

Logan and four soldiers came down from the first van.

And from the second van, Adam, Jeremy, Lily, and Emily.

Daniel and his family were baffled by the strange parade.

“What are you guys doing here?” Lacey stated in confusion.

“Where's Williams?” Logan asked emotionlessly.

“He went out. Why are you looking for him?” Lacey asked.

“He went out? Hmph, more like absconding from his crime,” Logan sneered.

“What do you mean, absconding from his crime? Don't falsely accuse him,” Lacey said, clearly flustered.

“Haha! We have enough evidence to prove that it was he who murdered Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome,” Logan smirked.

“You guys better hand over Williams and cooperate with our investigation.”

Lacey became anxious.

*Five lives... It's definitely not a small matter.*

“That's impossible,” she defended. “You guys are spouting nonsense. How could Zeke have killed them?”

“Stop sticking up for him, Lacey,” Emily interrupted. “Someone has testified that they saw Zeke kill them with their own eyes.”

“Who?” Lacey asked.

Emily eyed Jeremy.

Jeremy coughed, clearing his throat. “Lacey, we all saw it with our own eyes that Zeke killed Collins, so stop hiding the truth.”

“Hand him over now and you'll be seen as innocents. Otherwise, you'll be guilty of harbouring a criminal.”

*What?*

Lacey and her parents turned into a complete state of panic.

*Grandpa and Uncle Jeremy were at the steel mill when Darren Collins' car had crashed into Winrood River. How could they have possibly witnessed it?*

*They are framing Zeke!*

Daniel was losing his mind. He pointed at Jeremy's nose, letting loose a torrent of abuse. “Look, Jeremy, I know you have beef with Zeke, but



you can't just put his life at risk!"

"He's your niece's husband. How can you do this to him? How can you be so cruel?"

Jeremy felt guilty, as he knew he was going a little too far.

But the thought of rolling in a vast amount of wealth firmed his mind up again.

"You'd better watch your mouth, Daniel. I'm only doing this for the sake of righteousness!"

"If you're going to keep screwing around with me, I'll sue you for libel."

Daniel ground his jaw. "Fine, go ahead and sue me. By all means."

"There are laws in this world. You can't just simply accuse a good Samaritan as a murderer."

"Laws?" Logan snickered. "I am the Law!"

"With the three of them as my witnesses, plus the evidence I have in my hands, it's easy to punish Williams with a death penalty."

Daniel and his family broke down.

*Logan is telling the truth. He can really screw with Zeke's life.*

“But I think Williams has rare medical talents,” Logan changed the subject abruptly. “I can actually give him a chance.”

“What chance?” Lacey asked hastily.

“Hand over all the companies under your name for this matter to be dropped,” Logan replied.

“No way!” Hannah refused with finality. “Those companies are Lacey's blood, sweat, and tears. They are more important than her own life. In no way can they be handed to you shameless people!”

“So you don't agree? Alright then, I'll issue an arrest warrant right now.”

“Wait, hold on.” Lacey drew in a deep breath, forcing herself to calm down. “Let me give Zeke a call first.”

Hannah's eyes lit up. “Yeah, give Zeke a call first. He can surely settle this.”

Meanwhile, Zeke was at the Provincial Military District in search of evidence of Logan's act of treason.

Upon picking up Lacey's call and learning what just happened, Zeke slapped the table and stood up in a fury.

“Bastard, he came too soon!”



“Fine. Since he asked for it, don't blame me for being rude.”

“Just ignore him, Lacey. Don't hand over the business. I'll be back soon.”

“Zeke, don't come back for now,” Lacey said nervously.

“Logan came with soldiers. They may restrain if you come back.”

“I'll deal with them first. Then you can show up once we come up with a perfect plan!”

Lacey quickly hung up after saying that, afraid Zeke would reject her suggestion.

With great force, Zeke crushed the pen in his hand into powder. “Lone Wolf, dispatch a team!”

“Great Marshal,” Lone Wolf saluted. “Please advise how many men I should bring with me!”

“Deploy all soldiers from the Provincial Military District!” Zeke ordered.

Lone Wolf's eyes brightened.

*There are over fifty thousand men from the Provincial Military District. The Great Marshal is finally up to something big!*

*Is he finally going to reveal his identity?*

Lone Wolf suddenly remembered the phrase the Great Marshal often said.

*Someday the dragon will rise, and the river will flow backwards.*

*Someday the tiger will return to the mountain, and half of the sky will be stained with blood.*



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After hanging up the call, Lacey said, "I need some time to reconsider the condition that you put forward. I will give you an answer tomorrow."

She tried to wrestle with them, stalling for time.

"Hmph," Logan sniggered. "Don't play tricks with me. We ain't got time for you."

"It's either you hand over all the companies under your name to me now, or I'll issue an arrest warrant."

"Even if he flees to the ends of the earth, we'll be able to catch him with the arrest warrant."

"And once he's arrested, we'll execute him on the spot!"

*Execute him on the spot?*

Lacey fell into a pool of despair.

*Forget it. Zeke's life is more important.*

She could still start from scratch, but without Zeke, her life would be a living hell.

She was just about to agree when Daniel broke out laughing maniacally. "Nice one, you guys! Way to go!"

"Fine. I'll admit I killed Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome. This has nothing to do with

other people. It is all on me.”

Lacey and Hannah were dumbstruck.

*Daniel, who had always been a wimp, is now standing up to the pressure of death and taking the blame for Zeke?*

This was the Daniel Hinton they knew!

However, now wasn't the time for him to show his verve.

“Dad, don't be impulsive,” Lacey quickly advised. “This matter can definitely be resolved.”

“If worse comes to worst, we'll just give up on the business. They can have it. We can always start over again.”

Daniel smiled miserably. “Lacey, don't be silly. A dog will never be satisfied with just a bone.”

“What's going to happen next if you give them the factory this time? They will hold you down for the rest of your life!”

“I don't wish for my daughter to become other people's puppet!”

Thereafter, he looked at Adam with red eyes. “Listen, dad, it was you who forced your son to death!”



“I hope you send me off on the day I go to the execution ground, so you can watch your own son bleed to death!”

Instead of feeling guilty, Adam ripped at him. “Daniel Hinton, giving birth to you was the worst decision I've ever made in this life.”

“What kind of ecstasy did that bastard feed you that you're willing to die for him?”

“Speak another word on behalf of Williams and I will disown you as my son.”

“Disown me?” Daniel sneered. “Dad, have you forgotten how many times you've said this to me?”

“Weren't you always worried I'll fight for the inheritance, brother? Well, I guess no one will fight with you now after I've died.”

“Also, which of dad's things are not mine and Lacey's homage to him? What have you ever given dad?”

“Bullshit,” Jeremy cursed. “Who cares about dad's inheritance?”

“No?” Daniel said. “Then why did you stop the doctors from saving dad the last time he collapsed? Weren't you hoping for dad to die soon?”

Adam's face scrunched up. “Jeremy stopped the

doctors from saving me? Jeremy, didn't you say that it was Daniel who deterred them from saving me?"

Jeremy's expression turned unnatural. He quickly changed the subject. "Dad, don't listen to him. He's sowing discord."

"Officer Hugh, aren't you guys going to arrest him?"

Logan waved his hand, and the four soldiers he had brought with him immediately apprehended Daniel.

"Since you're courting death, I'll give you what you want!"

"Of course, this is just the beginning. The Hinton family shall soon be buried with you!"

As it was rush hour, many neighbours in the neighbourhood were getting ready to go to work.

Consequently, the neighbours were attracted by the commotion here.

After figuring out what exactly happened, the neighbours were abustle and astir.





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“Oh, my God. The Hinton family's son-in-law is a murderer. He killed five people!”

“What's so strange about this? After all, he'd been in jail for five years; he has a criminal record. A leopard can't change its spots!”

“Here I was wondering how the Hinton family's son-in-law could be so rich. It turns out that he's accumulated his wealth by killing people.”

Lacey's, and her family's heads drooped, feeling ashamed.

At this moment, Zeke was leading fifty thousand men, rushing toward the neighbourhood.

As there were too many people, the government directly closed the roads, only allowing Zeke's troops to pass.

Oakheart City was whipped into a frenzy. Countless citizens were looking at the army of fifty thousand men through their windows with fear and trepidation.

*Oakheart City is about to change!*

Upon arrival at the neighborhood, the soldiers immediately blockaded the area.

However, as there was a tall barrier within the neighborhood, the residents were not aware of the situation outside.



Zeke glanced at Lone Wolf. "Wait here for my orders."

"Yes, sir!" Lone Wolf saluted.

Zeke started the engine of his car and drove further inside.

Sitting in the passenger seat of the car was a mysterious person; that was the most solemn of ceremonies Zeke had prepared for Logan.

From a distance, Zeke could see Daniel's hand tied up behind his back while Hannah and Lacey were choked with sobs.

That scene broke Zeke's heart.

"He's courting death!"

He stepped on the accelerator, racing toward Logan. He immediately got down from the car when he reached the scene.

Upon seeing Zeke, Lacey and her parents went crazy. "Zeke, go! They're here to catch you!"

Zeke took a deep breath, suppressing the anger in his heart. "Don't worry, Lacey. I'll clean up this mess."

Logan laughed heartily. "You'll clean this mess up? How are you intending to do that?"

“Well, you've come just in time. I shall wipe out the entire Hinton family today!”

“Zeke Williams, you are under the suspicion of murdering Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome. Please cooperate with our investigation now!”

“I didn't kill Collins,” Zeke said. “But I'm going to kill you today!”

“You didn't kill him? Speak with evidence!” Logan retaliated.

“Evidence? Fine. I'll give you evidence!” Zeke said, grabbing Logan's head and smashing it against the windshield.

He was so strong that Logan's head shattered the car's glass window.

Logan's body was outside, but his head was stuck inside the car.

*Ouch!*

Silence engulfed the entire neighbourhood. Even the air seemed frozen.

*How dare an ex-convict attack Logan Hugh?*

*Doesn't he know who he is? He's the second-in-command of the Provincial Military District. Even the mayor bows down to him!*



*Zeke Williams is so dead!*

Emily was stoked.

*Even if he's not convicted of murder, this action alone is enough to take his life!*

She rejoiced in her heart; glad she had dumped him back then. Otherwise, she would be implicated in this matter as well.

“Zeke, go now! Take Lacey and run!” Daniel's voice quavered, his face pale.

“Leave Eurasia and never come back.”

Lacey burst into tears, pinching Zeke angrily. “Zeke Williams, you lunatic. What are you doing?”

“Run, quickly!”

Zeke gently wiped away Lacey's tears. “No one else can bully my wife, except for me.”

“I'll make whoever makes you cry bleed!”

Meanwhile, Logan was sprawled across the bonnet, unmoving.

He didn't faint, but was dumbfounded.

Because the person sitting on the passenger seat was someone he had not expected.



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It wasn't any other person, but today's hero.

He was Darren Collins, whom Zeke had 'killed'.

*Outrageous! Isn't he dead? How is he sitting here alive in front of me?*

In fact, Zeke didn't intend to take Darren's life. He simply intimidated him in the name of death.

After Darren fell into the river, he was rescued by Lone Wolf and dispatched to the frontier.

As Darren was needed this time around, Lone Wolf had sent a military helicopter to pick him up.

Darren smiled at Logan.

He thought he was unlucky enough to offend the Great Marshal, but he didn't expect Logan to be even unluckier than him.

After all, he was an active soldier who had deliberately violated the law. His crime was greater by leaps and bounds.

Logan struggled to get out of the car. His eyes dull as he muttered to himself, "No way. How is this possible..."

Everyone was stunned, not understanding what Logan meant.

But soon, they came to a realization as Darren

opened the car door and got down.

The crowd flew into an uproar.

*Darren Collins is actually alive. The 'dead' has returned!*

*If he's still alive, then the crime of murder is naturally not established.*

The sudden dawn of victory made Lacey's family cry with joy.

Emily and Lily were aghast at the scene that unfolded before them.

Now, instead of having Zeke take the blame, they had to face the charge of false accusations.

It was a huge blow in their faces.

“Officer Hugh, is this evidence enough to prove my innocence?” Zeke stated without inflection.

Logan was dissatisfied. “Even if Collins is still alive, what about the Fearsome Foursome? I still suspect you killed them.”

Zeke shot a glance at Darren.

“It was Donkey Kong who drove the car when the accident happened. He was intoxicated, and that's how the car crashed under the bridge of Winrood River,” Darren explained.



“I was lucky enough to crawl my way up, but the Fearsome Foursome didn't survive the disaster.”

“The Fearsome Foursome reaped what they sowed. This has nothing to do with Mr. Williams.”

Lacey and her parents could finally exhale the breath they had been holding in.

With Darren as the witness, Logan couldn't frame Zeke in any way.

“Good. Very good.” Logan's lips tugged into a grim sneer.

“Do you think I can't do anything to you because of this, Williams?”

“Let me tell you. I can still put you behind bars for assaulting me just now.”

Zeke shrugged. “I'm afraid you won't have that chance now.”

He shifted his gaze toward the gate of the neighbourhood.

Lone Wolf, who was waiting at the gate, acted immediately upon noticing Zeke's signal.

He lifted his hand and fired a shot at the sky.

*Bang!*

The violent gunfire attracted everyone's attention as they looked toward the gate, and what they saw the next second had them freaking out.

A troop of soldiers with loaded guns were charging toward them like tidal water.

It was endless, overwhelming and formidable!

*Hundred, thousand, ten thousand...*

Very soon after, the soldiers had occupied the entire neighbourhood.

But even so, there was a dark crowd at the gates that didn't enter.

*Oh, my God. How many soldiers were deployed?*

Terrorised, everyone fled back to their homes frantically.

Lacey's family was also frightened, their legs wobbly with fear.

“Zeke, quick...” Lacey grasped Zeke's hand. “Go home...”

“Why should I go home? Is the play that bad?”  
Zeke chuckled.

Lacey looked helpless. “Now isn't the time for you to be frivolous.”



“Zeke, tell me the truth,” Daniel said abruptly. “Did you call them?”

Those words snapped Lacey and Hannah out of their daze as they looked at Zeke with blazing eyes.

*Zeke came without fear and even had the nerve to beat up Logan. Does that mean... he's back with this troop?*

Zeke smiled slyly. “You'll find out in a bit.”

Lacey pinched Zeke on the arm again. “Stop holding us in suspense.”

Logan was confused.

*What's going on?*

*It seems that every soldier from the Provincial Military District had been deployed.*

*Why didn't I hear anything about such a big operation? Am I not the staff officer of the Provincial Military District?*

*Who are they coming after?*



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Not giving him too much time to think, Lone Wolf came forward, rebuking, “Logan Hugh, a thousand deaths will not atone for your crime.”

*Shit!*

Logan felt a chill in his heart. *They're actually here for me.*

Logan gave a military salute. “Colonel, have... have I done something wrong?”

“The Hamilton Group was a property that belonged to the military. The military trusted you enough to entrust you with the auction.”

“But you practised fraud for personal gains and cheated at the auction, causing great losses to the military. You have committed the most heinous crime.”

Logan trembled from head to toe.

He didn't expect his misdeed to come to light so soon.

*It's customary to give an internal warning for such a trivial matter. That's why I was audacious enough to pull strings from behind the scenes.*

*But why did they deploy the entire troop? They're not playing by the rules!*

“Wait!” Logan shouted. “This isn't my fault...”

“You can confess that to the military court,” Lone Wolf snorted. “Seize him!”

Immediately, some of his men rushed forward and restrained Logan.

The cold handcuffs made Logan's face ashen.

Lone Wolf glared at Lily and Emily. “You two won the bid for the Hamilton group, no? You guys are suspects in this case as well.”

“We will get to the bottom of this. If we find out that you two were involved in this matter, we will show no mercy.”

Lily and Emily were scared out of their minds.

They knew there was no way out, once targeted by the military.

Lone Wolf came in a haste and left in a hurry after staying on-site for less than ten minutes.

Lacey grabbed Zeke's hand in one swoop. “Come with me.”

*This has to be cleared up today, by hook or by crook.*

Hannah and Daniel hurriedly followed them.

Adam shouted for Daniel, but the latter ignored him, making him feel uncomfortable.



He sighed and said in a low voice, "Do you guys think Williams summoned this troop?"

"Dad, what are you even thinking?" Jeremy quickly denied.

"Lone Wolf clarified it was because of the auction of the Hamilton Group that he came to arrest Hugh."

"What happened today was pure coincidence."

Lily and Emily nodded convincingly.

"Well, what did I say? If he has such great powers, why would he be in prison for five years?" Adam said.

Lily rolled her eyes at Emily furiously. "It's all your fault, Emily."

"If you didn't drag me to this auction, we wouldn't have gotten into this much trouble. Look at us. We're all being targeted by the military now."

"How dare you point fingers at me? Didn't all this happen because of your greed?" Emily refuted.

"Alright, let's just put this aside. Our top priority now is to clear our suspicion of manipulation at the auction!"

"It's easy to say, but do you think it's easy to get away from the military?" Lily snapped.

“My brother is a sergeant and has a certain say in the army. We can only get his help now,” Emily said.

“Besides, there's another big shot behind Officer Hugh. He won't be defeated so easily.”

Adam swatted his head. “Yeah, yeah. Quickly contact Sam. I'm sure he can help us.”

Meanwhile, the neighbours were also discussing whether the Hinton family's son-in-law had summoned those troops.

*How awesome is this son-in-law, if that's the case?*

*There're unnoticed talents in this low-grade neighbourhood.*

In the security room, Mr. Zachary's hand that was holding a cigarette shook slightly.

He had long speculated that the Hinton family's son-in-law had relations in Eurasia, and what happened today simply confirmed his theory.

He was glad he didn't reach deadlock with the Hinton family back then over a parking space.





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In Lacey's home, the family of three surrounded Zeke, as if interrogating a criminal.

"Is there something you would like to ask me?" Zeke started, feeling uncomfortable under their stares.

"Feel free to ask me anything. I'll tell you the truth."

"Did you call that troop or not?" Lacey asked.

Zeke nodded.

The Hinton family became even more nervous.

"Who exactly are you?" Lacey asked again.

"I'm the famous and renowned Great Marshal," Zeke said.

He could only confess; he couldn't hide it anymore.

Lacey looked irritated. "You little... I want the truth."

"That is the truth," Zeke enunciated his words, looking bewildered.

"You mean to say the Great Marshal had been imprisoned for five years?" Lacey couldn't keep a straight face.

"And he had stayed beside an ordinary girl for five



years and never fought back, no matter the humiliation?”

“And he couldn't afford a dowry of three hundred thousand and could only ask the bridesmaid for help during the wedding?”

“Yeah, what's wrong with that?” Zeke asked, puzzled. “The God of War is also a human. He also has his own circumstances.”

Lacey was at her wit's end. “I'm so done with you. How are you still so composed and self-conceited?”

“From what I saw, Lone Wolf came to arrest Logan Hugh because of the auction of the Hamilton Group. It's just your pure dumb luck.”

Zeke found the situation ironic.

*I've already confessed. You can't blame me if you still don't believe me.*

It just so happened that he refused to reveal his identity as God of War just yet, lest Lacey creates a distance or even breaks up with him.

Thus, he took advantage of the opportunity to get out of the predicament, smiling affably. “I didn't think you'd hit the nail on the head.”

“What happened today was indeed my luck.”

Hannah and Daniel's strained nerves relaxed.

If Zeke really admitted that he was some big shot, the old couple would have surely considered getting Lacey to break up with him.

After all, Lacey was just an ordinary girl. She was unworthy of a big shot who could summon fifty thousand soldiers with just a wave of his hand.

Even if she married him, she would probably have to live like a coward for the rest of her life.

“You could have just told us the truth from the beginning. I won't look down on you just because you're an ordinary civilian,” Lacey said.

“Okay, enough with the nonsense. I'm going to go to work. Are you coming, Zeke?”

“Nah, I have to visit an old friend later,” Zeke replied.

“An old friend again? Why do you have so many old friends?” Lacey muttered as she walked away.

Daniel and Hannah also made their way to the clinic.

Now, Zeke was left alone at home.

He took out his phone and dialled Lone Wolf's number.



“Great Marshal, what are you going to do with Hugh?” Lone Wolf asked.

“Get him to compensate the damages caused by the Hamilton Group and release him,” Zeke said.

Lone Wolf was a little disgruntled. “Great Marshal, you're just going to let him off?”

“What do you know? It's called playing the long game,” Zeke stated.

“I highly suspect there are people behind Hugh, and there are even more vestiges below him.”

“He definitely won't give up if we release him, and until he uses his backup and the remnants of his men, I'll take them all out at once.”

“We must destroy all evil and leave no chance for its revival.”

“Roger that!” Lone Wolf replied.

After hanging up the phone, Zeke went downstairs.

Darren was still standing there, shivering.

His coming and going, life and death, were all Zeke's call.

Upon seeing Zeke, he went up in a blue funk. “Mr. Williams, I...”

Zeke shot him a sideways glance, asking coldly, "Have you been riding with the gangs before this?"

Darren nodded. "I have quite the power in the underworld."

"Alright. Gather your old friends and wait for your assignment," Zeke ordered.

Darren could barely conceal his delight.

*Instead of killing me, Mr. Williams might actually put me in an important position!*

He instantly agreed and hurried off.

Zeke took a deep breath. "Such lackeys can achieve great things sometimes."



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At the Provincial Military District, Logan wasn't sent to the military court. He was released after paying the penalty.

He thought the old leader backing him had spoken up to bail him out.

But little did he know that Zeke was deliberately breeding calamity for the future.

As soon as he came out, he brook no delay and looked for his apprentice, Sam Clemons, Emily's younger brother.

Sam had long been clear about the hows and whys of this matter.

As soon as he met Logan, he expressed his loyalty and said, "Master, how dare that bastard hit you? It's a crime for which even death cannot atone!"

"Should I send someone to teach him a lesson?"

Logan shook his head. "Teaching him a lesson is too easy a punishment for him."

"I want to make him lose his wealth and show him that beating me will cost him a bloody fortune!"

"Master, could it be that you already have a retaliation plan in mind?" Sam asked.

Logan nodded. "That's right."

“But since I've just been released, it's inconvenient for me to show myself right now. You will have to take full responsibility for this revenge plan.”

Sam nodded. “No problem. Just leave it to me, master. I'll definitely seek justice for you this time.”

Logan smiled in relief, signalling Sam to come closer as he mumbled in his ears.

After a while, a hideous supercilious smile appeared on Sam's face. “What a brilliant idea, master. You're throwing a spat to catch a mackerel!”

“Let's see if you survive this time, Zeke Williams!”

On that same day, Sam left the army on the ground of 'going home to visit his relatives'.

But instead of going straight home, he headed directly to 'the Hill village' and looked for a villager named Jayden Hill.

Jayden was a soldier who served under Logan but had later violated discipline and was discharged early.

After he was demobilized, he had returned to his hometown, the Hill village, and became a village bully.

All these years, he had kept in touch with Logan and had helped him with some shady business.



When he learned that Sam was sent by Logan, he warmly invited Sam to his house.

“Mr. Clemons, I wonder what instructions you have brought with you from Officer Hugh this time,” Jayden asked respectfully after serving tea.

“I heard the Hill village will be demolished soon?” Sam asked.

Jayden nodded. “Yes. The Love in a Fallen City project has caused a sensation in the entire province. As the developer wants to occupy the land of our village.”

“Officer Hugh wants you to obstruct the demolition,” Sam stated.

Jayden looked stunned. “Officer Hugh is also interested in this land?”

Sam shook his head. “Officer Hugh doesn't give a damn about this piece of broken land.”

“You should have heard of the enmity between Officer Hugh and the person-in-charge of the Love in a Fallen City project, right? Officer Hugh wants to make a move on the project.”

“This piece of land is the most important land for the project. Without this land, the Love in a Fallen City project will have to be aborted.”

“By then, the person-in-charge will have violated

the contract with the Schneider family. They will have to rot in jail or even go bankrupt!”

Jayden's teeth clenched. “This bastard must surely die for offending Officer Hugh!”

“Don't worry, Mr. Clemons. The villagers have always resented the demolition. Coupled with my deterrent power, they will certainly not be able to take this place down.”

Sam patted Jayden's shoulders. “Do your best. Officer Hugh said you'll be rewarded handsomely if you complete this task.”

Jayden flushed with excitement. “Thank you very much, Officer Hugh.”

Sam gave him a few more instructions and left in a flurry.

He had to rush to his next destination and map out the next plan.

...

Meanwhile, Zeke was reviewing a document at home.

It was the information Lone Wolf had sent regarding Logan's network in the army.

Zeke wanted to analyze who in his network of contacts was as treacherous as he was.



Just as he was busy, Lacey called.

“Zeke, hurry over to the Hill village. Dawnie may be in danger.”



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Zeke suddenly turned nervous. “What happened to Dawnie?”

Zeke liked his strange sister-in-law very much. He was anxious because he had long treated her as part of the family.

“I put Dawnie in charge of the pre-demolition work for the Love in a Fallen City project. She has encountered a violent protest about the demolition at the Hill village and both parties came to blows.”

“Dawnie must not get hurt.”

“Don't worry. I'm on my way,” Zeke stated.

After hanging up, he hurried over to the Hill village.

The Hill village's geographical location was remote, with many undeveloped lands nearby and relatively poor traffic conditions.

When he was about five kilometres away from the Hill village, there was no highway, only a meandering footpath which cars couldn't pass.

Zeke had no choice but to park his car and continue his journey on foot.

The spring breeze was strong while he was surrounded by green.

However, he had no time to appreciate the scenery. He kept his head down and pushed on.



Just after he took a few steps forward, a plant on the ridge next to him caught his attention.

He immediately stopped in his tracks, carefully picking up the plant, and observed it on his palm.

With flaming eyes, he plucked a blade of grass and tasted it.

“Rhodiola Rosea!” Zeke beamed. “It's the seventh of the ten rare and exotic herbs!”

“But Rhodiola Rosea is extremely rare and only grows in a small amount in the four major herb plantations in Eurasia. Why is it here?”

“Unless...”

Suddenly realizing something, he looked around and discovered an expanse of Rhodiola Rosea.

Zeke's spirits flew high. “Sure enough, this place is a herb plantation, and the scale is pretty big.”

“There are only four herb plantations in Eurasia. The rare herbs planted on them have saved the lives of many soldiers and warriors. But this is a far cry from satisfying the needs of the army!”

“If there's more to this herb plantation, it will surely save the lives of many more soldiers!”

“Money can no longer measure its value!”

Even when he had led thousands of troops to force the nine countries into signing the Nine Nations Treaty of Alliance, he had never been so excited.

The significance of discovering a herb plantation was too great.

Right then, a group of people came over his way.

They were Dawn and the demolition workers.

Upon seeing that Dawn was all right, Zeke was finally relieved.

When Dawn saw Zeke, she jogged toward him, a smile unconsciously appearing on her face. “Zeke, what are you doing here?”

“I heard that you guys encountered a violent protest. I was worried about you, so I came over,” Zeke replied.

“I'm fine. All thanks to our workers for protecting me,” Dawn said.

“But they were unlucky.”

Zeke's eyes ran over the demolition workers.

The demolition workers were big and strong but were covered in black and blue now.

Zeke scowled. “Dawn, were there that many



villagers? How could they be beaten so badly?”

Dawn shook her head. “There weren't many of them, but there were very strong. Clearly, they looked as skinny as monkeys, but they can fight better than our brawny men.”

Zeke was absorbed in his thoughts.

*It's obvious that those villagers had taken Rhodiola Rosea.*

*Rhodiola Rosea can cure all kinds of diseases and strengthen the healthy ones!*

*The reputation of a top ten rare herb is no joke.*

Zeke wanted to monitor the villagers closely.

“Dawn, do you know why the villagers protesting are against the demolition?” he asked.



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Dawn shook her head and answered, "I don't know. I was going to try to communicate with them, but they started beating up the boys at the slightest disagreement."

"Okay, you guys go back first. I'll go and see what's going on," Zeke said.

"Zeke, I'm coming with you," Dawn said.

She wasn't worried about danger.

How could it be dangerous when the Great Marshal was by her side?

Zeke shook his head. "No, take the workers to the hospital first. We will reimburse all medical expenses."

Dawn looked disappointed. But as she didn't dare to refute the Great Marshal, and could only leave in disappointment.

Zeke trotted toward the Hill village.

The villagers who had gathered at the entrance of the village were dispersing, but a few people stayed behind to guard the entrance.

The leader of the group was Jayden Hill.

Upon noticing Zeke, Jayden became vigilant. "Who are you and what are you doing here?"



He was worried that Zeke was from the demolition team.

Before Zeke had the chance to speak, a thin figure suddenly jumped out from the crowd.

“Williams, is that you? Damn, I didn't expect to see you here.”

Zeke's forehead creased, scrutinizing the thin figure.

After a while, he finally recognized the other party as his former cellmate, Douglas Hill.

Douglas used to make a living by stealing electric car batteries.

During their time in prison, he would always steal some small gadgets from the prison guards and share them with Zeke.

Their relationship was pretty good.

It didn't occur to Zeke that Douglas had been released. He never thought they would meet each other again at such a place.

“Hill, what a coincidence!” Zeke smiled at Douglas. “What are you doing here?”

“This is my hometown. But you, why are you here?” Douglas asked.

“Douglas, who is he?” Jayden asked impatiently.

“Oh, he's my former cellmate, Williams,” Douglas replied.

*Pfft!*

Jayden's subordinates couldn't help laughing. “So he's an ex-con, just like you.”

“A camaraderie formed in prison is legit. You guys should sit down and have a drink later.”

Zeke shot a glance at Jayden, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

*Death shall befall those who insult the Great Marshal!*

Douglas went up, pulling Zeke's hand and walking into the village. “Come on, Williams. Let's have a few drinks together today.”

Zeke clearly noticed that Douglas' strength was much greater than usual.

He supposed it was because of the consumption of Rhodiola Rosea.

“Hill, do you know what this is?” He took out the Rhodiola Rosea in his pocket and showed it to Douglas.

“Of course, I do. It's Rhodiola Rosea. It's



everywhere in this village,” Douglas said.

“Have you eaten it before?” Zeke asked.

“I have. But the taste is just so-so. I don't really like it,” Douglas replied.

“I always feed them to the pigs.”

*Feed them to the pigs...*

Zeke felt a sharp pang in his heart.

*Rhodiola Rosea is worth tens of millions in the black market... He feeds tens of millions, even hundreds of millions to the pigs...*

*Serves you right for being poor!*

“Remember when we were in jail, Williams? I said I'll introduce you to my little sister when you come out,” Douglas said.

“You've come at just the right time. Let me fix you up with her.”

Zeke chuckled to himself.

*Having seen Lacey's kindness and beauty, how could I fall in love with someone else?*

While chatting, the two arrived at Douglas' home.

It was an extremely ordinary rural courtyard.

Upon entry, a refreshing fragrance of food tantalized their olfactory senses.

“Mom, lil sis,” Douglas shouted. “A friend of mine is here today.”

“Make us some appetizers, will you? We're going to have a few drinks.”

An old woman and a young girl came out from the kitchenette.

They were Douglas' mother and sister, Sandra Hill.



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Mrs. Hill shot Zeke an unpleasant look. “Douglas, who is he?”

“He's the one I've always told you guys about, Williams,” Douglas replied.

Mrs. Hill looked even more upset. “I won't nag you for messing around all day long outside. But why did you bring such a person to our home?”

“Douglas, he's the one you were going to introduce to me?” Sandra mocked.

“Jeez, what motives do you have for asking me to marry an ex-con?”

“Shut up, Sandra,” Douglas scolded. “What nonsense are you spouting?”

“I'm just telling the truth,” Sandra spat out, unyielding.

“Just ignore him, Sandra,” Mrs. Hill scolded crossly. “The dishes are ready. Come help me in the kitchen.”

The two went back to the kitchenette.

Douglas was embarrassed to the extreme. “Sorry about that, Williams. Don't take offence at them.”

“They're sharp-tongued but soft at heart.”

Zeke put on a wry smile.

*Looks like Douglas' status at home isn't so good. His mother and sister didn't spare him from any embarrassment.*

*Forget it. Since you've helped me when I was at my lowest, I'll help you elevate your status at home today.*

Douglas led Zeke into the house.

The dining table was set with wine and a few dishes.

Just as he was about to pick up his chopstick and dig in, Sandra walked in and took away all the dishes.

Douglas was flustered. "Sandra, what are you doing?"

"These are not for you!" Sandra said.

"Jayden is coming over to talk about the demolition and our marriage. You can drink with him when he comes later."

"Seriously, how did I end up with a useless brother like you? If it weren't because we have no other men in the family, I wouldn't have let you sit on this table and disgrace me."

Douglas quivered with anger. "Don't you think you're a little too much, Sandra? My friend is here..."



Zeke quickly patted Douglas' shoulder, handing him a cigarette. "Chill."

Douglas slouched over, looking embarrassed. "I'm sorry you had to see that."

Zeke smiled and said nothing.

Just then, a burst of hearty laughter sounded from the courtyard. "Aunt, Sandra, what are you guys cooking? It smells so good."

Jayden had arrived.

Mrs. Hill and Sandra rushed out to greet him.

"Jayden, you're here. Come on in. I've specially made you your favourite braised pork."

"Jayden, why do you look more and more handsome every day?"

Zeke could clearly see the stark contrast between their enthusiasm for Jayden and their indifference to Douglas.

"What the hell?" Douglas' complexion turned for the worst.

With Sandra leading the way, Jayden came in.

His eyes brightened up immediately when he saw Zeke. "Yo, you're here too? What a coincidence. "

“You guys know each other?” Sandra asked in surprise.

“I met him at the village entrance just now. Isn't he one of Douglas' former cellmates?” Jayden said.

“Well, I'm kind of curious about life in prison. Maybe you can tell me about it later.”

“Yeah, yeah.” Sandra smiled. “He's been in prison for five years. He should know everything about life behind a cage at the back of his hand.”

“That's it!” Douglas couldn't stand it anymore as the other party kept talking about their 'prison life'.

“Williams, come on. Let's go out and eat.”

Sandra was displeased. “Go out and eat? Are you that rich? Jayden is willing to sit with you cause he didn't want to embarrass you, don't be insensitive.”

Zeke patted Douglas' shoulder, comforting, “Let's just make do with it.”

“But...” Douglas was dissatisfied.

“Sit down.” Zeke pressed Douglas to the seat.

Jayden laughed cheerfully. “You really need to learn from Williams, Douglas.”

“You can only survive in this society with thick skin.”





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Douglas looked disappointed, seeing Zeke remaining indifferent.

*Williams is such a let-down. What happened to his moral integrity? How can he eat food that's served in contempt?*

Mrs. Hill and Sandra quickly brought all the dishes and a bottle of fine wine to the table.

Thereafter, the two carried a camp stool and sat next to it.

In the countryside, women were not allowed to sit at the drinking table.

The atmosphere in the room was a little dull. Zeke and Douglas sat in rapt silence, but Jayden and Mrs. Hill chatted away.

"Aunt," Jayden started. "I suppose you've called me here for something?"

"I'm just curious, Jayden. What's our stand on the demolition?" Mrs. Hill asked.

Although Jayden wasn't the village party secretary, he was in name and in fact a village bully. Even the village party secretary had no say against him sometimes.

"It cannot be demolished. It mustn't be," Jayden said.



“As you know, most of the villagers work at the chemical plant. That chemical plant is part of our village.”

“How are we going to survive if the chemical plant is demolished? Can the little demolition compensation feed us for a lifetime?”

Mrs. Hill nodded. “You're right. We all think so too.”

It dawned on Zeke that the villagers were worried about their livelihood in the future. That was why they refused to move out.

To Zeke, this was not a problem at all.

That herb plantation was to be developed. There would be a shortage of labour when the time comes.

He could use the villagers of this village to work at the plantation.

“If I help you solve your work problems, are you willing to move out for tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands a month?”

Silence fell for a moment, followed by a burst of laughter.

*A group of old farmers earning tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of wages a month? Is this a dream?*

“Haha! You really know how to brag, don't you? You barely have a job and here you are talking about introducing jobs to others?”

“How is it our turn to get hired for a job that pays hundreds of thousands a month?”

Jayden laughed so much that tears came out of his eyes. “I really admire your bravado, brother.”

“If you can really arrange this job that pays hundreds of thousands for the villagers in our village, we'll cooperate a hundred percent with the demolition.”

“It's a deal,” Zeke said.

“Haha, deal!” Jayden replied.

Douglas wished the ground could swallow him whole.

*Since when did this guy learn how to brag? It's hard to find a job with a monthly income of five thousand in today's society. But hundreds of thousands a month? Who is he kidding?*

Jayden chatted with Mrs. Hill and Sandra for a little longer before getting up to leave.

“Jayden!” Sandra suddenly shouted. “There's actually one more thing.”

“It's about our marriage. We're not getting any



younger. Aren't you going to set the dates already?"

In fact, that was the purpose of Sandra calling Jayden over this time; forcing him into a marriage.

Asking about the demolition was just a cover.

"Soon," Jayden said curtly. "We'll get engaged once I'm done with my work."

With that, he scuttled away, leaving a dejected Sandra behind.

"Can't you see that Jayden doesn't seem to want to marry you, Sandra?" Douglas couldn't help saying.

"You probably won't be happy even if you marry him..."

"Shut up!" Sandra shot daggers at Douglas. "You think I don't know what's in your mind? You want me to marry your ex-con friend, don't you?"

"Listen, you jerk. This ex-con friend of yours is not worthy of even carrying Jayden's sandals."

"You little..." Douglas flushed. "Mind your manners."

"What? Did I say something wrong?" Sandra retorted.

“Look, Jayden isn't who you think he is. He may be living in a village, but he has connections with a big shot in the military.”

“Jayden will make it big sooner or later.”

Zeke, who had been silent, suddenly looked up.

*Jayden has connections with people from the military?*

At the thought of Jayden's efforts in obstructing the demolition, a bold theory came into his mind.



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*Is this Logan's doing?*

*I knew he would never give up.*

The more reckless Logan was, the better it was for Zeke.

That way, he could quickly find out what was left of him and eliminate the roots of all evil.

“Let's get some rest, Sandra.” Mrs. Hill pulled Sandra away. “Why bother talking to them?”

“Douglas, don't forget to wash the dishes.”

Douglas' lips tugged into a wretched smile. “Williams, let's continue drinking in my room.”

“Just stay for the night. I have so much to tell you.”

Zeke nodded before he followed Douglas into the latter's room.

After taking out his precious collection; Sorghum liquor, and shelled peanuts, Douglas started drinking with Zeke again.

Although there were ready-made dishes in the living room, Douglas refused to touch them as he resented Jayden for being dirty.

Jayden was probably feeling under the weather. He drank too much without realizing it and fell into a deep slumber soon after.

Zeke fished for his phone and quickly sent a message to the director of Reinz Pharmaceutical. *I discovered a herb plantation. Meet me tomorrow with one hundred million.*

Reinz Pharmaceutical was a juggernaut of the pharmaceutical industry in Eurasia.

The president was Xavier Brown, Zeke's apprentice.

In fact, Reinz Pharmaceutical was also one of Zeke's many properties. He had simply given it to his apprentice as he was too lazy to take care of it.

Meanwhile, in the president's office of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Xavier burst into tears upon receiving the message.

*Herb plantation! We've discovered another herb plantation!*

*Altogether, there are five herb plantations in Eurasia.*

*There are seven herb plantations worldwide, and five of them are in Eurasia.*

*God bless Eurasia!*

“Alex!” Xavier shouted for his secretary. “Get the chopper ready. We're flying straight to Oakheart City.”

...



The next morning, a rumble awakened the Hill village from its deep sleep with two helicopters landing slowly at the end of the village.

The Hill village erupted into a frenzy.

These peasants who had been toiling in the field for all their lives had never once seen a helicopter with their own eyes.

Everyone gathered at end of the village to watch the excitement unfold, including Douglas and his family.

Along the way, many people took the initiative to greet Douglas.

“Hill, I never thought you would have an ex-con friend who still remembers you.”

“Did he come to you for shelter because he finds it hard making a living outside?”

“Haha! He got the wrong guy then. He'll die of starvation asking you for help.”

It was indisputable that it was Jayden who had spread the word about this 'ex-con friend' last night.

Now that the entire village knew Douglas' family had a friend who was an ex-convict, they were held up to ridicule.

Douglas' anger spiked, but he couldn't stop the villagers' taunts.

Sandra and Mrs. Hill's faces turned deadly pale. "You're a disgrace to our family!"

Soon, they arrived at the end of the village.

The villagers had completely surrounded the helicopters, and their cries of admiration were endless.

Many children cried, wanting to touch the helicopters, but were instantly reprimanded by the adults.

The helicopters were worth a fortune and they couldn't afford to pay for any damages if they were to occur.

Douglas' family had the devil of a job trying to squeeze their way in.

Sandra's eyes lit up when she saw the helicopters. "This helicopter is too lavish. I'll die with no regrets if I can take a ride in it."

There was a ghost of a smile on Zeke's face.

*If you were a little courteous to me last night, I might have given you a chance.*

*But now... Hah!*



The helicopter door opened and a row of men in black suits came down.

The person leading the group was none other than the president of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Xavier Brown.



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Those people each carried a suitcase in their hands.

When one of them alighted, he accidentally fell down, and the suitcase broke open, scattering a pile of money from the lockbox.

The villagers' eyes widened.

*Money. It's money in that box!*

*If there's already so much money in one lockbox...how much money is in the ten lockboxes?*

The villagers couldn't do the math.

Zeke walked toward Xavier.

"Where are you going?" Douglas pulled him back.

"They're my employees who came to see me," Zeke said.

Douglas tittered. "I don't remember you being such a show-off in prison."

"You've changed."

Sandra rolled her eyes at Zeke with unflagging patience. "Cut the crap. Do you think you can afford to mess with them?"

"If you drag us into this, I will not spare your life."



The commotion attracted Xavier's attention.

Upon noticing Zeke, Xavier's eyes brightened as he trotted toward him, the row of men in black suits following closely behind.

The atmosphere crackled with tension.

*Why is he walking toward them in such a flurry?*

The villagers dared not make a sound at the other party's imposing aura.

The most nervous party was Sandra's family, as the other party seem to be coming at them.

*Damn it. Did they come for trouble after hearing what Zeke said just now?*

Xavier and his men stopped about one meter before Zeke, bowing with their bodies bent over.

“Greetings, sir.”

An uproar erupted in the crowd.

*Douglas' ex-convict friend is the boss of these big bosses!*

*My God! His employees came in helicopters with suitcases of money. Just how rich is this ex-convict?*

*Who knew Douglas had such a powerful friend!*

Douglas and his family stood, transfixed.

*Zeke Williams is just an ex-convict who served in prison with Douglas for five years!*

*How... How is he so rich?*

*He's too damn low key about his status!*

Sandra was filled with regret when she recalled what had happened last night.

*Damn it. Why didn't I treat him a little better last night? Why didn't I agree with Douglas to marry him?*

*Jayden is the one who's unworthy to carry his sandals!*

*I blew my chance. There's probably one hundred million there... No, tens of billions!*

Zeke grunted in reply. He shoved Douglas' hand away and walked toward the centre of the crowd.

He scanned around, radiating an awe-inspiring dignity and elegance.

Sandra stared at him with starry, infatuated eyes. It was then that she realized how handsome and charismatic he was.

Zeke took out the blade of *Rhodiola Rosea* from his pocket and showed it to the villagers.



“You guys should know what this is.”

“Yes, yes. We do,” the crowd chorused.

“That's *Rhodiola Rosea*. It's all over the field.”

“We feed it to the pigs.”

*What?*

Xavier's mind turned abuzz with chaos.

*A blade of Rhodiola Rosea can save the lives of dozens of soldiers once it's turned into medicine.*

*It's so precious; you can't buy it with a thousand pieces of gold!*

*They actually feed it to the pigs?*

*What a reckless waste of God's wonderful gifts. Xavier was tempted to strangle all these ignorant villagers.*

Although a tempestuous storm had set off in his heart, Zeke remained calm on the surface.

“I need people to plant these grasses now. The minimum wage per person per month will be thirty thousand in the beginning. It will be fifty thousand or even a hundred thousand per month once you've mastered it. Who's interested?”



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*What the!*

There was another uproar in the crowd.

*A minimum wage of thirty thousand just to plant Rhodiola Rosea?*

*And a raise of fifty thousand or even a hundred thousand after mastering it?*

*That's even more profitable than becoming a boss.*

*We worked our asses off at the chemical plant only to earn up to four thousand per month...*

The villagers screamed, "Me! Me!"

Sandra's family could feel nothing but blind terror.

*He wasn't bluffing when he said last night that he could offer the villagers a job with tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of wages!*

*We really shouldn't have made fun of him last night.*

Zeke nodded. "Good."

"But on one condition."

"Rhodiola Rosea needs to be cultivated with a lot of care, so you have to move into the planting area."

“No problem,” the villagers responded enthusiastically in unison.

“Well then,” Zeke said. “Since there's no need for your village to exist, we'll just tear it down.”

It then sunk in for the villagers that this ten billion Love in a Fallen City project was related to him.

Sure enough, he who has wealth speaks louder than others.

However, they became worried that this was a conspiracy to force them to agree to the demolition.

Zeke saw the concerns of the villagers and assured, “Don't worry, I will not deceive you. We can sign the contract now and I'll pay you one year's salary in advance.”

“If you agree, step forward and sign this labour employment contract and demolition contract.”

Upon hearing that, the villagers' worries vanished. They rushed forward to sign the contracts.

*Only a fool would miss the opportunity of becoming a millionaire!*

Zeke went through great difficulty to walk out from the crowd.

“Hill,” he said, walking toward Douglas, who stood



rooted to the ground like a waxwork dummy. "Are you frozen?"

"No... No..." Douglas came back to his senses, looking horrified.

He couldn't believe that the cellmate who had spent five years in jail with him was so rich.

He felt lost and didn't know how to get along with him now.

"That's good then." Zeke took the contract that he had long prepared from Xavier's hands and stuffed it into Douglas' arms. "Have a look at this contract and sign it if you're interested."

"What is this?" Douglas asked curiously.

"From now on, you'll supervise the villagers' work with an annual salary of ten million," Zeke said. "Enough to feed yourself, buy a house, and get yourself a wife."

Xavier was dumbfounded.

*Did the humourless and solemn Great Marshal just crack a joke?*

Douglas was more astonished than Xavier.

*An annual salary of ten million!*

*How am I supposed to spend so much money in my*

*entire life?*

“Alright, thanks for your fine wine last night. I'm off then. I'll see you around,” Zeke said.

“Oh right, I have another task for you. Get the villagers to demolish their houses themselves. I'll subsidize each family with another ten thousand!”

At that, he took the demolition contracts, turned around, and left.

Sandra and Mrs. Hill came up to Douglas cautiously.

“Douglas,” Mrs. Hill whispered. “Why didn't you tell us your friend is so rich earlier?”

“My friend likes to keep a low-profile. He doesn't like to show off,” Douglas stated flatly.

Mrs. Hill giggled in embarrassment. “It's good to keep a low-profile. I like it.”

“Oh yeah, didn't you say you wanted to introduce your sister to him yesterday...”

“Yeah, invite him to our house for a meal next time, brother,” Sandra pleaded. “I'll cook.”

Douglas shook his head. “Forget about it. He's just an ex-convict, he's not worthy of you.”

“Besides, aren't you in love with Jayden? Didn't you



say he's not even worthy to carry Jayden's sandals?"

Mrs. Hill and Sandra felt their cheeks burn.

Sandra sighed, "It should be the other way round. Jayden isn't worthy to carry his sandals."

"Don't even think about it," Douglas said monotonously.

"My brother is a giant among men. After he could endure all this humiliation and hardships, his future will be very promising. We are not from the same world."

Sandra looked disappointed, like a bride deserted at the altar.



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Meanwhile, Jayden ran over, attracted by the excitement.

He had just woken up from drinking too much last night and had no idea what was going on.

“Sandra, what's going on? Why are there helicopters here? What are the villagers fighting over?”

Having seen Zeke's temperament and power, Sandra thought Jayden was an eyesore the more she looked at him. She glared at him and ignored him.

“Those are Reinz Pharmaceutical's choppers. They're here to recruit workers with a monthly salary of thirty thousand,” Douglas answered.

Jayden gasped in surprise. “What the hell? Reinz Pharmaceutical is a giant in the pharmaceutical industry with an annual profit of ten billion.”

“Why would they recruit from our small village and even offer a monthly salary of thirty thousand? You're bluffing, aren't you?”

Douglas shook his head. “No, I'm not. Of course, the condition they put forward to signing the contract is to agree with the demolition.”

*What?*

Jayden's blood ran cold.



*Agree with the demolition? Logan will f\*\*king kill me!*

He became anxious and wanted to stop it, but it was too late. The villagers had already signed the demolition contract.

Jayden was torn by grief and indignation. "F\*\*king hell! Why would Reinz Pharmaceutical care about the demolition? There must be someone behind this."

"To be honest with you, that ex-convict friend of mine whom you look down on arranged this. He's acquainted with the people from Reinz Pharmaceutical," Douglas said.

*What the hell?*

Jayden couldn't believe his ears.

*That ex-convict and the people from Reinz Pharmaceutical must be close!*

*Otherwise, why would they help him with such a huge favour?*

"Son of a bitch!" His teeth clenched. "Just you wait! You won't get away from this!"

As he didn't dare to hide this matter, he quickly called Sam to inform him.

As expected, Sam hit the roof and gave Jayden an earful.

Jayden didn't dare to say a thing; he knew he was in the wrong.

Only when the other party finished scolding did Jayden speak in a soft voice. "Mr. Clemons, could you please tell Officer Hugh to rest assured?"

"I will get rid of Zeke Williams even if I die doing so."

"Don't mess around without my orders," Sam reprimanded.

"So you're saying that Reinz Pharmaceutical has offered a monthly salary of thirty thousand to the villagers to plant Rhodiola Rosea?"

Jayden nodded. "Exactly."

Sam mused. "Money never sleeps. It's impossible for Reinz Pharmaceutical to cultivate a large number of Rhodiola Rosea for no reason at all."

"That Rhodiola Rosea is probably one of the rare ten herbs with medicinal value."

"I'll go and investigate it in two days. Don't act rashly, listen to my orders."

"Understood," Jayden replied.

After hanging up the phone, Sam immediately contacted his mother, Madeleine. "Mom, come with me to the Hill village."



“I may have discovered some valuable herbs.”

Madeleine's eyes glistened. “No problem.”

As a TCM practitioner, she was well aware of the significance of discovering valuable herbs.

...

Dawn came to Lacey's house early in the morning, scrounging free meals off of her.

But the primary reason was to discuss with Lacey regarding the demolition and how to solve it.

Only after she arrived did she realize that Zeke had yet to return home.

This made Dawn anxious. “You have no conscience, Lacey. Zeke went to the Hill village and didn't return all night. Aren't you worried about his safety?”

“I called him last night. He left the Hill village a long time ago and went to a friend's house for a drink last night. Don't worry about him,” Lacey said.

Dawn heaved a sigh of relief. But deep down, she wondered if this friend of the Great Marshal was a big shot like him.

“Lacey,” she continued. “What are you going to do about the demolition?”

“If worse comes to worst, I can only increase the demolition compensation,” Lacey said.

Dawn shook her head. “It's useless, Lacey. I doubled the compensation yesterday, but they won't budge.”

“What? Getting them to move out is harder than I thought.” Lacey had a splitting headache.

“Gosh, what should we do?”

At that moment, a knock on the door sounded.

Lacey went to open the door. It was Zeke who had come back with a pile of documents in his hands.

“What took you so long?” Lacey told him off.

Zeke smiled. “I went to solve the problems with the demolition last night.”

Lacey sniffed his body and could smell the booze from his breath. “What's with that excuse? Just tell me if you went for a drink.”

“Anyway, you came back just in time. I was thinking of engaging in a tug of war regarding the demolition at the Hill village. What do you think?”





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Zeke shook his head. "Hmm... I don't think that's a good idea."

"What? Why?" Lacey Hinton asked.

"Because," Zeke paused. "The Hill village has already been demolished."

Lacey frowned. "Are you kidding me? Dawnie negotiated with them the entire day yesterday! It was fruitless."

"And you're telling me that you, a careless man, settled it in one night?"

Zeke handed Lacey the pile of thick demolition contracts. "See for yourself."

"What is this?" Lacey accepted the documents and took a glance. "Oh, my God!"

*These are demolition contracts!*

*And they're all signed!*

She hurriedly counted them carefully. There were three hundred and two copies.

In another word, every family from the Hill village had signed the contract. Except for one family, Jayden's.

However, that wasn't a problem anymore.



“You... You're amazing!” Lacey hugged the demolition contracts and was so excited that she almost cried. “How did you do it?”

“Dawnie had dealt with them for a whole day yesterday with no results. But you're saying that you had them all signed after drinking for one night?”

“It's called enlightening with affection and motivating with reason,” Zeke said.

Lacey rolled her eyes. “What a load of nonsense.”

Dawn came to Zeke's rescue. “Lacey, why do you care so much?”

“The most urgent thing right now is to contact the demolition team and get started.”

Dawnie was unfazed.

*With the Great Marshal springing into action, nothing is unsolvable in this world.*

“Yeah, yeah, yeah!” Lacey swatted her head. “Contact the demolition team. Quick, before they change their mind.”

“Uh...” Zeke suddenly uttered. “I don't think that's necessary.”

“What do you mean?” Lacey asked curiously.

“The villagers have consciously demolished their own houses,” Zeke replied.

*What?*

“They demolished their own houses?” Lacey echoed in disbelief.

Just then, Lacey's phone rang.

It was a call from Mia, her assistant.

“Something's wrong, Ms. Hinton,” Mia sounded frantic over the phone. “Something's really wrong.”

“The villagers from the Hill village are demolishing their own houses without even removing the furniture.”

“I highly suspect they are planning to frame us for forced demolition.”

“I've already sent someone to record them in action as evidence.”

Dawnie glanced at Zeke in surprise. She then took a deep breath and recollected herself, reigning in her emotions.

“What's with the fuss?”

“It's just a small demolition plan. I can get it done with just a phone call.”



Zeke and Dawn were rendered speechless.

Her ostentatious response had caught them off guard.

Hanging up the phone, Lacey grabbed Dawn's hand and ran out.

“The demolition is complete. The project can finally start.”

“Zeke, stay home and don't go anywhere. I'll make you something delicious tonight.”

Zeke was speechless. *Do I look like a child to you?*

Daniel and Hannah, however, were full of smiles.

They couldn't remember when Lacey had smiled so brightly.

“Dad,” Zeke suddenly called Daniel. “Do recruit more medical staff for the clinic. I'm planning to expand the scale.”

“How many?” Daniel asked.

“The more the merrier,” Zeke said.

Daniel was silent at his words.

*It's just a small clinic. Even if the scale is expanded, could it be bigger than a regular hospital?*

*Having five to six staff is good enough.*

*Isn't 'the more the merrier' a little exaggerated?*

Little did he know that Zeke was preparing to get him started on that herb plantation business.

That herb plantation was an inexhaustible treasure.

Just a little grass at the corner of the plantation was enough to make Daniel prosperous for several generations.

“Zeke,” Hannah said. “It's Lacey's twenty-third birthday tomorrow.”

“According to the rules from our hometown, the twenty-third birthday must be a lavish celebration.”

“Friends and relatives will be here, so remember to contact a hotel.”

Zeke nodded. “Don't worry, mom. I've been thinking about this all the time.”

“I'll call the hotel now.”

“Alright.” Hannah nodded.

Once Zeke left, Daniel tapped his head as something struck his mind. “Ah, I forgot to remind Zeke to prepare a gift for Lacey.”



“Oh, please,” Hannah said impatiently. “Zeke is ten thousand times more thoughtful than you. How can he not think of what you can think of?”

Daniel chuckled foolishly. “Right, I worried too much.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After leaving home, Zeke went straight to Grand Millenium Hotel and met up with the current owner of the hotel, Susan Raynor.

Grand Millenium Hotel was the most luxurious hotel in Oakheart City, and he planned to organize Lacey's twenty-third birthday celebration here.

After explaining his intention, Susan nodded. "No problem. Just leave it to me."

"By the way, Mr. Williams, I'm planning to sell this hotel."

Zeke put on a calm expression. "Oh, what are you planning to do next then?"

"I'm a medical researcher. Hotel management isn't my forte," Susan chirped.

"I'm planning to transfer my shares for the hotel and use that money to venture into the medical industry."

"Since George has published an apology on international publications, the Chinese medicine industry has revived."

"If I grasp this opportunity right now, even pigs can fly."

Zeke nodded. He had to admit that he admired Susan's vision.



The medical industry was surely going to prosper.

On one hand, George's apology statement had created a dramatic backlash.

And on the other hand, the herb plantation he had discovered was a catalyst that could help the Chinese medical industry soar into the sky.

“Don't transfer your shares. Let the Schneider family buy them back,” Zeke said.

The Schneider family owned seventy percent of Dry Share for the Grand Millenium hotel chain, while Susan's family owned thirty percent, including the management shares.

If he took back thirty percent of the shares this time, he would be the sole proprietor of Grand Millenium.

Susan was elated. “Okay. I've drawn up the contract. Please sign, Mr. Williams.”

Zeke lifted a pen and was about to sign his name, but after giving it some thought, he eventually signed Lacey's name—Lacey Hinton.

*I'm going to give this thirty percent shares to Lacey as a gift for her twenty-third birthday.*

Although he really wanted to give her a hundred percent of the shares, he was afraid Lacey wouldn't accept it.

Susan looked at Lacey's name and was instantly overwhelmed with jealousy.

*Damn, God is playing games with me. Why are all the good men taken away from me?*

“My family still owns one percent of the shares and it's in the hands of the managers of several other branches,” Susan said.

“I'll have them come over to sign now.”

“Mr. Williams, why don't you wait at my office for a while?”

Zeke wanted to agree, but after looking at Susan, he turned and left. “It's okay. I'll wait outside.”

He noticed Susan's gaze on him; it was filled with ambiguity. He thought it to be better for him to not get too close to her.

After all, a man must learn how to protect himself when he's outside.

Looking at Zeke's back, Susan felt a big empty hole in her heart.

She realized she was falling deeper and deeper for Zeke like a whirlpool, and she couldn't get out of it.

Selling her shares this time to enter the pharmaceutical industry was her plan to get closer to Zeke.



After all, Zeke owned a pharmaceutical business as well.

Susan balled his fist. *So what if you're taken? Happiness lies in the eye of the beholder.*

*I must try my best to outshine Lacey.*

*Just you wait, Zeke. I'll make you mine someday.*

Zeke exited the hotel and lit a cigarette, looking satisfied.

The pleasure of smoking behind a woman's back was gratifying.

As he was smoking, an Audi A6 suddenly stopped in front of him.

The car door opened, and a fashionable young woman dressed in minimal clothes, wearing sunglasses and high heels came down from the car.

“Park the car for me, will you?” She casually threw the car key to Zeke, regarding him as a parking valet.

Zeke didn't receive the key and left it on the ground.

“Are you deaf?” the young woman snapped.

“I'm not a parking valet,” Zeke said brusquely.

“What?” The fashionable young woman was momentarily stunned. “Your voice sounds kind of familiar.”

“You are...” Upon scrutinizing Zeke, she screamed, “You're Zeke Williams!”

Zeke glanced at the woman, slightly frowning, but he couldn't seem to recognize her.

“And you are?” Zeke asked curiously.

The woman took off her sunglasses. “What? You can't recognize me after serving in prison for five years?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke studied the woman before him again and recognized her as an old acquaintance.

She was Olivia Graham, his former classmate.

Having that said, the two of them had had an ill-fated past.

Olivia was the school beauty back in high school, and it wasn't exaggerating to say that her admirers were as many as the fishes in the sea.

However, Olivia was arrogant and narrow-minded. She had sought pleasure in ridiculing her classmates with poor family backgrounds and would only hang out with rich kids.

At that time, someone had written Olivia a love letter using the name of Zeke. It had roused her anger.

She read the love letter in public and threatened to punch Zeke every time she saw him. She had severely humiliated him.

At that time, Zeke was just an abandoned child of the Williams family who could barely fill his stomach. Olivia had thought that writing her a love letter with his identity back then was an insult to her.

Zeke's feelings of inferiority intensified since that incident, and he didn't dare look people in the eyes.

Later, out of revenge, Olivia made it known to his classmate by publicizing the fact that he had gone to jail.

After graduating for so many years, he didn't expect to see her again.

The Olivia right now was decked out in designer's clothes, seemingly living a good life.

"You're Olivia Graham, aren't you?" Zeke asked.

Olivia snickered. "It looks like you didn't fry your brain in jail to forget about me."

Zeke scowled.

*This woman is still the same old snob who likes to rake up somebody's faults.*

"Go and park my car," Olivia added. "I won't hold back on the tips."

"That's none of my business," Zeke stated.

"None of your business? Then why are you here? Hogging the rich people's air?" Olivia asked.

"I can ask you the same. What are you doing here?" Zeke asked.

Olivia looked smug. "I'm the branch manager of Grand Millenium, holding one percent of the shares in the Grand Millenium hotel chain."



“A boss wants to buy my shares. I'm here to sign the contract.”

“Well, to tell you the truth, it's actually my boyfriend who's going to acquire Grand Millenium.”

Zeke was dumbstruck.

*This woman has too much ego to be boasting like this.*

*Clearly, I'm the one who's going to acquire Grand Millenium. Where did this boyfriend of yours come from?*

“Come on, then. Let's go sign the contract.” Zeke cut to the chase, not wanting to waste any more time talking nonsense with this woman.

“What?” Olivia was momentarily stunned. “What did you say? You want to sign a contract with me?”

Zeke nodded. “Yes, I'm the one who's acquiring your shares.”

*Haha!*

Olivia chortled, her cleavage vaguely showing. “Zeke Williams, since when did you learn how to bullshit?”

“You, buying my shares? Just be grateful you have enough to feed yourself.”

“My one percent share is worth about ten million. Can you, a security guard, even come up with ten thousand?”

Zeke shrugged. “You were the one who started with the bullshit.”

Olivia's anger spiked. “F\*\*k! You're just a security guard. Who are you to call me a bullshitter?”

“Well, aren't you?” Zeke said. “You said your boyfriend is acquiring Grand Millenium.”

“I'm telling the truth. It is my boyfriend who's acquiring Grand Millenium,” Olivia said.

Just then, a few cars stopped beside them.

Seven men and women got out of the car, walking toward Olivia.

“Olivia, you're here early.”

“What are you doing standing at the entrance? Let's hurry inside to sign the contract.”

“I can't wait to see which boss is acquiring Grand Millenium.”

“Hey, let me tell you guys in advance. If that big boss is under fifty years old, I call dibs on him. So don't fight with me.”





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The seven of them were also Grand Millenium's branch managers.

Together with Olivia, they jointly owned one percent of Grand Millenium's shares.

Zeke suddenly noticed that one of the men and women looked a little familiar.

Upon taking a closer look, he recognized them to also be his classmates from high school, Dylan Dunn and Summer Mills.

Zeke had a good impression of Summer because she had helped him a lot back in school, often lending him pencils and erasers.

She often invited him for lunch. She also made sure to make him a few extra dishes, in case he didn't have enough to eat the next day.

"Dylan, Summer, look who I've bumped into," Olivia smirked.

"Our old friend, Zeke Williams."

Dylan and Summer wore a startled expression when they saw Zeke.

"Zeke, I heard you went to jail after graduation. I didn't expect you to be released so soon," Dylan jeered.

Zeke had a cold look on his face as he kept silent.



Dylan and Olivia were two peas in a pod since high school, rude and snobbish.

“Okay, that's enough.” Summer quickly eased the situation, helping Zeke. “We've just met after so long. Let's leave the past behind us.”

“Do you work here, Zeke?”

Zeke nodded. “Yeah.”

“Hmph, he didn't admit it when I asked if he's a security guard here just now,” Olivia mocked.

“Aren't you embarrassed now that you're exposed?”

“You can't just say that to his face, Olivia,” Dylan said.

“We're classmates. How can he admit he's just a security guard after seeing his former classmates doing so well?”

“Besides, he was once your admirer. Of course, he would want to keep his pride.”

“Shut up!” Olivia reproached. “Never mention that in front of me ever again. It's one shame of my life.”

“Oh, whatever. Let's just hurry inside and sign the transfer contract. We don't want to keep my boyfriend waiting.”

“Your boyfriend?” Dylan asked with a face full of curiosity.

Olivia winked at Dylan. “Duh, my boyfriend is the one who's going to acquire our shares today.”

Realizing Olivia was pretending, Dylan quickly cooperated, saying, “Yeah, yeah. How could I forget about that?”

“Can't you see, Zeke? Olivia has a boyfriend now with a net worth of ten million. You can forget about courting her, you little security guard.”

Olivia and Dylan then walked away.

“You know how they are, Zeke,” Summer stayed back, consoling. “They don't mean what they say. Don't take offence at them.”

Zeke smiled. “I won't.”

“But it's a little waste of talent for you to work here as a security guard,” Summer said. “I'll introduce you to a promising job when I have the time.”

“Summer, come on!” Dylan shouted, not giving Zeke a chance to respond. “Why bother talking to him?”

“If he holds us up from signing the transfer contract, I'll kill him.”

Summer looked embarrassed. “Uh... I'm gonna go



catch up with them.”

“Why don't you wait here for a while. I'll buy you a meal later.”

Zeke nodded. “Come on. Let's go inside.”

“Inside?” Summer was taken aback.

“To the conference room to sign the contract.”  
Zeke smiled.

Summer looked dazed.

*This guy is still so vain and competitive.*

*Won't you feel embarrassed if your lie is uncovered?*

“They're here. Come down and sign the contract,”  
Zeke spoke to Susan on the phone as he walked.

“Alright,” Susan replied.



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Upon seeing that, Summer was baffled. “Who were you talking to?”

“Susan Raynor,” Zeke said.

“Susan Raynor? As in my boss, Susan Raynor?” Summer asked.

“That's right,” Zeke replied.

Summer looked completely nonplussed.

*This guy's competitive spirit is beyond hopeless.*

As soon as Zeke entered the conference room, Dylan and Olivia dressed him down.

“Who let you in?”

“Get out!”

“You can't afford to hold us up from signing the contract.”

Instead of leaving, Zeke sat on the host's seat casually, looking calm and confident.

“Are you f\*\*king deaf?” Dylan's fury sprang to life.

“I'm asking you to get the f\*\*k out of here.”

“If you don't, don't blame me for being rude to you.”

“Sure,” Zeke taunted. “I would love to see that.”



“What the...” Dylan was utterly speechless. He rolled up his sleeves and stomped toward Zeke.

Olivia was so angry. She was about to hurl a stool at Zeke.

“Stop it!” Summer interjected. “Everyone calm down.”

“Zeke, come with me. I need to talk to you...”

She wanted to persuade him outside, but Zeke shielded her from the front. “Don't move.”

The stool in Olivia's hand flew toward Zeke.

Zeke waved his hand and caught hold of it easily.

Dylan also charged at him with his fist poised to strike.

However, Zeke dodged it and smashed his head with the stool instead. His movements were as fast as lightning.

*Crack!* The stool was broken.

Dylan collapsed on the ground, howling in pain as he held his badly battered head.

“F\*\*k! You hit me! You f\*\*king hit me!”

“I'm gonna kill you today!”

Summer was thunderstruck. She had not expected Zeke to attack him.

*Is he crazy? Everyone knows that Dylan Dunn has connections with people from the underworld!*

In a moment of desperation, she pulled Zeke outside. "Zeke, run! Hide."

"Dylan will come after you. He knows people from the underworld."

"The underworld?" Zeke sneered. "Oh, the more I shouldn't leave."

*It's a soldier's duty to eliminate evil.*

Summer was about to persuade him again when Susan came in and saw the head-throbbing inducing scene.

*This place is a mess. What on earth just happened?*

"Ms. Raynor!" Dylan felt a flush of happiness when he saw Susan. "Send someone to restrain this ex-convict, quick."

Susan's mind exploded.

*Dylan just called Zeke an ex-convict?*

*What the hell? He actually had a conflict with Mr. Williams!*



“Ms. Raynor, quick, call security,” Olivia chimed in. “You need to teach this punk a good lesson.”

Susan suppressed the fear in her heart. “What the hell is going on here?”

“This security guard barged into the conference room. We wanted to chase him away, but he wouldn't listen. He even attacked us,” Olivia explained.

“Ms. Raynor, to be honest with you, the boss who is going to acquire our shares is my boyfriend. If you administer justice for us, the acquisition price can be negotiated.”

Olivia couldn't care less now. All she wanted was to teach Zeke a lesson.

As for the 'boyfriend' she spoke of, she would deal with it later after dealing with Zeke.

Susan was completely flummoxed.

*The person who's going to acquire their shares is Zeke.*

*Zeke is Olivia's boyfriend?*

*She wants to teach her boyfriend a lesson in the name of her boyfriend... What the hell is going on?*



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Meanwhile, Summer thought Susan was about to teach Zeke a lesson as she made her way to his side. She stopped her, “Ms. Susan, I believe there to be some sort of misunderstanding...”

However, Summer shut up before she could finish her sentence because Susan had bowed respectfully at Zeke.

“Mr. Williams, I'm so sorry for the horrifying experience.”

“Don't worry! I will investigate what has happened and ensure that justice will be served.”

*Huh?*

Everyone present was dumbfounded.

*Susan Raynor, the CEO of Grand Millenium Hotel, has bent over and bowed at the sight of Zeke, an ex-convict.*

They were shocked at how respectful Susan sounded.

*What the hell is going on?*

*Who the hell is this ex-convict? Why does he behave like her boss?*

Zeke took a seat once again. “Have you brought the transfer agreement with you?”

Susan nodded and reached for the said agreement.

“Get them to sign it before we get to business,” said Zeke.

Susan placed the transfer agreement on the table and instructed, “Stop spacing out! Hurry up and sign the agreement!”

Olivia and Dylan felt a chill run down their spines when they saw what happened.

*Why do we have to listen to Zeke's instructions?  
Could it be...*

A horrifying thought flashed through their minds all of a sudden.

Dylan asked with a quivering voice, “Ms. Susan, Zeke is...”

“Mr. Williams is the one who wishes to purchase the one percent share from both of you,” replied Susan.

*What?*

They almost jumped out of shock when they heard Susan's words.

*A used-to-be poor student and an ex-convict is such a rich guy?*



They were ashamed of themselves as they were no match for Zeke at all.

Olivia was embarrassed and wished to bury her head in the sand because she was ashamed of her words.

She had lied and said that the person who wished to purchase the shares was her boyfriend.

Susan urged them once again. Finally, they signed the transfer agreement after the nerve-racking confrontation.

Susan took the transfer agreement and handed it over to Zeke. "Mr. Williams, what should I do with them?"

Zeke replied in a callous tone, "Expel Olivia Graham and Dylan Dunn. I'll allow those who are willing to stay to keep their positions."

Dylan was unsatisfied, "W-What? W-Who are you to expel us?"

Susan scolded them, "Nonsense! You guys are the ones who humiliated Mr. Williams! How merciful of Mr. Williams to only expel you two!"

Dylan wiped the blood on his forehead. "Us? Bullying him? Ms. Susan, look! He's the one who hit us!"

Susan was at a loss for words because they were

right.

*He's right! Nothing's wrong with Zeke at all! Look at Dylan instead! He's in such a pathetic state...*

Zeke replied in a callous tone, "We're talking about physiological damage, okay?"

Dylan and Olivia were speechless.

*What the hell? Physiological damages? Are you kidding me?*

*Why don't you tell us which part of you has been damaged?*

Dylan couldn't bear to lose his job and defended himself, "Even if he purchases the shares of the hotel, he merely owns thirty percent of it!"

"The Schneider family owns seventy percent of the remaining shares! They have veto power over this issue! Even if he wishes to expel us, the order has to come from the Schneider family!"

"I know a manager working for the Schneider family. He's an important figure representing them. You are indirectly picking on the Schneider family if you try to expel us!"

"You better not do something silly!"

Zeke asked, "Oh? Why don't you share with me which one of the managers from the Schneider



family you're talking about?"

Dylan heaved a sigh of relief because he thought he managed to intimidate Zeke. "Mr. Vance, Cowen Vance."

Zeke smiled and asked rhetorically, "Coven Vance? Sure."

He reached for his phone and made another call once he finished his sentence.

Dylan and Olivia were shocked. "Who are you trying to call?"

"Evan Schneider," replied Zeke.

*Pffft!*

Olivia and Dylan laughed once more.

*Is he serious? He's saying he knows the leader of the top conglomerate of Oakheart City, Evan Schneider?*

*What kind of sick joke is this?*

*If he's really acquainted with Evan Schneider, he must have been a prominent figure as well!*

*Is it really necessary for him to show up just to purchase thirty percent of the hotel's shares?*



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*Beep!*

The call was picked up almost instantly after it was made.

Evan replied in a dignified tone, “Mr. Williams, what brings you to me today?”

Zeke instructed, “Expel Dylan Dunn and Olivia Graham from Grand Millenium Hotel.”

Even replied, “No problem. I'll get it done immediately.”

“Apart from that, it seems like there's someone called Cowen Vance? Expel him as well,” Zeke went on.

“Alright, Mr. Williams,” assured Evan.

“Remember to tell Cowen that Dylan Dunn and Olivia Graham were the reason behind his expulsion. I have to let him know why he's expelled, right?” Zeke instructed once again.

“Yes, Mr. Williams,” Evan reassured.

Silence fell in the room the moment Zeke hung up the call.

Olivia and Dylan exchanged glances.

*Was it really Evan on the other end of the call?*

*Did Zeke just order Evan to carry out his instructions?*

*Oakheart City's top conglomerate's leader, Evan Schneider, behaved as though he was Zeke's subordinate. He didn't even dare talk back or question his instruction!*

*It's impossible, right?*

Suddenly, Dylan's phone rang.

He received a call from Cowen Vance.

Dylan's heart pounded furiously; he had a bad feeling about it.

He picked up the phone with his trembling hands, "Mr. Vance, may I..."

Cowen shouted furiously, "Dylan Dunn! Curse you and your family!"

"Who the hell did you offend? How dare you drag me down to hell with you..."

*Thump!*

Dylan dropped his phone and cast a horrified gaze at Zeke.

*Cowen Vance has really been expelled!*

*Zeke is really capable of ordering Evan Schneider*



*around!*

*Oh, God! Just how influential is Zeke? He's more influential than the leader of the top conglomerate in Oakheart City!*

Susan told them, "I'll tell you guys the truth. Evan Schneider is but Mr. Williams' puppet."

"Mr. Williams is the sole proprietor of this hotel."

*Puppet!*

*Sole proprietor!*

Those two particular phrases flashed back in their minds over and over again.

They were engulfed by fear and regret.

The person whom they used to look down on the most had turned into someone beyond their reach.

They weren't any much better than a peasant in front of Zeke.

Olivia and Dylan felt remorseful when they recalled how they had previously shown off their current achievements in front of Zeke.

Zeke smiled at Summer, who had lost herself in the process of thought, and told her, "Summer, Susan is no longer the general manager of the hotel."

“Are you interested to take over the role? As for your pay... Forget about it. I'll give you one percent of the shares.”

*Huh?*

Summer thought she must have had been hearing things. “The hotel's general manager... One percent of the shares...”

Previously, one percent of the shares would be equally distributed among several branch managers.

Summer had actually been given one percent of the shares. She then suddenly turned into a millionaire from an ordinary office lady.

Zeke nodded. “Oh, right! Do me a favour.”

Summer would never say no to him.

*A favour? Seriously? It sounds like you're the one who's doing me a favour instead!*

Dylan and Oliva stared at Summer with their bloodshot eyes because they were envious and jealous of her.

If they had treated Zeke courteously previously, they wouldn't have been expelled. Perhaps they could've also received one percent of the shares as well!



Suddenly, there came a commotion from the hotel's lobby. "What? You damned b\*\*\*\*! You should be grateful I'm here! What's wrong even if I have touched you?"

Susan realized what was going on all of a sudden and tapped on her head. "Oh, no! I totally forgot about them!"

"Mr. Zeke, please wait for a moment. I'll go deal with the commotion outside."

Zeke nodded, giving his consent.

Susan rushed out of the room.

Zeke told Summer, "You have told me you're gonna buy me a meal, right? Does that offer still stand?"

Summer replied almost instantly, "Of course! Mr. Williams, feel free to order whatever you want!"

Zeke replied, "Forget about the formality. Please call me Zeke."

They were having a great time as they made their way out of the room.



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Olivia clenched her teeth and made up her mind. She shouted, "Zeke! Hold it right there!"

Zeke turned around, "Yes?"

Olivia went up to him with a pair of welled-up eyes, "Zeke, do you remember the love letters you used to write me back in our high school day? I know you have a thing for me, right?"

"Let's make a deal! If you allow me to keep my position as a branch manager, I'll... I'll spend a night with you!"

She held her chest high as she tried her best to highlight her busty figure while approaching Zeke.

Zeke knitted his eyebrows.

*People nowadays seem to have no shame at all! They are willing to do anything to achieve their goals.*

He took a cigarette and threw it to the ground. Zeke stepped on it as he asked, "Do you think I can still smoke this particular cigarette?"

Olivia replied with a confused look, "No."

"Why?" asked Zeke.

Olivia replied nonchalantly, "It's dirty."

Zeke looked at her in the eyes as though he

suggested something before turning around to leave.

Olivia finally figured out what Zeke meant. He was indirectly indicating she was a filthy woman.

Olivia flushed in embarrassment all of a sudden.

After they walked out of the room, Summer lowered her volume and asked, "Zeke, don't you think that was too much?"

"After all, we used to be classmates. Are you seriously putting an end to their career because of how they have insulted you back then?"

Zeke explained himself, "No, I'm not putting an end to their career. I'm trying to teach our friends a valuable lesson."

"People like them should learn their lesson as soon as possible, or else they will offend even more influential figures in the future."

"Instead of their career, they might lose their life if that's the case."

Summer replied, "It seems like what you have just said makes sense as well. I guess I can't outmatch you in terms of intelligence, huh?"

"Oh, right! In a few days, we'll be having a classmate gathering! Are you coming?"



Zeke shook his head because he really wasn't in the mood for such a social event.

Summer was disappointed and attempted to persuade him, "Think about it! Your old-pal, Hudson, will be there too!"

Zeke hesitated when he found out Hudson would be attending the gathering.

Hudson used to be Zeke's best friend back in their high school days.

They shared a similar background and had always encouraged one another. Zeke spent most of his time with Hudson throughout the three years during high school.

If it weren't for Hudson, Zeke might have dropped out of school a long time ago. His life might not be the same too.

Zeke asked, "Do you know how Hudson has been doing lately?"

Summer told Zeke, "I heard that... things have been tough on his end. One of his legs was broken."

"What?" Zeke's heart wrenched when he figured out what happened.

His best-pal back in the day actually lived such a miserable life as of now.

He took a deep breath. "Give me a call when you're heading over to the gathering! I wish to drop by to check on Hudson."

Summer was overjoyed and smiled. "Sure!"

They heard Susan's scream coming from the suite 101 nearby before they could walk into another suite.

Summer stopped and knitted her eyebrows. "It seems like your friend is in danger. You should check on her."

Zeke massaged his temples.

*Sigh. I can't even enjoy a peaceful meal.*

"Let's go." Zeke marched towards the suite as soon as he finished his sentence.

The customers and hotel's employees had already surrounded the entrance of the suite.

They were whispering and talking about what happened.

Zeke listened to what they were talking about and figured out what was going on almost instantly.

Susan had the intention to venture into the pharmaceutical industry. Hence, she had thrown a party for those from Reinz Pharmaceutical.



Reinz Pharmaceutical was the market leader in the pharmaceutical industry. She would be able to achieve her goal should she establish a connection with them.

Susan left halfway through the party because she had to tend to Zeke.

Hence, those from Reinz Pharmaceutical was irritated.

One of the hefty representatives from Reinz Pharmaceutical had tried to make a scene and slapped a waitress' butt.

The waitress cried and demanded them to apologize for what they did. The hefty man had slapped the waitress in the face instead of apologising.

Susan, who rushed over to deal with the situation, was slapped in the face as well.

Zeke cast a contemptuous gaze when he saw what was going on.

Reinz Pharmaceutical had been developing swiftly over the past few years. It would make sense for a few parasites like him to show up within the organization.

Zeke decided to take the opportunity to get rid of the troublemakers.



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The hefty man sneered, “Susan, you better listen carefully.”

“Either you get the waitress to apologize and lick my shoes clean, or you spend a night with me.”

“Otherwise, I will chase you out of the pharmaceutical industry immediately!”

“One word from me is all it takes to get rid of you!”

Susan clenched her fists, her fingers almost penetrating her palms.

She knew what Reinz Pharmaceutical was capable of. Indeed, he would be able to chase her out of the pharmaceutical industry easily.

However, she would never give in to such ridiculous requests. Susan would never spend a night with him, nor would she get the waitress to lick his shoes clean.

She knew she would suffer in guilt for the rest of her life if she were to give in to the man.

In the end, she clenched her teeth and made up her mind. “Sir, why don't you show me some mercy. Let's each take a step back, okay?”

“I'll apologise on behalf of this waitress.”

“In order to prove my sincerity, I will compensate ten million for your loss.”

Susan reached for her chequebook as she finished her sentence. She immediately filled in the required details and figures.

The man took a peek and replied with a contemptuous look on his face, "Hmph! Are you looking down on me?"

"Do you really think I need ten million of yours?"

"I told you! Either you spend a night with me, or you get her to lick my shoes clean. I mean, I don't mind if you want to lick them clean on behalf of her too."

Susan was in a tight spot. She closed her eyes and clenched as teeth, with no idea what to do next.

The waitress could no longer bear with the humiliation. She told Susan as her eyes brimmed with tears, "Ms. Susan, you have been taking care of me all this while. I-I can't possibly bring you down with me."

"I'll lick... I'll lick his shoes clean..."

The waitress got on her knees and was about to make her way to the man as soon as she finished her sentence.

"Get up!" Susan stopped the waitress. "Don't get on your knees because of such a man!"

"Sir, it seems like there's no room for negotiation



anymore, huh?"

The man got full of himself and replied, "Yes! There's no room for negotiation. What are you going to do about that?"

Susan replied, "Fine! Forget about it! I'll stop my venture into the pharmaceutical industry!"

"Please take your leave. We do not welcome guests of such sorts like you."

The man sneered once again. "Chasing you out of the pharmaceutical industry is but the first step."

"Eventually, I'll chase you out of Rivermouth!"

A chill ran down Susan's spine when she heard his words.

Rivermouth had always been her base of operation. It was where she had built up her resources and connection throughout the years.

She would become a nobody once she left Rivermouth.

The man was obviously going after her with everything he got. He was determined to get his revenge.

He laughed sardonically and left in an arrogant manner. "I'll give you a night to think things through. Please figure out what you're going to do

next.”

Suddenly, Zeke broke the silence. “Hold it right there. Did I ask you to leave?”

Everyone in the suite laid their eyes on Zeke the moment he spoke.

They were anxious because they realized the person who tried to stop the hefty man was but a youngster.

*Who the hell is this poorly dressed guy? How dare he offend the hefty man whom even Susan Raynor dares not provoke?*

*Who gave him the audacity to do so?*

Susan could barely hold back her excitement when she saw Zeke.

Zeke, who had been indifferent towards her all along, had actually stood up and reached out to her.

Susan would be lying if she were to say she wasn't touched.

However, she soon returned to her senses. The harsh reality in-store inundated her.

Zeke was indeed an influential figure, but the base of his operation was Oakheart City.



Reinz Pharmaceutical reigned over the region; they had a strong global presence as well.

*Can Zeke... really outmatch this hefty man?*

Susan whispered because she didn't want to enmesh Zeke in the affair, "Mr. Williams, please stay out of this. They are quite nasty opponents."

"Thank you. You're doing me a favour by helping me to get rid of troublemakers like him," Zeke expressed his gratitude in a callous tone.

Susan was confused and thought to herself when she heard his words. *What does he mean?*

The hefty man sized Zeke up and paid him no heed as the latter was dressed casually.

"Who the hell do you think you are? Do you think you have the rights to talk to me?"

Zeke ignored him and reached for his phone. "Xavier Brown, I'm waiting for you at Grand Millenium Hotel. I want you to get your ass over here right now."

Everyone was blown away when they heard the name, Xavier Brown.

Xavier Brown was none other than the most famous doctor of Eurasia. He was also the president of Reinz Pharmaceutical.

However, the youngster in front of them had just ordered him to rush over to the Grand Millenium Hotel and had addressed him by his name.

They thought the youngster must have had lost his mind.



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Susan's eyes brimmed with tears all of a sudden.

She knew Zeke would never involve himself in things he wasn't confident of.

*Since he addressed Xavier Brown by his name, perhaps...*

Susan couldn't help but recall the scene where Zeke called Evan Schneider previously.

Perhaps Zeke would be able to pull off the trick once again.

The hefty man shouted angrily, "What the f\*\*\*! How dare you address our boss by his name? Do you have a death wish?"

Zeke replied in a callous tone, "I order you to lick your shoes clean right now!"

"F\*\*\*!" The hefty man was irritated. "Who the hell do you think you are?"

Zeke stepped forward all of a sudden.

He placed his hand on the hefty man's shoulder and applied some force.

Zeke lifted the hefty man, who was at least three hundred pounds in weight, as though he was a scrawny little brat.

Everyone was shocked as they witnessed how

Zeke stuffed him into the trash bin.

Zeke stuffed the hefty man with all his might into the trash bin against his will. The trash bin almost burst as a result of Zeke's action.

The hefty man's butt was the first part that made it into the bin. Hence, he currently had a V-shaped posture where his head was parallel to his feet.

He could easily reach for his shoes and lick it clean.

It seemed like a scene out of an action movie.

There was a commotion coming from the crowd all of a sudden.

*He must have lost his mind! This youngster is crazy!*

*How dare he make a move against the hefty man? Reinz Pharmaceutical will definitely be after him!*

The hefty man's subordinate was drenched in sweat. They rushed to his side and tried to pull him out.

The hefty man's saliva frothed at his mouth as he groaned, "S-Stop... W... M-My waist..."

"H-Hurry up... G-Go get the... boss..."

One of his subordinates reached for his phone and called Xavier, "Boss, we need your help! Someone



beat Mr. Philip up!”

“Mm! Okay! We'll be waiting for you at Grand Millenium Hotel.”

Mr. Philip's subordinate pointed at Zeke the moment he hung up his phone. “You damned brat! You're as good as done!”

“All of our boss' bodyguards are from the special force! You will be doomed!”

Zeke sneered, “Sure! I'll wait right here and see who's the one who will be doomed soon.”

“However, I want you to lick your shoes clean before that.”

“Impudent! It seems like you have no idea what's in store for you, huh?” shouted the hefty man.

Zeke placed his hand on the hefty man's head once again and pressed him with all his might. As a result, he was stuffed deeper into the trash bin.

Mr. Philip grunted and shrieked, “Stop! I-It hurts... Arghhhhh!”

His subordinate dared not rush to his side either. *My God! He has actually lifted him... He's at least three hundred pounds!*

They knew they wouldn't be a match for Zeke because of how strong he was.

Zeke instructed, "Lick your shoes clean, or your waist won't be the only thing that's going to be broken."

"I'll lick... I'll lick..." The hefty man could no longer pull himself together. He stuck his tongue out and licked his shoes as instructed.

Everyone tried their best to hold back their laughter because it was a hilarious scene.

*It seems like this hefty man is the first adult in the world who has ever licked his own shoes.*

However, Susan was on the verge of losing her mind.

She was afraid the more arrogant Zeke was, the more he would eventually suffer.

Susan asked cautiously, "Mr. Williams, w-why don't you take your leave first?"

"I'll take care of it from now onwards."

Zeke replied with a callous tone as always, "Nope. Let's stay right here. I have a present for you."

Susan was delighted deep down because the man whom she had a crush on had a present for her. It felt better than securing the contract with Reinz Pharmaceutical.

*Fine! I'll follow him even if it's to hell we go!*



*Can you stop being such an indifferent man? It won't harm you to be slightly enthusiastic, right?*

Zeke's ex-classmates Olivia and Dylan rushed over, attracted by the commotion as well.

They got worked up all of a sudden after they figured out what exactly was going on.



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*Haha! It seems like Zeke has a death wish, huh?  
How dare he offend those from Reinz  
Pharmaceutical?*

*Even if Zeke is an acquaintance of Evan Schneider,  
it won't make any difference either! Evan will have to  
give in to Reinz Pharmaceutical as well.*

They sat aside in anticipation of the opportunity to rub salt into Zeke's wounds.

Before long, two luxurious cars parked in front of the hotel.

A group of men in a full set of tuxedo got out of the car immediately after the door was opened.

The person leading the group of people was none other than the president of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Xavier Brown.

The rest of the men in black were Xavier's bodyguards. Every one of them was buff and intimidating.

Their presence intimidated everyone in the hotel because of the menacing aura they were exuding.

Subconsciously, everyone gave way to them.

Consequently, the onlookers were anxious on Zeke's behalf deep down because each of the bodyguards seemed as though they could easily take on ten people at once.



No matter how capable Zeke was, it seemed impossible for him to defeat ten retired special force arms. *Nope! It's definitely impossible!*

The hefty man was excited when he saw Xavier. "Boss! It's me! Help me!"

He managed to attract Xavier's attention.

Xavier looked in the direction of his subordinates. He was shocked when he saw how pathetic the hefty man was.

It seemed like an awfully familiar scene to Xavier.

He could recall what happened three years ago. Back then, their country had been infiltrated by a top militant from another country.

The Great Marshall had spent two days fighting the enemy before he managed to take him into custody.

However, his foe had strong willpower. They used all sorts of methods to interrogate the top militant, but he refused to tell them the intel they sought from him.

In the end, the Great Marshal had gotten irritated and stuffed him into the trash bin in a similar manner.

In fact, what happened to the hefty man was exactly what had happened to the top militant

back then.

The Great Marshall had ordered his men to feed the top militant food with high calories because he wanted to keep him alive.

Naturally, he would have to take care of his natural urges inside the bin, including passing urine and eliminating faeces.

The top militant finally broke down on the third day due to the nasty experience he had to go through as the bin was filled with faeces and urine. He told the Great Marshall and his men whatever they wanted to know.

The colonel had supposedly found it hilarious and had laughed until his heart attack recurred.

The Great Marshal had proved himself worthy once again among the militants through that particular incident.

Perhaps the Great Marshal was the only one capable of pulling off such a trick.

*Did he offend the Great Marshal?*

Xavier's heart skipped a beat when such a thought crossed his mind.

He rushed over and asked, "Hey! What's going on?"



The hefty man tried his best to turn his head around and glared at Zeke. "H-Him... I-It's him!"

"Boss, please serve me justice!"

Xavier followed the hefty man's gaze.

His mind was blown away when he saw Zeke.

Xavier brought his bodyguards and rushed towards Zeke's side.

Susan thought Xavier was about to teach Zeke a lesson and got in Xavier's way to defend Zeke immediately.

However, Zeke stopped him and assured her, "Don't worry."

Susan couldn't do anything about it, but she tried her best to defend Zeke, "Mr. Brown, please do not blame Mr. Williams."

She stopped before she could bring herself to finish her sentence because Xavier had actually got on his knees and knelt in front of Zeke.

His team of bodyguards behind him followed suit.

The man in front of them was a legendary figure amongst the militant. He was the man of their faith.

They were willing to sacrifice their lives for Zeke,

let alone getting on their knees in front of him.

Xavier apologized respectfully, "Boss, I'm so sorry for the trouble caused. It's my fault for not disciplining my men."

"Don't worry. I'll deal with him accordingly until you are satisfied!"

Suddenly, silence fell in the suite as though time had stopped.

Everyone's jaw dropped open when they saw what happened.

*Boss?*

*What the heck? This youngster is actually Xavier Brown's boss?*

*The hefty man is actually offended his boss' boss! He's as good as done!*

Everyone in the suite shared that common thought.

*This young man is overly humble! He's such a prominent figure, yet he has chosen to dine at such a shabby place!*

*Seriously? A place like this won't be able to accommodate such a noble figure like you!*

The hefty man was dumbfounded. His mind was



all over the place as he began to stutter, “Boss, w-what are you... W-What's going on...”

Xavier got even more wrathful when he heard his hefty subordinate's words.

*You damned thing! Why the hell did you have to offend the Great Marshal, of all the people in this world?*

*A peasant like you has no rights to lay a finger on the Great Marshall!*

*How dare you get me involved in your personal affair?*

Xavier rushed over and kicked the trash bin, “You damned thing! Are you blind? How dare you offend Mr. Williams?”

“I'll deal with you once we're back!”



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Xavier's men brought the hefty man away with the bin.

*Clank! Clank! Clank!* Sounds of metal being struck together accompanied by the shrieks coming from the hefty man could be heard.

Xavier returned to Zeke's side and got down on his knees once again.

Zeke ordered Xavier, "I want you to figure out the hefty man's connection within Reinz Pharmaceutical."

"I want all of them to be terminated, including anyone who seems to be suspicious. I will not condone anyone of such sorts in the organization."

"I established Reinz Pharmaceutical to protect the health of the people of Eurasia. It is one of the fundamentals of our nation!

"I will not allow such a parasite to get his hands on the fundamental of our nation!"

Xavier nodded immediately. "Yes!"

The hefty man's subordinate had an awful expression on their faces.

They were certain they would be terminated. In fact, they might have to bear the consequences of all their previous actions and face numerous court



trials.

Zeke went on, “Susan, we owe you one because you have helped us get rid of the troublemakers of Reinz Pharmaceutical. We will definitely return the favour.”

“Xavier, work with Susan on a few of our upcoming projects.”

Xavier nodded again.

Susan's eyes brimmed with tears because she could barely hold back her excitement.

*Is this the gift Zeke has mentioned previously?*

What Zeke presented to Susan was by no means a mere present.

An opportunity to work with Reinz Pharmaceutical on a project would be able to bring her way ahead of her plan, let alone a few projects.

Zeke was definitely Susan's benefactor.

“Susan, although you want to venture into the TCM Practitioners' industry, it seems like you have nothing to leverage on as of now.”

“Why don't you work with my father-in-law? Turn his clinic into your base of operation and grow your venture from there.”

Susan agreed immediately without any hesitation because she would be able to kill two birds with one stone.

She would be able to run into Zeke frequently if she were to work with his father-in-law.

Zeke looked at Summer and smiled after he finished dealing with them. "Let's go grab something to eat!"

"I'm so hungry because of how long it took to resolve the matter!"

Zeke behaved casually, as though what had happened didn't bother him at all.

Summer was dumbfounded, but finally returned to her senses when she heard his words.

She felt as though she was dreaming because what happened just now seemed so surreal.

Summer gained a whole new perspective of life after she realized what Zeke was capable of.

That poor classmate of hers back in the day had turned into an influential figure. His influence was beyond Oakheart City; it went all the way to Atheville and the whole country.

Zeke was a figure beyond her reach.

Suddenly, she felt lost because she had no idea



how she should get along with Zeke.

“Let's go!” Zeke urged Summer once again before she finally nodded and followed after him.

Olivia and Dylan's minds were all over the place. What they had in their minds were far more complicated than what Susan had in her mind.

Olivia shed tears of regret as she looked at Zeke's back.

*What a great loss!*

Dylan expressed himself with a quivering voice, “Olivia, I... I refuse to accept things as how it is!”

“Sigh. Me too! But... there's nothing else we can do to turn the tables, right?” asked Olivia rhetorically.

“We do! There's something we can do!”

“Do you remember Hudson Callum?”

Olivia's eyes gleamed when she heard Hudson's name.

“I do! He used to be Zeke's best friend back in the day! I once did Hudson a favour! Perhaps we can leverage on Hudson to improve our relationship with Zeke!” said Olivia.

“Let's go!” Dylan nodded.

They got up and rushed all the way to go after Zeke.

“Mr. Williams...” Olivia stopped Zeke with her quivering voice.

“Yes?” Zeke turned around and asked in a callous tone.

Olivia nodded and told Zeke, “I'd love to invite you to participate in the classmate gathering that will be held soon.”

Dylan immediately went on because he was afraid Zeke would turn their invitation down, “Your best friend, Hudson Callum, will be there as well.”

“Mm,” Zeke grunted in reply, remaining silent thereafter.

They were anxious because they had no idea what Zeke meant with that indirect reply of his.

Olivia tried to persuade Zeke once again, “Mr. Williams, I've been keeping in touch with Hudson all along. I used to help him because of how tough things were on his end.”

“Apart from that, I have intel on what happened to Hudson's leg and who's the mastermind who hurt him.”

*What?*



Zeke shuddered all of a sudden. “You mean someone broke Hudson's leg? It wasn't an accident?”

“Yes! I'm certain!” Dylan nodded vigorously.

“Damn it!” Zeke clenched his fists, exuding a strong killing intent. They were intimidated by the menacing aura coming from Zeke.

*He's my friend! I will never condone such an action!*

“I want you guys to figure out who the mastermind behind it is.” Zeke suppressed his anger and assured them, “I will be there during the gathering to avenge Hudson on my own.”

“I want the person who has broken his leg to be dead, along with his entire family!”

Dylan and Olivia agreed immediately, “No problem! We won't let you down! We'll figure out what happened and revert back to you before the gathering!”

Zeke marched away. “I'll restore your positions as the store managers. If you guys are able to figure out what's going on, I'll reward you guys with something else!”

Olivia and Dylan were excited because they recalled what Zeke had given Summer and Susan.

He gave Summer one percent of the shares of

Grand Millenium Hotel and had granted Susan the opportunity to work with Reinz Pharmaceutical.

They were certain whatever Zeke promised them would bring them to the prime of their lives.

They finally ran into the opportunity which they had been longing for all along.



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Zeke wasn't in the mood for food because of what happened to Hudson.

Summer wasn't in the mood as well, as she had a lot to deal with ever since she had taken over the role of general manager.

Hence, they had a relatively simple meal and caught up with each other over the meal before wrapping up the session.

Zeke returned home while Summer went to Susan to handle the rest of the handover procedures.

Coincidentally, Jayden Hill, the tyrant from the Hill village, showed up right after Zeke left.

It was his girlfriend's birthday; he was there to celebrate it with her.

Jayden's appearance managed to grab Olivia and Dylan's attention immediately.

Olivia whispered, "Dylan, look! He seems like the one who broke Hudson's leg, right?"

Dylan reaffirmed Olivia, "I remember the guy having a tattoo on his neck. I'm almost certain he's the one!"

Olivia went on, "Mm! It seems like luck is on our side! He just shows up right in front of us!"

"We have to keep an eye on him! He's the stepping

stone we need to our bright futures!”

Dylan nodded vigorously. “Mm! I'll stay right here to keep an eye on him! Go to the surveillance room and check on his registered vehicle and jot down the license plate of his vehicle!”

...

“Mom, let's eat! Your dearest daughter is starving!” Lacey salivated when she saw the feast Hannah had prepared.

“Nope! No one is allowed to dig in until Zeke is home!” Hannah drizzled a few drops of olive oil into the soup as she finished her sentence.

Lacey pouted her lips. “Mom, you do recall I'm your biological daughter, right? Zeke is just an outsider!”

“Why does it feel like I'm the outsider instead?”

Dawn smiled and teased Lacey, “Nope! You're a gift!”

Lacey kicked Dawn as she was irritated. “Shut up! Damn it! Whose side are you on?”

“Mom, you can neglect me, but you have to be considerate of Dawnie, right?”

“Dawnie and I have had a long day! Look at how skinny she is! Let's dig in so she gets to replenish



her energy!”

“Hold it right there! I believe I have nothing to do with this at all.” Dawn expressed her thoughts with an innocent look on her face.

*They are so mean!*

Lacey was speechless and helpless at the same time. She had no idea what to do next.

Finally, Zeke returned home when everyone was anticipating his arrival.

Hannah rushed over and welcomed him enthusiastically. She brought him his pair of indoor sandals. “Zeke, you must be tired, right?”

Daniel had already gotten the cups ready and served two glasses of drinks. “Zeke, join me for a round of drinks.”

“Sure, dad,” replied Zeke.

“Mom, you should take a break as well. Please join us for dinner. Thank you so much for preparing so many dishes.”

“No worries!” Hannah replied with a bright smile on her face.

Lacey was irritated. “Zeke, are you sure you deserve such a great treatment after the carefree day you've had?”

Hannah got ahead of Zeke before he could reply, "Lacey! What the hell are you talking about?"

"Zeke has been going around because of you, hasn't he? Stop being unreasonable!"

"Zeke, have you reserved the hotel for Lacey's birthday banquet?"

Zeke nodded. "Don't worry, mom. I've already reserved a hall with Grand Millenium Hotel."

Hannah's heart skipped a beat when she heard what he said. "Why did you choose such a place? There will be a lot of relatives and close friends joining us tomorrow. It's gonna cost a fortune to accommodate so many guests, right?"

Zeke smiled and ignored Hannah. He raised his glass instead. "Dad, this is for you."

*The Grand Millenium Hotel belongs to me. We don't have to worry about the cost at all.*

"Sure!" Daniel raised his glass in return and gulped down the drink he had. "Such good wine!"

Lacey asked all of a sudden, "Zeke, I've been wondering. Are you related to Hill village's demolition?"

Zeke was curious and asked in return, "Lacey, where's this coming from?"



“Ha- Ha- Stop putting on a show in front of me! I've already figured out what's going on!”

“Reinz Pharmaceutical will be building a factory nearby the Hill village. Hence, most of the villagers have decided to apply for the job opportunities available.”

“Reinz Pharmaceutical made themselves clear; those who wished to join them would have to stay in the accommodation provided. The villagers agree to move because they want to work with Reinz Pharmaceutical.”

Zeke was at a loss for words because he didn't expect Lacey to figure out what had happened.

Daniel was shocked. “What did you say? Reinz Pharmaceutical will be setting up a factory at Oakheart City?”

Lacey nodded immediately. “That's right. What about it?”

Daniel was blown away by the news. “This is unbelievable! Reinz Pharmaceutical is the leader in Eurasia's pharmaceutical industry. I believe no one would expect them to set up a factory at such an isolated place like Oakheart City.”

“Oakheart City's government will be able to gain hundreds of millions or even billions of tax revenue.”

Zeke smiled and asked, “Dad, do you have any interest to collaborate with Reinz Pharmaceutical?”

Daniel smiled bitterly. “Zeke, stop teasing your father-in-law.”

“Reinz Pharmaceutical's partners are all OTC verified corporates. What I own is but a clinic. Perhaps they won't even want to take me in as an employee.”

Zeke tried to encourage his father-in-law, “Dad, please don't belittle yourself.”

“Perhaps Reinz Pharmaceutical is currently drafting the agreement to collaborate with you.”



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Daniel placed his hand on Zeke's forehead, "Your temperature is fine. It doesn't seem like you have caught a cold either. What sort of nonsense are you talking about?"

"Zeke, it seems like you can't hold your cup well, huh? You've actually gotten drunk after just one glass of wine?"

Zeke turned speechless and thought to himself. You can insult my character, but I will never allow you to insult my alcohol tolerance level!

That's indirectly insulting my willpower. *Willpower is the most important trait for a militant!*

"Dad, here's another glass for you. Thank you for whatever you did for us throughout the years." Zeke smiled and raised his glass of drink again.

Daniel was delighted because Zeke's words managed to hit him in a soft spot. "Zeke, it seems like you know me better than I think you do. Cheers!"

He thought to himself. *You damned brat! How dare you fuddle me with alcohol? I shall get my vengeance today!*

They soon began to counter offer each other drinks repeatedly.

Half an hour later, Daniel could barely pull himself together and begin to sway.

Meanwhile, Zeke was wide awake and showed no signs of being drunk at all.

Daniel raised his glass of drink with his trembling hand. "Zeke... L-Let's... o-one more..."

Zeke immediately stopped Daniel. "Dad, please let me off the hook. I can't drink anymore."

"Let's drink again another day. We shall see who's the better drinker next time."

Everyone else knew Zeke was trying to play along with Daniel because he didn't want to hurt his dignity.

Daniel nodded. "Fine... I'll let you off the hook for once... I told you... You're definitely no match for me..."

He got up slowly, about to return to his room.

However, he fell to the couch and passed out the moment he tried to get up.

Lacey pinched Zeke because she was irritated. "Look at what you've done yet again! Stop making him drunk! What do you want?"

"You should give in to dad and tell him to stop drinking."

Zeke smiled when he saw how irritated Lacey was because he deemed her the prettiest whenever



she was angry.

Hannah was anxious and tried to wake Daniel up. "I'm sure you know to what extent you can hold your drink, right? Do you really think you can outmatch Zeke when it comes to drinking?"

"Shame of you! Do you seriously consider yourself his father-in-law? Then please behave like one!"

Dawn felt upset when she saw the two lovely pair in front of her.

*When will I find the right one in my life?*

Dawn was a gorgeous woman with a great personality. There were a lot of men who were trying to court her.

However, she couldn't possibly fall in love with other ordinary men anymore after she ran into such an exceptional man like Zeke.

...

Finally, it was Lacey's twenty-third birthday.

According to their village's customs, twenty-three years old was one's coming of age ceremony. It was an important occasion, one worthy of a grand celebration.

Everyone from the family woke up early in the morning and got themselves occupied with all

sorts of preparations.

Those who had to doll themselves up would proceed to apply on their makeup, while those in charge of getting in touch with relatives and friends would carry out their tasks.

Daniel called his father, Adam Hinton.

Although the two families had been involved in a serious conflict previously, they were still father and son.

They couldn't possibly sever ties with one another, even though they had almost turned their back against one another back then.

Apart from that, a grandfather had played an important role during the coming of age ceremony. Adam had to show up as he was the representative of seniors from the Hinton family.

The call got through before long. Daniel told Adam, "Dad, we have decided on Lacey's coming of age ceremony. It will be held at the Grand Millenium Hotel."

"Do you want me to pick you and Jeremy up, or are you guys going to drop by on your own?"

Adam replied in an indifferent manner, "I don't think I'll be able to make it. I've got things to do."

Daniel felt apprehensive all of a sudden. "What?"



Dad, you're Lacey's grandfather and the representative of the seniors of the Hinton family! You have to be here!"

"What can possibly be more important than Lacey's coming of age ceremony?"

Adam told Daniel, "Madeleine is holding a banquet for those from Reinz Pharmaceutical and has specified our participation."

"Reinz Pharmaceutical and Madeleine are related to the militants. We can't afford to offend them. Hence, we have to attend the banquet."

Daniel was dumbfounded. "How did Madeleine establish a connection with Reinz Pharmaceutical?"



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Actually, Sam was the one behind everything. Ever since he got word that Reinz Pharmaceutical would set up a factory nearby the Hill village, he realized there must have been rare herbs nearby the village.

Hence, he pulled his connections and made use of everything he got to get in touch with those from Reinz Pharmaceutical.

Reinz Pharmaceutical was related to the militant while Sam was part of the military. As a result, he had managed to get in touch with those from Reinz Pharmaceutical easily.

He held a banquet for those from Reinz Pharmaceutical because he wanted to figure out some insider information.

Meanwhile, Sam invited Adam to the banquet because he was trying to pick on Lacey.

He knew it was her coming of age ceremony. If she couldn't get her grandfather's blessing, she would be embarrassed and treated as a jinx.

Adam tried to end their conversation. "That's all I have to tell you. Please stop calling me."

"Dad! Please! You have to at least show up even though you can't take part in the ceremony..." Daniel begged his father.

However, Adam had already hung up the call.



Daniel was utterly disappointed.

He had never expected his father to be such a cruel man. Adam was really willing to forsake and neglect his own granddaughter's coming of age ceremony.

In fact, the reason Adam couldn't take part was none other than the participation in a banquet held by Daniel's foe.

Daniel was abhorred over his cruel father's decision.

Hannah asked, "Daniel, what did the old geezer say? Is he coming on his own, or does he want us to pick him up?"

Daniel lowered his head and sighed. "Sigh... He won't be coming to Lacey's coming of age ceremony because he has promised Madeleine to participate in her banquet."

"What? He has to show up!" Hannah could no longer keep her cool anymore when she heard what her husband said.

"My family has been looking down on me all along! If old geezer refuses to show up, I will be humiliated in front of those from my family!"

"No! He must show up! Go make another call!"

Daniel took a deep breath. "Sigh. I don't think

making another call will change anything. Judging by his tone, he's determined not to show up at Lacey's ceremony."

Hannah broke into tears immediately. "Daniel! Y-You... I must have had been blind back then to get married to such a loser like you!"

"I don't mind embarrassing myself in front of my family, but it's your daughter's coming of age ceremony that we're talking about! The ceremony isn't a complete ceremony without her grandfather!"

"You have no rights to be my husband! You don't deserve to be Lacey's father!"

Daniel lowered his head. "I'm so sorry! I'm the useless one here!"

Hannah went on, shouting hysterically.

Lacey and Zeke rushed over when they heard the commotion.

After they figured out what happened, Lacey's eyes brimmed with tears, feeling aggrieved as well.

"Grandpa is so mean! He has never once treated us as part of the family! I've never come across a grandfather like him before!"

Daniel blamed himself for what happened, "Lacey,



it's my fault! I'm the useless one! I'm but a coward! Please scold me instead! I will feel better if you scold me.”

Zeke tried to comfort Daniel, “Dad, don't worry. I'm sure they will show up at the birthday banquet.”

Daniel heaved a long sigh, “I know my father better than anyone else. I'm sure he won't show up because that's what he has in his mind!”

Suddenly, Hannah's phone rang. She received a call from her brother.

She tried her best to regain her composure and picked up the call, “Brother, I was about to call you too.”

“What? You guys are waiting for us at Grand Millenium Hotel? Aren't you guys dropping by our place first?”

“Mm. Okay. I'll be there immediately.”

Hannah asked with a confused look on her face after she hung up the call. “That's odd. I didn't tell my family the banquet will be held at Grand Millenium Hotel. Why did they show up at the hotel out of the blue?”

“Forget about it. Lacey, let's get going immediately. We'll head over to Grand Millenium Hotel right away. Your grandmother, uncle, and aunty are all waiting for you.”

Hence, Lacey and her family left in a hurry.

Zeke insisted to be the last to depart. He took the opportunity to text Xavier.

*Do me a favour. Someone told me the Clemons invited those from Reinz Pharmaceutical because they wanted to figure out the plan we have for the herb plantation?*



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