

M Genius 731

Chapter 731

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Seeing both of them had Seshe all riled up. Without a word, she rushed forward to give Liam two loud slaps. "Get the f*ck out of here! This is my house, so you have no right to be in here!"

Demi jumped to Liam's defense. "Seshe, what do you think you're doing? Are you crazy? Why did you slap my husband?"

Upon hearing that, Seshe turned to strike Demi in anger. "Are you seriously asking that? Why did you try to do harm to my husband? Why did you poison him and try to kill him by staging a car crash?"

Demi was rendered speechless by her questions. After a moment's silence, she muttered, "I-I don't know what you're talking about. Mom, Dad, you should discipline her. Just look at what she did to Liam! How could she slap him without reason?"

In response to that, Liam let out a whimper. Seshe's slaps had torn his wounds open, staining the gauze on both of his ears red. At the same time, both James and Helen were wearing a livid expression, and anger was evident in their voice. "Demi, there's no point in denying what you have done! Your deeds are now known to the public! Your sister is right to slap you, because you deserve it!"

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Demi had never gone through a situation in which her parents didn't side with her, so she was shocked into silence. After a while, she began to throw a tantrum. "Mom, Dad, why would you say that? Look at the state that I'm in! Don't you feel sorry for me at all? You are accusing us of attempting to murder Matthew, but he's still alive! He's here with us, totally unscathed, whereas Liam and I are a mess! Why are you being so partial toward Matthew?"

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Meanwhile, Liam's voice was trembling as he spoke. "Mom, Dad, just look at me! My ears got cut!"

Seshe was shaking with anger, because she never knew Demi was capable of being so brazen. James was even more furious than her, so he rushed forth to give Liam and Demi a few more slaps on the face. "Shut up! Will you only be satisfied if Matthew dies? You ingrates! If it weren't for him, you would have been chopped to bits to be fed to the fishes in the sea! You wouldn't even be here in the first place!"

Helen was also wearing a look of chagrin. "Demi, how could you be this ungrateful? Both of you nearly killed Matthew by helping President White. Yet, he was the one who ended up trying to assassinate you, whereas Matthew was the one who saved you! Why can't you at least show some gratitude? Why do I have a daughter like you?"

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James yelled, “Who else do you think would save you? You would’ve already been dead if it weren’t for Matthew! Just compare yourselves to him! Look at what you have done! You aren’t even feeling sorry after committing those crimes! You didn’t even thank him for saving you when he repaid your evil deeds with kindness! You’re such shameless b*stards!”

It wasn’t until then that Demi quieted down. While hanging her head low, she apologized. “Mom, Dad, I really had no idea that this was what had happened. Matthew, I’m sorry. I-I know I did you wrong.”

However, Matthew didn’t even acknowledge her, for he didn’t care about her apology at all. From his perspective, Demi and Liam should have paid for what they had done with their lives. The only reason he rescued them was because he didn’t want to see Seshe distressed. It didn’t mean he was willing to forgive them.

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Chapter 732

It was a turbulent night in Eastcliff. With the Head of the White Family dead, the Whites had to choose a new leader. They also lost a lot of power and influence in the process, which turned them into the weakest among the ten greatest families of Eastcliff. Other than that, their wealth was also quickly divided up by others after Owen and Gordon died.

Unsurprisingly, the ten families swept away half of the wealth. Stanley took one fifth of it, while the rest were transferred to Matthew. It was Billy who decided on the division of the assets, so nobody dared utter a word in protest.

By the next morning, Matthew went to Billy's place after dropping Sasha off at her company. Billy had played a major role in the incident, so he figured he should visit Billy as a show of his gratitude.

When he arrived, Billy had just had breakfast, and was sitting on the balcony with Brittany. She had made great progress in her recovery. Not only did she make a full recovery, but she had regained her beauty too. Her features were even more delicate than Sasha's. Now, she was only eighteen, so in a few years, she would probably replace Sasha as the most beautiful woman in all of Eastcliff, just like how Sasha replaced Leanna.

As soon as she saw Matthew, she greeted him sweetly before pouring him some tea. After Matthew sat down beside Billy, he took a sip out of his tea. "Mr. Newman, you have my gratitude for what happened."

Billy put his cup down with a chuckle. "Mr. Larson, I owe you a lot. This isn't even enough to repay you. Besides, Declan had crossed a line this time. I haven't been making much of an appearance during the

past few years, while Stanley has been doing a great job at managing the business. Seeing that the ten families seemed to have forgotten who is the First King of Eastcliff, this is actually a great opportunity to remind them of that.”

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Startled, Matthew wasn't sure why Billy would ask that out of the blue. After pondering on the topic for a bit, he replied, "I've never thought about it, but there are other things that I must do."

"By that, do you mean revenge?" Billy questioned in a hushed voice.

Matthew's heart skipped a beat. Could it be that he already found out my identity?

Instead of looking at Matthew, Billy opted to fix his gaze on somewhere faraway. "Your name should be well-known throughout the country considering your superb medical skills. Yet, you chose to hide yourself in Eastcliff, not even allowing word about your medical skills to spread. This means you are ambitious. For now, you are gathering up strength, as well as waiting for the opportunity to strike. Nobody would act like you unless they are aiming for blood vengeance."

Matthew was shaken by Billy's analysis, which confirmed that Billy was no ordinary man. Although Billy never made much of a public appearance, he could read people well, and was consequently able to have everything under his control. He would remain perfectly still until it was the right moment to strike, during which he would aim to kill.

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Billy burst into laughter. "Well said! You know what is most important to you!" With that, he stood up to walk up to the railing. "It has been eighteen years. It's time for me to leave."

What he said caught Matthew off guard, which prompted him to ask in shock, "Where are you going, Mr. Newman?"

Billy let out a chuckle. "It's just as you said. I won't run away from my responsibilities."

The statement stunned Matthew. Considering Billy's status, he should have already accomplished all of the goals he set in life. Besides, he was still the First King of Eastcliff. If he needed something done, all that was required of him would be to give a command. Then, people would flock in to carry out his orders. There was no need for him to personally attend to anything.

"I'm afraid I don't get what you mean, Master Newman." Matthew was being honest.

Billy cast him a glance before posing a question. "You'll know when the time comes. All I want to know is if you will be able to devour all of the Ten Greatest Families within a year?"

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Chapter 733

Dumbfounded by Billy's question, Matthew could only stare at him in awe; he didn't even know what to say. I don't get it. Why would he want me to take over the Ten Families?

At the same time, Billy was watching his reaction calmly. "I will be leaving this place, but Brittany won't be coming with me. As the First King of Eastcliff, I have made many enemies throughout the years. After I leave, Brittany won't be able to handle everything alone, so I need someone that I can trust to protect her."

After taking a deep breath, Matthew asked, "But why me, Mr. Newman?"

As a loyal and honorable man, Stanley had been working under Billy for many years, whereas Matthew had only known Billy for less than two months. Therefore, his decision to hand everything over to Matthew was mind-boggling.

Billy smiled. "I know what you mean. Although Stanley is definitely loyal to me, he's incapable of holding his own against the mob. Wealth isn't the only prerequisite as the First King of Eastcliff. Ruthlessness and willpower are also essential factors. You have to remember this—heavy is the head that wears the crown, and success is built on the failure of others. While Stanley is incapable of reaching such grandeur, you are. As for my reason to put my trust in you... Haha, do you remember the first thing you told me when you came to me after surviving the car crash?"

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After that, he was able to smash the windows and escape underwater, then he immediately hurried over to Billy's place. The first thing he told Billy was to protect Sasha and her parents. Despite his hesitation, he also added Demi and Liam to the list.

Back then, he had surmised that Liam and Demi might have been the ones who poisoned him. Nonetheless, he still chose to protect them, because he didn't want to risk causing distress to Sasha. After all, Demi was her sister.

Meanwhile, Billy was still staring at Matthew. "I probably wouldn't trust you as much if you only told me to protect Sasha and her parents. However, you chose to request for my protection over the two people who poisoned you, which indicates that you're a man of honor and principle. You are willing to forgive Demi and Liam for Sasha's sake even after what they did to you, so I believe you won't disappoint me if I entrust Brittany to you."

There was a brief silence before Matthew voiced his doubts. "Must you leave?"

In a soft voice, Billy replied, "It has been eighteen years. I would have left long ago if it weren't for Brittany. I should do what I should be doing since I have someone who I can entrust my back to. Otherwise, I won't be able to fight anymore if I wait for another few years!"

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After some thought, he gave Billy a suggestion. "Why not lay low for a few more years, and we can do this when we have gained more power? Won't that be better?"

However, Billy merely shook his head with a laugh. "That's impossible. I will still die even if I became the First King of the Six Southern States and seek revenge with the forces of all the states backing me up. No, I'm not seeking revenge. Instead, I merely wish to die a death that is befitting of me."

Shocked by Billy's words, Matthew couldn't help but wonder who his enemy might be. After all, someone who could annihilate Billy even if he somehow managed to attain sovereignty over the Six Southern States had to be someone incredible. It was even more perplexing that Billy insisted on charging to his death, and that he must die at the hands of that enemy of his.

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Chapter 734

Billy didn't offer any further explanation. After finishing his tea, he sent Matthew off. Brittany then saw Matthew off at the door. Blushing, she asked, "Matthew, c-can I hang out with you when I am bored?"

The girl didn't have a lot of friends. Knowing that Matthew saved her, she had been both grateful and a little clingy toward him. When Matthew recalled Billy's request, he chuckled. "Sure. I have a sister. I think you two will be good friends when you meet her."

Brittany was overjoyed. "That's great! I will go to you once I can leave the house!"

After giving Brittany a nod, Matthew left Billy's mansion with her gaze fixed on him. At the same time, Billy was watching him walk away from where he stood on the balcony. A few moments later, he muttered, "Yulia, I finally found someone who can protect Brittany. I can finally rest in the same place as you." Nobody knew the secrets he harbored; not even Stanley and Brittany.

Meanwhile, Stanley was already waiting for Matthew when he arrived at Carlson Group. Owen and Gordon's assets were taken over by Billy, and almost a third of it would subsequently be handed to Matthew.

Stanley made all the arrangements in person. The assets had to do with construction, so they were able to work perfectly in tandem with Matthew's company. Julian and Tiger had arrived when Matthew got there. Their presence was necessary because they were both familiar with the workings of the company, whereas Matthew didn't want to interfere with the management of these assets.

Soon, they completed all of the administrative processes, so the assets now officially belonged to Matthew. The way Stanley handled it was by restructuring all assets to form a new company where he dumped everything into. In essence, the company would be a subsidiary that was wholly owned by Matthew.

With everything settled, Matthew started giving his subordinates instructions. "Julian, put the matter at hand aside for now. Instead, come work on hiring as well as setting up the management structure of the new real estate company. In the meantime, Tiger will continue working in the construction company, but he will come to assist you as soon as the project on the villas is finished."

Both Julian and Tiger nodded, looking excited. With the expansion of Matthew's assets, they would also rise in status. Tiger was especially proud of having made a wise choice. If he had chosen to work against Matthew, he would have been long since dead, whereas working under Matthew earned him various assets and quick promotions.

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Before that, he was still hesitating to go after the reigning position in Eastcliff. After all, the city belonged to Billy, so he didn't want to snatch it away. However, now that Billy explicitly told him to do just that since he would be leaving, Matthew immediately began planning.

Although taking over the Ten Families might sound easy, it was anything but that. Not only must Matthew handle everything on his own, but Billy isn't allowed to assist him, or else the Ten Families would definitely throw a coup as soon as Billy was gone.

With Matthew's current power and influence, it would be hard for him to take over the Ten Families within a year. Nonetheless, he had to at least try. It wasn't only because it was Billy's final request, but also because he was seeking blood vengeance.

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Ever since the incident with the Whites, Sasha's family finally stopped wreaking havoc. Both James and Helen now treated Matthew with respect, no longer ordering him around in a condescending manner.

Liam and Demi became totally docile after that. Matthew's presence alone was enough to silence the both of them. After all, they felt guilty for nearly killing him. Other than that, Liam also had both ears reattached, but the surgery left a permanent scar on his face.

One afternoon, Matthew went to fetch Sasha after work. Natalie had almost recovered after a few days, so he was planning to bring Sasha along to Lakeside Garden. Just when the two of them got into the car, Sasha received a call from her mother. "Sasha, have you gotten off work? We're at The Court Parlour. Chloe and her family came to visit, and we decided to have dinner together."

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Upon hearing that, Helen chuckled. "Yeah. They literally just arrived from abroad. Jonah's company assigned him the role as a general manager at the local branch company, so he came back with his family. You need to come home as soon as possible. It has been a while since we saw them, so we should have a gathering."

Sasha was glad to hear that, for she hadn't seen Chloe and her family for years. When they left for abroad, Sasha was still a teenager. It had been almost ten years since then. Thus, Matthew and her drove to The Court Parlour, which was a luxurious restaurant.

Other than the Cunninghams, there were three other people seated in the private room when they entered the room. The proud woman who was adorned with jewelry was none other than Sasha's aunt, Chloe Freeman. Sitting beside her were two youths, who were Sasha's cousins.

Upon noticing Sasha, Chloe cried, "You... You must be Sasha! Oh, you have grown into such a beautiful girl after all these years! Come over here! Let me take a good look at you!"

Sasha obeyed with a smile, and then greeted her aunt sweetly. Meanwhile, Chloe was holding her hand while chuckling. "Oh, you only reached my shoulder when I left. You're now a lot taller than me after all these years! Girls sure do transform with age. You're growing ever more beautiful with each day! Come, Sasha. Allow me to introduce you to your cousins. He is Tate Campbell, and she is Minerva Campbell."

Without even sparing her a glance, her male cousin continued to scroll on his phone when he made a casual introduction. "You can call me Tate."

On the other hand, Minerva was taken aback when she first laid eyes on Sasha, but she was then quickly filled with envy. Upon glancing at her, Minerva started making sarcastic remarks. "I see, so she is my cousin. Tsk, you don't know anything about fashion. Women won't wear the clothes you wear. Don't you think they're outdated? Not a single woman living abroad would dress like they come from the countryside. Only people like you who stayed here would dress in such a lame fashion. Oh, but I suppose there's nothing you can do about it. After all, you live in a poor country, so of course you won't be up to date with the latest fashion."

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Chapter 735

All the while, Sasha listened on with an awkward look on her face. Why is she being so hostile toward me?

She had no idea that Minerva was a petty narcissist. When she saw Demi, she was so full of herself, for she assumed that the Cunninghams were all plain-looking. When she realized that Sasha was far prettier than her, she was immediately irked. Therefore, she chose to criticize Sasha's clothing to showcase her sense of superiority as someone who returned from abroad.

However, Chloe didn't seem to notice anything wrong about Minerva's criticisms. Instead, she chuckled. "Oh, Sasha. I think your cousin is right. Your clothes don't match at all, but this isn't your fault. This is how things are in Cathay. This place is just not as advanced as compared to other countries. Minerva studied fashion design, so why don't you let her help match your clothes?"

The Campbells spoke with an air of superiority, as if having lived abroad somehow made them better than the Cunninghams. It made James and Helen feel awkward, but neither dared speak up against them.

After all, Chloe had provided Helen a lot of assistance. Other than that, they shared a deep bond while growing up together. Therefore, Sasha didn't say anything either as she led Matthew to take a seat by the table.

"By the way, where is Jonah? Hasn't he returned?" Liam asked all of a sudden.

Upon hearing that, Minerva beamed. "Oh, my father has to dine with the company's regional president of the Floria Continent. You should bear in mind that my father will be the managing director of the company's branch in Cathay from now on. If he is able to accomplish the major project that the company has undertaken as of late, he will be promoted to becoming the regional president of Cathay. He is definitely considered as one of the higher-ups even in the headquarters, so the regional president will of course have to treat him with respect."

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On the other hand, Helen wore a smile on her face. "Oh, your father did a great job throughout the years. Chloe, I'm glad that you finally made it to the top."

Upon hearing that, Minerva cut her short. "Aunt Helen, that's not the right way to phrase it. We never needed to strive to stay afloat. Unlike you, we have always been at the top when we lived abroad. Besides, my father has always been working as a manager in the company, so his monthly salary could

amount to your income for over decades. Therefore, we never experienced any struggles. On the contrary, you must have had a hard time while in Cathay, right?"

Demi could no longer stand her arrogance. "Haha, how much is your father's monthly salary? How can it possibly amount to our income for over decades?"

Minerva seemed so self-conceited as she spoke. There was also a look of contempt in her eyes when she glanced at Sasha and her family, which Matthew couldn't help but perceive as her blatantly showing off her status and wealth.

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Upon hearing that, Minerva cut her short. "Aunt Helen, that's not the right way to phrase it. We never needed to strive to stay afloat. Unlike you, we have always been at the top when we lived abroad. Besides, my father has always been working as a manager in the company, so his monthly salary could amount to your income for over decades. Therefore, we never experienced any struggles. On the contrary, you must have had a hard time while in Cathay, right?"

Demi could no longer stand her arrogance. "Hoho, how much is your father's monthly salary? How can it possibly amount to our income for over decades?"

Minerva seemed so self-conceited as she spoke. There was also a look of contempt in her eyes when she glanced at Sasha and her family, which Matthew couldn't help but perceive as her blatantly showing off her status and wealth.

Pleased with herself, Minerva laughed. "His monthly salary is around twenty thousand, which is around a hundred and fifty thousand in Cathian currency. I remember my mother telling me that she used to have a monthly salary of a little more than four hundred, which would add to an annual salary of a meager five thousand. Doesn't that mean you will have to work for thirty years just to earn one hundred and fifty thousand?"

Pleased with herself, Minerva laughed. "His monthly salary is around twenty thousand, which is around a hundred and fifty thousand in Cathian currency. I remember my mother telling me that she used to have a monthly salary of a little more than four hundred, which would add to an annual salary of a meager five thousand. Doesn't that mean you will have to work for thirty years just to earn one hundred and fifty thousand?"

Everybody was rendered speechless by her ignorance, for the data she listed was from a long, long time ago. Thus, Sasha corrected Minerva. "That is from a long time ago. The salary in Cathay has since increased, so the basic monthly wage amounts to a few thousand nowadays."

Minerva snorted at Sasha's explanation, and she was about to mock her when Tate reached out to hold her arm. "Alright, let's not talk about this any longer." Then, he gave her a look before whispering into her ear. "Don't talk about this in their presence. Dad said that the Cunninghams are parasites. What if they decide to borrow money from us again?"

Minerva's expression changed drastically as soon as she heard that; she was suddenly on full alert toward the Cunninghams. Disgruntled, Demi was about to protest when the door swung open before a middle-aged man entered the room.

Pleased with herself, Minervo laughed. "His monthly solory is around twenty thousand, which is around o hundred ond fifty thousand in Cothion currency. I remember my mother telling me thot she used to hove o monthly solory of o little more than four hundred, which would odd to on onnuol solory of o meoger five thousand. Doesn't thot meon you will hove to work for thirty years just to eorn one hundred ond fifty thousand?"

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Chapter 736

Chloe was astonished to see the man. "Jonah, why are you here? Didn't the president invite you for a meal?"

The man was none other than Chloe's husband, Jonah Campbell. Right before he spoke, he coincidentally laid eyes on Sasha. The sight of her stunned him, but he managed to recollect himself quickly as he chuckled. "Oh, it's because President Gonzalez has something coming up. You know, our company is involved in a major project with Creative Cloud Group of Cathay. President Gonzalez has an appointment with the president of Creative Cloud Group, Miss Leanna Sandel, regarding the upcoming collaboration. Since I have yet to officially join the company, it's not appropriate for me to join the discussion, so I came here instead."

Minerva was astounded. "Is that true? Didn't you say that an appointment with Leanna Sandel is hard to come by? Not even our chairman got to meet her, so how did President Gonzalez secure an appointment with her? Could it be that you're reaching an agreement regarding the collaboration already?"

With a smile, Jonah nodded. "I suppose President Sandel realized we're being sincere regarding our offer. President Gonzalez went to wait on her as soon as we received news that President Sandel would be having dinner here."

Minerva was overjoyed upon being informed of that. "This is great! Dad, you will be the regional president of Gonzalez Corporation in the Cathay area if the negotiations are a success!" As she spoke, she gazed at the Cunninghams condescendingly, obviously showing off her family's success.

On the contrary, Demi wore a look of disdain. "It's not that hard to secure an appointment with Leanna. She would come as soon as Matthew gave her a call. This is nothing to be proud of." However, nobody heard what she muttered under her breath.

Meanwhile, Jonah waved his hand smilingly. "Oh, it's just a minor position. There's nothing to brag about. Come on, have a seat. We're all family, so let's enjoy the feast together!" He sat down at the spot opposite to the door after circling around the table. At the same time, he still had his eyes fixed on Sasha with a lecherous look in them.

Chloe was astonished to see the men. "Jonah, why are you here? Didn't the president invite you for a meal?"

The men were none other than Chloe's husband, Jonah Campbell. Right before he spoke, he coincidentally laid eyes on Seshe. The sight of her stunned him, but he managed to recollect himself quickly as he chuckled. "Oh, it's because President Gonzalez has something coming up. You know, our company is involved in a major project with Creative Cloud Group of Cethey. President Gonzalez has an appointment with the president of Creative Cloud Group, Miss Leanne Sendel, regarding the upcoming collaboration. Since I have yet to officially join the company, it's not appropriate for me to join the discussion, so I came here instead."

Minerva was astounded. "Is that true? Didn't you say that an appointment with Leanne Sendel is hard to come by? Not even our chairman got to meet her, so how did President Gonzalez secure an appointment with her? Could it be that you're reaching an agreement regarding the collaboration already?"

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Chloe was astonished to see the man. "Jonah, why are you here? Didn't the president invite you for a meal?"

The man was none other than Chloe's husband, Jonah Campbell. Right before he spoke, he coincidentally laid eyes on Sosho. The sight of her stunned him, but he managed to recollect himself quickly as he chuckled. "Oh, it's because President Gonzalez has something coming up. You know, our company is involved in a major project with Creative Cloud Group of Cothoy. President Gonzalez has an appointment with the president of Creative Cloud Group, Miss Leonno Sondel, regarding the upcoming collaboration. Since I have yet to officially join the company, it's not appropriate for me to join the discussion, so I come here instead."

Minervo was astounded. "Is that true? Didn't you say that an appointment with Leonno Sondel is hard to come by? Not even our chairman got to meet her, so how did President Gonzalez secure an appointment with her? Could it be that you're reaching an agreement regarding the collaboration already?"

With a smile, Jonah nodded. "I suppose President Sondel realized we're being sincere regarding our offer. President Gonzalez went to wait on her as soon as we received news that President Sondel would be having dinner here."

Minervo was overjoyed upon being informed of that. "This is great! Dad, you will be the regional president of Gonzalez Corporation in the Cothoy area if the negotiations are a success!" As she spoke, she glared at the Cunninghams condescendingly, obviously showing off her family's success.

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Minarva was astounded. "Is that true? Didn't you say that an appointment with Laanna Sandal is hard to come by? Not even our chairman got to meet her, so how did President Gonzalaz secure an appointment with her? Could it be that you're reaching an agreement regarding the collaboration already?"

With a smile, Jonah nodded. "I suppose President Sandal realized we're being sincere regarding our offer. President Gonzalaz wants to wait on her as soon as we receive news that President Sandal would be having dinner here."

Minarva was overjoyed upon being informed of that. "This is great! Dad, you will be the regional president of Gonzalaz Corporation in the Cathay area if the negotiations are a success!" As she spoke, she glared at the Cunninghams condescendingly, obviously showing off her family's success.

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Chloe didn't seem to have noticed her husband's odd behavior as she laughed. "Helen, you should go abroad if you have time to spare. You'll find out that foreign countries are drastically different from Cathay. For example, I nearly suffocated as soon as I stepped off the plane. Cathay has poor air quality, whereas the air abroad is refreshing. I was worried that I would find it hard to adapt to life abroad back then, but you know what? I fell in love with the place as soon as I got there! Geez, Cathay can't even begin to compare with that place. Cathay is so poor and underdeveloped. Compared to foreign countries, this place is utter hell!"

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Upon hearing that, Helen smiled awkwardly. "Well, that's not necessarily the case. Cathay has been making great progress as of late."

Minerva smirked in response. "Great progress? Aunt Helen, that's bold of you to make such claims! How dare you spew such nonsense without having ever gone abroad? Cathay is at least a hundred years behind the West in terms of development. What proof do you have to back your claim?"

That instantly riled the Cunninghams up; they perceived Minerva's words as a slight. At the same time, Matthew wore a frown before making a casual remark. "You're exaggerating things. If you trace the

West's history back to a century ago, you won't even see cars on the streets. Following that line of logic, you wouldn't even be able to contact us on mobile phones if we really are a century behind them."

Being talked back at infuriated Minerva. "What do you mean by that? Why are you getting all riled up when I was merely giving an example to illustrate how underdeveloped Cathay is? It's true that Cathay is lagging in terms of economy, and it is so underdeveloped! I don't see what's wrong with pointing out the truth. Haha, you sure lack self-confidence. You won't be able to command respect from anybody else if you behave like that."

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His words amused the Cunninghams, for he was outright mocking Minerva for fabricating lies, which visibly irked her. Before she could bite back, Helen stepped in to smooth things over. "Oh, we're family, so let's not argue about these! Come, give us the menu! We'd like to order our food."

After the waiter brought them the menu, Helen handed it to Chloe. "Have a look and order away. You must have missed the local cuisine after spending so many years abroad. I suppose you don't get to have local Cathian dishes often, right? You can order whatever you like!"

Upon hearing that, Chloe gladly took the menu. "To be honest, I don't actually miss local food. As you might know, we get to feast on wine and lavish meals often while abroad. Now that I've returned, I no longer feel like having the cheap stuff that we used to have. Come on, Tate, Minnie, take a look and see if you have anything that you might want."

Tate was still tapping away on his phone. "Just order me a steak."

Pouting, Minerva didn't take the menu either. "Steak? Don't forget that you're in Cathay, so don't ask for the impossible! Didn't Mom used to say that they could only have meat during festive occasions? There are online articles that indicate that the people of Cathay can't even afford eggs, so don't tell me you're expecting that they have steak here? You're being overly demanding to Aunt Helen's family!"

Tate was outraged when he heard that. "What do you suggest that I eat then? I don't care! I'm not having any sh*tty food! I want steak! Don't offer to buy a meal if you can't even afford steak!"

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Chapter 737

James and Helen had an awkward look on their faces upon witnessing how condescending Minerva and Tate were. No longer able to contain her anger this time, Demi slammed her hands on the table and snapped, "Alright, you want steak? You will have steak and nothing else!"

Still standing by the door, the waiter politely informed her, "I'm sorry, but we don't offer steak here."

Minerva smirked in response. "Oh, Demi, you don't have to pretend to be what you're not. From what I gather, it's illegal to butcher cows in Cathay, for cows are important farm animals in the farming industry. Tate, you might be sent to jail for ordering steak."

Demi flew into a greater rage when she heard that, which caused her to yell, "How could you not have any steak? How is this possible with such an established place?"

In an awkward tone, the waiter elaborated on his statement. "My apologies, but our restaurant operates on a membership basis, which is marketed toward high-end consumers. Thus, our customers don't usually order food that is of lesser grade."

That simple line startled everybody into silence, including the Campbells, who found the revelation jaw-dropping. After a while, Minerva shot up from her seat. "What the heck are you talking about? I dare you repeat that again! What do you mean by low-end stuff? Haven't you heard of steak? Only foreigners have them. It's just like in the movies! Have you ever seen one? How dare you claim that it's a low-end thing? How do uneducated people like you get a job here as a waiter?"

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Despite her hostility, the waiter managed a measured response. "Miss, I know what you're talking about. But still, I'm afraid we don't have food that is of lesser grade. Why don't you take a look at the menu to order something else?"

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Minerva's anger flared. "You sure know how to make things up! Alright, I will check on the so-called high-end stuff that you claim to serve!"

Upon checking the menu, Minerva widened her eyes so much that they almost popped out of their sockets. "T-T-This is utter b*llocks! Australian abalone? You have this here? And t-this caviar? This is impossible! Don't you know how expensive this is? French foie gras? You must be kidding me! We're in Cathay, so how can we even get French foie gras? What the heck is this? A 1982 Chateau Lafite Rothschild? Do you even know how much it costs per bottle? Didn't you just fabricate all of this just so you can come up with this sorry excuse for a menu?"

All the while, Chloe was also frowning. "Helen, are people in Cathay this extravagant nowadays? Although Cathians were poor back when I still lived here, they were at least honest. What kind of foolery is this now? Oh, we're family, so you don't have to put up an act in front of us. I would be happy even if you buy me a bowl of noodles. In fact, I'm happy just to meet you even if you don't treat me to anything!"

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With that, Helen took a deep breath. “Chloe, times have changed. To put it simply, this restaurant isn’t nearly as accessible as you might have assumed. You’ll have to pay a sum of five hundred thousand for the membership card alone, and you can easily spend hundreds of thousands on a single meal.”

Chloe’s eyes went wide in shock. “This can’t be! Helen, don’t go around spewing nonsense. How can a meal cost you tens of thousands? What currency do you even use? Is it some low currency?”

Demi pouted indignantly. “Of course it’s Cathian currency! It would be around twenty thousand in your currency!”

By that point, it was Tate and Minerva’s turn to gape at them. “Y-You must be lying! How can you possibly spend twenty thousand just for a meal?”

If Helen was slightly annoyed in the beginning, she was brought to the verge of tears by Chloe’s words. Chloe and her shared such a close bond. Although Chloe might be quite arrogant and condescending, she treated Helen nicely. The sisterly bond they shared was authentic.

With that, Helen took a deep breath. “Chloe, times have changed. To put it simply, this restaurant isn’t nearly as accessible as you might have assumed. You’ll have to pay a sum of five hundred thousand for the membership card alone, and you can easily spend hundreds of thousands on a single meal.”

Chloe’s eyes went wide in shock. “This can’t be! Helen, don’t go around spewing nonsense. How can a meal cost you tens of thousands? What currency do you even use? Is it some low currency?”

Demi pouted indignantly. “Of course it’s Cathian currency! It would be around twenty thousand in your currency!”

By that point, it was Tate and Minerva’s turn to gape at them. “Y-You must be lying! How can you possibly spend twenty thousand just for a meal?”

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Chapter 738

Demi smirked. "Why, why, you look surprised! Is it that shocking to know that a meal could cost twenty thousand? Just look at your faces!"

Minerva was momentarily startled before she spat begrudgingly, "Pooh! I don't believe what you said! This must be a scam! Whatever that the menu listed must be for show! I will be explicitly ordering these! You'd better have an explanation if it turns out that the dishes they serve don't match the description! Hmph!"

Immediately, Minerva began ordering away, with Tate following suit, no longer intent on having steak. In fact, they ordered anything that was labeled with the most ridiculous prices. When they were done, they stared at the entrance with a pointed look that was overtly hostile.

After all, neither of the siblings wanted to admit that the Cunninghams could lead a life that was even more luxurious than theirs while in Cathay. Therefore, they were determined to expose what they perceived to be a scam.

Soon, the dishes they ordered were served one after the other. As soon as the siblings saw the dishes, they were quite literally stunned. Having lived abroad, they were considered somewhat cultured, so they could recognize that all of the dishes were authentic delicacies.

At that moment, Demi snickered. "How is it? Do you still feel like reporting this as a scam? Come on, give this fresh French foie gras a go! The Australian abalones were airlifted from abroad. Oh, and here is the caviar! Here, try them! This stuff is priced by grams. How do they taste?"

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The only times they got to have a taste of these dishes were when their rich friends bought them a meal. Even then, they only had a small amount, and with limited choices. Therefore, it was unprecedented for them to be able to order away as they wished, as well as be able to eat all they wanted.

Other than the above, they also ordered two bottles of 1982 Chateau Lafite Rothschild. While neither sibling ever tasted the wine, Jonah did, so he could discern if it was real as soon as he tasted it. By then, the siblings were totally baffled.

The two bottles of wine alone would cost around two hundred thousand, while the dishes would cost them tens of thousands, which was a relatively small amount that could be ignored. In short, the meal would easily cost them three hundred thousand.

Throughout the meal, the siblings were enjoying the delicacies so much that they didn't have the space of mind to think about anything else. It wasn't until they were almost full that they realized the meal could cost a fortune.

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Tate’s expression changed as soon as he heard that. “Oh, that might very likely happen! Mom used to say that they were poor. In fact, they had nothing! Besides, her husband likes to take advantage of people’s kindness. I bet they’re planning to take advantage of us by bringing us for a meal here!”

Hearing that sent Minerva into a panic. “We can’t let that happen! A few hundred thousand Cathian money would be around forty thousand! Our family can’t afford that! We have to get out of this scam! For starters, why don’t we find an excuse to lead Mom and Dad away?”

With a nod, Tate agreed to the plan that he deemed to be brilliant. Meanwhile, Chloe hadn’t noticed what her children were up to, as she was appraising Matthew smilingly. “Sasha, who might this gentleman be?”

After being mocked by Minerva when she entered the room, Sasha forgot to even introduce Matthew to her. Upon hearing that, she announced proudly, “Aunt Chloe, he’s my husband, Matthew Larson. He works as a doctor in a hospital.”

Chloe pushed her glasses up her nose to examine Matthew once again with a contemptuous look. “A doctor... How much does he earn every month working as a doctor in Cathay?”

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Matthew gave an honest reply. "Um, my monthly salary as a doctor is around five thousand. Topped with bonuses, it will be around seven thousand."

Minerva's eyes went wide. "Seven thousand? It doesn't even amount to a thousand in our currency! Gosh, are doctors such a low-paying job in Cathay?"

Hearing that, Chloe waved her hand. "Hey, watch what you say, Minerva. A few thousand is considered a high salary in Cathay. Back in the days, I only earned four to five hundred a month."

Pouting, Minerva whispered to Tate, "See? I told you. With their salary, they could only possibly come for a meal here once every dozens of years. They must be thinking of pinning the bill on us. We have to lead Mom and Dad away in a bit!"

With a vehement nod, Tate agreed to the suggestion. Meanwhile, Chloe was examining Matthew with a condescending look in her eyes. "Young man, your salary isn't that high to begin with. Considering her beauty, my niece could have had anybody if she were abroad. Don't you think your marriage is unfair for her?"

Sasha was prompted to counter that almost immediately. "Aunt Chloe, Matthew actually has other sources of income—"

Waving her hand, Chloe cut her short. "What? He works part time? How much can he earn even if he does have a second job? Helen, why are you being so foolish? Is Sasha's marriage a joke to you? How could you allow someone of his caliber to marry Sasha? You're putting her at a disadvantage!"

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Chloe then reprimanded, "I, for one, hate incapable men. Grow a spine, and work to build your own career! Doesn't the fact that he married into your family count as him being overly reliant on you? Helen, why did you make such a foolish decision when I'm not with you? How could you marry your daughter to a spineless wimp?"

Still wearing an awkward expression, Helen waved her hand. "Chloe, things aren't how they seem. In fact, I think Matthew is a good kid—"

Chloe pouted immediately. "A good kid? He wouldn't have married into your family if that was the case! Alright, stop glorifying him. I will not stand to see my niece being treated less than she deserves now that I am here! You two should file for a divorce tomorrow."

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In fact, Chloe had become extremely snobbish ever since getting rich. From her point of view, she was acting as the Cunninghams' savior. Therefore, she behaved like a family elder who would take charge of everything in the family.

Sasha protested the idea then. "What are you even suggesting, Aunt Chloe? Why do I need to divorce Matthew when we're doing great?"

Chloe frowned after hearing that. "You silly child. Why are you being so stubborn? How could he be a good match for you considering his salary? What good is there being married to him? Women shouldn't sell themselves short! Don't you worry. Once you get divorced with him, I'll introduce you to our boss' son. He'll definitely like you! He has a net worth of hundreds of millions. Besides, standing at over six feet tall, he is extremely handsome. He's simply better than Matthew in any and all aspects!"

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Chapter 740

Exasperated, Sasha snapped, "Aunt Chloe, you don't have to worry about me. I can make my own decisions. No matter how much money he earns, I want him as my husband. Even if he doesn't go to work, he'll be the man who I love the most. I will never divorce him!" With a faint smile, Matthew held her hand.

Chloe was disappointed over Sasha's decision. "You foolish child. Do you think I will do you harm? I have your best interests in mind! H-How dare you disobey me?"

Minerva was wearing a smirk. "Wow, I never knew you like having wimps like him as your husband, Sasha. However, he doesn't even look handsome. What do you like about him? His skills in bed?"

An awkward silence hung heavy in the air due to her question, which seemed to have also riled Chloe up. "What nonsense are you even talking about, Minnie?"

Sasha's face was red from anger. "You have no say in my business! Besides, none of you have any right to criticize Matthew like that!"

Hearing that only served to infuriate Chloe. "Why don't I have a say in that? Sasha, since when did you become like this? Why can't I at least comment on a man who isn't making anything of himself? I am your aunt, and I played a role in caring for you when you were young! Why don't I have a say in who you marry?" Sasha was rendered speechless by her counter, as Chloe was, in fact, her aunt.

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The occupants in the room exchanged furtive glances with each other before Minerva shot up from her seat in agitation. "W-Who ordered the Romanee Conti? Don't you know how much these cost? I-I've had enough! Aunt Helen, why would you do this to us? I will forgive you for imposing on our kindness by bringing us for a meal here. However, this is going way overboard. The meal alone costs tens of thousands in our country's currency, so are you planning to see my family go broke by ordering not one, but two bottles of Romanee Conti? A bottle of these would cost a million. With two, that would be two million. Are you nuts?"

Tate also stood up from his seat to lead Chloe away. "Mom, Dad, let's leave. They will have to pay for their meal on their own. Do they think we're idiots? Even if we're willing to allow them to take advantage of us, this is ridiculous!"

On the other hand, Helen and the rest were also stunned. "Hold on, Chloe. This must be a mistake. Waiter, we didn't order any Romanee Conti."

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The occupants in the room exchanged furtive glances with each other before Minerva shot up from her seat in agitation. "W-Who ordered the Romanee Conti? Don't you know how much these cost? I-I've had enough! Aunt Helen, why would you do this to us? I will forgive you for imposing on our kindness by bringing us for a meal here. However, this is going way overboard. The meal alone costs tens of thousands in our country's currency, so are you planning to see my family go broke by ordering not one, but two bottles of Romanee Conti? A bottle of these would cost a million. With two, that would be two million. Are you nuts?"

Tate also stood up from his seat to lead Chloe away. "Mom, Dad, let's leave. They will have to pay for their meal on their own. Do they think we're idiots? Even if we're willing to allow them to take advantage of us, this is ridiculous!"

On the other hand, Helen and the rest were also stunned. "Hold on, Chloe. This must be a mistake. Waiter, we didn't order any Romanee Conti."

At that moment, the room door opened and in came a waiter with two bottles of wine. "Dear guests, here's the 1995 Romanee Conti as you ordered. Would you like it uncorked now?"

The waiter smiled at them. "Oh, allow me to explain. These two bottles of wine are on the house. Aside from that, our boss has also paid for your expenses tonight. Would you like to have the wine here, or would you like to take them away? We can wrap them up for you if you would like to take them with you."

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The explanation left everybody in the room dumbfounded. Meanwhile, Minerva's eyes went wide. "Hey, a-are you serious? Is your boss really giving them to us as a present? Are you sure that's what your boss told you? Repeat that. I'm going to make a recording. After all, I don't want you to accuse us of anything once we uncorked the wine."

The waiter stared into her eyes in all seriousness. "Miss, feel free to record what I said. I will take responsibility for my own words. These two bottles of wine are indeed a present from our boss, who has also paid for all of your expenses tonight."

Stupefied, Minerva was still staring at the wine wide-eyed. Apparently, she was unable to grasp the situation. All of a sudden, she shuddered as she was hit with a realization. "Dad, could the boss be your friend?"

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