

Everyone was rendered speechless.

The change in Ruby's attitude toward Zeke was astonishingly great.

Just a second ago, she regarded Zeke as an enemy, and now, she couldn't wait to get her daughter to marry Zeke.

The mention of lunch caused something to click in Zeke's mind as he suddenly slapped his own head. “Shit, how can I forget about this?”

*I'm here to buy food for my honey.*

*Nothing's more important than feeding her.*

Therefore, he hurriedly asked, “Summer, do you sell soy milk? I'd like to have one for takeaway. Make it quick.”

Summer quickly nodded her head. “Sure, right away.”

However, Ruby immediately stopped Summer, and said, “I'll do it. Freshly made soy milk is the best.”

She then started making fresh soy milk for Zeke.

After it was done, Zeke took it and left in a hurry.

Ruby reminded him, “Zeke, don't forget to come to my house for lunch at noon.”

“Okay, I'll try to find the time.” Zeke gave her a perfunctory reply.

Of course, he wouldn't go to her house as her son-in-law, but her former student.

He didn't want to leave Lacey.

Watching Zeke leaving, Summer felt a deep sense of loss deep down.

*It'll be so great if he really is my boyfriend.*

Humpty said in a somewhat threatening tone, “Ruby, I think you should consider Summer's marriage carefully. Don't you forget you still need me to help you clear your name from bribery accusations at the school! You don't want to live the rest of your life with a stained reputation, do you?”

After hearing of this, Ruby was in a dilemma.

She cared more about her own reputation than any materialistic gains.

She had been a diligent and conscientious teacher all her life but was accused of bribery in the end. Therefore, she couldn't accept it.

Ever since then, she had been pining away under the torment of that incident.

Sighing, she replied, “I'll think twice about this.”



By the time Zeke returned to the ward, Lacey was already losing her patience.

“Oh, here you are. I thought you were out on a date.”

Zeke instantly broke out in a cold sweat.

*Lacey's so sharp... She's actually got it right.*

Zeke hurriedly explained, “No, I was busy with work just now. Darren gave me The Nightingale yesterday, and I've just asked someone to integrate it into our company.

A smile then finally appeared on Lacey's face. “You did a good job as our salesperson. F&B is indeed our weak spot. By having The Nightingale join us, it will begin to take shape. Alright then, I'll raise your salary by 500.”

Zeke found it farcical. “Hey, I bring you such a big business, and yet you're only going to give me a 500-buck pay rise. Come on, you can't be so stingy, Lacey.”

“Stop getting full of yourself. Isn't a 500 pay rise enough? What else do you want?” Lacey snapped at him.

After thinking about it for a while, Zeke cautiously replied, “I want you to own me.”

A flush of embarrassment instantly rose to

Lacey's cheeks. “Go away! Give me my breakfast. I'm starving.”

Zeke quickly handed her the food he bought.

Taking the breakfast from him, Lacey suddenly knitted her brows and grabbed him in the arm to sniff at him.

“Why does your arm smell of perfume? Don't tell me you're wearing perfume.” Lacey shot him a threatening look.

Zeke tensed up all of a sudden.

*Summer's perfume must have been left on my arm when she held my arm just now.*

*What should I do?How should I explain this?*



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He thought hard and quickly came up with an answer. “Oh, I was about to tell you this. Ruby, who was selling soy milk on East Street, was my high school teacher who she cared a lot about me back then. As we've bumped into each other after so many years, she got a little too excited and hugged me.”

“Ruby who's selling soy milk?” Lacey was sceptical. “You're talking about Ms. Baxter, aren't you? She was a former high school teacher, but was expelled after offending the principal.”

Zeke nodded his head. “Yeah, that's her.”

Lacey took a deep breath and said, “Are you sure you're telling the truth? I have Ms. Baxter's phone number. I'll call her and ask now. If you lie to me, I'll break up with you. But, of course, I may give you another chance if you can be straight up with me now.”

As she spoke, tears welled up in her eyes.

She really cared about Zeke and was really afraid of being betrayed by him.

Zeke vowed, “I promise I'm telling the truth. You can call Ruby to ask her now.”

Lacey stared at the phone, hesitating.

She was worried she would hear something different from what Zeke had told her. She would

not be able to handle the truth if that was the case.

She even thought that it was better to deceive herself and pretend what Zeke said was the truth.

Zeke simply snatched Lacey's phone away, found Ruby's number, and dialled it. "Ask her yourself. I'm not afraid. I'm telling the truth."

Upon seeing Zeke being so assertive, Lacey smiled through her tears.

*This guy doesn't appear guilty at all and even offers to call Ms. Baxter for verification, so I think he's telling the truth.*

Hence, she hung up before the phone got through. "Dummy, I was joking with you. I'm not that petty."

Zeke felt a sense of relief.

He was really worried that Lacey would call Ruby who would then tell her about him and Summer.

Although he was just pretending to be Summer's boyfriend, Lacey would definitely be upset by it.

Lacey hastily finished her breakfast and said, "I'm fine now. I have to go back to the company to work. Are you going to the company, Zeke?"

"I'm going to Riverdale District," replied Zeke. "Franky made me leave with the excuse that



Hudson's parents were sick last time. I'm worried they will harm them, so I'm planning to bring them over here.”

Lacey nodded her head in agreement. “Well, you're right. You really should bring Hudson's parents over here. However, Riverdale District is the territory of the Forrest family, so you must be careful. It'll be best not to let the Forrest family know you're there.”

“Don't worry. I know what to do,” Zeke assured her while nodding his head. “By the way, Lacey, you have to be careful too. I'm worried the Forrest family will return. I'll arrange for someone to protect you.”

Zeke didn't plan on taking Lacey along.

He planned to take down the underworld forces in Riverdale District this time, so it would be too dangerous to bring Lacey along.

“Don't you worry, I won't trust others so easily anymore.” Lacey smiled.

Zeke talked a little more with her before he left.

As soon as he left, Lacey immediately took out her phone and dialled Ruby's number.

“Aunt Ruby, is your stall open today? Keep some soy milk for me, please.”

In the past, Lacey would pass by the food stalls on East Street when she went to work. She often bought soy milk from Ruby's stall, so they had become acquainted with each other after some time.

Ruby replied with a smile, “Alright, Lacey Dace, I'll make you some fresh and delicious soy milk later.”

“Aunt Ruby, do you know a man named Zeke Williams?” asked Lacey.



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“Yeah, he was my student. He came to buy soy milk from me just now.” Ruby asked, feeling curious, “Why, Lacey Dace? You know him?”

Lacey breathed a sigh of relief.

Zeke was indeed Ruby's student, and had really gone to her stall to buy soy milk just now.

“Luckily, you're honest,” Lacey muttered to herself with a smile tugging at her mouth.

“What did you say, Lacey Dace? I didn't hear you.”

Lacey hurriedly replied, “Oh, yeah, I know him. He's my salesperson. By the way, what do you think of him, Aunt Ruby?”

Ruby was then instantly turned into a chatterbox, as she praised, “Zeke's perfect in everything. He was a hardworking and diligent student back then despite his poor living conditions. He was also very popular and got along well with the other students while demonstrating exceptional leadership skills. You're lucky to have hired him as your salesperson.”

Lacey was delighted listening to others heaping praises on her husband.

*However, Ruby is quite enthusiastic about Zeke, isn't she? It's like she's talking about her son-in-law.*

*Her attitude toward him's nearly the same as that of*



*my mom.*

“Is this fellow really so popular among middle-aged women?” Lacey muttered under her breath.

After a short perfunctory exchange, Lacey hung up the phone.

Right after the phone was hung up, Ruby felt a little uneasy.

*I shouldn't have praised Zeke so much just now. What should I do if Lacey Dace falls in love with him and wants to steal him away from Summer?*

After leaving the hospital, Zeke first made a call to Sole Wolf.

“Sole Wolf, I'm going to Riverdale District, so here's a task for you. Get a few men to protect Lacey in secret.”

Sole Wolf vowed on the other end of the line, “Don't worry, Zeke, I'll dig out the eyeballs of anyone who dares to set eyes on Lacey.”

“Alright, alright, no need to be so violent,” said Zeke distastefully. “I'm taking down the underworld forces in Riverdale District. You will lead one team there to set an ambush in advance.”

Sole Wolf was overjoyed. “Haha! It's showtime again. Don't need to bring the team, Zeke, I can do it all alone. I don't mind doing the extra work.”



“F\*ck you,” Zeke cursed. “Aren't you embarrassed that the almighty general has to personally deal with some hooligans? Hurry up. Get a team to set an ambush there, and be on standby.”

“Alright, I'll get them ready right away.” Sole Wolf was disappointed.

After hanging up the phone, a vicious look flashed across Zeke's face.

*Hades, you're going to sit by and watch the others fight, aren't you?*

*Well then, I'm gonna snatch this valuable territory from you. We'll see if you can still stay still then!*

*Once you rise to the bait, I'll kill you!*

In fact, Zeke alone could take down the underworld forces of Riverdale District.

He just didn't want to do so as it was demeaning.

He then called Darren.

“Darren, gather a group of men to get ready. We'll be taking over of the underworld forces of Riverdale District.”

Unexpectedly, Darren suddenly became nervous. “Mr. Williams, aren't we expanding a little too quickly? The underground forces of Riverdale District are much stronger than those of Oakheart

City. Besides, we haven't even done incorporating those in Oakheart City, so if we really clash with those of Riverdale District, I'm afraid we'll lose everything.”



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“Hmph, how can you still be a branch leader if you don't dare do such a small thing? You might as well hand the leadership to T-Rex,” Zeke scolded him.

Panicked, Darren hurriedly explained, “I'm just expressing some of my personal opinions, Mr. Williams. It's definitely not an act of fear of war. I'll gather a group of men right away and go to Riverdale District with you.”

“Why do you want to go to Riverdale District?” asked Zeke.

“Didn't you say you want to take over the underworld forces of Riverdale District, Mr. Williams?” Darren was perplexed.

“Listen carefully, I'm asking you to get ready to take over of the underworld forces of Riverdale District. I'll personally take them down, while you just take over the leadership for me.”

Darren was at a loss for words.

*Holy shit!*

*Holy f\*cking shit!*

*Am I hearing things?*

*Zeke's gonna take down the underworld forces of Riverdale District on his own...*

*How self-conceited one must be to be able to say something like this?*

Last time, Zeke had only managed to win against 300 men of T-Rex by working with more than 20 people, including Sole Wolf.

*However, Zeke's going to face the entire underworld of Riverdale District this time. They have at least 500 men there!*

*How's that going to be possible?*

Therefore, Darren tried to dissuade him, “Mr. Williams, please think twice. We can't take the risk. Why don't I bring a group of men to go to Riverdale District with you now?”

“Cut the crap. Spread the word that I'm going to Riverdale District alone,” Zeke ordered.

After hanging up the phone, Darren was overwhelmed by a deep sense of shock, unable to recover his composure.

Meanwhile, T-Rex asked him impatiently, “Was it Mr. Williams? What did he say?”

Taking a deep breath, Darren instructed, “Spread the word that Mr. Williams's going to Riverdale District alone.”

“What does that mean?” T-Rex was baffled.



“Literally what it means, of course,” replied Darren.

T-Rex became panic-stricken at once. “Is Mr. Williams going to take action against the underworld forces of Riverdale District? He's taking quite a big step, isn't he? However, since he has made up his mind, let's do as he's said. I'll gather a group of men now and go to Riverdale District with him.”

“To hell with that,” scolded Darren. “Didn't you hear me? Mr. Williams's going to Riverdale District alone!”

*What!?*

T-Rex was struck dumb.

*Did Mr. Williams really decide to take down the underworld forces of Riverdale District on his own?*

*He must be joking.*

*It's impossible that there's someone so strong in this world.*

Riverdale District got its name from the river that passed through it and a dale nearby.

The water transportation system was well-developed, and so there were many ports and piers there.

Samuel was guarding a warehouse at an

abandoned pier with over 20 men.

Gavin, the head of the Forrest family, was well known among the rich and famous. Thus, it was not convenient for him to manage the underworld, and Samuel became the spokesperson of Gavin in the underworld.

The batch of goods to be smuggled this time was worth one hundred million, making it very important. That was why Samuel had to personally guard the goods.

Initially, outsiders dared not get involved in Gavin's business, so there had never been any accidents.

However, an accident happened today.

A man dressed in black gauze from head to toe, revealing only a pair of eyes, suddenly appeared at the door of the warehouse.

This put Samuel on tenterhooks. “Who are you? Leave right away. You shouldn't have come here.”

However, the man remained standing at the door like a statue.

Samuel got even more nervous as he realized that the man had come prepared and not by mistake.

He quickly signalled his men to prepare for a fight, while at the same time, he yelled again, “Hey, who are you? Do you dare to tell me your name—”





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Before Samuel could finish speaking, the man in black suddenly moved as he charged toward Samuel fiercely.

It scared the daylights out of Samuel. Hence, he quickly attacked the man.

However, the man kept rushing toward him without dodging his attack nor attacking him.

*Bang!*

Samuel was knocked over by the man.

The underworld leader of Riverdale District actually couldn't withstand one strike from that man.

While Samuel's men were as much use as a chocolate teapot, the man in black battered the twenty men around within five seconds.

Then, the man in black took out a Molotov cocktail from his pocket, lit it, and threw it on the batch of goods, which was instantly swallowed by the raging fire.

“F\*ck!” Samuel was pissed off.

*Mr. Forrest will kill me if something happens to his goods.*

Ignoring the pain on his body, he got up and chased after the man. “Hey, a\*\*hole, stop!”



The man in black suddenly waved his hand, and a silver needle shot out from it, piercing into the skin on Samuel's thigh!

Samuel let out a scream and fell to the ground so hard that one of his teeth had fallen off.

The man in black escaped from the pier and got into a car parked outside.

He then sped off.

He removed his black outfits and revealed his face—the top killing machine in Rivermouth, Eclipse.

Taking out his phone, he dialed Hades's number.

“Mission accomplished,” Eclipse reported.

“Thank you, my friend,” Hades said.

Eclipse nodded his head. “Well, I wonder if this fire can fuel the anger of the Forrest Family.”

This attack was planned by Hades to give the Forrest Family a push to deal with Zeke sooner.

Riverdale Manor was the most luxurious manor in Riverdale District.

It was also the base of the Forrest Family, the most prominent family in Riverdale District.

In the villa of Gavin, the head of the Forrest family,

his son, Franky, was imploring him, “Dad, let's do it. It's a perfect opportunity for us since Zeke is coming here on his own. It will be difficult to find another opportunity if we miss it this time.”

Gavin frowned. “Zeke's purposely walking into the lion's den, so I suspect that there's a setup. Let's just wait and see for now. We need to know what we're dealing with before taking any action.”

“Dad, he injured me and even threw me out on the street naked! Florence's face was also disfigured by him. That's humiliating enough for us. We'll become a laughing stock and completely lose face if we do nothing when Zeke's here on our territory.”

Gavin was put in a tight spot as he couldn't make up his mind.

At this time, there was a sudden knock on the door of the room.

“Who's there?” Gavin asked.

“Mr. Forrest, it's me,” Samuel's voice was heard answering.

“Come in,” Gavin said.

Samuel pushed open the door and walked in.

The sight of Samuel immediately sent a wave of shock through Gavin.



Samuel was covered in bruises, with bandages wrapped around his head and arms. He had even lost a tooth.

“Samuel, what happened to you?” Gavin had a bad feeling about this.

Samuel immediately got down on his knees. “Mr. Forrest, I'm sorry, I couldn't protect the goods. I deserve to be punished!”

“What?!” Gavin was so shocked that he nearly lost his balance.

*Something has actually happened to the goods!*

He didn't mind the monetary loss. The most important thing was that he would offend the buyer in this transaction, and the buyer wasn't someone he could trifle with.

He angrily kicked Samuel to the ground. “Damn, you trash! You're nothing but a f\*cking good-for-nothing man. Tell me exactly what happened.”

Samuel hurriedly told him everything. “Mr. Williams, a man in black attacked us. He's powerful... I couldn't even take one strike from him. Within five seconds, he beat all of us up and burned the goods.”

Without bothering to be awed by how powerful the attacker was, Gavin hurriedly asked, “Do you know who he is?”



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Samuel shook his head. “No idea. The man was dressed in an all-black outfit that only exposed his eyes. However, he made two moves in total, of which both are very distinctive. During his first move, he directly charged toward me without dodging; while during his second move, he used a hidden weapon, a silver needle, to injure my leg.”

“Silver needle!” Being sharp as he was, Gavin caught the keyword. “Is it a silver needle used in acupuncture?”

“Yes, it is!” Samuel nodded his head.

“Zeke Williams!” Gavin punched the table angrily. “It must be Zeke Williams! That a\*\*hole's also a Divine Doctor, with great acupuncture technique. He can save lives and injure people with his silver needles. I've been very patient with him, and yet he keeps challenging me. He has really gone too far now! Does he really think the Forrests have no power to fight him? Samuel, hurry up and gather all our men to hunt down Zeke Williams at all costs!”

“Yes, sir,” answered Samuel.

Meanwhile, Franky's eyes were beaming with excitement.

*Finally, I'm getting my revenge!*

In the meantime, Zeke was driving to Whiteridge, the hometown of Hudson.

He had no knowledge about what Hades had done behind his back.

In fact, he couldn't care less about whether Hades did anything behind his back.

After all, he was the almighty general.

Therefore, he was undaunted no matter what the challenges were.

Halfway down his journey, Lacey's voice was suddenly heard coming from inside the car.

“Answer the phone, Zeke. Hurry up and answer the phone, Zeke...”

Zeke was taken aback. *What's going on? Why do I hear Lacey's voice in the car?*

But he soon realized that it was his phone's ringtone.

Lacey had recorded her voice and set it as the ringtone for his phone.

“This girl...” Zeke muttered to himself with a smile and took out his phone.

It was a call from Uncle Williams, the housekeeper of the Williams family of Atheville.

He declined the call without any hesitation.



The housekeeper, Ben, gave previously Zeke 200 million dowries on the order of the Williams family, but Zeke refused to take it and warned the Williams family not to disturb his life anymore.

He didn't want to be in any way related to the Williams family of Atheville.

Therefore, he refused to answer the call from Ben this time.

Unexpectedly, Ben kept calling him no matter how many times he had declined his call, so Zeke had no choice but to answer it.

“What can I do for you, Uncle Williams?”

If it weren't for Ben, Zeke would have already died in the Williams family back then, thus he was not too indifferent toward him.

Ben hurriedly asked, “Sir, I heard you've come to Riverdale District, haven't you? I just got the news that the Forrest family of Riverdale District wants to attack you. Do you want me to help you get rid of them?”

To the Williams family, the Forrest Family in Riverdale District was just a small family. It would be very easy for them to get rid of the Forrest Family.

“Uncle Williams, as I said, the Williams family is not allowed to intervene in my affairs anymore,”

replied Zeke.

“Alright then,” Ben sighed, not wanting to force it.

He knew that the small Forrest family wasn't at all threat to Zeke now.

Ben went on to say, “Sir, we have a billion-dollar project in Whiteridge where you're heading. If you're interested, I will be happy to give you the project to incorporate it into Linton Group.”

“Not interested. Well, I'm driving, Uncle Williams, so I'm hanging up,” said Zeke before he hung up the phone without the slightest hesitation.

Ben looked at his phone, feeling a deep sense of loss.

He didn't blame Zeke for being so indifferent and cruel as the Williams family had indeed gone too far back then.

Zeke had gone through all kinds of obstacles growing up, so naturally, he now loathed evildoers.

After a while, Ben sighed, and instructed his man, “Get the car ready. We're going to Whiteridge to send a gift.”





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It was Zeke's business whether he wanted to accept it, but the Williams family must make its stance clear.

Ben's assistant was shocked.

*What kind of powerful person is hiding in Whiteridge that can actually make Ben go there personally to send a gift?*

Whiteridge was a small tier-18 village in a tier-18 city.

Even the tattered Santana Zeke drove was considered a valuable thing in this poor village.

As he looked at the familiar scenery in Whiteridge, Zeke was overcome with emotion.

He couldn't help but recall the good old times he had spent with Hudson and his sister at the creek and forest nearby.

Those carefree years as an adolescent had irretrievably gone.

Zeke's car attracted the villagers' attention. They began to speculate.

“Who's the big shot coming to our village, eh?”

“Could it be that Scott's son who works in the city has come back?”



“No, this isn't the brand of his son's car.”

“Let's go and check it out.”

Zeke soon arrived at the house of Hudson's parents; a rural courtyard as dilapidated as this village.

The door was wide open, allowing Zeke to see the interior of the yard.

Although the yard was dilapidated, it was clean and tidy.

Farming tools were placed on the east side of the yard while a flock of chickens were kept on the west. Nothing had changed.

A sense of warmth came over Zeke.

A smile formed at the corners of his mouth as he couldn't wait to walk into the courtyard.

He looked inside the living room and saw the two people whom he had been missing—Hudson's parents, Kyle and Olivia.

They looked much older with grey hair and wrinkled faces, but their kind demeanour was still the same as before.

Back then, the pair had made an agreement with Zeke that they would take him as their godson after his graduation.

However, Zeke had been sent to prison right after graduation, so their plan hadn't been completed.

Zeke had, nevertheless, already considered them as his godparents at heart.

At this moment, a roar of a middle-aged man was suddenly heard coming from the living room.

The voice was clearly the voice of Jonas who had been previously bought off by Franky to lure Zeke to Whiteridge.

“Hmph, the injury on my head was caused by your godson, Zeke, so you must be responsible for this. Also, your son, Hudson, will die from the illness without my help. Think about it. Would you rather let your daughter marry my son, or watch both your sons die? The choice is yours.”

Jonas's yelling caused Kyle and Olivia to shiver in fright.

Olivia began to weep; tears raced down her cheeks.

She pleaded, “Jonas, we can't decide our daughter's marriage as we have to discuss it with her. Give us some time, please.”

Jonas snorted coldly. “Hmph, I can give you more time, but will the police and the illness give your sons more time?”



At this, Kyle and Olivia were filled with an even deeper sense of despair.

Zeke found out at that moment that two people were sitting across from Kyle and Olivia.

The elder one was Jonas Callum, Hudson's uncle.

As for the younger one, Zeke vaguely made out that he was Jonas's son, Joshua Callum.

Joshua was well-known in the village for his hideous look with dark skin, freckles, and a cleft lip.

He hadn't found a wife even though he was nearly 40 years old.

According to what Jonas said just now, Zeke could tell that Jonas seemed to be using Hudson and himself to threaten Kyle and Olivia into letting their daughter marry his son, Joshua.

As he thought of Sofia, the daughter of his godparents, Zeke couldn't help but smile.



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Sofia was a year older than Zeke, so he treated her like his elder sister.

When he was young, he and Hudson often followed Sofia and horsed around.

Sofia was famous for her beauty in the village with a gracefully slim figure and beautiful face. As the prettiest girl in the village, she had made quite a name for herself in the town.

Zeke had a crush on Sofia when he was in school and even wrote a love letter to her.

But he gave up after the confession made her so mad that she beat him up.

If Sofia was really married to Joshua, it would really be like casting pearls before swine.

Leaving his appearance aside, Joshua was nearly twenty years older than Sofia was.

Not only would Kyle and Olivia not agree to it, but Zeke would also not agree to it. After all, she was his first love.

He strode into the living room. “Hi, Dad, Mom, I'm back.”

Zeke decided to call them 'Dad' and 'Mom' despite the absence of a formal ceremony.

However, Kyle and Olivia were baffled by the form



of address he used.

After they finally recognized who Zeke was, they were immediately overcome with emotion.

Olivia hurriedly walked up to Zeke, and grabbed his hand, weeping with joy. “Zeke, you're finally back. You left without telling us after graduation and didn't come back all these years. Don't you know how worried Kyle and I were?”

Kyle also came up and punched Zeke in the chest. “You little rascal, we've been looking for you all these years. Where have you been hiding? Olivia couldn't eat and sleep well, and even calls your name in her dreams! She's been so worried about your safety out there.”

“Look at you, how can you hit him when he's just come back?” Olivia immediately defended Zeke. “Zeke, you've grown taller. I remember you were at my shoulder height back then, but you're a foot taller than I am now. This is so great.”

Zeke was so moved that a lump formed in his throat.

Although he wasn't related to them by blood, the relationship they shared was much better than that of blood-related family members.

*It turns out that I've always had a home all these years.*



*It feels so great to have a family who cares about me.*

He fought back the tears and said, “I joined the army after I left, so I couldn't contact the outside world. I've now made a name for myself, so I come back to bring both of you back to my home to live with me.”

Olivia heaved a sigh. “Alas, Zeke, we've heard about your situation. You don't need to comfort us. Don't worry, we're not very old and can make a living ourselves. You should stop messing around out there and come back. Kyle and I will build a house and get a wife for you.”

Zeke was baffled.

*Mess around? Why would I mess around out there?*

*Damn, Jonas must have fed them nonsense that made them think I'm not doing well.*

Jonas suddenly lost it. “You little brat, how dare you come back here? You punched me in the car and gave me a concussion. When I woke up on a piece of wasteland, I was beaten up by a group of strangers. They must've been sent by you. Because of this, I've spent a total of three hundred thousand just on medical treatment! You must compensate me.”

His son, Joshua, also became angry, as he rolled up his sleeves and walked toward Zeke. “A\*\*hole,



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His son, Joshua, also became angry, as he rolled up his sleeves and walked toward Zeke. “A\*\*hole,

how dare you beat up my dad? I'll kill you!"

Kyle was terrified. He quickly stopped Joshua in his tracks. "Joshua, calm down. Please, calm down. Jonas, Joshua, since Zeke has hurt you, we'll definitely give you an explanation. However, Zeke's just come back. He's probably very tired. You should head home first. We'll talk about the compensation tomorrow."

"Ha! You think I don't know what you're up to?" Jonas said angrily. "You've probably planning to ask Zeke to flee tonight and avoid the punishment. I won't let that happen. It's either you marry Sofia to my son, or I call the police to arrest Zeke and you compensate me the three hundred thousand in full."



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Kyle and Olivia didn't know what to do while their faces took on a look of desperation.

Zeke comforted, “Don't worry, Dad, Mom, I won't let Sofia marry him. Speaking of Sofia, where is she?”

The pair looked at Sofia's room with an even sadder expression on their faces. “Alas, because of the marriage, Sofia has been on a hunger strike for two days now. She's locked herself in her room all day long. You should go and talk to her.”

“A hunger strike for two days?” Zeke frowned, his heart aching.

He hurriedly walked over and was about to knock on the door when the door suddenly opened. Sofia came out.

She had heard Zeke's voice, so she came out to have a look.

The sight of Sofia made Zeke's heart skip a beat. It was because she was his first love and because Sofia had become even prettier after so many years.

Despite the lack of makeup, her good looks would make her stand out among the crowd even if she was living in the city.

However, she hadn't eaten anything for two days, so her originally fair and tender skin had turned a little yellow.

Zeke flashed her a smile. "I'm back, Sofia."

Sofia's eyes reddened, obviously a result of her excitement upon seeing Zeke.

However, she still raised her leg and kicked Zeke's ass. "Hmph, you little brat, so you still remember me, huh? But you didn't come to see me for so many years. Don't you know how worried I was?"

For a moment, Zeke was overwhelmed by mixed feelings.

*Sofia, that kick's the prime of your life, you know.*

*You're the first person to ever have the nerve to kick the ass of the Great Marshal.*

At the same time, he felt glad.

Sofia was still the same girl he knew; she was as feisty and forthright as before.

She still regarded him as her little brother who loved to follow her around back then.

Zeke hurriedly apologized, "Sofia, I'm sorry. I was in the army all those years, so I didn't have any contact with the outside world. But don't you worry, I'm back to protect you all from now on."

Sofia heaved a sigh. "Well, you don't need to act tough. Jonas told us about you messing around out there. Don't you worry, I'll do everything to get



you a wife.”

Zeke was bereft of speech.

*That dammed Jonas Callum. What exactly have you told them?*

Meanwhile, Joshua had been drooling over Sofia as soon as she came out of her room.

He hurriedly rose to his feet and walked up to her. “Sofia, you've finally come out to see me.”

Sofia quickly took a step back and scolded, “Hold it right there. Stay one metre away from me.”

She was disgusted by the body odour of Joshua.

Joshua seemed to know what Sofia was thinking. He quickly explained, “I took a shower the day before yesterday, Sofia. You can check for yourself.”

He reached out to grab her but was stopped by Zeke. “Stop right there.”

Sofia glanced at Joshua in disgust. “Did you brush your teeth when you showered?”

“Umm, I'll do it tomorrow.” Joshua scratched his head in embarrassment.

Zeke couldn't believe it.

It seemed that not only was Joshua ugly but also not very smart.

He didn't even realize Sofia was mocking him.

However, Jonas grew angry. “Sofia, how dare you speak to your future husband like this? What a rude woman. Kyle, is this how you educate your daughter?”

With an awkward look on his face, Kyle was at a loss for words.

Trying to ease the tension, Olivia quickly said, “Sofia, go make us some tea.”

Sofia nodded her head in acknowledgement and reached out, trying to stroke Zeke's head.

But Zeke was half a foot taller than she was, so she couldn't reach the top of his head.



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Hence, she had to tiptoe. “Why did you have to grow so tall? It's to a point where I need to tiptoe to stroke your head! You're making me look bad. Anyway, sit here for a while. I'm going to make some tea.”

Zeke suddenly reached out and ruffled Sofia's hair. “Alright.”

When he was still a child, Zeke had been a foot shorter than Sofia was. Sofia loved stroking Zeke's head and had mocked him for being so short.

Thus, Zeke had been wanting to find a chance to get back at her.

He was now finally able to get his revenge.

Sofia stomped her feet in anger. “I'm gonna make you pay later, you little brat.”

Kyle tried his best to persuade Jonas to leave first, but Jonas insisted on 'settling the score' with Zeke.

So Kyle had no choice but to let him stay.

Sofia was soon done making tea. She brought the pot of tea out and poured everyone a cup before she sat down beside Zeke.

She grabbed a handful of sunflower seeds for Zeke. “Come on, brat, you loved to eat this when you were a kid. You can have all you want today.”

Zeke extended his arm to take it from her. “Thank you, Sofia.”

Sofia was amused when she saw how big Zeke's hands were.

When they were young, Zeke couldn't hold a handful of sunflower seeds she grabbed even with both of his hands.

Yet, the handful of sunflower seeds she grabbed now could merely fill up one-third of Zeke's palm.

*Geez, he's grown in both height and his hands, which is making me lose face.*

Seeing the interaction between the two of them, Joshua was infuriated as he glared at Zeke with bloodshot eyes.

Meanwhile, the neighbours came by as they were all attracted by the car parked in front of the Callums' house.

“Kyle, has your relative come to visit you?”

“Considering that he comes with a car, he must be a relative from the city, right?”

“Is he here to propose to Sofia? He has a car, so he must be from a rich family. I think they'll make a good match.”

Jonas sneered and said, “Relative from the city?”



Ha, he's Zeke Williams.”

The neighbors then fixed their eyes on Zeke.

“Oh, it's really Zeke.”

“Zeke has grown so tall! We haven't seen him in several years.”

“Zeke has become so successful that he can afford a car now. That's so great.”

“Zeke, do you still remember the time I caught you and Hudson stealing my sweet potatoes when you were kids? Instead of scolding you, I offered you some sweet potatoes...”

Jonas grew displeased when the neighbours started to cosy up to Zeke.

“Haha, successful? If he's considered successful, then I'd be a big boss. In fact, he's just a construction site worker.”

The neighbours were sceptical as one asked, “Construction site worker? How can he afford to buy a car then?”

“This car is an old Santana. I think it's a second-hand car that can be bought with about ten or twenty thousand. Besides, I heard Zeke's a boy toy for the boss of the construction site, so this car might have been given to him by the boss.”

“What?” The neighbours widened their eyes in surprise.

In the countryside, there were two kinds of people who were most looked down upon. The live-in sons-in-law and the boy toys.

As Zeke was said to be the latter, the villagers began to condemn him.

“A boy toy? Damn, he's really willing to do anything to make money, isn't he?”

“He's healthy, and yet, instead of working hard, he chooses to sponge off a woman. How disgusting.”

“Nonetheless, he has a look and body that's suitable for him to be a gigolo.”

Listening to the mockery of the villagers, Kyle and Olivia were so ashamed that they kept their heads low.

Sofia was also feeling so humiliated that her eyes had glazed over. Zeke on the other hand, was losing it.



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Zeke finally understood why Kyle and Olivia wanted him to come back and live here. He also knew why Sofia had said she would do everything to get him a wife.

They seemed to think he was a boy toy for some woman.

Gritting his teeth, he looked at Sofia. “Sofia, is this what they've told you about me?”

“Zeke, I don't blame you. As long as you turn over a new leaf, you're still my little brother,” Sofia said with a sigh.

“Do you really believe such a ridiculous rumour, Sofia?” Zeke was stupefied.

“How else could you afford to have a car then?” Sofia asked.

Zeke was bereft of speech.

*Sofia, I'm so sorry you've become so close-minded. I should've brought you out of this little village earlier.*

Jonas cleared his throat. “Alright, let's get back to business. Zeke, are you going to pay me the three hundred thousand in full or in instalments? Considering you're my nephew, I won't call the police.”

*Pfft!*

The neighbours couldn't suppress their laughter.

“Three hundred thousand? I think the whole family can't even pay you three thousand.”

“Everyone knows they've used up all the money to treat Kyle's leg. They don't have extra money to compensate you.”

“Oh yea, they had the money to buy food yesterday and even came to borrow a hundred from me.”

“Gosh, borrow money to buy food? Why don't they just become beggars? At least, beggars eat for free.”

Zeke felt heartbroken upon hearing their remarks.

The poverty level of Kyle and Olivia was beyond his imagination.

Jonas then said with a sneer, “Well, it seems you can't compensate me even if you sell your house. Well, being kind as I am, here's another option. Marry Sofia to my son, Joshua. Not only would I not need any compensation from you, but I can also pay for the treatment of Hudson. His illness is rather difficult to treat, but it can still be cured as long as you're willing to spend money on the treatment.”

The neighbours glanced at Sofia and Joshua, feeling sorry for the poor woman.



It was a waste to have such a beautiful girl to marry the ugly man, Joshua.

However, Jonas was a bully in the village, and everyone was afraid of offending him. They could only take his side and start to persuade the Callums.

“Kyle, you're lucky Sofia can marry Joshua... You should appreciate this opportunity.”

“Although Joshua doesn't have a very good look, he's very capable and good at making money. He's even won a contract for a big project recently.”

“You've gained from this, as marrying your daughter to him can feed your whole family! You won't have to feel ever hungry anymore.”

“That's right. We raise daughters so that we can profit from their marriages.”

Kyle and Olivia said nothing as they lowered their heads and secretly wiped their tears.

It would be no different from selling their daughter out if they really did as they said.

They couldn't do such a cruel and inhuman thing.

Yet, if they didn't agree to Jonas's demand, Zeke and Hudson would be doomed.

*What should we do?* Kyle and Olivia were on the verge of breaking

down as they didn't know what to do.

Meanwhile, Sofia glanced at Zeke and suddenly said, making up her mind, “Alright, I'll agree to marry Joshua, but on one condition.”

“What's it, Sofia? I can agree to as many conditions as you want, so tell me.” Joshua was overjoyed.

“The Williams Group's going to develop a tourist destination near our village, and you're a contractor for part of the project, aren't you?” Sofia asked.

Joshua hurriedly nodded his head and said, “Yes, I'm a contractor for part of the roadwork. After the project is completed, I'll get a profit of 200,000.”

*Wow!*

The villagers were jealous upon hearing 'profit of two hundred thousand'.

*How much exactly is two hundred thousand?* They could never save two hundred thousand even if they worked forever and spent nothing on food and water.

Yet, Joshua was so capable that he could earn that much money in just one project.





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Sofia said, “You must get a stable and permanent job for Zeke, as well as pay for Hudson's medical treatment.”

“No problem,” Joshua agreed without any hesitation. “Zeke can work with me on the roadwork project. Since he's a construction site worker, he doesn't need to go through probation. I'll directly offer him the salary as an experienced worker. After the completion of the roadwork, I'll make him the security guard at the tourist site. If his performance is good, he can even become the security chief. He won't need to worry about money for the rest of his life. As for Hudson, I'll try my best to get someone to treat him.”

“Okay.” Sofia nodded her head in agreement.

She had been trying to hold back her tears, but still, tears raced down her cheeks as she spoke.

Kyle and Olivia were also in tears.

Zeke was deeply moved.

A 'sister' who wasn't related to him by blood was actually going to sacrifice her own happiness for his sake!

*Way to go, Sofia!*

Zeke took a piece of tissue and gently wiped away the tears from Sofia's face. “Sofia, after what you've just said, I'll treat you as my biological



sister for the rest of my life! Don't cry, Sofia, I won't let you marry him. I assure you.”

Sofia let out a sigh. “Zeke, I know you don't want me to go, but life gives me no choice now.”

“Sofia, look me in the eyes,” said Zeke as he brushed the hair away from her eyes. “In all seriousness, I'm telling you, as my sister, you can't be rushed into a marriage. If you want to marry someone, a huge amount of wedding gifts must be given, and a grand wedding must be held. You'll also receive blessings from everyone!”

Sofia was a little spellbound as she looked into Zeke's eyes.

*Zeke has grown up. He knows how to protect me now.*

*However, can his passion really change reality?*

*This is childish and ridiculous!*

Joshua said impatiently, “Leave, you have no say here.” He then turned to Sofia. “Now that you've agreed to the marriage proposal, I'll deliver the wedding gifts today. What do you think, Sofia?”

Sofia nodded her head with difficulty.

Zeke rolled his eyes at Joshua. “Get lost! You don't deserve her!”

“Get out of here!” Joshua lost his cool. “We're the ones getting married, who are you to butt in? Come on, Sofia, sit here. Don't sit so close to him.”

He then reached out to grab Sofia's hand.

But Zeke hurriedly slapped Joshua's hand away. “Didn't you hear what I said?”

“F\*ck!” Joshua's face clouded over. “How dare you hit my hand? Don't forget you still need to work for me in the future. If you cross the line, I won't give you this job.”

“Haha. I own the project. Aren't you ashamed of asking the boss to work for you?” Zeke sneered.

The tourist destination development project belonged to the Williams family of Atheville.

Earlier, Ben was begging Zeke to take the project but was rejected by him.

In other words, Ben would definitely give him the project as long as he asked for it!

*Pfft!*

*Haha!*

The crowd burst into laughter.

*It seems Zeke has mastered nothing but the art of bluffing after so many years.*



*Other than the nonsense of 'huge amount of wedding gifts' and 'grand wedding', he even claimed that the project belonged to him... What a ridiculous joke!*

*Even the richest man in Riverdale District wouldn't dare to brag like this.*

Sensing the tension between Joshua and Zeke, Sofia panicked and scolded Zeke, “Enough, Zeke. Can you not give me a headache?!”

“Go and wait inside Sofia's room, Zeke, “ said Kyle, who was feeling disappointed. “I know you're upset. I know you feel for Sofia, but you shouldn't be saying things like this. Sofia has made a great sacrifice to get you this job and even... Alas, hurry up and go wait inside her room. You should just stay out of this.”



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Zeke took a deep breath.

Not wanting to make Kyle and Olivia angry, he had no choice but to get up and slowly walk toward Sofia's bedroom.

It was pointless to say anything now, as only by showing his true strength could he stand up tall.

When he reached the door of the bedroom, he suddenly turned around and flashed a smile at Sofia. “Sofia, do you want to experience being a powerful person? I'll arrange that for you in a while.”

*Hahaha!*

The crowd exploded into laughter once again.

Whereas Kyle and his family lowered their head in embarrassment and said nothing.

Once inside the room, Zeke gave Ben a call.

The phone was picked up after it had merely rung once.

Ben asked cautiously, “What can I do for you, sir?”

“The project you wanted to give me earlier is a tourism development project near Whiteridge, right?” asked Zeke.

Ben hurriedly nodded his head. “Yes, you're right,



sir. Please take pity on me and accept this project, sir. Or rather, if you want, I can hand you the whole Williams family. Sir, our family is in a precarious position. We're in turmoil. Only you can get everything under control.”

“I won't take over this project, but my sister may be interested in it,” said Zeke.

*What?!*

Ben started to weep with joy.

*He has finally relented.*

Although it was unrealistic to ask him to forgive the Williams family now, it was at least a step forward.

“Don't worry, sir, I'm on it,” Ben said through tears of joy. “Thank you, sir. Thank you so much...”

“By the way, the time has come for my sister to marry, so, as a brother, I want to help her prepare some dowry—”

“Leave it to me, sir, I assure you.” Ben immediately understood what Zeke was implying without waiting for him to finish. “I swear on my death that I'll take care of this well.”

“Okay,” replied Zeke.

After hanging up the phone, Zeke gave his body a

stretch.

*Sofia, you protected me when I was a kid, and now, it's my turn to protect you.*

His gaze fell upon a photo frame placed on a nightstand.

In the photo, Zeke and Hudson were squatting on the ridge while Sofia touched their heads with a charming smile tugging at the corners of her mouth.

This was the only photo Zeke had ever taken during his childhood. It might also be the only photo Sofia and Hudson had ever taken.

Zeke reached out to touch Sofia's face on the photo. "From now on, Sofia, I want you to keep this sweet smile on your face forever."

At the same time, he noticed a hole likely caused by fire in the upper left corner of the photo.

"Alas, this photo isn't perfect anymore." Zeke heaved a sigh.

Meanwhile, the neighbours were still making fun of Zeke in the living room.

*Did he actually say he will turn Sofia into a powerful person?*

*It seems Zeke was not only poor but also out of his*



*mind.*

Jonas announced, “Since the marriage has been decided, I'll deliver the wedding gifts later in the afternoon.”

As the marriage would be final with the delivery of wedding gifts, Kyle was a little reluctant, so he said, “Jonas, isn't this a little rushed? I'm not free in the afternoon as I still have to work. Why don't we choose another day?”

“What's so important about your work? I can send someone to do your work for you. Alright, it's settled then,” said Jonas decisively.

Kyle dared not to refute due to Jonas's high-handedness.

The neighbours then left; Jonas and Joshua also went back.

Sofia stood up and dragged her feet toward her room in a trance.

As soon as she turned around, tears rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably.

She didn't dare wipe her tears for fear that her father would notice.

“Sofia...” Kyle suddenly said.

“Yes, dad?” Sofia stopped in her tracks while her

back still faced her parents. She didn't want them to see her crying.



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*Thump!*

Unexpectedly, Kyle directly knelt at Sofia's feet.

“Sofia, it's my fault. I'm so useless... I can't protect you. I'm so sorry, Sofia. Let me kowtow to you.”

Sofia lost it and broke down in tears.

She turned around to run up to Kyle and hugged him. “Dad, it's not your fault. I made the choice myself. Since it's my big day today, we shouldn't be crying...”

Olivia also went up to them, wrapped her arms around Sofia, and began to weep. “Oh, my poor girl...”

The three of them hugged each other and bawled.

Hearing the cries, Zeke walked out of the room.

The sight that met his eyes made his heart ache with distress.

Sofia quickly wiped her tears and looked at the photo in Zeke's hand before she said with a forced smile, “There was a fire last year. That photo was almost burned to ashes. Luckily, Dad managed to break in and take the photo. The fire left a big hole on the photo though, and Dad's disabled leg also got burnt.”

Zeke hurriedly walked up to Kyle and lifted up his

pant leg.

Kyle's leg was covered in burn scars and many of the burn sites had pus oozing out of them.

Zeke took a deep breath to calm himself down before he spoke. "Sofia, get me some boiling water. I'm gonna clean Dad's wounds."

"Okay." Sofia nodded her head and walked outside to boil some water.

Zeke took out his phone and dialled Ben's number. "Get the best doctor in the city to come and treat my godfather."

Given the fact that there wasn't medicine in the countryside, Zeke couldn't help him with treatment even though he was competent. He could only get a doctor to come here.

"Right away," answered Ben quickly.

Looking at Zeke, Kyle smiled wryly.

*Is something really wrong with him? Why does he say such absurd things?*

*It's hard to merely make an appointment with the best doctor in the city, how's it possible that he'll come to this small village and treat me?*

At noon, Olivia prepared some nice food despite her distress.



Kyle wasn't in the mood for food as he was drowning in his sorrows. Zeke, however, was gobbling the food down.

*The food still tastes the same.*

*All the food in the world is no match for the food prepared by Olivia.*

Meanwhile, Sofia and Olivia felt sorry for Zeke as they watched him eat as if he'd been starving for days.

*Does he not have enough to eat out there?*

At this moment, a commotion was heard coming from outside their house.

Then, Joshua was heard shouting, "I'm here to deliver the wedding gifts, Sofia."

The faces of Sofia and her parents clouded over in an instant.

Jonas and Joshua walked into the courtyard surrounded by a group of people.

After that, they laid out six red bags at the door.

Some of the villagers asked, "What did you put in your bag, Joshua?"

"Other than some branded cigarettes and good wines, there are eleven thousand in each bag,

which represents my single-heartedness toward Sofia. In total, I've prepared sixty-six thousand, representing a future life filled with happiness and harmony,” Joshua said with a proud look on his face.

Wow!

The villagers went wild.

“Sixty thousand? You're too good to Sofia.”

“I should've let my daughter marry you had I known you would give such a big amount of wedding gifts.”

“Sofia, this shows Joshua really loves you with all his heart, so you must cherish him.”

However, astonishment was written all over Zeke's face.

*The villagers so shocked to see a wedding gift of merely sixty-six thousand?*

The poverty level of this village was beyond his imagination.

“Just accept the wedding gifts, Sofia,” said Joshua.

“Okay.” Sofia nodded her head absentmindedly.

She then reached for the wedding gifts to take



them inside the house.

According to the rules, once the wedding gifts were taken inside the house, Sofia would be considered Joshua's wife.

At that very moment, Zeke suddenly stopped Sofia. “Those can wait, Sofia.”

“What are you doing, Zeke? Stop screwing around. It will bring bad luck. You don't want Sofia to have bad luck in the future, do you?” Joshua scowled.

Ignoring Joshua, Zeke flashed Sofia a smile. “Listen, Sofia.”



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Sofia and the villagers were baffled. *Listen what?*

Yet, the crowd still quietened down and began to listen intently.

Roars from an engine were vaguely heard from afar.

After a moment, a villager whispered, “There seems to be cars coming over.”

“Yeah, I think there's more than one car coming.”

“Let's go and check it out.”

The villagers swarmed outside the yard.

Sofia shot Zeke a perplexed look. “What's with this sound, Zeke?”

“Why don't you go out and take a look?” replied Zeke.

“Alright.” Sofia nodded her head.

“Sofia, why don't you take the wedding gifts inside your house before going out?” prompted Joshua, who began to panic.

Sofia hesitated and glanced at Zeke, who directly grabbed her hand and walked outside.

“Bastard, I'd like to see what tricks you can pull,” Joshua snarled.



On the mountain road in the distance, a large-scale fleet of vehicles was seen driving toward them.

When the fleet got closer, everyone found that most of the vehicles were ambulances, with a few buses trailing behind.

This made the villagers even more puzzled. *Why are the ambulances here? There are so many of them!*

The roars from the engines sent shivers across the entire village.

Eventually, the ambulances slowly pulled up in front of Kyle's house.

The doors of the ambulances opened and hundreds of doctors got off the ambulances in an orderly manner.

Some villagers recognised who they were.

“Oh, they're doctors from the city hospital. The man at the front's the hospital director.”

“That man's the cardiology director, a doctor of medicine. I had to ask my relative in the city to use his connections for me to have a consultation with him.”

“Has everyone in the hospital come here?”

“Damn, they won't be relocating the hospital here, will they?”

“Nonsense. Our village's so poor and backward, and the roads are difficult. It's impossible that they'll move here.”

The old hospital director made his way through the crowd and said, “Excuse me, may I know who Kyle is?”

Kyle couldn't help but shudder.

He had never seen such a huge spectacle. He was so nervous that he could hardly breathe. His heart raced when the director called out his name.

“I-I... I am Kyle,” answered Kyle with a trembling voice.

The director bowed to Kyle respectfully and said, “Nice to meet you, Mr. Callum, I'm the director of Clearview General Hospital. Someone has asked me to treat you. Please assist me to complete my job.”

Then, the director waved to the people behind him. “Get to work.”

The group of doctors immediately began setting up tents, moving medical devices, and taking medication out.

It was like the entire hospital had really moved



here.

Zeke had not told Ben about Kyle's medical conditions, so Ben had simply asked the whole team of Clearview General Hospital to come.

The crowd was mind-blown.

*Gosh!*

The staff of Clearview General Hospital in Riverdale District, a well-known first-class tertiary hospital, had actually gone so far as to travel hundreds of kilometres across hills and rivers to come to this poor rural area, just to treat Kyle, who was but a poor man!

*This's simply unbelievable!*

At the kind invitation of the director, Kyle followed him into a tent with a trembling body for examination and treatment.

He couldn't bring himself to feel happy as he was scared to death.

Meanwhile, Sofia was swallowing hard as she stammered, “W-What's going on? Who exactly ask them to treat my dad?”

“Calm down, Sofia, this is just the beginning. There are bigger surprises waiting for you.” Zeke held Sofia's hand.

Sofia widened her eyes in surprise. “This wasn't arranged by you, right, Zeke?”

*Pfft!*

Joshua couldn't help but snigger on the side. “Haha! You've overestimated him, Sofia. If he, as a construction site worker, can get the doctors of Clearview General Hospital to come here, I'll eat sand.”



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Joshua went on to say, “In fact, this is part of the wedding gifts from me. My heart aches to see Kyle, uh, Uncle Kyle being tormented by his illness, so I've asked people to help treat him. You know, I have a relative working as one of the management staff of Clearview General Hospital. I asked him to help make an appointment with a doctor for Uncle Kyle this morning. Unexpectedly, he directly brings the doctors here after I unintentionally revealed that Uncle Kyle has trouble getting around.”

At this, Sofia nodded her head, lost in thought.

She knew Joshua did have a relative working in Clearview General Hospital, but she didn't expect his relative to have such a great influence that he could move the entire hospital here.

Between Zeke and Joshua, she naturally chose to believe in the latter.

After all, he was more likely to make this happen.

Hearing Joshua's words, the villagers exploded with excitement as they surrounded Joshua.

“Joshua, I knew you were capable, but I didn’t expect you to be so capable that you can move Clearview General Hospital here.”

“Joshua, be honest with us, just how rich is your family? You must be a millionaire, right?”

“Joshua, I know I was wrong for rejecting your



marriage proposal last time, but I've decided to accept your proposal now after some careful consideration. Will you give me another chance?"

"Joshua, can you ask them to treat me? I queued for over a week a while back, but I still couldn't secure an appointment with the cardiology director."

"This kind of trivial matter will be discussed later. It's more important for the doctors to treat my father-in-law first," said Joshua with an arrogant look on his face.

Zeke was dumbfounded. "What a thick-skinned guy. How can he bluff and take the credit so shamelessly?"

"Stop it, Zeke, w-we can't afford to offend him." Sofia pinched Zeke. "Besides, although he looks a little ugly, his ability and filial piety portrayed in this matter are enough to make up for it."

"Ability? Filial piety? I'm afraid he's merely taking undue credit." Zeke sneered.

"Hmph, we're on different levels, so I won't bother to stoop to your level. How can a common fellow read the mind of a great man?" replied Joshua indifferently.

"Forget about it. Tell me, do you still have any other arrangements?" Zeke asked.



“No.” Joshua shook his head.

“But I do,” Zeke smirked as he pointed a finger at the mountain range around the village, and added, “Look, Sofia.”

Sofia looked around, feeling puzzled.

The villagers also glanced around.

*Bang!*

*Bang bang bang!*

Loud noises were continuously heard coming from the surrounding mountaintops.

Fireworks were immediately seen shooting up and blossoming in the sky afterwards.

They were not some ordinary fireworks, but fireworks specifically designed for daytime use.

The colorful smoke showed seven colors made up of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, like a color barrier blanketing the small village.

The rainbow colors made the small village look stunningly beautiful, and the dilapidated village was instantly turned into a fairyland.

Any photo taken at any angle there could be used as a screensaver.

The scene was spectacular, wonderful and romantic.

Mesmerized, everyone couldn't help but express their admiration.

“Holy sh\*t! What a spectacular sight.”

“Those fireworks must cost a lot of money. At least a hundred thousand, I'd say.”

“That's extravagant. Only the rich can spend a hundred thousand on fireworks!”

“These fireworks are nothing as the key is manpower. Many people must be engaged to station on the mountains to set off these fireworks at the same time.”

In the meantime, Sofia was covering her mouth in surprise, feeling so touched that she nearly cried.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*As a rural girl, I can die without regret now that I've got to enjoy such a privilege.*

*However, who's behind this?*

She looked at Zeke.

Knowing what she was thinking, Zeke nodded his head at her. “Do you like it?”

A villager immediately asked, “Did you arrange this, Zeke?”

“Yes.” Zeke nodded his head.

Yet, Joshua couldn't help but laugh as he said, “Haha! I wonder why you have the audacity to claim that you're behind this. It's the forest fire prevention period now. It's illegal to bring open flame up the mountain, let alone setting off fireworks. Only the rich and powerful—not even some ordinary rich families—can obtain the permit for a fireworks display. So tell me, which rich and powerful person do you know?”

“Which rich and powerful person I know? I'm a rich and powerful person myself, why would I still need to know any others?”

*Pfft!*

Joshua laughed even more hysterically. “A rich and powerful construction site worker? What a joke. Let me tell you the truth, I'm the one who

arranged this.”

Zeke was bereft of speech.

*This guy's awfully thick-skinned!*

Joshua added, “As you know, I've many connections in the project department of tourism development in our village. Earlier today, I asked a friend from the project department to help me buy some fireworks. My friend must have wanted to surprise me, so he set off the fireworks without telling me. Of course, he applied for the permit for a fireworks display using the name of the project department, the boss of the project is the Williams family of Atheville, who possesses such a power.”

The crowd finally understood.

They believed everything Joshua said as his explanation was flawless. They started to fawn over him once more.

“It's really true that many connections make light work.”

“You really have wide connections that involve all fields, don't you, Joshua?”

“Hah, someone actually tried to take the credit earlier. Shame on him.”

“Sofia, now that you have seen Joshua's dedication, you should really serve him well in the



future.”

Sofia was at a loss for words as she was overwhelmed by mixed feelings.

In fact, she tended to believe that Joshua was behind all this as well.

After all, only those from the project department could obtain a permit for a firework display here.

It wasn't that she didn't believe in Zeke, but his actions simply couldn't convince her.

Joshua glanced at Zeke with a look of contempt. “Alas, being poor is fine, but it's disgusting to lie out of vanity, Zeke. How can you try to take the credit to satisfy your vanity, eh?”

It soon turned into a witch hunt.

However, Zeke didn't get mad nor annoyed as he asked with a faint smile, “Do you have any other arrangements?”

Joshua thought for a while and replied, “I also ordered an engagement ring, which should be delivered here soon.”

“Oh, is it delivered by car?” asked Zeke.

“Of course. How else can it be delivered? By plane? Hah,” Joshua scoffed.

“That's good then.” Zeke took out his phone to check the time, and added, “They should be here now.”

Next, he looked up at the sky.

Everyone followed suit, albeit feeling confused.

After a while, a distant rumbling sound was heard coming from the sky.

The rumble continued and then grew louder and louder...

When the noise got close enough, everyone was shocked to find out that it was actually the sound made by two helicopters.

The helicopters were flying very low, and thus the details on them were clearly visible.

The villagers had once again gone wild as the atmosphere came to a climax.

*It's helicopters! We've never seen a helicopter in our life!*

In their opinion, those who could ride a helicopter must be high-ranking officials.

*Are some high-ranking officials coming to this small village? Why have they come here?*





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The helicopters hovered around in mid-air, and then slowly made their landing.

Once the helicopters had fully landed, the crowd swarmed to them, surrounding them as they began to study them carefully.

The doors then opened and a group of men in suits got off from the helicopters.

The man leading the group was an old man.

It was Ben who had come to send Sofia the dowry Zeke has ordered.

Joshua got excited at the sight of Ben. "It's Ben, the person in charge of this project. I get it now. My friend in the project department said he would give me a mysterious gift. I guess Ben being here is his mysterious gift for me. Do you see it, Sofia? No amount of money can buy Ben's presence at our engagement. It's a precious gift."

Sofia was sceptical as she wondered, *Was Ben really invited over by Joshua? Does he need to come here by helicopter to give us his blessing? Isn't Joshua a mere contractor? How did he manage to get Ben to come over?*

When the villagers heard that the two helicopters were also here because of Joshua, they became even more excited. They surrounded him and began to shower him with compliments.



*As long as Joshua put in a good word for us with Ben, we can live an easy life for the rest of our life!*

Therefore, they were determined to ride on Joshua's coattails.

Joshua pushed the villagers away and said, "Go away, I'm going to welcome Ben."

He trotted across to Ben.

However, Ben walked up to Sofia and bowed to her respectfully. "Pleased to meet you, Ms. Callum. Someone has asked me to send you a dowry."

The crowd gasped in surprise.

Ben really came for Joshua and Sofia.

Having said that, the things Ben sent should be wedding gifts as he was representing Joshua's side.

*Why did he say dowry?*

Only the gift from the bride's family was called dowry.

Meanwhile, Sofia's mind was already in a whirl. "Mr. Williams, you said someone asked you to send me a dowry... Who is it?"

"You'll find out soon." Ben smiled faintly.

With a wave of his hand, the group of men in suits immediately stood in a row, with each of them holding a gift box.

Ben proceeded to announce in a loud voice, “A diamond necklace set. A pair of platinum earrings. A pair of crystal high heels. A thousand kilograms of gold bars.”

Silence ensued as the excited crowd quietened down. Everyone was gaping in amazement.

*It's a dream!*

*We must be dreaming!*

*Forget about the other gifts. A thousand kilograms of gold bars alone is a great source of wealth... It can even form a wealthy family!*

People like them would be unable to have the money for a single bar of gold after a lifetime of hard work.

Ben paused for a while before he continued, “A luxury jet. A tourism development project in Whiteridge...”

Ben had originally wanted to gift her a luxury car, but a luxury car would have been covered in mud by the time it reached here. Hence, after giving it some thought, he had replaced it with a jet.

*Whoa!*



The crowd flew into an uproar again.

It turned out that the diamond necklace and gold bars were just appetizers, while the luxury jet and tourism development project was the main course.

Many of the villagers were left crying out of excitement.

*Only an extremely rich and powerful person can deliver this sort of 'dowry'!*

At this time, everyone no longer believed that this had been arranged by Joshua.

No matter how capable he was or how close he was with the project leader, it was impossible that a jet and tourism development project would be given as dowry.

Kyle, who was being treated in the tent, heard the noises outside and ran out with his broken leg.

The doctor panicked. “Stay still, Mr. Callum, the device is still connected to your body.”

However, Kyle only ran faster, ignoring the doctor.

Upon seeing the scene outside the tent, Kyle burst into tears.

*Our family has finally succeeded.*



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At this very moment, Sofia had but one feeling... fear!

She was truly horrified.

*A helicopter and a one-billion project... This was a rather huge battle.*

Sofia staggered back, saying, “You must be mistaken, Ben... You’re definitely mistaken...”

Joshua ran up and announced, “There’s no mistake in this, Sofia. Ben’s arrival is indeed an arrangement made by that friend of mine.”

“However, that buddy loves joking around with people. He was simply kidding about the helicopter and the project.”

“Nonetheless, the gold and jewelry are all real.”

“Thank you, Ben. Thank you so much...”

The crowd was taken aback.

*It would be fine if the helicopter and project were simply mere jokes.*

Joshua extended an arm to shake Ben’s hand.

Yet, Ben glared at him with contempt. “Who are you? I don’t know you.

“Also, I’m not joking. I’m giving the helicopter and

project away for free. If you continue with your nonsense, I'll sue you for libel."

Joshua was instantly petrified. *What an awkward situation to be in!*

*He isn't here for me?*

*In that case, who had such guts to invite Mr. Williams over?*

Zeke smiled as he held onto Sofia, who continued to backtrack. "Are you happy, Ms. Sofia?"

"Umm... Did you arrange for Ben to send the dowry over?" Sofia asked.

"Not just Ben," Zeke answered. "These doctors and those fireworks... I'd arranged them all."

Sofia gazed up at Zeke, as her eyes brimmed with tears. "Zeke... I... I need a moment."

Zeke caressed Sofia's head and pulled her into his arms. "Okay."

Then, Ben walked over to Zeke and bowed before saying, "The Williams family is now hanging on the verge of collapse, Master Zeke. Only you have the power and fortune to get the Williams family through this ordeal. Even a mere slight contribution of your resources will do. Please return, Master Zeke. The Williams family can't do this without you."



Zeke began to grow impatient, “You should go back, Uncle Williams. You’re scaring Sofia.”

Ben smiled wryly.

The young man was as hateful as usual.

If anyone treated him kindly, he would return the favor tenfold.

Sadly, he would never forgive those who had crossed him.

Kyle Callum and the Williams family of Atheville were perfect examples.

Kyle’s family had saved Zeke once, and the latter had now treated his household members like gold.

Meanwhile, the Williams family had once abandoned him, so he now refused to help them no matter how much they had pleaded with him.

Ben sighed, *I would’ve treated him better if I’d known.*

*Not for the Williams family, but for my own sake.*

Ben excused himself and left.

Zeke had already politely told him to leave, so there was no point continuing with his pleading; in fact, doing so may only put Zeke off even more.

If that were to happen, it would be even harder to meet him again.

*I'm the only bridge between Zeke and the Williams family now. I can't let him cut me off as well.*

The place fell back into silence after Ben's departure.

Everyone gazed at Zeke fervently.

*To think that he was the abandoned son of the Williams family! He once had to scrounge off others, for free meals!*

Yet, he rose to power and fame by his own strength. *Even the Williams family now had to beg for his help.*

*He was not a construction worker as Joshua had claimed, and he certainly was no boy toy either!*

The villagers were overwhelmed with mixed emotions.

Concurrently, they were filled with envy and deep regret.

They envied Kyle for having adopted such a brilliant young man. This family had to be the luckiest one in the world at this point.

Furthermore, they regretted not taking Zeke in as a part of their own family.



*Kindness really is the greatest virtue!*



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Olivia covered her face and kneeled on the ground weeping.

Zeke approached and helped her up. “Don’t cry, Mom. Today should be a day of happiness.”

Olivia lightly punched Zeke’s chest. “You silly boy. You went from having nothing to becoming such a powerful figure. You must have gone through so much.”

“Why didn’t you come looking for us during your toughest times? Why did you have to go through everything alone? We could’ve still looked after you.”

Zeke wiped Olivia’s tears with a smile.

Outsiders only knew how high one flew.

However, the fact remained that only one’s parents would ever care about how tired one was.

Kyle suddenly laughed heartily, with tears flowing down his face, “This is incredible! Beautiful!”

“I’d always known that Zeke was special... A man favored by God who would one day rise to brilliance, becoming the object of everyone’s admiration. He’s no construction worker or boy toy. None of you have the right to ridicule him!”

The crowd looked full of remorse.



“You’re still not in the best shape yet, Mr. Callum. You shouldn’t get so worked up,” the old doctor advised Kyle.

“Come. Let’s go back and get you treated.”

Kyle stubbornly refused, “No. It’s the prime of my life today. I’m not going to miss it.”

Sofia laughed between tears, “You should go, Dad. It’s not like Zeke’s going anywhere. You can drink with him once you recover.”

Kyle could not stop his laughter, “Alright. I’ll be off then, Zeke. Let’s have a good old drinking session together later. You’re finally qualified to drink with me. Hahahaha!”

The doctor smiled wryly. It had been no easy feat, lowering Kyle’s blood pressure, but now, it had probably spiked once again.

Zeke smiled at Sofia. “You’re the queen today, Sofia. Everyone’s under your rule, including me. It’s time to return the favor to everyone... Both good and bad. An eye for an eye.”

The villagers immediately tensed up.

All this while, Kyle and his household had been bullied by everyone.

The family had trash dumped at their doorstep. Their territories were also taken from them,

against their will.

With Zeke's power, it would be a piece of cake, taking his pick of revenge, over the villagers.

Everyone gazed at Sofia pleadingly, with their hearts nearly leaping out of their chests.

"Forget it," muttered Sofia. "Everyone's like family here. It's not worth it, fighting over such trivial matters."

The villagers were instantly relieved and began to butter them up.

"With such a kind heart, it's no wonder you've been so blessed, Sofia."

"Leave all the watering at your home to me from now on, Sofia."

"Yeah! Your dad used to have so much trouble watering the fields because of his legs. It was always the villagers who'd helped you guys."

"We'll keep helping you just like we'd used to."

Sofia smiled. "That's right. It was always my neighbors who'd helped water the plants. Thank you. Unfortunately, there's probably no need for that anymore."

There was no way at all. As Zeke was currently thriving, it was a given, that he was not going to



allow them to do such menial work.

She continued, “By the way, Zeke, there’s only one well in the village, but it’s broken. We can’t use it to water our plants. Perhaps you can fork out some money to have a few more wells dug up?”

Zeke nodded. “Sure, that’s not a problem. But it’s already time to water the plants. It’s too late to start digging the wells now.

“How about this? I’ll make it rain right now!”

The crowd did not know whether to laugh or cry.

*This fella must be joking around with us.*

*You may be rich and powerful now, but how can you control the weather?*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Even Sofia thought that he was joking. “Oh, come on. Stop making a fool of yourself,” she lectured him while laughing. “Don’t start saying that you even know Zeus, getting him to bring us rain.”

Zeke was speechless.

*How am I making a fool of myself?*

*It’s just rain, no?How hard can that be?*

*They do know that rainmaking exists, don’t they?*

He whipped out his phone and gave Sole Wolf a call, “How are things on your side, Sole Wolf?”

“We’re in hiding and we’re ready to move anytime.”

“Okay, great. I need help with something else. There’s no well here at Whiteridge. Send us some rain.”

“No problem. I’ll take care of it right away.”

Zeke hung up and explained to Sofia, “It should start raining here in about an hour, Sofia.”

The crowd erupted into laughter.

*This guy really thinks he’s a god now. He’s saying that it’ll rain at his command.*

*Did he just give Zeus a call?*



*What a joke.*

Zeke's cold gaze fell onto both Jonas and Joshua Callum. "It's about time for us to settle our scores."

*Thump!*

The two men were so frightened that they immediately fell to their knees.

Joshua was so petrified that he had wet himself.

*Holy s\*\*\*. What have I done?*

*He's completely crushing me.*

*I wouldn't have done anything to Sofia if I'd known that this would happen.*

Jonas was full of despair too.

He thought back to how he had intended to destroy Zeke, by working with Mr. Forrest for fifty thousand.

Had he known just how prominent Zeke was, he would not have done it. Even for fifty million.

The father-and-son duo began to plead, as tears streamed down their faces.

"We were wrong, Zeke. Please have mercy on us. We're begging you."

“I promise not to bother Sofia again.”

“Yeah! From now on, we’ll stay a mile away from wherever Sofia is.”

*As if Zeke would let them off so easily!*

“You made my sister cry twice. I want the both of you to blind yourselves and piss off.”

*What?*

The two men broke down completely.

They would be as good as dead without their eyesight.

They begged and cried incessantly, looking utterly disheveled.

Ultimately, it was Sofia who spoke up, “Forget it, Zeke. It’s not like they’re pure evil. Just a simple punishment will do.”

Zeke was not happy about that. “But they made you cry, Sofia...”

“You’ve said that I am the queen today. Are you going back on your word?”

“Alright then,” Zeke huffed in frustration. “As you wish.”

Sofia glared at Jonas. “Go. Take your wedding gift



and get out of here. Don't tarnish my home."

"Okay! Okay!" Rejoicing, Jonas and Joshua ran straight into Sofia's house, taking the wedding gift away.

"Let's go home, Zeke," urged Sofia. "I'll make you some steamed pork."

"Thanks, Sofia."

Kyle's voice rang out, from inside the tent. "Wait! Wait for me..."

"Hey! Don't move. I'm still trying to treat you," chastised the doctor.

"Forget it! I want to drink with my son. Haha! Come on, Doctor. You should join us."

The doctor fell silent.

Sofia was unaware of what she should gather from all of this. Hence, she merely suggested, "Just get on with the treatment, Dad. You can drink when you're better."

"No, I have to drink now," Kyle insisted. "I have some things to tell that rascal."

The doctor was in a bind. "Well, go ahead then. But this is the last time you'll drink until you recover. We'll carry on with the treatment when you're sober tomorrow. It's not like you mind

staying here for another day or two anyway.”

Kyle laughed, “That’s no problem at all. Bring us some good liquor, Zeke!”



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In all honesty, there was no need for Zeke to go looking for liquor, as the village convenience store had voluntarily offered them some.

The restaurant had also cooked up an array of dishes for them.

Zeke offered to pay for the meal, but they had all refused to take his money.

They were doing all this to score brownie points with Kyle and his household, after all.

Kyle was beyond elated. He began to down the liquor after the feast, never taking a break from laughing.

About half an hour later, thunder rang across Whiteridge. Rain soon began to pour.

The area would only experience such rain, once every few years.

Kyle staggered towards the door with a bottle in hand. His eyes reddened as he gazed at the rain pouring down.

“My son’s made it. The world is at his command. He can now summon the rains and storms with a mere wave of his hand!”

He tossed back his drink and finished every single drop of it.

Then, he began to fall to the ground.

A nimble Zeke quickly held onto the man. “You’ve had too much to drink, Dad. Get some rest.”

Kyle was beyond wasted, but he could not stop murmuring, “You’ve made it, Zeke. That’s great. I was right about you...”

Sofia admitted to Zeke after taking Kyle back to his room, “Your gifts are way too valuable to be used by me, Zeke. You should take them back for yourself.”

“Don’t sell yourself short, Sofia,” Zeke responded. “My sister should get to enjoy the finest things in life. How can they be too valuable for you? I’d even thought that they might not be good enough for you.”

Seeing how insistent Zeke was, Sofia could only try to negotiate, “How about this? I’ll keep the jewelry as a memorial. You’ll have to take the helicopter and project back. It’s not like I can fly a helicopter anyways, so it’d be such a waste...”

“I’ll get you a pilot.”

“Pfft!” Sofia laughed. “You sure are quick-minded, but forget it. I’m afraid of heights so I’ll never dare to take the helicopter. As for the project, I’m too uncultured. I know nothing about management. If you let me have it, I’d only end up destroying it...”



“It’s okay, Sofia. You won’t need to do anything, like a boss. All you’ll be doing is counting your money daily. Leave all the construction operations to your subordinates.”

Sofia was at a loss, “I’m just an ignorant village girl. They’ll never listen to me. What if someone tries plotting against me, messing up the project?”

Zeke pondered on this for a moment. “How about this, Sofia? I’ll make this project a part of the Linton Group. You’ll have the Linton Group’s support, so no one will dare to secretly cause trouble or deceive you.”

Sofia turned to her mother.

Olivia smiled. “Since Zeke is being so thoughtful, maybe you should just accept it, Sofia.”

Sofia nodded.

Then, Zeke relayed to Olivia, “Mom, I came here with the intention to take you and Dad to live in the city. Pack your bags and we’ll leave tomorrow.”

However, Olivia merely shook her head with a smile. “I really appreciate the thought, Zeke. But we were born here and we’d grown up here. This is our home. Leaving this place and going somewhere else will only be tough for us. If you truly want to show your gratitude, come back and visit us more often.”

Olivia remained persistent no matter how much Zeke had tried to persuade her, so he could only give in.

*They're already at such an age. They may not be used to living anywhere else.*

Suddenly, Sofia took a piece of paper out of her pocket and handed it over to Zeke. "Do you still remember this, Zeke?"

Zeke carefully unfolded the note, only to turn red, the moment he realized what it was.



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This note was an archive of Zeke in his earlier days...*A love letter he had written to Sofia when he was young and innocent.*

The handwriting and message appeared childish, but those were his purest, most genuine feelings.

“Give that back to me, Sofia,” he quipped with a silly grin. “I was young and foolish back then...”

“Yeah, right,” Sofia remarked as she put the letter away. “I’m keeping this to show to my future sister-in-law.”

Laughter broke out in the room.

The next day, Zeke bid them goodbye after having breakfast.

The family of three stood at the door to see him off.

Many villagers also came, to give Zeke a send-off.

He got into his car and sped away, never looking back.

He was afraid that he would miss Sofia, if he were to turn his head.

Sofia returned to her room and broke down.

“I love you too, Zeke,” she choked out, tightly gripping the love letter.

“Unfortunately, I’m not good enough for you. I’m sorry.”

Meanwhile, inside the home of Jonas and Joshua Callum.

The two of them had suffered utter humiliation before the entire village yesterday. They could no longer leave the house.

Moreover, now that the project was in Sofia’s hands, she would surely kick them out. It was going to be a struggle to make ends meet.

The men smoked incessantly, appearing utterly miserable. They did not bother to even have their breakfast.

Suddenly, Joshua’s phone sounded.

His eyes lit up as he took it out and glanced towards the screen.

It was an arrest warrant coming from the underground world of Riverdale District.

The wanted man was Zeke Williams.

*Anyone who provides a lead on Zeke Williams will be awarded five hundred thousand. Those who know his whereabouts will be immediately given one million.*

Joshua was overjoyed, “Dad! This is our chance to



have our revenge.”

Yet, Jonas slapped Joshua across the face. “P\*\*\* off! Why are you still thinking of taking revenge? Zeke Williams is a member of the Williams family in Atheville. Going against him is no different from digging our own graves. Don’t you ever think about dragging me down with you! I’m warning you, give your eyes a good cleanse before you cause more damn trouble.”

Joshua looked upset. “We don’t have to do anything on our own to get revenge, Dad. Someone else wants to destroy Zeke Williams. We can simply lend them a hand.”

Jonas was bewildered, “Huh? Who would dare to make a move against Zeke Williams?”

“Samuel. Black Bear.”

“What?” Jonas began to get worked up, “Mr. Black Bear? The king of Riverdale’s underground world? Haha! You just had to p\*\*\* Samuel off, Zeke Williams. You’re as good as dead. So what if you’re from the Williams family? That means nothing if you’re up against the underground ruler! Hurry up and report Zeke’s whereabouts, Joshua.”

Joshua nodded and immediately contacted his superior, Hound.

Hound was elated to hear the news.

“Haha! A good f\*\*\*\*\* job done, Joshua. This is our chance to get rich. I’ll inform them right away.”

Hound passed the message to his superior, who then did the same to his superior.

After passing through about eight channels, the news finally reached Samuel.

The man’s eyes flashed with killer instincts.

“Hmph. I’ve finally got you, Williams. It’ll be your death anniversary one year from today.”

“However, the b\*\*\*\*\*’s now in Whiteridge. He’ll have to pass through a busy city center. It won’t be easy to make a move there.”

“Pass this order out. Figure out a way to draw Zeke Williams to the Dunst Abandoned Pier, for a one-time reward of ten million.”



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It did not take long for Samuel's orders to reach Hound.

"Well done, Hound. Mr. Black Bear says to find a way to lead Zeke Williams to the abandoned warehouse in Dunst. The reward will be three million."

*Three million!*

Hound's eyes lit up.

With this amount of money, he could live in luxury for the rest of his life!

He quickly contacted Joshua, "Good job, Joshua. Mr. Black Bear says to find a way to draw Zeke Williams out to the abandoned warehouse in Dunst. The reward will be a one-time payment of one million."

Joshua became too excited that he failed to speak well.

*A million?*

*One million?*

*All the girls in Whiteridge will throw themselves at me, and I'll get to play with as many of them as I please.*

He pondered for a moment and soon came up with a brilliant idea. "Do me a favor, Hound. Zeke

Williams will be passing through County 324. Toss some broken glass or nails over the main road. That'll definitely puncture his tires."

Hound smiled, "Sure, no problem. We'll split the one-million profit equally between us."

"Won't 70-30 do, Bro?" Joshua asked carefully. "We were the ones who'd encountered Zeke Williams in person, after all. You're only lurking in the shadows..."

"You talk too much. 60-40. Don't push your luck."

Joshua gritted his teeth, "Fine. 60-40 it is."

Hound's greed was immeasurable. He was already secretly keeping two million for himself. Nonetheless, he had still wanted an additional four hundred thousand.

Joshua hung up and turned to Jonas. "Let's go, Dad. Time for us to make some big money!"

Soon, the duo headed towards Zeke Williams in an old Chevrolet minivan that they had stolen.

...

Zeke Williams drove on the County 324 highway in boredom.

He looked around in expectation, anticipating Samuel's sneak attack.



Yet, after waiting for so long, there seemed to be nothing happening.

Zeke's patience was wearing thin.

He had thought about using this chance to dispose of Samuel, taking over Riverdale's underworld forces, making it back home before nightfall.

He looked forward to telling his wife that he had just snagged another project worth five billion for the Linton Group. The woman would surely be surprised.

"Is Samuel that much of a wuss? He's not chickening out, is he?"

Just as he began to worry, a pile of broken glass on the road ahead caught his attention.

The pile was obviously laid there on purpose.

A smile formed upon Zeke's lips. "It's about time."

He brazenly drove over the broken glass.

Unfortunately, he had underestimated his tires.

The tires did not blow out.

Frustrated, Zeke set his gear in reverse and drove over the glass again.

*Unfortunately, the tires remained intact!*

“F\*\*\*,” Zeke cursed as he exited the car, giving one of the tires a kick.

*Bam!*

*It finally blew out.*

Then, he got back into the car as he casually began to smoke.

*Come on over already, Samuel.*

About ten minutes later, a Chevrolet minivan made its way over from behind.

Zeke immediately alighted his car, waving towards the minivan. “Stop! Stop!”

The Chevy came to a halt and two men got down... Jonas and Joshua Callum.

They looked beyond thrilled to see the road full of glass shards and a busted tire.

As the saying went, a plan starting on a good note was equivalent to already succeeding halfway.

Now, they were already half-successful.

That meant that five hundred thousand was now in their grasps.



If everything continued smoothly, they would soon receive the remaining half of the reward!



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“What a coincidence, Mr. Williams,” Jonas offered, with a smile. “What are you doing here?”

“Hi. It’s all thanks to some godforsaken prank. Someone threw glass all over the road, and I’d busted a tire.”

Joshua carefully observed the tire, uttering casually, “This tire’s been done in pretty badly. I don’t think you’ll be able to get it fixed. Do you have a spare tire, Mr. Williams? You should use the spare...”

Joshua shut his mouth in regret.

*F\*\*\*! Why the hell am I reminding him to use a spare?*

*How am I gonna lure him to the abandoned pier if he really replaces his tire and drives off?*

*Damn it! I should’ve left this damn mouth at home.*

Zeke was in a bind too.

*D\*\*\* it, are you stupid? How the hell am I supposed to answer you?*

*Should I tell you that I have a spare? How am I going to get rid of Samuel if I replace my tire and drive off?*

*I can’t say that I don’t have a spare. They’ll grow suspicious. The spare’s right there on the car’s ass!*



Jonas kicked his son in the leg. “Shut it. A spare tire is a spare. What if another tire blows out later? What would Mr. Williams do, being stuck in the middle of nowhere? I have an idea. Since Joshua and I are here, let us take you to get a new tire. I happen to know that there’s a workshop not too far from here.”

Zeke immediately played along, “Yeah. You have a point, Jonas. Alright then. Take me to get a new tire, then drop me off back here.”

“No problem,” Jonas happily answered.

Joshua took them in the direction of the Dunst Abandoned Pier.

Soon, he made a turn into a small town.

This town had several car workshops.

Jonas immediately tensed up and became furious.

*Holy s\*\*\*, did this boy leave his brain at home?*

*Of all routes, why did he choose to take this one? What if Zeke spots a workshop and chooses to get a tire here?*

*We’re still more than ten kilometers away from the pier!*

Zeke immediately felt awkward.

*What should I do now?*

*There are at least three workshops right in front.  
Should I pretend not to see them?*

*Wouldn't that raise these guys' suspicions?*

*But if I stop and get a tire here, I won't be able to  
meet Samuel...*

*S\*\*\*! These two guys are idiots.*

Thinking on his feet, Jonas drew Zeke's attention away from the road by talking to him.

Zeke happily engaged himself in conversation, without looking out of the window.

They both heaved out a long sigh of relief after the car drove out of the small town.

*Thank God he didn't notice the workshops,* Jonas thought.

*Thank God he didn't notice that I'd noticed,* Zeke thought...

Twenty minutes later, they arrived at the Dunst Abandoned Pier.

This was the same pier where Samuel and the rest were ambushed, by men in black previously.

Seeing how desolate the place looked, Zeke



remarked with “curiosity’, “There’s not a soul in this area. How can a workshop survive here?”

Joshua replied, “Oh, there aren’t any cars here, but there are lots of ships. These guys here mainly focus on fixing ship tires...”

*Pft!*

Unable to control himself, Zeke burst out into laughter.

*Fixing tires for ships?*

*Whatever you say then.*

Jonas and Joshua looked awkward.

However, seeing that Zeke had stopped pursuing the matter, they both sighed with relief.

They took Zeke into the abandoned warehouse.

The warehouse looked extremely disarrayed, with countless amounts of construction waste and buckets all over the place.

There were even traces of a huge fire.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“This is a workshop?” Zeke remarked. “It looks more like a landfill to me. Where’s the repairman? Tell him to come out.”

The looks on Jonas’ and Joshua’s faces instantly grew dark.

“Come on out, Mr. Black Bear.”

*Clap, clap, clap.*

A figure appeared from behind a pile of construction garbage, accompanied by the sounds of clapping.

“Welcome. You’re finally here.”

It was none other than Samuel.

The Callum father-and-son duo rushed over. “We’ve brought the guy over, Mr. Black Bear.”

Samuel nodded in approval. “Well done. Don’t worry. You’ll be rewarded in full.”

The two men were overjoyed. “Thank you, Sir!”

Zeke grinned at them. “Hehe, I couldn’t tell what was going on at all. You guys sure act well.”

Jonas scoffed. “Enough of your nonsense, Williams. We’re about to take revenge tenfold, for what you’d done to us yesterday.”

“Well, that depends on whether you’re capable enough to.” Zeke shrugged.

Samuel interrupted their conversation, “Riverdale welcomes you, Mr. Williams.”

Zeke turned to Samuel. “And you are?”

“My name is Samuel. Everyone in the underground world looks up to me and calls me Mr. Black Bear.”

Zeke nodded, “Mmm, you do look like a bear. By the way, where’d you put all your honey?”

Samuel froze. “Honey? What are you talking about?”

“Winnie the Pooh loves honey. Don’t you as well?”

Samuel fell silent.

*You little s\*\*\*...*

“You’re full of s\*\*\*, Zeke Williams!” Joshua roared. “Mr. Black Bear is the ruler of Riverdale’s underground world. He’d have more than just honey!”

Samuel was speechless once again.

*You motherf\*\*\*\*\*.*

He flipped Joshua to the ground with one kick and scoffed, “Hmph. So you’re Zeke Williams... The



one everyone's been talking about? You don't look too special. You were even led to me so easily."

Zeke smiled faintly. "Have you ever thought alternatively, perhaps? What if I'd insisted on coming over? Or maybe. I was even the one who'd spread the news of my arrival in Riverdale?"

Samuel clicked his tongue. "You seem pretty confident. I'm guessing that you still aren't aware of the situation you're in, but that's fine. I'll have you realize it now. Come on out, men."

Sounds of chaotic footsteps echoed across the warehouse.

Numerous men ran out from behind the pile of garbage shortly after.

There were at least five hundred men.

They had surrounded the entire warehouse, and about forty men stood right at the entrance. Not even a fly could escape.

Samuel smirked coldly. "Well? You should be scared s\*\*\*less by now. However, if you bow down like a good boy and surrender yourself, I might just spare your life."

Yet, Zeke appeared as calm as usual. "Are you guys asking for a taste of your own medicine? Well, that's perfect. It's a great opportunity for an easy catch."

He whipped out his phone and gave Sole Wolf a call, “I’ve found the guy who stole Pooh Bear’s honey. We’re at the Dunst Abandoned Pier. Hurry over.”

“Understood.”

Samuel laughed coldly. “Heh, it’s too late to call for backup now. The moment your subordinates set foot into Riverdale, not a single one of them will leave this place alive.”

Zeke shook his head. “Who says that I was calling my subordinates?”

Samuel stilled for a moment. “Then who did you just call?”

“General North.”



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Everyone's eyes widened.

Then, they erupted into laughter.

"Hahaha! I'm about to p\*\*\* myself. Did he just say he's called General North?"

"How bored would General North have to be, to care about what's going on here?"

"If he knows General North, then I must be best friends with the Great Marshal. Haha!"

Zeke shook his head in frustration.

His intention was to frighten them. Yet, they were laughing instead.

*Where is the most basic trust between humans?*

Meanwhile, Sole Wolf hung up and instructed his lieutenant, "Dispatch the troops. We're heading over to the Dunst Abandoned Pier."

"For what reason, General?" the lieutenant asked with a salute.

"We've found the guy who stole Pooh Bear's honey."

Dead silence.

Five minutes later, Sole Wolf began heading towards the Dunst Abandoned Pier in a grandiose

fashion, bringing with him several thousands of soldiers and over fifty military vehicles.

...

News of Zeke Williams' capture shook the entire underground world of Rivermouth.

The twenty powerful leaders who once led over three hundred men to great feats were about to fall.

Everyone was shocked.

Even Hades, in all his power, was no exception.

Hades was the eternal king of Rivermouth's underground world.

Anyone who had entered had to either bow down to him or die.

Not even someone like Zeke Williams could break this rule.

Hades swiftly gathered the ten leaders in control of every city in Rivermouth.

Today, he was going to make an example out of those who went against him.

He was going to get rid of Zeke Williams as a reminder to these underground leaders to not lose themselves.



These men were always showing off their territories, being so full of themselves.

Yet, they could only lower their heads when drinking tea in the Grand Imperial Tea House.

Because this was Hades' territory.

Hades finally showed up, while everyone was anticipating his arrival.

They quickly stood up to welcome him, as a sign of respect.

Hades glanced around and looked slightly disappointed. "What? Is T-Rex not here?"

He was asking the obvious.

Everyone knew that Hades had already submitted himself to Zeke Williams.

One of the thugs quickly got up and expressed his loyalty. "Hmph, T-Rex is such a b\*\*\*\*\* for treating someone else as his master. He's being absolutely disrespectful towards you, Hades. How about I capture him and bring him over? You can punish him as you'd like."

Hades shook his head. "Forget it. A grown-up doesn't listen to his parents anymore. He can do as he pleases. It's just that he may have chosen to serve the wrong master."

Everyone understood what Hades had meant and began to compliment him.

“He definitely chose the wrong master, Hades. There’s no doubt about it.”

“You alone are fit to rule over Rivermouth, Hades. No one else is.”

“Even Zeke Williams is nothing but a peasant in front of you, Hades.”

“Long live Hades!”

Hades utterly enjoyed being flattered by everyone.

He sighed and lamented, “Zeke Williams really is something. Unfortunately, he’s too arrogant and reckless. He’s not fit to be a boss, but he’s an excellent fighter. He’ll surely fly high if he pledged allegiance to me. Yet, he insists on facing everything on his own. He’s digging his own grave.”

“Survival of the fittest,” Eclipse assured. “This is a law that has never changed. If Zeke Williams were to die, that’s the Heavens’ will. There’s no need for you to feel sorry, Hades.”

Hades nodded. “I have no choice if the Heavens want to take him.”

...





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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Darren Collins naturally received the news too.

His team was now in chaos and his subordinates were filled with concern.

Zeke Williams was definitely finished this time.

Previously, Zeke had barely defeated three hundred henchmen, with the help of over twenty men and a killing machine like Sole Wolf.

However, Zeke was up against five hundred men on his own this time.*How could he ever win?*

*If he were to die, this domain would definitely collapse. What would they do?*

Darren Collins felt beyond anxious, but he remained calm on the surface.

He was the life of the domain. If he were to break down, that would be equal to raising the white flag.

The violent-natured T-Rex found Darren. “Hurry up and send out your men to save Mr. Williams, Collins. You’ll still make it in time.”

Darren shook his head, “We can’t do that. Mr. Williams has ordered us not to do anything reckless until he calls us.”

“Do anything reckless? But we’re trying to save him! It’ll be too late by the time you receive his



phone call. Besides, we don't know if he even has a chance to use his phone."

Darren was in a bind.

Then, a subordinate walked in.

"You have a pardon letter from Hades, Mr. T-Rex. It says that as long as you pledge allegiance to Hades, this domain will be yours."

T-Rex gazed at the letter while deep in thought.

A few seconds later, he grabbed the letter and tore it into pieces. "F\*\*\* being pardoned. I'm as good as dead without Mr. Williams. If Mr. Williams dies, I'm going to avenge him. Hell if I'd ever surrender to his enemies!"

Darren Collins smirked. "Your loyalty is worthy of praise, T-Rex."

"Of course. Let me tell you this, Collins. If you ever get killed, I'll definitely avenge you too."

"F\*\*\* off with that. As if I'd get killed."

Suddenly, Darren's phone rang.

He hurriedly took it out. Zeke Williams was calling him.

"Mr. Williams is finally asking for backup!" he exclaimed. "Gather the forces."

“There’s no need to gather anyone. Everyone’s already waiting at the door,” T-Rex remarked.

“Hurry up and answer the phone. Let’s see what he wants.”

Darren immediately answered. “Where are you, Mr. Williams? We’ll send backup right away.”

“What’s with the fuss? I just wanted to ask, do you know any car workshops?” asked Zeke.

Darren was bewildered.

*What does anything have to do with car workshops?*

Still, he answered carefully, “I do. What’s wrong, Mr. Williams?”

“I busted a tire. Get me a new one. Remember, I need one for an old Santana. Bring it with you when I tell you to come over.”

Darren was speechless.

So was T-Rex.

*What the hell’s going on!?*

...

Meanwhile, at the Dunst Abandoned Pier.

Samuel was about to lose it.



*This b\*\*\*\*\*'s actually thinking about his s\*\*\*ty car at this time?*

*Does he not give a rat's ass about me?*

*This is too much.*

*I've had it!*

“Are you testing my patience, you b\*\*\*\*\*?” Samuel bellowed. “Well, congratulations. I’ve completely run out of it. After him, men! Kill him!”

“Yes Sir!”

The screams were so loud that the entire warehouse tremored slightly.

With weapons in their hands, the henchmen quickly closed in on Zeke.

“Wait!” Zeke hurriedly called out.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Are you trying to beg for forgiveness?” Samuel questioned with a smirk. “Sorry, but you’re too late. You’ve had your chance, but now you’ve lost it.”

“You misunderstand me,” Zeke quickly responded. “I’m not trying to beg for forgiveness. I just wanted to say that you’re all trash, and that you don’t even deserve to be touched by me.”

*Godd\*\*\*!*

“You sure have some balls!” Samuel roared. “You should tell that to Lord Hades.”

Zeke remained as composed as per usual. “Shush. Listen.”

The crowd was stunned.*Listen to what?*

They quietened down.

*Rumble, rumble.*

*Is that... the sound of a plane?*

*Vroom, vroom.*

*How many cars are there nearby?*

*Splash!*The sounds of moving water could be heard too.

*Are there ships coming over?*



Samuel frowned. “What the hell are you up to? What’s with all the commotion?”

“Why don’t you just take a look outside?” replied Zeke.

Samuel turned to a short fellow beside him. “Go take a look, Hudson.”

“Alright.” Hudson quickly walked out of the warehouse.

With just one glance, Hudson’s eyes widened and his heart raced.

Several helicopters were flying over from not too far off.

On the ground, there were armored vehicles and even tanks heading in their direction.

Ships hovered on the surface of the river.

But this was not the main point.

The main point was that all these transportation vehicles had the army logo on them.

The abandoned pier was now being surrounded by the military... From the Army to the Air Forces and Navy!

*Holy s\*\*\*!*

Hudson trembled with fear and wet himself on the spot.

At this very moment, he had but one thought in his mind. *Didn't Zeke Williams say that he'd summoned General North to capture 'the guy who'd stolen Pooh Bear's honey?*

*He didn't actually call him over, did he?*

*Did that punk really call General North over?*

He broke down on the spot.

“What the hell's going on outside, Hudson?” Samuel's voice resounded from inside the warehouse.

Hudson snapped back to reality.

However, instead of answering Samuel, he began to run away.

*Running away is what matters most in such a situation.*

*Samuel, you can die wherever you like. It has nothing to do with me.*

Samuel called out to him numerous times, only to receive no response. He soon grew livid.

Meanwhile, the huge commotion seemed to be getting nearer and nearer.



“F\*\*\*!” Samuel remarked. “Looks like you’ve called for some reinforcements, huh? And it’s a pretty big group at that. But so what if they come? With so many of us here, we can finish you off within three minutes. After him, men!”

Suddenly, an urgent siren blared.

“D\*\*\*, you called the cops? You’ve just broken the rules. Hmph! But it doesn’t matter. I have connections with the police. All I need to do is make a phone call...”

Zeke did not know whether to laugh or cry. “Listen carefully. That’s not a police siren. That’s a d\*\*\* civil defense siren.”

“Civil defense siren? Are you s\*\*\*ting me? Why would we still have civil defense sirens blaring in this day and age...”

*Boom!*

An earth-shattering noise cut Samuel off.

The dark warehouse instantly turned bright, the very next second.

As the wind blew, there was a strong smell of gunpowder in the air.

Everyone subconsciously looked up.

*The ceiling’s gone!*

*The ceiling is actually f\*\*\*\*\* gone.*

*It vanished in an instant.*

*Holy s\*\*\*!*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“W-What was that? Did you guys see anything?” Samuel asked, trembling.

“A cannon! It was a cannonball!” screamed one of the henchmen. “The ceiling was hit by a cannon!”

*A cannon?*

*Why would there be a cannon here?*

*Rumble, rumble.*

Several helicopters slowly flew over and appeared in everyone’s sight.

*Mounted to the helicopters were automatic cannons!*

Samuel’s mind turned abuzz with chaos.

*F\*\*\*. The military’s here.*

*There’s a chance that we’d be arrested if our plan fails today.*

He was still unaware that it was Zeke who had summoned the military.

*What a joke. How could someone from the underground world ever be able to call for backup from the military?*

*It’s just my luck that they happened to be carrying out military exercises right now.*

“Run! Run away! Don’t get yourselves caught,” Samuel bellowed.

The group began to rush out of the warehouse.

However, they soon returned immediately. “It’s over. We’re done for.”

Samuel had not stepped outside, so he did not know what was going on. “What’s happening outside?”

“Armored cars and tanks!” someone shouted. “We’ve been surrounded!”

*W-What?*

Samuel’s legs softened and he nearly slumped to the floor.

Fortunately, he managed to stand evenly, after supporting himself by the wall next to him.

*Armored cars? Tanks? We’re surrounded?*

*S\*\*\*! We’re just a bunch of thugs. What’s with the helicopters and tanks? Does that even make sense?*

*We’re not even worthy of such treatment!*

“The river! Jump into the river and escape from there!” Samuel shouted while trying to conceal his intense fear.



The crowd returned to their senses and swarmed toward the window.

But the sight of the river disappointed them even more.

The river was already full of naval ships.

*It was impossible to get out of this situation!*

Samuel was so distraught that he sat on the ground. “It’s over. We’re completely done for...”

Zeke walked over and patted Samuel on his face. “Did you fall for my easy catch?”

Everyone’s petrified gaze fell upon Zeke.

*Easy catch?*

*So this is what he meant earlier?*

*He arranged for all these guys to come over?*

Samuel gulped. “You... You really gave General North a call?” he asked with an extremely shaky voice. “These guys are General North’s men? W-Who the hell are you?”

Zeke gave him a profound smile. “Make a guess.”

Samuel began to rack his brains.

*There’s only one person who can command General North,*

*and that is the Great Marshal!*

*Everyone knows that the Great Marshal is a Williams. This guy has the same last name. Could it be...*

Samuel shut his eyes in disappointment as tears flowed down his face.

He was completely prepared to die.

*How could he live after causing trouble for the Great Marshal?*

That was as impossible as seeing the sun rise from the west.

*Bang!*

The door to the warehouse flew open.

Sole Wolf's lieutenant barged in with his forces.

"Don't move! Put your hands on your head and get on your knees, or we'll shoot!"

The crowd had long given up, so they obeyed without any resistance.

Still, someone was upset enough to defend himself, "Why? Why are you capturing us?"

The lieutenant hesitated for a moment, before accusing, "Because you stole Pooh Bear's honey!"



Silence ensued.

Zeke began to walk out of the warehouse with his hands behind his back.

Sole Wolf and his men were already standing outside, waiting to give their respects.

The moment Zeke walked out, everyone got down on one knee in an orderly fashion.

In the military, taking the knee symbolized the noblest of respect that one could ever pay.

The Great Marshal was a legendary icon to them.

It was their greatest honor to be able to take a knee for the Great Marshal.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Across the river stood a beautiful young lady who happened to pass by and observe the entire commotion.

From there, she saw a man standing tall, as everyone bowed down to him.

That tall figure instantly charmed her... To the point where her eyes had brimmed with tears.

*Now that's what I call a true hero!*

*That's what I call my Prince Charming!*

The woman quickly took out her phone, captured a few pictures, and proceeded to kiss her phone screen.

“If only I could see his face, enjoying a night of intimacy with him. I’d die without regrets!”

Lone Wolf left as quickly as he arrived.

Of course, he also took the five hundred thugs away.

Then, Zeke gave Darren Collins a phone call, “I’ve secured Riverdale’s underground world. Come and take over. Don’t forget my tire.”

A clueless Darren stared blankly at his phone.

“What did Mr. Williams say?” T-Rex asked impatiently. “Does he need backup?”



Darren shook his head. “Mr. Williams says that he’s conquered Riverdale’s underground forces. He wants us to head over and take charge.”

T-Rex was skeptical. “He took care of over five hundred men from Riverdale’s underground world on his own? Can you really believe that?”

“Honestly... not really. But that’s what Mr. Williams has just said.”

“He’s a guy. Guys always have their ego. Mr. Williams is no exception. Let’s go back him up.”

“Let’s go.”

The two men quietly infiltrated Riverdale District’s underworld forces, taking over three hundred men with them.

In the end, they forgot all about Zeke’s tire.

Upon entering Riverdale, Darren had the team split up to seize every gray-zone business.

He received his subordinates’ reports an hour later.

“There’s no one guarding the nightclub, Mr. Collins.”

“There were only two men watching over the casino, Mr. Collins. We took over it easily.”

“Riverdale’s karaoke clubs look so dead, Mr. Collins. I’m scared... Could this all be a trap?”

T-Rex and Darren exchanged glances after receiving the news through the walkie-talkie.

Their jaws dropped as their eyes widened.

*Mr. Williams wasn’t boasting to protect his ego at all.*

*He’s really taken over Riverdale’s underworld forces.*

*He took care of over five hundred men alone?*

*Is he even human?*

*No. He really isn’t!*

...

The Grand Imperial Tea House was bustling with noise and excitement.

Each county leader enthusiastically debated over how to divide Oakheart City’s underworld forces.

To them, Zeke Williams was now dead and Oakheart’s underground world had lost its master. They all looked forward to taking over the domain.

Hades took a deep breath before announcing, “That’s enough. Quiet down. You can continue your discussions on how to divide Oakheart later.



For now, I have a mission for all of you.”

Everyone immediately fell silent and gazed at Hades with admiration. “What is it, Hades? We’ll do anything for you.”

Hades snapped his fingers. “Bring it over.”

A group of servants walked in, carrying a clock.

“Give this clock to T-Rex when you head over to claim Oakheart City. Sigh... I’ve always been kind to T-Rex, but this time, he’s really hurt my feelings.”

*A clock?*

*He’s trying to say that T-Rex’s time is up!*

*He’s signaling us to finish him off!*

The crowd instantly pledged their loyalty, “Worry not, Hades. We’ll get this done without a hitch.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Hmph! T-Rex deserves to die for disappointing you, Hades.”

“I think you’re being to kind to him by killing him. I’m going to torture him slowly and make him go through hell.”

Hades nodded and looked at the time. “The dust should have settled right about now. You should all go.”

Everyone immediately got up and began to walk out.

Whoever arrived at Oakheart City first would get the largest piece of the pie.

However, just as they made their way toward the door, a man in black rushed in. “This is bad, Sir.”

The gang leaders stopped in their tracks and turned to the man in black with curiosity.

Hades glared at the man. “Hmph! Why are you causing such a stir? You look like a fool. What’s going on?”

“The plan has failed,” the man in black explained. “We’ve lost contact with all five hundred men involved in the siege. I’ve just received word that Zeke Williams is already back in Oakheart City.

“In fact, three hundred men from Oakheart have infiltrated Riverdale’s underworld forces,



successfully taking over the place without any resistance.”

*W-What?*

Everyone’s eyes widened as they stared at the man in black.

*We’ve lost contact with all five hundred men?*

*And Zeke Williams is already back in his headquarters in Oakheart City?*

*Not to mention, his three hundred men have already taken over Riverdale?*

Each piece of news was like a blow to the head that no one could recover from.

“No... That’s impossible!” Hades, who had just berated the man in black for ‘causing such a stir’, could not help but bang his fists on the table, standing up in a rage.

“There’s no way that Zeke Williams can take on five hundred thugs unless he’s a god,” he continued. “Not even my old friend, Eclipse, can do that. Which one of you has Samuel’s number? Call him right now.”

“I do.” Someone stepped forward and gave Samuel a call.

*Yet...*

*Sorry. The number that you have dialed is not available. Please try again later.*

Hades, who was always as steady as a mountain, could no longer remain calm. His legs shook as he slowly sat back down.

Right before this, he had boasted that Zeke Williams would surely die and that these men could divide Oakheart City among themselves.

He even instructed them to give T-Rex a clock!

Yet, Zeke Williams had completely turned the tide.

Zeke Williams had just given him a massive slap in the face!

*I've just been slapped in the face by someone.*

*This is ridiculous. Absurd. Unbelievable!*

The group of men standing at the door were at a complete loss as to what to do.

Their hearts had long been shaken... Not because of Zeke Williams' abilities, but because Hades had suffered a complete defeat.

Amidst the shock, there was also an air of awkwardness.

They felt embarrassed for Hades.



*Being humiliated in front of all of us must be terrible.*

Hades took a sip of his tea and calmed himself.

“Go. Hurry up and investigate! There’s definitely something more to Zeke Williams!”

“Yes Sir,” the man in black answered briefly before leaving.

Eclipse took a deep breath and slowly walked outside.

Hades’ orders were not meant for the man in black, they were meant for Eclipse.

The crowd was taken aback once more.

*Eclipse is about to move on his own.*

*There hasn’t been anyone else worthy of Eclipse’s interference for the past few decades.*

...

The Riverdale TCM Hospital was solely owned by the Forrest Family of Riverdale.

Franky and Florence Forrest lay inside the most luxurious ward, recovering from their injuries.

Their father, Gavin Forrest, sat between them.

“Dad, can you give Samuel a call and tell him to keep Zeke alive?” Franky asked. “I want to kill that b\*\*\*\*\* with my own hands.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Don’t worry. I’ve already asked Samuel not to kill him,” replied Gavin. “You can have your revenge then.”

Franky was overjoyed. “Thanks, Dad.”

Florence chimed in, “I want to teach Evan Schneider a lesson too, Dad. That shameless flea had dared to hit me. I’m going to make him pay.”

Even Gavin became infuriated at the mention of Evan Schneider. “I must have been blind to allow you marry him. In fact, I shouldn’t have continued to support him for this long. Feed a dog too well and it’ll return, biting its owner! Don’t worry. I’m going to make him bankrupt. He’ll have to move out to the streets and plead to be with you again.”

Florence smiled. “Hmph, I should’ve given him a good whack. He’s forgotten about being our little dog ever since he’d gained his fortune.”

*Knock, knock, knock!*

Someone knocked on the door.

“Come in,” urged Gavin.

His secretary rushed in. “This isn’t good, Mr. Forrest. We’re in trouble.”

Gavin remained calm.

To him, nothing was a big deal as long as the big

plan did not fail.

*Besides, it was five hundred men against just Zeke; how could they fail?*

“What’s going on?” he asked calmly.

“The plan has failed, Mr. Forrest!”

*What?*

Gavin jumped to his feet. “It’s failed? That’s impossible.”

“We’ve lost contact with all five hundred men involved in the siege. Also, Riverdale’s underground world has already been taken over by three hundred men from Oakheart. We’ve completely lost control over Riverdale.”

*What?*

*WHAT?*

Gavin’s eyes began to blur from the shock.

He suddenly trembled, clutching his chest, as he slowly collapsed to the ground.

“No! Call for a doctor immediately! Mr. Forrest is having a heart attack!”

...



Zeke Williams headed back to County 324 for his old Santana, in Jonas' Chevrolet minivan.

The Santana remained where it was. No one had stolen it.

The fact that no one stole it despite it being left on a busy road signified just how run-down this Santana was.

Yet, Zeke had no intention of getting it replaced.

It had nothing to do with money. It was because this vehicle had spent the past decade with his wife, braving all sorts of storms together. He cherished this old companion.

Zeke whipped out his phone and dialed Darren Collins' number.

"Did you bring the tire as I'd asked, Collins?"

Collins laughed sheepishly, "Sorry, Mr. Williams. I was so focused on taking over Riverdale that I forgot about the tire."

Zeke began to rage at him, "Yet you're still laughing about it? You'd forgot about my tire, but remembered to take over Riverdale? Can't you tell which is clearly more important!?"

Darren was beyond puzzled.

*Of course, I know what's more important. It's Riverdale's underground world, without a doubt!*

*Yet, why does the tire seem more important to Mr. Williams?*

*As expected, Mr. Williams' thinking is beyond me.*

Darren hurriedly apologized, "I'm really sorry, Mr. Williams. It's all my fault. Don't worry. I'm coming over to pick you up in a Mercedes. As for the Santana, I'll have someone fix it and return it to you when it's done."

That managed to calm Zeke down. "Okay. Hurry up and meet me at County 324."

It was not long until a luxurious Mercedes-Benz drove over and stopped in front of the Santana.

With the two vehicles parked beside each other, the Santana appeared increasingly worn out.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Darren alighted from the Mercedes-Benz and handed the keys of the car to Zeke. “Mr. Williams, you can drive the car back.”

“I’ll call a tow truck to pull the car.”

Zeke instructed him, “Remove the tires from the Mercedes-Benz.”

Darren could not believe his ears.

“Mr. Williams, did I mishear you? You must’ve asked me to remove the tires from the Santana.”

Zeke replied, “Remove the tires from the Benz, then switch the Santana’s tires with the Benz’s.”

“Hurry, I’m in a rush.”

Darren was at a loss for words.

*Seriously?*

*One Benz’s tire is worth more than your Santana.*

*What about the Benz’s tires’ pride that got switched to the Santana? Would the Santana be able to handle the Benz’s expensive tires?*

Despite complaining inwardly, he had dared not show it.

Silently suffering whilst enduring the torture, he swapped the tires between both cars.

Zeke left in the Santana, leaving Darren in a state of confusion.

*That old Santana got fitted with Benz's expensive tires. How strange.*

Meanwhile, a fiery red Maserati was speeding on the expressway.

Like a dazzling flame, it zoomed past the cars on the expressway swiftly.

The driver was a pretty young lady. She was attractive, just like her car.

A beautiful young lady driving a luxury car was the most gorgeous scenery on the expressway.

The driver was the young lady who had seen Zeke with thousands of soldiers kneeling before him.

She had only seen his back, but she had immediately fallen for him.

While she was driving, his figure made a frequent trip to her mind.

She realized that she was deeply in love with that man.

To see his figure 24/7, she had even printed the photo of his figure on her nails.

As she imagined having sex with him one day, and



that he would tower over her with his muscular body, she felt her blood boiling with an unbearable passion.

Stepping on the accelerator, she sped faster.

She could only release the passion in her heart while she was driving the fastest car on the road.

When she was enjoying the passion, suddenly, a car zoomed past her in a flash.

The young lady froze before she glanced at her car's dashboard.

*180mph!*

*Damn it, how could someone overtake me when I am already so fast?*

She hurriedly looked out to see what car had just overtaken her.

But when she saw the car, her eyes widened in shock.

*A Santana!*

*An old Santana!*

Besides, the Santana's tires were not the original ones.*It was fitted with Mercedes-Benz's tires!*

"Ahhhhhhh! This is so annoying." The young lady

floored the accelerator in fury. “You overtook my Maserati in a Santana. That’s so humiliating!”

“I’ll come after you!”

Hitting the gas, she chased after him.

However, when she sped up, the Santana in front of her sped up too. Its speed even reached 200 mph!

The young lady’s Maserati had reached 190 mph.

She felt intimidated and terrified the moment she had reached this speed.

As she was afraid, she slowed down gradually, and no longer tailgated the Santana.

She glared at the Santana’s driver, unwilling to concede defeat.

But when she did so, she was excited by what she saw.

*This figure seems familiar!*

*Isn’t he my hero?*

She raised her hand immediately and compared the photo on her nails to the Santana’s driver.





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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*They look so alike!*

*The hairstyle, wide shoulders, and clothes!*

*My hero!*

Once she realized this, tears brimmed in her eyes.

*Turns out my hero isn't just powerful, he can drive well, too.*

*My man is so perfect!*

Unfortunately, the man sped away and disappeared from sight.

She sobbed sorrowfully and swore that she would find this man no matter what!

*My hero!*

Soon, Zeke exited the expressway.

He did not return home at once. Instead, he went to a mechanic and switched the Santana's tires back.

*If Lacey finds out that I've disassembled the Mercedes-Benz and fitted the parts to the Santana, she'd scold me for being a wastrel.*

The mechanic stared at this strange car with mixed emotions.



A Santana fitted with Mercedes-Benz's tires. That was the first time he had ever seen someone being this ostentatious.

After changing the tires, Zeke headed over to Linton Group immediately.

*I wonder how the renovation is going.*

*If she discovers that I've won her a one billion tourist destination development project, she'll be so excited!*

Right then, a red Maserati was parked at the entrance of Linton Group.

That car belonged to the young lady from before.

Meanwhile, the female owner of the Maserati was daydreaming in Lacey's office.

The young lady stared at the man's photo on her nails, utterly blissful. "Lacey, I am in love."

Lacey was amused as she announced, "Well, I'm curious to know who has managed to attract the most beautiful lady in Riverdale District."

The young lady showed her nails to Lacey. "Look, isn't he hot?"

Lacey replied, "How can I deduce that from his back? Do you have a photo of his face?"

The young lady shook her head. “No. Actually, I’ve never seen his face. I’ve only seen his back twice.”

*What?*

Lacey burst into laughter, “Nancy, stop daydreaming over this man.”

“You’ve only seen his back twice, but you’ve fallen for him? You even printed his photo on your nails.”

“Only a monk could do that. But a monk isn’t allowed to marry. You should stop daydreaming.”

The young lady flew into a rage, “Shut up! I won’t allow you to insult my hero! My hero’s a courageous man. He isn’t a weak monk!”

Lacey found it funny. “Fine, fine. Your man is the best. One day, I believe he’ll come and marry you in a horse-drawn carriage.”

Nancy seemed engrossed. “Of course. He’s the only man who’s worthy of me. I am the only woman worthy of him too. We’re a perfect match.”

“By the way, Lacey, I think he’d exited the expressway into Oakheart City. He might live here. You must help me find him.”

Lacey felt somewhat helpless. “There are millions of people in Oakheart City. It is impossible to locate him with just a photo of his back!”



Nancy insisted, “I don’t care, you must help me. If you don’t find him, I’ll remain single forever. You don’t want to see that happen, right?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey had no choice but to agree, “Fine, email that photo to me.”

Nancy gave Lacey a kiss on her cheek. “I know you love me the most!”

She sent the photo to Lacey’s email at once.

When Lacey received the photo and enlarged it, she was stunned.

*This figure seems familiar!*

*Isn’t this Zeke?*

After spending so much time with Zeke, she knew what his back looked like.

*The hero of Nancy Hinton, the prettiest lady in Riverdale District, is my husband?*

*What a joke!*

Since Lacey had a strange expression on her face, Nancy immediately asked, “Lacey, what’s wrong?”

Lacey took a deep breath and explained, “Nancy, I might know this person.”

*What!*

Nancy jumped up in shock. She was so exhilarated that she was about to cry. “Tell me, who is he? Bring me to him right now! I want to



sleep with him tonight! Ahhhhhhh!"

Lacey took another deep breath. "This might be my husband, Zeke Williams."

*Thud!*

Nancy was caught off guard by the devastating news and fell onto the sofa. "Y-Your husband?"

"I-Impossible. You must've gotten it wrong."

"By the way, what is your husband's job? Why did thousands of soldiers kneel before him?"

Lacey shook her head. "He's a salesperson working for me. He's capable, but he's far from someone who commands thousands of soldiers."

Nancy burst out laughing as the gloominess on her face disappeared. "Haha! I told you, you were wrong."

"Your husband's just a salesperson. He will never reach my hero's height!"

Lacey was deep in thought. "Mm, I might be wrong. They must have similar figures."

Suddenly, a thought occurred to Nancy. She inquired in a stern tone, "Lacey, did you say your husband's a salesperson working for you?"

Lacey nodded, 'Yes, what's wrong?"

Nancy exploded with rage right then, “He works for you? That means he’s living off you.”

“Lacey, this is too much. I had high hopes for you, but you’d gotten yourself a kept man! How could you!”

“My brother-in-law should at least be able to support your family even if he isn’t a hero. But now, he’s living off you. Ugh, this is so frustrating. You must get a divorce!”

Lacey hurriedly explained, “Nancy, it’s not what you think. He’s quite capable...”

“So what if he’s capable? He can only please you in bed. When he isn’t pleasing you in bed, he will be spending your money,” Nancy cut her off and interrupted.

Lacey did not know whether to laugh or cry. *Looks like Nancy had misunderstood what I’d meant by ‘capable’.*

She hurriedly added on, “Nancy, you’ve misunderstood what I meant.”

“Actually, there are different levels of being a salesperson. By the way, aren’t you one too, Nancy?”

“I heard the money you earn can feed half of your family instead of the other way round. Zeke is doing the same thing.”



Nancy answered, “You cannot compare him to me.”

“The projects I handle are worth at least a billion. By the way, do you know the tourist destination development project in Whiteridge invested by Riverdale District that’s worth one billion? I’m talking to the organizer right now. We’ll be signing the contract soon.”

“Can Zeke get a project worth one billion?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey nodded, “Yes.”

*Isn't getting a one billion project a simple task?*

*This building alone costs one billion.*

*My Love in a Fallen City project raised at least ten billion.*

“Pfft, stop praising him,” Nancy huffed. She obviously did not believe Lacey and thought that she was merely defending her husband.

Right then, the door opened.

Zeke charged into the room. “Lacey, I’m back.”

Upon seeing him, a blissful smile appeared on Lacey’s face.

She hurriedly poured Zeke a glass of water. “You must be tired. Here’s some water. Why are you back so late? Did you pick up Hudson’s parents?”

Zeke chugged down half the water before replying, “No, they refused to come to the city. But I’ve made the necessary arrangements. They won’t have anything to worry about for the rest of their lives.”

Lacey nodded. “Good.”

“By the way, let me introduce you to my cousin, Nancy Hinton.”



“Nancy, this is my husband, Zeke Williams.”

Zeke stretched his hand out politely. “Hello.”

However, Nancy merely glanced at his hand and ignored him.

*His hair’s messy, and he didn’t shave his beard. He’s even wearing tattered clothes like a beggar.*

*If Lacey’s really married to him, they are like Beauty and the Beast!*

She had no idea that this man was the hero whom she had been looking for.

Zeke frowned.

*Seems like Nancy has a prejudice against me.*

Suddenly, Nancy took out five hundred from her purse and gave it to Zeke. “Take it.”

Both Lacey and Zeke were stunned. *What is she doing?*

Lacey asked, “Nancy, what are you doing?”

Nancy responded, “You don’t have a good appetite, right? Take the money and do a thorough check-up at the hospital.”

Zeke was curious. “You’re a doctor? But I can eat well. I am fine.”

“You can eat well? You’re fine? Then why are you living off my sister?”

Zeke was rendered speechless.

*Why does she hate me that much?*

“Hahahaha!”

Upon seeing Zeke’s defeated look, Lacey laughed so hard that she had almost cried.

Usually, it would be Zeke who would criticize others, but today he was the one being criticized.

*He’s so adorable! Ha ha ha ha!*

As Nancy seemed unfriendly, Zeke was no longer polite to her, “What’s wrong? Are you upset because I’m living off her?”

Nancy returned, “Of course. You’re an adult, but you’re living off your wife. Even a dog will look down on you.”

Zeke was unaffected. “Ha! I’m glad you are upset over that fact.”

“Honey, give me my living expenses for next month. I’m starving.”

“Honey, give me five hundred grand so I can buy a car.”



“Honey, can you increase my allowance? You give me too little. I can spend half my allowance on a meal with my friends.”

Lacey did not know what to say.

*Zeke was acting like a kept man shamelessly!*

Nancy’s eyes widened in shock. “Oh dear, you’re so shameless! Why are you getting an allowance from your wife so matter-of-factly?”

“You wimp, boy toy, shameless jerk. You should die. You don’t deserve to be a man! Ugh, this is so frustrating. Lacey, if you marry him, I’ll die in front of you!”

Zeke laughed dryly, “Ha!”

*I like how you look when you’re upset yet can’t do anything about it!*

Lacey could not hold back her laughter.

It had been ages since she saw Nancy being so mad.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As the prettiest lady in Riverdale District, all men would grovel at her feet and try their best to flatter her.

Zeke was probably the first man in the world who had treated her rudely.

Nancy felt her anger rising when she saw the shameless smile on Zeke's face.

She took the glass and sipped on water to cool down.

Zeke immediately stated, "You can't drink this..."

Nancy snapped, "Shut up. Everything here belongs to Lacey, including this glass of water. You're a kept man, so you have no right to stop me!"

After saying that, she gulped the glass of water down in anger.

Zeke was dumbfounded.

*I wanted to tell you that I'd drink from that glass.*

Lacey shook her head at Zeke, asking him to remain silent.

If that arrogant Nancy discovered that she had shared a glass with him, she would explode in anger.

After finishing the water, Nancy finally calmed



down.

Ignoring Zeke, she told Lacey, “Lacey, I have two things to accomplish here.”

“First, I’m here to inform you to join us when we pay our respects to our ancestors.”

“Secondly, I want to collaborate with you on the tourist destination development project in Whiteridge.”

Zeke was taken aback. “The tourist destination development project in Whiteridge?”

*Isn’t that the project I’ve just won?*

Nancy replied arrogantly, “Yes, that tourist destination development project in Whiteridge which Riverdale District invested one billion in.”

“You must be in disbelief after hearing I got that huge project, right? Ha! I’m sorry, but I’m that capable. Don’t be jealous of me.”

Zeke remained silent.

*I won the entire project, but you’re just tendering for the project. Why would I be jealous?*

He inquired, “But I didn’t know that this project was outsourced to another company?”

“Hmph, you know nothing, kept man,” Nancy

snorted.

“I’ve talked to the person-in-charge of the project, Ben. We’re about to sign the contract.”

“Lacey, I need you to sign the contract before I hand it to Ben. After he stamps it with the official stamp, we’ll get the project for sure.”

Zeke finally understood.

*Turns out Nancy was talking to Ben about getting the project.*

*She doesn’t know that the project has a new person-in-charge now, which is me.*

Lacey waved her hands. “No, I can’t sign this.”

“Nancy, I know your family can handle the project well. If you collaborate with me, you’re giving me a part of your earnings.”

“I can’t say yes and accept your money.”

Nancy grew impatient and grabbed Lacey’s finger, pressing it on the contract. “Just say yes.”

“This contract is my coming-on-age present for you.”

After getting Lacey’s fingerprint, Nancy took the contract with a dreamy expression on her face. “In ten days’ time, I am sure I’ll get the official stamp



from the Whiteridge project department. By then, the contract will take effect.”

“Lacey, we’ll just have to wait and get the money.”

Suddenly, Zeke took out a stamp from nowhere and announced, “Since you’re helping my wife, you don’t have to wait for ten days. I’ll stamp it for you today.”

Upon proclaiming this, he stamped on the contract.*Smack!*

Silence ensued.

Both Nancy and Lacey stared at the red stamp on the contract in shock.

Written on the stamp was ‘Project Department, Tourist Destination Development Project, Whiteridge’!

This was the project department’s official stamp!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*Why is the official stamp in Zeke's hands?*

*Is he the one who won the project?*

*Seriously? He lived off his wife. How can he be so capable as to handle such a huge project?*

*That can only be one explanation.*

*Zeke had forged the official stamp!*

As that thought occurred to Nancy, she slammed her hand on the table and stood up furiously.

"Zeke Williams, that's enough."

"I know you're jealous of my ability and that I'd won the Whiteridge project. But you can't act this way."

"Do you know how many nights I stayed up in order to draw up this contract?"

"You're useless and narrow-minded. I don't know why Lacey fell for you."

Lacey sounded annoyed, too. "Zeke Williams, you know how important this contract is to Nancy. How could you do that? Hurry, apologize to her."

"Nancy, don't worry. I'll help you draw up another contract."

It was obvious that she thought that Zeke had forged that stamp, too.



They had just gained a foothold in Oakheart City, so Zeke's influence would not have extended beyond Oakheart City, all the way to the Riverdale District.

She did not know that Zeke had already taken down the underworld forces of Riverdale District.

Zeke could not believe it.

*So you think your husband isn't capable at all?*

*Looks like I didn't show you the extent of my strength.*

"Forget it. I'll draw up another contract myself. Don't worry," Nancy declared.

"If you want to apologize to me, break up with Zeke. I'll leave now, so take your time to think over it."

Nancy glared at Zeke before she left in a huff.

Zeke kept the contract carefully and told Lacey, "Keep the contract and give it back to her another day."

Lacey sighed. "Since you stamped a forged stamp, the contract is obsolete. Why do I need to keep it?"

That was what she said, but she kept the contract carefully, anyway. *What if Nancy needs it to draw up another contract?*

Zeke explained, “Lacey, this is the official stamp...”

“Ha!” Lacey snickered.

Zeke was speechless.

*Forget it. She won't believe me now. I'll bring her to the headquarters one day to prove my innocence.*

“Lacey, I never knew you had a cousin.”

Lacey replied, “Well, it's a long story.”

“Do you remember my dad once told you the Hinton family used to be an influential family?”

Zeke nodded. “Yes, I do.”

Back then, Daniel told him that his mother was Adam's second wife. Zeke was confused as to why he could marry two wives.

Daniel explained that the Hinton family used to be an influential and prominent family and that his father had married two wives as he was rich.

Zeke suspected that there was a story behind this.

It seemed like he was right.

Lacey explained, “Actually, the Hinton family in Oakheart City is just a branch of the Hinton family in Riverdale District.”



“The Hinton family is one of the four prominent families in Riverdale.”

“My great-grandfather built up the Hinton family’s reputation in Riverdale District himself. He has two sons, my grandpa Adam, and my grand-uncle, Aaron.”

“Nancy is my grand-uncle Aaron’s granddaughter.”

“After my great-grandfather died, his sons fought to win his inheritance.”

“However, my grandpa lost in the inheritance fight and fled to Oakheart City. Meanwhile, Grandpa Aaron got to be the family patriarch in Riverdale District.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Luckily, we weren’t chased out from the family. So, we are allowed to pay respects to our ancestors every year in Riverdale District.”

“Every year, when we return, grand-uncle Aaron’s family would mock us and look down on us. Well, Nancy’s the only person who would defend us.”

“I heard she was ill-treated in Riverdale District because of that.”

As Lacey recalled the past, her eyes reddened.

Zeke felt his heart begin to ache. *Seems like the Hilton family in Riverdale District had bullied Lacey many times.*

He regretted not dealing with the Hinton family when he dismantled the underground forces in Riverdale District.

Pulling Lacey into his arms, he comforted her. “Lacey, I’m here. So from now on, no one can bully you anymore.”

Lacey snuggled up against Zeke’s chest. “I’m glad you’re here.”

Meanwhile, Nancy stormed out of the building angrily while cursing Zeke silently.

When she arrived at the car park and was about to get into her Maserati, an old car parked at a side grabbed her attention.



*A Santana!*

*An old Santana!*

*Isn't this the Santana my hero drove?*

*It looks exactly like the one he drove!*

Suddenly, she felt emotional, as if she were about to burst into tears.

*My hero is here, too!*

*My hero and I are fated to be.*

*Wait, is he here to look for me because he likes me?*

*That must be it!*

*Luck is on my side.*

*I've been searching for him high and low for so long. Now here he is, appearing right in front of me!*

She hurriedly took out her phone and made a call to Lacey. "Lacey, hurry, come to the car park now."

"My hero is in your building. Help me check the surveillance camera and help me find where he is now."

In the building, Zeke and Lacey were mere inches away from each other.

Zeke leaned closer and was about to kiss Lacey's red lips when her phone suddenly rang.

The sudden sound stopped the romance in the room at once.

Zeke could feel his fury heightening. *Who's the fool calling her right now?*

After hanging up, Lacey told Zeke, "Let's go to the car park. It's Nancy."

*Nancy again!*

Zeke clenched his fists in rage. *This woman is a pest!*

They soon arrived at the car park.

Nancy was circling the Santana in delight. She'd occasionally reach out to touch the car, seemingly engrossed.

Zeke was utterly confused. *Why is she circling my Santana?*

Lacey glanced around, but no one else was there. She inquired curiously, "Nancy, where's your hero?"

Nancy tugged Lacey to the car and said, "Lacey, look. This is my hero's car."

"Today, I saw him drive this car. He drove at a speed of 200 mph. My hero isn't only a powerful



man, he's also a great racer. How perfect is that!"

Lacey was dumbstruck.

Zeke stared at her in disbelief.

*Hero? She just called me a kept man. Why is she regarding me as a hero now?*

*She must be crazy.*

Nancy urged, "Lacey, why are you still standing here? Hurry, go to the control room and find out who's the owner of this car."

Lacey took a deep breath. "Nancy, you might not believe me, but this car is mine. Recently, Zeke has been driving it."

*W-What?*

Nancy was mind-blown as her body trembled. 'You mean... That kept man is my hero?'



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey inhaled deeply. “If you’re sure that your hero drives this car, that should be the truth.”

“Impossible, impossible!” Lacey screamed. She took out her phone and ran to stand behind Zeke to compare his figure to the photo of her hero.

*He really looks like my hero!*

Nancy wanted to die when she found out the truth.

*If this kept man is my hero, I’d rather die.*

Zeke was stunned when he saw that photo.

*Oh no. Why did she take that photo of Sole Wolf and the soldiers kneeling before me?*

*Looks like I can no longer hide my identity as the Great Marshal.*

*Well, I never thought that a woman would expose me after I’ve kept that a secret for so long.*

*Why did you keep ruining things for me?*

*Will Lacey accept the fact that I’m the Great Marshal?*

He took a deep breath to calm himself down before he demanded, “Nancy Hinton, why did you take a photo of me secretly?”

Nancy’s eyes reddened. “Are you sure the man in



the photo is you?”

Zeke nodded.

Nancy was in despair.

*Damn it, I've fallen in love with a kept man.*

*How disgusting.*

*Oh dear, why do I have to suffer from this...*

*Wait, something doesn't sound right.*

Suddenly, she recalled the Santana drove by her hero was fitted with Mercedes-Benz's tires.

However, this Santana's tires were the original ones.

That means that this car was not her hero's car. It merely looked like his car.

The car's owner, Zeke, was not her hero too.

The figure in the photo was not Zeke.

Right then, Nancy sighed in relief.

*I knew that this kept man isn't my hero.*

She shot a mocking look at Zeke who had a serious expression on his face. “Stop pretending. How long are you going to keep this act up?”

Zeke was lost. “I’m pretending?”

Nancy demanded, “Is this figure you?”

Zeke answered, “Yes, it’s me. What about it?”

“Ha! Stop talking nonsense. You’re a kept man who asks for an allowance from your wife. Why would the soldiers kneel in front of you?” Nancy exclaimed.

“I am sure I’ve gotten it wrong. This Santana isn’t my hero’s car. My hero’s car is fitted with Mercedes-Benz’s tires, but this one has its original tires.”

Zeke was about to say that he had just changed the tires, but he stopped himself from saying that.

He did not want to admit that he was Nancy’s hero. Since that woman found a reason to refute herself, he should take advantage of the situation.

He replied calmly, “Oh, that photo’s too blurry. I must’ve gotten it wrong. That isn’t me.”

Nancy heaved out a huge sigh of relief. “Ha! I knew it. You are nothing compared to my hero. Lacey, I need to go. Remember your promise to help me find my hero.”

“Got it,” Lacey agreed.

Nancy kissed the photo on her nails affectionately.



“Hero, I’ll find you no matter what.”

After that, she climbed into her Maserati and sped away.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke was disgusted by what he saw, and the hairs on his back stood up.

*Nancy printed my photo on all her nails? Ten of them?*

*Oh dear, she must love me deeply!*

He knew Susan who handled the medical business, and Summer who handled the catering business in his company fancied him.

Even Sandra from the Hill village liked him, too.

If Nancy were added to the list, he would not be able to hold them at bay.

*Ugh, I just want to spend the rest of my life with Lacey. Why is it so hard?*

Nancy's Maserati had just reached the exit when she suddenly made a U-turn.

Staring at Lacey in shock, she asked, "Lacey, how many glasses are there on your table?"

Lacey blurted out, "One."

Nancy seemed terribly upset. "One! That means I drank the water from this kept man's glass."

"Ahhhhh! Ugh, how disgusting!"

Lacey was at a loss for words.



After Nancy left, Lacey told Zeke, “Come on, let’s go back home to prepare to return to Riverdale.”

“Okay,” Zeke nodded.

On the way home, Lacey suddenly muttered, “A Santana fitted with Mercedes-Benz’s tires? Nancy’s hero is so pretentious.”

“A man like this isn’t reliable at all. I worry for Nancy.”

Zeke had no idea how to respond.

Back in the office, Zeke took the contract of the tourist destination development project in Whiteridge with him.

Lacey inquired, “Why are you bringing the useless contract along?”

As the contract was stamped with the forged stamp, she thought it was automatically obsolete.

Zeke shot her a smile. “It might be of use.”

Lacey pursed her lips. “Fine, whatever.”

After packing up, they went home to pick up Daniel and Hannah.

As for Sharon, as she was too young, she was left behind at home. Grandma would take care of her.

They went to Adam's house to gather before leaving together.

On the way there, Daniel told Zeke, "Zeke, the Riverdale Hintons are a prominent family. It's normal for them to look down on ordinary citizens like us."

"Every year when we go to pay our respects to our ancestors, they'd mock and ridicule us. When that happens, you should endure it and not confront them. Our family isn't strong enough to go against them for now."

Zeke nodded. "Okay, got it. Don't worry, Dad."

As he said that, he decided silently he would destroy the Hinton family in Riverdale if needed.

Not long after, they arrived at Adam's house.

However, Adam's house was tightly shut. Daniel shouted outside a few times, but no one came to open the door.

As a thought occurred to Daniel, his face darkened and he took out his phone to call Adam.

"Dad, where are you?" he asked. "We're here to pick you up to go to Riverdale."

Adam replied frostily. "I'm already at the Hinton family house in Riverdale. You can come here yourself."



He hung up right after saying that.

Hannah sighed, “Well, previously it was only the Riverdale Hinton’s against us. Now, even your dad is against us. I’m so unlucky to have married you.”

Daniel seemed guilty as he said in a tiny voice, “Zeke, let’s go there now.”

“Mm,” Zeke nodded and drove off.

Meanwhile, in Riverdale District, the thirty-two stories high Hinton family building was smack in the middle of the city.

It was obvious how capable the Riverdale Hinton’s were.

They were not as rich as the Forrest family in Riverdale, but they were one of the top four richest families in Riverdale.

On the top floor of the building, people were milling around in the banquet room.

Aaron Hinton, Adam’s brother, was seated at the head of the table as he was the patriarch of the Hinton family.

The other people sitting around him were his sons and grandchildren.

Nancy was sitting among them.

Adam and Jeremy were elders, but they sat together with Aaron's grandchildren.



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Lily was not even allocated a seat.

It was obvious how Adam and his family were treated by the Riverdale Hintons.

Adam furiously glared at Aaron, who was sitting at the head of the table.

*If I had won the inheritance battle back then, I'll be the one sitting at the head of the table.*

However, Jeremy seemed proud of himself.

It was an honor to get allocated a seat in the Hinton family's banquet room, so he was grateful for what he had.

Aaron glanced at Adam and asked coolly, "Adam, why isn't your son, Daniel here with his family?"

Adam sighed, "Well, Daniel's grown bolder now that you're older. He's rude and has nearly put me into prison. I can't control him any longer."

There were snickers from the crowd

*He nearly got put into jail by his son. What a joke!*

Aaron snorted, "Grown bolder? How bold can he be?"

Adam replied, "Daniel's family had just founded the Linton Group. Have you heard of it?"

Aaron shook his head. “Linton Group? I’ve never heard of it. It must be a shell company. Well, Linton Group is nothing compared to the Riverdale Hintons.”

Adam inhaled deeply. “Linton Group isn’t as weak as you think it is. The group diversifies into areas including medicine, F&B, construction, and other businesses. They are developing rapidly these days.”

He was evidently sowing discord amongst his family.

Aaron’s interest was piqued.

*Medicine, F&B, and construction.*

The Hinton Group focused on these three industries, too. However, these three were the weaknesses of the group.

If he could merge Linton Group into his own Hinton Group, the Hinton family’s growth would accelerate rapidly in no time.

Adam knew what Aaron was thinking of. He hurriedly professed, “Bro, I have a favor to ask.”

Aaron replied him impatiently, “Go on.”

“I hope you can acquire Linton Group. They were able to develop rapidly because of the Riverdale Hintons’ reputation. I believe that they should



return the favor.”

“Besides, Daniel’s getting too full of himself. This merger can teach him a lesson that however strong you are, there is always someone stronger. That will prevent him losing himself from playing with fire.”

Aaron was delighted as that was what he wanted.

Adam had just presented the perfect opportunity to him.

He responded, “Mhm since the Linton Group developed rapidly because of the Riverdale Hintons’ reputation, we have a stake in it.”

“Besides, Daniel has always been a loser. Linton Group will be ruined in his hands. Merging into the Riverdale Hintons will allow Linton Group to flourish.”

“Adam, don’t worry. After the merger, you’ll be allowed to return to the family.”

Adam was incredibly grateful. “Thank you, bro.”

The reason he came this time was to use Linton Group to gain entrance into the Hinton family.

His plan had worked.

No matter how great Linton Group was, they were a newly established company that lacked

background.

The Riverdale Hintons had been standing tall for a few decades. The moment they take action, Linton Group would be acquired for sure.

Aaron asked his sons and grandchildren out of courtesy, “What do you think about this?”

His sons and grandchildren all agreed to the merger.

“I-I think this isn’t fair to Daniel and his family,” someone suddenly disagreed.

Everyone turned to look at the person who had just spoken up.

It was Aaron’s granddaughter, Nancy.

Aaron’s face fell at once. “Nancy, are you questioning my decision?”



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Nancy panicked and immediately defended herself, “No, Grandpa. That wasn’t what I’d meant. You’ve misunderstood me. What I mean is, you don’t understand the actual situation.”

“From what I know, Lacey founded the Linton Group herself. She never used the Riverdale Hintons’ reputation.”

“Besides, as they were expelled from our family, they couldn’t use our family’s reputation.”

“Lacey worked hard and tirelessly to build up Linton Group. It’s incredibly important to her. I don’t think it’s a good idea to take away her hard work without reason.”

Before Aaron could talk, his most beloved grandson Michael spoke up furiously, “Nancy, shut up! Don’t defend yourself. You’re indeed questioning Grandpa’s decision.”

“The Hinton family is this successful because your grandpa’s a wise leader. That proves his decisions were right, so you don’t have the right to question him.”

“I think that you’re trying to sabotage us.”

Aaron couldn’t hide his approval and affection for Michael as his grandson’s words were what he wanted to say.

Nancy hurriedly explained, “No, I was just stating

the facts.”

“Nonsense!” Michael huffed.

“Don’t tell me that you know more than Daniel’s father? Even his father wants Grandpa to merge both groups. What right do you have to disagree?”

Nancy stared at Adam in disbelief.

*How could he work with others to go against his own granddaughter? He’s a strange man.*

Michael wouldn’t stop attacking Nancy, “Nancy, let’s not talk about Linton Group. Let me ask you. You used up a lot of funds to get the tourist destination development project in Whiteridge. How is it going now?”

As he mentioned that, Nancy tensed up.

She took a deep breath and kept her reply vague. “We haven’t signed the contract yet.”

Michael uttered icily, “I know you haven’t signed the contract yet. I’m asking you about the progress.”

“You’ve spent so much to get that project. I believe you must at least know the person-in-charge of the project, right? Can you contact him right now?”

Nancy grew nervous instantly.



She had talked to the project manager, Ben, and was about to sign the contract, but suddenly it changed hands.

She did not even know who was the new person-in-charge now.

Hence, she had to start all over again.

*But how should she explain this to them?*

Michael urged, “Nancy Hinton, please answer my question.”

Nancy had no choice but to tell the truth. “I’ve already gotten close to the person-in-charge of the project, Ben. We had come out with the initial plans, but suddenly the project was handed to another person. I don’t know who the current person-in-charge of the project is.”

Michael mocked, “That means you have to start all over again? The money you spent previously were all in vain?”

Although Nancy hated to admit it, that was the truth. She nodded reluctantly.

“You’re lying!” Michael suddenly exclaimed in anger. “If I didn’t learn the truth in advance, you might’ve fooled us all!”

Nancy immediately refuted, “I didn’t fool you. I’m telling the truth!”

“Truth? But the version that I heard is totally different,” Michael claimed.

Aaron looked somber. “Michael, hurry. Tell us the version you heard.”



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Michael replied, “Grandpa, I didn’t trust Nancy, so I planted two spies by her side. My spies told me she didn’t use the funds to work on the project. Instead, she embezzled the funds herself.”

“Nonsense,” Nancy was infuriated. “Michael Hinton, don’t you dare frame me.”

“I didn’t embezzle the funds. I’ve used it all to get the project. It’s all in the accounts—”

Michael cut her off. “Hmph, you can falsify the accounts.”

“If you really wanted the project, I’m sure you’ve already drafted the contract earlier. Can you show it to us now?”

Nancy’s face immediately flushed red.

Yes, she had indeed drafted the contract.

However, as it was ruined by Zeke, she left it at Linton Group.

*But would they believe her if she told them the truth?*

*Damn it, Zeke. This is all your fault.*

As Nancy seemed stumped, Aaron realized Michael must have been right.

He glared at Nancy angrily. “Nancy, where’s the

contract you've drafted? Show it to me."

Nancy calmed herself down before she answered, "Grandpa, Lacey's husband ruined my contract, so I left it at Linton Group. If you wish to read it, I'll draft a new one right here..."

"Enough!" Michael roared. "Do you think we are fools to trust you? You weren't even thinking of getting that project, so you didn't draft the contract!"

Nancy was about to cry. "I did draft the contract. If you don't believe me, I can go get the obsolete contract right now."

Michael slammed the table and stood up. "Shut up. Nancy, we trusted you and gave you the authority to handle this project, but you ended up embezzling the funds! How could you do that to me and the Hinton family?"

Tears welled up in Nancy's eyes. "Grandpa, I am innocent. I didn't lie to you!"

Right then, the door was pushed open, and a servant walked in.

"Mr. Hinton, Mr. Daniel Hinton and his family are here."

Aaron ordered, "Let them enter."

Nancy was delighted as she said, "Lacey has seen



my contract previously. She can prove my innocence.”

Soon, Daniel and his family walked in.

The moment they entered, they sensed that something was amiss.

Daniel remained calm and was about to greet Aaron when Nancy rushed over to them.

She grabbed Lacey’s hand anxiously. “Lacey, you’ve seen the contract that I drafted for the tourist destination development project in Whiteridge, right?”

Lacey nodded. “Yes. Sorry, Nancy. My husband didn’t mean to ruin your contract. By the way, he was worried you might need the contract, so he brought it along with him.”

“Really?” Nancy was elated. “Give it to me now.”

Zeke handed her the contract.

Nancy glowered at Zeke before snatching the contract from him. “Grandpa, this is the contract that I’ve drafted.”

Michael went over at once and took the contract from her. “Lemme see.”

After a while, he muttered, “It is indeed the contract.”

“However, this contract is really simple. You aren’t sincere at all. Did you bring this contract to talk with the person-in-charge? No wonder he didn’t agree.”

“Did you draft this contract just to satisfy Grandpa?”



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Nancy was furious. “The contract isn’t simple. I stayed up a few nights and amended the terms many times before drafting the contract.”

Aaron ordered, “Bring me the contract.”

Michael hurriedly handed it to him.

Aaron flipped through the contract patiently.

A heavy silence hung in the air.

After some time, Aaron suddenly declared excitedly, “This is the official stamp of the Whiteridge project department! Nancy, they have signed the contract with you!”

Once he said that, a commotion immediately broke out within the crowd.

The Whiteridge project department had stamped on the contract.

*It also meant that Nancy had gotten the project!*

Michael’s face paled when he recalled how he urged others to attack Nancy verbally.

*This is so humiliating!*

He could not believe it and ran over to confirm that fact.

“Damn, it’s the official stamp!”

*Damn it, Nancy. Why are you so humble? You got the project but kept it a secret to humiliate me.*

Nancy's expression was as shocked as the crowd.

*This is a huge misunderstanding.*

She hurriedly explained, "Grandpa, this is a misunderstanding. The official stamp was forged."

*Forged!*

Michael exclaimed, "Haha! I know you are not that capable to get the project. You used a forged stamp. How dare you lie to Grandpa and the Hinton family?"

"If the Whiteridge project department finds out you forged the stamp, what will you do?"

Nancy explained, "Grandpa, I didn't stamp this stamp. It was Zeke Williams, Lacey Hinton's useless husband, who'd messed around and stamped on it. It has nothing to do with me."

*Lacey Hinton's useless husband?*

Everyone turned to look at Zeke.

"Well, I've heard about him. He lives up to his reputation, huh?"

"I heard he's a kept man and has a criminal record."



“Pfft, allowing someone like him to pay respects to our ancestors is disrespecting our ancestors!”

“I suggest that we chase him out now.”

Daniel and his family were rendered helpless and lowered their heads when they heard the criticisms hurled at them.

However, they had gotten used to being targeted by the Riverdale Hintons, so they were not really upset.

Zeke let out a deep sigh.

“If I knew this would happen, I wouldn’t have stamped on the contract. However, you shouldn’t rejoice because I’d tear the contract apart if you offend me and refuse to collaborate with you.”

Silence ensued.

Then, everyone broke out laughing.

“Hahaha! Did I hear it correctly? Did he claim the official stamp was authentic?”

“That means he’s the person-in-charge of the Whiteridge project department?”

“Haha! That kept man is so bold. How dare he pretend to be someone he isn’t?”

“Does he think he can do whatever he wants in

front of the Riverdale Hintons because his wife's a CEO?"

"Ha! His wife is nothing in front of us."

Lacey was so ashamed she wanted to bury herself in a hole. "Zeke Williams, stop it."

Nancy was enraged, too. "Shut up. No one asked you to talk. You're asking for humiliation. Why are you so thick-skinned?"

"If you continue talking, I'll ask Lacey to divorce you now."

However, Aaron remained stoic as he waved his hands, signaling everyone to quiet down.

With a somber expression, he questioned, "Zeke Williams, you said that this contract is valid?"

Zeke nodded. "Yes, it is."

Aaron replied, "I don't trust you. Why don't we make a bet?"



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Zeke agreed, “Sure.”

Aaron told him, “Good. If this contract is void, you’ll have to hand Linton Group to me.”

Everyone was full of admiration.

The patriarch of the Hinton family was indeed a wise and courageous man.

*He was trying to acquire the Linton Group for nothing!*

Lacey’s family immediately panicked and tried to persuade Zeke.

“Zeke, you can’t say yes.”

“You know how hard Lacey has worked to build up Linton Group. She couldn’t eat or sleep properly and even lost weight.”

“It isn’t worth it to sacrifice Lacey’s future just to show off this once.”

Nancy was glaring at Zeke furiously to show her disapproval, too.

However, Zeke disappointed them all.

“Okay, you have my word.”

Lacey’s family and Nancy were terribly disappointed.

However, the Riverdale Hinton's were grinning widely.

They thought that Lacey's husband was useless and crazy.

The tourist destination development project in Whiteridge was worth one billion. That tiny Linton Group would not be able to handle the huge project themselves.

Besides, even Lacey denied that Linton Group was involved in this project.

*Would that kept man, Zeke Williams, successfully get the project himself? What a joke.*

Nancy gritted her teeth in anger. "Zeke, are you the devil? Can you explode right here, right now?"

Zeke ignored Nancy and turned to Aaron, "If this contract is true, please step down from your position and hand it to my wife."

The crowd immediately started criticizing Zeke in anger.

*How dare he target the entire Hinton family?*

*That's a huge disrespect.*

*Besides, can he control the Hinton family if he's given the power to do so?*



However, Aaron agreed at once. “Sure.”

He was certain he would win this bet.

Zeke was handing Linton Group to him for nothing.

He gave the contract to his butler standing beside him. “Butler, bring this contract to the Whiteridge project department to find out if the stamp is real or forged.”

The old butler smiled wryly. “Mr. Hinton, this is necessary?”

Aaron proclaimed, “We need to be fair. Since he has a death wish, we’ll make sure he dies willingly. We can’t frame him.”

The old butler nodded. “Okay.”

He took the contract and left the room.

Aaron announced, “Let’s continue the meeting.”

“Wait,” Zeke cut him off. “Where are our seats?”

The crowd exploded into mocking laughter.

*We’re kind enough to let you in.*

*How dare you demand to sit among us? Don’t you know your stand?*

Lily raised her voice, “Even I don’t have a seat, let alone you.”

Adam spoke up, too. “Daniel, look after your son-in-law. Don’t let him embarrass himself.”

Daniel sighed. “Zeke, forget it. We’ll just stand. We’ve always stood in the past.”

Zeke shook his head. “That was in the past. Now, as I’m your son-in-law, you’re superior to others. No one can look down on you.”

“Aaron, bring us some chairs. Or you can give up your seat,” he ordered.

“Who are you to order me around?” Aaron demanded furiously.

Zeke replied, “Oh, I see you won’t give up your seats. Fine, everyone can stand with us.”

As he said that, he waved his hand and shot out a silver needle.



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The silver needle sliced through the bracket of the ceiling fan, cutting it in two.

The ceiling fan spinning at a high speed immediately crashed down onto the round table.

The teacups and tea set on the table were crushed into pieces. The tea in the teacups splashed on everyone.

The Riverdale Hinton's were either scalded by the hot tea or shocked by the turn of events. They leaped up from their seats and started cursing aloud.

Everyone in Lacey's family felt their hearts dropped at once.

*S\*\*\*! Zeke lashed out after all.*

*He's in huge trouble!*

At once, Aaron fumed, "Zeke Williams, you're digging your own grave! How dare you cause a huge ruckus here?"

Lacey defended Zeke instantly. "Grand-uncle, this is a misunderstanding. The ceiling fan must've fallen down because the bracket is old and unmaintained. It has nothing to do with Zeke."

Daniel hurriedly echoed, "Yes, Uncle. Zeke didn't touch the fan at all."

The silver needle was too tiny and swift, so no one saw it.

Michael snarled, “Shut up. Everyone saw what happened. You can’t deny it.”

“Zeke said he wanted all of us to stand. Then he waved his hand, and the fan fell down. Was that a coincidence?”

Nancy chimed in, “Grandpa, you’ve overestimated Zeke. If he can make the fan fall with a wave of his hand, he wouldn’t have to live off his wife.”

“This is pure coincidence. The fan must’ve fallen because it’s old and unmaintained.”

Nancy was not defending Zeke. She was merely expressing her thoughts.

The crowd quietened down.

*Nancy is right.*

*Zeke is a man who lived off his wife. How can he make the fan fall with just a wave of his hand?What a joke.*

Aaron finally responded, “Since you’re giving Linton Group to me, I won’t pursue the matter further. As we can no longer sit here, let’s go to the hotel for dinner.”

The banquet room was in a mess, and the chairs



were all wet. They could no longer sit on the chairs.

Everyone nodded, agreeing with his idea.

Aaron looked at Michael. “Michael, I told you to arrange our family dinner at Hilton Hotel. Did you make the arrangements?”

Michael nodded. “Yes, Grandpa. I did. But Grandpa, I have a question.”

“Go on,” Aaron pressed.

Michael asked, “Why did you choose Hilton Hotel as the venue? We can afford to choose a better hotel.”

Aaron replied, “Don’t you know Hilton Hotel’s background?”

Michael said, “I heard there’s a casino in Hilton Hotel that belongs to the underworld boss of Riverdale, Samuel.”

Aaron nodded. “That was in the past. Recently, a mysterious man took over the underworld forces of Riverdale. Now, that casino belongs to him.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

“Yes, this has been the talk of the town. We’ve heard about it.”

“It was said that the mysterious man took down five hundred men by himself. The men’s whereabouts are still unknown.”

“What? Is the mysterious man a divine being?”

“Even if the story might’ve been exaggerated, there’s no smoke without fire. That mysterious man must be a capable man.”

None of them knew that the mysterious man they were talking about was standing right in front of them.

They had even mocked the man as someone who had lived off his wife.



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“What has this got to do with us picking Hilton Hotel as the venue for our banquet?” Michael asked.

Aaron sighed. “Well, the reason why we’re lagging behind the other families is because the underground forces kept interfering with our plans.”

“If we can secure a deal with the mysterious person and even the underground forces this time around, we might be able to surpass the Forrest family.”

“We have to spend as much as possible once we enter Hilton Hotel. I received intel that people who spend at least a million would be able to have a toast with the mysterious person.”

“This is our one and only chance to establish ties with that person!”

Everyone was taken aback.

“By the way, Grandpa, I know a security guard from Hilton Hotel,” Michael said enthusiastically.

“Maybe I can convince him to get us a chance to meet the mysterious person if you provide me with some funds.”

Aaron perked up at the sound of that. “Really? Wow, Michael, I’m impressed!”

“If that’s the case, I’ll provide you with the funds you need.”

Michael sneered at Nancy and answered, “Don’t worry, Grandpa, I’ll put those funds to good use. I promise I won’t embezzle them.”

Nancy’s face turned deep red as she glared at Michael.

He was obviously taking a dig at her.

*It’s all your fault, Zeke Williams!* she thought.

“Let’s get going,” Aaron said.

The Hintons lined up and went out in small groups.

Meanwhile, Nancy was the only one left behind.

She sighed inwardly, her hatred for Zeke growing.

Outside of the building, a run-down Volkswagen Santana was parked amongst a group of luxury vehicles, making it look like a black sheep.

Everyone began to scoff at the car the moment they found out that it belonged to Zeke Williams.

However, Zeke simply ignored them and got onto his car.

Lacey was about to follow him when Nancy



caught up to her and led her away. “Lacey, let’s get in my Maserati.”

“You don’t deserve that car.”

“Hmph, you must have a lot of guts to drive this trashcan around!” Nancy spat at Zeke.

Yet Zeke simply snickered and retorted, “Your savior drives a trashcan like this too, remember?”

“Shut up! Who are you to compare yourself to my savior?” Nancy scoffed.

“My savior drives a Santana because he *is humble*.”

“Well...so am I!” Zeke said.

“Impossible. Weren’t you making up lies about the Whiteridge project being yours?”

“I’m warning you. If Lacey loses Linton Group to Grandpa because of you, I’m going to castrate you,” she threatened.

“Let’s go, Lacey.”

Lacey glanced at Zeke reluctantly before trudging away with Nancy.

She was disappointed with Zeke.

Although Lacey’s parents remained silent about it,

they could not help but feel a little dissatisfied with him as well.

*Did his ego matter that much? Was Linton Group really just another one of his playing cards?*

Linton Group could well be the last hope of the family.

If they had the foresight to know about Zeke's plans, they would not have brought him along for sure.

They would have to start from square one if they lost Linton Group.

The older couple remained silent the whole trip.

Zeke did not attempt to defend himself as well.

He would be cleared of all suspicions the moment the butler determined the authenticity of the contract anyway.

Meanwhile, in Nancy's Maserati...

Lacey's gaze was downcast as her face shrouded in worry.

Anyone could tell that she was concerned about Zeke's bet.

"Are you regretting everything now?" Nancy asked.



“You can probably find a better man just by going out to the streets. Why him?”

“It’s not too late to turn back yet. If you break up with him now, he’ll lose the right to use Linton Group as a stake, which nullifies the bet...”



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Lacey sighed. “Nancy, please stop. I won’t break up with him even if I lose Linton Group.”

“Why?” Nancy exclaimed in confusion. “Did he drug you or something? Why are you so attached to him?”

“Let me ask you a question. Are you willing to drop everything just to be with your savior right now?” Lacey asked.

“Of course!” Nancy replied without much thought.

“That’s what I thought,” Lacey said, satisfied.

“Rubbish! He can’t compare to my savior!” Nancy exclaimed.

“Even if I gave up everything that I had, my savior would be able to give me much more...”

“Well, I believe that even if I lost Linton Group, Zeke will be able to rebuild one for me, or maybe even more,” Lacey said.

Nancy sighed in exasperation. “Looks like I’ve lost you...”

“I’m not going to let that bastard live on this planet any longer! He ruined my little sister, for goodness’ sake!”

Lacey smirked all of a sudden. “Are you sure?”



“What if Zeke is your savior?”

“Lacey! Stop insulting me!” Nancy protested.

“Ew... just, ew.”

Beside her, Lacey simply chuckled.

Soon, the Hinton family arrived at the entrance of the Hilton Hotel.

The entrance was swarming with people, and most of them came from prominent backgrounds or rich families.

Just like Aaron and his family, they had come to show off their riches so that they could get a chance to meet the mysterious person who took down the underworld forces.

To their disappointment, however, a private celebration feast was going on in the hotel, one in which the mysterious person would be taking part as well.

No one was to enter the premises before the mysterious person’s arrival.

Left with no choice, the crowd resorted to waiting outside, craning their necks to take a peek at the mysterious guest.

Aaron turned to Michael and whispered, “I thought you knew someone who’s a security guard here?”

“Can you ask him if we can get a free pass?”

“Think about the boost to our reputation if we managed to get in before everyone else!”

Michael nodded and said, “I’ll try.”

He then took out his phone and dialed a number.

“Hey, Marcel! Are you busy now?”

“What do you want?” a gruff voice asked, obviously annoyed.

“You see... We’ve already reserved a private room for our banquet last night, so can we...”

“No. I can’t let anyone in until my boss comes,” Marcel said flatly.

“If there’s nothing else, I’m hanging up now.”

“Wait!” Michael pleaded. “Marcel, can’t you humor me for once? Money isn’t an issue here.”

The mention of money made the security guard’s resolve crumbled.

He pondered over it for a moment and said, “I’ll check with my superiors. Hold on.”

“Thanks, Marcel!” Michael said happily.

After he hung up, Michael turned to Aaron and



said, “Great news, Grandpa! Marcel agreed to help us out.”

“If everything goes well, we can get in before everyone else.”

Aaron broke out in a grin. “Well done, Michael. Looks like I did the right thing by investing in you.”

In the meantime, Zeke knew that the people in the hotel were waiting for his arrival.

“Let’s go, Lacey,” he said, tugging at Lacey’s arm.

She grabbed him before he could take a step forward. “We can’t go in just yet. Marcel hasn’t given us the green light.”

But Zeke merely snickered. “They would be standing out here all day if I don’t go in.”



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Everyone around them burst into raucous laughter upon hearing his words.

*They would be standing out here all day if he didn't go in?*

“Does that mean that he was the mysterious person who defeated the underworld forces?”

“So *he* was the mysterious guest of the private celebration?”

“How *absurd!*”

“Does that tongue of his ever stop blabbering nonsense?”

Nancy stomped hard onto Zeke's foot before dragging Lacey away from him.

“Can you stop embarrassing us?”

“I feel ashamed just standing next to you!”

“Is he part of the Riverdale Hinton family? He's standing amongst them,” someone in the crowd asked.

The people in the crowd began to murmur amongst themselves.

“The Riverdale Hinton family? I don't remember him being a part of it.”



“See that car key on his waist? He drives an old-school Santana. The Hintons would never use such a piece of trash!”

“But he’s standing with them...”

“Why don’t we ask Mr. Hinton himself?”

“Him? He doesn’t have the right to call himself a member of the Riverdale Hinton family.”

“He’s just a good-for-nothing son-in-law I threw out from the Oakheart Hinton family.”

“By the way, he even went to jail for five years,” Michael added.

“If he had married into our family, I would have strangled him long ago.”

Everyone began to scoff at Adam Hinton.

Adam glared at Zeke and explained, “Don’t get the wrong idea, everyone.”

“My family has already cut off all contact with him.”

“He no longer has anything to do with us.”

The laughter only got louder.

“So he was thrown out of the Riverdale Hinton family? Even the Oakheart Hintons didn’t want

anything to do with him.”

“What makes him think he could stand amongst the Riverdale Hintons and say such shameless things?”

“Maybe he’s a lunatic.”

“I feel sorry for his wife. Look at her! Even if she divorces him now, the men of this city would still be all over her.”

At that moment, Daniel and his family members were too ashamed to even lift their heads.

He could not wrap his head around the fact that Zeke just embarrassed his entire family in public.

At the same time, Zeke glanced at the Hintons scornfully. “So you’re cutting ties with me?”

“Fine then. You can forget about entering the hotel.”

After that, he promptly turned around and walked towards the entrance of the hotel.

The crowd snickered in unison.

“Did he just threaten the Riverdale Hintons?”

“Did he really think it was a good idea to do that?”

Just then, Lacey panicked and grabbed the corner



of his shirt. “Zeke! Stop right there!”

“We’re newcomers here, so we should be laying low.”

Zeke gave a light smile. “Don’t worry, Lacey. Once I get in, I’ll get someone to escort you in.”

Lacey, on the other hand, did not buy that.

Nancy appeared all of a sudden and dragged Lacey back into the crowd. “Lacey, cut it. If he wants to throw himself into the fire, let him be.”

“I’m disowning you if you try and stop him!” Nancy snarled.

“But...” Lacey’s face was turning red with anxiety.

“No ‘but’s,” Nancy said, cutting her off. “If we don’t teach him a lesson now, he’s going to mess things up even further in the future.”

Lacey tried to run after Zeke, but it was too late. He was already heading towards the entrance.

Everyone’s eyes were trained on Zeke as he walked through the glass door.

To no one’s surprise, the security guards rushed forward to stop him once he got into the lobby. “Halt! Who gave you permission to enter? Get out!”



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Zeke did not slow down. “Tell your boss to come and meet me.”

The security guards flew into a rage. “Who the hell are you? Now, for the last time, get out!”

Zeke ignored them and continued walking.

The two security guards rushed forward to tackle him.

However, before they could even land a single blow on him, Zeke swatted them away and sent them flying across the lobby.

The security guards started to seethe with anger.

*How dare he pick a fight here!* they thought.

“Help! Someone is trespassing!”

*Whoosh!*

A hoard of people rushed up to Zeke and surrounded him.

The people outside looked on in silent shock.

They could not believe how derailed Zeke was.

Not only did he say those absurd things, but he also actually went in to beat those people up!

“That guy’s dead meat...” someone murmured.

Among the crowd, Lacey and her family stood rooted to the ground, drenched in cold sweat.

*What in the world is Zeke trying to do?*

His forces were mostly concentrated in Oakheart City, yet he was stirring up trouble in Riverdale District... how delusional!

They were sure that Zeke was going to meet his end there and then.

When Lacey finally registered the situation, she thrust herself forward and screamed, "Stop! Stop it! Don't start a fight!"

Nancy grabbed Lacey before she could rush into the fray. "Lacey, are you crazy? You're going to get yourself *killed* if you go in there!"

"Calm down, let me think, let me think..."

Although Nancy despised Zeke, she could not bear to see her sister cry over her favorite man's body.

Daniel clenched his jaw and walked over to Aaron before going down on both knees right in front of his uncle. "Uncle, please, help us save Zeke..."

"We will hand over the Linton Group to you if you're willing to save him."

"Yes, Granduncle, please help us!" Lacey pleaded.



“If you help us out, Linton Group will be yours in no time!”

However, Aaron just snickered. “Don’t you forget that I have a bet with Zeke? He’s going to lose it to me anyway, so why would I want to help him out?”

A look of desperation appeared on Lacey’s face.

They had hoped that Aaron would help them turn the situation around, but his nonchalance crushed their last hope.

“However, since we’re all part of the Hinton family...” Aaron said suddenly.

Lacey and her family perked up immediately. Their gazes were instantly filled with the flame of hope once again.

“I’ll make sure he dies a quick and painless death so that he doesn’t have to suffer.”

That came as another blow to Lacey and her family.

Lacey clenched her jaw. “If that’s the case, then I’m dying with him!”

After that, she made a move to run into the hotel.

Nancy screamed and grabbed her tightly. “Lacey, no! Don’t go in! You’re going to die!”

“Let’s come up with another idea...”

Meanwhile, Zeke was surrounded by dozens of security guards.

“Tell T-Rex to get his sorry as\* here,” Zeke ordered coldly.

The guards flew into a rage.

“Who do you think you are? How dare you address Boss by his real name?”

“If you can kowtow to us ten times, slap yourself another ten times, and pay a million in medical fees, then maybe we can let you off alive.”

“If not, then prepare to die!”

Zeke sighed. “I’m sorry, but you don’t have the right to disrespect me.”

“You bastard!” a bald-headed man growled. “I’ll show you who’s the boss here!”

“Beat him up, boys!”

“Wait!” a bespectacled man in the crowd yelled suddenly. “Stay back.”





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Everyone looked at the bespectacled man in confusion. “What’s wrong?”

“If he has the audacity to trespass this place, he must have his reasons to do so,” the man answered solemnly.

“Didn’t Boss tell us to always hold our horses until we understand our enemies fully?”

Even so, everyone did not seem happy with his explanation.

“Look at how tattered his clothes are! I don’t think he has any reason to trespass this place!”

“I don’t think any respectable person would drive a Santana!”

“He shouldn’t be stirring up trouble here even if he’s an important person!”

“He’s probably nothing compared to our Boss!”

Despite the jeering, the security guards decided to call T-Rex out for the final verdict.

They pushed Zeke along as they made their way to T-Rex’s office on the second floor.

“Behave yourself, boy! Cooperate with us!” the bald guy snarled.

“If you don’t, I’ll make you pass out in ten slaps.”



Zeke scoffed. “Ten slaps? Are you joking right now?”

“I can make you pass out in just one.”

“Hah! One slap, what a f\*\*\*ing loudmouth! Do you really think I’m that dumb to believe that!” the bald guy hollered.

Zeke, however, smiled and said, “Looks like I’ll have to prove you wrong later.”

After a while, they arrived at T-Rex’s office.

The bespectacled guy knocked on the door, and T-Rex’s gruff voice rang from the inside. “Who is it?”

“Boss, someone barged in to stir up trouble. We have subdued him and brought him to you,” the bespectacled guy said through the door.

“Come in,” T-Rex ordered.

The crowd pushed Zeke into the office unceremoniously.

Without even lifting his head from a report he was reading, T-Rex snickered and said, “You’re really brave, huh? Stirring up trouble in my territory?”

The bald guy smiled menacingly. “Boss, what are you going to do with this guy? Cut off his limbs?”

“Just beat him up and throw him out. I don’t want

to spill blood on this auspicious day,” T-Rex said.

“Yes, Sir!”

With that, the bald man made a move to push Zeke out of the room.

Zeke snickered all of a sudden. “T-Rex, Boss? That’s an amazing title.”

The sound of his voice made T-Rex shudder.

Then, T-Rex raised his head slowly.

*F\*\*\*! What the actual f\*\*\*!*

As soon as he realized that the person standing before him was indeed Zeke himself. His legs gave out, and he slid off his chair to land on the floor with a loud thud.

*It’s Mr. Williams!*

*The one and only Mr. Williams!*

He could not believe that Zeke, whom he had worshipped for the longest time, had been disrespected by his bunch of good-for-nothing subordinates.

Even touching a tiger’s butt felt less daunting than his current situation!

The bald man started to shove Zeke out of the



door while spitting curses at him. “Shut up, you piece of trash!”

“I’ll beat you to a pulp for disrespecting Boss like that!”

“Stop! Stop it!!” T-Rex bellowed, pouncing onto the bald man from behind his desk and bringing his palm down hard on his exposed head. “How dare *you* disrespect Mr. Williams!”

Everyone was shocked by this sudden turn in events.

Eyes wide and mouth agape, they stared at T-Rex in disbelief.

*Did he just beat up the bald guy?*

*For disrespecting this troublemaker?*

*In that case, this guy is definitely someone important...*

“Boss, d-did you just hit me?” the bald guy stammered, staring at T-Rex incredulously.

“Hit you? I want to *kill* you, for goodness’ sake!” T-Rex bellowed.

After that, he went down on his knees before Zeke. “My sincerest apologies, Mr. Williams! It was my fault that my subordinates disrespected you.”

“Please rest assured that your requests would be taken care of!”

The guards sucked in a deep breath in their minds.

Their boss, the mighty T-Rex, was pleading for this guy’s mercy!



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*Mr. Williams?*

*Which Mr. Williams?*

*Could he be Boss' Boss?*

*Well, only Boss' Boss could make him act that way...*

That sudden realization made everyone break out in cold sweat.

*Why would Boss' Boss look like such a beggar, with the worn-out clothes and old-school Santana?*

*Even we have better things than him...*

“What are you standing around for? Get on your knees!” T-Rex bellowed.

Everyone's knees buckled, and they fell to the ground in unison, pleading for Zeke's mercy.

As for the bald guy, he felt like he could have a panic attack there and then.

He would never have imagined that the person he was threatening just a while ago was his Boss' superior.

If they were to strictly follow the rules, his Boss would bury him alive in a pot and throw him into the river, or force him to stab himself at the very least.

*It's all over... I'm done... Dead meat.*

“Don’t worry. You were just carrying out your duties as guards, so I won’t punish you for being responsible,” Zeke said.

His gracious statement was like a second chance to live. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief and thanked him profusely.

*Looks like Boss’ Boss has a much better temper...*

They would not be so lucky if it were a different person...

“However...” Zeke said, turning to look at the bald man.

The bald man shivered, and the smell of ammonia began to permeate the air.

He was frightened to the point that he wet himself.

“Mr. Williams, please, spare me! I have a family to feed...”

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to kill you,” Zeke said.

“However, you didn’t seem to believe me when I said that I could knock you out with one slap. Why don’t I demonstrate it right now?”

“No, M-Mr. Williams, I believe you! T-There’s no need to prove it!” the bald man stammered.



T-Rex slammed his fist down on the bald man's head and hollered, "Shut up and cooperate with Mr. Williams!"

"O-okay..." the bald man stuttered.

Without a choice, he stuck his head forward and closed his eyes.

In reality, he was still not convinced that Zeke could knock him out with a single slap. Hence, he decided to just humor Zeke for once and pretend to pass out.

Zeke raised his palm and brought it down upon the bald man's head.

Instantly, the bald man's body went flying into the walls of the room before crashing into the thick cement and flopping onto the floor with a loud thud. Then, he passed out at once.

However, the guards were not yet convinced. In fact, they were genuinely impressed with the bald man's 'acting skills'.

They were reluctant to believe that anyone could knock a person out with a single slap.

"Alright, enough fighting. Let the guests in," Zeke said.

T-Rex nodded. "Yes, Sir!"

“Wait! You! The one with spectacles! Can you help me out too?”

“Escort my parents-in-law, my wife, and Nancy in later on. Keep the rest of the Hinton family out,” Zeke ordered.

Tears welled up in the bespectacled man’s eyes as he nodded profusely. “Yes. Yes Sir! I will carry out your orders.”

*Does this mean that I’m going to get a promotion?* he thought gleefully.

*I’m going to be rich!*

Meanwhile, the other guards glared at the bespectacled man jealously as they regretted not standing up for Zeke just a few moments ago.

If they had been kinder, they might have piqued Zeke’s interest too...

The bespectacled man left soon after to escort Lacey and her family into the hotel.

In the meantime, the rest of the guards heaved the bald man onto their shoulders and carried him out.

After they got out of everyone else’s earshot, one of them started to pat the bald man’s face gently. “Hey, stop pretending! Wake up!”

“Mr. Williams is gone!”



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Despite everything, the bald man's eyes remained closed.

One of the guards took out a lighted cigarette and pressed the head lightly against the bald man's skin, only to receive no response.

Fear began to appear on the guards' faces as the truth dawned upon them.

*Baldy is actually unconscious!*

*The Boss' Boss knocked him out with one slap, just as he had promised.*

What in the world?



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Meanwhile, the crowd was buzzing outside of the hotel.

They were speculating about how Zeke would meet his end.

Not only did he trespass the hotel, but he also even beat up the guards, which was unforgivable.

Lacey and her family could only look on with despair on their faces.

Since Zeke had been taken to the second floor, they figured that the chances of him coming out of the hotel unscathed was next to none.

Every time they tried to barge in save him, Nancy held them back and told them to stay put.

She made call after call in an attempt to bail Zeke out using her connections, but it was to no avail.

At the same time, Aaron and Adam began to scoff at them.

*Wouldn't it be great if Zeke died?* they thought.

*When that happens, there would not be anyone to protect Lacey from harm's way. Her entire family would become our pawns.*

Just then, the bespectacled man walked out of the hotel.

Everyone's gazes turned to him in unison.

They figured that he was there to announce Zeke's untimely death.

However, the bespectacled man simply glanced at the crowd and asked, "Can Mr. Williams' wife and parents-in-law come forward please?"

*Mr. Williams?*

The people in the crowd exchanged confused looks.

It was because there were no prominent families in the Riverdale District with the surname 'Williams'.

*Did the Atheville Williams family come over as well?*

"Oh, I was referring to Mr. Zeke," the bespectacled man explained.

The crowd sucked in a collective breath in shock.

*Did he just addressed the troublemaker as 'Mr. Williams'?*

*What in the world is going on?*

Michael pointed at Lacey and said, "She's his wife!"

He figured that the bespectacled man was there to



bring punish Zeke's family for his own heinous crimes.

As for addressing Zeke as 'Mr. Williams', Michael believed that it was just a decoy to lure his family members out.

Lacey then took a step forward. "I am Zeke's wife."

"Is he alright? I want to see him."

"Even if he dies, I'm going down with him, though I must beg to you to leave my parents out of this!"

The bespectacled man looked genuinely confused. "What are you talking about, sis-in-law?"

*Sis-in-law?*

The people in the crowd were shook to their bones.

*Why did he address her as 'sis-in-law', as though Zeke is his brother or something?*

Lacey froze for a moment, utterly confused.

The bespectacled man bowed low. "May I cordially invite Big Brother Williams' family to enter the hotel with me. Oh, he asked for someone by the name of Nancy to come in as well."

"Mr. Williams is waiting for you in one of our private rooms."

*What?*

The crowd could not believe their ears.

Not only did Zeke trespass the hotel, but he also beat up the guards in the hotel as well.

Despite everything, the hotel staff did not even put a finger on him, instead, they treated him and even his family with the utmost respect...

*Since when did the mafias start operating on the basis of respect?*

The bespectacled man turned to the rest of the crowd. “All of you may enter as well.”

“Didn’t you tell us to wait outside until your boss comes?” someone in the crowd asked curiously.

“Didn’t you see? He just went in,” the bespectacled man answered.

*He just went in?*

*Since when?*

Since there was only one entrance to the hotel, everyone had had their eyes trained on it for the past hour.

Yet besides Zeke, nobody went into the hotel through that entrance.



*Unless...*

A scary theory began to sprout in everyone's minds.

*Zeke Williams is their boss!*

*He was the one who dismantled the underworld forces!*

It was not an explanation that they liked, but it was the only logical one.

They began to shiver in fear as they thought back to how they were belittling the leader of the Riverdale underworld just a few moments ago.

However, Aaron refused to admit defeat. “No... there has to be some kind of misunderstanding...”



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“He must have taken advantage of our family’s connections!”

“Didn’t you see? My grandson knows a guard called Marcel, so he must have been riding off my grandson’s coattails!”

“Let’s go in!”

The crowd seemed to accept that explanation.

*Zeke must have convinced the guards that he was from the Hinton family, forcing the guards to act in favor of them.*

*No wonder the Hintons are amongst the nobility in the Riverdale District!*

However, just as the rest of the Hinton family was about to enter the hotel, the bespectacled man stuck out an arm to stop them. “Halt! You’re not allowed to enter.”

“Why?” Aaron growled, glaring at the man.

“You don’t have the right to enter,” the man answered.

The crowd burst into laughter.

*What a comeback!*

They had theorized that Zeke got in by lying that he was part of the Hinton family, but looking at



how the Hintons were barred from entering, that theory had collapsed on itself.

Aaron's face turned beet red.

The bespectacled man led Lacey and her family into the hotel as the rest of the crowd followed them closely.

They were more or less convinced that Zeke was the one who took over as the ruler of the Riverdale underworld, seeing how well the bespectacled man treated Lacey and her family.

He even apologized for causing trouble to them!

Nancy turned to Lacey and asked quietly, "Lacey, is he really the leader of the Riverdale underworld?"

"Something feels wrong, doesn't it? Isn't he just a beggar?"

Lacey did not have the answers to Nancy's questions. "I-I don't know... Zeke had been in Oakheart City the whole time."

"Wait... he did pop by to visit Riverdale District a couple of days ago, but he was just here to pick someone up. He left as quickly as he came."

"There's no way he could take down the Riverdale underworld in just two days!"

"Never mind, let's just ask Zeke himself."

Nancy nodded. “Yeah, something smells fishy here.”

“That beggar is definitely not the leader of the underworld.”

“Nancy...why do you dislike him so much?” Lacey asked, exasperated.

“I just despise him!” Nancy huffed. “I can’t believe a man like him would resort to begging! He’s nothing compared to my hero.”

“Alright...” Lacey sighed.

Meanwhile, T-Rex was chased out of the private room after he escorted Zeke inside.

Zeke seemed reluctant to have other people in the room during his family meals.

The moment T-Rex came out of the room, he bumped into Marcel - a guard in the hotel.

He was the guard that Michael asked for help just moments ago.

Marcel ran up to him when he saw T-Rex coming out of the room. “Boss, I need to talk to you!”

He had wanted to convince T-Rex to let the Hintons in early so that he could get the funds that Michael promised.



Unfortunately, he did not know that the ‘boss’, who he had been waiting for, was already inside the hotel, while Aaron and his family were barred from entering.

“Marcel, you came at the right time. I have a task for you,” T-Rex said.

“Take good care of the Hintons later, or else!”

He was referring to Lacey’s family.

However, Marcel thought that ‘the Hintons’ T-Rex meant was the Riverdale Hinton family.

He froze for a second. “What do you mean, Boss? Did they promise some kind of benefits for us?”

“Of course, you dumb mule! They’re our boss’ family members!” T-Rex hollered.

Marcel’s jaw dropped all the way to the floor and was shocked out of his wits.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*Since when did Boss hold the Hintons in such high regard?*

*What's the point of getting me to help them then?*

*They would have no problem entering the hotel anyway...*

*Guess it's time to suck up to them...*

He ran towards the entrance of the hotel.

When he got to the entrance, he was shocked to find it empty except for Aaron and his family, who were still stuck outside.

As for Aaron and his family, they could only stand outside in despair.

Never had they expected that beggar Zeke was the leader of the Riverdale underworld!

They had underestimated the power of the Oakheart Hintons.

At that moment, they began to feel threatened.

Right then, Marcel ran over and asked, "Mr. Hinton, why are you still here?"

"Marcel, can I ask you something?" Michael said the moment he saw Marcel running over.

"Is your so-called 'boss' Zeke?"



Marcel looked utterly confused. “Zeke? Who’s that? I’ve never heard of him.”

“Besides, why are you still here? Why aren’t you going in?”

Michael sighed. “Well, we aren’t allowed to!”

“What?” Marcel yelled in shock. “You’re not allowed to? Who said that?”

“We figured that it was Zeke who told that bespectacled guy to stop us from going in.”

Marcel flew into a rage. “Stupid four-eyes! I’ll kill his whole family!”

“How dare he get in the way of our esteemed guests?”

Aaron and his family were taken aback by his reaction.

Marcel was not a close friend of the family, so there was no reason for him to act out like that.

Besides, since when were they the ‘esteemed guests’?

Thus, they began to wonder if Marcel was just being sarcastic.

“Marcel, do you think you can... help us out using your connections?” Michael asked tentatively.

“Connections? What connections? Just go in!” Marcel exclaimed.

Michael sighed. “But that bespectacled guy told us that we couldn’t...”

“Whatever! Just ignore him! I’ll beat him up later on!” Marcel spat.

“Michael, are you taking me seriously? Why didn’t you tell me that you’re related to our boss?”

*Related?*

The Hintons were confused.

“Marcel, I think you’ve gotten the wrong message. We aren’t related to your boss in any way,” Michael explained.

“Besides, who’s your boss?”

“Well, he’s probably someone you know. He’s a humble guy, so he didn’t make his identity clear,” Marcel replied.

“One thing that I’m sure of is that my boss is a relative of yours. Boss said it himself! He told me to treat the Hintons well.”

“Let’s go!”

That lifted the Hintons’ mood.



They were overjoyed to hear that the mysterious person who had taken over the underworld forces happened to be someone from their own family.

*No wonder Zeke could get in so easily! they thought. He must have been riding on the Hinton family's coattails!*

*He's definitely not the boss of the underworld!*

Aaron was furious. "That bastard! How dare he bar us from entering!"

"That four-eyed guy must be blind as well! He embarrassed us in front of everyone!"

"I'm going to slap some sense into him later on!"



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“He’s just another one of my subordinates, so I’ll take care of that for you,” Marcel said.

“I’ll make sure he apologizes to you later on!”

“Let’s go in. Boss will be angry if we waste any more time.”

“Let’s go!” Aaron said, taking a step towards the door.

However, he stopped just after one step.

“Why aren’t you going in, Mr. Hinton?” Marcel asked.

“Why are you rushing us?” Michael snarled.

“We’re the esteemed guests, and you’re just a servant. Open the door for us!”

Marcel froze for a second before his temper threatened to act up.

If they were not in that situation, he would already slap Michael in the face for saying that.

Unfortunately, he was in no position to do so, since it was revealed that the Hintons were relatives of his own boss.

With that, he forced himself to calm down and opened the door for them.



Aaron and his family began their ascent to the private rooms on the second floor.

Marcel had offered to take them there, but Michael rejected his offer.

Just then, Michael caught up with his grandfather and said, “Grandpa, Marcel had been bullying me for a long time now, but I’ve been very tolerant of him.”

“Now that we’re more powerful than ever, I figured that I should get back at him for once.”

Aaron nodded. “Alright, I’m counting on you.”

“His boss would probably not bat an eyelid even if we killed him, since we’re related to his boss after all.”

Michael nodded.

“By the way, Grandpa, who is his boss anyway?”

Aaron pondered over it for a moment before answering, “I think you should try contacting our relatives later on. I’m not very sure of it either.”

“Alright,” Michael answered enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, in a private room on the second floor.

Lacey and her family, as well as Nancy, had their eyes trained on Zeke.

Zeke felt uneasy being stared at like that. He took a sip of tea and asked, “Do you have any questions for me?”

Nancy piped up first. “I have one.”

“Are you the mysterious person who dismantled the Riverdale underworld forces?”

“Were they waiting for you the whole time?”

Zeke nodded. “That’s right.”

“Why didn’t you say earlier?” Nancy asked.

“I did, didn’t I? I said no one’s going in until I do.”

Everyone fell silent.

No one took his words seriously then.

“Zeke, from what I knew, you only stayed in Riverdale for a couple of days.”

“How did you conquer Riverdale in just two days?”

“Two days? Oh, you’re so wrong,” Zeke said.

“I only took two hours.”

Only two hours had elapsed from him being led to the abandoned jetty by the Callums to the Sole Wolf arriving to take away the five hundred people there.



Nancy was unconvinced. “Stop boasting! You’re going to get busted one day!”

“The only person who can take down the underworld forces in two hours would be my hero!”

Zeke began to get impatient. He was starting to consider if he should just reveal his true identity to her just to shut her up.

*Actually, I’m the hero you’re talking about. A million soldiers bowed before me that day, for I had gotten rid of the underworld forces...*

Suddenly, the door to the room opened, and Aaron waltzed in with his family.

Lacey and company were shocked.

*Weren’t they stopped at the entrance?How did they barge in?*

Zeke looked like he could explode with anger.

*What the hell is T-Rex doing?*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Aaron cast his accusing gaze towards Zeke. “You bastard!”

“How dare you taint the reputation of the Hinton family!”

Zeke cast a meager glance at them. “Who gave you permission to come in?”

“Who else? The boss of this place, of course! The one who just took down the underworld forces!” Michael yelled.

“Isn’t the boss of this place... Zeke?” Nancy exclaimed.

Michael scoffed. “Nancy, did all the food you eat go to your chest instead of your head?”

“He’s just a beggar! Why would he be able to take down the underworld forces?”

Nancy was still not convinced. “How would be he able to enter if he’s not the boss here?”

“Well, I was just going to get back at him for this!”

“I’ve already confirmed that the boss here is related to us. Zeke must have used our name to get past the guards!”

“The bespectacled guy from just now must have been ignorant of our status!”



Michael's explanation seemed reasonable enough to Nancy, and she immediately switched sides.

"You... you liar! I knew you were faking it!" she snarled at Zeke.

"How would a beggar have an army in the underworld if he can't even feed himself?"

"Not only are you a piece of trash, but you're also telling lies to feed your fantasy! Disgusting!"

Lacey glanced at Zeke with doubt in her eyes. "Is that true, Zeke?"

Zeke simply smiled and said. "Well, that's up to you to decide."

His vague reply came as a disappointment to Lacey and her family.

They started to suspect that Zeke gave such an answer out of fear of getting busted.

Aaron scoffed. "So you're not going to admit it? Fine then, I'll prove it to you!"

Soon, the waitress came with their sumptuous food.

Marcel paid a visit to them as well to drop off two bottles of top-notch wine.

He put the bottles in front of Aaron and said, "Mr.

Hinton, please enjoy. Call me if you need anything.”

Aaron hummed his approval.

Marcel was about to take his leave when Michael called out to him all of a sudden. “Wait.”

“Marcel, will you believe me if I said that the wine would just float into my cup without me touching it?”

Marcel chuckled. “You’re so funny, little bro! That’s impossible!”

“Who are you calling ‘little bro’? You think you have the right to do that?” Michael snarled.

“So why are you still standing there? Pour the wine for us now!”

Marcel was speechless.

*Is he joking right now?*

*His newfound status is getting to his head for sure!*

However, he did not dare to hesitate, lest Michael played the nobility card again.

Gritting his teeth, he picked up a bottle of wine and poured a glass for each person at the table.

Michael took out a cigarette and stuck it into



Marcel's face. "Light it up for me."

However, Marcel simply took out his lighter and handed it to Michael.

"What is this? I SAID... LIGHT IT UP FOR ME!" Michael bellowed.

Marcel felt as though he could explode any moment.

*I am a guard, yet I am stuck here answering your commands! How absurd is that?*

Michael then turned to his grandfather and smirked. "Grandpa, why don't we invite our esteemed relative to have a toast with us?"

Aaron nodded approvingly. "Why, of course!"

*Again with the 'relative' thing...*

Hence, Marcel had no choice but to light Michael's cigarette for him.



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After that, Michael scoffed at him. “Go and wait by the door. I’ll call you if I need anything.”

That rude remark made Marcel’s face ashen with anger.

Not only was he forced to wait on them, but they were also going to throw him out and treat him as a guard dog. To him, that was even worse than being a servant.

“Apologies, I have my guard duties to attend to,” he said.

“I’ll get a few bodyguards to stand guard.”

Michael sighed. “Fine then, whatever.”

“When my relative comes over later on, I’ll find someone who’s willing to stand guard at the door to replace you. You’ll get a break that way as well.”

Marcel could feel himself break out in cold sweat. That might very well happen if he refused to obey Michael’s orders.

For the sake of his future, he had no choice but to keep his temper in check. “Alright. I’ll do it.”

He walked over to the door to stand guard.

Michael gave Zeke a provoking look. “Do you know who he is? He’s Marcel, a guard in this hotel.”



“Even Marcel treats us like royalty, so what makes you think you’re better than us?”

Zeke snickered. “I won’t treat my own subordinates like trash.”

Michael huffed. “Stop acting like you’re some important person! You’re just scared of us.”

“Don’t get too full of yourself. If he starts fighting back, you’re going to suffer for sure,” Zeke warned.

Zeke decided to reveal himself to Marcel later on. He wanted to tell Marcel that not only were the Hintons not related to his boss, but they were also his enemies.

“Fight back? Ridiculous! He wouldn’t dare to!” Michael laughed.

Zeke scoffed. “Really? I certainly hope you can be the last one standing.”

“Whatever. Come, Grandpa, let’s have a toast!” Michael said.

The disappointment that Lacey and her family felt was immeasurable.

Even the guards in the hotel treated the Riverdale Hintons like VIPs and willingly acted as their servants. That was more than enough to prove their connections to the boss of the hotel.

They were highly convinced that Zeke had taken advantage of the Hintons' reputation.

It was just hard for them to grasp the reason he was acting this way. They were already not on good terms on the Riverdale Hintons, but Zeke only soured their relationship even further. They were sure that they were going to suffer.

Nancy was vexed, and she could not stop throwing angry glares in Zeke's direction.

After a couple of shots, Michael's face was flushed, and he seemed to be in high spirits.

He waved his hand in the direction of the door. "Marcel, come in."

Marcel walked in obediently.

"I want to go to the toilet. Clear it out for me."

Marcel's face darkened at the sound of that.

*That sounds way too petty...*

"Hurry up and do it! If your boss comes and I'm too full to have a toast with him, you're going to bear the brunt of his temper!"

*Not again!*

Marcel walked out of the room, grinding his teeth together in anger.



Aaron was a little concerned. “Michael, aren’t you going a little bit overboard?”

“It’s fine, he won’t dare to fight back,” Michael said.

After a while, Marcel came back from the toilet. “I’ve cleared out the bathroom.”

Michael glanced at Marcel proudly. “Not bad. You’ll get your reward later on.”

After relieving himself in the bathroom, Michael walked over to the sink to wash his hands. Out of the corner of his eye, he caught sight of a curvy figure flashing by the door.

It was a young woman in sexy clothes.

Short, skintight skirt, silk stockings, high-heel shoes...

The skirt brought out the beautiful, attractive curves of her backside.

Without warning, he slapped his hand against her buttocks. “Haha! Feels great!”



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The young woman was shocked, and she staggered backward fearfully. “You... you pervert!”

Michael scoffed. “How dare you say that! You’re going to suffer for that later!”

“However... if you can make me happy, I might consider letting you go.”

Without warning, Michael grabbed her by the arm and started to drag her towards the men’s bathroom.

The young woman was scared out of her wits. “S-stop! Don’t touch me!”

“My boyfriend is Marcel, one of the guards here! He will kill you if you dare to touch me!”

Michael laughed. “So you’re Marcel’s girlfriend? Then I shouldn’t be holding back at all!”

“He should be thankful that I’m interested in his girlfriend!”

The young woman began to panic as they neared the men’s bathroom, and her struggles only got more violent.

Luckily for her, Michael did not have the strength to hold on to her in his drunken state, so she managed to escape from his grasp rather easily.

Quickly, she ran over to Marcel while crying her



eyes out.

Michael started to chase after her as well. “Stop right there, you slut! You’re mine now!”

Marcel, on the other hand, had been standing near the private room that the Hintons were in and was fuming in silence.

The flames of his anger only grew higher when he saw his beloved girlfriend running over to him in tears.

He went up to her in shock. “What’s wrong, Quisha? Who bullied you?”

Quisha pointed at Michael, who was still chasing after her. “Marcel, please, help me!”

“He... he molested me, and he tried to pull me into the men’s bathroom...I managed to escape...”

*What? That f\*\*\*ing bastard!*

Marcel felt like exploding on the spot.

He could tolerate being bullied, but he would never tolerate any kind of ill intentions towards his girlfriend.

Any man would agree with that!

He pushed Quisha behind him as he stretched out an arm to stop Michael in his tracks.

Michael flew into a rage. “Back off! This woman called me names, and I won’t leave until justice is served!”

“He molested me first!” Quisha explained.

“Whatever. All the women in this place belong to me! So what if I touched you?” Michael yelled.

“You’re going overboard, Michael! Even our boss respects women more than you do!”

“Shut up! You should be happy that I’m interested in your girlfriend!” Michael yelled.

“Say one more word, and you’re losing your job!”

“Fine, whatever. I can’t stand your stupid attitude anyway,” Marcel spat.

“Let’s go, Quisha, we’re quitting.”

After that, Marcel left the scene with Quisha in tow.

“Hmph, you’re quitting? I’ll make sure to find you and make you suffer!” Michael snarled.

Marcel walked into T-Rex’s office with Quisha trailing in behind him.

T-Rex frowned upon seeing Marcel’s angry expression and Quisha’s tear streaks. “What’s going on, Marcel?”



Marcel took a deep breath and announced, “Boss, I want to quit.”

“You have done so much for me, and I will deeply regret not being able to repay you for your kindness. Can... can I at least kowtow for you?”

After that, Marcel fell onto his knees and brought his head down the ground in a solid kowtow.

T-Rex shot up from his chair. “Marcel, what is going on? Why are you quitting all of a sudden?”

Marcel sighed. “Our boss isn’t someone I would like to work under.”

“Why is that so? What did he do to you?” T-Rex asked.

“He didn’t do anything to me, but his relatives are going overboard with their arrogance,” Marcel explained.

T-Rex frowned. “What happened?”



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“They forced me to be their servant and their guard dog, but I’m not going to complain about that.”

“What’s absurd is that Michael was trying to extort my job and my girlfriend from me!”

T-Rex slammed his fist on the table. “What? No... Shut up!”

“The only man in Boss’ family is his father-in-law!”

“Why would that old man harass your girlfriend? Especially when his wife’s there?”

Marcel was utterly confused. “Michael is the Big Boss’ father-in-law? But he’s not even married yet!”

“Besides, there’s more than one man at the scene...”

“Michael? Who the hell is that?” T-Rex asked.

“He’s from the Hinton family,” Marcel explained.

“Which Hinton family?”

“The Riverdale Hinton.”

“You donkey!” T-Rex yelled, grabbing a file from his desk and tossing it in Marcel’s face. “Who gave you permission to let them in?”

Marcel began to panic. “Boss, wasn’t it... you? You



told me to take care of the Hinton family...”

“I wasn’t talking about the Riverdale Hinton family!” T-Rex bellowed.

“Not only are they not Boss’ relatives, but they’re also his enemies!”

*Oh my gosh...*

Marcel felt a wave of both excitement and fear wash over his mind.

He wondered if the big boss would go after him for letting his enemies in.

On the other hand, the boss was not at the scene yet, so there was still time to chase them out.

However, he did not know that Zeke was the big boss all along.

As for his excitement, he was overjoyed to hear that the Riverdale Hintons were the big boss’ enemies rather than family members.

*This means revenge!*

*Just you wait, Riverdale Hintons! I’ll give you a piece of my mind.*

“What you waiting for? Chase them out now!” T-Rex ordered.

“If you get the big boss angry, it would be your fault!”

“Yes, Boss! I’ll go and chase them out now!”  
Marcel said while nodding profusely.

“I’ll take revenge for Big Boss!”

After that, he left with Quisha.

Meanwhile, in the luxurious private room...

Michael was busy calling his relatives to find out who took down the underworld forces.

And so, he started off with the closest ones.

He figured that Marcel could keep quiet despite his girlfriend getting molested to avoid getting in trouble with his powerful relative.

Suddenly, Aaron’s phone rang.

It was a call from his butler, so he took out his phone and answered.

“Mr. Hinton, where are you now?”

“I’ve just checked the authenticity of the contract with the Whiteridge project authorities, and the results show that...”

Aaron cut him off. “Come to the second-floor private rooms of the Hilton Hotel and announce it



in front of Lacey. I don't want her to go back on her word."

He hung up after that.

He was confident that the contract was a fake one, so he wanted the butler to strike Lacey down with his announcement.

Lacey's face turned pale in a second.

She could almost see the ownership of Linton Group slipping away from her fingers.

All her hard work had gone to waste...

At that moment, Nancy began to feel sorry for Lacey.

She took a deep breath. "Lacey, I'm going to the bathroom. Do you want to come with me?"

Lacey nodded. "Alright."

She could tell what Nancy's true intentions were.

Nancy wanted her to sneak off before the butler came so that she did not have to witness the loss of Linton Group.

However, Michael was not very happy about it.

"Stop! Don't go out," he huffed.



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Nancy was annoyed. “Why are you such a busybody? We’re just going to the bathroom!”

Zeke gave her an approving look.

At that moment, it was like he had forgiven her for all the wrongful accusations just because of her protective streak towards Lacey.

“I’m not stopping you from going to the bathroom, but I need to make sure that you won’t sneak off halfway. How about I get two of my men to follow you?” Michael asked.

Nancy knew that her plans were foiled, so she had no choice but to sit back down with a huff. “Fine! We’re not going.”

Lacey sat down as well.

Zeke patted her shoulder gently to comfort her. “Lacey, you’re going to become the head of the Hinton family soon. Aren’t you excited?”

But before Lacey could say a word, Nancy spat at him, “Shut up!”

“Not only did you make us lose Linton Group, but you’re also the worst liar in the whole world!”

Zeke was left speechless.

The sliver of respect for Nancy that he gained just a moment ago vanished into thin air.

Soon, the butler arrived at the private room, huffing and puffing from running all the way to the hotel.

“Say it. Is it real or fake?” Aaron asked right off the bat.

The butler swallowed and stammered, “Mr. Hinton, when I went to the Whiteridge authorities just now, they confirmed that the contract... the contract is...”

“Spit it out!” Aaron bellowed, his patience wearing thin.

The butler bit his lip and said, “The ownership of the contract has been changed.”

“The contract is real.”

*What?*

That was the last thing that the Hintons had expected. They raised their heads in shock as they trained their eyes on Zeke.

The contract had been real!

That would mean that the project did belong to Zeke!

*How is that even possible?*

*Isn't he just a beggar that leeches off his wife's riches? How in the world did he secure such a project?*



Amongst the Hintons, Nancy received the greatest shock of them all.

After all, she hated Zeke right from the beginning.

However, he had accomplished something she would not even dream of doing.

*Is this a dream?* she thought.

Michael slammed his fist against the table and stood up. “You’d better be responsible for your own words!”

“Are you sure that the contract is real? Did you make a mistake?”

The butler sighed. “I wish! I’ve confirmed the results several times with the authorities, and there’s nothing wrong with it.”

Michael slumped back onto his chair, looking utterly defeated.

The impossible had become a reality.

Aaron tried his best to remain calm despite the waves of terror coursing through his veins. “Looks like I’ve underestimated you, Zeke.”

“In any case, you’re welcome to work together with the Hinton family on this project.”

“Oh, that’s not something you can decide,” Zeke retorted.

“What do you mean?” Aaron demanded.

“Have you forgotten our bet already? You’ll have to give up your position as the head of the family to my wife if you lost it,” Zeke explained.

“Lacey, do you like the Riverdale Hintons?”

At that moment, Lacey’s hands were clammy with sweat.

She would have answered ‘yes’ without thinking since they had almost unlimited funds in their bank accounts.

However, there was no way Aaron would honor the bet and give his position to her.

It was almost as impossible as seeing the sun rose from the west.

However, Aaron cut her off before she could give her answer. “Hmph! It’s just a childish bet! We don’t have to honor it!”

“Really? A childish bet, you say? What if you won it? Would you have said that it’s a childish bet?” Zeke asked, grinning.

Instantly, Aaron turned red from anger.



Zeke was right - he would definitely have honored the bet if he had been the winner.



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Nonetheless, he was still able to remain composed. “Regarding our bet, first, we didn’t write it in black and white, and second, it’s not legally binding. Hence, I won’t admit to it,” he announced.

It seemed as though he was determined to play punk, shamelessly.

“Who’s said that it’s not legally binding?” Zeke replied as he took out his phone to play a recording.

The content of the recording was regarding Zeke and Aaron’s bet.

Aaron’s face instantly flushed with embarrassment. He knew that Zeke had a hold over him now.

Michael panicked and immediately sprang towards Zeke, wanting to snatch his phone away.

However, Zeke agilely moved backward, causing Michael to fall flat on his face.

Zeke took a side glance at Michael and sneered, “Childish!”

“Mr. Hinton, are you intending to play dirty? If word gets out that you, as a businessman, are so dishonest, I wonder what’s going to happen to your reputation.”



As Aaron was unable to outwit Zeke, he started targeting Lacey instead, “Lacey, even if I give up the Hinton family allowing you to be in charge, would you dare to take it up?”

A shiver ran down Lacey’s spine when Aaron directed the question to her.

She had grown up living under the shadow of her grandpa’s brother, so naturally, she was fearful of him.

Obviously, being questioned by Aaron scared Lacey out of her wits.

Just as she was at a loss for words, Zeke tapped her shoulder and urged, “Lacey, didn’t you say that you’d needed to use the bathroom? You should go now.”

Lacey nodded. She understood that Zeke wanted her to stay out of the situation, for the time being, leaving it to him to handle.

She turned towards Nancy and asked, “Nancy, do you want to go together?”

Nancy nodded immediately and agreed, “Yup, let’s go.”

When they reached the door, Lacey looked at Michael. With a big smile, she mocked, “Hey, Michael, are you going to send two lackeys to follow us?”

Michael was speechless.

*You b\*\*\*\*! I can't wait for you guys to get out of my sight. Why would I send anyone to follow you?*

Nancy laughed aloud and joked, "Lacey, when did you learn to make fun of people?"

Lacey kept a straight face as she answered, "I'm not making fun of him, it was a serious question."

*Haha!*

The two women left in good spirits.

Zeke professed in disdain, "Let's just settle this, man-to-man. Aren't you ashamed of yourself for making things difficult for a woman?"

"Sure, let's not involve the women then," Aaron agreed.

"Don't forget, we have a relative who's the leader of the underworld in Riverdale. Even if you'd managed to take charge of the Hinton family, if that relative of mine is angered, he won't hesitate to wipe out the Riverdale Hinton's. If that happens, don't expect your Whiteridge project to be spared."

Zeke replied, "Oh, is it? Now I'm really interested to see just how powerful, your relative, the leader of the underworld, is."



“You’re seeking your doom.” Aaron was simmering with anger. “Michael, have you found out who that relative of ours is?”

“Not yet,” Michael replied.

“But that’s not an issue. We wouldn’t need our relative’s help to deal with this guy. Marcel alone would be able to handle him,” he continued.

“Yeah! Get Marcel here. Let’s teach him a good lesson today,” Aaron concurred.

Michael immediately rang Marcel. “Marcel, come to the private room now. I will let your woman off and you won’t have to resign as well, on the condition that you help me with something...”

Meanwhile, Marcel had already received the phone call. He was now charging towards the private room where Michael and the rest were at. He was in a rage, and his girlfriend, Quisha, was accompanying him.

After ensuring that his boss, Jeremy, was not related to the Hinton family, he intended to seek revenge against that family, in order to regain the dignity he had once lost.

As the couple was walking at a hurried pace, they bumped into two women around the corner.

The two women were Nancy and Lacey.



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“Hey! Watch where you’re going!” Nancy lashed out at the couple.

After realizing that the woman in front of him was Nancy, Marcel felt a jolt of anger.

*Nancy Hinton... Amember of the Hinton family.*

Just as he was about to hurl some nasty insults at the two women, the man unwittingly noticed a picture tattooed on Nancy’s nails.

Immediately, the pupils of his eyes constricted in shock, and he stopped himself from speaking.

*The picture on her nails looks really familiar.*

Marcel had come across a similar picture before, which was shown to him by T-Rex.

T-Rex told him that the man in the picture was Jeremy.

Jeremy could command more than a million men with a mere wave, wiping out the underworld forces in Riverdale.

The picture was taken at the East Skuld abandoned warehouse.

*To have Jeremy’s picture tattooed on her nails, it was highly likely that she was his woman!*

Marcel also suddenly recalled that when he

arrived at the private room with the Riverdale Hinton's, Nancy Hinton was already waiting in the room. To him, that was enough to validate his suspicions.

*Ah, so when T-Rex instructed me to take care of the Hinton's, he was referring to just Nancy Hinton, and not the Riverdale Hinton's.*

Until now, Marcel was still not aware that Zeke, who was also in the private room, was their boss... T-Rex did not tell him about it.

Marcel suddenly dropped to his knees and apologized profusely, "Madam, I'm so sorry to have knocked into you. I should have been more careful. Please forgive me!"

Both Nancy and Lacey were startled by Marcel's abrupt action.

*It was just a knock, did he have to kneel down???*

*Why did he address Nancy as 'Madam'? What's going on?*

"You must have been mistaken, I'm not your 'Madam'," Nancy clarified immediately.

Marcel frowned and replied, "How is it possible? If you are not my boss' woman, why would you tattoo his picture on your nails?"

Nancy was stunned for a moment before



answering, “Your boss’ picture?”

After eyeing the picture on her nails, Nancy seemed to have come to a realization and was thrilled at once. “Are you saying that... You mean this back view in the picture belongs to your boss?”

“Of course,” Marcel nodded.

Nancy was so emotional that tears had already welled up in her eyes. “Lacey, did you hear that? My hero is the leader of the underworld forces in Riverdale!”

Lacey furrowed her brows as she replied, “That doesn’t seem right, Nancy. Isn’t their boss grandpa Aaron’s relative?”

“Oh! regarding that, I have to apologize. I have made a mistake previously. My boss isn’t Aaron Hinton’s relative,” Marcel explained promptly.

“Not a relative? Then why did you let us in?” Lacey asked.

“Besides, Nancy’s fondness for your boss is unrequited. Your boss does not even know of her existence,” she continued.

Nancy said softly, “Lacey, could it be that my hero had found out about my feelings for him, and he feels the same way for me, that’s why he’s let us in?”

“Nancy, that sounds very possible to me!” Lacey was hyped up at Nancy’s hypothesis as well.

Nancy was on the verge of tears as she exclaimed, “Everything is starting to make sense now. First, the reason Zeke wasn’t punished for the trouble he created must be because my hero had let him off on my account. Then, my hero invited you and your parents here because he knew that we were on good terms. As for why my grandpa and the rest were refused entry, it must be because my hero knew that they were always mean to me and he’s upset with them. But if that’s the case, why were they allowed to come in afterward? They even claimed that your boss is related to them...”

Marcel started apologizing profusely once again and admitted, “It’s all my fault. T-Rex had instructed me to take special care of you but I misunderstood his words. I’d assumed that he wanted me to take care of the Riverdale Hintons, that’s why I’d ended up letting them in.”



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A blush appeared on Nancy's cheeks when she heard Marcel's explanation. "Take special care of me? It's pretty clear that my hero likes me too. I'm so happy."

"Nancy, congratulations! I'm happy for you too, that you get to be with the man of your dreams." Lacey offered Nancy her sincere blessings.

Nancy replied, "Enough about me, Lacey, it's time you think about your own situation. The reason we get to be here is obviously because of my hero, but Zeke asserted that he was the boss at first and tried to claim credit for himself. I don't think such an egoistic guy is good enough for you."

Lacey chuckled and professed, "Well, but I don't have a say. My heart had chosen him."

"Ahhh! Oh my God! You'll be the death of me," Nancy replied, and the two women continued to chat and joke with one another as they walked towards the restroom.

Meanwhile, Marcel and Quisha headed in the opposite direction. Marcel was burning with anger when they barged into the private room.

When Michael saw Marcel, he instructed him at once, "Marcel, I'm going to give you a chance to make it big. Teach this fella a lesson for me and I'll ask your boss to promote you... "

Marcel clenched his fists and walked towards

Michael, then...

*SMACK!* He gave Michael a tight slap on his face with all his might.

“Teach him a lesson? Promote me? Promote my ass!”

*Huh?*

Everyone in the room was flabbergasted!

*What on Earth was going on?* Marcel, the guy who was fawning over them just a while ago, had suddenly turned hostile and hit Michael!

*He was biting the hand that was feeding him!*

Aaron was in a red rage as he yelled, “B\*\*\*\*\*! How dare you attack a member of my Hinton family, are you not afraid that I’ll tell your boss... “

*SMACK!*

Before Aaron could complete his sentence, Marcel treated him with a tight slap as well, without hesitation. “I am not afraid, I dare you to inform my boss about it right now!” He announced.

Aaron covered his face and looked at Marcel in disbelief, “You... Do you dare to slap me?... You must be tired of living... “

“Slap you? I intend to kill you today.” Marcel



suddenly grabbed two bottles from the table and smashed them against Aaron and Michael's heads.

*SMASH, SMASH!*

The glass pieces from the bottles flew all over the place as they landed on the men's heads.

Aaron and Michael fell onto the ground and were wincing in pain, with their hands on their heads.

Blood could be seen seeping between their fingers.

The Hinton's, who were horrified by the scene which had just unfolded, got up and tried to stop Marcel.

Marcel pulled out two daggers from his pockets and held one in each hand. Swinging them in front of the Hinton's, who instinctively took a few steps back fearfully, he warned, "Get back! I'll kill whoever dares to approach me first."

Someone among the Hinton's shouted, "Marcel, you must be mad. Don't forget that your boss is our relative!"

Marcel sneered and replied, "Relative? F\*\*\* you! Not only is your family not related to my boss, but you are also his enemy!"

*Enemy?*

*How did we suddenly become his enemy?*

The Hinton's, who had previously wanted to stop Marcel, started to retreat nervously.

*If our family is really the enemy of his boss, then aren't we in grave danger right now?*

Michael shouted angrily, "Bulls\*\*\*\*! If we are your boss' enemy, why would he let us enter and dine in this luxurious private room?"

Marcel scoffed and admitted, "That's because I had made a mistake."

"Quisha, come and give them a few good kicks and let off some steam," he urged to his girlfriend.

Quisha, who felt her anger building, gave Michael a hard kick.

Even though her kick was not as forceful as a man's, one should never underestimate the lethality of a woman's high heels.

With just two kicks, Quisha managed to inflict so much pain on Michael that he was already tearing in agony.

Zeke suddenly spoke, "Now you should know that it wasn't because of you, Riverdale Hinton's, that I was allowed to enter."

Everyone turned to look at Zeke.



Indeed, it seemed like Zeke did not get in here by pretending to be one of the Hinton's.

*If that was really the case... then how did he manage to enter?*

*Could he really be telling the truth when he claimed to be the leader of the underworld forces?*

Everyone fell into a state of despair as they contemplated this possibility.



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As if it was not already enough that Zeke was the boss of the Whiteridge project, he had now turned out to be the leader of Riverdale District's underworld forces.

This new image of Zeke was vastly different from the useless man whom everyone had thought he was.

He had suddenly become a threat to the Hinton family.

Daniel took a deep breath, and with mixed emotions, he looked at Zeke and asked, "Zeke, are you really the leader of Riverdale District's underworld forces?"

Zeke nodded and replied, "Dad, regardless of my status, it wouldn't change the fact that I'm your son-in-law, Zeke."

Feeling proud of Zeke, Daniel nodded and proclaimed, "Zeke, Dad trusts you. Even though you are the leader of the underworld forces, I know you would never do anything immoral."

"I'll keep your words in mind, dad," Zeke replied.

Adam, Jeremy, and Lily exchanged glances at each other with mixed feelings.

Without anyone realizing, Zeke had grown and achieved so much, far surpassing any of the Hinton's.



If they had not pitted themselves against Lacey's family, but instead, behaved cordially towards them, they might have benefited from Zeke's riches and they might have all become millionaires by now.

But, they had already lost their chances by setting themselves at odds with Lacey's family.

Currently, they had only one option left, which was to stand united with the Riverdale Hintons and deal with Zeke.

Marcel shot an impatient glance towards Zeke. *Who's this strange guy who has the guts to pretend to be our boss?*

*But judging that he seems to be on good terms with our Madam, Nancy, I'll just let him continue pretending for all he likes.*

After snapping out of his thoughts, Marcel started clobbering Aaron and Michael again.

While Marcel was in the middle of giving the two men a good bashing, Nancy returned from the restroom.

Marcel halted his actions at once and hurriedly stood beside Nancy. He gave her a respectful bow and greeted her, "Madam, you're back. Please have a seat."

*M-m-adam?*

Everyone was petrified.

*She's also one of the Riverdale Hintons, but why are we treated differently?*

*Marcel is treating us as if we are his archenemies whereas he's obviously kissing her a\*\*, and even calling her 'Madam'...*

*What's wrong with today? What's with the continuous turn of events?*

Daniel and Hannah almost had their eyes bulge out of their sockets.

*If Zeke is Marcel's boss, and Marcel is addressing Nancy as 'Madam'... Wouldn't it mean that Nancy and Zeke are an item?*

*Then what about our Lacey?*

It was a huge blow to the couple, and all they could hear was a buzzing noise in their heads.

Zeke's face darkened.

He wanted to yell at Marcel there and then. *Don't be ridiculous! Your 'Madam' should be Lacey instead!*

Marcel said again respectfully, "Madam, please take a seat first. I just need five more minutes to avenge you and boss."



The man had noticed, some time back, that Aaron had outcasted Nancy. By right, Nancy should be full of resentment towards Aaron and his family.

Marcel was trying to get into Nancy's good books by teaching Aaron a lesson.

Sensing that Marcel was going to beat him up again, Aaron was scared stiff.

His body was not going to be able to bear another round of beating.

"Nancy, please save us," Aaron pleaded.

Nancy jumped up in shock. Only then did she notice Aaron, who was hurt and bruised all over his body.

She did not see Aaron just now as he was curled up under the table from Marcel's ruthless bashing.

"Stop! Marcel, stop now!" Nancy shouted.

After all, Aaron was her grandpa. Although he had never treated her kindly, she could not bring herself to leave the elderly man in the lurch.

Nancy rushed over to Aaron and helped him up.  
"Grandpa, are you alright?"

Aaron took a deep breath and replied, "Not going to die so easily."

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“Nancy, do you know their boss? Are you dating Marcel’s boss?”

Nancy nodded and replied, “You can say so, but things are more complicated than that.”

“Then... Is Zeke Williams their boss?” Aaron asked.

Nancy took a brief glance at Zeke and sighed, “Grandpa, what are you thinking? He’s just a useless man who has to depend on his wife, how can he be compared to my hero? Their boss is my hero, the all-powerful, most honorable, and invincible man in the entire Riverdale District!”



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Zeke was speechless.

*What's going on?*

His train of thoughts was disrupted by Nancy's nonsensical words.

Michael was jumping with anger as he roared, "I knew it! How could the leader of the underworld forces be this useless man, I can't believe we were almost fooled! It's clear that their boss had allowed us to come in here because of my sister since she is his woman. Marcel, you're dead this time around. You even had the nerves to beat up your boss' relative."

Marcel had a conflicted expression on his face.

*Hasn't Madam been outcasted by the Riverdale Hinton's all along? Shouldn't she still resenting them then?*

*Why would she be on their side?*

Marcel's mind was in a whirl as he tried to process those thoughts.

On the other hand, Daniel and Hannah heaved a big sigh of relief.

If Zeke were not actually the leader of the underworld forces, it would naturally mean that there was nothing going on between him and Nancy.



It was indeed a huge weight off the couple's mind. They could not imagine how hard their daughter would take it if she had lost Zeke. She might have even wanted to kill herself.

Michael touched the wound on his face and raged, "Marcel you bastard! You better kneel down in front of me and kowtow ten times for hurting me, otherwise, I will ask my sister to punish you severely."

Marcel was in a dilemma.

"Michael, that's enough," Nancy spoke.

"I have not even met Marcel's boss yet. We had only expressed our affections for each other indirectly. Nothing has been set in stone yet. If you anger Marcel and he takes action against you, there's nothing I can do," Nancy added.

Aaron seized the opportunity and interrupted, "Let's drop it. We'll just let the matter end here."

Today was full of twists and turns, being an emotional roller coaster for everyone present. Aaron did not want to lose the hard-earned upper hand that his family had right now. He was not planning to risk anything going wrong again.

Michael simply kept silent after his grandpa spoke.

"Let's all return now and prepare to pay respects

to our ancestors tomorrow,” Aaron suggested.

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Aaron departed with his group, while Nancy left with Lacey and her family.

Once they left the hotel, Lacey immediately asked Zeke, “Zeke, tell me now, how did you manage to get the Whiteridge project?”

“Have you forgotten that I’m your salesperson? You should know my capabilities very well. Getting that project is just a piece of cake,” Zeke replied.

“Stop glossing over it and just come clean, did you use any underhanded methods to get it? It seems very unlikely with your abilities that you’ll be able to get such a big project,” Nancy chipped in.

Zeke rolled his eyes at Nancy in frustration.

*This woman, not only did she steal my spotlight a few times, she’s even claiming all my credit for her ‘hero’ now.*

“If I tell you that it’s your hero who’d given the project to me, will you believe it?” Zeke answered coldly.

But he had not expected Nancy to respond so enthusiastically.

“Yes! That’s right! That must be it! My hero must



have been heartbroken to see me going back and forth with the previous person-in-charge of the Whiteridge project department, that's why he decided to take over the project but was too shy to give it to me directly. Just like today, he was too shy to invite me personally, so he instructed his subordinate to do it instead. It's him who took over the project and entrusted you to work with me, right?"

Zeke was speechless.

*This woman has a really impressive imagination...*

Lacey, who appeared to be deep in thought, queried, "Zeke, is Nancy right?"

"Lacey, it's pointless asking him. This prideful guy would never admit to it even if I were right," Nancy snubbed.

Zeke rolled his eyes at Nancy again before replying, "Lacey, if I say that none of what Nancy said is real, will you believe me?"



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Choosing to remain silent, Lacey took quite a while before she had finally begun to speak.

“Zeke, it’s not that I don’t trust you. Rather, I simply don’t see how this is viable, especially when you aren’t planning on utilizing the Linton Group’s funds nor our resources... Let’s be real here. How do would we secure this project, when even the Linton Group has insufficient resources in the Riverdale District?” admitted Lacey as she revealed a wry smile.

“The only way that I see this possible, is for Nancy’s hero to secure this project, appointing both you and Nancy to collaborate on it.”

This rendered Zeke speechless.

The world was always advancing, and so was a human’s knack for cunning.

It had never occurred to him that a Great Marshal such as himself would eventually meet his nemesis.

Unfortunately, that day had now arrived. His nemesis so happened to be Nancy Hinton.

“I’d prefer for you have a sense of integrity, rather than for you to accomplish such an amazing feat,” huffed Nancy.

“Not only have you taken the glory that wasn’t yours, rather, but you’d also said that you were the



one who'd conquered Whiteridge. You've also named yourself to be the boss of the underworld."

"I've got to warn you. Should you persist with such distasteful actions, I'll have Lacey divorce you."

"I can only hope that you'd have at least a tenth of my hero's virtue."

There was nothing that Zeke could retort with, so he got into the car angrily, attempting to ignore her.

Lacey followed suit and questioned Zeke mockingly, "Are you mad?"

"Alright! Alright! Just get over it. It's Nancy's fault for not taking into account your feelings. She's always been such a straightforward girl."

"Even if it were the truth, that you were living off from me, what can they do about it? I have the capability to do that. You'll just have to remain by my side," quipped Lacey.

Zeke could feel his head begin to ache.

He was not mad about that.

*I am simply worried. What if Nancy discovers that I was her hero? Would she start to cling onto me?*

At Grand Imperial Tea House.

In the past, Hades would be praying at this hour.

However, he was so restless recently, that he could not sit still for even a minute.

The reason behind his restlessness was due to him being upset that the underworld forces of Riverdale District were taken by someone.

Besides, he was also anxious at the fact that he had yet to conquer Love in a Fallen City yet. If he were to delay the welcoming ceremony for the almighty general and was blamed for it by his lord, he would definitely be in deep trouble.

However, he did not have the intention to deal with Zeke Williams just yet.

At least not until the investigation of the ‘mysterious disappearance of five hundred henchmen in the underworld’ had been done.

His instincts were telling him that it would not be easy to reveal Zeke Williams as the culprit.

After three days of disappearance, the man that Hades had long anticipated for had finally returned.

“Have a seat, my friend,” urged Hades as he poured some tea for Eclipse.

Eclipse sat right before Hades and took a sip of the tea. “We have completed the investigation.”



“So, how did Williams actually deal with those five hundred henchmen alone?” continued Hades impatiently.

“The henchmen were actually captured by the almighty general.”

*W...What?*

Hades was stunned. He could feel his hands trembling, ever so slightly.

“Wasn’t the almighty general residing in the Oakheart City just recently? I remember that he’d even dismissed the mayor of the Oakheart City.”

“How did he arrive at the Riverdale District in such a short amount of time? He... Why did he even capture the henchmen in the first place? Was that the doing of Williams?”

“That I do not know,” admitted Eclipse as he shook his head.

The room fell into a state of silence.

Despite their calm demeanors, they were both astonished by the drastic turn of events.

*If Zeke really had the backing of the almighty general, they stood no chance against him.*

*After all, their lord had the same status as the almighty general.*

*What could they do, when even their lord had no means, to deal with the almighty general.*



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As they were contemplating their options, Hades' phone suddenly rang.

It was Logan Hugh.

"Hades, have you secured the Love in a Fallen City yet?" asked Logan.

"I have just talked to our lord on the phone and he would like me to warn you, that if the project isn't secured within five days, there will be a heavy price to pay."

"Why don't you secure the project yourself then, officer Hugh," asked Hades coldly.

"Nonsense! The lord has already assigned our respective roles years ago. I'm in charge of the official matters while you are in charge of the corporate and the underworld."

"Love in a Fallen City is considered commercial, of course, it falls within your jurisdiction."

"Besides, it would be inappropriate for someone like me to take action against a private company. If the rival of our Lord were to catch wind about this, would you be willing to bear the consequences that come from it?"

"Hmmpf! Are you sure that it wasn't because you were actually afraid of Zeke Williams' background?" sneered Hades.

“Zeke Williams’ background? Pray tell, what kind of background does he boast?”

“The one who is backing him is none other than the Great General of the North,” answered Hades.

“Oh my dear Hades, it seems that aging has really taken a toll on you. How could you even believe in such a tall tale.”

“You should have known that the main purpose that our Lord has ordered us to greet the General North in person is to win him over.”

“If Williams were truly the direct descendant of the General North, do you think that the Lord would still issue us such orders? Wouldn’t this have the effect of antagonizing the general?”

“Then, how would you explain the case where General North has captured the five hundred henchmen in Riverdale District, effectively saving Zeke Williams?”

“It was a mere coincidence that the almighty general had crossed paths with the people of the underworld. He did this out of his obligations. It has nothing to do with Williams,” answered Logan Hugh.

“The almighty general was at the Oakheart City not long ago; how did he suddenly appear at Riverdale City?”



“Hades, it seems that I have overestimated you. How did such an intel escape you? I thought that Eclipse was known as the pivot of intelligence?”

Hades casted a thoughtful gaze at Eclipse.

Eclipse was seen to be drinking his tea with lowered head.

“Then, tell me, why did General North come to Riverdale City?” continued Hades.

“You should be familiar with the Hinton family, right?” answered Logan.

“Yes. They are one of the four big families in Riverdale City.”

“The General North is here because of them. It seems that one of their ancestors had saved him in the past.”

“Tomorrow is the day of the Hinton Family’s death anniversary. He came here personally to repay the favor.”

“So that’s why...” Hades had a sudden realization.

“Grasp the time now and take action. Should the lord be displeased, you don’t need me to spell it out for you, do you?” asked Logan coldly before he hung up on Hades.

Logan massaged his temples to soothe the pain.

Lately, he had been experiencing severe headaches.

His disciple, Sam Clemons, was in prison and on the verge of breaking. It would not be long before he would be summoned.

Sam's family, Madeleine, and Emily were making three phone calls to him per day, demanding for him to rescue Sam.

They had even threatened him that if he had refused to bail Sam Clemons out, they would confess the truth at the military court, saying that the poisoning of T-Rex was done under the orders of Logan Hugh.

Currently, Logan had no other option but to secure the Love in a Fallen City project as swiftly as he could.

After securing the project, he would attempt to draw General North into his faction, by hosting a welcoming ceremony for him.

Then he would have the general pardon his disciple.

Hades put his phone aside and sipped on his tea before querying, "Why did you lie to me, my friend?"

Eclipse was shocked. "What do you mean by that?" asked Eclipse as he placed the teacup he



held back onto the table



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“You should have known that General North is here not because of Zeke Williams, but to participate in the death anniversary of the Hinton family.”

“If I had told you that, would you have taken action against Williams?” professed Eclipse after giving it some thought.

“Certainly,” answered Hades as he nodded.

“That’s the reason why I hesitated to tell you the truth.”

“You didn’t want me to make a move against him?” asked Hades.

Eclipse nodded his head.

“But why?”

“We have indirectly confronted Williams three times, and each time, we’d suffered defeat.”

“Up until present, we still don’t know what we’re dealing with.”

“I can’t see through him and I am terrified of him. I don’t want to make an enemy out of such a person.”

Hades took a deep breath before saying, “Do you think that I have not thought about that before?”



“Who would willingly seek trouble for themselves?”

“Unfortunately, we are not the one calling the shots. If I leave Williams alone, our Lord will not have it.”

“ That’s not a big deal. The worst that could happen, is for us to be forced to retire.”

“It’s too late to turn back now.”

“Rest assured, my friend. Until now, we have not confronted Zeke Williams directly and I intend to continue to do so.”

“Oh? Then how do you intend to secure the project?” asked Eclipse.

“Just like we’d done in the past, we’ll instigate someone to do the deed for us. All we have to do is to simply observe.”

“Who shall be the victim then?”

“The Hinton family of the Riverdale District,” answered Hades.

Eclipse was stupefied. “Even the Forrest Family was not a worthy opponent for Zeke Williams. What could the Hinton family possibly do?”

“That’s not true.”

“There is someone in the Hinton family who is a great counter to Williams.”

“Fill me in,” announced Eclipse, as his eyes brightened.

A smirk appeared on Hades’ face. “Daniel Hinton, Zeke Williams’ father-in-law, is known for his filial piety,” pronounced Hades, as he took a sip of his tea.

*What could this possibly mean?* Eclipse thought to himself as he furrowed his brows.

*What does Daniel Hinton’s filial piety have anything to do with countering Williams?*

The next day.

It was a day with lovely weather. The Chinese believed that it was an auspicious day to move or to conduct a death anniversary.

To the Hinton family of Riverdale city, it was an especially important day, for it was the death anniversary of their ancestors.

Both the old and the young of the Hinton family were busy preparing for the event.

Everyone was wearing the traditional outfit, making the event exceptionally grand.

Aaron Hinton, the head of the Hinton family was



no exception. He was currently in his office, memorizing his speech.

Just as he was in the midst of concentrating, his phone suddenly rang.

Aaron Hinton frowned as he glanced towards the screen of his phone.

It was an unknown caller from Sheng City.

He could not recall establishing any connections with someone in Sheng City.

“Who is this?” asked Aaron as he answered the call.

A deep voice resounded from the other end of the line, “My surname is Yate, but my friends called me Hades.”

*What?* Aaron Hilton subconsciously called out.

He could feel his hands trembling.

*Hades of the Sheng City. He is a legendary figure known by all!*

*The entire underworld of Rivermouth belongs to him.*

Even the Forrest Family, the wealthiest family in Riverdale, was nothing but Hades’ puppet.

The Hinton Family was by no means as resourceful or as influential, as compared to the rest of the families.

*Why was such a legendary figure personally making a phone call to him?*

“Hello, Mr. Yate. It’s an honor to be able to speak with you personally,” replied Aaron politely.

Hades let out a few laughs before saying, “Congratulations Mr. Hinton”

Aaron Hinton was confused. He hesitated for a while before asking, “Mr. Yate, what are you congratulating me for?”



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“General North will be attending your ancestor’s death anniversary. Is that not an occasion to be happy about?” asked Hades.

*Ah!*

Aaron Hinton subconsciously exclaimed.

*General North... One of the legendary generals in Eurasia.*

*Rumor has it that he was the disciple of the Great Marshal.*

*Why was someone like him attending the death anniversary of the Hinton family’s ancestors?*

It was unsurprising that his first reaction was to think that Hades was making fun of him.

“Mr. Yate, you must have been mistaken,” refuted Aaron Hinton in a panic.

“Why would General North visit a no-name family like us? We are not worthy of him participating in our family event.”

“It isn’t in my nature to joke around,” professed Hades solemnly.

“You don’t have to be so self-deprecating. The general will be attending your ancestor’s death anniversary. Your family deserves every bit of it.”

“As far as I know, one of your ancestors’ had saved the general in the past. General North is a man of virtue and he intends to pay his respect and gratitude to his savior.”

Knowing that General North would be attending his family event, Aaron Hilton was so excited that tears had formed at the rim of his eyes.

It was none other than General North paying respect to his ancestors. Such an honor would undoubtedly add glory to his family.

Simply based on that, the Hinton family would be able to reach a higher status in society.

“Mr. Yate, do you perhaps know which of my ancestors was the one who’d saved General North?” asked Aaron excitedly.

“I’m not too sure about that,” answered Hades as he shook his head.

“Tell me the truth. Did you honestly think that just because General North attended your ancestor’s death anniversary, your family would be able to climb up a few steps of the social ladder already?”

Aaron Hinton was in a calmer state after hearing Hades’ words. “Is that not how it works?” he asked.

“Just by riding on General North’s reputation, it shouldn’t be hard to raise our family’s status.”



“Now that’s where you are wrong. I wouldn’t blame you, after all, you were oblivious to the story behind it,” uttered Hades as he let out a bitter laugh.

“According to my intel, the ancestor that had saved the general was receiving unfair treatment by the Hinton Family. He did not die a good death.”

“Contrary to being grateful to the Hinton Family, the general might simply feel the opposite.”

Of course, that was a fabricated lie. It was made in order to smoothen the next step of Hades’ plan.

Aaron Hinton was devastated.

If the general really resented the Hinton Family, depending on the situation, there might be nothing left of the family. The Hinton Family might have ceased to exist.

*What should I do? What should I do?* Aaron Hinton started to panic.

“But you don’t have to panic. I have a plan that will not only let bygones be bygones, rather, but he might also develop an even closer relationship with the Hinton Family.”

“Please enlighten me with your guidance Mr. Yate,” urged Aaron impatiently.

“You might have heard that whoever conquers the

Love in a Fallen City will have the privilege to act as a host and dine in the same table with General North,” offered Hades.

“If you are able to conquer the Love in a Fallen City, and personally serve General North, do you think that he will still hold a grudge towards you and your family?”

“He is after all, a man of virtue.”

“Mr. Yate, are you perhaps talking about Lacey Hinton’s project, the Love in a Fallen City?”

“That’s the mainstay of Lacey Hinton’s group. I’m afraid that she wouldn’t be too keen on handing it over to me.”

“What are you talking about? Don’t you already have a trump card in your hand?” asked Hades as he laughed.

Aaron was absolutely clueless. “T...Trump card?”

“I’m pretty sure that the grave of Daniel’s mother is in your family’s cemetery,” announced Hades.

“Do you think that Daniel would mind if we maybe... Move his mother’s grave out of the family cemetery?”

“Well, Daniel Hinton is known for his filial piety. I don’t think that he would be too happy about...”



Aaron's eyes gleamed all of a sudden.

"I see... Thanks Mr. Yate, I know what to do now."



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Hades let out a laugh before saying, “Now go.”

“If things proceed smoothly, I’ll appoint the Hinton’s as the leading family in Riverdale.”

“The Forrest Family has failed me. They are not worthy of leading the Riverdale District.”

Aaron was so excited that he was on the verge of tears. “Rest assured Mr. Yate, I won’t disappoint you.”

As soon as he hung up, Aaron immediately summoned Michael.

“Michael, contact the exhumation team right away, as soon as possible.”

“Grandpa, why do we need an exhumation team? Whose grave are we moving?” asked Michael.

“Moving the grave is simply a front,” answered Aaron.

“The real purpose is for us to become filthy rich, replacing the Forrest family as the leaders of the Riverdale District.”

Michael had even more questions than answers.

However, this was not the time to be asking questions as his grandfather had just emphasized the urgency of the matter.



Meanwhile, Zeke was driving Lacey and Nancy to an apparel store.

The reason why they were heading there was that Zeke had wanted to participate in the ceremony. To his misfortune, he had no appropriate outfits to wear. Lacey had no choice but to bring him to the nearest apparel store.

On the way there, Zeke received a call from Sole Wolf.

He hesitated for a while, but ultimately decided to answer.

“Brother, are you participating in the Hinton family’s ceremony? I’ll be attending too,” announced Sole Wolf from the other side of the phone.

Zeke furrowed his brows before saying, “What for?”

Sole Wolf sighed, “Remember when I’d helped you get rid of Samuel a few days back? There are rumors spreading that I was doing it for you.”

“In order to conceal your identity, I had no choice but to fabricate a lie, saying that I was indebted to a certain ancestor of the Hinton’s.”

“The story has it that I initially came here to attend the ceremony, as I was indebted to a certain ancestor of the Hinton’s. Nonetheless, it was pure

coincidence that I was met with the ruckus, created by the underworld thugs. Hence, I had them sorted, out of justice.”

“You are smarter than I thought,” commended Zeke.

“Hehe, it was actually my officer’s idea,” pronounced Sole Wolf gleefully. It was apparent that he was elated by that quasi-compliment.

“Haha, I knew it. Come over if you wish,” offered Zeke.

“Alright brother.”

“Zeke, who was on the phone?” asked Lacey impatiently, as soon as the call ended.

“It was General North, he’s said that he will be attending the ceremony,” answered Zeke.

Nancy glanced at Zeke before she nonchalantly took out her cellphone. “Hello is this the Great Marshal? There’s a braggart over here and I don’t think I can deal with this,” mocked Nancy, pretending to be speaking on the phone.

This rendered Zeke speechless.

*Fine, you win this time.*

The three of them arrived at a western apparel shop.



Lacey carefully selected a tuxedo suit before she had Zeke try it out.

“Hmmpf, such a nice suit would be wasted on a man like him. You can’t change a man’s innate trait, no matter what kind of clothes you have him put on,” drawled Nancy sarcastically.

Lacey was at a loss for words. “Nancy, isn’t that a little too much? What makes you dislike him so much anyway?”

“What do you mean? I was actually going easy on him.”

“I’ll have him know that it isn’t that easy to leech on my sister.”

“Fine, do as you wish,” relented Lacey as she shrugged.

It did not take long for Zeke to come out of the fitting room. “Honey, isn’t this a little tight?”

“I think I’m more comfortable with the casual clothes.”

“Honey, say something. What do you think Nancy?”

“What is going on with you two?”



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At that moment, Lacey and Nancy were dumbfounded. Their gazes were bright and they could barely hold back their excitement, like they had discovered a treasure.

The treasure in question? Zeke Williams!

Who would have thought a plain-looking man like Zeke would look so good in a suit?

His figure filled out the suit perfectly, almost like it had been painted on him. His shoulders were broad and his chest solid. There was not a hint of fat on him.

In one word, he was sexy. No doubt many women would be drooling over him if they could see him.

Lacey could not help herself, she stepped toward him and touched his chest and arms, blatantly groping him as she murmured, “Looking sharp, Zeke! You’re probably sexier than Henry Cavill! What do you think, Nancy?”

Nancy answered in a dazed voice, “With this body, it’s a pity you’re not a model. Lacey, you lucky, lucky woman!”

Zeke had a slightly disturbed look on his face. “What’s this? You’re actually complimenting me?”

Snapping back to her senses, Nancy could have smashed her head against a wall.



*Oh my god! I actually praised him! What happened to hating him for ten thousand years?!*

“Hah! I was just kidding! As if I would say such good things about you. Compared to my hero, you’re practically a wimp! I doubt anyone would take you even if you sold yourself to be an escort.”

Zeke relaxed at hearing her words. Now this was the Nancy he knew.

Lacey giggled and teased, “C’mon Nancy, don’t be so stubborn. You’re just jealous of me, aren’t you?”

Nancy flushed in embarrassment as she huffed, “Nonsense! My man is way better than yours; why should I be jealous? Look at that body; isn’t he a lot better than Zeke? Wait ...huh? Why is it the more I look, the more it feels like they have the same body shape...”

Lacey burst into laughter at the other woman.

Just then, her phone rang. It was Adam calling to tell them they had to hurry to Hinton Hallow as the ceremony was about to start.

Promising they would be there soon, Lacey hung up and prepared to leave with Zeke.

The man was clearly uncomfortable with his current attire as he complained, “Lacey, can I change into something a little more comfortable? This suit is too restrictive and tight!”



“Nope. I want you to wear that for the rest of your life.”

“Can I take it off when I sleep?”

“Nope.”

“When I’m taking a shower?”

“Nope.”

“Alright then. However, I must warn you that I don’t have much self-control. Next time when I take a shower, you should probably join me.”

“...”

*Bastard, you set me up!*

Hinton Hallow was located on the outskirts of Riverdale District and was surrounded by mountains on one side and a river on the other.

The founder of Hinton Group had deliberately hired a Chinese Feng Shui Master to select a location for the graveyard. To be buried there when they died was a great honor for any one of the Hintons.

The Hinton family were standing in neat rows before the graves of their ancestors, their faces solemn and respectful. At the head of the group was Aaron Hinton.

The only exceptions were Daniel Hinton and his wife, Hannah Lawson, who were both standing in one of the corners of the cemetery, around five hundred meters away from the ancestors' graves.

This was the corner reserved for the servants of the Hinton family.

Daniel's mother, the second wife of Adam, was buried here.

This meant that her position in the family was simply that of a lowly servant. The Hinton family had never accepted her as part of the family.

Suddenly, there was a loud cacophony at the gates of the graveyard, drawing everyone's attention.

A bunch of men barged into the cemetery with shovels in their hands.

They looked like an exhumation team.



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Everyone was puzzled at their appearance. Today was the day the Hinton family paid their respects to their ancestors; what was an exhumation team doing here?

Whose grave was about to be moved?

The team leader came to a stop before Aaron. “Mr. Hinton, which grave are we relocating?”

Aaron pointed at Daniel’s mother’s plot, saying, “That one.”

“Okay.” The team then made their way over to the solitary grave.

In an instant, Daniel felt his mind go blank.

They were here for his mother!

His mother had suffered so much when she was alive. Her biggest wish in life had been to be buried in Hinton Hallow after she died. She only wanted to be accepted by the family.

After her death, Daniel had fought tooth and nail for her right to be interred here. Thankfully, he had succeeded in the end.

Yet now, so many years later, his mother’s rest was going to be disturbed.

There was no way he could be so unfilial as to allow that!

He quickly blocked the men from approaching and shouted, “Stop! Uncle, what right do you have to move my mother’s grave? You should at least have a valid reason!”

Aaron sneered in reply, “You want a reason? I’ll give you one!”

With that, he turned to look at Adam.

The two of them were clearly in cahoots with each other as Adam hurriedly offered, “While she lived, your mother carried herself improperly. Not only did she steal from the Hinton family, but she also seduced other men. In fact, I wonder if you’re really even my son.”

There was a susurrations of murmurs as the rest of the family began to gossip amongst themselves.

“Hmph, I always said that woman was no good! She obviously knew Adam was married, yet she still deliberately seduced him!”

“Even after they got married, she was always out of the house and stayed out all night. Who knew what kind of indecent things she was up to!”

“Having a woman like her buried in the same cemetery as our ancestors is like spitting on their graves. Disgraceful!”

“She doesn’t deserve to be buried here!”



Daniel almost exploded with fury at their words. As it were, his eyes were bloodshot with his repressed emotions.

“Dad, how could you say that about Mum? All those years ago, she refused to marry you, so you used the Hinton family’s power to force her to comply. After she married you, she did her best to be the best wife and mother she could be. No matter how much the family picked on her, she always held back her temper because she was worried about making things harder for you!

“When you were exiled from the Hinton family, she was the one who took up the responsibility of taking care of us. She found a job so she could earn money for us! If it had not been for her, you and I would have both starved to death long ago! She died way too young because her body could not take the strain she was putting on it, strain that came from overwork. Now that she

’s dead, you’re still unwilling to let her rest in peace?! Don’t you have a conscience?!”

Adam was furious. “You little bastard! Who are you to lecture me!” Turning to the exhumation team, he ordered, “Hurry up and dig up that grave! Every second I look at it makes me feel more disgusted.”

Once more, Daniel stopped the men from coming closer as he roared, “You want to touch my mother’s grave? Over my dead body!”

Hannah had tears streaming down her face as she stood resolutely beside her husband.

This was the first time she had seen him explode like this. It showed how much this issue bothered him that her normally soft-spoken and gentle husband would be pushed to raise his voice.

Aaron snorted disdainfully and uttered, “How dare you kick up a fuss on my territory. Men, restrain them!”

Immediately, his four bodyguards charged towards Daniel, who shouted like a madman, “C’mon then, fight me!”

Unfortunately, he was not exactly in his prime. There was no way he was any match for the well-built bodyguards.

In next to no time at all, they easily subdued the man.



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Daniel could only watch helplessly as the excavation team neared his mother's grave, weeping piteously.

"Hold it!" a commanding voice boomed out.

Lacey, Nancy and Zeke had finally arrived.

Taking in the scene before them, Zeke and Lacey could feel their hearts breaking.

She darted toward the bodyguards with the intent of shoving them aside. "Get away! Don't touch my Dad!"

Daniel hollered back at his daughter, "Lacey, don't mind me. They want to dig up your grandmother's grave, you have to stop them!"

"What?" Lacey's body jerked in surprise. "Why would they do that? Whose idea is that!"

Hannah spoke up, "It's your Grandpa's idea."

"What!" Lacey gasped out before aiming a disbelieving look at Adam, "Grandpa, that's your wife! How could you be so cruel?"

"Scram!" the older man snarled, glaring back at his granddaughter, "Like father like daughter. Both of you are unfilial to the core! Who are you to reprimand me?"

"Just get rid of the damn grave already! I'll break

the legs of anyone who dares to interfere!”

“Wait!” Adam called out, “Aaron, don’t be so unreasonable. Although your wife was unfaithful to you, she technically did give the Hinton family a son. We cannot forget that fact. How about we give them a chance now?”

A glimmer of hope flashed in Daniel’s eyes. “What chance?”

“You hand over Love in a Fallen City to us and we won’t touch your mother’s remains.”

Realization dawned on Lacey and her family.

Moving the grave was a cover; their real motive was to force her to give up the project!

Disappointment and despair rose in Daniel as he muttered, “So that’s how it is! I completely underestimated how shameless you all are. Love in a Fallen City is a project that Lacey worked hard to get. As her father, I might not be able to help her much, but I will never harm her either. I would rather die than to pass you the project!”

“Then we’ll have to relocate the grave,” Adam threatened.

A bitter laugh escaped Daniel’s lips and he said mournfully, “Your threat means nothing to me when I don’t even fear death.”



“Hah! So this is your so-called filial piety? What a load of bull! Men, get to work!”

“Stop, all of you stop moving! I agree to hand over the project to you!” Lacey yelled.

Daniel was horrified at his daughter’s words.

“Lacey, what are you doing?! You spent half your life toiling away just to get this project; you can’t throw it all away because of me!”

Sighing, Lacey replied, “Dad, don’t try to change my mind. I know how much Grandma suffered when she was alive. You would feel guilty for the rest of your life if she were unable to have peace even in death. I can always just earn more money. It’s okay.”

“But...” Her father was still reluctant.

She cut him off, “Dad, listen to me this once, okay?”

His eyes reddened, but he did not know what else to say.

Unable to contain herself any longer, Hannah threw herself at her daughter, bawling, “My poor, poor Lacey! Oh, how unfortunate you are to have such a wimp for a father. Not only do people always walk all over him, but even his own father also looks down on him...My dear daughter, I’m so sorry...I should have found you a better father.”

Feeling even more ashamed of his wife's words, Daniel bowed his head.

By contrast, Aaron was delighted now that Lacey had agreed to give him the project.

He quickly ordered, "Mike, you've already signed the transfer agreement for Love in a Fallen City, right? Bring it here and let Lacey sign too."

Michael 'Mike' Hinton nodded and reached out to pass the contract to Lacey.

Before she could accept, a large hand snatched it and ripped it to pieces.



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The hands belonged to none other than Zeke.

He stated coldly, “I don’t agree to hand over the project.”

A vein bulged in Michael’s temple as he growled, “You bastard! How dare you tear up my contract!”

Aaron’s temper flared as well. “Men, throw this outsider out of here. He has no right to remain here in Hinton Hallow.”

Instantly, Lacey moved to stand in front of Zeke. Her voice was firm as she said, “Wait! Let me talk to him.”

Then, she turned her teary eyes on Zeke, pleading with him, “Zeke, please just do as I say. You have no idea how much Grandma’s grave means to my father. He would blame himself for the rest of his life if anything happened to her final resting place. How do you expect him to live like that?”

Zeke lifted his hand to wipe away her tears, his face apologetic. “I’m so sorry, Honey. I didn’t mean to make you cry. Don’t worry; just leave this matter to me. Since this grave is bound to be moved, might as well do it now instead of later.”

With that, he picked up one of the shovels from the floor and headed toward the burial plot.

Taken aback, Daniel immediately tried to stop him, “Zeke, please calm down! Don’t do anything rash.

Even if we do move my mother, you can't just dig her out without first finding another place to bury her."

The younger man fixed his gaze on his father-in-law, asking calmly, "Dad, do you trust me?"

The older man's response was immediate, "Of course."

Nodding, Zeke assured him, "That's good. Then trust that I won't let all of you down, just like last time. To be honest, I already know where to move her."

"Where?"

He pointed to the furthest point in the graveyard. "Right before those graves over there."

As everyone followed the direction of his finger, they burst into laughter.

He was pointing at the very first row of graves where the Hinton family's oldest ancestors lay.

How could he have the guts to move Daniel's mother there? That was just outrageous!

Aaron's face darkened and he spat, "Foolish brat. How dare you make such an audacious claim! Do you have a death wish?"

A smile played on Zeke's lips as he replied, "So you



don't agree then?"

"No shit, Sherlock!"

"You will be begging us to move her to that first plot later."

That said, he continued to dig at the ground.

Daniel and his family could only stare at him, utterly speechless.

They all had the same train of thought, and that was wondering what was wrong with Zeke to be making such jokes at a time like this.

His last sentence sounded more like a pitiful attempt at saving face than actually humiliating the Hinton family.

Despite that, Daniel did not stop him. He might as well use this time to contact other cemeteries to see if they had any empty plots.

Thus, Daniel, Hannah, and Lacey each pulled out their own phones to call different cemeteries.

Nancy was fuming silently off to the side.

To think Lacey and her family were so indulgent of Zeke's disrespectful actions; just what spell did he put on them?

Soon, Zeke had carefully dug out the urn.

Taking off his suit jacket, he wrapped it around the urn before passing it over to Daniel. “Dad, since you’re Grandma’s son, you should hold her.”

Tears poured down Daniel’s face as he accepted.

He took a deep breath to calm himself before he murmured, “Mum, this is all my fault. Sorry to have disturbed your rest. I’ve already found you another place, so I’ll be taking you there now.”

“Dad, why are you leaving?” Zeke stopped him.



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Daniel answered, “I’ve already contacted another cemetery and they have an empty plot.”

Zeke shook his head, stating, “Dad, there’s no need to do that. I already told you, just move Grandma to the first plot at the front of the cemetery.”

Fed up with him, Nancy charged over to berate him, “Zeke Williams, that’s enough! Even if you want to joke around, this is most definitely not the right time nor place to do so. Don’t you see how hurt and sad Uncle Daniel and his family are? Why must you kick up a fuss right now?!”

Ignoring the woman, Zeke told Daniel earnestly, “Dad, give me ten minutes, okay? I assure you that Aaron will be begging us to put Grandma in the first plot within the next ten minutes.”

Everyone present was speechless at his absurd words.

As if Aaron would ever do that.

Torn, Daniel shot his wife an uncertain look. “Hannah, what do you think?”

In response, his wife sighed heavily. “I guess we could wait ten minutes longer.”

“Alright then.” Daniel nodded.

Nancy barely resisted the urge to scream in anger.

*Are Lacey's parents fools? Why are they still listening to Zeke Williams at this time? Just what are they thinking?!*

Taking out his phone, Zeke sent a message to Lone Wolf. *Where are you?*

Lone Wolf replied. *I'm nearly there.*

*You have ten minutes to get here. Also, remember the one who saved you those many years ago was Daniel Hinton's mother. I want her to be buried in the first plot at the front of Hinton Hallow.*

*Got it!*

Seven minutes later, the loud rumbling of engines gradually grew closer.

A convoy of military vehicles stopped right in front of the gates of the graveyard.

The appearance of this fleet of cars had attracted the attention of a lot of people and a massive crowd had formed at the gates.

Everybody wanted to catch a glimpse of the almighty general in the flesh.

The car doors swung open and hundreds of soldiers poured out, forming into two neat rows before one of the cars.

"Please come out of the car, General!" their voices



boomed out mightily.

A well-built figure stepped out of the car, instantly causing an uproar.

It was the almighty general himself!

Dressed in a crisp military uniform with a black cloak across his shoulders, the man looked intimidating and powerful.

The aura of authority around him had the crowd in awe. No one dared to take too deep of a breath for fear that he would hear.

More than a few younger women almost drooled at the sight of him. They did not dare hope to be his lifelong partner, but simply spending a night with him would have them die happily without regrets.

It was just a pity that he was wearing a mask that covered the lower half of his face.

Studying the general closely, Lacey felt herself getting more and more agitated.

The shape of his brows and his eyes strongly reminded her of Zeke's buddy, Lone Wolf.

In fact, they looked almost *exactly* the same.

Could it be that Lone Wolf was the almighty general of legend?

She looked at Zeke, her lips trembling as she asked hesitantly, “Zeke, don’t you think the general looks really familiar?”

Her words had Zeke tensing. He had deliberately ordered Lone Wolf to wear a mask, so he had not expected that Lacey would still be able to recognize him.

“Who do you think he looks like?” he questioned her instead.

“I think he looks a lot like that buddy of yours, Lone Wolf.”

He shook his head. “Really? I don’t see anything about the general that reminds me of him.”

Nancy scoffed and piped up, “Lacey, do you even hear yourself? How could a wimpy man like him possibly know the almighty general? I’ll chop off my own head if that were the case! Besides, what did you say this friend of his does?”



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Lacey answered, “He’s one of my construction site workers.”

Rolling her eyes, Nancy mocked, “The almighty general, working at your construction site? What a joke!”

When the other woman put it that way, Lacey could not help but to laugh at herself.

Indeed, if Lone Wolf really were the almighty general, why would he be moving bricks at her construction site?

She must have been mistaken.

Aaron led the Hinton family to welcome the general.

“The Riverdale Hintons welcome you, General.”

Barely flicking them a glance, Lone Wolf hummed in acknowledgment but otherwise ignored them.

He moved through the crowd, heading for the rows of graves.

Aaron waved his hand at the servants standing off to the side, commanding, “Let the ceremony begin.”

They leapt into action, some playing mournful music while others brought the food offerings to the table set at the front of the graveyard.

The offerings were extravagant to the extreme, with a whole roasted pig and lamb, all sorts of fruit, and wine.

Near the back of the group, Daniel urged Zeke softly, “Let’s go before the general sees us. It would be bad if he decides to question why we’re here.”

Zeke shook his head. “Dad, we can’t leave now. The general’s men have already blocked off the gates. We’ll catch even more unwanted attention by trying to sneak away now.”

“Alright then. I guess we’ll stay a little while longer,” the older man agreed, “But remember, don’t make a sound. Actually, don’t move at all. We mustn’t bring attention to ourselves.”

His family nodded obediently.

Nancy shot Zeke an infuriated look, hissing, “We should have gone just now, but nooooo, you just HAD to insist on staying longer. Look at what you’ve done now! We’re in so much trouble.”

Zeke could feel a headache forming. No wonder rumors said Nancy could really hold a grudge - she just would not let things go!

Lone Wolf swept his gaze across the headstones, the Hintons following his eyes. They desperately wanted to know which ancestor of theirs had once saved the life of the almighty general.



Outside the gates of the graveyard, the onlookers were getting excited as well.

“Wow, so one of their ancestors actually saved the life of the almighty general? What luck they have!”

“I wonder which one of them saved the general? Maybe I might even know them!”

“Shh, be quiet. The general is looking for his savior’s tombstone, so we’ll know who it is soon enough.”

After a moment, a disappointed look appeared on the general’s face.

He accused, “Why is my savior not buried here?”

Gulping, Aaron stated tensely, “Not here? That’s impossible. All of our family members are buried here. Sir, there are a lot of graves here; perhaps you can tell me who it is you’re looking for and I can help you search for them?”

“I do not know her name; I only remember how she looks. She is not among any of the photos I see. Are you sure all of the Hinton family members are interred here?”

Aaron nodded firmly. “But of course...”

Abruptly, a voice exclaimed loudly, “I think you’re forgetting someone over here.”

Following the sound of the voice, the Hinton family were furious when they saw the owner.

It was Zeke.

The almighty general was talking to their patriarch; who was he to interrupt them? And in such a cold and disrespectful tone too!

Waves of despair crashed over Daniel and he shuddered. He had repeatedly reminded Zeke not to do anything, yet the younger man had still been unable to restrain himself.

*What are we supposed to do if the general decides to hold us accountable?*

“Zeke Williams, shut your mouth!” Aaron roared, “You have no right to speak.”

Turning to the general, he continued, “Sir, please don’t be mad. He’s not part of the Hinton family. I’ll throw him out right away!”



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Daniel hurriedly spoke up, “My apologies, Sir, we did not mean to bother you. We’ll be leaving at once.”

He tugged on Zeke, intending on dragging the younger man away if he had to.

“Wait,” Lone Wolf commanded.

Daniel and his family were shaking in their boots. They knew the general would not let them go so easily.

Focusing his attention on Zeke specifically, Lone Wolf asked, “What did you mean earlier?”

“Exactly what I said. There’s one more Hinton family member here.” Zeke pointed at the urn cradled in Daniel’s arms.

“Oh? Then let me take a look.” With that, the general strode toward Daniel.

Aaron hurriedly explained, “Sir, I don’t think there’s a need for that. That urn belongs to a mere village woman, nothing special about her. There’s no way she was the one who saved you. She was also exiled from the Hinton family...”

Lone Wolf never faltered in his footsteps as he continued approaching Daniel.

Zeke suggested, “Dad, you should let him see the photo. Maybe it might be his savior.”

By this point, Daniel was starting to get angry at his son-in-law. What if the general saw the photo and smashed the urn in a fit of rage when he discovered it was not his savior?

*How reckless of you, Zeke!*

Left with no other choice, he unwrapped the suit from his mother's urn and showed the photo to the general.

Lone Wolf took one look at it and his eyes brightened.

He took off his cloak, straightened his posture, and snapped a sharp salute. "My savior, I have finally found you! Please accept my salute!"

Lone Wolf's men also came closer, giving salutes of their own in synchrony.

"Please accept our salutes!" their powerful voices echoed throughout Hinton Hallow.

With several hundred men in military uniforms saluting, it made for a majestic sight.

Everyone present was dumbfounded at this turn of events.

The impossible had actually happened!

The woman who had been buried with the servants and had come close to being evicted



from Hinton Hallow was actually the savior of the almighty general!

Fate really was toying with them!

If the general found out how the Hinton family had badly mistreated his savior when she was alive, would he destroy them in anger?

It was not an impossibility.

Daniel's whole body trembled with the force of his emotions. He was over the moon and surprised when he found out that his mother had been the one to save the general.

He was also incredibly nervous and wary at seeing so many military men, in particular the general, showing such respect toward his mother.

Holding on to the urn tightly with one hand, he used the other to return their salute awkwardly.

Lone Wolf gingerly took the urn from him, saying, "Who dug out my savior's remains?"

Taking in a deep breath, Daniel eyed Aaron as he accused, "T-they forced us to exhume her."

Lone Wolf's gaze slowly drifted to Aaron.

At the same time, Adam and Aaron were both sweating bullets at what had happened.

*Why is something as melodramatic as this happening to us? He's gonna kill us if he finds out we bullied her in life!*

Aaron was the first to recover. He hurried forward and tried to explain, "Sir, I was indeed the person who arranged for her to be exhumed. I wanted to move her to a better location as a sign of my respect."

"Is that so?" Lone Wolf smiled thinly, "But I could have sworn I heard you say earlier that she was nothing but a common village woman and that you were going to exile her from this family graveyard."

A cold sweat drenched Aaron's back as he stammered out, "Sir...That is...I was mistaken...I mistook her for someone else..."

"Really?" the general questioned suspiciously.



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Adam took this opportunity to save his brother. “Sir, she was my wife. When I was at my lowest, she was there by my side to share my burden. We will always be grateful to her for that; why would we expel her from the family?”

Just one look at Adam had Lone Wolf’s temper rising and he was sorely tempted to beat up the man before him.

He had heard about how this man was always bullying Zeke, Lacey, and even Daniel and Hannah.

In the end, he still managed to forcefully tear his gaze away and push his violent feelings aside. Now was not the time to teach that wretched man a lesson.

His silence caused the atmosphere to become awkward and tense.

Trying to break the tension, Aaron called out, “Hey you, the exhumation team! What are you guys still doing standing around? Get to work!”

The team immediately did as ordered, heading to the ancestral plots and shoveling at the ground.

Eyeing the men, Lone Wolf sneered as he commented, “It should be your family’s honor to have my savior be buried with them, yet here you are trying to bury her in a lower position than your ancestors? What nonsense is this?”

“My apologies, Sir. My instructions were not clear enough instructions,” Aaron rushed to answer.

Turning to the working men, he ordered, “Stop! Who told you to place her there. As I said many times before, we need to bury her at the front of the cemetery...”

The words had barely left his lips when he shuddered. Everyone else was also taken aback at how things had played out.

They could not help but be reminded of what Zeke had said earlier: Aaron would be begging to bury Daniel’s mother at the head of the Hinton family ancestral graves.

Now, his words had come true.

Was Zeke some sort of seer that could predict the future?

Preposterous!

There could only be one explanation, and that was Zeke already knew beforehand that Daniel’s mother was the savior of the almighty general.

But if the Hinton family did not even know this, then how could an outsider like him find out about it?

Unless...he knew the general?



That very thought plunged everyone into fear.

It did not take long to officially move Daniel's mother into her new resting place.

This had the onlookers outside the gates jeering and mocking.

"Hahaha, the very first plot of the Hinton family ancestral graves is actually an outsider! How strange."

"Well, she is the savior of the general. It should be the family's honor to have her there."

"I just wonder if anyone who doesn't know the truth would laugh their ass off if they saw it."

Aaron's cheeks reddened when he overheard them talking.

Looking at him, Lone Wolf said, "Start the ceremony."

Aaron obligingly shouted, "Let the ceremony begin."

For the second time that day, somber music rang out.

Zeke went to Daniel's side. "Dad, let's go pay our respects as well."

By that point, tears were flowing uncontrollably

down the older man's face.

A dream that had lasted more than a decade had finally been fulfilled. His mother was officially buried with the Hinton family ancestors, which made her one of them.

At long last, he would not need to bear the guilt of failing her anymore. He did not want to feel like that ever again!

With Hannah holding on to his bicep, he moved to queue up so that they could pay their respects.

Behind them, Lacey did the same with Zeke.

Nancy was still frozen to the spot.

She had absolutely no idea how Zeke Williams could have possibly known who the savior of the almighty general was.

*Does he know the general?* She would rather die than choose to believe that.

“There's something fishy going on with that guy,” she murmured to herself before joining the line.





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Lone Wolf moved forward and bowed his head for several seconds to show respect, which everyone followed.

After that, it was time for Aaron to say the eulogies.

Not having prepared one for Daniel's mother, he had to come up with something on the go to praise her deeds.

Half an hour later, the ceremony was over.

Adam and Aaron's hearts finally returned to their chests from where they had been in their throats the whole time.

With the ceremony finished, there was no way the general would look into them mistreating his savior's ashes, right?

They would soon realize that one should never count their chickens before they hatch.

Lone Wolf made a beeline for the corner of the cemetery, crouching down at the empty hole where Daniel's mother used to be buried.

The two brothers' hearts pounded faster at his actions.

The man's voice was cold when he accused, "You initially buried my savior here at a plot for the servants, didn't you?"



Panicked looks crossed the Hinton family's faces. Sweat beaded on Aaron's face as he hemmed and hawed, not being able to come up with an excuse. Especially not with such concrete evidence before him.

Lone Wolf snorted, "Hmph, how dare you bunch of spineless worms bully my savior! All of you, get down on your knees and beg for forgiveness from now until the next morning!"

Nobody dared to disobey a direct order from him and they all fell to their knees with loud thumps.

Lone Wolf then focused his gaze on Adam. Hate had him gritting his teeth and he growled, "As the husband of my savior, not only did you not protect her, but you also led her to an early death! Even after her death, you did not allow her to be buried here in Hinton Hallow; have you got no shame!"

"You will have to kneel here for the next three days to atone for your sins!"

Adam felt depression take hold of him. Ignoring the fact that it would be endlessly humiliating to be kneeling here for three days, he was an old man now and his body would be unable to take it.

But seeing as it was an order from the general, he could only lower his head and agree.

Next, the general looked at Lacey and the others. "Thank you for protecting my savior's remains just



now. The five of you are in charge of them. Make sure they keep kneeling for the duration I set for them, not a minute less.”

Nodding, Zeke promised, “Don’t worry, I’ll keep an eye on them.”

With that, Lone Wolf departed with his men.

A dead silence descended upon the graveyard once more.

Zeke tried to pull Daniel to his feet. “Dad, Mum, get up. The general wants us to supervise them, which means we don’t need to kneel.

Daniel sighed wearily and muttered, “Zeke, don’t bother. Just let me kneel here. I failed her as her son by not having her interred among the ancestors immediately after she died.”

Hannah chimed in, “That’s right, Zeke. Today, Mother was able to move to a new resting place, so we should be paying our respects regardless.”

“Okay.” Giving up on his in-laws, he directed his attention to Lacey. “Lacey, let’s go. It’s enough that Mum and Dad are here. We still need to incorporate the Whiteridge project into Linton Group.”

Lacey shook her head and insisted, “Zeke, those matters are inconsequential compared to my Grandma. You and Nancy can handle the



Whiteridge project. I wish to spend more time with my parents and Grandma.”

Exasperated but seeing no other option, he nodded. “Alright then.”

He was the Great Marshal, the pride of the nation. There was no way he would kneel.

Glancing at Nancy, he uttered, “C’mon, to Whiteridge.”

The woman shook her head and threw out an incredibly valid question, “How did you know the savior of the almighty general was my grandma?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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This was a question that everyone was dying to know, so they perked up their ears to listen.

Deliberately playing dumb, Zeke retorted, “It’s not that hard to guess.”

“You guessed it? How?”

“That’s easy. Weren’t there rumors that the savior of the almighty general had been tortured by the Hinton family? Well, the only person that fits the criteria among the dead would be her.”

Nancy tsked in annoyance, stating in a disdainful tone, “And here I thought there was something amazing about you. Turns out I was right all along and you’re as useless as ever.”

The Hinton family relaxed at that, sighing in relief. They were deeply thankful that Zeke did not really know the general.

“Let’s go already, Nancy. The contract for Whiteridge has already been signed so you need to carry out the terms,” Zeke urged impatiently.

The stubborn woman refused, “I’m not going with you alone; what if you suddenly have perverted thoughts on the way there? Besides, that project is my hero’s, so it won’t be running away anytime soon. I can go over whenever I like.”

Zeke stared at Nancy before looking over at Lacey. “You’re overthinking things.”



“What?”

“Unless all the women in the world other than you are dead, I’ll definitely never have perverted thoughts about you.”

“I’ll kill you!”

And so it was that Zeke went alone to Whiteridge.

The procedures for incorporating Whiteridge into Linton Group went right over his head as it was incredibly complicated.

Opting to seek help, he called Dawn to have her come over and settle things.

When she found out that he had closed yet another deal that amounted to more than one billion, she was so shocked that her voice quavered.

“Zeke...y-you really are something. Can I ask you how much Lacey pays you each month?”

“Five thousand. Wait, after I nabbed The Nightingale, she gave me a raise of five hundred. So that would be five thousand and five hundred a month.”

Dawn chuckled deviously. “Zeke, I’m gonna be honest with you. I don’t plan on working for Lacey anymore; I want to start up my own company. How about you come and be my salesperson

instead? I can pay you ten times the amount she's giving, even a hundred-fold! If that's still not enough, I...I can give myself up to you?"

Without a second's hesitation, Zeke hung up on her.

He really hated it when people sugarcoated things.

...

At Grand Imperial Tea House.

Normally, there were only two people allowed into Hades' office. One was the man himself, of course, and the other was his best friend, Eclipse.

However, today there was a third person - the patriarch of the most prominent family in Riverdale, Gavin Forrest.

He was here because he wanted to ask Hades for help against that damned man, Zeke Williams.

Not only had that bastard crippled his son, ruined his beautiful daughter's face, and humiliated the Forrest Family, he had also wiped out the underworld forces in Riverdale.

Without the support of the underworld, the Forrest Family was basically teetering on its last legs as a substantial part of their businesses depended on such shady dealings.



For the sake of survival, they had no choice but to seek out Hades.

Hades' face remained blank as he listened to Gavin air his grievances.

When the other man was done talking, Hades spoke up in an indifferent tone, "He's but a mere ant beneath my boot. Don't worry, I've already sent my men to take care of him. Barring any accidents, Williams will be returning what he took from us within the week."

"What is ours, is ours. Nobody can take that away from us."



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Hades firmly believed as long as he obtained Love in a Fallen City and welcomed the almighty general, he could definitely convince the general to side with him.

When that happened, dealing with Zeke Williams would be child's play.

After all, not a single man stood a chance against the state weapon.

Gavin was delighted at the confidence he could hear in the other man's voice. At the same time, admiration swelled within him.

*No wonder he is called Hades. Such charisma! Even Zeke Williams, a man that caused me so much anguish, is inconsequential in his eyes. What a true badass!*

Glancing at the time, Hades stated, "The dust should be settling right about now."

Eclipse stood up and walked toward the window. Peering out, he commented, "Spy is back."

A smile curled Hades' lips. "I hope the news he brings won't disappoint me."

A few seconds later, there was a knock on the door and Spy's voice called out, "Sir, it's me."

Eclipse answered, "Come in."



The door swung open but Spy did not enter. He did not have the right.

In a rare, good mood, Hades ordered, “Come inside.”

Surprised, Spy carefully entered the office.

“Report. Did Williams hand over Love in a Fallen City?” Hades questioned.

Spy took a deep breath before he answered, “No.”

Huh?

Hades’ fingers twitched and his brows furrowed deeply. “How is that possible? I was certain I had researched Daniel Hinton’s family thoroughly. From what I found, he would be willing to agree to anything as long as his mother wasn’t moved, even give up his own life. Is Love in a Fallen City more important than his life?”

“Sir, not only did the Hinton family not exile Daniel Hinton’s mother from Hinton Hallow, but they also even buried her at the first plot...”

“In front of the first ancestor of the Hinton family?!”

What!

Hades and Eclipse’s sharp gazes bored holes into Spy’s body.

This intel was too fake to be true.

There was no way the Hinton family would bury an outsider at the first plot.

Was Spy trying to play tricks on them?

That would be impossible too! He would not dare do such a thing!

Hades demanded, “What exactly happened? Tell me everything!”

“It turns out the savior of the almighty general was actually Daniel’s mother. With this connection, of course the Hinton family would not dare mistreat her ashes.”

Eclipse and Hades traded looks with each other, their bodies tense.

How could things be such a coincidence?

But that was not the point.

More importantly, Hades had lost to Williams. Again.

He could not even remember the last time he had tasted defeat. Yet recently, time and again, he kept losing to Williams.

That was a crushing thought.



Eclipse could not help sighing, “It’s absurd how lucky this guy seems to be.”

Gavin was close to having a mental meltdown. Hades was a figure that he had looked up to as an undefeatable man, a legend.

But even he had lost against Williams, and not just once either.

If even he could not handle Williams, then Gavin making an enemy out of the man would basically be asking for trouble.

Still not willing to give up just yet, he consoled Hades, “Sir, that guy was just lucky - “

Hades cut him off harshly, “Luck is a power in and of itself.”

Gavin snapped his mouth shut, a puzzled look appearing on his face.

*What does he mean by that? It almost sounds like he’s complimenting Williams! Don’t tell me he wants to win him over?*

“Sir, you can’t just let him go like that...” Gavin was almost pleading with the man.

“Get out of here for now. I need to think things over and make new plans.”

“But - “

Hades threw one last glance at him, pointedly saying, “You can leave now.”

Resigned, Gavin had no choice but to leave.

Spy took the chance to slink out after him.

The moment they left, Hades laughed uproariously. “Interesting! That guy is getting more and more interesting by the day!”



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Eclipse was visibly confused as he stared at the other man. “Hades, what are you laughing at?”

“I’m laughing at how stupid and shortsighted we were.”

“What do you mean?” He was even more lost now.

Hades stated, “Remember what our comments were about Zeke Williams?”

“Reckless, arrogant, talented but conceited.”

Hades nodded. “Now it would seem like he’s both resourceful AND bold. He’s the perfect kind of person for working in the underworld.”

Eclipse was dumbfounded. He had never heard Hades praise someone so highly before, especially not someone so young.

He murmured, “So, what do you plan on doing next?”

Hades was silent for a while as he pondered the question. At last, he answered, “I don’t think just the two of us would be enough for our plan to succeed.”

Shocked, Eclipse blurted, “Wait, so you mean to invite him to join us in that plan?”

“That’s right.”

Eclipse gasped and replied, “I admit he seems to have some talent but is that enough for him to stand alongside us?”

“Naturally, he can’t compare to you and I. But you can’t forget that he’s young and has the potential. As long as we give him a little support, I’m sure he can play an integral role in our plan,” Hades explained.

“Since you seem to think so highly of him, I guess I have nothing else to say.” Eclipse nodded in agreement.

“Good. Then we should have him come over for a talk. This issue is incredibly important and must be discussed face to face.”

With that said, Hades pulled out his phone and dialed Williams’ number.

The call connected within a few rings.

Zeke’s voice drawled through the phone, “Who is this?”

Deciding honesty was the best policy in this case, Hades replied, “My surname is Yate, but everybody calls me Hades.”

Surprise leaked through his voice as he asked, “Hades from the capital?”

“Yes.”



“Hah! If you’re Hades, then I’m Zeus!”

Zeke hung up.

Eclipse and Hades stared at each other for a moment, not sure whether to laugh or cry.

“It would seem like he doesn’t believe you would personally call him,” Eclipse commented.

“Yeah.” Hades nodded. “Looks like we’ll have to pay him a visit ourselves.”

The other man nodded as well. “Okay, let’s go. How do you think he’ll react when he finds out we want him to be one of our equals?”

Hades replied confidently, “He’ll probably feel ashamed of his inferiority and think he doesn’t have the right to hang around us.”

On the other side of the things, Zeke tossed his phone to the passenger seat beside him. A snort left his lips as he muttered, “As if the both of you have the right to hang around me!”

He selected a random supermarket nearby and went to buy some gifts before driving towards Whiteridge.

In no time, he arrived at his destination.

He was not in any hurry to get to the tourist destination development project at Whiteridge.

No, he was here to visit his godparents.

Loaded with his presents, he stepped inside the yard only to halt in shock at the scene before him.

The yard was a mess, with broken flowerpots and glass from the shattered windows littering the ground.

Even the two chickens in the coop had been beheaded, their blood splattered across the walls.

Fury ignited in Zeke.

*Damnit! Who the hell dared to do this?* He had already shown off his prowess when he obtained the Whiteridge project, yet some bastard had still had the guts to come after his godparents.

Heart beating faster, he rushed into the house.

The inside was even more badly trashed than the outside. Pots, pans, tableware - everything had been thrown to the floor, and some of the furniture had been upturned. He spotted Kyle and Olivia busy cleaning up the room.

There was a gash across Olivia's cheek and fresh blood was still trickling down slowly.

Just the sight of this had Zeke's heart twisting in pain and the gifts fell from his suddenly numb fingers.





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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The sound of the presents falling to the floor startled the old couple and they jerked in surprise.

Their unease seeing that it was Zeke was plainly visible.

Kyle hastily moved forward to welcome him, saying, “Zeke, why didn’t you call ahead to let us know you were coming? We would have made dinner for you. Sit, sit!”

Olivia hurried off to bring a chair for him, using this opportunity to surreptitiously wipe away the blood on her cheek with a towel.

Zeke grabbed her and gently wiped away the remaining blood with a clean towel. “Mom, tell me who did this.”

Kyle answered quickly, “It’s nothing, Zeke. Don’t bother yourself with this. It’s just a spat between neighbors - something very common around these parts. Don’t worry, your dear old Dad gave them way more than they bargained for. They’re definitely a thousand times worse off than us. Hahaha!”

Zeke could see right through his godfather’s atrocious acting.

He sighed, insisting, “Dad, Mom, just tell me the truth. You don’t have to worry about me; I’m not the same man I was before. I have the ability to take on everything for you guys now.”



Kyle looked at his wife, who shook her head. She obviously did not want him to speak the truth.

Patting the younger man's shoulder, Kyle urged, "Oh, Zeke. I know you want to get revenge for us, but...forget about it, okay? They have ties to the mafia. I know you businessmen fear getting involved with them the most. We can't allow this to affect your business; it's not worth it. Don't think about it so much, alright? They won't dare do much to us."

There was no way Zeke was giving up that easily. He continued pressing them for information, but they shut up like a clam.

In the end, he gave up. At least for now.

Setting his gifts on the table, he asked, "Dad, Mom, where is Sofia?"

Kyle piped up, "She's at the development site for the project."

Zeke nodded in thanks. "Okay, I'll head over there then."

He left the house but did not immediately set out for the project site. Instead, he wandered around until he found a group of old men out enjoying the sun.

He gave each of them a cigarette, which they happily accepted with both hands. Wide and polite

smiles stretched their faces.

After chatting amiably about random things for a while, he got straight to the point.

“Sirs, do you know who caused trouble at my house today?”

The men glanced at each other uneasily.

At last, one of them advised, “Zeke, Kyle forbid us from telling you anything, so I suggest you stop asking. Nothing good will come of you knowing so much.”

Not wanting to waste his breath, he decided to try another tactic. Pulling out two bundles of cash from his car, he waved them at the men. “The first person to tell me who it was gets all this.”

A greedy light entered the eyes of the men when they saw how much money that was.

“I know who it is!” a man with curly hair shouted, “It was Hound!”

Almost as if he were talking to himself, Zeke murmured, “Hound? Never heard of him. Who is he?”

Another old man raised his hand. “He’s the local tyrant and is always bullying us poor folk. However, he has someone stronger backing him up, so no one dares to do anything about him. We



can only suffer in silence.”

Zeke fell into a thoughtful silence.

Even though he had already appointed Darren to take over the underworld in Riverdale, most of that territory was in the city itself. Remote places like Whiteridge were not worth the time to bother taking over.

Zeke continued his questions, “Why did they come to my house?”

“I think it had something to do with Sofia. I’m not too clear on why either.”

“Oh no, Sofia!” Zeke leaped to his feet and dashed toward his car.

There was a real possibility that Sofia was in danger right now.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Sofia used to be a simple woman with not much money. Now that she had suddenly gained so much wealth, there was no doubt that people would covet her fortune.

Zeke drove as fast as he dared and was at the project site within moments.

To his surprise, there was not even a single security guard at the gates.

Inside, the construction site was deserted. It was clear that work had stopped long ago. Here and there, he could even see signs of a disturbance.

That damn Hound must have already come and gone.

Sweeping one last glance around, his gaze finally landed on a conference room. He could hear noises coming from inside.

He made his way over and peered through the window. As he expected, Sofia and the rest of the upper management team were inside the room.

Her hair was rather damp and he guessed that she had not had the time to dry it after washing it. It made her look a little haggard and unkempt.

The management team seemed to be in a heated discussion about something.

Zeke mulled over his next course of action and



finally settled on watching how things played out from outside the window.

Sofia smacked the table, calling out, “Silence! Everyone, please be quiet! The project has been progressing smoothly so far; why are all of you suddenly resigning? If you’re dissatisfied with the salary, you can bring it up and we can come to an agreement. The project is about to be completed soon. If you quit now, then wouldn’t that be wasting all the effort you’ve put into the project? How can you live with that?”

Some of the people present ducked their heads in shame while others seemed gleeful at her misfortune.

“Ms. Callum, you of all people should know why we’re resigning. With Hound coming over to cause trouble every few days, there’s no way we can continue the construction. His actions are threatening our safety! We can’t throw away our lives for this bit of money! I think you should probably give Teeth the protection money. His territory covers the entire Southside Precinct, so even Hound is afraid of him. Think about it, all you need to do is pay the protection fee and Teeth will ensure no more trouble comes to us. It’s a worthy investment if you ask me!”

Sofia protested, “But his conditions are too much! Fifty-one percent of this company’s shares are worth at least 500 million, yet he wants to obtain it for only 10 million! That’s just highway robbery!



Besides, this company belongs to Zeke; I can't make this decision for him."

"What a stubborn woman." A buck-toothed man stepped out from the crowd.

It was Teeth.

"Ms. Callum, I don't think you're fully aware of the situation. Right now, the underworld forces in Riverdale have a new boss, so things are still a little hectic. Hound coming here to kick up a fuss is just the beginning. I assure you, more and more people will be here to cause a disturbance in the future. When that happens, you won't just be losing fifty-one percent of your shares - you'll lose everything."

"The only one who can protect you now, is me."

There was a clamoring as everyone tried to persuade her to do as he said.

Finally fed up with them, Sofia yelled, "Enough! Stop talking. Zeke entrusted this project to me and while I may not be able to bring him a profit, I sure as heck can't allow him to lose money. That will only ever happen over my dead body!"

That pissed off Teeth and he growled, "Zeke? You mean that godson your father accepted? Hah! He's but a nouveau riche; I'm the true lord of this place! He is nothing before me! If he were here, I'm sure he would be begging me to accept the shares."



“Shut up!” Sofia hissed, “Zeke is a talented man who is destined for great things. You have no right to even speak his name!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A smile tugged at Zeke's lips when he heard Sofia's words.

One of the luckiest things someone could have would be a sister who was willing to stand up for them. Even though in their case, he was a lot more powerful than her. Still, he appreciated the sentiment.

Teeth laughed arrogantly. "Talented and fated for great things? What a f\*\*\*ing joke! He's just a peasant who had a stroke of luck! I'm giving you one last chance. Are you going to hand over fifty-one percent of the shares or not?"

"Never!"

"Very well. I admire your courage." Teeth sneered and fished out his phone to call Hound. "Hound, it would seem like Ms. Callum is more than capable of taking care of herself. She doesn't need my protection. That's why I'm giving you free rein to do whatever you want. It's none of my business now."

"Understood," Hound replied.

A few moments later, several vans charged onto the construction site and a group of men exited the vehicles. They began to smash and break everything they could see.

Anxious, Sofia made to rush outside and stop them. To her frustration, her staff instantly



surrounded her and blocked her from leaving.

“Ms. Callum, please sign our resignation letters.”

“You’ve seen how terrible things are with your own eyes. There’s a real possibility that we might be beaten to death at any moment by Hound’s men!”

“C’mon, Ms. Callum. Listen to our advice so that we can all keep our jobs!”

“Yeah! Give them the shares now before it’s too late.”

Sofia gritted her teeth furiously. She knew that Teeth had deliberately planned all this.

Digging out her phone, she stated, “I’m going to call the police. I seriously doubt these men are above the law!”

Before she could dial the number, hot tea splashed across her face and hair.

She screamed in pain at the heat of the liquid and raised her hand to wipe it away.

Thankfully, the tea was not hot enough to burn her, but it still caused her skin to redden.

Teeth, the culprit behind the attack, smirked and boasted, “You just had to do things the hard way. You wanna report us to the police? The director of the Public Security Bureau is my uncle! Nobody

can touch me!”

From outside the window, Zeke’s heart clenched in pain.

It was only then he understood Sofia’s hair had been damp earlier not because she had just washed it, but because Teeth had thrown water at her.

Now, he had done it a second time, but with hot tea.

Teeth had to die.

Zeke kicked the door open with a loud bang and stormed inside.

Seeing it was Zeke, Sofia panicked. “Zeke, why are you here? You should head back home first; I’ll be back soon.”

Zeke neared her and carefully wiped away the liquid from her face. “Sofia, why didn’t you call me when you ran into difficulties?”

“I...” She did not know what to say.

Teeth spoke up coldly, “You’re that brother of hers who suddenly got rich? Hah, you don’t look like much. Now, I want to make a business deal with you - “

*Smack!*



Zeke had backhanded Teeth.

The force behind that action sent the latter spinning in a circle before he slammed to the ground heavily. He spit out some blood and a couple of teeth.

Everyone watched Zeke with wide and terrified eyes. The same thought was running through their minds.

*This guy is dead meat for sure! How dare he hit Teeth!*

Sofia's face flushed red and she hurriedly pleaded with him, "Zeke, please don't be so reckless..."

He responded with, "Sofia, you just have to sit back and watch the show. I'll handle everything from here."

Teeth crawled to his feet, his eyes bloodshot as he bellowed, "The f\*\*\* you will! Die, you bastard!"

With that, Teeth barreled toward Zeke with his fist raised.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke Williams grabbed hold of Teeth's fist effortlessly and twisted his arm...

*Crack! Crack! Crack!*

The bones in Teeth's fingers and arms broke one by one.

"Ouch!" Teeth cried out in tremendous pain and fell onto the ground once again.

Sofia was terrified to the core.

*Kiddo is looking for trouble. Although he is a capable businessman, he is no match for the powerful underworld forces. Given Teeth's character, he will surely kill Kiddo.*

With that thought in mind, she pushed Zeke Williams towards the door frantically and shouted, "Run and hide! Lie low for a while."

Teeth bellowed, "Stop them! We must not let them escape!"

Several employees rushed forward to block the door and windows, effectively sealing their escape routes.

Teeth ran out of the door and shouted at Hound, who was still in the midst of tearing up the place, "Hound, stop destroying the place! Hurry up and come in. Help me kill this man!"



Hound's face paled, and he rushed into the meeting room with his men.

*Teeth is in danger? Who can possibly hurt him?*

It was evident that Teeth had instructed Hound to tear up the place, given that the latter was willing to follow his commands.

When Hound and his five men entered the meeting room, they were greeted by the horrific sight of Teeth's miserable state amidst a chaotic scene.

There was a fresh slap mark on Teeth's cheeks.

Not only that, but one of his arms drooped, and Hound could see the jagged white bone peeking out of his dreadful ripped, torn flesh. It was a horrific sight!

*How dare this man treat Teeth this way!*

He swept a sharp gaze across the room and demanded, gritting his teeth, "Who did this?"

Teeth pointed at Zeke Williams, "It was that asshole!"

Hound bellowed, "Boys, kill him!"

"Wait," Zeke said.

Although Sofia was so terrified that she was on the verge of collapse, she still stood in front of

Zeke protectively, “Teeth, Hound, this is all a misunderstanding.”

She continued, “How about this? Teeth, I will give you 51 percent of my shares if you let him off...”

“Dream on! I will kill both of you today, and the entire project will be mine!”

Sofia was about to reply but was cut off by Zeke, who pressed her firmly onto the chair again and said, “Sofia, listen to me. Just sit here and watch.”

He turned around to stare at Hound, “Are you the culprit who tore up Sofia’s house?”

Hound replied smugly, “That is right. I regret not killing the two elderly there and then!”

Sofia’s eyes widened in shock. *This bunch of a\*\*holes actually caused trouble at my house! They deserve to die!*

“Good. I will let you die a swift death since you are so honest.”

“This man is ridiculous and arrogant! Get him!”

Hound and his men dashed towards Zeke Williams immediately.

*Ah!*

Sofia closed her eyes in fright as she could not



bear to see Zeke being beaten up.

*Zeke has been frail since young and can't even win against a woman like me.*

*How can he fight six burly men at the same time!*

Meanwhile, the others in the room gloated over his situation too.

*Zeke is so skinny and frail, while Hound and his men are all professional thugs. Any one of them is enough to crush him, let alone six of them together! This fellow would surely end up dead today.*

Hound and his men surrounded Zeke Williams in no time.

In the next moment, one could only hear the sound of fists pounding on flesh.

Within five seconds, the group who was fighting 'exploded' unexpectedly! Hound and his men were sent flying through the air!

One smashed through the door and windows and was thrown out of the meeting room.

Another was collided against the wall, leaving a wide trail of blood on it.

As for Hound, he was the most pathetic among them. His smashed head was hanging on the ceiling, leaving his body swinging in mid-air.

On the other hand, Zeke Williams, who was standing still on the same spot, was not even panting, much less injured.



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*Oh gosh!*

*Holy s\*\*\*!*

Everyone was stunned at the sight before them.

He had defeated six men within a mere five seconds.

*This fellow is so skinny. How does he have such explosive strength? He is not a human but is a 'human bomb' instead!*

Sofia was astounded, "You... how can you fight so well?"

She could sense that Zeke Williams was no ordinary businessman.

*In the few years when he was missing, he must have gone through a lot.*

Zeke only gave her a mysterious smile, "Sofa, have you forgotten that I used to be a soldier?"

But Sofia shook her head with a doubtful look, "You can't possibly fight so well even if you have been a soldier before."

Teeth could tell that he was up against a tough opponent now.

However, he was not frightened as he had yet to show his true strength.

He grabbed the chair for support and finally got onto his feet after much difficulty, “Hmph. I admit I have underestimated you. But in my eyes, you are still useless. So what if you can defeat six men at the same time? Can you defeat a hundred men?”

“I can.”

*I have no problem defeating even a thousand, much less a hundred. It's only a matter of choice whether I want to do it or not.*

*Ppfftt!*

Teeth could not help but burst out laughing, “You are indeed unbelievably arrogant! I shall finish you off today!”

With that, Teeth dialed his lackey's number on his phone, “Gather all the boys to the headquarters of the Whiteridge project. Remember, I said *all* the boys, and bring along the weapons.”

Sofia shivered, and she pulled Zeke's hand in a bid to run for their lives.

*How can one person defeat a hundred men at one go? Even television dramas dare not be so exaggerated. A spit from everyone would be enough to drown Zeke!*

With a look of helplessness, Zeke Williams held his ground and chided Sofia, “Why don't you listen? Just sit back and enjoy the show, and don't



move. We have not settled our scores yet, so we can't leave now."

"But..."

"Be good and sit down."

Sofia was going berserk. *What does Kiddo want? His ego is just too inflated for his own good!*

Zeke, on the other hand, sat down beside Sofia and swept a penetrating gaze across the senior managers in the room, "Now it is time to settle our scores!"

The senior managers were nervous as they were acutely aware that they were no match for this young chap before them. Thus, they decided not to engage in any argument with him before the rest of Teeth's men arrived.

After that, Zeke flipped through the resignation letters on the table and said, "I will give you another chance. If you regret your decision, you may withdraw your resignation letter and tear it up on the spot. I will allow you to continue working here. Otherwise, you shall bear your own consequences."

Someone scoffed, "Mr. Williams, is this how you should talk to us? Don't forget that we are the ones sustaining this project. The project is doomed to fail if we leave. We can consider staying on if you beg us now."

It was evident that this person purposely insulted Zeke Williams for the sake of getting on Teeth's good side.

Zeke smiled faintly, "That's good to hear. I respect your courage. Who are you?"

"I'm the procurement manager, Dodge Wakefield."

Zeke Williams picked out Dodge's resignation letter from the pile of resignation letters and passed it to Sofia, "Sofa, sign on it."

Sofia had no choice but to sign on the letter resignedly.

Then, Zeke continued, "Who else wants to quit?"



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More people stepped forward and insisted on resigning.

Zeke picked out their resignation letters from the pile one by one. Soon, he realized that among the thirty senior managers, only five did not insist on resigning.

Zeke passed the twenty-five resignation letters to Sofia and said, “Sofia, sign on them.”

Sofia was in a panic by now and whispered to him, “Zeke, let us discuss this matter again. These people have been involved in this project right from its start, so they are the most familiar with this project. If they resign now, we have to hire someone new to replace them, which will definitely affect the project’s progress and completion date. We will suffer great losses, so we should definitely dissuade them from resigning.”

However, Zeke just smiled, “Sofia, just listen to me. I have my own plans.”

Seeing that she was unable to persuade him, Sofia had no choice but to sign on the letters gloomily.

Teeth snickered, “Haha, you may not even live through today. Stop worrying about the project.”

“Shut up,” Zeke snarled and glared at him.

Trembling in fear, Teeth did not dare to comment

further.

*I should not antagonize this fellow for the time being until my men arrive. Otherwise, he may really beat me up.*

Just then, a dark, burly man threw a document over to Zeke Williams, “I am one of the suppliers for the Project. But looking at your situation now, there’s no way this Project’s gonna carry on. Please sign this contract termination letter. I will not continue supplying materials to your company.”

Zeke took one look at him and scoffed, “Just a mere supplier, and you’re talking so arrogantly?”

“...”

The burly man slammed the table in anger, “Hey, that’s totally uncalled for! My company is worth more than you think!”

Zeke then exerted a little force and crushed the teacup in his hand effortlessly. “Sit down, or I will beat you up.”

The dark, burly man sweated profusely in terror and sat down obediently, not daring to disobey his orders.

*If he can crush the teacup effortlessly, I bet he can bust my head easily too.*



Zeke Williams passed the document to Sofia, “Sign on it too.”

By now, Sofia was in a fluster, and she whispered, “His company is the only supplier of unique titanium alloy material in the entire Riverdale District. If we terminate the contract with them, we have to source the materials from outside the city. Not only will the logistic costs go up, but the project completion date will also be affected...”

“Sofia, listen to me.”

Sofia scratched her head in bafflement, but she still signed the contract termination letter.

After that, Zeke looked at the five senior managers who did not resign and said, “Congratulations. You have made the best decision in your life.”

“Mr. Williams, we are forced by Teeth to submit our resignation letters, but we really have no intention of resigning.”

Zeke then nodded, “Yeah, I understand. There is no need for further explanation. Teeth will apologize to you later.”

Teeth scoffed, “Keep on dreaming. Listen up, you guys. My men have arrived.”

A deafening silence loomed over the meeting room, and everyone pricked up their ears to listen. Indeed, they could hear a faint bellowing from

afar.

Gradually, the bellowing came closer and was resoundingly loud by the time Teeth's men reached the office door.

Right then, numerous vans were driving into the factory compound.

When the vans stopped, over a hundred thugs alighted from them. Holding weapons such as metal rods or baseball bats in their hands, they surged towards them.

Their murderous looks were enough to strike fear in anyone.

In no time, they surrounded the meeting room.

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Teeth, we have come to save you."



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In the meeting room, the senior managers were shocked by the sight of those thugs, and they retreated behind Teeth quickly to avoid being caught in the ensuing fight.

A dark-skinned burly man then helped Teeth up to his feet.

Teeth flashed a menacing smile, “Zeke Williams, do you have any last words? Hurry up and say them. Oh yes, I’m referring to the five of you too.”

He pointed at the five senior managers who did not resign.

The five senior managers, in turn, turned to look at Zeke fearfully. *Can our boss protect us?*

Zeke merely sneered, “Is that all? Seriously though, are you looking down on me? You lot are not even worth my time.”

The dark burly man retorted, “You are as stubborn as a mule. Teeth, let us finish them. I’m disgusted just by looking at them.”

Teeth smiled sinisterly as he replied, “It is no fun killing them immediately. I want them to suffer a fate worse than death. Let us torture them slowly.”

He looked at the thugs standing outside and asked, “Boys, tell me, how long have you not touched a woman?”

The thugs were dumbfounded.

*Why is Teeth asking us about this suddenly?*

Someone answered, “I have not even touched a female pig for the last three years, let alone a woman.”

“Teeth, I’m still a virgin. I have not touched any female species in the past forty years...”

“Teeth, I like men.”

Teeth looked at Zeke, “If I leave Sofia in the hands of these men, do you think she will be so used that she can never stand up again?”

At Teeth’s words, the lackeys went into a frenzied mode, and their eyes lit up with raging hormones.

Now Sofia was a woman who had both looks and the figure. She was probably the prettiest woman they had seen in their entire lives. Most importantly, she was dressed in that sexy office lady’s attire. Even if they would probably end up in a death sentence, it was still worth it for them.

The thugs started to shout deliriously.

“Boys, let me go first. I will give you all my assets.”

“I like to enter from the back. Don’t fight with me over the spot later.”



“I have reserved her underwear. Boys, be gentle later, and don’t tear it.”

Sofia was so terrified that her entire body was trembling. She hugged Zeke’s arm instinctively and looked at the back window, preparing to escape from it later.

At that moment, Zeke was infuriated.

*Teeth is indeed shameless!*

Right when Teeth was not paying any attention, Zeke took the chance to slap his cheek. While the slap might look casual to others, it actually packed a punch.

Teeth was instantly sent flying towards the door and crash-landed into a group of thugs.

The whole scene became an instant chaos.

*How dare this fellow hit someone instead of begging for his life at this moment? He is so reckless!*

Although Teeth was in a state of giddiness after getting beaten up, he managed to holler, albeit coughing out blood, “Why are you still standing there! Kill him!”

The thugs were in a rage and rushed into the meeting room.

Suddenly, at the most critical moment, they heard a gunshot.

*Gunshot!*

*It is actually a gunshot!*

The thugs stopped dead in their tracks at the sound of the deafening gunshot.

Just then, a brand-new Rolls Royce drove into the project department gradually.

It was escorted by six Audi A8 on both sides, and boy, was it a grand sight indeed!

Gradually, the cars came to a stop.

The door of a Benz opened. Several men decked in formal black suits alighted from the car and stood beside the Rolls Royce.

After that, two elderly men alighted from the Rolls Royce. They were dressed elegantly and possessed compelling auras. Every move of theirs exuded a sense of superiority.



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Everyone was stunned by their compelling auras and held their breath. All of them were wondering about the identities of these two men.

They were none other than Eclipse and Hades.

They were actually here to invite Zeke Williams to join in their 'Escape Plan'.

Eclipse and Hades exchanged a glance, and they smiled, "It seems like we have come at the right time."

While the gunshot had barely jolted Teeth back to his senses, he was pulled back to reality completely by the sight of Eclipse and Hades.

That sight made him tremble to the core.

*S\*\*\*! Aren't they Eclipse and Hades, the kings of Rivermouth's underworld forces! Under normal circumstances, I am not even fit to catch a glimpse of them. What are they doing here in this rural place? Are they doing an incognito visit?*

He racked his brains to think of ways to welcome them.

*If I manage to please them, I will definitely be on a meteoric rise to riches in the future!*

But the thugs did not recognize Hades and Eclipse... in fact, they were in an entirely different world from Hades.

Among them, one of the thugs whispered, “Who are they? Their arrival is out of this world.”

Zeke Williams taunted on purpose, “They are my saviors whom I have invited. Why? Are you scared now? A bunch of useless fools. There is still time for you to kneel before me.”

That thug rose to the bait, “We have over a hundred men. Why will we be afraid of these twenty men? Let me tell you. It is useless even if Hades himself is here today. I must kill you!”

Zeke Williams retorted disdainfully, “Quit yapping and start proving that you’re the real deal. Go on!”

“Sure! Boys, kill these men, and we will get to play with that chick! These men are here to save Zeke Williams.”

At the words ‘play with that chick’, the lackeys’ hormones were at an all-time high, and they dashed towards Eclipse and Hades.

Hades and Eclipse exchanged glances with conflicted feelings.

From the sound of Zeke’s claims, they knew that he had used them as cannon fodder.

*He has tricked us once again!*

Hades smiled bitterly, “This rascal...”



“...is an idiot.” Eclipse continued.

The men in black formal suits stood before them protectively, “Boss, please get into the car. We will settle these men.”

Eclipse and Hades nodded reluctantly and went back into the car.

A fight soon ensued between the men in black suits and the thugs.

At this moment, Teeth felt like dying!

*These fools are really stupid. How can they start the fight upon Zeke’s taunting? Who are we to offend Hades and Eclipse? Now, we will be dead for sure. Damn you, Zeke Williams!*

He bellowed hysterically, “Stop! Godd\*\*n you, stop fighting!”

But the scene was simply too chaotic, and his voice was drowned out by the noise of the battle before him...

However, Zeke was slightly disappointed. He had hoped to use this opportunity to force Eclipse to fight so that he could assess his skills.

*After all, Eclipse is coined as the ‘number one assassin in Rivermouth’. Can his ability match up to mine? But never have I imagined that he will choose to be a coward and hide in the car instead.*

Just then, Sofia said in a low voice beside him, “Who are these people? Are they really here to save you?”

Zeke shook his head, “I don’t know them.”

Sofia was flabbergasted at his statement.

“If you don’t know them, how can you claim that they are your saviors?”

“If I don’t say that, how will Teeth’s lackeys fight with them?”

“...”

*Indeed, all men are trash!*



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On the other hand, Teeth wanted to run up and stop the thugs from fighting, but it was too late.

Within five minutes, the thugs were all knocked to the ground, moaning in pain.

Any of Hades' henchmen could defeat ten men at once. They were on an entirely different level from the thugs.

Hades and Eclipse then alighted from the car.

Teeth rushed up to them and knelt before them.

"I have not disciplined my men well and have offended both of you. I deserve to die. It is all Zeke's fault. He has taunted my men into starting a fight, so he must be responsible. Rest assured, I will finish him off today and take revenge for you!"

Without sparing Teeth a glance, Eclipse and Hades headed towards Zeke Williams.

*Of course, we won't be bothered to talk to such a small-time thug. It is beneath our dignity. Our subordinates will teach him a lesson on our behalf.*

As they walked towards Zeke Williams, everyone assumed that they were about to teach him a lesson.

But what happened next left everyone stunned.

Hades smiled at Zeke Williams, "I have long heard



that young man is a smart boy with both brains and brawns. The rumors are indeed accurate.”

Although Zeke despised Hades and Eclipse, whom he perceived as wily foxes who would only hide behind the scenes, he still replied politely, “Thank you for your compliments. Actually, I have long admired both of you and wanted to pay you a visit. But I have never imagined that both of you will drop by personally. Please take a seat.’

Hades glanced at the thugs outside and the crowd in the office before saying, “It seems like the young man is handling some family matters. Please continue, and we can talk later.”

Zeke nodded and strode towards Teeth, who was about to go berserk with fear.

*F\*\*\*! Zeke Williams is actually on such friendly terms with Hades and Eclipse. How prestigious is this a\*\*hole among underworld forces? And if he is so powerful, why in the world does he want to drive a run-down car and dress so shabbily with no lavish ostentation. That is not right at all.*

Zeke swept his gaze across the room and hollered, “Whoever that insults Sofia just now shall slap your own mouth a hundred times! If the slap is not resounding enough, then you can kill yourself immediately!”

What else could those thugs do but to suck it up?



*It is the fault of that damned Teeth for offending such a powerful person. Why should we clean up the mess for him?*

One by one, they got up with much difficulty and knelt on the floor before slapping their mouths.

The sound of a hundred men slapping their mouths at the same time was indeed resounding and might have even broken the Guinness world record.

Zeke stared at Teeth again.

Teeth was on the verge of collapse, and he pleaded with his knees on the ground, “Mr. Williams, I’m sorry. I’m too ignorant and have offended you. I deserve to die. Please spare me this time, just this time.”

Zeke then sighed, “Initially, I only wanted to break your arms. But you really shouldn’t insult Sofia. So now, I shall punish you by removing your bucktooth and break your arms.”

*Huh?*

Teeth’s face turned ashen.

*Remove my tooth, break my arms...*

*Isn’t this punishment too harsh?*

“Why? Are you reluctant? If you are reluctant, then

go and die!”

Teeth replied hurriedly, “I’m willing. I’m willing. I...I will go to the car now to take the tools.”

With that, Teeth ran to his car.

*Beep Beep Beep!*

Another car horned and pulled to a stop in front of the factory compound slowly.

It was a red BMW Trot - the trademark of a rich woman!



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It was Dawn Castaneda, Lacey Hinton's god sister. She was here on Zeke's orders to incorporate the Whiteridge project into Linton Group.

Dawn Castaneda was the general manager and special consultant of Linton Group, as well as Lacey Hinton's assistant now. Her monthly salary was easily seventy thousand, thus a BMW Trot was well within her means.

As she alighted from the car, her refreshingly adorable face caught the attention of everyone. Greeted by the sight of a hundred men slapping their own mouths, she appeared nonchalant as if she were accustomed to such a scene.

She walked to Zeke and hugged his arm, smiling, "Zeke, are these men causing trouble for you again?"

"Why do you say 'again'?"

She rolled her eyes, "Don't you keep tabs on such stuff? Oh yes, who is the leader of these men?"

Zeke pointed at Teeth, and Dawn Castaneda berated Teeth, "Humph, get this. Zeke can knock down a thousand men easily. Yet, you have brought a mere hundred men here. Are you looking down on him?"

Teeth's hand was trembling as he removed his tooth. As the tooth dropped out, he shrieked in pain, and tears rolled down his cheeks.



*How can they claim that I have not brought enough men here! Also, isn't it inappropriate for him to knock a thousand men down on this kind of occasion?*

Hades and Eclipse exchanged glances before breaking out into a guffaw.

*Indeed, birds of the same feather flock together! The people Zeke Williams hangs out with are even more arrogant than him!*

“Dawnie, let me introduce. This is Sofia, the person-in-charge of the Whiteridge project.”

“Sofia, this is Dawnie...”

Dawnie interrupted Zeke hurriedly and continued the introduction herself, “Sofia, I am Linton Group’s general manager. I’m here to discuss our collaboration. Please do give me guidance.”

“Zeke, why didn’t you tell me earlier that you have such a beautiful sister? If I knew long ago, I would have reincarnated as a man to woo Sofia.”

Sofia was amused by Dawnie, and she replied in a delightful tone, “Dawnie, Kiddo is your brother-in-law?”

“Kiddo?” Dawnie was astounded.

Sofia nodded, “Yes, our family always calls him kiddo.”



A sudden realization struck Dawnie, “No wonder you are so good at fighting, and nothing can hurt you. Because you are Kiddo!”

“Out came the sun, and dried up all the rain, and the itsy bitsy kiddo went up the spout again...

”

Zeke’s face darkened, “What nonsense are you talking about? Be serious.”

Sofia laughed so hard that tears streamed down her cheeks.

*This girl brings so much joy. Where did Zeke Williams find such an adorable darling?*

Dawn Castaneda smiled cheekily as she answered Sofia’s question, “You are right. He is my brother-in-law. And I am his sister-in-law. Surely you get our relationship...”

At that instant, Zeke’s face grew darker.

*Why does the words ‘sister-in-law’ sound so wrong when they come from her?*

“So in this case, I’m your sister,” said Sofia.

She fished out a bank card from her pocket and passed to Dawnie, “I have not prepared any gift for you for our first meeting. Please take this money.”

Dawn was overjoyed and took the card immediately, “Thank you, Sofia. Oh yes, Sofia. Where are my godfather and godmother? I miss them.”

Before this, Dawn had heard from Zeke before that Sofia’s parents were his godparents.

In order to be affable, Dawn simply referred to them as her godparents.

Zeke glanced at her, “Haha, I think you only miss their welcome gift.”

“You assume the worst of me. Humph.” Dawn was upset.

Then, Zeke grew impatient with her, “Hurry up and go into the meeting room. We still have scores that are yet to settle.”

The senior managers in the meeting room trembled upon hearing his words.

*Settle scores? He must be planning to settle scores with us. Our backer, Teeth, has crumpled to the ground already. With Teeth gone, how can we fight with Zeke Williams? We are dead meat now.*





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Suddenly, Teeth shouted, “Mr. Williams, please wait. I have an important matter to report to you.”

Zeke Williams stopped in his tracks, “Oh? Say it.”

“Are you the boss of Linton Group?”

Zeke Williams nodded, “That’s right.”

“Oh! We have failed to recognize each other! Actually, my daughter is also working in the Linton Group. In this way, I guess we can be considered as a family?”

“So, the ‘important matter’ you are referring to is this connection you have? What are you trying to do? Pull strings with me? If so, forget it.”

“No, no, Mr. Williams. You have mistaken me. Please listen to me. Actually, my daughter is Summer Mills, who is managing Linton Group’s F&B department. Some time back, one of Summer’s suitors approached me and asked me to help him deal with the boss of Linton Group... At that time, I didn’t know you are the boss of Linton Group, so I have agreed.”

Teeth’s revelation stirred Zeke’s interest.

*Indeed, one cannot be too famous. Otherwise, trouble will come knocking on one’s door.*

“Say it. Who wants to deal with me?”



“Mr. Williams, you know that person too. It’s Humpty. He told me that he had a run-in with you before.”

Indeed, Zeke had a vague impression of Humpty.

He was one of Summer Mills’ suitors.

Sometime back, Zeke ran into Summer Mills near the hospital when he was buying breakfast at Food Street for Lacey.

In order to shake off Humpty, Summer Mills had asked Zeke Williams to pose as her boyfriend.

Naturally, Humpty got jealous and tried to win Summer’s heart by gifting her mother with Food Street and the hospital restaurant, The Window.

But Zeke got one-up on him by gifting her with The Nightingale.

Thus, Zeke had assumed that Humpty knew his limits and had backed out, seeing that he could not compete with himself in terms of ability. He had never imagined that Humpty would scheme against him behind his back.

“How is he intending to deal with me?”

“You know about Summer’s mother, Ruby, being sacked from the school because she accepted bribes from students?”

Zeke nodded.

Teeth stammered, “Actually... actually, Humpty had colluded with my man to frame Ruby.”

Zeke was at a loss for words.

*Humpty really pulled out all the stops to woo Summer and even framed his own future mother-in-law. Needless to say, he must have planned to frame Ruby first, then he will investigate the ‘truth’ and clear her name. In this way, Ruby will be eternally grateful to him.*

Zeke asked, “You are Summer’s father, so does that mean Ruby is your wife?”

Teeth explained hurriedly, “Yes... yes. She is my ex-wife. We have divorced.”

Dawn berated him, “How can you collude with outsiders to frame your ex-wife... That is so shameless!”

“I’m innocent. Humpty colluded with my man to frame Ruby, and I was kept in the dark at that time...”

“Oh yes, Mr. Williams. Humpty wants me to accuse you of framing Ruby so that Summer will stay away from you and be with him. Don’t worry. I will reveal Humpty’s true colors before Summer. In this way, she will be with you instead of him...”



Dawn then stared at Zeke gloomily, “I can’t tell that you are so flirtatious and actually date two women at the same time.”



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Zeke explained hurriedly, “What are you thinking about? I am only Summer’s employer. At that time, I was only posing as her boyfriend for her to shake Humpty off.”

Dawn scoffed, “Humph. The more you explain, the more you have to hide. Also, you are so mean to me and rather sleep with an outsider instead of me. Am I so unattractive?”

Zeke was at a loss for words.

*This girl has such an innocent appearance. Why is her mind so corrupted? She is hopeless indeed!*

Sofia rubbed her forehead in bafflement, not knowing whether she should laugh or cry at the situation before her.

*To think that I am worried about Zeke’s marriage. My worries are unfounded.*

Zeke then said to Teeth, “You are still useful to me. I shall let you off this time. Remember not to tell Humpty that you have betrayed him. Continue to cooperate with him. I want to beat him at his own game.”

Teeth was relieved and nodded fervently before he scrambled out of the place.

*At least, I manage to save myself today.*

After that, Zeke led Sofia and Dawn into the



meeting room.

He pointed at the senior managers who had resigned and said, “Dawnie, help me investigate them. If they have neglected their duties and abused their positions to reap benefits for themselves, report them to the police immediately. If you can’t find any problem with them, then make something up to get them locked up.”

Hades, who was standing aside, chuckled to himself.

*He will go to the extent of making something up to land them in trouble. Indeed, he is quite devious.*

Hades caught a glimpse of his young self in Zeke Williams.

The senior managers were frightened to the core, as all of them had done dirty deeds before, which they could not risk being exposed.

*If we get locked up, then we are done!*

Hence, they pleaded, “Mr. Williams, we are sorry. It is all our fault.”

“Mr. Williams, we have decided not to resign. Please give us another chance.”

“Mr. Williams, we were forced by Teeth to submit our resignations just now. Actually, we are the victims too. Please spare us this time.”

Zeke asked coldly, “Do you want to continue working on this project?”

All of them nodded hurriedly.

“But we have signed on your resignation letters, and our employer-employee relationship is terminated. You have no obligation to carry on working on this project.”

One of the senior managers caught his meaning and replied immediately, “Mr. Williams, we will work on this project for free. We won’t take any salary. Since you aren’t hiring us, there is no need for another employment contract.”

Zeke feigned a troubled look and looked at Sofia, “What do you think?”

Of course, Sofia was delighted.

*Only a fool will reject such a good offer.*

“Okay. But rest assured, if your performance is outstanding, I will compensate you for your services.”

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Zeke stared at the dark, burly man who was their supplier and said, “Dawnie, investigate this man. He used to be our supplier, but I suspect he has shortchanged us and pocketed the difference himself. If it is found to be true, we must punish



him severely.”

Dawn nodded instantly, “Got it.”

The legs of the dark, burly man turned into jelly, and his heart was beating furiously.

*Indeed, I always deliver ten percent lesser than the contracted quantity and pocket the shortfall, which would have accumulated up to 10 million by now. If they find out, I will be imprisoned for at least ten years! Ten years! How many decades does one have in one’s entire life? Furthermore, a lot of people are coveting my assets. Once I am in jail, those people will surely lay claim over my assets and split them among themselves!*



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He begged frantically, “Mr. Williams, I will supply materials for your project at no charge until the project is completed.”

Zeke shook his head, “I’m sorry, but you don’t have another chance.”

Shock crossed the features of the dark, burly man, “Why? You give them another chance, but why not me?”

“Because they did not scold me just now. But you did. Because of this, I can kill you readily.”

The man swallowed hard.

He knew that Zeke Williams meant what he said.

*Even Teeth can kill me effortlessly, not to mention Zeke Williams, who has crushed Teeth!*

Clenching his jaw, he made up his mind and offered, “Mr. Williams, I am willing to transfer fifty percent of my company shares to Linton Group.”

*What are a small company’s shares compared to my life? Furthermore, if the factory falls under Linton Group, it is bound to expand under Linton Group’s management. My company shares will surely rise in value.*

Zeke pondered over his offer and said, “51 percent.”



Though Zeke's counter-offer was only one percent more than that man's offer, it would determine whether Zeke could own the decision-making powers of the factory. It was a privilege that no money could buy.

The dark, burly man said through gritted teeth, "Deal."

Zeke glanced at Dawn, "Incorporate his factory into the company later."

"I refuse."

She rejected flatly,

"I'm not interested in a small factory."

"..."

*This girl is getting greedier.*

The dark, burly man explained hurriedly, "Mine is no ordinary factory. It manufactures unique titanium alloy material and has a market value of two billion..."

Upon hearing that, Dawn was tempted.

She initially thought that the factory was only worth a few million but did not expect it to be worth over a billion.

But she maintained the troubled look on her face,

“Forget it. Since you are so sincere, I shall accept your offer reluctantly. At most, I shall spend a little more effort into it.”

Hades was speechless.

*He has gifted her a billion, yet she claims to have accepted it reluctantly. Even I won't dare to behave like this in my younger days.*

Zeke glanced at the five senior managers who did not resign and ordered, “The five of you will be the assistant project managers and fully support Sofia on this project. Also, your salary will be adjusted according to the highest salary standards in this industry. After this project is completed... Dawnie, does Linton Group have any vacancies?”

Dawn replied after some consideration, “Summer Mills is in charge of the F&B department. Susan Raynor and Mr. Hinton are in charge of the medical department. As for the construction department, I have hired a general manager. But he is rather lazy and does not seem like he intends to work long-term in our company. Since the five of them happen to be from the construction industry, I can let them take charge of the construction department.”

Zeke Williams nodded, “Fine. After the project is completed, you will report for work in Linton Group.”

The five of them were so excited upon hearing his



words that they almost cried.

To be honest, it had already exceeded their expectations to be appointed as assistant project managers. And now, Zeke wanted them to work in Linton Group and even managed the entire construction department.

*We are so blessed!*

They replied hurriedly, “Thank you, Mr. Williams. We will do our best...”

Zeke then walked over to Hades and Eclipse and said to them, “Let’s discuss in my office.”

Eclipse nodded.

Hades smiled at Zeke admiringly, “Young man, you are indeed resolute. You have rewarded those who have helped you handsomely and punished those who have harmed you severely.”

A faint smile spread across Zeke’s face, “I will take your words as a compliment.”



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Zeke led both of them into the general manager's office.

He sat down without offering a seat to them. *Well, they have no right to expect me to give up my seats for them.*

Although Hades and Eclipse were resentful of his treatment towards them, they remained silent.

*A man of great ambition does not bother about trifles.*

After Zeke sized up Hades for a while, he took out a pen and paper from a drawer and began scribbling on it suddenly. He asked, "Why are both of you looking for me?"

Although they were curious to know what he was writing, they were too polite to ask him.

Hades replied, "We want to cooperate with you. To be precise, we are going to provide you with great benefits."

"I'm eager to hear more."

Hades sucked in a deep breath and asked, "I understand that Logan Hugh, the staff officer from Military District, is your enemy?"

Zeke did not raise his head but continued scribbling as he replied, "He is not fit to be my enemy."



Hades guffawed, “Haha, that is a good reply to claim that he is not fit.”

“To be honest, I have some financial disputes with Logan too. The reason for my visit is to cooperate with you to deal with him together.”

Zeke paused, but he continued scribbling after scrutinizing Hades again, “How do we deal with him?”

Eclipse, on the other hand, was getting infuriated with him.

*This guy is arrogant and rude! No one has ever dared to do other things while talking to Hades! He is simply too arrogant!*

But he suppressed his anger after a meaningful glance from Hades.

Zeke’s arrogance was just a direct reflection of his abilities.

Thus, Eclipse bit his tongue in time before he lashed out at Zeke Williams.

Hades continued, “Let me ask you. Do you think Rivermouth belongs to Eclipse and me? If you do, then you are wrong. Actually, I have a boss who is controlling both Logan Hugh and me. We are merely pawns in the eyes of our boss. Furthermore, Logan is more powerful than me and has a greater say than me in Rivermouth.”



At that, Zeke raised his head, “Who is your boss?”

Actually, it was easy for Zeke Williams to kill Logan Hugh. The only reason he did not kill him was to find out the identity of the mysterious boss behind Logan and Hades so that he could exterminate the black sheep of the military.

*So, am I finally going to find out the identity of the mysterious boss behind these two men?*

*It is a thrilling thought indeed.*

Hades sighed, “I don’t know... I am not fit to liaise directly with the boss. Normally, we communicate via Logan.”

Zeke’s face fell with disappointment, and he only managed to utter a single ‘Oh’.

Then, Hades continued, “Actually, Logan Hugh wants to snatch the control of the underworld forces in Rivermouth. But as I have something on him, he dared not push his luck. Because of this, Rivermouth’s underworld forces have been rather peaceful for the last few decades. But something unexpected has happened - I was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Once I’m gone, Logan will definitely attempt to control the Rivermouth’s underworld forces. At that time, all my close friends and family will be in life danger. So I can’t die, or at least, Logan must not know that I’m dead so that he will be mindful of the hold I have over him.”



Hades was getting more agitated as he continued, “I have made up my mind. Before I die of my illness, I must find a place to hide and to die in. Of course, I will announce to everyone that I have gotten sick of fighting, thus have chosen to retire. So long as Logan does not know about my death, he will not dare to snatch over Rivermouth’s underworld forces.”



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“But after my death, Eclipse may not be able to control the underworld forces alone by himself, thus, I hope that you can stand in my place as the new Hades after I die. Besides, this is our Escape Plan. Young man, are you interested in it?”

Zeke said, “You should undergo treatment if you are sick. Why go to such lengths?”

Hades smiled bitterly, “I will treat it if it is curable. To be frank, I have consulted the top-notch specialists in this world, but it is useless.”

“The top-notch specialists in this world? I don’t remember that you have approached me before.”

Hades and Eclipse grew solemn as they asked, “Young man, what do you mean? Do you mean you can treat me?”

Zeke nodded, “What do you think I was scribbling just now?”

Both Eclipse and Hades started to become agitated at once.

*Is he writing a prescription?*

They walked towards Zeke and looked at the paper he had written on.

Indeed, there was a prescription on the paper, which contained detailed ingredients and the required portions. In fact, they had not heard of



most of the ingredients before.

It meant that he could tell Hades was terminally ill at a glance. In fact, he thought of the medical prescription immediately and even wrote it down.

This fact alone was enough to prove that Zeke possessed superb medical expertise.

*This medical prescription can really save my life!*

Both men's faces lit up with incredulity, and they felt like they were in a dream.

After that, Hades picked up the medical prescription cautiously and said, "Young man, are you sure that... this prescription can save my life?"

"If everything progresses smoothly, you can live for at least another twenty years."

*Twenty years!*

Hades would be satisfied with only five years, not to mention twenty years!

After all, the specialists he consulted had predicted that he would not be able to live beyond the next three months.

But Eclipse remained doubtful, "Why do you want to save Hades? There is no benefit for you if he lives on. In fact, he may even follow Logan's instructions to deal with you. But if he dies, you

can replace him to become the next Hades and control the entire Rivermouth's underworld forces."

However, Zeke shook his head, "Just to be clear with you guys, I don't care for Rivermouth."

Hades and Eclipse were astonished.

Based on their intuition, they believed Zeke was speaking the truth.

*He is not even interested in the vast Rivermouth. How ambitious is he? At least, he is way more ambitious than us.*

Zeke continued, "I have a plan which can get rid of both Logan and your boss. In this case, you won't be controlled by anyone and can lead a worry-free life as the rulers of Rivermouth."

At that moment, Hades and Eclipse were shocked.

*This man's target is actually our boss. Ah... as expected, Zeke Williams is on another level.*

Suddenly, they felt a sense of relief. They were relieved that they did not confront Zeke head-on. Otherwise, they might have died already.

"I'm happy to hear your plan."

"Tell Logan Hugh about your terminal illness and that you will die soon. After that, you shall feign death and go into hiding while treating your illness



with my prescription. The purpose is to let Logan Hugh believe that you are really dead. Then you shall ‘revive’ when I need you.”

Hades and Eclipse pondered over his plan.

Though they were not sure what Zeke’s plan entailed exactly, the ‘revival’ of Hades after his ‘death’ was bound to throw Logan Hugh off guard.

Hades nodded, “Mr. Williams, I understand. Farewell.”

Zeke nodded, “Remember, nothing happened today. We are still sworn enemies. Continue to deal with me in accordance with Logan’s instructions.”

“I understand.” Hades replied curtly, and he left with Eclipse right after that.

“Let’s hope that my plan will lure the mysterious boss behind Logan Hugh out,” Zeke muttered under his breath after they left.



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