

The Protector Chapter 185

Looks of shock appeared on everyone's faces.

Especially Caitlyn who was seized by terror.

Everyone was well aware of Meredith's stern and stiff personality. She couldn't tolerate people who behaved in a boisterous manner like Levi.

Someone with a military police background like Russell would be well-liked by her.

Besides, how could a mere foundling gain a foothold in a wealthy family?

Meredith gave Levi a deep look before she left, obviously disappointed in him.

Robert let out a deep sigh before following suit, lamenting about how Zoey, given her status would marry such a husband.

"What the hell are you doing? You're challenging the authority of the old lady. She hates people who fool around like you the most!"

Bailey and Pamela glared daggers at Levi.

"You've ruined us! The old lady has finally accepted us because of Zoey, but you just had to provoke her again, didn't you?!"

Caitlyn almost cried from exasperation.

Would the old lady have accepted us immediately today if our son-in-law weren't Levi, but someone else?

Aaron hugged Caitlyn. "Honey, don't cry. We'll regain our dignity and make the old lady acknowledge us when the birthday banquet officially starts later."

"I supposed that's all we can do."

Caitlyn was physically and mentally frustrated.

Shortly after, most of the guests had arrived, apart from the big shots.

Robert and Meredith personally greeted them at the door, with Levi and the others following behind them.

Soon, several cars marked with the SWAT logo appeared.

Russell was the first to come down. He ran to the back, opened the car door, and greeted the leaders one by one.

“Grandpa, Grandma, let me introduce you. This is Shane Young, the captain of the Special Security Unit; Hugo Gibson, the vice-captain; Frankie Wimmer, the political commissar; Quincy King, the vice-captain of the City Patrol Unit...”

Russell introduced them to about seven to eight leaders in one breath.

There were about a dozen more leaders behind who were at the same level as Russell, all of whom held official positions such as team leaders.

Perry led everyone forward, extending their blessings, “Mrs. Black, may you be blessed with longevity and great prosperity...”

“Welcome, Captain Chapman. Welcome...” Robert and Meredith grinned from ear to ear, seeing the support of so many leaders.

Keane and Quintus chuckled. “You really outdid yourself there, Russell!”

“Mr. and Mrs. Black, I would like to commend Russell,” Perry said. “He has so much potential! I’ll make him vice-captain next year! The Black family will have something to be proud of again.”

Hearing those compliments coming straight from Perry’s mouth, Meredith and Robert were all the more exhilarated as they looked at Russell with satisfaction.

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Levi had heard of Jennie and Logan just now.

Jennie was the daughter of Xaiden, the eldest son of the Black family, and she was currently the deputy governor of New Alliance Bank in South City.

Her husband, Logan Zachs, was all the more powerful. His grandfather, who had now retired, once served on the front lines of South City.

His father was the deputy director of the Ministry of Economy and also served as a leader in the Ministry of Commerce.

Jennie and Abigail were both Meredith’s favorite granddaughters.

As expected, Jennie and Logan arrived shortly after, together with Logan’s grandfather, Graham, and his father, Felix.

Graham was also a big shot who was formerly the deputy leader at the South War Zone. He had many disciples but had since retired.

Felix was in the prime of his life, holding an important position.

Their attendance had greatly elevated the Black family's social status.

“Happy birthday!”

Graham and Felix extended their wishes one after another.

Meredith grasped Jennie and Logan's hands, smiling brightly with narrowed eyes.

Envy!

They were filled with envy!

Both Aaron and Caitlyn had been dreaming about the day their son-in-law could set the Thames on fire just so they could keep their head up.

But unfortunately, their son-in-law can never compare to that of others!

Just their luck to have met such a son-in-law like Levi.

“Haha, the younger generation of the Black family is full of talents! Let alone our grandchildren, how many people in South City have as many talents and skills as our grandson-in-law?” Meredith said proudly in front of hundreds of guests.

“That's right,” Russell and the others chimed in. “How many are there who are as gifted as Logan in South City?”

Logan adjusted his tie, smiling, “I don't deserve your praise, Grandpa, Grandma. The sons-in-law of the Black family are all outstanding! I heard that there's a son-in-law from North Hampton. Isn't he very powerful? He'd built a multi-billion conglomerate from scratch! Is he here?” Logan asked, looking around.

Knowing that Logan was referring to Levi, Aaron and Caitlyn suddenly felt ashamed. They lowered their heads and pulled Levi aside, wanting to hide.

“Aunt Caitlyn, Uncle Aaron, why are you guys hiding? North Hampton's son-in-law, Levi Garrison, is over here!”

Someone mercilessly pointed out Levi's position.

Everyone around retreated, revealing a large open space showing only Levi and his family.

At once, all eyes zeroed in on them.

“So you are Levi Garrison?” Logan smiled. “I heard that your net worth was over a billion. How about now? I bet it's now worth more than the entire Black family.”

“Yeah, with your potential, hitting ten billion is pretty attainable!” said Jennie.

Being watched by hundreds of noble relatives, Aaron and Caitlyn broke out in a cold sweat.

They were too anxious.

This moment was too humiliating.

It was evident to Zoey that they were deliberately putting Levi in a tough spot.

Just as she was about to speak up for him, Levi blurted, “To answer Jennie and Logan’s questions, yes, it has definitely surpassed that of the Black family since long ago!”

Money was just a number to him.

If he could look down upon the Rogers family who worth tens of billions, what more the puny Black family?

Everyone gasped at Levi’s reply.

Levi’s bravado is really something!

What a load of crap!

“Haha, isn’t that a given, Captain Chapman! Russell has always been the pride of the Black family,” said Meredith unabashedly.

This made everyone envious, especially Caitlyn and Aaron.

How nice would it be if Mrs. Black could be proud of them someday?

Too bad they couldn’t do it by themselves and could only rely on their daughter and their son-in-law.

But could a useless son-in-law like Levi ever make them proud?

Never!

“Grandpa, Grandma, I was going to invite the big shots from the Warzone, but there’s only so much I can do,” Russell said humbly.

“This is more than enough, Russell,” Meredith smiled approvingly. “It’s enough that Captain Chapman and the others could make it!”

“Indeed! With you, Russell, plus Jennie and Logan, it’s the right degree of pomp!” Keane and Quintus both laughed.

“How intimidating! Can you give us an exact number regarding your net worth?”

“Yeah, tell us! Grandpa and Grandma will certainly be proud of you!”

Logan and Jennie laughed out instead of getting angry.

“Levi, don’t!”

Zoey and her parents were so anxious that they almost covered Levi’s mouth.

But Levi slowly raised a finger. “At least this much!”

“At least ten billion?” Logan asked.

“No.” Levi shook his head.

“Could it be a hundred billion?”

Logan winced when he said that number.

Levi chuckled. “You’re wrong. It’s at least one trillion!”

“Pfft!”

“Hahaha...”

Everyone laughed themselves silly at Levi’s words.

The reason everyone was quiet from was before was to see how far Levi could go with his big talk...

But who knew it was out of this world!

At least one trillion?!

What on earth is this?

It’s the equivalent of a hundred times the Black family...

Logan, his grandfather and father all laughed.

They had never seen such a man with such bravado before.

Forget about personal ownership. Even the Ministry of Economy doesn’t have that much money!

The others laughed wildly.

Even Russell, a man of speech and manner, roared with laughter.

As for Meredith and Robert, their faces were turning as black as charcoal.

It was an insult to them!

Levi was blatantly challenging their authority!

“You’re both sons-in-law. How can there be such a huge difference?” Meredith flared with anger.

“Discipline your son-in-law,” she said directly to Aaron and Caitlyn. “He should know what he should say and what he shouldn’t say on such an occasion!”

Aaron and Caitlyn trembled in fright and dared not raise their heads.

Caitlyn was even shedding tears.

She had never felt so upset before.

Even after what had happened at the Lopez family, she had never been so upset.

Caitlyn had been longing to her family for thirty years and now there was finally a chance.

But she was utterly humiliated in front of her relatives when she finally met them for the first time!

She wanted to end her life there and then!

It’s Levi’s fault!

It’s all Levi’s fault!

Aaron’s fist clenched.

He swore he would punch Levi in the face once the birthday banquet was over.

This is too f**king embarrassing!

Zoey, too, was disappointed through and through with Levi.

Levi has gotten used to talking big. It’s become a habit.

He wasn’t thinking clearly when he said he had ten billion to the Lopez family.

But now, to the Black family—a trillion?

Does he not understand the concept of money?

How could he say such big words?

Zoey regretted it.

She should have listened to her parents and left Levi at home.

Sure enough, her parents were put to shame as soon as they arrived.

Unfortunately, there was no crying over spilled milk!

“They’re both sons-in-law, but they’re like night and day! One’s a great catch, and the other is trash!”

“I heard that Levi Garrison has a bad reputation. He harbored evil thoughts towards his sister-in-law and almost killed his adoptive parents!”

“Their entire family is trash. Otherwise, Mrs. Black wouldn’t have only met this daughter of hers after thirty years!”

...

Hearing all kinds of comment from the people around, tears flowed down Caitlyn’s face like a river.

How embarrassing!

This was definitely the most humiliating moment in her entire life!

Aaron felt the same too.

He thought that he could steal the limelight at the Black family, but he was utterly disgraced.

“Quickly get inside! What on earth are you doing here?”

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“Don’t you think you have done enough to embarrass the entire family in front of so many people?!” Bailey chided in disappointment.

Aaron and Caitlyn had no choice but to return to the villa.

“Don’t follow me!” Caitlyn shouted at Levi.

After arriving at the manor’s main hall, everyone was seated according to arrangements.

Aaron and his family were seated at the corner, far away from Meredith.

Only those who Meredith regarded as important could sit at the front.

“Honey, the gift presentation is up next. I’m sure Meredith will be happy to accept our gifts,” Aaron said.

Caitlyn wiped away her tears and waited silently.

When the guests had filled up the room, the host announced the start of the banquet and the ceremonies proceeded one after another.

“Now is the time for gift presentation!”

Everyone started presenting their gifts as soon as the host finished.

There were gifts of a wide variety, but they were all valuable.

Hearing what the others had brought, Aaron and Caitlyn were filled with aplomb.

Because none of those gifts that were presented could be compared to what their family had prepared.

Those gifts were far inferior to theirs!

In the face of all sorts of gifts, Meredith simply nodded indifferently.

“Come on. Let’s go! She will definitely be happy!”

Aaron and Caitlyn quickly pulled Zoey to the front, waiting to present their gifts.

“I see you’re well-prepared, Caitlyn,” said Xena, Caitlyn’s cousin who was queuing at the front with her husband, Samson Fleming.

“Haha, and so were you!”

Aaron and Caitlyn smiled, thinking about how happy Meredith would be upon receiving their gifts in just a bit.

“Up next, it’s the birthday gift of Xena and Samson—an authentic calligraphy painting of an ancient notable artist worth seven hundred thousand—a five-hundred-year-old wild ginseng, and last but not least, a Jade Buddha Xena had sought from the holy mountain to bless Mrs. Black with good health!” the host read out the list of gifts Xena’s family had prepared.

The whole room burst into applause.

Everyone was satisfied with their gifts.

The Jade Buddha especially was thoughtful.

Hearing that, Meredith flashed a smile at last, obviously liking these gifts very much.

“Xena, Samson, I like your gifts very much!” Meredith said.

However, Aaron, Caitlyn and Zoey were dumbfounded.

Because the gifts they had prepared were almost exactly the same as theirs!

Most importantly, the former's gifts were several times more expensive than theirs!

And they were queueing right behind them!

They wondered what Meredith would think of them if she found out their similar but relatively cheaper gifts.

Aaron and Caitlyn were so nervous that they could barely breathe.

“Up next, we have Caitlyn and Aaron's gifts! Hmm?”

Seeing the gifts, even the host himself was stunned.

“What a coincidence.”

“What is it? Is there a problem with their gifts?” someone asked.

The host organized his thoughts and read aloud, “Caitlyn and family have gifted a calligraphy painting worth three hundred million, a hundred-year-old wild ginseng, and a Jade Buddha requested from North Hampton's Temple of Peace...”

“Yes, how thoughtful! They're exactly the same gifts as what Ms. Xena and her family had prepared! Except that they're lower in value by a double!”

Aaron and Caitlyn wished the ground could swallow them whole as soon as the host finished.

How embarrassing!

What a disgrace!

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Why is life so unfair to us?

Why does such misfortune always befall us?

Their gifts were exactly the same, but the price was twice as low as theirs! And they were queueing right behind them!

Even Zoey felt ashamed. She couldn't bear to stay there any longer.

Xena and Samson looked at Aaron's family helplessly.

They didn't expect that they had prepared similar gifts!

“What do you mean, thoughtful? Isn’t that just a duplicate?”

“At least prepare similar gifts at the same price. Who are they trying to fool?”

“Aren’t they looking down on Mrs. Black? Is Mrs. Black short of that few hundred thousand?”

“Are you kidding me?”

...

The crowd erupted in anger.

Seeing the gifts Caitlyn and her family had gifted, Meredith snorted angrily, “If you don’t want to prepare gifts, just don’t! Why do you keep embarrassing yourself?!”

Robert sighed. What a disgrace...

With no dignity left, Caitlyn longed to bury her head into the ground!

They’ll remember this day forever!

I shouldn’t have come!

It’s all Levi’s fault!

If Levi is powerful enough, we wouldn’t have been reduced to such a state.

If Levi’s worth a dozen of billions, Mom would have been happy with just our presence alone.

Right behind them was Logan’s family.

Graham and Felix casually presented some symbolic gifts.

In fact, with their status, their presence was the greatest gift.

Meredith was thrilled.

“Grandma, I present you with a pair of Legendary Luminous Pearls worth ten million! I had to travel to ten foreign cities in order to get it at an auction,” said Logan.

The crowd seethed with excitement.

As compared to the few hundred thousand gifts from Aaron and his family before, it was an instant kill. The difference was like night and day.

Meredith liked this pair of Legendary Luminous Pearls so much that she personally accepted them.

“See that?” She gave Aaron’s family a look. “This is what you call a gift! Even if Logan’s gift is worth a penny, I would still like it because it’s prepared with intentions!”

Caitlyn and Aaron hid at the corner and dared not look up.

They could only hope for the birthday banquet to end soon and leave South City as soon as possible.

“I’m going out first,” Levi suddenly said to Zoey and vanished from sight, just as Zoey was about to ask him something.

In the main hall, gifts were still being presented.

And with greater value!

Xaiden presented a three-billion project contract. Everyone in attendance was stunned!

Russell and the others presented their gifts as well, with Russell giving a rare special saber instead of gifts worth tens of millions.

“I know you like this stuff, Grandma. I went to great lengths to get this,” Russell said.

“Yes, I like it!”

Meredith used to reign over the battlefield, and hence she liked the saber very much.

Finally, a few other grandsons-in-law also presented their gifts, which made Meredith beam in delight.

“Allow me to speak on behalf of all the sons-in-law in the Black family...” Logan suddenly spoke. “It seems that every son-in-law has presented their gifts besides Levi Garrison from Aunt Caitlyn’s family, am I right?”

“Yeah, he didn’t!”

Everyone shifted their gaze to Aaron’s table, focusing on them again.

“Oh yeah, where is he? Did he run away?”