Limits 771

Chapter 771

Tatiana asked curiously, "Jack, which university are you attending?" "Alnewgo University," Jack replied. All the younger cousins fell silent.

Alnewgo University was in the top rank, alongside Lightfield University and Tarrington University in the capital. The difference wasn't significant, even if it wasn't quite on par with Fullerton. If anything, they each had their strengths!

Any cynical comments they had planned to make were suddenly stuck in their throats.

Greta was equally stunned. She'd intended to humiliate Jack, but instead, she was left embarrassed.

Compared to Alnewgo University, which ranked among the top ten or even top five schools in the country, Greta's school, the University of lower, paled in

comparison.

But Greta wasn't one to easily admit defeat. "What's so great about Alnewgo University? Knox got into Lightfield University, and that's way more impressive than Alnewgo."

"Greta, that's enough. Do you even know how many points and how much effort it takes for a person in a low social rung to get into Alnewgo? Do you really think Knox's degree in Lightfield holds more weight than Jack's degree in Alnewgo?"

Maverick had just been watching the younger ones bicker without any intention of stepping in, but Greta's dismissive tone crossed a line.

The truth was, Knox only got into Lightfield thanks to some serious string-pulling. His father had personally gone to speak with the university president to get him admitted.

In contrast, Jack had spent years working his way up from the bottom, enduring countless hardships to earn his spot at Alnewgo. In terms of merit and value, his achievement far surpassed Knox's.

But Greta wasn't having it. "Maverick, stop defending an outsider. I just know Lightfield's better than Alnewgo. If he's so great, he should be able to hit Lightfield's cut-off admission score. Can he? Can he?"

Her mocking tone triggered a ripple of stifled laughter from the people around them.

Greta was clearly embarrassing Jack. Of course the latter couldn't have gotten into Lightfield University. If he had, only a fool would pick Alnewgo over it.

Tatiana quickly turned to Jack and asked, "Tristan said it's really hard to get into Alnewgo from your area. What did you score on the college entrance exam?"

Jack paused for a second, realizing he honestly couldn't recall the exact score anymore. So he simply said, "I don't remember."

Greta, Knox, and the others burst into laughter. It was obvious Jack was avoiding the question, probably because his score didn't even come close to Lightfield's threshold. For all they knew, this so-called "Alnewgo University" he always talked about might be completely made up.

"He's probably just attending some no-name college," someone muttered.

Another wave of chuckles followed. However, what Jack said next stunned them, cutting the laughter short.

"I just remember I was the top scorer in the state. I figure no matter how high Lightfieldsk cutoff is, the state's top scorer should've made it, right?"

The table fell silent.

State's top scorer? Did Jack just say he was the state's top scorer?

Everyone stared at Jack in disbelief. Watching their stunned reactions, Jack felt his quiet boast had landed just right.

"Oh my god! The top scorer gas good state? Are you serious?" Tatiana nearly exclaimed.

Maverick's eyes widened in surprise as he asked, "Jack, did you really top your state's college entrance exam?"

Chapter 772

The sheer prestige of being the state's top scholar was something even a fool could grasp. It meant that Jack completely outclassed everyone at the table in terms of intellect.

In other words, everyone else present was practically insignificant.

They took their seats, quietly granting him the stage to showcase his brilliance.

Even those who weren't on friendly terms with Jack watched him in stunned silence. Among these young elites were both underachievers and overachievers. To them, however, a top scholar was nothing more than a legend.

When Jack nodded in confirmation, the entire table erupted in murmurs.

Though unwilling to admit defeat, Greta's voice betrayed her insecurity. "Yeah, right! Anyone can brag! I might as well say I'm the top student at Harverd!"

However, her attempt to retort fell so flat.

By now, the commotion had drawn the attention of the next table.

At that moment, Knox's mother, Lillian Hammond, beamed with pride as she boasted about her sons' accomplishments. She spoke of how Tristan had helped Quintis manage the Sandalwood Group. Then, she lauded Knox for building his own billion-dollar company through pure talent.

Interrupted, Lillian frowned in displeasure. "What's all this noise about?"

Tatiana pointed at Jack. "He said he was the top scholar in the state on the college entrance exam. He's now studying at Alnewgo University."

Instantly, all eyes locked onto Jack, skepticism written across their faces.

Top scholar in the state? Who the hell was he?

Only then did Norman recall Jack's academic distinction and quickly rise to clarify.

"Oh, I forgot to mention Jack here was the top scholar in his state! Now he's studying at Alnewgo University!"

The revelation sent shockwaves through the room. Everyone stared at Norman, desperate to confirm whether this was true.

The younger crowd hoped Norman was joking. If it were true, it would make their earlier mockery utterly humiliating.

Lillian, in particular, found it impossible to accept the truth. Just moments earlier, she had been bragging relentlessly. She mocked Jack both openly and subtly, dismissing him as a country bumpkin unfit for refined circles.

If Jack were truly so accomplished, how could she still be scheming to claim Quintis and Emily's inheritance?

Yet, Norman nodded and confirmed it-Jack was the top scholar in the state. He informed them that they could still look it up online.

This revelation shattered the hearts of everyone who had been mocking Jack.

They had access to the best resources and freely ridiculed those beneath them. Yet, despite all that, they couldn't measure up to Jack, who had risen from humble beginnings. It stung worse than a slap to the face.

Greta flushed red with anger and finally snapped. "Oh, please. What's he got to brag about? As if he could ever measure up to Maverick, Tristan, or Knox. Knox is already the CEO of a listed company!"

She was too embarrassed to bring up Tristan, since everyone knew he worked under Quintis.

The others quickly chimed in. Since they couldn't outshine Jack themselves, they chose to elevate Knox instead. They hoped that he would put this so-called country bumpkin in his place and ease their bruised egos.

Quintis and Emily were proud of Jack. However, hearing that Knox had become the head of a major corporation left them feeling inadequate.

Jack, however, said nothing. He didn't see the point in trading blows with this pack of spoiled brats. After a few bites of his meal, he stepped outside for a smoke.

With him gone, the conversation died down.

By the time he returned, the family dinner was nearly over.

The next day, Quintis chose not to return to Tarthy City. Instead, he decided to stay in the capital for a few more days.

Vincent's seventieth birthday was approaching. He should have at least stayed until the celebration was over.

Once Samantha returned, the younger family members would have her backing. With that support, they'd likely treat Jack's family with even less warmth.

Jack didn't care. He'd never had much affection for his so-called grandmother. He understood the importance of respecting elders.

But if Samantha crossed the line, he wouldn't hesitate to push back and restore the dignity Emily deserved.

Chapter 773

Recently, Genesis Games' stock price had skyrocketed again.

This rally was largely driven by the strong performance of two hit games, Legend of the West and Legend of the East. The market response was strong as the games gained popularity and Genesis Games released enhanced versions.

The vast maps of both games were linked, letting players cross between them with ease. This marked the birth of the first truly global game that blended all civilizations into a cohesive, immersive world.

Genesis Games removed regional server restrictions, allowing players to connect without boundaries. This made it easy for them to explore and experience diverse in-game cultures worldwide.

Even non-gamers were drawn to the stunning fantasy world and gladly spent their money.

The rich game world improved the player experience and boosted Genesis Games' revenue. This shift was immediately apparent in the stock price.

The company's market cap soared from just over 10 billion to nearly 20 billion dollars.

As it continued to thrive, domestic Genesis-related stocks surged-several even hit their daily limits.

Meanwhile, Jack, the founder of Genesis Games, was back in the spotlight for turning his games into a global hit.

Concurrently, Genesis Games also started increasingly focusing its business on the domestic market.

Despite its global success, Zargonia's huge market of nearly one billion internet users couldn't be overlooked. With Drakengard Games acquired and Patrick's downfall, Jack had no reason to avoid the domestic market anymore.

Genesis Games recently leased a new office building in the capital. It marked the official start of its domestic expansion.

Beyond gaming, the titles had given rise to a competitive esports scene. Top players not only earned substantial prize money but were also adored by fans around the world.

Among them were several players from Montclair, each with over ten million fans globally.

Given Genesis Games' tremendous success, Central Financial Media was even planning a special feature on Jack.

The interview was set to film at Montclair Conservatory-the epicenter of the game's competitive frenzy.

There was joy, but also unease.

While Genesis Games was making strides, Haven Connect suffered a massive cyberattack from overseas. Much like Genesis Games in the past, Haven Connect also came under scrutiny for its Zargonian origins.

As the platform grew globally, surpassing 800 million users, it caught the attention of governments worldwide.

Many feared this rising influence from Zargonia could disrupt their political and economic stability. This was echoing the challenges Genesis Games once faced.

Some lawmakers began publicly calling for restrictions on Haven Connect's operations. A few even went as far as threatening to ban the platform outright. They feared that this disruptive potential posed a national security risk.

As concerns spread, Haven Connect encountered the most serious crisis since its founding.

But Jack had anticipated this and prepared a contingency plan.

For the millions of users who loved Haven Connect-a platform where they freely

shared their lives-these accusations came as a shock. To them, it was more than just a platform; it was a vibrant, diverse community that had become an irreplaceable part of their daily lives.

Chapter 774

On the platform, people shared their lives, travels, innovations, books,

adventures, gaming, and discussions about global trends.

When news broke that their beloved social platform might face a ban, they were furious. There was a strong outcry from netizens on Haven Connect, with calls for street protests.

At the same time, celebrities, billionaires, scientists, entrepreneurs, and politicians —each an influential figure with a massive following on Haven Connect-publicly opposed the ban.

They believed the world was multifaceted, built on equality, liberty, and democracy. Above all, freedom of speech was of utmost importance.

Having banned Haven Connect was undeniably a regressive move and could not be tolerated.

Faced with the renewed uproar, the media and politicians who had once threatened to ban the platform now softened their stance. Some even started to speak well of the platform.

After all, with 800 million users, Haven Connect had become a force no one dared to challenge openly.

Though the storm had temporarily passed, Haven Connect still needed to prepare for what lay ahead. Jack decided to send Samuel to lead public relations efforts- and if necessary, even travel abroad to engage with critics directly. It was also the perfect chance to put Samuel's capabilities to the test.

Now busier than ever, Jack trusted Samuel and planned to push him into a more prominent role. He believed that greater responsibility demanded greater ability.

Samuel had to prove himself through significant testing. This public relations crisis, then, was his ultimate trial.

Meanwhile, Josiah had already earned Jack's full confidence.

Josiah was a computer science prodigy. He led the team that held the line against

wave after wave of cyberattacks, keeping Haven Connect steady.

After weathering the storm, the platform emerged stronger, steadily moving forward.

During his time in the capital, Quintis paid visits to Vincent. He also reconnected with several political figures and long-lost acquaintances.

Meanwhile, Jack decided to return to Montclair Conservatory. His last visit had left him slightly disappointed-he hadn't gotten the chance to see Bella.

Fortunately, while wandering through campus, he overheard that Bella's academic career was now soaring. She had become something of a rising star at Montclair.

Still, Jack couldn't shake the lingering thoughts. Maybe he needed to see her in person-even if just from a distance. Only after seeing her could he find closure and let go of his longing, finally saying goodbye to the past. This trip, then, would be his solemn farewell to his first love.

Unlike his first visit when he wandered aimlessly, this time Jack could contact Cynthia. She and Bella were in the same year, and with Bella's reputation, it wouldn't be hard to find her with Cynthia's help.

Having made up his mind, he decided to head to Montclair that morning.

Emily and Quintis had no objections to Jack going out. Still, for safety's sake, Quintis assigned his most capable bodyguard to go with Jack. He also handed Jack a few business cards-contacts who could assist if any trouble arose.

Chapter 775

Back in the day, Jack was just an ordinary guy-nobody would even think of harming him.

But now? Things had changed. He was the scion of the Sandalwood Group, worth billions. Countless eyes were fixed on him.

What if someone had evil intentions to assassinate or kidnap him? Even the slightest harm to Jack would be unbearable for Quintis and Emily.

Jack never really liked his bodyguard, Specter. So he quietly slipped away from him and headed to Montclair alone.

After wandering around campus for a while, he somehow ended up in front of the bulletin board again.

Almost a month had passed, but the content on the board remained unchanged. Bella's stunning image still occupied the most prominent position. She was like an orchid in a secluded valley, elegant and unparalleled. Just looking at her felt like gazing at the stars.

Without thinking, Jack reached out, as if he could touch her through the glass. But no matter how hard he tried, the barrier kept her just out of reach. He stood there, considering breaking the glass.

"What are you doing?"

Suddenly, a clear, sharp voice called out.

Jack turned to see a strikingly pretty woman standing behind him, her delicate face twisted in anger.

He quickly tried to explain, "I was just—"

"You're one of Bella's admirers, aren't you? I've seen plenty like you-shameless,

trying to grope through the glass. What a creep!"

She was extremely fiery, cutting him off before he could finish.

He stood there, speechless.

She checked the glass and, finding it intact, asked, "Are you from this school?"

"No," Jack replied.

Then, she smirked coldly.

"So you're another one of those admirers of Bella from another school. Don't you guys have any shame? She already has a boyfriend, yet you guys still won't give up."

Though casually spoken, the words struck Jack like a hammer. "What did you say?"

At the same time, a thought crossed his mind-could it be that the male voice on the phone that day was real? Did Bella really have a boyfriend? But then, why hadn't Cynthia told him?

"What? Did that hit you too hard?" The woman scoffed, her lips curling in disdain.

"You guys are so pathetic with your delicate feelings. And just so you know, Hugo Cabot from Lightfield University is cooking up some huge romantic pursuit. You really think she would even glance at clowns like you? Save yourself the embarrassment."

So... it was still just courtship.

Jack relaxed slightly, though he couldn't help but marvel at how much attention Bella attracted now.

He couldn't help but ask, "Who is this Hugo?"

"Country bumpkin."

She rolled her eyes, not wanting to waste time explaining.

How could he not know the famous Hugo? This guy here had to be some kind of hick.

"Don't damage school property again, or I'll report you!"

After Jack nodded, she strode off with a haughty air.

As noon neared, Jack called Cynthia. He invited her to lunch, hoping to ask if she knew Bella's address.

Cynthia happily accepted his invitation.

Chapter 776

Cynthia mentioned that her best friend was also looking for a place to eat and asked if Jack wouldn't mind her joining. After getting his approval, she hung up.

They soon arrived at the agreed-upon location. Before long, Cynthia showed up with an equally stunning woman in tow.

The moment Jack saw her, he and the beautiful woman both released a soft, surprised gasp.

What were the odds? The woman Cynthia had brought was none other than the sharp-tongued beauty who had criticized him earlier at the bulletin board.

A wry smile crept onto Jack's face as he said, "Hello... I never thought I'd run into you again here."

Cynthia looked at them in surprise. "You two... know each other?"

The woman, no longer as harsh as before, flashed Jack a smile. "What a coincidence. I didn't expect Cynthia's classmate to be you." She then briefly explained the earlier encounter to Cynthia.

After hearing the story, Cynthia chuckled. "Jack, I never would've guessed! You said you didn't care about Bella, but you've been thinking about her all along."

Feeling a bit awkward, Jack joined them, and the three of them walked and talked together.

From their chat, Jack learned the woman was Magdalene Wachs-Cynthia's classmate and roommate. She had a straightforward personality, which explained why she'd called him out earlier for scraping the glass.

When he offered to treat them, Magdalene smirked mischievously. "Jack, since you're so invested in Bella, how about this—if you're willing to splurge today, I might just share some inside info about her."

This was exactly what he had been hoping for. Without hesitation, he replied, "No problem. Money's no issue."

He wasn't short on money-what he lacked were leads on Bella.

However, Cynthia had always assumed Jack wasn't well-off, so she scolded Magdalene. "Mag, don't take advantage of him. You know how high the prices are in Alnewgo."

Magdalene giggled. "Come on, it's not your money, why are you so bothered? Or maybe... you're already counting his money as yours? Well, you'd have to become his girlfriend for that to happen!"

With a mischievous glint in her eye, she started blurting out whatever came to mind, making Cynthia blush. She chased after Magdalene, swatting at her playfully, then turned to Jack with a flustered smile. "Jack, don't mind her-she just loves to joke around."

Magdalene giggled as she dodged away.

Although she had joked about making Jack treat them to an expensive meal, she didn't go overboard. In the end, she picked a slightly nicer restaurant on campus and ordered modestly. When Jack suggested ordering more dishes, Magdalene shook her head. She insisted it would be a waste to order too much.

During the meal, she said, "Jack, Cynthia told me on the way here that you were the top scholar in your state. Is that true?"

Jack nodded, and Magdalene replied, "Oh, so you really are a genius! I didn't believe Cynthia when she said it before, but after your answer, I do. So, why didn't you apply to Fullerton University?"

"I enjoy the thoughtful, humanistic vibe at Alnewgo," he answered.

She nodded in understanding, then added, "Well, that explains why you're pursuing Bella. But let me warn you-her standards are high. Just being a top scholar won't be enough to win her over."

Magdalene wasn't exaggerating. Since Bella transferred from Alnewgo to The Montclair, her artistic talents flourished. She was preparing for an international performance, and her beauty grew, attracting admirers from other universities.

Magdalene spoke with great admiration for her.

Besides the heartthrob from The Montclair, plenty of smart, rich, and good-looking young men from Fullerton were chasing her, too. Someone like Jack, coming from a small town, seemed too ordinary in their eyes.

Even if he was one in a million, in a population of fourteen billion, there were still a staggering fourteen thousand just like him.

That top scholar title might turn heads in some quiet little town. But here in the capital, in the shadow of power? It meant nothing. At the elite universities, top students were everywhere. Every department, every class had its share of so- called provincial prodigies.

Magdalene didn't even need to think hard to predict that Jack's pursuit of Bella would end in failure.

Because this wasn't just about academics-it was about character, ability, family background, and more. To win over a goddess like Bella, all of these were essential.

Chapter 777

Cynthia gently patted Magdalene, feeling her words were too harsh.

She had never believed Jack stood a chance with Bella and had even advised him against pursuing her. But seeing his determination, she had stopped trying to dissuade him.

After all, humans needed to maintain some hope and a sense of purpose, didn't they? Without it, what would set them apart, even if that hope and that goal appeared to be entirely futile?

Hearing Magdalene's description, Jack frowned. He thought her portrayal was exaggerated and asked, "Is Bella really that popular?"

Cynthia and Magdalene nodded in unison, vigorously, at that.

They wanted to make it clear they weren't exaggerating; if anything, they were understating it.

Magdalene said, "Bella was the it-girl of the new generation, and next to her, we all felt so ordinary."

Jack sighed inwardly. He never imagined that Bella's radiance had become so dazzling. She had attracted so many talented suitors from top universities.

What little confidence he had left began to slip away.

Then, with a secretive tone, Magdalene spoke again. "Jack, are you seriously planning to go after Bella?"

He replied noncommittally, "Why?"

"Well, soon there'll be a grand spectacle-Hugo, that incredibly handsome guy, is going to make his move on Bella. Want to come watch? Then you'll see just how strong your competition is!"

A ripple of emotion stirred in Jack's heart.

Bella the woman he'd been relentlessly pursuing.

Wasn't this the very chance he'd been longing for?

Yet, he hesitated.

Bella had become so extraordinary now. He yearned to reunite with her at his own brightest moment, not in some mundane, unremarkable encounter.

He still remembered the words she had written on that lavender-scented letter. "Isn't that right? We're only human, after all!"

Jack worried that without the backing of his team, he wouldn't seem impressive enough. He feared that time had already faded the passion they once shared. More than anything, he feared Bella would see how ordinary he had become. She might just walk away, leaving them as strangers.

That was the fear that haunted him most.

Truthfully, the real reason was time itself. He was terrified that Bella had long forgotten him...

Still, he wanted to see her.

So, he nodded. "Of course."

Magdalene smiled brightly. "Consider it settled! I'll give you a shout when the action's about to begin."

The lunch with Cynthia and Magdalene lasted nearly an hour before they parted ways.

Unable to resist, Jack quietly slipped to a corner of the campus. He stood before the display case, staring at a photo of Bella. She projected such a perfect persona that Jack felt an increasing chasm between them.

Vincent's birthday was still a few days away, so Jack decided to return to Tarthy with Emily and Quintis first. He planned to head back to Alnewgo later.

He began making preparations. First, he put Samuel in charge of the PR crisis at Haven Connect, ensuring that any negative public opinion was suppressed. During this time, Samuel even led a team abroad on this crucial mission. They engaged with diverse cultures, media influencers, and political figures. This crisis management was a significant test for Samuel, one he had to face head-on.

He had to adapt and seize this opportunity. If he could handle it well, Jack would have promised him a bright future.

Chapter 778

If Samuel couldn't do it, his potential would remain forever limited. This was a tremendous test for him, and he had to succeed.

With unwavering determination, Jack aimed to bring Samuel to the forefront. He wanted to empower him to achieve even greater success. Perhaps, through Haven Net, Samuel could rise to become a business magnate. He might even one day be seen as a legendary figure.

Meanwhile, Jack was content to pull all the strings from behind the scenes.

Given Josiah's talent in IT and networking, Jack planned for him to take charge of Genesis Games in Zargonia. At the same time, he would also hold a high-ranking position in Haven Net.

This is Jack's way of gradually assembling his core team for the future.

But just then, something else gave him a slight shock.

Sebastian, who had conspired with Leslie and even laid hands on him, was dead. And his death had been brutal-gruesome, even.

Sebastian was the underground king of Alnewgo. Not only was he powerful, but he was also backed by a formidable team of bodyguards. Many had wanted him dead, but most didn't dare to make a move.

Those who did were either killed by Sebastian himself or utterly wiped out. In some cases, even their entire families were exterminated.

Yet now, he was dead-along with his entire team. The one who killed Sebastian was Specter, the bodyguard Emily had assigned to protect Jack.

It had been her direct order. She wanted everyone to know that anyone who dared to harm Jack in the slightest would meet a terrible end.

Meanwhile, Samuel and his team returned in triumph. They had successfully concluded their mission in Euphoria and Federia.

Ultimately, Samuel lived up to Jack's expectations.

This trip eased skepticism toward Haven Net in the Euphoria and Federia markets. It also boosted his confidence, making him more radiant.

The journey to Euphoria and Federia honed his resilience and sharpened his interpersonal skills.

After hearing Samuel's detailed report and the results of the trip, Jack was impressed.

Samuel had proven himself capable of taking on greater responsibilities.

He shed his past hesitations. He was making a decisive transformation. Step by step, he was moving toward becoming a true business leader.

The next day, the company issued an official memo. Samuel was appointed as the General Manager of Haven Net.

For him, this was a monumental leap in his career. He had now become the second most powerful figure in Haven Net, just below Jack.

When he learned of the appointment, he was almost in disbelief. Though he held

a high-ranking position within Haven Net, assisting Jack, he lacked real authority. His role had never been formally recognized.

But by now, everything had changed. With this legally binding document, his position within the company was finally solidified.

Upon securing this role, Samuel was overjoyed.

He was well aware of Haven Net's strong capabilities and potential. But he had never dared to hope that Jack would entrust him with such an important responsibility. For someone from a remote mountain village, this was a life- changing opportunity.

As CEO, Samuel not only received profit shares and equity but also gained the opportunity to build his own empire. If Haven Net went public, his wealth would be beyond imagination. The numbers would be so staggering that they would leave him both dizzy and exhilarated.

Beyond the financial windfall, his social status skyrocketed.

Though Haven Net hadn't gone public, its rise in the domestic market was clear. Everyone saw its potential. It was destined to become a financial giant and lead the industry.

News of Samuel's promotion spread fast. It quickly made headlines across major media outlets.

Haven Net's influence and potential quickly catapulted Samuel into the ranks of the elite.

The power he wielded inspired both respect and fear. Countless people were eager to flatter him and gain his favor.

Now, many of Alnewgo's elite summits and banquets were extending invitations to him.

In contrast, Jack, as the founder and true boss of Haven Net, maintained a much lower profile. Few people knew of his existence, let alone sent invitations to his office.

After all, many of Haven Net's operations were still cloaked in secrecy, far from the public eye.

Chapter 779

Once the euphoria faded, Samuel felt the weight of responsibility settle on his shoulders.

He worried he might not be up to the task. What if he ruined Haven Net's future? How could he face Jack's trust and expectations then?

After much deliberation, he even offered his resignation to Jack. He voiced his fears and concerns, not wanting to betray Jack's trust and confidence.

But Jack patted him on the shoulder, encouraging him to move forward bravely.

"I believe in you. The company's success or failure isn't yours to bear alone. Just focus on doing your best—and treat Haven Net as if it were your own."

With his trust and support, Samuel set aside his doubts and moved forward with confidence.

Before long, Vincent's birthday was around the corner.

During this time, Jack occasionally traveled between Tarthy and Alnewgo. He hoped to visit Feena, but she was busy with her career. So, they could only confide in and encourage each other over the phone.

However, from Feena, Jack heard a surprising piece of news.

At some point, Bella had managed to strike a deal with Starlight Entertainment. She was set to hold a major concert with Feena next semester.

The concert was expected to draw a massive audience of over 100 thousand people.

Feena and Bella had become the undisputed rising stars of the national music

scene.

In the music industry, Bella had the edge. She'd received invitations from respected international entities. Meanwhile, Feena held a slight advantage in the film industry.

When Feena heard the news, she teased Jack, asking if he was happy. She jokingly offered to arrange a reunion with his ex, suggesting they could reminisce about old times.

But Jack could sense a hint of jealousy in her tone. Though she claimed not to care, her nervousness was clear. All Jack could do was offer Feena a comforting smile, assuring her that his history with Bella was in the past.

Yet deep down, even he couldn't fully believe that chapter was truly over.

Every day, Jack secretly looked forward to calls from Cynthia and Magdalene. He was especially eager because Magdalene had mentioned a handsome guy planning a grand gesture to win Bella. She had promised to notify him when it happened.

Yet, as time passed, there had been no news. Jack couldn't help but wonder if she had forgotten all about it.

Still, deep down, he longed to see Bella again, even if only from afar, quietly watching as she found happiness.

As summer vacation came to a close, the university campus once again welcomed a new batch of students.

For Jack, it marked the beginning of his senior year-the final stretch before graduation.

Compared to the freshmen, the seniors were practically veterans, seasoned by years of campus life.

The campus remained unchanged, its towering banyan trees as steadfast as ever. The sight of younger faces sweating through military training hit them hard. It reminded the seniors that their farewell was drawing near.

Their eyes now held a heaviness and uncertainty. Though they had the experience to guide the clueless newcomers, the drive to do so had faded.

Walking along the broad campus paths, they felt a deeper attachment to the place.

Time had passed-seasons changed, blossoms came and went.

The flowers bloomed the same each year, but the faces were never quite the same.

This year was pivotal for them. The carefree, often aimless seniors now had to let go of their confusion. It was time to make choices that would define the rest of their lives.

Some would pursue further studies or go abroad. Some would apply for civil service positions, while most would dive into job hunting.

And then, of course, some chose to lose themselves in games. They squeezed in one last frenzy of late-night battles before reality took over.

Chapter 780

Senior year was far less demanding than the first three years of university.

The first semester was mainly focused on internships. The second semester provided a full year to prepare for graduation and work on the thesis.

It was during this time that Central Media finally confirmed Jack's interview.

The interview was scheduled at Montclair Conservatory. And this was exactly what Jack had been hoping for.

A grand transformation, and then a chance encounter with Bella. He had always wanted Bella to see him at his best.

Just as Jack thought about her, the call from Magdalene finally came through.

Magdalene urged him to go to Montclair Conservatory. Hugo was about to make his move on Bella.

The news spread fast on Montclair School's Confessions blog, quickly becoming a sensation. Even students from other universities in the capital were enthusiastically discussing the matter.

Aside from Montclair, the most heated discussions were happening at Lightfield University. This was because Hugo, one of the central figures in this show, was a well-known talent there.

He entered Lightfield with the second-highest score in the capital's college entrance exam. As a result, he became a campus celebrity at this top-tier institution.

He organized his own rock band and performed campus ballads. His good looks and role as the basketball team's captain made him irresistible to any woman.

On top of that, he came from a family of scholars. His grandfather had served as a deputy minister in the Ministry of Education.

Such a young man was the epitome of every woman's dream.

Yet, this charming prince had gone all the way to Montclair to pursue Bella.

This broke the hearts of countless women who secretly admired him. It also sparked curiosity among all the students following the story. The women at Lightfield and the men at Montclair were buzzing with heated discussions about it.

The biggest question on everyone's mind was whether Hugo would succeed in winning Bella over? The suspense was killing them.

Rumors had it that Bella already had a boyfriend-maybe even a fiancé-but those are just rumors. No one has ever seen her with another man.

The young men at Montclair were convinced Hugo didn't stand a chance with Bella. She was known for being aloof. There had never been any gossip about her being involved with anyone at school.

The self-proclaimed heartthrobs at Montclair bragged about being close to Bella. Later, it turned out their so-called flings were nothing but wishful thinking.

Even Montclair's most self-assured heartthrob couldn't win over the famously unattainable Bella. So how could anyone believe she'd fall so easily for someone from Lightfield University?

This would undoubtedly be a humiliation the Montclair heartthrobs were unwilling to face.

The young women at Lightfield, especially those who idolized Hugo or secretly crushed on him, believed he could easily win Bella's heart. Deep down, they weren't ready for Hugo to be off the market. As long as he remained single, their daydreams still had a chance.

Lightfield students took great pride in themselves. The top scorers believed they were a cut above the rest. If they couldn't even win the heart of a Montclair beauty, what would that mean for their pride? How could they possibly uphold Lightfield's reputation as the nation's top university?

This drama-pitting Montclair's campus queen against Lightfield's golden boy- quickly ignited. It spread like wildfire between the two schools. It spread through School Confessions, then gained traction at other universities.

Soon, it was the hottest topic across campuses in the capital.