

After Prison 41

[Chapter 41](#)

Edward was fuming with anger, which was to be expected given that he had been waiting several years for Diane. Furthermore, her parents' attitude toward him the other day seemed to suggest that they were in favor of the marriage. It was hard for him not to get angry when he saw Diane shopping with other men.

Diane walked out in the beautiful dress, and at this moment, she looked even more angelic after changing out of her food delivery uniform. Even Severin was mesmerized by the sight of her.

There were hints of elegance in her beauty, yet her cold temperament was still very much prevalent in her characters. Furthermore, her womanly nature was even more pronounced then, which could perhaps be attributed to her being a mother!

"How do I look? Does it look pretty on me?" Diane felt a little embarrassed when she found Severin staring at her, and her face blushed slightly as she posed him that question.

"It looks divine! How could it not look anything but beautiful on you? It's almost like it's tailor-made for you, Diane!" a man's voice remarked suddenly from behind Severin before the latter could even say anything.

Severin frowned and sensed that something was wrong. His tone was overly affectionate with her, and it hinted at a much deeper relationship.

"Mister Edward? Why are you here?" Diane frowned slightly when she saw who the man was. A bad feeling arose in her heart right then. After all, he was not someone they could provoke, especially since Edward was the scion of a second-tier upper-class family. Not even the Shanahans would dare to offend him.

Severin turned around and looked at the man. "Ah, so you're Edward! You're a wealthy man, aren't you, so much so that you were willing to offer one-and-a-half-million as her dowry!"

Edward frowned when he heard that and looked at Severin. "Who's this guy, Diane? Please don't tell me he's your new man. If you didn't want to be with me, I'd feel a whole lot better if you could at least date some other rich young man instead of being together with garbage like him. Seeing you here with some loser is an insult to me. Are you trying to imply that I'm worse than some poor villager?"

"Garbage, you say?" Severin frowned and clenched his fist.

"Awww, is something the matter? Does the poor villager feel like punching me? You know who I am, don't you? Now that you know that I plan to give the Shanahans a dowry of a million dollars. for Diane, you should be more aware of the gap between us. This gap is so huge that you can't even dream of crossing it. Are you still going to slog me?" Edward grinned coldly, raised his head. slightly, and assumed a position of superiority with a look of contempt.

The four bodyguards behind him immediately took a step forward and were ready to take action if a fight ensued.

“Severin! Don’t be impulsive!” Diane immediately grabbed Severin’s hand when she saw that he was about to raise his fist.

Severin could only grit his teeth. Had he not promised his wife that he would listen to every single thing she said, he would have been halfway through beating that rich kid to a pulp. He smiled faintly, and said to Diane, “I always listen to my wife, and I’m not impulsive!”

When Diane heard this, she blushed at once and glared at Severin. “Severin! Don’t say it like that!”

“You’re calling her your wife now too?”

When Edward saw Severin holding Diane’s hands and calling her his wife, he nearly lost his composure completely. He shot Severin a mean glare and said, “Stay the f*ck away from Diane, boyo. If you don’t, I guarantee you’ll drop dead before you even know it!”

“I’m afraid I can’t honor your request.” Severin smiled faintly. In his heart, he repeated to himself, Don’t lower your status by entertaining a piece of trash.”

“Those are some very stubborn lips you have there. I’ll make you regret it!” Edward chuckled. To keep up his gentlemanly demeanor, he suppressed his anger for the time being and asked Diane.” Did he just call you his wife? Didn’t you say you won’t date anyone ever again when I asked you about it a few days ago? Why is this person calling you his ‘wife’?”

[Chapter 42](#)

At that moment, the woman next to Edward sneered and said, “Are you that clueless, Edward? Do you honestly think that this woman can endure loneliness? She’s probably the kind of woman who pretends to be chaste but slept with a lot of men in reality. These people are very good at putting on a facade, you know. There’s a word for these women-hypocrites!”

that about my

“To hell with you. I don’t care if you want to demean me, but don’t you dare say woman!” Severin clenched his fist again after hearing that. “You deserve a spanking!”

“Edward, look! This loser here wants to hit me!” The woman immediately hid behind Edward, but ironically, her expression seemed to warn him not to lay a hand on her.

However, Diane pulled Severin forcefully and shot him a look that signaled for him not to be impulsive.

She then stepped forward and said, “Do you think I’m that kind of woman, Edward? Besides, you have a wife, and yet here you are shopping with another woman and telling me that you love me. It seems to me that you brought that woman here just to disgust me!”

“Edward’s rich. Why would it matter if a rich man has other women outside of their marriage? Isn’t that normal? You’re the one who shouldn’t be a hypocrite you know. Look at you pretending to be all pure when you’re leading Edward on while dating some other man! Who are you trying to fool by acting all innocent?” The woman shot back like a rabid dog in response to Diane’s remark.

To everyone's surprise, Edward slapped her with the back of his hand. "You stupid b*tch! If you don't have manners when you talk, then don't bother talking at all. I know Diane. You're barely even half as good as her.

"Edward, I..." The woman covered her face in shock. As aggrieved as she was at what happened, she did not dare to say another word.

"F*ck off!" Edward pointed to the door. "Don't you ever show yourself in front of me ever again!"

The woman was so angry, but she could only glare viciously at Diane before turning around to leave. The saleswomen were all very frightened and could only stand helplessly some distance

away.

After all, everyone knew Edward and understood him to be someone who often brought beautiful women out to shop at their store. He might occasionally smack the buttocks of a beautiful saleswoman that he fancied, but then he would spend several thousand after that. The entire store could be turned upside down by his antics and the saleswomen still would not dare to say a thing.

After the woman left, Edward spread his hands open, unbuttoned his collar, and said to Diane, "Since you're not that kind of woman who sleeps around, then do tell me who this man is. I want a clear explanation today, or else I'll have my men crack his eggs open. Would you like to try me?"

"You expect that to do that with just these people?" Severin smiled in disdain when he heard that. Those men were all martial artists, but in his eyes, they were just as weak as ants.

"You're trying to get yourself killed, aren't you?" one of the bodyguards threatened. They were unhappy when they heard his remark. Being able to work as Edward's bodyguards was proof that they had ample skills, and yet there they were being denigrated by a loser.

"You should just give up on me, Edward. I'm his woman, he is Selene's father!" Diane smiled, held Severin's hand, and continued firmly, "He was released ahead of schedule, and all I want now is for my family to live in peace from now on. I hope you won't bother me again!"

"He-He's the b*stard girl's father? That same man?" Edward felt as if he had just been struck by lightning. It had never occurred to him that the man he hated most was none other than the person standing right in front of him!

[Chapter 43](#)

"Screw you!" Severin fumed with rage. He could still tolerate it if other people badmouthed him, but the one thing he could never accept was hearing someone call his daughter a b*stard child!

In a flash, he kicked Edward in the stomach and sent the latter tumbling to the ground.

"Ack!" Edward spat out a mouthful of blood. A shocked expression appeared on his face, as if bewildered at being kicked by a loser like Edward.

“Why is it so hard for you to keep your composure, Severin?” Diane was horrified because she knew that Edward was the scion of a second-tier upper-class family. While there was no doubt that she was just as angry at Edward for the things he said, Severin’s reaction would only make things worse!

“Honey, I can bear with many things, but hearing this son-of-a-b*tch calling Selene a b*stard isn’t one of them!” Severin said angrily.

“Why are you guys just standing there? Beat him up!” Edward struggled to get up and ordered his bodyguards viciously.

“Mom, I’m scared!” Selene was frightened by the sudden development in the situation and hugged Diane’s thigh at once. Severin started to regret his actions when he saw how scared his daughter was. Hitting people might feel good for him, but a frightening experience was hardly ideal for his daughter.

At that moment, however, the four bodyguards had already begun to attack him. Their stance and the way they swung their fists were a clear sign that they were trained individuals, and Severin had no choice but to fight back. He punched them several times in quick succession, and the four bodyguards were all thrown to the ground before they could even land a blow on his body.

“Arghh!” The four bodyguards writhed on the ground and clutched their chests.

“Get up, you losers! I told you to beat him up!” Edward yelled as he retreated. Severin’s skills had scared him out of his wits.

“Sir, I...I feel like my ribs are broken!” One of the bodyguards finally stood up and said with a wince.

“Sir, mine are broken too!”

The other three bodyguards said the same thing too.

“F*ck this!” Edward was completely speechless. He did not expect that his four bodyguards—all of whom were martial artists—were not even able to go up against one person.

“All right, kid. Just you wait. This doesn’t end here!” At last, Edward stormed out with his men and left the premises in embarrassment.

Diane seemed to be a little dumbstruck as she stood behind Severin. After all, she did not expect him to be that capable of holding his own in a fight.

“Yay! Dad won! Isn’t that awesome, Mom?” The fear that Selene earlier had was instantly replaced with joy. She leaped for joy and clapped her hands when Edward and his men left after getting beaten by Severin.

Severin came over, carried Selene tenderly, and kissed her chubby face. “Aren’t you scared, Selene?”

“I was scared that those meanies will beat you up, but you were so strong, Dad! Those bad guys are no match for you!” the little girl said innocently.

Severin breathed a sigh of relief when he heard that and said to Selene, “Great. Would you like to be as good as I am in the future?”

“Yeah!” she answered without hesitation.

Severin smiled. "All right. When you get older, I'll teach you how to punch, hone your inner energy, and turn you into a super-powerful girl! Would you like that?"

"Yay! I can't wait! I want to be just as strong as you next time!"

Selene's happiness showed on her face.

On one side, Diane rolled her eyes at Severin. "Of all the things you could teach your daughter, did you really have to choose fighting skills? And you make it sound so mysterious when you say 'hone your inner energy. I think you just read too many novels!"

"Haha!" Severin laughed in response to her remark. He looked at her from head to toe once more. This dress really does look beautiful on you! You should try on a few others!"

Severin then turned to the fear-stricken Bree who was standing to one side. "Could you bring those dresses over here as well? I'd like my wife to try them too!"

[Chapter 44](#)

"Y-yes, sir!" Bree was so frightened that her voice was trembling slightly. "Who in world is this guy?" she wondered. 'He didn't even think twice before hitting Mister Edward."

Diane tried on several garments again, all of which looked exceptionally good on her.

"I'll take them all!" Severin smiled in satisfaction. He turned to Bree and said, "Could you let me know how much it all costs?"

"You're taking...all... of them?" Bree was taken aback. The most expensive set that they tried on cost upward of about ten thousand, and the cheaper ones were worth a thousand or so. In total there were seven or eight garments, and their price would almost certainly come to a total of well over forty thousand.

"That I am. Did I not make myself clear?" Severin smiled faintly.

"Isn't it a little excessive?" Diane found his gesture to be a little sweet because she never expected Severin to be so willing to spend money on her. Still, those five difficult years of her life made her feel that buying all those clothes was a bit too over the top.

"That's what you call spending an arm and leg, right?" Severin remarked with a smile.

"Sir, the total price after the discount is forty thousand dollars!" Bree came back and said to Severin after she went to one side to do some calculations.

"Great. Now please pack them nicely for me!" Severin smiled and carried his woven bag to the cash register.

"No way! He bought...all of them?" Debra, who was standing not far away, was completely dumbfounded. She wondered if she was in some sort of weird dream where a villager wearing ill-fitting clothes and a woven bag could afford to buy clothes worth 40,000 dollars.

'That sale should've been mine,' she thought. The commission from that transaction was a hefty amount indeed, and because the clothes there were very expensive, being able to sell one or two garments

worth less than a thousand was already an achievement. Meanwhile, dresses worth several thousand would usually sit on the shelves for months.

Surprisingly, Severin bought all of them at once.

“Is he really able to fork out that sum?” The other two senior employees were just as surprised. It was through sheer luck that Bree could make such a huge sale.

Since it was Bree’s first time handling such a big order, she was a little nervous and unconsciously uttered the line, “Would that be cash or card, sir?” She felt dumb after asking that question

because clearly, no one would pay such a huge sum in cash!

To her surprise, Severin smiled and said, “Cash!”

He opened the woven bag to reveal stacks of bills, all of which were tied up in bundles of one thousand. He counted forty-one stacks and tossed them on the counter. “That’s forty thousand, right? Here’s forty-one thousand. The extra is a little tip for you. You’ve provided good service, and your attitude has been excellent too!”

“A tip? But sir...that’s too much!” Bree was taken aback, for she had never imagined that she would receive a tip of a thousand dollars!

“Haha, that’s peanuts!” Severin laughed, closed the zipper of the woven bag, and carried the shopping bag out. Diane and Selene were waiting for him at the entrance.

“Whoa, Bree, you’re so lucky! You’ve made so much money with such a huge tip!”

“You’re going to get a big commission fee from this sale too! I’m so jealous!”

“It’s safe to say that you’ll have no problem being accepted as a full-time employee with that sale. Don’t you think you should treat us to dinner tonight?”

The senior employees looked jealous.

“Okay, okay. I’ll treat everyone to a nice meal tonight!” Bree smiled gleefully.

“Let’s find some clothes for Selene and my parents! too” Severin chuckled, and added as an afterthought, “By the way, I need to buy some toys for my daughter too!”

“What about you? You should buy some nicer clothes too. The ones you’re wearing don’t fit. well anymore!” Diane looked at Severin and reminded him.

Severin replied with a grin, “I didn’t expect you to care so much about me, honey.”

Diane was speechless. She rolled her eyes at him. “I’m just afraid that you’ll embarrass me if wore those clothes and stood by my side. Didn’t you know that I’m the most beautiful woman in the eyes of all those rich young men?”

[Chapter 45](#)

After buying some clothes for Selene, Severin bought two sets each for Judith and Maurice before finally choosing some clothes for himself.

Diane looked at the outfit in front of her and analyzed Severin's body figure before suggesting, "This looks pretty good. Why don't you give it a try?"

"Sure!" Severin nodded and went to the fitting room right away.

When he walked back out, Diane was briefly enthralled by what she saw. The saying that 'clothes make the man' was particularly apt in Severin's case. The handsomeness and tall stature that he possessed was further amplified when changed into better-looking clothes.

"Do I look good, honey?" Severin asked with a smile.

His question finally snapped Diane back to her senses and she nodded. "It does, actually. You should buy a couple more since there probably aren't any nice clothes at home!"

"Okay," Severin answered with a smile. "I'll listen to whatever my wife says!"

Diane felt a little bashful, so she acted coyly and said, "You say that, but did you listen to me when I told you not to do anything to Edward? He's the scion of a second-tier family. Knowing him, I don't think he'll just leave this matter aside just like that. Please don't be impulsive the next time you meet him. Just apologize to him and see if he'll forgive you!" 1

"You can't be serious! Me? Apologizing to him? He hit on my woman and called my daughter a b* stard! He's lucky I didn't snap his neck then and there!" Severin was not pleased to hear Diane say that, but the second he saw her gloomy and unhappy face, he could only smile. "Okay, okay, I'll try my

very best to be less impulsive in the future, and I'll tolerate it as far as I possibly can. I'll be as tolerant and forgiving as a priest! That should do it, right?"

"Pfft!" Severin's words made Diane laugh, and her smile was more beautiful than the flowers in springtime.

After leaving the shopping mall, Severin said, "Sigh, I spent so much money that there are only about eighty-five thousand dollars left."

"What's the matter? Have you finally learned how to appreciate money? Did you think that you were rich just because you've got a hundred-and-ninety-thousand dollars? You probably feel a little heartbroken now that you spent so much, right?" Diane said smugly.

Severin smiled. "I don't feel heartbroken at all. I'm just a little emotional. I mean, this is my first time spending so much money in one go!"

The bank card given by the old wacko contained astronomical figures. Though it might be a stretch to say that the money within was like a country's coffers, one would not be too far off to say that.

"It's about time we head back to your home. Your parents should be very happy to see the clothes that you bought for them!" Diane suggested.

To her surprise, Severin responded, "Now? I think we should buy a car first, honey! We don't have one yet, and this cash is pretty heavy to carry around. A car will be so much more convenient for us to go out in the future!"

“Whoa, you really were telling me the truth, Mom! Dad did come back after earning a lot of money! We’ll have a good life in the future!”

After hearing that they were going to buy a car, Selene’s eyes lit up and she was overjoyed!

“Okay. A car would also be super convenient for you to drive Selene to and from kindergarten in the future!” Diane nodded in agreement.

“Would it be better to get an Audi, a BMW, or a Mercedes-Benz? Maybe a Maserati? How about a Ferrari?”

Chapter 46

Severin began hesitating over which brand would be best.

In any case, an Audi or something similar would be the least he should get since he already had a net worth of tens of millions. After all, if he continued to keep a low profile too much, he was worried that karma might strike back at him for his actions. 1

that

“Audi? Maserati? I think you’ve gone nuts after getting that little bit of money. That money you just got back was your parents’ hard-earned money. Are you going to spend it all? Have you forgotten. your family still owes money to some of your relatives? I overheard your parents talking about it when I dropped by there once!” Diane lambasted him angrily. “Even if you have money, you can’t just spend it like there’s no tomorrow, you know? I only allowed you to buy clothes for me, Selene, and your parents, because I’m treating the entire purchase as you making it up to us. As for the car, you have absolutely no reason to buy one that’s so expensive!”

Severin felt a little ashamed when he saw that Diane was genuinely angry. He tried to probe for another response by asking, “But what if I told you I have millions? And by that, I mean, tens and tens of millions!”

Diane could only stare blankly at him in return. “Tens of millions? How is that even possible? Who are you trying to fool?” She walked away angrily after that.

Severin felt a little speechless, because he had already told her the truth, and it was up to her to believe it. If he went a step further and showed her the money in the bank account, she might just get a heart attack from seeing all those zeroes, and that was something he would prefer to avoid. from happening.

Needless to say, Severin felt that it would be better for him to keep a low profile for the moment since that would allow him to see how his relatives reacted after his return. It would be bad for him if everyone knew that he had all that money because then there might be a ton of people asking to borrow money from him. That would be annoying, to say the least.

With that in mind, Severin chased after her and apologized. “Okay, honey. I won’t brag anymore. I’ll listen to whatever you say and buy whatever car you think is best!”

Diane stopped walking and turned to him. “I decided on a model long ago, actually. Let’s just get a Chevrolet Spark. The price range for this car is just over ten thousand or so. As long as it can bring us from Point A to Point B, it’s more than enough for us!”

“You’re right, honey. Having a car to bring us around will be much better than having to walk!”

Severin had a look of approval while deep down he felt a surge of warmth. Judging by how Diane put it, she was indeed a good wife and mother who knew how to save money. Lucy, on the other hand, would have insisted that he buy a whole subway line for her if she knew that he had millions! After all, her vanity was more important than anything else.

“The main reason I chose that car is because you still have to pay back the money that your parents borrowed! I also want Selene to go to a better kindergarten, and the cost of one semester at some of the better ones can be as high as several thousand! We need to save as much money as we possibly can!” Diane smiled wryly.

“I never knew my wife would be such a whiz at managing the family finances! Let’s get that Chevy then!” Severin said with a smile.

Before long, the three of them took a taxi to a car showroom, where they bought their Chevrolet. Spark and drove it home.

“By the way, honey, how’d you know that I was in the Richemont Hotel?” Severin could not figure -out the answer to that and decided to just ask Diane.

“I went to your house to look for you, but you weren’t there. Then I remembered that Easton and Lucy were getting married today, so I went to the wedding venue because I was worried that you’d cause trouble there. I didn’t think you’d cause trouble for real!”

After Diane finished speaking, she rolled her eyes at Severin and chided, “Is it so hard to let your parents have some peace of mind when it comes to you? They’re already old. It won’t be good for them to hear of your troublemaking. And personally, I’d like for us to live a good and peaceful life in the future. That’s more than enough.”

“Okay, honey, don’t you worry! I’ll make it up to you for sure!” Severin nodded seriously. “This time, I’m officially bringing you back to meet my parents!”

“Meet your parents...?” Diane’s mind went blank, and it was obvious that she did not know what to say to him.

[Chapter 47](#)

“Maurice! I have bad news. Very bad news!” Judith rushed into the front yard in a panic while Maurice was resting there.

“What’s going on?” Maurice was taken aback. He had no idea what was happening, but he could sense from Judith’s flustered expression that something was gravely wrong.

Judith panted heavily. “I went out to buy some groceries earlier and heard some people talking about some guy who caused trouble at Lucy and Easton’s wedding today. There are rumors that the person known as Blade even showed up there with hundreds of men!”

“Do you mean to say that our son went there to cause trouble?” Maurice was quite frightened by what he heard. If that was the case, then there was a possibility that his son might be killed. After all, many people vanished without a trace after offending the Loughs.

Meanwhile, Blade was the kind of name that sounded like bad news, and it was more likely than not that he was a person that should not be offended!

“Severin was nowhere to be seen when I got up this morning, and then there was that unknown woman who came over in a hurry to look for him, but left as soon as she found out that he wasn’t home! This is very bad! Severin must be in trouble! What should we do?” Judith asked anxiously.

“What did those people say, exactly? Didn’t you ask what happened next? Severin hasn’t come back yet even though it’s already past noon. Do you think something could have happened to him? “Maurice was starting to panic too, and he was at a loss over what to do next. After all, it was already about four or five o’clock in the late afternoon, and the wedding would already have ended

much earlier.

“I rushed back after I heard what they said and didn’t ask any other questions. I’m worried, Maurice. What if Severin’s in trouble again? He was just released! How are we going to live our days if he goes back to prison? What are we going to do if they beat him up and crippled him? Or worse...killed him?!” Judith could not bear to think of the situation that Severin might be facing.

At that moment, a small car drove right past the gate and parked in the front yard.

“Whose car could it be?” Maurice and Judith looked at each other in confusion, and they could see that the car seemed to be rather fresh out of the showroom. Soon, Severin, Diane, and Selene got down.

“Severin? What’s happening?” Judith was relieved to see Severin return. “What’s with the car?”

Severin smiled and said, “I bought it!”

“You b-b-b-bought it? Where did you get the money to buy it?” Judith uttered in disbelief. She could never have imagined the day when he would come back home with a small car. As if that was not shocking enough, Severin was wearing a handsome set of new clothes, and even his shoes were brand new and made of shiny leather. 1

“Well, I wanted to buy an Audi or a BMW, but Diane didn’t allow it, so I followed her advice and got a Chevy instead!” Severin looked at the beautiful woman beside him with a smile on his face. He felt extremely lucky to have a wife like her.

“Diane?” Maurice had been wondering who that woman was, and after taking a careful look at her, he said, “Isn’t she the one who came to our home this morning? Her dress is so beautiful that I almost didn’t recognize her anymore!”

“Mom, Dad, this is my wife, Diane. And this little girl here is our daughter, Selene!” Severin smiled, stepped forward, and took Diane’s hand while introducing them to his parents.

“Wife?!”

“Daughter?!!”

The old couple gasped in surprise and their jaws nearly fell to the ground. Their son had just come out of prison a day earlier. Seeing him with a car was already big enough of a shock for them, and hearing that he had a wife and daughter simply left them dumbstruck.

[Chapter 48](#)

Furthermore, the dress that she was wearing did not look cheap at all. Maurice and Judith's first thought was, 'Did my son get together with a rich woman in just one day?'

Severin smiled and said, "Yes. She's the one who gave you money every month..."

"Diane! Please have a seat." Maurice smiled awkwardly and did not know what to say next. He was still stunned to know that his son had left the home as a single man earlier than morning and suddenly came back with a wife and daughter later in the day.

Judith pulled Severin to one side and Maurice immediately followed them too.

"What on earth is going on here? You need to give us an explanation! She's quite a pretty young woman, but isn't it a little too sudden to have a wife and a daughter? Is she a divorcee?"

After thinking for a while, Judith could not help but say, "Will she even like us when we're so poor?"

That was when Severin explained everything to the two of them.

"I see! So that's how it is. This is the Shanahans' eldest young miss. I didn't expect that the man she slept with back then was you!" Maurice was overwhelmed when he heard his explanation. That incident caused quite a stir back then, so they did have a general idea of what happened. Still, it hardly crossed their minds that the man Diane slept with was their son.

"So, she's the one who secretly gave us money in the past few years. Severin, these few years were probably really hard for her. She came from an upper-class family, was kicked out of her family home, and insisted on giving birth to her baby. Being a single mother is difficult enough, and yet she still found it in her to help your father and me. You need to make sure to treat her well in the future!"

After pondering over it for a bit, Judith glanced at Diane who was sitting quietly there and said sternly to Severin, "I'll disown you if you ever do anything to let her down!"

Maurice agreed. "Yes. She's a good woman, and she even waited all those years for you! A woman like her is a hundred times better than Lucy, so you must be good to her. We'll be happy as she doesn't think too badly of us being poor!"

Severin smiled. "Don't worry, you two. We're not poor!"

Having said that, Severin walked over, opened the trunk of the car, and took out several shopping bags full of clothes. "These are for you."

"W-w-why did you buy all these clothes? It's such a waste of money! You should've just bought them for your wife and daughter," Judith remarked when she saw Severin carrying out all those clothes.

Severin smiled. "Relax, Mom. I bought some for them too. Everyone gets clothes!"

Severin then turned to Selene and said, "These are your grandparents, Selene. Say hi to them!"

The little girl looked at Maurice and Judith before calling out timidly, "Hi, Grandpa! Hi, Grandma!"

"Oh, my dear little granddaughter!" Judith's heart was filled with joy. Though she was glad that

Severin had returned, she was nonetheless worried that it would be difficult for him to find a wife. Given his age, their family's lack of money, and the debt they still owed, her worries were most definitely justified. She was therefore pleasantly surprised that he had brought back a beautiful wife and even a little girl whom she could call her granddaughter.

"I can't be happier!" Maurice nodded immediately once more and his eyes turned red with excitement.

At that moment, Severin looked at Diane and said to her, "How long are you going to wait before you call them mom and dad?"

"I..." Diane opened her mouth to speak, but she was still a little awkward and was still not accustomed to it.

The old couple glanced eagerly at her when they saw her preparing to speak. However, Diane quickly lowered her head again and acted as if she could not bring herself to say it. Judith immediately smiled awkwardly and said, "Don't push her, Severin. She only just came here, and we haven't gotten to know each other better yet. Don't worry about it. She can always call us that a little later!"

At that time, Diane bravely raised her head and said to the old couple, "Mom, Dad! From now on, we're a family, so let's live a happy life together. I hope you'll bear with my shortcomings!"

[Chapter 49](#)

"Yes, that sounds good. From today on, we're a family!" When Judith heard Diane calling her 'mom', she felt overwhelmed with excitement in an instant. "Agh, I didn't know that my daughter-in-law and my granddaughter were coming today, so I didn't buy much groceries today. I'll head out right away and get some more!"

"Oh, sure!" Maurice could not have been happier too. Diane was a very beautiful woman, and she was also born as the eldest young miss to a well-known family in the Shanahans. It was truly a blessing that Severin had the chance to marry someone like her.

"You don't need to go out again, Mom. We'll be moving elsewhere anyway, so let's eat out for dinner tonight!" Severin stopped her as soon as he saw Judith heading for the door.

That was when Judith finally reacted. "Yeah. We should eat out tonight! Wait...did you say we're moving? Where are we moving to? And where did you get the money for this car?"

Severin went to the rear of the car, took out the woven bag, and opened it in front of Judith and Maurice.

"Severin! Where did all this money come from?! Don't frighten me like that!" Judith was terrified to see all that cash.

"I heard that someone caused trouble at Easton and Lucy's wedding today. It wasn't you, was it?"

Maurice asked.

Severin grinned and said, "It was me!"

"But that can't be possible! How did they eventually let you go?" Maurice could not believe what he just heard.

Severin then explained, "Mom, Dad, remember the forty-thousand-dollar dowry that you gave the Orwells? And remember our house that was originally worth three hundred thousand but she sold it off to Easton for half that price? Well, the total comes to a-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars, so I told the Orwells to return the money to me!"

"But how? Your father was beaten up when he went to ask for the forty thousand, so how could they have been all right with returning more than three times that amount? I know Helga's character. She'll never return any money that was given to her." Judith still could not believe that the Orwells would return the dowry as well as the balance for the price of the house.

Diane joined in the conversation from beside and explained, "Because Severin has medical skills, and he saved the life of the Longhorns' Mister Henry. The Longhorns are a first-tier upper-class family, and he's the head. With Henry there to speak up for Severin, the Loughs wouldn't dare to object at all! Even the Shanahans would be afraid of crossing the Longhorns!"

After getting a rough idea of the situation, Maurice and Judith breathed a sigh of relief.

"There's still eighty-five thousand left. It's for you two to spend!" Severin smiled. "This is to make up for all the suffering you went through in the past few years!"

"No, no, no, we can't possibly take all this money." Judith hastily declined and explained her rationale for doing so. "Selene is almost ready to go to kindergarten, and you two also need to

spend a lot of money too. You should be keeping it for yourself!"

Diane felt a little emotional too, and she said to Judith, "You were in the same boat as I was in the past few years. I know that a lot of people look down on you behind your back, saying that your son is a criminal." After some further thought, she then said firmly, "Mom, Dad... You should take it. It's Severin's way of showing his filial piety to his parents!"

Severin took Diane's hand. "I promise I'll give Diane the perfect wedding and make up for lost time!"

Diane rolled her eyes at Severin. "What nonsense are you talking about? Our daughter is already four years old. It's a little too late for it now!"

Although Diane did somewhat regret not having a wedding, she knew better than anyone that she would be the butt of jokes again if she organized one that was too simple and did not put much effort into it. After all, she was the Shanahans' eldest young miss, and there were quite a few rich people who knew her. It was clear that Severin did not have the financial ability to give her a more luxurious wedding, so she did not put too much hope for one as a result!

"I can assure you that I'll make everything up to you in the future. You have my word that I won't embarrass your family!" Severin said firmly.

[Chapter 50](#)

"Okay, okay. Let's not talk about that anymore. We'll just take half this money then. You two can take the other half!" Judith finally said after giving it some more thought.

"That'll work too. We still owe Aunt Marie's family money, don't we? I'll just use our half to pay back the debt!" Severin nodded.

He then said to his parents, "It's getting late now, so why don't we just move to our new place right away? It's not like there's a lot of stuff to pack up."

"What do you mean there's not a lot of stuff to pack up? I'd still like to bring a few more clothes!" Judith hurried in.

"Is the place you're renting far from here? If it's not, you guys can drive and I'll go there on my bike! Maurice seemed to think that Severin had rented a better place because he did not want his family to live in an old and dilapidated house.

Severin was speechless for a moment. "Just leave the bike here, Dad. I have money, so you don't need to feel like you have to be frugal in the future. You're both at an age where you should enjoy life!"

"Haha, all right, all right. We'll enjoy ourselves in the future!" Maurice smiled contentedly. From the looks of it, his son had matured and showed much more promise in life.

The old couple packed up some clothes and then put them with their valuables in the trunk.

"Diane, this is a jade bracelet handed down through generations within our family. You're with Severin now, but there's nothing we can give to you. I hope you won't dislike this little gift too much. It might not be very valuable, but it's the least we can do for you!"

Judith took out a bracelet from a box and handed it to Diane. Diane smiled and put it on. "Thank you. It's really beautiful! I like it a lot!"

"I'm glad you do!" Judith laughed.

Seeing as Diane was getting along very well with his parents and did not seem averse to their poor family, Severin became even more determined to ensure that Diane never suffered again in the future. It did not take long for Severin to drive them to a villa area. Their place was a straight drive up the top of the mountain.

"Did you go the wrong way, Severin? This area is for rich people!" Judith and Maurice were sitting at the back of the car, and they were terrified when they saw Severin preparing to drive up the mountain.

"I heard that the villas here cost several million! Do people even put these places up for rent?" Maurice gulped and wondered if he was dreaming.

"Relax, you two!" Severin smiled and got ready to drive up.

Before he could reach the top, however, there was a security checkpoint and a gate that stopped them from proceeding further.

“Sir, I’m sorry, but did you drive the wrong way? You’re reaching Dragon Lake Vista soon if you keep driving up. Outsiders are strictly forbidden from entering!”

Of the three security guards that were chatting idly at the guardhouse, one of them walked over and asked politely after seeing Severin’s Chevrolet.

“I’m a homeowner here. Please open the gates for me. The security check doesn’t recognize my car because I just bought it today and haven’t registered it with the management yet!” Severin explained to the security guard with a smile.

“You’re a homeowner?” The security guard’s expression turned weird all of a sudden and he smiled mockingly, “Are you sure you’re a homeowner here? It would’ve been more believable if you said that you were just visiting a relative. Are you really telling me that you own one of the villas here? Why would someone who has the financial means to own this place choose to drive a Chevy?”

Severin’s face turned sour. “Is there some kind of rule preventing homeowners from driving a Chevy? Do you look down on Chevys?”