

Bogus Billionaire by Shining Riviera (Caroline Evans)

Chapter 431-440

Chapter 431

They **sat** facing each other as they enjoyed the food in silence. Now that Gwen had obtained **evidence**, they decided on a date for them to return.

Caroline and Gwen insisted on purchasing the tickets to go back themselves. Kirk and Sean had to find a way to get the right tickets so that all **four of** them could travel back together.

This time, they learned from experience. Sean would persuade Caroline about it, while Kirk would talk to Gwen. It was a brilliant idea.

Kirk hadn't even said anything when Gwen raised her hands in the air in surrender.

On Caroline's side, though, Sean had to put in some effort to convince her to give him the details of the flight. He had a way with words, and she eventually relented.

When they got on the plane, Gwen whispered into Caroline's ear. "Why do I feel like we've fallen into their trap?"

Caroline fell silent at her words.

In the middle of the flight, Kirk sat down beside Caroline and said, "Darling, there's something I want to discuss with you."

Caroline looked out the window. "What is it?" Her voice was monotonous when she spoke.

"Can you move back home?" He asked. The villa felt hollow without her, and it made him feel awful. In the past, he had loved going home, but now ...

Caroline turned to look at him. "Things aren't certain yet. I'll decide if I'll go back or not later, when

we know the truth.”

Seeing the determined look on her face, Kirk relented. He smiled and said, “Can I go to your place

more often then?”

Caroline was about to refuse when he said, “It’ll be easier for us to discuss the information we’ve

gotten so far.

“You’re curious as to how that person got your number and why they suddenly messaged you too,,

right? There’s also that woman, Dolly...

It made sense, and Caroline eventually agreed to it, although she wasn’t fond of the idea. “Okay,”

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+15 BONUS

“But come over after 8:00 pm.”

Kirk agreed to it without a second thought.

Caroline frowned as she pondered over the matter. Things weren’t as simple as they seemed.

After getting off the plane, Gwen approached Caroline with anxiety written all over her face. “Carol, should I meet Mia right away or head over to meet the head of the PR department?”

Then, she asked, “What should I wear to look more impressive when I get rid of them later?”

Caroline smiled softly and patted Gwen on the shoulder. “Don’t worry! Let me go there with you.”

She had barely finished her sentence when Sean hollered from behind them. “Let me accompany you too!”

They had been supposed to go back to their respective homes after this. But in the end, all of them got in the same car and headed to the hostel together.

Gwen stared at Kirk and Sean from the backseat and lowered her voice to talk to Caroline. "Carol, is there anything I should be careful of later?"

Caroline gave her a reassuring smile and said, "Just relax."

"But what if her mom's an unreasonable person? What if she blames me for it even after knowing the truth? What should I do then?"

It made Caroline laugh at the absurdity of it all. "There are lots of reasonable people in this world."

Despite that, Gwen didn't stop her ranting. Time passed quickly thanks to this, and they arrived at

the hostel soon.

"Its doors were open, and when they entered, they saw Mia, who was busy helping her mother

with the chores.

It was clear now why her mother believed in everything she said. How could a good and well-

behaved child like her falsely accuse others?

Mia heard the thudding of footsteps and automatically raised her voice to greet whoever came

warmly. "Welcome! Are you looking-"

Her voice faltered when she saw that it was Sean and the others. Her expression shifted briefly

2/3

+15 BONUS

Sensing that Sean wasn't in a good mood, she blinked at him innocently and said, "Did Gwen say something to you again?"

"Gwen. I told you that I wouldn't blame you for pushing me. Why are you still talking bad about me in front of Sean?"

"I told you that there's nothing between Sean and me," she continued.

"I'm not an obstacle between you two."

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The poor and pitiful expression on Mia's face made Gwen come to a realization.

Even if she told Sean that Mia had caused her to get suspended from work, Mia would still make up lots of excuses. If Sean questioned Mia, she would put the blame on Gwen.

The fact that Mia was capable of such a feat meant that she was immensely crafty. She would

have had a bright future ahead of her if only she had taken the right path.

Gwen inhaled deeply and found that she wasn't that angry at Mia anymore. "Where's your mom?"

"Why do you want to see her?" Mia asked, cautious.

Just then, her mother walked out of the kitchen. "Do we have quests?" she asked.

Then, her expression changed when she saw Gwen and the others,

"Didn't I tell you before that my daughter won't ever appear in your sight again? Why are you people here?"

“Because your daughter got me suspended from work.

“Nonsense!” The hostel owner retaliated right away.

“My daughter would never do something like that.”

“Go ahead and ask my colleagues if you don’t believe me,” said Gwen.

“Mia went to meet the head of the PR department in my company and said that I took away her

boyfriend.”

The hostel owner then turned to look at Mia. “Mia, is it true?”

Tears welled up in Mia’s eyes, and she said, “Mom, my legs hurt. Can you let me sit before I tell you

about it?”

The suspicion in the hostel owner’s eyes vanished. It was replaced by grief when she remembered

that Gwen had once shoved Mia.

“Okay. Sit down and tell me about it,” she said as she helped Mia to the chair.

A moment later, Mia spoke slowly. “To be honest, I should take the blame... but I didn’t do it on

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“Mia, what do **you** mean?” The hostel owner asked, confused.

+15 BONUS

Gwen and Caroline glanced at each other for a moment and had the same thought. Mia was going **to come** up with another lie again.

“I had

hurt my leg, right? After coming back, one of my friends called Linda kept on asking me about what had happened,” said Mia.

“I had no choice but to tell her the truth. Even though I told her repeatedly that Gwen didn’t do it on purpose, Linda refused to believe in me and said that she wanted to take revenge on Gwen.”

“Mom ...”

Mia grabbed her mother’s hand and said, “You know Linda too, right? She’s a student just like me. I didn’t think she would do anything like that, so I didn’t take her seriously.

“Who knew she would report it anonymously and claim that Sean is my boyfriend? She even said that Gwen was a third wheel who took him away from me.

”

Mia added,

“Linda realized how serious this matter had become only after Gwen’s company called.

“She was afraid that it would be recorded and affect her at school, so she asked me to cooperate

with her to lie about this.”

Once she had finished talking, Mia turned to look at Gwen with pitiful eyes.

“Gwen, I never wanted you to get suspended from work. I— I can go and tell the truth to the head of

the PR department of your company.

“I’ll tell him that this is all my fault and that it has nothing to do with Linda.”

Gwen couldn’t stop herself from cursing inside. The fault was Mia’s and Mia’s alone! Mia should

become a scriptwriter since she was so good at making up stories.

After

listening to what Mia said, the hostel owner found herself at a loss for words.

When she finally spoke, she said, “Mia, my dear, how could you ... I— I really don’t know how to put

this.”

She then turned to apologize to Gwen. “Sorry, Ms. Jameson. We’re so sorry for causing you such a

huge problem,” she said.

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Mia’s mother **looked** all anxious when she heard what Caroline said. “Did Mia cause you other kinds of trouble?”

“Yes, indeed,” said Caroline as she nudged Gwen.

“When we were in Macovo, you said that it was Gwen who pushed Mia, right?”

There was no doubt that Mia’s mother remembered this. It was precisely what had drastically changed her impression of these four young people here.

“To be honest, Gwen didn’t push your daughter at all.” Caroline spoke slowly and clearly.

Mia’s mother instantly turned to look at Mia doubtfully. “Mia?”

Panic flashed across Mia’s eyes, but she calmed herself down in the blink of an eye. “Mom, if Caroline insists that Gwen didn’t push me, so be it.”

“What do you mean ‘so be it’?”

Gwen was pissed now. “I never pushed you!”

Mia pouted her lips. "It's been a long time since it happened, so please don't bring it up anymore. If

you think you didn't do it, we'll think of it as the truth."

"I-

" Utterly pissed off, Gwen felt like slapping Mia across the face anytime now.

Sensing what Mia was trying to do, Caroline pulled Gwen back and said, "Mia, we're not accusing you of anything. We have evidence!"

Mia's heart skipped a beat at Caroline's words, but she managed to calm down soon.

The staff at the skating rink had told her that there weren't any CCTVs around when she had

asked him about **it**.

The corners of her lips curved upward into a vague smile, and she said, "Caroline, you can't change

the truth."

—

"Are you absolutely certain that Gwen pushed you back then?" Caroline asked in an icy tone.

Thinking that there was nothing to fear, Mia answered without a second thought. "Yes."

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+15 BONUS

"Very well."

Caroline turned **to face** Gwen and **said**, "Gwen, show us the evidence."

“Okay,” Gwen said as she played the video on her phone. Displayed on the screen were Gwen and Mia’s silhouettes, which made the smile on Mia’s face falter.

The video showed exactly how Mia had purposely fallen down at that time. In a rage, she shot up from her seat, trembling.

“It’s fake! This is fake! It must have been tampered with!”

The look of trust in her mother’s eyes vanished in an instant, now replaced by total distrust.

She stared at Mia with a reproachful expression, which made Mia fret when their gazes met. “Mom, you believe me, right?”

“Seeing is believing.” Mia’s mother was fuming with rage now.

“How could you lie to me?”

Then, Mia started feigning innocence as though she were a poor and helpless child. “Mom, I felt

someone push me, so I thought it was Gwen. I wouldn’t know that this was just a

misunderstanding.”

“Shut it!” Mia’s mother was so furious that she trembled too. (

“Since when have you become so used to lying all the time?”

Since she had been young, Mia’s mother had always thought she was a good child. This was the

first time Mia had been reprimanded in such a manner.

In the end, Mia thought that she would simply face it and put an end to it. She jumped off the

couch and yelled. “Yeah, yeah! I lied! I just don’t want them to be together!”

Caroline frowned in disapproval. "Even if they broke up, Sean wouldn't belong to you!"

Mia glared at her in response. "The thing is to get them to break up! Just knowing that they broke

up will make me happy! If I can't have him for myself, Gwen can't either!"

Shuddering at Mia's words, Caroline's mind was suddenly clouded with thoughts.

She felt as though she had gotten an important piece of information. Yet, she couldn't grasp it, no

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Mia's mother never thought that Mia would say something like that. She slapped Mia across the

face and holiered, "How could you **say** something like that?"

Upset that her mother had just slapped her, Mia covered her cheek with one hand.

She snapped, "What? I only wanted something of my own. **You** were taken away by a man, so what

makes **you** think that I can't snatch away someone's man?"

That said, she darted out of the hostel and vanished from their sight. Mia's mother apologized to

Gwen profusely while looking in the direction of the door.

“Sorry! I’m so sorry, Ms. Jameson! Please leave me your number so that I can apologize to you

officially once I’ve settled things here.”

There was no doubting her sincerity, and Gwen didn’t want to trouble her further. After all, Mia

was the one who started all of this.

Gwen was an adult, so she shouldn’t be blaming Mia’s family for what Mia done.

“You should go after her,” she told Mia’s mother.

“Thank you!” After thanking Gwen, Mia’s mother rushed out of the hostel in search of her

daughter.

Sighing, Gwen shook her head helplessly as she watched the woman’s retreating figure. “She’s so

unfortunate,” she said.

“Let’s go back.”

Nobody spoke on the way back home. What Mia said kept repeating itself in Caroline’s mind. “If I

can’t have him for myself, she can’t too!”

Caroline didn’t know why, but it was as if some sort of mysterious power had a grip on her

thoughts and wouldn’t stop replaying those words in her mind.

“We’re here, Caroline,” Sean said.

Only then did she realize that they had arrived at the apartment.

She got out of the car and went to get her luggage, but Kirk was quicker than she was and had

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+15 BONUS

“I’ll accompany **you** upstairs,” he said while picking up her luggage, leaving her no chance **to** refuse. He was already heading toward the building, so Caroline could only follow after him.

It was

3:00 pm, and there weren’t many people moving about. The elevator was devoid of any other

people except for the two of them.

To prevent the awkwardness from simply staring at each other with nothing to do, Caroline

busied herself thinking about what Mia had said earlier.

Just when she thought she had it figured out, the elevator doors opened.

She walked out of the elevator, helpless at the fact that she couldn’t reach a conclusion. “Alright,

you can head back now,” she said.

“Nope.”

“What else do you want to do?” Caroline stared at Kirk with alarmed eyes.

Kirk laughed and said, “I’m just going to help **you** tidy up the house.”

Caroline stared blankly at him, puzzled. She followed him into the kitchen, and he opened the

fridge to reveal loads of food stuffed inside of it.

“D-did you buy all of these?” Caroline exclaimed.

Kirk tossed away all the food that had expired and said, “I was worried that you would get hungry

at night, so I bought you a bit of food.”

Caroline felt the corners of her lips twitch as she stared at the trash can that was ready to burst apart.

Could this even be considered “a bit“?

“Alright then.” Kirk drew the strings of the garbage bag together.

“I’ll have Charles bring over more food later tonight. Message me if you crave anything. I’ll ask him to bring it to you.”

Caroline frowned and went after him as he made his way to the door. Her lips were pursed at first,

but eventually she couldn’t stop herself from saying, “Our quarrel isn’t over yet, so stop being so nice to me.”

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+15 BONUS

She couldn’t **possibly** be mad **at** him after he had done all this for her. **It wouldn’t even seem like**

they quarreled if he continued **treating** her like **this**.

Kirk smiled **softly** at her. “**Even** if we **quarrel**, **you’re** still **my** wife,” he said.

“I have the responsibility **to** take care of **my** wife, right?”

It successfully made Caroline shut up.

After watching him enter the elevator, she went back into the living room with her arms crossed.

All of **a** sudden, she remembered how she had once thought that the mysterious person who

messed her did it on purpose to get back at Kirk.

Back

then, she couldn't understand why someone would do that to Kirk. He was just an ordinary

man with a white-collar job, after all.

Although his family ran a business, he didn't seem to think much of it. So it could only mean that

his family's company was small.

Why would someone go to such lengths to mess with him? Now, though... Caroline couldn't be

sure anymore.

They had been fighting for quite some time already, yet he had always respected her wishes and

never showed any sign of annoyance.

Besides being patient with her, he was willing to sacrifice his time and put an effort into doing so

much for her.

It made Caroline couldn't help but ask herself a question—where else could she find a wonderful

man like him?

Still, what if ...

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What if **the** mysterious **person** was a love rival?

What **if that person** had the same thoughts as Mia and sent her all those messages **to** sow the

seeds of doubt between them **so** that they would quarrel and go their separate ways?

Wouldn't that person **get** precisely what they wanted, then?

But... it **didn't** make sense.

If that person had made up nothing but lies, why would Kirk's status in Macldo be shown as "

married"?

Besides, Kirk had failed to give her a clear explanation. In fact, he was rather evasive when she

brought this up.

It could only be said that there was something off on both sides of this story. C

aroline placed her hands on her head to sort out her thoughts. Soon, she managed to come up with

an idea.

She couldn't contact Dolly, so she might as well try to find out who this "wife" of Kirk's was.

Caroline took out her phone to message Marina. Her finger stopped abruptly before pressing the "

send" button when she was suddenly reminded of something.

Caroline deleted the text she had been about to send and transferred ten thousand dollars to

Marina's bank account instead.

“Thank you for helping me. My friend saw it already. The person you told me about was indeed the

one she was searching for. She wants me to ask you if **you** can find out who this man’s wife is.

You’ll be handsomely rewarded for this. -Caroline”

Money could open all doors. Indeed, Marina replied no more than three seconds after the message

had been sent.

“Caroline, you’re being much too polite. Don’t worry, I’m on it! I’ll look into it first thing in the

morning. -Marina”

Caroline sighed in disappointment, but it occurred to her that it was probably midnight where

Marina was, so she simply replied “Okay, thanks”.

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+15 BONUS

She was about **to** switch off **her** phone, but it didn’t seem like Marina wanted their conversation **to**

end **so soon**.

Marina **kept** on asking Caroline about Caroline’s “**friend**” and why this “friend” of hers was **so** rich.

To put it simply, Marina wanted to make the acquaintance of this “friend” of Caroline’s. Since the

said “friend” didn’t exist, Caroline texted her back, saying, “I’m sorry, but she wants to remain

incognito.”

After that, Marina stopped pestering her about it.

At one of SY Group's branches, Charles saw Kirk coming back and rushed forth to greet him.

Soon, though, he retraced his steps due to the chilling aura that Kirk emitted. He had expected Kirk to get on Caroline's good side after their trip to Macovo.

From the looks of things, Charles and his colleagues would still have to suffer for quite some time.

"Sir," said Charles as he pushed the doors open.

"I've worked day and night during your absence. Just look at these eyebags of mine."

Kirk glanced sideways at Charles as he entered the office. "I'm sure the sales of our branches in

Easton must've doubled or tripled since you worked so hard."

Now, that made Charles shut his mouth.

"Stop the nonsense," Kirk added.

"Get your job done if you want to atone for your mistakes."

"Alright, sir." Charles smiled bitterly now that Kirk had read him like an open book.

"Do a background check for me/

Charles cheered up at his words. "Who is it?"

"Dolly."

"Where's she from?" Asked Charles.

+15 BONUS

“I **don't** know.”

Charles **was** becoming rather speechless. “Which unit does she work in then?”

“I **don't** know,” said Kirk once again, which made Charles fall silent.

“I only **know** that her name's Dolly and that she's a theater actress,” said Kirk.

“She appeared in the hotel where we stayed when we first arrived in Macovo.”

Charles felt the corners of his lips twitch at the meager amount of information he received. It

would be way better if only Kirk could give him more information about Dolly..

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“What? Is **it too** tough for **you to** handle?” Kirk glanced at Charles with eyes as cold as ice.

“**N-**no,” Charles muttered as he wiped off the sheen of cold sweat on his brow.

“**Go** and resume your work then.”

“Okay.”

Charles had just reached the door when Kirk abruptly thought of something and called out to him,

making him stop in his tracks.

“Caroline said that a mysterious person messaged her when she was in Maco vo back then. I need

you to find out who that person is.”

With his mouth agape, Charles waited in silence for Kirk to continue. But the latter was soon

preoccupied with his work, with his head lowered over his desk.

After some time, Charles couldn't wait any longer. “Sir, don't you have anything else to tell me

regarding this person?”

“No.”

Kirk's curt reply cut off the sliver of hope in Charles' eyes, and he fell silent once more.

Did Kirk think Charles was some kind of all-knowing divine figure?

Just then, Kirk stared at him with a raised eyebrow. “What's wrong?”

“N-nothing...” Charles mumbled, his voice strained.

Perhaps he should simply find a good place to bury himself and rest for eternity

How was he supposed to find out who that mysterious person was with only this bit of

information?

Nevertheless, he was the one who had caused Kirk and Caroline to quarrel, so he had to take

responsibility for it....

Right after Charles left, Kirk received a call from Sean.

“Wanna grab a drink?” Sean asked while driving.

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+15 BONUS

“No. I just reached the company,” answered **Kirk** as he loosened his tie.

“**Okay** then.”

Sean went silent **for** a moment before complaining, “I’m so unfortunate to have a father-in-law

like him! Besides, it was his fault! Why should I be held accountable for it?”

“**You** and Gwen broke up already,” Kirk corrected him.

“**You** just **can’t stop yourself** from rubbing salt into my wound, huh?”

“**You** did the same when Caroline and I got into a fight,” Kirk said, successfully shutting him up.

A few moments later, Sean’s devastated voice came through the phone once more. “Fine! I was

wrong! Can you please tell me what I should do to set Gwen free from the trauma her father

caused her?”

“If I knew what to do, I wouldn’t have had to sleep in a room without Caroline.”

“What should I do then? I really like Gwen.”

At first, Sean had thought she had a unique personality. But after having spent some time with

her, he realized that he had truly fallen in love with her.

Gwen was a carefree woman who wasn’t shy about voicing her thoughts and speaking her mind.

She was decisive and wouldn’t dawdle on the things she wanted to do.

The only thing that bothered him was that she was the exact opposite of that when it came to

their relationship.

She lacked the courage to accept the fact that they could get into a relationship just like anyone

else.

Sean felt his heart break for Gwen. He couldn't help himself from getting mad at her father

because of this. Her father had cheated on her mother over and over again, even when Gwen had

been young.

"You can beat him up, at the very least," Kirk said as he massaged his temples.

"Unlike you, I can't vent my anger on anyone."

"Good idea! I'll go and beat her father up right now!"

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+15 **BONUS**

Sean hung up right after he finished his sentence, leaving Kirk to stare speechlessly at the blacked-out screen of the phone.

Caroline woke up early the next morning. The first thing she did was pick up her phone and

check **if** she had received any messages from Marina.

Unfortunately for her, Marina hadn't messaged her.

But she had received a message from Gwen instead.

“Carol, this is hilarious! My mom called me last night. She was frantic, and I thought something awful had happened.

“When I got home, I saw my dad lying on the couch. He was beaten to a pulp, and he had bruises all over his face! It was so funny! -Gwen”

The message had been sent at 3:00 am.

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Gwen couldn't conceal her joy at the fact that her father had been beaten up.

“What happened?” Caroline texted her back. Gwen was probably still asleep now, so there wasn't a reply after the message was sent.

Caroline then clicked into Marina's chatbox but saw that there weren't any new messages. After giving it some thought, she sent her a voice message. “Do you have any news?”

Marina replied almost instantly. “No. Wait for a little longer. Tell your friend not to worry, because I'll definitely find out who that man's wife is. -Marina”

There was nothing Caroline could do but wait for Marina's findings. After freshening up, Caroline rushed over to her company. She was early today, so there weren't many people in the elevator.

She pressed the button on the floor she wanted to get on. Then, right before she pressed the button to close the elevator doors, she heard someone call out, “Wait-”

Caroline froze and waited until the person entered the elevator before pressing the button. “Which floor are you headed?”

“You're finally here! I thought you had abandoned your company!”

Caroline glanced up from the button to see Layla and immediately regretted her decision.

She should have simply pressed the button to avoid this catastrophe.

Layla's words captured the attention of those around them, and the people looked at Caroline with puzzled looks.

"My company is doing just fine. Why would I abandon it?" Caroline said.

"Only for now, though. Just wait until my company releases its latest product. I'm sure your company will go bankrupt by then," Layla said.

"Oh, sorry. It's our company that's going to go bankrupt, Sarah and the rest of the Evans family

would be so pissed that they will tear you into pieces.

"I told you long ago that you weren't fit for this," Layla added.

"You should've just let me handle the company, but you insisted on doing it yourself."

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+15 BONUS

"Don't you think it's too early for you to be so full of yourself?" Caroline spat.

According to the plan, her latest product would only be released on the third day after Sonia's drama was broadcast.

Besides, they still had to wait for two days until the drama was released. There was nothing to be nervous about.

"Caroline, I know what you're waiting for." Layla wasn't done with her roasting.

"You're waiting for that actress' drama to get broadcasted, right? Listen up; I've already asked an expert to watch it. A puny little actress like her won't get famous overnight."

She then inched closer to Caroline. “Most stars who get famous all of a sudden usually offer their directors something under the table.

“Even if Sonia’s acting is good, she doesn’t know how to do business, so she won’t ever become famous,” she said in a lowered voice.

“Besides, she works for Sorkin Group. She would be as good as dead if I asked Eddy to help me get rid of her.”

Caroline narrowed her eyes at her. “Your rival is me. You don’t have to get rid of a stranger.”

This made Layla laugh. “Don’t worry. Naturally, I won’t touch her. If I did, I’m sure you’d call me a coward for being afraid of a mere actress like her.”

The shadow on Caroline’s face lifted a little. “That’s good to hear.”

“In the end, the competition is between us both only. I’ll win this fair and square and prove to

everyone that I make a much better wife for Eddy than you.”

The doors of the elevator opened just in time, and Caroline strode out with a smile.

Layla scowled as she watched Caroline leave. She loathed that indifferent look on Caroline’s face,

which made it seem like nothing could drag her down.

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She thought, “Just wait, Caroline. In five days, I’ll surely make you kneel at my feet and beg for

mercy.

The mirrored walls in the elevator reflected the ugly scowl on her face, and she took a deep breath

to recompose herself.

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+15 BONUS

When she reached the floor she was headed for, she walked out **of** the elevator and into her office to see Emery walking in her direction.

“Where’s Dan and Sarah?” Layla asked.

Emery’s expression shifted a little before replying. “T—they went downstairs.”

Layla knitted her brows in displeasure. “To see Caroline?”

“I think so.”

“Didn’t she cut ties with them? Why did they go to see her?”

Emery wasn’t sure either, so she shook her head.

“Do you know what they’re here for?” Layla asked.

Emery shook her head again, which made Layla more furious. She was about to lash out at Emery, but the scowl on her face abruptly vanished.

A thought occurred to her, and she sneered.

They must be begging Caroline to let them go! How idiotic!

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Caroline had just walked out of the elevator when she saw Sarah and Dan standing at the door of her office.

She had a hunch about what they were here for already. Her expression was blank when she faced them.

“What is it?”

Sarah had the urge to slap Caroline when she saw her face. However, she and Dan were trapped in Caroline’s grasp for now, so she had no choice but to bear with it.

After calming herself down, she said, “Caroline, don’t you think you’ve gone overboard? Are you planning to kill us?”

Caroline opened the door to the office and glanced at them. “What did I do?”

“Don’t pretend like you don’t know what you did! You gave Gavin the ledger!”

“What does that have to do with me? You two are the ones who broke the law!”

“You-” Sarah raised her hand in the air, ready to slap Caroline.

Yet the latter didn’t even flinch or try to evade it. She simply stared right into Sarah’s eyes, making Sarah freeze.

Just then, Dan grabbed Sarah’s arm and said, “That’s enough. Stop being mad at the young ones.”

He then turned to Caroline with a gentle look in his eyes.

“Caroline, it’s your mom’s fault for falsely

accusing you online before this. Regardless, we’re still a

family. How could you work with others to harm us?”

“You’re telling me that you two can hurt me, but I can’t retaliate?” Caroline said.

“Have you no conscience?” Sarah seethed in rage.

“I’m your mother! I raised you for so many years. How could you repay our love with kindness?”

“Did you ever think of yourselves as my parents when you made up all those lies online?” Caroline

snapped, making both Dan and Sarah shut up.

1/3

+15 **BONUS**

The **door** was already open, but Caroline turned to tell them, “I gave Gavin the evidence, and the police have started looking into it. They’ve probably already gone through the ledger. It’s useless for **you** to come to me.”

“**How** could you be so cruel?” Dan roared. The gentle look on his face had completely vanished.

Caroline closed the door right then to separate herself from them.

Seeing this, Sarah banged on the door and screamed, “Come out! You wouldn’t have become Evans Group’s CEO if it hadn’t been for us! I’ll make you lose everything you have, you ungrateful brat!”

Caroline heard her, of course. She simply smiled wryly in response.

Usually, parents would hope for the best for their children. Apparently, her parents were the only exception. No wonder Gwen said that they probably weren’t her biological parents.

After some time, the commotion outside the office ceased. It was probably because Dan had dragged Sarah away. Caroline didn’t put much thought into it, though.

She simply flipped through her planner and started laying out the plans for the release of her new clothing line.

Outside, Dan had dragged Sarah into the elevator. He couldn’t stop himself from lowering his voice to scold her.

“Are you done? You almost told her that she wasn’t our biological daughter! Thank goodness I pulled you away!”

“She isn’t our child, anyway!” Sarah blurted.

Seeing the shadow on Dan's face, she eventually lowered her voice and said, "I didn't say anything

wrong. If it hadn't been for-

"That's enough!" Dan snapped, trying hard to suppress his anger.

"Do you need me to remind you when you should shut up?"

"Honey,

him.

since things have come to this, it's best for us to tell the truth," Sarah tried to persuade

"Besides, Eddy's going to marry Layla for sure. We only need to get on her good side. Why bother with Caroline?"

2/3

"You're getting clumsier by the **day**," said Dan.

"Do **you** even **know what** would happen to us if Benjamin finds out that we lied to him?"

Sarah fall silent at that.

Bogus Billionaire (Shining Riviera)

Chapter 439

When they reached the first floor, Dan watched the doors of the elevator open slowly and felt himself calm down a lot.

Once again, he pressed the button for the doors to close, which made Sarah wonder out loud," Hubby, are **you** thinking of meeting that ungrateful brat again?"

Dan sighed and told her, “No. You pissed me off so much that I almost forgot we could rely on Layla.”

Sarah cheered up at his words.

“You’re right! I’ve heard that Layla started her very own company just upstairs. She purposely chose the same design theme just to compete with Caroline,” said Sarah.

“Her company’s PR team did a great job, and she managed to find herself the best of brand ambassadors too. I’m sure she’ll win against Caroline.”

“Jude will agree to her marriage with Eddy by then,” she continued.

“After all, who would refuse such a brilliant granddaughter-in-law like her?”

After listening to Sarah go on and on about this, Dan felt his mood improve tremendously.

Indeed, businessmen like them prioritized a person’s potential and ability to make money.

Jude had been a big shot in the field of business back in the day. Naturally, he admired women

who were intelligent and successful in their careers.

As they talked, the elevator reached the floor where Layla’s office was. A smirk laced Layla’s lips, knowing that they would come to her. Everything was as she had predicted.

“Don’t worry about what happened. I’ll tell Eddy about this,” Layla told them reassuringly as she

handed them each a glass of water.

Since Caroline wanted to send these two away, Layla would do the exact opposite of that.

“At least you’re thankful,” Sarah commented.

She was very pleased with what Layla said and was suddenly overwhelmed by her kindness.

“Layla, dear, I truly regret it! I should have given you all my attention in the past!”

1/2

+15 **BONUS**

“Aunt Sarah, **you’ve** taken good care of me since I was **young**. I really am indebted to you,” said Layla.

“**You’ve** grown up into a wonderful young woman! I’ve only just realized that I’ve raised an ungrateful brat like Caroline. Oh, if only I could learn from your mother how to educate my young!”

Sarah showered Layla with compliments, all while insulting Caroline in every single way possible.

Sarah and Dan left later, when Luke entered the office to pass Layla some documents.

“What is it?” Layla asked right after the door closed.

Luke’s expression said it all. “We have good news! Lots of stores wanted to collaborate with us when they heard that we’re launching our new product in five days! More than 20 stores have contacted us this afternoon.”

Layla’s eyes shone upon hearing what he said. “Awesome! Call the factory and tell them to hike up production. We have five days left to squash Caroline!”

“Another thing is that I’ve called the factory that worked for Evans Group back then. They said that they could start working on our order without us having to pay extra for it!”

Layla’s eyes lit up at this. “Not bad! Even the factory’s boss knows that I’m going to win. Apparently, it’s only a matter of time before I’ll return to Evans Group and take over Caroline’s position.”

“By then, I’ll merge our companies...” Layla’s voice trailed off for a moment.

“That’s not right. I’ll buy the entire building instead! And I’ll name it Evanson Corp!”

Just thinking about it made her spirits soar.

Bogus Billionaire (Shining Riviera)

Chapter 440

+15 BONUS

When Cheryl arrived at the office, she noticed that the door to Caroline’s office was open.

Pleasantly surprised that Caroline was here already, she stopped by the door and said, “Caroline! **You’re** early!”

Caroline looked up from her desk. She had just finished writing down the details of her plans. ” Ask the heads of the departments to come to the conference room for a meeting.”

“Okay.” Cheryl chirped.

Caroline busied herself with work once more. Cheryl couldn’t make out if she was in a good mood or not. She wondered if Caroline and her husband reconciled after the trip.

Jack had said that Caroline’s husband was a good man. Still, if he was as good as Jack had put it, why would Caroline have gotten into a fight with him in the first place?

The question lingered in Cheryl’s mind as she hurried off to call the heads of the departments for the meeting.

“Our ambassador’s new drama will be broadcast in two days.” Caroline glanced over all of them.

“Has everything been prepared?”

“Yes,” answered the heads of the departments in unison.

“Good. We have to take notice of a couple of things. If there’s a problem, you need to tell me about it right away.”

Caroline then told them about the things that they needed to pay attention to so that they could

spread the word to their subordinates.

The meeting ended about an hour later. Caroline stood up and glanced around at the people

around her. “Are you sure that everything’s fine?”

“Yes!” they replied.

“I won’t let things go easily if any of you drag us down,” she said curtly and strode out of the room.

One after the other, the heads of the departments got up from their seats and left.

The head of the PR department was one of the last to leave. He tugged at the head of the

1/5

+15 BONUS

After everyone else left, the head of the PR department whispered, “I heard that the factory stopped making our order because they’re busy with Layla’s.”

“You’re up-to-date. As expected of the head of the PR department.”

“You flatter me. Why didn’t you tell Caroline about this? Aren’t you worried?”

“What is there to worry about?”

“Didn’t you hear what she said? She won’t let you go if you drag us down.”

Jason smiled. “Don’t worry. She will never find out about this.”

Confused, the head of the PR department asked, “What do you mean? Won’t she find out about it when the factory fails to deliver our order later on?”

Jason chuckled at that.

“Think about it. When both sides launch our products, do you think our company will even be able to sell anything? Would Caroline be concerned about whether the factory would deliver our order on time?”

“Maybe,” he added, “she would even thank me for it. She would be grateful that the factory didn’t make our order and that her debt wouldn’t be so high.”

The head of the PR department looked as if he had just stumbled upon this realization.

“You’re right! To be frank, Caroline isn’t that bad. It just so happened that she and Layla are at odds

with each other.

“Layla’s wealthy enough already, and with Eddy backing her up, it would be almost impossible for

Caroline to win against her.”

“Exactly! That’s why I’m not bothered about it.”

They chatted on their way back to their respective offices, completely unaware of Cheryl, who

had happened to walk out of the washroom at the same time. She had heard their entire

conversation.

This was horrible! How could the factory be so one-sided?

Cheryl stormed off in the direction of Caroline’s office.

2/5

+15 BONUS

Caroline was busy scrolling on her phone. Marina still hadn’t texted her.

She fell into deep thought while tapping her fingers on the desktop. She was about to send Marina a message when someone knocked on the door.

“Come on in!” she said without glancing up.

Cheryl entered the room and closed the door. She went up to Caroline and lowered her voice to explain what she had heard just now.

Much to her surprise, Caroline’s expression was as calm as ever, even after listening to her.

Cheryl herself was furious, though. “Why aren’t you saying anything? This is too much! How could the factory do this? We signed a contract!”

A soft smile hung on Caroline’s lips as she said, “Why should I be mad? Isn’t it good for someone to send money my way?”

Cheryl blinked in confusion at her words. “What do you mean?”

Then, Caroline flipped through the address book and said, “They’ll have to compensate us for breaching the contract. Our company is in need of cash right now. Isn’t this just lovely?”

After that, she called Gavin.

“Mr. Gavin,” she greeted.

“Is anything wrong?” Gavin asked from the other end of the line.

“Can you recommend me some factories that are trustworthy? I want to get a hundred thousand sets of clothes done as soon as possible.”

“A hundred thousand?” Gavin spewed his drink.

“That much?”

“Yes. The new line of clothes is getting launched soon, but something came up with the factory. So I need to find a new one to partner up with.

“You used to be in the clothing business, right? You should know at least a few, then.

“Certainly,” said Gavin.

“But a hundred thousand is a lot to handle in a single order. Isn’t it a bit too much?”

3/5

Layla this time.

as willing to spend a fortune to launch her new line of clothes, which gave her the upper hand. It troubled him a lot.

He didn’t object to Caroline’s ideas outright only because she was righteous enough to uphold justice, even when it involved some of her family.

Still, a hundred thousand was no small number. As a shareholder, he couldn’t stop himself from voicing his doubts.

“I think you should take it slowly. How about ten thousand?”

“No way!” Caroline’s mind was made.

“A hundred thousand is the minimum. Do you have any factories to recommend? If not, I’ll ask someone else about it.”

“I have-”

“Send their contacts to me then.” Caroline’s reply was curt.

Even Gavin couldn’t muster the courage to refuse her now, and he sent her the contacts of several factories’ bosses.

When things were settled, it suddenly occurred to him that Caroline’s bearing had been surprisingly formidable.

Even though he had stepped foot into the business field for many years, she had managed to make him feel overwhelmed. Who would believe him if he were to tell this to someone else?

“Are you listening?” George asked, snapping Gavin out of his daze.

“What were you saying?”

“I said, Caroline’s wasting her time and effort. She even said that a hundred thousand was the minimum!

“Is she totally unaware of the situation at Evans Group? How is she even sure that she’ll be able to sell so many sets of clothes?”

Instead of replying, Gavin frowned and fell silent.

4/5

+15 BONUS

It annoyed George further. “I told you before that we should take back our investment, but you didn’t believe me. Look at us now! Our money is as good as gone!”

He continued, “No matter what, I’ll talk to Caroline about retrieving our funds next month! You won’t be able to stop me then.”

With that said, George stormed out of the office.

“George-” Gavin called after him as he watched George leave.

Bogus Billionaire (Shining Riviera)