

Bogus Billionaire by Shining Riviera (Caroline Evans)

Chapter 291

Posted by **Hamaaa**, 48 Views, Released on October 21, 2023

Chapter 291

Once Caroline settled matters regarding Evans Group, she had much more free time for a few days. Just as she had nothing to do, she received a call from Gwen.

“Carol, I have tomorrow off. Do you want to go and pick out a wedding gown together tomorrow?”

When it came to buying a wedding gown, Gwen was even more excited than Caroline was.

Caroline smiled. “Sure.”

“Didn’t you want to have your pictures taken in Macovo? I heard it snows there all year. Do you want to take ski equipment there too?”

Caroline wasn’t sure about it. “I don’t think we have that much time there.”

Hearing this, Gwen said, “That’s true. But I would really love to go with you to take your photos.”

Caroline leaved, “You really want to go?”

“Yes.”

“Then why don’t you quickly make Sean official?*

Gwen scoffed. “I’m not talking to you anymore. I’ve noticed you’re biased toward him.”

Caroline smiled. After she hung up, she finished work and went home.

Kirk had come home early today, and he had cooked.

When Caroline saw Kirk busying himself in the kitchen, her fatigue disappeared. It seemed there were really some people who could soothe her and dispel her exhaustion when she saw them.

“What are you doing standing at the door?” Kirk turned to look at Caroline, smiling.

“Are you so stunned by how handsome I am that you can’t even move anymore?”

“I think your mouth is getting more and more out of control.” Caroline pulled out a chair and sat down.

Kirk handed her some cutlery. “This has always been my nature.”

Caroline looked up at him and thought of how things had been when she first met him. “Is it? If so, then this matches how things were when we first met.”

Kirk thought back to when they had first met too. He smiled wider. “What kind of a person did you think I was back then?”

“Frivolous. It was obvious you weren’t serious about anybody when it came to relationships.”

Kirk wiped away a sauce stain from the corner of Caroline’s lips. Then, he smoothly put his finger in his mouth to lick the sauce.

This action was an unconscious one, but it was unintentionally seductive.

Caroline hurriedly lowered her head. Looking at the food on her plate, she kept thinking of what Kirk had just done. She had no choice but to look up again.

“So you suspected that I had another woman back then?”

Thinking back on the misunderstanding back then, Kirk wanted to laugh. But when he thought of Daphne, he couldn’t laugh at all

Caroline nodded.

Kirk’s heart lodged itself in his throat. He played with Caroline’s hair with one hand while his other hand was clenched into a fist out of sight.

“If it were true back then, what would you have done?”

“Back then Caroline couldn’t remember anymore..

“I forgot. But if you dare to find another woman now, I’ll never let you off.”

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Kirk clenched his hand tighter. Even so, he still smiled brighter. That’s right. I won’t

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*IS BONUS

“Is it really hot

Seeing the sweat on Kirk’s forehead, Caroline wanted to get up to get him some issues. But he caught her wrist.

“It’s not that,” he said, smoothly pulling Caroline into his arms. He kissed her, slowly urging her to open her lips.

Caroline was caught unawares by the sudden flurry of kiss upward slightly, and her waist was pressed tightly against Kir

Her hands unconsciously came to rest on Virk’s chest. Her head tilted

Later, Caroline stayed in Kirk’s embrace, unwilling to move at all. She pointed at the food on the table and said, “It’s all cold now”

Kirk Kissed Caroline’s earlobe. “I’ll go heat it up.”

At that, he suddenly thought of the way Sean had described him, Henpecked.

He smiled as he drew his finger downward, picking up a strand of Caroline’s hair. “Darling.”

Caroline replied weakly, “Hm?”

Kirk, lowered his head to press his forehead against Caroline’s. His warm breath brushed Caroline’s trembling eyelashes.

“But I’m still a little hungry. I don’t have the strength to go and heat up the food . What do we do now?”

As he spoke, Kirk’s lips landed on Caroline’s again. Then he moved to her neck, then-

Some time later, Kirk helped Caroline shower before going to the kitchen to heat up the food.

Caroline stood in a bathrobe in the kitchen, watching Kirk reheat the food. She was so exhausted that she slumped against the frame of the sliding door.

Kirk said. “Go and rest. I’ll call you when the food’s ready.” I

Caroline pressed her lips together and shook her head. “I nearly forgot. I want to talk to you about something.”

Kirk’s heart skipped a beat. He recalled how Caroline had met Daphne a few **days** ago.

She asked. “Didn’t you say you wanted to quit a few days ago?”

When Caroline didn’t mention Daphne at all, Kirk’s straight back relaxed a bit. “Yes.”

“Can you wait a little?”

Kirk looked up at her in confusion.

“I’m thinking of handing over Mackey Group to you.”

Before Kirk could answer, she continued, “I’ve done the research. The Mackeys are in the coffee business.

“Although they’re not doing so well now, they used to be a very reputable coffee shop chain. They have the connections and resources. If you take over, you can use their resources.”

Kirk listened intently to everything Caroline said. In his eyes, Mackey Group wasn’t a good enough company. Before, he wouldn’t even have listened.

But since it was Caroline, he thought about it seriously,

“Are you planning to acquire Mackey Group?”

“Yes, but I can’t do it right now. If I take over **Evans** Group, I’m confident that I can acquire Mackey Group in half a year.”

Kirk walked over and hugged Caroline’s waist, supporting her **so** she could sit and move more easily.

“Are you really going to take care of me like I’m your sugar baby?”

Caroline rubbed against Kirk’s chest. Yes.”

Kirk laughed as he pinched Caroline’s waist. He picked her up and brought her to the couch.

“Sure, but...”

He looked down at Caroline, his shadow stretching out behind him. “I can support you too.”

Even if the price of it was Caroline’s rejection once his identity was exposed.

Seeing the serious look in Kirk’s eyes, Caroline’s heart skipped a **beat**. “Okay.”

As Kirk held Caroline, his eyes started to sting.

At this moment of warmth, Caroline smelled something burning. She hurriedly pushed Kirk away. “Th—the

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The next day, after Caroline and Gwen met up, they went straight to Merry Color. As for Sean and Kirk, they had both been dumped at home. In Sean’s words, they **had** become latchkey kids.

Soon, Caroline and Gwen arrived at Merry Color.

When she saw Caroline, the new store manager quickly went forward. “You must be Mrs. Yates. Mr. Eddy said that you can choose any dress in the shop as long as you like it.”

Caroline and Gwen exchanged a glance and chuckled at the same time.

The manager didn’t know why they were laughing. She led them both to pick out wedding gowns.

Then, she moved away for a moment. Gwen went up to Caroline and said with a chuckle, “I wonder how Eddy would react if he found out you were the Mrs. Yates he was talking about.”

Caroline smiled for a moment before frowning. “Gwen, stop getting Sean to pretend to be my husband next time.”

“What are you afraid of?”

Gwen knew what Caroline was worried about. “Our relationship isn’t that fragile. Besides, I trust you 100%. You won’t covet my man.”

Gwen had a point.

True best friends always ended up disliking each other’s partners because they thought their best friend deserved someone even better.

Caroline held Gwen’s hand. “Sometimes, I think I’m really lucky. Although my family isn’t good to me. I’ve been gifted with a wonderful friend.”

Gwen smiled toward Caroline but said. “Ugh, are all women in love so sappy?”

Caroline shot back, “You’re in love too. Shouldn’t you know?”

Gwen squeezed Caroline’s shoulder as she laughed. As they were both giggling, the manager came back,

Since Eddy would be footing the bill Caroline and Gwen didn’t plan on saving him any money. They bought all the clothes on their list in one go. It came to a total of more than 30 million dollars.

Seeing that, the manager made a call to Eddy's assistant. Soon after, Kirk transferred the money over.

Caroline felt some sort of way as she heard the ding of the transfer notification

Although Eddy had helped Evans Group a lot, he had never spent a cent on her over the past eight years. He had never even bought her a

drink.

Plus, she had never thought that the Morrison family would give money easily.

But seeing how generous Eddy was being now, paying a bill for someone he had never met, Caroline thought she should probably change her perspective.

The Morrison family really did give money away easily.

After buying the wedding gowns, Caroline and Gwen went downstairs to get some milkshakes.

Gwen suddenly thought of Kirk and asked, "Don't you need to buy Kirk some clothes too?"

Caroline looked at the person making them their milkshakes and said, "Yes, but I won't have to buy it. Kirk said he would handle it himself

"Do you trust a man's fashion sense?"

"Kirk would probably look nice even if he were wearing a trash bag."

Gwen paused before laughing. "You're right. Carol, you're really confident about your man. Oh, by the way, didn't he talk about itting the

other day? How's that going?"

After collecting their milkshakes, Caroline walked next to Gwen on the road. Then, she told Gwen her entire plan.

+15 BONUS

Gwen nearly choked on her milkshake. After a long while, she dropped her jaw in astonishment

Seeing that Gwen was about to shout, Caroline quickly covered her friend's mouth. She nodded enthusiastically.

Gwen mumbled behind Caroline's hand. After a long while, the excitement in her eyes dulled, though her body was still shivering.

A moment later, Gwen finally relaxed and pulled Caroline's hand away. Even so, her tone was animated. "Carol you're

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Caroline said, "Yes."

"My god, I really can't believe it. Carol, you're amazing."

Caroline was a bit annoyed as she said, "I'm not 100% sure, though. Don't praise me just yet."

"No, but you're already amazing for daring to take over a company. Some people don't dare become bosses like this. Me, for example. I wouldn't dare do such a thing. Just thinking about all the issues a company faces gives me a headache!"

Caroline replied, "Managing a company really is quite difficult. Besides, I don't have much experience with it. But I don't want my grandfather's company to be ruined just like that."

Although Caroline didn't much remember Benjamin Evans, they were still family.

"You're right about that."

When it came to the Evans family, Gwen found it kind of sad. She had been young back then, but she could still remember a bit about what had happened.

Whenever the adults had spoken about the Evans family back then, they had been reverential and fearful. Now, they were mocking.

The difference was astonishing.

“Enough, let’s stop talking about this already. Let’s go to the bookstore.”

Caroline

took out her phone. “Before coming out, I had Kirk send me a list of books. They’re all about management.”

Gwen

took a glance at the list. Most of the books were in a foreign language. She couldn’t understand any of it, but she admired Caroline a lot for it.

“This list of books must have taken a lot of effort on Kirk’s part,” Gwen said.

“Honestly, this whole improving yourselves as a couple and creating a new life kind of deal is really touching.”

Caroline smiled. Indeed, being in step with each other made her look forward to what the future had in store. It was too bad that she and Kirk couldn’t agree on having children.

Thinking of that, Caroline clutched her chest and forced herself not to think about it anymore. She went into the bookstore with Gwen.

There weren’t many

people inside. Books about management were boring, so not many people cared for them.

Caroline and Gwen pushed a cart down the aisles and quickly gathered most of the books on the list.

There was only one last book that they couldn’t find, no matter what. It was titled “The Essence of Management.”

Gwen said, “I’ll try and look for it on the computer up front.”

“Alright,” Caroline said. She stayed and kept looking. But after another round of searching, she still couldn’t find it.

When she turned around, she inadvertently saw Adrian.

Adrian obviously hadn’t expected to see Caroline there. He raised an eyebrow. “What a coincidence.”

Caroline replied, “Yes, quite. You’re here for…”

Adrian looked behind himself. "Quentin wants to use the computer here, so I brought him."

Caroline was stunned for a moment. Then, she smiled. "Don't tell me this bookstore belongs to the Sorkin family."

Adrian smiled. "It doesn't."

He continued before Caroline could say anything else, "It's mine. It has nothing to do with the Sorkin family."

Caroline was at a loss for words. Was there a difference?

"Carol, I found it. It's in the C section."

TIS BONUS

when Gwen walked back, she found a man standing best to mome. The was tall and slim, alii ina realnies were handEVRIE

She recognized him immediately. "Addlan Sotkinl

Adrian smiled dazzlingly. "Hello, Gwen."

"You know me?" Gwen was surprised by this.

Adrian glanced at Caroline. "You're Caroline's friend, so of course I know you

When Gwen heard this, she looked meaningfully at Caroline. "Ah, so it's like that. I thought it was my charisma that made you remember me, Mr. Sorkin."

Right then, there was a slight breeze as someone rushed over. "I found it, I found it

It was Quentin.

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Quentin's hair was messy and frizzy, and he had dark, heavy eyebags. It looked like he hadn't slept in many days.

Adrian lugged at him.

It was then that Quentin noticed Caroline. But his expression was frozen, and he couldn't even smile at *her*.

"No, I can't anymore. I'm exhausted. I need to sleep first." With that, Quentin slumped to the ground.

Neither Gwen nor Caroline had ever seen him like this before. Curiously, they asked, "What happened to him?"

Adrian gave the passed-out Quentin a kick. Then, he called some of the employees to move Quentin to the third floor.

After that, he answered, "He's been investigating something. He hasn't stopped for three days and hasn't slept in all that time. Now he needs to catch up on sleep. **You**."

Adrian shot a glance at Caroline's shopping cart. "Do you still have any more books to buy?"

Gwen quickly answered. "There's one more: 'The Essence of Management.'"

Since he was familiar with the layout, Adrian led them to the C section and pulled out a book with a red cover. He handed it to Caroline.

Caroline and Gwen both looked over. Indeed, it was "The Essence of Management."

Gwen was stunned. "You didn't even look. How did you know where the book was?"

Adrian smiled. "This is my bookstore. Of course, I know where the books are. As for Caroline

He glanced at "The Essence of Management" in the shopping cart. "Few people know about this book. How do you know about it?"

"Caroline's husband told her about it."

Gwen held a measure of unconscious pride, the kind a mother would have for her son-in-law. "He recommended all of these books."

Adrian regarded the books in the shopping cart. After a long while, he looked back up. "He's an old hand at this. Can I ask what company he's the director of?"

Gwen and Caroline exchanged a glance. In the end, Gwen said, "He's not a director. He's just a regular office employee."

Adrian raised a brow. "Really?"

"Why would I lie to you?"

Then, Gwen took out her phone and glanced at it. "It's getting late. Carol, we should be getting back."

There were still a couple of latchkey kids waiting at home for them for dinner.

Caroline nodded before saying to Adrian, "Thank you, Mr. Sorkin. We're going to pay now."

Adrian's frown disappeared. "Consider these books a gift."

Caroline blinked. "That wouldn't be right."

"It's fine. Just consider it

Adrian chuckled and said, "My wedding gift to you."

Caroline took another glance at the books before looking at Adrian again.

Adrian said, "If you think this gift is too cheap, I-

"No, no! This gift is too valuable. I will take good care of them."

A brilliant smile appeared on Adrian's face. "Good."

Once they got out of the bookstore, Gwen couldn't hold it in anymore. "Carol, I would bet a bag of chips that Adrian likes you!"

Caroline put the books in the backseat of the car. "Gwen, don't joke about this
."

“I’m not joking. Didn’t you see the way he looked at you? It’s so tender! It’s definitely the way someone looks at their crush.”

13

+15 BONUS

Caribe hard. When did you get the special ability to know at a glance whether someone likes me or not?

“Hey, don’t knock it I had already wanted to ask you about it when we first met.”

Caroline pulled on her seatbelt. “When we first met, we were about seven years old? Or eight years old?”

Yep. Back then, there were already rumors about Adrian liking you.”

This time, Caroline laughed even louder. “Alright, stop teasing me. Does a seven-year-old even know what liking people is about?”

Gwen shrugged.

“Besides, I don’t even remember what happened back then.”

Caroline started the car. Then, she asked Gwen, “Gwen, do you remember the stuff that happened when you were a kid?”

“Vaguely, I don’t remember it all very clearly.”

Caroline sighed. “I can’t remember a thing.”

“Maybe something happened to you when you were small, so you automatically blocked it all out?”

Caroline shot a glance at Gwen. “Which novel did you read about that one in?”

“Hey, you have to believe it. There’s a scientific basis to it!”

Thus, Gwen spent the car ride informing Caroline about how people could have different reactions after going through **certain** stimuli.

By the time they got home, it was already past 6:00 pm.

Sean and Kirk were at home playing some games. When they heard Caroline and Gwen return, they both turned their heads.

Seeing these two overgrown kids, Gwen couldn't help but turn to whisper in Caroline's ear, "Honestly, your husband's pretty capable. He

can get along with Sean like they grew up together. I'm impressed."

"That's why I'm not worried about him starting his own business."

"What are you two talking about?" Seeing Caroline and Gwen chatting so secretly, Kirk discarded his game controller. He walked up and

pulled Caroline into his embrace, claiming her as his own.

Gwen pouted. "We were saying you could be a courtesan."

Kirk raised an eyebrow, but he didn't get mad. He kissed Caroline's earlobe. "Isn't that a compliment, darling?"

Caroline couldn't help but feel her face heat. Even though they were her friends, there were still other people here. She shoved Kirk aside."

What kind of compliment is that?"

"Saying that I could be a courtesan means that I'm good-looking."

Caroline gripped Kirk's hand. "You're shameless."

"Alright, alright. Can you two stop showing off? I'm hungry. Don't tell me you're feeding us with that show?" Though Sean sounded disgusted, he learned from Kirk and went forward to hug Gwen's waist.

Yet Gwen pushed him away.

"Don't touch me. You haven't passed your probation yet."

Sean was speechless.

Kirk looked at Sean with pity.

After dinner, Gwen and Sean finally left. Once they did, Kirk picked Caroline up and carried her upstairs.

Caroline hugged Kirk's neck, looking at him smilingly. "Do you know what you are?"

"What?"

"Insatiable,"

\$15 BONUS

Kirk laughed. "I can't help it. A man's gotta eat.

Alright then. It seemed that Kirk really couldn't help but be inappropriate.

Right then, on the other end of the city, Adrian was looking at the document before him, unable to sleep.

He was looking at the information Quentin had found about Jack. According to this, Jack was a UFC champion. He had been living all this time. But after Caroline had returned to the country and started working, he started driving her to and from work

Jack was an athlete. Why did he have to be Caroline's driver?

Adrian looked at Quentin, who was still fast asleep, and resisted the urge to wake him. Adrian could tell that Quentin was already

limit.

There was no way Jack's identity was so simple.

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Time passed quickly. It was getting closer to the day when Evans Group's new CEO would be chosen.

Yet Caroline only became more calm as the days went by. Even so, she completed her work for Thome Corp very well.

However, the HR department still hadn't found a suitable new design director. Thus, Jules had yet to approve Caroline's resignation.

Actually, there was another reason Jules didn't do it. He just didn't have the guts to say it.

During this time, Layla had also been attending various events with Eddy.

Anyone with sharp eyes could tell that Eddy was in support of Layla. There was even word that many people were waiting to invest in

Evans Group once Layla took over.

Once the shareholders found out about this, they would surely be on Layla's side. That was why Jules didn't think Caroline could become Evans Group's CEO. He was worried since Eddy was so invested in Layla now.

Jules' direct superior was Eddy's second uncle. He was afraid his boss would side with Layla too and forget about Caroline.

If he approved Caroline's resignation but she didn't get the CEO position, she would be out of a job. Then, she would lose it all.

Caroline wasn't that worried, though. After finishing her work, she wanted to go grocery shopping and prepare a feast to welcome the next

day's competition.

But when she went out, Caroline bumped into Vivian.

When Vivian saw Caroline, she smiled. "Oh, it's Ms. Evans! What a dedicated worker! Do you think you can keep your job if you just work

hard enough?"

The people behind Vivian laughed. They were all the ones who had always stood behind Vivian. They had chilled out after Caroline sent

Susan to prison.

Now that they found out Caroline was leaving, they were back to their bad behavior.

Caroline glanced at all these people. “Mr. Hawkins hasn’t approved my resignation yet. Strictly speaking, I’m still this company’s design director.”

Vivian glanced at the time. “What a shame. It’s already 5:30 pm now. If you said it a second earlier, you would still be the respected Ms.

Evans. But now ****

Vivian then said, “Oh, I forgot to tell you. Mr. Hawkins called me in to say that I will be the design director starting tomorrow.”

Caroline looked at her calmly. After checking through her bag to make sure that she hadn’t left anything, she walked slowly toward the elevator.

Vivian’s underlings thought Caroline had been cowed, so they gathered before Vivian.

“You’re amazing, Vivian. You finally managed to chase that hateful woman out.”

“That’s right. Now, the design department is finally yours!”

“Viv, when the time comes, you have to take good care of me.”

All these praises and more had Vivian on cloud **nine**. She said, “Don’t worry. I won’t forget how you’ve stood behind me during this time.”

The others were all pleased. Instantly, the other employees still in the office became stormy-faced.

Everyone had been having a great time under Caroline’s leadership. Naturally, they all approved of her.

Now that their superior was suddenly changing and they were getting a director who liked kiss-ups, they knew that the future would be

grim for them.

Cheryl was among these people.

Cheryl watched as Vivian entered the office in delight. She sniffed. She really wanted to quit with Caroline, too.

+15 BONUS

In the office, Vivian settled her emotions before calling Layla. “Ms. Layla, its me.”

Right then, Layla was sitting in the CEO’s chair at Evans Group. She touched the armrests, her eyes alight with greed. “Why are you calling me?”

“I just wanted to tell you that Caroline has left Thorne Corporation.”

“Alright. Did you take a picture of what she looked like when she left?” Vivian froze for a second. Then, she laughed. “I forgot to.

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Layla was in high spirits now, so she didn’t blame Vivian for it. “It’s fine. Fil get to see her expression tomorrow

Vivian instantly got what she meant and went with the flow. “I shall congratulate you first, then, Ms. Layla”

Layla was quite pleased to hear that and said, ‘Don’t worry. Your work won’t be forgotten”

“Um...” Vivian started but paused for a moment.

“I actually wanted to talk to you about something.”

“What is it?” Layla asked.

“It’s confirmed that the company will make me their design director,” Vivian told her, deliberately omitting the detail that the position was temporary.

“Okay. What do you want, then?” asked Layla,

en?” asked Layla,

“You’re smart.” Vivian smiled.

“Since Evans Group focuses primarily on the clothing Industry, you’ll surely need someone to help with the designs. I was thinking that perhaps...

She didn’t need to say more, for Layla knew exactly what she wanted and said, “That is not a problemn.”

She smiled, enjoying how she could flaunt her position. Assigning Vivian some work in private wasn’t that big of a deal anyway.

“How about you come and meet me at around 2:00 pm alter the election’s over? I’ll give you something to work on then.”

“Sure!” Vivan was grateful enough for that. “Thank you, Ms. CEO.”

Layla waved a hand in the air to dismiss her. “As long as you work for me, there’ll never be an end to the work I can give you.

Rest assured that your pay will certainly be higher than what Thorne Corp could ever offer.”

Vivian ended the call after thanking her over and over again.

Meanwhile, Caroline was suddenly reminded of Layla and the strange disease she **had** contracted.

Plucking out

her phone, Caroline gave Sean a call. “Sean, did you get any clues about what I asked you to look into?”

Sean glanced at the man who sat tied up on a chair. “Are you talking about Layla’s condition?”

The man shuddered when he heard what Sean said.

“Don’t worry. I got it figured out,” said Sean, and the man on the chair paled.

Sean glanced at him again and decided to stop questioning the man. He left the basement with his phone.

“I’ve looked into it thoroughly. Layla had bribed the doctors who work for the Morrisons. Since money was involved and they knew there was something between Eddy and her, they agreed to help her lie to him.”

“All the reports have been tampered with,” he added.

Caroline

shuddered at his words. She had expected something like this, but she never expected Layla to be so ruthless as to take her illness just for her to die.

Now, Caroline finally understood just how far Layla could go and how cruel she could be.

“Caroline?” Sean asked, concerned because of her silence.

He had planned to tell Kirk about this once he was done investigating it. This way, Kirk could be the one to tell her this shocking piece of

information,

It just so happened that this final doctor who joined hands with Layla was much too thick-headed to tell him the truth. This was why Sean

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*15 BONUS

“I’m fine.” Caroline let out a long sigh. Something like this could no longer hurt her. She would only become more ruthless when she dealt with Layla in return.
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‘So Eddy knew nothing about this, right?’

*Judging from the evidence, that is indeed the case,” Sean answered.

The realization dawned on Caroline, but she managed to fully calm herself down. “When can I get the evidence?”

Sean looked at the door to the basement and said, "I still have one last person to deal with. You can get the evidence by tomorrow, I think."

"Okay. Can you pass it to me before the election is complete?"

"What time will it end?"

"About 10:00 am." chapter 294

"Sure."

Upon hearing his answer, Caroline felt her entire being relax. Staring out the window, she found herself looking forward to tomorrow.

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Kirk **was** already home by the time Caroline returned. He wasn't in the kitchen preparing food as usual, though.

He tossed her a smile and said. "Let's head out for dinner today. I booked us a spot at Yogoo."

Yegon was a new restaurant specializing in Faromish food, Influencers flocked there, and it was said that the restaurant offered 180 different dishes and that every single dish tasted heavenly.

The only downside was that the food was rather expensive.

A couple of days ago, one of its customers had shared the bill online. He had spent thousands of dollars just on three dishes. This piece of information quickly took over the headlines.

"The food there is too expensive." Caroline furrowed her brows.

"Why do you want to go there for dinner?"

Kirk tilted her chin upward and kissed her **gently** on the lips. "It's to celebrate you, darling, for becoming the next CEO of Evans Group in

advance."

Caroline laughed lightly and **said**, “Is it really alright? What if I lose?”

“No way.” Kirk hooked an arm **around** her **waist**.

“I believe in you, darling.” The look of faith in his eyes shone through like an unwavering ray of light. It was clear that he wasn’t simply trying to joke around.

The trust he placed in her made her heart skip a beat, and she stood on the tips of her toes to give him a kiss.

Just when she wanted to pull away, she felt his grip on her waist strengthen, and she was lifted slightly higher into the air.

When Kirk finally let go of her, she found herself panting for air with her face as red as a tomato. Kirk patted her back lightly to help her calm down. Teasingly, he said, “Darling, you have to work out more.”

Puzzled, Caroline hesitated for a moment before straightening her back. “Stop fooling around. Hurry and cancel the reservation.”

“Aren’t we going to celebrate?”

“Of course we are! But we can simply celebrate at home!” Caroline said.

In truth, she thought that spending a few thousand dollars for a meal was simply outrageous.

Kirk placed a kiss between her brows. “Stop thinking of helping me save money. We eat out once in a while, and I’m pretty sure I can afford it.” It was as though he could read her **mind**.

Caroline’s heart skipped a beat. “But that amount could equal his salary after a month of hard work.

Kirk noticed the reluctance in her eyes, and he leaned in to kiss them. “I work hard so that you can spend what I earn. If you don’t, then there’s no point in me working so hard anymore.”

His words tugged at her heartstrings. He wasn’t lying, though. In the past, he had been a workaholic because working saved him from the

dreaded tendrils of loneliness.

Now, he worked so that he could provide her with a better life.

If he failed in this aspect, he would start considering whether he should tell Caroline his true identity.

He didn't want her to feel sorry for him because of money. He also wanted to give her the best of everything.

"Okay." Caroline inhaled. "But promise me that it's just for this one time."

Seeing **that** she had finally relented, Kirk finally smiled. After pecking her on the lips, he grabbed her hand and pulled her out of the house.

When they arrived at the restaurant, the staff led them to a private room. "Sir, Ma'am," said the waitress as she handed them the menu. "Would you like me to recommend our specialties?"

1/3

Caroline started in surprise but was bristly in front of

him, who looked

Frowning he picked up his phone and stood up. You order first. I've got a call to answer

+15 BONUS

fine. He shuddered, looked at the papers in his hand, and felt a chill

run, it's about the private detective that the madam hired. He found out that

1

Kirk narrowed his eyes, the fingers of his other hand tapping on the railing. "What?"

His name is Quentin Vach, and contact with him through Adrian Sorkin

name for himself as a private detective. He's Adrian Sorkin's friend. The madam came into

Charles' voice became increasingly soft as he spoke. They're now looking into Jack's identity"

Charles held his breath

Kirk's gaze

id he asked in

all blow the Impending storm from the silence that ensued from this revelation

sellingly quiet voice, "What did they find out?"

stion made Charles regain a bill of his vigor. "Hased on your orders, all the staff working in Morrison Corp who have come into contact with the madam used dala encryption measures," he said.

So, the private detective only discovered that Jack won the UFC lots of times. He knows nothing about anything else"

Despite that Kik's voice deepened as he said, "Didn't you think tha

ou're quite a capable assistant?"

Charles fell goosebumps popping up all around his body, "No

"Do you know what would happen if she continued looking into this ?

Needless to say, Charles knew the consequences all too well. Jack had once been Kirk's bodyguard.

If Caroline carried on investigating based on this clue, she would someday find out that Kirk was Eddy's second uncle. It was all just a matter of time

Realizing this grave mistake, Charles immediately said, "Sir, I won't complain if I'm demoted by three ranks and get deducted three months

Day"

A shadow fell across Kirk's face. Tm not going to punish you for this."

Hastily, Charles connected himself. "Understood, sir. I'll be extra careful in the future. There won't be a repeat of this."

Kirk opened his mouth to say something but swallowed the words back.

Charles shouldn't be held fully accountable for this. Kirk himself had played a significant part in Caroline's growth as a person, so he should be able to take the risk himself.

The silence made Charles hesitate for a bit, but soon he mustered the courage to ask, "What do we do now?"

Quentin managed to find out that Jack was a wrestler, so the madam would surely receive news of this. If she asked Jack about this sometime

if the latter couldn't give her

a reasonable explanation:

Kirk narrowed his eyes as he pondered Charles' question. A moment later, he said, "I'll handle this myself."

"Okay" That was the only response Charles

came up with

in the private room of

he had once again to find out that Caroline was done ordering their food

Seeing him enter

She handed

him the order slip. Take a look. What do you want to eat?

Kirk looked at the order slip and not

at the food she ordered with

various conditions, and the total price didn't even surpass a

Shaking his head helplessly, he gestured for the waitress and added several other dishes.

+15 BONUS

When the food arrived, Caroline instantly realized that their meal this time would cost a fortune. Glancing at Kirk, she picked up her wallet and told him, "I'm going to the restroom."

Kirk knew what she was going to do, but he didn't stop her. After leaving the room, Caroline quickened her footsteps and headed to the counter. Just when she reached there, she caught a glimpse of a familiar figure.

"Adrian?" She called out, surprised.

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 21, 2023

Chapter 298

Adrian hunched, surprised to see

"Are you here with

him?

\$15 BONUS

His smile was warm,

like a warm blanket, and it made Caroline smile too. "Yeah, I'm here with my husband."

The gleam in Adrian's eyes dimmed a bit. "Lovebirds, eh?"

Embarrassed, Caroline lowered her head for a moment before looking up to ask him, "What about you? Are you here with your friends?"

"Yeah, kind of," Adrian told her after a moment's hesitation.

Silence fell as both of them didn't have anything else to talk about after that. Adrian broke the stillness by asking, "Can I meet *your* husband?"

He was curious about what kind of man could make her change so much.

“Sure!” Caroline beamed. “But you have to wait for a bit. I want to pay the bill first”

“Let me treat you two this time,” Adrian told her.

“No, I’m fine.” She waved her hands, declining his offer.

“How can I let you do that?”

The two of them fought for the bill, and the waitress at the counter asked for the number of Caroline and Kirk’s private room.

After typing away at the keyboard for a while, she looked at them both and said, “Room 201 has been paid for,”

Once again, silence shrouded the air. Awkward, Caroline rubbed her temples and said, “I forgot to ask my husband if he had paid for it. He must have done it earlier.”

Adrian smiled and shifted the topic of their conversation. “Well then, I can meet him now, right?”

Caroline heartily agreed and led him to the private room. Just then, a soft voice sounded from behind them. “Adrian,” the voice called out.

Caroline halted in her tracks and turned to the source of the voice, along with Adrian.

A gentle-looking young woman in a black dress stood nearby. She was pretty, and her bearing suggested that she came from an affluent and sophisticated family.

A look of unease took over Adrian’s face when he saw her.

The woman approached them and eyed Caroline up and down before smiling, which showed off her dimples. “Caroline **Evans**?”

Caroline didn’t recognize this woman, who was reaching out a hand to her. “Yvonne Hackett. You don’t know me, but I know you.”

Caroline repeated the name in her mind and soon found an answer.

This woman was the Hackett family's daughter. There weren't many girls or women in their family, so all the Hacketts showered them with love.

That was why Yvonne was treated quite well, although she wasn't the daughter of the head of the Hackett family. She had also **made** appearances at plenty of events and occasions.

Caroline had met her a couple of times before this and knew her as a cute and soft-spoken young woman. She only had a vague impression of Yvonne, though, since they had never interacted much.

"I know who you are, Ms. Hackett," Caroline said, and they shook hands.

"Why are you here?"

Yvonne hooked an arm around Adrian's as though it were a natural thing for her to do. "I'm here to accompany Adrian."

Realization dawned on Caroline, and she smiled warmly at Yvonne. "I see. So you came here with Ms. Hackett."

She had always thought that teen was wrong shout on FRA

Discreetly, Adrian withdrew his arm from York's and can on selfs d

He didn't know why he wanted to explain himself but merely cold that it was/

Caroline blinked, a bit confused at why he would felt her tits pet to the men * p rime

Hearing this, Yvonne smiled and said, "Oh Were you for going to meets Event se do prog to abandon me, Adrian." She s ounded coquettish

Somehow, Caroline sensed that Yvonne's words expressed a certain degrees of my med bar

Perhaps she was simply overthinking it, but she didn't take it to head told ham , med bark?

She pointed in the direction of the private room she shared with Kirk and bed t hem goods

Watching her retreating figure, Adrian escaped from Cnne's rest and followed after werde

Caroline stopped and turned to look at him, but he couldn't seem to form any wrote that

"What?" She asked, puzzled.

Adrian frowned for a moment before smiling. I just wanded to tell you that Gus tin's almost dons with the pad You'll get the results very soon."

"Really? Caroline bearned. Quentin had told her several times before that he c ouldn't find out

verge of giving up.

Who knew that he would be able to uncover more clues again?

"Yep. He'll be able to give you the information you need soon?"

"Thank **you** so much, Adrian, Give Quentin my regards too. Caroline sounded more cheerful now

Til treat you guys to dinner after I'm done with my work."

After that, she thanked him a couple more times and said goodbye.

This time, Adrian had no other reason to stop her from leaving, so he could on ly watch as she walked away

Yvonne watched their interaction the entire time with her hands balled into fist s. She then walked beside him and tol

let's go back."

Adrian turned to look at her and found that he had lost his appetite. "You go o n and eat alone, I'm heading back first. With that said, he

turned and left.

Yvonne chased after him, but he was too quick for her and got in his car in the blink of an eye. When she caught

were the tail lights of his car.

Helpless, her knuckles turned white from clenching her fists as she watched him leave her behind. She spent a moment staring back in the direction where Caroline left them a while ago, then strode back into the restaurant.

Caroline and Kirk returned home after they finished dinner. She told him about her encounter with Adrian and Yvonne in the restaurant

“I never expected Adrian and Yvonne to go on a blind date together,” she said as she combed her hair with one hand

Her hair was messy from the wind from the open window, and her other hand was in Kirk’s grasp

Adrian was Mr. Sorkin’s son, and Yvonne was Mr. Hackett’s elder brother’s daughter, Even though all the Hacketts adored her, her status.

was significantly lower than Adrian’s.

It wasn’t like Caroline thought any of these mattered. She simply understood that families like theirs took one’s status very seriously.

In the past. Mr. Morrison Senior had wanted her to marry into the Morrison family, but there were many who opposed it

So it came as a surprise that the Sorkins would agree to let Adrian and Yvonne start a relationship

+15 BONUS

*** about then to Alls hishamn her with her bath and changing into her pajamas, he tucked her up in bed.

Apps spent in the his collab the information Quentin had procured for Carolic. He clicked it **open**.

We want of the the Quentin was her hot away at his keylmand. He glanced at Adrian, who sat behind him drinking a bottle of

The tomat that you were lucht the ash/Why do I feel like you bought it for yourself?"

Avalon shot take and of aching him a reply Later, Quentin let go of his mouse and stood up, waiting for the PC to continue its

He sat down beside Aditan and said, "What's wrong? That woman doesn't have eyes for you?" **Quentin** knew that the Sorkins had arranged

Gatis Kehte hue. He knew it was about her.

Mer taking another gulp of the alcohol Adrian continued 'She came to the restaurant with her husband today, Every time she mentioned his she always have this proust and blessed look on her lace, I

Is to be able to make her change so much and become totally different from what she was

dopped

lige he had seen Adrian so upset.

and said, "Hey, we've known each other for so many years, but why haven't you talked to me about her

"What's there to talk about? Adrian smiled bitterly

"When we were young, they said she was destined to marry Edily, Later, when I learned that she broke off her engagement with him, she'd

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hagite

Quentin fell silent and grabbed himself a bottle of beer. "Maybe you can try it out with someone else."

I've thought of this too. It was why I went on the blind date," Adrian said.

"that do you know what I was thinking when Yvonne talked about handbags, her friends, and her life studying abroad?"

Quentin knew very well that the best thing he could do was lend Adrian an ear, so he kept quiet and waited for him to continue.

"I wondered what Caroline was doing at that time and what she would say if she were the person sitting across from me. Maybe she wouldn't say anything at all-

Just then, a ping came from the PC. It snapped Adrian out of his stupor, stopping him from carrying on with the topic. He glanced up at

the PC.

Quentin set down the beer bottle and walked to the PC.

"Didn't you ask me to investigate Jack, the UFC wrestler who's also Caroline's driver? I've started looking into his background and everything related to his personal life."

He pressed a few keys on the keyboard and said, "Do you **want** to come over here and take a look at his profile?"

Adrian stumbled a bit before regaining his balance and walking toward Quentin. He had sobered up a bit already, but the words on the screen were kind of blurry.

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 21, 2023

Chapter 299

Kirk lifted a drowsy Caroline back into their home. After helping her with her bath and changing into her pajamas, he tucked her up in bed.

Then, he headed to the study and switched on the PC.

After the screen lit up, his eyes zeroed in on the file containing the information Quentin had procured for Caroline. He clicked it open.

On the other side of the city, Quentin was busy typing away at his keyboard. He glanced at Adrian, who sat behind him drinking a bottle of wine.

“Hey, didn’t you say that you were buying me a drink? Why do I feel like you bought it for yourself?”

Adrian carried on drinking instead of giving him a reply. Later, Quentin let go of his mouse and stood up, waiting for the PC to continue its operation on its own.

He sat down beside Adrian and said, “What’s wrong? That woman doesn’t have eyes for you?” Quentin knew that the Sorkins had arranged a blind date for Adrian.

Adrian took a gulp from the bottle and told him, “I met Caroline today.”

Quentin clicked his tongue. He knew it was about her.

After taking another gulp of the alcohol, Adrian continued, “She came to the restaurant with her husband today. Every time she mentioned him, she’d always have this proud and blessed look on her face. I

“I’m really curious just what kind of a man he is to be able to make her change so much and become totally different from what she was like when she was little.”

Quentin was stunned. This was the first time he had seen Adrian so upset.

A moment later, he stopped joking and said, “Hey, we’ve known each other for so many years, but why haven’t you talked to me about her in the past?”

“What’s there to talk about?” Adrian smiled bitterly.

“When we were young, they said she was destined to marry Eddy. Later, when I learned that she broke off her engagement with him, she’d already married another man. Maybe we just aren’t meant to be.”

Perhaps it was the effect of **wine** that made Adrian so open about his thoughts. He slouched on the couch, looking very dispirited and fragile.

Quentin fell silent and grabbed himself a bottle of beer. "Maybe you can try it out with someone else."

"I've thought of this too. It was why I went on the blind date," Adrian said.

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Adrian stumbled for a bit before regaining his balance and walking toward Quentin. He had sobered up a bit already, but the words on the

screen were kind of blurry.

1/3

+15 BONUS

Alter adjusting the fonts to make the words larger, Quentin moved the cursor and opened the file. Interesting. He studied at the same school as Caroline.”

As he spoke, he scrolled downward, and the look on his face became more troubled.

Adrian held on to the backrest of Quentin’s chair for support. The longer he stared at the screen, the paler he turned. In the end, he darted into the bathroom to puke.

Seeing this, Quentin rushed off to get a first aid box and went through it to get something to relieve Adrian of the hangover. The PC was left forgotten in the living room.

After waking up the next day, Caroline prepared all the documents for the election and took a seat at the dining table.

Kirk sat across from her and asked, “Do you want me to go with you?”

“Nah.” Caroline didn’t hesitate to decline his offer. It wasn’t that Kirk would embarrass her or anything. It was just that she knew those in Evans Group would scorn her if they saw Kirk with her.

She didn’t want him to be exposed to their sharp tongues and sarcastic words. Kirk wasn’t a good-for-nothing person. He was an excellent man.

Smiling, Kirk said, “Are you sure?”

“Yep.” Caroline nodded and held his hands in hers.

“I’ll call you once the results are out, alright?”

Kirk looked down at her hands. Taking advantage of this, he said, “Kiss me once, and I’ll agree to it.”

Laughing, Caroline hooked her arms around his neck and pecked him on the lips. “Happy now?”

Pursing his lips, Kirk pressed a hand at the back of her head and leaned in for another kiss. It was a deeper one this time, and he pressed

on until she gasped for air.

Smirking, he told her, "Our kiss must be as long as this next time."

A blush crept up Caroline's cheeks, and she lowered her head to gobble up her breakfast as she pretended not to hear him. Kirk smiled and ruffled her hair.

After they finished having breakfast, Jack drove her to Evans Group.

When she reached, she could sense that the atmosphere was significantly different than before. The languidness in the air was no longer present, and everyone appeared to be in high spirits.

However, the look in their eyes changed when they noticed Caroline. There was animosity when they looked at her.

Despite this, Caroline turned a blind eye to it and made her way to the conference room.

There weren't many others in the room besides the few employees who were busy placing glasses of water on the table. One of them was Emery Evans.

When Emery saw Caroline enter the room, she couldn't stop herself from making some sarcastic remarks. "Why, you've arrived so early today. Are you worried that you won't be able to come here anymore after losing the election?"

Laughter erupted in the room right after she finished her sentence. However, Caroline remained composed. "The one who might not be able to come back here is you, not me."

Sneering, Emery told her, "Stop bragging. I'm an employee here. What makes you think that I won't be able to come back?"

"Why, it's simply because," Caroline approached her and said, pausing at each word.

"I'll fire you once I assume my position."

Suddenly fearful of her, Emery's face paled.

"Aren't you too full of yourself?" Layla spoke, accompanied by several shareholders. She wasn't pleased with what Caroline had said.

+15 BONUS

Laroune shifted her gaze from Emery to Layla.

Besides the two of Layla's loyal supporters, there was someone else behind her. It was Sloan's **father**, **Liam** Mackey.

Sloan looked at Caroline with a smile that seemed to say that he was mocking her for **being** too naive. However, she remained indifferent

and turned her gaze back at Layla. "I have full faith in myself."

Pushing past Caroline, Layla sat on the chair at the very front of the room and said. "There's no use in having faith in yourself. What's important is what you're made of."

"That's right." A smile hung on Caroline's lips as she stared at Layla meaningfully and took a seat across **from** her.

Later, two other shareholders entered the room. After a moment of hesitance, they sat down beside Caroline.

Soon, it was obvious which of the people in the room were on whose side, although the election hadn't even started yet.

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 21, 2023

Chapter 300

Besides the live shareholders who came in Just now, the board members of Evans Group also entered the room one after another

Caroline glanced around and realized that she recognized all of them. They were all **members** of the Evans family.

To put it simply, Evans Group didn't have a group of external shareholders. It could be seen as the Evans family's very own company

Everything operated on nepotism, and this was why Sarah and Dan had **been** bold enough to do whatever they pleased and hadn't been afraid of being discovered.

Glancing around, Caroline took a deep breath. The conference room was as noisy as it could get, although the election hadn't started

Everyone talked about her and Layla, and she found it hard to ignore the chatter since the room wasn't that big either.

"Why is Caroline here? Isn't she afraid of humiliating herself?" Someone chimed in.

Another person snorted derisively and said, "She thinks she will get to inherit the position from her father. If Evans Group falls into her hands, we'll all be doomed."

"I've said this once before, but I'll say it again. There are so many young people in the Evans family, but Layla seems to be the best among them all." 1

"That's right! Eddy Morrison loves her too, so she'll surely be the beacon of hope for the company if she gets elected."

Caroline listened to them in silence with an expressionless face.

Layla, however, smirked as she stared at Caroline.

"Caroline, you're wasting our time by joining the election this time. But I admire you for your courage," said Layla as she leisurely took a sip of water.

"You knew you were going to become the laughingstock here, yet you still had the courage to show yourself. You deserve my respect."

As she spoke, she raised her disposable cup in the air as if to give a toast.

Caroline had her eyes closed before this, and now she lazily opened them to peek at Layla and said. "Thanks, but you're not worthy enough to be my opponent."

This made the corners of Layla's mouth twitch in annoyance. Just then, her phone's screen lit up, and she glanced at it only to smile even

more brightly at Caroline. "Eddy's here. I'm going to get him."

The people around them couldn't help but become envious of her. Her words also strengthened their belief that she would become the new CEO.

As they carried on with their chattering, Caroline swept her gaze across the room and saw Liam.

"Mr. Mackey, it surprises me that you would lie to me," she said.

"Beasts fight for food, while humans yearn for wealth. I simply thought that Layla was a better candidate for the position compared to you.

Liam smiled, his tone dripping with arrogance.

The two people sitting beside Caroline heard this, and they turned to look at her, obviously troubled. One of them lowered his voice and said, "Ms. Evans, is he really going to have Layla's back?"

Caroline was about to answer him when a ruckus erupted at the door, and someone exclaimed, "It's Mr. Eddy!"

She looked in the direction of the crowd to see Layla holding Eddy's hand **and** leading him into the conference room.

The look on his face was indecipherable, so she couldn't tell if he was glad or mad to be there. However, he stiffened for a brief moment

when he saw Caroline.

"Didn't you say that it's just a formality for me to come here?" Eddy asked Layla. He didn't want to embarrass her in front of so many

people, so he lowered his voice when he spoke to her.

"Why is Caroline here?"

1/2

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