

M Genius 981

Chapter 981

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Another sigh escaped Crystal as she explained, "A casualty was brought into the hospital yesterday, a woman in destitute. She's a single mother, and she came to Eastcliff a few days ago to visit her only daughter, who is studying in the city, only to discover that she has moved in with some punk outside school grounds. She got angry and demanded that her daughter go home with her, but in the end, she got into a heated dispute with that punk and his friends. She was injured when one of them ran her down with their motorbike."

Matthew's brows knitted when he heard this. It was an understatement to say that these punks crossed the line.

Not waiting for him to interject, Crystal added, "It was only after the woman was admitted that she found out she had not a single cent in her savings account. At some point, her daughter had withdrawn all the cash and flat out refused to pay for the woman's medical fees. She didn't even bother showing up to take care of her mother; we had a nurse step in to take care of the woman last night, but the fees were sponsored by the foundation. This morning, the ingrate of a daughter turned up, and when we met, I told her to stay and take care of her mother. But lo and behold, that girl literally snipped in my face and told us to piss off and leave her family matters alone! Could you believe how infuriating she was? Why do people like her even exist?"

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~~Matthew sighed heavily. "There, there. You shouldn't get angry over these things, Crystal. As you go on with this medical charity, you'll come across people from all walks of life, and then you'll understand that the world isn't as rosy as you would like to think."~~

~~"But I don't think people like that woman's daughter deserve to live at all!" she seethed, clearly upset.~~

~~He chuckled mildly. "Hey, when did you get so spiteful?"~~

~~She rolled her eyes at him, then said, "By the way, there's a patient in front with a slightly troubling case. Could you take a look at his conditions?"~~

~~Ever since she started the foundation, she would directly ask Matthew for help whenever she encountered patients with complicated conditions.~~

~~Matthew, on the other hand, was more than willing to help out. After all, Crystal's cause was a noble one, and he did not hesitate to render her support.~~

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~~The patient Crystal in question was a middle-aged man with underlying conditions that led to complications, but given Matthew's skill set, it wasn't a particularly tedious case at all. With a few injections, the patient's condition started to take a turn for the better, and Matthew went on to prescribe several types of medicine that promised to help the man make full recovery as soon as he completed the course.~~

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Crystal let out a small laugh, and she was just about to say something when raised voices could be heard coming from outside.

"For heaven's sake, I made it clear that you can't be discharged just yet! You were heavily knocked down, and your internal injuries have barely even healed! What you need now is to be put on bed rest until you get better. Why must you be so stubborn? Miss Harrison's foundation has already covered your medical expenses, so please just stay until the doctor clears you!"

Upon hearing these, Crystal rushed out only to see the woman being held back by a couple of nurses, who were trying their best to persuade her to stay hospitalized. However, the woman refused and was adamant about leaving.

Having followed Crystal, Matthew glanced at the scene before him and froze in shock, for he knew this woman who insisted on leaving. She was none other than Heidi, Seshe's aunt and the only relative of the Cunningham Family whom Matthew truly approved of.

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Chapter 982

There was hardly any color on Heidi's face, and she looked extremely frail as her legs struggled to support her weight. In a voice barely above a whisper, she said, "Thank you, all of you. I... I know all of you have my best interests at heart, but I can't just stay here lying in bed. I need to work, and my daughter still needs money for school. Please, please let me go home. I'm fine, aren't I? Nothing a little medicine won't fix. Please let me go home."

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Just then, Crystal marched up to the anguished woman, and she looked annoyed as she bit out, "Miss Freeman, don't you know that you're completely abandoning your own health if you were to insist on leaving the hospital? You can always get back to work in a day or two, but if you don't get proper rest and treatment now, you'll have lifelong side effects that will worsen over time! Can't you understand that?"

Guilt and gratitude painted Heidi's expression when she saw Crystal, and she said hoarsely, "Miss Harrison, thank you for all that you've done for me, but I really do think that I'm fine. Please just let me go home, Miss Harrison. I will spend the rest of my life remembering how kind and generous you have been to me, but I really must go. If not, my daughter—my daughter will be forced to drop out of school! I have to work so that I can pay for her tuition!"

Rage thrummed in Crystal's veins, and she tried to shout some sense into the woman, "Drop out of school? Miss Freeman, your daughter took the hundred and thirty thousand from your bank account, so she has enough to pay her way through school. Dropping out isn't even possible at this point! Besides, isn't her boyfriend super-competent? Why doesn't he pay for her to go to school instead? He ran you down with his motorbike, and you're injured as it is, but your daughter doesn't even show a hint of remorse. Haven't you done enough as a mother? Why are you still so hung up about paying her dues? I can't even begin to understand your thinking! How could you possibly still forgive and love a daughter like her?"

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Heidi had her head down as she tried to plead her case, explaining, "Miss Harrison, Leia was just confused for a moment, is all, and technically, the person who ran me down with a motorbike was not her boyfriend but a friend of his. The young man has apologized to me, as well. Miss Harrison, if I don't go back to work, how am I going to put food on the table for Leia? She'd really be forced to drop out of school and come home. Please, please just let me go back. I-I promise I'll take all the medicine as prescribed."

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Just then, Matthew approached with a puzzled expression and called out, "Heidi?"

Heidi froze at this, and when she looked up to register Matthew's presence, she blanched.

The air went still for a brief moment. Then Crystal exclaimed in surprise, "Do you know her, Matthew?"

However, before he could answer, Heidi abruptly turned on her heels and ran for the door. Matthew hurried to pull her back by the arm and demanded anxiously, "Heidi, what are you doing here? Why didn't you let us know that you were back in Eastcliff? We thought you'd gone back home for good!"

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Rendered speechless, Matthew raised a brow at her. She just called me by name, which is as good as a confession.

She was still struggling to break away from Matthew, but with a wave of his free hand, he quickly summoned a few other nurses to help him restrain the frantic woman. "Heidi," he began patiently, his eyes genuine pools of concern. "You're not well enough to go running out of the hospital just yet. Why don't you go back to the ward and get some rest? We promise we'll help you no matter what."

Heidi burst into tears. Gripping Matthew's arm tightly, she begged, "Matthew, let me go back, please. You can't let my sister find out about my being here. I-I don't want her to worry about me!"

He sighed when he heard this. Heidi was indeed the polar opposite of her siblings, Helen and Norman, both of whom were only after the wealth of the Cunningham Family. Heidi, on the other hand, had a daughter studying in Eastcliff, but she wouldn't even seek out her own sister for fear that she would only burden Helen with her troubles.

All these years, Heidi had struggled as a single mother, and she raised her daughter without asking for anyone else's help.

The truth was that her pride got the better of her; she wasn't so much worried about imposing on Helen as she was about being made a laughing stock.

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Matthew countered gently, "Heidi, I think Helen would be a lot more devastated to know that you withheld something like this from her. The both of you are sisters, but do you really see her as family if you refuse to tell her anything? Now, just stay put and get the rest you need while I help you out with everything else. I'm a doctor here, after all."

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Heidi made to protest, but the nurses who restrained her wasted no time in escorting her back to the ward.

Presently, Crystal walked up to Matthew in a daze and asked, "My goodness, Matthew, I didn't think you'd know her, and on a first-name basis, no less."

Matthew shrugged. "She's Sasha's aunt, and she happens to be my mother-in-law's sister."

Crystal's eyes were as wide as saucers. "I can't believe she's actually a relative of yours. She's the woman I was telling you about earlier! Her daughter came over and caused a whole scene, spewing nonsense about how she would starve to death and drop out of school. It was no wonder the woman was anxious to get back to work. Life must be hard for her!"

Matthew let out a quiet breath of resignation. He knew how headstrong Heidi was and that she would never intentionally ask for help, no matter how dire her situation was. For some reason, this only made her all the more admirable.

Now that Matthew was aware of her struggles, he couldn't just sit by and do nothing. At first instance, he called Sasha, who in turn relayed the incident to Helen.

Barely half an hour had passed when Sasha and Helen showed up at the hospital, worried and anxious. As soon as they arrived, they immediately urged, "Matthew, which room is Heidi staying in right now? How is she coping?"

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Running over to her sister's bedside, Helen broke down into sobs end held Heidi tightly in her erms. "H-Heidi, whet were you thinking? Why didn't you cell me when something so terrible hed heppened to you? Do you even see me es your own sister?"

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The moment Helen laid eyes on Heidi, she burst into tears. Heidi was her youngest sister, and while the both of them hadn't spent much time together, it didn't take away from the fact that she was the baby of the family and was naturally the most beloved child of all. It went without saying that as the second child in the sibling group, Helen had always had a soft spot for Heidi.

However, these past few years had been hard on Helen as well, so she didn't help Heidi out with much. Right now, she felt as if someone had stabbed her through the heart when she saw the miserable state Heidi was in.

Running over to her sister's bedside, Helen broke down into sobs and held Heidi tightly in her arms. "Heidi, what were you thinking? Why didn't you call me when something so terrible had happened to you? Do you even see me as your own sister?"

Heidi, on the other hand, wrapped her arms around Helen like a child and began to sob as well. It was as though the floodgates were opened, and the resentment and heartache that had built up within her over the past few days instantly flowed through.

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"What?" she thundered. "Leia did all that? How could she? How did the girl turn out the way she did?"

Helen was equally belligerent after hearing the details. "What in the world is wrong with this child? What was she thinking? Her own mother was run down by some punk on a motorbike, and she didn't even have the good sense of calling the police? Not to mention how she didn't even show up to take care of Heidi! What is going on in that head of hers?"

"No, Helen, it wasn't Leia's fault," Heidi interjected, hurrying to her daughter's defense. "It really wasn't. I was the one who embarrassed her in front of her friends. They were having a good time until I showed up and told her off without thinking. That was why her friends got angry; they were probably annoyed at my behavior." With a sigh, she added guiltily, "This is all my fault."

Helen could scarcely believe the words tumbling out of her sister's mouth. Infuriated, she snapped, "What the hell are you talking about, Heidi? How is any of this your fault? What, do you actually think

it's sensible for a young girl like Leia to move in with some random punk? Besides, you're her mother, so it was only right for you to tell her off like that. Even if your words came out wrong, she could have just argued with you or tried to speak up for herself. But for those guys to run you down with a motorbike? What the hell was that all about?"

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Seeing Heidi like this, Helen softened and changed the subject. "Fine, we'll let the matter drop for now. Matthew, is Heidi alright? How has she been doing?"

Matthew shook his head solemnly and answered, "She's not doing too well. There are some internal injuries that require her to be put on bed rest, but she insists on leaving the hospital right away and refuses to stay for proper treatment. At this rate, she won't make a full recovery."

Upon hearing this, Helen grew anxious. "Heidi, why would you insist on leaving the hospital? Can't you see how you need proper treatment right now? Look at your injuries!"

Heidi let out a tired sigh. "Helen, I—I still have stuff to do at the company, and if I don't go back, they'll have me fired for not showing up at work!"

"I didn't think your company would be so inhumane, Heidi!" Helen protested with wide eyes. "How are you expected to go back to work in this state? Don't lie to me, Heidi. Are you trying to leave because Leia took all your money, and now you can't afford the hospital bill? I'm your sister, for heaven's sake. You could have come to me for help when you run into trouble, and we'd figure things out together, but the fact that you didn't is insulting!" She paused mid-rant and turned to Matthew, then asked, "Matthew, I'll foot the medical bill, no matter the cost!"

Matthew chuckled. "Mom, the medical bill has been sponsored by Miss Harrison's charity. I've already made arrangements for the rest of Heidi's stay and follow-up treatment."

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However, Heidi visibly pined. "H-Helen, I can't have you fork out the money like this. I know you're only doing this because you're my sister, but you're married now. What will your in-laws say about this? If you paid for me, surely your in-laws would only demean you. And I don't want you to get into a fight with James because of this; you mustn't pay the bill if it means your in-laws would be upset about it."

James pricked Helen's eyes. She had long known that Heidi was the considerate type, always selfless and compassionate.

Just then, a male voice sounded from the doorway. "So what if I find out about Helen paying the bill? I ought to have words with her if she doesn't!"

Everyone in the room looked up to see that James had, at some point, materialized at the doorway.

At the sight of him, Heidi faltered and said hastily, "J-James, you're here! Everything is fine. Helen didn't pay a single cent. I still have some money saved up at home; I'll have someone bring it over tomorrow—"

She was cut off when James waved his hand and interrupted, "Don't speak! I'm here to give some sense into your sister." He turned to Helen and berated, "How could you not know that something like this has happened to your own sister, Helen? She's been in Eastcliff for days, and you didn't even hear about it? If Matthew hadn't found out about this incident, we would have been oblivious to it forever! You should show more concern for this sister of yours, seeing as she's different from Norman and Chloe! Now, if you were to help those two, I'd definitely blow my top off! However, if you don't help Heidi with this incident, then you'll feel my absolute wrath!"

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Heidi froze when she heard this. The last time they had a gathering, she was under the impression that James had a bone to pick with the whole Freeman Family. That was why she hadn't wanted Helen to find out about this mess in the first place, fearing that it would only aggravate James further.

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Meanwhile, Sasha gave James a bemused look as she teased, "I must say, your words really took me by surprise, Dad. It's like you're a whole different person."

Matthew, too, glanced at James in astonishment. He could hardly believe that the man would be so generous. As it turned out, the recent events had shifted James' worldview entirely!

James shot Sasha a hard look. "You don't have to put it that way, kid. You make it sound like I'm some cold-hearted ogre, which I'm not! I just hate dealing with those who are greedy and constantly pushing my boundaries, but Heidi isn't like that!"

Sasha nodded in firm agreement. After all, it was the exact reason why she was so concerned about Heidi in the first place.

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Helen broke into a relieved smile. "See, Heidi? James may seem like a brute at times, but he means well. Your troubles are ours to shoulder as well. Now, all you have to do is stay here and get some rest. Matthew happens to be the department director here, so you can look for him if you need any help." With that, she turned to her husband and said, "James, I won't be going home tonight. I'll be staying here with my sister."

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James chortled. "That's fine by me. I have nothing much to do for the next few days anyway, so I'll get groceries and make you some soup, Heidi. By the way, Matthew, I'll be the one handling the medical expenses on Heidi's behalf. Have the check sent to me."

Heidi gaped at him. "James—"

He cut her off bluntly. "Will you stay quiet? It's not as if I can't pay the bill. I'm no Scrooge, you know! Matthew, don't you and Sasha dare pay a single cent for Heidi's expenses. I'll be the one covering them, got it?"

Matthew and Sasha exchanged a brief glance, and they were clearly elated to see how much James had changed for the better. They had come a long way to witness this shift in his demeanor, after all.

It was only after James had made his intentions clear that he waved his hand and said, "Alright then, get some rest, Heidi. I'll go back and get started on that soup. Helen, be sure to take good care of your sister, okay?" Then, he turned on his heels and left the room.

Tears welled up in Helen's eyes, and her heart twisted with newfound gratitude for her brother-in-law.

Helen, on the other hand, offered up words of solace. "There, you've completely misunderstood James. He's a good man at heart. Whatever happened with Chloe and Norman was entirely their fault; they were the ones who crossed the line first. That's enough crying now, Heidi. You get some rest, and I'll be right here. Matthew, Sasha, the both of you can leave and get back to your work now."

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Having heard this, Matthew and Sasha walked out of the room.

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She hed perked her cer out in the yerd, end when she errived, she sew thet there were several figures hovering neer her vehicle. From where she stood, she could see two girls standing by her cer, posing for photos.

One of the girls then proceeded to perch on the bonnet, thereafter putting on several more poses.

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"Wow, there's e hottie coming our wey!"

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Sosho frowned at this. Okay, it's one thing for you to take photos with my car, but to sit on it for the sake of looking good for the camera is just plain rude! With that in mind, she sauntered over and pressed on her car key to unlock the doors, which was just another way for her to ask these people to leave.

Several heads turned at that moment, and when the young men registered Sosho's presence, their eyes lit up with interest.

"Wow, there's a hottie coming our way!"

"Damn, so this is what they mean by rich, young, and pretty. Look at her outfit! It's entirely designer. And look at her car—it's a luxury ride!"

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Sasha broke the silence with a small sigh. "Heidi loves Leia more than anyone else; she lives for her. How could the girl do something like this?"

Matthew sighed as well. If he had to be honest, Leia's angst and rebellion were by-products of Heidi's overindulgent parenting.

Sasha's musings on the subject lasted only a few lines, after which she did not linger in the hospital and instead walked down the stairs to leave.

She had parked her car out in the yard, and when she arrived, she saw that there were several figures hovering near her vehicle. From where she stood, she could see two girls standing by her car, posing for photos.

One of the girls then proceeded to perch on the bonnet, thereafter putting on several more poses.

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Several heads turned at that moment, and when the young men registered Sasha's presence, their eyes lit up with interest.

"Wow, there's a hottie coming our way!"

"Damn, so this is what they mean by rich, young, and pretty. Look at her outfit! It's entirely designer. And look at her car—it's a luxury ride!"

"Having a hottie like her as a girlfriend would be a complete dream come true!"

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“Okay, stop, let’s try getting her number first...”

The men were whispering among themselves as Sasha approached. One of them—the better-looking one of the lot—had an ambitious gleam in his eyes.

He waited until Sasha was drawing close to the car before he quickly walked up to her, then rushed to block the driver’s side door just as she was about to open it. With a crooked smile on his face, he blew his hair away from his brows and stared at her keenly.

Sasha, however, merely frowned and took a wary step back.

The young man was clearly pleased with himself as he kept his gaze on her and drawled, “Hey, gorgeous. Have I seen you somewhere before?”

She glowered at him coldly.

Slightly embarrassed by her indifference, he let out a dry laugh and continued, “Oh, I remember now. You’re the girl in my dreams!”

His friends started wolf-whistling from where they stood by the side, as if boosting his morale.

Sasha didn’t even bother answering him and instead regarded him with a freezing look.

At the sight of this, he grinned and went on with his pick-up lines. “I was feeling a little off today.”

“Clearly,” she pointed out witheringly.

He laughed and said, “But then you turned me on again!”

His friends once again erupted into a round of earnest wolf-whistling. The two girls who had been taking photos with Sasha’s car earlier crooned, “Wow, he’s so smooth!”

“How can anyone be so charming?”

“If he said that to me, I would have married him on the spot!”

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Chapter 986

An irritated look began to etch upon Sasha's features as anger seized her. She hated men who spoke to her flippantly like this, as if they couldn't be bothered by anything remotely serious. With a voice like ice, she snapped, "Could you please move?"

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The young man's expression shifted slightly, but he dismissed her with a bark of laughter and said, "Where do you want me to go, gorgeous? I don't have a home because any place without you isn't home at all!"

His less-than-witty repartee was met with yet another round of wolf-whistling from his friends, and the two girls from earlier were practically shrieking with excitement.

Annoyed, Sasha took a step back and called out loudly, "Security! Security!"

The young man faltered instantly. "Hey, what the hell are you doing? I was only joking. You don't have to take it so seriously! I just figured that since we met by chance, I could have your number or something, gorgeous."

"Get out of my sight!" Sasha barked.

A dark shadow passed over the man's face as he shed his charming demeanor. He grimaced menacingly and spat, "You b*tch, don't you know how lucky you are? I only wanted your number because I thought you might be good enough for me, so what are you getting all high and mighty for? You actually called for security, too! I ought to call up a hundred or so of my men and have them tear up this hospital!"

Just then, a few security guards hurried over, shouting, "Hey, what do you think you're doing? This is a hospital—"

The guard didn't manage to finish his warning, for the young man landed a hard kick on his chest and sent him tumbling backward. "Go screw yourself. Who the hell do you think you are? You'd better get out of my sight if you know what's good for you!"

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Having done so, the man turned and pointed threateningly at Sasha. "You think you're too good for me, huh, you bitch? Fine! I'll teach you a lesson." He barked over his shoulder, "Come on, drag her into the car!"

Having done so, the men turned and pointed threateningly at Sasha. "You think you're too good for me, huh, you bitch? Fine! I'll teach you a lesson." He barked over his shoulder, "Come on, drag her into the car!"

As soon as he said this, he reached out and grabbed Sasha's car key out of her hand. The rest of the ruffians did as they were told and approached her, ready to drag her into the car.

However, the arrival of several other security guards stopped them from carrying out the plan. "What are you doing? This is a hospital! What makes you think you can cause a scene here?"

It was only then that the men backed off, but their leader was obviously peeved as he glared at the captain of the security team. "Damn it. This has nothing to do with you, so leave!"

Emboldened, one of the other thugs sneered at the captain of the security team, "Don't you know who Luke Bech is? You'd better show some respect and back off if you want to live! It's not as if your jobs are worth the risk of messing with him!"

The rest of the ruffians clenched their jaws, looking as if they were ready to take on the guards at any moment.

The captain of the security team frowned and retorted, "Shut up! This is a hospital, so I don't care who you are, but you are strictly prohibited from causing a scene here! Don't make me call the police!"

This provoked Luke, who glared at the captain murderously as he hissed, "You've got some damn nerve talking to me like that! I remember your face, so you'd better watch your back!"

With that, he hurled Seshe's car keys into the trash can by the side and led his ruffian underlings away, all of them looking like pompous geese.

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Meanwhile, Sasha's face turned red with anger. She had never encountered such scum in her entire life!

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The security guards were enraged as well, but at the end of the day, they dared not speak up for themselves. After all, they really were just doing their jobs, and they didn't want any additional risks.

However, the group of ruffians had only just left the scene when they were greeted by an approaching figure. It was Matthew, who had seen everything from the upstairs window of the hospital building and came running down as fast as he could.

Suddenly, he reached out and grabbed a fistful of Luke's hair, then slapped the latter hard across the face.

Luke let out a yelp of pain and made to strike back, but Matthew quickly landed a punch on his chest, knocking him into a fetal position.

"Damn it, how dare you hit him!" one of the ruffians roared, then lifted his foot to kick out at Matthew.

Possessed of lightning reflexes, Matthew kicked out first, and the sole of his foot collided against the ruffian's chest, sending him flying backward. The ruffian fell in a heap on the ground, and the impact hurt him so much he struggled to get on his feet; as it turned out, a few of his ribs had broken.

All the other ruffians were stumped by this turn of events. While a heavy silence fell upon them, Luke bellowed through gritted teeth, "Kill him!"

The ruffians exchanged a hesitant look, but one of them abruptly whipped out a Swiss army knife and roared as he charged toward Matthew.

A grim look colored Matthew's features, and with a decisive hurl of his fist, he punched the man right in the face.

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Chapter 987

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One after another, they toppled like bowling pins. In the end, Matthew gripped Luke's hair as he dragged the latter and plopped him down in front of Sasha.

"Kneel!" Matthew commanded in a cold voice.

Luke spat on the ground and cursed, "You b*stard! Don't you know who I am? Don't you know who my boss is?"

Matthew simply gave him a slap across the face, which caused Luke to bleed from his mouth. "I said, kneel!" Matthew shouted again, emotionless.

Luke growled, "How dare you hit me! Dickson Lewis is my homie! Go to University Town and ask around! There's not a single person who has never heard of him! You damned b*stard!"

Another slap on the face. Matthew chose to be silent this time as he started forcing Luke to get on his knees.

Luke was going nuts because of the man's persistence. "You—"

Slap!

"I—"

Slap!

And so, with a few more slaps, Luke finally fell silent. However, another slap still landed on his face, which had irritated him. "I've already shut up! Why are you still hitting me?!"

Matthew repeated his command, yelling, "Kneel!"

Luke retorted, "In your dreams!"

Slap! Slap!

Matthew didn't say anything as he consistently delivered the blows. At this point, Luke was panicking. "Guards! Guards! Come on, does no one even care?"

No one responded to his calls, as the security guards would rather watch Matthew beat Luke to death. In the end, Luke gave in to the demand. He knelt on the ground, but still, he didn't forget to threaten Matthew. "Mark my words, punk. When my homie comes back, you won't even have time to beg for mercy. I—"

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Obviously enraged by the order, Luke barked, "Don't get too cocky!"

Slap!

Luke resigned and lowered his head toward Seshe.

Slap!

As if seeing the men's insincerity, Matthew commended, "Show more respect!"

Even Luke's neck was burning red, but he didn't dare oppose as he groveled respectfully.

Slap!

With anger rising within him like a tide, he was near the brink of madness. "I already bowed! And with respect!"

"I never told you to stop," Matthew replied.

Huh? What? Ain't that enough?

Still, he didn't have the courage to protest anymore, so he repeatedly lowered and raised his head while being on his knees.

Once, twice, thrice...

As long as Matthew hadn't said the word, Luke dared not stop. In the end, after almost ten repetitions, Matthew finally said, "Enough. Pick up the key and wipe it clean."

Luke's cheeks were swollen, and he was truly drained of any courage to protest. He ran to the trash can and fished the key out, then wiped it carefully until it was clean.

Matthew returned the key to Seshe. "You leave first."

Seshe gave him a smile. People like Luke are not worth the pity anyhow. He deserves it!

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Matthew smiled coldly. "Don't worry, you'll know my name soon enough. However, I'm afraid you won't get the chance to look for me. Do you think a few slaps and some humiliation will suffice as punishment for bullying my wife?"

Luke was stunned. "That... That was your wife?"

"Who did you think she was?" Matthew asked.

Luke frowned, but a wave of coldness soon overtook his face as he started smirking. "Hmph, you punk! Since I'm still alive, I have all the time in the world to mess with you!"

Oh my! Matthew returned the man's smirk with a slight grin. "Are you so sure that you won't be dead?"

Luke was taken aback, but he quickly recovered. "Dead? At your hands? You're just a trashy doctor! Who are you trying to threaten? You'll meet your own death when my bro comes back!"

Faced with the man's threat-like proclamation, Matthew initially had his fist clenched but suddenly decided to smile at him. "All right, enough nonsense! Guards, call the police. Tell them that someone had brought weapons into the hospital to inflict harm. See, that swiss army knife would be evidence enough!"

These people have so much hatred in their eyes. I bet they want revenge.

For people with such characters, Matthew wouldn't settle on disciplining them just once. He wanted them to pay the price for everything they had done!

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Chapter 988

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The young men were dumbfounded. It was a more serious crime to hurt someone with a weapon than it was to hit them bare-handed!

Only Luke continued rambling. "You punk, you know nothing about power! Don't you know who my homeboy is? You want to threaten me with such a dirty trick? Hah! My homeboy only needs to say the word, and we'll be free in no time, like nothing ever happened! You, on the other hand, had injured us. Where do you think you'll end up? I'll have you stay in jail for a few years, then bring your wife to see you. How's that sound? Hahaha..."

Matthew didn't even look at him as he ordered in a loud voice, "Right, after filing the report, head over to Carlson Law Firm and ask for Mr. Manning. I want the knife-bearers to get a heavier sentence."

The security guard nodded quickly. "Understood, Director Larson!"

Luke was stunned, for he had no idea who this man was. Huh? Is he calling for a lawyer for real? Still, when he thought of his powerful buddy, he felt almost fearless.

"So what if you get a lawyer? No matter which lawyer comes along, I'll just beat them down! Just you wait, punk!" Luke shouted.

Matthew didn't even spare him a glance. Instantly, he walked upstairs and thought for a while before sending Mr. Manning a message.

Ah-hah! It's such a waste if this young man is put behind bars. I shall personally dish out the punishment he deserves.

When Matthew made his way back to the ward, he saw Crystal standing in front of the door, secretly observing the goings-on inside the ward.

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Leio waved her hand. "All right, I know, I know. But what does she have to do with me? I've been in Eastcliff for so long, but she never visited me at all. What sort of relative is this?"

Her comment left her aunt, Helen, rather awkward. Ah, the girl is right. I didn't visit her in the past.

Heidi hastily said, "Leio, you can't say such things! Your Aunt Helen didn't know that you were here for school. I've never told her, see? It's not like she doesn't care about you."

Leio waved her hand again. "Enough. I'm not in the mood for such nonsense! When are you giving me my allowance? I'm all out of money right now, and I had to borrow money from people for my meals these days."

Immediately, Helen frowned. "Leio, didn't you withdraw the 130,000 that was on your mother's card? Where did that money go?"

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Seeing Matthew, Crystal complained, "Look! Heidi's daughter is here again!"

Matthew walked nearer to the door and saw a girl standing in the ward, dressed in quite revealing clothing. Heidi looked elated as she made the introductions. "You're here, Leia! Come, this lovely lady here is your aunt!"

Leia gave Helen a look of disdain. She still remembered this aunt of hers. As a matter of fact, her memories of Helen were mainly during that time period when the Cunninghams were in poverty. Helen had come over to Leia's house countless times, asking to borrow money from them. To her, Helen and her family were simply a bunch of paupers, and she had no desire to humor such people.

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Leia glared at her. "This is our business, so don't butt in. What, are you upset that I spent all the money so you can't borrow from us anymore? Look, that money belongs to us, and I can use it however I like. What does that have to do with you?"

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Seeing how things had escalated, Heidi was panicking. "Leia, how can you use that tone when you're talking to your aunt?"

Growing impatient, Leia growled, "Was I wrong? I've been studying here for so long, but she never even came to see me! She has no right to interfere in our business!"

Heidi was so mad that her face went red. "H-How could you say that? She's your aunt! I've already told you; it's not that she didn't want to see you. She just didn't know because I didn't tell her. She's not the one at fault here—"

However, the young lady didn't even bother to allow her mother to finish. "Enough of that! Don't change the topic. I have no business with the likes of her, and I never will. Just give me my allowance and make it quick. I'm about to go back to campus!"

Heidi was rather awkward because she had no money to give her daughter. On the side, Matthew couldn't help frowning. This girl is getting too out of hand.

He couldn't help it anymore as he walked into the ward and said in a low voice, "What's wrong with you, Leia? Look at the state your mother is in! Hasn't it crossed your mind to ask how she's doing? And you just walk in like that asking for money? Don't you have the slightest bit of compassion for your own mother?"

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Chapter 989

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Taken aback by her daughter's bluntness, Heidi tried to lecture her daughter. "Leia, mind your manners! This is Sasha's husband, Director Matthew Larson! He's a part of the family."

Leia pouted in disdain. "Hmph, who's Sasha? I don't know her. You have no right to butt in on my family's matters! Also, who said that I didn't care for my mom? I visited her yesterday, and I also came to see her just this morning! Also, do you think higher education is free or something? What about my meals? Should I just die of starvation? If it's so troublesome, then I can just drop out, can't I?"

The young lady's words were like a trigger because the protective Heidi turned furious upon hearing her. "You! How can you say that?!"

Leia was worked up as well. "What? Was I wrong? Going to school requires money, doesn't it? If you don't want me to continue my studies, you can just tell me, and I'll quit school and start working. I won't take even a penny from you anymore. That's what you want, right?"

"I... I...."

Helen sighed and took some money from her pocket. "All right, I'll give you some money for now. Just try to get by for the time being."

Leia took the money, then her eyes widened. "Only 300? What is this good for? It's not even enough to cover my meals! Quit pretending to be generous if you're out of money! Did I come all this way just to get 300? That's outrageous!"

Leio glanced at Matthew, frowning. "And you? Who do you think you are? Who gave you the right to talk?"

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"We're different! She went to school so long ago, and I'm in school right now! Look at the price tags on everything now! How many cups of Starbucks can I get with this measly 300? One and a half? Also, I have so many friends, and I sometimes have to treat them to meals and karaoke and movies and whatnot! One meal and this 300 would be gone! How am I supposed to meet my friends now?"

Matthew was in disbelief. "Your mother is in this condition right now, and you still want to have fun with your friends? Can't you just decline some of the gatherings and spend more time with your mother?"

"You have no right to tell me what to do! If I don't establish connections right now, who will help me when I leave school and start working in the future? With my family in this condition, I can't get any good opportunities, so I can only depend on myself!"

Matthew shook his head. "How are you so sure that these friends of yours will help you in the future? Stop being foolish. You won't get any good friends if you buy them over with money. They won't help you one bit!"

Leie was enraged. "Shut up! You have no right to criticize my friends!"

At this point, Heidi was boiling in anger. "You better mind your manners, young lady!"

Refusing to listen, Leie snapped, "Was I wrong at all, Mom? What sort of relatives are they? They never gave me so much as a penny in their whole lives, and now they can only give me 300! And they think they can tell me what to do just because of that! What right do they have?"

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At this moment, Heidi was so breathless with anger she had her hand pressed against her chest in an attempt to calm herself down. Suffocated by fury, she couldn't even say a word. Standing on the side, Helen could only sigh in exasperation. All these years, she had never taken much care of this niece of hers, so she was also regretful about that. Leia is right in a way... I have not taken care of her all these years.

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"Never mind, I'll give you some more." Helen took out another 200 from her bag. "500 for a week. That should be enough, right?"

Surprisingly, the girl was still upset. "Enough? Do you even hear yourself talking? It's only enough for one trip to Starbucks! How am I supposed to go out with my friends? Mom, come on! Why don't you just give me money already? This isn't nearly enough!"

Heidi's hand remained on her chest, and she had no words to say.

Helen feared that Helen's condition would get worse with the anger, so she could only fork out another 500. "Here, 1,000. Happy now?"

Finally, Leia smiled as she took the money. "Now, this is what we're talking about! All right, Mom, rest well, okay? I'm going back to campus now!"

With that, she left happily with the money in hand. She didn't even spare a glance at her mother lying on the hospital bed.

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Chapter 990

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Helen looked on helplessly. "Since when did Leia turn into such a character?"

"I have no idea as well. She was not too difficult during high school, but half a year of college changed her a lot. She keeps buying new clothes and makeup, never tired of dolling and dressing up. When she comes back to visit me, she has the habit of staying out all night. She seems to be having fun all the time and only comes to me when she needs money. Nowadays, there is nothing left to be said between us, except for the topic of money. Sigh. Tell me, why did she end up this way?"

Helen frowned upon learning the details. "It must be her college friends! They are a bad influence on her."

Heidi nodded in agreement and sighed. "I told her countless times not to hang out with those people, but she... refused to listen. I am at the end of my wits."

After giving it some serious thought, Matthew whispered, "Heidi, just focus on getting better. When I get back, I'll look into those college friends of hers."

That prompted Heidi to wave her hand frantically. "Matthew, you should not do that! We don't even know what their backgrounds are. By the looks of it, they are a gang of hooligans. Look... This injury on me was from the time they knocked me over."

To that, Matthew merely smiled. "No worries! Hooligans? They're the easiest to deal with!"

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After a couple of incidents of late, even Helen underwent a change in attitude toward Matthew. Moreover, she was reassured after knowing that Tiger would always lend him a helping hand.

Hooligans? They are nothing but flies in front of Tiger!

.....

When Matthew left the room, Crystel, who had been waiting by the door, jumped out with a face full of disdain. "Matthew, how could you possibly stand that girl? If I were you, I would have given her a slap on the face!"

He shrugged, but honestly speaking, there was a moment he had wanted to slap Leie across the face.

Well, luckily I held back! If Heidi did not have the heart to slap her daughter, I couldn't possibly do so, could I? Everyone would be mad at me by then!

"Send someone over to keep an eye on the situation. If anything happens, just contact me," he ordered. Crystel nodded at him. "No problem! Just leave it to me!"

On Matthew's way back to his office, he called Tiger, asking the latter to look into Leie and her friends. In order to deal with her, he decided that he had to get rid of the bad influence around her first.

On top of that, the fact that the gang had inflicted a serious injury on Heidi made him vow to take this issue with all seriousness. I can't just sit back and watch!

After getting the call, Tiger immediately had someone to work on Leie and her friends.

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When Matthew left the room, Crystal, who had been waiting by the door, jumped out with a face full of disdain. "Matthew, how could you possibly stand that girl? If I were you, I would have given her a slap on the face!"

He shrugged, but honestly speaking, there was a moment he had wanted to slap Leia across the face.

Well, luckily I held back! If Heidi did not have the heart to slap her daughter, I couldn't possibly do so, could I? Everyone would be mad at me by then!

"Send someone over to keep an eye on the situation. If anything happens, just contact me," he ordered. Crystal nodded at him. "No problem! Just leave it to me!"

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At the same time, he informed Matthew of a piece of bad news: someone was intentionally raising the prices of renovation materials for the Lakeside Garden neighborhood.

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As of now, the price of the raw materials was three times more expensive than its original price, and some rare materials even saw their prices inflated as much as five times. What was more horrible was the supply crunch. Hence, even if they could afford to pay more, they might not even get the supply on time.

Under the current circumstances, they would have to absorb a greater loss in order to renovate the entire neighborhood.

The increased cost was not the core issue. In reality, the more critical issue was the shortage of material, because that would lead to a delay in the project. If that happened, they would risk missing the completion deadline.

Hearing that, Matthew instantly frowned. "Why would the price of construction materials suddenly shoot up? And why is there a supply problem?"

Tiger replied somberly, "Mr. Larson, I suspect that someone is secretly sabotaging us. They must have purposely stocked away the materials that are hard to come by so that we end up with nothing. Then, we would miss the completion deadline. Our buyers are the elites of Eastcliff! Even the Ten Greatest Families are our clients. If we miss the deadline, we will get ourselves into greater trouble!"

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