

Runaway 241

Chapter 241

Irene didn't expect that from Sheryl, and walked up to give her mother a hug from the back. "Thanks, Mom."

Sheryl smiled and patted Irene's hand.

"You don't have to thank me, silly—I'm your mother. Of course I'll wish the best for you," she said. She leaned in to whisper into Irene's ear, saying, "I'm not blind, you know. I saw you two—"

"Mom!" Irene pouted in embarrassment.

"Alright, alright, I won't say it," Sheryl said, before adding solemnly. "Just be happy."

"Don't worry, Mom." Irene assured her.

Sheryl laughed. "Okay. I'll go cook now."

Irene let go of Sheryl, and returned to the couch.

Isaac did not pick up Tommy—he was sitting beside Tommy and staring at the baby, who was blinking his large, round eyes at Isaac.

Tommy appeared curious and wasn't throwing a fit, lying there unmoving as Isaac watched him.

Irene poured Isaac a glass of water. "Why are you staring at him like that?"

Isaac did not look up, and instead asked, "Do you want to keep being a doctor, or learn business?"

Irene sat beside him, watching Tommy.

She had always dreamt of becoming a doctor, but she couldn't hand Spencer Holdings completely to

Ricky Spencer yet. While the boy could manage things and was smart, he wasn't fully capable of going independent yet.

Isaac could tell what she was thinking. "I can help."

Irene showed him a book she left on the table. "I'm studying. Still, if a success story like yourself is willing to share your experience, I will be willing to listen."

Isaac smiled and pinched her cheek. "Cheeky."

Irene pushed him away. "That hurts."

As they chatted and joked around, Isaac's mood improved considerably—he didn't remember when he last enjoyed himself and was this relaxed.

He loved this homely feeling.

Holding Irene's hand, he said, "Let's register our

marriage."

Henry pulled strings to get both their marriage and divorce done, and Isaac found that pointless—it only appeared serious and valid if they went together.

"Okay." Irene quickly agreed to it. "But it's late now- let's go tomorrow."

Isaac nodded.

At the same time, Sheryl had made dinner and put everything on the dining table before calling them to eat.

Irene called Ricky to see if he was coming home to eat, but the boy appeared frantic. "O—Oh, I don't think I'm going back... I'm very busy."

"Okay," Irene replied with a slight frown.

She found his reply suspicious, but did not ask.

Was Ricky hiding something from her? Why else would he seem so frantic?

"What's wrong?" Isaac appeared behind Irene without her sensing it.

Turning to look at Isaac, she explained, "I think

something's wrong with Ricky."

"I'll get Stan to look into him." Having said that, Isaac whipped out his phone and called his assistant.

Irene felt a little embarrassed. "Thank you."

Isaac tapped the tip of her nose with a finger. "What's mine is yours."

Irene smiled.

Still, she didn't forget that Sheryl was around, and so wrapped her arms around his waist, pouting

playfully as she joked, "Does that mean your money's mine too?"

At once, Isaac felt amused and helpless. "Of course." Irene blinked. "Doesn't that mean I'm very rich?"

Chapter 242

Isaac smiled. "You're very rich."

Sheryl Harris was sitting at the dining table, smiling as she watched the two—she was pleased that her daughter found her happiness, and that Tommy now has a family.

"Come sit already," she urged—it wouldn't do if the food got cold.

Meanwhile, Isaac told Stan across the phone, "Contact me right away if you find anything unusual about Ricky."

He hung up once Stan confirmed his orders, and headed to the dining table with Irene.

Tommy was asleep, so they didn't have to mind him.

Sheryl was eagerly pushing food and soup to Isaac—she appeared happier with him the more they interacted.

"I'm not sure what you like, so I cooked a little

something. Don't hold back."

Isaac wasn't uneasy—the mood around the dining table actually suited him.

It had been a long while since he felt at home.

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“Once Irene and I registered our marriage, please pick a date for us. I wish to give her a wedding,” he said,

offering Sheryl assurance while acknowledging and confirming his relationship with Irene.

Sheryl didn’t expect him to mention that. Both of them were reluctant to get married before. Now that they were together, they should tie the knot.

Smiling and nodding, Sheryl said, “Of course. I will definitely pick a fine date for you.”

“Thank you,” Isaac said.

“We’re family now—there’s no need to be so polite.” Sheryl was certainly happy Isaac was being so thoughtful.

It was obvious that he cared about Irene.

Even if things did not start ideally for them, the outcome was perfect: a child, a family of three.

Sheryl found herself smiling blissfully.

After dinner, Isaac asked, “Can I stay?”

Irene beat Sheryl to it. “No—we’re getting registered and we’ll have a proper wedding. I’ll take Tommy back to

your mansion once all that’s done.”

In truth, her quick refusal was actually out of

embarrassment—letting Isaac stay while her mother was

here?

Sheryl rose to her feet and picked up the dishes before heading to the kitchen. “It’s your business, so

decide on

your own. I won't meddle."

Irene pulled Isaac along, saying, "Come. I'll walk you out.

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Isaac frowned. "You're afraid that I'd stay?"

Irene averted his eyes. "Your grandfather filled out our divorce papers. We aren't actually married right now."

"Excuses." Isaac gathered her in his arms. He knew that

she was feeling shy, but refrained from exposing her. "Let's have a stroll together, shall we?"

"Okay." Irene nodded.

There weren't many scenic spots nearby, so they drove to a nearby lake.

As they alighted from the car, Irene linked arms with Isaac and they walked over the cobblestone path

near the lake. The vegetation there was lush, and there was a cool

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breeze blowing at them from time to time despite the scorching climate.

Irene leaned her face against his arm. "I love this feeling."

To stroll along a small, quiet path with the man she loved.

Isaac grinned, and patted her on the head.

As they strolled along, Irene saw a familiar figure looking left and right, as if worried someone would catch him.

Why was he here?

By the time Irene let go of Isaac and walked towards the person, he had already got in a car.

“What are you looking at?” Isaac asked.

Chapter 243

Irene frowned worriedly. “I think I saw Ricky.”

Isaac turned towards where she was looking, but saw nothing. “Are you sure you’re not mistaken?”

Irene shook her head. “No.”

She couldn’t have been—it was obviously Ricky.

He sounded frantic when she called him today, and he

was acting all shady just now—something was clearly wrong with Ricky!

Nonetheless, Isaac put an arm around Irene’s shoulder and said, “I’ve told Stan to look into him. He’d have

something soon if Ricky really was messing around at Spencer Holdings. Come on, let’s go.”

Irene nodded, feeling gradually uneasy. Her foreboding feeling soon came true!

Stan discovered that Ricky was the one who leaked news about the casino ship.

“How could it be him?” Irene asked in disbelief. “He

should have no reason to do it...”

However, Ricky’s unusual behavior meant otherwise.

“Did you find anything else? Has he been up to anything recently?” Irene kept on asking Stan.

“I did, but there’s nothing unusual there,” Stan replied.

Irene frowned. “That’s weird...”

Bzzt-

Just then, Irene's phone started to ring.

It had been taken from her when she boarded Ian's casino ship, and she forgot to take it when she left since she was anxious to rush Tommy to the hospital.

Stan had recovered it for her.

The call turned out to be from Sheryl, and she sounded worried, "Irene, you have to come back. I think something's wrong with Tommy!"

"What happened?"

"I'm not sure, but he's convulsing a lot. I've called an ambulance, but you really should come take a look.

"Okay," Irene replied.

"Did something happen?" Isaac asked.

Irene had no idea what was happening yet, and since Isaac was busy with his family business, she didn't tell him about Tommy. "It's nothing. My mom just asked if I was going home soon... I thought I should since I'm not doing anything anyway."

Smiling at Isaac, she said, "Okay, I'm going now. You should go about your business."

"Should I still keep an eye on Ricky?" Stan asked.

Irene thought briefly about it. "No."

If Stan couldn't find anything, Ricky was either being wary—or it could have been nothing at all.

She certainly hoped for the latter to be the case. If Ricky was wary, they would find nothing anyway.

Perhaps she was being paranoid, too. Ricky had never been out of line. In fact, the boy had been doing well, and Sheryl told Irene that he was as frantic as she was when Irene was abducted; he even went as far as to go with Sheryl to demand Irene back from Harvey.

Samantha White was already jailed, and Irene wasn't about to get into an argument with Ricky just because of her meager suspicions.

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“I’ll ask Jimmy to give you a ride,” Isaac said.

“Okay,” Irene replied.

Once Irene reached the Spencer Mansion, the ambulance had long since arrived and had taken both Sheryl and Tommy to the hospital. As such, Irene had to head to the hospital.

“You should go back to the mansion,” she told Jimmy the chauffeur, and ran inside.

She headed straight to pediatrics, but did not see Sheryl or Tommy. Eventually, Irene found her mother at the clinical laboratory.

Rushing to her side, she called out, “Mom...!”

Sheryl seemed to find peace of mind right then. “Oh, Irene. You’re here.”

She passed Tommy to Irene, and Irene saw the needle holes on his fingertips. “They were drawing blood samples?”

Sheryl nodded. “Pediatrics had no idea what’s happening to him, so they sent him here to get tested.”

Chapter 244

Tommy was clearly uncomfortable in Irene’s hold. He

was flailing his arms around, and was choking with tears from time to time, but not crying out loud. It was obvious

that he was sick.

Irene kissed his cheek, her heart aching for him. “When did you notice that he was sick?”

“Before I called you,” Sheryl replied.

Irene nodded—all they could do is wait for the test

results.

In the meantime, Irene took Tommy to someplace quiet, hoping that he would be more comfortable with less people around.

However, that didn't seem to make things better for Tommy—he soon began to cry. Too young to put feelings to words, it was the only thing he could do.

Knowing that he was in a bad condition, Irene told Sheryl, "I'll get him checked. Wait here for the lab results."

Sheryl nodded. "Okay. Go on."

Irene brought Tommy to the outpatient service—the only option left for her was to examine any possible cause

of discomfort.

While she waited, the lab results were soon out, and

Sheryl rushed to Irene with it.

Irene took a look and scowled, because she knew what it meant.

"Let me see," the doctor said, and Irene gave it to him. "I see... There's this compound called 2S,6R detected in the boy's body. It's what causes his convulsions."

Sheryl didn't understand what he was saying, however, and pressed, "What's that, doctor? How did he get sick?"

"He's not sick," the doctor replied. "This chemical compound has to be ingested—"

"What?!" Sheryl exclaimed in shock and confusion. "

Tommy never took anything! Why would it be in his body?

"I'm sorry, but it has to be ingested, and it's not a commonly found compound. Perhaps someone mistakenly gave it to him."

Sheryl tried to argue, but Irene cut her short. "Mom, has anyone visited our home recently?"

Sheryl thought about it and replied, "No. It's just you, Isaac, and Ricky."

There was no way Irene or Isaac would hurt their own child. Sheryl wouldn't do it either... Which made Ricky the only possibility.

Could it really be him?

Irene would've never suspected Rocky, but remembering all the things he had been up to recently made him a suspicious target.

"Irene..."

"Mom," Irene cut Sheryl short again. "Don't let Ricky near Tommy."

"Why?!" Sheryl asked, and soon came to a realization." Does that mean he was hurting Tommy?"

Irene only had her suspicions, however. Alas, she didn't have evidence to form conclusions.

"Just go home for now, Mom. Don't tell Ricky about Tommy. Just say that I went looking for Isaac with him."

"Okay..." Sheryl didn't understand what the doctor was saying or the nature of Tommy's condition, and so asked,

“Is this serious? Is that stuff going to hurt him?”

Irene did not want her mother to worry, and so said, “It’s

fine.”

“Oh, that’s a relief,” Sheryl exclaimed.

However, it wasn’t until she left that Irene let her feelings show.

They were lucky they noticed early, or else...

Even so, she couldn’t bear Tommy being hurt repeatedly.

“I’ll have your baby admitted to the hospital,” the doctor

said, to which Irene nodded.

She and the doctor had been acquainted for quite a while, and he was eager to help her—such as getting Tommy admitted right this moment. After some discussion, they

decided to start his medication as well. Since he was a

baby, keeping him at a hospital would allow him to be treated in time should he get sick again.

It was only until the evening that Tommy became quiet. He slept after having some formula milk.

That was when Irene’s phone suddenly started ringing. She immediately became wary when she heard the voice from the other end.

Chapter 245

Ricky was the caller. He asked, “I heard Tommy’s sick. Is he better now?”

Irene did her best to pretend that she never found out, and instead asked calmly, “Who told you that Tommy is sick?”!

“Sheryl told me,” Ricky replied.

“My mom?” Irene exclaimed in feigned surprise, setting

her bait.

Ricky naturally took the bait, and pressed, "What happened to Tommy?"

Irene's gaze turned cool and vicious. She had believed

that Ricky was different from Samantha, and so had done her best to encourage him, caring for him and making him feel like family.

Yet...

"Yeah," she finally said.

"Is it serious?" Ricky asked worriedly.

"He's been admitted. You can come by to check on him if you're worried," Irene told him.

"Alright, which hospital is it? I'll be right there."

Irene gave him a location before hanging up and calling Isaac.

"Hello?"

"It's me. Can you send me some well-trained bodyguards?"

Isaac grew tense right there and then. "What happened?"

"Can you send them?" Irene refrained from mentioning Tommy.

She didn't want to keep it from Isaac, but this was a matter that concerned her family.

If it really was Ricky, Isaac would show now mercy if he found out—just as Irene wouldn't!

"Of course," Isaac replied.

Irene gave him the address and hung up.

On the other end, Isaac thought he smelled something, fishy. Irene wouldn't ask for protection for no reason.

After pondering for a while, he paged Debbie the secretary. "Ask Jimmy to come to my office."

"Yes, Mr. Jefferson." Debbie did so soon after he hung up, and Jimmy the chauffeur arrived at Isaac's office in no time at all.

"Did Irene go anywhere after you took her to the Spencer Mansion?" Isaac asked.

"She headed to the hospital since there wasn't anyone home," Jimmy replied.

Isaac raised a brow, sensing a foreboding feeling...

Meanwhile, Irene had been waiting for half an hour at the hospital when Isaac's men arrived—there were five of them, and they all appeared well-trained.

However, Irene asked for them not to beat up Ricky, but to protect Tommy instead.

"Please stay here and keep watch. No one is allowed to enter this ward without my permission," she told them.

"Of course, ma'am. Mr. Jefferson himself told us to follow any orders from you before we came. Just say the word."

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Irene smiled begrudgingly. "I have none—I just hope

that you can keep my baby safe.”

Having made the arrangements there, Irene left the ward.

Chapter 246

Irene was naturally relieved to have Isaac’s men standing guard.

She headed to the elevator, when Ricky happened to arrive, appearing tense. “Where’s Tommy? Is he better now? Can I visit him?”

Irene calmly studied Ricky’s face, intending to find a tell and perceive if his anxiety was feigned.

However, he appeared to be too good an actor—she found nothing!

“Come with me, Ricky.” She entered the elevator and pressed the button to head downstairs.

“Is there something you need?” Ricky asked.

“Yeah,” Irene answered quickly.

“What is it?”

“I’ll tell you later,” Irene replied.

“Okay.” Ricky did not say anything else.

When the elevator stopped, Irene left the elevator first and headed straight to the parking lot behind the hospital, leading Ricky there.

“Irene? Why did you take me here?” Ricky asked, uncertain.

Irene ensured that there was no one around before she answered him. "I have a question—are you sure my mother told you that Tommy was sick?"

Ricky didn't expect that from her and it showed on his face, but he quickly composed himself. "Y—Yeah."

He was too young, and his poker -face was lacking as Irene stared into his eyes, he nervously averted his gaze.

"I had my mom promise not to tell anyone that Tommy's sick—especially you. I know her, and she always keeps her promise. Not to mention, she has even less reason to tell you because it concerns Tommy."

"S—So what?" Ricky forced a smile.

Irene held her gaze as she continued, "If I remember correctly, you seemed to know that Tommy got sick as soon as you called me. Only my mother and myself know, and if neither of us told you, how did you know that Tommy was sick?"

Ricky became speechless and frantic right then, and his

gaze was darting evasively.

"I..."

He was trying to explain, but stopped as if a cat got his tongue.

"You laced Tommy's formula milk, didn't you?" Irene asked, now certain that Ricky was the culprit.

Ricky panicked. "No, I didn't mean to do it... I never wanted to hurt Tommy!"

His words were almost hysterical, but it was clear he was feeling guilty.

Irene's demeanor turned cold. "You're our father's only

son, and I would've given you the family estate in its entirety without taking anything. Why did you think I let you take management over Spencer Holdings? Why did you have to do this, Ricky?!"

"I didn't do anything! Really!" Ricky was still trying to deny it as vehemently as he could.

That was when Irene suddenly whipped out a scalpel and pressed it against his chest. "I'm a doctor, and I can reach your heart with pinpoint position. Don't think that this scalpel is too small to inflict any

damage—I can ensure that you bleed out with just a little push, even if the

hospital is right here!"

She was naturally prepared when she called Ricky out here

it was the reason why she brought him out here alone

in the first place.

Ricky was petrified. "S—Stop...!"

"Are you going to talk now?" Irene pressed.

Seeing that the cat was out of the bag, Ricky cried, "I—I

didn't want to do it... Believe me...!"

Chapter 247

Irene promptly cut Ricky short, disregarding his cries." Don't give me that! Just tell me—do you still hold a

grudge against me? Or did someone tell you to do this?!"

Ricky quickly shook his head. "You're family, I'd never

hold a grudge... Someone threatened me."

"Who?" Irene asked sharply.

Ricky took out his phone and gave it to her. "Look here—

it's anonymous, so I don't even know who it is. I can't

track the guys down, either.”

Irene glanced at the screen and frowned. “Your mom’s supposed to be in prison, isn’t she?”

“I checked. She’s really gone,” Ricky admitted, coming clean now that he has nothing to hide. “Every text sent to me was encrypted, and they’re threatening me with my mother’s life! I can’t-”

“So they told you to hurt Tommy?” Irene cut him short.

Ricky nodded fervently. “Yes! They seemed to know every detail about me, and gave me the substance by mail. They told me it won’t hurt Tommy, but I knew that it won’t do him good either... S–So I just put in a small amount...”

Irene’s heart skipped a beat. Fury soon overcame her, and she gave Ricky a tight slap across the face right there and

then.

“Why didn’t you come to me first if you were in trouble? Did you think I’ll forgive you just because you came clean?!”

Instead of talking things out with her, he had to do things his way—had he slipped up even a little, he could’ve killed Tommy!

Seething, she snarled, “This is all your fault!”

“I know! I’m sorry!” Ricky hung his head, a bright palm print glimmering over his face.

Irene wasn’t about to accept his apology. “Tell me! What else did they order you to do other than poisoning Tommy?”

“They sent the information about the casino ship and told me to leak it to the media,” Ricky admitted. “I’m sure they want to stay anonymous, which is why they’re using my mother as leverage so that I do everything for

them.”

Irene then remembered Stan telling her and Isaac that

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Ricky was indeed the one who leaked the news to the media. However, who was the one controlling him?

“Look, I know it’s all my fault. Please, please forgive me...” Ricky cried as he dropped to his knees before Irene. “They have my mom...”

Though Irene understood the gravity of the situation, she was still livid.

“I can’t forgive you that easily,” she breathed through clenched teeth. “Whatever the reason you had, you

almost killed my baby!”

“I know,” Ricky sobbed, his eyes welling with tears. “I’m worried about my mom... Even if she was terrible to you, I can’t just leave her! She’s still my mom...”

Irene turned away. “I’ll settle this later, but the pressing thing right now is to find who they are. Otherwise, they’d just hit us from the shadows again!”

Ricky nodded repeatedly. “Y–Yes, of course...”

Irene clenched her fists. “I’m your sister, but you still wouldn’t trust me. You’d rather be controlled like a puppet when there’s trouble instead of talking to me. Get this in your head—you almost killed Tommy, and he’s just a baby!”

Her words trailed off as her voice suddenly turned raspy.

“I’m sorry...” Ricky repeated.

Irene didn’t want to hear that now, and she simply told him, “Just tell me right away if they contact you again— two heads are always better than one.”

Ricky nodded, while Irene mused to herself.

She had no idea who could have enough influence to extract a prisoner out of a penitentiary, and was so intent on killing her baby.

There was no question that they hated her to the bone, but who could it be?

“What should we do now? They’ll keep pushing me if they find out that Tommy’s fine...” Ricky pointed out.

“Go home for now. Tell me if you get another text,” Irene said, and returned to the hospital alone.

Although there were people guarding. Tommy now, her baby was alone and she was worried...

However, she returned to his ward to find Isaac sitting by Tommy’s crib.

Why would he be there?!

Chapter 248

Irene became tense immediately.

Isaac’s appearance took her by surprise.

Still, she composed herself as best as she could and smiled. “Hey...”

Isaac looked up, his expression impassive. “Where have you been?”

“I—I had something to do.” Irene fumbled to find the right words while deliberately avoiding Isaac’s gaze as she walked to the table, pouring him a glass of water to hide her awkwardness. “You haven’t told me why you’re

here...”

Isaac’s voice turned cool. “Shouldn’t I check on my son when he’s sick?”

Irene lowered her gaze, guilty. Isaac stared at her for a heartbeat, and turned grumpy.

She wasn’t going to tell him, even though Tommy was their child and was being harmed.

Did she not trust him, or was there some other reason?

"I'm taking Tommy with me," he suddenly announced.

Irene looked up right then. "Why?"

"He's my son."

"He's my son too!" Irene promptly shot back.

Isaac held her gaze for a while before saying slowly, "You think you'd have a child without me?"

Irene was speechless—he sounded just like a dirty old

man!

Still, she understood his temper and that she shouldn't get confrontational, so she conceded. "Look, Tommy's sick. He shouldn't leave the hospital right now."

"How did he get sick?" Isaac asked – he wouldn't press the issue if she told him the truth.

He had learned from Jimmy the chauffeur that Irene had come here, and quickly looked into it.

He left work immediately when he found out that Tommy was sick, and had a general idea what was happening to his son after asking the doctor.

It seemed that Irene also knew who hurt Tommy, though she was reluctant to tell him.

"Just leave this to me. Trust me," Irene said, holding his

gaze.

"Leave it to you? Trust you?" Isaac repeated coolly.

Irene began, "Look, it's a family matter—"

"And my son was involved. I have to take him away for

the sake of his health, and I will hire the best doctor to

care for him."

With those words, he scooped Tommy up in his arms, gently and carefully unlike the clumsy way he did the first time, seemingly having trained considerably to do it.

Irene tugged at Isaac's sleeve. "Please calm down..."

"I am calm, Irene," he said evenly.

He certainly knew what he should be doing right now, too: the first was to keep his son safe, and the next was to find the person who did this and make that person pay- no matter who it was!

For Irene's part, she understood that Irene was angry, and decided to come clean. Moreover, misunderstandings were unnecessary now that she and Isaac just confirmed their relationship. Anyhow, they were still having trust issues.

She was hoping that she could convince Isaac to leave the problem to her.

"It's Ricky," she finally said. "But it's not his fault-"

"Got it," Isaac growled, cutting her short.

Seeing that she had more to say, Isaac added, "You're Tommy's mom, so come with me if you're worried."

Irene hesitated for a moment, but eventually nodded. "Okay, I'll carry him."

Isaac did not let her, however. "No, I can do it."

He had learned how to carry a baby in private. Though he was no master, he was certainly not unskilled.

Irene pursed her lips, and tried to speak on Ricky's behalf. "It's not his fault. He was being threatened..."

"Shush. Tommy's sleeping."

Isaac was clearly refusing to listen, so Irene had to stay quiet.

Chapter 249

They left the hospital with the bodyguards escorting them, not to Isaac's mansion, but to the residence where he kept Irene prisoner before.

There weren't many who knew about this place, and it was relatively safer than Isaac's mansion. Moreover, he had arranged for people to keep constant watch for additional security.

Zachary arrived just as they put Tommy on the bed- Isaac had called him here.

He wasn't a doctor now, but he still had enough connections to find the best and most reliable pediatrician to act as Tommy's attending physician, no matter how much it cost Isaac. Although he had

to resign as a doctor, which was his favorite job, he had to go with his mother's arrangement to work at Slate Industries for

Lulu Adams's sake.

Zachary searched his memory for a while, and soon came up with the right man for the job.

"Leave this to me," he said.

Isaac said, "Make it fast."

"Okay," Zachary replied, and glanced at Irene. "Why

would you need another doctor for your baby, though? You are a doctor—won't it be more reliable to have you care for him?"

Irene, however, knew that Isaac asked Zachary's help because Isaac was angry with her. Anyway, she

was a surgeon, and specialist pediatricians were better for the job. It was simply a matter of suitability..

That being said, no one could care for a child better than a mother. However, Isaac wanted a doctor to ensure that Tommy is safe for now.

"How are things with Lulu?" Irene asked, trying to change the subject.

“Well, she promised to let me marry her once I took over the family business,” Zachary said feebly. “But if I can’t...

He allowed his voice to trail off, but Irene understood it even though he left it unsaid.

She sighed it seemed it was going to be a bumpy road for him and Lulu.

Everyone seemed to be pushed around by things beyond their control, no?

The next day was the end of the three day limit Henry

gave Isaac, and he arrived at Sky Group headquarters.

He could hardly eat or sleep over the last few days as he

watched the company’s stocks plummet by the day. After

all, how could he not feel anxious when his wealth was shrinking?

As such, Henry personally convened a board meeting, demanding that Isaac explain himself to the board and forcing him to give up his position as CEO if he couldn’t.

Greg—who hadn’t shown up for a long time—came with

Henry.

Henry had no choice but to side with his own son now that Isaac had obviously grown obstinate and wouldn’t

play to Henry’s own tune. The fact that Henry abandoned

Tommy and Irene was the straw that broke the camel’s

back.

“Isaac, I gave you everything. It’s just a matter of thought if I want it back.”

Henry's words were short and simple—he didn't even

care to put up an appearance now.

Isaac remained impassive, his thoughts inscrutable.

On the other hand, Greg was in a good mood now that his old man was backing him—he had every reason to return!

Leaning back on his chair and looking like he had already won, Greg gloated, "Oh, Isaac... The company's suffering terrible losses, but you can't seem to handle it. You have to explain yourself to everyone here now, don't you?"

Isaac remained silent.

After all, he had been managing the company for years- there were those who would side with him even if he said nothing.

To no one's surprise, someone soon spoke out, claiming hotly, "Ian Jefferson's crime is the reason our stocks are dropping! How is this Isaac's fault? You're being

outrageous!"

Chapter 250

Once the first board member loyal to Isaac spoke out, more board members nodded. Some rose to their feet and declared their support for him to keep his position as CEO.

They had all seen Isaac's ability, and knew that they were only paid dividends despite holding small portions of the company's shares because Isaac constantly led Sky Group to new heights.

On the other hand, would they really be able to enjoy the same benefits without hard work if there was a change in leadership? They were naturally suspicious. Not to

mention, Ian's crime called his father's character into

question.

That being said, Henry only called for the board meeting because he had privately contracted many board

members, asking that they endorse Greg—that was why Greg appeared so confident.

Naturally, Henry would rather support Ian because Ian was young and more or less capable.

Unfortunately, Ian was now under investigation for his casino ship. There was no way Ian could be here, just as the board was unlikely to endorse a person with a potential criminal

record.

Thus, Henry was forced to endorse Greg instead.

“I think Greg will make a better leader. He’s older and experienced – he won’t lose out to Isaac in any way, and he’s also Isaac’s uncle. Isaac should voluntarily step down in favor of his uncle instead of

hogging it!”

“What are you talking about? Does age determine merit?!”

Someone snapped in protest right there and then.

Ability speaks above all else. After goofing off for years, Greg won’t even know what the market looks like these days!”

The spacious conference room turned quite hectic, and the board member endorsing Greg was immediately silenced. Even with an estate passed down through generations and accruing enormous

wealth in the process, it took hard work from each family head to retain it. Isaac, however, was the one who took things further. His feats were irrefutable despite his youth!

“I think experience speaks here...”

“What experience? Greg’s just older—is there anything that makes him better than Isaac?”

Someone tried to speak for Greg again, but was once

again silenced immediately.

Even if Isaac knew that his grandfather wanted him out, he never contacted the board members or asked them to endorse himself. After all, he had measures in place. The title of Sky Group's CEO did not matter to him.

He was, however, deeply disappointed in Henry. It wouldn't be a far cry to say that he was now convinced

that every Jefferson is a cold-blooded reptilian; even himself!

Not bothered to keep listening, Ian rose to his feet.

Inform me when you have come to a decision, Mr. Henry

Jefferson."

"We're having a board meeting!" Henry snapped angrily. "How could you leave as you please?"

Henry was sure Isaac had bribed the people siding with

him at the moment to fend Henry off. Leaving the meeting room was an obvious show of disrespect—a gesture showing that Isaac thought nothing of Henry!

Isaac leveled a cool gaze at Henry. "Whether I keep my job or not means nothing to me."

In fact, Sky Group was nothing to him as he had been diverting various businesses to his own company

overseas.

If he stayed, Sky Group would remain the giant it was—if he left, Sky Group would be nothing.

"You can have company if you want, " Isaac said evenly and casually.

Henry was stunned, but he quickly came to his senses.

Was Isaac doing this on purpose?

Some of the board members were vehemently supporting him, after all...

Henry naturally doubted that Isaac didn't do anything behind the scenes, or that he didn't care about the Jefferson estate and being the CEO of Sky Group.

The board members were certainly no fools—they were smart enough to know Isaac's worth, and became frantic the instant they heard that he might leave.

After all, Sky Group would collapse if Isaac really left. They therefore wanted nothing less than to make him

stay.

"Henry, look—the company's stocks fell because Ian was messing around, and the media caught him in the act. That boy should take responsibility, but since he's under

investigation, Greg should offer us an explanation — Ian is his son, after all."

Henry was left frowning, while Grey finally exploded. Ian may have caused trouble, but Isaac is in charge here! Shouldn't he be doing something to mitigate our losses? I've even heard that he doesn't care at all, and simply left it with PR! Those useless scumbags don't even know what's going on, let alone draft a plan! That's why we're in this mess!"

The conference room went silent, because Greg was

actually right.

Isaac was in charge, but he really did nothing to curb the issue and instead allowed company stocks to keep falling.

On the other hand, Isaac started to head towards the

door. After all, everyone at present was simply running in

circles.

Greg slammed his hand on the table and bellowed, "Stop right there, Isaac Jefferson! Are you giving us an attitude when your grandfather is still here? Where are your manners? I'm your uncle too—do you think you can leave just because you want to?!"