Chapter Six

**Scene: MC’s Suite. Day.**

Stefan carefully lifts the lid of the mystery package.

(What could be inside?)

(And who is it from?)

As soon as Stefan removes the lid of the box, it starts to smell really awful.

The box contains spoiled bread and pastries, full of molds and maggots.

The room is instantly filled with the smell of rotten eggs and bad cheese.

MC

“Ewwww!”

Stefan quickly disposes of the box in the trash receptacle in the east wing.

Bullet

“Ugh! That’s nasty!”

Zachary appears with a bottle of disinfectant spray on one hand and an air freshener on the other.

He sprays the lemon-scented mist all over the sitting room.

There’s no doubt in my mind who’s behind all this.

MC

“Kendra!”

I’ve never felt this burning desire to defeat her at the scavenger hunt.

(She is going to lose big time!)

MC

“Oh, it is on!”

**Scene: Seymour main mansion. Day.**

My training continues in the succeeding days.

I had to learn to properly walk with a book on perched on top of my head.

Needless to say that it was a disaster.

I had to learn how to climb down a flight stairs, the proper way to wave at people in public, even the manner of getting inside a car.

Zachary

“You’re becoming more and more of a lady as the days pass by.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“Well, I am a quick learner.”*
2. *“I do have the best teachers.”*

**1.**

MC

“Well, I am a quick learner.”

Bullet

“Oh, yes, you are, little miss.”

Stefan

“We still got a lot to teach you. But from here on out it gets easier.”

MC

“I sure hope so.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“I do have the best teachers.”

Bullet

“Well, you are a quick learner, little miss.”

Stefan

“You still got a lot to learn, but we’ll take it one day at a time.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Zachary

“Tomorrow brings a new challenge though. It’s the S Group Urban Scavenger Hunt.”

MC

“It doesn’t exactly roll off the tongue, does it?”

I try to make a joke to calm my nerves. Now that the hunt is tomorrow, I’m feeling kind of anxious.

I really want to defeat Kendra this time.

Stefan

“I’ve actually received news that all of the other contending teams have backed out. They’ve conceded to Kendra as the winner.”

MC

“So it’s just me and her competing?”

Zachary

“It appears so.”

Bullet

“If I didn’t know any better, I would assume that Kendra had coerced the other teams to back out.”

Bullet

“She wants this challenge to be between just you and Kendra.”

Stefan

“Well, in any case, we all know what’s really at stake here.”

Stefan

“A million-dollar donation to the winner’s charity of choice and of course the bragging rights.”

Zachary

“Which reminds me, my lady, you still haven’t chosen a beneficiary.”

MC

“Well, there’s this orphanage that my grandmother and I always bring day-old breads to donate to the children.”

MC

“It’s called Angel Wings Orphanage. I’d like to help them.”

Stefan

“I’ll send an email to the committee then.”

Bullet

“So, I guess I’m gonna have to wish all of us good luck. Not that we need it or anything.”

(What if I do?)

(This challenge has become quite personal.)

(I need a win this time.)

(And I think I would need more than luck to win this.)

(Knowing Kendra, she’s not gonna go down without a fight.)

(Who knows what Kendra has in store for the four of us?)

**Scene: S Group Tower. Main lobby. Night.**

The following day, my team was flown to S Group Tower.

All of the employees are gathered at the main lobby where they set up a stage with a podium at its center.

The committee chairperson serves as the master of ceremony. We stand to one side as he takes center stage and speaks into the microphone to address everyone in attendance.

Emcee

“Welcome to the 3rd S Group Urban Scavenger Hunt!”

Emcee

“First of all, the Chairman would like to extend his apologies for not being able to grace us with his presence tonight.”

Emcee

“It is due to urgent matters that requires his attention overseas.”

Emcee

“He also wishes his two granddaughters good luck as they contend for this year’s challenge. Not that Miss Kendra needs it.”

The emcee winks at Kendra, who smiles smugly.

Emcee

“So this year we have two teams competing. Team Kendra!”

Kendra waves her hand amidst the crowd’s thunderous applause.

Emcee

“And Team [namae]!”

Only my butlers are clapping enthusiastically. There’s a smattering of applause from a few people.

(I guess I’m not that popular around here.)

(This is embarrassing!)

Bullet

“Go, Team [namae]!”

Bullet starts to work the crowd.

Bullet

“Come on, people, make some noise!”

Bullet

“[namae]! [namae]! [namae]!”

The crowd starts to chant my name!

The people’s applause echoes throughout the lobby of S Group Tower.

I laugh with Bullet, shaking my head in disbelief.

(Now I’m pumped for this challenge.)

(Kendra can bring it.)

Emcee

“All right! That’s Team [namae] for you!”

The crowd’s enthusiasm for our team clearly wipes the smug smile off Kendra’s face. Kendra rolls her eyes, as the applause dies down.

Emcee

“Now let’s talk about the rules.”

Emcee

“In this scavenger hunt, each team is tasked to find an item in the city and bring it to the celebrity who requires it.”

Emcee

“This celebrity will then give them another task which, once completed, they will be given their next clue.”

Emcee

“That’s three items, three celebrities, and three tasks.”

Emcee

“The butlers are required to participate in this. But since Miss [namae] has three of them, only one butler can accompany her in each challenge.”

Emcee

“In the spirit of fairness, Miss Kendra will assign which butler will accompany Miss [namae] for each challenge.”

Kendra chooses Zachary to accompany me in my first task, Stefan second, and Bullet comes last.

After being given our first clue, the game begins.

**Scene: Outside S Group Tower. Main Street. Night.**

Zachary

“The first clue states that we need to find the most expensive bottle of sake in the city and bring it to DJ Akihiro.”

MC

“That’s it?”

Zachary

“That’s all it says here.”

MC

“So where do we find the most expensive sake in Zephy City?”

Zachary

“I haven’t the slightest idea, my lady.”

(?!?)

(This is bad.)

Kendra emerges from the revolving doors of the S Group Lobby, Nigel trailing behind her.

Kendra

“See you later, losers.”

They get onto a town car and drives away to hunt for their first item.

MC

“Let’s just get into our car and figure out from there.”

Zachary

“Uh, I think we may have a problem.”

Following Zachary’s gaze, I discover that our town car has been spray-painted on its windshield with the word “Losers!”.

The two front wheels are also missing.

Zachary

“Those cheaters!”

As much as I want to throw a fit because of this mishap, I can’t dwell on it at the moment.

I have a game to win.

MC

“Forget the car. Let’s just run or—I have an idea!”

I grab Zachary’s hand and drag him down the street at a jog.

Zachary

“My lady, this is preposterous! How are we supposed to win? We are at a great disadvantage. And where are we going?”

MC

“We’re taking the subway!”

Zachary

“The subway?”

MC

“Yes, you know, the train that goes underground?”

Zachary

“But I thought it was just a work of fiction. It doesn’t exist.”

MC

“Seriously?”

(Is he for real?)

Zachary

“You know, I’ve never been outside the estate my whole life!”

MC

“Oh, boy. This is unbelievable.”

I am beginning to think that this first task isn’t going to have a desirable outcome.

(Kendra totally sabotaged me!)

**Scene: Subway. Night.**

Zachary was dumbstruck as we hopped on a train underground. He’s clearly never been in the subway before.

He explains that the only time he’s been outside the estate is when they are flown to the S Group Tower or that one time they had to “kidnap” me from our bakery.

Zachary

“I don’t even know who DJ Akihiro is!”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“That’s okay. I’m sure we’ll find a way.”*
2. *“So basically what you’re saying is we’re screwed.”*

**1.**

MC

“That’s okay, Zachary. I’m sure we’ll find a way.”

Zachary

“I’m sorry I can’t be of more help to you, my lady.”

MC

“Don’t worry about it. We’ll figure it out.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“So basically what you’re saying is we’re screwed.”

Zachary

“I apologize, my lady. I wish I could be of more help.”

MC

“Don’t worry about it. I’m sure will come up with something.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

MC

“Think Zachary. We need to figure out where to begin finding that sake.”

Zachary

“Well, all our wine supply comes from a single distributor. Maybe we should start there. It’s Dynasty Wines, and from what I can recall, it’s on Merchant St.”

MC

“That’s great! Why didn’t you tell me that sooner?

MC

“Now we need to get off this train’s next stop.”

Zachary looks around at the commuters, giving the shady-looking ones a suspicious gaze.

Zachary

“My lady, are you certain that it’s safe here? I feel like we are on the brink of being stabbed or murdered inside this train car.”

MC

“Oh, don’t be absurd, Zachary. Stabbed or murdered, no. Robbed, maybe. Just stay alert and we’ll be fine.”

(I sure hope everything will be fine from this point on.)

(At this rate, we won’t be winning the race.)

(And I sure don’t want to give Kendra the satisfaction.)

**Scene: Merchant Street. Night.**

Perhaps the universe heard me or it’s just sheer dumb luck that we are finally able to acquire our first item.

Apparently, Dynasty Wines does keep a line of the most expensive liquors. The sake we’ve been looking for is one of them.

Zachary

“Now all we need to do is find this DJ Akihiro.”

MC

“I know exactly where to find him. The problem is it’s on the other side of the city.”

Kendra

“Well, well…”

Kendra appears out of nowhere like the witch that she is, her familiar Nigel a few steps behind.

Nigel

“So you losers aren’t even done with your first challenge yet.”

Apparently, Kendra and Nigel are done with their first challenge, as we’ve been given different starting points.

Zachary

“No thanks to you. You vandalized our car!”

Kendra rolls her eyes.

Kendra

“Oh, please.”

(So she isn’t even going to deny it.)  
(She’s despicable!)

**Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Speak my mind.*

*2. Ignore her.*

**1.**

MC

“You are the most despicable person I’ve ever met.”

MC

“And you deserve whatever is coming to you.”

Kendra moves toward me menacingly.

Kendra

“Is that a threat?”

MC

“Are you threatened?”

Kendra

“Oh, I can’t wait for you to disappoint those children at the orphanage. See you at the finish line.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Ignore her, Zachary. Let’s just go.”

I am not about to let Kendra get to me.

I am as determined to win this challenge as she is.

Kendra

“Oh, [namae]. I’m rooting for you to disappoint those orphans. See you at the finish line.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

The both of them head for Dynasty Wines.

Zachary

“So how do we get to other side of town, my lady?”

MC

“I may have an idea how we can get there faster.”

MC

“The only question is: should we do it?”

**Premium Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Beat Kendra at her own game and steal her town car.*
2. *Take the subway.*

**1.**

Zachary

“So what is this brilliant plan of yours? Let’s hear it.”

MC

“We’re going to beat Kendra at her own game.”

MC

“We’re going to steal her car.”

MC

“That should even the odds a little bit.”

Zachary

“I know we’re not supposed to break the rules. But Kendra’s broken them on more than one occasion. So I’m with you on this one.”

Upon checking, Zachary finds out that Nigel left the key in the ignition.

The next thing I know we are speeding down Merchant Street on a stolen town car.

**Scene: Inside a speeding car. Merchant Street. Night.**

Zachary

“Imagine Kendra’s face when she finds out that her car’s been stolen!”

MC

“Serves her right. Now we’re even.”

This should allow us to catch up to their head start. We have a faster way to get to our next task and now Kendra’s team has to spend time obtaining a new mode of transportation.

Zachary

“That is so like her to cheat on this challenge. She’ll do anything to win.”

MC

“I’ll be surprised if this game isn’t rig from the very beginning.”

Zachary

“The fact that she gets to choose which one of us goes with you on a challenge already sounds dodgy to me.”

Zachary

“Perhaps the challenges were specifically designed to put us at a disadvantage.”

MC

“That doesn’t sound too far-fetched. We’re talking about Kendra, after all.”

Zachary

“She’s done more unscrupulous deeds than that, believe me.”

MC

“Oh, I believe you.”

After everything Kendra has done since I started living in the mansion, nothing surprises me anymore.

(If I want to win, I have to think more like her.)

(I’m more than ready to bend the rules if she’s not going to play by them.)

Zachary on the other hand is in high spirits. He’s clearly starting to enjoy this.

Zachary

“I never thought breaking the rules can be this exhilarating!”

Zachary

“I love it!”

MC

“Then you should break rules more often, Zachary. Now step on it!”

MC

“You drive like my grandmother!”

Zachary pushes pedal to the metal and ignore traffic rules.

Luckily, even though, Zachary committed about five traffic violations, no cops flag us down and we got to Club Zero in under half an hour.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

Zachary

“So let’s hear this brilliant plan of yours.”

MC

“You know what, Zachary? I’m this close to stealing Kendra’s car.”

MC

“But something tells me I should play by the rules and try to win this fair and square.”

Zachary

“That’s the lady in you talking. That’s quite admirable.”

Zachary reaches into the driver’s side of the car and pulls something out. Apparently, Nigel left the key in the ignition.

Zachary

“But in this case, I’m not restricted by the same rules as you are. Sometimes you just have to bend the rules if others won’t play by them.”

Zachary throws the car key into the other side of the road!

Zachary

“Good luck finding that.”

I laugh in disbelief.

MC

“That should teach them a lesson!”

Zachary

“Now let’s go ahead and take the subway. It’s faster anyway.”

(Zachary’s act should even the playing field a little bit.)

(It would take them time to acquire another mode of transportation.)

We took the subway to the other side of town and got there in about half an hour.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: Inside Club Zero. Night.**

DJ Akihiro owns Club Zero and plays here every Saturday night.

Loud electronic dance music greets us as we step into the club, which prompts Zachary to cover his ears with his hands.

Zachary

“WHAT SORT OF NOISE IS THIS!?”

Zachary is screaming at the top of his lungs and people are looking at him weirdly.

MC

“It’s called house music!”

Zachary

“WHAT!?”

I shook my head and we push our way through the crowd, toward the DJ booth which Akihiro is manning.

The bouncer blocks us off before we could get near the booth.

MC

“We’re here for the scavenger hunt.”

I show him the bottle of sake.

Bouncer

“Follow me.”

The bouncer leads us to a VIP area near the DJ booth.

DJ Akihiro

“Yo, guys! I just want to acknowledge the arrival of our special guest, [namae] Seymour! Let’s give her a Club Zero welcome!”

The crowd cheers, and I wave at them.

DJ Akihiro leaves the booth as another DJ takes over for him, and comes over to the VIP section.

DJ Akihiro

“What up, [namae]? It’s nice to finally meet you. I’m Norman Smith.”

MC

“[namae]. Wow, I didn’t know your real name is Norman.”

Norman

“Well, although I am Japanese-American, Akihiro is just my stage name to make it sound unique. I mean, DJ Norman doesn’t exactly sound cool, right?”

MC

“Right. So here’s your sake.”

Norman

“Awesome!”

Norman motions for a waiter, who brings us a tray of shots and lines them up on our table.

Norman

“These are shots of El Padrino, the most expensive tequila in the world. I want you two to finish all of them and then I’ll give you your next clue, understood? I’ll be right back then.”

Norman leaves us with the line of shots.

(There’s, like, six shots of tequila!)

MC

“All right, Zachary. This is it. Drink up!”

Zachary

“But I’m not thirsty!”

MC

“You have got to be kidding me! Don’t tell me you haven’t had a drink before.”

Zachary

“I’m afraid so, my lady.”

MC

“Unbelievable.”

At this rate, we are going to lose our advantage over Kendra’s team.

MC

“What are we going to do? There’s no way I’m going to drink all six shots of tequila.”

I rack my brain for some way I can make Zachary help me drink.

MC

“Maybe if we dilute the shots in water, it would be easier for you to drink them.”

Norman

“That would be cheating. What seems to be the problem, [namae]?”

MC

“I’m sorry, Norman. It’s just that my friend here has never drink alcohol before.”

Norman

“Oh, man. You are definitely missing out.”

With a gesture from Norman, the waiter on standby brings three more shots of tequila.

Norman

“What do you say we play a drinking game so we can help your friend—?”

Zachary

“Zachary.”

Norman

“—Zachary—finish his shots? When I was younger that’s what we do when we introduce alcohol to first time drinkers.”

Zachary seems to hesitate for a moment.

Zachary

“A drinking game sounds like a good idea. It would help divert my attention from the fact that alcohol tastes terrible? I think.”

MC

“Oh, Zachary, you are such a nerd.”

Norman

“How about we play “Never Have I Ever”? Who knows what dark secrets you might learn about this special friend of yours. Right, [namae]?”

**Premium Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Play a drinking game with Zachary and Norman.*

*2. We can’t waste time. Drink all the shots by myself.*

**1.**

MC

“Sounds great. Drinking game it is.”

Norman explains to Zachary the rules of “Never Have I Ever.”

Norman

“Ladies first, [namae].”

MC

“All right. Never have I ever completely forgotten my lines in a play.”

Norman

“BOO!”

Norman

“Come on, [namae]. You can do better than that. Give us something dark and daring.”

MC

“Fine. Never have I ever kissed three persons in one night.”

Norman takes a shot as Zachary observes.

Norman

“That’s a good one.”

Norman

“I’ll go next. Never have I ever fantasized about my boss.”

Zachary downs a shot after hesitating for a moment.

(Who could that boss be?)

Norman

“Oh, that’s my man right there. Your turn, Zachary.”

Zachary

“Never have I ever had a threesome.”

Norman

“Whoa!”

Norman takes another shot.

Norman

“Damn, [namae]. I’m down to my last shot and you haven’t even had one. You should start living a little.”

Zachary is laughing with Norman, apparently starting loosen up a little bit.

I roll my eyes.

MC

“Fine, whatever. It’s my turn. Never have I ever kissed a girl before.”

Norman finishes his last shot. He stares at Zachary in disbelief.

This is news to me as well.

(So Zachary’s never kissed a girl before?)

(Why is that?)

Norman

“Seriously, man? The two of you are made for each other. You’re definitely missing out.”

Norman

“But since I’m out of shots. The two of you, drink!”

Zachary and I comply, as Norman ask for three more tequila shots for himself.

Norman

“All right, change of rules. I ask the questions and then you drink with me if you’ve done it before.”

Zachary

“All right, then. Fire away.”

Norman

“Never have I ever had naughty dreams about my subordinates.”

I regret it the moment I clinked glasses with Norman and knocked back a shot of tequila.

MC

“No comment.”

I am feeling the onset of a buzz, as Zachary starts to laugh for no apparent reason.

Norman

“All right, this is the finale. Never have I ever felt an attraction for someone in this group.”

I don’t know whether it’s the tequila talking but I clinked glasses with Zachary at this point and we both downed our last shot.

Zachary

“Yes!”

MC

“Woo!”

Zachary

“We did it!”

(We’re finally done with the first challenge!)

(We got this in the bag!)

Norman hands me the envelope to our next clue.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“I’d love to play a game with you, Norman. But we are pressed for time, so I’m just gonna go ahead and drink all these shots.”

I start to down the shots one by one.

Zachary

“My lady, no!”

MC

“We can’t waste any more time, Zachary, if we hope to win against Kendra. I can’t disappoint those orphans.”

Zachary downs his first shot and almost choke on it.

MC

“Oh, my god, Zachary!”

Zachary

“I’m okay. I can do this. We can do this.”

Norman

“You’re the man, Zachary.”

Norman

“Shot! Shot! Shot!”

We finish all six shots in no time.

Norman

“Way to go, Zachary!”

Norman pumps his fists in the air and then hands me our next clue.

(We’re finally done with the first challenge!)  
(We can do this! We can win this thing!)

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: Outside Club Zero. Night.**

Zachary and I almost stumble out of the club and onto the street outside.

I try my best to keep him on his feet as he begins to feel the effects of alcohol.

Stefan and Bullet are waiting for us outside the club with two new town cars.

Bullet

“What happened, little miss?”

MC

“He’s drunk. Part of the challenge.”

Zachary

“I’m not drunk. How can I know I’m drunk if I’ve never been drunk my entire life?”

Zachary

“But I have a confession to make!”

Bullet

“Whoa, buddy! Take it easy.”

Zachary

“My lady, [namae], I like you!”

I blush at what Zachary just said.

Bullet

“Say what now?”

Stefan

“He really is drunk.”

Zachary

“I like you, my lady. Can you hear me?”

MC

“I hear you, Zachary. All the people on the streets heard you.”

Stefan

“Bullet, take Zachary back to HQ.”

Stefan

“My lady, I was assigned to accompany you to the next challenge.”

Zachary frees himself from Bullet’s grasp and runs toward me.

Zachary

“My lady, I’ve never felt the need to do this my entire life, but—”

Suddenly, it’s as if the world stops turning.

The headache that’s starting to invade my skull disappears completely as Zachary does the unthinkable.

(?!?)

*Read more to find out…*