

The bunch of co-developers felt a sense of relief when they heard Lacey's words.

They felt as though they had just returned from a trip to hell.

Obviously, if Lacey had any intention to finish them off, Zeke wouldn't hesitate to carry out her instruction at all.

Zeke replied indifferently, "I'll let you guys off the hook since Lacey has said so."

"However, let's not forget about the funds you've embezzled during the construction of Love in a Fallen City."

Zeke reached for the stack of invoices he had with him once again and slammed it on the table.

Everyone had a bitter smile on their faces.

*That's why we couldn't locate the invoices just now!
He's been holding on to it all along!*

Zeke told everyone, "There are two options for everyone! Number one! I'll hand these over to the cops and send everyone behind bars."

"Number two! I'll have everyone supply the required materials for free until the completion of Love in a Fallen City."

Everyone had an awful expression on their faces.

They had initially longed for Franky to give them more orders after he took over Lacey's position.

Things had turned out to be exactly the other way round. They had indeed gotten a lot of orders, but they would have to bear the cost.

Apart from that, they wouldn't be able to collect the receivables for past orders anymore.

Damn it! It's all Florence and Franky's fault!

The bunch of co-developers decided to push their luck once again. They begged Lacey to be merciful.

After all, Lacey had shown them mercy once. Perhaps she would disregard the conflict and collaborate with them once again.

“Ms. Lacey, we beg your pardon! We haven't any idea who you were at all! We didn't mean to offend you earlier! Please pay no heed to what we have said!”

“Ms. Lacey, I'm the sole breadwinner of my family as of now! This project is my only source of income! It'll be over for me and my family if I really supply the required materials for free!”

“Ms. Lacey, please have mercy on us! Can you please settle the previous receivables before we begin supplying the required materials for free?”

Evan interrupted the bunch of co-developers before Lacey could reply. "Shut up, all of you!"

"Mr. Williams has been very merciful to dismiss all of you from the legal liabilities and provide such an alternative! How dare you guys try to push your luck! Even if Mr. Williams gives in to your requests, I will never allow it!"

The bunch of co-developers finally stopped when they heard Evan's warning. They immediately gave in to Zeke's instructions. "Alright! We'll provide whatever materials required for free from now onwards!"

Zeke looked pointedly at the hefty co-developer with a grin on his face. "If I'm not mistaken, you've told me you're gonna address me as your father shall you spend another cent on the project, right?"

The hefty co-developer flushed embarrassedly.

In the end, he gritted his teeth and honoured his words. "Dad!"

Zeke frowned and scolded, "That's disgusting! Get out of my sight immediately!"

The hefty co-developer felt as though a heavyweight had been lifted off his shoulders as he fled immediately with other co-developers.

Florence scolded them, "Traitors! You guys are but

a bunch of traitors!”

“We shall see! I'll forgive no one!”

However, the bunch of co-developers ignored Florence and cursed her over and over again in their minds.

Franky and Florence were the ones who had brought upon their undoing.

Evan scolded Florence, “Shut up! Do you really have a death wish?”

“Mr. Williams, please accept my sincere apologies once again! Allow me to apologize on behalf of my wife. I'm sorry for what she's done. I will discipline her in the future.”

“Erm... What should I do with her?”

Zeke replied, “I have settled the scores I have with her. It's up to you to decide what you should do with her next. It has nothing to do with me anymore.”

Evan felt a sense of relief as if a heavy burden had been lifted off his shoulders.

Although Evan held a grudge against Florence for what she had done, she was, after all, still his wife. Hence, he didn't want any misfortune to befall her either.

He scolded Florence, “Hmph! Thankfully, Mr. Williams has decided to be merciful! You're as good as dead if he really wants you to drop dead!”

“Let's go! I'll deal with you once we're home!”



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Florence gritted her teeth and glared at Zeke and Lacey before leaving.

She was determined to seek vengeance from Zeke, but not for the time being.

Florence would have to first tend to the wounds on her face.

Zeke told Lacey and Dawn, "Let's go to the hospital. We need to tend to your wounds as well!"

"That won't be necessary! It's just a minor wound!" replied Lacey.

Zeke stood his ground and instructed, "No! We have to go to the hospital! I can't possibly let dad and mom down after what I've promised them! I told them I'll keep you safe and sound no matter what."

Lacey had to give in to Zeke's instructions because he refused to let them off the hook. "Alright! I'll drop by the hospital with Dawn."

"Please stay behind and gather the workers who have been chased away... We can't afford to delay the project anymore..."

Zeke would never allow them to make a trip to the hospital on their own. However, Lacey had insisted Zeke stay back at the construction site.

She needed him to keep an eye on the project

because she was afraid something might happen again. Lacey couldn't afford any sort of accident anymore.

In the end, Evan got one of his subordinates to send Lacey and Dawn to the hospital. He was the one who interfered and resolved the conflict.

Evan carefully asked once Lacey and Dawn departed, "Mr. Williams, I heard the almighty general will drop by Oakheart City soon! Is it true he'll be holding a grand welcome ceremony at the grand hall of Love in a Fallen City?"

Zeke replied, "Why don't you ask him?"

Evan was confused and asked, "Huh? Ask him? Does that mean the almighty general has already arrived?"

Zeke took a peek at the construction site. "He's usually around during such an hour. I mean, he has got lots of bricks to move."

"However, he's not here today because he has something to tend to."

What!

A chill ran down Evan's spine.

The almighty general is working as a construction site worker at this particular site? What the heck! I can't possibly take the blame if there's any!

Zeke instructed, "Evan, I have another mission for you."

"Go get the workers your wife has fired back!"

Evan nodded. "Don't worry! I'll work on it immediately!"

Zeke instructed once again, "Apart from that, lend me your car."

He wanted to tail Lacey because he was worried the mastermind who had been in the dark all along would make a move against Lacey.

Zeke wouldn't allow Lacey to be on her own before he got rid of the mastermind.

...

In the meantime, Franky, who had been on his bed in his ward at Oakheart City's hospital, finally returned to his usual arrogant self.

He had been feeling better since his wounds had recovered from the tormenting experience Zeke had put him through.

Currently, Franky had his eye on the entrance of his ward enthusiastically.

His eyes would gleam in excitement whenever he detected footsteps approaching his ward.

He couldn't wait for Florence to show up with Zeke. Franky wanted Zeke to get on his knees and apologize for what he had done.

Franky would employ all sorts of vicious method to insult then.

However, Zeke was nowhere to be seen even after a long time.

He was on the verge of losing his cool.

Suddenly, a nurse who was busy carrying out her task caught Franky's attention.

She leaned over and carried out her task while she had her busty figure facing Franky.

Franky could barely resist the lustful thought he had in mind because of the flawless woman in front of him.

He stretched out his arm involuntarily and placed his palm on the nurse's butt.

The nurse was shocked and immediately moved away from Franky. "W-What... are you trying to do?"

Franky replied with a perverted smile on his face, "Come here, h**! Blow my whistle! I'll reward you handsomely once you please me!"

The nurse scolded him, "Hmph! You damned

pervert!”

Franky got enraged. “F***! How dare a nurse insult me! What's your name? I shall lodge a complaint against you!”

The nurse covered her name tag in front of her chest almost instantly.

However, it was too late because Franky had already figured out her name by then. *Emily Clemons*.

He knitted his eyebrows and mumbled to himself, “Emily Clemons? Why does that sound kind of familiar to me?”



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The nurse was none other than Zeke's ex-girlfriend, Emily.

Things had always been tough for Emily and her family. However, things had gotten worse ever since Sam had been taken into custody.

They could barely meet ends need ever since then.

She had managed to collect three hundred thousand through pawning her accessories. However, she had to hand it all over to Logan because she needed him to look after Sam.

Hence, Emily had no choice but to become a nurse to make a living.

Meanwhile, Madeleine had given up on life ever since Sam had been taken into custody. She had been living off Emily ever since then.

Earlier in the morning, Madeleine had actually made a ridiculous suggestion. She wanted Emily to take Sam's place behind bars.

Emily was irritated because of how biased Madeleine was; she had been depressed all day long.

She felt aggrieved and almost broke into tears because a patient had actually tried to harass her during her work.

Emily felt as though her life was comprised of a

series of unfortunate events.

Meanwhile, Franky tapped on his head after a short while and cried out, "Emily! That's why it sounds so familiar!"

"You're Zeke's ex-girlfriend, right?"

"You know Zeke?" Emily was dumbfounded when she heard Franky's words.

Franky replied harshly, "Hell yeah! He's the reason I'm here!"

Emily was delighted deep down because she was certain he would be of use to her.

Franky could be considered as her friend because he was an enemy of her enemy.

She intended to leverage Franky's influence to get rid of Zeke.

After all, Franky was no ordinary person.

He was the eldest son of the Forrest Family, the most prominent family from Riverdale District.

Emily was certain he would easily be able to get rid of Zeke.

Franky told Emily with a wicked smile on his face, "Hmph! Zeke will be here to beg for mercy from me soon!"

“Hahaha! I'm sure he'll feel greatly humiliated if I toy with his ex-girlfriend in front of him, right?”

Emily immediately rebutted his statement, “Mr. Forrest, I'm afraid that's a foolish idea you have!”

“I have long fallen out with Zeke long ago! He wants me dead as much as I want him dead! It will please him if you really toy with me in front of him.”

“However, I have another suggestion for you. I'm sure you'll be able to torment him with this brilliant idea of mine.”

Franky was surprised. “Oh? What is it? Please entertain me with that brilliant idea of yours.”

In the meantime, Franky received a call. It was none other than Florence.

He immediately picked up.

Florence told Franky every single detail of what had happened through the phone.

Franky could no longer keep his cool the moment he heard Florence's words.

He yelled with all his might, “Damn it! Zeke's actually beat my sister up as well! She's currently in the hospital because of him!”

“That freaking Evan! He actually took Lacey's side

instead of avenging my sister! He doesn't deserve to be my brother-in-law anymore!"

"F***! Does he really think he can get away unscathed from the Forrest Family after what he's done?"

Emily thought about it and managed to figure out what had happened almost instantly.

Firstly, Franky has been hospitalized because he was beaten up by Zeke.

He had then requested his sister to avenge him and to teach Zeke a lesson.

However, things had turned out the other way round beyond their expectations. Florence was hospitalized as a result because she was no match for Zeke.

Franky's sister is Evan's wife. They tried to get Evan to avenge them, but Evan sided with Lacey instead.

I'm not sure why Evan decided to take Lacey's side, but that's not important.

Most importantly, I can make use of Franky to get my revenge on Lacey and Zeke!

Emily came up with a brilliant idea almost instantly.

She told Franky, "Do you know why your brother-in-

law has taken Lacey's side?"

"I mean, there must be a reason why he put Lacey in charge of Love in a Fallen City, such a major project, right?"

"Does that mean you know the reason behind his actions? Why don't you share it with me?"

"Hmph! I'm sure Lacey has seduced your brother-in-law! She's probably having an affair with him!"

"Isn't it obvious? It's the norm nowadays for a mistress to be more powerful than the official wife!"



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Franky grew infuriated and smashed his phone with all his might. "F***! I knew it! She's not as innocent as she seems to be! How dare that h** seduce my brother-in-law into an affair with her!"

Emily tried to comfort him. "Mr. Forrest, don't worry! I'm sure Mr. Schneider isn't serious about Lacey. Perhaps all he wants is something exciting. He'll surely return to your sister's side and get rid of Lacey once he has gotten sick of her!"

She then continued by saying, "I have a great plan for you. I'm sure you'll be able to put an end to their relationship and win Mr. Schneider back to you and your sister's side."

Franky got worked up and asked, "What is it?"

"Well! All you have to do is to spend a night with Lacey. I'm sure a filthy woman like her will disgust Mr. Schneider. Eventually, he will distance himself away from her, won't she?"

"You have to put on a show and make it seem as though Lacey was the one who tried to seduce you!"

Franky thought about it and shot Emily a thumbs up. "Brilliant! It's such a brilliant idea!"

"However, I'm afraid that's impossible because Zeke's always by Lacey's side! We won't have the chance to make a move against her!"

Emily replied, "It's simple! I know Zeke has a best friend by the name of Hudson."

"He's been diagnosed with a chronic disease, and Zeke has sent him off to a mysterious place for a series of treatments."

"Meanwhile, Hudson's parents still live in the outskirts. All you have to do is get someone from their place to deliver bad news about Hudson's parents."

"I'm sure Zeke will rush over to Hudson's place to take care of his parents. We'll be able to make use of the opportunity once he's away!"

Franky tapped on his head once again. "Damn it! You're such a cunning little b****! Sure! Let's do that!"

Emily suggested, "Shall we carry out the plan today? I mean, it's such a great day to execute the plan!"

"I need you to lure Zeke away. I'll lure Lacey out once he's gone!"

Franky could barely resist his lust when he thought about it.

Although he hated Lacey, he couldn't deny the fact that she had a great figure.

Her fair skin... Oooh! Amazing! I can't wait to spend

a night with her!

Emily and Franky soon came to an agreement. They decided to split up to carry out their respective tasks.

...

Linton Group Headquarter was under construction as well. Things were going well; everything was proceeding in an orderly manner.

After all, it was the first building of the Linton Group. Lacey placed great emphasis on this particular project and would always be there to oversee the construction.

Zeke tagged along to help her.

He couldn't bear to leave Lacey alone. Hence, he tagged along to protect her under the disguise of providing her aid.

Lacey detected certain uneven walls, but she didn't want to cause the construction site workers any trouble. So she decided to take things in her hand instead.

She reached for the tools and was about to fix the defects on her own. After all, she had been dealing with situations of sorts back when she still had the steel mill with her.

Zeke rushed over and snatched the equipment

Lacey had with her. “Forget about it! I'll take care of it instead!”

“I can't possibly allow a woman like you to do such a thing, right?”

Lacey replied with a smile, “Does that mean you know how to fix the wall too?”

“To be honest, the only thing I'm incapable of is giving birth. Apart from that, I can do almost everything!”

“Pffft!” Lacey burst into laughter, although she tried her best to hold back the urge to laugh.

Suddenly, a man with suntanned skin walked into the confined space.

“Oh? Zeke! It's really you!” The man was delighted and surprised at the same time.

Zeke turned around and took a peek at the man.

He was confused because he didn't seem to know that man.

Zeke whispered and asked, “Who are you?”

The man replied, “Have you forgotten me? I'm Hudson's uncle, Jonas!”

Zeke finally recalled the man in front of him when he revealed his identity.

Hudson had always invited Zeke to drop by his place for meals back in the day because Zeke had always run out of cash by the end of the month. He would serve Zeke the best dishes he had without holding back.

Zeke had run into Hudson's uncle, Jonas, more than once back then.

He had always had a bad impression of Jonas because he had always looked down on Hudson and his family. Jonas had always insulted Hudson's parents. In fact, Jonas had always beaten Hudson up as well.



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Zeke recalled how tough things were on Hudson's end since his father had broken his leg years ago. They had spent all the money to treat his injury.

Hence, they struggled to make ends meet. In the end, Hudson had to steal Jonas' crops to make a living.

However, luck was never on Hudson's side. Jonas had run into Hudson right when he was at his paddy field.

Jonas took Hudson into custody and beat him up until he was on the brink of death.

In the end, Hudson's father, who had broken his leg, had to get on his knees and beg Jonas to be merciful. Only then was Hudson set free.

Zeke was curious because it had been years since they last ran into one another, yet Jonas had shown up out of the blue in front of him.

Did he come to me for help?

Jonas had a contorted smile on his face when he saw all the equipment Zeke had with him. “Zeke, aren't you an undergraduate from a famous university? Why are you working at the construction site?”

“Don't worry! It's an amazing job! After all, an undergraduate student's wage might not surpass those of a construction site worker!”

“I need to repair my house too! Perhaps you can take care of it on my behalf? If that's the case, I shall contribute to your business as well!”

It seems like he's not here to ask for a favour...

Zeke asked bluntly, “May I know what brings you to me today?”

Jonas nodded, “It's about Hudson! I mean, I'll have no intention to pay you a visit if everything was fine, right?”

“As we speak, Hudson's parents are heavily bedridden. They need someone to take care of them, but I heard you've sent Hudson away for treatment.”

“Since Hudson isn't around, I need you to take care of his parents on his behalf. I'm afraid they might not pull through if they're left alone!”

Zeke raised his head and looked at Jonas in the eyes, while he lost himself in his thoughts.

He had his doubts and couldn't help but suspect Jonas's intentions when he heard what the man told him.

Indeed, Jonas tried to avoid Zeke's gaze as he felt guilty.

He probed once again, “Are you going to take care of his parents or not? If you're not going to, give

me some money! I'll get someone else to look after them!"

"After all, you're the one who sent Hudson away! You have to be responsible for his parents!"

Zeke replied with a smile, "Hudson is an important friend of mine. His parents are just like my parents! I'll follow you."

"Lacey, I'll drop by to visit the parents of my friend. Remember to finish your meals on time. Don't tire yourself, okay?"

Lacey nodded in return. "Mm. Don't worry about me. If the outskirts' medical facilities aren't up to standards, let's take them in. We'll check them into Oakheart City's hospital and take care of the medical bills."

Zeke caressed Lacey's head before he departed with Jonas.

Emily showed up right after Zeke left.

Lacey grew anxious when she saw Emily. "Emily, why are you here?"

Emily looked at Lacey with her pair of welled up eyes. "Lacey, I have a favour to ask of you!"

Lacey's body tensed up. "You're not trying to get Zeke to return to your side, right?"

She could still vividly recall how Emily had gotten on her knees and begged Zeke to return to her side back then.

Emily shook her head immediately. “No! Lacey! That's not the case!”

Lacey felt a sense of relief.

Lacey had developed a strong feeling for Zeke quite some time ago. She couldn't possibly live her life without Zeke anymore because he had turned into the mainstay of her life.

“Tell me, what is it about?” asked Lacey.

Emily told her, “Lacey, it's my birthday today! Could you please join my birthday celebration?”

Lacey was put in a tight spot due to the sort of relationship they currently had.

It would be extremely awkward if Lacey were to celebrate Emily's birthday.

Apart from that, Lacey had a lot of things on her plate. She had no time for such social events.

Hence, Lacey shook her head and rejected Emily's invitation. “I'm so sorry, Emily. I don't think I can make it.”

Emily had no choice but to play the trump card she had up her sleeve. “Lacey, our best friend, Shirleen,

will be participating in my party!”

Lacey was surprised, “Shirleen's back from abroad?”



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Shirleen, Emily, and Lacey used to be best friends back in the day. They had spent most of their time together. In fact, they used to be known as the gorgeous trio.

However, Shirleen had decided to further her study abroad right after their graduation. Hence, she had lost touch with Emily and Lacey.

Lacey was surprised because Shirleen actually showed up at such odd timing.

Emily nodded. "Yes! She's just returned recently. I wish to reminisce about the good old days we had back in the day through my birthday party!"

"It has been ten years since we've graduated! Our last meal together was ten years ago!"

Lacey hesitated, as she had her concerns.

Emily's no longer the same! She's a totally different person!

I'm sure our friendship won't be the same either...

Suddenly, Emily began to weep. "Lacey! Shirleen and you are the only friends I have left in life. Yes! I might have gone overboard back in the day, but I've reflected on my actions!"

"Please give me another chance to prove myself worthy! I'll definitely cherish our friendship from today onwards! If both you refuse to befriend me,

I... I'd rather die!" Emily sobbed.

Lacey, who had always been an empathetic girl, couldn't bear to leave the weeping Emily alone.

In the end, she gave in to Emily's invitation.
"Alright! I'll join you!"

"Thank you!" Emily was overjoyed and held on to Lacey as they made their way out of the building.

Emily brought Lacey all the way to The Nightingale.

Although it wasn't on par with the Grand Millenium Hotel, it was one of the best hotels in Oakheart City.

Emily had already reserved a VIP suite.

She ordered several premium dishes once they made their way into the VIP suite.

Lacey was surprised because she knew Emily wouldn't be able to afford to dine at such a premium eatery due to her current condition.

However, she paid no heed to it and thought to herself. *It seems impossible! Hmm... Perhaps she has some savings left?*

Lacey broke the silence and said, "Emily, I didn't have the chance to prepare any present for you. I'll get you a cake instead. What do you think?"

Emily shook her head, "That won't be necessary! Shirleen has already reserved a cake for me! She'll be joining us soon!"

Someone made her way into the VIP suite as soon as Emily finished her sentence.

A fashionable and gorgeous woman walked into the VIP suite.

She had a huge cake with her as she greeted, "Happy birthday, Emily!"

Emily got up immediately and replied with a smile, "Thank you so much, Shirleen! You're the best!"

Lacey was surprised when she figured out who the woman was; she was none other than her old friend, Shirleen.

It had been years since they last met, but Shirleen remained the gorgeous woman she had always been.

However, her current ostentatious appearance was nothing similar to the pure and innocent look she had back in the day.

Lacey greeted Shirleen with a bright smile on her face, "Hello, Shirleen! It's been quite some time!"

"Mm." Shirleen's expression changed the moment she took a peek at Lacey.

Lacey felt awkward all of a sudden because she couldn't figure out the reason behind Shirleen's indifferent behaviour.

Emily tried to ease the tense situation and urged everyone, "Hurry up! Let's have a seat before we get to business!"

The three of them finally took their seats.

Shirleen placed the cake on the table and asked, "Lacey, it's Emily's birthday today. I got a cake for her as a present. What sort of gift do you have for Emily?"

Lacey felt helpless. "I-I... didn't have the time to prepare any gift because I had to rush over..."

Shirleen sounded irritated as she murmured to herself, "Hmph! You're still the same! You've always been the stingiest one!"

Lacey knitted her eyebrows and regretted her actions.

She shouldn't have given in to Emily's invitation and joined her in the first place.

People would eventually change. The gorgeous trio was no longer who they used to be. They were but three strangers now.

Their friendship failed to withstand the challenges time had imposed on them.

The dishes they ordered were served not long after.

Shirleen served them their drinks and smiled. “Cheers to our friendship! It's been such a long time since our last gathering!”

Lacey stated with an odd look on her face. “I'm so sorry, but I can't take any alcoholic drinks today. I'm in the middle of my period.”

“I'll substitute the drinks with tea instead!”

Shirleen grew irritated once again. “What? Does that mean you do not wish to finish the drink I've served you? Since when did you become such an arrogant woman?”



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Lacey waved her hands and explained herself immediately, "That's not what I mean..."

Shirleen replied, "If that's not what you have in mind, finish the drink! I'll drain my glass first!"

She gulped the glass of drink down right after she finished her sentence.

Emily smiled and finished her glass of drink as well.

They turned around and looked at Lacey after they had finished their drinks.

Lacey had a helpless look on her face. She had no choice but to brace herself and finish the drink as requested.

She started to cough because of the tingling sensation she felt coming from her throat after she gulped down the drink. After all, she didn't drink alcohol daily.

Shirleen rolled her eyes and murmured to herself again, "Weak!"

She poured another glass of drink and said, "Lacey, don't you think you owe Emily another glass of drink? I mean, you should apologize for what you've done, don't you think?"

Lacey was confused and asked, "Apologies? I've never upset her before!"

Shirleen sneered, "Hmph! You hit on your best friend's husband during her wedding ceremony and snatched him away from her. Don't you think that's too much?"

Lacey became edgy again when she heard Shirleen's words. "That's not the case, Shirleen! Whatever you have in mind isn't what happened back then!"

Shirleen stood her ground and replied, "I don't care! You can't deny the fact that Emily's ex-boyfriend is now your husband! You owe her that much! A glass of drink is the least you can offer to atone for your sin!"

Emily interrupted their conversation. "Forget about it, Shirleen! It's not Lacey's fault!"

"Lacey, here's to us! Let's forget about everything that's happened back in the day after this glass of drink! We'll start over again!"

Emily finished another glass of drink right after she finished her sentence.

Meanwhile, Lacey was stumped because she couldn't hold her liquor well.

She was afraid she would be drunk after another glass of drink.

Shirleen yelled at her once again, "Lacey! Emily has already finished her glass of drink to prove her

sincerity! Don't you think you should at least return the favour?"

Lacey had to brace herself to swallow another glass of liquor as she was left with no other options.

She could barely pull herself together after two glasses. Lacey's mind was all over the place as her vision turned blurry.

Shirleen asked, "Lacey, they've told me about your husband. Is it true that he's been living off you?"

"Why on earth did you accept him as your spouse? I can't help but sympathize with you!"

"Emily, you should be glad he had chosen Lacey instead!"

Lacey immediately tried to defend Zeke. "Shirleen, you've misunderstood Zeke! Although he's just an executive of my company, he's a capable man!"

"If it weren't because of him, I might still be working in some random factory now."

Shirleen replied, "Huh? I mean, what if I did misunderstand him? No matter how capable your husband is, he can't possibly be a match for my husband! My husband is a man with a net worth of hundreds of millions! This particular hotel was actually my birthday present from him!"

“I'm sure your husband can't afford such an expensive gift, right?” Shirleen smirked.

Lacey replied, “Actually, this hotel is nothing as compared to the premium hotel Zeke gave me during my twenty-third-year-old coming of age ceremony.”

The gift Zeke had prepared for Lacey back then was the Grand Millenium Hotel.

Shirleen refused to believe Lacey's words. “Hmph! I can't believe you actually try to bluff us to fulfil your own pride!”

“You don't have to defend your husband. After all, we both know what sort of man he is!”

Lacey got slightly irritated because Zeke was her husband.

She was the only one who could scold and bully him.

You have no rights to scold Zeke!

Lacey snarled at them when she could no longer keep her cool, “I'm sorry, but I have to take my leave! I just recalled that I have an important meeting to attend!”

“Hold it right there!” Shirleen stopped her in a caustic tone, “Lacey, since when did you turn into such an arrogant woman?”

Lacey replied, "I really do have an important meeting to attend!"

"It seems like you're determined to leave, aren't you? Sure! You have to finish another glass of drink first. After all, it's such a joyous occasion; worthy of celebration!" Shirleen insisted.

"It's such a jinx for you to leave after two glasses of liquor. Does that mean you're looking down on Emily?"

Emily tried to persuade Lacey as well, "Another glass is all it takes! Lacey! Please!"

"I'll allow you to leave after you finish this glass!"



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Lacey gritted her teeth and gave in to their demands.

One glass is all it takes! I'm leaving after this!

She reached for the glass and gulped it down without any hesitation.

Lacey went weak in the knees right after she finished the third glass of drink but tried her best to hold herself up.

However, Emily pinned her on the chair and said, "It seems like you're drunk! Let's have a piece of cake first! We can't possibly allow you to drive under such a condition!"

"Huh? Where's the knife? Did you leave it behind?"

Shirleen tapped her forehead and cried out, "Oh! I must have left it behind in the kitchen! I'll go get it immediately!"

"What a coincidence! I have to use the washroom as well!" Emily went after Shirleen immediately once she finished her sentence.

They locked the door once they walked out of the VIP suite, afraid Lacey would flee.

They didn't head over to the kitchen to get the knife. Instead, they headed into the VIP suite next door right away.

Franky was smoking as he stood in front of the window in the VIP suite next door.

He couldn't sit down because his ass still hurt.

Franky could no longer hold back his excitement and asked the moment he saw Emily and Shirleen, "How's it going?"

"Everything's ready, Mr. Forrest! Feel free to enjoy yourself whenever you're ready!" Shirleen replied with a smile on her face.

Franky got extremely worked up. "Thanks! I can't wait!"

"Don't worry! I'll reward both of you handsomely once I'm done having my share of fun!"

Shirleen replied with a flattering smile on her face, "Thank you so much, Mr. Forrest."

"Here's the key to the VIP suite next door."

Franky took the key and rushed over to the VIP suite next door immediately.

Emily whispered and asked, "Shirleen, it's better for you to shut the hotel down for the day, isn't it?"

"What if your customer figures out what's going on and calls the cops? That'll be a recipe for disaster!"

Shirleen reassured Emily, "Don't worry! My husband's affiliated with those from the underworld! He'll get rid of the ones who try to call the cops!"

Emily warned Shirleen, "I think it's better to proceed with caution! We can't afford a single accident!"

"Emily, what's wrong with you? Have you lost your guts throughout the years? You're not as courageous as before!"

"Fine! Let's do as you say!" huffed Shirleen.

Emily had a bitter smile on her face. She didn't lose her guts; it was because she couldn't afford to put herself at stake anymore.

...

In the meantime, Zeke was on the way to Hudson's parents' place with Jonas.

However, Zeke braked the moment they reached an isolated place.

Jonas asked curiously, "Zeke, what's wrong? Why did you brake all of a sudden?"

"I need to make a call," replied Zeke.

He got out of the car and made a call right after he spoke.

However, Zeke only pretended as though he made a call. It was actually all for show.

He entered the car once again with a gloomy expression after he finished making the call. "Tell me, what the hell are you up to exactly?"

Jonas was dumbfounded because of Zeke's words. "What do you mean? I'm worried about Hudson's parents. I'm afraid they're going to starve themselves. Hence..."

"Hmph! That wasn't what Hudson's parents told me when I made the call just now! They told me they haven't been sick at all!"

Jonas gasped all of a sudden as he tried to catch his breath. "It's impossible! Their phones are with me..."

He covered his mouth immediately when he realized what he had just said. He had accidentally slipped up.

Zeke looked at Jonas with a vicious look on his face. "You know what? I've always hated people who try to deceive me the most!"

"You better tell me the truth immediately! Who's the mastermind behind this? What are they up to by luring me away?"

"Speak, or you shall bear the consequences of your actions!"

Jonas tried to push his luck and replied, "What are you talking about? I have no idea what you're talking about at all! No one's behind..."

Midway through his sentence, Zeke threw a punch at the roof of the car.

A vigorous motion ensued within the car after a loud sound.

Zeke had actually penetrated the roof of the car with a single punch of his.

Jonas shuddered, frightened by Zeke's action.

What a strong man! I don't think anyone from our village could produce a hole with their punch.

What the hell? The scrawny little boy back then has actually turned into such a strong man!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"I'll give you one last chance to tell me the truth. Please don't blame me for what's in store for you if you refuse to tell me what's going on," warned Zeke.

Jonas was, after all, from the outskirts. Zeke intimidated him. He had never run into such a situation before.

Hence, he decided to tell him the truth. "F-Fine... I-I'll tell you what's going on..."

"Someone named Forrest approached me recently. He promised me a fifty thousand reward. All I had to do was lure you to our village."

"However, I've yet to receive my payment..."

Zeke mumbled in return, "Forrest? Franky Forrest? Is that his name?"

Zeke reached for his phone and showed Jonas a photo of Franky.

Jonas nodded vigorously. "Yes! It's him! He's the one!"

Zeke heaved a long sigh and murmured to himself, "I must have been too merciful back then."

"I thought that would have been enough as a lesson for him. However, it seems like it's the other way around!"

“Forget about it. I'll get rid of people like him once and for all in the future.”

Jonas opened the door of the car, trying to flee.

However, Zeke threw a punch at him, rendering him unconscious immediately.

He kicked Jonas out of the car and called Darren. “There's an unconscious old geezer at the border between Oakheart City and Riverdale District. He lied to me. I want you to teach him a lesson on my behalf.”

Darren replied, “Alright! I'll get it done personally.”

Zeke then immediately made a sharp U-turn and rushed home.

He had had a bad feeling since the moment Jonas had shown up in front of him.

However, he decided to play along with Jonas because he wanted to figure out what was going on.

“It has only been a while since I've departed. I hope everything's fine with Lacey!”

Zeke's gut feeling was right. Something had happened to Lacey.

He returned to Linton Group's headquarters, but Lacey was nowhere to be found; she wasn't in her

office.

Zeke reached for his phone and called Lacey immediately.

However, he couldn't reach her as her phone had been switched off.

Zeke's heart skipped a beat.

Damn it! It must be Franky! I can't believe he was able to get the better of me so soon!

He stopped hesitating and called Evan. "Evan, I need you to pinpoint Lacey's exact location through her phone's GPS immediately."

Evan took note of his instruction and replied, "Alright! I'll work on it right this instant!"

Within two minutes, Zeke received a text from Evan. *Ms. Lacey's phone has been switched off, but the last signal had been transmitted from The Nightingale.*

Zeke replied. *The Nightingale? I'll be there right away.*

I need you to figure out who the people behind The Nightingale are for me.

Before long, Zeke showed up in front of the restaurant.

However, the shop had shut its doors tight.

Something fishy was obviously going on because they had actually halted their operation during dining hours.

Zeke hesitated no more. He stepped on the accelerator right away.

His car accelerated; he was about to barge into the hotel by force.

Bam!

Consequently, a loud noise could be heard as the iron garage door and windows were shattered into pieces.

Zeke's car showed no signs of slowing down. He only halted after he had made it all the way to the lobby.

The commotion alarmed Emily and Shirleen.

Shirleen was irritated and cursed, "F***! Who the hell is it?"

"Guards! Follow me! We have an intruder to get rid of!"

Franky was having the best time of his life with Lacey at the moment. Shirleen couldn't possibly allow anyone to interrupt the session.

Franky had promised her a ten million investment; it might be at stake if anyone were to get in his way.

Lacey's chastity was nothing as compared to the ten million investment Franky had promised her.

Emily was about to head out to figure out what was going on, but she stopped the moment she saw Zeke making his way out of the car.

Damn it! Why's Zeke here! How did he manage to rush back within such a short period of time?

How the hell did Franky arrange for him to be brought away?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Emily had a bad feeling. She knew she would be doomed if she were to show up in front of Zeke.

She hesitated for quite some time before she brought herself back to the VIP suite.

Franky, who was in the VIP suite next door, heard the commotion too.

He shouted, "Emily, what's going on out there?"

Emily replied, "It's nothing! Some impudent fool has made their way in, but Shirleen's working on it as we speak. Please pay no heed to it and enjoy yourself, Mr. Forrest!"

"Mm," replied Franky. He didn't bother to doubt Emily's words.

Meanwhile, Shirleen led her men and surrounded Zeke in the lobby of the hotel. "F***! Are you blind? How dare you run your car through the entrance of my hotel?"

Shirleen had no idea that the man in front of her was none other than Zeke, Lacey's husband.

Zeke cast a stern gaze and surveyed the surroundings. He asked in a callous tone, "Where's Lacey?"

Shirleen finally figured out what was going on. "You're the one who's been living off Lacey all along?"

“Ha! I'll tell you where she is, but you have to get on your knees and beg me first! I want you to tell Emily you're sorry for abandoning her.”

“You have to tell her how much you've regretted your actions and how you should've chosen her over Lacey.”

So Lacey's indeed here! In fact, it seems like Emily's behind this again!

*Damn it! She's such an annoying b****!*

I'll get rid of her once and for all this time!

Suddenly, they heard commotion coming from the second floor.

Zeke's pupil constricted as he thought to himself. *Lacey might be in danger!*

He rushed upstairs.

Shirleen lost her cool and yelled, “Damn it! Are you deaf? I want you to get on your knees and apologize for what you've done!”

“Everyone! Get him!”

Shirleen's men approached Zeke with a wicked smile on their faces.

Suddenly, Zeke rushed over to Shirleen's side and grabbed both her arms.

He turned her into his weapon and swirled her around.

Zeke was a powerful man. He produced a rustling sound by solely swirling Shirleen as his weapon. Those who were attacked by Shirleen were sent flying to the ground.

Shirleen's men were gotten rid of almost instantly within a matter of seconds.

Finally, Zeke released Shirleen and set her free as well.

Zeke sent her flying like the others. He finally stopped when she knocked against the wall of her hotel.

Both her arms had been completely dislocated, ranging from the shoulders, the elbows, and the wrists.

Shirleen shrieked in pain and blood gushed out of her mouth the moment she tried to speak. She coughed as she choked on her own blood.

Zeke wasted no time and rushed towards the second's floor immediately.

Shirleen yelled angrily, "How dare you beat me, you wimp!"

"My husband is Darren! He's the most powerful man affiliated with the underworld of Oakheart

City! I'll get him to finish you off!"

"You better get your ass over immediately and beg for forgiveness..."

Zeke's lips curled upwards when he heard Shirleen's words.

Darren? Are you talking about my lackey?

In the meantime, in the VIP suite on the second floor.

Lacey finally felt the effect of the alcohol as it finally kicked in and made her knees weak. Her vision turned blurry, and she could no longer pull herself together.

She bit her tongue with all her might as she tried her best to pull herself together. Lacey tried to move away, keeping her distance from Franky.

"Y-You... jerk... S-stay away... from me..."

Franky had a perverted smile on his face and warned Lacey, "Ha! Stop struggling! You can't run from me!"

"Hurry up and get over immediately! I want you to get on your knees and blow my whistle!"

"I'll allow you to be one of my mistresses if you manage to please me!"

Lacey yelled at Franky, "You damned pervert! Have you no shame at all?"

"M-My husband... H-He's a great man... H-He will definitely come after you and save me..."

Franky broke into laughter when he heard Lacey's words. "I'm sorry to let you down, but I'm afraid your husband's currently trapped in the outskirts. Perhaps he's even being beaten up by others as we speak."

Franky pounced on Lacey right after he finished his sentence, as he could no longer hold back his lust.

Lacey was trapped underneath Franky because she couldn't evade him in the nick of time.

"H-Help! Help me! Please!" Lacey shouted, hysterically trying to reach out to the others.

Someone barged into the VIP suite before Franky could achieve what he had in mind.

Bam!

It sounded as though the door had been smashed apart.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey and Franky looked in the direction of the entrance.

The former was delighted, while the latter was horrified when they figured out who had made it into the VIP suite.

*F***! How did he manage to return within such a short period of time?*

That damned old geezer! He can't even carry out such a simple instruction?

Lacey shouted with all her might, "Zeke! Help me!"

Franky was horrified and moved away from Lacey as Zeke rushed over immediately.

However, he was no match for Zeke in terms of speed.

Zeke got in his way and grabbed his head. He sent Franky flying all the way up to the ceiling.

Franky was launched into the air once again.

He crashed into the high-speed ceiling fan attached.

Blood spewed everywhere in the room as the high-speed ceiling fan skinned the top of Franky's scalp off.

He broke the table as soon as he returned to the

ground. Shattered glasses pierced into his body as a result.

Arghhhh!

Franky held on to his head and yelled in pain.

Zeke squatted down immediately and apologized, "I'm so sorry for being late, Lacey."

Boohoo!

Lacey, who managed to make it out unscathed, broke into tears in between Zeke's arms. "I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! I shouldn't have defied your words! I shouldn't have left the headquarters!"

Zeke held on to Lacey firmly in between his arms.

Shirleen rushed over with her men soon.

She was infuriated when she saw the scene in front of her.

Franky had actually been beaten to a pulp by Zeke on her domain.

She was certain the investment Franky had promised her was as good as gone.

It's all Lacey and her useless husband's fault!

Shirleen yelled angrily, "Zeke! How dare you poke your nose into my business? I'll get my husband to

get rid of you!”

“Darren will be here soon! You better get on your knees and beg Mr. Forrest for forgiveness if you do not wish to die!”

Zeke cast a stern gaze at Shirleen.

“Darren? That's your final trump card up your sleeve?”

“Great! I have no intention to make a move against such a filthy woman like you either. I'll get Darren to get rid of you on my behalf!”

“F***! You're indeed an arrogant one, aren't you?” shouted Shirleen angrily.

“Darren's the most powerful figure in Oakheart City's underworld! I heard you're affiliated to those from the underworld as well, but I'm sure you're just an insignificant character!”

“How dare you make a move against the woman of such a prominent figure! You're as good as dead!”

Zeke replied, “Ha!”

Shirleen got extremely worked up because of how calm and collected Zeke was.

She decided to threaten Lacey instead, “You better get your husband to get on his knees and beg for

mercy! Perhaps I'll let you off the hook and spare your husband and your life if you manage to please Mr. Forrest, Lacey!"

"I've decided to give you another chance since you're a friend of mine! You better appreciate this rare opportunity!"

"Hmph! Mr. Forrest's a wealthy and influential man! Your husband's nothing but a wimp! You must have had lost your mind to get married to such a loser!"

Lacey had been crying in between Zeke's arms all along; she was utterly horrified. She had no idea what Shirleen was talking about due to the effect of the alcohol.

Shirleen gritted her teeth and warned them, "Fine! It seems like you guys do have a death wish! Very well, I'll fulfil that wish of yours!"

"Don't worry, Mr. Forrest. I shall avenge you today!"

Suddenly, an angry man's horrendous voice could be heard coming from downstairs. "What the hell's happened here?"

It was Darren's voice.

Darren had rushed over once he had gotten rid of Jonas.

Shirleen was delighted and exclaimed, "Darren's

finally here! Both of you should get ready for what's about to happen next!”

She rushed outside and welcomed Darren immediately.

Meanwhile, Darren led his men upstairs to the second floor.

His pupils constricted when he saw how pathetic Shirleen's condition was. “What happened, Shirleen?”

“Darren, you have to defend me! An impudent fool ran his car through the entrance of our hotel. I tried to get him to compensate for our loss, but he had beaten us up instead!” Shirleen wailed, lying to Darren about what had happened.

“Ahhh! My arms were broken as a result!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“What! Someone actually ran his car through the entrance of our hotel? How dare he deny compensation and beat my men up? What an insolent fool!”

“Have you told him you're affiliated with me?”

Shirleen replied, “I did, but that merely provoked him further.”

Darren grew infuriated. “Hmph! It seems like he's deliberately picking on me, isn't he?”

“Don't worry, Shirleen! We don't bully others, but that doesn't mean we're not capable of defending ourselves!”

“I will not allow anyone to humiliate us! I can't wait to see the insolent fool who has the audacity to wreak havoc on my domain!”

Darren could no longer suppress his emotions as he rushed into the VIP suite angrily.

However, he turned around and asked once again after making a few steps, “Shirleen, are you sure the other party is the only one at fault? You've been telling me the truth all along, right?”

Shirleen felt diffident, but she put on a determined front and nodded. “Of course!”

Darren reassured Shirleen, “If that's the case, don't worry!”

He saw blood splattered everywhere the moment he marched into the VIP suite.

It was the result of Franky's bleeding scalp. Blood had spewed everywhere because when it had been skinned off by the ceiling fan.

What a horrifying scene!

Darren surveyed the surroundings. Finally, his gaze landed on Zeke and Lacey the moment he detected their presence.

Lacey, who was in between Zeke's arms, was wailing, trembling in fear.

Darren's mind was blown away when he saw Zeke.

What the heck! Why on earth is Mr. Williams here?

Did Shirleen actually offend Mr. Williams?

Lacey has been crying nonstop since we've entered the room. Has she been bullied by others?

Everyone knows how much Mr. Williams adores his wife! One can offend him, but never his wife because his wife has always been his limit!

Darren recalled how Zeke had gone against three hundred people with a team of twenty just to protect Lacey.

He was petrified and drenched in sweat the

moment he saw Zeke and Lacey.

Shirleen rushed over and yelled hysterically, "Darren! That insolent pair's the one behind this! Hurry up and get rid of them!"

"Hmph! Lacey, the time for you to..."

Thump!

Beyond Shirleen's expectation, she was the one who was slapped in the face by Darren instead. "Shut the f*** up, you b****!"

Darren went all out with everything he got. Shirleen spun in circles before she fell to the ground.

Arghhhh!

Shirleen covered her face and looked at Darren in disbelief, "Darren, why? W-Why did you hit me? Why did you slap me because of that damned pair?"

"Damn it! Slap you? I'm gonna finish you off and send you to hell today!" Darren kicked Shirleen once again with all his might.

"Who do you think you are? How dare you offend Mr. Williams?"

Shirleen was dumbfounded when she heard Darren's words.

Mr. Williams? Who the hell is that?

Darren stopped wasting his time with Shirleen. He rushed over to Zeke's side and bowed immediately.

“Mr. Williams, I'm so sorry! It seems like my subordinate has caused you a lot of trouble! I'm the one at fault for not disciplining her! Don't worry! I'll be sure to get rid of her to avenge you today!”

Zeke cast a stern gaze and yelled angrily, “On your knees!”

Thump!

Darren shuddered and got on his knees immediately. He felt weak and horrified.

Zeke asked, “I've nurtured you into who you are today, but I have never once allowed you to make use of your position and harm others, right?”

“Is this how you're returning the favour? Are you sure this is how you're supposed to lead the men who have placed their faith in you?”

Darren replied with a quivering voice, “Mr. Williams, I-I'm so sorry... I-I am the one to be blamed!”

“Shirleen has always been studying abroad. She has only returned a few days ago. I have no idea

what sort of character she has. Hence, I placed her in charge of this particular hotel to observe her.”

Zeke asked once again, “Does that mean you've never come across her back in the day?”

Darren replied, “No! I swear! I've only come across her two days ago!”

“She's actually one of the poor students who have been under my care. We have always communicated through letters, never in real life before.”

“Perhaps she has fallen in love with me because of the aids I've provided her throughout the years. That must have been the reason why she returned to my side once she made her way back.”



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Zeke finally regained his composure when he heard Darren's explanation.

“Hmph! You better be telling the truth! You better not allow your men to bully others out in public! I won't let you off the hook if I ever run into such cases!”

“Don't worry, Mr. Williams! I've been telling you the truth all along!” assured Darren.

Zeke then replied, “Fine! I'll forgive you, but not Shirleen, because she had actually tried to make a move against my wife! I will never forgive such a foolish woman like her!”

Darren knew what Zeke was up to and assured him, “Don't worry, Mr. Williams! I'll definitely avenge Ms. Lacey.”

He got up and rushed towards Shirleen in an intimidating manner. A strong murderous intent could be detected coming from him.

Shirleen was astonished at the drastic turn of the events.

Lacey's useless husband actually reigns over Darren?

That means Zeke's the one who reigns over the underworld of Oakheart City!

Darren's just his lackey!

Shirleen felt aggrieved, enraged and unsatisfied at the same time.

Why? Why's Lacey blessed with a better look? Why does she get to get married to such an exceptional man?

Darren warned Shirleen indifferently, "You shouldn't have offended Ms. Lacey in the first place."

"I'll break your hands in return for what you've done! Hopefully, Ms. Lacey will forgive you after your punishment."

Shirleen was horrified and immediately begged for mercy. "Darren! Please forgive me! I'm at fault, but please save me!"

"I've already lost my pair of arms! I can't possibly take any blows from you anymore!"

"I don't want to die! I've yet to repay your kindness!"

Darren finally realized Shirleen's pair of stiffened arms. It seemed like it had been broken in advance before he had even made it to the hotel.

He replied indifferently, as always. "Since your arms have already been broken, I'll have to break your legs instead!"

He stepped on Shirleen's leg once he finished his

sentence.

Crack!

A loud sound could be heard as Shirleen's bone shattered into pieces.

Shirleen almost passed out due to the racking sensation she felt.

Shirleen broke down immediately as Darren was about to break another one of her legs again. She shouted hysterically and reached out to Lacey, "Lacey! Please! Save me! We're best friends, aren't we?"

"I'll get on my knees and beg for your forgiveness! It's my fault! Please forgive me! We're best friends! You can't possibly kill me!"

Shirleen's words reached Lacey and brought her back to her senses.

She stared at Shirleen with her pair of welled up eyes as she gritted her teeth, "Shirleen, I've always treated you as one of my closest friends! I can't believe you actually..."

"Forget about it! I don't have a pathetic friend like you! I'll let you off the hook this once! Get out of my sight from today onwards! We're not related by any means anymore!"

Shirleen heaved a long sigh of relief as a weight

was lifted off her shoulders.

However, Lacey was utterly disappointed because she had never expected her best friend to turn her back against her.

That betrayal felt awful. In fact, no words would be able to explain how Lacey felt.

Zeke wiped Lacey's tears away before he turned around and looked at Franky. "I believe it's time to settle the scores we have between us, Franky."

Franky shuddered all of a sudden, feeling horrified as well. "Zeke, I'll admit it! I might have underestimated you previously! However, I'm certain Darren and Evan are no match for the Forrest Family either! It won't make any difference even if you're acquainted with them."

He then continued, "I'll get the Forrest Family to stay out of your way, but you have to set me free right now! Otherwise, I'll get those from the Forrest Family to crush you with everything we have!"

Zeke smiled as he replied, "Ha! I wonder who gave you such audacity to utter such words against me!"

He reached for a wine bottle on the table and smashed it on Franky's left leg with all his might right after he finished his sentence.

Once again, a sound of bone being cracked

accompanied by those of a bottle being shattered into pieces could be heard in the VIP suite. It resonated in everyone's mind over and over again.

Arghhhh!

Franky yelled in agony as he held on to his broken leg.

“Zeke! Y-You... You're doomed... You're so done!”

“T-The Forrest Family will never forgive you after what you've done to me!”

Zeke shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly. “Come at me with everything you have! I'm giving you a chance to reach out to the Forrest Family now!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Franky reached for his phone and made a call.

“Dad! Help me! Help! Zeke's going to kill me! Hurry up and stop him! Alright! I'll turn on the speaker and put you on the line immediately!”

Franky proceeded to enable the speaker of his phone.

An enraged man's voice could be heard coming from the other end of the call. “Listen to me, Zeke! I'm Franky's father, one of the top conglomerates of Riverdale District and the leader of the Forrest Family, Gavin Forrest!”

“I'm giving you another opportunity to send Franky back to us! Otherwise, I'll employ every single resource of mine to crush you!”

Zeke replied in a callous tone, “What if I say no?”

Gavin yelled hysterically, “You arrogant fool!”

“I'm warning you! If you dare make another move against my Franky, I'll bring my men and raid Oakheart City immediately!”

Crack!

Suddenly, Zeke raised his leg and stepped on the other leg of Franky, breaking another one of Franky's legs.

Zeke provoked, “I've broken both of his legs. I'll be

waiting for you at Oakheart City! Feel free to raid the city with your men!”

Gavin, who was on the other end of the phone, remained silent as he tried to catch his breath.

He was utterly dumbfounded because he had already threatened Zeke with the whole Forrest Family.

However, Zeke didn't seem a bit intimidated; he had actually broken Franky's leg in front of Gavin.

Gavin felt a chill run down his spine when Franky's scream rang out from the other end of the call.

Zeke must have had lost his mind! He's really ready to kill Franky!

Gavin tried his best to suppress his anger and fear. “Zeke, I'm a close acquaintance of Oakheart City's mayor.”

“Stop doing anything reckless! I'll call the mayor and get him over to talk things through with you immediately.”

“If you try anything reckless again, Oakheart City's mayor will get rid of you once and for all!”

Zeke raised his leg once again and stepped on Franky's crotch area.

As a result, Franky's pair of pants were dyed red as

blood gushed out from his wound...

He passed out almost instantly due to the tormenting experience he felt.

Zeke told Gavin, "I've gotten rid of Franky's penis as well!"

"Why don't you get the mayor to come over immediately? Let's see if he can get rid of me once and for all."

The person on the other end of the call fell silent.

It felt as though a storm was brewing in Gavin's mind.

Gavin couldn't believe his ears. He had made use of Oakheart City's mayor, yet Zeke showed no signs of fear! He was utterly provoked by his words.

He's a maniac!

Gavin could no longer pull himself together.

He shouted hysterically, "Zeke! I will kill you! I will definitely kill you!"

Franky was Gavin's only son. Eventually, he would be taking over his position as the leader of the Forrest Family.

However, Franky was rendered infertile before he

could get married to someone. Gavin couldn't possibly keep himself calm anymore.

Gavin hung up on the call angrily and immediately made another call. "Mayor, I need you to do me a favour!"

Meanwhile, Zeke, who was on the other end of the call, showed no signs of remorse or fear. He behaved casually, as though he paid no heed to Gavin's threat.

Darren asked cautiously, "Mr. Williams, what should we do next?"

"I heard Oakheart City's mayor is a relative of the Forrest Family from the Riverdale District! I'm afraid even Mr. Schneider won't be able to sort things out if he tries to interfere!"

Lacey expressed her concern as well, "Zeke, should we send Franky back? Let's give in to them if it's necessary, okay?"

Zeke replied with a smile on his face, "Don't worry! He's just a mayor! I'll bring him down and get rid of him if necessary!"

Darren couldn't barely hold in his laughter.

He's a freaking mayor! Do you really think you can bring him down as you wish?

Perhaps the Forrest Family from Riverdale District

isn't capable of such a crazy thing either!

Zeke reached for his phone and called Sole Wolf. "I need your help. Please get rid of Oakheart City's mayor for me."

"Alright. Apart from that, I've finally figured out what's going on regarding the previous order from you," replied Sole Wolf.

Zeke immediately asked again, "Oh? Who's the mastermind behind the rumours? Why does he want us dead?"



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Sole Wolf replied, "It's Hades. The one from the capital!"

He continued, "Hades's the most prominent underworld figure which reigns over the whole of Rivermouth! Perhaps he's coming after us to get his revenge because we have taken over the underworld forces of Oakheart City."

Zeke had an evil grin on his face when he heard Sole Wolf's words.

Hades? What a brilliant guy! He's trying to get rid of us through the Forrest Family?

Too bad! He's chosen an incapable one to come after me.

In actual fact, Hades can barely harm me, let alone those inferior to him!

It's fine! Since he's decided to come after me, I should return the favour to prove myself!

Otherwise, they might misperceive me as a weakling!

I'll return the favour to you this time! I'll get rid of you and take over your domain!

Zeke replied, "Mm. I understand!"

"Don't worry about it. I just need you to get going with your next task."

“Alright, Zeke,” replied Sole Wolf.

Sole Wolf departed immediately after he hung up his call. He rushed towards Oakheart City's governmental administrative centre.

A governmental executive's vehicle passed by his vehicle right when he was approaching the administrative centre. The other party was speeding away as well.

He was certain it was none other than Oakheart City's mayor in the said vehicle after he took a peek at the registered vehicle license plate.

Sole Wolf made a sharp U-turn and went after the said vehicle.

He fully utilized the worn-out Santana and managed to reach a speed of a hundred and fifty kilometres per hour on a run-down road.

Sole Wolf had caught up with the governmental executive's ride within ten minutes. In fact, he was driving side by side with the said vehicle.

He made a sharp U-turn in front of the governmental executive's ride, forcing them to come to a halt.

A hefty man in a complete tuxedo set walked out of the car with a grim expression on his face.

He was none other than Oakheart City's mayor.

The mayor rushed towards the Santana. He removed Sole Wolf from his seat right after he opened the vehicle's door.

“You damned thing! Don't you know how to drive properly? Are you freaking blind?”

“F*** you! I'm currently in a hurry! Otherwise, I'll definitely finish you off right now!”

Sole Wolf asked with a grin on his face, “Are you the mayor?”

“Hmph! It seems like you're not dumb! Get on your knees and beg for mercy immediately! I don't have time to waste with you anymore!” The mayor sneered.

Sole Wolf replied, “As a governmental executive, you've been caught breaking the law by driving above the speed limit! Apart from that, you've offended me, your supervisor!”

“I'm here to inform you of the fact that you've been terminated.”

The mayor broke into laughter despite the extreme anger boiling in him. “Who the hell are you? You must have lost your mind, right? Who gave you the audacity to get full of yourself in front of me?”

Sole Wolf reached for the official document he had with him and showed it to the mayor. “This is what's given me the audacity to get full of myself

in front of you.”

The mayor shuddered vigorously and went weak in his knees after he took a peek at the document. He fell to the ground.

The almighty general!

Damn it! Wasn't he only supposed to be in Oakheart City in a few more days? Why the hell did he show up out of nowhere?

Why the heck did he come after me?

I'm doomed! I'm a goner!

...

Gavin hurriedly gathered a bunch of men, and they made their way to Oakheart City.

He decided to call Zeke again because he was afraid Zeke would finish Franky off while he was on his way to Oakheart City.

“Zeke, the mayor will arrive soon!”

“You better behave until the mayor shows up!”

“Otherwise, I can't do anything if he decides to kill you!”

Zeke replied nonchalantly, “I'm afraid his presence won't change the outcome.”

Gavin asked, "What do you mean?"

Zeke replied, "I mean, I've already gotten rid of him. He's but an ordinary citizen, no longer a governmental executive."

Gavin sneered in return, "It seems like you're a professional when it comes to lying, aren't you?"

In the meantime, Gavin's secretary, who was by his side, received a call.

She picked up the call immediately. "Hello?"

Before long, Gavin's secretary's face turned pale as she dropped her phone.

"Mr. Forrest, s-something's wrong..."

Gavin, who was irritated, turned around and glared at her. "Calm down! Stop freaking yourself out! What's going on?"

His secretary told him, "I just received the news of Oakheart City's mayor's termination."

"What!" Gavin yelled in disbelief, dropping his phone.

He covered his chest with his hands as he collapsed on the car seat.

The mayor has really been terminated!

Does that mean Zeke's the one behind it?

Just how influential is Zeke?

Which prominent figure has my son offended?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Gavin's secretary was utterly shocked and ordered the driver, "Hurry up! We have to rush over to the hospital! Mr. Forrest is going through a heart attack!"

The driver had been sweating profusely ever since Gavin passed out. "What about Mr. Forrest Jr.? He's still waiting for us!"

The secretary suggested, "Forget about it! I'll bring Mr. Forrest to the hospital. I need you to head over and save Mr. Forrest Jr."

...

In the meantime, both Lacey and Darren, were shocked when they figured out what had happened.

Seriously? All it takes to terminate Oakheart City's mayor is an order from Zeke?

H-How! Just how capable and influential is Zeke?

Zeke instructed, "Darren! I need you to get ready in two days!"

"We'll head over to Riverdale District and take over the underworld forces in two days!"

Riverdale District had always been Hades' domain.

Zeke had made up his mind and decided to make a move against Hades. He wanted Hades to come

after him.

He couldn't possibly get rid of him if Hades hadn't offended him. Hence, Zeke decided to set Hades up.

Darren finally returned to his senses. "Huh?"

Zeke's indeed an influential man in Oakheart City, but does his influence extend beyond Oakheart City, all the way to the Riverdale District?

Darren couldn't help but think that Zeke was getting full of himself.

Zeke got up and held Lacey in between his arms, "Let's go, Lacey."

Lacey nodded and snuggled in between Zeke's arms.

Darren stopped Zeke right when he was about to walk out of the hotel. "Mr. Williams, I heard you're in the middle of establishing Linton Group. Food and beverage are part of the group's venture, right?"

"I'll present The Nightingale to you! Please incorporate it as part of the Linton Group! All the underworld affairs have been keeping me occupied lately. I have no time to manage The Nightingale on my own."

Zeke nodded. "I'll get someone to deal with you

soon.”

Summer, the general manager of Grand Millennium Hotel, was the one in charge of Linton Group's food and beverage venture.

Zeke would have Summer handle the required procedure regarding the takeover.

Darren pointed at Franky and asked, “Mr. Williams, what should we do with him?”

“Strip him naked and dispose of him immediately!” ordered Zeke.

“Alright!” replied Darren.

Such an action meant Zeke would be officially waging war on the Forrest Family soon.

The Forest Family had been one of the top conglomerates in Riverdale District throughout the past few decades.

Darren was concerned. He couldn't help but wonder if Zeke was truly capable of getting rid of them once and for all.

Shirleen curled up at the corner with her eyes widened as she stared at Zeke in disbelief.

Lacey's husband is too powerful!

He's not merely the leader of the underworld! He's

the one who reigns above all!

Damn it, Emily! How dare you lie to me!

That's right! Where is Emily? She has been nowhere to be seen ever since the beginning of this feud!

Shirleen finally realized how Emily had made use of her to take the blame on her behalf.

She regretted her actions because she should have had flattered Lacey instead of Emily.

Darren proceeded to strip Franky naked while Shirleen lost herself in her thoughts.

Darren got rid of Franky and disposed of him at a random street nearby.

Franky had yet to regain consciousness despite what he had gone through.

He had been rendered unconscious due to the excruciating sensation he felt when he lost his legs and his ability to produce offspring. His scalp had been skinned off by the ceiling fan as well.

The presence of a naked man in the middle of nowhere attracted many passersby's attention.

The onlookers surrounded Franky, causing traffic congestion as a result.

A fleet of cars was blocked by the onlookers.

That particular fleet of cars was none other than the men Gavin had gathered.

However, Gavin wasn't part of the fleet anymore because he had been rushed to the hospital due to his heart's condition.

The leader of the fleet was his driver, Samuel.

Samuel got anxious and honked repetitively, but the onlookers refused to get out of his way.

He was in the middle of a race against time, as Franky would be greatly endangered as time went by.

He could no longer keep his cool and stepped on the accelerator, trying to force his way through the onlookers.

The onlookers scolded him when Samuel actually ran his car through and forced his way through them without any hesitation.

Finally, he made it through the onlookers. He was greeted by a naked man in the middle of the road.

Samuel had no idea that the naked man was none other than Franky because Franky had his back facing him.

He was sweating profusely as he was anxious deep down. "Damn it! What a jinx!"

“Let's ignore him. Drive past him right away!”

Samuel thought the naked man was dead. He drove past Franky's pair of legs as a result because he was in a hurry.

However, a familiar voice yelled the moment their car made it through. “Arghhh! My legs...”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Samuel was dumbfounded and thought to himself. *That sounds like Mr. Forrest Jr.! Does that mean he's nearby?*

Samuel got out of the car to check on the surrounding immediately.

He could still hear Franky's voice as he tried to reach out for help over and over again. "M-My legs... I-It hurts... S-Save me..."

Samuel's heart skipped a beat when he looked in the direction of the voice.

The owner of the voice was none other than the naked man in the middle of the street.

What the hell? Does that mean Mr. Forrest Jr.'s that naked man?

Samuel was on the verge of breaking down when he figured out what was going on. He rushed over to check on the naked man.

It's him! It's Mr. Forrest Jr.!

He's been stripped naked and disposed of!

I've also accidentally ran over him!

Samuel felt depressed all of a sudden.

Meanwhile, the onlookers finally figured out the naked man's identity. He was none other than

Franky.

“Huh? Isn't that Mr. Forrest Jr.?”

“Mr. Forrest Jr.? Seriously? Are you talking about the one from the Forrest Family, the top conglomerate of Riverdale District?”

“Duh! Do you know another Forrest Family apart from the one from Riverdale District?”

The onlookers' minds were blown away. “Holy shit! The descendant of such a prominent family has been beaten up to a pulp! Whoever did this didn't bother to hold back against him!”

“I mean, even his driver ran over him too!”

“This will definitely make the headlines soon!”

The Forrest Family went viral overnight.

The descendant of Riverdale District's top conglomerate had been beaten up to a pulp and rendered infertile for the rest of his life. He had been stripped naked before being disposed of in the middle of the street. His driver had also accidentally run through him.

The Forrest Family had been greatly humiliated and turned into a joke over what Franky had gone through.

In the meantime, everyone noticed an uprising

talent called Zeke.

Who the hell is Zeke? What sort of trump cards does he have up his sleeves? Who gave him the audacity to make a move against someone from the Forrest Family?

Gavin had been brought back to life after a series of operations.

However, he could barely remain calm and almost go through another series of heart attacks when he heard the news.

“Zeke! You're now the greatest foe of the Forrest Family! I'll drag you down to hell with me!”

“Samuel, tell everyone from the Forrest Family that we will be waging war on Zeke soon!” He ordered.

“Right away!” replied Samuel.

...

Meanwhile, at Grand Imperial Tea House.

Hades took his time to enjoy his cup of tea while he went through a stack of documents.

That particular stack of documents detailed everything about the conflict Zeke had had with Franky.

Hades handed the stack of documents over to

Eclipse after he had gone through the details.

Eclipse took over the stack of documents and went through it as well.

Hades heaved a long sigh. "He's such a reckless young man! It seems like he isn't aware of the possible consequences in store for him due to his actions!"

"I'm sure he's definitely no match for the Forrest Family in terms of resources! However, he still decided to offend the Forrest Family to get rid of the grudges he's been holding against them..."

"Sigh... He's such a fool! A fool like him won't last long in our industry! It seems like luck isn't on his side after all!"

Eclipse had yet to voice out his opinion regarding this particular matter. He asked in return, "Is Zeke related to the mayor's termination?"

Hades shook his head and said, "I have already figured out the reason behind the mayor's termination. He was terminated because he had offended the almighty general. It has nothing to do with Zeke at all!"

Eclipse knitted his eyebrows. "Does that mean the almighty general has already arrived in Oakheart City?"

Hades nodded. "It seems like it!"

He received a call from someone the moment he finished his sentence.

Hades' personal contact number was known only to a limited few. Each and every one of them had a prominent background.

He picked up the call immediately.

Logan, who was on the other end of the call, urged, "I'm sure you guys have gotten word of the almighty general's arrival, right?"

"Since he's currently in Oakheart City, the welcome ceremony will be held soon. You have to speed things up and earn the rights to oversee the construction of Love in a Fallen City!"

"Master doesn't want anyone else to have the rights to carry out the welcome ceremony! He'll be displeased if someone gets ahead of us and takes over the rights to oversee the construction of Love in a Fallen City!"

Logan hung up the call right after he finished his sentence. He gave Hades not time to respond to his words.

Hades massaged his temples when he felt a throbbing sensation coming from his head. "Sigh! I'm afraid you'll have to make this particular trip this time! We need to provoke the Forrest Family further! Provoking them is a vital step because we need the Forrest Family to employ every single

resource they have to go after Zeke.”

Eclipse nodded before he got up and left.

Eclipse, who had been staying out of everyone's sight throughout the past decade, would launch another series of attacks soon.

Things would never be the same in Rivermouth anymore.

However, Hades and Eclipse did not know they were currently being targeted by Zeke.

Zeke was determined and would make a move against Hades and Eclipse to get his revenge.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Meanwhile, Zeke brought Lacey to the hospital and checked her into a VIP ward.

Under the influence of alcohol, Lacey was out like a light.

Seeing as her clothes were stained with drinks and blood, Zeke wanted to help her change.

Yet, the thought of removing Lacey's clothes made him blush.

At that moment, a small voice in his head kept chiding him.

“Zeke Williams, you're the Great Marshal! How can you take advantage of her? Humph! Lacey must be feeling very uncomfortable now, and yet you're still having all those dirty thoughts. The first time must happen when it's consensual. Isn't it a waste of both of your first times if you act so sneakily?”

In the end, Zeke got a young nurse to change Lacey's clothes while he waited outside.

After a short while, the young nurse shouted from inside, “Hey, you, come in.”

Zeke thought she was done changing Lacey's clothes, so he quickly opened the door and walked in.

He was flabbergasted, as Lacey had been stripped down to her underwear.

Her fair and tender skin shone like moonlight over water, while her curvy body formed a perfect S-curve figure.

Images of Mashimaro printed on her underwear were luring Zeke. It got his heart pumping, filling him with a burning desire.

Lacey's figure was more perfect than he thought.

I think this is the most beautiful sight in the world.

The young nurse said, "Hey, you, what are you doing standing there in a daze? Come over and help me dress her."

Zeke was put on the spot. "Huh? I think it's kinda inappropriate..."

"Are you not her man? What's so inappropriate about it?" the young nurse asked.

Zeke slapped his own head. "Oh yea, I am her man."

Without any scruples, he rushed to help Lacey.

He blushed as soon as he touched Lacey's body which was tender, warm, and had a nice smell.

Zeke could swear that he had never touched something so perfect in his life.

He really hoped time would stop right at that

moment.

After helping Lacey get dressed, the young nurse looked at Zeke in disbelief. "My gosh. I can't believe you're actually blushing while changing your wife's clothes."

"Nonsense. There's no such thing," Zeke hurriedly denied. "T-This is just an alcohol flush reaction. You know, I had some drinks, and the alcohol makes the capillaries dilate, causing a flush..."

"I'm just joking. Why are you so nervous? Or you're still a virgin? Hahaha!" joked the young nurse before she turned to leave.

Zeke felt his skin burning when he touched his face.

Damn, I'm the Great Marshal, and yet, I was teased by a young nurse. I should tear down this hospital...

Ugh, forget it, this Heartland Hospital is now under Linton Group. I'd better not tear it down. Otherwise, Lacey and Daniel will surely get all worked up.

The most torturous thing in the world isn't the lack of appreciation toward a precious love but the inability to unleash one's desire... Ah, it's killing me!

Distracted, Zeke stayed by the hospital bed all night, barely getting any sleep.

No man would be able to sleep with such a

beautiful woman next to him.

It wasn't until almost seven o'clock the next day that Lacey slowly regained consciousness.

The fluids given to her last night had worked as she was no longer drunk.

Seeing Zeke, who was sitting by her bed with dark circles under his eyes, Lacey felt bad. "Silly man, you stayed up all night, didn't you?"

Zeke replied affectionately, "How could I fall asleep when you haven't sobered up?"

"You silly man." Lacey was touched, her eyes reddening.

She tried to sit up. After she managed to do so, she found that her clothes had been changed.

She blushed instantly and said through gritted teeth, "Zeke Williams, did you change my clothes last night? You pervert."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“What? No, no.” Zeke hurriedly explained, “I asked a nurse to help you change. I didn't touch nor even look at you.”

“Really?” Lacey grew angrier. “Y-You're worse than a pervert. Am I so unattractive that you didn't even want to look at me?”

Zeke hastily replied, “No, of course not. You're really very attractive. You have to be confident about yourself. In fact, both the nurse and I helped you change yesterday...”

Lacey scolded, “So you did see it. Argh, I'm gonna kill you...”

Zeke was rendered speechless.

Women are so hard to understand.

How do you want me to answer you?

“So, tell me now, who exactly are you? How can the mayor be replaced so easily by you? Don't you dare lie to me.”

Zeke was cautious when he crafted his words. “If I told you I'm the Great Marshal, would you believe me?”

“Yeah, right.” Lacey rolled her eyes. “I said, tell me the truth.”

Zeke sighed, “Well, everyone knows now. The

mayor speeded in front of the almighty general and even insulted him. Infuriated, the almighty general removed him from his position. So, it was nothing but a pure chance for me.”

“That's more like it. I've been thinking about it. Even Evan doesn't have such an influence.” Lacey nodded her head in agreement. “By the way, what's the relationship between you and Evan? He seems to be afraid of you.”

Zeke flashed her a mysterious smile. “Have you forgotten about my identity as the Divine Doctor? Evan suffers from a strange disease which can only be treated by me, so of course, he's afraid of me.”

Lacey gave it some thought before she said, feeling sceptical, “I have indeed heard that Evan's suffering from a strange disease. But, is it really that simple?”

“What good is it for me to lie to you?” Zeke hurriedly changed the subject. “Are you hungry? I'll buy you breakfast.”

Lacey replied angrily, “Hmph, I want dumplings from West Street and soy milk from East Street. Get them for me.”

“Sure, no problem,” Zeke agreed.

He quickly left the ward as if he was running for his life.

Upon looking at him leaving hastily, Lacey flushed with a smile of happiness tugging at the corners of her mouth.

This guy actually blushed just now.

He must still be a virgin.

At this moment, the young nurse who helped Lacey change last night came in.

“You're up, Ms. Hinton,” the nurse greeted her with a smile. “Are you feeling better?”

Lacey nodded her head. “Yeah, I'm fine now.”

While tidying up the bedclothes, the young nurse gossiped with Lacey excitedly. “Ms. Hinton, you haven't done it with your boyfriend, have you? I'm sure he's still a virgin.”

“Why do you ask?” Lacey blushed as they were talking about such a private matter.

The young nurse giggled. “He shuddered just touching you yesterday. I can guarantee that he must have cum.”

“Come where?” Lacey asked, confused.

“Ejaculated, I mean.” The young nurse laughed and turned to leave.

Lacey's cheeks turned even redder.

Lowering her head, she wondered if she should find an opportunity to reward this guy.

Zeke went to West Street to buy dumplings and then to East Street to buy soy milk.

In fact, there were many soy milk sellers on West Street as well, but Lacey wanted him to buy soy milk on East Street. *She must be taking the opportunity to get back at me.*

When he was on East Street looking for soy milk, someone suddenly called his name. "Zeke Williams? Why are you here, Mr. Williams?"

Zeke turned around and found out that it was his old classmate, Summer Mills.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Summer was now working for Zeke in the management of the Grand Millenium Hotel, which was under Linton Group.

When Zeke had been condemned by his old classmates Dylan and Olivia last time, Summer had put in a good word for him. Out of gratitude, Zeke had given her one percent of Grand Millenium shares.

Summer was now standing behind a breakfast stall selling food, which surprised Zeke.

He wondered why she was here selling breakfast when the one percent shares of Grand Millenium Hotel she owned was worth at least ten million.

As if reading Zeke's mind, Summer explained, "Mr. Williams, this isn't my stall, it's my mom's. She left to deal with something, so I'm helping her look after it. Don't worry, she'll be back soon. I won't be late for work."

Nodding his head, Zeke asked, "Your mom, Ruby? Isn't she a teacher teaching the Chinese language? Why is she selling breakfast now?"

Summer's face clouded over. "Alas, my mom has offended the school principal and was framed by him for accepting gifts from the parents of the students. So, she was expelled. In order to make ends meet, she has to come here to sell breakfast."

After being lost in thought for a while, Zeke suggested, “Do you want me to ask the school to clear your mom's name?”

“Thank you for your kindness Mr. Williams, but there's no need for that,” Summer declined with a smile.

She knew Zeke's influence was mainly in the business field and that he only had a few acquaintances in the education field. Hence, she didn't want to put Zeke in a tight spot.

Without taking it personally, Zeke replied, “Okay. Just let me know if you need my help.” He added, “By the way, I wanted to talk to you about my new acquisition, The Nightingale—”

He was about to ask Summer to take over The Nightingale, but to his surprise, Summer suddenly put her arm through his.

Zeke was taken aback.

Summer said nervously, “Can you please do me a favour and be my boyfriend, Mr. Williams?”

Zeke was lost for words.

So it seems girls nowadays are so straightforward... They can simply ask a man to be their boyfriends in broad daylight.

It's true that a man must learn how to protect

himself when he's outside.

Zeke hurriedly refused, “Summer, you know I have a wife.”

“No, Mr. Williams, you've misunderstood me. I'm just asking you to pretend to be my boyfriend for just a while. Look at the two people heading here. That woman is my mom, and the younger-looking fat man is the man my mom wants to introduce to me. I don't like that Humpty, but my mom insists I marry him. If you don't help me now, my mom will surely force me to be engaged to him. I'd rather die than marry that Humpty.”

Zeke looked in the direction where Summer was pointing and saw her mother, Ruby Baxter, approaching them with a potbellied man.

After the potbellied man said something, Ruby was smiling from ear to ear.

Under Summer's pleading, Zeke had no choice but to agree reluctantly. “Umm, okay, I'll help you out.”

“Thank you, Mr. Williams.” Summer was over the moon.

Ruby and Humpty noticed Summer holding a strange man's arm as they walked up to them. They instantly looked displeased.

Ruby pulled Summer away from Zeke. “Summer, who is this man? Why are you holding his arm?”

“Mom, he's my boyfriend!” Summer replied.

“Boyfriend!” Humpty's face turned grimmer as he sized Zeke up with a murderous look in his eyes.

Meanwhile, Ruby was also shocked as she looked at Zeke.

After just a glance, Ruby asked in surprise, “Hey, aren't you Zeke Williams, the ex-convict? You've been released, haven't you?”

“Ex-convict?” With eyes wide open, Humpty looked at Zeke in disbelief.

*Does Summer think I'm worse than an ex-convict?
Gross!*

To clear up the misunderstanding, Ruby quickly explained to Humpty, “Yeah, he's my former student, Zeke Williams. After graduation, he was arrested and sent to prison. So he's an ex-convict now. Don't worry Charlie, I'll never let my daughter be with this ex-convict. You're the only man suitable to be my son-in-law.”

Humpty's worries greatly dissipated. “Don't be angry, Ruby. I believe Summer is simply being fooled by the sweet words of this ex-convict now. She will soon see his true colours and break up with him.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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