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“Cut off the power!” Daryl Chadley screamed his order, “Hurry and cut their power! Do I need to teach you people everything?”

“It’s no use. They’ve already backed up all the data to the cloud.”

Crap!

Daryl’s vision blurred, and he almost passed out on the spot.

We’re completely out of moves! We’re completely at the mercy of the hackers!

Such a blow was almost too much to handle.

He ground his teeth together with terrifying force. “Is this your doing, Williams?”

“Stop the car now! Otherwise, I’ll take this to the proper authorities, and you’ll be finished!”

Zeke Williams casually rebuffed him, “Given that you don’t have any evidence, you better keep your mouth shut. Moreover, I guarantee you won’t find a shred of evidence no matter how hard you try. So I suggest that you best be getting on dumping all your private shares and cut your losses while you still can. It’s either that or watch as your life crumbles to shambles.”

Damn it!

How could I have neglected this?

Daryl scrambled to pull out his phone and dump

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all the shares he had purchased privately.

When he was done, he dialed the police without hesitation.

“I’m calling the police now, Williams. Your arrogance is about to come to an end.”

“You’re suspected of committing corporate crimes amounting upwards of 100 billion. Jail time would be the least of your punishment! I’ll make you regret ever crossing me.”

Zeke Williams was nonplussed as he murmured, “We shall wait and see.”

He looked towards Lacey Hinton. “Lacey, since we’re renewing our marriage today, I’ve prepared a big present for you.”

“What big present?” Lacey asked, puzzled.

Zeke smirked mysteriously and replied, “You’ll find out later.”

“You haven’t changed at all, still always pulling some secret stunt!” Lacey huffed in exasperation.

The crowd once again buzzed with whisperings.

“How strange. Everyone is in a mad rush to get rid of their shares, so why is this ‘King of Darkness’ still gobbling them up?”

“Where is King of Darkness from? Is he brain-damaged somehow?”

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“I don’t know. But who cares about him? As long as we keep ourselves out of it.”

About ten minutes later, the police were still nowhere to be seen. Instead, a group of soldiers arrived on the scene.

Judging from their uniforms, they held relatively high rankings.

The head of the group turned out to be General Cosmopolis, Wolf’s Greed.

Right then, Daryl’s heart pounded in his chest.

Due to the immense amount of funds involved in the business crimes, the police were out of depth. Hence, the military was sent in instead.

Daryl rushed to greet Wolf’s Greed, “Hello Colonel, can I ask if your visit is in relation to the matter of Linton Group?”

Wolf’s Greed nodded.

Daryl was overcome with emotion. “Colonel, it was all the doing of this scumbag. Take him away quickly.”

He pointed accusingly at Zeke Williams.

At that moment, Wolf’s Greed jogged over to Zeke, and Daryl erupted into laughter.

His laughter encapsulated every ounce of joy he could muster.

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That's what you get for messing with me! Your life is over!

Wolf's Greed ran up to Zeke Williams and chucked, "Who would've guessed that we'd meet this soon again."

Zeke snapped, "Wipe that smile off your face. You're here on official business, so act like it. Be more serious."

Yes, sir!

Wolf's Greed saluted him before turning to address the crowd. "Whoever is currently in charge of Linton Group better step out now!"

Daryl felt as though someone had slapped him across the face. His head was ringing as he stood there in stunned silence, his eyes close to bulging out of their sockets.

What the hell is going on?

Why did the colonel address Zeke Williams so casually?

Aside from that, Zeke Williams even dared to scold the man!

This means he has to be a general at the very least!

Crap, how was I supposed to know Lacey Hinton's husband was such a bigshot?

Why didn't she just mention her husband was a

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general?

Wolf's Greed continued, "I'm not going to repeat myself!"

Instantly, fear drained the strength from Daryl's legs, and he fell to his knees.



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“Sir, I... I’m the current head of Linton Group.”

“Daryl Chadley, do you admit to your crimes?”
Wolf’s Greed boomed.

Daryl was completely shocked. “Wait. I... What crimes did I commit?”

Wolf’s Greed answered immediately, “You’re suspected of stealing military funds as well as coercing the representative from the military. Is it clear enough for you now?”

“I... I didn’t” Daryl Chadley stammered.

“I’ve been framed. Since when did I steal military funds and coerce the representative from the military?”

“The military seized control of some of Linton Group’s shares, but you used underhanded methods to steal them back. Doesn’t it count as usurping military assets? Moreover, the previous head of Linton Group’s board of directors, Lacey, is the military representative. Do you deny having any ill intent towards her?”

Everyone knew that Linton Group was partnering with Reinz Pharmaceutical.

Reinz Pharmaceutical used technological means to gain part of the shares of Linton Group’s medical branch. Although the shares only amounted to 0.5% and could be regarded as negligible, it was enough to secure the noose around Daryl Chadley’s neck.

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Presently, Daryl was but a mass of fear in human form.

Either one of his charges was enough to have him tried at the military court.

One step in, and I'm never coming out.

"Lacey... Ms. Hinton, I was wrong. I admit I was wrong." Daryl anxiously pleaded with Lacey Hinton.

"I shouldn't have treated you so badly. I deserve anything you want to do to me. Scold me, hit me, so long as it appeases you. Just please don't send me to military jail. I'm begging you."

Lacey sighed and replied, "No one can escape the long arm of the law. No one is exempted from being punished for their wrongdoings. You need to reap what you sowed."

With that said, Daryl had nothing to offer in return, and he was promptly led away by Wolf's Greed.

After Daryl Chadley's departure, the site was significantly quieter.

Zeke Williams handed his phone to Lacey Hinton with a smile on his face. "Lacey, here's a gift for you to commemorate us resuming our marriage."

"You're giving me some lousy phone?" Lacey asked, slightly upset.

"Of course not. Look at what's on the phone." Zeke said with amusement.

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Lacey peered at the phone and was instantly dumbfounded.

“Oh my god, you’re the King of Darkness who bought all of Linton Group’s shares. You... You’re giving me the shares?”

Zeke replied, “Linton Group was built by us from the ground up in the first place. I told you, I won’t allow anyone to take what’s ours!”

Lacey nodded solemnly. “We started Linton Group from nothing and made it into the industry leader it is today. This company is the fruit of our efforts. From now on, I shall protect the company with my life.”

“Silly girl. Linton Group is but peanuts to me!”
Zeke gently caressed Lacey’s long locks.

“But you’re my whole world. How could you stake my entire world on mere peanuts?”

Lacey’s cheeks flushed.

I’ve never heard more romantic words.

“Let’s go back, Lacey.” Zeke said.

“Okay!”

“Let me go with you guys.” Wolf’s Greed quickly suggested.

“Just in case you need me, I’ll only be an arm’s length away.”

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Zeke nodded in agreement. “Okay. I’m heading to the Linton Group now. The reaper’s come to collect a little debt, so it’ll be good for you to come along. I may need your help.”

“Sure!” Wolf’s Greed agreed gleefully.

It was only when they arrived at the entrance did they remember their initial reason for being there. They wanted to renew their marriage.

All of their personal documents were still with the clerk at the registration counter.

The two of them were about to turn back and retrieve their papers when they spotted the clerk dashing towards them.



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“Congratulations on your marriage, Mr. Williams and Ms. Hinton. Here are your documents and your new marriage certificate. Please keep them safe.”

The clerk bowed respectfully to the pair, his body almost folded completely in half.

His display of utmost respect was due to his discovery of Zeke Williams’s SSSSS class file indication on every one of his documents other than his basic identification.

Only the most powerful were worthy of having such an impressive status indicated on their file.

When the couple left, the people in the queue burst out in titters of discussion.

“What’s up with that guy? What kind of status does he have?”

“Even the general addressed him in such a casual manner.”

“He must be a general and a high-ranking one at that.”

“That’s not the point. The point is even the military owns a part of Linton Group’s shares.”

“With the military behind them, Linton Group is infallible. They’ll be worth more than gold.”

“Damn, I better buy up Linton Group’s shares while I can. I can already see the impending spike in their value.”

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The crowd could no longer be concerned with getting married and were all in a mad rush to purchase Linton Group's shares.

Shortly after, the news of Linton Group having military backing had spread like wildfire.

Linton Group's shares became a hot commodity, and their value experienced surge after surge.

At the same time, Zeke and Lacey had almost arrived at Linton Group.

Zeke instructed Wolf's Greed, "Have some men stand guard outside. Orders will soon follow."

"Yes, sir!"

Zeke wanted to see the kind of treatment Lacey received at Linton Group.

The good shall be rewarded, while the evil will be punished!

At that moment, Linton Group was basically a ghost town.

As they walked, only a few employees could be seen milling around and chatting.

There was not a single sign of anyone from the management.

They learned the vice president, Fred Jenson, had called all upper management staff and shareholders to a meeting after asking around.

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Without needing to ask, they knew it was held to discuss the hacking of the company's accounts.

"Let's go to the meeting room." Zeke pulled Lacey along and made a beeline for the top floor.

In the meeting room, every member of upper management staff and the shareholders were present.

They hung their heads and heaved heavy sighs. None uttered a word.

Fred Jenson, the vice president, was exploding in fury as he sat at the head of the table.

Linton Group was currently split into two camps.

The first group was made up of new employees who were in support of Daryl Chadley.

These new employees were all affiliated with Daryl in some way. Despite only fulfilling the simplest of tasks, they were granted high-ranking positions.

The most prominent member was Fred Jenson.

The second camp was headed by the original employees of the company who were in support of Lacey.

Just like Lacey, they were being shot down by the Daryl Chadley camp.

In order to survive, they had no choice but to return to work for the Linton Group.

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Although they did most of the legwork, they were only able to earn pennies.

Dawn Castaneda and Nancy Hinton were part of this camp.

Just then, Fred Jenson rapped on the table.

“The hacking of the company’s accounts is due to the failure of the IT department! I’ve already contacted the Bank Regulatory Bureau, and they’ll be here soon. The IT and Accounting departments are to cooperate with their investigation. If I discover that the leak came from any one of you, I’ll make you wish you were dead!”

The head of the IT department, a bespectacled man, jumped to his feet. “Mr. Jenson, we’re innocent!” He cried anxiously.

“The company’s internal system is protected by the country’s most complicated encryption. Without the encryption key, not even the most skilled hacker could make it past our defenses. I suspect it had to be the work of a mole.”

“Who leaked the encryption key?” Fred asked in surprise.

“Who outside of the IT department has knowledge of the encryption key?”

The bespectacled man answered, “Besides the people in the IT department, Lacey Hinton, Dawn Castaneda, and Nancy Hinton know the encryption key. I believe that no one from the IT

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department would leak the encryption key. Thus, the truth can only be...”

The gaze of every person present drifted to Dawn Castaneda and Nancy Hinton.



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Nancy and Dawn were astounded.

Although they knew about the encryption key, they would never reveal it.

However, before they could defend themselves, Fred cut in with a barrage of reproves.

“Despicable rats! How could you do such a vile thing? Who knew you had such deplorable characters? You leaked the company’s encryption key and resulted in the company suffering immense losses. As such, you shall have to suffer the consequences!”

Dawn anxiously exclaimed, “Mr. Jenson, we’re innocent! You know what kind of people we are. There is no way we would commit such a wretched act.”

“Dawnie is right.” Nancy added.

“Moreover, the hackers nowadays are capable of hacking systems even without the encryption key. Thus, the encryption key might not even be leaked.”

Fred rebuked her, “There’s no need to explain anymore. All you can do is wait to receive your sentencing.”

Upon hearing his words, Dawn and Nancy were in the pits of despair.

They were certain Fred Jenson was intentionally pushing the blame onto them.

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He was merely condemning the scapegoats.

In just mere seconds, their positions had plummeted from being senior-level employees to criminals.

Such overwhelming desolation was pushing them to the brink of tears.

At this moment, the door of the meeting room flew open.

Next thing they knew, Zeke Williams and Lacey Hinton marched in.

Fred was not acquitted with Zeke.

However, when he spotted Lacey, he sneered angrily, “You’re finally back. I thought you had fled in fear of being caught for your crimes. Lacey Hinton, I’m hereby seeing you for leaking the company’s encryption key. Your actions caused the company to incur enormous losses. You’ll soon be punished by the law.”

Lacey shot a glare at Fred but did not address him. Instead, she walked over to Dawn and Nancy.

The two senior-level employees, Dawn and Nancy, were blubbering uncontrollably.

Zeke Williams!

He’s back!

After missing for three years, who could have anticipated his return at such a crucial moment?

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Lady Luck is truly shining down on us.

He'll definitely be able to save us from this.

Heck, he might even be able to get Linton Group back too.

Zeke nodded slightly to the original employees and threw them a look of assurance.

It worked exceedingly well.

Previously, Zeke had pulled Linton Group out of many sticky situations. He had proved himself capable of pulling off incredible feats through sheer grit and determination.

He'll be able to do it again for sure!

"Zeke, they're bullying us." Dawn sobbed.

"You have to fight for our justice!" Nancy rose to her feet as well.

Zeke offered them a comforting smile. "Don't worry. What goes around comes around."

Standing at one end, Fred shot daggers at Zeke. "You're Lacey's ex-husband who disappeared for three years? Please leave. The families of employees are not allowed to enter the meeting room."

"How dare you chase me out?" Zeke rebuked.

"What a joke. I'm the vice president of the company. Why wouldn't I dare to?" Fred scoffed.

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“Unfortunately, you don’t have the right. I’m actually the original president of the company. How could a vice president chase out the rightful president?” Zeke challenged.

Fred sneered in derision.

“Sir, are you still living in a fantasy? We live in different times. We have long bought over the Linton Group. Hence, your name no longer holds any weight here.”

“Who said so?” Zeke smirked.

He fished out his phone and showed its content to the people present.

What is this?

The crowd was puzzled as they scanned the screen carefully.

Seconds later, the scene dissolved into chaos.

The King of Darkness, who bought up all shares of Linton Group while they were still cheap, was none other than Zeke Williams himself!



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Hence, Zeke Williams was now the official president of the company.

After the initial shock had passed, Fred quickly gathered his senses.

“I understand now. I got it. This was all a scheme cooked up by the two of you. Lacey gave you the encryption key, which allowed you to hack into the company system. You were then able to buy large amounts of shares at low prices! But you counted your chickens before they hatched. There’s enough evidence to end the both of you.”

Zeke broke into a smile. “I personally designed Linton Group’s firewall, so I don’t need any encryption key to hack into the system. Besides, I confess this entire incident was orchestrated by me, and only me. But, I was only acting on military orders.”

What?

“Haha!”

The room dissolved into uproarious laughter.

It was ludicrous that the military would order Zeke to commit such an illegal endeavor.

He sure knows how to put on a performance.

Even Dawn and Nancy were gazing at him with a mixture of suspicion and disbelief.

“Don’t believe me? I’ll prove it to you.” Zeke announced.

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He pulled out his phone and called Wolf's Greed, "Come in."

"It doesn't matter who you call. Everyone present can testify you just admitted to hacking into the company's system and accused the military of puppeteering you. Your jail cell awaits." Fred threatened.

Zeke looked around the room. "Who would testify on behalf of Fred Jenson?"

Numerous hands shot up into the air. The expressions of the people they were connected to were twisted with scorching contempt.

Those who raised their hands all belonged to Daryl Chadley's camp.

"Good. I've noted all of you down." Zeke nodded.

"I hope none of you regret your decision."

All of a sudden, the door of the meeting room burst open forcefully.

A troop of soldiers charged in and surrounded the people present.

What's going on?

The crowd was astonished and jumped to their feet instinctively.

Why are soldiers here?

With so many stars on his shoulder, the leader is

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clearly a general!

Linton Group might be fairly powerful, but it's still not big enough to be a cause for concern for such high-ranking military officials.

Fred Jenson was bewildered, to say the least.

I called the Bank Regulatory Bureau, not the military.

Could it be that the funds involved are too large of a sum to be handled by the Bank Regulatory Bureau and were passed on to the military?

Fred tentatively approached Wolf's Greed. "Good afternoon, Colonel. Why are you..."

Wolf's Greed interrupted him mid-sentence, "Who is the vice president of the company?"

"I am." Fred anxiously answered.

"Get him." Wolf's Greed ordered.

His men immediately accosted Fred.

"Colonel, what did I do wrong? Why are you arresting me?" Fred asked, stunned.

"You stole military assets and bullied a military representative. Don't you think you deserve to be arrested?" Wolf's Greed's answered.

"What are you talking about? I didn't do it. I've been framed..." Fred whimpered.

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Nevertheless, Wolf's Greed could not be bothered to elaborate further. "Take him away."

"Wait, wait. I'm innocent." Fred wailed loudly.

"Daryl Chadley was the one who told me to do it. I was only following orders."

Screw it.

The only way I can save myself is to throw Daryl under the bus.

Wolf's Greed chuckled. "Is that so? But Daryl said he merely suggested the idea. You were the one who put the plan into action. Bring Daryl in."

Right then, a soldier quickly brought Daryl forward.

Upon the sight of Daryl's sorry state, Fred's heart sunk.

Crap. The boss was caught too!



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Daryl gritted his teeth and growled, “Damn you, Fred Jenson! How could you throw me under the bus like that? Go to hell!”

Before this, Daryl had clearly heard everything Fred had said from the other side of the door.

Fred’s face paled in fright. “Sir, I... I misspoke. Clyde Thisleton was the one who forced us to do it! You should go to him and force him to accept the consequences.”

Clyde Thisleton is the head of the Thisleton family and the son of Ares!

He’s even more powerful than regular generals!

Only he can save me now!

Daryl’s eyes lit up.

How could I have forgotten about Clyde Thisleton?

He’ll definitely deliver us from this.

Daryl urgently continued, “I swear we only did all this because Clyde Thisleton told us to. If you want to find the person responsible, he’s your man. If you’re unable to contact him, I can put you in touch.”

Zeke’s lip curled upwards slightly. “Let him go so he can contact him.”

Clyde Thisleton was arrested for ruining a military marriage long ago.

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Hence, when Daryl dialed Clyde Thisleton's number, it was to no avail.

No one picked up.

No matter how many times he tried, the other end of the call was never received.

Shit. What's going on?

Daryl was baffled.

"Can't get in touch with him? Why don't I bring you to meet him?" Zeke said.

"Put him in with Clyde Thisleton."

Instantly, Daryl and Fred were floored by Zeke's response.

Put us in with Clyde Thisleton?

Is Clyde Thisleton locked up?

What the hell? Clyde Thisleton should hold as much power as a general, at least.

Who would dare to take a general in?

Unless it was a... Five-star general!

This guy actually holds that much power?

How could we have gotten on the wrong side of such a person?!

Without much time wasted, Daryl and Fred were

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led away.

Zeke then turned his attention to the remainder of the Daryl Chadley camp.

“I heard the lot of you are just money-grubbing burdens who don’t contribute any real work. Despite this, you’ve been allowed to take significant cuts. I suggest you return all the money you’ve taken - in twice the amount. Or so help me that your names will appear on the suspect list for white-collar crimes by tomorrow morning.”

The members of the Daryl Chadley camp hung their heads in silence, visibly resigned to the punishment they were facing.

They knew they were dealing with a force to be reckoned with.

Aside from his military background, the fact that he was able to put the boss’s boss, Clyde Thisleton, in jail was enough to scare the wits out of them.

After that, Zeke went on to address the original members of Linton Group, “I intend to reward you handsomely for your steadfast loyalty to Linton Group. Without you, the company would not be still standing today. You are the backbone of this place. Lacey, I want to distribute 5% of the company’s shares to them. What do you think?”

Lacey nodded in agreement. “I’d definitely have no problem with that.”

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The original employees were moved to tears.

5% of the shares was actually worth five billion.

To think he would gift us with five billion... Sir might be too generous for his own good.

“Thank you, Sir. You’re too kind. Rest assured. We promise to work even harder to prove to you that you placed your trust in the right people.”

“Look, the price of our shares has skyrocketed. Our 5% is now worth ten billion.”

“Alright then, everyone back to work. Work harder, and you might earn double the reward.”

The crowd scattered instantly, and the office bustled as work resumed.

Lacey jumped into the fray as well.

However, Dawn Castaneda and Nancy Hinton stayed put. Both were silent.

Dawn pulled back Zeke’s sleeve to get a look at his arm.

It was peppered with wounds, the scars so tangled they formed a gruesome web.

“I knew it.” Dawn gasped as her hand clapped over her mouth.

“You’ve really suffered these past three years, Zeke.”

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