

The Ultimate Husband

Skykissing Wolf

Chapter 1

“Darryl, dump away our foot wash.”

Three women sat on the sofa, having just had their feet soaked and washed. From afar, these three beauties exuded an air of seduction and class, each with their unique charm. Among these three women, was Darryl’s wife and her two best friends. 3

Upon his wife’s behest, Darryl dumped the bowls of dirty water away subserviently. He dared not utter a single complaint; after all, he was the family’s live-in son-in-law. Even after three years of marriage, he had no place in the family. His wife and mother-in-law would berate him for the slightest mistakes. Even a mutt would have a higher standing in the family than he did. 7

Darryl and Lily Lyndon were husband and wife for three years, but only in name, for they have not consummated their marriage. He has not even felt the touch of her hand! Every night Darryl slept on the floor because of how heartily Lily despised him. 2

Washing, cooking, cleaning the rooms, every single household chore was Darryl's duty. Once, he accidentally broke a bowl while cooking and was berated by Lily for half an hour.

There was also a night when Darryl had to use the bathroom and unintentionally woke Lily up, and she slapped him hard on the face without any hesitation. 5

That was the first time in his life that Darryl got hit. Since young, his parents could not even bear to lay a single finger on him! He was angry, yet he had to keep his fury to himself. All he could do was apologize profusely to Lily. In the end, he was punished to kneel the entire night.

It has been three years now, and Darryl had gotten used to this lifestyle. Who else did he have but himself to blame for becoming a live-in son-in-law? Worse still, having lived day in day out with Lily for three years, Darryl found himself unwittingly in love with her, even though he knew full well that she despised him and treated him like trash! 1

Darryl was initially the second eldest son of the Darby clan, known as the largest clan in the Jiangnan region. Three years ago, he had used eight million bucks in cash to purchase an eight percent

share in a company called Southeast Petroleum. ①

During that time, hundreds of members of the Darby clan had scolded Darryl. Some called him mad; some even accused him of harboring bad intentions, wanting to siphon the family fortune for himself. Ultimately the clan agreed in unison to disown Darryl, including his parents, and erased them from the clan records!

During these three years, Darryl felt the volatility of relationships. Old and dear friends were constantly looking for ways to avoid him. He had no choice but to resort to becoming a live-in son-in-law for the sake of his livelihood. He has never mentioned this matter to a single soul, not even to Lily. ③

“My dear Lily, you’ve certainly trained your husband well,” said Jade, one of Lily’s best friends. ①

Lily let out a cold chuckle. “Are you talking about Darryl? The mere sight of him disgusts me. Other women marry into affluent families. Meanwhile, it’s just my luck to be stuck with a piece of trash like him. Look at how uncouth he is. Just one look is enough to tell you that he’s a peasant from the countryside. Bringing him to the Lyndon clan’s annual gathering tomorrow would be an embarrassment.” ②

Jade could not help but sneak a glance at Darryl.

Indeed, all he had on were bargained goods, looking absolutely shabby. Jade laughed. “Alright, Lily, enough about him. On a more serious note, I heard that there have been some issues with your company lately?” 3

Lily nodded solemnly. “Last month, we lost millions trying to start up a fashion business. Now the company is short on funds and is in dire need of five million dollars. We’ve got to find an investor within a week to finance our company.” 2

“My dear Lily, who’s willing to fork out five million in a week to finance you?” sighed Jade.

Lily did not reply, instead, she noticed that Darryl, who had completed his task, was eavesdropping on their conversation. She shot him a sharp stare and said coldly, “Darryl, who said you could be here? Get lost and have my clothes washed.”

“Wash my jeans too. They’re in my luggage,” chimed in Jade as well.

Darryl dared not complain and proceeded to place their clothes into the washing machine along with his. Tomorrow was his high school reunion, and he had to put a little effort into looking presentable at the very least. As he was thinking about the reunion, his thought was interrupted by the buzzing of his cellphone. He checked his cellphone

and saw that he had received a text message from a number ending with six eights. His eyebrows furrowed upon seeing the number, ‘Isn’t this the Darby clan’s number?’ he thought.

Darryl opened the message in curiosity and was shocked by reading it.

‘Oh, our second young master, please help our clan. The Darby clan is in dire need of funds, and we really need your financial support!’

‘Preposterous!’ Darryl furrowed his eyebrows and thought to himself. ‘Just three years ago, I was banished by the clan, and now with nothing to my name and 20 bucks in my pocket, they want my financial support? What use am I to them?’ 2

Darryl’s thoughts were once again interrupted by the buzzing of his cellphone. It was another message.

‘Young master, please, I’m begging you to help your clan. The shares you bought three years ago have turned a huge profit. Please... we’re doomed without your support...’

‘What!?’

Darryl was taken aback by that message. He quickly took out his Amethyst Bank black card at a speed he never knew he had. The card had been in a state of

disuse for three long years. It was a status symbol for the rich, for every card has its own dedicated customer service representative. He hastily dialed up the bank's customer service.

"Greetings, Mr. Darby. How may we assist you today?" answered a sweet feminine voice.

"Quick! Give me my account balance."

"My pleasure, sir, please wait a moment," replied the lady. Within seconds, the lady spoke again. "Mr. Darby, your total account balance has a large sum above our checking limit. If you could kindly come to our bank's VIP section with the appropriate identity verification, we would be glad to assist you."

Before the lady could finish her sentence, Darryl had already hung up the call.

'Total account balance has a large sum!?' laughed Darryl while entertaining his thoughts. Who would have thought that this investment three years ago, which caused his banishment, would lead to such a pleasant surprise three years later! The added mystery of not knowing the exact amount of this large sum of money fueled his excitement. ④

"Lily, look at Darryl checking his account balance on the phone," laughed Jade uncontrollably. ①

Lily laughed as well. "I give him an allowance of 20

0 bucks a day. I suppose he's saved up quite a sum over the past 3 years."

"Oh Lily, just treat it as if you're rearing a dog," said Jade, prompting the three women to laugh in unison.

Darryl ran to his wife in excitement and said, "Your company lacks five million bucks, right? How about... how about I find a way to solve this issue?"

Jade burst out laughing with no end in sight. She merely glanced at Darryl and said, "Darryl, can you even comprehend the value of five million? Dear Lily gives you 200 bucks every day. If you can somehow fork out five million, perhaps I should start calling you daddy." ②

"Oh really?" said Darryl with a sly grin. "In that case, you better keep what you said in mind."

Lily could not stand him any longer. Darryl must have lost his mind, standing among them looking like a peasant bothered Lily. She impatiently waved her hand. "Get lost, stop being an eyesore around us."

"Oh," he reacted and left without saying another word.

Darryl was unable to sleep that night due to the excitement. He dared not believe that such good

news would appear out of nowhere. He was determined to head to the bank in-person to check the balance for himself. ①

Darryl tossed and turned until dawn before barely falling asleep. However, halfway through his sweet slumber came the voice of his mother-in-law reverberating from the living room.

“Darryl, wake up and send my daughter to work.”

Darryl heard his mother-in-law, Samantha's voice, in his sleep. He assumed that it was just a dream and simply turned his back and continued his slumber. At this moment, the bedroom door opened, and in came Samantha giving him an impatient kick.

“Are you deaf or dumb? Didn't you hear me calling you to send Lily to work?” said Samantha coldly.

Darryl had to admit, Samantha was a beauty in her thirties. She took great care to maintain her looks.

Darryl drowsily got up from the floor and stared at Samantha with a dumbfounded look on his face. ‘After three years of marriage, not once have I gone out with Lily, for she found me to be an embarrassment, and now out of sudden, she wants me to send her to work!?’ Darryl thought to himself.

It was right at that thought when Lily herself came

into the room, dressed in her business attire. She stomped her feet in a rush. “Are you deaf? Be quick, or is it that you’re not willing to send me?”

“I’m willing! I’m willing!” Darryl said he nodded his head non-stop. He hastily put on a change of clothes, got on his electric bike, and drove Lily to her office.

Lily was filled with fiery rage due to her company’s lack of funds and the urgent need for a five million bucks investment. However, she was not able to find an investor, and now her company is facing bankruptcy! An emergency meeting of shareholders was called to deal with this issue, and as the general manager of the company, her attendance was mandatory. It was only when she stepped out of the door in the morning that she realized that she had lent her car to Jade. As a last resort, she had no choice but to have Darryl send her to work. ④

Chapter 2

“Can’t you go any faster? I’ll be screwed if I’m late,” said Lily impatiently at the sight of Darryl’s slow-moving vehicle.

As the words left her mouth, Lily began to regret them. Darryl through his sheer will pushed his busted up bike through its limits!

The speed of the bike was too much for Lily, and she could not help but hold on tight to Darryl’s waist.

The sudden hug caused Darryl’s body to quiver all over. After three years of marriage, this was the first time they had physical contact with each other. A surge of excitement welled up from within him from Lily’s pressure on his back, prompting him to accelerate his bike even faster.

Eventually, the couple arrived at the office building’s main entrance, and Lily breathed a sigh of relief upon their arrival. As she was about to get off the bike, came the thunderous roar of an engine. An Audi Q5 pulled up and parked itself beside the bike, and a man stepped out of the car.

Ashton Adagio locked his car and adjusted his suit.

He walked toward Lily and pointed at Darryl. “Dear Lily, who is this man?”

“He’s Darryl,” replied Lily gently as she got off the bike.

The wedding that took place between Darryl and Lily got the entire Donghai City shaken up. There was not a single soul in Donghai City that was not aware that the gentle and beautiful Lily Lyndon had wed a piece of trash.

“Oh, so he’s that piece of trash,” said Ashton with a cold snort. He took off his jacket and handed it to Lily. “Poor Lily, it must have been cold on the way here, put this on. I’ve even gotten a gift for you.”

Ashton went back to his car and got out a rather fancy-looking box.

The box contained a seemingly magnificent pair of high-heeled shoes made out of crystal. Whoever has it on would surely emanate a sense of elegance and class.

Several years ago, the Darby clan was also into the fashion business and thus Darryl got to know numerous renowned designers. If his memory served him right, this pair of heels was designed by a British designer, Minah, who named them ‘The Worship of Crystal’. Only 99 pairs were made that year and all of them were bought upon release.

They were mostly bought by prominent families, even if one were to have the money now, it would be impossible to have access to a pair.

The ones in Ashton's hands seemed like the real deal, but the production quality had some minor rough edges, it was obviously a replica.

"Lily, I know that you've always liked this pair of heels, but woe is me. I've looked high and low but could not find the real thing." Ashton said as he handed over the heels to Lily. "Therefore I spent three hundred thousand to have this replica made. Wear them for now, and give me a month to buy you the real ones."

"There's no need," said Lily lightly while accepting the pair of heels. "There's no way you can find the real ones for sale. Even if you did, the price would be outrageously high. A pair was sold for 30 million in an auction just last year. So, there's no need to waste any more of your time. I think this pair of replicas is already pretty nice."

"Ah..." gulped Ashton. Indeed with his total net worth of roughly 30 million, there was no way he could use it all for a pair of heels. All he could do then was let out an awkward laugh.

It was at this moment that Darryl barged over, snatched the pair of heels, and threw them onto the

ground!

“My dear wife, let’s not take other people’s stuff. If that’s what you like, then as your husband, I shall buy it for you,” said Darryl as he held onto Lily’s arm, dragging her toward her office building.

“Darryl, what the heck are you talking about?” hushed Lily.

They were standing at the main entrance of the office building, and as general manager, she had to keep her temper in check. She subconsciously tried to free her arm, but Darryl’s grip was too tight.

“Stand right there!” shouted Ashton in a hurry. The shoes cost him three hundred thousand bucks, he was not going to let it slide!

“What’s the meaning of this?” said Ashton as he strode to the couple, pointing and shouting at Darryl. “If you had broken this pair of heels, not even selling your kidney would make up for it, do you know that!?”

“First off, Lily is my wife, kindly stay away from her.”

“Secondly, if my wife is cold, she can have my shirt.” Upon finishing his sentence, Darryl grabbed Ashton’s jacket and tossed it onto the ground. “And finally, anything my wife likes, I’ll provide. A

woman of her standard would not stoop so low as to wear replicas. Tonight I shall present her with the real Worship of Crystal.”

“You’re a real idiot! Even the replica costs three hundred thousand! Judging by your wreck of a bike, how dare you even pretend to be able to afford it!?”

Ashton was instantly filled with rage. As the heir of the Adagio clan, no one dared speak to him in such a manner for years until now.

The most infuriating of all, Darryl went so far as to ignore him and dragged Lily into the building.

Ashton kicked Darryl’s bike so hard that it toppled over. However his anger was not quelled, and he proceeded to give it a few more furious kicks.

Meanwhile, in the general manager’s office of Neptunus Corporation...

Lily sat on her office chair and gave Darryl a cold, hard stare. She was trembling with rage. Ashton was a real estate mogul, and backing him was none other than Jiangnan’s number one clan – the Darbys!

Neptunus Corporation needed a five million bucks investment, and Lily had planned to ask Ashton to be the investor. After Darryl’s debacle today, Ashton would surely be seething with rage.

‘I shouldn’t have brought Darryl out! He has

nothing to show for and yet has failures in excess, that's the perfect way of describing him!' thought Lily.

"Why are you still loitering here? Get lost!" Lily said coldly after glaring at him.

"Oh," mumbled Darryl, and proceeded to leave the office.

Lily could not help but to get angrier at Darryl's indifferent attitude, her hatred for him ground her gears. Over the past few years, her friends had married into affluent families. Their husbands were the cream of the crop, even the worst among them had at least two houses and the best with a net worth of billions.

Lily felt more and more wronged at the thought of Darryl. Her extended family would surely ridicule her again because of him during tonight's clan gathering.

"Who smashed my bike!?" howled Darryl below the building.

The bike had been with him for three years! Darryl rode it to get groceries every single day and now it pained him to see it in such a smashed and broken state. Without a second thought, it was clear that it was that bastard Ashton's doing.

At that moment, a few ladies dressed in business

attire walked by in their high-heeled shoes. They were employees of Lily's company, and they were now pointing and gossiping at Darryl.

"Look ladies, isn't that Ms. Lyndon's husband, Darryl?"

"It is him! I was there at her wedding."

"Look at him, mourning his broken bike..."

Those ladies could not hold back any longer and laugh at him.

Darryl did not even notice their presence, and gently patted his bike. "Sigh... My bike bro, don't you worry. I'll avenge you for this, don't worry..."

While he was comforting his bike, he took out his cellphone and dialed his clan's number.

"Hey, it's Darryl. I'm willing to help the clan but on two conditions. First, get me The Worship of Crystal. Next, there's a man named Ashton Adagio who operates under our clan, right? I want to see him with nothing left to his name."

Right after the call ended, he received a text message from Lily. It contained only a few words. 'Tonight is the Lyndon clan's annual gathering, get a new set of clothes, don't embarrass me.'

At a seaside villa by the eastern sea coast, where one can take in the entire sea view. It was here that the patriarch of the Darby clan invited Darryl for a meeting.

Darryl sat on a rocking chair without a care in the world, while Darby clan's patriarch sat across him. This man was Drake Darby, Darryl's paternal uncle.

Upon seeing Darryl's sitting posture, Drake let out a chuckle. "Oh Darryl, even after all these years, you're still the same carefree boy."

"Uncle, let's cut to the chase, I have other matters to attend to tonight. You mentioned that the family fortune is in debt, so tell me, how much?" Darryl picked up a huge cherry, placed it in his mouth, and started chewing on it.

"Well... it's not exactly a huge amount..." drifted Drake while scratching his head. As the patriarch, surely he has been through a lot of important meetings, but given the circumstance that he was the one requiring assistance, he had to exercise a certain amount of caution.

"We're just three billion dollars in debt..."

'What!? Three billion dollars!?' thought Darryl.

"Um... uncle, I have other matters to attend to, I should be heading out," said Darryl gloomily as he

stood up, preparing to leave.

“Oh dear Darryl!” said Drake in a hurry. “Darryl, our clan needs the funding! Without it, everything we’ve built would be ruined! The two conditions you ‘ve mentioned will be met! Ashton Adagio will be left with nothing by tonight, and The Worship of Crystal is already on its way.” ①

“Uncle, I want to help you, but where in the world would I have such an amount of money?” said Darryl, letting out a long sigh.

“Darryl, do you want to see our clan crumble in front of your very eyes? You have 3.2 billion in your bank account!” Drake was truly desperate. “We can’t forget our roots!”

Darryl was all smiles but after hearing those words, it slowly faded away. “Uncle, back when I bought the shares for Southeast Petroleum, your wife said that I was up to no good and that I planned to have the family fortune transferred to myself! Hundreds of my family members berated me, and got me banished from the clan! Was there anyone that tried to defend me!?”

“You guys know damn well that every single penny of the eight million I had used to buy the shares was earned by myself, they were never part of the family fortune!”

“All these years I’ve been treated like I’m less than a mutt for being a live-in son-in-law, did any of our family come to help!?” ①

“If it wasn’t for the lack of funds, you guys would have forgotten about me!” Darryl clenched his fists, expressing himself word by word.

“Darryl, we were wrong to banish you, we sincerely apologize... But right now our clan is in dire need for your funding...” said Drake as he stepped forward, holding onto Darryl’s arm. He took a deep breath and continued, “Darryl, as long as you’re willing to support our clan, as patriarch I will grant you the position of President of Platinum Corporation. Give me your identity card, and head over to Platinum Corporation’s office building tomorrow. A secretary will be there to fill you in on the details.”

Platinum Corporation was an entertainment company with the highest potential under the Darby clan’s control. Many top celebrities were under their contract.

All these while Platinum Corporation was under the management of Drake’s wife. It came as a surprise that he was willing to hand over the entire company to Darryl. ①

“Sure, if that’s all, I’ll be going off,” said Darryl

after giving it some consideration. Even though purchasing Platinum Corporation for three billion dollars seemed inappropriate, he relented seeing that the patriarch was about to burst into tears.

Darryl left after finishing his words. Tonight was the Lyndon clan's annual gathering, but there was another important matter to Darryl before that, which was his high school reunion. The reunion was about to begin and he was determined not to be late. He longed to meet his classmates after such a long time without contact. His entire class would be at today's gathering, even the beautiful class teacher apparently would be attending too.

Chapter 3

Meanwhile, at Neptunus Corporation.

Lily had just left the meeting room after finishing her meeting with the shareholders when she saw her female employees talking and laughing at their cellphones.

How dare they shrug their duties during working hours? Lily walked toward them intending to reprimand, but instead, she saw that they were watching a video, and in that video was none other than Darryl!

“My bike bro, don’t you worry. I’ll avenge you for this...”

In the video, Darryl was caressing his bike with a face full of sorrow.

“Haha, this guy is hilarious, who is it?”

“You don’t know? It’s Miss Lyndon’s husband.”

“What? Do you mean that piece of trash Darryl? So I’ve heard that she was married to a piece of trash...”

The ladies were happily gossiping away when one of them stood up and did a mimicry of Darryl. “I don’t suppose you girls know that earlier today when I

just arrived at work, I heard Darryl said he was gonna buy The Worship of Crystal for Miss Lyndon!"

"Hahaha, that is such a huge joke!"

"Yeah, look at how uncouth he is, so distressed over his broken bike. The Worship of Crystal costs 30 million, he'll have to work several lifetimes for that amount!"

Their discussion was in full swing when one of them turned around and noticed Lily looming over them. The expression on their faces changed in an instant.

"Sorry Miss Lyndon, we'll get back to work..."

Lily bit her lip tightly, trying hard to put up with the humiliation! Even though she was the general manager, it was hard not to get red-faced in this situation. She did not go out for lunch, but instead locked herself in her office, unable to help herself but to get teary-eyed.

Meanwhile, Darryl was walking home while humming a tune. He had to attend his high school reunion in a moment so he went back to change.

Initially, Darryl was in a good mood, but as he entered the house, he was greeted by the sight of Samantha sitting cross-legged on the sofa, looking

at him with cold eyes.

“Darryl, good timing to be back, get over here.”

Darryl had been living with the family for three years, and the fear he had for Samantha was extreme.

“Darryl, pack your stuff, you’re going to get a divorce tomorrow and move out of here,” said Samantha coldly.

“But ma’am... My love for Lily is sincere...” said Darryl with his head lowered. After three years of company, it was certain that he would develop feelings for Lily.

Samantha slammed the table upon hearing those words. She stood up and walked up next to Darryl. “You love my daughter? What right do you have to love her? I’ve put up with you for three years, what else can you do besides household chores? How are you fit for my daughter? Do you know that numerous men are vying to be with my daughter? Ashton Adagio just called and said as long as I grant him my daughter, he’ll immediately give a dowry of 20 million bucks.”

20-million dowry? Darryl let out a faint smile. Ashton was a distant relative under the Darby clan, he was the son of an aunt. All the funds for Ashton’s company were sponsored by the Darbys. Darryl

had already called his clan beforehand, and within 24 hours, Ashton Adagio would be left with nothing. How would he find that 20 million?

“Ma’am, I won’t leave. I’ll agree to the divorce, but only if Lily says it to me in person.” Darryl finished his words, turned around, and left the house.

“How dare you! Come back here right now!” Samantha stomped her feet in anger and went after Darryl in her high heels, but he was too far gone.

In the evening, at Neptunus Corporation.

Lily had locked herself in her office for the entire day. That video of Darryl had gone viral around the company, making him a laughing stock.

Lily took a deep breath before slowly leaving her office. “Alright, you guys can leave now,” said Lily to her employees.

“Miss Lyndon, there’s a package for you.” The front desk receptionist carried a box over and handed it to Lily.

Upon seeing the box, the crowd let out a sound of astonishment! It... it cannot possibly be so luxurious? How can a mere delivery package be gilded?

“Wow, what delivery package is this?”

“Yeah Miss Lily, it’s my first time seeing a gilded

delivery package!"

"Surely it must be a gift from someone, open it up and let's see, Miss Lily."

Although Lily was stern at work, she maintained a good relationship with her employees. Everyone was curious about the package, it was as if the entire office had formed a crowd around her.

Lily wondered as well. She had never bought stuff online, where could this package have come from? Seeing that everyone was excited, Lily let out a little smile and gently opened the box.

It was at that instant when everyone was stupefied! There was pin-drop silence for about ten seconds before everybody suddenly spoke in furor!

"This... this is... The Worship of Crystal!?"

"It can't be! The globally limited to only 99 pairs, and sold for up to 30 million dollars, that Worship of Crystal!?"

"It's so beautiful! Miss Lily, you're such a fortunate lady!"

They were discussing among themselves, but Lily herself could not utter a single word! She had been fond of this pair of heels for many years. One look was enough for her to determine that it was the real deal!

How was this possible! Lily stepped back in disbelief, it was as if she was in a dream. Unless... unless Ashton had sold his company, and gifted her this pair of heels? The thought of that touched Lily's heart. If she wore The Worship of Crystal to tonight's gathering, she would surely be the talk of the place.

Donghai City, Flouria KTV.

This KTV is one of Donghai City's famous entertainment centers. Buying power was very high, those who came are all famous people, filling up the entrance with their luxurious cars. It was here that Darryl would be attending his high school reunion.

Darryl rode his newly bought electric bike here, he was whistling a tune as he parked his vehicle at the entrance. He had wanted to buy a car, but he had given his identity card to the patriarch, so he could only settle for a bike for now. He was about to meet his high school classmates soon, and he was excited.

It was just as he got his vehicle parked that he heard a hurried whistling.

"Can you move?! You're only riding a shabby bike, and you want to occupy an entire spot?" A BMW 5

series stopped by the side, the driver stuck his head out of the window and called out to Darryl.

The man and Darryl locked eyes and were surprised to see each other!

“Class monitor!?” said Darryl as he ran toward the car. The man inside the car was none other than Darryl’s high school class monitor, Clifford Conway.

“Darryl? What happened to you?” Clifford got out of his car, and looked Darryl up and down before he merely let out a cold laugh, and hastily went into the KTV.

Darryl awkwardly called out to him, wanting to strike up a conversation, but Clifford had no intention of acknowledging him. The two of them walked to the reserved KTV room one after another. The rest of the class had already arrived, and they turned their heads toward the door upon seeing their arrival.

“Class monitor is so handsome now? Truly a successful man!”

The room turned lively upon his arrival. They were all crowding around Clifford.

Clifford was wearing a suit, and it looked expensive. Most importantly, he was holding a BMW car key in his hand.

Meanwhile, Darryl, who was cast aside, was dressed in bargained goods, and in his hands were merely keys for an electric bike. His appearance was no different from a delivery person. No one even cared to acknowledge him, it was truly an awkward moment.

However Darryl did not care for such things, his eyes scanned the vicinity. After not seeing them for so many years, his female classmates were prettier than the other. The prettiest of all, however, was still Giselle Lindt.

Giselle was the class's goddess, she frequently wore jeans that accentuated her firm figure. Her beauty was unrivaled.

A few years without seeing Giselle, it seemed that she had acquired a touch of maturity, exuding an air of gentleness. She wore skin-tight jeans to the reunion, further enchanting any onlookers.

Clifford also took notice of Giselle and was hooked almost immediately. He could not help but ask, “Giselle, you’re so charming, what are you up to these days?”

Before Giselle could reply, a lady nearby had already replied first. “Class monitor, you should know by now that Giselle is going to be a celebrity! She is signing a contract with Platinum Corporation

soon!"

"Woah!"

The room was in an uproar, who in Donghai City has not heard of Platinum Corporation? Several A-list celebrities were all under them!

To be fair, Giselle was a beautiful woman, compared to the other A-list celebrities, she was not any inferior to them at all.

Darryl was excited upon hearing Platinum Corporation mentioned, for when tomorrow comes, that company would belong to him. On that thought, Darryl smiled and approached Giselle, wanting to sit beside her and have a chat. As he sat down, he saw Giselle frowning, giving him a contempt look as she said, "Can you not sit here?"

"Oh?" Darryl stood up slowly. "Is someone sitting here?"

"Nope, I just don't want to sit beside you," Giselle replied coldly. "Darryl, you're attending our high school reunion, can't you at least put on some decent clothes? Isn't it dirty wearing those bargained goods?"

Chapter 4

‘Damn you, I just washed this set of clothes yesterday, and now you’re saying it’s dirty?’ Darryl thought to himself. He was about to voice his opinion but before he could do so, he was dragged away by Alex Armstrong.

The two were close friends back in high school. They had fought together and even ditched classes together. Alex might be the only one tonight that was not disgusted with Darryl.

Dragging Darryl to a corner, Alex shook his head and said, “Bro, I’m telling you, a girl like Giselle isn’t the type for us to get hung up on. Aren’t you asking to be ridiculed for simply sitting beside her?”

Darryl said nothing and merely chuckled. They wined and dined the whole night through, and the evening passed by quickly.

Giselle was a little tipsy, and under the crowd’s pressure, she picked up the microphone and sang while gently swaying her body. Her appearance was sensual and seductive, striking awe at the men around. Giselle was truly a beauty!

It was only at night when they decided to call it a

day. The class teacher could not make it as she had something on at the last moment, so they agreed to have another gathering next Monday.

As they left, all the men were vying to send Giselle back. However, when they arrived at the entrance, she got on her own Porsche and left the scene, leaving them stupefied.

“Such a beauty,” mumbled Alex at the side. “Darryl, no wonder you wanted to sit next to her. I wouldn’t mind having my life shortened by ten years if it means I could spend only a night with her.”

Darryl let out a cold laugh. ‘So Giselle intends to go to Platinum Corporation tomorrow to have her contract signed? Excellent,’ thought Darryl, as he too had planned to go there to claim his title of President. His thoughts were cut short by the sudden ringing of his cellphone.

The crowd laughed upon hearing his ring tone. What era was it for somebody to still be using an old Nokia phone?

Darryl hastily answered the call upon seeing the number displayed. Before he could speak, the voice of his mother-in-law, Samantha, came from the other side. “Darryl, do you know that tonight is our clan’s annual gathering? Do you want our entire family to wait for you? Get your ass back here

immediately.”

Darryl let out a wail, he had completely forgotten about the gathering!

He quickly got on his scooter in front of his classmates and sped away. Even though he was quite a considerable distance away, he could still hear the voices of his female classmates laughing at him.

A Land Rover was parked at the gate of a high-end residential community in Beihai City. A beautiful woman was standing in front of the car, looking at her phone impatiently.

“I’m back,” said Darryl, struggling to catch his breath. He stopped his scooter and ran toward Lily. He could see that she was wearing the Worship of Crystal on her delicate feet. It seemed that she really liked the gift as she put it on so fast.

However, Lily merely gave Darryl a cold glance. “I’m warning you, today is the Lyndon clan’s annual gathering, you best keep your mouth shut and not embarrass me.”

“Oh,” acknowledged Darryl.

Darryl had barely gotten in the car when he heard another complaint.

“Darryl, don’t you have a suit? Do you know how

embarrassing it is to wear such bargained goods?" asked Samantha coldly.

Samantha was wearing a short dress that accentuated her beauty. A touch of maturity combined with seductiveness, she was truly an elegant sight to behold.

Darryl shrugged his shoulders without saying anything.

Samantha flew into a rage upon seeing Darryl's indifferent behavior. "Are you deaf or dumb? Look at how worthless you are, having you marry my daughter has cursed our family for eight generations."

"Mom, don't be mad," said Lily gently while driving.

"How can I not be mad?!" said Samantha as she pointed at Darryl. "I'm ordering you, after tonight's gathering, immediately go to the marriage registry and settle your divorce. Stop hanging around my house, do you understand me?"

Darryl sat there speechless.

At that moment, over a hundred cars were parked outside the Lyndon clan's villa, and without exception, all of them were luxurious cars.

When Lily and her family arrived, the hall was

already filled with people. Several people went up to greet Lily upon her arrival.

During such occasions, Darryl was treated as if he was invisible, no one cared to acknowledge him. However, he did not mind that, for he was only here to join in the fun. Once the food arrived, he was ready to dig in as much as he could.

However, some people enjoy causing trouble when there is none, such as William Lyndon. He appeared to have something against Darryl, every time they meet, he would hurl a couple of insults at Darryl.

“Yooahoo, aren’t you Lyndon clan’s good little son-in-law, Darryl?” asked William as he walked from afar, purposely speaking in a loud tone. “Darryl, I might have seen the clothes you’re wearing at the bargain bin. What are they, ten bucks each?”

William’s words made Darryl the focus of the entire hall. They gawked at him as if he was a monkey.

“Mind your words, this cost me 19 bucks,” mumbled Darryl.

The crowd let out a burst of roaring laughter. A few ladies who tried to maintain their composure ultimately caved in and laughed.

“Just shut your mouth,” said Lily in a hushed tone. She could feel her pride besmirched by Darryl yet

a rage. “You have no right touching this suit!”

Darryl merely smiled and said, “I think the suit you’re wearing isn’t appropriate for the occasion. This suit was designed by a famous Italian fashion designer named Francesco Martin. There’s only one in existence, and it’s currently housed in the Italian Fashion Museum. Hence the one you’re wearing is a replica and not just that, it’s a crude imitation. There’s an uncut thread on your right pocket, you may take off that thread now. If my calculations are correct, this suit is only worth 200 bucks. Even my wife’s 1,200 bucks dress has better quality than your suit.”

“Another thing, this suit’s inspiration was derived from his father, Petrarch, who had depression after his bankruptcy. He felt that the world was distorted. Therefore the stripes on this suit are crooked to represent his perspective of distorted reality,” he continued.

“The fact that you’re wearing this suit today, are you hoping for the Lyndon clan to go bankrupt as well?!” said Darryl as he smiled. His voice was not loud, yet his words echoed throughout the hall! ①

Silence! Total silence!

The crowd was shocked by his words, they found it hard to believe that those words came out of Darryl’

s mouth!

“Oh right, another thing I forgot to mention. My wife isn’t too demanding with her clothes, but her standard for shoes is immense,” his words came one after another. “The heels on her feet is The Worship of Crystal. If you’ve never heard of it, you can read it up online.”

“Wow!”

“The Worship of Crystal? It truly is the real thing! How magnificent...”

The crowd was chattering with excitement! The women here were all of high-standing, how would they have not heard of The Worship of Crystal? One glance was enough to determine that the heels on Lily’s feet were genuine!

That was The Worship of Crystal that cost 30 million! Try asking and see which woman would not love it?! Lily instantly became the focus of attention, and she was showered by praises and admirations.

Lily could not help but look at Darryl. After three years of marriage, this was the first time she felt that this piece of trash resembled a real man. But, how did Darryl know all this information? The Italian designer’s name and inspiration, surely only a handful of people would know?

After some thinking, Lily deduced that Darryl must have secretly looked it up online beforehand!

“You’re talking nonsense!” said William, pointing at Darryl angrily with embarrassment.

‘Smack!’

Out of nowhere, Samantha slapped Darryl!

It was a hard slap, and in an instant, the whole crowd stood there in silence from the shock.

“Darryl, what are you babbling about? Apologize to William right now!” Samatha demanded coldly. 4

Chapter 5

The Lyndon clan's authority rested in the hands of the grandmother, and she favored William the most. Moreover, William's development is pretty decent, he has at least 30 million worth of assets. Any offense toward him would surely not end well.

"Mom, what are you doing?" asked Lily as she walked over and held her mother back.

Even though she detested Darryl, it was him that had gotten her out of her predicament.

Darryl covered his face, the red slap mark on his cheek was strongly visible. However, he had a small smile on his face. After three whole years, this was the first time Lily spoke on his behalf. Darryl simply turned and left, with a smile on his face.

"Get your ass back here, you piece of trash!"

Although it was quite a distance, Darryl could still hear Samantha's shouts.

As the crowd watched the spectacle unfold, an aged voice could be heard from not far away.

"What's with all the commotion?" Grandmother Lyndon asked as she walked onto the stage. The originally bustling hall fell silent upon the sight of

her.

“Alright alright, no need for such formalities. Take a seat.” Grandmother Lyndon waved her hand, and under the support of some people, slowly sat down on her chair. “According to my reliable sources, Donghai City’s Platinum Corporation will have a new President tomorrow.”

“Woah!”

The matter sparked a heated discussion among the crowd. The Lyndon clan has over ten advertising companies under them. In recent years, the Lyndons were keen for a partnership between them and Platinum Corporation for they were Donghai City’s largest entertainment company. A partnership with them would give the Lyndons steady profits without loss.

However, backing the Platinum Corporation was none other than the Darby clan, who have always looked down on the Lyndons! Every single mention of a partnership had been rejected by them. With the arrival of a new president, the Lyndons had to give it a shot, hoping for a partnership!

“Who’s willing to go discuss the partnership?” Grandmother Lyndon asked slowly as she looked around the hall. “Whoever that can successfully negotiate and secure the partnership, would be

considered making a huge contribution to our clan!"

"I'll go!"

"Granny, I'll go!"

"I'm willing as well!"

All of them were vying for that role, except for Lily. She knew that deep down, her standing in the clan was relatively low.

Upon seeing how enthusiastic they were, Grandmother Lyndon nodded her head in praise and smiled. She pointed at William and said, "William, why don't you go over there tomorrow and give it a try."

William let out a wide-eyed smile and nodded excitedly.

Darryl left alone and took a cab back home to sleep. He had to make up for the lack of sleep last night from the excitement of discovering that he had made a fortune.

Darryl slept especially soundly that night. The very next morning, he left for Platinum Corporation on his scooter right after preparing breakfast.

Uncle Drake had already told him that Pearl Hahn, the secretary, would be at the company waiting for him.

Platinum Corporation was situated in the bustling central business district of Donghai City. At the entrance of the company parked a row of luxurious cars, and quite a number of them belonged to the celebrities signed under the company.

It was company policy that every celebrity had to report to the company every day. If there were an emergency, they had to apply for leave. Therefore paparazzi frequently hang around the building, hoping to snap some celebrities' photos and sell them for a profit. If they managed to capture anything gossipy or scandalous, they would be able to make a huge profit.

'Damn, riding this scooter here surely seems uncouth, I should get a car...' thought Darryl as he parked his scooter at the company's entrance.

Suddenly, came the roar of an engine, followed by a 'bang' that nearly sent Darryl flying.

Darryl turned around and saw that a Porsche Cayenne had knocked his scooter. The Porsche was barely scratched, but the back of his scooter was completely dented.

'Son of a b*tch! My newly bought scooter! Broken again?' thought Darryl, as he felt like weeping but had no tears. He noticed a crowd started to form around him, judging and watching the commotion.

“Do you know how to drive?” said a beautiful lady, as she stepped out of the car.

“Wow...”

Sounds of exclamation came from the crowd, the appearance of this woman drew all their attention. She was wearing a sheath dress and a pair of high heels, her figure was alluring and toned. A woman like her would surely be the focal point wherever she went.

“Giselle?” Darryl exclaimed.

Giselle was here to sign her contract! Darryl smiled. Although she crashed into him and broke his scooter, it was a good thing that none of them were injured. He did not want to pursue this matter further and was about to walk over to greet Giselle when she saw that it was him.

“You? Darryl? What are you doing here?”

Giselle furrowed her eyebrows and thought that Darryl must be a security guard at Platinum Corporation.

“Are you blind? Do you even know how to drive?” said Giselle full of spite. Her car was only one week old, although it was only a minor scratch, she still felt hurt for it.

“But you’re the one that knocked into me...” said

Darryl helplessly. "Why are you blaming me for it..." "

"What's going on here?" Suddenly came the voice of a middle-aged man. It was the head of security, who had brought his guards with him to the scene.

The head of security was shocked to see what had happened. A crash between a scooter and a Porsche? He deduced that this beautiful lady was a celebrity, here to sign a contract. She must not be offended at any cost!

At the thought of that, the head of security pointed at Darryl and shouted, "What do you think you're doing? Don't you know that Platinum Corporation bans the entry of scooters into the premises?"

"There's such a rule? Who made it?" Darryl asked coldly.

"Who made it? I made it!" The head of security stepped forward. "Apologize to this lady immediately!"

Upon hearing what the head of security said, Giselle smirked and pointed at Darryl. "He must be the new security guard?"

The head of security was stunned and took a good look at Darryl. He was dressed in bargained goods and rode in on a scooter, he must be here to apply for the position of a security guard.

“Don’t worry Miss, I won’t be hiring him!” The head of security assured as he patted his chest. He looked back at Darryl and said, “Today is your first day on the job? Then let me declare that you’re fired.”

‘This was not a healthy general practice for the company.’ Darryl shook his head. The head of security was such a mean snob.

“I would like to see you try to fire me,” said Darryl slowly with a grin. “Do you even have the authority to fire someone?” ①

“You!” The head of security pointed at Darryl. Surely this punk was mad? Indeed the head of security has no authority to fire anyone, but if Darryl was here to apply for the position of a security guard, as the head of security, he would not be giving him a good time.

“Darryl, you’re such a disgusting person,” said Giselle as she stomped her heels toward Darryl, eyeing him with contempt. “If the head of security can’t fire you, then surely the deputy manager would be able to?”

After finishing her words, Giselle took out her cellphone and sent a text message. Within moments, a lady dressed in business attire came walking out of the company building.

This lady was attractive, and her height was roughly 165cm, and over 30 years of age. She was dressed in business attire and wore black high heel shoes, accentuating her femininity and maturity.

“Miss Peach.”

Upon seeing the business lady’s arrival, all the employees and security guards bowed and greeted her one after another. This lady was Platinum Corporation’s deputy manager, Penelope Peach.

“Aunt Penelope,” said Giselle, as she stepped forward to greet Penelope. It was because Penelope was Giselle’s aunt, and through her connections as deputy manager, got Giselle a contract with Platinum Corporation.

Penelope nodded her head in acknowledgment, and turned her attention to Darryl, and said, “Apologize to Giselle.”

What?

Darryl felt that it was a funny moment. He asked, “Why do I have to apologize? Who are you?”

“This guy must’ve hit himself on the head, can’t even recognize the deputy manager.” whispered some of the employees.

“Yeah, is he looking for trouble by not

apologizing?"

Penelope stared at Darryl with cold eyes and frowned. "You're here to apply for the position of a security guard, yes? Who hired you for this job? It does not matter. Since you're not willing to apologize, as deputy manager, I hereby inform you that you're fired. Get on your scooter and get lost."

"Me? Get lost?" Darryl pointed at himself and laughed.

"Are you deaf? Can't you understand?" Giselle said coldly through her teeth. "I'll take it as my unlucky day to meet a fly like you. Even though you scratched my car, I won't ask you for compensation. Get out of my sight immediately." ①

'Beep beep beep!'

At that moment came the honking of a Bentley, which stopped in front of the crowd. A girl who looked slightly more than 20 years of age, wearing a black business suit and glasses came out of the car.

"President, I am so sorry I'm late," said Miss Pearl, the secretary, as she hastily walked to the front of Darryl and did a 90-degree bow. ②

Chapter 6

Darryl glanced at Pearl. If he was not mistaken, she should be the secretary his uncle mentioned about.

“Sorry President, I didn't mean to be late. There was a traffic jam...” Pearl explained softly, afraid to look Darryl in the eye, and merely bowed.

“Pearl, what nonsense are you talking about!”

Penelope stepped forward. Her beautiful appearance was slightly tinged with anger. “This is our company's new security guard, why are you addressing him as president?”

“Security guard?” Pearl searched inside her handbag and took out a photo. She compared the photo with Darryl, and hurriedly replied Penelope. “Miss Peach, there is no mistake. This is our company's new president, Mister Darby.”

“What!?” The crowd stood there with their mouths agape, and stared at Darryl in disbelief!

“Uh Miss, you... you have to be mistaken?” Giselle bit her lip tightly and looked at Pearl. “This guy is Darryl, he was my classmate in high school. Look at how uncouth he is, how could he be the president?”

How was this possible! Why would a president be

wearing bargained goods and riding an electric bike? Moreover, during the very recent high school reunion, none of them cared to acknowledge Darryl!

“Mistaken?” Pearl took out her cellphone and showed it to Giselle. “Look closely, the patriarch of the Darby clan personally told me that the name of the new president is Darryl Darby! There is also a photo of the president shared in the conversation records, see for yourself!”

Woosh!

Giselle’s mind went blank in an instant! She could feel her legs weaken, she dared not look Darryl in the eye anymore.

Meanwhile, Penelope bit her lip tightly as well. As the deputy manager of Platinum Corporation, she was of a higher rank than many of the common employees. However, Platinum Corporation still belonged to the Darby clan. She could not believe that just moments ago she had threatened to fire the president...

“Mister Darryl...” Penelope’s face was pallor, she walked up to Darryl and whispered to him gently.

“I don’t think that’s the right address,” chuckled Darryl. “Giselle was my classmate, and you’re her aunt. I don’t think it’s fitting for you to call me mister.”

“Mister Darryl, I was wrong... I was wrong, I truly know that I did wrong...” said Penelope softly with her head lowered.

Darryl waved his hand and interrupted her words, he turned around and looked in the direction of the head of security. At that moment, the head of security was dumbfounded, his body staggered back, almost falling onto the ground.

“You’re fired,” Darryl merely said those words to him and entered the building.

A group of people followed Darryl with might, which prompted discussion among the employees at the ground floor level. Giselle and Penelope followed suit as well, but with a sense of humility. Although it was hard for them to walk on heels, they still trotted as fast as they could to follow close.

It has to be said, Platinum Corporation was extremely grand. Its interior was decorated to resemble a palace. News regarding the new president’s arrival spread across the entire company, employees along the way bowed and greeted Darryl.

The president’s office was on the 11th floor. Darryl sat in his chair when he arrived at his office.

‘How fancy,’ thought Darryl in admiration. Ever

since he was banished from his clan three years ago, he never had the opportunity to visit such fancy places.

“President...”

Giselle and Penelope followed him into his office and stood obediently in front of his desk.

To be fair, although Penelope was Giselle’s aunt, she had gone to great lengths to take good care of her appearance. They looked like sisters standing side by side.

“Mister Darryl... I sincerely apologize...” Penelope bit her lip, hesitated for a moment, before she continued. “Mister Darryl, will Giselle still be able to sign her contract with our company? As long as you allow her the contract, I’ll do anything you ask.”

“Anything I ask?” Darryl laughed out loud. As he was about to speak, Pearl knocked on the door and walked in.

“Mister Darby, it’s William of the Lyndon clan, he’s here to talk business.”

William Lyndon? The mere mention of him made Darryl’s blood boil.

Darry chuckled, “Tell him to piss off.”

“Yes, sir.”

At the Lyndon clan's villa. Grandmother Lyndon called upon an emergency meeting, hundreds of family members were gathered around.

"Granny, this Platinum Corporation is too ridiculous!" William was so angry that his face was bright red. "I went there to discuss a partnership and they told me to piss off, piss off! Clearly, Platinum Corporation looks down on us Lyndons."

The Lyndons shook their heads one after another. There was nothing they could do, Platinum Corporation has the power to behave in that manner. They were angry but they could not complain.

"Enough," Grandmother Lyndon said as she waved her hand. "I've heard that Platinum Corporation's new president is just slightly over 20 years old. He is young and promising, which gives him the right to be reckless. Although they have a bad attitude, we Lyndons still have to continue to strike a deal with them, who among you is willing to go?"

What?!

They looked at each other in shock. The Lyndons still intend to discuss and negotiate a partnership? Platinum Corporation had already told William to

piss off, and yet they are still requested to seek their cooperation? Who would be willing to do that!?

Grandmother Lyndon let out a long sigh. She knew that no one was shameless enough to go there again. However, if they could form a partnership with Platinum Corporation, the benefits brought to the Lyndon clan would be immense! They cannot give up!

William clenched his fists and sneered out of a sudden. He stood up and spoke, “Granny, how about we let Lily try?”

“William, you!” Lily bit her lip tightly, she knew that William was the type to cause trouble, but she did not expect him to be such a wicked person.

“What’s wrong?” William asked. “You’re a member of the Lyndon clan, and the company you’re in charge of lacks a funding of five million bucks right? Let’s ignore the fact that the company is running badly. You’re still not willing to put in this effort to help your clan?”

Finishing his words, William went to Grandmother Lyndon’s side. “Granny, I suggest Lily negotiate this partnership!”

Grandmother Lyndon nodded her head. William was her favorite in the clan, and upon hearing his

words, she looked at Lily. “Lilybud, this matter is placed in your hands. Go to Platinum Corporation on time tomorrow and negotiate a partnership.”

“Granny, I...”

Lily wanted to speak, but Grandmother Lyndon merely waved her hand. “That’s enough, we will dismiss the meeting.”

At the sound of Grandmother Lyndon’s words, hundreds of them left one after another. Each of them rejoiced at the fact that they were not the one that was chosen.

Returning home, Lily felt uneasy in her heart. This was an impossible task. How was she supposed to negotiate this partnership tomorrow?

Lily felt terribly upset, she simply did not want to think about this matter anymore. She called her best friends Jade and Phoebe over to vent.

When Lily’s best friends arrived, sure enough, her mood turned ecstatic.

“Lily, where’s that piece of trash?” Jade asked as she sat on the sofa, gently sipping on a glass of wine.

Lily knew who Jade was referring to and laughed. “He left after making breakfast, he hasn’t been back yet.”

“Lily, you’re so patient.” Jade placed her wine glass down. “Even I could not bear how hopeless he looked. Your company is lacking in funds, if you had a capable husband, even if he couldn’t fork out five million, at least he could provide two to three million bucks. Meanwhile, Darryl can’t even provide 30,000 bucks.”

As Jade was talking, the sound of the door opening could be heard. Darryl came in holding a black sack, his whole body covered in dirt and grime.

Damn it, it started raining when Darryl was on the way back from his company. His scooter was broken earlier this morning when it was knocked by Giselle so he had to walk back drenched in the rain.

“Yo, speaking of the devil,” said Jade as she glanced at Darryl.

Darryl could not bother to acknowledge her, instead, he just placed the black sack on the sofa.

“Darryl, you still dare to show your face around here?” said Samantha as she came out of her bedroom, looking angry.

If it was not for Darryl’s conflict with William, why would William suggest Lily be the one to negotiate the deal?

Samantha glared at Darryl. “You’re behaving more

and more improper. Putting aside your conflict with William during yesterday's gathering, you still dare to show your face around here? Don't you know that you're leaving your footprints everywhere in the house by wearing your shoes inside? Another thing, that ugly bag of yours is so dirty, and you just place it on the sofa? Do you still want to live here or not? You're welcomed to leave if you don't want to!"

Darryl heaved a deep breath. Indeed he was the one that dirtied the house, but was he also not the one responsible for cleaning up the house all these years?

Darryl was not angry, for if he minded Samantha's words he would have been driven mad way earlier.

Darryl put on an indifferent attitude and approached Lily, and spoke to her with a wide smile on his face. "Honey, your company is in dire need of five million bucks, right? I have here..."

"Woah." Jade who sat at the side let out a laugh, interrupting Darryl's words, and glared at him. "This guy is truly shameless beyond redemption. Nevermind the fact that you're useless, yet you still want to remind people of their problems. Lily needs five million bucks, which is something a piece of trash like you can never help with, and yet you still brought it up."

Chapter 7

“Jade, stop it already,” whispered Lily softly after hearing Jade scolding Darryl.

Yesterday at the annual gathering William showed off his suit, yet it was Darryl who stood up and helped Lily relieve the embarrassment.

“Lily, you’re too soft-hearted. If it was me, I would have divorced him already,” said Jade coldly. “After being married to him for so long, yet you both haven’t consummated your marriage. I don’t know how you can handle facing this piece of trash every day,”

“Jade,” called out Darryl as he stared deeply at her. He could not hold it in anymore and made a step forward.

It had to be said that Jade was gorgeous, she was wearing a short tight skirt, exposing her fair legs.

“My wife’s company needs five million, why would you assume that I couldn’t help?” said Darryl with a smile. “I remember you said that if I can fork out five million, you’ll call me daddy?”

“Yes, I did say that.” Jade slowly stood up. “Show me then, if you can’t, you’ll call me your mommy

then?"

"Excuse me," Darryl sat down casually on a chair. He held up his dirty sack upside down and poured out the contents onto the table.

It was at this moment, the whole house was as silent as the grave!

Wads of red-colored cash notes poured out like a waterfall, the sofa could not even contain them all and many scattered on the floor.

(TN: Original RAW mentioned he poured out the contents onto the table, but then mentioned sofa.)

"This...this is..."

Jade stared in amazement, she was so astonished that she could not say a single word.

"All this cash... Is it really five million?!" Samantha walked over too, her initial anger now somewhat simmered.

Lily's best friends Jade and Phoebe felt their legs weakened. Five million bucks in cash notes in front of their eyes, that kind of visual impact was indescribable.

"Call me daddy then, I'm listening," said Darryl as he stroked his hair.

Jade eventually recovered from the shock.

She looked at Darryl and sneered, “Darryl, don’t think I’m not aware that Lily only gives you two hundred bucks a day. This amount here, I’m sure it’s not clean, right?”

Her words made Lily’s body tremble, she walked over quickly and grabbed Darryl’s arm, and brought him to the bedroom.

After closing the door, Lily whispered to him, “Darryl, where did that money come from, is it from dirty sources?”

“It’s clean, don’t worry and use it, I borrowed it from a friend,” explained Darryl after taking a deep breath.

Darryl was now the President of Platinum Corporation, but he did not want to reveal his identity too early because Lily would only think he was lucky.

“Friend? Where do you even find a friend?” said Lily as she anxiously stomped her foot. “After being married for so long, why do I not know that you still have friends?”

Darryl felt a pain in his chest. Indeed, after being banished from his clan, all his friends avoided him like the plague.

Maybe it was because his pride was hurt, Darryl

turned around and walked to the door wanting to leave. “A classmate from back then got rich after starting a business of his own so he lent me the money. Just use it first,” said Darryl.

A few steps out of the room, he could hear Lily softly say, “I’ll return you this money as soon as I can.”

Both her best friends Jade and Phoebe had left.

“She didn’t even call me daddy, can’t afford to play this game it seems?” Darryl mumbled to himself as he sat on the sofa and played with his phone.

These few days, Donghai City did not seem to be at peace.

Everyone knew that the largest entertainment company in Donghai City changed its new boss, and countless advertising agencies were seeking a partnership with them.

However, this new boss was very odd, even partners that had worked together with the company previously were rejected.

All these companies did not wish to give up easily. Given that Platinum Corporation was not partnering with anyone at the moment, they could dominate this big piece of cake themselves if they were to successfully secure a partnership!

Those who came to seek partnership were Donghai City's first-class families. It was not expected that the second class Lyndon clan also wished to seek a partnership.

It was rumored that William from the Lyndon clan was sent previously but got escorted out by Platinum Corporation, yet they did not give up and sent Lily, how shameless. ①

Just when everyone was waiting to laugh at Lily, a piece of surprising news was announced! Platinum Corporation agreed to partner with the Lyndon clan!

This news shocked the whole of Donghai City! Are they out of their minds? Partnering with a second class family?!

Lily was pleasantly surprised, she had yet to meet Platinum Corporation's president, but the president's secretary told her that she could come in to sign a contract the next day.

Oriental Pearl Hotel, Donghai City.

This was the most renowned hotel in Donghai City, the average spending here per person starts from a thousand bucks! Grandmother Lyndon was exceptionally happy today. She had booked the entire hotel to celebrate Lily's success and had instructed everyone in the Lyndon clan to attend!

Not only that, but she had also invited many guests. Being able to sign a contract with Platinum Corporation was extremely great news which you would want everybody to know!

In the hotel, Lily became the crowd's center of attention as she sat at the first table.

Darryl followed beside Lily, their seats were not yet warmed when they heard a reprimand from behind them.

"Get up, is this somewhere you belong? Give your seat to Miss Yvonne immediately!"

This sentence came from William, but now there was a young and beautiful woman standing beside him.

Upon seeing this woman, Samantha stood up without hesitation and said, "Quickly give your seat, you piece of trash!"

Samantha knew that this woman should not be messed with, for she was Grandmother Lyndon's guest, Yvonne Yung, the young mistress of the Young clan.

The Youngs had been in the antique business for generations, it was rumored that all of their collections in total could be sold for at least two billion bucks!

Yvonne was invited by Grandmother Lyndon. She had noticed Lily from first sight, noting that she had on a pair of extremely beautiful high heels. Was that not The Worship of Crystal?

Everyone knew that Yvonne loved The Worship of Crystal but she did not own one. It was not that she could not afford it, but The Worship of Crystal was globally limited to only 99 pairs! This pair of heels was not something one could get just because they have the money, they need to have the right connections to have access to the heels.

“Move aside, are you blind? Can’t you see Miss Yvonne here?” William shouted angrily as Darryl did not react to him. ①

Darryl seemed like he did not hear a word as he continued to munch on some nuts.

“Are you deaf? Can’t you hear what William said?” Samantha said in fury.

It would not be worth the loss if Yvonne was offended because of Darryl. Although he had lent five million bucks to them, Darryl was still a piece of trash in Samantha’s heart. It was just pure luck that he was acquainted with a rich classmate.

“How about...you give your seat for now...” Lily said as she looked at Darryl.

"Okay," Darryl replied happily at Lily's request. He got up and walked toward the table behind.

William chuckled and pulled the seat backward and said, "Miss Young, please be seated. That guy is just our clan's live-in son-in-law, living for free with us yet acting like he matters. He is just an idiot, don't be bothered by him."

"Alright," Yvonne softly answered. She sat down and gazed at The Worship of Crystal. ①

It was beautiful. Perhaps any woman who wore it would have their elegance elevated a few levels.

"Miss Lily, I'd like to ask..." Yvonne could not help herself. "I'd like to ask, where did you purchase this pair of heels?"

Lily smiled with her heart overjoyed. Everyone knew that Yvonne was a renowned beauty in Donghai City, but now her eyes were full of envy for her. Of course, Lily would be overjoyed.

"A friend gifted it to me," Lily replied softly.

"Do... Do you mind troubling your friend to help me purchase a pair too? Don't worry, I'm willing to pay double the price for your friend's help!" Yvonne said.

Yvonne's voice was not loud, but people seated

nearby could not help but turn around to have a look.

The Worship of Crystal was priced at 30 million bucks! You could tell that the Young clan was very wealthy from her offering to pay double the price.

Both Yvonne and Lily were amazing beauties, and having them sitting next to each other was real eye candy. Yvonne was wearing a short skirt, showing off her pair of fair and slender long legs which attracted many men. They both have their unique qualities, winning the stares of many.

“My daughter, what else could you be thinking? Quickly call this friend of yours,” Samantha urged as she thought how great of a chance this would be in making a connection with the Young clan’s young mistress.

Lily bit her lips and nodded her head. She took out her cellphone and called Ashton Adagio. ①

Chapter 8

It only took three seconds for Ashton to answer the call.

Lily pushed the loudspeaker button.

Samantha, who stood beside, started smiling upon seeing Lily's cellphone screen. "My dear daughter, so Ashton was the one that got you The Worship of Crystal. He's a good man, be sure to appreciate him, my dear."

Samantha purposely said it loudly, not forgetting to glance at Darryl. Compared to Ashton, Darryl was worthless. Ashton mentioned before that if Lily were to marry him, he would be willing to pay a dowry of 20 million bucks!

On the other end of the phone, Ashton was sitting by the sidewalk. Not long ago, he had received a phone call, informing him that the Darby clan had revoked all his fundings!

Ashton had a meltdown upon hearing the news. Without the Darby clan's support, he would be next to nothing! He was subsequently informed that he had offended someone he should not have.

Until now, Ashton still could not figure out who he

had offended!

“Ashton, I want to ask you if you can get me another pair of Worship of Crystal?” Lily asked over the phone.

Although Ashton had a meltdown, he forced a smile seeing that it was Lily who called. “Lily, you’re referring to the replica, right?”

“Replica?”

Lily and Yvonne exchanged looks with each other. They could not mistake an imitation for the real thing.

“Yeah, didn’t I give you a pair of replicas that cost 300,000?” Ashton continued, “But wasn’t that pair thrown by your worthless husband? That pair is still at my house right now, if you want it, I can get it for you.”

Upon hearing those words, Lily’s beautiful face was full of confusion!

The Worship of Crystal that she was currently wearing, was it not gifted by Ashton? Other than him, who else would give her a 30-million gift?!

Lily ended the call and recalled the day Darryl sent her to work, he had mentioned that he was going to buy her The Worship of Crystal...

On that thought, Lily could not help to look at

Darryl.

Darryl held a pair of chopsticks in his hand, while the others had not even started eating, he was about to finish his second bowl of rice. Everybody at the table with him looked at him with spite and sat as far away from him as they could.

Lily sighed. What was she thinking, how could Darryl be the one who gifted her the heels? It was absolutely impossible.

After half a minute, Darryl finally placed his chopsticks down. He wiped his mouth while looking at Yvonne.

Yvonne was an interesting woman. Darryl noticed she wore a white bracelet on her wrist. It was obvious to everyone that this bracelet was not cheap, but how many would know that this bracelet was an antique?

The Darby clan had a vast collection of antiques. Darryl was around six to seven years old when he could already differentiate antiques.

When the world's number one appraiser, Master Stellan Smith visited the clan as a guest, he had even learned how to appraise from him for two months.

The bracelet that Yvonne had on seemed delicate

and exquisite, and should be a Tang Dynasty era handicraft. It would fetch up to 20 million worth in value in today's market.

“Everyone quiet down.”

At that moment, Grandmother Lyndon walked onto the stage, looking extremely cheerful.

“Quick, Lilybud, tell us how you negotiated with Platinum Corporation,” Grandmother Lyndon asked impatiently as she sat down.

Lily stood up awkwardly, and after some deep thought finally spoke. “I... When I reached Platinum Corporation, I didn't say a thing, nor did I even meet the president, and I was notified that I can sign the contract.”

“Wow!”

Lily's words triggered a furor among the crowd!

“So Lily didn't even do anything and got the contract?”

“Yeah, and here I thought she would be capable to do so, turns out it was just good luck.”

Hearing those discussions, William stood up and stepped forward. “Granny, I got escorted out of Platinum Corporation, but today Lily got in. They must have felt that we are sincere, thus deciding to

partner with us! Even if it wasn't Lily who went there today, anyone else would've been successful too!"

It was obvious that William wanted a part of the credit.

Grandmother Lyndon had always favored William, so it was no surprise when she nodded and agreed, "Lilybud, the credit for this assignment isn't yours alone, William played a part in this as well."

William was happy upon hearing what Grandmother Lyndon said, and gave a 90-degree bow to her. "Granny, as a son of the Lyndon clan, I'm willing to sacrifice! I've heard rumors that there's a new celebrity under Platinum Corporation who goes by the name of Giselle Lindt. She's a beautiful woman, and I assume that Platinum Corporation would want to style her. If this task was granted to our clan, we would surely earn a lot of money! Tomorrow I'm willing to represent the Lyndons to negotiate this deal!"

"Great!"

Grandmother Lyndon nodded her head in praise. "Granny did not love you for naught."

Lily and Samantha exchanged looks and felt uncomfortable. This gathering was meant to celebrate Lily's success, but the limelight had been

snatched by William instead. Now that the Lyndons have established a partnership with Platinum Corporation, William's negotiation tomorrow would no doubt be a success. By then, the credit would be all his.

Even though Lily felt unhappy with the outcome, she remained silent, after all, William was Granny's favorite.

"Haha, make sure you guys are eating well, today's feast will be my treat!" William laughed heartily.

"Waiter, come, bring the wine!" William exclaimed.

A moment later, two waiters in qipao dresses brought the menu over.

"Greetings sir, this is our wine list, what would you like us to serve you?"

William waved his hand, he was full of energy and excitement during such a joyous occasion. "There's no need for the list! Bring a bottle of your most expensive wine to every table! Remember, only the most expensive!"

After a brief moment, a line of waiters brought the wine over. William lifted his wine glass with a huge smile. "Today we will drink until we drop, cheers to all of you!"

William's standing in the clan was at its highest at

the moment, almost everybody would want to be on his good side, and they toasted with their respective glasses. ①

They were served rounds and rounds of food and wine. William noticed that it was getting late and drunkenly waved his hand to call out to the waiter.

“Bring me the bill. I’ll be paying by card!”

William was seated beside Yvonne. He took out his bank card in a way that he thought to be unrestrained, purposefully making it louder than needed. He eyed Yvonne as he spoke. Was there anyone that did not want to impress a beauty?

The crowd was in awe upon seeing William’s bank card.

It was an Amethyst Bank platinum card!

Those that own an Amethyst Bank card, would be required to have a net worth of at least one million. To own a gold card, they would need to have five million in their account; for a platinum cardholder, he would be required to have no less than 10 million bucks!

William’s total net worth was roughly 30 million. As a business person, however, net worth did not equate to their bank balance, for most of their wealth would be used as investment, and hardly

held onto as cash.

William had saved up this 10 million in cash for many years. He had only received the platinum card yesterday, naturally, he would like to show it off a bit.

Sure enough, even Yvonne Young herself could not help but to take an extra look upon the card's appearance.

The Young clan's antiques were worth over two billion in total, but that was Yvonne's father's money after all. Although Yvonne was said to be rich and beautiful, her bank balance was not even enough to reach 10 million bucks. If she wanted to buy The Worship of Crystal, she would still have to ask her father to sell two antiques for cash.

William's face was full of amazement as he saw Yvonne taking a couple of looks at him, his heart was full of excitement.

William looked at the waiter and said, "Today I'll be paying for every table, except for this one!"

After finishing his words, William pointed at Darryl's table. Those sitting at that table had a low standing in the Lyndon clan and he was not afraid to offend them.

"Darryl, do you know why I'm not footing the bill

for you?" William said as he stood up and looked at Darryl. "It's because you didn't offer Miss Yvonne your seat! You're too accustomed to your bullsh*t! How dare you sit at the front looking so worthless? You made Miss Yvonne unhappy, and I have to punish you on her behalf."

Finishing his words, he looked back at Yvonne. "Miss Yvonne, don't you worry, I'll teach him a lesson on your behalf! Every table should cost at least 10,000 bucks, Darryl would surely not be able to afford it."

Yvonne did not say a word and merely smiled lightly. ②

The waiter took William's card away, and William continued speaking to Yvonne. "Miss Yvonne, don't worry, you like The Worship of Crystal, right? I have lots of friends, I'll have them make inquiries and purchase the heels for you!"

Indeed William has many friends, but they were all a pack of rogues. The thought of them being able to get their hands on a pair of The Worship of Crystal was a foolish dream.

"Thank you," said Yvonne as she gave a polite smile and gently nodded her head.

At that moment, two waiters hastily walked up to William and bowed.

“We’re sorry sir, it would seem that your card has insufficient funds.”

William flew into a rage. “You’ve gotta be f*cking kidding me? I have 11 million in my card and you’re telling me that I have insufficient funds?”

“We’re sorry sir, the total bill is 38.26 million.” 5

Chapter 9

Haha! Darryl nearly laughed out loud upon hearing the price of the bill. This William was a real fool! None of them knew anything about the wine that was ordered, except for Darryl. It was a Romanée-Conti, which retail price was set at over one million bucks, and more than 30 bottles were distributed around the dining hall!

“Are you f*cking kidding me?” William panicked. He stood up and said to the waiter, “Over 300 of us Lyndons ate an amount of over 30 million bucks? The average cost per person is 100,000 bucks then? Alright, get your manager to see me.”

The two waiters looked at each other helplessly, they had no choice but to call their manager over.

The manager was a 30-year-old young man, who wore a neat suit

“Do you intend to continue operating your hotel?” William stepped forward and shouted at the manager while pointing at him. “An average cost of 100,000 per person? Believe it or not, I’m going to report you to the Consumers Association.”

The manager was not the slightest bit worried and

merely stood there. “Excuse me, sir. The wine you ordered was a limited edition Romanée-Conti. Only 800 bottles are manufactured per year internationally and its market price is 1.63 million per bottle. Sir, we even gave you a discount for ordering over 30 bottles.”

William immediately flew into a rage and grabbed onto the manager’s collar. “It’s a limited edition wine and you guys have over 30 bottles here?! Who the f*ck wants to order this bottle of wine anyway?”

The manager put on a fake smile. Being a manager for about five to six years, he has seen many famous and important people around Donghai City. However, it was his first time seeing an incapable person acting like he was rich.

The manager steadied his emotions. “Kind sir, let me be clear about three things. Firstly, you said that you wanted the best wine, and we have the security camera footage as proof. Secondly, the wine we provide is certified authentic, I’m not sure why my boss has so many bottles of limited edition wines either. Lastly, please be respectful.”

Thud!

At the end of his sentence, ten or so burly men barged in from the door. They wore black short-sleeved shirts, showing off their huge tattoos.

They were the Oriental Pearl Hotel's security guards. As Donghai City's most luxurious hotel, no one dared to cause trouble on the premises. Everyone knew that the Oriental Pearl's boss came from a rough background. Nobody would dare to be ignorant and cause trouble here.

Leading them was a man wearing a Chinese tunic suit, holding a cane in his hand. This man was none other than the boss of Oriental Pearl, Wayne Woodall.

Wayne was dressed in an old-fashioned manner, some might even mistake him for a 70-year-old man. In truth, he was just 30 years old.

Naturally, when Wayne brought in these burly men, the Lyndons panicked and went up to apologize.

William's face sweated bullets. That was Wayne Woodall! The boss of Oriental Pearl Hotel, one of the earliest to dabble in rough business in Donghai City!

Upon seeing his boss, the manager spoke again with confidence. "You Lyndons are truly a second class clan. You said it yourself that you wanted the best wine, and now you're refusing to pay?"

"No, no!" Exclaimed William as he was taken aback. "We'll pay, we'll pay..." He looked at Grandmother

Lyndon as he said that.

Where could he find over 30 million bucks! If the bill was not paid, William would probably be leaving the place on a stretcher!

“Mister Woodall.” Grandmother Lyndon could not sit still any longer, and under some people’s assistance, went up to Wayne and bowed.

Age-wise, Grandmother Lyndon was way older than Wayne, but in terms of status, she could not afford to offend a man like him.

“The Lyndon clan made a mistake.” Grandmother Lyndon apologized with a bow. “My grandson is young and reckless, and I apologize on his behalf. We will pay the bill immediately.”

Upon seeing Granny bowing, the children of the Lyndon clan felt a sense of unease. What could they have done? No one asked William to do what he did, wanting to drink the most expensive wine!

Some of the younger members of the Lyndon clan looked up that bottle of wine online, and indeed it was over a million a bottle.

William apologized profusely as well after seeing his Granny doing so. The entire Lyndon clan hurriedly tried to put in some good words

Only Darryl stood up to walk out, not because of the

situation, but rather he was old friends with Wayne!

When Wayne was just starting his business, he had visited the Darby clan to negotiate a deal. During that time, he had no money nor power, and none of the Darbys wanted to receive him. ①

At that time, Darryl was merely 14 years old, but he felt that Wayne carried himself extraordinarily well. He decided to invest 300,000 bucks in him, which made Wayne teared up in gratitude.

In truth, it was more of a sponsor rather than an investment, for Darryl did not ask for any shares. This happened so many years ago that he had almost forgotten about it. He could not believe that he would meet Wayne again on this very day, having started a successful business and becoming the boss of Oriental Pearl Hotel.

He definitely did not make a mistake by investing in him at that time.

Darryl hunched forward and tried to sneak out of the place, not wanting to be recognized by him.

“Hey there friend, hang on,” exclaimed Wayne as he walked toward Darryl.

The Lyndons were full of rage. Was Darryl mad? A simple apology and payment were all that was needed to settle this matter, but he decided to

escape instead?

“Lily, what’s going on in your husband’s mind? Escaping?!” A few ladies of the Lyndon clan said.

“Yeah, everyone advised you to divorce him quickly, and yet you didn’t listen!”

“Now he’s trying to escape, Mister Wayne would surely be mad, and us Lyndons would have to suffer the consequences!” The ladies shouted while pointing at Lily.

Meanwhile, Lily could only bite her lip. Any sense of pride left in her was lost upon Darryl’s attempt at escaping, she would rather stick her head into a hole on the ground at that point.

“Mister Wayne!” William called out and quickly walked toward him, pointing at Darryl. “Mister Wayne, please don’t be mad, this guy is our clan’s live-in son-in-law, he’s always been a useless piece of trash. Him wanting to escape is none of our clan’s business! We’ll pay the bill right now...”

“F*ck off!” Wayne roared as he pointed at William.

Wayne’s booming voice frightened William and sent shivers down his spine. He dared not utter a sound and stood there in a daze.

Wayne was in disbelief! He could not believe that in his lifetime would he meet this young man again!

Seven years ago, he lacked the funds to start his business. No one was willing to help him, after all, he was a ruffian back then. Only the Darby clan's second young master, a boy only 14 years of age, had sponsored him a sum of money! Darryl gave him 300,000 without asking for anything in return! Darryl had Wayne's eternal gratitude, and he would never forget what he had done for him!

If not for this sum of money, Wayne would have been living on the streets a long time ago!

In recent years after his entrepreneurship success, Wayne had people inquire about this young man. He only learned that this man had been banished by the Darbys, his whereabouts unknown.

Today Wayne merely saw Darryl's back, but it was enough for him to recognize who he was!

"Second young master, is it you..."

There was a slight tremble in Wayne's voice, it was hard to imagine that a man who had seen much of life would exercise caution like a kid.

Damn it! There was no way to hide!

Darryl gritted his teeth and turned around to face Wayne.

Thump!

In an instant, Wayne was completely stupefied and knelt on the ground!

“I’ve finally found you, I’ve been looking for you for three whole years! I’m eternally grateful for your benevolence!” Wayne exclaimed with excitement, tears streaming down his face.

Every person in Oriental Pearl Hotel dropped their jaws immediately.

Astonishing!

Utterly astonishing!

A boss whose net worth was in the billions was kneeling on the ground, vehemently excited like a child!

Darryl simply stood there calmly without any signs of emotion! He showed no sign of happiness nor sadness! ②

What is the meaning of this?!

“Mister Wayne, what’s going on? Did you fall?” Darryl quickly bent over and picked him up, all the while winking repeatedly at him.

What kind of man was Wayne? Upon seeing Darryl’s action, he immediately understood that Darryl did not want to reveal his true identity.

“I wasn’t standing properly...” Wayne smoothly

replied and heaved a sigh of relief. "I'm sorry, I must've mistaken you for someone else..."

"Phew..."

Upon hearing those words, members of the Lyndon clan let out a sigh of relief as well.

Turned out Wayne simply was not standing properly

...

That was right, how would a piece of trash be acquainted with Mister Wayne.

"Listen to me," said Grandmother Lyndon eventually, while gazing around the dining hall.

"This meal cost over 38 million bucks, William won't be paying this sum alone," she said.

William's face lit up with joy upon hearing Granny's words, truly she treated him best!

"This meal will cost an average of 100,000 bucks per person, all of you shall use your own money for it," she continued.

The crowd nodded one after another. Even though the Lyndons were considered a second class clan, 10 0,000 bucks was still not a big deal to them.

However, two people among the crowd that had a sour look on their faces!

Naturally, they were Lily and Samantha. Their

company met with some challenges recently and they had just resolved the five-million issue, as such their savings had been emptied a few days ago.

“Lily, you don’t look so good. Don’t tell me you don’t even have enough money to split the bill?”

laughed William. He knew of course that Lily was broke, and he purposefully said it loudly to embarrass her.

“I...”

All eyes were on her, and Lily could feel her face blushing red. After a while only did she answered, “I ... I didn’t bring my bank card.” ②

Chapter 10

“Haha, forgotten to bring your bank card, what a splendid reason!” William laughed loudly and looked at Samantha, “Aunt Samantha, did you forget to bring yours too?”

“Yeah...”

“Hahaha!” Everyone could not hold in their laughter. A young girl blurted, “Darryl must have forgotten his card too, this family came here to eat a free meal!”

Lily bit her lips hard as she felt helpless. It was at this moment that Darryl stepped forward.

“I brought my card, it’s just that...”

Before Darryl could finish his sentence, William snatched his card over and passed it to the waiter, “Come, let’s see whether this card has even 300,000 bucks in it!”

Lily stomped her feet anxiously, thinking how his card would have 300,000 when she only gave him a daily allowance of 200 bucks.

He would be making a fool out of himself.

Lily could see that everyone around was holding in

their laughter, waiting to laugh at him being a joke.

At this moment, nobody noticed Yvonne standing up slowly. Her beautiful face was full of shock!

“I didn’t see it wrongly, right? Amethyst Bank’s black card?! ” exclaimed Yvonne.

Mocking laughter filled the hall initially, but now it turned as silent as the grave.

Yvonne’s words seemingly turned everyone into stone!

This bank card was remarkably pretty, it was all-black, laced in gold, and had a diamond engraved on it. Two words were beautifully written on the bottom right corner of the bank card: Darryl Darby.

A black card from Amethyst Bank!

How was that possible?! William’s platinum card needed to have at least ten million savings in it.

Moving up the tier was the diamond card, that required a hundred million in savings.

Moving further up was the VIP card, whose cardholder’s savings should not be lesser than five hundred million!

The highest-ranking card was the black card that would ask for a total of one billion savings!

Perhaps in the whole of Donghai City, there would

not be more than three of these cards! No one at the venue including Wayne could possess it!

Lily and Samantha were both stunned, they could not say a single word!

“This...this is just a sticker for bank cards, right?” Somebody among the crowd suddenly blurted out.

At this moment, everyone was relieved. It must be some kind of sticker! Such an uncouth looking person could not possibly own a black card.

“Haha, Darryl, you’re one disgusting man,” laughed William loudly. “Don’t mind that you’re poor, yet you try to act like a wealthy person.”

Darryl did not say anything at all and just smiled.

Lily came forward and saw the waiter had taken the card away to make payment. “Darryl, get rid of that sticker when we get home, aren’t you shameful? Also...does...does your card have sufficient money in it?” Lily could not help but ask softly.

“It’s enough, I saved the allowance you gave me every day. Including my savings from before, it’s enough,” Darryl said.

Hahahaha!

Although Darryl’s voice was soft, everyone heard him and they laughed again.

After paying the bill, everyone in the Lyndon clan left. Wayne discreetly held Darryl's arm and brought him into his car.

"Second Young Master, I finally meet you again..." Wayne was excited, speaking to Darryl as he drove.

"Where are you taking me?"

"I'm bringing you to meet a few people, they are very eager to see you!" Wayne's hands were trembling. "You must come with me..."

"Fine, fine, fine. I'll go with you, just drive carefully," assured Darryl.

Son of a b*tch, why was this guy so excited? He could not even hold the steering wheel properly.

The car sped away and arrived at a bar's entrance.

Donghai City's most luxurious bar, the Moonlit River Bar!

It could be assumed that the minimum spending for two in this bar for a night would be 10,000 bucks!

Many luxurious cars were parked at the entrance of Moonlit River Bar, those who came here to more or less have some financial capability.

"What are we doing at a place like this?" asked Darryl as he got down the car.

He disliked such places as he found them too noisy.

“To give you a surprise!” Wayne beamed. “Second Young Master, the boss of Moonlit River Bar is an old acquaintance of yours, Samson Facey.”

Samson Facey?

Oh, Darryl remembered now. Initially, he was just a general worker employed by the Darby clan. Darryl thought that he had the brains and had promoted him to a managerial position. After working for two years and earning a sum of money, he then left to start his own business.

Darryl did not expect that Samson would open Moonlit River Bar. He did not let Darryl down.

“Second Young Master, please head inside first and wait for me in room number 888,” said Wayne as he bowed. “Samson and I shall prepare a surprise for you which you’ll definitely love!”

Wayne left before waiting for Darryl to respond.

Darryl sighed and went into the Moonlit River Bar.

No wonder the bar was famous, even the ushers at the entrance were beauties.

Darryl smiled as he entered, and deafening loud music could be heard.

It was extremely lively in the bar, crowds of men

and women were swaying their bodies to the music on the dance floor... ①

Darryl felt old, this type of place did not suit him...

“Oh? Am I seeing correctly, isn’t this useless Darryl?” Some said from behind suddenly. Darryl subconsciously turned his head around and was stunned.

Behind him was a gorgeous woman, wearing a pair of skin-tight jeans and looking seductively sexy. It was Jade.

“What should you call me? Shouldn’t you call me daddy?” said Darryl smilingly.

“You!” Jade bit her lips, she was extremely happy today as she had come to negotiate a deal with a big client! If she could sign a contract with this client, she would earn at least one million in commission!

Hence she had invited her potential client here today, preparing to have a few drinks and get the contract signed.

She did not expect to meet Darryl here!

“Even you with your uncouth look can manage to come to a place like this?” Jade said as she looked at Darryl from head to toe. “Saving 200 bucks a day over a year, just to spend it all here once. Is it worth it?”

“Nope,” Darryl laughed. “I just want to know, when will you finally call me daddy?”

At this moment, a burly man stood up and walked to Jade’s side and asked, “Miss Jade, who is this? Why does he talk like an idiot? Do you need me to teach him a lesson?”

Jade laughed and said, “Darryl, do you know who this man is beside me? He is Moonlit River Bar’s head of security. If I ask him to throw you out, would you cry?”

There was no mistake, this burly man was her client, Harry Crocker!

Head of security was just a title, those who understood could tell that he was a bouncer. ①

After all, a place like this would attract many troublemakers. Harry was famous in Donghai City, having around twenty to thirty men under him just to look after this place.

“Skinny bastard, did you hear that? F*ck out here yourself,” said Harry in contempt as he took a step forward.

What was it with these ushers? Letting an uncouth looking man into here. This guy dressed in bargained goods probably did not even earn more than two thousand on his monthly salary, yet he

dared to enter a place like this?

Darryl just smiled, he did not bother what Harry said and went straight for Room 888.

All the rooms here were glass rooms. Room 888 was positioned right in the center, and it could be seen from the outside that Room 888 was dazzling like a palace.

“Stop right there!”

Harry shouted as he saw Darryl walking into Room 888. He concluded that Darryl must be here to cause trouble!

All equipment in Room 888 were gold-plated, and the cost to reserve and use this room was 800,000 per hour!

Darryl had already sat down inside, holding up a cup of tea preparing to drink it.

Hahaha! It was over for Darryl this time!

Jade felt joyous in her heart. Was Darryl stupid? A private room like that was not for a useless son-in-law like him to sit in.

Jade and Harry had a chat previously and he mentioned the room had not been used for half a year already!

Harry had a nominal kinship with the boss here as

his godfather and son, despite that, even he dared not enter Room 888.

“Are you deaf? Can’t you hear me?” Harry shouted as he strode forward and grabbed Darryl by his collar.

‘Haha, Jade the goddess is here, if I beat this punk’s ass it’ll show how mighty I am, right?’ thought Harry while he called out. Immediately, twenty over burly men rushed into Room 888. They were all bouncers at the Moonlit River Bar. ①

“What’s wrong, Harry?” The burly men asked.

Harry turned to look at Jade and laughed, “Miss Jade, how should I deal with this guy?”

Jade looked at Darryl, he still had an indifferent look on his face. Seeing him like this made her mad!

She stomped her feet with her heels and said, “Make him call me mommy, then throw him out.”

Chapter 11

With high heels adorning her feet, she stomped and said, "Make him call me mommy, then throw him out."

"Did you hear what Miss Jade said, ya little bastard? Let her hear you call her mommy. Or else..." Harry roared.

As soon as he said that, more than 20 burly men behind him reached to their lower back and pulled out their expandable batons.

"Or else, don't blame me for not sparing you any courtesy. I'm giving you a way out. Be a good boy and call her mommy," Harry said with a smirk and continued. "Then, if you kneel on the ground for her and admit your mistake, you'll be allowed to leave here safe and sound. Otherwise, I'll send you out on a stretcher."

Jade could not resist laughing. She took two steps forward in her high heels and fished out her cellphone from her bag.

If Darryl finally caved in and called her 'mommy', she would record it and send it to Lily!

"What if I don't?" Darryl was amused and began

looking at Jade up and down.

Jade frowned upon seeing Darryl's resistance. "Mister Crocker, hit him and make him kneel!"

"My pleasure!" Harry stretched out both arms. One hand grabbed Darryl by the collar while the other delivered a fierce punch!

"Stop right there, you b*stard!"

A roar echoed, and the door was kicked open by four or five individuals.

Everyone was stunned after seeing the group of people.

Samson Facey, the boss of Moonlit River!

Wayne Woodall, the boss of the Oriental Pearl Hotel!

Felix Blakely, owner of Black Tiger Real Estate!

Emily Dickinson, the owner of Poesia Eleganza!

Siegfried Yates, the general manager of Southeast Petroleum, Donghai City!

Any one of them was worth at least billions, and the person who spoke earlier was none other than Samson!

A smile appeared on Darryl's face when he saw them.

They were his old friends who used to be poor but

had received favors from him in the past. They seemed to have ended up rather successful in the business world.

"You b*stard!" Samson nearly died of fright. How dare that b*stard lay a hand on the Second Young Master? He rushed over and slapped Harry's face!

Slap!

Samson practically used up all of his strength in that slap and Harry covered his cheek as it began to swell.

"Godfather!" Harry yelled and was on the brink of tears. "Godfather, this peasant worker is causing trouble. How dare he sit in Room 888!"

Slap!

Samson slapped again and roared, "What about that peasant worker? Did he provoke you? You're already looking down on people after enjoying a little luxury? What did I teach you?!"

"Godfather!"

Harry yelled disgruntledly and his eyes were red. "But Godfather, this kid, he's an outsider. Why would you hit me for his sake...?"

Samson trembled in rage before pointing at Darryl, saying, "Outsider? Don't you f*cking know that I

won't be where I am today without this person! He's the Darby family's Second Young Master! You'll have to work for ten years to get a day's worth of his pocket money!"

What?!

The entire room immediately fell silent!

Harry was stupefied. He often heard tales of his godfather working for the Darby family before establishing Moonlit River. His godfather was lucky to have been appreciated by the second young master! Never in Harry's wildest dreams would he expect the poor young man to be the Darby family's second young master!

Jade was flabbergasted too!

At that moment, she felt her legs turn limp as her delicate body unconsciously took two steps back.

She could see the immense respect these business tycoons had when standing in front of Darryl!

How was that possible, he was just a live-in son-in-law!

That loser was doing housework whenever she went to Lily's house! Even her laundry, which she was usually disinclined to do, was sent to Lily's house and given to that loser to wash.

But... But... He turned out to be the Darby family's

second young master?!"

"Mister Darryl, Mister Darryl, I made a mistake. I was wrong..." Harry was close to crying. He bowed to Darryl and apologized profusely.

"Mister Darryl, blame this woman!" Harry bellowed all of a sudden before pointing at Jade. "It's all because of you! It's because of you that I offended Mister Darryl! Leave right now!"

Jade trembled. "But we haven't signed the contract yet ..."

Jade worked in a renovation company, and it just so happened that Moonlit River required some renovations. It was a big project that would rake in a commission of at least one million if the contract was successfully signed. As a result, Jade did not bring up the deal with the company and planned to accept it in her personal capacity. A commission of one million was considered the minimum and she might even stand to earn two million! This was not the kind of business she could just turn her back on! One to two million was at stake!

"Sign my foot!" Harry's eyes were red. He pointed at Jade and cursed loudly, "If it weren't for you, I would have never offended Mister Darryl! F*ck the contract. I'll even make sure to head to your company and tell your boss about all your business

dealings behind their back! Your company forbids you to solicit projects privately, so sit back and wait for a lawsuit!"

Jade's beautiful face completely drained of color!

She bit her lip tightly. If the company knew about her private solicitations and brought her to court, she would be lucky if she only had to pay compensation. There was a definite possibility that she might end up going to jail!

"Mister Darryl ... " At that moment, Jade bit her lip and walked to Darryl. She tugged his arm and shook it coyly.

"Mister Darryl, I was wrong... " Her voice was so soft that it was impossible to hear if one did not pay attention.

She never dreamed that she would one day apologize to this good-for-nothing! It hardly occurred to her that she would bow and scrape to this hopeless loser!

Darryl remained expressionless and smiled looking at her. "Didn't you just say that you wanted me to kneel and call you mommy?"

"I was wrong. I know now that I was wrong." Jade bit her lip so tightly that it almost bled.

"I'll kneel." Jade clasped her hands together tightly.

Her dignity and self-esteem meant nothing at that moment. She bent her knees slightly and proceeded to kneel in front of Darryl.

"Mister Darryl, I'm begging you. Please forgive me. " Jade grabbed Darryl's trousers and said softly, " Mister Darryl, if my company knows about my private business dealings, the consequences are really serious. I'm begging you. Please spare me, for Lily's sake..."

"Sure," Darryl responded curtly. "But what are you supposed to address me as?"

As Darryl said that, he placed his hand to his ear and gazed down at Jade.

A chill came up her spine as she knelt there. How could she not know what Darryl meant?

"D...d...daddy," Jade bit her lip tightly and whispered.

Her face had already turned red. Darryl was the person she looked down on the most. The mere sight of him would leave her feeling sick! At that point, however, she had renounced virtually all of her dignity in front of Darryl!

"You'll address me like that in the future. Understood?" Darryl asked with a smirk.

Jade nodded repeatedly.

"Also, I don't want Lily to know my identity."

Darryl took out a cigarette, lit it, and inhaled deeply.

"You know what to do, don't you?"

"Yes, yes," Jade answered and glanced at Darryl. "Don't worry, Daddy. I won't say a single word about what happened today."

Darryl nodded in satisfaction and waved his hand indicating that she could leave.

"Second Young Master, I failed to discipline my godchild..."

Samson bowed to Darryl after everyone left.

At the same time, Wayne, Felix, Emily, and Siegfried also stepped forward and bowed.

"Second Young Master, we were nothing all those years ago." Emily took a step forward. "If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be where we are today.

Knowing that you are here today, we got you a gift."

She took out a box while speaking.

Emily's Poesia Eleganza specialized in cosmetics, and the Poesia Eleganza brand had succeeded in making a name for itself.

Three years ago, she was just a promoter giving out flyers on the street. One time, she scratched Darryl's car by accident, but instead of leaving, she waited

an entire night for Darryl to return.

On that occasion, Darryl felt that she was a person of good character and gave her 300,000 bucks to start a business. Time passed in the blink of an eye and it was already five years since the incident.

Emily opened the box, the inside of which contained a scroll.

As soon as she unfurled it, Darryl inhaled sharply!

It was a work of calligraphy that looked rather old. The inscription wrote: Wang Xizhi!

Was that... Was that... Wang Xizhi's Ping'an Tie?! [1]

The scroll made the news after being auctioned off by a mysterious Chinese rich man!

"We know that Second Young Master is fond of antiques, paintings, and calligraphy, so we pooled our money and bought this from a collector," Felix chuckled as he explained. It was very eye-catching to see his two rows of pearly teeth contrasting with his very tan skin.

"Second Young Master, your birthday is in three days, right? This is our birthday present to you."

Birthday?

Darryl facepalmed. He had forgotten it completely.

His birthday was on the same day as Grandmother

Lyndon, which was happening in three days. ①

No one remembered his birthday in previous years. Everyone celebrated Grandmother Lyndon's birthday, and Darryl merely benefited from sharing the same birthday as her.

It came as a surprise that there were still people who remembered his birthday.

...

In one of Donghai City's cafés.

Ashton sat face-to-face with Lily.

He had yet to reveal his bankruptcy to Lily.

"I've decided, Lilybud. I'll bring up the marriage proposal to the Lyndon family on Grandmother Lyndon's birthday!" Ashton looked at Lily affectionately.

Translator's note:

[1] 平安帖 – is translated using a Romanization of the Chinese characters into Ping'an Tie, which literally means 'Peace Scroll'. It is part of a scroll which are three works in one, titled Three Passages: Ping-an, He-ru, and Feng-ju (平安何如奉橘三帖). The author is Wang Xizhi (王羲之).

Chapter 12

"You ..." Lily frowned when Ashton talked about the marriage proposal. "Forget it, I'm not divorced yet."

Although Darryl was a loser, he had worked hard in the past few years and fulfilled his housework duties. He received a telling-off every time he failed to do a good job, yet he never complained.

Even a dog would have feelings, let alone a human.

Darryl had recently loaned them five million and relieved the company of its woes. Aside from that, Darryl had to take out all the money he had saved over the years to avoid embarrassment when William suggested going Dutch in Oriental Pearl Hotel.

Ashton looked at her affectionately. "Lilybud, am I inferior to Darryl in any way? He's a loser! Don't you worry, I'll prepare a big gift for Grandma's birthday and wish her a happy birthday! She'll be delighted with the gift. I'll propose marriage when the time comes and I'm sure that Grandma would not refuse."

Lily casually sipped her coffee. The Lyndon family's

rules were very strict, and Grandmother Lyndon had the final say. If she took a liking to Ashton, Lily might be instructed to divorce Darryl.

Lily genuinely regarded Darryl as a loser, but she was not completely apathetic toward him. After all, they had been married for three years, and she did not dare to say that she had no feelings for him.

"Let me ask you something," Lily suddenly said.

"What is it? Ask away, Lilybud."

"That pair of The Worship of Crystal. You didn't give me the real one, did you?" Lily could not help but ask.

"Lilybud. I get angry when you mention that!"

Ashton sighed and a fierce look flashed in his eyes. "The shoes I gave you were imitations, but they are still worth three hundred thousand bucks. Your loser husband threw them! When I went home and saw those shoes, I realized that he had destroyed them."

Lily listened to Ashton's grumbles and bit her lip tightly.

"I'm talking about the genuine pair of The Worship of Crystal. Weren't you the one who gave them to me?" Lily asked softly.

What?!

Ashton was taken aback. His first instinct was to look below. Sure enough, Lily was wearing a pair of noble and elegant high heels. It was none other than The Worship of Crystal!

His mouth opened wide after glancing at those heels! That pair of The Worship of Crystal was on a whole other level compared to the high-grade imitation worth 300,000!

Ashton might be a man, but he knew that those shoes were genuine! They looked particularly elegant and complemented a noble look on any woman who wore them.

Gulp!

Ashton gulped fiercely. 30 million! A pair of genuine The Worship of Crystal cost 30 million!

That very pair was special in that it was limited to 99 pairs worldwide. Those without connections were unable to purchase them!

"Was this pair a gift from you?"

Lily pressed on.

She really could not think of anyone else who would give her something so expensive!

Indeed, many people wanted to pursue her, but deep down, Lily knew that most of her suitors were

merely rich kids. They might be wealthy, but they could not spend 30 million just for a gift!

What about Ashton?

Despite being in dire straits after the Darby family cut off their funding, he still had an eye for detail. If his guesses were correct, then someone else had given those shoes to Lily, though she had absolutely no idea who the giver was!

'Haha, did people like that still exist? Anonymous gift-givers? Hahaha! Well, if you don't want to take credit for it, then I'd be happy to!'

Ashton was overjoyed. He smiled cheekily and feigned coyness. "You got me, Lilybud. I'll tell you the truth then. I gave it to you."

"Ah? Really?" Lily looked at him puzzlingly. "Why didn't you admit it when I asked you before?"

Ashton scratched his head. "It's not that I didn't want to admit it, Lilybud. I'm just worried you'll scold me."

"Why would I scold you?" Lily asked.

Ashton gazed lovingly at Lily. "Because I know in my heart that you love these shoes and you wanted them for a very long time. I wanted to buy them for you, Lilybud, but as you may know, our company only has thirty million. That's why I bought you a

pair of high-quality copies. Still, when I gave them to you, I had a feeling that you didn't like them that much." ②

He took out his cellphone, tapped the screen a few times, then said, "So I decided to sell the company and bought you this pair. I was worried you'll scold me for being stupid. Lilybud, you know that you're the most important person in my heart. I'm not stupid. I just love you too much! I'll always find a way to get you the stuff you like because I love you." ①

Ashton handed over his phone as he explained.

A photo was on display and it was that of Ashton's contract to leave the company.

Ashton chuckled in his heart. While the contract was real, the reason he signed it was because the Darby family drove him away and no longer allowed him to remain in the company!

Ashton was still in the dark over who he had offended and why it caused the Darby family to chase him out all of a sudden.

On the other hand, Lily knew nothing about that. She truly believed that Ashton had sold off the company and bought her those shoes!

Although her affections for Ashton were not of the romantic kind, she felt slightly emotional at that

moment and looked right at him.

"You... " Lily lips nearly bled due to her biting it. " Why are you so stupid."

"I'm not stupid!"

Ashton seized the chance and reached out to hold Lily's beautiful hand. "Lilybud, I'm willing to do anything for you."

Lily trembled. Even though she found it heart-warming, she still retracted her hand and looked at Ashton with mixed feelings. In the end, she picked up her bag and left.

Ashton ogled her slender, curvy figure from behind. ①

'I'm going to get this woman.'

Ashton had a little smile as if he could already imagine Lily's captivating body.

Moonlit River Bar.

It was ages since Darryl last got drunk, and he had lost all self-control today.

"You can still tolerate a fair bit of alcohol, Second Young Master," Samson raised his glass and said.

"From now on, don't ever call me Second Young Master again." Darryl looked around and downed his glass. "I'm not keen on being addressed like

that."

Three years ago, his sister-in-law led the charge to kick Darryl out of the family. From that point onward, he was especially averse to the title of Second Young Master.

The thought of what happened back then prompted Darryl to clench his fists. ①

Back then, he had used eight million to buy Southeast Petroleum's shares, but no one ever believed that he could make money out of it. His sister-in-law alleged that it was an attempt to hollow out the clan funds, and under her instigation, the family kicked Darryl out of the clan.

However, the eight million from that time was his own pocket money, which he saved himself and formed his private funds!

Darryl was well aware that his sister-in-law did that for a reason. There were two candidates for the Darby family's future patriarch. The first-in-line was Florian, Darryl's elder brother.

The second was none other than Darryl.

His sister-in-law wanted to get rid of him so there would be no one else vying with Florian for the patriarch's position.

"Then is it okay if we call you Mister Darby from

now on?" Wayne asked, snapping Darryl back to the present.

Darryl nodded. His mood had soured after reflecting on his past.

He then saw Emily approaching him from one side. She said softly, "Mister Darby, there's something I want to tell you."

"What is it?" Darryl finished the drink in his hand and looked at her.

He had to admit that Emily looked much more charming then compared to when he first met her. In the present, her business had taken off and she had built her brand of cosmetics, making her look more alluring than before.

"It's about your sister-in-law," Emily said in his ear. ①

"Let's hear it."

Emily nodded and slowly began. "Just last year, your sister-in-law contacted someone to get in touch with me. She wanted to buy a piece of limited-edition cosmetics. After I bought it for her and chatted with her, I found out by accident that she's very ambitious."

Darryl had a faint smile. He had long noticed how ruthlessly ambitious his sister-in-law was. Why

else would she have chased him away if not for that characteristic of hers?

In a bustling area of Donghai City.

Lily, who had just parted ways with Ashton, was walking side-by-side with Phoebe.

"Why do you look so distracted, Lily?" Phoebe asked as they walked out of a store.

Lily shook her head. "It's nothing."

At that point, her mind was filled only with thoughts of Ashton. It was hard to imagine that the man had sold his company just to buy her a pair of heels. ①

"By the way, Lily, did you hear about the cosmetics brand that's all the rage recently?" Phoebe asked excitedly.

The absent-minded Lily finally showed some interest. "Is it Poesia Eleganza's Crown line?"

"Yes, yes, yes!"

The two of them giggled at the same time. There was a myriad of topics that women could talk about, but the ones that interested them most were stuff like cosmetics and clothes.

One particular brand of cosmetics was in the spotlight recently, and that brand was Poesia

Eleganza!

Valentine's Day was coming soon, and Poesia Eleganza had launched another series called the Crown line!

It was limited to 520 sets worldwide!

Each set cost 520,000 bucks and was considered to be royalty among the cosmetics brands! Every woman desired it! Although 520,000 bucks were not too expensive a sum, plenty of rich people scrambled to get their hands on it, and those without any connections were downright unable to buy them.

1

Chapter 13

"Valentine's Day is coming soon, Lily. It would be such a blessing to receive a set of Poesia Eleganza's Crown line cosmetics," Phoebe said to Lily.

"You? Keep on dreaming," Lily said with a smile.

At present, Poesia Eleganza's Crown line had an exceptionally high price and was limited to only 520 sets, which were probably all sold out. Those who could buy them were big families who had ample connections. Smaller families like the Lyndons had zero chance of obtaining them.

"Alright, enough," Lily giggled. "Let's go and buy a couple of clothes. Granny's birthday is coming soon. We have to dress nicely for the celebration."

Phoebe nodded, then walked into a store arm in arm with Lily.

The next day, at Platinum Corporation.

Darryl sat in the general manager's office and got up from the sofa. It was two in the morning by the time they finished their drinking session the night before. He could not be bothered to go home, so he decided to just sleep at the company.

His cellphone vibrated, and he swiped open to see a

message from his mother-in-law, Samantha.

'So now you have learned not to come back home, haven't you? If you don't want to stay at home, then don't ever come back again.'

Less than five minutes after the text message was received, he received another from Lily.

'Granny's birthday is the day after tomorrow. Buy a present for her and don't embarrass me too much.'

Darryl placed his phone away after reading the two messages and he soon heard a knock on his door.

A beautiful woman dressed in business attire walked in. It was his secretary, Pearl Hahn.

"President Darby, we've just signed the partnership contract with the Lyndon clan and they've already sent someone here," Pearl said. "They said that they'd like to take over Giselle's image consultancy. William is already waiting outside."

"Tell him to scram." Darryl waved his hand and said, "Make it clear to the Lyndon family that the contract is canceled."

"Yes."

Pearl bowed and walked out of the room.

William was waiting anxiously outside the door. Lily was the one who sealed the deal, but

Grandmother Lyndon had passed Lily's efforts to him and even sent him to discuss with Platinum Corporation! 'Haha!'

Rumor had it that Platinum Corporation's newly signed Giselle was beautiful and had a stunningly sexy body. If Platinum Corporation agreed to let the Lyndons style Giselle's image, they would certainly make a fortune. Success would mean he would get all the credit!

"Mister Lyndon." Pearl walked over in her high heels.

William looked at her from head to toe. It was not surprising that Platinum Corporation was a premier company for A-list celebrities. Even the President's secretary was very pretty.

"Miss Hahn," William greeted as he walked over with a smile. "What did the president say? When can we start handling Giselle's affairs?"

"Apologies, Mister Lyndon." Pearl flashed a smile. "Our president told you to scram. The contract that was signed earlier has also been canceled."

"What?!" William bellowed in shock. He was not in a position to show his displeasure regardless of how angry he was!

He could not afford to provoke Platinum

Corporation! His lips curled up into a modest smile, though it looked uglier than if he were to cry. "Why?"
" 1

Pearl explained gently, "Our president stated that it was Lily who came and handled the negotiations. Platinum Corporation's decision to cooperate with your company is solely out of respect for Lily. She has to be the one to show up and discuss any projects in the future. No one else will be entertained."

As soon as she finished speaking, several security guards immediately escorted William away. 1

At the Lyndon family villa.

The old lady sat in the chair, sipped a big mouthful of tea, and massaged her chest continuously.

"You... What did you say..." The old lady asked as she stared at William.

"Granny, Platinum Corporation stated that they wouldn't cooperate with us anymore..." William explained with teary eyes and a runny nose. "They told me to scram..."

"Granny, why is Platinum Corporation being so unreasonable!" One of the Lyndon family's damsels voiced her unhappiness.

"That's right, Granny. Platinum Corporation has

agreed to cooperate with us. The contract has been signed, and all of sudden they want to terminate it now? Isn't that a breach of contract? We can sue them!"

"Yes, Grandma! The contract clearly says that whoever breaches the terms will have to compensate twenty million in damages! Let's sue them!"

Several of the family's younger generation spoke in succession as they fumed in anger.

The old lady was expressionless. Their twittering annoyed her and she slammed the table heavily.

"Shut up, all of you!"

Everyone kept quiet at once. They took a step back after seeing the old lady's anger.

"You're all a bunch of short-sighted younglings." The old woman frowned and said. "Would you dare to sue Platinum Corporation even if they did violate the contract? Don't you know that the Darby clan owns Platinum Corporation! They're the preeminent family in Jiangnan! They can smother all of us with a pinch of the finger. It wouldn't be a problem for them to compensate twenty million, but are you brave enough to demand it?"

Everyone was dumbstruck and began looking at

each other.

Her statement was irrefutable. Indeed, 20 million were peanuts to the Platinum Corporation, but if the Lyndons dared to sue them, they would be burning bridges with the Platinum Corporation. Life would only be difficult from then on.

"William, what else did Platinum Corporation say?" The old lady asked. "They can't possibly terminate the contract without any reason? Did you offend them?"

"Granny, I swear to God, I didn't offend them," William blurted out hastily. "Granny, Platinum Corporation said that the earlier contract discussions were done with Lily. They said they only cooperated with us out of courtesy for Lily. All future negotiations must involve her and they won't accept anyone else."

"This... "

The dozen or so people present were the backbone of the Lyndon clan. At that moment, they all exchanged glances and saw each other's shocked reactions.

The Platinum Corporation cooperated with the Lyndon family for the sake of Lily alone?

How could it have been Lily! She was nothing more

than one of the Lyndon family's juniors, and the company Lily ran was the least profitable of all the companies in the clan! Was Lily so promising that the Platinum Corporation had eyes only for her?! ①

Donghai Airport.

Lily and Samantha got out of the car and glanced at their watches.

"Dad will be getting off the plane soon, right Mom?"
" Lily asked.

Six months ago, Lily's father, Wentworth Lyndon, went abroad to start a business. Rumor had it that he did quite well during that period and often sent Samantha short video recordings of his life abroad, driving luxury cars and visiting high-end office buildings. Since it was Grandmother Lyndon's birthday, Wentworth said that he would return home and give her a surprise.

"It won't take more than ten minutes for him to get off the plane," Samantha said as the two of them walked into the airport.

The two women always turned heads wherever they went! It could not be denied that Samantha and Lily's mother-daughter combination was extremely eye-catching.

Ding-ding. ①

Lily received a text message. She opened it and saw that it was from Darryl, and it contained only short sentences.

'Honey, you must reject Grandma's offer if she calls you later and asks you to negotiate with Platinum Corporation.'

What was he up to!

Lily's slender body shuddered. She had repeatedly warned him not to call her that, but he seemed to lack the ability of simple comprehension.

Moreover, Grandmother Lyndon had already handed over the responsibility of negotiation with Platinum Corporation to William. Why would she ask Lily to handle it again?

Grandmother Lyndon's favoritism toward William was an open secret. Lily might have been the one who secured cooperation with Platinum Corporation, but she had been robbed of her efforts by William!

"Did that loser text you?" Samantha looked over and asked coldly.

"Mm... " ①

Lily nodded. She knew better than anyone who that 'loser' referred to.

"Let me be very clear to you." At that moment, Samantha stopped in her tracks, looked at Lily, and said, "Your dad is home today, and once your grandma's birthday celebration ends, your dad and I will bring you to get the divorce done. You must divorce him!"

"Mom... Darryl, he..." Lily wanted to say something nice about him, but after thinking for a while, she realized how limited her vocabulary was when it came to praising Darryl.

Lily was unsure of her feelings toward Darryl. All she knew was that Darryl had been with her for three years, worked hard, and endured every single complaint.

He was merely unambitious in his quest to improve himself and was quite a good person aside from that.

"Enough, stop talking right now." Samantha waved her hand and said, "If this loser doesn't leave, I will."
"

Chapter 14

"Think carefully, Lily. Think about how much scorn and ridicule you had to face since marrying Darryl," Samantha said coldly. "We've provided him food and clothes during the three years of your marriage to him. At least he has the decency to repay the favor by lending us money to help with the company's five million deficit. We're even now and all I want is for you to leave that loser."

"Mom..." Lily bit her lip.

"Also, Ashton called me and said that he'd attend your grandma's birthday," Samantha continued. "He said he prepared an amazing gift that your grandma will love. You can and should be with him if grandma takes a liking to him."

As she was talking, she saw a man coming over from some distance away. Dressed in a suit and leather shoes, he held a suitcase in his hand. The person was Wentworth, Lily's father.

Lily and Samantha went over to welcome him. The family of three then chatted and laughed all the way out of the airport.

Back home, Samantha cooked a sumptuous meal.

Cooking was usually Darryl's duty and she had not cooked in a long time, so it was unsurprising that she could maintain her appearance so well at her age.

At the dinner table, Samantha asked Wentworth how life was abroad.

Wentworth remarked that his life was uninteresting, other than three meals a day in high-class hotels and daily business discussions with the richest men in the region. He hyped up his stories, and as he spoke, he took out a check and scribbled on it before handing it to Samantha.

50 million!

Samantha grinned from ear-to-ear when she saw the check!

'Hahaha, our days of suffering have finally come to an end! He took out a fifty million check like it was nothing!'

"I heard a few days ago that your company was facing some problems, Lilybud. Something about a shortage of five million?" Wentworth looked at Lily and said, "I was worried about you when your mother called me the other day, but at that time, my funds were still strapped in the stock market. There was no way I could have helped you, but it's all good now though. I've cashed the money out."

Wentworth scribbled on another check while talking.

"Here's another check for fifty million." Wentworth chuckled and said, "By the way, the check I've given you can't be cashed in right away. You can only do so in a week as the check will only take effect after I leave the country."

Was there such a requirement?

Samantha bought his statements despite having some doubts and nodded repeatedly with a smile.

Finally, they could rise to their feet again after enduring for so long. They were eager to know whether anyone would dare to look down on them again during Grandmother Lyndon's birthday!

Ding-ding!

The family was chatting away happily when Lily's phone suddenly rang. After glancing at the caller ID, the entire family looked at each other.

A call from Grandmother Lyndon?

"What's the matter?" Samantha asked at once.

The old lady was personally in charge of all the Lyndon clan's affairs and was therefore swamped in work every single day. It was usually the Lyndon family's elders who were in constant contact with

Grandmother Lyndon. She never phoned her juniors in the past, especially when it came to Lily, as the latter had the lowest status among the Lyndon family's juniors.

"Beats me," Lily replied as she answered the call and switched on the loudspeaker mode.

"Lilybud?"

The old lady's voice came from the other side of the phone.

Despite her reluctance to initiate a call with someone younger than her, she was completely bereft of all options. Platinum Corporation made it clear that any future business discussions must only involve Lily and Lily alone. It was futile for others to handle the negotiations!

"Lilybud, Granny wants to ask you a favor..." The old lady continued.

The three of them were stunned after hearing that sentence!

Grandmother Lyndon had been in charge of everything for so many years. When did she ever ask anyone for favors?!

Samantha hurriedly said, "Mom, what's going on? Please just tell us what you need!" ①

"I want to ask Lilybud ..." The old lady was silent

for a moment, but eventually continued, "I want to ask her for her favor to negotiate with Platinum Corporation to take over Giselle's image consultation."

Samantha was puzzled. The old lady had already handed the responsibility to William. Lily was undoubtedly the one who negotiated the deal but William was allowed to take the credit. Why then, would the old lady hand the responsibility back to Lily again?

Although Samantha's heart lamented the unfairness, she still smiled. "Don't worry, Mom! I'll tell Lilybud to go there later in the afternoon."

After all, the grandmother was the head of the family. Samantha was flattered that the old woman would call them and beg them with that pleading tone! There was no reason to refuse!

Despite that, a shiver came over Lily's body! Darryl had just sent a text message to her, telling her to refuse if the old lady came calling!

How could Darryl know that Grandma would call her? Was he a fortune teller...?

Lily bit her lip tightly. Unaware of her conscious mind's inner workings, she picked up the phone and said, "I'm sorry, Granny, but I refuse. Since you've already given the task to William, he should be

the one to negotiate." ①

"You!" The old lady was thoroughly incensed. "You've become stubborn now, haven't you, Lilybud? Do you believe that the Lyndons will fail in securing the partnership with the Platinum Corporation without you?! How mighty arrogant of you!"

Lily had already ended the call before the old lady could finish talking!

Back at the dinner table, Samantha and Wentworth looked at each other, followed by the former lashing out!

"Lilybud, what are you doing?!" Samantha slammed the table angrily. "How are we going to live out our days in the Lyndon clan after offending the old lady?! Grandma is partial toward William, but you can't deny that William is competent at what he does! Aren't you going to show her any respect, now that she's set aside her arrogance by phoning you and asking you to negotiate?!" ①

Lily bit her lip tightly because Darryl had sent her a text message in advance. Her thought process was a mystery to her and she wondered why, for that brief moment, that she believed Darryl's words and rejected the old lady.

Listening to Samantha's complaints, Lily silently took out her cellphone and absent-mindedly sent a

text to Darryl: 'I've rejected the old lady, what should I do next.'

Everyone called Darryl a loser, and it angered Lily because she felt that he was not doing anything to try and improve himself. Be that as it may, his recent goings-on was something of a curiosity, since it seemed as though Darryl constantly came to her aid at critical moments. Her subconscious mind had gone so far as to begin heeding Darryl's words.

The phone rang not long later and Darryl replied with a couple of short sentences: 'The old lady will continue begging you and you'll continue to refuse. Platinum Corporation won't acknowledge anyone else except you. Trust me.'

Lily felt an inexplicable sense of security after reading his last two words.

All of a sudden, Samantha then snatched her phone away!

"Perfect! You rejected the old lady! It was Darryl who told you to do so, right?!" Samantha's chest trembled as she pointed to Lily and lambasted, "Are you crazy? Do you really believe in Darryl's words! I'm telling you, you'd better divorce him after grandma's birthday!" ①

"Mom, Darryl guessed that Granny would call me..." Lily protested.

Samantha became even angrier and slapped the table heavily. "Mark my words, Darryl is a good-for-nothing! Look at everyone else. Do any other people have a son-in-law like him? Is there any family that doesn't have a son-in-law worth tens of millions!"

She became increasingly agitated while she spoke and her anger flared up at the mere mention of Darryl.

In the afternoon, Grandmother Lyndon sent Stefan Lyndon to handle the negotiations.

Stefan was one of the standout individuals among the Lyndon family's younger generation and his status was second only to William. In the end, though, he was chased out of Platinum Corporation by the security guards before even getting a chance to talk.

The old woman began panicking when Stefan returned. What was going on? Was Lily the only person that Platinum Corporation would accept?

Grandmother Lyndon sat on the chair and smoked her cigarettes one after another.

"I have a plan, Granny." It was then that William walked over and said.

"Granny, my guess is, Lily only managed to secure

the contract because of her good looks," William postulated. "From that, we can see that the Platinum Corporation's President is simply a womanizer. Lily isn't the only beautiful girl in our family! Elsa is also very beautiful, so why not let her give it a shot."

Indeed, two women in the Lyndon family were widely recognized for their beauty.

One was Lily, and the other was none other than Elsa.

Based on their age, Lily even had to address Elsa as her elder sister.

Everyone agreed with that suggestion. William's remarks made sense, and they were certain that Platinum Corporation's President only fancied Lily's good looks.

Early the next morning, Elsa went to Platinum Corporation alone.

Elsa was undeniably stunning, she was the crème de la crème in both body figure and looks!

Chapter 15

Clad in a sheath dress, Elsa stood at the entrance of Platinum Corporation. Not only was she charming and alluring, but many paparazzi also took pictures of her and assumed that she was a new rising star.

Even the security guard thought Elsa was a celebrity and were cautious not to stop her. She went all the way up to the President's office, chancing upon Pearl walking out when she was just about to knock on the door and enter.

Pearl was going to pour tea for Darryl at that time. The moment she opened the door and saw Elsa, she immediately ejected the latter from the building after knowing that she was sent by the Lyndon family.

Was there anyone who did not know who Elsa was? As a renowned beauty in Donghai City, she had many suitors and always rejected them. On that day, however, she was the one who experienced rejection, and she felt lingering displeasure.

The old lady was beyond anxious when she learned of what happened.

The next day, at the Lyndon family villa.

It was Grandmother Lyndon's birthday and the atmosphere was lively in the villa.

Family members rushed back regardless of where they were and news of Grandmother Lyndon's 70th birthday also made its rounds throughout Donghai City.

It was only natural to invite plenty of people to her 70th birthday. Although the Lyndon family was a second-rate family, there were still quite a number of people who were invited to the birthday banquet.

A fleet of cars was seen parked outside the Lyndon family villa.

In front of a Land Rover stood Lily and Samantha, who were both looking impatiently at their watches.

Very soon, they saw an electric bike driving over slowly. Once the vehicle stopped, Darryl hurried over.

"There was a traffic jam. It was a bad traffic jam," Darryl explained breathlessly.

'Damn it!' Pearl was supposed to drive him there, but the traffic was far too congested! After being stuck for more than an hour on the viaduct, he promptly took out the electric bike from the trunk

and rode it over as the banquet was about to start soon.

As it were, the Lyndons were a prominent family, prompting many guests to look over and begin laughing when they saw someone riding an electric bike.

"Look, isn't that Darryl? The Lyndons' live-in son-in-law."

"You bet it's him! Haha!"

"Such a prick. He's lucky to get married to a beauty like Lily!"

"Haha, you don't know anything. I heard that this kid had been sleeping on the floor even though he lived with Lily for three years. Haha!"

Several juniors from the White family gathered together to gossip. The Whites and the Lyndons have maintained good relations for generations and were linked through several marriages. They thus had intimate knowledge of the Lyndon family.

Lily felt a little embarrassed after hearing those loud discussions. She said to Darryl, "Could you park the bike a bit farther next time? Didn't you notice that there are plenty of guests here?"

"Oh."

Darryl nodded indifferently.

Samantha was infuriated to see his attitude. It was such an important day, yet he still wore some street stall clothes? How could he be so shameless? ①

"Have you prepared Grandma's present?" Lily asked in a low voice.

"Yes." Darryl chuckled and took out a very shabby-looking wooden box.

"You!" Lily stomped after seeing the box. "What kind of gift is this? It's Granny's seventieth birthday today. You can't just give her some junk!"

"It's not junk," Darryl responded succinctly.

Not junk? That box was practically broken. Unable to hold it any longer, Samantha pointed at Darryl to curse at him, only to be interrupted by a voice.

"Calling all the Lyndon family children to wish Grandma a happy birthday!"

As soon as the person finished their words, hundreds of people from the Lyndon family swarmed into the villa.

Samantha glared at Darryl. She suppressed her intention of scolding him and hurried in.

At that moment, the guests were already seated inside the villa.

The old lady was dressed in a very festive manner.

She sat on the main seat and looked incredibly jubilant.

"President Sohn of the Skybrook Group, please come forward and offer your birthday wishes!" The host held a microphone and called out.

A middle-aged man walked up. He was Albert Sohn, who was worth hundreds of millions and had a very good relationship with the old lady.

He was followed by his female secretary, who held a big box in her hand.

"Haha, may you have a blessed birthday and a long life, Grandma Lyndon!" Albert laughed and opened the box.

Gasps were heard from all around!

It was a Cloisonné from the Qing Dynasty!

Cloisonné, also known as cloisonné enamel, possessed a noble history. The vase in front of her looked like it was from the Qianlong period. At first glance, it appeared to be a premium item with a value that was probably no less than one million!

Such respect! A million-dollar birthday gift!

"Alright, alright, President Sohn, please have a seat. You don't need to spend so much next time. My heart will always remember you. Thank you,

President Sohn!" The old lady was so happy that she nodded repeatedly and could not even close her mouth. 1

As everyone knew, Grandmother Lyndon liked antiques and she loved the gift!

After that, all the other gifts looked much plainer in comparison.

It was not until William appeared that everyone in the audience paid full attention.

Everyone heard that William would present a momentous gift for Grandmother Lyndon's birthday. After all, he was her favorite!

William held a box, then tucked his hair before walking to the center and bowing to Grandmother Lyndon.

"Grandma, I, William Lyndon, hereby wish you a long and prosperous life!" William grinned.

No one cared about what he said. Their sole focus was the box in his hand.

The box was not that big, but it was entirely green and was crafted from the highest-quality jade!

So luxurious! A gift box made of pure jade!

William gave a lengthy speech before he finally got to the point and snapped his fingers.

The lights within that initially bright room immediately went out. The curtains were also drawn and the room plunged into complete darkness.

The crowd was becoming restless when William assured, "Don't panic, everyone. My gift to Granny requires the light to be switched off."

As he said that, he opened the jade box swiftly, eliciting gasps of awe!

There was a fist-sized night-shining pearl inside the jade box! When the night-shining pearl made its appearance, it did not shine as bright as day, but it was at least as bright as eight or nine candles.

Just how much would this huge piece of night-shining pearl cost?

Probably upward of two million!

"Okay, okay, okay!" The old lady laughed. "William, Grandma didn't pamper you in vain!"

Everyone joined in the applause. His gift was nothing short of spectacular.

Such a huge night-shining pearl was a rarity in Donghai City!

At that juncture, however, Darryl unwittingly chuckled out loud.

'Haha, is William trying to be funny?' Others might not have the eye for it, but Darryl could see that the night-shining pearl was worth no more than 10,000 bucks. It was obviously synthetic.

Was there any treasure that Darryl never came across growing up in the Darby family? The office of the family company's general manager had a fist-sized night-shining pearl too.

That pearl cost more than two million. Although it was not expensive, money alone could not buy it.

Natural night-shining pearls had always been regarded as priceless. In ancient times, it was only emperors and empresses who could own such pearls.

Since the demand for it was high, some devious individuals used chemicals to artificially fuse the smaller pearls together to make it big.

Synthetic night-shining pearls were easy to spot, they were glued in the middle.

The traces of glue in William's night-shining pearl were too obvious!

"What are you laughing at?" At that moment, William jumped out and yelled at Darryl.

For a brief moment, all eyes were on Darryl.

"Sorry, I couldn't control myself." Darryl covered his mouth. "Your pearl is just so fake."

"You, what the hell are you talking about!" William blushed and shouted.

He knew that the night-shining pearl was fake, but no one from the Lyndon family had ever seen one before. Therefore, no one present could tell the genuine product from the counterfeit one. Darryl's comment that it was fake only served to increase William's anxieties.

"Quit your nonsense, Darryl."

Lily nudged Darryl lightly.

Darryl would be made a victim if he provoked William.

Sure enough, William sneered, "You're a live-in son -in-law. You only get two hundred bucks daily for your pocket money. Understandably, you wouldn't know what a night-shining pearl is. I won't argue with you, but I'm curious to see what gift you'll be giving Grandma!"

William had secretly glanced over and seen Darryl holding a broken box in his hand. 'Haha! The box is so shabby that it's worthless!'

Darryl did not speak either, but he really could not

control himself from laughing.

On one side, Samantha gritted her teeth angrily before looking at Darryl and warned, "Get out of here if you don't stop laughing!"

Chapter 16

After more than half an hour later, almost everyone had presented their gifts to the old lady. Although not all gifts were expensive, they were far from cheap either, since most did not cost less than 200,00 bucks.

It was worth mentioning that Elsa's gift was also very noteworthy.

They were a pair of jadeite bracelets, of which the quality could be described as flawless. Its beauty was beyond words.

After seeing it, Grandmother Lyndon loved it so much and praised Elsa repeatedly. After receiving the jadeite bracelets, Grandmother Lyndon said to everyone, "By the way, Elsa is the eldest among our Lyndon family's younger generation and is very caring. She doesn't have a boyfriend at the moment, so if any of you want to propose marriage, please be my guest. Of course, those who want to do so can't be stubborn and obstreperous. After all, if you want to be her husband, you must be husband material."

Elsa's complexion turned red from blushing at the old lady's words. Many of the guests who were

present there felt tempted already.

Elsa was beautiful and occupied a high status in the Lyndon family. She was virtually on the goddess level.

At that moment, Elsa was seated beside Darryl because the seats for the birthday banquet were all arranged according to hierarchy. One could consider Darryl a lucky man to be sandwiched between two gorgeous ladies, with Lily sitting on his right and Elsa on his left.

Darryl had nodded to himself when she took out and gifted the bracelet earlier.

"This bracelet is interesting," Darryl seemed to be muttering to himself, "Ice Green Lao Hang Imperial Jade. Good stuff."

Ice Green Lao Hang Imperial Jade was the name of a rare and exquisite jadeite. It was naturally made of the finest quality, highly translucent, highly smoothed in texture, delicate to the touch, and strikingly attractive. The bracelets were estimated to cost no less than 400,000 bucks.

Elsa was seated when she heard Darryl's mutter. Her eyebrows furrowed and she could not help but turn to look at him.

She and Darryl were people of two worlds, as she

was an exalted goddess while he was a poor live-in son-in-law. She realized she had never spoken to him before since he 'married' into the Lyndon family.

At that point, however, Elsa could not resist asking in curiosity, "You know that it's an Ice Green Lao Hang Imperial Jade?"

Elsa was very surprised. No one in the Lyndon family except Darryl had recognized the jadeite bracelets and its origins.

He nodded and asked, "How much did you spend on the bracelets?"

"Six hundred thousand," Elsa replied.

Darryl shook his head. "It's overpriced. It's at most valued at just over 400,000 bucks."

"Why?"

Elsa's curiosity was piqued. The bracelets had been sold to her by a close friend who claimed to have not made any profit from the sale.

Darryl explained in a low voice, "There are several factors to consider when evaluating a piece of imperial jade: purity, color, texture, and uniformity. Your bracelet is satisfactory in the first three criteria, but the problem lies in its uniformity. The color distribution is not even, and the market price

is about four hundred and fifty thousand. If you bought it from an acquaintance, then it should sell for four hundred thousand at most. If it exceeds that price, then the person has made a profit from you."

Elsa stared at Darryl without blinking!

Even an expert would not dare to make such conclusive statements!

Darryl was nothing but a loser in everyone's eyes, yet he still knew such things?

"Granny Lyndon, here's my gift!" A young man in his early twenties stepped forward.

The young man was the eldest grandson of the White family, named Zachary White.

When he opened his gift box, most of the guests were stunned seeing what was inside.

It was a check!

1,314,520!

Although that number played on the Chinese homonym of 'I'll love you for the rest of my life' [1], his gift was a little unconventional, especially when it was a sum of more than one million!

"Granny, I'd like to propose to Elsa today. I've admired her for a very long time," Zachary said

clearly.

Gasp! Everyone's attention converged on Elsa in an instant!

At that moment, she was in the midst of a discussion with Darryl about the jadeite, and the two of them were seated close to each other. ①

Zachary could not hold himself. He had proposed marriage to Elsa but she was chatting away with Darryl in full swing! So be it if she chatted with someone else, but Darryl was a well-known loser!

"Stay away from Elsa!" An infuriated Zachary pointed to Darryl and bellowed.

Darryl responded with a faint smile. Before he could speak, Elsa stood up. "Granny, I'll have to give this marriage proposal some thought."

Far too many people were present there and Elsa could not just reject Zachary outright. He may have a shrewd mind and excelled at doing business, but he was narrow-minded and was not her type.

The old woman understood her at once and said with a smile, "Our two families can discuss your proposal when the banquet is over."

Zachary glared at Darryl with reddened eyes.

It was love at first sight when Zachary first saw Elsa.

She was the aloof kind of woman who was hardly seen conversing with someone of the opposite gender. It was inevitable that Zachary would get angry at the sight of her chatting away happily with Darryl.

"Granny, Ashton is here!" Someone said.

Everyone looked toward the door!

Dressed in a suit with his hair slicked back, Ashton seemed to be brimming with energy. He held a long box in his hand and walked over quickly.

"Ashton," the old lady greeted with a smile.

Rumors had it that Ashton had prepared an amazing gift and wanted to propose to Lily.

Everyone stared at his box without blinking, their curiosity having been aroused some time ago. It was said that his gift would appeal greatly to Grandmother Lyndon, so the question was, what gift could give him such confidence?

Ashton bowed slightly. He looked glamorous and suave, but the truth of the matter, which only he was privy to, was that he had reached the end of his road. The Darby clan had stripped him of his livelihood and chased him out of the company.

He had used up whatever remaining funds to buy a

good suit and attend the birthday banquet. He could only succeed today!

"Granny, I have something to say and I'd like to be straightforward about it," Ashton slowly began. "I fell in love with Lily at first sight, but she married a loser! Even after three years of marriage, Donghai City continues to treat this marriage as a joke! She's already endured enough and I can't bear to see her suffer anymore! No matter what happens today, I'd have to express my thoughts."

Ashton took a deep breath. "I want to marry Lily!"

Whoa!

The crowd burst into a heated discussion as soon as he said that!

Was it not a bit too direct, though? He did not even show the slightest bit of respect toward Darryl!

Then again, why was there even a need to respect a piece of trash like Darryl? It was not like anyone was afraid to offend him.

"In the past few years, the only person I've been thinking about was Lilybud," Ashton continued. "I'm willing to give up everything for her. For so many years, I've only managed to amass thirty million worth in assets with my effort, but because of my love for Lilybud, I sold my company and

bought her The Worship of Crystal!"

What?!

Shocked, everyone turned to look at Lily's feet.

A pair of noble and elegant high heels became the crowd's focus! The perfectly streamlined and regal quality of those heels dazzled everyone! Its beauty was unparalleled and it was a perfect match for a beautiful woman!

"This is The Worship of Crystal that is worth thirty million. How amazing..."

"Yeah, there are only ninety-nine pairs in the world. You can't buy it even if you have the money. You must have connections." ①

"I'm so jealous! If I have these heels, I might even wear them to sleep..."

The women began chattering away about The Worship of Crystal. Any woman who claimed not to be envious of it was a big fat liar!

For a moment, the women around Ashton were all staring at him starry-eyed.

Samantha and Wentworth nodded repeatedly. They had a pleased expression as they looked at Ashton.

Darryl frowned instantly. Was there something wrong with that damn Ashton? How shameless and

thick-faced was he to claim that he was the one who bought those shoes. Has he gone mad?

At that point, Ashton bowed yet again. "Since today is your birthday, Granny, it's only right that I pay tribute to you after proposing marriage. Here's my gift!"

Ashton opened the box as he made that statement!

Wow!

In a flash, everyone went up gasping in exclamations!

"This... This is..."

Everyone was stupefied! Even the old lady stood up unconsciously and walked over to Ashton! ①

There was a scroll inside the box!

Ashton unfurled it and said proudly, "This scroll is from Wang Xizhi's Ping'an Tie. I bought it at a high price after having to beg a friend. I know that Granny likes antiques, so this scroll is a sign of my utmost respect."

What?!

Darryl immediately stood up from his chair too.

Wang Xizhi's Ping'an Tie?

The gift from Samson and the gang was the exact

same Ping'an Tie, right? ①

It stood to reason that Samson, Wayne, and the others, would never dare to give him a fake!

Therefore, if the genuine article was in his possession, then that one...

"This... This... I'm not hallucinating, am I?" The White family patriarch, Claude White, walked over with his mouth agape!

As the White family's patriarch, Claude could be described as a knowledgeable person, though his heart was beating wildly at that point! It was a calligraphic piece by Wang Xizhi, the Sage of Calligraphy! An opus of that sort could not possibly be worth less than 20 million! ①

Translator's note:

[1] A Chinese romantic cliché, 1,314,510 (一三一四五二零) – sounds like 一生一世我爱你, which can be interpreted as 'I'll love you for the rest of my life'.

Chapter 17

"Come here, let me have a look at it."

The old lady was getting restless and ordered softly, to which all her juniors made way for her.

She adjusted her reading glasses and looked at it without blinking.

Such powerful strokes, so brilliant and smooth! It was simply a masterpiece!

"I'm quite certain that this isn't an imitation," Claude gave a thumbs up and seemed rather excited. "I would never expect to see Wang Xizhi's original work here!"

"Yes! It's usually seen only in museums!"

"So beautiful! His ability to create this piece makes him worthy of being the Sage of Calligraphy!"

Everyone lavished praise on it and Grandmother Lyndon was beyond thrilled!

"Alright, alright, alright!" The grandmother repeated three times before carefully putting away the scroll. She instructed her servants, "Put this in the box right away. Be sure to hold it gently and put it down carefully!"

"Yes," The servants nodded in quick succession and were very cautious to not hold it using too much force. Everyone said that it was Wang Xizhi's work and was of immense value. If they destroyed it, would they be able to afford its compensation?!

On one side, Lily bit her lip tightly and felt touched for some reason.

Ashton had sold the company just to buy her a pair of high heels and even presented such a momentous gift to granny.

"Hey, look here everyone! Darryl's expression is so funny, haha!"

William burst out laughing right away and pointed at Darryl, saying, "Look. He's also holding a box in his hand! Haha! He's got a gift for granny too!"

William's words spurred the crowd to start jeering.

Indeed, Darryl's expression was unnatural, though it was due to Ashton's shamelessness! To think that Ashton would give the old lady a fake!

"Come on now, Darryl! Take out your gift and let us have a look!"

"Yeah, haha!"

Everyone saw the gift box Darryl was holding. The box looked far too shoddy as if it was picked up

from the garbage.

Darryl was contemptible. Even if he could not bear to spend his money during ordinary times, did he have to skimp so hard with the old lady's birthday celebration?

"Forget it."

Darryl waved his hand, having already seen through the expressions of everyone there. They would almost certainly mock him regardless of what gift he had, so it would be better to avoid all the troubles by not seeing the gift.

"Come on now, haha!" William leaped over all of a sudden. "It's Granny's birthday celebration today and we've already seen everyone else's gifts. Yours is the only one left! Your wife is going to be snatched away soon too, so how will you redeem yourself if you don't reveal your gift!"

"Hahaha!"

His remarks elicited hearty laughter from everyone around him.

Lily's expression soured to the extreme and she was feeling slightly angry. She had told Darryl in advance to prepare a better gift, but he did precisely the opposite! Now, he was making an absolute fool of himself!

"Sit down right now. Stop standing!" Lily pulled Darryl's arm and reprimanded softly.

On the other side, Samantha also had rage written all over her face. She pointed to Darryl and shouted, "Hurry up and put your garbage gift at the door. Don't embarrass us here, you good-for-nothing loser."

"Oh," Darryl murmured. He held the box and walked to the door, where many gifts were placed.

He was just about to put the box in the pile of gifts when William ran over and grabbed the box by surprise! ①

"Haha, don't be so petty! What gift did you get for Granny? Show us!" William said excitedly and opened the box!

In a flash, the whole villa fell silent!

Everyone stared at Darryl's gift and gulped!

It was an antique hand fan with black ribs.

As the hand fan was unfolded, a landscape was painted in thick ink on the surface of the fan, depicting a snowy day. The brush technique was amazing, and it was likely painted by a great man of the time! It would be impossible to paint something like that without decades of knowledge and

experience!

A poem was also written in a corner of the fan:

'One flake, two flakes, snowflakes three and four;
five six, seven eight, nine flakes, ten and more;
gliding into plum-flowers, snowflakes were seen
no more.'

There are more than a dozen seals on the fan, but the most striking aspect was the poem's royal sign-off: Hongli!

Hongli?! Aisin Gioro Hongli?! The renowned Qianlong Emperor?!

"Hahaha!"

Someone burst out into uncontrollable laughter, triggering the rest of the people to laugh out loud too!

"Hahaha, you're killing me! This fan is so fake, isn't it?! Hahaha!"

"True that. Would the fan used by the Qianlong Emperor appear here?! Haha!"

"Donghai City History Museum might not even dare to claim that they have it!"

William clutched his stomach as he rocked back and forth laughing hard. He laughed saying as he pointed at Darryl, "You're hilarious, hahaha! Are

you cuckoo? Couldn't you have spent a bit of money for Granny's birthday today? Haha, tell me, where did you get this fan? Hahaha!"

"A friend helped me buy it."

Darryl answered bluntly.

His initial intention was to gift Wang Xizhi's Ping'an Tie, but the scroll was given to him as a gift by Wayne and the others. A gift that one received should never be gifted to another person because that would seem disrespectful.

Therefore, Darryl had entrusted Emily to help him choose a gift.

Little did he know that Emily would help him buy that fan! She said that her friend happened to be one of the country's leading antique collectors, and she had to beg him for a long time before getting the fan. It was said that the Qianlong Emperor had used that fan for an entire year. The fan even had a name, called the Boundless Universe Fan.

"A friend helped you to buy it?!" William clutched his stomach and tried hard not to laugh. "How much did you spend?"

"None. My friend doesn't want money," Darryl said. "She only asked that I treat her to some rice noodle soup in the future if she has some time to

spare."

"Rice noodle soup?! Haha, you mean rice noodle soup from Yunnan?!" William had just come to his senses but was once again left completely unable to control himself. He barely stopped short of fainting after laughing so hard.

Hahaha! The audience burst into raucous laughter!

Darryl was a bloody joke whose shamelessness knew no bounds! Haha!

The old lady stared coldly at Darryl. "Do you still have any dignity? Lilybud was so unlucky when she married you! Can someone please throw this rubbish fan away for me!"

"Yes!"

Two servants nodded, picked up the fan and the box, opened the door, and threw it out! ①

The crowd's laughter did not cease, and Darryl sighed as he returned to his seat and sat down.

Grandmother Lyndon was very happy at first, but she could no longer maintain her joyful expression after what happened. She waved her hand and said, "Alright, let me just say a few words."

"First of all, thank you all for coming to my birthday banquet despite your busy schedule." She

nodded her head slightly and continued, "Please enjoy yourselves to the fullest today. Eat and drink as much as you like! Two gentlemen have proposed to our family, and I've already taken note of it. We shall discuss it after the banquet is over."

At that juncture, the old lady stood up. "Dear guests! You've all brought such amazing gifts today, and it's only right for me to show the same generosity. I've prepared good food and wine today!"

The old lady clapped her hands, signaling dozens of waiters to bring in many sumptuous dishes.

"Premium King Abalone, Buddha's Temptation, Shark Fin Soup with Abalone and Birds' Nest..."

Dish after dish elicited looks of wonder from the guests.

There were more than a dozen dishes on each table, each of which was a famous dish! It was estimated that the total price for the dishes per table would not be less than one hundred thousand!

Everyone was still in awe when an announcement was made!

"Old Madam, Miss Yvonne Young is here."

"Hurry up and welcome her!" The old lady said quickly.

The Young family had been in the antique business for generations. They had a good relationship with the Lyndon family, and Yvonne was invited to the celebration banquet that the old lady had organized for Lily. ①

Lily smiled. Previously, Yvonne had asked who gifted her *The Worship of Crystal* and even offered to buy it at double the original price. At the time, however, Lily had no idea that Ashton was the one who gifted it to her.

Perfect! She could ask Ashton about it and request his help to get a pair for Yvonne.

All the men began ogling at Yvonne when she appeared.

Her beauty was exceptional! She wore a pair of tight jeans and a white shirt that accentuated her sexy figure.

"Please accept my apologies, there was a traffic jam on the road." Yvonne flashed an apologetic smile as she walked in.

To everyone's surprise, she halted her footsteps before she could finish speaking!

"This... This is..."

Yvonne looked down at the ground. It was the

tattered fan that had been thrown out!

The fan was still in the shoddy box at the time. As someone whose family dealt in antiques for generations, Yvonne noticed that the box...was rather extraordinary... ①

"President Young, there's no need to pick up the trash. Someone will sweep it away," The old lady said with a smile. ①

Chapter 18

"Trash?"

Yvonne found that description amusing. If she was correct, that box was probably used by the palace during the Qing Dynasty's Qianlong period. The box 's material was very valuable and highly likely to be Golden-thread Nanmu.

While it was evident that the box was weather-beaten and looked particularly wrecked, its workmanship was exceedingly exquisite upon closer inspection!

The box alone was worth hundreds of thousands, yet it was treated as rubbish?!

Perhaps driven by occupational habit, Yvonne opened her bag and took out a pastel green magnifying glass.

The Young family has been in the antique business for generations and often picked up valuable items on the roadside. It was imperative that a magnifying glass be carried along at all times.

"President Young, what are you doing?"

The old lady could not resist saying, "This is just

some rubbish. The servants will come right away and toss this into the bin."

Yvonne kept quiet. As she analyzed the wooden box through her magnifying glass, drops of sweat formed on her forehead!

There was a golden dragon engraved on the box!

Despite going through years of battering, it was only under a magnifying glass that one could barely make out the undeniable fact that the box had been used by the emperor!

Back in the feudal era, there were only a few people who dared to create dragon carvings! It was a time when imperial power reigned supreme authority, and only the emperor's engravers could create the box.

Her earlier estimation of several hundred thousand had been a severe underestimation. It was worth at least one million!

"President Young? Come and have a seat." William walked over and bowed respectfully to Yvonne. "President Young, the banquet is about to begin."

Yvonne put away her magnifying glass and whispered, "This box...? Whose gift was it?"

"No one!" William hurriedly waved his hand, "Don't get me wrong, President Young, all of our guests

today are illustrious people. They wouldn't give presents bought from a roadside stall. Haha!"

After all, the Lyndon family were equally prestigious and would never admit to accepting such a gift.

As William spoke, he brought the box over and was about to toss it into the bin.

The old lady glanced at William appreciatively. He was such a good grandson and she did not pamper him in vain!

"Wait."

Yvonne spoke again and took the box. She finally understood that everyone there was oblivious to the nature of the item! An item from a roadside stall? No one seemed to realize that it was a precious treasure!

Slowly but excitedly, she opened the box. Almost immediately, Yvonne was dumfounded and a chill trembled down her spine!

That... It could not be, could it?! Was she hallucinating?

The Boundless Universe Fan?!

How was that possible!

Yvonne bit her lip tightly and nearly drew blood

from it! ③

It was common knowledge that the Qianlong Emperor had a fondness for two main things. The first was seal engravement. It was said that the Qianlong Emperor had created thousands of seals!

His second hobby was poetry and he had written more than 40,000 poems in his lifetime. Be that as it may, most of those poems were substandard and few people have memorized them well. However, there was one poem that everyone remembered clearly.

That poem was: ‘One flake, two flakes, snowflakes three and four; five six, seven eight, nine flakes, ten and more; gliding into plum-flowers, snowflakes were seen no more.’

The first three sentences of the poem were written by the Qianlong Emperor, but the fourth sentence was written by Ji Xiaolan as a finishing touch.

Legend had it that the Qianlong Emperor had written the poem and was so happy with it that he immediately asked the best painter to paint a scene and used it to make a hand fan. ①

The Qianlong Emperor later inscribed that poem on the hand fan and printed more than a dozen seals on it, which he liked a lot.

The hand fan was also known as the best hand fan

in the entire Qing Dynasty! Qianlong Emperor had named it the Boundless Universe Fan!

This fan has always been kept in the Forbidden City, but after the Qing Dynasty's fall, the Forbidden City was completely wiped out by foreigners. Following those events, there was no longer any news about the hand fan.

At this precise moment, she was actually seeing it with her own eyes!

Yvonne was thrilled and her legs went soft. Her first instinct was to take out her cellphone and snap a picture of it for her father. He would be overjoyed to see it! The fan was a supreme treasure for any collector, who would certainly feel content simply by looking at it!

"President Young, I'll throw this fan away. Don't dirty your hands," William said with a smile. "I know you're an antique expert. You probably find it quite comical that a fake like this would show up in our Lyndon home."

"A fake?" Yvonne asked as she raised an eyebrow.

She had been exposed to antiques since the age of seven and had been in the business for more than a decade. Her judgment was always accurate, the item was authentic!

"You guys have gotten it wrong, haven't you?"

Yvonne asked softly. "This hand fan... "

"This hand fan belongs to me." Darryl stood up suddenly at that moment and walked to Yvonne to take back the hand fan.

Everyone knew that it was Granny's birthday that day, but how many people knew that it was also his birthday?

Darryl clenched his fists tightly. So be it then if no one knew about his birthday. Why the hell did he have to tolerate their insults there? If they could not tell chalk to cheese, he might as well not give that fan!

"It's yours?"

Yvonne looked at Darryl.

'Wasn't Darryl the one who gave up his seat for me at the Oriental Pearl Hotel?'

She had heard that he was the live-in son-in-law of the Lyndon family and was a nobody. How could that hand fan belong to him?

"Yes, President Young, this broken fan belongs to him!" William exclaimed. "Apart from a loser like him, who else would have the decency to take such a broken thing!"

"No matter how tattered my gift is, it's still better

than your fake night-shining pearl," Darryl shot back coldly. "Granny loves you so much, yet you don't even feel the slightest bit of shame for giving her that awful pearl worth only several thousand? You don't appreciate the fan I gave, right? No problem, I'll take it back."

Darryl pocketed the hand fan as he said that.

"Are you f*cking mental?!" William suddenly flew into a rage. "Who are you accusing of giving a gift worth only several thousand? If you keep making blind comparisons, I'll get someone to kill you."

"Enough," the old lady finally interrupted. "This is supposed to be a happy day. Stop arguing. There's something I'd like to say."

William spitted at Darryl's direction and returned to his seat.

As one of the distinguished guests, Yvonne should be seated at the front, but she followed Darryl to his seat.

"Can I sit here, Auntie?" Yvonne looked at Samantha and asked.

"Yes, of course!" Samantha said with a smile. "Darryl, hurry up and move aside for President Young!"

"No, no, Auntie, don't get me wrong." Yvonne

than your fake night-shining pearl," Darryl shot back coldly. "Granny loves you so much, yet you don't even feel the slightest bit of shame for giving her that awful pearl worth only several thousand? You don't appreciate the fan I gave, right? No problem, I'll take it back."

Darryl pocketed the hand fan as he said that.

"Are you f*cking mental?!" William suddenly flew into a rage. "Who are you accusing of giving a gift worth only several thousand? If you keep making blind comparisons, I'll get someone to kill you."

"Enough," the old lady finally interrupted. "This is supposed to be a happy day. Stop arguing. There's something I'd like to say."

William spitted at Darryl's direction and returned to his seat.

As one of the distinguished guests, Yvonne should be seated at the front, but she followed Darryl to his seat.

"Can I sit here, Auntie?" Yvonne looked at Samantha and asked.

"Yes, of course!" Samantha said with a smile. "Darryl, hurry up and move aside for President Young!"

"No, no, Auntie, don't get me wrong." Yvonne

smiled lightly. "What I meant was, can I...sit next to him?"

Yvonne pointed to Darryl as she made that request.

What?!

Yvonne's voice was not that loud, but the surrounding people heard her loud and clearly!

What was going on?! Why did that goddess want to sit next to a loser? ②

Other girls would run at the sight of him, but she wanted to sit next to him?

Samantha was equally stunned. Her first thought was that Darryl had offended Yvonne earlier.

"President Young, Darryl is a fool. Don't be angry with him," Samantha said. "Don't take offense with him."

"You misunderstood, Auntie." Yvonne's red lips curled up slightly. "I want to chat with him."

Hearing what she said, everyone around was even more stunned!

What was there to chat with Darryl? He was so poor that the sight of him was revolting! How could a goddess and a loser have a common topic!

Samantha hesitated for a while, then nodded. She

gave up her seat and went to sit at the back.

At that point, Lily unconsciously looked to her side.

In her heart, she had always felt that Darryl was a loser who would never attract the attention of any girl. With Yvonne suddenly requesting to sit next to him, she could not help but feel a slight discomfort in her heart. 1

Her womanly instinct told Lily that there must be a reason for Yvonne to want to sit next to Darryl.

Now, three exquisite beauties were seated around Darryl -- Yvonne, Lily, and Elsa.

Half of the men there had their eyes fixed on his direction, shifting across all three women. Without a doubt, the three women each had their own merits.

"Hello... Excuse me..." Yvonne looked at Darryl and spoke, but she swallowed her words before she could end it. She discovered that Darryl did not even turn to look at her! 2

Yvonne felt a little angry deep down. She had taken the initiative to strike up a conversation with him but was given the cold shoulder instead. 3

Chapter 19

As Yvonne was about to continue the conversation with Darryl, Grandmother Lyndon smiled and walked toward Lily while holding a wine glass.

Everyone stopped eating when they saw the old lady walking over.

"Lilybud, Granny wants to ask you something," the old lady spoke slowly.

"Ask away, Granny," Lily said.

Grandmother Lyndon nodded. "Lilybud, since it's Granny's birthday today, can you promise me to go and negotiate with Platinum Corporation? We'll stand to earn a lot if they assign us the task of managing Giselle's styling. Can you agree to that?"

"This..."

Lily did not know what to think, but she secretly peeked at Darryl.

Her earlier efforts in securing the cooperation with Platinum Corporation was credited to William, which had upset her tremendously.

Darryl had instructed her not to agree to Grandmother Lyndon's request.

Sure enough, she saw Darryl shaking his head.

Lily gritted her teeth. If she were to listen to the loser, she would have to reject the old lady in front of so many people...

"Yes, Mom." Samantha stood up all of a sudden. "Leave this to Lilybud. She'll live up to your expectations!"

"Good!" The old woman smiled.

At that moment, no one expected Darryl, who had been sitting quietly by the side, to stand up suddenly.

"Not a chance."

His cold words sounded extremely harsh!

"Lily was the one who first negotiated the contract, but her efforts had been robbed by William," Darryl said coldly. "My wife only comes to mind now that Platinum Corporation doesn't recognize William, right?"

"You... What did you say?" The old lady pointed at Darryl and was extremely furious.

Members of the Lyndon family looked at Darryl as if they were looking at a mentally deranged individual.

Had he gone mad? Did he have any idea where he

stood in the Lyndon family? He was nothing more than a live-in son-in-law! Even the Lyndon family's dog had a better life than him!

"I've tolerated you for a long time!" William finally could not take it anymore and jumped out all of a sudden. "What the hell are you doing? Who are you to call the shots for Lily? Are you here to cause trouble during Granny's birthday? You dress like crap, gave Granny a sh*tty fan, and now you're trying to interfere with our family matters? I'll f*cking kill you!"

William struck a fierce punch almost immediately after finishing his words!

He seemed to have put in all his strength in the punch! William was deeply cherished by Grandmother Lyndon and had been pampered since young. Such an upbringing had spoiled him rotten to have a huge temper. When he was in school, he was always fighting and was the school's number one bully. Although he is now an adult and delved into the business world, he was still renowned as someone who could hold out his own and know many of the big bosses in society.

"Darryl is toast. He's going to leave here on a stretcher."

"Serves him right! No one's gonna stop him from

getting beaten up."

Murmurs were heard and everyone tried hard not to laugh as they eagerly watched the excitement unfold.

That punch could kill a bear.

Darryl's pupils contracted sharply. Rather than shirking at the oncoming punch, he remained motionless!

"Quick, run!" Lily did not expect herself to advise that loser.

She felt uncomfortable to see him being beaten up after living together for three years...

"Trying to fight even though that's all you got?" Darryl said coldly.

'William's fighting style was like a street gangster. The punch might be packed full of power, but he could dream on if he thought that he could hurt me with it.'

Darryl smirked slightly. The Darby family's children were required to keep themselves fit since young. Darryl had studied Wing Chun at the age of seven. Li Shan, who was a 23rd generation practitioner of Wing Chun, had taught Darryl for an entire year. ①

Although he dared not claim that he could fight

against ten people, dealing with two or three ordinary brutes was not a problem! ②

Thud!

Darryl raised his arm to block, but William's fist struck directly past it! In that split second, however, William suddenly howled out loud!

"Ahhh!"

Feeling as though he had just struck an iron plate, he thought that he had broken his arm and was left without any energy. He dropped to the ground and started rolling about in pain. ①

What?!

Everyone's mind went blank! None of them saw how William fell!

Did Darryl, a person who had done only housework for three long years, have that kind of skill? Who would have known?!

"Just you wait, Darryl. Just you f*cking wait!" William shouted in despair. He took out his cellphone, dialed a number, and shouted into it, "Bro, bring two cars of people here. Now, now! Bring your men!"

After ending the call, William gritted his teeth, stood up, and pointed at Darryl. "Don't you dare

run away, wait right here! I'll kill you today!"

The crowd was quiet. Everyone knew that William was a man of grudges. Things would not end well for Darryl after he had provoked William.

William was not attempting to scare Darryl when he made that call!

Despite that, the crowd was mentally prepared to watch things unfold. The entertainment value would only increase if the situation escalated! No one could care less about that live-in son-in-law!

However, Darryl ignored William completely. He merely looked at the old lady and said, "Granny, don't you think it's unfair to Lilybud? All the credit that should have gone to her was given to William, and Lilybud only crossed your mind now that Platinum Corporation will only acknowledge her contributions. Lily won't accept this task. Please look for someone else if you want to continue negotiating with Platinum Corporation!"

"You... You... What did you say!" Grandmother Lyndon pointed at Darryl. "What are you? How dare you make decisions for Lilybud? What right do you have?"

"I'm her husband."

Darryl spoke coldly, prompting rumblings from all

around! ①

At that moment, Lily was visibly trembling!

Shell-shocked, everyone looked at Darryl with a complicated expression.

How could a loser who lived by the Lyndon family's grace say such a thing?!

"You're her husband?" Grandmother Lyndon burst out laughing. "Okay, let's ask Lilybud whether she recognizes you as her husband? If she does, I won't be her grandmother in the future! If she doesn't, then you'd best be getting the hell out of here!"

Everyone's gaze turned to Lily the instant Grandmother Lyndon said that!

It was a simple and straightforward this-or-that question: one was Grandmother Lyndon, and the other was her nominal husband.

Lily clenched her fists tightly and could not say a single word as if her throat had been blocked.

Slap!

Under everyone's eager gazes, Samantha stood up and slapped Darryl's face hard without warning!

The slap was so sudden that Darryl staggered and nearly fell to the ground. His cheek glowed red.

"Granny is right. Who do you think you are?"

Samantha pointed at Darryl and yelled. "You're just the Lyndon family's dog. Who gave you the right to make such a ruckus? You say that you're Lilybud's husband, right? Then let me ask you this: what else do you have except for a marriage certificate? You've never even held Lilybud's hand in the past three years, have you? You think too highly of yourself! How dare you point fingers here! Get out!"

Hahaha!

The people around tried their best not to laugh. Things were getting exciting.

In the past, Darryl would have just apologized.

Everyone looked at him, but what they saw was a little grin forming at the corner of Darryl's mouth.

He glared intensely at Samantha with a rather terrifying look!

Lily looked at Darryl incredulously. In their three years of marriage, she never foresaw that the always-weak Darryl would one day come to be like a stranger to her.

Darryl smiled and looked at Samantha. "I've been married to your daughter for three years. During this period, I've worked hard even if I never achieved anything. Did I ever complain in the entire three years? Well then, if you don't even remember

the good things that I did, so be it!"

Darryl clenched his fists tightly and his voice echoed throughout the crowd. "Perhaps it was my doing that Lilybud and yourself have been looked down upon by others! With this slap of yours, we're both even now. You've always wanted me to leave, right? Alright then, I shall leave."

Darryl shot back coldly. He got up and left as soon as he was done talking! ①

The crowd was shocked!

No one thought that the loser would say such a thing!

Nobody stopped him either since everyone in the Lyndon family wanted him to leave.

However, William jumped out just as Darryl approached the door and began pointing at him, yelling, "You're just gonna f*cking leave like that? We haven't settled our scores yet! You can go alright, but you'll have to go on a stretcher!"

The sentence concluded with a couple of black vans halting to a stop at the entrance to the villa.

The car doors opened, and more than twenty strong men got down holding baseball bats and steel pipes in their hands.

"Mister Harry!" William shouted as he walked over

quickly and called out to the leader.

The man nodded, holding a machete in his hand. "Who bullied you?"

"It was this idiot, Mister Harry. Hit him and make him kneel!" William shouted.

Darryl happened to make eye contact with that person and barely stopped short of chuckling out loud.

Harry? Harry Crocker?

The 'Bro' that William called was indeed Samson's godson Harry, who had seen first-hand what happened at Moonlit River Bar.

The crowd stirred in excitement and everyone was standing. No one expected William's connections to be so far-ranging that he could even invite Harry there! 1

Harry was notoriously ruthless and the odds were against Darryl!

"Darryl, get out!"

Lily had lost all reason by then. She stood up and shouted to warn Darryl. 3

Chapter 20

It was Harry Crocker for goodness sake!

Although Lily did not know him personally, his name was often mentioned in her friends' conversations!

It was said that Harry was a well-known figure in Donghai City, he was young, courageous, and especially ruthless. Most importantly, Samson was the man behind him!

Samson was the owner of Moonlit River Bar, the most luxurious bar in Donghai City.

Lily could see Harry's fierce face as he held the machete. If he managed to get to Darryl, the latter would at least be half-crippled, if not dead.

"Hurry up and leave!" Lily was getting extremely anxious. She got up from her seat and was about to go over and pull Darryl, but was stopped by those around her.

Lily could not even comprehend her thought process. While it was true that she looked down on Darryl, she nevertheless felt uncomfortable when she saw that Darryl was about to be beaten up.

Those around her did not share the same views.

They were more excited to see Darryl being beaten up to a pulp!

It was especially so for Ashton, who immediately grabbed Lily. "What are you doing with this loser, Lilybud? He doesn't know where he stands but has the balls to provoke William. He deserves to be beaten up!"

Harry raised his machete and dashed into the villa!

"Rest assured, William." Harry spitted out the cigarette butt in his mouth as he said. "I'm curious to see which fool grew the balls to threaten my bro! That person is as good as dead today!"

William nodded heavily and walked arrogantly toward Darryl. He felt good in his heart because he had such a good reputation and could ask Harry to come over!

In reality, he had only met Harry once by chance.

Once, William was on the road when he got into a fight with another driver. As a result, they both agreed to take the fight somewhere and the driver had called Harry.

That time, Harry almost beat William to death. William was afraid of him, so he tried his best to make friends with Harry.

He found out that Harry liked to gamble and often

lost tons of money. William therefore 'lent' Harry a sum of money each month. Though the term used was 'lend', Harry never paid back.

William had no intention of asking him to pay back either! It did not hurt to give the man some cash every month and his help could be sought too should William ever need it.

No one had dared to mess with William after he got to know Harry. Harry's reputation reached far and wide throughout Donghai City and no one among the younger generation dared vie with him for it!

Harry was only ten meters away from Darryl when the two of them exchanged glances.

Unfortunately, Harry was a short-sighted kid, and had yet to recognize Darryl despite squinting his eyes! Still full of aggression, he raised his knife and quickly rushed to Darryl's side!

"Run! Run!" Lily shouted, but there were people all around her.

Lily closed her eyes, she could already envision Darryl falling into a pool of blood!

However, she had never expected Harry to stop dead in his tracks just as he was just about to sink the knife into Darryl!

Darryl looked at him with a smile. Their distance

was only about half a meter at that time!

William suddenly felt anxious after seeing Harry froze in his tracks.

"Mister Harry, this is the idiot I was talking about!" William roared. "It's him, Brother Harry! Make him kneel!"

William wailed, his eyes red with rage!

"You... Is this the guy you want to beat up?" Harry finally reacted and asked William.

"Yes, it's him!" William nodded his head repeatedly.

Everyone in the Lyndon family was giving their full attention, eager to see how the drama unfolding.

Grandmother Lyndon walked over and said, " William, don't overdo it. Don't injure him severely."

'Don't injure him severely?' William sneered. Darryl had slapped him in front of the entire family. If he did not avenge himself, how could he have the dignity to face the family in the future?! 1

"Okay. Don't worry, Granny, I'll just hit him and make him kneel," William snickered with a smile. 1

It was then that Harry managed to catch a clear glimpse of Darryl, and was shocked so much that he nearly peed his pants!

Harry's cold sweat began trickling down. His

godfather had to address Darryl as Second Young Master whenever they met!

"The person you want me to beat up is...him?!"

Harry confirmed again and asked incredulously.

"Yes, it's him!"

William yelled. The sight of Harry's inaction made William's blood boil, prompting the latter to try punching Darryl immediately!

He was just about to deliver that punch when in a surprising turn, he saw Harry roared strangely and grabbed him by his hair!

Slap!

Without warning, Harry slapped William hard in the face!

The slap was so strong that blood began dripping down from William's cheek.

William covered his cheek in bewilderment. "Mister Harry! I... What did I do wrong?!"

Aside from William, everyone else was equally dumbfounded!

What was going on? Harry was supposed to be on good terms with William, right?

"You little bastard, are you trying to get me killed?!"

" Harry's anger grew. He slapped William a second time, knocked him onto the ground, and began kicking him.

"Mister Harry, what are you doing!"

William was in grief as he rolled all over the ground in pain.

Nobody from the Lyndon family dared to stop him. Grandmother Lyndon could not bear it anymore and waved to several young men from the family.

The young men walked over timidly and worked up the courage to yell, "S...S...Stop..."

"Get the f*ck away!" Harry was very furious. He held a knife in his hand and pointed toward the men, "I'll get rid of anyone who's stopping me today!"

Those words left everyone dumbfounded. No one would dare to fight Harry!

"Hit him. I'll bear responsibility if something goes wrong!" Harry shouted to his goons behind him. A group of people then surrounded William and began kicking.

"Mister Darryl..." At that moment, Harry eked out a flattering smile and walked humbly to Darryl. "Don't worry, Mister Darryl. This bastard had the balls to go against you, right? I'll kill him today!"

What?!

Everyone's mind went blank after hearing that!

What in the name of God was going on? Why would Harry be so respectful to Darryl?! The respect he showed was like a son seeing his father!

How could it be possible that a loser like him would be so formidable!

Lily was stupefied as well. Her initial feeling of anxiety had turned into shock! Complete, utter shock!

"Mister Darryl, I really didn't know it was you, otherwise I wouldn't have dared to come even if I was beaten to death." Seeing that Darryl did not say anything, Harry's complexion was pale with fright. Harry continued, "Mister Darryl, I'm begging you. Please don't get angry, I'm begging you. I really didn't know it was you..." ①

"Alright, alright." Darryl waved his hand impatiently. He felt uneasy at first, but after hearing Harry's blabbing, he found it annoying and turned to leave.

It was over...

Harry's heart dropped. Darryl was not angry at him, was he?

"Beat him to his death!" Harry ordered angrily.

The Lyndon family exchanged glances with each other and no one dared to stop them. After beating William to the verge of meeting his maker, they finally stopped.

William's nose and face were swollen. He was crying. "Brother Harry, why on earth did you hit me..." 2

Harry's arms were akimbo and he kicked William irritably once more. "Why did I hit you? Don't you f*cking know how great Mister Darryl is?!"

"How great could he be? He's the live-in son-in-law of our Lyndon family!" William felt distressed considering how the person he had asked for help had beat him to a pulp instead! That aside, the truth was still up in the air!

"Live-in son-in-law?" Harry sneered. He was just about to mention that Darryl was the Darby family's second young master when he remembered his godfather mentioned before that Darryl had already left the Darby family. 2

Therefore, he did not have any exact knowledge of Darryl's current status!

Harry rolled his eyes and said to William, "In any case, you better f*cking remember this: if you ever

dare to act like you're all that in front of Mister Darryl again, I'll kill you."

"Let's go!"

Harry waved his hand and left rowdily with his group of people.

"William, are you okay?!"

It was not until then that everyone dared to go over and surrounded William.

William felt miserable!

The entire incident was such a shame!

"Granny, Wayne's here! The boss of Oriental Pearl!"

A voice informed, causing everyone to look at the door.

Five Rolls-Royce cars were parked there and out came a middle-aged man from the front passenger seat of the first car. He walked with the help of a walking stick and was dressed in a tunic suit.

It was Wayne!

"The Lyndon family's old lady is so famed that she even invited Mister Wayne here." ①

"Yeah... "

A group of guests chatted among themselves. After

all, Wayne was an important figure in Donghai City. He was worth billions, and had never attended anyone's birthday party before! It was downright surprising that he would be invited by the old lady that day! ②

"President Woodall!"

Grandmother Lyndon was similarly confused. She had no idea what was going on and why Wayne was here as she had not invited him.

"Excuse me, Madam Lyndon, is Mister Darby here?" Wayne asked with a smile. Ten or so men dressed in black followed behind him as they walked toward the villa.

"Mister Darby?"

The old lady shook her head. "I don't know such a person. Does anybody know him?" ②

Everyone looked blank. Who was Mister Darby? ①

There was only one person with the Darby surname and that was Darryl, but it was certain that the loser would never pop into their minds first. ⑨

Chapter 21

“Might I ask if Mister Darby is here?” Wayne repeated his question, seeing that no one spoke. ③

Everyone still shook their heads.

It had to be known that the man standing at the door was Wayne Woodall. The ‘Mister Darby’ that he mentioned, how could it possibly be Darryl that piece of trash?

Wayne had a bewildered look on his face too. It could not be a mistake, he had people do a proper inquiry, the second young master was supposed to be at the Lyndon residence! Today was the second young master’s birthday, and he came here in person specifically to hand him his present. Moreover, when he arrived at the Lyndon residence, he realized that someone was indeed celebrating their birthday.

Wayne gulped and handed over the box in his hands. “Since Mister Darby isn’t here, I shall depart. This is a birthday gift, I’ll leave it here.”

Wayne then left with his men.

Just as he left, the crowd could not wait any longer and surrounded the birthday gift he left behind.

Grandmother Lyndon motioned for the box to be opened. ①

After all, Wayne Woodall was a prominent man in Donghai City. Everyone could see that he had an imposing presence, being followed by over ten men and several Rolls-Royce. He came here specifically to give Grandmother Lyndon a birthday present! The old lady's reputation was surely favorable?! ②

Numerous guests were filled with envy.

Indeed, who in Donghai City did not want to have a good relationship with Wayne? He was the boss of the Oriental Pearl Hotel, the most luxurious hotel in Donghai City. Prominent clans always organize their annual gatherings and whatnot at the Oriental Pearl. After all, that place has an honorable reputation. As such, it was many people's wish to be friends with Wayne. ①

However, Wayne has an eccentric personality. He hardly made friends, and never attended people's birthday celebrations!

Grandmother Lyndon's connections were truly great!

Even though Grandmother Lyndon felt perplexed, she still had a smile on her face. ①

Why would Wayne give her a birthday gift? She had

no connections to him. However, she was the only one celebrating her birthday here, if it was not meant for her, for whom would it be? ②

Stefan opened the box on Granny's instruction. Immediately, there was dead silence as everybody held their breaths!

It was a fist-sized night-shining pearl! However this night-shining pearl... Seemed to be different compared to the one gifted by William?

Stefan the trustworthy lad went to take out the night-shining pearl that William gifted and placed both pearls side by side. It was then that the crowd could see the difference!

The curtains were opened and the sun shone in. Under daylight, William's night-shining pearl looked like an ordinary glass pearl without a hint of radiance. ①

However, the night-shining pearl from Wayne shone as bright as a mini sun even though it was daytime!

"This..."

Everyone was rendered speechless and stared unblinkingly at the pearls.

"Quick, close the curtains, turn off the lights!" Stefan ordered.

When there was not a sliver of light in the hall, the crowd could not hold it in any longer and let out a gasp of surprise!

It was only at this moment that everyone could see the glaring difference between the two pearls!

Wayne's pearl illuminated the house brightly as if it was daytime! ①

“Gulp!”

Somebody could not hold back and gulp out loud, and instantly, everybody was in furor! ⑦

“What's the meaning of this? Two night-shining pearls of the same size, but why is the difference so big?”

“A moment ago Darryl said that William's night-shining pearl was fake, and no one believed him then...” ①

“Looks like it was a fake...” ①

Grandmother Lyndon's expression turned sour at the voices of discussion. She glanced at William disappointingly as she had great expectations of him. It had to be known that he was Granny's favorite grandchild! It was surprising that he would give her something fake!

William felt anxious, and he tried to leave

dejectedly. However, it was at that moment when another voice made an announcement! ①

“Granny, Black Tiger Real Estate’s president, Felix Blakely, is here.”

“Woah!”

Immediately the whole house turned lively! What was this? Felix came too? He was considered as one of the very best developers in Donghai City!

The price and value of houses in Donghai City were increasingly higher and higher, naturally, Felix’s net worth rose like the tide as well. He had developed several real estate properties, and they were known to be Donghai City’s high-value real estate as countless wealthy people stayed there! What personal connections did Granny have? She even knew Felix Blakely?!

Grandmother Lyndon stood there stupefied. She had at least met Wayne once before. It was at the Oriental Pearl Hotel when William had ordered expensive wine and incurred a bill of over 30 million bucks. It was barely acceptable seeing that she had met Wayne at that time so he came by to give her a birthday present. ①

However, the old lady truly did not know Felix!

The sound of engines stopped and a few black

Lincoln limousines stopped one by one into place.
Felix wore a suit and was surrounded by men
dressed in black as he strode toward the villa.

“Is Mister Darby here?”

Felix’s voice was strong and booming,
reverberating across the hall!

What?!

In an instant, everyone trembled!?

Who was Mister Darby?

“Is there anyone by the family name of Darby
around here!” Granny Lyndon could not take it any
longer and smacked her hand down on the table. “
Dare I ask whoever is Mister Darby, please step
forward. My hospitality was poor, please show
yourself, and I would personally offer you a few
drinks!” ①

Upon hearing Grandmother Lyndon’s words, the
thousand or so guests looked at each other
helplessly. They truly did not know of such a man! ①

It was when everyone was silent that Stefan spoke
in jest, “Only Darryl’s family name is Darby... Can’t
be him, right?”

“Hahaha!” ②

The whole place burst into laughter. Initially,

everyone was puzzled, but upon hearing Stefan's words they were thoroughly amused. 1

Chapter 22

A few ladies started to speculate, some said that Mister Darby was a middle-aged man with a slight stubble.

Some said that Mister Darby was tall and handsome. Every possibility was speculated.

Finally, Grandmother Lyndon waved her hand and halted the discussions.

It was then Felix brought a few men in and glanced around, but there was no sight of Darryl.

“I’ll leave the birthday present here then, I’ll be going,” said Felix as he bowed slightly.

Grandmother Lyndon felt uneasy and nodded her head profusely, even returning a bow as a sign of respect.

After Felix left, his present was opened up. This time, it shocked them even more!

It was a deed!

‘Here’s to many years of birthdays and success. On your esteemed birthday, I present to you a special gift: Southernwood Villa, No. A88’

Dead silence! The whole hall was pin-drop silent!

If a needle were to drop at that moment, it could be heard!

This... This... A villa as a birthday gift!?

It was not just an ordinary villa, it was a Southernwood Villa! It was located within Donghai City's top community of villas! Within the Southernwood Villa community, three villas were the most expensive: A66, A88, and A99. These three villas were sold for at least 10 million bucks each!

A88 was the most expensive amongst the three. It was located at the center of the community, with its private swimming pool, backyard, mini zoo, and mini aquarium! ①

It was Grandmother Lyndon's birthday, and Felix had gifted this villa! This...

Only one person did not have a shocked expression on her face. This person was Lily.

Lily had a clear hatred for that piece of trash Darryl, but ever since he left, she found herself inexplicably thinking about him.

Lily took out her cellphone, and could not help but to send Darryl a text message.

[Lily: Where are you?]

Very soon, Darryl replied. [Darryl: Home, I'm packing up. Leaving tonight.]

Upon reading the reply, Lily felt an unexplainable feeling of unease in her heart.

Darryl was a piece of trash, she should feel better if he left.

Lily bit her lip tightly, and strangely enough, texted a reply to him. [Lily: Wait for me, I'm coming back now.]

Maybe she wanted to see him for one last time? ①

After all, they were married for three years. Even if it were a dog, some feelings would develop, moreover a human?

“Mom, I’m going out for a while,” said Lily softly as she left the villa.

Everyone had yet to snap out of their shock. They were still dazed by Wayne and Felix’s gifts and did not notice that Lily had left.

Only Ashton followed Lily out quickly.

Lily drove and stopped by the main entrance. Just as she got out of the car, she saw Ashton running toward her.

“Lilybud, why did you leave suddenly?” Ashton

asked. "Granny is going to agree to our wedding after the banquet, let's head back quickly."

"You go on ahead," said Lily as she hastily walked toward the residential community.

"Lilybud!" Ashton shouted as he grabbed Lily's wrist suddenly. He had seen the contents of the message that Lily had sent Darryl!

"Are you going to meet that piece of trash?" Ashton took a deep breath, his eyes a little red. "What good is that piece of trash, since he wants to leave then let him leave! Why do you want to look for him? Come back with me!"

Ashton's heart was anxious. He knew very well that Wang Xizhi's Ping'an Tie that he had given was a high-quality replica. Grandmother Lyndon would engage a professional appraiser to evaluate the scroll after the banquet is over, and when that happens, wouldn't the truth be revealed?

Now that Ashton was left with nothing, all he wanted was to sleep with this goddess once! As long as Grandmother Lyndon agreed to the marriage, he can then justify having Lily over to his house without any security camera monitoring! It was that moment when Ashton planned to do something with Lily's drink. Wouldn't then the goddess be at his mercy?

On that thought, Ashton touched his pocket where he kept a packet of sedative powder. The powder would dissolve instantly in water, just one sip was enough to render a person feeling weak.

“Stop pulling me,” said Lily softly. “Ashton, I know you treat me well, but I want to see him one last time.” ①

“No!” Ashton exclaimed. “Let’s quickly head back, see if Granny agrees to our marriage.”

The two of them were arguing when a Land Rover stopped near them. Samantha stepped out of the car in her high heels.

“Ashton, Lilybud, what are you guys doing?” asked Samantha hurriedly. “Come back quickly, Granny is about to announce your marriage in a bit.”

“I want to meet Darryl one last time, I’m not going back! I’m not going back no matter what you say!” Lily answered as she bit her lip tightly.

Ashton’s gaze darted back and forth between Samantha and Lily and he had a wicked glee in his eyes.

“Auntie, let me get you something to drink,” Ashton offered.

Ashton went to a milk tea shop and bought two

cups of milk tea, which he secretly placed the sedative powder into both cups. ①

Samantha was dragging Lily back when she saw Ashton approaching them with two cups of milk tea, and smiled upon that sight. ③

The weather was hot, and they both drank the tea offered. Samantha laughed saying, "Lilybud, go back quickly and await Granny's announcement of your marriage. Look at Ashton, how caring of him to get us milk teas during such hot weather." ②

As she was finishing her words, Samantha felt her body weakening, as if she could not keep herself balanced. ①

Lily felt the same way, her hands shivered, and she dropped her cup of milk tea. ⑦

Chapter 23

30 minutes later at Ashton's house.

"Somebody, help!" Samantha screamed in despair!

Never in Samantha's wildest dreams could she imagine that the expected son-in-law in her mind would do such a thing! Samantha and Lily were both tied up.

"Hush," said Ashton as he placed his finger on his lips as a motion of silence. "Stop shouting, no one can hear you even if you shout till your throat is broken. My house's walls' thickness is three times the average. Save your energy," Ashton said as he beamed.

Samantha clenched her fists tightly, her eyes were red. "Ashton, don't be rash, you're a talented young man with a bright future, don't ruin it!"

"Shut up!" Ashton strode toward Samantha, grabbed her hair, and shouted. "Ruin my future? Let me be honest with you, my future is already gone! I fought and struggled for my business for 10 years, and just as I've gotten some achievements, the Darby clan kicked me out of the company!"

"What... What did you say?" Lily was shocked. "

They chased you out of the company? Didn't you sell your company to buy me The Worship of Crystal?"

"Hahaha!"

Ashton laughed and slowly stood up from the bed. "You believed that crap I said? I have a total of 30 million bucks, do you think I'll use 30 million bucks just to get you a pair of heels? You must be crazy!"

Ashton clenched his fists tightly. "Yes, you're beautiful and sexy, but don't think too highly of yourself! To be honest, that pair of heels you received wasn't from me! I had thought that you were a classy goddess, Lily, but it turns out that you're just another rotten sl*t! You're with lots of other men, aren't you? If not why wouldn't you know who gave you those heels?" ①

"Ashton Adagio, you bastard!" ①

Lily was furious. She wanted to get up and give Ashton two hard slaps! However, she was tied up tightly and had no means to do so. All she could do was bite her lips so tightly that it almost bled. ③

Ashton lit a cigarette from his pocket and took a huff. "Don't worry, I'll be sure to take good care of you ladies in a bit." ①

"Ashton, you're a good man, why are you so

impulsive?" asked Samantha as she stared blankly at him.

"Why?" retorted Ashton with a face full of self-deprecation. "Because I have nothing left! The Darbys kicked me out and withdrew all support for me! Can you guess why the Darbys did such a thing to me?"

Saying that, Ashton let out a laugh. "I asked the Darbys, and they told me that I had offended someone, that's why they kicked me out. Funny thing is, till now I have no idea who I offended! I've given up at this point, there's no way I can come back from this in this lifetime. Lily, I've liked you for so many years, today I must fulfill my wish!"

Lily and Samantha exchanged looks, both of them were in total despair.

However, it was at this moment when there was a sudden knock on the door!

Ashton's body flinched as he was frightened. He pointed at Samantha and Lily swiftly and warned, "If any of you dare to make any sound, I guarantee that it'll be the death of you." 6

After that, Ashton called out, "Who is it?"

"Greetings sir, the candles you've ordered have arrived," answered a voice from the opposite side

of the door.

Ashton breathed a sigh of relief. It was just the delivery person. He had ordered candles as he initially wanted to invite Lily for a candlelight dinner after Grandmother Lyndon approved of their marriage, but now it was no longer necessary.

“You can leave it at the door,” instructed Ashton.

“My apologies sir, I require a signature to confirm receipt of the parcel.” ④

“So damn troublesome,” said Ashton impatiently as he opened the door.

It was at this moment that Samantha hurriedly glanced at Lily.

“Quick, think of something.”

Lily understood Samantha’s intentions. The effects of the drug have worn off but her body was still weak. Through some considerable effort, she managed to get her cellphone out, wanting to send Darryl a text message. ③

“Are you mad!” Samantha scolded softly. “Call the police! What good is there to call that piece of trash! Call the police!” ②

Samantha’s eyes were red. Even if that piece of trash were to come, he would be no use at all! She

could not believe that at this time, Lily was still thinking about him!

Eventually, that thought occurred to Lily and she called the police instead.

The call connected but Lily dared not make a sound, instead, she tapped incessantly on her cellphone's screen before hanging up quickly.

If Ashton were to find out, the consequences would be too ghastly to contemplate! ①

Donghai City's police force were professional and dutiful. If they were any intelligent, surely they would have guessed that someone was in danger. ⑤

After Ashton signed for delivery, he placed the candles on the table and walked back toward the bedside. ①

Ashton could not hold it back any longer upon seeing the two beauties... ④

Meanwhile, at the Lyndon clan's villa. ⑤

Chapter 24

“Granny, Poesia Eleganza’s president, Emily Dickinson is here.”

Wow!

This time, the entire villa was in complete shock!

If Wayne and Felix were said to have a great reputation in Donghai City, Emily’s reputation was a step above both of them!

Right now, Poesia Eleganza’s business was at the apex! Among the national cosmetic brands, Poesia Eleganza’s products received rave reviews and were leading in sales and market shares. Its newly released Crown line was so difficult to get!

Grandmother Lyndon knew President Dickinson as well!?

The crowd stared at the door, stunned.

Emily was dressed in a business suit and high heels. She strode in with five to six burly men behind her.

Many of the men there were stupefied. Emily’s had an overpowering and alluring presence! Even though she was a woman, her presence was strong enough to overwhelm all the men around!

“Excuse me, is Mister Darby here?”

Emily asked softly as she entered the hall, and placed the birthday present next to her feet. The present was not in a box, it was a grandfather clock made of pure gold! How much gold was needed for this! Everyone was dumbfounded!

However, the most perplexing of all was that Emily came in, and asked the same as the others before! Looking for Mister Darby! Who exactly was Mister Darby!? ①

Grandmother Lyndon was flattered. This was Emily Dickinson!

The women around were all excited as well, they could not help themselves and came up to surround Emily. ①

“President Dickinson, does your company still have stock left for the Crown line? I would like to make a purchase!”

“Yes, President Dickinson, I’m willing to pay double the price for it!”

“I’m even willing to pay five times the price! President Dickinson, please can you sell us a few sets?”

The whole country was vying to buy the Crown line

cosmetics. Was there any woman who did not want it? ①

Emily smiled and glanced around. She could not see Darryl and was a little disappointed.

However, Emily had already made a proper inquiry, and Darryl was indeed at the Lyndon residence. She assumed that his relationship with the Lyndons should be pretty good?

On that thought, Emily spoke, “Sure, a friend of Mister Darby is a friend of mine. Our Crown line has indeed sold out, but I’m grateful for Mister Darby for turning my life around. A few sets shouldn’t be a problem.”

“For real!”

“I can’t be dreaming, I’m gonna have the Crown line!” ②

The few women were thrilled, but little did they know that Mister Darby was actually the piece of trash that they have always looked down on.

“Ladies,” said Emily as she waved her hand. “Tell the total amount of Crown line you need to Mister Darby and he’ll let me know, I’ll be heading out now. I’ll leave the birthday present here.” ③

Emily finished her words and left.

“President Dickinson, who exactly is Mister Darby!” ④

A few of the women asked, but Emily was already long gone. If they could not locate Mister Darby, then they would not be able to get the Crown line. The women discussed anxiously among themselves.

“It is truly admirable that Granny’s connections are so wide!” ②

At this moment, the White family patriarch, Claude, could not hold it any longer and stepped forward. “Granny, our family has an interesting project recently and we’re looking for partners, how about our clans cooperate?

Who was Claude? He was none other than the talented patriarch of the White clan! He had been stunned from just now! Grandmother Lyndon’s connections were so wide that she knew Wayne and Felix. Moreover, these people treated her with respect, and to go as far as to give her birthday presents worth millions! ③

Grandmother Lyndon had such good connections, nothing could be better than cooperating with her! ①

“Mister White, hang on a moment.” A middle-aged man walked up as well. He was La Fortuna’s president, Gailen Godfrey. ①

“Us at La Fortuna have a good project as well,” said Gailen with a broad smile. ②

Even an idiot could tell that a lot of people in the hall would like to cooperate with the Lyndon clan now. 3

Chapter 25 ①

Sure enough, after Gailen had finished talking, several others followed suit, wanting to seek cooperation.

The children of the Lyndon clan were full of smiles, this blessing came so fast!

Suddenly, Wentworth stood up.

“Wentworth, what is it?” Grandmother Lyndon asked curiously.

Grandmother Lyndon used to favor Wentworth. However, as Lily’s father, ever since she got married to Darryl, she stopped favoring him as much.

Wentworth waved his hand and said to her, “Mom, as you know I’ve been overseas for the past while, and this time I’m back to celebrate your birthday. That said, I’m also back to bring you good news. It’s a lucrative money-making project.”

“Oh?” Granny replied with her eyebrows raised. “Do tell.”

Indeed, members of the Lyndon clan had heard that Wentworth made a lot of money overseas. When he

came back, he casually gave Samantha and Lily two large checks. He truly made people envious. ①

Wentworth let out a laugh. “Mom, I made a friend when I was overseas. His name is Tony, he’s a financier. We just need to give him the money, and it will be doubled after a month!” ③

What?

Everyone snorted at his words. Could it be any faker, doubled after a month?

Wentworth took out his cellphone to show his transaction record and laughed. “Come, see the records for yourself.”

The crowd surrounded Wentworth in an instant. Sure enough, the records showed that he had invested 10 million bucks monthly for the past six months, and he received 20 million bucks in return every month.

“Mom, I came back for three reasons,” explained Wentworth. “Firstly, it was to celebrate your birthday. Secondly, I know that you dislike Darryl, and with my return, I will make sure Lily and Darryl are divorced. Thirdly, was to share this good news with you. I swear upon my life that Master Tony is guaranteed reliable!”

“Swear upon your life?” ①

“Sounds interesting, seems like it is indeed reliable.”

The Lyndons discussed among one another. Wentworth indeed was reliable, back then he was always the top student of his school. He was an honest man, and would never trick another person. Moreover, it was clearly shown on his cellphone that he made huge profits every month. ①

Grandmother Lyndon furrowed her brows and finally spoke. “Wentworth, if what you said is true, we can try it out. However in recent years, our clan’s businesses aren’t doing so well, we only have a total of 300 to 400 million in our funds. How about we try it out with 50 million first?”

“Mom, if we’re gonna bet, we might as well bet big,” Wentworth took a deep breath and stepped forward. “Rumor has it that Master Tony is going to retire soon. How about we invest all our funds into it. We’ll invest all 400 million! Within a month, we’ll get a return of 800 million and never have to do it again, what do you think?!” ①

Upon hearing those words, the members of the clan exchanged looks with each other.

Some of them believed that they could give it a shot, while some others rejected the suggestion.

“Granny, we can’t do this,” said Elsa as she stood

up, after giving it some considerable thought.

“There’s no such thing as a free lunch!” Elsa angrily stomped her feet. “This is a scam, we should not do it!”

Smack!

Wentworth slammed the table and stared at Elsa intensely. “Elsa, what’s the meaning of this? Are you implying that I came back just so I could scam our clan’s money? How could you think so badly of me?”

“It’s not that I think you’re bad. I just want to know, if there are free lunches, who would need to work anymore?”

“You! You...” As Wentworth was about to speak, Grandmother Lyndon interrupted his words.

“Enough, we’re all family, why are we arguing?” The old lady said unhappily as she slowly turned her gaze toward William. “William, what do you think?”

Even though the night-shining pearl William gave her was a fake, and he even got beaten up by Harry, he was still her favorite.

Naturally in such important matters, Grandmother Lyndon would still consult William’s opinion.

Nobody noticed that William chuckled discreetly.

Initial investment doubled within a month? Is this some kind of children's trick? This was a scam! Granny has aged, so it was only natural that she could not tell that it was a scam!

Even though William was a little stubborn, he still had a sharp mind. Logically, he would advise Granny against such garbage talk, but at that moment, his heart was filled with hatred against Darryl!

No matter what Wentworth said, he was still Darryl's father-in-law. Wentworth did not leave a good impression on William.

"Granny, I think we can try," said William. ①

William had already thought it through. The money that would be invested would have no return. At that moment, the clan funding would break, and Wentworth's reputation would be ruined!

Eventually, his entire family would be banished from the clan, only then would William be satisfied!

"William, are you mad?" Elsa said, raging mad. "You are advising Granny to invest?" ③

Before William could reply, Grandmother Lyndon had already waved her hand and stood up. "Enough, no more words from any of you. I've decided to go according to William's words. We will invest all of

our funds.” 8

Chapter 26

Woah!

The whole crowd was in an uproar, but Grandmother Lyndon's decision was final and nobody dared to refute.

After all, she favored William and a sentence from him was sufficient to let her make a decision.

Under the help of the clan's financial director, Wentworth then excitedly transferred Lyndon clan's family fund of 400 million into his account.

Donghai City Grandioso Community.

Several police cars were parked at the entrance of the community, dozens of policemen rushed down and surrounded Ashton's house!

This was a single-story house, and now it was fully surrounded by them.

Unexpectedly, a policewoman up in front was leading the team. Her loose police uniform could not cover her amazing figure.

"Madam Castello, what should we do next?" A petty

police officer walked over and asked.

Megan Castello looked around the surroundings. They had received an emergency call not long ago and the caller had tapped through the screen non-stop, it was obvious that it was a kidnapping case. She checked the caller's phone number and found that the number's owner was Lily Lyndon, and she owned a company named Neptunus Corporation.

Megan was the captain of the police criminal investigation team. It was cases like these where she has to lead the team herself.

"Put up the cordon, and get the loudspeaker," ordered Megan. "Go and investigate this Lily Lyndon, check whether she has any family members, and call them to come over quickly."

"Yes, Madam Castello," the police officer nodded and passed over the loudspeaker.

Ashton was in the room with a video recorder in his hand, he had thought it through and planned to record the whole process. If Lily and Samantha were to get agitated, he would use the recording to threaten them.

However, this awful video recorder was given by someone and Ashton did not know how to operate it. Some time had passed and by the time he finally figured out how to operate it, a woman's voice was

heard from outside the windows.

“People inside the house, listen carefully, release the hostage, and let us settle this in peace.”

Ashton trembled all over. He crouched down and crawled to the door and peeked out. What he saw made his hair stand on end!

Dozens of policemen could be seen surrounding the house. There was no escape.

“You motherf*ckers, both of you!” Ashton’s heart pounded as he pointed angrily at Lily and Samantha. He should have kept their phones!

Nevertheless, it was too late to do anything now!

He might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. Ashton took out a dagger and held it against Lily’s neck.

“Just you f*cking wait! I’ll take you all with me if I die today!”

Ashton shouted as he moved toward the windows, “All of you leave at once, leave! Otherwise, I’ll do it! Leave now!”

Outside the window, a police officer ran toward Megan. ①

“Madam Castello, the guy inside seems to be agitated and he is holding them hostage. What do

we do now?" This officer was sweating profusely as he spoke to Megan. ①

Megan was anxious too! There were too many trees around, the snipers could not aim properly.

More and more onlookers were crowding around the area.

Suddenly, a voice was heard.

"Ashton, release them. I'll go in and be your hostage."

Everybody was shocked for a moment. They turned toward the voice and looked!

An electric bike arrived slowly. Darryl stopped the vehicle and spoke toward the windows. ①

"No, you can't!" Megan went over quickly and forbade, "Are you the hostages' family member? You can't go in, it's too dangerous inside, you..."

"Ashton, do you hear me?"

Darryl seemed like he did not hear what Megan said to him. He looked at Ashton and said, "Look at you being a man, what are you doing kidnapping two women?"

In the room, Lily felt a warm feeling in her heart. Her eyes were a little red as she saw Darryl on his electric bike. Right off it was not clear what she was

thinking, but she shouted, “Darryl, don’t be silly! Leave quickly!”

“Lily, what nonsense are you saying!” Samantha got mad immediately, she exclaimed loudly, “That piece of trash is willing to be hostage, why are you stopping him?! Let him in to replace us, then we can leave!” ①

Chapter 27

“Mom! We can’t drag Darryl into this...”
persuaded Lily.

“Can’t drag him?” laughed Samantha. “Darryl stayed with us for three years while we Lyndons fed him, it’s him who dragged us down for three years! Quickly, let him in here!”

Ashton smiled as he held the dagger tightly in his hand. He had nothing left, and it was expected for him to have come this far.

Swapping hostages? Impossible!

“Ashton, why are you being such a piece of trash?” Darryl smiled saying as he walked toward the windows. It was the only thing between him and Ashton now. “You gained a liking for my wife, but she doesn’t like you. So you’re mad now? Are you even a man?”

“Shut the f*ck up!”

Ashton was extremely agitated! Darryl was an infamous piece of trash, but also his desired goddess’ husband!

This was a hurdle in his heart that he could not pass

through. He felt like a complete failure!

“Me? Shut up?” Darryl laughed, “Ashton, you’re one sad man. You have nothing left now, your company got rid of you too. The goddess you desire is my wife. You are such a failure.”

“You f*cking shut up, shut up!” Ashton screamed in agitation. His eyes were bloodshot red!

At this moment, Lily was staring at Darryl unblinkingly, her heart was touched.

Lily could see that Darryl was trying to make Ashton mad and hate him enough to want to swap them with himself. ①

Sure enough, Ashton clenched his fist and smiled at Darryl. “Sure, sure. You’re great, aren’t you? You’re my goddess’ husband, right? Come on, you want to swap hostage, come in then!”

Darryl scoffed as he entered the house.

Ten meters away, Megan could not help but look at Darryl a few times.

It was the first time she had seen someone voluntarily swap themselves as a hostage. A situation like this usually only happened in novels or TV series. ②

“Madam Castello, what do we do now?” A

policeman walked over and asked softly.

Megan waved her hand and said, “Get me a negotiator. We can’t let any hostage get hurt, we absolutely can’t! Also, stop that Darryl guy. Don’t let him get in, I can see the suspect is emotionally unstable.”

“Yes, Madam!” The police officer quickly replied.

It was at this moment that everyone in the Lyndon clan arrived at the scene. They were supposedly celebrating Grandmother Lyndon’s birthday when the police suddenly called and notified them about Samantha and Lily’s kidnapping. The celebration could not continue and they came quickly!

Even Grandmother Lyndon came, and the clan gathered around and looked nervously at the house. The old lady was terribly shocked having been informed that the kidnapper was Ashton.

“Captain Castello, is this a misunderstanding? The kidnapper is Ashton Adagio, I know this child and he wouldn’t do something like that.” Grandmother Lyndon approached Megan and asked nervously.

Megan glanced at her and answered calmly, “What’s happened has happened, is he someone who wouldn’t do that is not for anyone to decide. The fact is, he is a criminal now.”

“Captain Castello, the two hostages must be safe,”

Granny replied. At this moment, Wentworth rushed over with an anxious look. He was sweating profusely.

“We will do our best, don’t worry. Also, there’s a man named Darryl who wants to be swapped as a hostage,” said Megan.

“Really?!” A few members of the Lyndon clan exclaimed as they inched closer.

Megan nodded her head but was caught off guard when she heard a joyful response.

“Let him swap then!” Wentworth said, “Captain Castello, there is no problem with Darryl being a hostage. However, we can’t let anything happen to my wife and daughter!”

What kind of person was this!? Megan could not help but glance at him.

The lives of your wife and daughter were precious, but the other was not?

“No,” Megan replied and waved her hand. “The suspect is emotionally agitated now, we cannot swap the hostages.”

“This...” Wentworth was disappointed.

Grandmother Lyndon, who was standing by the side, sighed as well. She walked forward with her

walking stick and said, “Captain Castello, you might not know. Although we’re not some famous clan, neither are we a small one. Lily and Samantha have never suffered before, neither have they ever experienced any major life challenges before. I’m afraid they won’t be able to bear it now that they are being held hostage.”

Grandmother Lyndon paused for a while and continued, “But Darryl is different, he is a peasant and surely he is not afraid. Let him swap, please.”

2

What sort of nonsense thoughts! Although Megan was an outsider, she was mad after hearing the old lady’s words!

Chapter 28

Two policemen were blocking Darryl from entering the house. Darryl turned his head back and shouted, “Captain Castello, I am Lily’s husband and I am obligated to swap as her hostage. Please let me in!”

This...

After all, Megan could not intervene as Darryl had volunteered.

“Captain, did you hear him?” Granny quickly stood up and spoke. “Darryl volunteered himself. Quickly, let him swap as a hostage!”

Megan felt helpless, but even so, she nodded her head at Darryl.

“Let them go,” said Darryl coldly.

In the room, Ashton clenched his fists tightly seeing Darryl walking in. He untied the ropes on Samantha and Lily to let them go, and immediately grabbed and held on to Darryl!

“Both of you, leave now,” ordered Darryl as he looked at Lily.

Lily felt tears in her eyes. This man was willing to be a hostage in place of her!

“Let’s go quickly!” Samantha came to her senses. She pulled Lily and left the room without turning back.

Outside the house, the police and the Lyndon clan surrounded Lily and Samantha as soon as they saw them exiting. Wentworth burst out in tears.

“Lilybud, Sam, are you alright?” His hands shook as he held his wife and daughter.

He had always been dealing with business affairs and had never experienced any situation like that before. Just a moment ago, he was really frightened. However, he felt at ease seeing his wife and daughter were safe now.

“Dad, I’m alright. But Darryl, he...” Lily said as she turned to look at the house. Presently, Ashton was holding Darryl hostage with a sharp dagger resting on his neck.

However, there was not the slightest expression of fear on his face. On the contrary, he was looking at Lily with a smile!

“Daughter, why do you care about him?!” asked Samantha angrily. “His life and death do not relate to us! He is just a live-in son-in-law, three years of marriage and you both never even held hands. Why are you worried about his safety?”

“Indeed. Why do you have to make us worried!” Grandmother Lyndon said as she walked over. “Quickly, let us return home.”

“Yes, let’s go now,” Wentworth chimed in. He grabbed Lily’s hand and started to walk away.

“No, I will not leave. Darryl is still in there!” Lily said to them. However, nobody seemed to hear what she said. She did not know how many of them were pulling her away but very quickly, she was out of the residential community.

“Captain Castello, may I ask if there is anything else concerning us? If there isn’t, we’ll leave now,” asked Grandmother Lyndon, as she and two subordinates walked to Megan’s side. ③

Megan glanced at her and said, “Darryl is still in there, are you all not his family member?”

“No,” Granny responded decisively. ①

She turned around and left.

Darryl, who was in the house, saw the Lyndons left and remained expressionless. ②

“Tsk tsk tsk! Darryl, this is how much you’re worth?” Ashton laughed out loud.

“It doesn’t matter how much I’m worth, I just know that I have legally married Lily. How about

you, why are you so miserable?" Darryl chuckled. " Ashton, let me ask you. Did the Darby clan suddenly withdraw the financial support they gave you and kicked you out of the company?"

"How did you know about this?!" Ashton shouted.

Not many people knew about it, even Lily and Samantha were not aware until he told them. However, how did this piece of trash Darryl caught wind of it?

"Did the Darby clan tell you too, that you messed with someone you shouldn't have?" Darryl continued.

"How the f*ck did you know?!" Ashton screamed as he completely lost his mind.

Outside the door, a police officer ran toward Megan's side.

"Madam Castello, that guy Darryl seemed to be speaking to the criminal and is further agitating him," the police officer reported.

"That man!" Megan stomped her feet anxiously. " He is causing us trouble! Agitating the criminal like that, does he not want to live anymore?" ①

"Madam Castello!" The police officer reported again, with his face in disbelief! He was so surprised that he could not say anything! After a while, he

slowly reported, “Madam Castello, look..the criminal...it seems like the criminal is kneeling in front of Darryl...” ①

Chapter 29

What?

Megan looked into the house through the windows. Indeed, Ashton had placed the dagger on the floor and was kneeling in front of Darryl!

What happened? Megan felt that it was unbelievable! It was a first for her to see a criminal kneeling down for a hostage!

The policemen surrounding the house were stunned as well and did not know what to say!

They initially thought that they were going to be negotiating for a long time. After Darryl went in to swap as a hostage, nobody had expected him to say a few sentences and make the criminal kneel and beg for forgiveness!

In the room, Darryl smilingly looked at Ashton. He had revealed his true identity to Ashton just now.

In the beginning, Ashton did not trust Darryl's words. However, after Darryl revealed his bank card's balance, Ashton has completely lost it!

It turned out that he did mess with someone he should not have, and that person was Darryl!

No wonder Lily was gifted the Worship of Crystal, it was from Darryl, who was the Darby clan's second young master! This piece of trash that everyone despised was the Darby clan's second young master!

"Second young master, I beg you please, I was blinded in the past," pleaded Ashton with his eyes red. "Second young master, I beg of you, please forgive me. I promise that I will never bother your wife anymore. I promise you, I'll swear to God..."

Darryl smilingly looked down at him. "Ashton, I can forgive you. As long you know you're at fault, I can talk with my clan to forgive you this once. However, the problem now is that you've committed unforgivable things. Look outside the window, they're all waiting to arrest you."

"No worries, Mister Darryl. My crimes now aren't major because I've stopped in time!" Ashton cried out.

"Fine, go and plead guilty then," said Darryl as he waved his hand. "I'll let you go as long as you don't loathe me when you're out of jail."

"Thank you, Mister Darryl, thank you, Mister Darryl," Ashton kneeled and kowtowed incessantly.

As long as Ashton could reclaim his life back to the way it was, it would be fine with him to lose ten

years of his life!

Darryl did not reply and strode quickly out of the room.

The policemen immediately rushed into the house as soon as they saw Darryl walking out.

Only Megan walked toward Darryl. Truth be told, it was the first time she had seen a man like this after working in the police force for so many years.

“Captain Castello, is there any problem?” Darryl asked.

Megan was undeniably beautiful. Although she wore a police uniform, it could not hide her curvy figure. She was hot.

“Would it be convenient for you to follow me back to the police station to file a record?” asked Megan.

“I’m sorry, I have something to do now,” Darryl laughed. Right now, all he wanted to do was to return to his company. He had already made up his mind to never return to the Lyndon clan. From today onward, he would buy a house nearby and manage the company properly.

Darryl was about to leave when two Rolls-Royce drove up and stopped in front of him.

A middle-aged man came out of the car, he was

escorted by some people as he walked toward Darryl.

“Second young... Mister Darby,” Samson walked quickly toward Darryl and bowed as he greeted. He had wanted to greet him ‘second young master’ but recalled that Darryl had mentioned he hated that.

“Samson Facey?” Megan seemed like she was talking to herself.

In Donghai City, Samson was famous as the boss of Moonlit River Bar.

As captain of the police force, Megan often encountered criminal cases. A place like Moonlit River has fights happening almost every day, and as such, she was familiar with who Samson was.

But...Samson’s net worth was perhaps several billion!

However, he bowed toward this Darryl person? What was happening?

Megan could not help but look twice. Darryl stood in front of her wearing bargained clothes and rode here on an electric bike! What sort of ability did he have to let Samson bow respectfully toward him?

“Mister Darby,” said Samson again as he wiped the sweat on his forehead.

He had just remembered that it was Darryl’s

birthday today! He initially remembered, then he got busy and forgot about it.

“Samson, what is it?” Darryl looked at him as he got on his electric bike.

“Mister Darby, I forgot it’s your birthday today. I’m sorry I arrived here late,” Samson said apologetically. He took a wooden box out from the car, bowed towards Darryl while handing it to him, and said, “Mister Darby, a little gift...”

“Fine, I’ll accept it. I still have some business to do so I’ll be leaving first,” Darryl said as he accepted the box. He did not want to waste time, as he knew Samson would not give up if he had not accepted the box.

Darryl placed the box in his pocket and rode away on his electric bike. ①

“Mister...” Samson wanted to say more but Darryl had already ridden far away.

He could only shake his head and left in the car.

Three days later.

Lyndon clan’s villa.

It was a great day as Lily had finally agreed to negotiate with Platinum Corporation. As expected, Platinum Corporation agreed to let the Lyndons

style Giselle's image.

Therefore, everyone gathered together to discuss how to style Giselle's image. ①

"Granny, I think we should first let Giselle compete in Superstar. This variety show is very popular now," suggested William.

"Granny, actually we could also grow her fame to be an Internet celebrity," suggested a woman. ①

Chapter 30

Everyone voiced their own opinions.

Only Lily was absent-minded. She was wondering in her heart, why did Platinum Corporation only want her? She had not even met the company's president!

The Worship of Crystal too, who had given that to her?

Lily had a thousand questions in her heart that she could still hold on to and not think about them for the time being. However, her mind was now filled with the sight of Darryl willingly replacing her as a hostage!

It has been three days since Lily has seen Darryl. During these three days, he did not come home, how was he holding on?

Lily felt uneasy. She forced herself not to think about him, but she could not help it and her mind was full of him!

“Lilybud, what do you think?” asked Grandmother Lyndon at that moment.

“Lilybud?”

“I’m here, I’m here,” said Lily as she lifted her head, and noticed that everybody was looking at her.

“Lilybud, why are you so absent-minded?” asked Granny. “What’s wrong?”

“It’s nothing, Granny,” Lily let out a smile and shook her head, trying hard to not let herself think about Darryl. ③

At Platinum Corporation.

Darryl held a folder in his hand. He had done a thorough analysis of Platinum Corporation within three days. Before that, the company was managed by his aunt-in-law, but the business was not doing well due to poor management.

Last year’s gross profit was only 100 million bucks.

This amount was considered extremely low for a company like Platinum Corporation. Such a company should have a yearly gross profit of at least two billion, and even that it was considered a conservative figure.

Darryl had just become the company’s president, and he had to find a way to resolve this issue. The solution was simple, they have to style Giselle and promote her.

Giselle had great looks and an incomparable figure,

and her singing was not half bad. If she was marketed good enough, she would surely be famous.

Even though Darryl no longer lived at the Lyndon's residence, he still had some feelings for Lily. Hence, he had delegated the duty of styling and promoting Giselle to her, as a final gift for her.

According to the Lyndons' research, Giselle should participate in 'Superstar'.

This program was a talent show competition, akin to the 'Super Boy' and 'Super Girl' talent show series in the past years.

The show also had Platinum Corporation's financial support as well. Darryl's investigation revealed that the reason the company's gross profit was low was due to its huge investment in 'Superstar'.

The company had invested over two billion bucks into it! The show was very popular, however, its financial returns were somewhat low.

Noting that this season's 'Superstar' was about to begin, Darryl had the idea to find a sponsor.

Many companies were vying to sponsor popular shows like this, and Darryl decided to give Audi the chance.

Audi had agreed to sponsor a billion bucks, on the condition that they were given a 10-minute

advertisement air time per episode. Logically speaking, other companies were willing to sponsor up to 1.5 billion bucks, but Audi's president was a good friend of Samson. As such, he awarded the opportunity to Audi as a favor to Samson.

Darryl took the folder and walked out of the company. He rode his electric bike to Audi's head branch, wanting to negotiate a deal and it just so happened that he also wanted to buy a car.

Several luxurious cars such as Land Rover and Mercedes-Benz were parked at the entrance to Audi's head branch. After all, those who could afford to buy an Audi were wealthy people.

Darryl parked his electric bike and walked in hastily. Damn, it took him an hour to ride her from the company!

"Welcome, is there anything I can help you with?"

At the main hall, a woman dressed in professional attire walked up to Darryl and smiled.

The woman was pretty, she had a height of 165cm and delicate fair skin. Even though she was wearing a suit, one could easily observe that she had an amazing figure.

Audi was truly capable, even their general employee was such a beauty.

“That... I would like to buy a car.”

Darryl scratched his head and said to the woman, “I saw on TV that there’s an Audi convertible, can I see that?”

“I’m sorry, we’re on our lunch break.” The lady forced a smile and replied Darryl. She could not hide the disgust in her eyes. What luck did she have to meet such a weirdo? It was obvious to her that the person in front of her was a peasant wearing bargained clothes, and he wanted to buy a car?

Is Audi even something a loser like him could afford?

“Lunch break?” Darryl mumbled as he looked around.

That was not right, several people were looking at cars in the main hall! Of course, these customers were wearing suits and leather shoes, one look at them was enough to tell that they were rich.

“If that’s the case, why do they have people attending to them?” asked Darryl.

The lady sighed and was visibly annoyed. She was certain that the person in front of her must be a worker from the nearby factory, making use of his lunch break to come here and window-shop. Perhaps he even wanted to take a few pictures in the

car so he could go back and brag. People like that were truly disgusting.

"I'm sorry sir, we're on our lunch break. Moreover, there's not a single car model here that's below 300,000 bucks. If all the various expenses are accounted for, it would cost 350,000 bucks at the very least to own one. Even if you purchased in installments, the upfront cost itself is over 100,000 bucks. Moreover, the cheapest model is already out of stock at our branch. Sir, we're on our lunch break. If there's nothing else, please leave the premises," said the lady, unable to hold back anymore.

Damn, this place chased people out?

Darryl was about to say something when he saw a man and a woman walking in.

Upon seeing the woman, Darryl's fist instantly clenched tightly!

Lily?!

Darryl had only left for a few days, and there was another man by her side already? ①

Chapter 31

The man beside Lily who was wearing a suit and leather shoes had perfect manners.

Lily looked a little miserable as she forced a smile on her face. However, she still stood beside the man, accompanying him.

The man was Charles Luke, and to Samantha, he was the best son-in-law candidate.

Lily had countless admirers, but Charles was the one Samantha preferred most. Not only did he look smart, but Charles was a senior manager in the Audi Corporation. He was the Regional Manager of Donghai City, and a perfect match with Samantha's daughter, unlike Darryl who looked low class.

“Manager Luke.”

At that moment, the lady in front of Darryl quickly rushed forward with a huge smile, and greeted him passionately.

Earlier, the lady's face looked disgusted when she saw Darryl, but now, her reaction was the complete opposite.

Charles nodded and asked, “Has the President of

Platinum Corporation arrived yet?"

The lady quickly replied, "Not yet. I have been waiting at the main lobby, but no car drove by."

Charles did not question further but looked down at Lily with a smile and said, "Let's wait in the office then."

Lily was distracted, and she just mumbled without speaking. Even though Samantha wished to make Charles her son-in-law, Lily was unwilling to interact with Charles. She was not here for a date today.

Charles Luke mentioned that he knew the president of Platinum Corporation.

She was interested in the President of the Platinum Corporation, as the President said that he recognized Lily from the Lyndon family.

However, Lily was unaware that Charles did not know the President of Platinum Corporation at all!

Recently, both Audi and Platinum Corporation collaborated to co-sponsor the "Superstar" program. The headquarters delegated Charles to be in charge of signing the contract with Platinum Corporation, thus they would have naturally met. Charles bragged to Lily about how widely connected he was. It was a complete show off, intended to

raise his own status.

At that moment, Darryl grinned. He then walked over.

Manager Luke? Audi Corporation informed him that the person in charge of the collaboration was Manager Luke. ①

Seeing Darryl approaching, the female receptionist frowned and said annoyingly, “Hey! Why are you still here?”

Charles glared at Darryl and felt that the loser was here to gain exposure, so he did not really care. He said to the lady, “When the President of Platinum Corporation arrives to discuss our collaboration, do not allow these people of no relevance to come in. What if they dirty his car?”

The lady quickly replied, “Yes, yes, Manager Luke. I will chase him away now.” She then bluntly said to Darryl, “Mister, please leave immediately.”

Darryl ignored her as he kept his eyes on Lily.

“Darryl?”

Finally, Lilly saw Darryl. Her body shivered, filled with surprise and happiness, and some awkwardness.

Lily did not understand why she felt awkward. The

few days after Darryl left, she should have felt happy that she could finally get rid of the useless guy. However, when she looked at the empty room at night, emptiness filled her heart.

Darryl did not speak but instead looked at Charles inquisitively.

Lily took two steps forward and explained, “Darryl, please don’t take this wrongly. My mum introduced him...”

Hearing that, Darryl instantly understood the reasons behind it and nodded without waiting for Lily to speak further. “I understand.”

This mother-in-law was really desperate. Even though he had just left for a couple of days and had not even arranged for a divorce with Lily, she already started to look for a new son-in-law.

Impatient, Charles asked, “Lilybud, who is this?” Lily was a goddess. How would she have known such a low-class farmer?

Lily opened her mouth, but did not reply. Darryl smiled briefly, looked at Charles and said, “I am her husband, Darryl Darby. The nickname of Lilybud isn’t appropriate for you to address her. Please have some respect.”

Charles was stunned.

He then cheekily checked out Darryl, and laughed, “Oh, so you are the toy boy. I was wondering who you were.”

“Haha, Aunt Samantha told me all about you. You married into the Lyndon family for three years, yet did not contribute anything to the family besides eating their food. A complete piece of trash, haha!”

Charles added, “I am very curious. Is that why you are too ashamed to stay on in the Lyndon family, hence you disappeared? How dare you still appear in front of Lilybud? The most ridiculous thing is, you are so thick-faced that you even admitted that you are Lily’s dear husband. Do you really deserve that status? Haha, you should use your urine as a mirror and look at yourself. Aunt Samantha has spoken. You and Lily are going to divorce, isn’t that right Lilybud?”

Charles stared mockingly at Darryl with a cold smile and a face full of humiliation.

Lily bit her lips and said, “Charles, stop it.”

Hearing Lily’s words, Charles smiled at Darryl. “I will stop talking as a sign of respect to Lily.”

Next, he turned to the female receptionist and asked, “What did he say he was here for when he arrived earlier?”

Chapter 32

The lady replied with a face filled with disgust, “He said he was here to purchase a car.”

She thought the man was just a worker from a nearby factory, so she did not expect he was a toy boy.

“Haha, buy a car?”

Charles laughed and said, “Buy a car from us? Our cars ain’t cheap. Can you afford it?”

While talking, a lady walked into the showroom. Lily was surprised to see the lady as it was her best friend, Phoebe.

“Sister Lily?” Phoebe happily quickened her pace. She did not expect to bump into Lily here.

Lily laughed and said, “Phoebe, what a coincidence. What are you doing here?”

Phoebe swiped her hair and said sweetly, “My husband is doing pretty well lately, so he bought me a new car. I am here to collect it.”

Phoebe’s husband is in the hotel hospitality business, so it was pretty normal for him to get a new car for her.

While speaking, Phoebe noticed Darryl. She was surprised." Isn't this the useless prick at your house? You brought him here to check out cars..."

Before she could finish, she saw the complicated look in Lily's face, then saw the handsome Charles standing behind Lily. Phoebe figured it out, and immediately stopped talking.

Phoebe asked, "This is..."

Without waiting for Lily to open her mouth, Charles extended his hand and smiled, "Hello, I am Charles Luke, Donghai City Regional Manager of Audi Corporation. Aunt Samantha introduced me to Lilybud." ①

Hearing this, Phoebe completely understood what was going on. She shook Charles' hand and replied, "Wow, regional manager. So the car I just bought, can I get a further discount? I am Lily's best friend after all."

"Most definitely," Charles laughed and at the same time threw a stare at Darryl.

Do you see it?

Both Lily's family and best friend are on my side. What do you have to go against me?

"Thank you, brother in law!" Phoebe smiled widely

and joked, “Oh yes, when is your wedding with Lily? Remember to add me in the guest list for the wedding.”

Phoebe was so excited. She never imagined that she would still be able to get a further discount when collecting the car.

Darryl’s face turned dark.

F*ck you. Lily and I are still not divorced, yet you are so eager for another wedding?

Brother-in-law sounded so sweet.

Lily felt so embarrassed as she pulled Phoebe aside and scolded, “We have not even started dating. What are you talking about?”

Thinking that Lily was shy, Phoebe replied, “It is just a matter of time, sooner or later.”

While speaking, Lily glared at Darryl annoyingly and said, “Someone’s face is really thick yeah? Still sticking around the Lyndon family and refusing to leave? Sister Lily is here for a date, and you dare to follow.” ②

Darryl grinned, but did not care to respond.

Charles seized the opportunity to further humiliate him, speaking to Phoebe, “You guessed wrongly. We just bumped into each other. Besides, he said

that he was here to buy a car.”

“Him buying a car? Haha, this is ridiculous!”

Phoebe started laughing loudly and heavily. She said, “Darryl, you have the money to buy a car? Oh, I forgot. Lily used to give you 200 bucks as daily allowance. After three years you would have saved up a fair sum. However, if you want to buy an Audi, you can only afford to buy four of the wheels. Haha.”

The whole place, including the salesperson and receptionists could not stop laughing and started gossiping and pointing at Darryl.

He was not only feeding off the wife’s wealth but even getting daily allowance from her? What kind of man was this? He was really shameless.

The laughter on Charles’ face got even thicker.

Darryl then said casually, “Who are you to say that I can’t afford a car?”