

Chapter 701

“...It’s... him?”

Though Maia had been notified by Warren that Gerald was apparently studying here, she hadn’t personally seen him till now. Seeing him carrying the water bottles instantly caused a look of disdain to form on her face.

While he was now in a different school, he was still the same loser that he was back in high school. To think that he was still being ordered around to carry and distribute water to others!

She didn’t even want to know why Gerald was now studying at Salford University.

Meanwhile, the girls from earlier were now surrounding Gerald.

“What is the meaning of this?” asked one of the higher-ups.

“Manager Luke! We’ve found him! He’s the one who donated the five hundred thousand dollars!” said one of the volunteer girls in admiration.

“...What?”

Hearing her words, everyone went silent.

A look of utter shock and disbelief was on everyone's faces, and this was especially so for those currently standing on stage.

Stella herself was awkwardly staring at Gerald, as she ended the call just as her father picked up.

Even Jasmine and Mandy found themselves stunned as they continued staring at Gerald's direction.

"This... This must be some kind of mistake! It couldn't have been him!" shouted Isabelle indignantly, clearly irked by how Gerald had donated much more than Fabian.

She simply refused to believe that Gerald had that much money to donate in the first place! Yet, the truth was now in plain sight.

It had already been announced that the donor was from their class. If neither Fabian nor Stella's family had made the donation, then the only possible person left was Gerald.

"It's definitely him! It'd be impossible for so many of us to have mistaken him for someone else!" explained the girls.

"Are you really sure? Hah! We were both in the same high school and for as long as I've known him, he's always been a poor b*stard! As if he could ever have that large a sum of money on him! You wouldn't get that much money even if you tried to sell him!" said Maia hastily.

It was clear that the fact that Gerald had donated five hundred thousand dollars had shattered Maia's and many others' egos.

After all, while those on stage had been renowned for being born in rich families, to those who knew him personally, Gerald was always just the poor kid.

While Maia wore brands like Adidas and Nike that cost well over a hundred dollars, Gerald himself would usually only wear clothes from the dollar store. Her superiority complex was so terrible that even if Gerald wore a ten dollar shirt, that would be enough to make her feel unsettled.

Since Maia had donated nine hundred dollars in an event like this, to her, Gerald would only have the capability to donate fifty cents or even less!

Yet here the volunteers were, claiming that he had donated the five hundred thousand dollars! The claim itself made Maia feel nauseous.

It didn't help that the volunteer girls immediately showed the receipt to everyone after that to prove that they were telling the truth!

'How is this even possible? How did he get this rich?!' Maia thought to himself.

While Gerald had been trying hard to keep his identity a secret, he knew he couldn't really do anything about it at this point.

Even a few of the event's workers were now gesturing for him to come up the stage with utmost respect.

Fabian himself—who had initially taken center-stage—was now being pushed aside by the volunteer girls to make space for Gerald.

While that made Fabian's face turn red in embarrassment, Isabelle's own face was red from rage after seeing their actions.

“You... You! Why would you even donate that much?!” scolded Isabelle in anger as she pointed at Gerald.

“She's right! I don't know where all that money came from, but I hope you realize just how much you've spent instead of just trying to look rich!” added Maia in disdain. She felt that if she didn't at least try to mock him now, she would definitely faint from the stunning blow to her ego she had just received.

Hearing what they had to say, Gerald glared daggers at them, anger bubbling inside him.

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Though he used to see Maia as a goddess way back in his poor days, this was the final straw. Gerald would no longer tolerate her straightforwardness and sharp-tongue!

“Well since I'm already 'acting' like a rich guy, I may as well 'act' till the very end! You know what, I'm adding another hundred and fifty thousand dollars to that initial five hundred thousand!” announced Gerald with a wry smile.

“W-what?”

Hearing that, everyone fell into utter shock!

As if five hundred thousand dollars wasn't enough! This person was now donating a grand total of six hundred and fifty thousand dollars to charity!

At this point, the rest of Gerald's classmates were all staring wide-eyed at him. It was hard for them to even process that such a simple looking person could actually be such a rich man!

While this was the reaction of Gerald's classmates, the silence ended when one of the students from another third-year class began cheering!

Hearing that, a chain reaction of cheers and applauses soon followed!

Breaking from their stunned states, the workers themselves immediately got on stage to process the second payment.

The entire hall was now staring at Gerald in utter admiration.

While showing off wasn't his usual style, doing it every once in a while was fine. Besides, he had an actual reason to show off this time.

Glancing at Maia and Isabelle's indignant expressions, Gerald could feel an impish glee in himself.

Once the transaction was done, each of the workers took turns shaking hands with Gerald.

Fabian on the other hand, simply stomped down the stage after receiving his certificate. What a total waste of fifteen thousand dollars!

"Who would've guessed that he was actually that rich, Jasmine! When they announced that he was the one who had donated the five hundred thousand dollars, I couldn't believe my ears at all! Now that he's added another hundred and fifty thousand dollars to that sum, even I have to believe that he's the one who made that ginormous donation!" whispered Mindy as she continued looking at Gerald with great interest.

"I find it hard to believe as well... Looks like his background isn't as simple as we had initially assumed. We should definitely be more careful from now on!" replied Jasmine, her tone cautious.

"Humph! Let's just get someone from our family to investigate more about him!" replied Mandy.

"The thing is, we've already ordered someone to do that for us even before today's events... All we know is that he's some poor student from Serene County! No matter how the investigation team tried, they simply couldn't find out anything more about him!"

A look of dissatisfaction formed on Jasmine's face as she said that. In a sense, this was an eye-opening experience for her.

As Jasmine continued looking at Gerald, Fabian darted out of the hall without saying a word. His expression suggested that he had just sat through some useless event.

Knowing how hurt he was, Isabelle ran after him while shouting, "Brother Fabian! Wait for me!"

Despite her pleas, Fabian continued sprinting toward the garden. Once he arrived at the bottom of a shady tree, Fabian immediately punched the tree's trunk! His face was filled with rage.

Isabelle was well aware that Fabian's only Achilles' heel, amidst his many good traits, was his ego.

She had noticed how hurt Fabian had been when he was earlier pushed aside by the volunteers without even a second thought. Gerald standing where he once stood was definitely the last straw for him!

"Brother Fabian, please don't be mad! Regardless of how much Gerald's donated, you still achieved second place in the Taekwondo Youth Championship! That alone already makes you way better than him!" said Isabelle, her eyes slightly reddened.

"Don't forget about your dreams, Brother Fabian! Please don't be miserable over something as trivial as this! Remember, our school's very own Taekwondo Championship personally invited you to be their judge! You'll be able to show everyone

who's boss then! Just think of all the cheers and applause you'll be receiving when that happens!" coaxed Isabelle.

After hearing that, Fabian started feeling a little better about himself. She was right. Once his time to shine arrived, he'd definitely be even highly regarded as the pride of their class! Endless cheering and admiration would then be reserved for him, and only him!

'Why on earth are you stressing so much over something so trivial in the first place, Fabian?' He thought to himself.

"...I understand now! Thank you so much, Isabelle!"

While it was true that he was feeling much better now, Fabian still left the area with a rather miserable expression on his face. After all, no matter how much Isabelle was going to coax him, his pride had still been hurt deeply today.

Once the event finally ended, Gerald headed out with Marven.

While they were walking, Marven suddenly looked like he just remembered something. Without saying a word, he then looked around and entered a nearby shop. By the time he got out again, he had bought a whole bunch of food.

"Hmm? What's this then? Are you already hungry again?" said Gerald as he looked at the stash of food that Marven had bought while smiling.

“No, no, these aren’t for me! I’m giving all of these to someone... Since I’ll be meeting her along the way anyway, would you mind accompanying me?” replied Marven, a sheepish grin plastered on his face.

Chapter 703

“Oh? Who could you be planning to give all that to?” asked Gerald as he continued smiling.

Gerald was rightfully curious since this was the first time he had ever seen this side of Marven.

“Haha... Between you and me, it’s a girl I have a crush on! She’s from the Taekwondo society which is going to hold a tournament very soon! Since she’s been training so hard, I thought of buying some food to keep her well-nourished!” replied Marven, a huge grin on his face.

Hearing that, Gerald felt happy for Marven. While Marven was one of the smarter people, his feelings were still simple and honest.

Since they were now rather close friends anyway, Gerald decided to tag along.

Eventually, they arrived at the Taekwondo society. Inside, quite a number of people were busy training.

Scanning around while hugging all the food he had bought in his arms, Marven finally found the person he was looking for. The girl he had a crush on was stunning, to say the least.

“Hahaha! Look who’s here, Raquel! That fatty is here to bring you food again!” said a few of the members who had earlier been training.

They had stopped for a brief moment when they saw Marven and Gerald entering. The members who had said that were now all pointing toward Marven in a mocking manner.

Gerald had realized that not many people in the school actually saw Marven as a friend. He had also noticed that there was barely anyone who looked up to him either.

“How dedicated he is! Who else would do the things he does for you on a daily basis, Raquel? Go be this good man’s girlfriend already!” said a few other girls who then started mocking Raquel as well.

Raquel was an attractive looking girl, so she felt insulted when she heard the girls’ remarks. Instead of taking her dissatisfaction out on them, however, she instead began stomping toward the short and chubby Marven, glaring at him the entire time.

“Marven, haven’t I already told you not to come here anymore? Your presence here only serves to bother and disgust me!” yelled Raquel as she fumed.

“But Raquel, I’m just worried that you’re overtraining yourself! A little food will definitely help you get back some well-needed energy!” replied Marven as he extended the food in his arms out for her to take.

The only response he received was a swift swipe which sent all the food in his hands falling to the floor!

“I don’t need any of your d*mn food! I’ve told you time and again to stop coming here! So just leave already!”

Seeing that Marven was rooted to the spot in shock, Raquel only found herself growing even more furious by the second.

By then, a crowd had surrounded them. All of them were simultaneously booing at Marven.

“Since when have you become like this, Raquel...? You’ve never treated me this way before!” said Marven, his eyes slightly watery as he looked at all the scattered food on the floor.

“Have you lost your marbles? I told you to get out already!” yelled Raquel as she shoved him hard.

Caught by surprise, Marven found himself spinning in his attempt to maintain his balance. Ultimately, he failed to do so and fell face-first into the floor!

“Hahaha! Look at him! He’s just like a turtle that’s tumbled over! Check out those short limbs of his!”

“Hah! Yeah, to think that a guy like you even dares to go after Raquel... In your dreams pal, in your dreams... Still, it’s no wonder Raquel likes-”

The girl immediately ended her sentence midway, barely avoiding stepping on a landmine.

“I’m sick of having to see you every day!” roared Raquel as she kicked all the food Marven had bought away before turning around to leave.

“Hey now, don’t you think you’re overdoing it?” shouted Gerald.

“Are you even aware of how much Marven thinks about you and your training? He only wants what’s best for you! Even if you don’t like him, what gives you the right to treat him like this?” added Gerald, this time his voice getting increasingly furious.

“Like this concerns you in any way! I can treat him however the hell I like! After all, he’s the one who’s embarrassing me here! And what about you? Why are you even still here? Scram already!”

With her anger reignited, Raquel was just about to launch a few more punches on Marven when Gerald swiftly stepped in front of him and pushed her away!

Infuriated, Raquel retaliated by kicking Gerald right in the chest!

Gerald had honestly not expected this girl to be so impulsive, and he ended up falling on his butt.

It was at that moment when Raquel realized that she really was being a bit too much.

Chapter 704

She was well aware that Marven had a crush on her. However, even though she had made it extremely clear that she wasn't into him, why on earth was he still pestering her?

Every girl had an ego to maintain when it came to relationships. If Raquel had received the same treatment from a better-looking guy, she wouldn't have minded.

However, Marven was a completely different story. After all, to most people, he generally had a bad image if she was going to be completely honest about it.

After being humiliated in front of so many people, she would've kicked him out the door if she was any less morally aware!

"B-Brother Gerald!" shouted Marven as he rushed over to Gerald to help him up.

While Gerald clearly looked like he wanted to continue arguing with Raquel, Marven noticed that a few of the Taekwondo society's members were already circling them. Fearing that Gerald would get hurt because of him again, Marven immediately dragged him out of there.

The two continued walking on until they arrived at the garden located right outside their campus.

Upon finding a place to sit, Marven soon found himself sobbing as he said, “It’s all my fault, Brother Gerald! While Raquel may have attacked you, please place the blame on me! After all, it’s true that I was the one who had humiliated her in front of all those people!”

Though he had indeed received a kick to the chest from Raquel, Gerald simply remained silent. It was because he saw his past self in Marven.

Back then, he had been willing to get beaten up just to keep Xavia safe!

Understanding Marven’s pain, Gerald then patted him on the back while saying, “Alright, alright I won’t... For now, let’s focus more on getting you to stop crying... Still, you told me that both of you had quite a good relationship! No offense, but that scene from earlier clearly suggested otherwise!”

“Well... We truthfully were on good terms in the past... After all, both of us grew up together! However, once Raquel got into college, she began changing rather drastically...”

Marven then began detailing his past with Raquel to Gerald.

Both of them had apparently been extremely friendly with each other in the past, up to the point where Marven would always stand up for Raquel whenever she got bullied in school.

The worst bullying Raquel had ever received happened when they were in their fourth year. Back then, Raquel’s path had been blocked by a few older students.

Being the immature youngsters that they were, the older students had assumed that they simply needed to write a love letter to Raquel for her to fall head over heels for them. When that obviously failed, all of them ganged up on her. Marven however, came to her aid and fought against all of them.

By the time they were done, his knees were bleeding so much that the scars from then remained till this very day.

The incident Marven faced was honestly quite similar to what had happened with Gerald and Xavia back in the day.

That was basically why for a period of time, Marven and Raquel were near inseparable. In fact, after graduating high school, both of them had even become a couple for a while.

It was at that time, however, when Marven started noticing small changes in Raquel's behavior.

Eventually, it got so bad that Raquel actively tried to hide from him. It even got to the point where she told him not to tell others that they were actually a couple!

One day, Raquel told him that she needed some time away from him...

And that was how their relationship remained for quite a period of time.

Marven simply couldn't accept how quickly Raquel had moved on from him so he kept on pestering her.

Eventually, it led to the events of today.

Gerald simply shook his head in pity. He didn't even know what to say. After all, Marven's story had become strikingly similar to his own past relationship with Xavia. All he could do was pat him on the back.

Not long after, Marven wiped the last of his tears away, affirming that he was fine now. Sharing his sad tale and crying it out had definitely helped.

Hearing that, Gerald felt a sense of relief wash over him.

Just as they were about to leave, Gerald's phone rang. It was a call from Queta.

"Gerald, you have to return immediately!"

"What's wrong?"

Queta's tone sounded desperate...

Chapter 705

"What exactly happened? There's no need to rush, just focus on telling me everything in detail!" added Gerald.

“It’s... It’s grandpa Finnley! He’s been packing up and trying to leave! Even now, I’m still struggling to stop him from doing so!”

“What? But why? Everything’s been going smoothly for a while now! Why the sudden urge to leave?” replied Gerald, confused.

Gerald saw Finnley as a mysterious old man who—even in his old age—still operated alone most of the time.

It was fate that had brought Gerald and Finnley together, and the old man had already helped Gerald on multiple occasions.

While Finnley still seemed to enjoy pestering him, Gerald said nothing about it. After all, he had already received so much help from the old man.

To return the old man’s favour, Gerald welcomed Finnely’s presence, serving Finnley with fine food and also a place to stay in his mansion.

Since Finnley had also saved Queta’s life, even she treated him well, and she would always make sure that he was constantly well-fed. Most of the time, Queta treated him as though he was her actual grandfather.

Yet here he was, trying to leave them now. If anything was to blame for Finnley’s sudden urge to depart, it would probably be because of Gerald’s ongoing investigation on the Fenderson family.

Gerald was well aware that something was already off with Finnley the moment he asked that old man if he knew anything about the Fendersons. After all, Finnley seemed to speak less and less with Gerald in the few days to come after Gerald had posed that question. It was as though the old man had something on his mind.

When Finnley was asked why he seemed to be pondering something, the old man would only reply in gibberish.

Seeing that he couldn't really do anything at the moment, Gerald simply added, "...Alright, don't worry about it too much. For now, I'll head back so that I can ask him about it in person!"

Gerald then parted ways with Marven.

After some time, he arrived home just in time to see Finnley carrying his luggage out the door!

"I really have to leave now, my granddaughter! I'll definitely come back to visit when I have the time in future! You're a good girl and grandpa will never forget you!"

As soon as the old man turned around, however, he noticed that Gerald was standing right before him!

"Ah! My grandson! Perfect timing! I have to leave now, so this is goodbye for the moment!"

“But Mr. Quick, you’ve been living here for quite a while now. Why the rush to leave? Regardless, if you truly need to go, you could’ve just told me and I would’ve sent you to wherever you needed to go by car!”

“There really isn’t a need for that, my grandson. I know you mean well, and you’ve been an excellent grandson! However, if I don’t leave now, I won’t be able to find another chance to do so...”

Finnley’s last words came out in mumbles and Gerald wasn’t able to catch what he had said.

“I’m sorry, what did you say?”

Clearing his throat, Finnley then replied, “I said there’s no need to trouble you! It’s about time I leave now, take care, my grandson!”

After saying that, Finnley patted Gerald’s chest.

As a result, Gerald flinched in pain before gently rubbing over the bruise there that had been left by Raquel.

“Are you serious? That soft pat on the chest hurt you? Have your insides turned into paper my grandson?” asked Finnley, clearly astonished.

Queta herself ran over after hearing Gerald’s yelp before asking, “What’s wrong Gerald? Are you hurt?”

“Don’t worry about it! Some girl just kicked me in the chest!”

“...Huh? Who was she? Why did she have to attack you?” asked Queta, getting increasingly worried.

Gerald simply shook his head in response, a sign that he didn’t want to talk about it for the moment.

While it was true that Raquel had only hurt him this much because she was well versed in Taekwondo, Finnley simply shook his head before sighing.

“If I were to leave you now in this state, how could I not worry about you, my grandson? You’re simply too kind! I truly worry that once I leave, you won’t even realize what killed you!”

As he said that, Finnley recalled what had happened back at the hotel when Yunus had sent that long-haired man to attack Gerald.

If it wasn’t for his intervention, Gerald’s arm would’ve been as good as gone!

“I only got this hurt because I didn’t fight back! If I was serious, I’d definitely have been able to spar for a bit!” replied Gerald. After all, while he was kind, he still had a reputation to maintain! Being beaten up by a girl definitely hurt his ego slightly.

“Hah! You? While I know you have a bit of strength in you, just about anyone who has a bit more skill can easily beat you into a pulp! You know, my grandson, you can’t just expect there to be people to protect you every time something like this happens!” said Finnley as he scratched the back of his head.

Gerald could only nod in response.

To be honest, he had considered picking up a martial art or two from the Drake & Tyson duo before. Perhaps something like kickboxing.

The problem was, he simply didn’t have the time to undergo any training!

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“Alright, how about this? I’ll stay here for three more days and though you probably won’t be able to learn any difficult moves within that short amount of time, under my guidance, you can surely learn at least a few for self-defense. That way, your enemies won’t be able to come too close to you that easily! While the moves themselves are practical and generally easier to learn, keep in mind that the moves aren’t designed to hurt people! They’re primarily for self-defense, after all!” said Finnley.

“...Wait, you aren’t kidding, right? I’ll be able to learn basic self-defense in just three days?” replied Gerald with a smile.

“Listen, if I say you can master it by then, you definitely can! Consider yourself lucky that I’m even staying back to teach you, you brat of a grandson! And don’t look at me with those doubtful eyes! If you don’t believe me, try hitting me with all you’ve got!” said Finnley as he waved at Gerald to come at him.

“I’d rather not! Again, Mr. Quick, I was only hurt this much because I didn’t fight back! I don’t hit women anyway! I’m honestly quite strong you know! I’m afraid that if I actually punched you, I’d end up breaking your bones!” replied Gerald rather dismissively as he waved back.

‘Mr. Quick may be knowledgeable, but he’s still old and skinny...’ Gerald thought to himself. He was honestly worried that he would end up hurting the old man from just a simple punch.

“What are you worrying about? Come at me already!” Was Finnley’s response.

Seeing how confident Finnley sounded, Gerald eventually gave in. After positioning himself, Gerald made a dash toward Finnley, aiming a punch at his shoulder!

It was a moment later when a loud thud could be heard. Gerald was now on the ground!

Before Gerald’s punch could even connect, Finnley easily dodged his attack before grabbing him by the wrist! In the next moment, Gerald felt like a broken kite as his entire body was momentarily lifted into the air before he was greeted by the villa’s cold, stone porch!

Gerald’s entire body was hurting as though all the bones in him had simultaneously been fractured. He found it difficult to even get up.

“G-Gerald!” shouted Queta as she rushed toward him with a worried expression plastered on her face as she helped him get up.

“So? How was it, grandson? I still got the moves!” said Finnley as he squatted down beside Gerald while chuckling.

It hadn't crossed Gerald's mind that such a frail-looking man would be so good at self-defense.

He hadn't even realized that he had been lifted into the air till the moment his body hit the ground. Gerald's head was honestly still spinning from the impact of that fall.

“Come on, grandpa Quick! Why did you have to overdo it?” exclaimed Queta, evidently concerned about Gerald's safety.

“Hah! He's a fully grown man! He isn't as weak as you think, my granddaughter. After all, Gerald's had to do a lot of rough work from a very young age! His arms are pretty strong you know? The move I just used on him will be perfect for Gerald to learn!” replied Finnley as he gave Gerald a slight kick.

“Get up now, my grandson! As promised, I'll use these few extra days to help you master a few moves! So long as your opponents aren't too experienced, those moves will definitely be handy assets to help you escape most normal fights!”

Hearing that, Gerald immediately stood up, still holding on to his hurt arm.

‘He's right about that. That truly is a pretty good move...’ Gerald thought to himself as he nodded.

Fast forward to three days later, while Gerald had finally managed to master quite a few self-defense techniques, it also meant that Finnley no longer had anything stopping him from leaving.

Since Finnley had been together with them for quite some time now, Gerald realized that he already had a slight emotional connection with him.

While the old man was occasionally muddle-headed and tended to spout nonsense from time to time, he was generally a good man to both Gerald and Queta. In all honesty, Gerald wanted him to stay if he could.

Queta bawled her eyes out as she sent him off. She was well aware that she would miss having him around.

As Mr. Quick left the villa, Gerald wondered why Mr. Quick was so reluctant to talk about certain topics. However, seeing how adamantly the old man had held on to his secrets, Gerald simply kept the question to himself for the time being.

With Finnley gone, it now was time for him to focus all his energy on investigating the Fendersons.

The next day, as Gerald was entering the campus together with Marven, both of them bumped into Warren, Maia, and three other girls.

However, Gerald simply walked on, treating Maia as though she was a complete stranger.

“You... Gerald Crawford! You come back here, right this instant!” yelled Maia in anger.

Chapter 707

Realizing that Gerald was ignoring her on purpose was the trigger to her anger.

‘Who do you think you are to just ignore me?’ Maia thought to herself.

“What do you want?”

Knowing that he had mixed feelings toward Maia, Gerald found that reason enough for him to ignore her earlier. What more, he understood why she would be frustrated to see him, now that he was clearly wealthier than her.

He just couldn't be bothered by her.

“So what if you're a little rich now? Like that's a good reason for you to ignore me! Anyway, I just want to know where you got all that money from,” enquired Maia as she stared straight into Gerald's eyes.

“Sorry, private information,” replied Gerald coldly.

“Private? Hah! You just earned a bit more cash, big deal! That still doesn't change the fact that you were a pauper in the past! I'll be frank with you, Gerald! You're at most an

upstart, you got that? And upstarts are infamously known for being arrogant pricks like you! Unlike Jamier and the others, you definitely lack maturity and stability!” huffed Maia, clearly not wanting to be outdone.

“Whatever you say. Speaking of which, Marven and I are planning on scouting for a nice place to start our new company. If there isn’t anything else, we’ll be off now!” said Gerald, shaking his head with a somber smile.

It wasn’t his first rodeo being insulted like this anyway.

‘Like her insults mean anything to me. It’s useless trying to explain anything to someone like her,’ Gerald thought to himself.

“...Company? You’re starting a new company?” asked Maia.

It was extremely upsetting for her to see Gerald getting ahead in life. Even she wasn’t sure why she felt this way, she simply did.

“Yeah! Gerald’s funding so that we can start a travel agency together!” added Marven rather excitedly as he followed Gerald into the campus.

This wasn’t a lie either. Gerald had called Marven yesterday around noon just to discuss it.

Since Marven’s grandmother’s health had been deteriorating of late and his relationship with Raquel was also in shambles, Marven had honestly been incredibly stressed.

However, when Gerald stepped in to help him, Marven knew that he would soon be able to get through his tough times.

He had been extremely grateful to Gerald after receiving the offer to start a company together. While he had seen Gerald as a close friend before, he now treated Gerald as though he was his real brother.

As the two walked further away, Warren looked extremely pissed. “What kind of luck does he even have?”

“Who knows? Still, even if he’s opening a company, he’ll be the only one funding it!” said Maia.

“You got that right. Humph! Just you wait and see. He’ll definitely use up all that money eventually. What else will he have then?” replied Warren, his tone sour.

“...Anyway, let’s stop talking about Gerald and get moving for now. The school’s organizing a Taekwondo competition, remember? Out of all the events in the school, this one caught my eye the most!” added Warren.

“Oh yeah, before you went to the police academy, you used to represent the seniors, right? Since you were Sunnydale’s Taekwondo champion, you can definitely give your juniors some pointers after watching the competition!”

The group of five then entered the campus as well, casually chatting among themselves.

Meanwhile, Gerald and Marven had just signed their attendance in class. Seeing that they only had ideology class that morning, they decided to leave.

As they descended the stairs, Gerald thought about why he was so willing to help Marven out. It probably had something to do with how much he saw himself in Marven. What more, both of them had grown closer in the past few days, and Gerald now saw him as a brother as well.

Marven was an extremely filial person too, and Gerald was pleased by how much Marven loved both his parents and grandparents. Knowing how good a person Marven was, Gerald was more than happy to support him which led to his idea of forming a partnership for Marven's new travel agency.

Besides, since it was mostly monetary issues, it wasn't even that big of a deal for Gerald. He had the means to help, so it was only right to do so for his brother.

Regardless, the first big step they had to do was to settle where the company would be located.

Chapter 708

Both of them had decided to start their company in a building quite near to the university. The building itself was grand and looked like the perfect place to start a firm. What more, it was also surrounded by lush greenery, almost as though Mother Nature had personally blessed the location.

Many other companies were already using the building as well. The popularity of the place really exceeded their expectations.

By starting their travel agency there, the other companies would definitely begin organizing their annual trips with their agency! They had avoided locations that were in the middle of nowhere for a reason. The revenue difference said it all.

It didn't take long for the two to arrive at the investment center within the building.

"Didn't we settle this over the phone? Where's the guy we're supposed to meet up with?" asked Gerald as both of them walked through the main entrance.

"I'm not sure either, brother. I called him earlier but the line was busy!"

"I see. Well, the center is crowded anyway. Let's just wait for a bit!" said Gerald as he checked the time while shaking his head with a helpless smile.

As he turned to look at Marven, Gerald noticed that he was staring at the entrance, looking visibly shocked. Raising an eyebrow, he followed Marven's gaze and was surprised to see a group of young people—who had just gotten out of a car—entering the investment center as well.

One of the girls was clinging on to a guy's arm as he shut the driver's seat behind him. The two looked awfully close, and they continued smiling brightly as they continued talking while entering the building. Two other girls followed closely behind them.

"There are a few group matches against other classes this morning, Raquel! Are you sure you don't want to participate in them?" asked one of the two girls.

“Haha... Group matches are simply too easy for her! Our Raquel’s a professional! Of course she doesn’t need to participate in group matches! With her capabilities, she can straight up enter the finals that are going to be held this evening! Am I not right?” replied the guy while chuckling.

“That’s true... Raquel truly is the luckiest girl ever! With Jefferson by her side, she’s now even able to hold her own training classes!” replied the other girl in envy.

“It’s nothing much! It’s just a training center... After all, I’m just doing what I love, right Jeff?” said Raquel with a sweet smile on her face.

“Indeed! However, I’ll have to warn you to prepare yourself, Raquel. Training centers are pretty saturated in the market since there are a lot of other martial arts. While I’m not too familiar with Taekwondo, my sister used to train with you. She mentioned that competition among Taekwondo training centers is pretty strong as well. I had to pull quite a few strings to make this work, so once class is in session, you have to make sure to work hard with my sister!” replied Jefferson.

“Oh, don’t worry about that! I know how competitive the market can be... That’s the reason why I wanted the training center to be near Edificio! The crowd’s always massive here!”

“Well, this place is... Well, let’s not talk about that first. I’ll just have to find my friend’s brother first. He’s the sales manager here!”

“Alright!”

“Raquel...?” said Marven as he walked right in front of her. His shock seeing her together with her group here was clear as day.

Seeing him here, Raquel immediately let go of Jefferson’s arm awkwardly.

Before this, she had told Marven that she needed some space away from him for some time. Her excuse had been that Marven could use that period of time to better himself while she herself focused on her training.

It was the only reason why Marven had agreed to give her more time alone.

However, her sudden immense change in attitude toward him was simply too obvious. Seeing how intimate she had been with Jefferson, Marven now knew the truth behind why Raquel kept giving him the cold shoulder.

Raquel was aware that she had been caught red-handed as well. It made her feel embarrassed to even look Marven in the face now.

“So... You were lying to me all this time!” said Marven, his hands trembling. His hands were shaking so much that all the documents for the investments he was holding fell to the floor.

Chapter 709

“L-lying? I have no idea what you’re going on about!” replied Raquel as she crossed her arms.

With quite a number of people in the center looking at them now, Raquel really wished she could simply hide from all this embarrassment.

“...Why... Why are you behaving this way...?” asked Marven as he took in a deep breath.

In response, Raquel only looked to the side in silence.

“Huh, so you’re Marven, right? Raquel’s childhood friend or something? I’ve heard quite a bit about you! Just look at yourself! Get out of my sight already!” yelled Jefferson as he dangled his Audi A6 car keys right in front of Marven’s face.

“Hello, hello! Your name was Jeff, right? I’ve been waiting for you to arrive!” said a suited employee out of the blue as he rushed over to shake hands with Jefferson, a friendly smile on his face.

“Hey there, Aaron! It’s been a while since we’ve last met! Sorry for the wait!” replied Jefferson as he returned the handshake.

“No problem! Alright, so let’s get straight to business. I’ve picked out a few pretty decent places for you already! Come have a look at them! And don’t worry about the prices just yet, I’ll definitely be giving you discounts!” said Aaron.

“Sounds great, let’s go choose one right now!”

After saying that, Jefferson began dragging Raquel by the arm along with him. Since Raquel didn't really want to talk to Marven anymore, she simply followed him, standing close to his side.

As she left, Marven slowly collected his thoughts again. Recalling Gerald's advice definitely helped him keep his cool. Too many things had happened too quickly earlier, which was why he couldn't hold his anger for a brief moment.

Seeing that Marven had successfully calmed himself down, Gerald simply patted him on the shoulder and led him back to their initial seats.

"Holy cr*p, Aaron! How could office areas be so expensive now? This isn't like what I saw online at all!"

It hadn't even been that long before Jefferson's exclamations could be heard from a distance.

"Really, Jefferson? Do you honestly think this is too expensive? I'll have you know that these are the cheapest ones here! Their placements are pretty decent as well!"

"Cheapest? The rent is around a million dollars per year! You may as well just rob us clean!" replied Jefferson, the shock on his face fully visible for all to see.

All this was really too much for Jefferson. Though it was true that his family was quite rich, if he really was going to spend a million dollars just to pay for the rent alone, his bank account would be empty in no time!

Raquel was equally as shocked. From the research she had done online, office area rent usually cost around three hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year.

With that cost range in mind, she had calculated that together with Edificio's popularity and the fact that it was close to her school, she was going to get one hell of a sweet deal.

Little had she expected for things to not have gone her way in the slightest.

Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars had simply been the base rent price. As it turned out, the areas around the building had rents that could easily go over a million dollars!

It was at that moment when Raquel finally realized that luck alone wouldn't get her through life. Life simply wasn't that easy.

A million dollars just for the rent? In her dreams!

"There's really no way I can afford that, Aaron!" added Jefferson, still visibly appalled.

He then turned to face Raquel before saying, "Let's just find some other place, Raquel. This really is too much!"

Hearing that, Raquel felt disappointed.

Edificio was a popular place, famous for having a high consumption rate. In other words, only those who had a high status could afford to work in it.

Knowing that she couldn't match up to that status hurt Raquel's pride slightly.

She really liked the area too since it was very close to her campus. Imagine being able to set up her training center here! That would definitely help boost both her center's publicity alongside her great ego!

Oh well...

"Well, alright then..." replied Raquel with a nod, looking quite disappointed.

Hearing that, Aaron's enthusiastic attitude changed drastically as well. After a bit more small talk, he immediately rushed off with his documents.

"Let's go Raquel. It's still pretty early after all! We can still go look at other places. I'm sure there are plenty others with more manageable yearly rents!" said Jefferson.

Chapter 710

"I know... Still, I'd like to look around the area first!" replied Raquel. While she couldn't afford to pay the rent for a unit in this place, she still wanted to have a look around the building. After all, a girl could dream.

As the group continued hanging out around the area, a loud commotion could suddenly be heard coming from the end of the hallway.

A suited middle-aged man could be seen walking into the building, and many of the customers present greeted him respectfully when he passed by them. This wasn't just any regular person. He was the manager of Edificio!

"That's Edificio's famous manager, Alexander Brookes!" explained Jefferson to the three girls.

'So what if you know about him? He doesn't even know that you exist!' Raquel thought to herself, clearly still upset.

While a lot of people seemed to want to talk to Mr. Brooks, all he did was wave them off. He seemed to be in quite a hurry. The fact that he was also looking around hinted that he was trying to find something or someone.

All of a sudden, he noticed the four teenagers staring at him and he immediately ran over to Raquel's group.

Seeing him hurriedly approaching them, both Raquel and Jefferson found themselves growing excited.

"Mr. Wadley, I presume? Did Mr. Crawford not come along?" asked Alexander with a respectful smile as he looked at Jefferson.

Everyone in the building immediately fell silent, all of them looking at the group's direction.

“Mr. Wadley? Mr. Brookes, you must be mistaken! My name is Jefferson Brown...” replied Jefferson, his face flushed with excitement.

Even Raquel was biting her lower lip, trying her best to contain her excitement.

“Huh? Oh, I do apologize! I mistook you for someone else!” apologized Alexander rather awkwardly.

Earlier when Alexander had received a call, he had been notified that Marven Wadley was a student from Salford University who was also a friend of Mr. Crawford’s! Since Gerald was involved, Alexander had been given direct orders from their company’s director to approach Marven with the utmost respect!

“You kids looked like students from Salford University! Since my client’s from that university as well, you’ll have to forgive me for mistaking you for someone else!” added Alexander with an apologetic smile on his face.

“Oh? What a coincidence! Why don’t you tell me who your client is, Mr. Brookes? Maybe I could be of help!” said Jefferson.

He still couldn’t believe that he was currently speaking to the manager of Edificio. Jefferson was definitely going to prolong their conversation as much as he could!

Raquel nodded in agreement. After all, she knew quite a lot of people in their university as well.

“I’d appreciate that! The person I’m looking for is Mr. Marven Wadley. Have you seen him around anywhere?” asked Alexander.

Upon hearing his words, Raquel’s mind went completely blank.

“I... I’m sorry, could you repeat that?”

Mr. Brookes’ question was so shocking to her that she even wondered if she had hallucinated the name.

‘Marven Wadley? He’s looking for Marven? No way in hell! There’s got to be a mistake! With Mr. Brookes’ status, why would he ever want to meet up with Marven?’

“Of course. I’m looking for Mr. Marven Wadley. Are you familiar with him?” repeated Alexander, feeling as though none of them actually knew who his client was.

‘I guess I was too excited back there. I should’ve just given Mr. Wadley a call! Why did I assume that these kids even knew who he was?’ Alexander thought to himself.

Just as he took his phone out, Marven’s distinct voice could be heard calling out for him.

“There’s no need to call me, Mr. Brookes! I’m right here!”

Chapter 711

By then, Marven had already gotten up from his seat and was now approaching them.

He then shook hands with Alexander before saying, “Good day, Mr. Brookes! We’ve talked over the phone the day before. I tried calling you again earlier but you didn’t pick up!”

“I’m terribly sorry Mr. Wadley! I had to resolve some of my daughter’s school matters just now! Please forgive my tardiness!”

“Speaking of which, Mr. Wadley, you’ve told us to prepare a few documents the day before. Here’s the office area you were interested in and the 4D showroom model of the outlet,” said Mr. Brookes as he took a few documents out.

“Before proceeding any further, here’s a general breakdown regarding the payment. The outlet and the office area combined will cost around thirty-five million dollars since you’re paying the full lease upfront. I’ve made sure to give you a few discounts as well!”

“No problem. For now, let’s just have a seat first before discussing this any further!” replied Marven as he led Mr. Brookes to the side.

Meanwhile, Raquel was still standing at the same spot, though she was now hyperventilating. She felt as though her soul had just left her body.

‘How... How could this be? Why Marven? Since when did he become this powerful?!’

“Don’t be fooled by this fatty, Mr. Brookes. As if he could ever cough up thirty-five million dollars in cash!” said Jefferson looking extremely doubtful.

“Yeah, we know him well, Mr. Brookes! He definitely can’t pay that amount of money! You’re just wasting your time and energy talking to him!” added Raquel, visibly upset.

“Heh, you’re the ones who are mistaken. If you aren’t aware, Mr. Wadley’s Salford Star Travel Agency already has over two hundred projects signed! And the numbers keep on rising! We’ve checked their funding as well, and they have somewhere around eighty million dollars worth in capital!” explained Alexander as he smiled.

‘Do they honestly take me as a fool? As if I could ever make a mistake about something like this! What funny kids.’

The group then watched in pure horror as Marven signed the contract with Alexander. With that done, Alexander immediately bowed respectfully at Gerald who had been watching silently at the side this entire time.

Seeing this only amplified Raquel’s embarrassment.

She had only wanted to rent a place but she didn’t have the money to do so.

Marven, on the other hand, had just bought two whole units in one go! And to think that his travel agency had already signed over two hundred projects!

‘What is even happening anymore?’

With the contract signed, Gerald and Marven decided that it was high time to leave.

Jefferson didn't even dare to look at him anymore, choosing instead to keep his head low. Raquel herself was reluctant to simply accept this colossal defeat.

She then ran after Marven before asking, "Marven... You... You started your own company? What is this? Why didn't you tell me about any of this before?"

Raquel could feel her cheeks burning up as she asked the question.

"Oh, I just started it quite recently. We'll officially be operating in a few days though we still have quite a few projects to prepare for!" replied Marven, not feeling any need to hide this.

"I... see... Then, regarding how rich you suddenly became...?"

"Quite frankly, that's none of your business."

After saying that, he immediately turned around and left her there. Marven hadn't felt this satisfied and proud of himself in ages.

"...Y-you!"

Raquel was so upset that she was speechless. She could only stomp on the ground in anger as she watched the two leave her behind.

'How could this be? How could any of this actually be happening?!' Raquel thought to herself repeatedly as she felt her frustration well up in her chest. It almost felt like she was ready to burst into a million pieces.

Meanwhile, Gerald came to realize that after settling all those necessary procedures, it was already nearing noon.

With that, the two had a quick lunch before returning to campus together.

While they made their way back to school, the news about Gerald and Marven starting a new company had already spread like wildfire. There were even rumors that they already had multiple projects on hand!

Even though the two had yet to return to class, all their classmates were already talking about it, and all the noise made for a rather huge commotion.

Chapter 712

The moment both of them opened the class door, they were immediately greeted by simultaneous screams and exclamations!

"Gerald! Marven! Where did both of you go?" asked a few pretty girls as they surrounded the duo while trying their hardest to spark a conversation. All of them had their eyes on Gerald as though they were trying to seduce him.

After all, everyone figured that it was Gerald who had given Marven a hand in this. While it was true that Marven was the director of the company, his main funds could only have come from Gerald. It was the reason why the girls were all trying to get into Gerald's good books.

Marven's status had heightened greatly as well, and quite a few of his classmates had already approached him to try their luck at striking a conversation with him.

While everyone was excitedly surrounding the two, Isabelle and Stella had completely opposite reactions. Both of them had darkened expressions on their faces. After all, they had bullied Gerald back when they didn't know that he was rich.

Now that Gerald had a sudden popularity spike, Isabelle was starting to panic as she turned to look at Fabian.

Back then, lots of people tended to surround Fabian when recess came. Today, however, nobody was even standing near him. Seeing that, Isabelle took the chance to walk over to him before patting him gently on the shoulder.

Fabian was obviously still slightly traumatized by the embarrassment from the donor appreciation event, so Isabelle was standing close to him to ensure that he remained calm.

"Umm... Is Fabian here?" asked a girl who stood at the door out of the blue.

"He is. What's the matter?" asked Isabelle.

"Oh, Mrs. South told me to invite him to participate in the competition this evening! She wants Fabian to perform as well!" replied the girl.

“Oh? That’s great! Did you catch that, Fabian? The school’s asking for you!” cheered Isabelle cheerily.

The only response she got out of him was a slight nod.

Seeing his lack of response, Isabelle then slammed on her desk before exclaiming, “Hey, everyone! Fabian’s participating in the Taekwondo match this evening! Let’s be sure to go there later to cheer him on!”

“Oh wow, congratulations Fabian!” shouted most of their classmates.

After all, while Gerald clearly had the money, Fabian was still a very influential figure in their university.

Since everyone wanted to see him perform as well, all of them began heading to the school’s stadium.

“Let’s go too, Gerald! Classes usually head to and sit together in the stadium!”

“Sure thing!” replied Gerald. After all, he honestly wanted to watch as well. He had always dreamed of becoming a martial arts master when he was younger.

Though Gerald slowly matured as he grew older, in turn giving up on his childhood dream, he still enjoyed watching martial arts performances.

Besides, even if Fabian had something against Gerald, Gerald didn't really hold any grudges against him. All these reasons were why Gerald was still willing to follow the rest of the class to support him.

By the time they arrived there, the stadium was already fairly crowded. However, since Fabian had been invited to join, Gerald and his classmates were given front row seats so that they could cheer even harder for him.

After all, it was honestly a pretty grand occasion, and such occasions required large audiences and loud cheers for champions like Fabian.

As Gerald walked toward the row of seats that had been reserved for his class, he noticed the sheer amount of competitors who were participating. Even Maia and Warren were present.

A surprising thing for most of the students in the stadium was the fact that both Warren and Wyatt were standing side by side, each wearing Taekwondo uniforms.

Even more surprising was the fact that while everyone from Warren's class was holding on to signs while loudly cheering him on, not many were actually cheering for Wyatt.

That made it quite obvious that their class was well aware of how skilled Warren truly was.

While Fabian was warming up, he caught a glimpse of Warren, resulting in him getting instantly startled.

“He... He’s here?” said Fabian in shock.

Chapter 713

It was also at that moment when Warren noticed Fabian’s presence as well. He was equally as startled as Fabian was as the two eventually walked up to each other.

“You’re... The champion of Sunnydale’s Youth Taekwondo team, right? I watched your national match last year!” said Fabian, respect reflected in his eyes.

“That’s me, and you got second place in this year’s Salford Youth Taekwondo match, didn’t you? I heard it was a close spar and that you could easily have ended up being the champion as well!” replied Warren, still a little surprised to see him there.

To think that both of them had been invited by the school to perform.

It didn’t take long for the other contestants and the audience to begin looking in their direction after realizing that the two martial arts experts were having a conversation.

“Yeah... I recall that you got to a pretty high rank in the nationals too. Truth be told, I’ve always wanted to spar with you. Looks like this will be a great opportunity to do just that!” said Fabian as he stared at Warren, a hint of competitiveness in his voice.

Hearing that, Maia smiled at Warren, clearly proud of him. After all, not only was he an absolute prince charming, he also had a great reputation worldwide for his great Taekwondo skills.

Being recognized by even people from overseas only served to make Maia admire Warren even more.

“It truly is!” replied Warren, a soft smile on his face.

Upon hearing their request to spar, the organization team immediately approved of the suggestion. After all, two superior martial artists sparring against each other would definitely be the highlight of the event.

The champion of Sunnydale versus the first runner up in Salford. This was surely going to be quite the show!

Even quite a few of the contestants were getting pumped for the spar, feeling much more fired up now to give it their all in their final matches.

While Gerald continued focusing on the competition, he felt Marven nudging him by the elbow.

“Brother Gerald, look at who’s sitting over there!”

Turning to look at the direction Marven was pointing at, Gerald was surprised to see that both Jasmine and Mindy were also watching the match.

“Color me surprised! I didn’t think they’d be here too...”

As per usual, the two girls had hidden themselves in a corner of the stadium, refusing to socialize with anyone.

It wasn't long after when Jasmine realized that Gerald was staring at her. For a brief moment, both she and Gerald made eye contact.

However, she quickly furrowed her brows before looking away again. Seeing this, Gerald didn't continue staring at her either.

“Say Gerald, I wonder if you've noticed this...”

“What exactly are you referring to?”

“Well, the two goddesses have secretly been glancing in your direction quite a lot recently. Especially Mindy. While both of them seem to only be interested in talking with each other, I've seen Mindy stealing glances at you on a few occasions during class!”

“And those aren't the only instances when they would stare at you. You know how Isabelle has been trying hard to deliberately go against you lately right? Well, whenever that happened, both of them would end up observing you as well! Hey brother, do you think they've fallen for you or something?” explained Marven, analyzing the situation.

“Hah! That utter bullsh*t! There's just no way!” replied Gerald as he shook his head before laughing it out.

Though he seemed like he wanted to say something else, Marven just couldn't find the words as he stared at the stage.

His eyes were now glued on Raquel who had just gotten on stage. Her match was about to begin.

While Marven had been cold to her earlier that afternoon, he honestly still had feelings for her.

After all, his relationship with her was quite similar to Gerald and Xavia's. That is, before Xavia underwent her drastic change after getting to know Yunus. Before that, however, if Gerald had heard news that she was in trouble, he would definitely still try to help her. Marven's current position was no different from Gerald's old one.

It was around eight minutes later when Raquel was finally kicked out of the circle, landing quite close to where Gerald and Marven were sitting! She had lost the match.

Realizing that Marven was there, she turned to look at him while holding on to her chest and biting her lower lip. To her utter disappointment, he only ignored her.

It almost felt as though she had lost something very important to her.

Time flew by quickly as the matches went on.

Chapter 714

Even though the event was about to end, the crowd only seemed to have grown larger. Everyone wanted to watch the match between Warren and Fabian.

The entire stadium was now so filled to the brim that in a way, it resembled a busy beehive.

Warren and Fabian themselves were currently warming up.

“Both of them are equally amazing! You know, Fabian’s the first runner up in our county while Warren’s the champion of Sunnydale! Their reputations are sky high!”

“Oh? Well this is definitely going to be interesting then! I’m still supporting Fabian though! Let’s hope he brings honor to the Salford Province!”

“I personally support Warren! He just looks so experienced!”

Almost all of the audience members were discussing the lively event among themselves, and that included Gerald’s classmates.

“Say Gerald, who do you think will win?” asked a few girls curiously as they surrounded him.

“I think they’re both equally great! I really can’t say!”

“Aww, come on! Don’t you know Warren too?” added one of the girls as she nudged his arm.

Gerald was definitely familiar with who he was. He was also all too clear that Warren's fighting capability wasn't limited to Taekwondo.

If he was going to be honest, Warren was most definitely going to come out on top. However, he didn't feel the need to reveal his personal opinion.

"Why are you even asking him? As if he'd know anything about Taekwondo! You just have an extra dollar or two in hand, stop trying to push your opinions on others!" growled Isabelle as she turned around to glare at Gerald out of the blue.

It was as though she had a screw loose or something. Regardless of what Gerald did, she seemed to be completely against it. Gerald himself didn't want to escalate the situation.

While he was well aware that it was slightly cruel of him to take the spotlight away from Fabian during the earlier donor appreciation event, constantly verbally abusing him definitely felt a bit too much.

Once the match began, Isabelle kept moving around, clearly blocking his view on purpose. She was definitely trying her hardest to make it hard for him to enjoy the competition, and understanding her motive only served to make Gerald's blood boil even hotter.

It wasn't long after before the match reached its peak moment.

Fabian had been on the attack from the very beginning of the match, striking both swiftly and relentlessly.

Warren himself focused much more on defense, barely even attacking at all.

Over time, Fabian's attacks slowly began weakening. Though to the untrained eye his movements remained swift, his efficiency in attacking Warren was slowly depleting.

"He's already lost," said Jasmine emotionlessly.

"...Huh? Who's lost? Warren? I mean Fabian attacks have been pretty swift and amazing! Warren's, on the other hand, have so far been pretty simple. Is he really a champion or was it all just a bluff?" said Mindy.

While she hadn't talked to Fabian before, she was still his classmate. Even if they weren't remotely close, Mindy was still going to be more inclined to support him.

"Heh, I'll make it simple. While Fabian's attacks and movements may look cool, he's already exposed all his fighting patterns to Warren throughout their spar together. Warren's a pretty smart guy to hold on to his moves. He'll be the champion, just wait and see!" explained Jasmine.

A few seconds after saying that, Warren made an incredibly rapid kick while Fabian was about to attack again. All it took was a single skilled and cool looking kick for Fabian to be knocked right out of the fighting area!

Seeing this, the crowd went wild with cheers, the noise amplified by the echoes caused by the stadium's walls.

While everyone was in high spirits, Isabelle was the only one who looked incredibly worried.

After all, she had been cheering for him all this time! To think that he would lose to a simple kick! It made her feel slightly disappointed.

“What an amazing spar!” cheered Gerald, unable to hold back his own excitement.

Upon hearing that, Isabelle immediately turned around and glared daggers at Gerald.

“How is that amazing? Like you’d even know what amazing means!” shouted Isabelle in a very high pitch.

It was so loud that it immediately caught the attention of several people standing around them. They were all now looking at Gerald.

Chapter 715

“What exactly is your problem?” huffed Gerald.

“Humph! So Fabian lost, big deal! If you think you’re that good then why don’t you get on that stage and fight instead?!” yelled Isabelle.

It was crystal clear that she was simply directing all her anger and frustration on Gerald. She even picked her bottle up and tried splashing water all over Gerald!

Thankfully, he was able to avoid getting drenched in time. However, he was now extremely tempted to give her a tight slap across the face for doing that.

Luckily, their classmates stepped in and pulled Isabelle aside to prevent the situation from further escalating.

Maia herself simply glanced at Gerald for a brief moment before returning her gaze to Warren who seemed to be exuding a radiant aura. She knew he wouldn't let anyone down.

At that moment, a judge walked up the stage and approached Warren before saying, "I've honestly never met someone your age to hold that much skill and grace! You truly are the champion of Sunnydale!"

The judge himself looked to be in his early forties, and he was most likely a famous figure in the field.

Hearing that, Warren simply smiled subtly as he shook his head.

"Hah, you call him skilled and graceful? You folk don't even know the meaning of those words if you're using them to describe him!" yelled a female voice from the audience, sounding extremely annoyed.

The statement made everyone go silent, and all the members of the audience simultaneously began seeking out the source of that voice.

It wasn't just anybody who had made that bold claim. The owner of that voice was none other than Mindy!

While the two girls had initially wanted to leave immediately once the match ended, hearing the judge kissing Warren's ass* alongside the scores of loud cheers made Mindy incredibly annoyed.

Her intention wasn't really to insult Warren just for Fabian's sake either.

She just couldn't stand all the compliments Warren was getting just for that minor feat. To her, the audiences' and the judge's responses were simply pushing it a bit too much for her taste.

Since everyone was well aware of who the two were, they simply remained silent and observed.

"Alright, that's quite enough!" said Jasmine as she began dragging Mindy by the elbow toward the exit.

"So I'm assuming you've seen true skill then? If you haven't, I really don't know why you're being so bitter!" shouted Maia in response.

While she really wasn't happy hearing someone insult Warren like that, Maia watched her tongue since she had no idea what the two were truly capable of yet.

“But of course! Screw your county champion! You’re all novices compared to her!” boasted Mindy as she pointed at Jasmine.

She then whispered to her, “Jasmine, just go fight him already and put him in his place!”

Mindy was clearly only acting this way because she was caught in the heat of the moment.

Jasmine herself didn’t like the idea. She didn’t really enjoy competing with others. If she had wanted to participate in this event, she would’ve signed up for it a long time ago. However, she simply hadn’t found any worthy opponents to spar as of yet.

Not wanting to escalate the situation any further, Jasmine simply shook her head and began to leave.

“Don’t just leave after your friend said that! Come on, fight him if you dare!” said Maia with a smug grin on her face.

“It’s alright, Maia. I won’t fight her. You should know pretty well that I don’t hit women!” replied Warren as he chuckled softly.

Upon hearing that statement, Jasmine stopped dead in her tracks.

“Fine then, let’s fight!” she shouted as she looked Warren right in the eye.

She had only agreed because Warren had said that statement.

‘Are all men really like this? Do they just expect women to be weaker than them in every aspect?’

She was especially irked by this since it was also the reason why she and Mindy weren’t able to partake in any important matters within her family.

This was the last straw for her.

“Hell yeah!” exclaimed Mindy excitedly.

“Oh? Our Queen is going to fight?”

“Holy! What a treat!”

After hearing their conversation, the audience immediately began cheering again.

Warren simply shrugged at their response as though he didn’t really care. After all, he knew he wasn’t going to need much effort to win against her!

Chapter 716

A short while later, Jasmine returned though this time, she was donning her uniform. Her hair had been tied into a ponytail and the whole look complemented her beauty perfectly.

While most of the guys were gushing over her, many of the girls were green with envy.

Even Gerald had his eyes fixated on Jasmine. He hadn't really expected her to know how to fight.

Seeing her, Warren began blindfolding himself with a black strip of fabric. His action immediately swooned the audience.

How cool and manly!

After making sure that the knot was tight enough, Warren then taunted, "Come at me, now!"

While his actions were condescending, Jasmine didn't say a word. Instead, she lunged at him with lightning-quick speed!

With a loud thud, Warren was kicked right in the face!

He wasn't able to block or even dodge her attack. He only realized what was happening after being sent flying out of the ring and crashing hard onto the ground. Everything simply happened too quickly for him to even process!

The audience members were shocked, many even gasping at the sight before them.

Defeated, Warren immediately crawled up again before taking his blindfold off. He then stared at Jasmine, shocked by the fact that she had won against him in just a single move.

Maia was appalled as well. This girl was strong. A little too strong.

Jasmine herself was cool as a cucumber. Her next move was to taunt Warren, signaling him to attack her next.

Feeling his blood boil, Warren was momentarily blinded by rage as he lunged toward her.

Before he was even able to lay a finger on her, Jasmine launched a roundhouse kick, sending Warren flying out of the circle again! His whole body simply flopped to the ground as though he was a broken kite.

Everyone's jaws were now wide open. They simply couldn't believe what they were witnessing. Gerald himself was equally as shocked.

'She's good.'

Even though Warren was known to be great at Taekwondo, he couldn't even block a single one of Jasmine's attacks!

He had made a complete fool of himself in front of the entire stadium!

“Warren!” shouted Wyatt as he and a few others ran over to help him up. Warren couldn’t even stand on his own at the moment and his hand was pressed gently against his wounded chest.

He was under immense pain and cold sweat trickled down his forehead as he looked at Jasmine, respect reflected in his gaze.

Even Fabian couldn’t help but admire the woman standing atop the stage.

“Well done! That was amazing!” cheered Isabelle, pleased to see Warren now being humiliated by a girl from another class right after defeating Fabian.

Though Warren was friends with her own brother, she couldn’t help but express her pettiness.

Regardless of what she had to say, the rest of the audience cheered loudly as well.

“Humph! To think that the champion can’t even lay a finger on her! Typical of men! Boring!” said Mindy smugly as she turned to look at the other contestants.

“Any more of you even dare to challenge her?” added Mindy.

All the contestants only lowered their heads in response. Even Wyatt didn’t take up the challenge. After all, Warren was the best among them, yet he still ended up losing!

“Didn’t you say you knew a thing or two about Taekwondo, Gerald? Why aren’t you accepting her challenge now?” said Isabelle as she turned around and began mocking him.

“Dumb*ss! Weren’t you just cheering for Warren earlier? What’s wrong? Cat got your tongue?!” she added as she immediately took a step forward, stepping on his foot in the process.

The thing was, she was wearing platform shoes at that moment! Gerald could only clench his teeth in pain.

“Move it!” shouted Gerald as he kicked Isabelle from behind, causing her to fall face first.

“...You... You dare hit me?!” yelled Isabelle hysterically. She really hadn’t expected Gerald to actually fight back and humiliate her in front of such a large crowd!

“Wyatt! He... He hit me!” yelled Isabelle, looking in Wyatt’s direction.

Chapter 717

Wyatt was still busy helping Warren up when he heard his sister calling out to him.

Realizing that someone was trying to pick a fight with her, he immediately felt a burning rage in his chest as he rushed toward them.

He had already been embarrassed enough by the fact that he didn't even have the courage to challenge a girl who was able to beat Warren up. After all, he was one of the best fighters in the school.

Now that his sister was being bullied, he simply couldn't allow his ego to be crushed any further. If he didn't stand up for her now, he would definitely be the biggest disappointment to his family!

"How dare you! Do you have a death wish or something?!" roared Wyatt as he launched himself forward, directing a kick at Gerald's chest.

"Oh god, Wyatt's mad!"

"Of course he is! Not only did that guy hit his sister, he's probably equally as angry at himself for not accepting her challenge!"

"I know right? Wyatt's definitely going to take it all out on that guy!"

Everyone could feel themselves holding their breaths as Wyatt's foot came dangerously close to colliding with Gerald's chest...

However, before it could even reach Gerald, Wyatt suddenly found himself accelerating! It was as though Wyatt was simply a rag doll as Gerald flung him to the side, causing Wyatt to fall hard on the floor.

Wyatt felt like all his bones had simultaneously been shattered at that moment. He didn't even have the energy to crawl.

While Marven had initially been worried for Gerald after seeing Wyatt charging at him, he was now frozen in place, his jaw wide open.

Even Isabelle who had earlier been excited to see Gerald finally getting beaten up was paralyzed in shock.

Gerald could sense the entire stadium staring at him with widened eyes, reflecting their sheer disbelief.

Maia herself was at a loss. She had heard of how skilled Wyatt was, and she knew for a fact that Gerald wouldn't stand a chance against such an experienced fighter. What even was that? It was far too much of a stretch to say that Gerald had redirected his attack by accident.

"Jasmine! He..." exclaimed Mindy as she immediately ran toward her.

"I saw it too!" replied Jasmine as she furrowed her brows while staring intently at Gerald.

This was the first time Gerald had used the technique that Finnley had taught him.

Gerald hadn't even thought about using it. His body had simply instinctually moved on its own. He didn't even have time to adjust his force, which explained why Wyatt was feeling so hurt.

What a truly practical technique.

As he thought about that, everyone else in the hall had immediately grown to have a better opinion of Gerald.

“Holy cr*p! To think that such an experienced fighter like Wyatt was one-upped!”

“Yeah! After defeating Warren, it now looks like our queen has a new opponent!”

“I know right? Gerald! Get on stage and restore our pride as men!”

Shouts like these were being thrown from all around the stadium.

Though it was awe-inspiring to see how Jasmine had both beauty and brawn, it wasn't a stretch to say that most of the guys there felt humiliated that nobody, not even Fabian who was the best martial artist in their school, dared to challenge her

‘What kind of men are we if we can't even defeat a girl!’

“Get on stage, Gerald! Defeat her! Defeat her!” chanted many of the male students there.

As for the female students, they immediately started chanting for Jasmine to take Gerald down as well, hoping to encourage her.

“You should go for it, brother! Still, I didn’t know you were this good at fighting!” said Marven as he massaged Gerald’s shoulders.

Jasmine herself seemed to be intrigued by this turn of events, and she simply stared at Gerald as she prepared to fight her next opponent.

Gerald had yet again found himself in a dilemma.

After all, he knew how skilled Jasmine was, and he was also aware of how brutal her attacks tended to be. There was no way he would ever go up against her voluntarily.

Chapter 718

“Come fight her like a man, you coward!” yelled Mindy as she looked at Gerald. She honestly wanted to see both of them spar.

“Yeah! Fight like a man!” chanted several of the other girls in the stadium as well.

Gerald could only shake his head with a wry smile on his face. There was no way he was going to be able to worm out of this one.

Knowing that, he could only agree to the challenge and slowly got onto the main stage.

Throughout his brief training with Finnley, he had been taught a total of five self-defense moves. Each move was different, prioritizing on protecting the user from either punches, kicks, or weapons both long and short. The fifth technique, on the other hand, could be utilized under situations where one was being restricted from the back.

While all these would definitely help Gerald defend himself should he come face to face with danger, they were still essentially only self-defense moves. They were completely useless in a fight like this.

Upon entering the ring, Gerald was just about to try figuring out which move to use against Jasmine when she immediately lunged toward him!

Despite being a girl, her speed was no joke. She must've thought that Gerald was some sort of martial arts master.

“Oh! She’s going all out!”

“She seems to be exerting much more strength now!”

“Now this is going to be interesting! How will Gerald react?!”

The crowd was going wild, speculating the end results with extreme excitement.

“He definitely won’t be able to take a hit! He simply doesn’t look like he has enough strength!”

“Then how did he throw Wyatt to the side so easily? Was that possibly just a coincidence?”

While the audience continued discussing among themselves, Jasmine herself stopped right in front of Gerald before gracefully leaping and performing a spinning kick in mid-air! Her movements were so swift and packed with force that it almost seemed as though she had been practicing this move for years.

Gerald however, kept a cool head and recalled what Finnley had taught him.

‘Regardless of the attack, if your opponent attacks with a kick, block with the second move.’

Hoping for the best, Gerald then waited for the perfect opportunity and once he saw it, he grabbed Jasmine by the shin and pressed down on a pressure point. With just the slightest amount of force, he shifted his body to the side, successfully countering the kick!

In no time at all, Jasmine found herself completely off balance, just like what Wyatt had experienced moments earlier.

The very next second, she found herself colliding against the floor right outside the ring!

“...What?”

Everyone was momentarily stunned silent, especially Warren and Maia who had been more appalled than anyone else.

Isabelle and the crowd of girls who had initially been rooting for Jasmine were left speechless as well.

‘... Jasmine... Who had easily defeated Warren was one-upped by Gerald?!’

“Jasmine!” shouted Mindy in a panic, breaking the awkward silence as she ran toward her and helped her up.

While Jasmine was badly wounded on her shoulder, her priority was to first look at Gerald from where she stood. She had mixed feelings welling within her as she held onto her right shoulder with Mindy’s support.

Even from a young age, Jasmine had always aimed to be the very best. To do so, however, she had to pay the price for it. For the longest time, she was well aware that her peers were nowhere near the level she was.

Though her martial arts skills had always been something she was extremely proud of, she finally lost for the first time today.

Maia herself still had her jaw wide open, utterly shocked by this development as the audience members began cheering again, their cheers echoing throughout the stadium.

“Ow! Be a little gentler!” said Jasmine.

It was now already night and Mindy was busy tending to Jasmine's wounds in their room back in the Fendersons mansion.

"It's all swollen up! God, I'm just so angry! We're classmates so how could Gerald treat you so roughly! Just look at the condition of your shoulder! If he angers me one more time I don't care even if we're classmates! I'm ordering someone to take him out!" huffed Mindy.

"Don't be rash! I lost and that's that!" replied Jasmine.

"What do you mean, lost? He clearly cheated!"

"Calm yourself, Mindy. I would've been able to tell if he really was cheating. I'll apply the medicine myself later. Also, could you gather all twelve of my teachers? I have something to tell them," said Jasmine as she slid her clothes back on before looking at Mindy.

Chapter 719

Hearing that, Mindy immediately left her room to notify her teachers. However, she returned not too long after.

"None of the teachers are around, Jasmine. The rest of the adults in the mansion aren't present either. They're having their meeting in the meeting room! Have you forgotten? Today's the day they host their annual big meeting!" explained Mindy.

“Ah, I just remembered. No matter then, I’ll just talk to them tomorrow,” replied Jasmine with a nod as she sat on her bed.

It didn’t take long before Jasmine realized that Mindy looked as though she still had more to say.

“What’s wrong?” enquired Jasmine.

Hearing that, Mindy then skipped over to Jasmine’s side before cheekily asking, “Say Jasmine, what do you think they talk about in that mysterious annual family meeting that only our family’s males can attend?”

“How should I know?” replied Jasmine as she shook her head before realizing something.

“...What are you scheming of, Mindy?” asked Jasmine as she looked Mindy in the eye.

“Ehehe... You know very well what I’m thinking about. Come on, they never allow us to look into it! Not only do we not know why we have to remain home most of the time, we barely know anything about our own family! At the rate you’ve been training all these years, I’d say you’re definitely already stronger and much more talented than most of the men in this family! Yet we’re still being left clueless about the bigger picture!” said Mindy as she sighed.

Jasmine’s expression only continued darkening the more she heard Mindy’s words. The things Mindy said felt like thorny vines entangling her heart.

'...Well, it is true that I've worked hard all these years just to prove that I'm better than those men. To prove that I could handle any of our family's business as well as they could...'

Yet even after all her efforts, her grandfather never once took any notice of her talents nor did he acknowledge any of her hard work.

"Why don't we eavesdrop? I know you want to know what's really going on in the family as much as I do," whispered Mindy.

While Jasmine would definitely have instantly refused to do so in the past out of fear of angering her grandfather, after hearing Mindy's persuasion this time, Jasmine was feeling a little hesitant for the first time in a long while.

'If this goes on, does that mean that they'll continue hiding all this from me and Mindy forever? Do I really want to continue living so obliviously?'

After a brief moment, Jasmine shook her head.

'...No, she's right. I absolutely refuse to continue living like this!'

Jasmine was going to rebel this time.

She then looked at Mindy and the two nodded to each other before sneakily making their way to the meeting room.

It seemed that they were just in time to catch the start of the meeting.

“Second, Third, how are the preparations? To successfully deal with something this big, the weapon itself is an extremely important factor!” said an old man with a walking stick who sat on the seat of honor as he looked at two young men. He was the family’s patriarch.

“The preparations are almost complete, father. However, even with both of us combined, we still couldn’t complete the hardest mission assigned to us. If only big brother was still alive, we might’ve...”

Jasmine, who had already been eavesdropping, began listening even more intently at this point.

After hearing what he had to say, the old patriarch immediately began tearing up before saying, “...Yes. If he was still alive, the Fendersons wouldn’t be as passive as they are today! It’s such a shame that he was murdered... God truly guided an angel back into his arms that day!”

Upon saying that, a tear trickled down his wrinkled cheeks.

Chapter 720

“Indeed... After the young master passed on, no other Fenderson was able to challenge our rivaling family. After all, you were already at an old age when that happened, big brother. It truly is a shame... Thank god our little Jasmine is extremely talented. Her skills could easily match the young master’s! With enough training from us, she could become even more amazing!” said another old man.

“While I’ve considered allowing her to participate in this, she’s still Ethan’s only daughter. She’s the last of her bloodline! I’ve been protecting her from the outside world for the longest time... I just don’t have the heart to let her in on all this!” exclaimed the Fenderson patriarch.

“She’s still young and she’ll eventually be married off as well. I should also mention that not even young master Ethan had been able to handle the family. What can she do? Her parents had both been killed in that incident, do you think they’d hesitate to take down a little girl?” said another middle-aged man with an oily face.

Hearing that, the second young master—who went by the name of Joseph Fenderson—slammed his hands on the table as he glared at the middle-aged man. “What exactly do you mean by that, Noah Schuyler? Have we been treating the Schuyler family a little too well for you to disrespect us like this?”

“I would never! My old fart of a dad keeps reminding me that the Schuylers are forever indebted to the Fendersons! He’s been doing it ever since I was a mere child! I was told to listen to everything you say and I’ve been doing exactly that for the past few years! I’ve even helped you secure power over the southwest region. I can at least take credit for that, right?” replied Noah as he stared at Joseph.

Apart from the Fendersons, a few members from their vassal families were present as well. After all, large families like theirs were bound to have at least a few vassals under their power.

It was similar to how many people would begin working under the Crawfords whenever Gerald formed any new organizations.

“That’s true, Noah has helped the Fendersons quite a bit in the past two years. Even our family has been able to feed off of his credit!” muttered a few other present members.

It was at that moment when the patriarch slammed his walking stick onto the floor, causing everyone to fall silent.

“If you have something to say, just spit it out...” said the old man as he sighed.

“Oh, it’s nothing much, master... It’s just that the young master has already passed for so many years. We’ve even mentioned splitting the inheritance before, but back then you said that we had to wait till Jasmine grew up. Well, she’s clearly grown up quite nicely! Isn’t it high time to do what you’ve promised? Ethan doesn’t even have an heir anyway!”

“Humph! I knew it! Our young master may have passed away a long time ago, but exacting revenge comes first! Yet here you are, trying to split his inheritance!”

“Hah, seek revenge? Putting it frankly, it very much seems that you guys don’t even dare to do it! Besides, him leaving his inheritance to you two proves that your skills are limited! It isn’t a stretch to claim that the Fendersons are becoming weaker by the second! Just let us handle his inheritance so that the Fendersons get a better chance at growing again!”

“Noah’s right!” chimed in a few other members.

While Joseph and his brother struggled to come up with an appropriate response, the door was flung open with a loud bang.

Jasmine then entered the meeting room, her eyes reddened and cold as she scanned through every member in the room. Her gaze eventually locked on to Noah.

“Uncle Schuyler, tell me who killed my parents. Who exactly is the enemy? I’ll exact revenge for all of us!”

Seeing her barge in, the patriarch simply sighed deeply, sure that she had overheard their entire meeting.

Nobody dared to speak a word, not even Noah who was now looking to the side, pretending as though he hadn’t heard her question.

After releasing another deep sigh, the patriarch glared at Jasmine before saying, “...Let’s take a short break. Jasmine! You come with me!”

Chapter 721

“Did you hear that?”

The patriarch asked the moment she entered the study.

Jasmine nodded firmly.

If the fact that the younger generation of their family was permanently grounded was enough to make Jasmine gloomy and depressed every day, then she would forever be grieving over the incident which involved her parents.

At least when she was grounded, she could throw a tantrum or complain about it. But ever since she was young, no one had ever told her anything about her own parents. She'd only receive beatings when she asked about them.

“Do you hate me for hiding it from you for so many years?”

The patriarch asked.

“No, I don't hate you. I understand that you hid it from me for my sake!”

Jasmine said.

“Jasmine, I saw your performance over the past few years. Frankly speaking, I'm very proud to have a granddaughter like you. Your parents in heaven should be very proud of you too.”

The patriarch patted Jasmine's shoulders lightly.

“Then grandpa, who is the enemy of our Fenderseon family all this while? And were they responsible for what happened to my parents?”

Jasmine asked.

The patriarch took a deep breath. He then looked toward a corner in the study and nodded slightly.

“I know that it’s impossible to hide these things from you. You’ve become very outstanding, and you have great capabilities. I guess I can tell you some of the things now.”

The patriarch paused for a short while before he said, “That’s right. Our Fenderson family has always had a strong enemy, and that’s the Crawford family!”

“The Crawford family? Why haven’t I heard of this before?”

Jasmine sounded stunned.

“Of course, that family doesn’t have to lie low like us. There are only a handful of families who are able to achieve their level of superiority and influence after all! Besides, I’ve kept you within our gates for over 20 years now. How much of the outside world have you actually seen?”

The patriarch asked.

“But why? Why does the Crawford family treat us like this?”

Jasmine was filled with resentment.

“It’s a long story. To put it briefly, our feud started from my generation, and it carried over to your parents’ generation. You absolutely must remember this. Always, always be wary of people from the Crawford family! Are we clear?”

The patriarch said pitifully.

“Alright, grandpa!”

“Besides, Jasmine, since you’ve known some of the things regarding our family, I’m afraid that I’m no longer able to hide it from you even though I intended to originally. Currently, you’ve seen the inner workings of our family. I’ve even made the necessary preparations. From now on, you’re the heir of all your father’s properties and assets. Besides, you’re the only female in our family who can inherit the family assets other than her.”

The patriarch said.

Jasmine appeared excited. Besides, she knew who that other lady was.

Having said that, the patriarch looked dull and gloomy.

“I acted too rashly that year. Your aunt is still hiding from me, unwilling to even see my face. Xara is just a silly child. She’s so stubborn. Although I sounded quite cruel, the person I worry and care about the most is still your aunt!”

The patriarch burst into tears.

“Jasmine, promise me one thing.”

“Grandpa, I understand it. I’ll certainly find where my aunt is.”

Jasmine said.

That incident happened when she was still very young.

The old butler of their family once told Jasmine about that.

There was once a very exceptional lady in the Fenderson family, and she was Jasmine’s aunt—Xara Fenderson.

But at one point, she violated the rules of the family, so she was excommunicated from the family by Jasmine’s grandfather.

Actually, her grandfather had always been looking for her aunt during all these years. But he could not discover her whereabouts no matter how many times he tried.

It was the cause of her grandfather’s excruciating pain.

Now, Jasmine was going to inherit her father's property. Hence, she would also take up the responsibility of tracking down her aunt.

At the same time, she wanted very much to meet her aunt, who was still admired deeply by the members of the Fenderson family. Moreover, the others always said that she resembled her aunt. She was the young lady of the family at that moment. She resembled her aunt in terms of both capability as well as physical appearance.

'What kind of a woman was she?

'Who did she fall in love with? How could my grandpa be so cruel and kick her out of the family?'

At last, her grandfather took a photograph out and handed it to Jasmine. The woman in the photograph was indeed very beautiful. Her look was breathtaking to say the least.

That woman was her aunt—Xara Fenderson.

Chapter 722

Certainly, her grandfather would step forward and intervene since she was going to inherit the property forcefully.

Jasmine did not have to worry about the Schuyler family. Although the Schuyler family was quite powerful and influential, they did not dare to cross the line indiscriminately.

Jasmine walked out of her grandfather's study. She tucked away the photograph properly, and she was about to return to her bedroom.

“Jasmine, I’ve been waiting for you for a while now!”

Under the cover of night, there was a young man standing outside in the courtyard.

“Yael Schuyler, why are you waiting for me?”

Jasmine said coldly.

“I heard from someone else this afternoon that you were hurt. Got beat up by someone else, I heard. I was worried about you, so I came to ask you about it. Don’t worry, Jasmine. I’ll make him pay a heavy price for it!” Yael said.

“It’s none of your business. Let me tell you. If you dare to even lay a single finger on my classmates, I’ll certainly never forgive you!”

Jasmine got angry all of a sudden.

“Fine. I’ll forgive that guy. Jasmine, don’t be angry!”

Yael was quick to respond.

“Do you have anything else to say to me? If there’s nothing, I’m going back now.”

After that, she took one last glance at Yael with an expression of disgust before she stormed off.

“Jasmine! Jasmine!”

Yael called out after her.

But Jasmine had gone beyond earshot.

Yael clenched his fists tightly.

“Sir, I’ve told you before. She won’t be able to see it even though you’re so nice to her!”

At that moment, an old man who held his hands behind his back walked out from behind a tree next to the road.

On that dark night, the old man looked quite frightening.

It was because half of his face was white while the other half was black. He seemed like a strange entity that had risen from hell.

Both of his eyes seemed gloomy, and they were sunken into his eye sockets. Coming out of nowhere, he was definitely alarming.

Besides that, his whole frame seemed pretty skinny. It seemed almost like he could be blown away by just a soft breeze.

“What do you mean?”

Yael asked.

The old man smiled. “One always creates opportunities for oneself. They never wait for the chance to befall them. She doesn’t care for your love because the help you offer to her is too trivial and meaningless!

“The true trick lies in making her feel as if she can’t do anything without you, and she needs to rely on you for literally everything!”

The old man’s voice sounded like a crow.

Yael nodded slightly.

“I see!”

A cunning smile broke across his face.

On the next day, Gerald arrived early at school to attend the morning classes.

It was because the first two periods were a union class.

Hence, he called out to Marven, who had arrived earlier than usual the moment he reached the classroom.

At that moment, there were not many students in the classroom which was currently being used for the joint class.

But both Jasmine and Mindy were already present.

They looked up at him the moment Gerald entered the class.

Especially Mindy, whose gaze showed hints of hatred for him.

Gerald approached Jasmine with an apologetic look on his face. "I'm truly sorry for what happened yesterday. I didn't do it on purpose!"

After all, Jasmine was only a girl. He was quite anxious at that moment. She was initially daydreaming, and his sudden apology threw her off momentarily.

Gerald felt quite bad about yesterday's incident. It was because he was forced to cash in on some opportunity that presented itself before him. If he indeed fought seriously with her, the chances of him winning that fight were pretty much nil.

On the other hand, Jasmine felt as if her pride was being challenged upon hearing what Gerald said.

In response, Jasmine replied in a particularly cold manner, something which one rarely witnessed. "I'm relieved to be able to see you alive and kicking this fine morning!"

"Huh?" responded Gerald.

Chapter 723

Actually, Gerald intended to talk longer with Jasmine.

But after Jasmine said that, there seemed to be a look of resentment on her face when she turned her face away from him.

Clearly, she was in no mood to talk to him.

Gerald then did not force his way into a conversation with her. Instead, he ran and sat behind the two sisters.

Mindy then turned around and rolled her eyes at Gerald.

There was no doubt that in her mind, Gerald was just an honest man. But to her surprise, not only was he filthy rich, but he was also pretty skilled at martial arts.

But Jasmine herself was quite an exceptional fighter. How could she be defeated by him so easily?

If Jasmine did not specifically request for her to not mess with Gerald, she would've asked Jasmine to have a re-match with that man again.

At first, they were just waiting for the lesson to commence. But after waiting for a while, they did not see many students entering the class.

They only saw a few girls from the next class enter their room.

Usually, the class would've been packed by this time.

“Where are the students? Why isn't anybody coming?”

At that moment, the teacher had arrived. Seeing that there were only a few students sitting in the class, the teacher could not help but ask the female student who had just entered the class curiously.

Both Jasmine and Gerald were quite curious about this too. They peered in the girl's direction, expecting to hear an answer from her.

“Okay, so it seems like something has happened to the class rep of the third class. There's a crowd standing outside the door of their class. I've no idea what's happening in there but a lot of the guys in our class have gone there to take a look at the situation,” replied the female student.

Both Gerald and Marven glanced at each other.

That day, they went to the class directly early in the morning. They did not return to their class.

No doubt, something bad has gone down.

It might even be related to Isabelle too.

“Hey, what happened?”

Upon hearing that it was indeed related to Isabelle, Marven asked with a look of schadenfreude painted across his face.

“I’m not sure about the details. It seems like Isabelle had a fight with someone else. But she wasn’t in the fight herself. It should be a fight that happened because of what she did. At least this is what I heard. Isn’t she your class rep? Why don’t you know about it?”

The female student asked.

“Oh, we came to the union class directly. You can’t expect to know what went down in that class!”

Marven chuckled and sat down directly.

He proceeded to call his buddy to ask about the situation.

After he hung up the phone, he slapped the table excitedly. “Haha! Finally, justice is served. A hero has finally come and taught Isabelle a lesson. That’s what you get for acting so smug and arrogant in class all the time!”

Isabelle was pretty much the only person who gave Marven and Gerald a hard time in class.

Naturally, Marven was delighted to hear that something bad had happened to Isabelle.

“What happened?”

Gerald asked out of curiosity.

“Gerald, didn’t Fabian lose the battle yesterday? It was supposed to be the time when Fabian got his moment and earned his glory. But who knew that you’d deprive him of that chance at the last minute? Obviously, Isabelle couldn’t be reconciled with that fact. She came to class today with Wyatt, Warren, and that girl who’s been tagging beside him. But a couple of rich kids decided to point their fingers at them, blaming them and ridiculing them in front of everyone. They mocked these clowns for embarrassing themselves yesterday!”

“Now, both you and I know how bad Isabelle’s temper is. She went up to one of the kids and gave him a painful slap without any prior warning.”

“Haha! Of course, that kid retaliated. I mean, who wouldn’t? Especially when it’s Isabelle we’re talking about here. Both Warren and Wyatt then took it upon themselves to beat those rich kids up. Can you guess who they beat up at last? It’s the young master from the Moore family—Colton Moore! Colton’s an extravagant little bastard. He’s always arrogant, reckless, and ruthless. You think his parents ever spanked him when he was young? I think not! Hence, he called some thugs over to teach that b*tch a lesson! I heard that there were more than ten cars that rolled into the school,” said Marven

Gerald nodded.

Gerald had a lot of experience with these sorts of incidents.

But it was not like he needed to reach out with a helping hand each time.

Even though it happened in his class, Isabelle was the one who brought the trouble upon herself. Frankly-speaking, Gerald wished badly for Colton to teach her a hard lesson, so he could vent out his frustration on her.

He was afraid that it might influence him. If not, he would’ve rushed straight to the scene to witness the most epic beatdown of the century!

‘Heh heh!’

Chapter 724

“They’re done for. Gerald, I heard that the Moore family is dependent on an especially large and influential family in Salford Province—the Schuyler family. They could quite literally do anything and get away with it scot-free!”

Marven proceeded to explain the complex familial and political relations within Salford Province.

Both Jasmine and Mindy, who were sitting in front of them overheard their conversation rather clearly.

It was pretty clear that they were eavesdropping when Marven mentioned the Schuyler family. Jasmine tilted her head the moment they reached this topic.

After a short while, they heard footsteps outside of the classroom.

Finally, the students who should have been here ages ago filed into the classroom.

Isabelle was the last person to enter the class.

Stella was the one who propped her up. Both of Isabelle's cheeks were flushed red from all the slaps she had received. Besides that, she was crying vehemently.

As she was crying, she said, "I didn't realize that it was him at that moment. I didn't mean it when I attacked him."

"There, there. Thank goodness, the faculty director and counselor came rushing in to stop them. They asked you to come to class first. If not, you'll certainly suffer horrible consequences for picking a fight with them today!"

Stella looked gloomy when she tried to console her sobbing friend.

No doubt, the Moore family was too strong and powerful. As rich as Stella's family was, they couldn't compare with what the Moore family had under their possession.

Even Fabian's family paled in comparison to the Moore family.

That was why everybody was standing by and watching the scene, not daring to intervene, even when Isabelle was slapped by Colton twice just now.

If the faculty director did not find some excuse to go and negotiate with Colton and asked Isabelle to attend the class first, God knows what would have happened to Isabelle under their hands.

Actually, the faculty director wanted Isabelle to seize that opportunity and make use of her connections.

Besides, the teacher knew that she would not be able to begin her lesson that day. After all, regular teachers did not dare to stand against the will of Mr. Moore.

After the teacher answered a call, the teacher did not return to the class again.

"How? What should we do now? I called my family just now. My mom cried as she told me that my dad has been taken away from his company by the people from the Moore family. They even slapped my dad several times. What should I do now?"

Isabelle finally realized what fear was.

Her father was taken away and got beat up because of her own foolishness.

She was now left with no options, and she did not know who she should ask help from.

On the other hand, both Stella and Fabian went silent.

They both received calls from their families, warning them not to be a busybody.

After all, the incident happened primarily because of Isabelle, who took the lead to beat the rich kids up.

To make things worse, she slapped the kid in front of everybody at school. This meant that there was an aspect of humiliation involved in addition to mere physical abuse.

Colton and a few other rich heirs were beaten up by both Warren and Wyatt.

Colton was the one who challenged them first, but when seen as a whole, more blame clearly landed on Isabelle's shoulders.

Fabian did not dare to meddle in the incident anymore. He took his seat with his head hung low.

“Scumbag! You’re disgusting!”

One of the girls, who couldn’t get over the fact that he lost to Gerald yelled in his face.

But at this point, Isabelle did not even bother with Fabian since there were plenty more things to be afraid of.

At that moment, there were a few students who had arrived outside the class.

Gerald looked up and saw Warren, Maia and Wyatt.

At that moment, their facial expressions were sour, as if something terrible had befallen them. They entered the class in a single-file wordlessly.

“Wyatt, Warren, what should I do? My family is being threatened!”

Isabelle asked them in a desperate tone.

Wyatt put his hands at his waist and lowered his head.

As for Maia and Warren, they had run out of options too. At that moment, Warren chose not to act rashly. But there was still the risk that he had to pay a tremendous price too.

After all, he and Maia...

Chapter 725

At that moment, when everyone had run out of options.

“Jasmine, why did you ask me to come out here?”

Mindy asked.

It didn't take long for her to understand what was going on. “Oh... I see. Don't tell me that you want to...”

Mindy shook her head in resignation and said, “I'm gonna be honest with you, I don't like Isabelle either. Just look at how she treats her classmates. Besides, Warren is a fool through-and-through. It's fine if they get themselves in trouble. Why do you have to step forward though?”

“I understand what you mean, but we don't have any kind of resentment towards them. After all, we're classmates. They've never stepped on my tail before anyways. Besides, those girls even cheered me on enthusiastically during the competition yesterday, including Isabelle!

“I can't bear doing nothing about this. Besides, I've heard about Colton before. He's Yael's subordinate. Maybe this incident is somehow related to Yael!”

Jasmine said.

“D*mn! Jasmine, you could start being a novelist judging by how convincing your deduction is. Isn’t this just a simple conflict between students?”

Mindy asked helplessly.

Jasmine shook her head. “I don’t think things are as shallow as it seems. Maybe it’s because of my intuition. Certainly, I hope that I’m only overthinking things. But as her classmate and a decent human being, I should really help her out!”

With great reluctance, Jasmine whipped out her cell phone.

She called Yael’s number.

“What’s the matter Jasmine? Why did you call me all of a sudden?”

Yael asked.

“Nothing much. I just need your help regarding an incident. Colton is your subordinate, isn’t he? He’s just gotten into a fight with my classmate. I hope that you can persuade him to stop what he’s doing.”

Jasmine said.

“Ah? Is that so? You’re in the university now, aren’t you? What a coincidence, I’m at a company near your university. Let’s meet up and talk about it.”

Yael responded immediately.

Although Jasmine did not want to see him, she could not turn him down since she was asking for his help.

After all, the Fenderson family normally would not ask for help even if they were driven into a corner.

Jasmine inheriting her family’s assets did not mean that the Fenderson family would return to the limelight immediately.

At least, they were not planning to do that for the moment.

Jasmine mumbled a half-hearted response before hanging up.

Soon, Yael reached the university.

He was holding a bouquet of fresh flowers in his hand when he arrived. “Jasmine, if I recall correctly, this is the first time you took the initiative to call me and ask me out on a date!”

“Spare me the nonsense. Have you settled the issue yet?”

Jasmine asked with her arms crossed.

Yael was initially stunned by her demeanor. After that, he smiled and said, “I did call him up. But that b*stard Colton had received a pretty bad beating this time it seems. He was deeply furious, and he didn’t even listen to me. I don’t really have any idea how to solve this issue and it’s not like I can beat that kid up, since we’ve practically grown up together!”

“Also, it seems like your classmate was the one who assaulted him first. It doesn’t seem reasonable for me to be meddling in this affair!” said Yale.

“You!”

Jasmine was slightly stunned.

“Fine, I won’t ask for help from you. I’ll arrange for the people from the other families to do it.”

It did not occur to Jasmine that Yael would not even do such a trivial act for her.

At that moment, she acted out of spite and called up a few other families who were dependent on her family.

She wanted them to intervene in settling this dispute.

In the end, they found all kinds of excuses to turn her request down.

Standing next to her, Yael smirked silently to himself.

Jasmine suddenly realized what was happening.

It was as she had thought. This incident wasn't as simple as it looked on the surface.

Besides, those families were clearly following the lead of the Schuyler family.

“Stop being so stubborn, Jasmine. If you talk to me nicely, I can do everything for you. You wouldn't even need to worry yourself with Colton, or what the other families are doing. Anything you want, do you understand what I'm saying?”

Chapter 726

Yael said.

Just when Jasmine stopped paying attention, he took the chance and grabbed her hand.

“Get lost!”

Jasmine reacted almost instantaneously. She shoved away Yael's hand. The force with which she shook off his grip was so strong that it smashed the fresh flowers Yael was holding into the ground.

Yael stared at the roses which were scattered all over the floor. He was stupefied.

In the university, there were a lot of girls who passed by them. They all stopped in their tracks and stared at the scene before them.

“Wow! Did he literally just get shot down!?”

“Ha ha! This guy seems so well dressed. Did he still get turned down by the Goddess herself?”

“That’s right. Ain’t no way our Goddess will give away her love and affection to some random chap.”

The girls couldn’t help but cover their mouths as they mocked Yael.

After all, looks weren’t the only thing women looked at when judging a man. They would still have to consider his style, how his clothes fit him, how expensive his clothes are and all that jazz. It didn’t matter much if a man was below average in terms of looks. He at least had to be well-dressed and possess a good disposition.

If a man dressed himself up poorly, he would be a lowly person no matter how handsome he was.

But now that the guy has failed in confessing his love, no matter how well-dressed he was, he’d no longer be worthy in their eyes.

Hence, they started whispering and giggling to each other.

And those laughs were heard by Yael.

It filled him with deep humiliation and anger. 'If it weren't for you, Jasmine, I'd never suffer such humiliation!'

"Jasmine, what do you mean? Don't you see how much I love you? Why won't you reciprocate my feelings?"

Yael had always been directing his frustrations inwards. This was his final straw. It was the day he finally let out his inner turmoil.

In the heat of the moment, he lashed out angrily at Jasmine.

"You're crazy!"

Jasmine peeked at Yael once in disgust. She then turned around swiftly and was about to leave. She wasn't in the mood to listen to what he had to say next.

It was because Jasmine knew clearly what kind of a person Yael was. The only feelings she had for him and his father was disgust and despise, nothing more, nothing less.

“I have loved you for such a long time. You don’t even give me a chance to hear me out. Stop right there!”

Yael’s eyes had become bloodshot. He felt like his pride had just been trampled over.

The humiliation he suffered before was different. Now, Jasmine did not even care that they were in front of everybody when she shot him down.

He then ran and caught up with her. He grabbed Jasmine’s hand directly. “I ask you to hear me out!”

“Let go of me! Are you crazy?”

Smack!

Jasmine was getting more and more anxious, so out of instinct, she gave Yael a painful slap across the cheek.

The girls who were standing around them bore witness to the scene. Their jaws gaped in astonishment as they watched the scene.

It made Yael freeze up on the spot.

“Mindy, let’s go!”

Jasmine held Mindy's hand and left right after that.

“Jasmine, how cruel can you be? There are a lot of girls who like me, but I've never treated them the same way as I treat you. See how I've put myself down for your sake!? I'm even willing to abandon my dignity... But you don't even seem like you care about me at all!”

Yael clenched his fists tightly, watching as Jasmine left him behind. His eyes were red and bloodshot.

“Jasmine, you slapped him just because of such a trivial affair? Isn't that pretty bad?”

Mindy knew that the Schuyler family was not to be trifled with. She was quick to remind her sister of that fact.

“Hmph! A trivial affair? Do you really think that this is a trivial affair? Yael has always been pestering me but do you know why I hate him so much? It's because he always likes to treat others like fools. Obviously, Yael is the one behind this incident. Not only does he want me to be indebted to him, he's planning to show me how powerful and influential the Schuyler family is. The other smaller families have now become lackeys of the Schuyler family!

“To use both kindness and cruelty, that's what makes him so disgusting! That's why I hate him this much! I can't keep lying to myself about this!”

Jasmine said.

“D*mn! I understood it now. No wonder he was smiling so confidently when you were making the phone calls. He’s indeed a cunning b*stard! Jasmine, how should we resolve that issue now?”

Mindy asked.

After that, she widened her eyes. “Jasmine, hurry up and take a look. Isn’t that Colton? He’s bringing a ton of people with him. Wait, they’re entering the academic building right now!”

Chapter 727

Jasmine really could not help in resolving the issue even if she wanted to.

Although she wanted to lend Isabelle a helping hand, she could not use her identity as a member of the Fenderson family to help them.

On the other side, Gerald saw a large group of people rushing into the union class. Isabelle was almost scared to death when this happened.

Even Warren appeared to be slightly frightened now.

Clearly, the incident was spiraling rapidly out of control.

“What should we do now? It seems like the faculty director can’t hold them back for long!”

Isabelle cried in fear as she said so.

At last, Warren looked at Maia. “Maia, didn’t you exchange your contact information with Yuna the other day? If we’re really out of options now, go and look for help from Yuna. She did say that we could hit her up if we’re facing any problems.”

Maia said, “But I’m worried that Yuna was just being nice to us. After all, what kind of status and identity does she have? How sure are you that she can help us?”

It seemed clear that getting help from Yuna did cross Maia’s mind.

“Ahem, let’s not bother about that first. Now, we only have one shot, and that’s with Yuna.”

Warren said.

Both Wyatt and Isabelle had also put their hope entirely on Maia.

“Fine, I’ll give it a try!”

Maia nodded slightly.

She then called the number which Yuna left with her immediately.

To her surprise, Yuna picked up her call almost immediately.

Maia did not even exchange pleasantries with Yuna. She splurged everything about that incident in a hurry to Yuna.

“Yuna, thank you very much. It’ll be better if you can look into it!!”

Clearly, Yuna had promised to help judging by how excited Maia sounded.

And it wasn’t long before Yuna’s call returned.

“Maia, this incident is different from the previous one. I did help to ask about it. Mr. Holden will try to assist you, but you need to go and meet Mr. Zartyr of Salford Province in order to see how you’re going to resolve it. Mr. Zartyr wants to know every little detail about this incident before he decides whether or not he wants to lend a hand to you guys. That’s the most I can do for you!”

Yuna sighed and said.

When Yuna called Mr. Holden just now, he did agree to help them. He’d even contacted Mr. Zartyr to talk about it.

Mr. Holden was Mr. Crawford’s godbrother, so of course, Zartyr couldn’t afford to not entertain his requests.

The conclusion was that they had to meet Mr. Zartyr in person. At the very least, he had to know the ins and outs of the incident.

After hanging up the phone, Maia and the others left the place hastily.

“They’re so lucky! Surprises me that someone is willing to help them!”

Marven said indignantly.

Gerald smiled bitterly as he shook his head.

He was the one who was going to help them in the end.

There are times when Gerald wished to reveal his identity and status to the world at large. That way, much of the trouble he faced would be eliminated from his life.

But just like how his father had warned him, the new problems which would spring up following such an act would be no less than what he was facing now.

Hence, he was stuck between a rock and a hard place when it came to things like this.

When he couldn’t find his targets, Colton did not bother with giving the rest of the students a hard time.

The others were allowed to attend their lesson in peace.

After having four lessons in the morning, they were free in the afternoon.

Gerald was about to return to the villa.

It was at that moment when Gerald received a call. It was a call from Barry.

“Mr. Crawford, we’ve finally found some clues about Xara after working through the night for the past few days,” said Barry excitedly over the phone.

“Oh? That’s good. I’ll go over to your place now!”

Gerald sounded excited too.

Barry sounded quite busy at the other end of the phone.

Gerald did not say much. He hung up the phone immediately to let him do his job.

Chapter 728

At that moment, Gerald drove his car straight to Barry’s villa.

When he reached that place, he discovered that there were lots of cars parked outside the gates.

Barry had very complicated interpersonal relationships. There were tons of people who wanted to see him. Knowing this, Gerald wasn't even remotely surprised at the discovery.

It only meant that he had to park his car further away from the house.

Walking into the place, he found that Barry was indeed loaded with jobs to do. There was quite a long line leading up to the door of his office.

It was more or less like what Zack experienced.

There were lots of people standing outside the door. It seemed like Barry had to see every single one of them.

Gerald chuckled painfully to himself.

After that, he approached the villa.

"Maia, how long are we going to wait? There are tons of people here. My dad hasn't returned home yet. I'm worried sick!"

Standing at the side, Isabelle and the others waited.

At that moment, they were waiting anxiously.

“Don’t worry. Yuna said that Mr. Zartyr will meet us to learn about this incident. He’ll be seeing us shortly, I believe!”

Maia said.

A sigh was heard. “D*mn it! I wonder why Mr. Zartyr is so busy. We’ve been waiting for two hours now!”

Someone said impatiently.

And at that moment, Maia was stunned all of a sudden. She glanced at a youngster who had just entered that place from outside.

Actually, a lot of people looked over there the moment the young man waltzed right through the gates.

After all, most of the people who were there wanted to meet Mr. Zartyr to negotiate their business plan or ongoing projects.

They were afraid that they might meet their rivals at that moment.

Contempt was at an all-time high when they saw that they were facing against a young lad in the market.

‘How could a person like that go and meet Mr. Zartyr for business? Humph!’

The person they were talking about, of course, was none other than Gerald.

Gerald saw Maia and Isabelle standing in line.

But it did not occur to him that they would still be here considering how much time had passed.

Gerald did not avoid them either.

He then walked over and asked. “Are you still waiting here?”

“Humph! Why are you here?”

The moment Maia saw Gerald, she was reminded of the countless times he had humiliated her. She was deeply irritated by his unannounced arrival.

As for Isabelle, this was, even more, the case. She was visibly filled with wrath when she looked at Gerald.

If Gerald had given the spotlight to Fabian, he would not have been that dejected, then Isabelle would not have been in a bad mood for a couple of consecutive days. And had he not kicked her yesterday, she would not have lost her cool the next morning, when she beat up the vengeful rich kids.

To put it plainly, the source of their disaster was Gerald.

At least, this was what Isabelle thought.

“Why did he come? He must have come here to rub salt into our wounds! Gerald, I never expected you to be such a horrid person. It’s really disgusting! I’m so f*cking pissed off!”

Isabelle’s reaction was harsh.

Maia’s reaction was more or less the same as Isabelle’s. Clearly, she agreed with what Isabelle said. “Gerald, I know how rich you are but that doesn’t warrant you to act so smugly about this. How could you come here and laugh at our pain? Let me tell you, I won’t let a person like you take pleasure in my suffering!”

Maia said anxiously.

‘Humph!’ Gerald shook his head and smirked bitterly.

Actually, Gerald felt that the sadistic side of him had already been satisfied by the sight of them standing in line here. After all, they had made use of their connections and found Yael and Mr. Zartyr.

Gerald did not mind doing Maia a favor while incurring little to no cost himself. After all, she was his ex-classmate.

But now, Maia did not even care about the friendship they had in the past. It seemed like no matter what he did, Maia would only mock him and look down on him.

Hence, Gerald could only smile helplessly.

“You’re wrong. I’ve no mood and energy to pay close attention to you every day. I’m that nosy of a person to rush here just to savor the taste of your pain and suffering!”

Gerald said as he glanced at Maia.

After that, he tucked his hands into his pocket and headed straight into the entrance of the villa...

Chapter 729

“Who is this person? How impolite can he be?! Can’t he even act like a decent human being?”

“That’s right. It’s the door to Mr. Zartyr’s villa. How dare he walk in as if this was his house? Didn’t he see that we’re standing in a line”

For a moment, a lot of people started whispering among themselves.

As for Maia and Isabelle, they were waiting to see how Gerald would be humiliated in front of everybody.

It was because Barry was a big shot in Salford Province, and he had tremendous influence. Besides, he was particularly keen about maintaining tradition and acting with prudence. If anyone acted imprudently, that person would be reprimanded heavily.

At that moment, Gerald knocked on a door.

The door to the living room was opened by a butler.

“This guy is looking for it, courting death he is!”

“Does he think that he can get ahead of us by acting like this? Ha ha!”

“I know lots of kids like him. He’ll only make a laughing stock out of himself. He’s destined to be unable to achieve anything great in his life!”

The others joined in and started mocking Gerald.

“Mr... Mr. Crawford, it’s you!”

The butler exclaimed out of astonishment.

He immediately bowed towards him.

“Yes. I see that he’s quite busy, so I waited around outside for quite a while!”

Gerald laughed bitterly.

“Yes! Mr. Crawford, this way please.”

The butler soon invited Gerald into the house swiftly.

If Gerald was not considered as an important and distinguished guest, then there would be no such thing as an important and distinguished guest in this world.

“What?”

That scene stunned every one of them who were standing in line.

“What kind of young master is that? Mr. Crawford? I’ve never heard of him. But I’ve never seen Mr. Mollands act like that before!”

“That’s true! Who exactly is he?”

Everyone was stupefied.

Even Maia’s mouth gaped in disbelief.

Her heart started pumping.

She felt as if this was all an illusion, an illusion in which she was helpless when fighting against the tide. Something she dreaded had happened.

Maia had always looked down on Gerald since they were in high school, and that feeling continued even up until now.

Even though Gerald studied hard during high school, Maia assumed that he did not have bright prospects in the future.

Everyone that knew Maia, saw her as a straightforward person. She sometimes said things directly, and others might inadvertently get hurt in the process.

To put it plainly, Maia had always had a sense of superiority over her peers.

But for some reason, when she was with Warren and Jamier, Maia would act in an unusually reserved manner.

But it was clear that she looked down on Gerald.

But now, she found that the person who she had always looked down upon was actually filthy rich. He was different from the past, and he was much richer than her.

Maia found that fact to be a hard pill to swallow.

She made up all kinds of excuses to convince herself. Gerald might have won a lottery, so he became rich. That his prize money would be used up after a few years.

Besides, the money he had was irrelevant since he lacked the connections to make things work. Maia smirked silently. In a modern society, one was pretty much useless if he had no connections with powerful people.

This was what Maia told herself repeatedly over the past couple of days to soothe herself.

But now, she had to meet Mr. Zartyr to ask for his help. Her nightmares had resurfaced when she realized that Gerald had free access the Mr. Zartyr's property.

Looks like they were more than superficial acquaintances.

“I didn't know that Gerald knows Mr. Zartyr!”

Isabelle became rather anxious.

But even though she was anxious, she had no other options.

Nobody could help her. The only shot she had was with Mr. Zartyr, but there was still the chance that he might turn her down.

“Maia, why don’t you give Gerald a call? Our worries will certainly be resolved if he’s willing to say something nice on our behalf?”

It was Warren who spoke up this time.

“Me?” Maia felt quite anxious as if she had just been slapped in the face.

“That’s right, Maia. After all, that guy liked you in the past, and you were high school classmates. It’ll be better if you speak for us! If not, we’ll have to stand in line the entire afternoon, and we may not even be able to meet Mr. Zartyr in time! This issue may well turn into something much more serious by then!”

Warren said anxiously.

“That’s true, Maia. Go and beg Gerald for help. He’ll definitely help us!”

Isabelle finally caved in.

Maia was in a dilemma for a while.

Chapter 730

At that moment, Maia said, “Actually, I’m not sure if we’re even friends at the moment. Even if I asked him to help me, it’s quite likely that he’ll turn me down. But I’ll give it a try!”

She reluctantly whipped out her cell phone and called Gerald’s number.

She felt conflicted about this. To be forced to beg for help from someone who she was looking down on. Not to mention the fact that she had once hurt him with painful words in the past.

But she indeed needed Gerald's help to resolve that issue.

It did not occur to Gerald that Maia, who was as proud as a peacock, would call him up at this moment.

In that instant, he burst out laughing to himself.

“What's wrong?”

Gerald asked.

“Gerald, you... do you know Mr. Zartyr?” Maia's voice was extremely soft.

“Yes, I do know him! Just tell me what you want to say!” Gerald said lightly.

“You should be aware that we're in great trouble now. If you do know him, I hope that you can help introduce us to him or at the very least, mention our names in front of him!”

Maia's face was flushed red when she told him that.

“There’s not a problem if you want me to mention it to him. But the problem is, what will I gain out of this? Give me one good reason why I should help you.”

Gerald smiled and said.

“I!”

“How about this? You can come into the villa with Isabelle to discuss it. But only the two of you are allowed to come in.”

Gerald said.

“Fine!”

After that, Gerald hung up the phone.

Clearly, Isabelle and the others heard their conversation.

“Ah? Maia, what do you think? Why did Gerald ask only the two of us to enter that villa? You do know that I fought with him before. Not to mention the countless times we’ve gotten into a verbal fight. I’m worried about what he’ll do to me when I...”

It seemed like Isabelle had it all thought out beforehand. She then turned away, blushing shyly.

“No, he wouldn’t dare to do that... I don’t believe that he’ll do anything to us. I know what sort of a person he is. After we enter the villa, let me talk to him. You can just stay behind me!”

Maia thought to herself, ‘Gerald, you’re quite capable now, aren’t you? But I don’t buy it, not one bit. What can you really do?’

Both Maia and Isabelle were then led into the villa by one of the servants working there.

Mr. Zartyr’s villa was indeed very spacious.

There were more than ten servants downstairs.

That person led the two of them up to the first floor.

In a large conference room.

“Mr. Crawford is in there.”

The servant said respectfully.

“Alright, thanks!”

Maia's voice sounded nervous.

She opened the door and entered the conference room, to discover that it was packed to the brim.

Most of them were middle-aged people, and their secretaries were there with them too.

There were at least forty people sitting inside.

Nearly all of those middle-aged men were famous businessmen in Salford Province.

Maia knew a handful of them from reading the newspapers.

Isabelle on the other hand, knew instantly that these were all big shots.

Hence, the atmosphere became tense all of a sudden.

What made both Maia and Isabelle so nervous was the fact that Gerald was sitting at the seat of honor at the conference desk.

On the other hand, Mr. Zartyr was seated next to Gerald.

“You guys should head out now. I’d like to talk to them alone. Mr. Zartyr, remember to come back here after you’re done with business,” announced Gerald.

“Yes, Mr. Crawford!”

That group of people got up from their seats and said in unison.

That scene frightened both Maia and Isabelle even more.

It was only after they all left the room that both Maia and Isabelle snapped out of their mental haze.

Gerald smiled and looked at them. “Do sit down. Why are you standing there?”

“Gerald, they... Why did they address you as Mr. Crawford?”

Maia gulped nervously after she asked the question with a hint of disbelief in her voice.

Chapter 731

“It’s a long story. I won’t be able to explain it to you clearly in just a few sentences!”

Gerald smiled and said.

At that moment, a few servants entered the room in a respectful manner before serving Isabelle and Maia some tea.

“Gerald, I don’t know what kind of relationship you have with Mr. Zartyr. But you know very well that we’re facing a dire threat at the moment. If you’re able to help, I sincerely hope that you do so as soon as you can!”

Maia said.

Isabelle nodded vigorously. “Gerald, I’ll apologize to you. After this, I don’t care how you will treat me. I just want you to give us a hand!”

“Alright, I’ll mention it to Mr. Zartyr. But after this thing blows over, I hope that I have something to gain out of this!”

Gerald looked at them and said with a smile.

If they had come earlier, Gerald would have helped them, no questions asked, despite how cold and aloof Maia treated him. But the situation was different now. His heart had gone numb at this point.

Now, Gerald was bitterly disappointed in them.

Especially Isabelle.

They were asking for Barry’s help, and it was equivalent to asking Gerald for help.

Gerald would definitely not turn them down.

But if they wanted to ask Gerald for help, some conditions must be met beforehand.

“Tell us. What do you want to gain?”

Gerald snapped his fingers.

After a short while, both Isabelle and Maia walked out of the place.

They said nothing to Warren and Wyatt after leaving the place. They only glanced at the boys before walking off wordlessly.

It baffled both Warren and Wyatt. But they still caught up with them and left.

After that was done, Barry went to meet Gerald.

The incident in which Isabelle found herself caught up was insignificant, according to Gerald at least. To them on the other hand, it was something that threatened their lives.

The Moore family was supported by the Schuyler family. But they still needed to give Barry some face.

Gerald was originally there at the villa for something much more important than what Isabelle was facing.

“Mr. Crawford, it’s a major discovery. We’ve managed to track down the whereabouts of Xara’s maid, who was quite close to her in the past. We did a lot of investigation and paid a heavy price for it. We learned that Xara left the Fenderson family more than twenty years ago. Apparently, there was a great conflict between her and her family!

“At the height of the conflict, she left the family with her housekeeper. They even brought along a baby who had just turned a month old!”

Barry said.

Gerald sat upright upon hearing that.

That was indeed a very important clue.

‘A baby who had just turned a month old? Could it be Queta?’

Gerald motioned for Barry to elaborate on the matter.

Turns out the truth was not that far from what he had imagined.

When Gerald was in Mayberry, he asked Zack to investigate that incident. Zack in turn informed Barry about this matter, in order for him to further his investigations on it.

Barry placed a lot of attention on this matter.

He dumped fifteen million dollars worth of assets into the mission of tracking down the woman named "Xara".

Finally, they dug up some incident that was related to the Fenderson family.

As for the current whereabouts of Xara's housekeeper, it was an old man who took it upon himself and contacted them during the previous day.

That old man had run a hotel once in the past.

He remembered the scene quite clearly.

It was on a night twenty-two years ago. It was raining cats and dogs outside.

Two women and a baby stumbled into the lobby of his hotel.

They looked rather anxious. The woman who was holding the baby was soaked through but the baby's clothes were dry. But the woman was fairly beautiful.

Despite the fact that so many years have passed, he clicked his tongue when he thought about that. He claimed that he had never met such a beautiful girl in his life.

And standing beside her was a woman in her thirties.

Chapter 732

That woman kept addressing her as “young lady”.

They appeared to be in a hurry, and they wanted to stay there. But there was one thing which puzzled the old man. That woman claimed that they did not have money at that moment and that they would need to wait until the next afternoon before someone could send them the money. Hence, they asked the old man not to worry about that.

But the old man had been running the hotel for some long now. He was a seasoned veteran in the game of life.

How would he be willing to compromise?

Realizing that they had failed to persuade him, the beautiful woman, who was holding the baby, took out a jade pendant and handed it to the old man.

Fortunately, the old man was an antique enthusiast. The moment he saw that jade pendant, he knew instantly that it was an expensive item.

He saw a name—Xara which was being engraved on that jade pendant clearly.

He slowly realized that they might have special origins.

Hence, he did not dare to offend them.

He agreed to let them stay there.

Barry said that the old man had described that incident in a very clear manner yesterday. That very night, he even contacted a few of his friends after he got hold of the jade pendant. He did not intend to return it to the duo.

But his friends reminded him that it would be better if he did not do such a thing against the owner of such an invaluable and beautiful jade pendant.

It was only after hearing that did the old man decide to forget about that.

After that, he waited until two o'clock in the afternoon the next day.

As expected, a young man arrived.

He brought a lot of money for Xara.

It was also at the same time that Xara retrieved her pendant. Then, the two women left his hotel together.

It did not occur to that old man that after seven days, that woman would return to his hotel.

Only this time, the beauty who held the baby did not come.

The one who came was the woman standing next to the beauty.

That old man was surprised to see her.

Seven days ago, that woman still had some rosiness on her face. But now, she was extremely thin, and her face was pale. She looked just like a ghost.

She claimed that she was just there to stay for the night.

She also inquired about a place called Howard County from that old man.

That old man certainly knew where that was. After all, his daughter-in-law's house was there in Howard County.

He nodded slightly.

That woman gave the old man a lot of money. Come next morning, the old man sent her to Howard County himself.

On the way there, he asked her about what she was doing. She claimed that she was going there to seek refuge with a relative.

That old man then sent her to her relative's house.

And that was why that woman paid him around fifteen thousand dollars in order to thank him.

Fifteen thousand dollars was no small amount.

That old man probably remembered the incident so well because of this.

He was able to recall every single detail of that incident.

As for the jade pendant which Barry showed him, he confirmed that it was the jade pendant that that beauty gave him 2 decades ago.

How could he possibly forget about that?

“Mr. Crawford, he told us the address of that housekeeper's relative where she went to seek refuge. I sent some people over to investigate it last night. But that family had moved away, and their house had been demolished for a long time. But don't worry, I can guarantee that we'll be able to find where that family is in a day!”

Barry said.

Gerald nodded slightly. “Mr. Zartyr, I'll leave this to you then.”

Frankly-speaking, Gerald had faith in Barry that he'd be able to handle this investigation well.

Gerald felt that he was now one step closer to finding where Xara was. Finally, he'd be able to find where Queta's biological mother was.

But he also needed to know more about that incident. What kind of relationship did Xara have with her father?

"Mr. Crawford, there's another incident. I don't know why you're looking for Xara, and I don't know about what she has but there's something I must tell you."

Suddenly, Barry's expression turned solemn.

"What is it?"

Chapter 733

"That old man said that there was another group of people who met him before we came. They too, inquired about the incident and asked for the maid's whereabouts," said Barry.

Gerald was baffled.

'Who could it be?'

He thought that this was a simple task given to him by his father to look for a person. Looks like things are more complicated than he initially thought.

But Gerald did not dwell on it much since it was useless.

What he needed to do now was to locate where that maid was, ASAP.

In that instant, Gerald made some preparations and prepared to go to Howard County. At the same time, he called up The Drake & Tyson Duo, ordering them to bring some people along and be there as soon as possible.

And it was also the same moment that he received a message in the group chat of his class. It was a message sent by the counselor.

Gerald took a look at it...

It was around this time.

In a luxury car.

“Miss, we still haven’t found where the ex-young lady is. But we did find a very important clue. It’s related to her personal maid—Xenia. We’ve found where she is! Back then, the young lady and Xenia stayed in a hotel...”

Jasmine listened to her subordinate’s report seriously.

She nodded and said, “Have you sent people over there?”

“We did send more people over. There’s one more thing which I need to report to you. It seems like we’re not the only ones who are asking about the young lady’s whereabouts. Our people went and confirmed it with the owner of the hotel just now. He told us that there’s another group of people who’re looking for the young lady too. They’re pretty generous with their money too.”

“Who is it?”

At that moment, there was a faint crease between Jasmine’s eyebrows.

“I’m sorry, miss. We still haven’t discovered who they are at the moment. But I think that it’s better if we start acting with more caution.”

Jasmine nodded. “Fine. Then you must act fast. By the way, bring along the twelve teachers from the family. My aunt was exceptionally ruthless in how she handled affairs in the past. I don’t doubt that she’s offended quite a lot of people. If someone’s looking for her, it should be the Fenderson family who does so in the end.”

“I understand!”

The moment Jasmine finished making the preparation, a message popped up in her class group chat. It was sent by the counselor.

Although Jasmine normally did not talk a lot with her classmates, she was still a member of that group chat.

She glanced at the message.

Turns out the counselor was talking about an outing for tomorrow morning which was organized by the faculty. Coincidentally, they were going to Howard County.

There were a lot of people who were going there.

And the person-in-charge was Marven from the next class.

“That chubby fella is becoming more capable now!”

Reading the message, Jasmine smiled bitterly.

She then got out of the car and returned to the university.

On the other hand, Gerald did not return to the university. In fact, he'd just informed the university about this.

He left for Howard County in Salford Province immediately.

His destination wasn't too far away.

There was a development project going on in that county.

As for the subordinates, Barry had dispatched a group of personnel to help with the search there.

Gerald was anxious, so he rushed there first with only a few people.

Both Queta and Barry would only head for Howard County after The Drake & Tyson Duo reached Salford Province with their subordinates.

Gerald had neither the mood nor the energy to participate in the outing which was organized by the university.

After he reached Howard County, he found a hotel and got himself settled down. He then asked his subordinates to go and get in touch with that group of people.

“Gerald?”

Gerald was at the underground parking lot. He pulled out his wallet and was about to enter the elevator to return to his room.

At that moment, he heard a female voice calling out to him all of a sudden.

Gerald turned around and took a look. He was visibly surprised.

It was Vincy.

Standing beside Vincy, were Lennard and two other girls.

“D*mn! It’s really Gerald. What a coincidence!”

Another girl said when she saw Gerald turning around.

Clearly, she was surprised to meet Gerald here too.

At first, Gerald did not recognize who the girl was until she spoke up.

“Hmph! Gerald, I doubt that you still remember me!”

That girl said. The way she spoke sounded as if she had a sense of superiority over her counterpart.

“Of course I know you. You’re Xyla Hoffman!”

Chapter 734

Gerald said with a smile on his face.

In the past, Xyla was also a member of the high school competition team.

He remembered that she was in the same class as Vincy, so her academic results must've been really good.

But how about her personality? She was the sunny type of girl, the type of girl who just oozed youthful vibes wherever she went.

She vaguely resembled Maia in terms of appearance.

But they were different.

Xyla had a lot of guy friends. Those guys were either ruffians who were terrible at their studies but with good social relations, or they were rich kids from influential families.

In short, she was a girl who enjoyed a lot of connections, and she enjoyed herself vehemently. Despite this, her academic results were particularly outstanding.

She was also a rather emotional girl.

Moreover, Gerald had all sorts of brief episodes with her in the past which were unspeakable, to say the least.

Hmph!

Now, it seemed like Xyla had gotten into Salford University with Vincy.

Vincy mentioned it to Gerald when they met a few days ago.

“Heh heh!”

Xyla’s eyes scanned Gerald from head-to-toe.

She could not help but say in contempt, “Vincy told me that you came to County Salford. Haven’t you left yet? Also, what are you doing at such a glamorous hotel?”

“Yeah, yeah. I’ll leave after a few days!”

Xyla sounded rather harsh when she spoke to Gerald. ‘Could it be that she still remembers that misunderstanding which happened all those years ago?’

‘Maybe not.’

However, Gerald wasn’t too keen to have a conversation with Xyla. He turned towards Vincy and asked her, “Vincy, what are you doing here?”

“We plan to organize a large gathering here. Xyla’s boyfriend has the admission tickets. So we’ve come here to have some fun together!”

Vincy treated Gerald in a surprisingly nice manner.

She smiled and said.

“Oh! Xyla has a boyfriend now!”

Gerald echoed what she said.

Xyla rolled her eyes at Gerald smugly.

“Do you know who Xyla’s boyfriend is? He’s the son of the president of a listed company!”

Lennard said in resignation.

“Oh!”

In order to match Lennard’s tone, Gerald nodded slightly, looking a little surprised.

“Is he the guy from high school—Gerald, the one whom you mentioned before?”

At that moment, a girl, who was standing beside them, asked.

She was either Vincy or Xyla’s classmate.

She looked rather pretty too.

It became clear that Xyla had talked to her about Gerald back during their high school days together.

It was because Gerald noticed that the girl was looking at him in a rather nonchalant and lazy manner.

Maybe there was something on his face?

After that girl looked at him as she pouted. She seemed to be looking down on him.

Vincy would never talk about these things, but the same could not be said with Xyla.

“Yes, I am. We were in the competition team back when we were in high school!”

Gerald still smiled and said.

“By the way, Gerald, I didn’t manage to ask you. Do you have a girlfriend? If not, I can introduce you to one!”

Vincy replied.

It seemed like Gerald had a girlfriend. But frankly speaking, it did not appear to Vincy that he was in a romantic relationship. Vincy did not have any ulterior motives when she said that. She assumed that Gerald might be lying to others about having a girlfriend to protect his dignity as a man. This was partly why she wanted to get him a girlfriend.

“Come on! Of course, he doesn’t have one. Gerald, why don’t you consider Yasmina? Yasmina, although Gerald is poor, he’s an honest man. Didn’t your mom say that she’ll introduce you to an honest man? He’ll heed your orders like a dog after you get married. Don’t find someone who’s like your ex-husband!”

Xyla teased and said.

“Alas! Xyla, if you’re being like this, I’m going to get angry. You’re so bad!”

Yasmina Wale started teasing Xyla playfully.

Yasmina the divorcee was looking down on Gerald.

Gerald could only smile bitterly and shake his head when he realized what was happening.

At that moment.

“Xyla, what are you doing? Why aren’t you coming up?”

They heard a hearty and clear voice. It wasn't long before they saw a handsome man in a tailored suit walking towards them...

Chapter 735

"Leon! Oh, I just bumped into a classmate of mine."

Xyla waved her hands at Leon affectionately. Clearly, he was her boyfriend.

At that moment, Vincy said, "Xyla, didn't you say that you have an additional admission ticket just now? Hey maybe we can give it to Gerald. We haven't met each other for so many years, I guess we can totally sit together and talk about our golden days!"

"This..." Xyla averted her eyes. "Fine, then we'll let Gerald tag along. We can bring him along so that he can get a taste of the good life!"

"Gerald, we'll give you a ticket. Come with us!"

Xyla said.

"Yes, let's go. You don't have anything going on, do you?"

Vincy tugged at Gerald's arm and said.

"Fine!"

Gerald nodded slightly and agreed to go.

If Xyla was the only one who invited him, he would've turned them down instantly.

But he had a rather good relationship with Vincy. Besides, Gerald was waiting for updates from his subordinates. He might as well have fun in the process of waiting.

They took the elevator together and went straight to the second floor of the hotel.

There was a large hall.

It was dedicated to holding gatherings or parties.

The place was considered a very high-end hotel in Howard County.

Everyone showed their admission ticket before they entered the hall.

There were a lot of people.

It seemed to be the type of party that was held before the commencement of some kind of large project.

At least this was what Gerald understood from Xyla's brief explanation.

In other words, without money or the right ties, an ordinary Joe would never be able to attend such parties.

Xyla's boyfriend—Leon, fit right into such an environment like a hand in a glove.

He knew a lot of the attendees. After he greeted his friends, he sat down at a table.

“What are you doing?” Xyla asked.

Gerald sat down beside Vincy and Lennard.

“What do you mean what I'm doing?”

Gerald shook his head and smiled bitterly.

“You! Go and sit over there! You think you have the right to sit here?”

Xyla started acting oddly since she entered the hall, There had been a very obvious change in her attitude towards Gerald.

This was in spite of the fact that she was the one who had given the admission ticket to him.

Gerald then turned towards the direction in which Xyla was pointing at. That table was in a corner, and the people who sat there were probably the drivers or secretaries of the attendees.

Clearly, Xyla felt that Gerald had no right to sit with her at the same table.

However, Xyla's voice had attracted the attention of the surrounding attendees. He was being humiliated in front of everyone, and it was clearly embarrassing for him.

Vincy became quite anxious, and she wanted to persuade Xyla to stop what she was doing.

But Gerald did not want to put Vincy in a difficult position. He laughed bitterly once before he went over to that table.

"Xyla, what's wrong with you? You treated Gerald normally before we came in here. Why are you making a fool out of him in front of everybody?" asked Vincy in an anxious tone.

"That's right. I want to make a fool of him in front of everyone. I want him to experience that kind of thing!"

Suddenly, Xyla started glaring at Gerald coldly.

"Why? Gerald didn't offend you did he? Don't tell me that it's because of that trivial affair from back then!"

Chapter 736

Vincy was stuck between a rock and a hard place. After all, she was the one who invited Gerald. But now her two best friends were in a squabble with each other, so it was only natural that she started feeling anxious about it.

“A trivial affair? Vincy, do you really think that what happened during our high school days was just a trivial affair?”

Seems like Xyla still harbored resentment towards Gerald for what had happened ages ago.

“You remember the competition we participated in that year, and we won. After we came back, the school treated the twenty of us to a meal in the city. After the meal, there were only a few of us left. Hence, we played truth or dare. I was defeated, so I had to choose a person there to confess my love to. Did you forget about that?”

Xyla said.

“Of course I remember it. I know that you didn’t like Gerald back then. But in order to play safe, you confessed your love to him. Still remember how he just came back from helping out the teacher when you did that. You told him that you liked him!”

Vincy recalled the incident which happened in the past.

“But in the end, Gerald said that we were unsuited for each other in front of everyone. I was left speechless and helpless. I can’t believe that the loser really thought that I liked

him! I get furious every time I remember his face when he said that to me. All of the students in our class pointed their fingers and laughed at me. They joked that even a person like Gerald didn't like me. The boy who I truly had a crush on was just there at the side. Do you know how great a humiliation I was forced to accept?"

Xyla said.

"But do you know why Gerald claimed that you were unsuited for each other? It's because Gerald felt that he was poor and that he was not a match for you. You're overthinking things. Besides, he also knew that your feelings weren't genuine, so perhaps he blurted out things that he didn't mean to say. Didn't you always dislike him because he's poor? You didn't even want to sit beside him in the car. That's why Gerald was afraid of you!"

Vincy quickly made up an explanation to calm Xyla down.

"What? That loser! I must make him regret it! Besides, I was not the only one who disliked him because he was poor. Vincy, weren't you the same? Don't think that I didn't notice. You liked Gerald during that time. But you didn't want to go into a relationship because of how broke he was back then, didn't you!?"

Xyla was just a blabbermouth. The moment she started talking, she would talk about literally everything.

What she said made Vincy blush. She had just blurted out the thing which haunted Vincy's mind to this day.

On the other hand, Lennard's facial expression turned sour all of a sudden. 'No wonder Vincy turned me down when I confessed to her back then. I had no idea that she liked Gerald at that time.'

Then, he recalled how nice Vincy had been treating Gerald. So that was why she acted in such a friendly manner towards him?

Lennard's eyes were filled with a tinge of jealousy.

It was totally a different thing now. Previously, Lennard did not intervene when Vincy was being nice to Gerald. It was because he didn't even see Gerald as a rival in love. No way in a million years Vincy would fall for Gerald, right?

But now, the realization made Lennard's heart skip a beat.

It turns out, things had been that way all this while.

Lennard looked at Vincy. Her face was flushed red, which only served to confirm his fears.

What Xyla said had hit Vincy's sore spot.

Xyla was right. Vincy did like Gerald back in high school.

But Gerald was poor. Vincy did give it a try. But doubts started to spring up when she thought further about it.

‘How would my classmates view me? What would they say about me?’

In the end, she did not reach that stage, and she gave up the chance to deepen her relationship with Gerald.

But it did not stop Vincy from wishing that Gerald would become much better.

Doubt, even if only present in one party’s mind in a romantic relationship, was enough to sink the ship sooner or later.

At that moment, the atmosphere became weird.

Gerald did not hear the conversation between Xyla and Vincy.

But the driver beside him said, “Isn’t that Chairman Lighton’s son—Leon? My chairman said that Leon came today, representing his father. He asked us to go and be nice to him, wants us to express our gratitude to him. After all, Chairman Lighton was the reason why we had so many projects waiting for us. People like them will forever rule over us regular folks, doncha think?”

“That’s right. Chairman Wacket even made it clear that we should at least go and give him a toast to show our sincerity and gratitude!”

A few of the drivers and secretaries discussed.

Leon's family had their own company. It was rather normal for them to have certain kinds of cooperation and partnership with other companies, it wasn't uncommon for these companies to become dependent on them for financial or capital support.

In other words, it wasn't a bad idea to suck up to him.

"Fine. Since they've said it explicitly let's go there together before the event starts!"

A female secretary said.

Then, that group of people stood up directly.

"Why aren't ya comin' with us brother?"

At that moment, the driver, who was sitting beside Gerald, patted Gerald's shoulder lightly.

Clearly, Gerald was being treated as a driver by these folks...

Chapter 737

"Like hell, I'm going!"

Gerald shook his head.

“Hmph, it’s fine if you don’t go. Why are you putting up a show?”

A female secretary said in dissatisfaction.

After that, they went to the desk where Leon was sitting to give him a toast.

Seeing that everyone came to give a toast to her boyfriend, Xyla peeked at Gerald coldly, who was sitting there all alone.

She badly wanted to enjoy the look of humiliation and uneasiness on Gerald’s face.

‘How dare you reject me that year! Look at the difference between you and me!

‘No, look at the disparity between you and my boyfriend!’

‘Do you really think that I invited you out of goodwill?’

‘You’re wrong!’

Xyla wanted to humiliate Gerald deliberately. She thought that the humiliation he suffered would be greater if the environment they were in was grander.

She usually did not have the chance to experience that kind of pleasure from revenge.

On the other hand, Vincy saw Gerald sitting there alone. It became clear to her that Xyla invited him here just to embarrass him.

She wanted to go and keep Gerald company.

“Where are you going?”

At last, Lennard grabbed Vincy’s arm savagely.

Vincy never expected to see Lennard act like this.

She realized that what Xyla said just now might have influenced Lennard.

So Vincy refrained from saying anything else.

At that moment, there were a lot of people from the neighboring tables who came to toast Leon and Xyla.

While attending to these people, Xyla stole a glance at Gerald.

The more she looked at him, the happier she became.

But in that instant.

“Mr. Crawford!”

Suddenly, someone shouted.

The person who shouted was a middle-aged man. He was surrounded by a lot of people, and he seemed like a very influential person.

The entire hall went silent after that.

All of them turned towards him.

“It really is Mr. Crawford!”

At that moment, another middle-aged man yelled out.

Soon, there were more than ten sharply-dressed men heading towards the end of the hall hastily.

And they were rushing towards none other than Gerald.

“Hey! Isn’t that Chairman Gordon?”

“That’s right! It’s Chairman Gordon and the others. Why are they heading towards that table?”

“Wait, look at that! It’s not only Chairman Gordon. Chairman Lighton, Chairman Wacket, and Chairman Quarterman have gone there too. It seems like they’re elated too!”

Lots of people present in the hall knew who Chairman Gordon was.

These chairmen could be considered the most distinguished guests of the entire party.

What did it mean?

It was just like what happened just now. The moment they spoke, all of the others stopped talking and listened to them.

At that moment, they looked at each other.

On the other hand, the people who were sitting at Xyla’s table were stupefied too.

It was more so with Xyla. She had been staring at Gerald the entire time. Hence, she noticed it right away when the men were rushing towards him.

She nearly choked on her red wine.

“Mr. Crawford? What’s happening? What kind of status and identity does Chairman Gordon have? Why does he know who Gerald is? He’s nothing but a loser, right?”

Xyla wondered in surprise.

The pleasure which she gained from her revenge just now had faded away instantly.

She started shifting around anxiously.

Vincy looked over too. She was filled with a sense of excitement inwardly for some unknown reason.

Lennard on the other hand, felt his jealousy grow stronger.

That group of people who approached Leon peered in Gerald’s direction. What exactly was happening?

“And you are?”

That group of people stopped in front of Gerald. Gerald was astonished since he did not know any of them.

“D*mn! What’s going on? Chairman Gordon went there to greet him, but that guy doesn’t even know who Chairman Gordon is!”

“It’s so frustrating! How impolite can that boy be! Who taught him his manners?”

Chapter 738

“I think that Chairman Gordon might have mistaken him for someone else. Or is that guy a driver of some kind of big shot? How is it possible? The most distinguished person who has come here today is Chairman Gordon, isn’t it?”

The others started to discuss ceaselessly.

“Mr. Crawford, you must’ve been so busy that you’ve forgotten about it. You might have forgotten about me. You don’t know me, but I know you. Haha! Here is my name card.”

Chairman Gordon smiled happily and said.

Before this, it would’ve been impossible for him to have any kind of contact with Mr. Crawford. But he was the host of this event today, so the tables have turned in his favor. Surprisingly, Mr. Crawford chose to attend this event of his without prior notification.

Gerald took the name card and glanced at it. Chairman Gordon was involved in the development of real estate.

He found the name of Chairman Gordon’s company rather familiar.

“Mr. Crawford, we met each other during Miss Larson’s birthday party the other day. We attended that party too. We gained three projects in the development of Serene County as a result! Haha!”

Chairman Gordon said.

“Oh! I remember you now. Chairman Gordon, nice to meet you.”

Gerald still did not remember who he was. But it would have been rather awkward if they continued to dwell on that issue.

Hence, he started putting up an act.

“Mr. Crawford, let me give you a toast!”

“Mr. Crawford, let me give you a toast too!”

At that moment, the chairmen raised their wine glasses to give Gerald a toast.

After Gerald took a sip of his drink, Chairman Gordon invited Gerald to take the front seat, but no matter how they persuaded him, he didn't seem like he was interested.

Gerald claimed that it was fine sitting at his current spot.

Seeing how reluctant Gerald was about switching tables, Chairman Gordon found it a pity, but he did not continue to persuade Gerald.

Gerald then asked Chairman Gordon to go ahead with his business. They could interact with each other later if there was anything else.

Chairman Gordon agreed to his suggestion in less than a second.

After clinking glasses with Gerald one last time, they left.

Xyla was stupefied when she saw that.

“How is this even possible? Why does Chairman Gordon know Gerald? And why is he so respectful of him?”

Xyla wanted to make use of such a grand occasion to humiliate Gerald that day.

She wanted to take revenge on Gerald for humiliating her in the past.

But now, Xyla became the one who was humiliated.

The more she yearned to take revenge on Gerald, the more humiliated she felt.

Leon only had the right to give a toast to Chairman Gordon and Chairman Wacket as a representative of his father. But those men were too busy talking to Gerald to even notice him.

Only a person who experienced this first hand could understand how painful this stung.

On the contrary, Vincy's eyes brightened. She was pleasantly surprised by Gerald's interaction with the chairmen.

Complex emotions were swelling up within Vincy's heart.

At that moment, Xyla was in no mood to have a drink. She plopped down on her seat with a gloomy expression.

"What's wrong? Vincy, did you hear what Chairman Gordon and the others said to Gerald just now?"

Xyla asked anxiously.

Vincy shook her head.

"I heard parts of it. Sounded like they were talking about projects in Serene County. That's Gerald's and our hometown. Looks like we're to expect great development in that region. Could it be that Gerald got to know Chairman Gordon from back then?"

Lennard said with irritation present in his voice.

"But Chairman Gordon doesn't necessarily have to give a toast to Gerald, does he?"

Xyla said anxiously.

She acted quite anxious as if Gerald had stolen something precious from her.

“I’m not sure about it either. Let’s ask about it from our high school classmates. Maybe they know a thing or two about it. Let me ask them and see how it goes!”

In that instant, Lennard inquired about that in their class’s group chat.

Xyla waited for her answer nervously.

“D*mn! There’s indeed someone who knows about it!”

Suddenly, Lennard became quite lively and excited.

“Turns out Gerald has a childhood friend who’s very powerful and influential within Serene County. His friend has even established a large auto trade company, and that guy apparently has a lot of connections with great people!”

“Ah? Do you mean that Gerald knows Chairman Gordon just because of this childhood friend of his?”

Xyla asked.

“It must be so. It’s because a classmate of ours heard rumors of how powerful his childhood friend is!” Lennard said.

“F*ck! Now that is scary. D*mn it! Why is Gerald so lucky?”

Xyla was still quite furious.

The host of the party finally appeared onstage.

Projected onto the screen was the image of a large villa with exceptionally magnificent architecture.

Everyone did not know why the large villa was shown, but it was clear that they were stunned by its grandiose appearance.

Xyla covered her mouth. “Damn, look at how grand that structure is! It’s even built on top of the mountain!”

Chapter 739

Vincy, Lennard and the others were clearly charmed by the Mountain Top Villa which was shown on the screen.

“How come there’s a villa like that in Mayberry? Vincy, why haven’t I heard anything about it?”

Xyla said in surprise.

Vincy nodded in response. “This is the first time seeing it too. But it seems like I’ve heard about a villa called Mountain Top Villa in Mayberry. Apparently, it costs around one hundred fifty million dollars!”

“One hundred fifty million dollars?”

Xyla bit her lips slightly. “How tremendously rich that person must be!”

“This is Mountain Top Villa in Mayberry. Ladies and gentlemen, you’ve seen it now. I think it’s time I reveal the reason behind holding this party today. We have outstanding people and beautiful scenery here in Howard County. My group plans to establish a villa like the one I’m showing here in Howard County!”

Chairman Gordon said.

The moment he said that there was an uproar below the stage.

“If there’s such a magnificent Mountain Top Villa in Howard County, then it’ll be really awesome!”

“I wonder how much it’ll cost, but for sure it’s gonna be more than ninety million dollars!”

The others said.

Chairman Gordon smiled and said, “It’s rather embarrassing if I mention it now. Actually, we plan to take close-up shots of the magnificence of Mountain Top Villa in Mayberry. Unfortunately, we don’t have free access to it. We did, however, manage to get a couple of shots of it from multiple angles. You can take a look at them first!”

Chairman Gordon was indeed an expert in marketing.

A villa like that could only be afforded by the filthy rich and the most effective way to promote it was through the young masters of the elite families. If they spread the news of this project around their social circles, it would undoubtedly create support for their upcoming project of building a second Mountain Top Villa in Howard County.

This was the main reason why Chairman Gordon decided to host this event today.

Seeing how astonished everyone was, Chairman Gordon was very satisfied.

He switched to the next picture, which showed the front-view of the mansion.

There was a long staircase that wound its way to the top of the mountain.

Besides, there was also something else that surprised the crowd.

There were people in the photograph.

They could see that there were a lot of luxury cars which were parked at the foot of the mountain.

There were large groups of bodyguards in black suits, standing at both sides of the staircase with their hands behind their backs.

This sort of scenery could only be found in movies where they depicted the ultra-rich.

Xyla's eyes were glued onto the dazzling appearance of the mansion.

She paid close attention to the people in the photograph.

At that moment, the bodyguards in black suits had their eyes fixed on a youngster who was walking slowly at the top of the mountain.

Unfortunately, the others could only see the person's back because of the angle of the shot.

Obviously, Chairman Gordon took those photographs himself when he attended Miss Larson's birthday party.

"Who is that kid?"

"Isn't it obvious? Look at the splendor! He's certainly the owner of Mountain Top Villa!"

“Tsk! That’s what we call life! That’s the way one should live one’s life! How enviable!”

The others started singing praises ceaselessly.

After Xyla watched at it for a short while, she was stunned.

‘Hmm?’

However, Xyla seemed to be afraid of something, but she did not say anything.

Vincy tugged at Xyla’s arm slightly. “Xyla! Xyla, hurry up and take a look! Doesn’t he look like Gerald the more you look at it? Have you noticed it as well?”

“Ah? How could it be him? At best, he just looks vaguely similar to Gerald. How is it even possible that Gerald can afford to buy such an expensive villa?”

Xyla said.

No doubt, Xyla was not mentally prepared for the truth. ‘What if that person is indeed Gerald? I might go and commit suicide. Haha! Thank God that isn’t possible!’

“No! I’m pretty sure that’s Gerald. Let me ask him about it!”

Xyla sounded excited.

Soon she turned around and looked toward Gerald.

And Xyla also turned towards where Gerald was.

But both women were surprised at the same time. “Hmm? Where’s Gerald?”

“He was still here a while ago. Where did he go?” Xyla wondered.

Chapter 740

“Humph! I know, Gerald must’ve been weirded out from sitting there all alone. I bet he ran away all on his own! That scaredy-cat!”

Xyla seemed to have found something which she could rant on and on about.

Vincy only shook her head slightly in resignation.

Currently, she wanted to give Gerald a call and ask him where he had gone. But after seeing how infuriated Lennard appeared, she refrained from making that call.

Gerald finally knew about the theme of Chairman Gordon’s party that day when Chairman Gordon mentioned Mountain Top Villa in Mayberry.

He was afraid that things would get awkward if he lingered around there any longer.

It would be bad if the others recognized him.

Especially in front of Xyla.

Gerald walked out of the hall before crap hit the fan.

After all, he went there to have some fun at Vincy's request.

But he still had a lot of things which he needed to deal with, which was partly why he couldn't stay there for very long.

He was about to return to his room when he received a call from one of his subordinates.

"Mr. Crawford, it's our fault. At first, we found where that maid was, so we rushed there quickly. But at last... At last, that old maid was picked up by someone else before us!"

Since they had obtained the clues, it became easy for them to pinpoint where that maid was.

But it was beyond Gerald's expectation that someone else would beat them to it despite how careful he had been acting. He even sent his subordinates out swiftly after they received the news.

Resentment filled Gerald's heart.

“Who picked her up?” Gerald asked.

“We’re still investigating at the moment. But we’re sure that there’s another group of people who were competing with us to locate where this maid is!”

“Alright, I see. I’ll send more men over quickly. Hurry up and investigate it!”

Gerald hung up the phone. He was now put in a rather difficult position.

‘Why is it so hard to track down a single person!?’

“Gerald?”

Just when Gerald was about to go upstairs.

There was a female voice behind him, calling after him.

She sounded slightly surprised.

Gerald turned around, and he was slightly shocked too.

There were a lot of new faces in the hotel lobby.

They were a group of bodyguards in black suits, and they all wore sunglasses despite being indoors. They seemed quite powerful.

There might be more than thirty of them.

If Gerald did not see the two girls who were standing in the middle of the men, he would have thought that they were his subordinates.

Those two girls were none other than Jasmine and Mindy.

“It’s you!”

Gerald smiled and said.

If he recalled correctly, this should be the second instance where he saw Jasmine appearing with such a large splendor.

Gerald became quite sensitive all of a sudden.

‘It seems illogical. Both Jasmine and Mindy are total nerds. They hardly skip a lesson, even if they were forced to. So why are they here today?’ he wondered to himself.

But Gerald quickly realized what was going on.

Both Jasmine and Mindy belonged to the Fenderson family.

Xara belonged to the Fenderson family too.

The group of people who were looking for Xara's maid should be Jasmine and her subordinates.

“What a surprise, to bump into you here. Why did you come to Howard County?”

Mindy asked curiously.

A frown appeared on her face moments later. Both Mindy and Jasmine glanced at each other. Their eyes then scanned Gerald from head-to-toe.

Being stared at by those two women made Gerald slightly nervous.

‘What’s happening? Am I exposed? How is it possible?’

Chapter 741

“I know it, Gerald. Is it because of the two-day outing in Howard County that Marven organized for tomorrow morning? Have the two of you come here in advance?”

Mindy asked.

“Ah? Oh, that’s right. It’s just that Marven isn’t here yet. I came beforehand just to book the hotel room. What a coincidence to see you here as well! Could it be that you came here early just because you want to sightsee around here?”

Gerald took a glance at the bodyguards who were brought by Jasmine.

“Marven told me that you liked traveling.”

Gerald thought that both Mindy and Jasmine had discovered that he was there to look for the maid too. It was why he acted anxiously for a moment. However, hearing their answer made him heave a long sigh in relief.

He then took the chance to get off the hook.

“Tsk! What are you talking about? We’re not good-for-nothings after all. We’re just...”

Mindy rolled her eyes at Gerald. She wanted to explain herself.

But Jasmine shot a glance at Mindy quickly to warn her against doing so. It seemed like she was saying with her eyes, “Mindy, what’s wrong with you? Why do you speak so much?”

“Ah!”

Mindy realized instantly that she had acted imprudently.

Actually, it was not all Mindy's fault.

Despite the fact that both Mindy and Jasmine had always maintained a cool and aloof demeanor, they understood each and every classmate well.

They did not show it explicitly, but they always gossiped about things like that just like the other girls either when they were walking home, or when they were actually at home.

They would discuss the funny things which happened in class, the handsome boys they saw and the men who, although not as handsome, were extremely nice to them.

They gossiped about nearly every classmate.

No matter how extraordinary their experiences were, they were still young ladies through and through.

Currently, their topic of discussion was about Ferald. After all, they were rather well-exposed to his real identity.

They had become quite familiar with Gerald.

Secondly, the feelings Gerald gave them were clearly incomparable with the other guys.

It was part of the reason why Mindy was so shocked when she naturally struck up a conversation with Gerald so effortlessly.

She shut her mouth hastily.

On the other hand, Jasmine only stole a glance at Gerald before heading upstairs with their henchmen.

Gerald was baffled.

‘Something’s weird. If Jasmine beat me to it and found the maid first, she should have already left this place, no?’

‘Why is she still here in Howard County?’

‘If Jasmine isn’t the one who brought that maid away, then who could it be?’

‘Looks like I’m gonna have to wait for the return of my subordinates before I get to know more about the nitty-gritty details of the situation.’

“Jasmine, I’m truly sorry. I was too excited to hold myself back just now. I can’t believe I spoke to Gerald about so many things!”

After they entered the room, Mindy held Jasmine’s hand and said.

“It’s fine. Be careful next time. Although we have more freedom now compared to the past, we still have to keep a low profile!”

Jasmine smiled bitterly and said.

“I know. I’ll definitely not repeat my mistake the next time around!”

Mindy stuck out her tongue.

“This mission is clearly dangerous but we managed to get through it without mishap. However, I still can’t comprehend why she’s so stubborn! Is that box so important to her? Where can we find it for her? Jasmine, what do you plan to do next?”

Mindy asked.

But Jasmine gave Mindy a glare again. “Mindy, I truly regret bringing you with me. Why do you have to say everything out loud every time!? Be careful that walls have ears.”

Mindy stuck out her tongue again before she covered her mouth immediately.

“From now on, I want to resume my old self and be cold and aloof. I won’t say much from now on!”

Mindy said.

Chapter 742

“You don’t have to be like that. Ah, to be frank, tracking a thing down is easy peasy. What I’m worried about now is that there’s indeed another group of influential people who shares the same aim as us. As if that isn’t bad enough, it seems that their level of expertise is on par with the professionals we have on our team. That’s what I need to worry about!”

Jasmine massaged her brow ridge as she said, “Looks like we’re a step ahead of them. But it’s not as useful as you think. We’re out in the open but our enemies are still well-hidden from us. There’s a possibility that they’ll launch a surprise attack at any moment. Worse still, our Fenderson family might be exposed just like that. We don’t even know who they are. That’s why I have been acting gloomy and anxious all this while!”

“Haha! Is that so? Now that’s easy peasy. I have a way!”

Mindy said happily.

“You?” Jasmine smiled slightly.

“Hmph! Jasmine, you might think that I’m a carefree girl. But I’m quite smart too. This is more or less like the Werewolf Game I love playing!”

Mindy said.

Jasmine shook her head. “I don’t understand it!”

“It’s very easy. Currently, aren’t you afraid of exposing yourself the most? Let’s find something to conceal you. After that, we can stir up confusion among their ranks. That way, you’ll be hidden in the dark. Our Fenderson family will be hidden in the dark too. You just need to act the way you usually do!”

Mindy said.

“What you said is rather logical. You mean that we don’t have to rack our brains to fight against that group of people? However, we need to find another person to act as a ruse. We might even get the chance to lure out the people who are hiding in the dark at first.”

Jasmine was quickly catching on.

Mindy snapped her fingers. “Bingo! That’s it!”

“Ah! But where should we find a person like that? Who is the most suited to draw the others’ attention away?”

Jasmine thought about it.

Mindy pouted as her brain churned away.

But soon, Mindy slapped her forehead.

“Haha! I know who we should look for!”

Mindy said.

Jasmine said helplessly, “Are you going to say Gerald?”

“That’s right. Let’s look for Gerald. He’s the most suitable person for this role. Jasmine, why don’t you look at it this way. We did talk about Gerald before. Despite how handsome and charming he looks, he’s a bit of a dork too. Despite the low profile he keeps, he’s super-rich, which I’m guessing is the reason why he knows so many distinguished people in Salford Province. Those are truly Gerald’s inherent advantages!

“If that’s the case, Gerald might catch our enemies off guard if he steps forward!”

Jasmine nodded.

“What you said is true. After thinking about it, Gerald is truly the most suitable person. But this is pretty risky as well. Is it alright to get him involved in this? Besides, will Gerald agree to do so?”

Mindy chuckled. “Don’t worry. I have a way!”

Mindy averted her gaze but it was clear that she had a plan brewing silently.

When the sky outside was getting darker, Mindy snuck up to the door to Gerald’s room.

Mindy faced no problems when inquiring about where Gerald was staying.

She knocked on the door.

Gerald opened the door and took a look. "Why are you here?"

He was quite surprised.

It was beyond his expectation that an ice-queen would appear standing before him at this time of day.

Mindy chuckled. "Are you surprised? I came to meet you because I need your help with something!"

Mindy said.

"You need my help with something?"

Gerald knowing their true identity did nothing to help. Rather, it further added to his confusion when he heard that statement.

Logically, if they indeed belonged to the Fenderson family, Mindy should have been able to do whatever she wanted to do without much hindrance.

“Yes, it’s true. It’s inconvenient to talk about it here. Let’s go upstairs to my room!”
Mindy said.

“Do you want me to go to your room? It’s such a late hour. I don’t think it’s a wise move for me to make.”

Gerald said in surprise.

Chapter 743

“Let’s go. You’re overthinking this!”

Mindy dragged Gerald out of the room directly.

Gerald was quite curious too. ‘Why? Does Mindy want to meet me? What is this about?’

After they entered the room, Mindy signaled for Gerald to shut his mouth.

“Mindy, are you back?”

At that moment, they heard Jasmine’s voice from the bathroom.

After that, Jasmine opened the door and walked out of the bathroom.

The next moment, Gerald was stunned by what he saw.

He saw Jasmine's black hair hanging loosely around her neck. At that moment, she only wore top pajamas, and her fair and curvaceous legs were exposed.

Clearly, she had just come out of the shower. She was using the towel to dry her hair as she spoke to Mindy.

“Ah!”

What surprised her was the sight of Gerald standing in the middle of the room, staring at her with his eyes wide open.

Jasmine's cute face became flushed red instantly. She immediately dashed back into the bathroom to hide.

Certainly, she had never appeared like that in front of any man, even when she was just a child.

Jasmine had always felt that the things related to love, and the ambiguous relationship between man and woman to be rather intangible concepts.

It was because she never had much contact with any men.

At that moment, she became extremely nervous. She hid inside the bathroom, and her heart was pumping against her ribcage.

“Mindy, why did you bring him to my room?”

They heard Jasmine’s voice from the bathroom. She burst into a fit of rage out of embarrassment.

“Haha! What’s the problem with that? How else could we get Gerald to help us out?”

Although the turnout of events wasn’t as Mindy had expected, it was still good nonetheless.

In her mind, Gerald should have walked straight into the scene where Jasmine was having a bath while being stark naked.

Although Jasmine knew that Mindy sometimes did things without thinking things through, it was beyond her expectation that Mindy would fool around like that.

Mindy chuckled. “Okay, I won’t fool around anymore. Gerald, we asked you to come here because we really need your help with something. Currently, you’re the only one out of all our classmates who has the capabilities to do so.”

Mindy said.

At that moment, Jasmine had changed into a long dress. She walked out of the bathroom.

After she glared at Mindy sternly, she glanced at Gerald rather gloomily.

Gerald was quite awkward.

He touched his nose and asked, "What is it?"

"Actually, it's rather simple. We need you to act on our behalf!"

Mindy continued, "It's not difficult for you. Besides, I'm aware of what you saw just now. If you don't want to help us even though I know that you're capable of doing it, how could you possibly make up to Jasmine for what you've done?"

"Mindy, what kind of nonsense are you talking about?"

Jasmine said in resignation.

Gerald smiled bitterly.

Actually, he did intend to help them.

That was the best chance to approach them. Besides, it was highly likely that Xara's maid was with them at the moment.

Gerald wanted the chance so badly.

At that moment, he asked, "Tell me. What do you want me to look for?"

"Alright. I remember that our classmates want to come here for a trip tomorrow. How about this? Bring along some reliable and capable people. After that, we'll go to a spot together. It's just that simple. Of course, you're gonna be the one to take up that role and look for the specific item for us!"

Mindy said.

Gerald paused for a moment. It seemed like it was impossible for him to know what they were referring to.

He probably would have to wait until he sees it himself to know what they were talking about.

Chapter 744

Gerald then nodded. "Sure thing!"

After he left, Jasmine pinched Mindy's ear. "You! Why you! You wicked girl! Luckily, thank goodness I had my top on just now. If not for that, you'll definitely!"

When Jasmine thought about the awkward situation she found herself in moments ago, it only then did fear start taking hold of her. She had nothing but resentment for Mindy following what she did.

“There, there. Didn’t I accomplish my mission? My hunch was right after all. Gerald does like you. I’m sure you’re unaware of it. I mean, his eyes were practically all over you!”

“How dare you bring it up again? I’ll smother you to death!”

...

In a manor.

There were around five luxury cars that rolled through the front gates.

After that, a group of people filed out of their respective vehicles and headed straight for the entrance of the building.

“Master Yael, all the helpers are here.”

A person who looked like a butler led the group of people into the grand building.

“Master Yael, nice to meet you. Can you perhaps tell us why Mr. Long asked us to come here?”

The person who spoke was a foreigner. But his eyes were fierce and cold. It seemed almost as if his emotions had been strangled to death a long time ago.

“Hmph! Of course! I’m sure Yunus has told you about it before this. Now that you’re all here, you have to heed my every command. Let me be frank with you. I require your assistance in kidnapping a certain individual.”

Master Yael was Yael Schuyler.

At that moment, he appeared to be deeply aggrieved.

The butler handed a photograph to the person who appeared to be the leader of the group.

“It’s only a woman. Master Yael, do you have to get so many people involved in this?”

The youth who appeared to be the leader put the photograph aside with a disdainful expression.

“Underestimating your enemy will bring you nowhere. This woman is unapproachable even if we sent more than a dozen strong but ordinary men!”

Yael said, “Besides, you need to use some tactics to outwit her to be on the safe side of things. Of course, you just need to bring her over to the appointed place. I’ll be the one to handle the rest!”

The few assassins looked at each other in dismay. They then nodded slightly.

“Floyd, go and prepare for their living arrangements!”

“Yes Master Yael!”

After they left, an old man came out from a dark corner of the room. Only one half of his face was visible, the rest shrouded in darkness. He crossed his arms over his chest.

“Julian, is it really necessary for me to rely on these men? As strong as that woman may be, it’ll be easier than ABC for me to bring her to her knees!”

Yael said in a resentful tone.

“You are correct, but not entirely. Should this incident be revealed to the Fenderson family, the Schuyler family would inevitably be in for a bad time. It’s only wise for us to use these men to our advantage!”

That old man said.

“That’s true. But I wonder what’s up with the Fenderson family. Isn’t Jasmine supposed to be grounded at all times? Surprisingly, they’ve allowed her to come to Howard County for something. My subordinates inquired about it and apparently, they’re here to look for something. I don’t know what they’re looking for!”

Yael said, “But my dad asked me to investigate it thoroughly. Hmph! Jasmine, you’ve never cared about me, so don’t blame me for being cruel. This time around, I swear that I’ll make you my woman!”

He then thought of the day when Jasmine slapped him in front of everyone.

That stinging sensation of humiliation soon engulfed him.

Now, he could create some trouble for the Fenderson family if he kidnapped Jasmine. Besides, a weak point had already revealed itself to Yael for him to exploit and infiltrate the Fenderson family—Mindy.

It was, as they say, “killing two birds with one stone”.

Julian was right. He could be hidden in the dark naturally if he asked for help from Yunus from Yanken. He could also act according to the circumstances.

Both Yunus and Yael had known each other for a long time now.

After all, both of them could be considered as famous rich heirs. It was natural that they corresponded with each other frequently in the past.

At that moment, another luxury car rolled to a stop outside the door.

Yael looked outside. He then smiled faintly and said, “Yunus has come!”

“Yael, it’s been a long while since we last met each other. How are you?” Yunus greeted while strutting into the building confidently with both hands in his pockets.

Chapter 745

“Yunus! Indeed, it’s been a long time since we last met! I was delighted when you said you were coming to see me!” exclaimed Yael with a beaming smile the moment he saw Yunus.

“By the way, how are your parents at home? There was a time when my old man kept bugging me to go to Yanken to pay your dad a visit!”

“Thanks for asking, Yael. They’re alright!”

Yunus said.

Yael gestured for Yunus to take a seat. “What happened? I heard that your dad punished you? Did he ground you for half a month?”

“Hmph! I don’t wanna talk about it. I get pissed every time I talk about that incident. By the way, Yael, let’s talk about your affair. I’ve brought my men with me. I believe you’ve met them too. They’re all from North Africa, and all experts in their own fields!”

“I did meet them just now. Yunus, I’ve got to say, I’m impressed!”

“Good! Then let’s celebrate and pray for the success of your mission tomorrow!”

...

The next day.

Marven and the others came too.

Gerald had made the necessary arrangements last night, and he asked Marven to bring along around five reliable men.

Marven treated his words seriously of course.

He delegated the task of leading the tour group to another trustworthy classmate while he and the other five men went with Gerald.

Clearly, Jasmine and Mindy had discussed it beforehand.

It was because they acted like their usual selves did not speak to Gerald. They continued keeping up that cold and aloof air around them.

Isabelle came too. There was a drastic change in her personality when compared with her from before.

Firstly, she did not cling to Fabian and pester him as she did in the past. Instead, her face would get flushed red when she peeked shyly at Gerald from time to time.

It was unknown what Gerald said to Maia and Isabelle on that day but Isabelle had been acting like this since that day.

But clearly, Gerald paid no heed to her.

He greeted Marven. Then, the five of them prepared to bid their classmates farewell before setting off for a place called Winterbourne Village.

“Stop! Marven! Gerald! Where are you going? What are you going to do? Why aren’t you coming with us?”

Right before Gerald stepped on the gas pedal, a girl rushed over to their vehicle.

She was visibly confused.

“Aren’t you being a little too nosy? Do we have to report everything we do to you?”

Marven questioned.

“Hmph! I knew you guys were acting sketchy when I saw you in the car just now. Turns out that you’re indeed going somewhere else. Is there something fun that you don’t want us tagging along for?”

Stella said angrily.

She stole a glance at Gerald as she spoke.

She wanted to see whether Gerald was looking at her.

But Gerald had both his hands in his pocket as he leaned back into the plush leather seat of his expensive-looking Mercedes-Benz. He wasn't even remotely interested in her.

Stella could not help but feel slightly disappointed.

Sometimes, a person's feelings were weird, vague, and unpredictable.

At first, Stella acted the same as Isabelle. She did not care for Gerald at all, thinking nothing of him.

If Gerald did not offend Isabelle, Stella would have left him alone, but her wish to do justice for Isabelle was too hard to ignore.

But after what happened later, it was revealed that Gerald was actually very rich all along. It seemed like he had great connections too.

That completely changed their perception of him.

Gerald was still Gerald. But Stella remained largely indifferent no matter what happened to him. But now, for some inexplicable reason, she'd get slightly upset whenever he ignored her.

It seemed like there was something wrong with her life, like something deep within her was off-balance.

That morning, the same feeling surfaced within her when her classmates came.

Gerald greeted the other classmates.

However, he did not even spare her a glance, let alone greet her.

It was why Stella so desperately caught up with them. She wanted to ask Marven about their plans for the day.

She hoped that she could attract Gerald's attention.

But clearly, it was an act in futility.

"What do you mean we're not going to bring you along for some fun? We have things to do. Go and enjoy yourself!"

Marven had changed significantly too. Once, he felt inferior and intimidated whenever he bumped into Stella.

Chapter 746

The tone in which he spoke sounded firm.

There was a cigarette dangling between his lips as they moved.

“That’s right. Go have fun with your friends now! Stop asking so many questions!”

The other guys echoed what he said.

“You... How could you talk to me like that? Gerald! Don’t you want to discipline them? Listen to how they’re talking to me right now!”

Stella peeked at Gerald, who was standing nearby, with an angry expression.

Only then did Gerald tilt his head to look in her direction. “That’s enough, Marven. Let’s not get bogged down in this matter, alright? Time to go!”

“Alright, Gerald!”

Marven nodded immediately.

After that, they got into the car.

Marven had not gotten his driving license yet.

Hence, Gerald had no other choice but to bring out his Mercedes-Benz MPV to ferry his friends around.

But Stella wasn't going to let them slip away that easily.

Seeing that Gerald still chose to ignore her, she ran to the co-passenger seat and hopped into the vehicle uninvited.

"F*ck! What are you doing?"

Gerald thought to himself, 'What's wrong with Stella?

'Why is she acting so weird today?'

'Doesn't she like having fun with Fabian and the others? Why's she talking to me all of a sudden?'

However, it didn't bother him that much.

After the Taekwondo championship, the people in their class were divided into two different groups.

The first group was made up of Fabian and his old buddies and the other had Gerald and Marven as the leaders.

It went without saying that Stella belonged to Fabian's clique.

Which made it all the more surprising when she clambered into Gerald's car.

"How shameless can you get, Stella!? Why did you get into the car?"

"That's right. You're shamelessly clinging to our group! I've never seen a person like you before!"

Marven and the others soon started to condemn her.

Stella had already undergone lots of humiliation in her quest to get in good graces with Ferald, but this was the final straw. The frustration from lowering herself constantly finally engulfed her.

Tears welled up in her eyes quickly and it wasn't long before she started bawling her eyes out.

"Why are you talking to me like this? Isn't having fun the same no matter where I go, who I follow? What's wrong with bringing me along? Is there a problem with that?"

After that, she turned towards Gerald. "And Gerald, why are you ignoring me? You didn't even look at me when I greeted you. When we bumped into each other at the cafeteria, you ignored me too. I know that I didn't treat you well when you first arrived, but I apologized to you, did I not? You even claimed that it's fine!"

"Ah? I did?"

Gerald was stunned.

“Yes, you did. You’ve been giving me the cold shoulder for the past couple of days. You didn’t greet me, nor did you even look at me!”

Stella said.

Gerald scratched his head awkwardly. “Maybe I’ve forgotten about it!” Recently, Gerald had a lot of things weighing down his mind. How could she expect him to be bothered with such trivial matters?”

In addition, Stella was the kind of girl who liked a good challenge.

When tackling that kind of girl, the best method was to loosen the reins in order to reel her in at the end. The more you ignored her, the more she wanted your attention.

Of course, Gerald did not think so much about this.

Seeing that Stella had burst into tears, Gerald began to feel slightly sorry for her. After all, there really were no hard feelings between them.

He nodded slightly. “Alright. I think it’s fine if we have you on board. If you’re willing to, then come along with us!”

Stella stopped crying all of a sudden. “Fine. I can go and buy drinks for you guys!” she said.

Marven, who was sitting in the back seat, had goosebumps form all over his body when he noticed how quickly Stella’s attitude had changed.

‘D*mn! Her mood changes faster than lightning!’

Gerald proceeded to set out for their destination.

On the other side, both Jasmine and Mindy glanced at each other. They too stepped on the gas pedal and trailed behind Gerald’s vehicle.

However, moments after their cars started moving, there suddenly appeared around eight luxury cars on both flanks and they were heading straight for Jasmine’s car...

Chapter 747

Winterbourne Village was a stone’s throw away from Howard County.

They located the family which Mindy had specified for them to look for upon reaching their destination.

A middle-aged woman opened the door for them. What set her apart from any other woman of her age were the burn scars that peppered her entire face.

She seemed rather frightened by their presence.

“Who are you looking for?”

The woman was visibly stunned by Gerald and his friends' unannounced arrival.

She lowered her head to hide her scars, perhaps due to embarrassment or perhaps out of fear of scaring the strangers.

“Ma'am, it's nice to meet you. May I know if you're Xenia's cousin? She said that she asked you to keep something special for her. We're here to retrieve it. She told us that you'll understand it after reading this letter.”

Jasmine walked over and said while handing her a letter.

The woman looked at the letter. She then stole a couple of glances at Jasmine before nodding in response.

“Very well, I understand now. You can take it with you.”

The woman invited Gerald and co into her home.

It turns out the item that Xenia asked them to retrieve was a large wooden chest.

They needed at least a few people in order to carry that thing around.

Upon hearing that, Gerald started suspecting if Xenia was the maid he was looking for all this while.

As for Stella, it did not occur to her that Gerald and the others were here to do manual labor.

They weren't here to have fun at all.

Hence, she was rather disappointed.

Besides, that woman's face was fairly frightening. She peeked at the woman's face a couple more times and goosebumps soon appeared all over her skin.

Stella remained outside the house when Gerald and the others were moving the heavy chest.

Out of boredom, she went on a stroll in the vicinity of the house.

Suddenly, Stella noticed a convoy of expensive cars rolling through the entrance of the village at high speed.

Stella was the kind of girl who was brave but cautious.

She realized how odd the presence of these vehicles was.

It was because she had noticed those cars on their way there.

But she couldn't form any conclusions at the moment.

From afar, she saw that the cars were filled with people. This piqued her curiosity.

She dashed straight into the house.

“Gerald, there are a lot of cars outside! And they're all filled with people inside!”

Stella said.

“Ah?”

Mindy was stunned.

After that, she ran outside to take a look immediately.

“Jasmine, Gerald, something's wrong. She's right! They're coming straight for us!”

Mindy hopped up-and-down anxiously.

Jasmine frowned slightly.

She was being very careful. In order to play safe, she even refrained from bringing her subordinates. She acted as if she was just heading out with her friends on a fun little road trip.

To her surprise, someone had been stalking their every move.

“What should we do now?”

Jasmine was petrified.

Gerald was perplexed too. ‘D*mn! I didn’t bring my subordinates either! Why are there so many groups of people?’

“Jasmine, you and the others come to my room quickly!”

At that moment, the woman whose face had burn scars grabbed Jasmine’s arm.

She led Gerald and the others to a room inside of the house.

She lifted a bed frame, revealing a hidden passageway underneath.

Jasmine looked at the woman with a puzzled expression.

The woman said, “My cousin stayed over frequently in the past. There’d always be people coming to look for her, so we have this kind of passageway in both of our homes. Since my cousin had asked you to come and meet me, I know that you have her trust. Come along with me!”

Jasmine nodded.

Gerald could not help but stare at the woman. He felt like he had met that woman somewhere in the past, and she looked familiar. But no matter how hard he tried, he simply could not remember where he had met her before.

He had no idea whose tail he stepped on this time, for them to come straight for him.

He could only jump into the passageway with the others.

Soon, the group of men barged into the house of the woman uninvited.

Clearly, they had come for Jasmine and Mindy.

“What a timely report you gave!”

Chapter 748

Gerald was hunched over inside the cramped passageway. He glanced at Stella’s face.

He then listened to the noise outside. Clearly, those people weren't going to give up their search soon. They were turning over every stone in their search for their targets.

Jasmine was so anxious that her forehead was filled with beads of cold sweat.

There was no way of escaping this if they let things continue without taking action.

Gerald was at the back of the group, and Stella was just beside Gerald.

At that moment, Gerald produced an exquisite but compact instrument from his pocket.

Stella was surprised when she saw that instrument. She could tell that it was something extraordinary, something which you couldn't get on the regular consumer market.

Gerald then gestured to her to remain silent.

After that, he pressed a button on the device, which most likely produced a distress signal.

"This...what's this? Is this thing gonna save our lives?"

Stella asked with her eyes widened.

Gerald pressed onto her head and whispered in her ear, “Forget whatever you just saw. Don’t spew nonsense!”

Stella nodded enthusiastically.

As curious as she was when it came to that abnormal-looking device, she was more curious about the meaning behind Gerald making physical contact with her head.

And they stayed in the passageway for nearly ten minutes.

At that moment, they heard a buzzing noise from the sky outside.

“What noise is that?”

“Boss, something’s wrong. We’re surrounded. There are around ten helicopters above us that came out of nowhere! If we don’t leave now, it’ll be too late!”

They soon heard people shouting outside.

“What? F*ck! Retreat immediately!”

After that, they heard the noise of multiple men rushing out of the house.

Stella widened her eyes. Clearly, she was surprised by what the men said so loudly.

Pooh!

'Gerald ordered these helicopters to come as reinforcements?'

'Is that even true?'

'Who exactly is Gerald?'

'Is this how powerful rich kids are nowadays?'

But Gerald ordered her not to speak nonsense, so Stella didn't dare to make any outrageous claims.

Soon, the droning sound of the helicopters disappeared gradually.

"We're safe now. Let's go!"

The woman who was hiding behind Gerald said.

Jasmine then walked out of the passageway with a confused expression.

Gerald emerged from the passageway too.

And the scar-faced woman was the last one to leave.

However, as she was walking up the steps, she tripped over slightly because of something underneath her feet.

She picked it up and glanced at it. It was a jade pendant.

She remembered now, it dropped out of the youngster's pocket when he was taking out the little gadget of his just now.

But after she brushed her fingers over the jade pendant, the woman's body started trembling uncontrollably.

The passageway they hid in was pitch dark. That woman could only use her sense of touch to feel the shape of the pendant.

"This..."

Suddenly, she continued trembling out of fear.

"Hmm? Why hasn't that lady come out yet?"

"That's right. Ma'am, they've left already, you can come out now!"

Marven shouted.

The woman then emerged from the passageway.

“Thanks for saving our asses, ma’am. Here’s a little gift of appreciation. Don’t worry, we’ll send Xenia home when we find the person we’re looking for!”

Jasmine put a debit card on the desk. “The password is Xenia’s birthday!”

“Jasmine, there’s no time to lose. I think we better leave quickly. We almost died just now. But don’t you find it odd? Where did those helicopters come from, and why are they saving us?”

Mindy said in confusion.

Jasmine shook her head. “I’m not sure either. Let’s talk about it later after we leave. Let’s go, Gerald!”

Seems like Jasmine did know where the maid was!

Gerald nodded slightly. He led Marven and the rest out of the home.

“Young man, wait for a moment!”

The woman called out to Gerald in a rather emotional tone all of a sudden...

Chapter 749

“Me?”

Gerald pointed at himself.

“I saw how witty you are, young man! Can you help me with something?”

The woman put away her emotions in time.

“Sure, ma’am. I’m sure Gerald can stay behind and help you out!”

Mindy said.

She treated Gerald as if he was actually her servant!

There was no way out of this either. Gerald couldn’t possibly turn down the woman’s request, so he promised to help her out reluctantly.

After they left, the woman grabbed both of Gerald’s hands all of a sudden.

Her sudden action surprised Gerald.

“Ma’am, what’s wrong?”

Gerald asked immediately.

“Young man, I don’t know who you are, but I can see that you have a kind soul. Can you tell me where you got this jade pendant?”

She then held up the jade pendant which she picked up from the floor.

No doubt, that was the jade pendant that Queta gave her with the name of Madeline engraved on it.

Gerald was slightly frightened by how emotional the woman had become.

But he still replied, “This belongs to my younger sister. What’s wrong, ma’am?”

The woman responded immediately, “Then she must be your younger sister! Is she still alive? Please tell me the truth.”

The woman shook Gerald’s shoulders, perhaps trying to force an answer out of his mouth.

Gerald nodded. “Why yes of course!”

The woman burst into tears immediately.

No matter how foolish one was, one should have noticed how odd the situation was.

It was because that woman's emotions were too riled up.

And it was at this moment that Gerald understood it finally. Why did he feel that the woman looked familiar when he met her just now? It seemed like he had met her somewhere before.

The answer was becoming clear in his mind.

The woman's facial expressions reminded him of Queta despite the fact that the former had burn scars all over her face.

Could it be...

"Ma'am, you're not Xenia's cousin, are you?"

Gerald asked her imploringly.

"I... I am!"

The woman wiped away her tears in a hurry.

She hid her emotions.

But it was impossible to hide them all.

“Is your name Madeline as engraved on this jade pendant? Are you Madeline Fenderson?”

Gerald cut straight to the chase.

“Fenderson...who’s Madeline Fenderson? I don’t know her! I’ve never heard that name before. You’re mistaking me for someone else!”

The woman shook her head. “I’m just a village woman. I’ve been living here since I was a child. You mistook me for someone else!”

“No, I don’t think so! I made no mistake when I thought how much you resemble Queta! You look exactly the same!”

Gerald’s heart was filled with excitement.

He had invested so much effort into looking for Madeline all over Salford Province.

But Gerald knew that it was extremely difficult to find Madeline given the current situation he found himself in.

So many different groups had appeared so suddenly.

Now the only clue that led to Madeline was with the Fenderson family.

Gerald faced a great dilemma as to what he should do next.

Chapter 750

And now, the woman who looked exactly like Queta appeared before him.

What confirmed his suspicion was the sight of how agitated she was when she saw the jade pendant. What else could explain her bizarre reaction?

“Are you saying that her name is Queta? Does she really look exactly like me?”

The woman said excitedly.

“That’s right. She gave me this jade pendant. She yearns to find her own mother, from whom she has separated years ago. She’d always been alone since then. Her life is filled with suffering, with neither good meals nor proper clothes. She grew up in an orphanage for crying out loud!”

Gerald said.

The woman burst into tears again.

As she was crying, she plopped down on a chair feebly.

“Are you finally ready to admit it? You’re Xara, aren’t you?”

Gerald asked.

And that woman covered her face with her palms as she nodded. “I am!”

After that, she stood up immediately. She grabbed Gerald’s arms. “I’m begging you. Please let me meet Queta. I don’t care whose side you’re on. I promise I’ll come with you as long as I get to see my baby girl!”

Xara sobbed as she spoke.

Finally, the thing which had been troubling his mind was finally defeated.

He found Xara just like that.

“Auntie Fenderson, don’t worry. I’ll definitely let you meet Queta. I’ve brought her along with me to Salford Province!”

Frankly-speaking, Gerald felt ecstatic at that moment.

He had fulfilled his mission. The most important thing was that he had finally found Queta's mother.

"Does Queta come too? Where is she?"

Xara said.

"She's staying at the villa where I'm living currently." The moment Gerald met Xara, he felt that she was oddly friendly to him for some inexplicable reason. He asked, "Auntie Fenderson, I know that you were a famous beauty in the past. Did something happen to you after that?"

Xara touched her cheeks slightly. "Are you talking about my face?"

Gerald nodded.

"I ruined it myself. You should be aware of how many people are looking for me. I had no other options to conceal my identity."

"Twenty years ago, I ruined my face with my own hands. Since then, I've been staying in Winterbourne Village in Salford Province. I've always cooperated with Xenia like this. If anyone finds her, she'll use this tactic to escape. Hmph! I'm sure that it never occurred to them that this ugly woman is actually the Xara they were looking for!"

“If I didn’t see the jade pendant you dropped, I’m sure you wouldn’t have had the suspicion, am I correct?”

Xara said.

“Yes! I never would have thought much about it!”

“At first, I couldn’t control my emotions well when I saw that girl who came with you. She’s Jasmine, isn’t she? She’s my elder brother’s daughter, isn’t she? She must be. When she was young, I always held her in my arms. I nearly failed to hold myself back in front of her just now. It’s because I don’t want to meet anybody from the Fenderson family anymore...that was at least until I picked up the jade pendant which I left for my daughter. I lost control of myself then. My daughter. I miss her every day. Every day of my life has been in misery from how much I miss her!

“I hated and blamed God countless times for being so unfair towards me. But now, God has finally changed his mind. My daughter is still alive, and I’m finally going to see her!”

Xara cried as she said those words.

Gerald could certainly understand her emotions.

“By the way, young man, what’s your name? I heard how Mindy addressed you just now. Is your name Gerald Crawford? Do you belong to the Crawford family from Northbay?”

Xara asked.

“I...”

Gerald was surprised by how quickly this woman picked up information.

He was hesitant to reply to her question.

“You must be. I know that you were the one who called those helicopters over. Wasn’t that the satellite communication device that belongs to your family? Which generation of the Crawford family do you belong to? Do you know Peter Crawford?”

Xara asked a few questions in rapid succession.

Gerald gave up his attempt to keep up the act. It seems like no secret could escape from this woman.

He then said, “I don’t know which generation I belong to in the Crawford family. I’ve never heard about Peter Crawford too. But I know that there’s someone from the Crawford family who wants to meet you. Auntie Fenderson, There is one condition you must fulfill after I reunite you with Queta. You must come with me no matter what!”

“Hmph! You do belong to the Crawford family after all. I understand, Gerald. I’ll go with you after I meet my daughter. I’m aware that the grudge arose because of the two of us back then. Perhaps it’s finally time for us to resolve the misunderstanding, no?”

Xara touched Gerald’s head just like she was patting her child.

After that, she said, “But Gerald, I have my own condition too. I don’t know what kind of relationship you have with my niece—Jasmine. But I want you to promise me that you will never expose my identity to the public especially to the Fenderson family. Is that okay?”