

The Ace at the Apex

## Chapter 59 Let Me Tell You Some Good News

Matthew and Neve had mistaken the paper in Jade's hands for the notice from the board of directors the latter had passed to Jade earlier this morning. To them, the fact that it was an A4 -size paper as well had made it impossible to guess its contents.

Jade's retort, however, smothered their laughter instantaneously. Startled, Neve snapped out of her shock and said curiously, "No way. That can't be...dare I say it? It's...your resignation, right?!"

Then, an ear-splitting guffaw of even greater intensity filled the room. It was shrill enough that even those outside of Matthew's office could hear it.

Jade considered the chortling duo impassively. God knows which one of them was more insane than the other. She marched ahead, closing the distance between her and Matthew before shoving the agreement into his chest.

"Read it yourself. Get your daughter to use a dictionary if some of the words are too complicated for you two," she rasped. "Morons."

She turned on her heel and stormed out of the door, too fed up to deal with these two nutcases any longer.

Matthew's grin stiffened-something in that woman's tone had given off an edge. Quickly, he unfurled the paper and read its contents.

He froze. He wished he had not laid eyes on it.

Sensing that something was amiss, Neve quickly asked him about it, yet she received no answer. She had to take the paper out of his grip and read it herself. By the time she was finished, she was just as bemused as he was.

A long moment passed before she finally recovered enough to babble, "This isn't possible. This! Isn't! Real! How the hell did she manage to get Sky Loft t-t-to write this agreement? How?! Are they brain-dead or what? They have their own in-house sales agents! A whole company of them! Why would they conceivably even need to outsource this to Drakon?!"

She had taken the words right out of her father's mouth, expressing his own confusion. "Did they all just...get a collective lobotomy?"

Their gazes met and they exchanged a glance. They stared at each other, but neither of them could come up with a conceivable reason. It was not like the agreement had been forged either. That damn red company seal on the paper was as real as it could get. Doctoring a company's seal on any contract was a sin in the eyes of the law!

The two of them never stopped staring at one another. In the end, it was Neve who recovered first and broke the unsettling silence that enveloped them. "Do you think...this happened because Jade called Zayn and pleaded with him for help? Maybe...this was Zayn's work! Yeah, it has to be, right?"

Matthew nodded as hard as he could. This was highly plausible! Hell, he could not even come up with any possible alternative explanation for this. Right on cue, his phone began to ring. He stuck his hand into his pocket and pulled it out, his eyes catching Zayn's name on the screen.

Grudgingly, he answered it and snapped, "Seriously, Mr. Dunham? What's the point of all our plans if you keep giving her a leg up, huh? I just constructed the most inescapable trap, and you had to play hero even before she was in real danger! Honestly, even if you're itching to play the knight in shining armor, couldn't you have waited just a little longer?"

Although he was still searching for his chance to be Jade's savior, he could not help but freeze at the accusation. "You...what did you just say? When did I play the knight in shining armor?"

Matthew was stunned at Zayn's response. Judging by the way he sounded, Zayn might have never been involved at all. But if that was the case...

What the hell was going on?!

Matthew was hardly given the chance to contemplate this before Zayn's blistering tongue lashing assaulted his ear. "God-f\*cking-damn it, Matthew Odell! Are you actually mentally challenged?! What did I tell you? I told you to bind her in a pickle. Push her to the depths of despair so that I may come in! But you...you simpleton...you managed to f\*ck that up so much that she finished the task without any problems! How the hell are we supposed to... Damn it, is your brain functional, or is it just for show?! You idiot!"

Zayn lambasted Matthew so hard that his words made the older man's face turn redder and redder. Despite that, he dared not talk back. He just let Zayn run his mouth, simply because h

After enduring Zayn's blistering vitriol and slavishly apologizing for his "offense", Matthew ended the call by smashing his phone on the floor.

This was already the second phone that he had ruined.

"Who the f\*ck does this Zayn think he is?! I'm the f\*cking veteran here, not him! I've been fighting my battles in business since he was just a f\*cking sperm in his old man's sack! What an entitled son of a b\*tch! Does he think that he can take a dump on me just because his old man has become the chairman of Dunham Group? F\*ck!"

Neve quickly tried to allay her old man's fury. "Daddy, Daddy! Listen! We can diss Zayn's character and all that, but now's not the time! Now, we have to focus on how to appropriate this feat of Jade's and make it ours. Think about it: What will those seniors think now that Jade managed to seal this contract?" she admonished. "The fact that she managed to fulfill the quarterly deal made those relics reconsider their opinions of her, remember?"

Her sound argument managed to quell her father's fit of rage. Taking a deep breath, Matthew suppressed the indignation in his chest. "Fine. Fine, you're right. Our priority is to snatch that feat from her and make it seem like our own achievement..."

As the two of them began to craft another one of their plots, Jade had already returned to her car and was recounting the entire ordeal to Javier in vivid detail. She talked about how they had mocked her and the way she had managed to turn it all around and leave like a bad\*ss.

“Now that I think about it..maybe I should have stayed and watched their reactions...”

Her little murmur swept past Javier, prompting him to smile wordlessly.

After relishing in her joy for a while, Jade suddenly said, “Okay, so a strange thought suddenly popped into my head just now. I know it’s kinda silly but. I have to ask. This whole weirdness about Sky Loft’s willingness to collaborate...was it your doing?”

Javier nodded matter-of-factly. “Yes, it was me. I suddenly found out that Sky Loft is actually owned by my family. Even the GM and the chairman were hired by the Kerseys. Quite the strange coincidence, isn’t it? I just ordered some of my people to give them a friendly call and tell them to help you unconditionally.”

Javier was telling her the truth, but in a twist of irony, Jade did not believe him one bit. “God, Javier. You didn’t have to go through so much effort to make something up.”

The two of them returned to their new office, and Jade went back to trying to learn the ropes while Javier invited Herschel to smoke a cigarette downstairs. As their small talk went on, a cacophony of revving car engines blared through the air before a striking yellow Ford Mustang entered their field of vision.

“She’s beautiful. 5.0 L 480 HP V 8 engine? Sweet,” Herschel remarked.

Javier’s attention, however, drifted to the woman who had disembarked. An angel’s face atop a succubus’s figure, complete with a bold mop of wavy hair that framed her features. She was wearing a tight, figure-hugging t-shirt that was enough to get a rise out of any red-blooded observer.

question on his mind was: What is Neve Odell doing here?

He thought for a second and immediately had an idea. Leaning toward Herschel, he instructed him, “Go to Sky Loft and pass this message to Will Schumer...”

As he sent Herschel away, Neve strutted into Drakon Real Estate. She dismissed the secretary who wanted to notify Jade and barged right into the young woman’s office.

Jade raised her eyes and met hers. “Now what?”

Neve swept her hair back with a flick of her wrist. “I’m here to bring you some good news,” she announced. “From now on, I’m the Vice GM of this company. My authority encompasses

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all matters related to Sky Loft!

“In other words, my dear Ms. Odell, you won’t ever have to break a sweat over anything pertaining to Sky Loft from now on. I’ll be here to take over and share the load! Isn’t that great? You must be happy, surprised, and totally amazed!”

## **Chapter 60 Only the Bad Ever Win**

This piece of “great news” immediately ignited Jade’s rage. “How low can you disgusting pr\* cks stoop, Neve?! I was the one who secured this deal! You’re not even coveting it in the shadows-no, you’re just

gonna rob me in plain sight! You two think that just because Grandpa's sick, your daddy can rule the family business however his despotic \*ss feels like, don't you? That's why you're acting like you can do whatever you want!"

The more livid Jade was, the more satisfied Neve felt.

"Oh, it's so embarrassing just how right you are. Of course, we're taking this chance to squash you under our boots. And you're hardly the end of it. We're gonna teach your mom a lesson too. Hell, we just wanna screw you guys over so hard that the only way you could survive is by begging for charity on the streets!

"Oh, right! Almost forgot. To be frank, I didn't actually need to come here to tell you this. So why did I? Silly me. It must have been because I couldn't wait to share this tremendous news with you, so I came here on autopilot! Silly me!"

Jade's rage was bursting from her chest, pushing her veins to pop against her skin as she balled her hands into fists. "You...you shameless pr\*ck!"

Neve smirked. "Me? Shameless? Oh, darling, I can be even more shameless than this. I'm going to pay Sky Loft a visit as the representative of Drakon Real Estate and talk over some deals, draft up a contract...just some things to show everyone my true talent, you know? It's got nothing to do with a certain someone at all! Ha!"

After saying that, she sashayed out of the office, her hips swaying like a pendulum as she left. Even as she walked, she could not help but exclaim joyfully, "Oh, good Lord above, sometimes I wonder if I'm your favorite child! How else am I supposed to explain this phenomenal windfall? I always have someone do my dirty work for me, so there's never any need for me to lift a finger!"

Seeing that b\*tch's utter lack of shame and swelling ego enraged Jade so much that she bit her lips hard enough to draw blood. It was unfathomable why people would do something like this to their own kin. How could Matthew and his family stoop so low?!

She felt wronged. Hurt. Bitter. Fighting back tears, she went straight to Javier for comfort.

"How could they?! HOW COULD THEY! I was the one who made that deal possible, and yet Neve is the one who gets to sign that contract as though she's the one who achieved it! What kind of logic is this?!"

Javier had always been the only person Jade felt safe enough to lower her guard and be defenseless around. She had always felt as though Javier was the only person she could

show her vulnerabilities to, even though she could not explain why. It was just a gut feeling.

It was as if she never needed to pretend to be strong in front of Javier.

Her willingness to show her vulnerabilities was, therefore, the extra reason Javier's protectiveness kept intensifying each time she was vulnerable. After handing the poor, aggrieved girl a tissue, he remarked, "It's just how the world works. The bad guys always win. Why? Because the bad guys are always the ones who don't have to follow the rules or answer to their conscience. The good guys have way too many shackles in comparison, you know. Things like morals, the law, ethics, dignity...there are just too many restraints around the neck of the good guys, keeping prisoners."

Jade sobbed for a while before wiping her tears away. "T-T-Then I want to be a bad guy too! I want to be so bad that they can't bully me anymore!"

"Oh no, that's impossible." He chuckled. "You're a good person through and through, so you could never be bad. If anyone could ever be the bad guy, though, it'd be me. I have to be bad very, very bad-so that I'll have the power to protect you. So that you'll always be safe."

Those were moving, heartwarming words. Jade's face, however, began to turn pink. For some reason, she had this nagging feeling that Javier was confessing his feelings to her...

And by god, her cheeks were starting to burn.

As someone weeps, someone else is laughing, just like good and evil are a pair of contrasting entities.

Right at that moment, Neve was cackling smugly to herself in her car before calling Matthew, spurred by intoxicating jubilation.

"Hahaha! Daddy, you should have seen her face when I told her I'm going to be the one in charge of the contract signing. She was so p\*ssed that she was practically shaking! Heck! I bet she's hiding in her safe space, breaking down and crying like a b\*tch!" Matthew's glee matched her own, though it was not enough to completely subvert the hatred undergirding his voice when he growled, "Serves her right! Thanks to her, my son's legs are useless now! This isn't enough. Her punishment needs to be graver!"

"I know, Daddy. I know. Don't worry about it. Just wait till I finish signing that contract, and we'll have our vengeance step by step. They're going to call the streets their home real soon!"

When the call ended, Neve slammed her foot on the pedal and raced in the direction of Sky Loft. She was doing a pretty bad job containing her excitement. She was just so excited to sign that contract so that she could slap that b\*tch's face with the paper in her hand!

Her yellow Ford Mustang skidded across the asphalt. Finally, as the entrance of Sky Loft came into view, the car slowed down and stopped.

Neve got out of the car with the agreement tucked in her hand. She strode into the building, looking all pompous and arrogant, before crying out, "Where is the receptionist around here?"

Tell Mr. Schumer that the representative of Drakon Real Estate has come to draft a detailed contract!"

The receptionist shot her a look and waved at the security guards. "Could you kindly kick this madwoman out of the property, please? Thanks!"

Neve was alarmed. "How dare you! I'm the Vice GM of Drakon Real Estate, and this is the agreement your boss signed with me! Do you know how much power the law confers to this piece of paper?! You wouldn't dare-oww! Ow, ow, ow! Let go of me, you boar! Unhand me! Don't touch me!"

The receptionist shot Neve a smirk as security dragged her out. Vice GM, her \*ss. Mr. Schumer had just made it clear that the only person from Drakon Real Estate that was allowed in would be Jade Odell. Everyone else could kiss the dirt outside!

After being shoved out of the building and denied re-entry, Neve toiled in frustration. Never had she expected to experience something so ridiculous. It even made her question the veracity of the agreement.

She needed to verify it. Stuffing 30 dollars into the security guard's hand, Neve ordered, "Go take this paper to the receptionist and verify if it's genuine or forged."

The guard was more than happy to do it for the money. Stuffing the paper into his pocket, he went and passed it to the receptionist.

A few moments later, the guard came back. "It's genuine! No worries now, huh?"

Neve had banked on it being fake and had been hoping to lodge a report with the authorities. Who knew it would turn out to be real?

Cursing under her breath, she extended her hand toward the guard, who understood immediately.

He held onto her fair, delicate hand. "Gosh, lady. You're giving me money and letting me hold your hand over a task this trivial? Honestly, I'm starting to feel pretty bad for you!"

Neve's face turned red from rage. She pulled her hand away from him and snapped, "I'm not letting you hold my hand, you dumb\*ss! I want my agreement back, so give it back right now!"

The guard pretended to only understand now. "Oh, you want that document back, huh? Why didn't you say so, lady? I thought you wanted to hold my hand! Eh, I'm not giving it back."

All that nonsense...had just been a ruse before a rejection?!

Neve was fuming. "What the hell?! On what frickin'grounds?!"

The guard pointed at the hall through the entrance. Neve followed his finger and saw a grinning receptionist toss the letter into a paper shredder.

Neve was bemused. It had been a genuine document, but now, it was nothing but shreds!

In other words, Sky Loft had changed its mind! They had decided to go back on their alliance with Drakon Real Estate!

Neve stared ahead in abject befuddlement.

## **Chapter 61 The Kind, Loving Uncle Is Back**

In Odello Corp.'s meeting room, Matthew had called an emergency meeting, summoning the corporation's executives. He announced the good news of the partnership between Drakon Real Estate, a company under Odello Corp, and Sky Loft. "Thanks to Ms. Neve Odell's persistent efforts, she finally managed to score Sky Loft's sales agency authorization!

"What's this? It's a miracle! Sky Loft has its own sales company, but it's authorizing Drakon to sell its property. What is this if not a miracle? This is the first miracle that Ms. Neve Odell has worked after entering Odello Corp. based on her own capabilities. We should-

Matthew was about to encourage the occupants in the room to learn from Neve when the latter called him. Matthew thought that she must have just signed the agreement, so he answered the call and put it on speaker with the intention to boast.

“Hello, Ms. Neve. You”

“Daddy, it’s true that Jade got the sales. The agreement is also real, but they shredded it when I came for the business meeting and they’re now denying they have a partnership with us. What should we do? I can’t take credit for her work anymore!”

Neve’s call had basically just exposed the two of them.

The old-timers in the company looked at Matthew, some of them snorted and some threw him scathing looks. As for the company executives, they averted their gazes and pretended they had not seen or heard anything.

Neve, who was still on the line, pressed him, “Daddy! What should we do?”

Matthew flushed like a tomato. He had just declared that his daughter was working miracles, and just seconds later, both of them had been exposed. The embarrassment was real. He would have given everything to be able to hide under the table.

The problem was that hiding was no solution. He could only force himself to maintain his composure.

“I told you not to drink during the day, but you just won’t listen. You got drunk, didn’t you? Listen to the nonsense you’re spewing! How embarrassing! Brace yourself for punishment when you come back!”

Matthew hung up hastily after he pretended to chide her. He then scanned the room awkwardly and forced out a chuckle. “Alcohol really..harms people gravely!”

Matthew wanted to explain more to cover up for Neve’s “nonsense”, but one of the old-timers seated by the meeting table interrupted him. “Mr. Odell, it’s not important if she’s speaking nonsense or not. Right now, we just want to know if we got Sky Loft’s authorized sales agent.”

“Uh...” Matthew stammered, not knowing how to answer.

By right, they had gotten the job, but Neve had said that the agreement had been shredded and Sky Loft had backed out of the deal...

While Matthew struggled to give a proper answer, the man said, “Looks like we didn’t. In that case, why did you ask us to come here? As the vice GM, you sure have a lot of free time on your hands.”

Matthew panicked and blurted out, “We got it, we got the job. Of course, we’ve been authorized to be Sky Loft’s sales agent.”

Although Matthew was now the vice GM and was now in charge, it was just because he was John’s son. The old-timers in the company were people who had fought alongside John to make the corporation what it was today and they held shares of the company. If Matthew were to offend them, he was sure he would suffer the consequences, so he did not dare ruffle their feathers and could only bow down.

It was only after various assurances and verbal promises that the emergency meeting finally ended. Wiping the cold sweat off his forehead, Matthew looked for an empty room and quickly called Neve. Once the call was connected, he quickly asked what the hell was going on.

“Jade already had the agreement. How did you even make Sky Loft back out of it? If Jade securing the Sky Loft deal was a surprise, you making them change their mind in the blink of an eye is pretty surprising too!”

He was still recovering from the embarrassment during the meeting, so Matthew’s tone was hostile and sarcastic even when he was talking to his own daughter. Neve could care less about it as she recounted the entire ordeal in detail. She hoped that her father could help her analyze the whole process and see how she had offended Sky Loft. Unfortunately, Matthew was clueless as well and found the matter puzzling.

“Never mind, let this go for now. I announced during the meeting that we’re Sky Loft’s official sales agent. Leave this to Jade for now. We’ll talk about it after I salvage all the dignity I lost during the meeting.”

Hanging up, Matthew rubbed his face and plastered on a wide grin before he called Jade.

At the same time, Jade and Javier were in a cafe having coffee and chatting. Jade was already in a much better mood thanks to Javier’s consoling and enlightening words. Just as they started talking about starting work next, her phone rang.

Upon picking up her phone and glancing at it, only to see Matthew’s name on the screen,

Jade tossed it aside. Even hanging up on him was too much of an effort.

“Not answering the call is a no-no. Doesn’t it mean that you’re upset when you don’t answer? The more upset you get, the happier they are,” Javier said, accepting the call for Jade and

putting it on speaker.

It was too late for Jade to stop him, as Matthew’s annoying voice came through the speaker.” Hey, Jade...”

That “kind and loving uncle” act was back again.

“Jade, come to headquarters. I’d like to explain on Neve’s behalf.”

Matthew was speaking when Javier cut him off. “Mr. Odell, come to us if you have something to talk about. We’re not coming to Odello’s headquarters!”

When Matthew heard a guy’s voice, he froze. “Who are you? Where’s Jade?”

‘I’m the chauffeur, Javier Kersey.”

Upon hearing Javier’s answer regarding his identity, Matthew flew into a rage. “Who do you think you are to answer the call? Give the phone to Jade right now!”



Javier replied directly, "That was Ms. Odell's response. She doesn't have it in her to speak to you right now. She's angry, and her face hurts. I think someone slapped her so hard that she doesn't want to go anywhere now.

"Oh, right. Ms. Odell also wants me to ask if you can avenge her?"

Matthew understood now. Jade resented Neve for the slap. After gritting his teeth and holding a grudge for some time, he replied, "Fine. I'll go to Drakon now and meet Jade."

Hanging up on Matthew, Jade asked Javier from the side, "Aren't you worried about talking to him in this way? What if he picks on you again?"

Javier chuckled and dismissed this with a wave. "Judging from his tone just now, he must have a favor to ask you.

"Besides, would he not pick a fight even if we sounded polite? There's no need to be nice to him."

Jade thought about it and left the matter alone, thinking that Javier's words made sense. They finished their coffee and went back to the office.

Not too long upon their return, Matthew arrived, looking on edge. He was not alone. He'd also brought along Neve, but the latter looked very reluctant. Matthew then closed the office door with a sheepish smile. "Jade, the whole thing about Neve becoming the vice GM was a misunderstanding. It was all a misunderstanding..."

## **Chapter 62 The Price of Having a Foul Mouth**

Jade had not taken Javier seriously when the latter had speculated that Matthew might have a favor to ask her. It was not until now when Matthew implicitly told her that Neve had ruined the project with Sky Loft, that she realized Javier had guessed correctly.

Recalling how insolent Neve had been in the office previously, Jade felt fury brew within her. She looked at Neve. "Good job, that's really something. The agreement was signed, yet you still ruined it. You even sent the letter back for them to shred it. I have to say...well done!

'I can't compare to your capabilities-no regular person could. You're fantastic!"

Jade's ridicule put a scowl on Neve's face while she fumed inwardly. She could not help retorting, 'Of course, I'm not like you. Who knows if you got the deal with Sky Loft by spreading your legs?"

Jade's blood boiled when she heard the insult. Before she could say anything, though, Matthew berated Neve.

"What are you talking about? You're a girl, yet you keep making up crap. Where's your sense of humility? Where's your decorum?"

\*Till have you know that Jade has what it takes. She's capable. We all know that perfectly well after the quarterly deal. As an older cousin, it's unacceptable for you to slander her out of jealousy just because you're less competent!"

Matthew tore through Neve as though he did not care that she was his daughter, acting as if he was righteous and fair.

Truth to be told, Matthew had run out of solutions. He had said in front of the company seniors that the deal regarding Sky Loft's sales agent was theirs. Now that he was hoping for Jade to strike the deal again, of course, he had to brace himself and pander to her as much as he could.

Matthew turned to Jade with a loving smile. "Jade, the authorization deal with Sky Loft...do you think you can go see them again? They-"

"No!" Jade refused before Matthew had the chance to finish his sentence, "Whoever's interested can go themselves."

She then pointed a finger at Neve. "Didn't you send her previously? Since she's so good, let her go again!"

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Neve was currently pulling a long face, looking like she had just bedded a customer and the person was unwilling to pay for her service.

Matthew's wrinkled face brimmed with embarrassment and trouble. No matter how displeased he was with Jade, he had to plaster a smile on his face.

"Jade, you're right. Your cousin was in the wrong previously, but she meant well. She just wanted to contribute to the company, but she acted too rashly and didn't take your feelings into account. I apologize on her behalf. I'm sorry!

"But see, Jade, the deal with Sky Loft is a big one. It'll be proof that Odello Corp. is capable. It'll boost our prestige in other people's eyes. For the sake of the corporation, bite the bullet and pay them another visit..."

Matthew managed to hit the nail on the head. If it were not for her grandfather's company, Odello Corp., she would not even be bothered to speak to him! She finally agreed after purposely making Matthew go on for a bit more. "Fine!"

Matthew's features immediately bloomed into a grin as he inwardly heaved a long sigh of relief. Then, Jade stroked her left cheek and added, "But what do we do about my hurting face? I think I'm experiencing side-effects now."

Matthew hissed from rage. He knew about Neve slapping Jade but did not care. He actually thought that his girl had done well. Now that Jade was revisiting the incident, he had to pretend to care about the matter. Jade spilled what had happened in the office that day. Because Neve had just insulted her by saying she had gotten the deal because she had spread her legs for it, she said, "She slapped me seven times. Seven. Times! And she's my older cousin!"

Neve fumed immediately. "Bullsh\*t! What do you mean seven times? I only slapped you once.

She did not even get to finish arguing when a loud slap landed on her left cheek. Neve was stunned from the hit and stared dumbly at Matthew from where she stood.

Matthew, however, looked enraged. "You brat! You're the older cousin here. How could you hit your younger cousin?"

He slapped her again after scolding her, bruising Neve's face. The next few minutes passed as Matthew slapped his daughter and rebuked her. However, his gaze was pained.

Seven slaps. After seven slaps, Neve's left cheek swelled so much that it was nearly bleeding.

Jade scoffed, looking at her before striding out of the office. When she passed by Neve, she commented openly, "That's for having a foul mouth!"

Matthew and Neve were the only ones left in the office after Jade left. Closing the door, Matthew hurriedly rubbed Neve's cheek. "My darling, it must hurt, huh?"

Feeling both pain and fury, Neve teared up. "Dad, how could you take her side and hit me? Are you still my father?"

Matthew looked troubled. "Darling, there's nothing I could do. Just bear with it for me! When this is over, we'll take care of Jade as best as we can. I'll make sure she gets slapped 70 times. Or even 700 times..."

One side would always benefit from something while another side suffered. They stood against each other.

Upon getting into the car with Javier, Jade waved her dainty fists giddily, her long hair fluttering

"It felt so good! Ugh, it was awesome! You didn't see Matthew slap Neve. He slapped her seven times! Neve was dazed from the slaps. It was great! So this is how exhilarating it is to be the bad guy. I'm so happy!"

Jade went on and on about Neve's unfortunate karma and Matthew's pleas along the drive. She was truly thrilled about it. Javier merely chuckled while looking at her, not commenting much. Jade only changed the topic right before she got out of the car when they arrived at

Sky Loft's entrance.

"Right, why do I feel like you know everything? You said that they'd have a favor to ask me, and they really did."

Javier answered casually, "Of course I do. Sky Loft really is one of my family's businesses, and I told them not to--"

"Yeah, right. I'm not listening to your nonsense! You're bluffing!"

Jade got out of the car with a pull of the door handle, labeling Javier's honesty as false without any hesitation.

This had been Javier's goal anyway. Some of the greatest lies were the greatest truths...

Upon entering Sky Loft's headquarters, Jade did not even get to say anything before the receptionist welcomed her warmly.

“Ms. Odell, Mr. Schumer isn’t in. He’s out on an errand. Before he headed out, though, he signed another agreement and stamped it. It’ll be legally binding once you sign it.”

Jade was still dazed when she accepted the agreement the receptionist handed to her cordially. It was like taking laxatives for diarrhea-everything just came out in a whoosh! She had not even said anything, yet they had prepared it all for her?

Jade asked in surprise, “Why? Didn’t you guys destroy the previous one?”

The receptionist smiled apologetically. “My apologies. I’m not sure about this. I’m only a contract worker.”

“All right!” Leaving Sky Loft, Jade murmured to herself the rest of the way, “It’s so strange. Why, though...”

### **Chapter 63 Things Go Wrong for a Reason**

Jade went to Odello’s headquarters after leaving Sky Loft. Holding the agreement in her hands, she stepped into Matthew’s office and slammed it onto his desk.

She then turned to Neve, who was seated on the couch with one side of her face swollen.

“Vice GM Odell, I’m here with another agreement. Do you want to show your extraordinary competence?”

Gripping the ice she was using to cool her burning cheek, Neve wanted so much to crash it against Jade’s head.

Matthew quickly spoke up with a chortle, “Nothing like that. I told you, it was a misunderstanding. Jade, don’t mind this. The deal with Sky Loft is all yours, so you’ll handle it. No one else, just you!”

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Taking a glance at Matthew, who was bowing down to her, and Neve, who was inwardly fuming nearby, Jade giggled and turned to leave with as much flair as she could, something she had not dared even thought of doing in the past.’

After Jade left, Neve threw the ice she was holding on the floor.

“Look at how much that b\*tch is gloating. Anyone who doesn’t know would’ve thought that she’s the person in charge of the corporation. Ugh!”

Matthew was furious too, but there was nothing he could do. Who knew what Jade’s tactics were or how she walked in and out of Sky Loft as though the place was the back of her house, easily convincing and securing agreements with them.

Neve later asked about the same thing and was equally bewildered about it. Matthew gave it some thought before saying, “I’ll call Zayn and ask him to check what’s going on with Sky Loft.”

He fished out his phone and was ready to make the call when his secretary came in after knocking on the door.

“Mr. Odell, we were just notified that the wife of Dunham Group’s chairman has just passed away in the hospital.”

“Huh?”

Matthew was shocked. The wife of Dunham Group’s chairman...that was Zayn’s mother! He put his phone away and dismissed the secretary.

Now that Zayn’s mother had passed away, it was obviously inappropriate for Matthew to call him and ask about this issue. He also noted that Zayn must not be in the position to do anything for the time being, as he would be busy with the funeral.

“That’s great! Incredible news!”

Neve was grinning while Matthew was still contemplating this.

“It’s really a good thing. Without Zayn’s protection, we can crush Jade under our shoes without any fear of blowback.

“I’m also guessing that Zayn’s on our side, purposely helping Jade and getting to be the good guy in the open while secretly making both of us the scapegoats and making us look like the bad guys.”

Neve then walked over to Matthew.

\*Daddy, I’ve figured it out. Here’s what we’ll do...”

Three days later, Jade officially signed the contract with Sky Loft, representing Drakon Real Estate. Sky Loft’s general manager, Will, showed up only briefly at the celebration party that night, leaving after he had dropped off his wine glass.

If it had not been for Jade, he would not even have attended the party. The Odells’ status did not qualify for his presence.

After Will left, Jade naturally occupied the limelight for the rest of the night. The numerous old-timers in the company lavished her with compliments.

“Sky Loft has its own sales and marketing team, but you still managed to grab the sales agent authorization. Well done!”

“Good job. You’re very much like your father. He entered the business world as a dark horse back then and pulled off so many legendary feats. Like father, like daughter. You’re finally living up to your father’s reputation!”

“I think Mr. Odell said something accurate during the emergency meeting the other day. This is truly a miracle. And I don’t think it’s just one miracle. The quarter deal previously was also a miracle. Jade, well done. You’ve done a really good job...”

Jade was showered with all sorts of compliments and praise.

As Odello Corp’s acting person in charge, Matthew only had Neve by his side now. Both of them looked offended, and anger swam in their eyes as they heard the corporation seniors singing Jade’s praises.

“Why? Daddy, you’re the company’s acting head. You’re the future chairman. Are these old folks all blind? Even if Jade got lucky and pulled off one or two accomplishments, that’s because of your brilliant guidance!”

Neve had been born to steal credit-and was doing so unreasonable too. Yet this absurdity sounded logical to Matthew, so he supported her.

“We’ll let her gloat for now. She’ll eventually fall...”

After dinner, Jade, who was slightly flushed, bid everyone goodbye and hopped into the passenger seat of the car.

“How long has it been? Ten years maybe? It was like this ten years ago too. Every time there was an event, I would always be surrounded by people but at that time, it wasn’t because of me. It was because of my father.

“That has not happened since his passing...until tonight. They surrounded me once again as though they were putting me on a pedestal.

“I owned the spotlight tonight, but I’m not happy. I don’t know if they’re doing it because of me, or because of the unnecessary power behind me. Hah, it’s ironic!”

Jade had heard some gossip at the party. Someone had said that the reason she had gotten Sky Loft’s sales authorization so easily was that she had a powerful force supporting her from the shadows. Nobody had made it clear, but everyone was guessing that it was Zayn, who was one of the Dunhams.

Jade was doubtful. She knew what Zayn was like. If it had really been him, he would have claimed credit impatiently. It still did not make Jade happy, though. She was unable to pinpoint the reason but she just did not feel as happy as she had imagined she would be.

Looking at the woman, who was slumping back against the car seat, Javier smiled without saying much.

Around half a month after the contract was signed, the renovation of the sales office was completed. Drakon officially began selling Sky Loft’s properties. Based on the latter’s national fame for its quality assurance and popularity, the project basically needed no advertising or marketing. Potential clients came wave after wave, as though there was a sale at the mall.

Jade was reassured by it, thinking that the project would definitely rack up decent sales. But the reality was the complete opposite. A full week had passed, and they had not managed to sell even one unit. Jade asked Javier with a frown, “Don’t you think it’s ridiculous? The location is great, and the price is decent. The management, landscaping, construction quality, and so on are all fine. I went to the sales office personally too, and there weren’t any issues. Why’s this happening?”

Javier believed that there was always a reason why things went wrong. They just needed to find it. No matter how he thought about it, he felt that there was a problem with the sales office!

## **Chapter 64 I’m Manager Odell**

“Due to the sales performance of Ms. Jade Odell, GM of Drakon Real Estates, or lack thereof, I propose that our vice GM, Ms. Neve Odell, take over the sales...”

Matthew brought up Drakon's zero sales regarding Sky Loft's project during Odello Corp.'s monthly meeting and followed up with the suggestion that Neve take over.

Even though others could see that he was stripping Jade of her power, no one was able to say anything. After all, it was a fact that the project had made zero sales under Jade's leadership, which was a hard hit. In Drakon's entire history since its establishment, it had never had a precedent of making no sales for a week.

No one objected to the proposal, so Jade could only accept it despite her reluctance. After the meeting, while she was getting up to leave, Neve cornered her. When everyone else left, Neve looked at her tauntingly. "Weren't you so proud before? Of what? You've been open for sale for one week, but the sales have stayed at zero. Are you still proud? Are you still showing off?"

"I'll be honest with you. I'm the one who sabotaged you. Aren't you curious to know how? Don't you know where the issue was? Hah, I know, but I'm not telling you! I want you to die without even knowing why!"

"Jade, oh Jade. This was fleeting joy, not triumph. You celebrated too early!"

"From this day onward, I'm going to show you what real ability is, and you'll come to realize that Sky Loft's project can sell like hotcakes. Too bad you couldn't even sell one unit..."

Feeling happy after jeering at Jade, Neve left with a sway of hips, being as flashy as a model on a catwalk. No matter how angry Jade was, she did not have a better solution and thus could only glare and fume.

At the same time, Javier took Herschel to the sales office of Sky Loft's project. The sales office, which had been busy and bustling, was quiet today. Even the salesgirls were not around.

When Javier and Herschel entered the sales office, there was a salesgirl behind the counter and two more in the resting area on the side. No one even looked up as they played with their phones. It was like none of them had realized the men had walked in.

In spite of this, the automatic sensor at the door rang with a robotic but cheery "welcome" when Javier and Herschel stepped in.

Herschel told the sales representative behind the counter, "Hello, I'd like to take a look at the units."

The salesgirl did not even look up. "Sure, go on. I'm not covering your eyes, am I?"

Javier furrowed his brows. The attitude of this sales office was nothing like the "passionate"

vibe that Jade had been trying to go for. It was apparent that the passion Jade had seen previously was what the sales representatives had wanted her to see.

"Customer" Herschel was upset. "What's with the service attitude?"

The salesgirl finally put down her phone and looked up at Herschel with annoyance on her face. "Why do you care? Buy it if you want, and forget it if you don't. If you think you're so great, go buy a house elsewhere!"

Herschel wanted to reply, but Javier stopped him and asked, "Does your sales manager know this is your service attitude?"

The salesgirl scoffed. "Of course she does. If Ms. Odell hadn't asked us to do it, would we dare treat customers like this?"

"Also, you two are lucky you met me. This is already a decent attitude. The last time Ms. Odell talked to a customer, she dragged the poor customer into the room and berated them for about two hours. She even made that person cry..."

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The salesgirl went on, slandering Jade with various stories. Obviously, someone must have asked for this behind their back-it had been either Matthew or Neve.

Upon listening to the salesgirl grumble about Jade, Javier told her, "Never mind. I'm not fighting with you over this. I've set my mind on Sky Loft's project. Reserve a unit for me!"

Javier was ready to pick any unit as he walked to the project model, but the salesgirl merely continued scrolling on her phone.

"Finance is not in today. We can't sell anything. Go on, off you go. It's not like we're the only ones selling property in town. Why must you be a pain in the \*ss and buy a unit from us? Something wrong with your head?"

Forget about not being able to sell a unit in a week. With this service attitude, they would not be able to sell anything even if they tried for centuries!

Javier received a call from Jade after he left the sales office. She told him that Neve had now taken over the office and the sales no longer had anything to do with her. The man considered this good news. "Sure, use this opportunity to take a break. You've been rather busy recently."

Jade did not want a break, but it seemed that she had to. Neve had snatched her sales job from her.

After the call with Jade, Javier passed the lighter camera he had been holding in his hand to Herschel and gave him some instructions. The latter nodded.

"I understand. Don't worry, sir. I'll make sure it gets done."

Javier threw him a look and Herschel backtracked immediately. "Mr. Kersey."

Yes, just the term of address Javier needed. It would not sound nice if others heard him get

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called "sir" here and there. It was too high-profile for his liking...

That afternoon, Neve appeared at the sales office looking victorious and lively. She scanned the handful of salesgirls in the office with a satisfied grin.



“You lot did a good job, but from now on, I’m taking charge of the sales office, so I want you to sell the project with 120% of what you’ve got. As long as you hit the sales, money will not be a n issue. I have lots to spare!”

The salesgirls beamed. Their favorite thing was a boss who did not care about money. Jade was...not bad, but she was nowhere near as good as cash!

Neve could not help looking smug again after she instructed the salesgirls.

‘Ah, Jade, so impressive of you to score the contract, but you still have to make way for me to complete the sales. Whoever sells off the project will be the superior one! You’ll be beneath m e from this day onward, and I’ll stomp on you however I like until you’re dead!’

While Neve rejoiced and felt great about herself, someone came in with a reporter ID and a camera.

“Hi, are you Ms. Odell? The manager of Sky Loft’s sales office?”

“Yes, I’m Neve Odell, manager of this sales office.”

“Oh, that’s all. Goodbye.”

The person then left with the camera, leaving Neve stunned and wondering what had happened. She had thought that it was some news channel from a TV station that had come for an interview upon hearing that this sales office had failed to make any sales. She had actually thought that she could slander Jade to her heart’s content, only for that person to leave after a single question.

By the time Neve snapped back to reality, the reporter was gone.

“The f\*ck? What’s wrong with you!”

Neve cursed and forgot about the matter, too preoccupied with resuming her victorious fantasy. At the same time, though, the “reporter” who had interviewed her just now got into the car Herschel was driving...

## **Chapter 65 The Company Seniors Who Came for Blood**

In the cafe, Jade put down her coffee and pushed her laptop toward Javier.

“Take a look. These are the comments I found online regarding our sales office.

“You wouldn’t believe it unless you saw it. As sales reps, how dare they treat customers with that kind of attitude...”

Jade was furious. She could understand competition in business, and Neve could go all out if she wanted to take revenge on her, but they were doing this for the corporation at the end of the day. They were trying to make profit for the company. How could this be turned into an attack as well?

Javier glanced at the comments and articles Jade had pulled up. They were more or less similar to his earlier experience in the sales office. He retrieved a copy of a video clip and played it on the laptop, angling the screen toward Jade this time.

“I think you’ll get the first-hand answers after watching this.”

Jade was infuriated when she watched the clip, especially after hearing the salesgirl slander her by saying that she was the one who had asked them to treat customers that way. She was pale from rage. “Shameless! She’s utterly shameless!”

Jade understood now. Neve must have orchestrated this behind their back. As she was about to vent her fury, though, Javier spoke up with a chortle. “Don’t get angry. It’s not you they’re slandering anyway.”

Jade answered without thinking, “How is it not me? The manager of the sales office is...”

She paused abruptly then, as she realized that while the current manager was still an Odell Neve Odell. Her eyes sparkled when she thought of that, and she pointed at Javier. “You’re the worst!”

Javier smiled. “I told you. You be the good guy and I’ll be the bad.”

Jade felt embarrassed and blushed, replying softly as she dipped her head, “Thank you...for doing so much for me...”

While Jade was thanking Javier, Neve, who was speeding down the road, received a call from Matthew “Where are you? Come back to my office right now! Hurry up!”

Neve did not get to ask why, as Matthew hung up directly.

“He didn’t sound too happy. Did something happen again?” Mumbling to herself, Neve stepped on the accelerator and sped toward the headquarters of Odello Corp.

Upon arriving at Matthew’s office, Neve had just entered through the door when her father slammed the table. “Why are you such a fool?”

Neve was incredibly affronted. “Daddy, what do you mean? How am I a fool?”

She thought that she was rather clever for successfully snatching away Jade’s sales job. No, she was no fool at all.

Matthew pointed at his computer screen. “Come here and take a look yourself!”

Curiously, Neve walked closer to Matthew to watch the video clip playing on the screen. The video was showing the salesgirls of Sky Loft project’s sales office bantering with a customer. They explained that the Ms. Odell had instructed them to behave this way and said the manager had even dragged someone into her room and spent two hours berating them.

Neve understood the situation instantly. Somebody had secretly recorded this footage and uploaded it on the internet.

“I don’t think it’s that bad. I’m Ms. Odell too, but we can claim that it was Jade Odell!”

As Neve was fighting for herself, the camera angle switched and she appeared on the screen.

“Hi, are you Ms. Odell of Sky Loft’s sales office?”

“Yes, I’m Neve Odell, manager of this sales office.”

The footage ended there, and Neve froze. She finally knew why the “reporter” had gone to the sales office. She even looked quite smug in the video.

The clip had been processed so meticulously that the editing was nearly flawless. It was as if Neve had been standing right beside the salesgirls when they’d said what they had said.

Comments flooded the video at once-[This sales office manager is impudent!]

“What now? Was I wrong to call you a fool?”

When Matthew questioned Neve again, she snapped back to reality and tried to defend herself, looking flustered. “They did. They’re framing me on purpose. This video clip has been edited!”

Matthew huffed, “Of course I believe you, but will the netizens? Will those old folks?!”

Neve was at a loss for words.

Reality proved that Matthew was right. The old-timers in Odello Corp. did not believe her at all, as Matthew’s secretary barged in frantically. “Mr. Odell, the seniors joined forces to make a proposal and asked for an ad hoc meeting to be held at once to discuss the video of Ms. Neve in the sales office...”

Half an hour later, the executives, including Matthew, Jade, Neve, and the corporation seniors, had an emergency meeting in the company’s meeting room. One of the senior members, Victor Dowding, first asked someone to play the viral video online before he looked

at Neve.

“Neve Odell, please enlighten us about what happened.”

No courteous term of address, just direct use of her name. It was obvious that Victor and the other old-timers were out for blood,

Neve got up to explain herself hastily. “I didn’t do it. It’s been edited. I really have no idea.”

“No idea?”

Victor’s gaze on Neve felt like a piercing blade. She felt like there was nothing she could hide from him.

Victor went on “Then enlighten us. Why would Ms. Jade here sabotage herself by asking the sales reps not to sell a single unit when she so painstakingly got the deal from Sky Loft? What could she be after? Did she want you to get her sales and position?”

“Uh...”

Victor’s questions were terse and direct. They made Neve stammer, as she could not provide an appropriate answer. Matthew, as her father, wanted to save her from this pressure when he saw her in that predicament, but before he could say anything, Victor pressed on,

“The video could have been edited, but the attitude of the sales reps can’t be faked. If you didn’t orchestrate this behind our backs, who else could have done it? Jade?”

“Do you think Jade’s gone cuckoo? Or have you, dear Neve, turned into a genius?”

As Victor interrogated her, Neve stuttered, unable to give an explanation, “Mr. Dowding, I think-” Matthew started to speak in an attempt to calm everyone down for Neve, but Victor now aimed a piercing arrow at him, “Matthew Odell, we old-timers gave you the acting power at Odello purely because you’re the chairman’s son, It doesn’t mean we approve of your ability, nor do we approve of you doing whatever you want!” Matthew felt his heart sink with a pending premonition,

## **Chapter 66 The Old B\*stard Who Intends to Take Over the Company**

When John Odell, the chairman of Odello Corp, was first attacked by his illness, he had lost consciousness after being hospitalized.

Therefore, Matthew had endorsed himself as the vice general manager of the company, wanting to take charge on the basis that he wanted to “ensure that the company’s operations remained stable.”

The people who had agreed to this motion of his were of course the elders of the company, with Victor as their leader.

Thus, they had “absolute control” over this temporary person in charge.

Both Matthew and Neve immediately realized that something was wrong when they heard the dangerous words Victor had just said.

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However, both father and daughter still held out some hope that Victor would not make that choice.

Matthew believed he was definitely going to be the chairman in the future, so Victor and the other elders would not gain anything if they were too hostile to Matthew.

However, the reality of the situation exceeded his expectations, as Victor very quickly hurled all sorts of insults at him.

“The chairman has always developed the company very steadily, with a strong foundation, when he wanted the company to go public. He would never make use of any foreign forces

“On the contrary, over the little time that you have been in charge, you’ve resorted to forcing Jade to marry into the Dunham family just so you could receive their support. If Jade had not been capable and hadn’t completed the quarterly deal, everything would have gone according to your plan, wouldn’t it?!

“Also, Jade was clearly the one who secured the business deal with Sky Loft, yet you shamelessly took credit for your niece’s efforts and forcefully said that Neve did it. In fact, because of this selfishness of yours, you directly caused Sky Loft to cancel our partnership contract entirely!

“If Jade had not approached them for another round of negotiations, both of you would’ve been guilty of losing this business on the company’s behalf!

“Initially, I thought you would stop while you were ahead, but here you go again, coming up with another circus act. You’re deliberately trying to make Jade look bad so that your own daughter will seem like she performed better!

“Matthew, you aren’t capable of managing a business, but you’re really great at inciting internal fights!”

Matthew’s face instantly fell from shock after he was reprimanded by Victor continuously.’ He’s clearly accusing me of all sorts of things right now!’

Matthew hurriedly said, “Mr. Dowding, I—”

Victor was not about to give Matthew a chance to explain himself, so he immediately looked across the entire room and proposed, “For the sake of our company’s benefits, I would like to propose that we abolish Matthew as the temporary person in charge. All future important decisions within the company will be decided by a vote among the higher-level management until the chairman is discharged from the hospital!”

Matthew was now so shocked that cold sweat was breaking out on his forehead!

There were a total of 12 people inside the conference room. The secretary, Jade, and Neve did not have voting rights, while the remaining nine higher-level management executives all had voting rights. Out of the nine of them, the group of elders already had five votes!

Thus, the moment Victor made that suggestion, Matthew’s loss had already been decided.

Sure enough, right after Victor raised his hand, the other four members of his group raised their hands as well. This meant that Matthew and the other three would not be able to make a difference even though they did have voting rights!

Neve instantly threw a fit of rage when she saw everything happening before her.

“Victor Dowding, you’re obviously coveting my grandfather’s seat! You’re trying to make use of his hospitalization right now to take over the company!!”

Victor did not even have to so much as glance at Neve before he directly ordered security to have her removed from the conference room.

After she left, Victor said, “I’ve already made myself very clear. All future major decisions regarding this company shall be decided by the higher-level management through a vote until the chairman is discharged from the hospital. I believe this should be proof enough of my innocence.”

Alas, the emergency meeting had ended up becoming a transfer of authority, with Matthew being stripped of all his powers and left with only the vice general manager’s role. Meanwhile, Victor and his group now had the final say in all major decisions.

As for Neve, she was directly kicked out of Odello Corp., never allowed to take on another role within the company.

Before leaving the company, Victor chuckled as he told Jade, “Do your best, Jade. You have my full support, so go ahead and show us all your capabilities and business talent high hopes for you. Drakon is now in your care. Good luck!”

Jade seemed to be pretty happy actually. Aside from the fact that she had “gotten revenge”, she had been able to see Matthew stripped of his power and Neve fired from the company,

making this a happy occasion for her, especially since she was now highly revered by Victor.

However, when she left the company headquarters, Jade took a deep breath and the “happiness” in her expression immediately disappeared without a trace. She could not feel happy because all she could think of was the scene back at the conference room when four of the nine higher-level management executives had turned to Victor and treated him as their leader.

This means that Victor and his cronies will have complete control over the company’s decisions in the future...

Major decisions, my \*ss...

“Victor now has absolute power in his hands, so anything he deems to be a major decision will immediately be one. In fact, he could even deem letting out a fart in the conference room a major decision if he wanted to!

At this point, Jade was no longer the naive and innocent girl she had been two months ago, who would only look at things on the surface. Over the past two months, after experiencing all sorts of hardships, she had come to understand what Javier had meant when he’d said ‘business is even more dangerous than an actual battlefield!’”

When she returned home, Jade told Javier every single detail about what had happened.

Finally, she asked, “Javier, could you help me analyze Victor’s end game?”

“He wants to take control of the company, of course. What else did you think it could be?” Javier immediately gave her an answer without a second thought.

“Although Neve was shouting those words to insult him, she actually got it right this time. Victor Dowding is indeed out to take over the company.

\*If he were really doing all this for the Odell family’s sake, he should’ve included you in the higher-level management,

“This has nothing to do with how capable you might be, in fact. It’s just a show of his loyalty and proof that, aside from Matthew, you’re also an Odell.

“So, why hasn’t he included you in the decision-making team? Because he forgot about it? Would you really believe that a cunning old fox who’s been in this business his entire life just so happened to forget about this? Of course not! The only reason he hasn’t done it is that he doesn’t want your presence to affect his authority, as there would be a 50/50 chance of you going against him...”

While Javier was analyzing the situation for Jade, Matthew and Neve also returned home.

When they entered their house, Matthew picked up a chair and hurled it at his aquarium, which was about two meters long, shattering it to pieces!

In fact, he did not even show any mercy to the koi fish flailing about on the floor. He stepped o

nit, not stopping even when it was dead. Instead, he kept going until it turned into fish paste!

Next to him, Neve had already turned pale from anger. "It's all because of that b\*tch! If it wasn't for her, there's no way you would've..."

Neve stopped at that point because she had noticed Matthew staring at her with a fierce glimmer in his eyes.

Matthew was staring at her for so long that Neve felt slightly frightened. Then, he averted his gaze and picked up his car keys.

"What happened tonight has nothing to do with Jade. Victor has been planning for this for a very long time. He's been waiting for me to give him an opening that he could make use of and strip me of my authority. Although I hate that little b\*tch very much as well, now's not the time to go after her."

Seeing that Matthew was about to head out, Neve hurriedly asked, "Where are you going, Daddy?"

"I'm going to see your grandfather. He's the only one who can hold those old b\*stards back now!"

After saying that, Matthew got in his car.

However, his cell phone rang just as he started the car. It was a phone call from the hospital.

Matthew initially thought that it was about Kendrick and hurriedly picked it up. Alas, it was not about his son...

### **Chapter 67 Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Odell Version**

John Odell had disappeared, leaving behind a letter he had personally written, which was also a will.

In it, he stated that he was about to leave the world, so he was not going to interfere with any superficial matters. Instead, he would like to travel to his ancestor's hometown and enjoy the beautiful scenery. He wanted to be buried there, so his family did not have to search for him.

Although the will specifically mention that he did not want to be found, the Odells still used their connections to try searching for Mr. John to no avail.

Meanwhile, John Odell's disappearance was also a huge blow for Odello Corp. Victor, who was the leader of the five-man group, now held the most power in his hands. Meanwhile, Matthew, whose power had been stripped away by Victor, could no longer be bothered with the battle against Jade. All he wanted to do at the moment was regain the authority Victor held.

Thus, the internal management of Odello Corp. underwent a huge change battle-wise, turning everything into a battle of the Odells versus the five-man group.

Given the current situation, Jade, who should have felt relaxed, could not help but feel slightly concerned.

"Should I help Matthew? As much as I dislike him, he's still an Odell, so it'd be better to have him take over grandfather's company than-"

Before Jade had the chance to finish her statement, Javier asked, "Have you forgotten why he launched all those attacks against you?"

Jade was slightly startled. 'He did that so that I would marry into the Dunham family, of course.'

Suddenly, she realized what was about to happen. "Are you telling me that Matthew might pull the Dunhams into this again by asking for their help?!"

Javier shook his head. "It's not a possibility, it's a guarantee! He's definitely going to bring in the Dunhams, or he will be no match for the five-man group at all."

'Wouldn't he be bringing in another hungry wolf into Odello Corp. by getting the Dunhams involved?!'

Tucking in her legs as she sat on the sofa, Jade pondered over the situation for a while and felt depressed.

She was facing a dilemma. She was worried that the company her grandfather had fought so hard to build would end up in the hands of an outsider.

Lifting her head to look at Javier, who was reading a book, Jade asked, 'What should I do now, Javier? Help me come up with something, please.'

"We're not going to do anything except wait. Aren't you Dona Odell? Just sit back, relax, and observe what happens."

Jade could tell that Javier was suggesting that she "let the enemies fight first and go in for the kill against whoever won amongst the two" so that she would be the executioner.

However, what confused Jade was that she did not have any say in Odello Corp. at all, so what right did she have to be the executioner?

When Jade expressed her confusion, Javier closed the book that he was reading-Romance of the Three Kingdoms-and smiled.

"Don't worry. In "Romance of the Three Kingdoms", the country was ruled by three major forces, which is how the name came about..." .

True enough, everything Javier predicted happened.

Over the next month, many of Matthew's descendants were weeded out, so among the company's higher-level management, the five-man group had the final say in everything and was uncontested no matter what.

In essence, Victor would be able to do anything he wanted in the company with very little resistance. The situation had developed so much that even the janitor would toy with the badge on her uniform and joke that "Odello Corp." was going to become "Dowding Corp." very soon.



However, Matthew was not going to let this become a reality that easily. After facing defeat numerous times, he finally used his trump card and successfully brought the Dunhams into Odell Corp. under the pretense that the Dunhams were going to invest in the company.

Meanwhile, the person representing the Dunhams was none other than Zayn, who had been absent from the battle” previously due to the passing of his mother. Naturally, Victor was not going to allow the “reinforcements” that Matthew had brought in to join the battlefield. Hence, during the meeting that morning, he and Zayn had a heated argument, and he insulted Zayn for meddling in Odello Corp.’s internal affairs when he was a member of the Dunham family.

However, Zayn had his own reasoning as well. He wanted to ensure that the Odells remained in power and Odello Corp. did not turn into Dowding Corp.

After Javier found out what had happened during the meeting, he told Jade, “Looks like it’s time for you to join the battlefield, executioner.”

“It is absolutely essential that a member of the family remains in power, so I’m sure Victor will come to look for you when he realizes this.

“You’re a legit descendant of the Odells, which also means that you’ve got the right to inherit the shares your grandfather holds in the company.

“This means that Victor has no other choice but to ask you to join his side. Only by doing so will he have a chance to go up against Matthew fearlessly.”

Jade frowned a little after understanding what Javier had just said.

“Matthew’s fully focused on taking down the enemy right now, so it wouldn’t look good if I were to help the enemy, would it? I feel like I’d be betraying my family.”

‘Fully focused on taking down the enemy, huh... Looks like Jade still hasn’t realized who the real boss is.’

However, Javier did not intend on explaining this too much. Instead, he merely shook his head gently.

In fact, he did not need to explain it to her, as Victor, who had just entered Jade’s office, was about to do it on his behalf.

After Victor entered the room, he directly sent Javier away to clean their cars.

Javier was a driver at the moment, so there was absolutely nothing wrong with him being ordered by the vice general manager to clean the cars, so Jade could not say anything about it.

After sending Javier away, Victor looked at Jade with a frustrated expression.

“Jade, I can’t stand your second uncle for much longer! How could he possibly bring a foreign invader into the company?”

“The Dunhams have always been trying to take over Odello Corp., which is also why Zayn was fervently pursuing you at the time. He wants to make use of his potential status as the Odells’ son-in-law to enter our company’s internal management and take it all for himself!

“But your second uncle has actually given him the perfect opportunity to come in here, so isn’t it true that he’s allowing a foreign invader to enter our fortress?”

Jade finally understood why Javier had shaken his head just now. ‘He was trying to tell me that as villainous as Victor is, he isn’t the final boss I should be worried about-it was the Dunham Matthew had brought in.

‘If I compared this to “Romance of the Three Kingdoms”, the book that Javier’s been reading recently, Victor would be Wu, while the Dunhams would be Wei!’

Jade now understood what Javier wanted her to do, and she also understood what she should be doing...

‘I’m going to take advantage of Victor and climb up the ranks!

Jade “urgently” asked, “What should we do now, Mr. Dowding? We can’t just sit by and let the Dunhams take away everything the Odells possess!”

Victor instantly widened his eyes. “Of course, we can’t! I’ll risk my life to ensure that this never happens!

“How about this? I’ve already discussed this with the other elders, and we’ve all agreed to make you the chairperson since the old chairman’s no longer around. You’re also an Odell, and you’ve got the old chairman’s blood coursing through your veins!

“From this day onward, the few of us will endorse you into becoming higher-level management within the company and name you vice general manager. We’ll officially work

together and fight for you to become the chairwoman. I refuse to believe that the Dunhams will win when the five of us are behind you!” When Jade heard this, she instantly felt happy because she had just “won” the skirmish and thanked Victor continuously.

Victor very politely said that he was only doing his job and gave her a few more instructions before leaving her office.

However, right after he turned around, while his back was facing Jade, a menacing, cunning look flashed past Victor’s eyes.

‘As if I’d hand over Odello Corp. to you, Jade. I’ll take over the company and change its name to Dowding Corp. instead!’

Meanwhile, Jade was wondering what Javier would think when he found out what had just happened...

‘I’m sure he’s going to say that it’s time for Shu to enter the fray!’

### **Chapter 68 Who Did You Say Has Brought in a Foreign Invader?**

Zayn was sitting in the host’s chair inside a restaurant’s private room that afternoon, while Matthew and Neve were sitting next to him.

Zayn made a suggestion. "As Mr. John's biological granddaughter, Jade should have the right to inherit his shares if his death is confirmed. Therefore, we must coerce her into joining us and being our ally.

'On top of that, she's a member of the Odell family as well, and now's the time for your family to work in harmony together to overthrow Victor. This way, you'll be able to take control of Odello Corp. the moment Victor gets eliminated. Meanwhile, I'll get to marry Jade, so it's a win-win situation."

Matthew thought that Zayn's suggestion was a perfectly sound one and immediately promised Zayn that he would do his best to gain Jade's favor and make her one of their allies.

While they were having this discussion, Matthew received a call from his secretary, who told him that the company had called an emergency meeting that afternoon.

"F\*ck those b\*stards. I used to be the one who summoned them to meetings, but now it's the other way around..."

After complaining for a while, Matthew left early, and Neve walked him out.

Outside the private room, Matthew gave Neve some instructions. "Now that Zayn's willing to help us, our victory is assured. I'm going to meet Jade in the afternoon and have her align herself with us temporarily. Once we're done taking care of Victor, we'll take revenge against her!

"Meanwhile, I don't want you to remain idle either. Do your best to keep Zayn on our side and make him our family's son-in-law."

Neve, who had heavy makeup on, nodded her head. "Don't worry, Dad. I'm confident in my looks and curves, so this won't be a problem!"

Thus, with Zayn joining the Odells and helping him, plus Neve working her magic on him as well, Matthew thought that he had a winning hand.

In fact, when he sat in the conference room, he almost failed to hold in his laughter.

He was very confident in himself and believed that Victor was definitely going to be defeated once he got Jade on his side!

However, when he realized that Jade had shown up in the conference room as well, Matthew suddenly felt a bad premonition.

Sure enough, Victor told everyone about his proposal...

"In light of Jade's personal capabilities and performance, and the fact that she's produced very good results when it comes to developing her company, I'd like to propose that we promote her to vice general manager of the company and let her officially join the ranks of higher-level management."

The four other elders in cahoots with him gradually raised their hands to approve of the motion. As usual, the four remaining people, including Matthew, had no chance of objecting to the motion in the slightest. In fact, someone had even jumped ship and allied himself with Victor as well over the past few days.

Even so, Matthew still stomped his foot and stood up. "I object!

What gives her the right to become the vice general manager? She-”

However, Victor immediately overruled Matthew’s objection without giving him a chance to argue

“Overruled. We already passed the vote, so we shall be proceeding with this motion. There’s no need for you to say anything else, Mr. Odell.”

Matthew’s face instantly turned pale at that retort as his eyes were filled with rage.

When he looked at Jade, he became especially hysterical. “Jade Odell, you traitor! You’ve betrayed our family!”

With a loud thud, Victor slammed the table and said, “You’re the one who’s a traitor, Matthew Odell! You’re the one who brought a foreign invader into our company!”

Once again, the company’s meeting ended up turning into an argument. In the end, Matthew, furious that his arguments were not fruitful, stormed out of the conference room.

Meanwhile, Victor had a smirk on his face as he watched Matthew walk away.

‘All I need now is for Jade to listen to my instructions and my dream of turning this company into Dowding Corp. will be smooth sailing!’

This was why Victor thought that it had been worthwhile for him to take this 50/50 risk

After the emergency meeting ended, Jade met up with Javier and explained what had just happened

Javier chuckled and thought that despite insulting Matthew for bringing in a foreign invader, Victor was doing the very same thing

“Now that Jade’s successfully joined Odello Corp., it’s going to remain Odello Corp. under Jade’s management for sure

After the two of them chatted for a while longer, Jade had to leave because she needed to take over some duties as a newcomer

After she left, Javier lowered his head to look at the glass of water on the table.

“The waters are not muddy enough for her to be able to take advantage of the situation yet, so I should throw in a little something..”

That afternoon, Matthew and Jade appeared at the same law firm.

The lawyer had called them over there that day because Mr. John had already arranged for them to split his inheritance.

Mr. John owned 52% of the company’s shares. Now, after distributing it, he divided it equally, so Jade and Matthew would each get 26%. Matthew was thoroughly enraged upon hearing this revelation.

“Why? Legally speaking, I should have priority over his inheritance since I’m his direct descendant. Forget about why she gets a portion of the company’s shares. Why does she get half of it, just like me?!”

However, the lawyer was very calm. “Mr. Odell, I’d advise you to remain calm. What you’re talking about is inheritance, but what Mr. John has asked us to give away his shares. In other words, you could say that he’s the one who’s personally arranged for his assets to be distributed as such.

“Therefore, your claims about being the person meant to inherit his wealth are unfounded.”

The lawyer was very clear about his intentions. Either Matthew would accept the 26% he was being offered, or he’d give it all up.

Although he was enraged, there was nothing Matthew could do about the situation. Thus, all he could do was angrily sign the acceptance document and walk away.

After meeting Zayn and Neve once again, Matthew angrily roared, “That old man must be out of his mind!

“Why the f\*ck would he leave half of his company shares to Jade? Why??? She might be his granddaughter, but I’m his only son!”

While Matthew was yelling, Zayn took out a cigarette and placed it in his mouth. Neve hurried over to help him light it.

Then, Zayn said, “You’re not his only son, though. He’s got another one, although he’s dead.”

Actually, Matthew had already realized this on his way back to the restaurant, but he was still not happy about the reality of the situation. He thought that Jade did not even deserve 1% of the shares.

Next to him, Zayn went on to say, “Now that the shares have been divided, the so-called absolute authority of the five-man group is no longer effective. Now, you could *very* well suppress them with the shares you have. We need to get Jade on our side even more right

now.

“Obviously, Victor should have realized this as well, which is why he brought her into the higher-level management to gain her favor.

“However, none of this matters, as I’m going to personally have a chat with Jade about this. I’ll try to get her 26% on our side...”

While Zayn and Matthew were discussing their game plan, Jade and Javier were doing the same.

“Now that all of Grandpa’s shares have been distributed, Matthew and I own 26% each, Victor 3 1%, and the rest of them hold a total of 17%. Victor now holds the most shares, so if he wants to become chairman...”

Jade’s concern meant absolutely nothing to Javier.

“It’s not going to be that easy for him. Let’s look at this from a different angle and put your 26 % aside for now. Victor and Matthew are at complete odds with one another, so that’s out of the question. In that case, it doesn’t matter which one of the two ends up possessing the remaining 17%, as it still won’t be enough for them to gain absolute authority over the company

“So, in order to gain absolute authority, there would either have to be a 31% + 26% scenario or a 26% + 26% scenario.”

Jade instantly understood what was going on. “In other words, I’m the key player right now, and they’re both going to try their best to make me side with them!”

Sure enough, Javier received a phone call from Victor, who wanted to meet the former.

“Victor sure is a cunning fellow. He’s choosing to start with me rather than you...”