Chapter Nine

**Scene: MC’s Suite. Dining Area. Day.**

Ripping the package open, I am shell-shocked to see what’s inside.

It’s a newspaper with a headline: S Group Stock Price Plummets After Gala Fiasco.

MC

“Look at this!”

I show the newspaper to Stefan, who begins to read the article.

Stefan

“S Group’s stock price has taken a nosedive in lieu of speculations surrounding Lady [namae]’s possible succession to the company.”

Stefan

“Apparently, Kendra gave an interview to the press present at the gala. She confirms that you are an illegitimate child.”

Stefan

“And one who lacks a keen sense of business acumen. Now the investors are worried.”

MC

“Well, isn’t that what business school is for? Besides, we’re a long way from the day of succession.”

Stefan

“The media can be savage sometimes.”

Stefan

“It also says here that the whole debacle with Kendra doesn’t exactly paint a picture of immaculate reputation worthy of an S Group executive.”

Bullet

“And Kendra has an immaculate reputation?”

Zachary

“Obviously, this has been sensationalized. Completely blown out of proportions.”

Stefan

“It’s Kendra. She has a lot of friends in the press.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“I want to talk to Kendra.”*
2. *“So what’s going to happen now?”*

**1.**

MC

“I want to talk to Kendra.”

Stefan

“What is there to say, my lady? What’s done is done.”

Bullet

“Well, Kendra can still give a retraction, right?”

I nod, hoping that it’s a solution we can all consider.

Zachary

“Knowing the Mistress, I don’t see any possibility of convincing her to retract her statement.”

MC

“So what’s out next move?”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“So what’s going to happen now?”

Stefan

“We’ll leave it to the spin doctors now, and hope that they can turn this bad publicity around.”

MC

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

Zachary

“It’s not like that, my lady. It’s just that we have professionals working at S Group to manage this kind of crisis.”

MC

“Ugh! I can’t just stand here and do nothing.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Nigel clears his throat, standing at the balls of his feet. His wide smile almost tearing his face apart.

Nigel

“I would like to inform you that you’ve all been summoned by the Chairman to HQ. You all need to be there ASAP. All of you.”

(I’m in deep trouble for sure.)

(What would Grandfather say?)

(Am I going to be punished?)

Stefan

“You didn’t have to be all theatrical in bringing us this news.”

Nigel

“Where’s the fun in that?”

Bullet

“You feel good now? Get outta here, Nigel.”

Nigel looks completely like he’s feeling good about himself.

Nigel

“Good bye, then.”

Nigel leaves.

MC

“I’m sorry for getting you guys in trouble as well.”

Stefan

“It’s all right, my lady. We’re all in this together.”

MC

“Thank you, guys.”

(Cinderella, you’ve attended the ball.)

(Now you have to face the music.)

**Scene: S Group Tower. Chairman’s Office. Day.**

After being flown to S Group Tower, we now stand before my grandfather who is sitting behind his desk.

He sits there silently with an austere look on his face.

The moment lasts for what seemed like an eternity. No one dared speak until my grandfather broke the silence.

Brandon

“You disappoint me, [namae].”

Brandon

“Your behavior at the gala is unacceptable.”

Brandon

“Didn’t your butlers teach you anything about how to behave in public?”

Stefan

“For what it’s worth, Master Brandon, it was Kendra who provoked Lady [namae].”

Brandon

“I’m sure [namae] can speak for herself, Stefan. Thank you.”

MC

“I really am sorry for whatever PR nightmare my actions have caused you. But I don’t regret what I did.”

MC

“Kendra insulted the memory of my mother.”

MC

“She was telling these people that she’s only after my father’s money. That’s a lie, and I simply won’t stand for it.”

MC

“Kendra can insult me all she wants. But when it comes to my mother, that’s a different story.”

Brandon

“I understand where you’re coming from, [namae]. And I have to admit that Kendra’s become quite a handful as of late.”

Brandon

“But you have to remember that you are being trained to become a lady here. The public eye is on you now.”

Brandon

“You can’t let Kendra undo all the hard work you’ve gone through in the past several days.”

MC

“I agree. But maybe it would be a lot easier if you don’t give Kendra any more reason to torment me.”

Brandon

“What reason have I given her?”

MC

“Well, Kendra wouldn’t be saying those things about me if you didn’t tell her about our agreement.”

Brandon

“[namae], Kendra is a top executive within S Group and has access to this kind of information.”

Brandon

“She has the right to know as she has a seat at the table.”

Brandon

“Something that I want for you as well. A seat at the table. To eventually become my successor.”

Brandon

“I want you to be the one to continue my legacy, not Kendra.”

Brandon

“But you won’t be able to achieve that if you continue to act like an impetuous child. You have to act like a lady.”

(Am I really being a child?)

(Sure Kendra does all these things, but that’s on her.)

(I chose how to react the way I did, that’s on me.)

MC

“I can think of a few good reasons to stay on as your successor. But I can think of a thousand reasons to walk away from all this.”

MC

“But maybe you’re right. Maybe I’m not even trying. Maybe I’m not taking this whole heiress thing seriously.”

MC

“That would be an insult to my father’s memory.”

Brandon

“You can never insult your father’s memory, [namae].”

MC

“Nonetheless, I would like to prove to you that I can be a proper lady.”

MC

“And that I can be someone who’s capable of running this company.”

Brandon

“And I expect nothing less from you. You are a Seymour after all.”

MC

“With that said, I would like to make up for the bad publicity I’ve caused during the gala.”

MC

“I would like to set up a foundation that will help educate orphans.”

Brandon

“All right, then. I am pleased that you are starting to make decisions for the betterment of the company.”

Brandon

“I trust you not to fail me again, [namae]. And as a symbol of that trust, I want you to have this.”

Grandfather gives me a ring that bears the crest of the Seymour family.

**Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Accept the ring.*
2. *Return the ring.*

**1.**

Brandon

“It’s your father’s ring. Take good care of it. It’s been in our family for generations.”

MC

“Thank you, Grandfather. I will take care of it.”

Brandon

“My son would be very proud of you.”

(I won’t fail him.)

(I’m not giving up.)

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Grandfather, I can’t accept this. I don’t deserve it.”

Brandon

“Why not? You are a Seymour.”

Brandon

“It’s your birthright.”

MC

“But—”

Brandon

“No more ‘buts.’ That ring’s been in our family for generations and now I’m passing it on to you.”

MC

“Thank you, Grandfather. I will take care of it.”

Brandon

“Your father would be so proud of you.”

(And I will continue to make him proud from this point forward.)  
**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: MC’s Suite. Day.**

After that meeting, we began a much more intense protocol training.

Aside from learning proper etiquette, I had to learn French, Italian, Spanish and German.

S Group has offices in those parts of Europe that’s why it’s required.

I also had to learn about Arts and History.

(With all the information I had to learn, I feel like my head is about to explode!)

(It’s like going through college all over again.)

(Good thing I have these three butlers to encourage me and cheer me on.)

(I guess the only downside to this whole situation is that I miss my grandmother’s cooking.)

(I remember when she used to cook something special for me whenever I’m studying.)

(The estate has a whole brigade of chefs but nothing compares to my grandmother’s cooking, or baking for that matter.)

We are about to have dinner that night, when Stefan enters the room with a huge plastic crate.

Stefan

“We have a surprise for you, my lady.”

Zachary

“We’ve seen how you’re putting an extra effort in your training the past several days.”

Bullet

“And we’re pretty much sure you’re tired of eating fancy food.”

Stefan

“So we got you this.”

Stefan places the crate on the dining table.

MC

“What is it?”

Stefan

“Open it.”

When I opened the crate, I am overwhelmed with awe to see that it’s filled with bread and pastries from our bakery!

MC

“Oh, my god!”

Bullet

“We asked your grandmother to put together a care package for you. And that’s what she sent us.”

MC

“I missed these!”

MC

“Come on, guys! You’ll love these.”

My butlers help me put the breads and pastries on the table.

MC

“This is so awesome. Thank you!”

For a moment, I forget about my dining etiquette and starts stuffing pastries into my face.

Bullet

“These are really good, little miss.”

Bullet is gobbling up a mini banana banoffee.

Zachary

“I agree. Do you also know how to make them?”

MC

“Of course, I do. My grandmother taught me. Gosh, I miss baking.”

Zachary smiles, nodding his head. He rummages through the care package and pulls out a cup noodle.

Zachary

“What sort of culinary invention is this?”

MC

“Oh, they’re cup noodles! They’re my favorite, too.”

Stefan pulls out another cup noodle from the crate.

Stefan

“I would advise against consuming this, my lady. It can’t be good for your health.”

Bullet

“Awesome! More for me then.”

Bullet snatches the cup noodle from Stefan’s grasp.

Bullet

“I haven’t had these since I became a butler! I used to live on these things when I was in college.”

Zachary has already poured hot water into his and happily eating his noodles.

Zachary

“Oh, my goodness. It’s like an explosion of flavors in my palate!”

Zachary

“It’s like a culinary masterpiece in a cup!”

Zachary

“Whoever invented this is a culinary genius!”

Nigel

“What is going on?”

None of us has noticed that Nigel just entered the suite.

Nigel

“You’re not supposed to dine with the lady. I am going to tell the chairman.”

**Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Ask Nigel to join us.*
2. *Plead with Nigel.*

**1.**

MC

“Nigel, why don’t you join us. There’s plenty of food for everyone.”

Nigel reluctantly steps forward. Bullet and Zachary who are eating cup noodles, pay him no mind.

Nigel

“What are you eating?”

Zachary puts a cup noodle in front of an empty chair. He’s busy eating that he didn’t want to bother with a lot of words.

Zachary

“Sit. Eat.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Nigel, please, this has got to stop.”

MC

“I’m not your enemy.”

Zachary

“The lady is right. Can you at least, for once, be a decent man and sample this delectable culinary miracle?”

Nigel

“What’s that?”

Bullet

“Just start eating. Less talking.”

Bullet makes room for Nigel on the table.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Nigel sits with us and begins eating his cup noodles in silence. As we were eating, Stefan suddenly turns to the hall.

Stefan

“I thought I heard a noise.”

We all turn to the hall, trying to listen.

Nigel

“What noise? I didn’t hear anything.”

We all look at Nigel, who has emptied his cup noodles and he’s now consuming Zachary’s.

Zachary

“Oy! That’s mine!”

MC

“There’s plenty more here, guys. Try the pastries, Nigel. My grandmother made them.”

Nigel tries the pastries.

Nigel

“Oh, these are good! Your grandmother is a good baker.”

MC

“Oh, yes, she is.”

Nigel

“I’d like to meet her one day.”

I give him a smile and Nigel smiles back.

(I guess it’s true that the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.)

After emptying his plate, Nigel stands up.

Nigel

“I think I’d better go. Thank you for the lovely food.”

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

1. Ask him to stay and get to know him more.
2. Say good-bye.

**1.**

MC

“What’s the hurry? Stay.”

Nigel

“But—”

MC

“I’ll give you more cup noodles if you stay.”

Bullet

“I want more cup noodles!”

Zachary

“Me, too, my lady!”

Nigel

“I guess another one wouldn’t hurt.”

Nigel sits down again.

Stefan

“So, Nigel, how’s your mistress? It’s become rather dull around here without Kendra’s constant scheming.”

Stefan

“I am being sarcastic, of course.”

Nigel

“She’s got problems of her own. She’s been taking out her frustrations over me lately. It’s kind of getting old.”

MC

“Well, whatever it is, I’m sure she’ll come around.”

MC

“I want to know more about you, Nigel.”

MC

“How did you end up being Kendra’s butler?”

Nigel

“Hmmm. Well, I used to be part of the royal staff in London. The Chairman recruited me during one of his visits to the Queen.”

MC

“Wow, you used to work for the Queen?”

Nigel

“Not directly. But I got to bring tea once.”

MC

“Still, that’s awesome.”

Nigel

“So after working at the Royal Palace. I accepted the Chairman’s offer and started working here at the estate.”

Nigel

“I replaced the Mistress’s former butler. I’ve been with her ever since.”

Nigel

“Did you know she dropped kick her former butler, that’s why he quit?”

MC

“That’s awful!”

Nigel

“Yes, it was Kendra’s dark times.”

Bullet

“And what do you call this time?”

Nigel ignores Bullet’s comment.

Nigel

“Kendra was just fresh out of business school and she was new at S Group then. She couldn’t handle the pressure.”

(Will that happen to me as well?)

(Cracking under pressure and becoming a different person?)

(I certainly hope not.)

Nigel

“After that incident, Kendra had to undergo anger management.”

Nigel

“The trick to staying on Kendra’s good side is to just do whatever she asks you to do.”

Stefan

“And that includes being her accomplice in her schemes, I presume.”

Nigel

“I would like to invoke my right not to implicate myself by not responding to that.”

Nigel looks at me.

Nigel

“Anyway, what you did upon winning the scavenger hunt, that’s really admirable. Kendra cares so much about her charity.”

Nigel

“They feed the homeless. Kendra wouldn’t admit it, but she’s thankful that you support her charity even if she didn’t win.”

MC

“I just want to help those in need and make everyone happy.”

Nigel

“And for that, you have my vote. I think you’d be a good leader of S Group someday. But don’t tell Kendra that, all right?”

MC

“Don’t worry, I won’t. And thank you.”

Nigel

“Well, I’d better go now. Thank you for the lovely evening.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Are you sure I can’t entice you to stay with another cup noodles?”

Nigel

“Tempting, but no. I must return to my duties.”

MC

“All right, good bye, then.”

Nigel turns to go but then stops in his tracks. He turns back to me.

Nigel

“My lady, I just want to thank you for supporting Kendra’s charity after you won the challenge.”

Nigel

“You helped feed a lot of homeless people.”

Nigel

“The Mistress won’t admit it but she does care about her charity.”

MC

“It’s no big deal, Nigel. I just want to help the less fortunate and make everybody happy.”

Nigel

“And for that, you have my vote. Just don’t tell the Mistress, or I might get fired.”

MC

“Don’t worry, and thank you.”

Nigel

“Have a good evening, my lady.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Nigel leaves.

Bullet

“Do you believe what he said?”

MC

“I don’t think he has any reason to lie. It won’t benefit him or Kendra.”

Stefan

“I’d still be careful if I were you, my lady. Don’t let your guard down.”

Zachary

“I think we should give Nigel a chance.”

MC

“I agree.”

Bullet

“Well, I guess that’s it for tonight. We’ll be leaving you with Stefan as Zachary and I are scheduled to do the estate inventory.”

Zachary

“See you in the morning, my lady.”

Bullet and Zachary leave as well.

Stefan

“So I guess it’s just you and me tonight, my lady.”

MC

“Yes, we’re alone.”

Stefan turns on the music, setting up a very sensual vibe.

(Is he trying to seduce me?)

He turns to the mini bar and pours a glass of wine.

Stefan

“It’s still early, my lady. Why don’t you have a drink with me?”

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

1. Have a drink with Stefan.
2. Say good night to Stefan.

**1.**

MC

“I guess a little night cap wouldn’t hurt.”

Stefan pours another glass, and gives me a sexy smile.

(Yep, he’s trying to seduce me.)

Stefan

“I was thinking maybe I could teach you the proper way of toasting.”

Stefan moves toward me with both drinks in hand.

MC

“Don’t you think it’s a little too late for lessons?”

I smile, trying to play coy.

Stefan

“Oh, it’s pretty easy. It won’t take long.”

Stefan hands me the glass, his fingers brushing onto mine.

MC

“Show me.”

Stefan

“You just raise your glass—”

He raises his glass and I mimic him.

Stefan

“And look into the eyes of the one you’re toasting with.”

We both stare into each other’s eyes. My heart starts to beat faster.

Stefan

“That’s it. End of lesson.”

MC

“Wow, you’re a really good teacher, Stefan.”

We both take a drink.

MC

“So what’s with the music.”

Stefan

“I just wanted to get you in the mood.”

MC

“In the mood for what?”

Stefan

“Dancing. You do know that practice makes perfect, right?”

MC

“Do you really want to risk dancing with me? Wine and dancing isn’t exactly a good combination.”

Stefan chuckles as he probably remembers his previous experience with me dancing.

Stefan

“You’re right. Let’s just sit by the fire then.”

I shake my head as Stefan dims the light and grabs the bottle of wine.

MC

“Chicken.”

Stefan

“What?”

Stefan laughs. He takes my hand and leads me in front of the fireplace.

Stefan

“Come. Sit.”

We sit down on the rug and set the bottle of wine on the floor.

MC

“This is cozy.”

The fire from the hearth dances, causing the shadows in the living room to continuously shift.

Stefan

“I’m so proud of what you’ve accomplished so far.”

MC

“Thank you.”

Stefan

“Remember when we had that meeting with the Chairman because of the gala fiasco?”

Stefan

“I really thought you were going to quit.”

MC

“I thought so too. But I realized that it would be a mistake.”

Stefan

“I’m glad you didn’t give up. That would mean that you’ll no longer be here.”

MC

“What is it to you if I’m gone?”

Stefan

“Well, for one, this job wouldn’t be as interesting.”

Stefan

“And of course, I don’t want to lose you.”

MC

“You’re not going to lose me, Stefan.”

MC

“I’m happy where I am right now.”

I shift to my side to snuggle close to Stefan.

Stefan

“Are you cold?”

Stefan embraces me from behind, and leans his head onto mine.

MC

“Not anymore.”

Stefan’s hand then touches my chin and turns my head to meet his gaze.

He leans in to kiss me and I let him.

Stefan

“I am happy where I am right now, too.”

We stay snuggled together for a long time, just watching the fire and feeling each other’s warmth.

When it’s getting a bit late, I decided to retire to my bedroom and bid Stefan good night.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“No, thank you. I’d rather not have a massive hangover in the morning.”

Stefan

“All right, then, I’ll just be here if you need me.”

MC

“Okay, Stefan.”

I turn around to proceed to my bedroom.

Stefan

“[namae]?”

I look back at Stefan.

MC

“Yes, Stefan?”

Stefan

“Good night and sweet dreams.”

MC

“Good night. I’ll see you in the morning.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**When I enter my bedroom, I feel like something is not right. I start to look around.

A gasp escapes my lips as I realize what happened.

MC

“Oh, no!”

MC

“Where is my ring?!”

*Read more to find out…*