Limits 681

Chapter 681

Peter nodded.

"At the end of the day, it all came down to his low social status and lack of connections. Having money was like being a lamb for slaughter. It's that 'finders keepers, losers weepers' concept, but with deadly consequences. When he couldn't defend that kind of wealth, his fate was sealed."

Peter and Leslie, both well-connected and financially powerful, schemed against Jack in the shadows. With their influence, he stood little chance.

To them, crushing a man with no foundation was almost effortless.

With that, Peter raised his glass of fine wine and downed it in one go before continuing. "Now, I'm curious to see what moves Genesis Games will make in the face of this crisis."

"Come on. What else could they possibly do? They're already dead in the water!" Leslie rendered his judgment quickly.

Ronan nodded, smirking as he spoke. "Good. I'll start spreading damaging rumors about the founder later-make sure his company never recovers."

But Genesis Games wasn't about to go down without a fight.

The very next day, Jack had the company's team issue a global statement in nearly every major language. This included Bavarian, Federian, Kranish, Fronch, Arabic, Ressian, and more.

It was an open letter to players worldwide who loved Legend of the West and Legend of the East.

The letter read, "Because of you, Genesis Games has come this far! Together, we've witnessed the glory of Genesis Games. We've seen the greatness of Legend of the West and Legend of the East. To this day, our global active player base has surpassed tens of millions.

"These achievements fill us with pride. Our global recognition comes from our unwavering commitment to following every nation's laws. We have also consistently upheld the principles of equality, mutual respect, and love.

"However, we are now the target of baseless accusations of espionage. We are being pressured to surrender our source code and threatened with a company- wide ban.

"In the face of such power, we choose to stand tall. We'd rather live with dignity than die in submission!

"If there ever comes a day when Genesis Games declines, we ask those who love our games not to mourn. Having enjoyed what we once had, we need not worry about what lies ahead."

The open letter was brief, yet it sent shockwaves through all the players who loved these two games. It struck a chord with fans of the novels and those eagerly awaiting the movie adaptation.

The thought that their beloved games-games that had become a part of their lives-could be taken down was horrifying.

There was widespread and varied discussion about it among millions of people.

Seizing the moment, Jack leveraged Haven Net's power. He rallied gamers to unite and fight against injustice.

At the same time, there was a call for everyone to unite and save Genesis Games. With collective strength, they worked together to overcome the challenges.

Haven Connect was a colossal force, boasting 500 million users.

The platform pinned the news about Genesis Games being targeted by malicious schemes at the top. Hence, the story exploded like wildfire, gaining massive attention.

In response, verified influencers on Haven's social platforms also weighed in.

An acclaimed director commented, "The world is meant to be equal. No one has the right to abuse their power. A gaming company should not be the target of an unfair investigation!"

Chapter 682

The actor, Capello Bruno, said, "Genesis Games has to stay strong. We'll support you because we know that you're innocent. We'll be with you, and so will God!"

A Nobel Prize laureate, Lilia Matterson, commented, "We can't accuse Genesis Games of espionage just because the company has staff of Iselvan descent. What secrets could they want anyway? It's not right to drive them to the ground just because of some conspiracies!"

"I also play 'Legend of the West," commented the prime minister of Dalea, Paul Poir. "In my honest opinion, I think this game is filled with the spirit of love, self- improvement, democracy, fairness, and freedom. It's a game that advocates righteousness.

"It's just hearsay that there's any espionage involved. I hereby announce that Dalea will not punish Genesis Games in any way. If anyone tries to slander the company any further, I will send them to prison!"

The players around the globe were influenced by their passionate spirits and began to respond on their own. They first gathered together in their respective communities before planning and preparing large-scale activities to show their support for the games.

The appeal of "Legend of the West" and "Legend of the East" was no joke. Although anti-addiction measures were set in place, the games had already become an irreplaceable part of countless players' daily lives.

These players treated Genesis Games like their own family and promised to protect it from any harm that may befall it. They became determined to show the whole world just how powerful the fans of Genesis Games were.

The players' decision to assemble to show their support for Genesis Games attracted the attention of various countries around the world. After all, the games were online platforms that took the world by storm, it was only natural that it would become the center of attention if anything big was happening.

Those who harbored animosity toward Genesis and the two games started to slander them. They were curious about what made Genesis Games so special and just how many people would show up to the protest to show their support. Billy Sutherland, a Vexburgian parliament member, who was determined to oppose Genesis Games insulted, "Heh. My guess is that 100 people will show up at the assembly in Brightland? Maybe 200? There certainly won't be more than that!"

Antony Hernandez, a parliament member from Mehicania, who threatened to ban "Legend of the West", agreed wholeheartedly with his opinion. "More people might show up in Brightland. As for us, considering the large player base here, perhaps 500 people will show up."

Another parliament member from Angelico chimed in with his own opinion. "That's too generous, Mr. Hernandez. Who has the time to protest in the streets for a game? Nobody cares about it. Even I think that it was horribly designed!"

These people were looking forward to Genesis Games becoming a laughingstock. Secretly, they wanted the company to go under, so they could extort a large sum of money from them.

If Genesis Games didn't want to be blacklisted, they would have no choice but to pay the protection fee. The best outcome would be for the company to hand over most of their profits for them to split amongst themselves.

But reality would disappoint these people whose minds were filled with nothing but malicious thoughts.

The players who loved "Legend of the West", "Legend of the East", and Genesis Games began to assemble all around the world. Countless people showed up in Vashington's massive square to make their voices heard. The people in the square numbered in the ten thousands, and they were packed like sardines. It was a shocking sight.

Even more impressive assemblies would take place in Euphoria, Bostalia, and Northeast Everreach. 100 thousand people showed up in Varis while 50 thousand gathered in Longinium.

The country that had the largest-scale assembly turned out to be Vexburg. Most of the harshest insults came from Vexburg, so a shocking 200 thousand people showed up at the square to protest the injustice some parliament members were aiming at Genesis Games.

Over a million people participated in these assemblies, and the numbers only continued to rise as more and more days passed.

Chapter 683

Over at Haven Net, more than ten million people were voicing their support for the assemblies. They shouted out in protest.

"We won't let any harm befall Genesis Games no matter what!"

"God will be with us as we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Genesis Games to fight against this injustice!"

"You'll have to step over our dead bodies before we let you tear down Genesis Games!"

"We support you, Genesis! No one can take away our beloved 'Legend of the West!'""

"What hope will we have left if both 'Legend of the West' and 'Legend of the East' are taken down?"

Some people suggested starving themselves in protest while some others suggested committing self-harm. The effects were astounding.

If the voices that were protesting online were taken into account, Genesis Games' supporters would number over 10 million people. It was a mind-boggling number.

Those who initially harbored animosity toward Genesis Games started falling silent, frightened by the intimidating number of supporters. Any politician who was concerned about his future could not possibly ignore the existence of such a massive group of supporters. There were already around a million protesters on the streets, and they were supported by more than 10 million people around the world.

Only those who had a death wish would be brave enough to stand against such an imposing force. Those who were prejudiced, arrogant, and expressed their desire for Genesis Games to go under completely once upon a time shut their mouths. Only a politician who had lost his sanity would choose to make enemies out of such an intimidating number of voters.

The politicians started to change their tunes. Some chose to avoid the topic altogether while some chose to praise Genesis Games in public.

Billy stated, "After conducting a thorough investigation, we discovered that there was nothing amiss with Genesis Games' business operations. I hereby announce that we're concluding our investigations into the company."

Antony added in a rush, "Although the founder of Genesis Games isn't perfect, he has made sure to abide by the law on all counts. I would like to use this opportunity to express my utmost respect toward Genesis Games."

The Angelican politician was even more direct in his approach. "I have heard the cries of the public and have personally experienced the game for myself. I am now on the side of the players, and have planned to visit Genesis Games today to gain a further understanding on the methods they used to achieve success."

These politicians were even willing to lower their status to take pictures with the players. They heaped praises on Genesis Games for holding a position that was wholly unique in the world.

These opportunistic politicians were aware that if they managed to win the support of Genesis Games and their player base, they would also win the votes of hundreds of thousands or even millions of people. Such an outcome would be extremely beneficial to their political careers.

After the success of the large-scale assemblies that had millions of people participating, Genesis Games' market value on the Masdaq Stock Exchange rocketed upward the next day. It shot up from 10 billion dollars to 13.5 billion dollars, and what was even more impressive was how the price stayed stable.

Although the international crisis had been temporarily dealt with, Genesis Games had still suffered a blow in the local market after the games' source code was leaked. The company still had a long road ahead of it.

Any company that strove to reach the top would be met with a road that was long and treacherous-no one company was able to cruise to the top without any challenges.

Meanwhile, in an upscale private club in Alnewgo, Leslie had his eyes glued to Genesis Games' stock price chart. His expression was hardened. He was beyond furious, but he was also surprised by the power that the company held.

It became clear that it wouldn't be a walk in the park to tear down the company.

Next to Leslie sat Ronan. Both of them studied the chart of Genesis Games' stock prices together.

Chapter 684

Peter had returned to Brightland to continue his studies.

In the last two days, Ronan had fabricated all sorts of negative news about Genesis Games. He created fake stories about Genesis Games' founder and spread the articles to all the big media outlets to be reported on. Since he didn't have any concrete evidence to back up his claims, the titles of these articles all had the word "suspected" included in them.

Leslie and Peter had been responsible for fanning the flames in the background while many famous lawyers came out to show their support for Ronan. Thus, these articles were treated as the truth by the media outlets as they reported on them extensively.

The articles also caught the attention of the media outlets from abroad and damaged the reputation of the founder of Genesis Games. However, no one dared to publicly demand an investigation to be conducted on Jack. They were wary of the massive support the players threw behind the company.

After a long period of waiting, Josiah's investigation results were finally revealed. Jack's brow was furrowed tightly as he studied the report closely. Josiah was extremely skilled at hacking, and he had successfully traced the source of the

rumors.

Jack knew he had to act swiftly. He grabbed his phone, dialed a number, and gave out his orders. He only cut the call after he was satisfied.

That day, Jack had made plans to visit a jewelry store to pick out a present for Feena. Ever since the two of them went steady, their relationship had been progressing rapidly. Feena would visit Alnewgo University every day if she had any free time, using the excuse that she needed to alter her lyrics as a front to be intimate with Jack.

In Feena's eyes, every moment she got to spend with Jack was invaluable to her. On the other hand, Jack had committed Feena's birthday to memory since long ago, but he never had a chance to celebrate her special day with her.

Now that the opportunity had presented itself, he wanted to give her an unforgettable surprise. However, a sense of guilt also pricked at Jack's heart. He wondered if Bella chose to leave him because he wasn't caring enough toward her. Ever since he got together with Feena, he became determined to do better by her.

He didn't have any classes in the afternoon, so Jack drove to the high-end business district to carry out his plan. He had originally planned to gift a diamond ring to Feena, but ultimately decided against it, thinking that it might seem too official. Thus, he settled on purchasing a necklace or bracelet for her.

Jack entered a diamond store. Although the diamonds on display in the shop were bright and dazzling, he felt that they lacked a certain appeal that would move a person's heart. There were a few pretty staff in the shop when Jack entered, but they showed a distinct lack of enthusiasm at his appearance.

Jack was much too young, which lowered his position in their eyes. He also wasn't accompanied by a woman, so he didn't appear to be a potential buyer. Besides, the jewels in the shop all cost a fortune. An ordinary consumer wouldn't be able to afford them.

However, they still had to be polite to Jack. One of the pretty staff approached Jack and asked if he needed any assistance. Jack wasn't bothered by their flippant attitude toward him. He pointed at a necklace that was exceptionally beautiful and said, "I would like to take a look at this necklace, please."

The staff handed the necklace to Jack before saying with a smile, "You have a good eye! This necklace is the newest style that we have in our shop. If you give it to your girlfriend, she is sure to be pleased."

"How much is it?" asked Jack.

The staff fixed a professional smile on her face before answering, "The name of this necklace is 'Eternal Love.' It's one of the best necklaces in our shop. If you would like to purchase it, we can give you a 12 percent discount. The total cost after the discount will be 28 thousand dollars."

Jack's brows knitted together after hearing the price.

Chapter 685

Panic gripped the staff's heart. She wondered if the price was too expensive for Jack to afford. She hurried to explain, "If the price is too expensive, we have other necklaces that you can choose from."

But Jack waved his hand before saying, "The price isn't an issue. I just don't think that this style is suitable. Do you have other necklaces that are better in your shop?"

"The style is unsuitable?"

The staff was stunned for a moment. She didn't expect that Jack would reject the necklace because he didn't like the style of it.

She hastily said, "If you're looking for something better than this, we have another necklace that is even more beautiful in our shop. However, the price will be higher."

"The price isn't an issue," Jack repeated calmly.

When the staff regained her senses, she said, "Please wait a moment, sir. I'll have my manager come over to show you the other necklace."

She placed a phone call. It didn't take too long before someone who looked like the manager approached before them with a small safe.

"Who's the gentleman who wants to see the necklace?"

The staff pointed at Jack and said, "It's this gentleman over here."

The manager opened the safe and pulled out a necklace that was decorated with massive pink diamonds. The necklace sparkled under the lamps overhead, reflecting a pure and beautiful pink light.

Greed flickered in the gaze of the female staff as they laid their eyes on the pink diamond necklace. Not many women could withstand the allure of such a beautiful accessory.

Jack's interest was piqued. He asked, "How much is the cost of the pink diamonds in the center of the necklace?"

The manager began to introduce the necklace enthusiastically. "Sir, the name of this necklace is 'Ocean's Heart'. There are many fascinating stories attached to this particular piece of jewelry. It used to be the treasure of the Ressia Royal Family "

Jack wasn't too interested in the stories. "Just tell me the price."

The manager turned a little awkward before he answered carefully, "This necklace is priced at 1,520,000 dollars. The price cannot be negotiated."

Many customers would backpedal after hearing such an astronomical price. Even if the buyer was a billionaire, having to fork out over a billion dollars in cash just to purchase a necklace could not be considered to be a small expenditure.

Just as the manager was about to give up, assuming that the sale was going to fall through, Jack asked another question.

"Since the price cannot be negotiated, will I get any complimentary items if I buy it?"

Jack might be wealthy, but he wasn't a fool. If he could get some extra items from his purchase, that would be the cherry on top of the cake.

The manager had an uncomfortable expression on his face. But after considering how this could possibly turn out to be a big sale for him, he said, "If you're serious about buying 'Ocean's Heart,' then we can consider giving you 'Eternal Love' as a complimentary gift."

Jack shook his head. "Forget it. I still prefer to have a discount on the price."

The manager pondered his suggestion for a moment before ultimately making a hard decision. "How about this? I'll give you a special price-1,480,000 dollars. This is our limit. I hope you can feel how sincere we're being."

Jack nodded before casually pulling out a black-gold card. "Swipe it," he said.

The manager's and the staffs' eyes began to sparkle after they laid their eyes on the black-gold card, and they became even more attentive to Jack's needs. Only a prestigious guest was able to own a card like that.

Chapter 686

The beautiful women and pretty staff in the shop couldn't help but bat their lashes at Jack. However, he had no interest in their advances. He was about to leave after completing his purchase when the door to the shop was thrown open, and a group of men swaggered in.

Jack was stunned momentarily after he got a good look at the newcomers. The saying was true that if you were destined to meet someone, you would end up running into them no matter how much you didn't want to. One of the newcomers was Leslie Cline!

Leslie had also noticed Jack's presence. His smile didn't reach his eyes when he sneered, "Why do I keep running into you no matter where I go, you damned worm?"

Leslie and Jack had been caught in a scuffle several times at this point. Leslie had been forced to retreat in a pathetic state every time. The only thing that allowed Leslie to restore some of his reputation was how he had been the one to tear Genesis Games down from behind the scenes.

Now that they were face to face, Leslie couldn't control his desire to spit insults at Jack. He was aware that Jack was an excellent fighter, but Leslie had the advantage of numbers by his side. Amongst his lackeys were a few bodyguards who were skilled at brawling. It was why Leslie didn't fear Jack at that moment.

Ronan stood next to Leslie. He said, "Are you deaf? Mr. Cline is speaking to you." Ronan didn't know Jack personally, so he treated him as nothing but an insignificant small fry. A bodyguard with a muscular build reached out to try and deal with Jack. However, Jack dodged his outstretched hand and delivered a strong kick at him, sending the bodyguard sprawling to the ground, unmoving. Jack strode over to Leslie with wide steps and stood before him. Leslie was so frightened that he started screaming shrilly. "What do you think you're doing? This is a public space! Don't tell me you're going to try to kill me?"

Leslie had suffered much due to Jack's hand, so it made sense that he would turn cowardly when forced to face him directly. Jack didn't want to waste his breath with Leslie. Without even a hint of hesitation in his movements, he lifted his foot and slammed it hard into Leslie's gut.

Leslie soared across the air before crashing heavily on the ground. Jack approached him and grabbed his collar. He then delivered an endless flurry of slaps across Leslie's face. The onlookers could hear the sounds of the slaps ringing clearly in the air around them. It went on for a long time, the sound akin to a burning firecracker.

When Jack was finally done, Leslie's entire face had ballooned up like a pig's head. His eyes were so swollen that they had turned into mere slits. It was possible that even his own mother wouldn't be able to recognize him in this state.

Ronan attempted to rush Jack, but Jack's reaction was much faster. He dealt a backhanded slap across Ronan's face, making his cheek swell up immediately. Even his glasses had been slapped off his face. Ronan decided to put up a pathetic act after being assaulted. He crouched on the floor and grabbed Jack's leg tightly. He screamed, "Somebody come quick! There's someone who committed murder! He killed someone! Someone call the security here now!"

In reality, the fight had caught the attention of the onlookers, so someone had already secretly informed the security guards about the scuffle. Two security guards who were equipped with batons showed up on the scene not long after. Their faces had turned red with fury.

"Who's fighting in our mall?" they demanded angrily.

Ronan immediately pointed at Jack. "It was him!" he accused. "He's the one who raised his fists at us. Take a look for yourselves. He punched the teeth right out of my and my friend's mouth!"

The security guards turned to look at Jack and were about to question him when Ronan hastily cut them off. "It's him! If you don't believe me, you can ask the staff who were present."

One of the diamond store staff summoned her courage and stepped forward according to the manager's wishes. She pointed at Ronan and Leslie, who was still collapsed on the ground, and defended Jack from Ronan's accusations. "They're the ones who provoked this gentleman first. The language they used was very insulting, and they even tried to inflict physical harm on him!"

The manager was very pleased by the staff's description of the events. After all, Leslie was the one who tried to provoke Jack first. His actions were truly despicable in the manager's eyes. Furthermore, Jack was one of their esteemed clients.

On the other hand, Ronan and Leslie leapt up in indignation after hearing the staff's words. "What the fuck are you talking about? Are you blind? This bastard was the one who lifted his hand against us first, and yet you're over here spouting nonsense? I'm going to tear down this entire establishment!"

The staff didn't have a chance to counter their threats when the security guard beat her to the punch. He had his hands cocked on his hips and his expression was twisted in fury when he roared, "You dare to threaten us? Go ahead and try to tear down this establishment then if you have the capabilities to do so."

He then turned toward the staff and said, "Nothing to worry about, everyone. If you have something to say, just say it! I, for one, don't believe that these gangsters have the guts to actually fight us!"

Chapter 687

Leslie and Ronan had assumed that the people in the shop would bend to their threats. They didn't expect the security guard to interfere.

With his hands on his hips, he said angrily, "You must have a death wish if you're trying to threaten us!"

He then turned to the staff who were standing behind him and declared, "Nothing to be scared of, folks. If you have something to say, just say it! I, for one, don't believe that these gangsters have the guts to actually fight us!"

Seeing that the security guards had promised their support, the staff of the diamond shop began to chatter in unison.

"They're the ones who did it! They even threatened to tear down our store!"

"Actually, I think that Mr. Holland is the biggest victim in this whole incident. Those bastards may have suffered surface wounds, but Mr. Holland probably suffered some internal injuries. That's definitely way more serious."

"Who's to say these guys weren't planning to rob our store from the very start? You only have to look at them to know that they're bad people."

Leslie and Ronan were infuriated upon hearing the staff's words. They had only planned to purchase a few accessories when they visited the shop. Not only did they get beat up, but they were also now being accused as gangsters and robbers?

Leslie shouted indignantly, "What nonsense are you spouting? We only came here to buy your goods!"

"Why do you need so many bodyguards just to buy something?" one of the staff spoke up. "You must be insane. I bet you brought them along to help you rob the store!"

Upon hearing her words, the security guard discovered that the bodyguards were holding suspicious items with his keen eye. "Hmm? Why are you carrying knives? You still want to deny that you're not here to rob the store? Everyone, get them!" The bodyguards were bewildered. They had only pulled out their knives as a form of self-defense, since Jack looked like he was too skilled at fighting. But now their actions had backfired, the knives turning into evidence that could be used against them.

The security guards did not show them any mercy. They did not hesitate in the slightest as they swung their electric batons at the men. The air crackled with the sounds of electricity zapping against flesh. Leslie and two of his bodyguards yelped pathetically as the batons made contact with their skin. They started to foam at the mouth, making for a gruesome sight.

On the other hand, Ronan got off a little easier. He had an elegant appearance and did not struggle against the security guards, so he wasn't electrocuted as many times as the others. The police investigators from the public security office finally made it onto the scene. Leslie and Ronan looked as if they had seen their saviors. They told the investigators everything that had transpired with tears and snot running down their faces.

They had only wanted to buy some accessories, and yet they had been beaten and electrocuted after stepping into the store. They were even treated as robbers! Who the hell did they offend to warrant being treated in such a way.

Leslie and Ronan finally left the public security office after a few rounds of interrogations. To Leslie, this was one of the unluckiest days of his life. Although the surveillance footage had clearly captured the scene where Jack attacked them first, the investigators prioritized the statements from the witnesses. All the witnesses had unanimously pinned the blame on Leslie and Ronan, stating that they struck first while Jack had only retaliated out of self-defense.

Furthermore, Jack had already taken his leave and was nowhere to be found. Leslie and Ronan had been beaten up for nothing. Even worse, the investigators had discovered weapons on Leslie's bodyguards. He tried to talk his way out of the situation, even making acquaintances with the head of that public security office. However, his efforts were all for naught. He was still forced to pay the fine before they released him.

Leslie and Ronan got into their cars after their release. As they recalled everything that had transpired that day, a heaviness pressed down on their hearts. Leslie truly had only wanted to purchase a necklace, he never would have imagined he would get caught up in such a messy situation.

"I'm going to kill that bastard if it's the last thing I do!" Leslie bellowed loudly as he sat in the car. "I'm never going to forgive that bastard in this life or the next!"

Ronan, who was seated next to Leslie, nodded vigorously in agreement. "You're absolutely right!"

Leslie continued in a low voice, "Ronan, you have to do everything in your power to ensure that he'll never recover. Don't you have a group of professional gangsters under you? Get them to beat up that bastard. I'll also use the resources that I have to ensure that we bury him in the ground with no hope of being saved."

Ronan nodded. It was too depressing to continue thinking about what had happened that day, so he changed the subject. "That's right, Mr. Cline. I heard that you're preparing a surprise for the campus queen of your school tomorrow. Is she going to be yours soon?"

Leslie's hardened expression finally relaxed after the conversation shifted to the topic of his pursuits.

Chapter 688

A salacious smile stretched across Leslie's handsome face.

"Of course! Not only have I prepared a necklace as a gift for her, but I've also prepared a huge surprise for her in Alnewgo. It doesn't matter how many walls she has erected around her heart, I'm determined to break through all of them!"

"Mr. Cline will certainly succeed," Ronan said with a nod.

"There's no question about it!"

Seeing how Ronan was wearing a similarly obscene smile, Leslie felt that he had met a kindred spirit. He couldn't control his excitement and said, "What? Do you want her too? If you manage to deal with that bastard, Jack, I'll give her to you after I get bored of her."

"That's wonderful! Thank you, Mr. Cline," Ronan exclaimed excitedly.

Suddenly, Ronan realized that something was amiss. "Huh? Where are we going? This isn't the way to the club, is it?"

Leslie also snapped back to his senses, realizing with a start that the car was headed toward a village that was on the outskirts of the city.

He bellowed angrily, "Edwin, are you fucking blind? Where the hell is this? Where the fuck are you taking us-What the fuck! You're not Edwin! Who the hell are you?"

Leslie only realized then that the person in the driver's seat wasn't Edwin Lorenzo, his driver, at all. The driver was built like a tank, had a fleshy face, and looked every bit like a gangster.

"Stop the car! Stop the car this instant!"

Leslie and Ronan screamed shrilly in fear. Even a fool would know that they had been caught in Jack's trap. They tried to stop the driver, but he only pushed the car faster and faster. It was clear that he had no intention to stop the car. In their panic, Leslie and Ronan threw the doors open and leapt out of the speeding car.

Leslie was a little more fortunate. He only tumbled around on the ground for a little while. Most of his teeth were intact, except for his front teeth that had been knocked out by Jack earlier during their altercation.

Ronan, on the other hand, was not so lucky. It was a struggle for him just to get back onto his feet, and he was limping badly when he approached Leslie. His glasses had also flown far away during the impact.

The driver stopped the car just as three muscular thugs with pudgy faces appeared and surrounded Leslie and Ronan. They were covered from head to toe in tattoos.

Realizing the dire situation they were in, Leslie immediately turned on his heel and ran away with his tail between his legs. Ronan's movements were hindered due to this busted leg, so he was swiftly captured by two thugs.

"Help! They're going to kill me!" Ronan shouted.

However, he quickly lost the ability to make a sound after the thugs began to rain down powerful blows on him. Leslie didn't have to guess to know that Ronan must be suffering greatly. He could only run as fast as his legs could carry him, cursing that they couldn't move any faster.

Noticing that a few thugs were closing in on him, Leslie was gripped with panic. He was surrounded by open fields as far as the eye could see, leaving him no place to hide. The thugs were on the verge of grabbing him, and he felt as if he was going to lose his mind from how panicked he was.

"What am I going to do?" Leslie thought to himself. "Am I going to die here?"

Suddenly, he noticed a pit nearby that was giving off a nauseating and putrid stench. It was an old pit where the farmers would discard their excrements. Without even a hint of hesitation, Leslie dove headfirst into it. As he sank into the disgusting pool, the pungent smell of the feces surrounded him and permeated all of his senses.

Leslie nearly passed out from the overwhelmingly foul stench. He opened his mouth reflexively as the urge to vomit surged within him, accidentally allowing the feces to flow into his mouth and down his throat.

He had never experienced such pain in his life!

The angry voices of the thugs began to fade away into the distance. They

probably would never guess that Leslie would leap into a pit of feces to save his own skin.

Chapter 689

Jack returned to the dormitory after carefully selecting a necklace for Feena. Since all his roommates were around, he took the opportunity to invite them to join him at Exclusive Aftertaste, a club that was located by the riverside, for an extravagant feast.

Isaac and Joshua had to prepare for their CUBA training, so they couldn't attend the dinner. When Samuel and Ronnie asked Jack why he decided to treat them for a meal, he took out the necklace and showed it to Samuel to ask for his opinion.

When they flipped the box open, they realized that the manager of the diamond shop had been quite generous—he had gifted "Eternal Love" to Jack along with "Ocean's Heart". Samuel was rather inexperienced when it came to these things, but even he was shocked by the sight of the sparkling pink diamonds. Ronnie, who was slightly knowledgeable, exclaimed, "Oh my god! Are these pink diamonds?"

The necklace was certainly worth a fortune. No woman would be able to withstand the allure of the rare pink diamonds.

The next afternoon, Jack invited Feena to travel to Exclusive Aftertaste together. He had everything planned out. Exclusive Aftertaste was an upscale private club in Alnewgo and was located right by the riverside. A short distance away from the club was the newly built ferris wheel that stood at over 650 feet tall.

The image of the ferris wheel was reflected on the shimmering surface of the river. It spun in a slow and lazy circle while radiating a kaleidoscope of colors. It was a breathtaking sight.

When Jack stopped his car in front of Exclusive Aftertaste, the manager swiftly approached and greeted them as per Jack's orders. The staff unrolled the red carpet that had been prepared beforehand until it reached the car. Thundering applause then began to resound all around them.

When Feena, the star of the day's event, alighted from the car, she felt as if she had stepped into a dream. The first round of fireworks rocketed into the sky and exploded above Exclusive Aftertaste, illuminating the night sky with a myriad of colors.

Jack grabbed Feena's hand and led her away from the car. Feena gripped Jack's hand tightly in return. He could tell from the bright look in her eyes that she was very satisfied with the arrangements. Of course, Jack had prepared even more dreamesque events for her that would be revealed as the night progressed.

However, Jack was surprised to see a familiar face in the hall of Exclusive Aftertaste. It was Leslie, the man that he had just beat up a few days ago! Jack had ordered his men to deal with Leslie just a day ago, and he couldn't help but wonder why Leslie looked perfectly fine.

He was standing at a floor-to-ceiling window and admiring the view of the river. He had a glass of red wine balanced in one hand while his other hand was wrapped around the waist of a beautiful woman. Strangely, when they got closer to Leslie, they could smell a putrid stench that was impossible to cover up. It was as if Leslie had fallen into a pit of waste.

Of course, Jack had no idea that was actually the case. He couldn't help but think that Leslie lived a blessed life as he tried to guess how exactly he had escaped with his life. He also couldn't help how his eyes reddened upon seeing his sworn enemy.

Jack had no reason to show Leslie any respect and insulted him on the spot. "Well, well, well. If it isn't the heir of the Cline family, Leslie Cline. Did you enjoy your meal in prison yesterday? Why are you here today? Are you here to offer your dishwashing services?"

Leslie's expression twisted unhappily when he laid eyes on Jack after turning his head. "It's you," he hissed.

Meanwhile, Jack was all smiles when he said, "What's wrong? Are you surprised to see me?"

"Don't be too pleased with yourself, Holland. There'll come a day where I'll be the one showing you up."

Leslie could still recall with crystal clear clarity how Jack had assaulted him in the past. Fear would overtake his features whenever he recalled the chase from the night before.

"You've got some guts speaking in that tone to me," Jack retorted, the wolfish smile still fixed on his face. "Don't test me, or I'll throw you into the river as fish food."

Leslie froze up. He reflexively shrunk back on himself when he recalled Jack's ruthlessness. He could only express his displeasure with the whole situation by muttering under his breath. "What an uncivilized gangster."

Jack pressed closer to him, uncaring that Leslie had no space left to retreat. "Say that again one more time, and I'll slap your lights out."

Leslie's face began to change colors, alternating between red and purple. He felt humiliated over being threatened by another man in front of his girlfriend.

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But when Leslie remembered Jack's ruthlessness, he ultimately decided to swallow his anger. They had a long future ahead of them, he could get back at Jack later.

An old man dressed in a tailcoat approached them. He greeted Leslie respectfully before saying, "Mr. Cline, the flowers are ready. Is the lady you're planning to gift them to?"

Leslie put on an arrogant front and snapped his fingers before giving out the order. "Send the flowers in."

Soon, a huge float that was decorated with dozens upon dozens of red, blue, and white roses was wheeled into the hall. It appeared that Leslie was willing to fork out a small fortune to impress his woman. He had a serious expression on his face as he lifted a bouquet of fresh flowers from the float. He then offered it to the woman he was with before launching into a passionate speech.

"Candace, it's your birthday today. These 99 roses symbolize my love for you that will never change."

Candace's eyes stung at his declaration. "Thank you so much, Leslie!" she exclaimed feelingly.

Jack grinned upon witnessing the scene. "I didn't know you were the type of guy who would celebrate your girlfriend's birthday. However, aren't you being a bit too stingy with the flowers? You see, coincidentally, I'm also celebrating my girlfriend's birthday, and I've prepared many more flowers for her."

Leslie was infuriated by Jack's words. "Bastard, stop trying to stir the pot! Put your money where your mouth is if you're so great!"

Jack snapped his fingers as well and nodded toward a staff who was already on standby nearby. "Have my things not arrived yet? I still need to give my girlfriend a surprise!"

The words had just left his mouth when the deafening sounds of several cars revving to life echoed from outside the club. Jack took Feena's hand and led her outside. Around seven to eight cars were parked in a neat line at the entrance.

A tsunami of fresh flowers cascaded out of like waterfalls when the car doors swung open. The staff swiftly arranged these flowers into the shape of a giant heart. Jack grabbed a bouquet that was overflowing with hundreds of flowers and offered it to Feena. His voice was dripping with passion when he said, "Feena, all these flowers are for you."

Surprise and disbelief was etched across Feena's features. She accepted the bouquet from Jack, her eyes glimmering with happiness. "Oh, Jack. How silly you are. You didn't need to break the bank for my sake..."

Despite her weak protest, her eyes were filled to the brim with honey-like sweetness. The surrounding onlookers were also stunned by the grand and romantic gesture. Who knew how much money Jack had to spend to prepare so many flowers.

Leslie, who was standing a short distance away, had a steely expression fixed on his face. Jack had prepared dozens of cars that were all filled with fresh flowers. When he looked at the bouquet of roses that he had prepared for Candace, he couldn't help but feel how it paled in comparison. He looked so upset that one might mistakenly assume that he had accidentally swallowed a fly.

He didn't dare make a sound and could only curse at Jack in his heart. "Jack, you damned bastard! You did this just to humiliate me, didn't you?" he thought to himself.

However, Leslie wasn't going to roll over and accept defeat just like that. He had never lost when it came to spending exorbitant amounts of money. He especially refused to lose to a country bumpkin like Jack whose riches must just be a faux front.

Leslie had originally planned to stroll along the river after their meal to admire the fireworks show he had prepared for Candace. Jack's sudden appearance had changed his mind. He decided to give Candace her big surprise right now.

His tone was indignant as he called the staff that was in charge of the fireworks. "Hurry and set off the fireworks now! I want to give my girlfriend an unforgettable birthday surprise!"

He then turned to Candace and spoke sweetly to her. "Candace, look at the sky."

Candace did as she was told and lifted her head toward the sky. The air was suddenly filled with whistling sounds as the countless fireworks whizzed into the sky and exploded on either side of the river. The fireworks temporarily turned the sky into a painter's canvas with splashes of vibrant colors. It was a gorgeous sight.

Candace's eyes widened to the size of saucers as she made out the colorful words that slowly formed in the middle of the fireworks that read, "Happy birthday, Candace!"