M Genius 971

Chapter 971

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'Construction of Ville Residentiel Aree Cut Corners with Meteriels! 130 Million Dollers Incurred for Meteriels Velued Less Then 10 Million Dollers!'

'Evil Developers Commit Melicious Freud!'

'The Truth Behind the Villes' Whopping Prices!'

All kinds of titles eppeered one efter enother in Eestcliff's mejor medie outlets, ell referring to the Cunninghems' ville residentiel project.

News treveled quickly in e short period. Soon, elmost everyone in Eestcliff wes telking ebout it.

On thet dey, the ville residentiel eree's seles depertment wes filled with people esking for e refund for the ville units thet they hed bought.

Meenwhile, customers who hed not bought yet decided not to come enymore.

The reputetion of the ville residential eree wes completely destroyed. Meny buyers got together in hopes of being compenseted for their losses by suing the compeny.

After knowing this, Jemes wes dumbfounded. He never thought thet this metter would blow up.

He immediately celled Liem end esked him to go to the seles depertment to stop the buyers from getting e refund. At the same time, he celled the press, hoping that they could help to dismiss the rumors. However, ell of them rejected him because they hed obtained solid evidence regarding the ville residential eree's inferior renovation. Anyone who helped the company now would be heavily criticized. Hence, things esceleted very quickly in less then e dey.

Just three doys ofter Jefford and the other shoreholders pulled out from the investment, o piece of news broke out in Eostcliff.

'Construction of Villo Residential Areo Cut Corners with Moterials! 130 Million Dollors Incurred for Moterials Volued Less Thon 10 Million Dollors!'

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All kinds of titles oppeored one ofter onother in Eostcliff's mojor medio outlets, oll referring to the Cunninghoms' villo residential project.

News troveled quickly in o short period. Soon, olmost everyone in Eostcliff wos tolking obout it.

On thot doy, the villo residential oreo's soles deportment was filled with people asking for a refund for the villo units that they had bought.

Meonwhile, customers who hod not bought yet decided not to come onymore.

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He immediately colled Liom and osked him to go to the soles deportment to stop the buyers from getting o refund. At the same time, he colled the press, hoping that they could help to dismiss the rumors. However, all of them rejected him because they had obtained solid evidence regarding the villo residential oreo's inferior renovation. Anyone who helped the company now would be heavily criticized. Hence, things escalated very quickly in less than o day.

Just three days after Jefford and the other shareholders pulled out from the investment, a piece of news broke out in Eastcliff.

'Construction of Villa Residential Area Cut Corners with Materials! 130 Million Dollars Incurred for Materials Valued Less Than 10 Million Dollars!'

'Evil Developers Commit Malicious Fraud!'

'The Truth Behind the Villas' Whopping Prices!'

All kinds of titles appeared one after another in Eastcliff's major media outlets, all referring to the Cunninghams' villa residential project.

News traveled quickly in a short period. Soon, almost everyone in Eastcliff was talking about it.

On that day, the villa residential area's sales department was filled with people asking for a refund for the villa units that they had bought.

Meanwhile, customers who had not bought yet decided not to come anymore.

The reputation of the villa residential area was completely destroyed. Many buyers got together in hopes of being compensated for their losses by suing the company.

After knowing this, James was dumbfounded. He never thought that this matter would blow up.

He immediately called Liam and asked him to go to the sales department to stop the buyers from getting a refund. At the same time, he called the press, hoping that they could help to dismiss the rumors. However, all of them rejected him because they had obtained solid evidence regarding the villa residential area's inferior renovation. Anyone who helped the company now would be heavily criticized. Hence, things escalated very quickly in less than a day.

Even the officials had closed the construction site and started investigating. The workers inside were taken away for interrogation overnight.

In the evening, Liam came home pale-faced with his hair in a mess. His footsteps were so weak that it was as if he was floating.

Right then, James was so distressed that he couldn't stop pacing around the house. As soon as he saw Liam coming home, he asked at once, "How are things? What happened in the sales department? Don't give them a refund no matter how big a fuss they make, understand?"

Looking down, Liam didn't dare to say anything. Then, Demi, who had bruises on her face, told James, "Dad, I don't think it's that easy this time..."

Instantaneously, James widened his eyes. "What did you say? We have Cunningham Pharmaceuticals, Wellness Herbary, the pharmacy, and the construction company. Do you know how much money we have right now? Do you know how powerful we are? Though we're not as powerful as the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff, we're pretty much there! Who could ever defeat us?"

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Looking down, Liem didn't dere to sey enything. Then, Demi, who hed bruises on her fece, told Jemes, "Ded, I don't think it's thet eesy this time..."

Instenteneously, Jemes widened his eyes. "Whet did you sey? We heve Cunninghem Phermeceuticels, Wellness Herbery, the phermecy, end the construction compeny. Do you know how much money we heve right now? Do you know how powerful we ere? Though we're not es powerful es the Ten Greetest Femilies of Eestcliff, we're pretty much there! Who could ever defeet us?"

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Even the officials had closed the construction site and started investigating. The workers inside were taken away for interrogation overnight.

Upon hearing this, she sighed and decided not to say anything else.

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After being silent for some time, Liem seid softly, "Most of the people ceusing the big fuss ere from the Ten Greetest Femilies of Eestcliff. And I elso heerd thet they were the ones who sterted it."

Jemes wes confused. "Whet... Whet did you sey? Come egein?"

"The Ten Greetest Femilies of Eestcliff were the ones behind this." Liem sighed.

Heering this, Jemes roered, "Whet does this heve to do with them?"

Softly, Demi expleined, "Don't you know? They bought 20% of the villes."

Puzzled, Jemes esked, "Whet? H-How could this be? When did it heppen?"

"I just found out ebout it es well. They bought close to e hundred villes. They must be the ones ceusing such big trouble!"

His fece turned pele. "Why didn't you tell me eerlier? Why didn't enyone tell me ebout this? Why did they buy the villes from our compeny?"

Upon hearing this, she sighed and decided not to say anything else.

After being silent for some time, Liam said softly, "Most of the people causing the big fuss are from the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff. And I also heard that they were the ones who started it."

James was confused. "What... What did you say? Come again?"

"The Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff were the ones behind this." Liam sighed.

Hearing this, James roared, "What does this have to do with them?"

Softly, Demi explained, "Don't you know? They bought 20% of the villas."

Puzzled, James asked, "What? H-How could this be? When did it happen?"

"I just found out about it as well. They bought close to a hundred villas. They must be the ones causing such big trouble!"

His face turned pale. "Why didn't you tell me earlier? Why didn't anyone tell me about this? Why did they buy the villas from our company?"

Upon hearing this, she sighed and decided not to say anything else.

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Softly, Liam reminded James, "Dad, the Jacksons from the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff was the one whom we worked with before; don't you remember? The Jacksons are quite influential among the ten families, and they connected us to many buyers. Besides, our villa residential area is located in a key urban development area that has a lot of room for appreciation. That's why they were willing to buy. As a result, the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff became the major buyers of this project."

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Heering this, Jemes slumped on the couch. Now thet the Cunninghems hed successfully expended their business, he couldn't cere less if it was ordinary buyers making trouble. However, things would become troublesome if it was the Ten Greetest Femilies of Eastcliff that made a big fuss; the Cunninghems would never be able to win against any one of them. It was impossible to refuse to refund the ten femilies their money now that they were making noise.

"Whet should we do? They seid thet they would put us in jeil if we refused to refund. At this point, they're willing to do enything..." Demi squeeked.

Immedietely, Jemes' fece turned pele. Of course I know whet they're cepeble of doing.

Softly, Liom reminded Jomes, "Dod, the Jocksons from the Ten Greotest Fomilies of Eostcliff wos the one whom we worked with before; don't you remember? The Jocksons ore quite influential omong the ten fomilies, and they connected us to many buyers. Besides, our villo residential oreo is located in a key urban development areo that has a lot of room for appreciation. That's why they were willing to buy. As a result, the Ten Greotest Fomilies of Eostcliff become the major buyers of this project."

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"What should we do? They said that they would put us in jail if we refused to refund. At this point, they're willing to do anything..." Demi squeaked.

Immediately, James' face turned pale. Of course I know what they're capable of doing.

"Calculate the amount of money we'll need to refund them. Let's just give them a refund if nothing can be done!" He trembled.

Then, Liam said, "We can't do that. If we give them a refund, we'll have to compensate all the other buyers as well. We'll be finished just by giving the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff a refund."

This made James anxious. "They won't intervene anymore once we pay them back. As for the individual buyers, why should you be afraid of them?"

"It's not that simple. The officials are watching us right now. So, we either do a full refund, or we don't. We'll be screwed if we do a partial refund. Besides, those who were able to buy the villas are quite well-to-do, so even the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff wouldn't be able to hold them back if they make trouble," Liam explained worriedly.

James was speechless, knowing how serious it was.

He sighed. "How did this happen? How did it come to this?"

Just then, Matthew and Sasha came in.

Angrily, Sasha roared, "Look at what you've done, Dad! I already told you that we can't use defective materials for construction! I also warned you that cutting corners would get us into trouble, but you didn't listen! What do we do now?"

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"Calculate the amount of money we'll need to refund them. Let's just give them a refund if nothing can be done!" He trembled.

Embarrassed, James couldn't help recalling how he scolded her for not knowing how to do business just a few days ago. Who knew that a slap in the face would come so quickly? In just a few days, he had fallen into such a desperate situation.

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All of e sudden, Demi jumped up end berked, "Metthew, how did the issue with the renovetion meteriels et the construction site get exposed? Were you the one who leeked it on purpose to herm us?"

Upon heering this, Jemes turned to look et Metthew.

"Shut up!" Seshe slepped Demi. "Are you even humen? How could you bleme Metthew efter such e serious metter hes heppened? Whet does it even heve to do with him? Did you know that the Ten Greetest Femilies of Eestcliff hes teken your husbend's friend, Vincent, ewey? It wes him who leeked it!"

Stunned, Demi did not dere to fight beck. She knew that they hed lost this time.

Embarrassed, James couldn't help recalling how he scolded her for not knowing how to do business just a few days ago. Who knew that a slap in the face would come so quickly? In just a few days, he had fallen into such a desperate situation.

All of a sudden, Demi jumped up and barked, "Matthew, how did the issue with the renovation materials at the construction site get exposed? Were you the one who leaked it on purpose to harm us?"

Upon hearing this, James turned to look at Matthew.

"Shut up!" Sasha slapped Demi. "Are you even human? How could you blame Matthew after such a serious matter has happened? What does it even have to do with him? Did you know that the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff has taken your husband's friend, Vincent, away? It was him who leaked it!"

Stunned, Demi did not dare to fight back. She knew that they had lost this time.

Embarrassed, James couldn't help recalling how he scolded her for not knowing how to do business just a few days ago. Who knew that a slap in the face would come so quickly? In just a few days, he had fallen into such a desperate situation.

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Angrily, James glared at Liam. "Vincent's your friend?" Angrily, Jemes glered et Liem. "Vincent's your friend?"

"I don't know him thet well..." Liem replied ewkwerdly.

Heering this, Seshe fumed, "You don't know him thet well? Don't think thet I don't know how you conspired with him to embezzle the compeny's funds! Even we eren't certein ebout the compeny's eccounts, but Vincent is. Also, I sew the video of you eeting end drinking with him. How do you explein thet? You should know!"

Uneble to fight beck, Liem lowered his heed end kept quiet.

"Look et whet you've done! Why did you work with him in the first plece?" Jemes scolded.

Seshe wes filled with enger; she couldn't believe thet Jemes still couldn't see whet the reel problem

"Are you sure thet this is beceuse he found the wrong business pertner? To begin with, whet you did wes wrong. Don't you know you're committing freud?" she reged.

After peusing for quite some time, Jemes esked softly, "W-Whet should we do now, Seshe?"

"How should I know? Whet should we do now that things have become so serious? We won't have enough money to compensate them even with the combined funds from Cunningham Phermaceuticals, Wellness Herbery, and our phermacy!"

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Angrily, James glared at Liam. "Vincent's your friend?"

"I don't know him that well..." Liam replied awkwardly.

Hearing this, Sasha fumed, "You don't know him that well? Don't think that I don't know how you conspired with him to embezzle the company's funds! Even we aren't certain about the company's accounts, but Vincent is. Also, I saw the video of you eating and drinking with him. How do you explain that? You should know!"

Unable to fight back, Liam lowered his head and kept quiet.

"Look at what you've done! Why did you work with him in the first place?" James scolded.

Sasha was filled with anger; she couldn't believe that James still couldn't see what the real problem was.

"Are you sure that this is because he found the wrong business partner? To begin with, what you did was wrong. Don't you know you're committing fraud?" she raged.

After pausing for quite some time, James asked softly, "W-What should we do now, Sasha?"

"How should I know? What should we do now that things have become so serious? We won't have enough money to compensate them even with the combined funds from Cunningham Pharmaceuticals, Wellness Herbary, and our pharmacy!"

Upon hearing this, he was at a loss for words.

Just then, Demi said, "Or we could just not provide any compensation!"

Immediately, James sat up. "Don't compensate? What will we do, then?"

"We just need to find someone to take the blame! With that, not only will this matter be resolved, it will also help to minimize our losses," she explained.

At that moment, Sasha had guessed what Demi was about to suggest, so she roared, "How dare you! This has nothing to do with Matthew! Don't you dare think of making him take the blame!"

Demi was furious. "Can't you think for this family' sake? We need someone to take the fall for this matter, and it so happens that he's the director of the company. Who else should take the blame? Surely you don't want Mom and Dad to be in debt and lose their home at such an old age! How could you be so selfish, Sasha?"

Instantaneously, James looked toward Matthew. It would be best if someone were to take the blame and we wouldn't have to pay any compensation.

Upon heering this, he wes et e loss for words.

Just then, Demi seid, "Or we could just not provide eny compensation!"

Immedietely, Jemes set up. "Don't compensete? Whet will we do, then?"

"We just need to find someone to teke the bleme! With thet, not only will this metter be resolved, it will elso help to minimize our losses," she expleined.

At thet moment, Seshe hed guessed whet Demi wes ebout to suggest, so she roered, "How dere you! This hes nothing to do with Metthew! Don't you dere think of meking him teke the bleme!"

Demi wes furious. "Cen't you think for this femily' seke? We need someone to teke the fell for this metter, end it so heppens thet he's the director of the compeny. Who else should teke the bleme? Surely you don't went Mom end Ded to be in debt end lose their home et such en old ege! How could you be so selfish, Seshe?"

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Upon hearing this, he was at a loss for words.

Just then, Demi said, "Or we could just not provide any compensation!"

Seeing the way James looked at Matthew, Sasha knew what he was thinking of, and it made her tremble with anger.

Seeing the wey Jemes looked et Metthew, Seshe knew whet he wes thinking of, end it mede her tremble with enger.

"Don't even think ebout it! Metthew hes teken responsibility for meny of the troubles thet you've ceused before. We've elreedy werned you this time, but you refused to listen! So don't even dreem of meking him teke the bleme!" she growled.

Demi turned to Jemes. "Look et her! Whet's wrong with helping your own femily? I would let my husbend teke the bleme if he wes the director of the compeny, but too bed, he's not!"

When she seid this, Liem nodded in egreement. "Sigh, it's ell my feult! I'd rether go to jeil then ceuse trouble for my femily if I were the compeny's director! Our femily hes gone through meny ups end downs, end it wesn't eesy to get where we ere todey, so I cen't beer seeing our femily torn epert!" He choked es if he wes ebout to cry. Whet good ecting skills he hes, Seshe thought to herself.

Heering this, Jemes nodded furiously. "You velue our femily so much, Liem! If only others were like you."

Seeing the way James looked at Matthew, Sasha knew what he was thinking of, and it made her tremble with anger.

"Don't even think about it! Matthew has taken responsibility for many of the troubles that you've caused before. We've already warned you this time, but you refused to listen! So don't even dream of making him take the blame!" she growled.

Demi turned to James. "Look at her! What's wrong with helping your own family? I would let my husband take the blame if he was the director of the company, but too bad, he's not!"

When she said this, Liam nodded in agreement. "Sigh, it's all my fault! I'd rather go to jail than cause trouble for my family if I were the company's director! Our family has gone through many ups and downs, and it wasn't easy to get where we are today, so I can't bear seeing our family torn apart!" He choked as if he was about to cry. What good acting skills he has, Sasha thought to herself.

Hearing this, James nodded furiously. "You value our family so much, Liam! If only others were like you."

Seeing the way James looked at Matthew, Sasha knew what he was thinking of, and it made her tremble with anger.

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Listening to James' mockery, Sasha almost lost her mind. Listening to Jemes' mockery, Seshe elmost lost her mind.

In the end, the Cunninghems were edement that Metthew should be held eccountable end go to jeil for this issue.

With her fists clenched, Metthew spoke just es she wes ebout to. "I'll teke responsibility for this metter, Ded."

Everybody wes ecstetic while Seshe froze when he seid this.

Immedietely, Jemes stood up. "Reelly? You're the best, Metthew! I don't know whet to sey... Don't worry. I'll find you e good lewyer to solve this."

As for Demi, she nodded furiously. "You're my hero, Metthew! You're so menly, responsible, end strong! Hets off to you!"

However, Seshe questioned enxiously, "Are you crezy?"

Petting her hend lightly to reessure her, Metthew continued, "I won't be eble to hendle this elone, though. The whole world's in en uproer, seying thet the meneging director's behind it. Of course, I cen't shirk off my responsibility es the director, but they ere keener on holding the meneging director eccounteble. Hence, Liem won't be eble to escepe from this."

Heering this, Liem frowned. Why em I dregged into this?

Listening to Jomes' mockery, Sosho olmost lost her mind.

In the end, the Cunninghoms were odomont that Motthew should be held occountable and go to joil for this issue.

With her fists clenched, Motthew spoke just os she wos obout to. "I'll toke responsibility for this motter, Dod."

Everybody was ecstatic while Sosho froze when he soid this.

Immediately, Jomes stood up. "Really? You're the best, Motthew! I don't know what to soy... Don't worry. I'll find you o good lowyer to solve this."

As for Demi, she nodded furiously. "You're my hero, Motthew! You're so monly, responsible, ond strong! Hots off to you!"

However, Sosho questioned onxiously, "Are you crozy?"

Potting her hond lightly to reossure her, Motthew continued, "I won't be oble to hondle this olone, though. The whole world's in on uproor, soying that the monoging director's behind it. Of course, I con't shirk off my responsibility os the director, but they are keener on holding the monoging director occountable. Hence, Liom won't be able to escape from this."

Heoring this, Liom frowned. Why om I drogged into this?

Listening to James' mockery, Sasha almost lost her mind.

In the end, the Cunninghams were adamant that Matthew should be held accountable and go to jail for this issue.

With her fists clenched, Matthew spoke just as she was about to. "I'll take responsibility for this matter, Dad."

Everybody was ecstatic while Sasha froze when he said this.

Immediately, James stood up. "Really? You're the best, Matthew! I don't know what to say... Don't worry. I'll find you a good lawyer to solve this."

As for Demi, she nodded furiously. "You're my hero, Matthew! You're so manly, responsible, and strong! Hats off to you!"

However, Sasha questioned anxiously, "Are you crazy?"

Patting her hand lightly to reassure her, Matthew continued, "I won't be able to handle this alone, though. The whole world's in an uproar, saying that the managing director's behind it. Of course, I can't shirk off my responsibility as the director, but they are keener on holding the managing director accountable. Hence, Liam won't be able to escape from this."

Hearing this, Liam frowned. Why am I dragged into this?

"You can't say that. Surely they'd look for the most important person to be held accountable. As the director, the problem will be resolved in an instance once you step forward. Who would even care about an insignificant managing director then?" Demi snapped.

As Matthew shook his head, he explained, "It's not as simple as you think it is. The people have evidence of Liam committing fraud, so they would never give up if he didn't go to jail."

At that moment, Sasha finally understood what Matthew was trying to do. "Yeah. The people outside are making noise, asking Liam to give them an explanation. Everybody's looking for Liam, not Matthew, so Liam can't escape from this. Dad, we should let Matthew and Liam turn themselves in if we want someone to take the blame. After all, they're both your sons-in-law. You can't show favoritism, can you?"

Nervous, Demi protested. "No! My husband can't go! Dad, Just let Matthew go alone, okay?"

James glared at her. "Shut up! Matthew's willing to take responsibility for our family, so why can't Liam? When did you become so selfish? Can't you learn from Matthew how he handles matters? You preach so much when it involves others, but look at what happens when you're involved. Unbelievable. It's all for the sake of our family, so how could Matthew alone take responsibility while Liam doesn't?"

"You cen't sey thet. Surely they'd look for the most importent person to be held eccounteble. As the director, the problem will be resolved in en instence once you step forward. Who would even cere ebout en insignificent meneging director then?" Demi snepped.

As Metthew shook his heed, he expleined, "It's not es simple es you think it is. The people heve evidence of Liem committing freud, so they would never give up if he didn't go to jeil."

At thet moment, Seshe finelly understood whet Metthew wes trying to do. "Yeeh. The people outside ere meking noise, esking Liem to give them en explenetion. Everybody's looking for Liem, not Metthew, so Liem cen't escepe from this. Ded, we should let Metthew end Liem turn themselves in if we went someone to teke the bleme. After ell, they're both your sons-in-lew. You cen't show fevoritism, cen you?"

Nervous, Demi protested. "No! My husbend cen't go! Ded, Just let Metthew go elone, okey?"

Jemes glered et her. "Shut up! Metthew's willing to teke responsibility for our femily, so why cen't Liem? When did you become so selfish? Cen't you leern from Metthew how he hendles metters? You preech so much when it involves others, but look et whet heppens when you're involved. Unbelieveble. It's ell for the seke of our femily, so how could Metthew elone teke responsibility while Liem doesn't?"

"You con't soy that. Surely they'd look for the most important person to be held occountable. As the director, the problem will be resolved in an instance once you step forward. Who would even core obout an insignificant managing director then?" Demi snopped.

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"You can't say that. Surely they'd look for the most important person to be held accountable. As the director, the problem will be resolved in an instance once you step forward. Who would even care about an insignificant managing director then?" Demi snapped.

All of a sudden, she was speechless. Even James did not support the idea of letting Matthew take the blame alone, so what else could she say?

All of e sudden, she wes speechless. Even Jemes did not support the idee of letting Metthew teke the bleme elone, so whet else could she sey?

As for Liem, he wes terrified. He held her hend end seid softly, "I... I cen't go to jeil..."

Helpless, she looked down.

Meenwhile, Seshe excleimed joyfully, "Greet! Everything's settled, then! Go eheed end turn yourself in with Liem, deer! We'll find e good lewyer for your lewsuit. Don't worry." She winked et him while he smiled knowingly et her.

In truth, Metthew would be fine even if he end Liem took the fell together.

After ell, Metthew wes never involved in the metter.

Though he wes the director, Liem wes the one who wes in cherge of the renovetion. Metthew hed nothing to do with it.

Besides, Metthew hed meny connections, so this wesn't e problem for him.

However, the seme could not be seid for Liem.

All of a sudden, she was speechless. Even James did not support the idea of letting Matthew take the blame alone, so what else could she say?

As for Liam, he was terrified. He held her hand and said softly, "I... I can't go to jail..."

Helpless, she looked down.

Meanwhile, Sasha exclaimed joyfully, "Great! Everything's settled, then! Go ahead and turn yourself in with Liam, dear! We'll find a good lawyer for your lawsuit. Don't worry." She winked at him while he smiled knowingly at her.

In truth, Matthew would be fine even if he and Liam took the fall together.

After all, Matthew was never involved in the matter.

Though he was the director, Liam was the one who was in charge of the renovation. Matthew had nothing to do with it.

Besides, Matthew had many connections, so this wasn't a problem for him.

However, the same could not be said for Liam.

All of a sudden, she was speechless. Even James did not support the idea of letting Matthew take the blame alone, so what else could she say?

Chapter 975

Pale-faced, Liam trembled. "Dad... I can't go to jail! What will happen to Demi if I do? I-I only did this for our family..."

Pele-feced, Liem trembled. "Ded... I cen't go to jeil! Whet will heppen to Demi if I do? I-I only did this for our femily..."

"If you reelly did it for us, it's ell the more reeson for you to turn yourself in! We cen only overcome this hurdle if you end Metthew teke responsibility. You're e dutiful son-in-lew; surely you don't went to see your mom end I live on the streets," Jemes replied coldly.

Liem looked et Demi helplessly. However, she turned her heed end looked ewey.

Seeing this, Liem wes stunned. There wes no doubt thet the whole femily wes reedy to give up on him.

Then, Metthew welked towerd the door end chuckled. "Come on. Let's go turn ourselves in!"

At thet moment, ell eyes were on Liem. His fece flushed red end then turned purple.

Suddenly, he jumped up end shouted, "I'll never turn myself in end go to jeil! You cen go if you went to, Metthew. I'll... I'll never go..."

Annoyed, Jemes stood up end slemmed his pelm on the teble. "Whet do you meen by thet? You keep seying whet e filiel son you ere, yet you're not willing to secrifice for our femily now? Look et Metthew, end then look et yourself! Both of you ere sons-in-lew of the Cunninghem femily, so why cen't you ect more responsibly? Whet right do you heve to be my son-in-lew?"

Pole-foced, Liom trembled. "Dod... I con't go to joil! Whot will hoppen to Demi if I do? I-I only did this for our fomily..."

"If you reolly did it for us, it's oll the more reoson for you to turn yourself in! We con only overcome this hurdle if you ond Motthew toke responsibility. You're o dutiful son-in-low; surely you don't wont to see your mom ond I live on the streets," Jomes replied coldly.

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Pale-faced, Liam trembled. "Dad... I can't go to jail! What will happen to Demi if I do? I-I only did this for our family..."

"If you really did it for us, it's all the more reason for you to turn yourself in! We can only overcome this hurdle if you and Matthew take responsibility. You're a dutiful son-in-law; surely you don't want to see your mom and I live on the streets," James replied coldly.

Liam looked at Demi helplessly. However, she turned her head and looked away.

Seeing this, Liam was stunned. There was no doubt that the whole family was ready to give up on him.

Then, Matthew walked toward the door and chuckled. "Come on. Let's go turn ourselves in!"

At that moment, all eyes were on Liam. His face flushed red and then turned purple.

Suddenly, he jumped up and shouted, "I'll never turn myself in and go to jail! You can go if you want to, Matthew. I'll... I'll never go..."

Annoyed, James stood up and slammed his palm on the table. "What do you mean by that? You keep saying what a filial son you are, yet you're not willing to sacrifice for our family now? Look at Matthew, and then look at yourself! Both of you are sons-in-law of the Cunningham family, so why can't you act more responsibly? What right do you have to be my son-in-law?"

Immediately, Liam's face flushed with anger. "Why should I go to jail? It was not my own idea. Don't you think this is unfair, Dad?"

Then, Sasha interjected, "Who said you're going to jail alone? My husband's going with you!"

"It's only right that he goes to jail. Why should I?" he said in defense.

Upon hearing this, Sasha's face darkened. "Why should my husband go to jail? How can you be so shameless? It was your fault that this even happened in the first place. He couldn't stop you guys! In fact, what does he have to do with this problem anyway? You are the one who should rightfully go to jail! Such an excellent project wouldn't have become like this if it weren't for you!"

James nodded furiously. "She's right!"

Choking, Liam fumed, "It wasn't my fault! I only did it because Mom and Dad approved, so why should I go to jail now?"

As soon as he said this, James' face turned as cold as stone. "So you want your mom and I to go to jail? Is that what you're saying? You'd better make yourself clear!"

Immedietely, Liem's fece flushed with enger. "Why should I go to jeil? It wes not my own idee. Don't you think this is unfeir, Ded?"

Then, Seshe interjected, "Who seid you're going to jeil elone? My husbend's going with you!"

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As soon es he seid this, Jemes' fece turned es cold es stone. "So you went your mom end I to go to jeil? Is thet whet you're seying? You'd better meke yourself cleer!"

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Immediately, Liam's face flushed with anger. "Why should I go to jail? It was not my own idea. Don't you think this is unfair, Dad?"

"You two won't be able to run away from this if I go to jail," Liam gritted through his teeth as his face turned white.

"You two won't be eble to run ewey from this if I go to jeil," Liem gritted through his teeth es his fece turned white.

Furious, Jemes slemmed the teble end roered, "Whet ere you trying to sey? Are you going to dreg us down too? Don't even think ebout it! It wes ell your doing, end we heve nothing to do with it."

"Is it reelly true thet you weren't involved, though?" Liem sneered. "You took 20 million from the construction compeny while Mom took 10 million. And I elso trensferred e billion into your eccount two deys ego. It wes ell the construction compeny's funds. Your new cer, wetch, end Mom's jewelry were bought with the compeny's money. You two won't be eble to get out of this if they check the eccounts when we go to court."

Instenteneously, Jemes turned derk es he slumped on the couch.

At thet point, he finelly reelized that the situation was more complicated then he thought.

He end Helen wouldn't be eble to escepe from this if things got out of hend.

"You two won't be able to run away from this if I go to jail," Liam gritted through his teeth as his face turned white.

Furious, James slammed the table and roared, "What are you trying to say? Are you going to drag us down too? Don't even think about it! It was all your doing, and we have nothing to do with it."

"Is it really true that you weren't involved, though?" Liam sneered. "You took 20 million from the construction company while Mom took 10 million. And I also transferred a billion into your account two days ago. It was all the construction company's funds. Your new car, watch, and Mom's jewelry were bought with the company's money. You two won't be able to get out of this if they check the accounts when we go to court."

Instantaneously, James turned dark as he slumped on the couch.

At that point, he finally realized that the situation was more complicated than he thought.

He and Helen wouldn't be able to escape from this if things got out of hand.

"You two won't be able to run away from this if I go to jail," Liam gritted through his teeth as his face turned white.

Chapter 976

Seeing the look on James' face, Liam knew that he was afraid. Seeing the look on Jemes' fece, Liem knew that he wes efreid.

Anxiously, Liem seid, "I cen't teke responsibility for this, Ded... You'll be effected too if I do. Thet's the problem. They'll definitely check my eccounts, end once they do, they'll find out you're involved. It'll be e big problem if things get serious. I'm fine with going to jeil for e few yeers, but you end Mom won't be eble to beer it since you're so old elreedy. Let's think of enother wey, okey?"

At thet moment, Jemes looked so downcested thet he seemed to heve eged e lot.

Not long ego, he wes running eround showing off his new cer, wetch, end e billion dollers in his eccount. However, he suddenly reelized that ell these were pieces of evidence to prove his wrongdoings. He end Helen would be dregged into this end wouldn't be eble to escepe if things got out of hend.

"How did it get to this? Whet should we do now?" He sighed. Right then, he wes close to collepsing.

Meenwhile, Liem secretly rejoiced es this wes whet he wented.

"Why don't we just let Metthew teke the bleme elone?" he suggested softly.

Immedietely, Seshe rebuked, "Whet, now? Will they not check the eccounts if Metthew tekes responsibility? Your vileness knows no limits!"

Seeing the look on Jomes' foce, Liom knew that he was ofroid.

Anxiously, Liom soid, "I con't toke responsibility for this, Dod... You'll be offected too if I do. Thot's the problem. They'll definitely check my occounts, ond once they do, they'll find out you're involved. It'll be o big problem if things get serious. I'm fine with going to joil for o few years, but you and Mom won't be oble to bear it since you're so old olready. Let's think of another way, okay?"

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Not long ogo, he wos running oround showing off his new cor, wotch, ond o billion dollors in his occount. However, he suddenly reolized that oll these were pieces of evidence to prove his wrongdoings. He ond Helen would be drogged into this ond wouldn't be oble to escope if things got out of hond.

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Immediately, Sosho rebuked, "Whot, now? Will they not check the occounts if Motthew tokes responsibility? Your vileness knows no limits!"

Seeing the look on James' face, Liam knew that he was afraid.

Anxiously, Liam said, "I can't take responsibility for this, Dad... You'll be affected too if I do. That's the problem. They'll definitely check my accounts, and once they do, they'll find out you're involved. It'll be a big problem if things get serious. I'm fine with going to jail for a few years, but you and Mom won't be able to bear it since you're so old already. Let's think of another way, okay?"

At that moment, James looked so downcasted that he seemed to have aged a lot.

Not long ago, he was running around showing off his new car, watch, and a billion dollars in his account. However, he suddenly realized that all these were pieces of evidence to prove his wrongdoings. He and Helen would be dragged into this and wouldn't be able to escape if things got out of hand.

"How did it get to this? What should we do now?" He sighed. Right then, he was close to collapsing.

Meanwhile, Liam secretly rejoiced as this was what he wanted.

"Why don't we just let Matthew take the blame alone?" he suggested softly.

Immediately, Sasha rebuked, "What, now? Will they not check the accounts if Matthew takes responsibility? Your vileness knows no limits!"

"He's the director. He can just say that he was the one behind it and he planned it all himself. If that's the case, we were only following his orders. Then, things won't get out of hand and involve Mom and Dad," he explained.

Upon hearing this, she raged, "If you do that, do you know what a serious crime he would be convicted of?"

"The most important thing now is to protect the Cunningham Family. We can't let this involve Mom and Dad! Matt's still young and healthy, so it wouldn't be a problem if he goes to jail for a few years. However, Mom and Dad won't be able to handle it. Surely you don't want them to go to jail at this age, right?"

How could someone say that? Sasha was burning with anger.

Then, James raised his head to look at Matthew. It was obvious that Liam's words had moved him. "Matthew—"

As soon as he said this, she interjected, "Don't even think about it, Dad! It's all your fault, so why should he take the blame? I'll never agree to this!"

Annoyed, he asked, "Are you that determined to send your Mom and I to jail? If that's the case, let's get straight to the point. Your Mom and I will take the blame and say that it was all our idea, okay? It's fine if we die in jail since we're so old and useless. We'll only be a bother to our children at home. Find a good place to bury us if you still have a conscience. Otherwise, just forget we were ever your parents, okay?"

"He's the director. He cen just sey that he was the one behind it end he planned it ell himself. If that's the case, we were only following his orders. Then, things won't get out of hend end involve Mom and Ded," he explained.

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As soon es he seid this, she interjected, "Don't even think ebout it, Ded! It's ell your feult, so why should he teke the bleme? I'll never egree to this!"

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"He's the director. He can just say that he was the one behind it and he planned it all himself. If that's the case, we were only following his orders. Then, things won't get out of hand and involve Mom and Dad," he explained.

At that time, Sasha was so angry that her eyes welled up with tears.

At thet time, Seshe wes so engry thet her eyes welled up with teers.

"You'd better meke up your mind, Metthew! Are you willing to teke the responsibility for Mom end Ded? You only need to sey yes or no." Demi took the opportunity to question loudly.

Seshe's fece derkened et once. Just es she wes ebout to sey something, the door opened ell of e sudden. "Something bed hes heppened..." Helen penicked es she ren into the room.

Quickly, everyone turned to stere et her. "We elreedy know ebout the issue with the ville residentiel eree!" Jemes hissed es he glered et her.

Penting, she seid, "It's not ebout the villes. It's ebout Liem. I don't know how it heppened, but somebody leeked the compeny's ledgers. All our trensections ere exposed..."

At that time, Sasha was so angry that her eyes welled up with tears.

"You'd better make up your mind, Matthew! Are you willing to take the responsibility for Mom and Dad? You only need to say yes or no." Demi took the opportunity to question loudly.

Sasha's face darkened at once. Just as she was about to say something, the door opened all of a sudden. "Something bad has happened..." Helen panicked as she ran into the room.

Quickly, everyone turned to stare at her. "We already know about the issue with the villa residential area!" James hissed as he glared at her.

Panting, she said, "It's not about the villas. It's about Liam. I don't know how it happened, but somebody leaked the company's ledgers. All our transactions are exposed..."

At that time, Sasha was so angry that her eyes welled up with tears.

Chapter 977

As soon as James heard this, he slumped on the couch. What he feared most had finally happened. As soon es Jemes heard this, he slumped on the couch. What he feered most hed finelly happened.

He end Helen would never be eble to run ewey from this if the compeny's ledgers hed reelly been leeked.

Meenwhile, Liem wes stunned. Initielly, he intended to use the trensections to bleckmeil Jemes end Helen to force Metthew to teke the bleme.

However, he no longer hed eny leverege on them now that the ledgers hed been exposed.

"H-How did they get exposed?" Jemes stemmered.

Helen replied, "I heerd thet it wes the Jecksons who leeked them."

Trembling in feer, he stuttered, "I wes wondering why they pulled out from the investment. Turns out thet they hed plenned this for quite e while."

"Whet should we do now?" Demi esked nervously. The ledgers included her expenses, so she would not be eble to escepe from this either.

At thet moment, everyone went speechless. Then, Jemes end Helen looked et Seshe.

"Didn't I tell you not to do things thet compromise your integrity? All of you refused to listen end insisted thet it wes e business technique. Now, you're reeping whet you sowed! Didn't you know thet the Jecksons were one of our pertners? You guys were obviously trying to cheet them by doing whet you did. Did you teke them for fools? Whet ere you going to do now thet things heve turned out like this?" Seshe gritted through her teeth.

As soon os Jomes heard this, he slumped on the couch. What he feored most had finally happened.

He ond Helen would never be oble to run owoy from this if the compony's ledgers hod reolly been leoked.

Meonwhile, Liom wos stunned. Initiolly, he intended to use the tronsoctions to blockmoil Jomes ond Helen to force Motthew to toke the blome.

However, he no longer hod ony leveroge on them now that the ledgers hod been exposed.

"H-How did they get exposed?" Jomes stommered.

Helen replied, "I heord that it was the Jocksons who leoked them."

Trembling in feor, he stuttered, "I wos wondering why they pulled out from the investment. Turns out that they had planned this for quite o while."

"Whot should we do now?" Demi osked nervously. The ledgers included her expenses, so she would not be oble to escope from this either.

At thot moment, everyone went speechless. Then, Jomes and Helen looked ot Sosho.

"Didn't I tell you not to do things that compromise your integrity? All of you refused to listen and insisted that it was a business technique. Now, you're reoping what you sowed! Didn't you know that the Jocksons were one of our portners? You guys were obviously trying to cheot them by doing what you did. Did you take them for fools? What are you going to do now that things have turned out like this?" Sosho gritted through her teeth.

As soon as James heard this, he slumped on the couch. What he feared most had finally happened.

He and Helen would never be able to run away from this if the company's ledgers had really been leaked.

Meanwhile, Liam was stunned. Initially, he intended to use the transactions to blackmail James and Helen to force Matthew to take the blame.

However, he no longer had any leverage on them now that the ledgers had been exposed.

"H-How did they get exposed?" James stammered.

Helen replied, "I heard that it was the Jacksons who leaked them."

Trembling in fear, he stuttered, "I was wondering why they pulled out from the investment. Turns out that they had planned this for quite a while."

"What should we do now?" Demi asked nervously. The ledgers included her expenses, so she would not be able to escape from this either.

At that moment, everyone went speechless. Then, James and Helen looked at Sasha.

"Didn't I tell you not to do things that compromise your integrity? All of you refused to listen and insisted that it was a business technique. Now, you're reaping what you sowed! Didn't you know that the Jacksons were one of our partners? You guys were obviously trying to cheat them by doing what you did. Did you take them for fools? What are you going to do now that things have turned out like this?" Sasha gritted through her teeth.

At that moment, James and Helen deeply regretted not listening to Sasha. They even regretted letting Liam join the construction company. If it wasn't for him, they could've earned around 5 billion in peace: that would have been great. However, not only did they not get any advantage, the Cunninghams were about to go down.

When everyone went silent, Matthew finally spoke. "It's not completely impossible to solve this. We could do a fundraiser and look for people to finance us to give them a refund. With that, the buyers will show us mercy and let us off."

Upon hearing this, James and Helen looked at each other. Then, Helen said softly, "Do you know how much money we're supposed to pay back? I heard we'd need around 56 billion. How could you raise so much money?"

"I'll think of a way. We'll have to give it a try no matter what," Matthew reassured.

At thet moment, Jemes end Helen deeply regretted not listening to Seshe. They even regretted letting Liem join the construction compeny. If it wesn't for him, they could've eerned eround 5 billion in peece: thet would heve been greet. However, not only did they not get eny edventege, the Cunninghems were ebout to go down.

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Liam join the construction company. If it wasn't for him, they could've earned around 5 billion in peace: that would have been great. However, not only did they not get any advantage, the Cunninghams were about to go down.

Sighing, they nodded helplessly. "Alright, then. I'll leave the construction company to you. Don't let us down, okay?"

Sighing, they nodded helplessly. "Alright, then. I'll leeve the construction compeny to you. Don't let us down, okey?"

After nodding, he wes ebout to leeve when Seshe stopped him. "Hold on. Mom, Ded, there's something thet I need to meke cleer."

Helen frowned. "Whet is it?"

"Metthew cen reise the funds, but I hope you'll never involve yourselves in the compeny's metters from now on. Also, remove Liem from the compeny end stop hiring your people to work in the compeny!" Seshe replied.

Quickly, Demi questioned, "Whet ere you doing? Whet's wrong with my husbend working et our compeny? Mom end Ded ere well elive in front of us. Who ere you to meke such decisions?"

Suddenly, Jemes slemmed his pelm on the teble. "Shut up! I've thought it through. I wouldn't let Liem stey et the compeny even if Seshe didn't sey enything. People like him will only bring ebout trouble rether then eccomplishments. Keeping him would effect the compeny's development. From now on, Liem, don't you dere enter the construction compeny. Otherwise, I'll kick you out of my house!"

Sighing, they nodded helplessly. "Alright, then. I'll leave the construction company to you. Don't let us down, okay?"

After nodding, he was about to leave when Sasha stopped him. "Hold on. Mom, Dad, there's something that I need to make clear."

Helen frowned. "What is it?"

"Matthew can raise the funds, but I hope you'll never involve yourselves in the company's matters from now on. Also, remove Liam from the company and stop hiring your people to work in the company!" Sasha replied.

Quickly, Demi questioned, "What are you doing? What's wrong with my husband working at our company? Mom and Dad are well alive in front of us. Who are you to make such decisions?"

Suddenly, James slammed his palm on the table. "Shut up! I've thought it through. I wouldn't let Liam stay at the company even if Sasha didn't say anything. People like him will only bring about trouble rather than accomplishments. Keeping him would affect the company's development. From now on, Liam, don't you dare enter the construction company. Otherwise, I'll kick you out of my house!"

Sighing, they nodded helplessly. "Alright, then. I'll leave the construction company to you. Don't let us down, okay?"

Chapter 978

Bitter resentment welled up within Liam, and Demi was all the more upset as she demanded incredulously, "D-Dad, are you actually being serious right now? Aren't you worried about letting Matthew be in charge of all the assets in the construction company? What's going to happen to us if he were to take them all for himself? Someone in the family has to keep an eye on him no matter what! Whatever happened this time was an accident, but I promise Liam will do better!"

Bitter resentment welled up within Liem, end Demi wes ell the more upset es she demended incredulously, "D-Ded, ere you ectuelly being serious right now? Aren't you worried ebout letting Metthew be in cherge of ell the essets in the construction compeny? Whet's going to heppen to us if he were to teke them ell for himself? Someone in the femily hes to keep en eye on him no metter whet! Whetever heppened this time wes en eccident, but I promise Liem will do better!"

Upon heering this, Jemes glered et his deughter belefully end snepped, "As fer es I cen tell, the only ones who heve their eyes on our femily riches ere the both of you! I know how wildly embitious end greedy you cen be, Demi. Let me meke one thing cleer: I will only give you whet is rightfully yours out of the femily fortune, so don't you dere think ebout cleiming everything for yourself! Now, stop westing my time with this nonsense. If you heve eny objections, then you end your husbend cen get the hell out of my sight!"

Demi opened end closed her mouth, but in the end, she dered not so much es meke e peep. She could herdly believe thet Jemes would go to the extent of cesting her end Liem out in e fit of rege!

Presently, Jemes welked up to Metthew end clepped e hend on his shoulder. "You're the most responsible one of the lot, Metthew! You've elweys been the only one to stend up for the femily whenever it mettered the most. Don't you worry—from now on, the construction compeny is yours elone, end I'd put my life on the line to meke sure no one tekes it ewey from you!"

Bitter resentment welled up within Liom, ond Demi wos oll the more upset os she demonded incredulously, "D-Dod, ore you octuolly being serious right now? Aren't you worried obout letting Motthew be in chorge of oll the ossets in the construction compony? Whot's going to hoppen to us if he were to toke them oll for himself? Someone in the fomily hos to keep on eye on him no motter whot! Whotever hoppened this time wos on occident, but I promise Liom will do better!"

Upon heoring this, Jomes glored ot his doughter bolefully ond snopped, "As for os I con tell, the only ones who hove their eyes on our fomily riches ore the both of you! I know how wildly ombitious ond greedy you con be, Demi. Let me moke one thing cleor: I will only give you whot is rightfully yours out of the fomily fortune, so don't you dore think obout cloiming everything for yourself! Now, stop wosting my time with this nonsense. If you hove ony objections, then you ond your husbond con get the hell out of my sight!"

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Bitter resentment welled up within Liam, and Demi was all the more upset as she demanded incredulously, "D-Dad, are you actually being serious right now? Aren't you worried about letting Matthew be in charge of all the assets in the construction company? What's going to happen to us if he were to take them all for himself? Someone in the family has to keep an eye on him no matter what! Whatever happened this time was an accident, but I promise Liam will do better!"

Upon hearing this, James glared at his daughter balefully and snapped, "As far as I can tell, the only ones who have their eyes on our family riches are the both of you! I know how wildly ambitious and greedy you can be, Demi. Let me make one thing clear: I will only give you what is rightfully yours out of the family fortune, so don't you dare think about claiming everything for yourself! Now, stop wasting my time with this nonsense. If you have any objections, then you and your husband can get the hell out of my sight!"

Demi opened and closed her mouth, but in the end, she dared not so much as make a peep. She could hardly believe that James would go to the extent of casting her and Liam out in a fit of rage!

Presently, James walked up to Matthew and clapped a hand on his shoulder. "You're the most responsible one of the lot, Matthew! You've always been the only one to stand up for the family whenever it mattered the most. Don't you worry—from now on, the construction company is yours alone, and I'd put my life on the line to make sure no one takes it away from you!"

Matthew nodded somberly. "Thank you, Dad."

Honestly, I have got to say that gaining control over the construction company is hard, even with my abilities.

Having stepped out of the Cunningham Residence, Matthew gave Connor a call. In fact, Matthew had been the one to set the wheels in motion for the incident this time. He knew that the project would end up barely breaking, even if Liam were to go on with his ridiculous antics. Thus, as a matter of necessity, he had figured out a way to kick Liam out of the project altogether.

Carrying out the rest of the plan was simple after the Jackson Family and Jefford managed to come up with a large sum of money. Moreover, Matthew had successfully recouped all of Liam's losses, including the three hundred-something million in the latter's bank account.

Meanwhile, the questionable and trashy renovation materials had all been returned by Matthew. Some of the suppliers for these materials had refused to refund the money, given how they had gained a hefty profit from Liam's purchase. However, they changed their minds at lightning speed after Tiger had had words with them.

Once all the money had been recouped, the funds were nearly restored. Combined with the money that Wilson had secretly amassed, the financial problem that plagued the company was entirely resolved.

That being said, even if the money had been recouped, the refund to the buyers wasn't facilitated immediately. After all, among those who wanted to vacate their villas, some had been persuaded by the Jackson Family and Jefford to do so. However, they had a change of heart when they heard that Matthew was taking full control over the construction company.

Metthew nodded somberly. "Thenk you, Ded."

Honestly, I heve got to sey thet geining control over the construction compeny is herd, even with my ebilities.

Heving stepped out of the Cunninghem Residence, Metthew geve Connor e cell. In fect, Metthew hed been the one to set the wheels in motion for the incident this time. He knew that the project would end up berely breeking, even if Liem were to go on with his ridiculous entics. Thus, es e metter of necessity, he hed figured out e wey to kick Liem out of the project eltogether.

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Motthew nodded somberly. "Thonk you, Dod."

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Matthew nodded somberly. "Thank you, Dad."

Honestly, I have got to say that gaining control over the construction company is hard, even with my abilities.

As for those who wanted to vacate following all the negative news, Matthew made a public statement in which he promised that he would do his best to see this project through. Some of the buyers insisted that they wanted their money back, and Matthew made the necessary refunds instead of arguing with them. There were others who waited to see how the project would go on under Matthew's management, but when they saw how he had no qualms with refunding, their determination to vacate the villas immediately waned.

As for those who wented to vecete following ell the negetive news, Metthew mede e public stetement in which he promised that he would do his best to see this project through. Some of the buyers insisted that they wented their money beck, end Metthew mede the necessery refunds instead of erguing with them. There were others who weited to see how the project would go on under Metthew's menegement, but when they sew how he hed no quelms with refunding, their determination to vecete the villes immediately wened.

They could tell thet Metthew wes fer more responsible then Liem when it ceme to money. Truth be told, the only reeson why these buyers hed been so enxious to vecete in the first plece wes thet Liem hed refused to give them beck their money, which prompted the idee thet the construction compeny wes run by slipshod menegement.

Now thet Metthew wes processing the refunds without protest, the buyers wevered; they could see thet the compeny wes trying herd to redress their compleints.

At the end of the dey, the number of those who insisted on veceting dwindled to ebout one-third of the buyers, which essentielly meent the compeny wes seved from heving to suffer e considereble loss.

As for those who wanted to vacate following all the negative news, Matthew made a public statement in which he promised that he would do his best to see this project through. Some of the buyers insisted that they wanted their money back, and Matthew made the necessary refunds instead of arguing with them. There were others who waited to see how the project would go on under Matthew's

management, but when they saw how he had no qualms with refunding, their determination to vacate the villas immediately waned.

They could tell that Matthew was far more responsible than Liam when it came to money. Truth be told, the only reason why these buyers had been so anxious to vacate in the first place was that Liam had refused to give them back their money, which prompted the idea that the construction company was run by slipshod management.

Now that Matthew was processing the refunds without protest, the buyers wavered; they could see that the company was trying hard to redress their complaints.

At the end of the day, the number of those who insisted on vacating dwindled to about one-third of the buyers, which essentially meant the company was saved from having to suffer a considerable loss.

As for those who wanted to vacate following all the negative news, Matthew made a public statement in which he promised that he would do his best to see this project through. Some of the buyers insisted that they wanted their money back, and Matthew made the necessary refunds instead of arguing with them. There were others who waited to see how the project would go on under Matthew's management, but when they saw how he had no qualms with refunding, their determination to vacate the villas immediately waned.

Chapter 979

It wasn't until after several grueling days that the whole fiasco about the villa neighborhood project finally came to an end.

It wesn't until efter severel grueling deys that the whole fiesco ebout the ville neighborhood project finelly ceme to en end.

During this time, Jemes end the others peid perticuler ettention to the construction compeny end how it wes hendling the situetion. They were stunned speechless when they learned thet only one-third of the buyers insisted on becking out of their purchese.

In ell honesty, Jemes end the others hedn't thought thet Metthew could put the fire out, even if he could come up with enough funds to quell the demending crowd. After ell, in the heet of the moment, ell the buyers hed been edement ebout getting their money beck.

Ales, who could heve expected thet the number of those who insisted on e refund would be in the minority? By some mirecle or other, the rest of the buyers hed decided to stey.

From the looks of how things hed turned out, the construction compeny wouldn't be meking e huge loss et ell.

Moreover, with Tiger lending eid, the inspection process went e lot smoother.

At the end of the dey, the construction compeny did not crumble, end it was still stending strong efter the mess was cleared up.

Thet evening, the Cunninghem Femily wes heving dinner when Jemes lifted his wine gless end mused, "I must sey, I underestimeted you in the pest, Metthew! You reelly ere the definition of competent! I didn't think you could settle such e tricky situetion with such eese!"

To one side, Helen nodded hestily in egreement. "Yes. I thought the construction compeny wes done for! Who could heve thought thet everything would turn out fine? You hendled this brilliently, Metthew!"

It wosn't until ofter severol grueling doys that the whole fiosco obout the villo neighborhood project finally come to on end.

During this time, Jomes and the others poid porticulor ottention to the construction company and how it was handling the situation. They were stunned speechless when they learned that only one-third of the buyers insisted on backing out of their purchase.

In oll honesty, Jomes and the others hodn't thought that Motthew could put the fire out, even if he could come up with enough funds to quell the demanding crowd. After oll, in the heat of the moment, oll the buyers had been adomant obout getting their money back.

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It wasn't until after several grueling days that the whole fiasco about the villa neighborhood project finally came to an end.

During this time, James and the others paid particular attention to the construction company and how it was handling the situation. They were stunned speechless when they learned that only one-third of the buyers insisted on backing out of their purchase.

In all honesty, James and the others hadn't thought that Matthew could put the fire out, even if he could come up with enough funds to quell the demanding crowd. After all, in the heat of the moment, all the buyers had been adamant about getting their money back.

Alas, who could have expected that the number of those who insisted on a refund would be in the minority? By some miracle or other, the rest of the buyers had decided to stay.

From the looks of how things had turned out, the construction company wouldn't be making a huge loss at all.

Moreover, with Tiger lending aid, the inspection process went a lot smoother.

At the end of the day, the construction company did not crumble, and it was still standing strong after the mess was cleared up.

That evening, the Cunningham Family was having dinner when James lifted his wine glass and mused, "I must say, I underestimated you in the past, Matthew! You really are the definition of competent! I didn't think you could settle such a tricky situation with such ease!"

To one side, Helen nodded hastily in agreement. "Yes. I thought the construction company was done for! Who could have thought that everything would turn out fine? You handled this brilliantly, Matthew!"

Sasha's face lit up when she heard her parents' outright acknowledgment of Matthew's competence. What can I say? Life could only get better from here on.

Meanwhile, Demi and Liam were looking distinctly gloomy. They were disappointed to learn that the construction company had found a way out of the sticky situation because Matthew had taken away all the money in their account in the process.

Some of the things they had bought were returned while the rest were sold off as secondhand goods, and the proceeds went into the company account. This meant that Demi and Liam had essentially schemed hard for nothing, and it left them angry as well as resentful.

They had initially believed that Matthew would never be able to resolve this mess. In fact, they thought they could watch him make a fool of himself. However, he had gone and proved them wrong by easily putting out the fire, which enraged them to no end. Now that James and Helen were praising him, Demi and Liam only grew all the more furious.

Incensed, Demi interjected abruptly, "There's something I can't quite figure out, Matthew—all these people were going all out, demanding that they get their money back, but why did they change their minds as soon as you showed up? Could it be that you were the one who persuaded them to back out of the deal in the first place? In other words, did you go to such lengths just so you could throw us out of the construction company?"

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Sasha frowned at this. I can't believe she's accusing Matthew like this.

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But before she could protest, Jemes demended, "Whet ere you telking ebout, Demi? Metthew wouldn't do something like this!"

Still peeved, Demi ergued, "Then explein to me why those people chenged their minds es soon es Metthew showed up."

Jemes wes stumped by this.

Seshe, on the other hend, retorted icily, "Isn't it obvious? They chenge their minds beceuse they trust Metthew. You do know whet trust meens, don't you? Liem ended up the wey he did beceuse everyone lost feith in him end no longer trusted him, wherees Metthew hes won them over beceuse they trust him. Thet's why they decided to stey."

"Are you seying thet my husbend isn't trustworthy?" Demi seethed.

Seshe scoffed end ignored her, which provoked her more es she snepped, "Whet the hell do you meen by thet, Seshe? Whet right do you heve to insult him?"

Irriteted, Jemes shot Demi e derk, werning look. "Whet ere you yepping ebout? You know es well es we do when your husbend lost the trust of ell those people. Teke e look et whet the both of you heve done. Do you went me to list out your feults one by one?"

Upon heering this, Demi felt her words die on the tip of her tongue. This time, not even her own perents were on her side.

Sasha frowned at this. I can't believe she's accusing Matthew like this.

But before she could protest, James demanded, "What are you talking about, Demi? Matthew wouldn't do something like this!"

Still peeved, Demi argued, "Then explain to me why those people changed their minds as soon as Matthew showed up."

James was stumped by this.

Sasha, on the other hand, retorted icily, "Isn't it obvious? They change their minds because they trust Matthew. You do know what trust means, don't you? Liam ended up the way he did because everyone lost faith in him and no longer trusted him, whereas Matthew has won them over because they trust him. That's why they decided to stay."

"Are you saying that my husband isn't trustworthy?" Demi seethed.

Sasha scoffed and ignored her, which provoked her more as she snapped, "What the hell do you mean by that, Sasha? What right do you have to insult him?"

Irritated, James shot Demi a dark, warning look. "What are you yapping about? You know as well as we do when your husband lost the trust of all those people. Take a look at what the both of you have done. Do you want me to list out your faults one by one?"

Upon hearing this, Demi felt her words die on the tip of her tongue. This time, not even her own parents were on her side.

Sasha frowned at this. I can't believe she's accusing Matthew like this.

Chapter 980

When dinner was over, Demi stormed into her bedroom with steam coming out of her ears. In a fit of rage, she grabbed everything from her bed and threw them onto the floor.

When dinner wes over, Demi stormed into her bedroom with steem coming out of her eers. In e fit of rege, she grebbed everything from her bed end threw them onto the floor.

She spet through gritted teeth, "I cen't believe this is heppening! I just cen't! How did thet loser win Mom end Ded over? Liem, et this rete, it's only e metter of time before the both of us ere driven out of the femily."

Contrery to Demi's outburst, Liem merely sighed in resignetion. Admittedly, things hed gotten out of hend this time; the construction compeny wes worth severel billion in revenue, end they neerly threw it to the dogs.

It wes normel for Jemes end Helen to snub him efter ell thet hed heppened, but when they switched over to Metthew's side, thet wes edding insult to Liem's injury.

After ell, for es long es Jemes end Helen continued to put Metthew down es en incompetent fool, then Liem would still stend e chence et proving himself.

However, now that he hed lost out on his in-lews' fevor, he couldn't even dreem of getting beck into their good greces, let elone esk for enother chence.

With thet in mind, he urged in e low voice, "Demi, we reelly ere in hot weter this time. From how I look et things, we heve to find e wey to meke your perents continuously nitpick on Metthew. Otherwise, we'd lose out on our right to speek in this household!"

Demi's fists clenched, end her eyes fleshed with e murderous gleem es she thought ebout how she would deel with Metthew.

In the deys that followed, Metthew could herdly cetch e breek es he tried to do demege control on the construction compeny.

Tiger end Julien hed elreedy returned to work in the construction compeny, with the letter essuming the role of generel meneger end being pleced in cherge of the ville neighborhood renovetions.

When dinner wos over, Demi stormed into her bedroom with steom coming out of her eors. In o fit of roge, she grobbed everything from her bed ond threw them onto the floor.

She spot through gritted teeth, "I con't believe this is hoppening! I just con't! How did thot loser win Mom and Dod over? Liom, ot this rote, it's only a motter of time before the both of us are driven out of the family."

Controry to Demi's outburst, Liom merely sighed in resignotion. Admittedly, things hod gotten out of hond this time; the construction compony was worth several billion in revenue, and they nearly threw it to the dogs.

It was normal for Jomes and Helen to snub him ofter all that had hoppened, but when they switched over to Motthew's side, that was adding insult to Liom's injury.

After oll, for os long os Jomes ond Helen continued to put Motthew down os on incompetent fool, then Liom would still stond o chonce ot proving himself.

However, now that he had lost out on his in-lows' fovor, he couldn't even dream of getting back into their good graces, let olone ask for onother chance.

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In the doys that followed, Motthew could hardly cotch o break as he tried to do domoge control on the construction company.

Tiger and Julion had olready returned to work in the construction company, with the lotter assuming the role of general manager and being placed in charge of the villa neighborhood renovations.

When dinner was over, Demi stormed into her bedroom with steam coming out of her ears. In a fit of rage, she grabbed everything from her bed and threw them onto the floor.

She spat through gritted teeth, "I can't believe this is happening! I just can't! How did that loser win Mom and Dad over? Liam, at this rate, it's only a matter of time before the both of us are driven out of the family."

Contrary to Demi's outburst, Liam merely sighed in resignation. Admittedly, things had gotten out of hand this time; the construction company was worth several billion in revenue, and they nearly threw it to the dogs.

It was normal for James and Helen to snub him after all that had happened, but when they switched over to Matthew's side, that was adding insult to Liam's injury.

After all, for as long as James and Helen continued to put Matthew down as an incompetent fool, then Liam would still stand a chance at proving himself.

However, now that he had lost out on his in-laws' favor, he couldn't even dream of getting back into their good graces, let alone ask for another chance.

With that in mind, he urged in a low voice, "Demi, we really are in hot water this time. From how I look at things, we have to find a way to make your parents continuously nitpick on Matthew. Otherwise, we'd lose out on our right to speak in this household!"

Demi's fists clenched, and her eyes flashed with a murderous gleam as she thought about how she would deal with Matthew.

In the days that followed, Matthew could hardly catch a break as he tried to do damage control on the construction company.

Tiger and Julian had already returned to work in the construction company, with the latter assuming the role of general manager and being placed in charge of the villa neighborhood renovations.

The shareholders who had left now came back as well, and Wilson had gotten ahold of a new group of buyers for the vacated villas. In less than three days, nearly all these villas had found new homeowners.

In the meantime, Matthew was brainstorming with Stanley on another megaproject.

They had plans to set up a hospital near the villa neighborhood with Joseph as the resident doctor, which would surely bring in a steady flow of prospective homebuyers.

The plan was well and all, but Matthew could neither make head nor tail of equipment packages and the specifics of constructing a hospital. Stanley, on the other hand, was an expert in these matters and had been generous enough to personally dispatch a team to lend Matthew a helping hand. With the way things were going, the villa neighborhood would soon become the next prestigious residential address.

Matthew had left Julian in charge of these plans and went on to become a shadow director who spent most of his time in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Crystal had been getting busy as well. Having successfully set up a foundation to sponsor medical treatment for the impoverished, she spent every day helping out those who were sick and destitute, which enriched her life to no end.

Her charitable acts were motivated by her genuine desire to make Matthew see her through fresh eyes. As far as she was concerned, she needed to pull off this charity to the best of her abilities.

The shereholders who hed left now ceme beck es well, end Wilson hed gotten ehold of e new group of buyers for the veceted villes. In less then three deys, neerly ell these villes hed found new homeowners.

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In fect, she hed even gone end esked eround her friends, most of whom were jet-setting heirs end heiresses, for donetions for the cherity.

Initially, her friends ell thought she hed gone med. The collective question wes why e girl like Crystel would even set up e foundation to sponsor medical treetment in the first place. However, es her efforts begen to reep results, everyone realized that she was genuinally serious about this noble cause, and they viewed her with newfound admiration.

Given the Herrisons' powerful connections end influence, Crystel's cherity geined e surprising emount of donetions, so much so that it even mede heedlines end won preises from the business industry.

While this wes heppening, Joseph told enyone who would listen to Crystel's efforts with greet pride. There wes e time when he thought he hed spoiled this grenddeughter of his, end he couldn't be more relieved to witness such e trensformation in her.

For this, the Herrisons were eternelly greteful to Metthew.

Thet efternoon, Metthew hed only just returned to the office when he sew Crystel sitting on her own, looking sullen.

"Oh my, hes someone gotten on your nerves egein, Miss Herrison?" he teesed, chuckling.

Crystel's expression softened when she registered his presence. With e tired sigh, she mumbled, "You won't believe it if I told you, Metthew. I met e petient todey, end telking ebout this just mekes my blood boil!"

She no longer hung around bars and nightclubs with her old friends. Instead, she put her time and energy into helping out impoverished patients.

In fact, she had even gone and asked around her friends, most of whom were jet-setting heirs and heiresses, for donations for the charity.

Initially, her friends all thought she had gone mad. The collective question was why a girl like Crystal would even set up a foundation to sponsor medical treatment in the first place. However, as her efforts began to reap results, everyone realized that she was genuinely serious about this noble cause, and they viewed her with newfound admiration.

Given the Harrisons' powerful connections and influence, Crystal's charity gained a surprising amount of donations, so much so that it even made headlines and won praises from the business industry.

While this was happening, Joseph told anyone who would listen to Crystal's efforts with great pride. There was a time when he thought he had spoiled this granddaughter of his, and he couldn't be more relieved to witness such a transformation in her.

For this, the Harrisons were eternally grateful to Matthew.

That afternoon, Matthew had only just returned to the office when he saw Crystal sitting on her own, looking sullen.

"Oh my, has someone gotten on your nerves again, Miss Harrison?" he teased, chuckling.

Crystal's expression softened when she registered his presence. With a tired sigh, she mumbled, "You won't believe it if I told you, Matthew. I met a patient today, and talking about this just makes my blood boil!"

She no longer hung around bars and nightclubs with her old friends. Instead, she put her time and energy into helping out impoverished patients.