing their part to support Wesley and keep up appearances.

In the end, Alonso was visibly pleased. He thought Wesley had a bright future ahead. After all, Wesley was sure to benefit from two generous and influential childhood friends like Jack and Feena.

Alonso asked, "Wesley, how about this? Once the semester ends and summer vacation begins, we'll find a time to visit your family. If it's okay with you, we can settle the wedding plans then. After all, you'll be entering your senior year soon, and graduation is just around the corner!"

A woman graduating from college was generally considered of marriageable age, so the bride's parents often started to feel the pressure.

If both families met and felt that everything was right, they'd get engaged first and then marry right after graduation. They would establish a family before focusing on their careers. This way, they could dedicate themselves fully to building their futures.

Alonso's suggestion meant that they approved of Wesley and Nina's relationship. Wesley eagerly nodded in agreement.

The meal ended on a high note, with everyone in good spirits. Alonso then pulled Wesley aside to impart some words of wisdom.

Meanwhile, Feena and Jack seized the opportunity to step outside for some fresh air. Standing on the balcony, they looked up at the crescent moon in the sky.

"Time flies so fast. I can't believe Wesley is getting engaged!" Feena said. Jack nodded in agreement.

Feena continued, "Do you know that Eddie has a girlfriend now, and he's bringing her home to meet his parents for the New Year?"

"I didn't know that!" Jack replied. He'd need to have a serious conversation with Eddie later. How could he fail to notify him of the important news?

"You're falling behind. Out of the four of us, you and I are the only ones still single. Technically, you've still got Bella right?" Feena said with slight disappointment.

Suddenly, she tilted her head and asked Jack, "You've already bought the villa, so when are you planning to find Bella and get engaged? Don't forget to invite me to the wedding!"

Jack was taken aback. He shook his head and said, "I hope that day will come." "Oh," Feena responded, her gaze drifting far off as if lost in thought.

Shortly after, she spoke again. "You know, I often dream about the days when we were kids. Those carefree times were so wonderful. I've realized that you've always been a part of my life in some ways."

Chapter 672

Jack couldn't help but let out a wry laugh. "Wait. Are you saying I was just a background character in your life all this time?"

"Exactly! What else did you expect to be?" Feena blinked playfully, flashing a radiant smile. "I was the school crush back then! You should be grateful you even got to be in the picture. Tons of guys wanted to be my background, but please... I had standards!"

Then, her tone softened with a hint of melancholy.

"What's wrong with me lately? I keep getting all sentimental-listening to sad songs and reminiscing about the past..."

Jack smiled. "That just means you're nostalgic."

"Come on! I'm a cutting-edge woman of the new era."

She waved her hand dismissively, then paused. "Hey, Jack... Can I ask you something?"

"Go ahead. If I can answer, I will."

Feena gazed into the distance, hesitating before speaking. "Do you remember that gala by the river the year we graduated high school?"

"Of course."

How could he forget? That was the night he'd confessed his feelings-only for her to turn him down.

Her voice dropped to a murmur. "What do you think our lives would be like now- and in the future-if I hadn't turned you down that day on the beach?"

Jack's eyes widened, surprised that Feena would ask such a suggestive question.

When he looked at her, he saw tenderness, hope, and a touch of longing in her eyes. It made his heart race.

For a moment, time seemed to freeze.

That look from her struck him like a thunderclap, leaving his mind completely blank.

Feena had, in the past, dropped hints-both subtle and obvious. After being outright rejected by her in the past, Jack had convinced himself not to get his hopes up again.

Yet now, whether it was her question or the look in her eyes, everything seemed to be pointing toward a possibility that he had long dreamed of...

He shook his head, forcing himself to stay calm. "I haven't really thought about it."

"But I have." Her eyes sparkled with quiet determination as she spoke.

She was about to continue when the sound of footsteps interrupted them.

Wesley appeared, carrying a cup. Seeing Jack and Feena sitting close together chatting, he grinned.

"Looks like someone's getting cozy! Aren't you worried about the rumors?"

His teasing made them realize just how close they were. Their shoulders were nearly touching.

If it were any other time, a quick joke would have eased the tension. But her words still lingered between them, leaving an awkward silence and a flutter in their chests.

Her cheeks flushed as she subtly shifted away, hoping Wesley wouldn't notice anything.

Luckily, he wasn't that observant. Seeing their awkwardness, he grinned and added, "But honestly, you two would make a great couple! If you ever got together, all our classmates would be so jealous."

"Since when did you become such a smooth talker? Done kissing up to your in- laws?" Jack teased with a smile.

Under the moonlight, he stole a glance at Feena. To his surprise, her gaze was already fixed on him, her eyes sparkling with unspoken emotion.

Wesley said, "I'm not just saying this. I'm serious. I like Feena too, but I know I'm not good enough for her. Jack, you've got this! You're the best thing to come out of our suburb, so don't let some other guy sweep Feena off her feet! Eddie and I would be crushed."

Chapter 673

Feena saw Wesley getting carried away and couldn't help but kick him lightly. "Stop talking nonsense!"

He laughed as he dodged, raising his glass.

"That being said, thank you all for today. It wouldn't have gone so well without your support."

The three clinked glasses and drained them in one go. Wesley continued, "Nina's parents only started taking me seriously because of you all. But now I'm under even more pressure. They're going to double their expectations. Now, they'll expect me to earn 50 thousand to 100 thousand dollars a month-thanks to having such awesome friends like you.

"Back in my university days, the thought often crossed my mind whether I was in a dream. It was as if, in the blink of an eye, everyone I was close to had transformed into legends.

"Eddie and I even had a bet back then-who'd be the first to make ten million. Looking back now, it seems a bit ridiculous... Your success gave us this sky-high ambition, but in reality, it also made us feel hopeless.

"We don't have the kind of dazzling talent you all have. Sometimes, I wonder if I'll ever be able to catch up in this lifetime. In my mind, Phoebe is probably the only one who could ever come close."

Ever since Phoebe entered the direct PhD program at Brightland University, she had been seen as another legendary figure. Her beauty, which even surpassed Feena's, placed her in the same league as Jack and Feena.

Years from now, the three of them might be remembered as The Heroic Trio of Perthter City. To former classmates like Wesley and Eddie, they would become nothing short of legends.

Jack and Feena fell silent, unaware of the weight their success had placed on their old friends.

The three talked late into the night, with Wesley bringing out more bottles as they drank under the stars.

Before they knew it, they were all tipsy.

The night had grown deep.

The students inside gradually said their goodbyes and dispersed. Wesley helped Nina's parents to the reserved hotel to rest.

Jack and Feena waved farewell to Wesley and strolled leisurely toward Eirene Music Academy.

It was past eleven at night.

Most students had returned to their dorms, leaving the university city quiet and nearly deserted. The daytime bustle had faded into stillness.

As they reached a small bridge, Feena suddenly stopped. She pointed at the moon in the sky.

"Jack, look! Isn't the moon especially full tonight?"

Jack glanced up. "It looks especially bright too!"

Feena, slightly tipsy, giggled. Words she'd normally hesitate to say slipped out effortlessly.

"With this moonlight, you look ridiculously handsome!"

He also appeared somewhat intoxicated and boldly said, "You... You're as

stunning as always. You still take my breath away."

She smirked playfully. "Oh, is that so? I'm a bit tired. How about we rest here for a while?"

He nodded, and they sat side by side at the edge of the bridge.

Suddenly, a group of young men approached from a distance. Spotting Feena's striking figure, they whistled loudly. When Jack didn't react, they grew bolder, stepping closer.

One with dyed green hair grinned. "Hey, gorgeous, how about hanging out with us for a while?"

"What's your rate for the night? We'll pay!"

"How about 500 dollars? That's as good as it gets."

"800 dollars would work too, as long as you make me happy."

Chapter 674

The stream of vulgar insults continued.

Feena knew Jack was skilled in combat. She teased him with a tipsy smirk, "Hey, hero. Feel like rescuing a damsel in distress again today?"

Jack, having drunk quite a bit, stood up and walked toward the young man with green hair.

Shortly after, screams erupted as the previously arrogant young men were beaten into a humiliating retreat.

He dusted off his hands and returned to Feena, who gazed at him with tender eyes.

"My hero, you're back."

He nodded. She swayed slightly and murmured, "Thanks for protecting me. I'm a bit dizzy, can I rest against your chest again?"

With his permission, she rested her head against his chest, listening to his steady heartbeat.

Softly, she said, "You still haven't answered the question I asked you out on the balcony."

Jack had nearly forgotten. "What question?"

"If I had said yes back then... what kind of life do you think we'd have now?"

"I don't know." He avoided Feena's gaze, not knowing how to face her.

But, fueled by alcohol, she wouldn't let this opportunity pass. She continued in a dreamlike voice.

"You never thought about it, but I have! I imagine if I'd accepted you, we'd be the perfect couple everyone admires. We'd go to and from school together, ride the train home together, study side-by-side in the school library, and share meals.

"We would be the neighborhood ideal, the perfect example of childhood sweethearts. Hand in hand, we'd walk down that little road to the outskirts, unafraid even as night falls...

"Sadly, those things only exist in my dreams. In my dreams, you confessed to me, and I said yes. But when I open my eyes, everything returns to reality."

Jack said, "Feena, you're drunk. Let's get you home."

"No!" Feena shook her head, her eyes hazy with alcohol and affection.

"You know, something just struck me. When you stood up for me and scared off those punks just now, I was suddenly overwhelmed with happiness. For a moment, I felt like I could cry.

"And I can't forget when I fell into the sea and you risked everything to pull me out. You're my hero, my protector. Tell me... if you marry Bella someday, will you still care about me the way you do now? Will you still look out for me?"

Her persistent questions stirred Jack's memories of the past. He remembered that scorching summer day. Phoebe, dressed in a flowing white dress, had asked him the very same question.

He met Feena's gaze. It was that same expectant look.

"I don't know," he admitted.

"So... Do you still feel the same way about me? Like you did back then by the Norhaven River, when you told me you liked me in front of everyone? Do you still like me? Do you still love me?"

Feena's face, flushed from the alcohol, radiated a striking beauty. Her tone, however, turned sharp and pressing.

Jack hesitated. "I don't know."

"I know you still have feelings for me. It's written all over your face. And="

She faltered, her eyes taking on a more distant look. "Have you forgotten? Back when we were traveling in Orthawt with Phoebe, you secretly kissed me that morning on the boat."

Jack certainly remembered that incident.

After a harrowing ordeal, he woke the next morning to find two beautiful women lying beside him. A lustful thought crept in, and he stole a kiss from Feena-only

to be caught by Phoebe, who had just woken up as well.

But he could've sworn Feena had been asleep at that time.

Chapter 675

Jack's eyes widened. "How did you know?"

Feena's delicate face flushed slightly as she gave him a coy glance, then lowered her head.

"Well... I was awake at the time!"

He suddenly understood. No wonder her cheeks had inexplicably blushed when he'd secretly kissed her back then.

But at the time, she had spared Jack's pride by pretending to be asleep.

Now, he felt utterly embarrassed. He had thought no one had seen him sneak that kiss.

But now, not only had she noticed, but Phoebe had witnessed it too. It was practically a live broadcast.

He felt a flush rise to his face.

Feena didn't seem bothered. With a teasing smile, she recalled how they'd gotten drunk by the Norhaven River during the New Year. Jack had been bold with her then, his hands roaming freely.

He had worried Feena would distance herself because of that.

But now, not only had she not pulled away, she sought him out even more often than before.

Their relationship had become more intimate.

It made Jack believe that Feena no longer rejected him. Maybe even those small instincts he'd had back then weren't just illusions after all.

Jack averted his gaze.

He knew in his heart that getting involved with her would only lead to future complications.

But now, Feena was staring at him with those expectant eyes. The alcohol clouded his judgment, and his heart raced, nearly leaping from his throat.

A fierce battle raged in his mind. Should he make a move?

"Your eyes are giving you away." She giggled, beckoning him with her finger.

"My hero, come here, won't you?"

Jack shook his head, refusing to step closer.

Feena blushed and suddenly exclaimed, "Oh no! I'm going to fall!"

He rushed to her side to help her. But Feena surprised him by wrapping her pale, smooth arms around him, a soft giggle escaping her lips.

"Got you now, my hero. You're not getting away."

Wrapped in warmth and soft curves, the scent of her perfume filled the air. Her delicate body pressed tightly against Jack-the very one he had dreamed of holding.

It was everything Jack had fantasized: soft, sensual, and wonderfully supple.

All he wanted was to hold her close, curl up in a warm bed, and never wake up. And yet, at that moment, he was filled with hesitation.

She giggled. "I've come to you like this... isn't it obvious? Don't you want me? Don't you feel the same way about me?" Her gaze was sultry, laced with countless unspoken temptations.

She had cast aside all restraint, making her move.

If she couldn't win Jack over while he was tipsy, she'd lose her chance once he sobered up.

Seeing his reluctance, Feena suddenly pulled him closer. Her sweet breath fanned his face as her cherry lips neared his.

Under the moonlight, her lips glowed a soft pink. The subtle blush gave her an enchanting beauty, impossible to resist.

It was the most irresistible temptation.

And yet, Jack remained motionless, frozen in place like a complete fool.

Feena leaned in, brushing her lips softly against Jack's in a kiss so sweet it left him dizzy with delight.

Chapter 676

The kiss was initiated by Feena.

Her small tongue was bothering him relentlessly, just like how Jack was relentless with her that time.

Suddenly, he felt a violent surge within him, as if he might explode at any moment. The pressure built, rising to a deafening climax.

The kiss was soft and sweet. Her delicate body and intoxicating scent left him completely mesmerized.

The alcohol in his veins clouded his mind, making him reckless. Every hidden desire he'd buried deep inside surged to the surface.

Jack had always held back with Feena, but deep down, he was just a man— driven by lust like any other.

The affection he'd long suppressed for her finally erupted, swelling beyond control. He wrapped an arm around her neck, tilting her lips up to his.

Feena, a vision of a beautiful white swan with its neck held high, yielded to his desires.

As it turned out, alcohol spelled trouble-especially when a man and a woman were alone.

The moment his hands roamed her body, the desire he'd kept locked away ignited, and there was no stopping it now.

He took the lead, his lips tracing every contour of her body. It was so smooth, like a single drop of water would glide across it.

Then, he made it to the sensitive spot.

It was Feena's untouched and enigmatic sanctuary, now being invaded by Jack. Her whole being stiffened, and her breath hitched. A strange sensation spread through Feena's body.

"You're so mean! Don't... Don't tease me like that, okay?"

She bit her lip, her body trembling on the edge.

But Jack's mind was clouded, consumed by the beauty of the woman before him. Feena's words did nothing to stop him. Instead, they only fueled his growing desire.

He gripped her slender waist tightly, his lips and teeth exploring her skin. A primal urge to claim her completely overtook him.

Finally, she couldn't take it anymore. She wrapped her arms tightly around him, kissing and clinging to him passionately.

The two young people, deeply fond of each other, stayed close, locked in a tight embrace.

Suddenly, Feena felt Jack's hands wandering, his touch growing bolder.

Her whole body tensed. She knew what was coming next, and it made her

nervous.

"Jack, you... I..." she stammered, unsure what to say.

Part of her wanted to give in, but she was scared. After all, this was her first time.

Yet, another part of her longed for it. If her first time was with someone she truly cared about, wouldn't that be beautiful, even if they weren't together forever?

She didn't know the answer, but the truth was, she didn't reject it at that moment.

A soft whimper escaped her lips. She could feel that there was no turning back tonight.

But... wasn't this exactly what she wanted? She had even initiated it...

Still responding to Jack's touch, she whispered breathlessly, "Not here, okay? There are... people are passing by..."

"Then... shall we go under the bridge?" he asked, his eyes burning with anticipation.

The hotel was out of the question by then. Jack was driven by his desires, and Feena wasn't willing to make such a long run.

His hands felt electric against her skin, setting her whole body on fire. All she wanted was to stay pressed against him.

Blushing, she murmured, "Okay... hurry. let's go down."

Jack was burning with desire, and so was she.

He quickly led her under the bridge, and the two nestled together.

"I'm hoping for a beautiful memory with you," she whispered. She thought doing

this under the bridge would make for a memorable and unique experience to look back on.

Wouldn't it stay with her forever?

"I'll be gentle," Jack promised tenderly.

Chapter 677

"Oh..." Feena let out a soft moan.

The moonlight bathed them in its glow, capturing the beauty of the moment. Their young bodies entwined, a scene impossible to forget.

Time blurred into sighs and whispers-until, at last, stillness.

The exertion left Jack drenched in sweat, every drop of alcohol burned away.

The moonlight bathed her, giving her a mysterious, almost sacred glow. She gazed at him, her shyness lingering, now mixed with the captivating allure of a woman awakened.

Tonight would be unforgettable for Feena. Nestled in Jack's arms, she felt no regret for what she had given. Instead, she was filled with happiness and contentment.

Jack, concerned she might catch a cold, quickly wrapped her in his clothes. At the same time, he silently chided himself for losing control. He realized he now had more responsibility.

Feena smiled tenderly, her gaze lingering on Jack before she shyly looked away.

Breathing in her scent, he murmured, "I'm sorry."

She pressed a finger to his lips. "What's the use of saying sorry at this point? Besides, this was my choice. You don't need to apologize. Let's not spoil this beautiful moment, okay?"

Jack fell silent. He helped Feena tidy up and then got himself in order.

"Let's get you to a nearby hotel," he offered.

She shook her head. "I want to go back to the dorm."

Jack helped Feena walk toward the university.

Along the way, she leaned obediently against him, soaking in his warmth and strength, completely lost in the moment.

The two walked in silence until they reached the women's dormitory.

Jack watched as Feena went upstairs, not turning away until her figure had completely disappeared.

Back in his dorm, he lay in bed trying to sleep, but his mind kept replaying the moments he had just shared with Feena. It felt like a dream, yet so undeniably real.

Suddenly, he smacked his forehead and thought, "Damn it. What do I do now?"

They had crossed the final boundary today. There was no way they could go back to being just ordinary friends.

Should he ask Feena to be his girlfriend? Would she agree?

Jack was feeling a little troubled.

Just then, his WhatsApp notification chimed. When he opened it, he was surprised to see a voice message from Feena.

He pressed play, and her gentle voice came through. "Hey, silly, are you asleep? I can't sleep. If you're awake, can you chat with me?"

Hearing her tender voice, Jack couldn't help but picture the expression on her face as she waited for his reply.

Without hesitation, he responded, "I'm still up."

There was a long pause on the other end, as if she was thinking of what to say.

Finally, another message arrived. "You big jerk... will you remember tonight?" "Always," Jack answered firmly.

"Me too," she responded swiftly, then spoke in a tender voice.

Chapter 678

"Hey... do you think it could happen in just one try?"

"Huh?" Jack didn't catch her meaning at first.

Then, in a shy tone, Feena clarified, "You know... getting pregnant!"

It finally dawned on him-during their intercourse earlier, they hadn't used any protection. While the chances were low for a first time, it wasn't impossible to conceive.

"It's possible, but not very likely," he said uncertainly.

"Well... if it does happen, I'll keep the baby, okay? You'll be the dad, and I'll be the mom. We'll really make that rumor about us disappearing together come true!"

Her words sent a jolt through Jack. He thought to himself that surely he couldn't be that lucky.

Was it really possible to get pregnant after just one time?

Even if Feena wasn't pregnant, Jack still felt responsible for her.

"Don't worry," he said firmly. "If it happens, we'll keep the baby. We'll take good care of the child."

"Really?" She couldn't hide the excitement in her voice. She had likely pondered the possibility of Jack asking her to get an abortion. But his straightforward answer caught her off guard.

"Really," he answered without hesitation.

But then she was silent for a long time. Just as Jack was about to ask what was wrong, Feena finally spoke again, her voice soft.

"Thank you, that means a lot. But let's just forget it-I'm sure the chances are slim. Don't worry. I won't expect you to take responsibility."

"Why not?" Jack asked, confused.

"You have a girlfriend. I don't want to come between you," she murmured.

"Are you talking about Bella?" he asked.

After a long pause, she replied, "Yeah."

"We never made it official, but it's already over between us," he said calmly.

Feena stayed quiet for what felt like a long time. Just as Jack began to think she was still hesitating, her voice came through again. It was soft, but clear enough for him to hear every word.

"Well... if that's the case, then Jack... if you don't mind, how about we... be together?"

Though somewhat hesitant, these words expressed her most sincere feelings.

From once turning Jack down to secretly developing feelings for him she was too proud to admit, she had come a long way. Today, she finally found the courage to say it out loud.

Her love for him had rooted itself deep-unshakable and true.

"Yes!" he agreed without hesitation.

After his breakup with Bella, Jack had thought love was something far beyond his reach. Yet, through twists and turns, fate had unexpectedly brought him and Feena together.

"Alright then. From now on, you can't just string me along and then break my heart," she said. Receiving his affirmative answer, an indescribable joy welled up in her heart.

Now officially in a relationship with Jack, she clung to him with endless things to say. Despite having had some alcohol and gone through an intense round of sex, she still talked to him for a full hour. In the end, she dozed off mid-conversation with her phone in hand and the call still connected.

...

Meanwhile, Haven Net was developing steadily. Its user base had surpassed 400 million.

Though it hadn't gone public yet, the company had already grown into a true tech behemoth. If it ever hit the stock market, its value would be off the charts. It would far exceed anything Genesis Games could dream of rivaling.

Moreover, Haven Connect had gained worldwide popularity, and its influence had grown significantly. The platform saw activity from regular internet users. It also attracted globally influential personalities who registered, got verified, and were highly active.

These included football superstars, film directors, and boxing champions.

Even more significantly, the presidents of countries like Euphoria and Federia, as well as leaders from various regions, had opened verified accounts on Haven Net.

Beyond politics and entertainment, laureates from various fields, such as medicine, physics, and literature, were also active on the platform.

Chapter 679

In summary, Haven Net's influence continued to grow. Its presence could no longer be ignored.

Countless celebrities shared their opinions on Haven Connect. Their posts often attracted tens of millions of followers.

In society, the platform was now seen as a rival to Facebook.

Even so, Haven Net faced a significant uphill battle. It had a long way to go to reach Facebook's hundreds of billions of dollars in stock market value.

After all, Facebook had more than 1.5 billion users worldwide. Its immense influence gave it the power to be truly disruptive.

Yet, with 400 million users, Haven Net was well on its way to becoming a behemoth in its own right. Moreover, the participation of many celebrities, politicians, and world leaders boosted its growth.

Behind the scenes, Jack had quietly been shaping this vast media empire.

By comparison, Genesis Games had a less successful development.

Someone leaked the source code for "Legend of the East" and "Legend of the West". Soon, bootleg private servers flooded the domestic market, draining a large part of the player base.

Some of these private server developers even grew into large-scale, highly popular platforms.

When Genesis Games began reporting these companies to the authorities, an even bigger problem emerged.

Almost overnight, the major private server operators were shut down. But countless smaller ones sprang up like mushrooms after the rain. They divided the player base of "Legend of the East" and "Legend of the West".

While these private servers didn't pose an existential threat, they did shake their foundations.

A few large private server companies could be shut down by the authorities. However, shutting down tens of thousands of smaller ones proved much more challenging. Additionally, the cost of combating piracy domestically was substantial.

However, Genesis Games faced an even greater crisis overseas. Due to its ties to Maloria, the company was automatically labeled with certain biases.

Rumors began circulating, exaggerating the Malorian heritage of Genesis Games' founder.

They accused "Legend of the West" of corrupting the youth of Euphoria and Federia. This, they claimed, led to their depravity and hopeless addiction.

Even worse, some openly claimed in the media that the game contained hidden backdoors. They suggested it was designed for espionage.

The media sensationalized these allegations, putting Genesis Games under intense scrutiny abroad.

Moreover, accusations of espionage were impossible to verify. Spreading a lie was easy, but the victim had to work a thousand times harder to set the record straight.

Jack's Malorian background only deepened the suspicions of adversaries.

As tensions escalated, Genesis Games CEO, Claude, could no longer remain silent. He held a press conference at the company's Vexburg headquarters. There, he firmly clarified that all Genesis Games products and titles had always adhered strictly to the laws of every country. They contained no backdoors and had consistently paid taxes on time.

The allegations of espionage, he emphasized, were entirely fabricated.

Yet the clarifications failed to silence the skeptics. Instead, they drew heightened scrutiny from Euphoria and Federia.

This was especially true for those already biased against Malorians. Their anger was fueled by secret instigation and jealousy over Genesis Games' success in the region.

Politicians started calling for investigations. Some even demanded that the company hand over its source code for scrutiny by international experts to detect any backdoors.

If Genesis Games refused to hand over the source code, several nations even threatened to ban all their products.

Chapter 680

Genesis Games was facing an unprecedented crisis, particularly at its

headquarters in Vexburg. There, the intelligence agencies had gone so far as to threaten a full-scale search. They demanded unrestricted access to the

company's premises.

As the wave of negative press broke, Genesis Games' stock price on the Masdaq Stock Exchange plummeted. It crashed from a peak of 22.5 billion to just 10 billion -a disaster for any company.

If Genesis Games failed to take effective action, its stock could keep falling. This decline might eventually put the company at risk of being acquired.

The fallout had even spread to related stocks in the Federia and Apson share markets.

Caught off guard by the sudden turmoil, Genesis Games reeled. Jack, in particular, had been struggling with relentless headaches over the situation.

Someone was orchestrating a malicious attack against Genesis Games. To destroy the company, they had invested significant funds and effort.

Genesis Games had no choice but to expand even more manpower and capital to fight back. Even if they ultimately prevail, the cost would be staggering. This was a classic case of leveraging minimal effort for maximum damage, a strategy their enemies have mastered.

But Jack refused to back down.

He has already directed Josiah and Ambrose from the IT department to trace the source of the rumors. Josiah, a computer prodigy from Alnewgo University, was supremely confident in his hacking skills. He once joked about being able to breach the security systems of major banks.

The most pressing issue now was how to defuse the immediate crisis.

Jack decided to mobilize tens of millions of Legend of the West players around the world. He wanted to show just how powerful Genesis Games' global fan base really was.

At the same time, he planned to use Haven Connect's immense social media influence to fight back against the hostile force.

Inside an upscale private club in Alnewgo, Leslie, Peter, and a bespectacled middle-aged man raised their glasses.

"Watching Genesis Games crash and burn like this makes me so happy," Leslie said with a smirk.

He had been burned by Jack too many times. Only by bringing down Jack's Genesis Games could he finally settle the score.

"Still, we spent a fortune taking them down." Leslie and Peter were a bit pained by the vast amount of money they had spent. However, seeing Genesis Games in ruins made it all feel worthwhile.

After all, spending 13.7 million dollars to cripple a multinational corporation worth tens of billions-now that was a bargain.

"We owe it all to Mr. Trevell's connections in Euphoria and Federia. Without his influence, taking down Genesis Games wouldn't have been this easy," Leslie remarked.

Peter nodded.

"True, but Genesis Games' market cap is still in the tens of billions-only a 50% drop isn't enough."

The bespectacled man, Ronan Daane, chuckled.

"Mr. Trevell, we still hold their stock. If we spread rumors about their founder- something nasty like corruption or child abuse-the public will eat it up. Then we dump our shares, and the stock will crash all over again."

Leslie immediately broke into a sinister grin.

"Mr. Daane, you're downright ruthless. Every twisted scheme that was all you. But I won't lie... I savored every moment. Manipulating that so-called youngest billionaire like a puppet? Nothing's ever felt so satisfying."