

M Genius 791

Chapter 791

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"Congratulations, Mr. Cunningham. If his girlfriend actually has a driver's license, you won't need to take responsibility at all! Conversely, since your car ended up trashed from the accident, you should get appropriate compensation for it!"

James was overjoyed. "Really? C-Can we do that? You're not lying to me, are you?"

On the other hand, Jonah panicked and frantically said, "You're kidding me, right? Don't you know how the law works? Joanna doesn't even know them, so how could she borrow his car? That car was lent to my son!"

However, James completely ignored Jonah and said softly, "Since this young lady was the one who drove it, it naturally means that the car was lent to her. As for who drove it later, that's between that young lady and that other person—it has nothing to do with Mr. Cunningham."

James burst into raucous laughter. "This is great! This is just great! I told you that this has nothing to do with me. This is your son's mess, so you should clean it up yourself, Jonah. Hmph, it's got nothing to do with me at all!" As he spoke, James dashed over to Matthew's side and gave him a hard thump on the shoulder. "Great job, Matthew! This lawyer's a professional, and I've really got nothing else to say! Please thank him on my behalf later on!"

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James nodded repeatedly. "You're right! We're a bunch of reasonable people! Heh, what do you think now, Jonah?"

Jonah's face was red with rage. All of a sudden, he said through gritted teeth, "You're lying! I've already asked my son, and he was the one who took the car then. I-In other words, you lent the car to my son!"

James was astounded, for he hadn't expected Jonah to be so shameless as to try and twist the facts around so brazenly. "You're the one who's lying! Your son's girlfriend was the one who drove the car! I saw it with my own eyes, and my wife did so too. Hey, you... Don't try to prove things that didn't happen!" James roared angrily.

Jonah gave a cold chuckle. "Do you think that your word goes just because you said so? What proof do you have? Hmph, in my opinion, no one would believe that you lent such an expensive car to a stranger."

James was speechless for a moment. After all, he had no way of rebutting those words.

Right then, Craig walked over again. "Mr. Cunningham, where did you lend your car to them?"

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Craig nodded and smiled lightly. "When I first came here, I saw a surveillance camera in the yard. The camera footage should be the best way to prove things!"

James' eyes lit up, and he immediately said in excitement, "That's right—I've got cameras in my yard! Joanne was the one who drove the car. I saw it clearly, and the cameras would have captured everything! Are you still thinking about putting the blame on me? Keep dreaming, Jonah!"

Jonah was dumbstruck; he had really been twisting the facts around, and he was reluctant to admit that his son was the one who had driven the car. He hadn't expected for there to be cameras in the yard, so he couldn't possibly wriggle out of the situation right now.

Craig glanced at Jonah. "Falsifying proof and wrongfully accusing others is also against the law," he said slowly in a casual tone. Mr. Campbell, I hope that you will think things through carefully before you speak next time!"

James had a pained smile on his face. "He's got that right. You'd better watch out for a slender lawsuit if you keep accusing me wrongfully. Hehehe..."

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Chapter 792

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There was no other way out, so he could only shoot Chloe a look.

Chloe had already been awake for a while, and she immediately burst into tears. "Oh, my son! What should I do now? Helen, I don't want to keep living anymore! I only have my son; if something happens to him, I... I'd rather be dead!"

Helen hastily held onto her. "Don't worry, Chloe. I'll find a way to help you. Please, Mr. Manning—I'm begging you this. Can't you help us?"

Craig looked at Matthew, and the latter gave a slight nod. After all, he knew very well that Helen would keep dragging this out if they didn't resolve this matter.

"I've explained things very clearly earlier. This is mainly a problem of compensation and whether the victim is able to forgive the perpetrator. If we can resolve these problems, we can also try to resolve the other remaining problems," Craig answered.

"You hear that, Chloe?" Helen hastily asked. "No one actually died, s-so this matter is still something that can be resolved. We'll just have to pay a bit more, but won't everything be okay by then?"

"W-Well, how much do we need to pay?" Chloe asked frantically.

Helen looked at Craig, and the latter was exasperated. "This really isn't something that's easy to say. From my experience, I presume it will start with one million at the very least!"

"What?!" Chloe exclaimed in panic. "No one's dead, so why do we have to pay one million to them? Isn't this... crossing the line?"

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Chloe was tongue-tied for a moment. After a moment of silence, she burst into tears again. "W-Where am I going to get a million?"

Demi, who had been chuckling coldly all this while, suddenly piped up and said, "Hey, Aunt Chloe—all of you returned from abroad. I heard that those foreign countries are gold mines. How can you not even have one million in the bank? Not only that, Uncle Jonah's also a senior executive at a foreign company; who knows how much his salary is? Hundreds of thousands?"

Meanwhile, James snickered as he looked at Jonah and the others in jest.

The Cunninghams had been sick of all their blabbering; ever since those four came back, they wouldn't shut up about how their lives were while they were overseas. Now that Demi had taken the opportunity to snipe at them, she had earned James' favor.

Jonah and Chloe's faces reddened, for they felt that they were being put on the spot. Although they boasted about spending the last few years abroad, their lifestyle was just an average one in reality. Chloe didn't work, and Jonah was the sole breadwinner. Once they deducted all their expenses from Jonah's monthly salary from his job at the foreign company, they didn't have much left.

In truth, they had always rented during their time abroad—they didn't have their own property. The main reason why Jonah was able to come back and work as a general manager was only because of how much importance the head office had placed on this project. They needed a local to handle this matter, and Jonah just so happened to be from Eastcliff. The head office had taken note of this, and this was the only reason why they made him return to become the head manager here.

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Meanwhile, their thoughts were still stuck in the past during those years they were abroad—they still had the impression that their nation was poor and undeveloped like all those years before they left. They had also seen the news reports; many articles had been cherry picked to paint a particular picture about how their countrymen couldn't even afford to buy eggs to eat, how pickles were a luxury, and how their countrymen were only able to eat meat once a year during the new year.

To the Campbells, their home country was still as poor and backward as ever; their lives abroad could make the local tycoons' lives look like a mere peasant's. That was the reason why they obnoxiously tooted their own horn when they returned to their home country; they had made themselves out to be better than others, and they wouldn't shut up about how life was overseas.

In truth, this was all just an act. While their lives looked dazzling on the surface, their pockets were actually empty after they returned from abroad. Scrounging up 300,000 would be a herculean feat, let alone a million!

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Chapter 793

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"Won't you have enough money if you sell the house off? You're going to be staying here for a long while anyway, so it'd be useless to keep that house overseas!" Demi said with her lips pursed.

Chloe was only bluffing, for they didn't actually have a house.

Upon hearing Demi's words, Chloe couldn't speak for a while. At last, all she could do was weep. "Why are you so cruel, Demi? That house is supposed to be for your brother when he gets married in the future. How is he going to be able to find a wife if the house is sold? Oh Helen, I-I truly do not wish to live anymore..."

Helen shot a glare at Demi. "Shut your mouth and go back to your room! You're no help staying here—all you do is act sarcastic!"

Demi pursed her lips. "Fine, fine, I'll stop talking. That works, right?"

Helen shot a glare at her again, and then she looked hopefully at Sasha. "Why don't you help your aunt out, Sasha? Aunt Chloe was so nice to you when you were a young girl. You—"

Sasha felt a headache forming.

What's going on? Why is this being dumped on me again? Do I have to help bail her family out because her son didn't want to listen to reason and ended up getting himself into trouble?

In truth, if things were simple enough that the matters could be resolved by lending Chloe some money, Sasha wouldn't have minded it at all. After all, Chloe had indeed been good to her. However, the problem was that Jonah had run to Sasha and her family only because he wanted to use them. That didn't sit well with Sasha.

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“You’re a board member at the company, so can’t you think of something else?” Helen asked frantically.

“Something else? Are you expecting me to use the company’s public funds? Do you want me to end up in prison with him too?” Seshe exclaimed angrily.

Meanwhile, Helen was so furious that she couldn’t say a word.

Right then, Minerva suddenly piped up and said, “Seshe, saving Tete is more important. Why don’t you mortgage the car first for some money to rescue him?”

The Cunninghems were stunned speechless, for they were all shocked to the core by that shameless suggestion. Truth be told, none of them had thought that the Campbells would be able to say something so brazen.

Tate was the one who wouldn't listen to others' advice, and he ended up in a car accident. Yet, the Campbells were expecting the Cunninghems to mortgage their car so that they could have enough money to save Tate from prison. Most importantly, they said that in such a matter-of-fact manner!

What right did the Campbells have to say that? Did the Cunninghems owe them?

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However, Demi couldn't be bothered with such decorum, and she immediately let her fury show. "Do you even f*cking have your head screwed on right? Why should we mortgage our car? Don't you guys have your own car—a BMW at that? Go mortgage that one instead! He's your own brother, so shouldn't you and your family be the ones worrying about him?"

Minerva had an awkward look on her face. "Demi, we're all family, right? W-We really can't do anything else. Besides, a million is a huge sum for us, but it's just pocket change for you."

"Bullsh*t!" Demi bit out angrily. "Who has the nerve to say that one million is pocket change?"

"Regardless of the sum, the family of the one responsible should be the one paying. We don't owe you anything, so why are you trying to get us to pay instead?" Liam said softly.

Minerva stood up, her face livid. "Fine, I get it now. What kind of relatives are you? You're just a bunch of selfish people! You guys clearly know that we don't have any money, but you refuse to help us even with such a small matter. I've finally figured out what kind of people those relatives of yours are, Mom. You sing their praises and complimented them, but when push comes to shove, none of them will step up! Forget it, let's just leave. Just seeing them makes me want to puke!"

Sasha took in a few deep breaths before she managed to calm herself. She was truly worried that she would not be able to stop herself from tearing into the Campbells.

However, Demi couldn't be bothered with such decorum, and she immediately let her fury show. "Do you even f*cking have your head screwed on right? Why should we mortgage our car? Don't you guys have your own car—a BMW at that? Go mortgage that one instead! He's your own brother, so shouldn't you and your family be the ones worrying about him?"

Minerva had an awkward look on her face. "Demi, we're all family, right? W-We really can't do anything else. Besides, a million is a huge sum for us, but it's just pocket change for you."

"Bullsh*t!" Demi bit out angrily. "Who has the nerve to say that one million is pocket change?"

“Regardless of the sum, the family of the one responsible should be the one paying. We don’t owe you anything, so why are you trying to get us to pay instead?” Liam said softly.

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Minarva had an awkward look on har faca. “Dami, wa’ra all family, right? W-Wa raally can’t do anything alsa. Basidas, a million is a huga sum for us, but it’s just pockat changa for you.”

“Bullsh*t!” Dami bit out angrily. “Who has tha narva to say that ona million is pockat changa?”

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Chapter 794

Upon seeing this, Helen hastily stopped Minerva. “Come on, Minerva—don’t be angry! Demi, Liam, go back to your rooms. This isn’t something for you to comment on!” Helen stated angrily.

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Demi had a mutinous look on her face, so Helen grabbed a glass from the table and hurled it while she yelled, “You guys insist on testing my temper, right?”

It was only then that Demi put a lid on her behavior and brought Liam with her to go back to their rooms.

Helen then whirled on Sasha. “I’ll ask you this—are you going to help or not?”

James immediately said, "Don't help them, Sasha!"

Helen jumped up and flipped the coffee table over. "My words end here today, James. This involves my sister, so I will help her! You won't give us the money? Fine! I'll raise the sum myself! I'll sell off everything I have, and if that's not enough, I'll sell my blood and my kidneys. I must get that money! If you have a conscience, remember to wrap me in a burial shroud before you lay me in the dirt when I die, Sasha. I won't have given birth to you and raised you for nothing if you don't leave my corpse to lie out there with no dignity!"

Having finished her rant, Helen dragged Chloe out with her in an angry huff.

Sasha immediately grabbed Helen to stop her. "W-What are you doing, Mom? C-Can't you please be more reasonable?"

Upon seeing this, Helen hostilely stopped Minervo. "Come on, Minervo—don't be ongrly! Demi, Liom, go bock to your rooms. This isn't something for you to comment on!" Helen stoted ongrily.

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"How am I being unreasonable now? Let me ask you this—how did Aunt Chloe treat you back then? One should repay the kindness shown to them. Is this how you repay your aunt? I'm telling you that I cannot do something as ungrateful as that. Your aunt's business is my business. Since you won't help her, I'll do it myself!" Helen said in fury.

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Helen was about to leave again when James quickly spoke up. "Hey, can you stop throwing a tantrum?"

Helen charged forward and scratched at him. "Who's throwing a tantrum? Who? Am I supposed to ignore my own sister when she's in trouble? I ended up suffering a lot with you when I first married into the family. Did I ever complain about it? When we were at our most broke and experiencing the worst hardship we ever faced, who helped us? Are you looking down on us because you're rich now? Fine then, I'll leave right this instant! Go find some sk*nk to spend your life with!"

James was well and utterly speechless. After all, he was helpless when faced with Helen's madness.

As he watched Helen walk toward the door, the only thing James could do was speak to Sasha helplessly. "Never mind. Sasha, please... help them this time. Your mother is someone who will walk the walk with that personality of hers. If she actually sells her blood and organs with her current physical condition, how can we let her be?"

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Sasha let out a sigh. She was absolutely incensed on the inside, but she also had no other options.

"Okay, I'll help them out, Mom. Is that fine?" Sasha asked in a low tone.

It was then that Helen stopped in her tracks. "That's the thing to do! You have to repay your aunt! Don't worry, Chloe—we'll definitely help you!"

Chloe's anger transformed into joy, and she quickly said, "You're the best, Helen!"

Helen smiled and nodded, and then she looked at Sasha. "Well, hurry up and get the money then!"

Sasha was exasperated. "What money? At the very least, we need to know how much you're supposed to pay. By the way, Aunt Chloe—how much money can your family afford to put up?"

Chloe froze for a moment. "M-My family?"

"That's right! Since your son is involved, your family should definitely be the one doing the heavy lifting. Put up some money first, and I'll help you out with the rest!"

Chloe scratched her head and looked at Jonah.

Jonah shook his head gently, and Chloe's expression was downcast. After gritting her teeth for a moment, she suddenly spoke up. "W-We don't have that much money on hand right now. At most... we'll only be able to spare 20,000!"

Sasha's eyes widened. "20,000? Aunt Chloe, a-are you joking?"

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Chapter 795

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What a serious problem it was—it would need a million at least.

And yet, you're only contributing 20,000? How's that fair? You're not being sincere at all!

Even though we're supposed to top up the remaining amount, what you're doing is no different from not contributing at all—it seems like my family is paying the full amount!

Sure enough, the Cunninghams now had a completely new understanding of the Campbells from this incident—they were truly shameless on a whole new level that was beyond their imagination.

However, Chloe said in resignation, "It's not that I'm not willing to pay more, Sasha—we really can't afford it."

"We just bought a house, and we've spent all our money on it. We also bought a lot of things after returning home this time, so that's another huge sum. This 20,000 is all we have left in our savings. If we give it to you, w-we don't even know if we'll be able to survive this month!"

Sasha was overwhelmed by her sudden pleading. This isn't a reality show, so what's the point of acting so miserable? Your children are swiping credit cards and living luxuriously every single day, and it doesn't seem like you're short on money at all.

"Whatever it is, t-this amount is still too little, Aunt Chloe!" Sasha replied in resignation.

Minerva chimed in and added hastily, "Do you think we'd be doing this if we really had the money, Sasha?"

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"Aunt Helen, you wouldn't want to see us begging on the streets, right?"

Upon hearing that, Helen quickly said, "Don't worry, sweetie. I'm here. Come on, Sasha." She sighed and continued, "Can't you save me some trouble for once? You have such a huge company—it's worth at least more than a billion. How hard is it to fork out a million? Besides, Matthew's construction company and its subsidiary, Wellness Herbary, are worth a lot of money too. Isn't it just a million? Why are you being so fussy about it?"

Sasha immediately turned to her mother and said, "T-This isn't about the money, Mom. It's about the attitude!"

Helen responded angrily, "You're right. It's an attitude problem—your attitude is absolutely rotten! Look at how you're treating your aunt and cousins! I'm telling you this—you've gone too far this time!"

Sasha's head started spinning, but she couldn't say anything in return. She could only wave her hand dismissively to calm her mother's frustration. "Sure sure, whatever you say. All right, I'll cover the entire amount. Keep the 20,000 to yourself too. I hope you're happy now!"

Chloe finally put on a broad grin. "Thank you so much, Sasha. I knew I wasn't wrong to take care of you so well!"

Sasha didn't want to hear any of those words.

Just then, Matthew said, "I'd have to trouble you to take care of the rest, Mr. Manning. When the time comes, just let us know how much you need. "

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Mr. Manning immediately replied in a respectful tone, "Don't you worry, Mr. Larson. I'll handle it from here."

Matthew nodded with a smile. "Thank you, Mr. Manning!"

Mr. Manning seemed to be pleasantly surprised by Matthew's earnesty, so he quickly said, "Don't mention it, Mr. Larson. It's an honor to be of your service!"

Then, the lawyer took his leave ahead. Chloe looked at Matthew in astonishment and asked, "Why was that lawyer so exceptionally polite to you, Matthew? Are you guys close?"

Matthew replied, "Yeah, he's a mutual friend."

With that, Chloe didn't linger on the topic. She simply said to him, "In that case, you really need to get him to work harder, Matthew. Tate can't go to jail, okay? He's our family's hope, and he has always treated Sasha like a sister. You're his brother-in-law, so you have to protect him!"

Matthew didn't answer, for this wasn't an easy matter to resolve.

Meanwhile, Minerva chimed in from the side and said, "Don't worry, Mom. Since Sasha has already agreed to help, nothing can go wrong! As the president of a company, wouldn't it be shameful if she can't even handle something like this?"

Sasha took in a deep breath; she almost couldn't hold herself back from landing a slap on Minerva's face.

This woman's mouth was still full of passive aggressiveness even at this stage—how unbearable she was!

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Chapter 796

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Meanwhile, Helen continued to ramble on and said, "You need to settle the money quickly, Sasha. You can't let anything happen to your cousin. After all, your aunt..."

Sasha snapped back in frustration, "Stop it! I've already agreed to help him pay up. Is that not enough for you?"

With that, she dragged Matthew along and went upstairs.

Similarly, James slammed his hand against the table and bellowed, "Go on, go on! Keep it up and this family will be left with nothing one day because of you!"

Immediately after that, James headed inside as well and slammed the door shut.

Helen stood in the living room as tears streamed down her face. She said furiously, "How can you all be so ungrateful? If it weren't for your aunt back then..."

Despite her efforts, no one was listening; the incident tonight had physically and mentally exhausted the entire family.

The next day, Mr. Manning personally went over to settle the matter. He was one of the most influential lawyers at Carson Law Firm, and he was extremely well-connected as well.

After a long and busy day, he finally resolved the issue.

However, the required compensation was pretty hefty—it was a whopping 1.6 million.

That night, the Campbells gathered at the Cunningham Residence while Mr. Manning explained the situation to all of them.

Chloe was stupefied as soon as she heard the amount. "1.6 million? Why can't he just steal the money from someone else? It's not like anyone ended up dead—why does he need such a huge compensation? Mr. Manning, y-you're not trying to trick us, are you?"

After sending off the three Campbells, the few of them collapsed onto the sofa in defeat—that family was a difficult one to handle.

Meanwhile, Helen continued to ramble on and said, "You need to settle the money quickly, Sasha. You can't let anything happen to your cousin. After all, your aunt..."

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Chloe snapped back, "What's so unlawful about this? It's just a small matter, and you don't have to exaggerate the severity of it to make yourself look good. You previously told us that it'd only be a million, but now you're insisting that it's 1.6 million. Obviously, this is your fault! You're planning to swallow the remaining 600,000 for yourself, aren't you? "

Mr. Manning was utterly vexed at this point. He stood up and said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Larson—I'm afraid I can't take this case. I apologize if I've caused you any inconvenience!"

Matthew replied helplessly, "I understand, Mr. Manning. I should be the one to apologize, for I've put you in a difficult position."

With that, Mr. Manning bade him farewell with a polite gesture before he turned around and left without another word.

Chloe rushed up to him as she yelled, "Hey, stop right there! You'd better tell me why you're charging an extra 600,000! Don't think I don't know how you people do things—you're just trying to swindle innocent people. You don't even have a sense of basic etiquette; what a piece of garbage!"

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Just then, Mr. Manning turned behind and cast a piercing glare in her direction, but he eventually swallowed his anger.

Whatever it was, he couldn’t lose his temper for Matthew’s sake.

After leaving the villa in his car, Mr. Manning sent a text message to his lawyer group chat with a brief explanation of the situation.

In just a second, the group chat exploded with responses; nobody had ever seen such a bizarre client. At the same time, the group members swore that they wouldn’t be willing to take the case either.

Inside the villa, Chloe was still complaining in dissatisfaction. “What kind of lawyer is he, Matthew? Didn’t you say that you two were close? From what I see, he’s just here to scam us. Some people only scam their close friends; such things do happen, you know?”

Matthew’s brows knitted. “Mr. Manning is a professional, Aunt Chloe. He wouldn’t do such a thing. Besides, we’ve already agreed that our side will cover the compensation fee. What are you even mad about?”

Chloe glared at him wide-eyed. "Nonsense! Even if it's your money, I can't sit by and let someone else scam you. Do you think money grows on trees at your command? I'm just worried about my sister; did you collude with the lawyer to rip us off for another 600,000? Wait, that's not right—something like this wouldn't even need a few hundred thousand to settle. Are you really planning to suck us dry?"

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Chapter 797

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With those words, he got up and promptly went upstairs.

Chloe continued yelling at him as he walked further away, “Who are you bluffing? Do you think I can’t hire a lawyer myself? Let me tell you this—I know a law firm that my husband’s company actively works with! I’ll let them handle it first thing tomorrow! Mark my words; I’ll be coming for you if their fees turn out to be lower than that friend of yours!”

Matthew didn’t want to prolong their interaction, so he closed the door without responding to her.

Needless to say, this woman was unbelievably problematic.

Meanwhile, Chloe sat down on the sofa in a huff. “How do you guys put up with that garbage, Helen? Who does he think he is? I knew something was wrong as soon as I heard the amount last night. Little did I know that he’d raise the price again today—he’s obviously trying to scam us. Even though your family is covering the fees for us, I simply can’t sit by and let it happen. That good-for-nothing only wanted to take the opportunity to feed his own pocket!”

In response, Helen waved a hand at her sister. “Calm down, Chloe. I’ll go with you tomorrow to find another lawyer if there’s no other way! How can a trivial matter like this take so much money to handle? I just won’t believe it.”

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Before long, Sasha came home from work.

“How’d it go with Mr. Manning, Mom and Aunt Chloe?”

She had no idea what just went down.

Just then, Minerva quickly butted in as she sat by the side. She said, “Oh, Sasha—your husband is one hell of a man! It turned out that he was actually colluding with an outsider and trying to scam money off his own family. Tsk, I really don’t get it—what exactly made you marry him?”

Sasha frowned in return. “What on earth happened here?”

Minerva recounted the incident from earlier while adding unnecessary fuel to the fire.

Sasha was momentarily stunned after hearing it. “H-How did you even come up with that, Aunt Chloe? Mr. Manning is a renowned attorney at Carson Law Firm; his esteemed name is known all around Eastcliff. It’s hard to even see him around, much less have a conversation with him—he charges by the minute. Moreover, he took an entire day to help you with this and we finally came to an agreement with him. How can you drive him away just like that?”

Chloe stiffened up instantly. “What? That can’t be right... How can someone like him be a well-respected attorney? He came running just after a phone call from Matthew; how could he possibly be some big shot lawyer? Don’t be fooled by Matthew too, Sasha!”

Sasha was so irritated that she could only brush her aunt off dismissively. “Sure sure, whatever. Go ahead and settle it on your own if you think you can handle it, and I won’t be involved anymore. However, let me make it clear—since Mr. Manning’s price was 1.6 million, that’s the most I’ll be contributing. I won’t pay a cent more than that!”

Chloe nodded repeatedly in agreement.

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Sasha raised a hand in front of her. "Stop talking. Did you say she did it for my own good? Is this the way to do it, though? If she really means well for me, she should discipline that son of hers and stop him from stirring up trouble left and right. Besides, Mr. Manning did say that it'd take a million at least! Do you even know what that means?"

Chloe's brows knitted uncomfortably. "I know you aren't happy with covering for what happened this time, Sasha. However, do you think we wanted this to happen? Tate used to drive all the time when he was abroad, but this has never happened before. He's just unfamiliar with how things work back home because he just returned, and he wouldn't have gotten into trouble if it weren't for that. Why do you make it sound like we plotted the accident on purpose?"

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Chapter 798

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Chloe was suddenly at a loss for words.

Minerva pouted by the side as she said, "Whatever it is, it's already happened. What are you trying to say by bringing this up now? You're right—Tate was involved in a small accident, but how is it right for that worthless husband of yours to be taking the opportunity to scam money off of us? Hmph, he's taking advantage of a disaster—that's what it is! People like him are the worst!"

Sasha was overwhelmed with frustration, and she snapped through gritted teeth, "That's enough! Go ahead and settle this yourself if you don't believe Mr. Manning. Like I said, I'll only contribute a total of 1.6 million! Anything more than that is on yourselves!"

With that, Sasha stomped upstairs in a huff as well.

Chloe's face was scrunched up in displeasure as she left. "Seriously, what's with her?"

Helen waved a hand at Chloe repeatedly to calm her down. "Come on, don't take it too personally. I can't even deal with her these days. It's all Matthew's fault—she's been deceived by him! All right, Helen. We should settle this for Tate as soon as possible."

Chloe immediately replied, "It's no problem. I'll give my husband a call right away and have his company's lawyer take care of this. Hmph, let's see what they have to say if it costs less than 1.6 million!"

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Minerva wasn't holding back as well. She said, "Oh, that's right—Sasha said earlier that she'd only contribute 1.6 million. Since that's the case, she'll have to give us 1.6 million no matter how much it costs!"

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Thus, Chloe made a call to Jonah and he started making arrangements immediately.

When she heard that, Chloe leaned back against the sofa triumphantly. "You see, Helen? My husband is most dependable when it comes to settling problems. The local law firm that their company works with is none other than the leading one in Eastcliff. Once their attorney takes the case, there'll be nothing to worry about! Just sit back and wait for the good news!"

Meanwhile, Helen nodded in agreement with a look of anticipation on her face.

About an hour later, Chloe's phone rang with Jonah's incoming call. She broke into a huge grin and said, "I think it's settled, Helen."

She picked up the call. As soon as the line went through, Jonah's enraged voice rang through her speaker. "W-What have you done, Chloe? Why are none of the lawyers in Eastcliff willing to take our case?"

Chloe tensed up as she replied, "W-What do you mean?"

Jonah said in a panic, "I've just talked to some of the lawyers from the firm, but they're all unwilling to take this case. After that, I contacted many other law firms as well. Eventually, I heard from a friend that the lawyers in Eastcliff have all come to an agreement to boycott our family's case!"

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Chloe was still stunned with shock. "H-How can that be possible?"

Jonah frowned deeply on the other end. "I even heard that you've offended a well-known and influential attorney in Eastcliff; that's why he's messing with us behind the scenes. Is that true?"

Just then, Chloe's expression darkened. "It can't be... A-All I did was kick Mr. Manning out—you know, the lawyer from yesterday night!"

Then, Chloe recounted the happenings of earlier.

Jonah was livid after hearing her story. "My goodness... Why are you so foolish? We're not even the ones who are paying, so why are you so fussy about it? Even if the price is one billion, it's on the Cunninghams—why did you have to offend him?"

Chloe said, "That's nonsense—however you put it, this money is still from my sister's family. Mr. Manning was obviously colluding with Matthew in the dark to scam her. How can I sit by idly and watch my sister suffer losses?"

Jonah was beyond speechless. He sighed and said, "Forget it, I'll just keep trying. Goodness, you're such a busybody!"

After hanging up the call, Chloe became restless.

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Chapter 799

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Chloe panicked. "What are you talking about? H-How could you say that I'm an idiot?"

At once, Jonah flew into a rage. "Do you know who the person surnamed Manning is? Let me tell you this—he is the most famous attorney in Eastcliff, and he has practiced law for so many years without ever losing a lawsuit. Even business tycoons and large conglomerates seek his advice when they run into something, so he's considered a leader in Eastcliff's law practice. H-How could you offend him? No wonder all the attorneys in Eastcliff are unwilling to take up this case!"

Chloe was stupefied. "T-That can't be true, right? How could this happen? Isn't that guy just an attorney whom Matthew found at random? How could he have such great capabilities? Have you mistaken him for a different person who has the same surname?"

Jonah replied furiously, "That's sheer nonsense! Lucia told me all these. She also has a group photo with Mr. Manning, and I saw that photo with my own eyes!"

Chloe instantly sank into the sofa. She really didn't expect that the lawyer Matthew had summoned casually by phone was actually the most famous attorney in Eastcliff! More importantly, Mr. Manning arrived in the middle of the night after receiving Matthew's call! Back then, she simply assumed that Mr. Manning was an insignificant figure, so she didn't take him seriously at all. She couldn't understand what on earth enabled Matthew to let this attorney come over at night instead of resting!

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Chloe trembled with fright upon hearing his words. "I-I really had no idea about this, hubby. I thought he was colluding with Matthew to try to swindle money from me. I-I really have no idea about such things at all... You have to save Tate. He's still a kid..." She began to choke up as she spoke.

On the other hand, Jonah was as mad as a wet hen. "All right, that's enough. Do you think that I don't want to save Tate? However, what can I do now that things have come to this point because of you? Forget it—I'll have a friend of mine hire an attorney from another city!"

Chloe's eyes lit up. "Can you do that? T-That will be great! In that case, please hurry, hubby. Tate is still in custody."

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Chloe didn't dare to answer him; she also felt guilty since she had screwed up the matter this time. Once she hung up the phone, she looked at Helen again. "You must help me this time, Helen. All the attorneys in Eastcliff have ganged up with Mr. Manning, so they're not going to help us. We can only hire an attorney from somewhere else, but with my family's current situation, the legal fees..."

Helen immediately responded, "Don't worry, Chloe. I'll help you with the money."

Minerva immediately joined in and said, "As expected, you're the one who treats us best, Aunt Helen. Mom kept saying that you're the kindest person in this world back when we were overseas!"

Helen replied with a smug smile and said, "Isn't it because your mom and I are sisters? Besides, things turned out like this because she wanted to save money for my family, so I must definitely help her."

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Chapter 800

The next day, Jonah contacted a nonlocal attorney and had the latter hurry to Eastcliff to take care of this case. Upon hearing this news, Chloe was filled with smugness; she even made a special trip to the Cunningham Residence to brag about this. "Hmph, Mr. Manning is crafty enough to screw us behind our backs after failing to swindle us out of our money. How dare he bar the attorneys in Eastcliff from taking up our case? Haha! Who does he think he is? Can he ride roughshod over everyone in the world? Can't you see that my hubby has managed to find another attorney from somewhere else in the end?"

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On the other hand, Minerva stared fixedly at Sasha. "We made an agreement last night, Sasha. No matter how much money we have to pay, you'll have to contribute 1.6 million. Don't go back on this when you realize later on that the money to be spent isn't much. Otherwise, things will get very unpleasant! Hmph!"

Sasha replied impatiently, "Don't worry, for I won't go back on what I've promised. Even if you solve this matter without spending a penny, I will give you 1.6 million!"

Minerva was delighted at once. To her, this matter was only a trifling one, so it would cost no more than a few hundred thousand. If this was really solved, she might end up with 1.3 million to 1.4 million remaining in hand. By then, she would be able to buy a Porsche sports car! Minerva was totally immersed in her daydream.

Meanwhile, Demi curled her lips into a sneer. "Minerva, keep in mind that my family will only pay 1.6 million no matter how much the settlement is in the end. Even if you guys end up having to pay 1.61 million, our family won't pay an extra penny. Do you understand me?"

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Demi immediately nodded. “Don’t worry, for we definitely won’t go back on our word. However, since you’ve mentioned the contract, why don’t we simply make a written agreement lest any of us go back on our promise by then?”

Minerva bobbed her head at once. “Sure, that’s great! Regardless of how much we have to pay in total, we’ll make an agreement so that your family pays 1.6 million by then!”

Helen looked helpless upon hearing their words. “Is this even necessary? You two are cousins!”

“Yes, it is!” replied Demi and Minerva in unison. Both of them were relatively mean, so they were unwilling to let the other party take advantage of themselves. In the end, they made an agreement and signed their names on it.

Minerva held the written agreement with a sneer. She then said, “If you guys refuse to pay the money by then, I’ll sue you all. Hmph!”

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"Yes, it is!" replied Demi and Minerva in unison. Both of them were relatively mean, so they were unwilling to let the other party take advantage of themselves. In the end, they made an agreement and signed their names on it.

Minerva held the written agreement with a sneer. She then said, "If you guys refuse to pay the money by then, I'll sue you all. Hmph!"

On the other hand, Demi laughed. "Haha! Don't regret this, Minerva!"

Sasha was too lazy to care about them, so she took Matthew with her and went to work. Instead of going to the hospital, Matthew went directly to Lakeside Garden. He first visited his younger sister Natalie, and her condition was gradually becoming stable. Then, he went to the villa the patient stayed in to check up on her.

This patient had been hiding in the villa over the past few days. When she heard someone coming in, she immediately trembled with fright. After seeing that it was Matthew, she finally gave a soft sigh of relief. However, she still huddled up in a corner as she didn't dare to move close to him.

Matthew smiled. "Don't be afraid—no one will hurt you here. How are you? Are you used to the meals?"

The patient bowed her head without speaking. After a long time, she nodded in response to his question.

Matthew then looked around and asked, "Do you need anything else? The TV is there, so you can turn it on to watch some shows. Also, do you need to change out of the clothes you're wearing? Would you like me to buy a few sets of new clothes for you?"

The patient still remained silent, but she shook her head this time. One could tell that she was quite grateful to Matthew. However, after years of living by begging, she feared everything and didn't dare to let him spend any money on her.

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