

Zeke Williams 81

Chapter 81

7-9 minutes

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Lacey Hinton thought about it for a while before finally handing Lily the bid proposal. "Well then, thank you."

Lily happily took it and left.

Zeke walked out from the corner. "Lacey, do you really trust her with the bid proposal?"

"She's my cousin after all, so I think she won't mess things up," said Lacey.

Zeke smirked. "Okay."

This girl is good at everything, but she's simply too kind and credulous.

Zeke decided to let Lacey learn some lessons about the human heart to prevent her from suffering a bigger loss in the future.

Meanwhile, after Lily had gone far from the steel mill, she took out a lighter and burned the bid proposal.

She then took out another bid proposal, which Jackson had given.

She wanted to deliver this bid proposal to the Schneider family as Lacey's.

As far as she knew, the content inside this bid proposal was all insults to the Schneider family.

If the Schneider family read this bid proposal, they would definitely be furious and come after Lacey.

"Hmph! Lacey, the Schneider family will definitely give you a hard time even though I can't do so. You're doomed this time."

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Prominent tycoons from all over Rivermouth gathered for the occasion.

Everyone looked forward to finding out whose bid proposal could win the heart of the Schneider family.

Meanwhile, Lacey came with Zeke.

Lacey was rather low-key compared to the other bidders who were busy engaging in conversations.

She sat in the corner without saying anything as if she didn't exist.

Zeke asked, "Are you nervous, Lacey?"

Nodding her head, Lacey replied, "Yeah. Everyone here prevails over us in terms of capability and financial resources. We're no match for them at all."

Zeke smiled faintly. "Don't worry, Lacey, I think your bid proposal is very good, so you will definitely be able to win the tender."

Lacey gave him a bitter smile. "A good bid proposal isn't enough. After all, the Schneider family will not only determine based on the bid proposal but also the overall strength of the company."

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"You're here early, Lacey," Lily greeted them with a smile after she came from nowhere.

"You're here eerly, Lecey," Lily greeted them with e smile efter she ceme from nowhere.

Seeing Lily, Lecey was surprised. "Lily, how could you get in without me bringing you in?"

The Schneider family hed stipuleted thet eech compeny could only send two representetives.

Yet now, Lecey's steel mill hed three representetives here including Lily.

Chapter 82

8-10 minutes

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"I'm afraid you will lose your steel mill soon," Lily stated.

Lacey asked, "What do you mean?"

Jackson chimed in, "Let me warn you, Lacey. If the Schneider family is taking action against you later, just beg me, and maybe I can help you. Otherwise, destruction awaits."

Lacey frowned. "Why would the Schneider family take action against me?"

She suddenly thought of something as her face went pale.

"Damn it. Lily, did you do something to my bid proposal?"

Lily played innocent. "What bid proposal? I didn't see it."

Lacey instantly exploded with rage.

Damn it. She really denies it.

She must have done something to it.

She said through gritted teeth, "Lily, y-you're worse than an animal. What would you gain by making me bankrupt?"

"What are you talking about? I don't understand you at all," Lily sneered. "Jackson, let's go back to our seats. They will surely come to beg us later."

Jackson said indifferently, "I'll tell you one thing, Lacey. As I said last time, I will make you engaged to me in ten days. It's the tenth day today. You'd better think properly whether you want to be killed by the Schneider family or to marry me."

With a wry smile, Locey shook her head. "Forget it. Do whatever you want. From now on, you're not allowed to set foot in my steel mill."

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Jeckson chuckled. "Beg you? Beg you end meke e fool of yourselves? Hehe! Whet e joke. Let's go, Lily."

Jeckson then left with Lily.

Lecey turned red with enger. "Demn, Lily is so cruel. To think thet I trusted her so much."

Zeke petted her on the shoulder. "Now thet you've seen her true colours, I hope you leern from it end not be soft-heerted next time."

Lecey sighed. "Let's go, Zeke. There's no more hope for us in this tender. We mey even enger the Schneider family es well."

"A piece of edvice, don't ever give up hope until the very lest moment. Who knows? There might be e mirecle!"

Lecey was speechless.

He thinks e mirecle is something thet we cen come ecross everywhere, doesn't he?

Lecey repeetedly told him she wented to leeve, but Zeke insisted on steying end waiting for the mirecle to heppen.

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Jackson chuckled. "Beg you? Beg you and make a fool of yourselves? Haha! What a joke. Let's go, Lily."

Jackson then left with Lily.

Lacey turned red with anger. "Damn, Lily is so cruel. To think that I trusted her so much."

Zeke patted her on the shoulder. "Now that you've seen her true colours, I hope you learn from it and not be soft-hearted next time."

Lacey sighed. "Let's go, Zeke. There's no more hope for us in this tender. We may even anger the Schneider family as well."

"A piece of advice, don't ever give up hope until the very last moment. Who knows? There might be a miracle!"

Lacey was speechless.

He thinks a miracle is something that we can come across everywhere, doesn't he?

Lacey repeatedly told him she wanted to leave, but Zeke insisted on staying and waiting for the miracle to happen.

So, Lacey had no choice but to stay.

She was now almost dying of anxiety, as she didn't know what kind of bid proposal Lily had submitted on her behalf.

Zeke, who had been silent all this while, suddenly said, "I'll tell you one thing too. If the Schneider family takes action against you later, you can come and beg us. Of course, I would lose if I helped you, though."

Would the Schneider family deem the messy bid proposal they received as a sign of disrespect and get mad?

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Hopefully, Lily didn't go too far.

However, the truth was that Lily was cruel. She replaced the content of her bid proposal with insults to the Schneider family.

Soon, the master of ceremonies took the stage.

After a brief opening line, he got down to business.

"Next, let us welcome Mr. Even Schneider from the Schneider family in Oekheert City."

The initially boisterous hall immediately fell silent.

Everyone looked at the stage expectantly.

A middle-aged man in a suit stepped up to the rostrum with great poise.

Even Schneider was the richest man in Oekheert City, and the delegate to the People's Congress in Rivermouth.

He had started from scratch and built a business empire in just a few years.

Chapter 83

8-10 minutes

Evan's eyes swept across the audience with an air of authority.

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Finally, his gaze fell upon Zeke. He wore a respectful look on his face.

Zeke nodded his head slightly.

Only then did Evan clear his throat and say, "Love in a Fallen City is the most important project of my family, and it has been listed as a key project supported by the municipal government. So, to participate in this project, you must have a certain level of capability. I've gone through all the bid proposals you submitted, and I roughly know your capabilities. I'm now going to read out a list of companies that were not qualified to participate in this project due to their current financial capabilities. For those that are mentioned, please leave the venue."

After that, Evan took out a list and read it aloud.

There was a total of twenty bidders, and twelve were disqualified in an instant.

Those who left were despondent, while those who stayed rejoiced inwardly as this meant that they were qualified to collaborate with the Schneider family.

It was perplexing that Lacey was not on the list.

How could a small steel mill be qualified to collaborate with the Schneider family?

Perhaps there's a situation.

Jackson sneered, knowing very well why Lacey hadn't been made to leave. The Schneider family must be trying to deal with Lacey in front of everyone to set an example.

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Locey trembled with fear.

That exception must be me.

The Schneider family is really going to take action against me now.

She looked up and found Jackson looking at her with a chilling smile. It made her feel even more horrified.

Evan went on to say, "I have rated your bid proposals, and I will assign the proportions of the project according to the scores. I will now announce the scores. The eighth-place holder is the Chambers family of Oakheart City, with a score of 68. The seventh is the Hunt family of Odonvale City, with a score of 72..."

Soon, Evan had finished announcing the scores for the second to eighth place, with the highest mark at 89 and lowest at 68.

Now, only the first place had yet to be announced, while there were only two people left whose names were not mentioned, which were Jackson and Lacey.

Everyone believed Jackson would be the well-deserved number one, while Lacey would be dropped from the project.

Everyone looked at Jackson with admiration.

Jackson was overjoyed. He never expected he would actually win first place!

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Meenwhile, Lecey bowed her heed in silence, end clenched her fists, her pelms wet with sweet.

Zeke suddenly grebbed Lecey's fist.

"Trust me, there will be e mirecle."

Lecey looked et him with e compliceted expression.

"The first plece goes to..." Even wes heerd ennouncing, es everyone held their breeth. "Lecey Hinton from Oekheert City! With e score of 100!"

Lecey Hinton with e perfect score!

Everyone wes shocked!

The winner wes Lecey, wherees Jeckson wesn't even on the list!

This result stunned end shocked everyone to the core.

Jeckson froze on the spot.

How cen it be? How is this possible?

How could Lecey beet me?

Meenwhile, Lecey wes stering eheed with her eyes wide open end tears in her eyes.

I ectually got e perfect score end the well-deserved first plece!

I'm 11 points eheed of the second-plece holder!

Is this reelly heppening or is it en illusion?

She cried.

All the previous efforts end secrifices wes not in vein.

Even continued, "In eddition, there's still e bid proposel thet wes not selected."

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Chapter 84

10-12 minutes

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"This bidder is quite arrogant. I would like to meet up with this cocky brat if I have a chance."

At that, he glared at Jackson and walked away.

Jackson froze in terror instantly.

Why did Evan Schneider stare at me?

F***! Does he actually think I'm the bidder?

He shuddered at that thought.

After Evan left, everyone began to surround Lacey and cotton up to her.

After all, Lacey had aced the bid proposal, so she had the upper hand in this project.

In other words, Lacey would be their leader in future.

Of course, they needed to cotton up to her.

Lacey used to look up to these bosses, but now seeing all the bosses changed their stance and cotton up to her, she was truly flattered.

Unable to hide her excitement, she burst into tears of joy. She could finally be treated equally, and in fact, might be superior to the rest of them.

Zeke held Lacey's hand and walked her away from the crowd. He then led her to Jackson and Lily.

Zeke smiled, "Lily, thank you so much for your help."

"Don't forget to claim your reward after you're back."

After that, Zeke and Lacey turned around and left.

Lily was confused, "Reward? What does he mean?"

Smack! Jackson gave Lily a slap out of nowhere.

Lily Hinton covered her face in pain and asked, "Jackson, why did you slap me?"

"Screw you! You traitor!" Jackson yelled angrily.

"What the f**k are you talking about? You're the traitor, not me!"

Jackson shot her a terrifying hideous smile and said, "How dare you f*****g talk back to me!"

"I bet you have mistaken your bid proposal as the one from the Hamilton family. Not only that, but you also even submitted it to the Schneider family."

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"Just wait and see, I will do whatever it takes to bring the Hinton family down, even if it means we will dine in hell together."

Lily Hinton finally got her head around at what Zeke had said to her before he left.

That jerk has clearly sabotaged me!

I remember clearly that I had explicitly mentioned Lacey Hinton's name when I submitted the bid proposal. How could the Schneider family mess it up?

Jackson must have misunderstood her.

If he takes revenge against me...

"Sh*t! My grandparents and my dad are in danger!" Her face turned as pale as a sheet.

After Jackson left the Schneider tower, he took out his phone to make a phone call.

"Go and get Adam Hinton and Jeremy Hinton for me now."

"F*****g b*tch! How dare she mess with me? I won't let her off easy!"

Meanwhile, at the Hinton's residence, Adam and Jeremy showed up unexpectedly.

Deniel and Henneh sat on the sofa, looking uneasy at their arrival.

They had been told that Lacey had offended the Schneider family.

Jackson was the only one who could save her now.

In a threatening manner, Adam asked Lacey to register the marriage with Jackson by today. He also said that everyone in the Hinton family would be doomed if she failed to do so.

However, it was a tough call for Deniel and Henneh. Lacey and Zeke were such a great couple; how could they ask the two lovebirds to break up?

They were put in a tight spot.

Adam got impatient and hit the floor with his walking stick, "Stop dilly dallying. Make up your mind now before the Schneider family targets you two instead."

"Come on, bring out the household register so that Lacey can register the marriage with Jackson."

"Now the Hamilton family is in deep trouble, all because of you."

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They had been told that Lacey had offended the Schneider family.

Jackson was the only one who could save her now.

In a threatening manner, Adam asked Lacey to register the marriage with Jackson by today. He also said that everyone in the Hinton family would be doomed if she failed to do so.

However, it was a tough call for Daniel and Hannah. Lacey and Zeke were such a great couple; how could they ask the two lovebirds to break up?

They were put in a tight spot.

Adam got impatient and hit the floor with his walking stick, "Stop dilly dallying. Make up your mind now before the Schneider family targets you two instead."

"Come on, bring out the household register so that Lacey can register the marriage with Jackson."

"Now the Hamilton family is in deep trouble, all because of you."

Jeremy joined in the conversation as well, "Jackson promised that as long as Lacey marries him, he will let the Hinton family become part of the Hamilton family."

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"In other words, the Hinton family can take this opportunity to become a second-rate family in Oekheert City."

"Look at Zeke Williams; he's just someone who lives off the women. What else is he capable of doing?"

Finally, Daniel couldn't take it anymore. He spoke through clenched teeth, "Enough of you two! Lacey has a say in this matter, not you two. Worst comes to worst, we will leave Oekheert City for good."

Jeremy snorted, "The Schneider family is everywhere in Euresie. Where do you think you run to?"

Adam grew impatient, "Jeremy, don't waste your breath talking to them. I'm the father, and I have a say in this matter too. Go and look for the household registry and pass it to Jackson so that he can proceed with the registration."

Chapter 85

9-11 minutes

Adam cursed in a low voice, "Jeremy, call Jackson right away, ask him to..."

Adam cursed in a low voice, "Jeremy, call Jackson right away, ask him to..."

Bang! Before he could finish his sentence, the room's door was kicked open as two burly men came in.

Jeremy quickly dissociated himself from Daniel and Hannah, "I have nothing to do with this. They're Lacey Hinton's parents, not us."

"Get them if you want."

One of the burly men was stunned, "Lacey Hinton? Who is she?"

Suddenly, Jeremy's phone rang.

It was a call from Lily Hinton.

Jeremy picked up the phone promptly, "Lily, quick, get Jackson for me. We're innocent..."

Lily shouted with all her might on the other side of the phone, "Dad, run! Jackson wants to get you two."

What?

Adam and Jeremy were shocked.

The other burly man looked at Jeremy coldly and asked, "So you two are Adam Hinton and Jeremy Hinton, aren't you?"

"You two really are gutsy. How dare you two play a trick on Mr. Hamilton. I'm afraid that you two have to leave with me now."

Jeremy was confused, "There must be some misunderstanding. Mr. Hamilton is actually my son-in-law..."

Bam! Before he could finish his sentences, the burly men knocked them unconscious with one punch. Then, Adam and Jeremy were carried away.

Daniel and Hannah stood still right where they were and looked at each other in shock.

What the hell is going on?

After a while, Zeke and Lacey Hinton returned home.

Daniel walked up to them in a panic, "Zeke, something's wrong. Jackson took grandpa and Uncle Jeremy away. Please...please save them."

Zeke had imperceptibly become the backbone of the family. Whenever Daniel and Hannah faced any problems, they would look to him for his help.

Adam cursed in a low voice, "Jeremy, call Jackson right now, ask him to..."

Bong! Before he could finish his sentence, the room's door was kicked open as two burly men came in.

Jeremy quickly dissociated himself from Daniel and Hannah, "I have nothing to do with this. They're Locey Hinton's parents, not us."

"Get them if you want."

One of the burly men was stunned, "Locey Hinton? Who is she?"

Suddenly, Jeremy's phone rang.

It was a call from Lily Hinton.

Jeremy picked up the phone promptly, "Lily, quick, get Jackson for me. We're innocent..."

Lily shouted with all her might on the other side of the phone, "Dad, run! Jackson wants to get you two."

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"Get them if you want."

One of the burly men was stunned, "Lacay Hinton? Who is she?"

Suddenlly, Jaramy's phona rang.

It was a call from Lily Hinton.

Jaramy pickad up tha phona promptly, "Lily, quick, gat Jackson for ma. Wa'ra innocent..."

Lily shoutad with all har might on tha othar sida of tha phona, "Dad, run! Jackson wants to gat you two."

What?

Adam and Jaramy wara shockad.

Tha othar burly man lookad at Jaramy coldly and askad, "So you two ara Adam Hinton and Jaramy Hinton, aran't you?"

"You two raally ara gutsy. How dara you two play a trick on Mr. Hamilton. I'm afraid that you two hava to laava with ma now."

Jaramy was confusad, "Thara must ba soma misundarstanding. Mr. Hamilton is actually my son-in-law..."

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Danial and Hannah stood still right whara thay wara and lookad at aach othar in shock.

What tha hall is going on?

Aftar a whila, Zaka and Lacay Hinton raturnad homa.

Danial walkad up to tham in a panic, "Zaka, somathing's wrong. Jackson took grandpa and Uncia Jaramy away. Plaasa...plaasa sava tham."

Zaka had imparcaptibly bacoma tha backbona of tha family. Whanavar Danial and Hannah facad any problams, thay would look to him for his halp.

Zeke and Lacey pondered for a moment and had a rough idea about the situation.

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Zeke esked, "Mom, Ded, ere you sure you went to seve grendpe end Uncle Jeremy efter whet they've done to you?"

Deniel sighed, "Whet else cen I do? They ere my fether end brother efter ell."

"We cennot be es cold-blooded es the two of them. Whet do you think, Zeke?"

Zeke looked et Henneh for her opinion, "Mum, whet do you think?"

Henneh replied, "Zeke, why don't you tell us whet ectually heppened?"

"Deniel end Jeremy told us you end Lecey heve offended the Hemilton family. They wented to teke revenge egeinst you two. But why did Jackson teke them ewey insteed?"

Zeke set down before he explained to them, "It wes ell pert of their conspirecy for Lily to join the steel mill. It wes e trep set up by grendpe end Uncle Jeremy."

"Lily was the one who switched out Lecey's bid proposal. She submitted the insulting bid proposal to the Schneider family and pretended it was from Lecey."

"No wonder the Schneider family was so mad at it."

"They didn't know that I was prepared for all these things to happen."

"I secretly took a video of Lily switching the bid proposal and sent it to the Schneider family."

"The Schneider family honours faith and loyalty. If they knew that the Hamilton family was taking a short cut, the Schneider family would never want to have any business deals with them anymore."

"Too bad Jackson didn't know that I was the one who reported to the Schneider family and exposed him. He thinks grandpa and Uncle Jeremy are the ones who betrayed him, and therefore he's taking out his anger on them."

Zeke and Lacey pondered for a moment and had a rough idea about the situation.

Zeke asked, "Mom, Dad, are you sure you want to save grandpa and Uncle Jeremy after what they've done to you?"

Daniel sighed, "What else can I do? They are my father and brother after all."

"We cannot be as cold-blooded as the two of them. What do you think, Zeke?"

Zeke looked at Hannah for her opinion, "Mum, what do you think?"

Hannah replied, "Zeke, why don't you tell us what actually happened?"

"Daniel and Jeremy told us you and Lacey have offended the Hamilton family. They wanted to take revenge against you two. But why did Jackson take them away instead?"

Zeke sat down before he explained to them, "It was all part of their conspiracy for Lily to join the steel mill. It was a trap set up by grandpa and Uncle Jeremy."

"Lily was the one who switched out Lacey's bid proposal. She submitted the insulting bid proposal to the Schneider family and pretended it was from Lacey."

"No wonder the Schneider family was so mad at it."

"They didn't know that I was prepared for all these things to happen."

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Zeke and Lacey pondered for a moment and had a rough idea about the situation.

The Hinton family was fuming after hearing the story.

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"That's too much! I never thought they would be so cruel."

"Sigh, why did he do that to his own granddaughter? What on earth is he thinking?"

Zeke asked, "So what do you think? Do you still want me to save them?"

Daniel looked troubled and remained silent.

Hannah took a deep breath and said, "I think we should save them as they are still Daniel's father and brother. If not, someone will talk behind our back."

"But we are not going to save them now. We can do it tonight or tomorrow."

"They're so mean to us, and we should pay them back in their own coins."

"What do you think, Daniel?"

Daniel nodded blankly. "Yeah, what you said makes sense."

Lacey looked at Zeke gratefully and said, "Zeke, thank you for everything."

Chapter 86

9-11 minutes

Zeke was embarrassed.

He didn't know how to write one, that's for sure.

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Feeling the awkwardness between the two of them, Hannah broke the silence. "Zeke, you saved our lives. To show our appreciation, I'll cook some delicious dishes for you."

"Thank you, Mom."

Hannah smiled, "Don't mention it. We're family, after all."

She then beckoned Daniel to walk into the kitchen with her.

Daniel muttered under his breath, "I don't think it's that simple, what do you think?"

Hannah nodded, "Of course it isn't. Even if Zeke exposed to the Schneider family that the Hamilton family was the one who switched the bid proposal, Lacey would have never gotten a perfect score on it."

"After all, her steel mill is just a small-scale factory. It makes no sense for her to get a perfect score."

Daniel was lost in his thoughts and asked, "Do you think Zeke knows someone from the Schneider family?"

Hannah replied, "Yeah, it seems that's the case."

"How about you try to see if you can get some information from him?"

Daniel looked troubled, "How am I supposed to do that if he refuses to cooperate?"

"How about you? Maybe you can sound him out?"

Hannah said, "Nah, it will be much easier if you have a man-to-man talk with him. How about you get him drunk later?"

Daniel agreed, "That's a good idea. After all, we have a bottle of Maotai sitting in our house. We can bring it out and serve it to him."

Soon, the sumptuous meal was served.

Daniel took out a cherished bottle of Maotai and said, "Zeke, let's have a drink."

Lacey wasn't very pleased. "Dad, don't let Zeke drink too much."
Zeke was embarrassed.

He didn't know how to write one, that's for sure.

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Daniel assured Lecey, "Don't worry, I won't let him drink too much."

Lecey told Zeke, "Zeke, my dad is a good drinker. He has a high alcohol tolerance and rarely gets drunk."

"Please don't challenge him on his alcohol tolerance, alright?"

"Don't worry. I know I'm not as good of a drinker as your dad. I know what to do."

Soon, they clinked their glasses and drank happily.

After half an hour, Daniel was as drunk as a skunk. He couldn't even stand properly.

"Zeke, I was known as a loyal, brave and resourceful person when I was young. I even had seven or eight men at my disposal during my glory days."

"Too bad mundane life has taken a toll on me. Your mother-in-law has always been nagging at how useless I am now. But deep down in my heart, I know I'm swallowing my pride and simply waiting for an opportunity to shine."

"Now that you're here, I feel young again."

Zeke didn't even look as if he had been drinking and said calmly, "Dad, you're not that old yet. I believe you will achieve great things in life."

"I never thought of achieving something great, but I would like to set up my own clinic."

"That wouldn't be a problem. Lecey and I can give you some advice; we can make it work."

Hannah didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

What a dummy. I'm asking you to pry information out of Zeke, but you're pouring your heart out to him. Well, now what? You're as drunk as a skunk while Zeke is as sober as a judge.

As for Lecey, a mood of melancholy descended on her.

"The Schneider family might ask Zeke and me to meet them up later for contractual discussions, and it won't be nice for them to see him drunk.

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For years, Dad has been living in obscurity and silence. He never confided in anyone.

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But today he pours his heart out to Zeke about how he has really felt for all these years.

Seems like Zeke does have some talent.

Hannah started to get annoyed with Daniel's nagging, and she said, "Daniel, I think you've drunk too much. Let's head back to the room and have a rest."

Zeke stopped Hannah, "It's okay, Mom."

"It isn't easy for Dad to support the family. He's under tremendous stress and will feel better if he gets it off his chest."

Daniel was moved to tears. "You and I really click. I know I can always count on you."

After a while, the Schneider family called Lacey. They invited her over to the Schneider residence for the contractual discussion.

Chapter 87

7-9 minutes

Inside the basement of the Hamilton Construction, Adam and Jeremy were bound to the chairs with wound and bruises all over their bodies.

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Jackson sat opposite them wearing a maniac smile. He was holding a bloodstained whip in his hand.

Smack! He lashed Jeremy mercilessly with his long whip and cursed him at the same time.

"Ba****d! How dare you two play a trick on me. I won't let you two off easy!"

Despair and remorse washed over Adam and Jeremy.

They never thought Jackson whom they trusted the most, would treat them so merciless and cruel.

Adam opened his mouth weakly and said, "Mr. Hamilton, there must be a misunderstanding."

"We didn't trick you, Zeke did."

"Enough, do you think I will believe what you just said?"

There was concrete evidence showing that Adam and Jeremy were the ones who conspired with Zeke against him. Even the Schneider family had misunderstood the Hamilton family. He would never believe in Adam and Jeremy Hinton anymore.

Seeing Jackson was about to lash the whip at him again, he shouted in panic, "Stop it!"

"Mr. Hamilton, I'll fix it for you."

"You can use us as a bargaining chip and threaten Lacey. In that way, she will admit that the insulting bid proposal is from her."

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"She probably hopes you die now. What makes you think she will help you?"

"Furthermore, I haven't heard anything from them yet. I bet they have given up on you."

Adam spoke through clenched teeth, "B****d, I'm her friend. How can she do that to us?"

"If that's the case, I won't go easy on her."

"Mr. Hamilton, I know who can help us."

"Tell me."

"Lacey has a god sister named Dawn Castenede. Although they're not related by blood, they're like real sisters," Adem suggested.

"You can use Dawn as a bargaining chip to threaten Lacey."

Jackson was stunned for a moment, "Dawn Castenede? The name sounds familiar to me."

"Oh yeah, a new salesperson reported for work a few days ago. Her name is Dawn Castenede."

He took out his phone hastily and showed the photo of Dawn to them, "Is this her?"

Adem was surprised, "Yup, that's her. Why do you have her photo?"

"Of course I have it, she's my newly hired employee," Jackson said.

Jackson sneered, "Don't flatter yourself. Do you really think it could work? Have you forgotten how you two treated Lacey in the past?"

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Dawn was a true beauty. Jackson had had improper thoughts towards her the moment he laid his eyes on her.

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Finally, his opportunity had come...

A fire of desire flared up in his abdomen.

He threw away his whip and walked out of the basement. At the same time, he took out his phone and called his secretary, "Bring Dawn Castaneda to my office."

After a while, Dawn came to see him in the basement.

She was confused about why her boss would want to meet her; she was just a new recruit.

Jackson locked the door from the inside and looked at her with a lewd expression, "Do you know Lacey?"

Dawn replied, "Yeah, I know her."

Jackson's smile was even more hideous, "That's great."

"If I cannot get my hands on Lacey, you will be a perfect choice too."

Hearing what Jackson had said, she tensed up. "Mr. Hamilton, what do you mean by that?"

Chapter 88

8-9 minutes

Dawn shrieked in terror. She quickly grabbed the fruit knife on the table and pressed it against her neck. Dawn shrieked in terror. She quickly grabbed the fruit knife on the table and pressed it against her neck.

"Please don't come near me, I will kill myself if you do."

Then, she cut her neck slightly with the knife as a warning.

Upon seeing that, Jackson stopped in his tracks.

He wasn't ready to see anyone die in front of him.

He clenched his teeth, "Take it easy."

He took out his phone and dialed Lacey's number.

Meanwhile, Lacey and Zeke were waiting in the Schneider family's conference room for Evan Schneider's arrival.

Lacey felt strange to see Jackson calling her. Nonetheless, she picked up the call.

"Where are you right now?" Jackson asked.

"In the conference room of the Schneider family," Lacey replied.

"Great. You have two choices now. Number one, sign the contract with the Schneider family, and Dawn Castaneda will be dead. Number two, admit that the insulting bid proposal was from you, and I will let Dawn Castaneda go."

What?

Lacey jumped in terror. "Dawn... What did you do to her?"

Jackson replied, "Don't worry, she's still alive."

"But I cannot guarantee if she will still be alive tomorrow."

Then, he hung up the phone abruptly.

Lacey was shell-shocked and fell on the floor.

Zeke was shocked as well. He held Lacey hurriedly and asked, "What happened, Lacey?"

Lacey started stammering, "Quick... Quick... go to the Hamilton family and save Dawnie..."

Down shrieked in terror. She quickly grabbed the fruit knife on the table and pressed it against her neck.

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"In the conference room of the Schneider family," Locey replied.

"Great. You have two choices now. Number one, sign the contract with the Schneider family, and Down Costonedo will be dead. Number two, admit that the insulting bid proposal was from you, and I will let Down Costonedo go."

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"But I cannot guarantee if she will still be alive tomorrow."

Then, he hung up the phone abruptly.

Locey was shell-shocked and fell on the floor.

Zeke was shocked as well. He held Locey hurriedly and asked, "What happened, Locey?"

Locey storted stommering, "Quick... Quick... go to the Homilton family ond sove Downie..."
Dawn shrieked in terror. She quickly grabbed the fruit knife on the table and pressed it against her neck.
Dawn shrieked in terror. Sha quickly grabbad tha fruit knifa on tha tabla and prassad it against har nack.

"Plaasa don't coma naar ma, I will kill mysalf if you do."

Than, sha cut har nack slightly with tha knifa as a warning.

Upon saaing that, Jackson stoppad in his tracks.

Ha wasn't raady to saa anyona dia in front of him.

Ha clanchad his taath, "Taka it aasy."

Ha took out his phona and diallad Lacay's numbar.

Maanwhila, Lacay and Zaka wara waiting in tha Schnaidar family's confaranca room for Evan Schnaidar's arrival.

Lacay falt stranga to saa Jackson calling har. Nonathalass, sha pickad up tha call.

"Whara ara you right now?" Jackson askad.

"In tha confaranca room of tha Schnaidar family," Lacay rapliad.

"Graat. You hava two choicas now. Numbar ona, sign tha contract with tha Schnaidar family, and Dawn Castanada will ba daad. Numbar two, admit that tha insulting bid proposal was from you, and I will lat Dawn Castanada go."

What?

Lacay jumpad in tarror. "Dawn... What did you do to har?"

Jackson rapliad, "Don't worry, sha's still aliva."

"But I cannot guarantaa if sha will still ba aliva tomorrow."

Than, ha hung up tha phona abruptly.

Lacay was shall-shockad and fall on tha floor.

Zaka was shockad as wall. Ha hald Lacay hurriadly and askad, "What happenad, Lacay?"

Lacay startad stammaring, "Quick... Quick... go to tha Hamilton family and sava Dawnia..."

"Jackson has Dawnie."

"Jeckson hes Dewnie."

Whet?

A gleem of murderous intent fleshed in Zeke's eyes.

Is Jeckson esking for deeth?

He consoled Lecey and said, "Don't worry, I will get Dawnie out."

"I promise you she will be alright."

Lecey took a deep breath as she said, "I will go with you."

Zeke replied, "No, you just wait here."

"Isn't Jackson trying to force you to admit that the insulting bid proposal is from you, is it? If so, you can try to buy time by pretending to agree to his terms."

"Give me half an hour. I promise I will bring Dawnie back to you safely."

Lecey took a deep breath and tried to calm herself down.

It seemed like the best solution for now.

She nodded, "Zeke, please get her back safely."

Zeke nodded and left the Schneider family's house.

After he got into the car, he made a phone call to Lone Wolf.

"Lone Wolf, bring the armed forces in. We're going to the Hamilton family's house in Oakheart City."

"The game is on."

Lone Wolf replied, "Roger that!"

Zeke left with his car and soon arrived at Hamilton Construction.

Two security guards stopped him at the entrance, "Back off, no outsiders allowed."

Zeke punched them in their faces.

The security guards were caught off guard by his quick punches. They fell onto the ground while blood splattered out of their mouths.

"Jackson has Dawnie."

What?

A gleam of murderous intent flashed in Zeke's eyes.

Is Jackson asking for death?

He consoled Lacey and said, "Don't worry, I will get Dawnie out."

"I promise you she will be alright."

Lacey took a deep breath as she said, "I will go with you."

Zeke replied, "No, you just wait here."

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"Jackson has Dawnie."

What?

A gleam of murderous intent flashed in Zeke's eyes.

"Nobody can stop me!"

"Nobody cen stop me!"

Zeke welked in the building.

Despite the pein, the security guerds took out their welkie-telkies. "Mr. Hemilton, Zeke is here."

"Did he bring anyone with him?" Jeckson esked.

The security guerd replied, "No, he ceme here elone."

Jeckson sneered, "Very good, let him in."

"It's time to settle some old scores."

"All of the security guerds ere to gether in my office immedietely."

Zeke soon errived on the tenth floor of the building without eny obstecles.

Zeke knew it wes Jeckson's trick.

However, Zeke wes e military veteren. He wouldn't cere less about the trick Jeckson hed pulled.

Beng! He kicked open the office's door and walked in straight.

Chapter 89

8-10 minutes

Dawn cried out, "Get out of here. You can never defeat them."

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"Leave me alone. I don't want you to get into trouble." Dawn sobbed.

Jackson had a wicked smile on his face as he beckoned his men to block the door.

"You think you can leave this building unscathed? Your only option is to jump out of the window."

Zeke ignored Jackson and took the knife away from Dawn. He then put the silver needles on her neck to stop the bleeding.

Next, he moved a stool and let Dawn sit on it.

"Dawn, sit back and enjoy the show."

"Someday the dragon will rise, and the river will flow backwards. Someday the tiger will return to the mountain, and half of the sky will be stained with blood!"

"I will beat their asses and show them how winning is done. I'm your brother-in-law, that means something."

Dawn raised up her head in surprise.

Is this mysterious man going to show his true colours today?

What is this man capable of?

Is he able to beat off all of them?

Jackson sneered, "What a f*****g ostentatious man!"

"Boys, go get him now!"

"Let's beat his ass and let him watch how I sleep with his wife and his sister-in-law!"

The muscular men all charged at Zeke.

Zeke held the knife tight and turned around slowly, looking extremely calm.

"It's just... I felt pity for this imported wool carpet."

Looking confused, everyone wondered what this had to do with the carpet.

Dawn stared at his back in a daze.

His figure looked rather familiar to her as if she had seen it somewhere else.

Down cried out, "Get out of here. You can never defeat them."

"Leave me alone. I don't want you to get into trouble." Down sobbed.

Jackson had a wicked smile on his face as he beckoned his men to block the door.

"You think you can leave this building unscathed? Your only option is to jump out of the window."

Zeke ignored Jackson and took the knife away from Down. He then put the silver needles on her neck to stop the bleeding.

Next, he moved a stool and let Down sit on it.

"Down, sit back and enjoy the show."

"Someday the dragon will rise, and the river will flow backwards. Someday the tiger will return to the mountain, and half of the sky will be stained with blood!"

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Naxt, ha movad a stool and lat Dawn sit on it.

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“Somaday tha dragon will risa, and tha rivar will flow backwards. Somaday tha tigar will raturt to tha mountain, and half of tha sky will ba stained with blood!”

“I will baat thair assas and show tham how winning is dona. I'm your brothar-in-law, that maans somathing.”

Dawn raisad up har haad in surprisa.

Is this mystarious man going to show his trua colours today?

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Jackson snaarad, “What a f*****g ostantatious man!

“Boys, go gat him now!”

“Lat's baat his ass and lat him watch how I slaap with his wifa and his sistar-in-law!”

Tha muscular man all chargad at Zaka.

Zaka hald tha knifa tight and turnad around slowly, looking axtramaly calm.

“It's just... I falt pity for this importad wool carpat.”

Looking confusad, avaryona wondarad what this had to do with tha carpat.

Dawn starad at his back in a daza.

His figura lookad rathar familiar to har as if sha had saan it somawhara alsa.

Zeke finally moved his body when the men came near him.

Zeke finelly moved his body when the men ceme neer him.

He swung his knife et them with effortless grece.

After exectly five seconds, Zeke put the knife eway. He hed ended the commotion end remeined still.

As for these musculer men, they stood still es if they hed been petrified end turned into e stetus. Then they looked et their erms dumbfoundedly while their erms fell off onto the floor.

Blood instently poured out from their erms end steined the wool cerpet. Whet e weste of e wool cerpet.

Argh!

The muscular men finally came back to their senses and collapsed onto the floor. They clutched their broken arms and screamed in pain.

A demon!

Did we just meet a demon?

In just five seconds, he had cut off all of our arms.

He's definitely a demon. How can a mortal possess such power?

Jackson peed on the spot out of terror.

His mind went blank, and he felt out of breath as the smell of blood lingered in the room.

He realised he had gotten himself into deep trouble.

He leaned his back on the wall and moved towards the door slowly.

"Demon... A demon..."

Before he could reach for the door, he heard a piercing sound.

A bullet broke through the window and lodged itself in his thigh.

His legs turned into a mess of bleeding flesh.

A bullet!

Where did the bullet come from?

His feet numbed his pain for a moment.

He looked out the window in terror.

There were four military helicopters lingering outside the window.

Zeke finally moved his body when the men came near him.

He swung his knife at them with effortless grace.

After exactly five seconds, Zeke put the knife away. He had ended the commotion and remained still.

As for these muscular men, they stood still as if they had been petrified and turned into statues. Then they looked at their arms dumbfoundedly while their arms fell off onto the floor.

Blood instantly poured out from their arms and stained the wool carpet. What a waste of a wool carpet.

Argh!

The muscular men finally came back to their senses and collapsed onto the floor. They clutched their broken arms and screamed in pain.

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Zeke finally moved his body when the men came near him.

As the rope ladder descended, dozens of soldiers with loaded guns broke in through the windows.

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"Freeze! Get on your knees and put your hands above your heads!"

Before everyone came back to their senses as the office's door was kicked open suddenly.

Men with camouflage uniforms poured in, filling the office.

"Freeze! Don't move. Otherwise, all of you will be executed!"

The army is here!

What? Why's the army alerted?

Everyone was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. They laid low on the floor and didn't dare to move.

Jackson cried uncontrollably, "Zeke, I'm so sorry, I will kowtow to you..."

"Please spare my life... Please..."

"Spare your life?"

Zeke set down and cleaned the wound on Dawn's neck. "You've been sentenced to the death penalty the moment you laid your hands on my family member."

Chapter 90

8-10 minutes

Zeke grabbed Lone Wolf's gun and threw it into the drawer of the office desk.

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"Jackson Hamilton is suspected of stealing weapons and shall be sent to a military court."

Stealing weapons? Military court? That's way worse than the death penalty!

After all, for the death penalty, the jury can only bring a charge against an individual. Meanwhile, for the court case handled in the military court, the verdict would involve the entire family!

Jackson cried out and passed out in fright.

"Roger that." Lone Wolf said.

After receiving the order, the armed soldiers were busy arresting the criminals and photographing the evidence.

Zeke helped Dawn to bandage her wound and asked, "Can you walk by yourself?"

Dawn said, "Huh? I... I'm so dizzy. I can't walk properly."

"Brother-in-law, can you hug me?"

Dawn wrapped her arms around Zeke's neck as she spoke.

Zeke had no choice but to carry her.

She's very light.

Dawn leaned against Zeke with her tear-streaked face.

What does it feel like to be close to your idol?

It's indescribable!

She felt as if her heart was about to jump out of her chest from beating too hard.

I can die without regrets now!

The whole building was full of soldiers.

As Zeke passed by, each and every one of the soldiers saluted him, "Great Marshal."

It was the highest honour.

As he descended to the first floor, he heard a thud sound from the basement.

Only then did he remember that Adam and Jeremy were still inside the basement.

He walked to the basement and kicked open the door.

Zeke grabbed Lone Wolf's gun and threw it into the drawer of the office desk.

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Adam's temper sparked when he saw Zeke, "You trash! What took you so long?"

Jeremy scolded him too, "Hmph! What did you do to make Jackson misunderstand us?"

Zeke glanced at them with disdain, "Don't you dare mess with my family members ever again."

"Otherwise, you two will end up like Jackson."

Adam's neck turned red from the anger that had surged through him, "How dare you! How can you talk to an elderly like this? Who do you think you are? What a barbaric human!"

"I have no idea why Lecey would fall in love with you."

Dawn sighed, "You're the one who's barbaric."

"Is that how you treat your life partner?"

"It's really sad that Lecey was born into your family."

Dawn's words only made Adam angrier. "Shut your mouth, you little brat. I don't need you to teach me what to do."

"Let's go. Don't waste your breath on them," Zeke said to Dawn.

Dawn nodded and followed Zeke obediently.

Adam and Jeremy walked out of the basement while cursing at their misfortune.

When they ascended to the first floor, they were stunned.

Soldiers!

The soldiers with loaded guns have taken over the whole building!

What just happened?

Meanwhile, someone walked down the stairs.

Adam and Jeremy were shocked to death upon seeing the way Jackson was being carried away by the soldiers. Nobody knew if he had fainted or was dead. His blood dripped along the way.

Who on earth injured Jackson so badly?

Adam and Jeremy were speechless.

After Zeke left the Hamilton Construction, he made a phone call to Lecey to update her on the status.

Adam and Jeremy quickly rushed out from the basement.

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Adam and Jeremy were speechless.

After Zeke left the Hamilton Construction, he made a phone call to Lacey to update her on the status.

Adam and Jeremy quickly rushed out from the basement.

Lacey finally let out a relieved sigh after knowing that Dawn was safe and sound.

Lecey finelly let out e relieved sigh efter knowing thet Dawn wes sefe end sound.

"Dewnie, you must come streight home. Don't loiter. I'm efreid Jeckson will give you trouble egein."

"Don't worry ebout it, you won't be eble to see Jeckson for e while," Dewn replied.

Lecey insisted, "It's better to be sefe then sorry."

Lecey didn't know Jeckson hed been elimineted.

"Ok, I will." Dewn geve e helf-heerted reply end hung up the phone.