

## Chapter 51

Linda looked around but didn't see Ethan. She was upset.

She couldn't believe that Ethan got Dr. Smith fired that fast. And then he just vanished.

Linda didn't believe what Dr. Smith had told. However, she thought she had to find Ethan and ask him herself.

Thinking of this, she rushed to the nearest bus stop and rode the last bus back to campus.

Back on campus, Linda still couldn't find Ethan.

It was almost the call time for her performance at the bar. She decided to look for Ethan tomorrow.

Linda went straight to The Queens Bar.

When Ethan and the others had finished their meal, it was already dark outside.

Ethan was going to get back to campus afterward, but Mr. Paker insisted on buying drinks for Ethan at The Queens Bar.

Ethan couldn't refuse him and went along.

Before getting into the car, Maggie handed Ethan a cellphone and told him that she wouldn't go with him because she wasn't feeling well.

Mr. Paker was delighted that Ethan accepted his invitation to the bar he owned.

Having one of his men make such a mistake, it was a great opportunity for Mr. Paker to apologize to Ethan.

The two got in the car and drove to The Queens Bar.

At this time, customers just started to show up. The lobby had been packed with them.

On the stage in front of the bar, a young woman was singing.

Seeing the singer, Ethan couldn't help thinking of Linda.

Ethan sighed. He couldn't understand why he felt so bad when thinking that Linda had misunderstood him.

Mr. Paker smiled when he saw that Ethan was lost in thought. He immediately whispered, "What's the matter, Mr. Ethan? You're interested in her? Do you want me to..."

Although Mr. Paker's words were obscure, Ethan understood what he meant, judging by the look on his face.

Ethan shook his head. "No, no, no, you misunderstand me. I...She reminds me of someone."

Finishing his words, Ethan was about to find himself somewhere to sit.

But Mr. Paker smiled and said that he had reserved a private room for Ethan on the second floor.

Ethan nodded and followed Mr. Paker.

Mr. Paker wasn't stingy to Ethan. He offered a few bottles of his most precious wine collection. Ethan felt bad to refuse him, so he drank a little more.

Mr. Paker smiled and gestured to one of his men to go outside...

After a while, the guy came back with the young singer they saw earlier.

Ethan was surprised and asked, "What... what is this?"

Mr. Paker smiled and said, "I saw that you seemed to be interested in her, so...Don't worry. She is a college student too. It's all been taken care of. As long as you like..."

Ethan was upset by Mr. Paker's suggestion. He glared at him, got up, and left.

"Mr. Ethan..." Mr. Paker realized that he just irritated Ethan.

But before he could say anything, the young singer followed Ethan.

"Mr. Ethan..." the young singer took Ethan's arm.

She seemed to know what she was doing. She whispered into Ethan's ear, holding his arm.

Ethan's face dropped. He quickly pushed her away and went downstairs.

At this time, there were more customers in the lobby than earlier.

On Ethan's way out, he saw a group of people was gathering around the stage. It seemed that something had happened.

Ethan looked over. He saw that a guy had jumped onto the stage and yank the female singer off the stage and out of the bar.

Everyone was stunned and confused by the scene.

The guy totally ignored the people's reactions. He was dragging the girl and yelling.

"B\*\*tch, I finally got you! I'll see where the f\*\*k can you run this time!"

Some of the male customers couldn't stand him for behaving so rudely. They ran up and tried to stop him.

Someone shouted, "What are you doing? Being so rude to a girl! If there's something wrong, can you just talk it through?"

The guy yelled back, "Talk? Who are you to blame me for being rude? This woman is too disgusting. I am her boyfriend, but she cheated on me by playing threesome with two other guys. I walked in on them, and she asked the two guys to beat me up. Look at the wound on my head!"

The guy said as he pointed at his wounded head.

His injury made his words very believable. People gasped.

People had thought that the guy was too rude to the girl. But after hearing the guy's words, people thought the girl had it coming, cheated on, and beat up her boyfriend.

People started talking.

"What's going on with this world. Look at her, with a face as naive as that, who'd thought she did something so disgusting!"

"Such a deceiving face she's having! Look at that guy's head. He had quite a few stitches. After being treated like that, it was very merciful of him not to beat her up. If I were him..."

Listening to the crowd's criticism and being pulled by the guy, the girl burst into tears.

She fought against the guy and said, "No, no, he lied. I don't know him..."

Before the girl could finish her words, the guy slapped her fiercely and said, "You are f\*\*king denying? B\*\*h! Linda, I tell you, I wasn't coming here to give you a hard time. As long as you come with me so we can talk about the whole thing, I won't give you a hard time!"

While speaking, the guy glanced out of the bar.

There was a van parked outside the bar. Inside, four other guys were standing by.

They were coming with the guy for kidnapping Linda.

And the guy was no other than Nick, who was beaten up by Ethan that day.

Being beaten up, he couldn't just let it go.

He hated Ethan to the core, and Linda too.

He had things planned out. Had Linda kidnapped, and he and his guys would rape her.

Seeing his plan was about to come together, Nick was excited. He dragged Linda out, pretending to be sad and angry. He said to the crowd, "You see, she even wouldn't admit our relationship..."

"Linda, I've been so good to you. For you to buy fancy bags, I took three jobs at the same time. We've been dating for two years, and I haven't laid a finger on you because you said you wanted to take it slow. I thought you were a traditional girl, but you just did two men at the same time. You're a sl\*t!"

The boy's words immediately excited a couple of young women in the crowd.

Someone poured a glass of beer on Linda's head and shouted, "Sl\*t! you disgust me! How can you treat your boyfriend like that? He has been so good to you!"

"You are a disgrace to women! Go to hell, you wh\*re! You are so ungrateful to your boyfriend?"

"Two men at once? Weren't you tired? If you are that horny, why don't you go and get a horse?"

Obviously, Nick had stirred up the crowd. People poured all kinds of trash on Linda.

Nick was very happy about what he had achieved. He believed that his plan had succeeded.

There were many people around, but no one helped Linda.

Even the staff from the bar stood out of it, after believing that it's the affair between couples.

Nick was overjoyed. He was about to drag her away but had been shoved.

Nick almost fell.

"Who the f\*\*k is that?" Nick was angry and scolded, "I'm dealing with my woman. What's your business?"

Ethan pushed Nick away. He grabbed and held Linda and cleaned her up. He stared at the crowd with anger.

"You again? Want to be beaten up again? Try to mess with her again!" After seeing Nick's face, Ethan's face dropped.

Nick didn't expect to meet Ethan again. He first was surprised and then sneered.

He suddenly pointed at Ethan and said to the crowd with the look of grievance, "Look, it's this guy! He slept with my girlfriend and hit me. Now he even threatened me. That's him!"

After hearing Nick's words, the crowd all looked at Ethan and started to point fingers at him.

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"So it was him? He's even more disgusting than that sl\*t. He slept with other people's girlfriend, beat him up, and now he's here?"

"I say these two cheaters had their secret date here, but her boyfriend found out. I'm gonna record this and upload it to the campus group chat so that everyone can see this b\*tch couple..."

Suddenly there were many cellphones video-recording Linda and Ethan.

"Come and see, everyone. He slept with the other guy's girlfriend and beat the boyfriend. He is even threatening the poor guy in public!"

"Everyone, please remember this pair of b\*tch couple. Stay away from them..."

Seeing the excitement of the crowd, Nick felt proud of himself, thinking that it was a happy accident.

He just planned to kidnap Linda, but who'd thought Ethan just gave himself away.

The most ridiculous thing was how gullible the crowd was. Nick fooled everyone by only a couple of words. And they criticized Linda and Ethan viciously.

"That's awesome. With the help of these idiots, it's awesome!" Nick said in pleasure.

At this time, the crowd was getting over-excited. Someone punched Ethan from behind.

Ethan felt a burst of pain. When he turned around, someone kicked him in the front. People had been throwing things at Linda, and she was screaming from the pain.

Ethan was completely furious. He stared at the crowd with anger.

He wasn't going to argue with them. Ethan didn't think it worth the trouble.

But at this moment, Ethan couldn't let it go anymore. Not only the crowd believed Nick's words, but they also became physical, which was something Ethan couldn't stand!

Ethan was protecting Linda and trying to get help.

Mr. Paker was upstairs. Ethan was hoping the noise could get Mr. Paker's attention, or even just his men's.

As long as Mr. Paker could get down here, no one could get away with hurting Linda and himself.

But the moment Ethan got up, before he could make a sound, he was kicked in the back again.

"Everyone, hurry up and beat them up. Someone had run upstairs to report on us. Let's finish them and run away..."

It was Nick who shouted the words and kicked Ethan.

Nick knew Ethan was trying to get up and shout for help. So he kicked Ethan to shut him up.

He also knew that Mr. Paker was the owner of this bar. If Mr. Paker found out, Nick would be in serious trouble.

So he quickly shut Ethan up and instigated others to beat Ethan.

Mr. Paker would know something had been going down by the noise alone. So he would be coming down very soon. When the time came, it would be too late for Nick to run away.

So Nick planned on inciting everyone to attack Ethan. When people had run away, even if Mr. Paker wanted to investigate, he would not be able to pinpoint who was responsible.

Hearing Nick's words, the crowd was getting crazier.

More than a dozen men and women started to beat up Ethan and Linda.

Seeing this, Ethan quickly covered Linda with his own body, letting fists and feet fall on him like raindrops.

Nick grabbed a bottle and smashed to the back of Ethan's head.

"Bang..." the glass shards scattered everywhere.

People were stunned.

They just wanted some fistfight, and no one hoped to see blood.

But Nick had knocked Ethan down. Ethan tried to stand up but eventually fell down on the floor. Blood flowed down from his head.

Everyone was scared and staring at Nick.

But Nick didn't take it seriously. He smiled smugly and spat at Ethan. Then he fled the scene.

Almost at the same time, someone from the crowd shouted, "Bouncers are here, run..."

People were panicked and running out of the bar...

There were only a couple of people who managed to get away by the time Mr. Paker got down.

Mr. Paker was petrified by the look downstairs.

He saw Ethan lying in a pool of blood, and Linda was holding him and crying out loud. Ethan was covered with his own blood.

"I'm going to die here!" Mr. Paker's heart dropped, "Hurry up, send Mr. Ethan to the hospital!"

He looked at the people who were trying to get out of the door, boiling with anger. He shouted, "No one leaves, beat them all up!"

Mr. Paker was really angry this time!

He had just dealt with the incident of his man who hit Ethan. However, he never had thought that things could get as horrible as this.

In his own bar, Ethan was beaten into unconsciousness, lying in his own blood. If Eric Norman found out about this from abroad, Mr. Paker's life would definitely be over.

So Mr. Paker completely lost his temper. He ordered the bouncers to beat up the remaining people.

All the bouncers were specially trained. It didn't take long for them to take everyone down on the ground.

Mr. Paker picked up Ethan and rushed out of the bar. He got into a black Audi and drove away as fast as he could...

Ethan finally woke up.

When he opened his eyes, he could see a lot of white.

"You're awake!" A voice was heard, with a hint of relief in the tone.

It was from Maggie. She quickly came to Ethan's bed and helped him sit up.

"Is this... a hospital?" Ethan asked in confusion.

Maggie nodded. "You're in a hospital. But we are in Ocean City."

"Ah!" Ethan was surprised. He didn't expect that he worked up in Ocean City, which was hundreds of miles from Buckeye.

Maggie smiled and explained, "Your head was injured before. It wasn't serious, but for safety measures, we took you to Ocean City. The hospital here is better."

Ocean City, a metropolis, was far away from Buckeye.

"How long have I been out?"

"About twenty hours." Maggie said, "You have a minor concussion. We are searching for the person who is responsible for this. Please don't be merciful this time. The order comes down directly from Mr. Norman, and he wants the person to be dealt with."

Maggie's tone was calm. Ethan knew that Nick was doomed.

His father ordered it personally. Ethan couldn't interfere with it anymore.

Ethan suddenly remembered something and asked in a hurry, "Where's Linda? How's she? Is she all right? Where is she?"

Maggie frowned. She thought for a moment and said, "Oh, you mean the girl who was with you at the bar? She's outside. She seems to have something to say to you."

Hearing that Linda was outside, Ethan was relieved and said in a hurry, "Let her in."

Maggie nodded and walked out of the room. She opened the door, and Linda was standing right in front of her.

"You know what you are supposed to say?" Maggie said in a lower volume.

Linda nodded slightly. She was a little nervous and didn't dare to look at Maggie.

Linda slowly walked into the room. She looked worried when she saw Ethan.

"Linda, come and sit down." Ethan greeted Linda with a big smile on his face. He was trying to get Linda an apple.

Seeing this, Linda quickly shook her head and said, "No, thank you, Ethan, I'm good. I want to say something to you."

## Chapter 53

Ethan was surprised. He hanged his hand in the air and asked, "What is it?"

Linda said, "I didn't believe that you were from a rich family. I saw how you dressed, and I thought that we were the same kind of people. But I just found out yesterday just how wrong I was."

Linda hesitated for a moment and continued, "I must admit it to you. I didn't believe you at all and thought you were fictitious. I apologize to you."

Ethan smiled and said, "Why? We are friends. It's okay. You are not the only one who misread me. Everyone who doesn't know my real identity does that. You don't have to..."

"No!" Linda interrupted, "I came here to tell you that I don't think it's appropriate for us to meet again."

Ethan was stunned. "Why?"

Linda smiled coldly and said, "Why? Because we are not the same. You are wealthy, and I am poor. How do you think we can be friends? To tell you what, I used to treat you as a friend because I thought you were poor like myself. But now you aren't. I don't think I can see you as a friend anymore because I hate rich people like you..."

"Why?" Ethan frowned.

Linda looked desolate. She sighed, "People like you will never care about other people. To tell you the truth, my dad is someone like you. He abandoned my mom after finding out she was pregnant with me. Do you think that I'll allow people like you to be in my life?"

Hearing this, Ethan felt that he had been wronged.

It's unfair to think that I will behave like your dad!

Linda didn't give Ethan a chance to explain, and she continued, "I hope that you can stay away from me. I don't want to get involved with anything around you rich people, such as this one."

Linda turned to leave after finishing her words. But she suddenly stopped and turned to Ethan and said, "Please don't come to find me anymore."

And then she ran out of the room, leaving Ethan with confusion.

He didn't understand why Linda's attitude changed so drastically after knowing Ethan was from a rich family.

Ethan couldn't figure out what's going on with Linda. He found Linda's words didn't make sense.

Nick quickly got out of bed and chased after her, but when Ethan was out, Linda had gone away.

He only saw Maggie, with her hands crossed in front of her chest, staring at Ethan indifferently.

"Where...where did she go?" Asked Ethan.

"She's left," Maggie said.

Ethan was about to run after when Maggie stopped him.

"Let it go. If you can make her change her mind, she won't tell you those words in the first place!" Maggie walked up to Ethan and said, "I know you like her, but she doesn't belong to your world. You two will never be together. Be realistic!"

Maggie's words seemed to persuade Ethan.

He sighed and thought, "It's true. Running after her wouldn't make any difference if she has made up her mind."

Ethan sensed that maybe what Linda said was not all true. There must be some reasons behind it.

Or perhaps Linda was telling the truth about her father. But did she really believe that Ethan would make the same mistake as being who he is?

Ethan sighed heavily. He walked back to the room ponderously.

Looking at the back of Ethan, Maggie also sighed. She could see that Ethan was really interested in Linda.

But she couldn't do anything about it. In fact, it was Ethan's father's idea to make Linda say those words. He opposed them to be together.

Maggie shook her head. She knew that Eric had no choice but to do so.

It took Eric more than twenty years to be where he was, and he was about to achieve his grand plan. So Eric was meticulously careful about every aspect of his life.

That included who Ethan was with. Eric had to be cautious about the person Ethan was close with.

After all, everything Eric was doing, he did it for Ethan. Eric didn't want his efforts to be in vain.

Maggie paused for a moment and was about to go comforting Ethan. She turned her head and saw Mr. Paker walking up to her in a hurry.

"What's wrong?" Maggie frowned and asked.

"I've found him. The one who beat Mr. Ethan!"

"Great, are your men heading over? Be careful when you do it..."

Mr. Paker nodded and quickly took out his phone.

In an apartment near Buckeye University campus, a couple of young men were drinking beer and playing pokers.

A young man said, "F\*\*k you! What did you promise us yesterday? You said you'd get us that chick!"

"That's right. You had your fun of beating up that motherf\*\*ker. But what about us? I don't care. You have to make up for us!"

"Yes. Didn't you con thousands of dollars out of her? Take those out and buy us some girls..."

They were talking and laughing, staring at the guy with gauze wrapped around his head.

He looked depressed. He threw away his cards and cursed, "F\*\*k you all! You want to have fun? I want fun too. But I've spent all the f\*\*king money. And I still..."

This guy was Nick. Before he could finish his words, someone banged on the door.

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, "Who comes here in the daytime?"

"Someone's girl?"

Nick scolded, "Cut the fucking sh\*t out. Go get the f\*\*king door!"

As he spoke, Nick got up for the door.



He opened the door and said, "Who are you looking for..."

He was stunned by the person outside.

Standing outside was a six-foot-tall bulky guy. He was wearing a pair of sunglasses. He looked down at Nick and asked in a low voice, "Are you Jack Campbell?"

Nick frowned and said without hesitation, "Yes, who are you?"

The bulky man grinned and suddenly took out an iron baseball bat from behind him. "I'm looking for you!"

Nick was shocked. He tried to run away.

But before he could make a move, he felt a breeze behind his head and then a blow on his back. Nick was knocked down on the floor.

"Ouch... Who are you? Why did you hit me?" Nick looked at the bulky man with fear.

The man had no facial expression. Waving the bat, he said, "Do you know who did you mess with?"

The bulky guy swang the bat at Nick's shin...

"Ah..."

Nick cried out loud. He rolled all over the floor out of pain.

His leg was obviously bent.

Hearing the sound, the other guys rushed out. They were stunned by what they were seeing.

"Hey, what are you doing?"

The man turned over and looked at them with a sneer. "What am I doing? Taking his life!"

The man aimed his bat at Nick's other leg. Nick screamed miserably. His other leg was broken after one blow...

The other guys were petrified by the scene. They were watching Nick being beaten up but didn't dare to move.

The man lifted the bat again. Before he swang it down, his cell phone suddenly rang.

He picked up the phone, a voice from the other side said, "That's enough, mission accomplished"

The man answered and hung up the phone. He smiled coldly at Nick and said, "You're lucky. I was aiming at your head!"

As soon as the man finished his words, a siren was heard from outside.

## Chapter 54

The sound of the siren gave Nick hope. He, enduring the pain, looked up at the man and said, "Haha, the f\*\*king police is here, scared much?"

Nick suddenly shouted to his friends, "Guys, call the cops! Quickly!"

They were on the second floor. The police could hear their screams from outside.

A long-haired guy from the group looked at others and gritted his teeth. He then rushed to the window and shouted, "Help, murder here..."

The call for help gave Nick's people a big relief. Nick looked at the bulky man with a ferocious look on his face. He cursed angrily, "F\*\*k you, bi\*\*h! I'm going to kill you! Just wait for it..."

Before Nick could finish his words, he heard the sound of footsteps in the hallway.

The bulky man smiled and hid the bat in his sleeve. He turned toward the doorway.

Before stepping out, he turned around and said to Nick, "You are ignorant and stupid!"

As soon as the bulky man finished speaking, two police officers rushed toward him. They looked at each other. The officers continued running upstairs, and the bulky man strolled downstairs.

"Officers, that's the man. He... he tried to kill me. Arrest him..."

When Nick saw the police officers, he quickly pointed at the bulky man and shouted.

The officers turned over and walked into Nick's apartment. They looked at Nick laying on the floor and said, "Are you Jack Campbell? You are suspect of a burglary at Empire Hotel and aggravated assault of Joshua Owen, son of the owner of Empire Hotel, who has attempted to stop your burglary. You are asked to come with us to the station for investigation..."

In the corridor of the hospital in Ocean City.

Mr. Paker's phone rang. He picked up the phone and had a brief conversation, and then hang up.

He looked at Maggie and said respectfully, "Miss Hill, the matter has been settled. The person who hit Mr. Ethan has been dealt with. According to your instructions, we kept his life."

Maggie nodded and walked over to Ethan's room.

At this time, Ethan was standing in front of the window in a daze. He stared into the distance, lost in his thought.

Maggie entered the room and closed the door after her quietly.

"What are you thinking about?" she asked.

Ethan shook his head. After a pause, he asked, "When can I go back to Buckeye? I want to see my mom."

Maggie nodded and said, "I will arrange that, but... Mr. Norman told me that it's better not to let your mom know that you and Mr. Norman have already acknowledged each other."

Ethan nodded. He remembered that his dad had also asked him not to do it.

"I'll just take the bus then," Ethan said.

Maggie nodded. She remembered something and continued, "Oh, by the way, I talked to Mr. Norman. He'd like you to use the fund he provided to you as startup money to do something."

Maggie paused for a second and continued, "It is very likely that you will take over a part of the Norman Family's business. So some business skills will come in handy in the future."

Ethan nodded absent-mindedly. He took out his phone and stared at it. He then asked, "When can I go back to Buckeye? I mean back to school."

Maggie looked at Ethan and told him that it was best for him to rest here for a few more days. She could take Ethan to walk around Ocean City.

Ethan nodded without saying a word. Maggie was about to leave but stopped suddenly. She asked, "By the way, where's your watch?"

Ethan thought for a while and then remembered that his watch was at Joanna's place the whole time. He had forgotten about it.

"Er... Well, it's in my dorm. What's wrong?" Ethan said perfunctorily.

Maggie obviously didn't believe Ethan's words. She frowned and asked, "Are you sure?"

Ethan nodded quickly. He didn't want Maggie to know that he had given his watch to other people.

"Good." Maggie nodded suspiciously and said, "Rumor has it that a girl in Buckeye has it."

Ethan didn't respond.

Maggie didn't pursue the question. She gave Ethan a smile and left, letting Ethan had his rest.

Maggie's words got Ethan curious. He was wondering if Joanna was showing off his watch in public.

But Ethan dismissed the thought soon. He trusted Joanna was not the kind of person who liked showing off.

Maybe it's just a rumor.

Ethan stopped thinking about it. He stared at the cellphone again.

Ethan saw there were dozens of unread messages from the class group chat.

He checked them out of curiosity.

He learned that Tina and Chad went to travel together.

And the destination of the trip was Ocean City!

Ethan was surprised by how much they could give up for fun.

Tina had a hard time in her classes. She had been struggling not to fail.

But she skipped classes for this trip. Ethan guessed that maybe she had given up on school totally.

Ethan sighed and kept scrolling down the chatting history.

There were more than a hundred chats asking Tina to buy stuff from Ocean City.

The beauty products and fashion items in Ocean City were far better than which in Buckeye.

But Tina wasn't going to do it for free. After everyone sending out their requests, Tina texted everyone.

"Friends, here's an announcement. Please send me the information about the stuff you want. I'll do my best to get what you asked and let you guys know if I can't. However, I'm not going to Ocean City for charity, so I'd like to charge a 20% commission to cover my travel expense!"

Tina's announcement caused a round of heated discussion in the group chat. Some people were dissatisfied.

"Why charge me? Just a lipstick. Tina, you told me you wanted to buy lipstick too."

"20%? Why don't you rob a bank? The skincare set I want costs more than three thousand, so I need to pay you six hundred? Such a businesswoman!"

"Tina, can you charge us a little less? The hearing devices I asked for are for kids from School for Special Needs. It's a charity paid for by our club. 20% is too much..."

People were angry with Tina's 20% commission!

Not everyone buying for themselves, such as the person who wanted to buy hearing devices for School for Special Needs.

It wasn't that they couldn't buy hearing devices from Buckeye. But the product here was not as good as which from Ocean City. They hoped that Tina could help to buy hearing devices of good quality.

But they didn't expect that Tina could charge that much.

The person was hoping to buy forty thousand worth of hearing devices. All the money was from the charity donation.

If Tina charged them a 20% commission, which was about eight thousand, why didn't they go to Ocean City to buy the hearing devices themselves?

But Tina didn't care about all the complaints. She replied, "Transfer the money if you want me to buy those for you. If not, stop wasting my time."

Tina's words irritated many people in the class. They all sent messages to criticize Tina.

Ethan frowned and thought, "Maybe I can help? I'm in Ocean City anyway."

## Chapter 55

In Ethan's mind, they were all his classmates, and Ethan had good relationships with them too. He was going to stay in Ocean City for a couple of days anyway.

He'd like to help them.

Not many of Ethan's classmates were from rich families, and they probably saved for a long time for those purchases.

20% commission could be a large amount of money for them,

let alone for the charity club. They had been raising money for a long time.

All the money was from donations. It was unlikely that the club could afford to pay an extra 20% commission.

At the thought of this, Ethan sigh and quickly sent a message in the group chat.

"Everyone, I'm in Ocean City now. I can help you with your purchases."

Ethan's message stirred quite an excitement among his classmates.

Especially those girls, who immediately replied a huge amount of messages.

"For real? Ethan, why are you in Ocean City?"

"I just saw you a couple of days ago. How can you be in Ocean City right now?"

"Ethan, how much do you charge us? You see, we are all classmates. Can you charge less?"

"That's right. I still don't know how can I got the money from my dad. If I have to pay too much extra, I'd rather not buying it."

.....

Seeing the replies, Ethan smiled and quickly replied, "Please rest assured, I don't charge you guys for the purchase. You're all my classmates, and many of you have helped me before. How can I ask you for money?"

Reading Ethan's words, the whole class burst into an uproar.

They all sent Ethan thumbs-up. Some texted,

"Good for you! Ethan. We are all poor college students. It's a shame someone wants to make money out of us."

"Ethan, you are awesome. You're miles away from certain people here, way better. If you have some time, could you help me buy a Chanel lipstick? I'll send you the information later."

"I want a crystal necklace pendant, Ethan. I saw it online, and only one store in Ocean City has it..."

"I want..."

Suddenly, the group chat was full of purchase requests.

Comparing with the fact that Tina was charging 20% commission, everyone went to Ethan for their purchases.

At this time, Tina was laying on a bed in a hotel room in Ocean City, punching the mattress. She was furious by her classmates' reactions.

"D\*mn it, that moron has to mess up my business? I want to make a fortune from this trip, but now he just messed up my plan."

Tina hated Ethan to death. She could feel the resentment rushing to her head.

At this moment, the bathroom door was pushed open. Chad walked out with only a towel wrapped around his lower body. Seeing that Tina was in a rage, he quickly sat over with her with a smile on his face.

"What's wrong, love? Why are you so angry? Who is it? I'll go have a talk with that person!"

Tina tossed the phone to Chad angrily and said, "Look at it yourself. It's that moron Ethan again. I was going to make some money by doing some purchase agency. But that loser Ethan told everyone he was in Ocean City, and he wanted to help with the buying, no commission needed. He's doing that on purpose. He just wants to give me a hard time."

Chad skimmed through the chat history and smiled. He stoked Tina's skin and said, "Honey, you don't need to take that moron seriously. Think about it. Ocean City is an expensive place. Who is Ethan? He is too poor to feed himself. How can he come here? I guess he just wanted to embarrass you. Don't you worry! Things will be good again once we expose his scheme."

"When that time comes, they have to buy from you anyway."

Hearing Chad's words, Tina's eyes lit up, and a smile appeared on her face.

She kissed Chad and said, "Honey, you're so smart. I'm sure Ethan was telling a lie. Let me expose him right now!"

Tina quickly sent a message in the group chat.

"You guys are so naive to believe Ethan. He can't even afford the flight ticket! Do you know how much is my ticket? Thirty-five hundred! Ask him if he can afford it!"

"I'm telling you. He just wants to mess you up! Do you really think he is going to do the purchase for you, free of charge? Does he have that kind of money?"

Tina then sent out a message in the group chat, directly questioning Ethan, "Moron, whatever corner you are hiding, can you stop bullsh\*tting? You are in f\*\*king Ocean City? What a joke!"

Seeing Tina's messages, everyone stopped texting. Those who had asked Ethan to buy things for them all stopped sending requests.

They all frowned at Tina's messages.

Soon, someone asked, "Ethan, are you really in Ocean City? You are not lying to us, are you?"

"I feel that Tina makes sense. Why does Ethan go to Ocean City? Think about it. Ethan doesn't look like someone who can afford a trip there. A round trip will cost a thousand even by train!"

"I would have believed him if it wasn't for Tina's words. Ethan, how can you do it? Just for taking revenge on Tina, you lied to us? Do you know how important the stuff we want? You're messing with our own business..."

"So disgusting. I didn't know that he wanted to take revenge on Tina. But I guess that if we gave him the money, he would have bought some fake stuff. It's ridiculous how he claimed that he was in Ocean City."

Looking at the endless doubts everyone gave to Ethan, Tina was happy again.

She couldn't help but grin and said to herself, "Haha, idiot, let's see what you're going to say this time!"

Then Tina sent another message in the group chat directly to Ethan.

"@Ethan, why don't you talk? Didn't you say you were in Ocean City? Prove it! Haha, you are a loser. You don't have the ability to make money, but you have the ability to lie."

Tina's message stirred up another heatwave among her classmates. The people who had asked Ethan for help started to question his intention.

Comparing with paying 20% commission, they really wanted was to buy the authentic products.

Seeing this, Tina laughed. She sent out another message, "Take a look around! Can you find anyone who still believes you? I guess you just too ashamed to make a sound because I exposed you. I know you are staring at the screen now, but what can you do? Do you think there's still someone who believes you?"

As soon as Tina's words came out, the group chat quieted down.

Indeed, no one believed Ethan anymore.

Just when Tina thought she had won, a message popped up in the group chat.

"Ethan, are you really in Ocean City? I don't care if no one believes you. I am willing to believe you!"

The message was sent by the girl who wanted to buy hearing devices. She then sent another message.

"If you're really in Ocean City, can you help me with the hearing devices?"

The girl who sent the message was Aurora. She was a wallflower in the class. No one had noticed her.

However, her message just grabbed all the attention for her.

Tina replied in a hurry, "Here's a brave one! You just asked to be cheated."

Not long after Tina's message, Aurora replied, "As a classmate, I trust Ethan's character. At least, he doesn't charge us a 20% commission. The hearing devices are for those poor kids. How can you ask us for profits!"

## Chapter 56

The words of Aurora irritated Tina in an instant.

She was upset about Ethan's interruption. And this time, Aurora criticized her like that. Tina couldn't hold it back anymore.

"What the f\*\*k are you talking about?" Tina replied. "Only a moron like yourself would believe Ethan. Do you really think he can come to Ocean City? What a joke."

In a fit of anger, Tina sent another message.

"What's about deaf children? It is my deal. I'll charge for 20% commission even if you are buying for dying people. If you have problems with that, ask moron Ethan to buy it for you!"

Tina's words were full of insult.

"How can you talk like that? Do you have any conscience? No matter how bad Ethan is, he is still millions of times better than you!"

"Say that again? You b\*tch! Wait for me in Buckeye. I'm going to show you what I'm made of!"

Tina wasn't good at arguing, so she turned to threaten.

No one dared to provoke her anymore, and they all stopped texting.

After all, they all counted on Tina to make the purchases for themselves, so they tried not to provoke her.

At this time, Ethan, who was staring outside of the window, just came back to his senses. He looked at his cellphone screen and saw Tina's vicious words.

Ethan sighed and thought that Tina still hadn't changed.

Tina had treated Ethan the same way in the past, but Ethan had been indulging her.

But they had broken up, so Ethan wouldn't put up with her anymore.

"Tina, please watch your language. I say it again. I'm in Ocean City now. If you want to buy something here, I can do it for you, free of charge."

"Tina, if you think I'm doing it on purpose to offend you, then think what you wish. Indeed, I'm against you. You're shameless to conduct business among your classmates!"

Tina was furious after seeing Ethan's words.

She sent out a voice message, "You moron, who the f\*\*k do you think you are talking to? Lying in front of me? Ocean City? Why don't you say that you are in Beijing, Hong Kong, or New York?"

"Shameless! Bullsh\*t! Can you fu\*king prove it?" Tina cursed like crazy.

Sending the message out, Tina still couldn't feel the satisfaction. She rushed to the window, taking a snapshot of the Ocean City river outside of the window, and send it to the group chat.

"See that? See that blue horizon? That's the river! See that tower? That's the landmark of Ocean City..."

Tina's photo was a little blurry. But if looking closely enough, people could tell from the photo that it was taken in Ocean City.

The photo also showed that the hotel she was staying in was a little far away from the city center. The river was visible from her hotel window, but vaguely.



What's more, the landmarks of Ocean City were all very blurry in the photo.

Tina sent a smile emoji and asked Ethan, "Dare to show us your photo, moron?"

Tina was satisfied after sending out the message.

She was sure that Ethan was lying. How could he reply to her dare if he was lying?

People in the class chat burst into exclamation upon Tina's photo.

"Oh my god, it's really Ocean City. Tina, you really are in Ocean City..."

"Tina, please. My lipstick! Only Ocean City has it. But can the commission be less..."

"Tina's life really changed after dating Chad. When she was Ethan's girlfriend, they just ate at a restaurant near campus, at best. I didn't expect that she can stay at a fancy hotel in Ocean City with Chad..."

Looking at the admiration messages popping up in the group chat, Tina felt very proud of herself. She felt lucky that she had broken up with Ethan and become Chad's girlfriend. Otherwise, she would never be where she was at this moment!

However, a photo that appeared in the group chat stopped her smile.

It was sent by Ethan.

After the photo, Ethan wrote, "Tina, is your place a little too far?"

Ethan's words enraged Tina.

After seeing Ethan's photo, she didn't feel that good anymore.

The landmarks of Ocean City could be seen clearly in Ethan's photo.

The most important thing was that the photo seemed to be taken from a skyscraper near the river. The waves of the river and the famous buildings on the bank were very clearly shown in the photo.

"Holy sh\*t! It's... Ethan lives in a Seaview Hotel, isn't it?"

Someone immediately responded.

Soon after, another message showed up.

"That's awesome. Are you in the city center? It looks like the Center District. Ethan, why are you there?"

"My God! The landmark Tower is just a tiny dot in Tina's photo. But look at Ethan's photo. Is he taking the photo right beside it? It's awesome!"

"The real estate of Ocean City is very expensive. Ethan must be staying at a super fancy hotel!"

Ethan's photo caused a huge wave of exclamation in the group chat.

Even Tina was stunned when she saw Ethan's photo.

She gritted her teeth and murmured, "What the hell is going on? How can this moron be staying at a place like that!"

Tina knew the hotel pricing in Ocean City.

The hotel she was staying at was a five-star hotel. Although it was only a standard suite, the room would cost thousands of dollars for one night!

Just judging by Ethan's photo, he was staying at the most expensive location in Ocean City.

Tina was stunned. According to her knowledge of Ethan, he could hardly afford a cheap hotel

room in Ocean City.

Thinking of this, Tina felt jealous. She sent a message, "Don't be fooled by Ethan. He definitely downloaded the photo somewhere online. You all know how poor Ethan is. How could he afford to stay at a place like this?"

Afraid of no one believing her, Tina continued, "Guys, Ethan is a cheat and liar, don't believe his lies. Do you know why I broke up with him? Because he is a fake. Just think about it. He is too poor to stay at a place like that!"

Tina continued texting, "You'd better see the situation here. Do you still want me to do the purchases for you guys? Don't be fooled by the loser. If you believe him, then forget about your stuff..."

Tina's words stopped everyone from texting.

Tina had moved in with Chad, who was from a rich family. With Chad as her boyfriend, no one would doubt Tina's credibility as a purchasing agent.

But Ethan was different. He had always been one of the poorest people in the class. It seemed Tina looked more trustworthy than Ethan.

Even with Ethan's photo, a lot of people still didn't believe him and even looked down on him.

No one believed that as poor as Ethan was, he could afford to stay at such a fancy hotel.

So there wasn't a lot of people believed him, even with his photo.

People started sending out their thoughts.

"I think Tina is right. We all know Ethan's financial situation. He can't afford to go to Ocean City. I guess he downloaded the photo online. Guys, don't fall for his lie."

"Tina is charging a little too much, but I can sure I'm getting the authentic products from her. If we trust Ethan but get a bunch of fake stuff, not only the money was wasted, the skin may even be damaged by the fake facial cream."

"Tina, can you give us a discount? We are all counting on you..."

Looking at the messages, Ethan just shook his head silently.

In his opinion, the girls in the class were too naive. They didn't believe Ethan to get the authentic products to them but trust Tina to do so. Their logic was ridiculous.

Ethan didn't feel the need to force people to trust him. He replied, " People who believe me please contact me privately. For those who don't, you can go to Tina. I have no objection. The truth will speak for itself."

After saying that, Ethan turned off his cellphone. He didn't want to read the messages anymore.

Ethan's words failed to dispel the worries of most of the people. After a moment of hesitation, they chose Tina and transferred the money to her.

Ethan didn't care that much. It saved him a lot of trouble.

On the other side, in the hotel.

Lying on the bed, Tina was excited looking at the money her classmates had transferred to her.

"See what's happened after Ethan's trying to mess up with my business? They still chose to trust me."

Tina said to herself with a smile, looking excited.

She thought she had won!

After Ethan's interruption, the brainless girls were still willing to trust Tina and spend 20% commission.

In the end, Tina got thirty thousand from her classmates.

That was to say, she had earned six thousand.

Tina smiled smugly and thought to herself, "It's too easy."

However, she couldn't be satisfied with a mere six thousand dollars.

After a moment of thinking, Tina googled keywords: Ocean City high-quality counterfeit beauty products wholesale...

After a brief search, Tina felt as if she had opened the door to a new world. She found out that a two thousand dollar makeup would just cost fifty dollars in their fake counterpart. The counterfeit looked so real that no one could tell if without scrutiny.

Tina was extremely happy!

She quickly searched for the counterfeits of all the beauty products her classmates asked. She was gleeful after getting the sum price.

It only cost her about four thousand dollars to buy thirty thousand worth of the authentic products, which meant on top of the six thousand of commission, she could earn another twenty thousand dollars.

## Chapter 57

Tina smiled in satisfaction when looked at the suddenly popped up numbers in her account.

Ever since she had been with Chad, he had never been slack to her in terms of money and expenses.

Sometimes Chad even spent thousands of dollars on hot topic shoes and bags for her on just one shopping run.

But this 20 grand was not given - Tina earned it herself. Although the way she got it was a little disgraceful, Tina didn't care so much.

As long as she could get the money.

Her triumph was no fluke. Few of her classmates could really recognize the real stuff. Even if she deceived them with the fake ones, few people could tell.

And even if they could, so what? Tina didn't care. Now she's with Chad, who was always bossy in the class. As for those girls, they would keep their mouths shut, after Chad scared them a little.

Thinking of this, Tina chuckled.

Seeing this, Chad tightened his arms around her slender waist and asked lustfully, "What's up, dear? Why are you so happy?"

Tina chuckled and said, "Honey, can you take me to the shopping mall tomorrow? I'd like a few types of perfumes..."

Chad laughed and took out a card from the side proudly, "Hehe, consider it done. See this card? Chanel's membership card, my mother's. I knew you, you little thing, would not come for nothing, so I borrowed my mother's membership card!"

Chad continued in a proud tone, "Dear, I'm not boasting to you. This membership card is not ordinary. My mother spent more than 300,000 here to get this card. Generally, this is not for common customers. To put it bluntly, this is the symbol of the upper class. It's a privilege to own this."

Tina was very excited at Chad's words, and she fixed her eyes on that card.

It was indeed a precious membership card. She thought that if she also had one, she would go back to the class and show off to the girls in the dormitory. She would be kicking \*ss.

Thinking of this, Tina quickly kissed Chad and said in a delicate voice, "Honey... since this card is so good, can I keep it for a few days? When I show off to others, don't you think that also makes you look good?"

Hearing this, Chad was a little hesitant. After all, this card was stolen from his mother. If he didn't return it in time, what if she found out?

But when he saw Tina's coquettish look, Chad gritted his teeth and said with a smile, "That's not impossible. But it depends on if you can make your man feel happy..."

On the other side, Ethan sat on the bed and looked at his mobile phone in boredom.

After looking at it for a long time, Ethan suddenly saw Joanna in the contact list.

Ethan couldn't help frowning and thought, "Haven't seen Joanna since I parted with her. Wonder what she's up to."

Moreover, Joanna had bought him a pair of shoes and also helped him deal with his wounds. He had wanted to thank her, but he had never had a chance.

Ethan suddenly came up with an idea and said in his heart, "I'm in Ocean City now. Why don't I bring some good cosmetics for Joanna?"

Ethan remembered that Joanna usually wore light makeup, so after thinking about it for a while, he decided not to buy other cosmetics, but two bottles of top-grade perfume for her.

Ethan remembered that every time he met Joanna, he could sense a slight scent of perfume.

Thinking of this, Ethan smirked.

He even started to imagine Joanna's facial expression when she got the gift.

Just as Ethan giggled, the door was open.

Maggie came in and saw a smile on Ethan's face. She felt brighter herself because of his smile.

Originally, she thought that the departure of Linda would definitely make Ethan sad for a long time, but now it seemed that Ethan was not too sad, which made Maggie very gratified.

However, she didn't know that Ethan still held a grudge about this matter at this time. He just didn't want to make a big deal out of it.

The matter of Linda's departure was like a thorn stuck in Ethan's heart. He even thought to himself that when he returned to Buckeye, he would definitely ask Linda about it.

"What's the matter?"

Seeing Maggie walking in, Ethan's smile faded.

Maggie nodded and said, "I want to ask you, what do you like for dinner? In addition, tomorrow, I'll ask someone to book a table at Grand Brook. It's the best restaurant in Ocean City. You can find great local cuisines there. Worth a try."

Ethan nodded. Maggie said no more and turned around to leave.

But as soon as she turned around, Ethan stopped her.

"Well... I want to get some cosmetics tomorrow. Any tips for finding the shops?"

Maggie was stunned and puzzled. "Why does a straight guy like Ethan need cosmetics for? Could it be that this young master has a relationship with another woman?"

"What cosmetic... do you have in mind?" Maggie asked.

"Perfume, like the top end." Ethan finally explained, "For a classmate. She helped me a lot before, so I want to thank her."

Maggie nodded and said, "There is a Chanel counter at a shopping mall along H.A. Road, which is the largest one in Ocean City. You'll find what you need there, I am a gold member."

While speaking, Maggie took out a card from her handbag and handed it to Ethan. She smiled and said, "This means the premium membership of Chanel. With it, you get the highest service, at the best discount. Or, I can get it for you."

Ethan shook his head, smiled and took the card. "No, no, no, that's my good wish. Of course, I'll buy it myself."

Ethan thought for a moment and then told Maggie about the hearing aid device.

He really didn't understand this thing, so he had to ask Maggie for help.

As for the cosmetics someone else asked him to buy, he might as well get them together.

The two of them chatted for a while, until Maggie made a phone call. She asked someone to take care of the hearing aid and left.

Ethan also washed up and went to sleep.

Early the next morning, Ethan kindly refused Maggie's suggestion of sending him off to the counter. After having some breakfast in the hospital canteen, he went out on his own.

Ethan was almost recovered from his injury, and he also wanted to walk around. After all, it was his first time visiting Ocean City after so many years. Everything was fresh to him now.

Eaglewood, East Commercial Tower.

This was a very famous shopping mall in the whole Ocean City. Even if it was not the weekend now, this place was still flooded with shoppers.

Ethan followed the crowd, entering the mall. As Maggie instructed, the Chanel counter was on the first floor of this shopping mall.

However, just as Ethan was walking, he subconsciously looked around and suddenly spotted someone.

Because not far away, he saw two familiar figures.

It was Tina and Chad. At this time, they were also wandering in the mall. They were chatting while walking.

"Honey, Ocean city is really something. Way out of Buckeye's league. If I want to buy something later, you can't be cheap."

Chad teased Tina on the face. Showed his forever-lustful-look.

"Oh my dear, don't worry. When did you see me being cheap, like that b\*stard Ethan? Follow me, you can enjoy your life..."

As he spoke, Chad gazed forward and stunned by what he saw. It was Ethan.

"He... Why is he here?" Chad stopped subconsciously and muttered to Ethan in a daze.

Tina was also stunned when she turned her head towards Chad's direction.

At the moment when the three looked at each other, all of them surprised.

After all, it was such a coincidence to run into old acquaintances in such a large city!

## Chapter 58

"Ethan?"

Tina was the first to break the silence. She squinted at Ethan and looked very surprised.

She went straight over and questioned, "Why are you here? Humph, I thought you were lying in the chat group yesterday, but I didn't expect that you really came to Ocean City."

Chad, who was standing beside her, also frowned deeply and said with surprise, "Haha, it's really a coincidence. I'm so puzzled. Why are you always around? Why? Are you following us on purpose? Don't tell me you are here to buy what... women stuff?"

Ethan looked at the two of them and thought it was quite coincident. He said calmly, "I'm here for my own biz, not after you. What's in it for me if I follow you?"

"Bah!" Tina immediately spat at Ethan's words with an unreasonable expression, "Who knows what you think? I guess you can't accept me ditching you, so you followed me on purpose, right? You scum, trying to get my attention in the chat group yesterday!"

Tina snorted and said to Ethan with a sneer, "cunt-face, I advise you to give up this idea. Who do you think you are? I already have my darling Chad here. People like you? In your dream. Ridiculous!"

Hearing Tina's words, Ethan agreed that it could not be any more ridiculous.

Him? Ethan Hunter? Followed the two low lives all the way to Ocean City, just to get her attention? What's wrong with this woman?

Did she hurt her brain somehow, or born like this?

"She's my ex anyway." Ethan sighed and didn't want to talk to them anymore.

"Tina, don't overthinking. As I said, I'm just here for my own biz." Ethan said, "And you are wrong. I'm not interested in you anymore. It's a pure coincidence that we meet today. I'm here to buy something!"

"You want to buy stuff?" Tina smiled with her hands covering her mouth. "Do you have money? Haha, are you sure you are not here to steal things?"

After thinking for a while, Tina suddenly said, "Oh, by the way, I remember. Yesterday there were still a few people who asked you to buy cosmetics for them! Haha, you are freaking honestly stupid to buy stuff here. Do you even realize how expensive things are here?"

Tina pointed to a direction and sneered, "I know there is a wholesale market over there. You should go there, buy some cheap fake ones. Nobody can tell. Ha-ha, this is for your own good. You idiot doing whatever others asked. With your IQ, I was right to dump you back then!"

After saying that, Tina turned her head and was about to leave. Beside her, Chad couldn't help but smile. He also felt that Ethan's "honesty" was very ridiculous.

"Haha, Ethan, Tina is right. Be grateful. We're doing this for your own good!" Chad said, "You're so poor. It's not good to earn some money with such a chance. Humph, yesterday, you wanted to snatch Tina's business, but we didn't bear a grudge on you. We even helped you. You should thank us!"

After saying that, Chad glanced at Ethan with a smile and held Tina in his arms. He looked at Ethan with a high and mighty expression.

But after listening to Tina and Chad's words, Ethan only snorted and said calmly, "Haha, then I really have to thank you! But..."

Ethan sneered and continued, "But it's better for you to go shopping there. I can't do that. Someone asks me for a favor, which means he trusts me. I can't sleep over that money, if I cheated on them."

"You may take immoralities well. But I don't." Ethan glanced at the two of them and turned to leave. "But I'm not you. You can go and have fun with those dirty tricks!"

After that, Ethan walked away without looking back.

In Ethan's opinion, Tina's and Chad's words just now were extremely ridiculous!

"Do I have to sell my reputation and morality just for a little bit of profit?"

Ethan would never do it anyway.

He didn't do it when he was poor before, he wouldn't do it now, with 2 billion under his name!

Ethan was even looking forward to seeing how long could Tina make conscienceless money.

When everyone no longer believed her, it was her time to pay.

"What a fool!"

Tina was going to snap. Looking at the back of Ethan, she was so angry in her heart!

"I am doing this for his good. Look at this idiot's attitude? What does he mean? Does he think he is noble? What the hell is he? He deserves to be poor. He is a poor man in his whole life..."

Tina blushed with anger and cursed a lot at Ethan's back in one breath. Only then did she feel much more comfortable.

Chad hurriedly patted Tina's back and comforted her, "Well, honey, there's no need to be angry. He is not worthy of our anger. Think about it, now you have a Chanel membership card. Even in such a fancy place at Ocean City, not a lot of people own this privilege."

Hearing Chad's words, Tina seemed to be much more relieved. She smile scornfully, "Hum, right, I don't have to be angry with such a fool. He came here just to buy things for others. Things that he couldn't afford."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Chad laughed apologetically. "Don't be angry with him. Well, let's get in..."

After that, the two also walked into the shopping mall.

As soon as Ethan walked into the shopping mall, he suddenly felt dazzled. After all, this was a nation-famous place, which was a little out of Ethan's expectation.

In the past, Ethan once thought that a shopping mall like Buckeye Wanda was already very big, but now it seemed that he was a little naive in the past.

After hanging out in the mall for quite a while, Ethan finally found Chanel's counter that Maggie had mentioned.

This store was very big and luxuriously decorated. As soon as entering the door, it gave people a very noble feeling.

The layout of the store was very reasonable. Products were well categorized.

This made it easy for Ethan to find the perfume section.

As soon as Ethan walked in, a sweet young sales lady greeted him enthusiastically.

"Hello, welcome. What can I do for you..."



At first, Ethan wanted to nod to the sales lady, but he stopped awkwardly. It turned out that she was not talking to him at all.

She was greeting a well-dressed beauty in her 40's.

"What kind of perfume do you like? We have everything... all world-famous products."

Sales lady introduced her products in detail and with passion.

She began to talk as soon as the beautiful customer entered. Even for some fancy technology, she explained plainly and simply.

However, the beautiful woman was absent-minded all the time. In the end, she even felt a little annoyed when she heard that. She raised her head and glared at the saleslady. Then she looked at Ethan and her face became more gloomy.

"Are you done? You've just opened your mouth and only know how to ramble for a day. So annoying!" The beautiful woman looked at the sales impatiently and continued, "Humph, why do you fool me with those bullsh\*t reasons? I've got my eyes. I'll see what I want to buy by myself!"

After finishing her words, the beautiful woman turned her head and walked out. When she walked past Ethan, she even glanced at Ethan fiercely.

"Hmph, disappointing. Walking across all kinds of freaks on a shopping run."

Although the beautiful woman didn't make it clear whether she was talking about the girl or Ethan, anyone with a brain could tell that it was the saleslady who opened her mouth and provoked her.

Ethan didn't take it seriously. After all, he thought it had nothing to do with him at all.

But the saleslady was so angry and snapped. She introduced the product with good intentions, this old hag didn't appreciate it and even complained at her. Why?

## Chapter 59

"Humph, what the hell are you looking at? Why are you even here, freaking my customer away?"

The woman muttered.

Although her voice was low, Ethan still hear her, given that they were close.

Obviously, she was very upset that the customer ran away and refused to admit that was her fault. So she simply blamed Ethan.

Even she was upset, the saleslady dared not claim openly. After all, Ethan was a customer. He might look like a bumpkin, but he dressed in fancy clothes.

Maggie carefully prepared this dress for Ethan. After all, Eric's son had arrived in Ocean City, so Ethan's shabby clothes had long been thrown away.

However, Ethan felt that the logic of the woman was ridiculous.

"The customer left, so? It has nothing to do with me. I didn't even pass a word or even a look to her ever since."

"Obviously, regardless of the customer's mood, the sale woman bored the customer away with her blind blah-bling."

"Now she blames me?"

However, Ethan had no intention to trifle with this kind of person.

After all, she was mumbling to herself. If she really accused Ethan out loud, Ethan would definitely not admit it.

Ethan pretended as if nothing had happened. He looked around and his eyes wandered on the perfume bottles.

After looking around, Ethan finally found what he wanted. He pointed to a perfume bottle in an exquisite crystal box and asked, "Excuse me, this one. 58 thousand, right?"

The saleslady was a little absent-minded. She glanced at Ethan and said casually, "Isn't there a price tag on it? See for yourself."

Ethan's face, which was originally very happy, suddenly became gloomy.

However, the woman seemed to be somewhat indifferent to Ethan. Seeing that Ethan was interested in the perfume, she couldn't help but smile at the bottom of her heart.

His fancy clothes worthed no more than 5k.

Moreover, given Ethan's facial features and a somewhat restrained look since entering, she deducted that Ethan was in fact still low class.

She immediately made up a plot about "a poor man invested all his fortune on clothes, just to show-off".

However, this kid came up straight after the most expensive perfume in the store. Wasn't that a little pretentious?

Thinking of this, the sales lady at Ethan with a bit of disdain in her eyes.

She didn't pay attention to Ethan at all. Instead, she pointed to an ordinary perfume on the stands and said, "You'd better go and see that. It's only over 70 bucks, and it's fragrant. I think it's

good for you to buy that."

She spoke while revealed a sneer.

"Is she looking down on me?"

Ethan had a plain look while staring at the woman. What he didn't expect was, judged by appearance, such kind of discrimination still existed even in a front-end city like Ocean City.

Ethan sighed without following the woman's suggestion. Instead, he still looked at the 58k-per-bottle perfume.

"Didn't you hear me?" The sales lady looked at Ethan impatiently. Seeing her advice ignored, the woman sneered, "Staring ain't helping. That's for rich people and their mistresses. You'd better choose a suitable one for yourself."

"Haha, for your girlfriend, right? Just get something cheap and make do. Why do you have to make things difficult for yourself?"

Ethan got the implications from her words, so he replied directly, "Which perfume do you think is more suitable for me?"

The woman wouldn't stand down. Since the rich beauty left, she had been in a bad mood. Now Ethan's attitude worsened her mood.

"I think this is very suitable for you!" She pointed to a cheap-looking small bottle on the side. "Less than 100!"

Ethan really couldn't bear her defiance anymore.

However, he held his temper and pointed at the most expensive perfume, "Pack this one for me. You can keep the rest for yourself."

Ethan's words were so decisive that he didn't look like he was joking at all.

However, the lady sales did not believe it at all. She even thought that Ethan just felt insulted and wanted to make up for it.

However, since Ethan said so, the woman didn't hesitate. Instead, she walked over with a smile, took out the perfume bottle, and prepared to make a small gift box for packing.

In fact, she certainly knew that Ethan couldn't afford it at all. So she did this to humiliate Ethan in front of everyone.

Moreover, she knew very well that if Ethan asked her to wrap up the products, if she refused, it would make her looking unreasonable.

"As soon as I pack it up and show him the bill, which he can't pay, I will humiliate him to the end!" She thought.

After all, since the beautiful woman left, the sales lady was full of anger.

But just as the woman was about to make her move, Ethan spoke, "Wait a minute!"

Hearing this, the woman thought she won. "How about it? Now you regret it? You can't show off over things that are out of your league. Let's see how I will humiliate you later!"

She looked at Ethan. When she was about to blurt out the words she had thought of, she suddenly heard Ethan talking.

And when she heard his words, the sales lady stunned in disbelief.

"Well... do you still have more of this in stock? Give me another bottle!"

Two bottles? The woman didn't believe what she heard at all. She was stunned on the spot. It took her a long time to react.

"Why? Didn't you hear what I said?" Ethan added.

The woman recovered and asked doubtfully, "Are you sure you want another bottle?"

Ethan nodded slightly. "Is there a problem?"

"No problem, of course not!"

The woman just smiled, and her contempt for Ethan became stronger!

She thought, "This person is really crazy. He can't even afford one. But now, in order to show off, he wants another? Well, freckle you, low life sucker!"

After all, here at this store, even a package fee would cost a fortune!

Two perfume cost thousands for packaging. If Ethan didn't pay for the package fee, how embarrassing would he be?

Soon, the sales lady went to get another perfume, and this time, it even caught the manager's attention.

After all, over one hundred thousand at one sale. Anyway, he was a big customer.

The manager was a neat-looking guy in his 30's.

When he first heard the sale, the manager was checking his magnate list for a name.

Two of the most expensive perfume in the store. One for the wife and the other for the mistress. It could narrow down the list of rich people in town.

But the manager frowned at the sight of Ethan.

The kid was well dressed, but his dark skin and scent of a bumpkin exposed his low-class identity.

The manager took as much time as he needed, still, Ethan did not strike him as a guy for the expensive perfume.

So he quickly stopped the packing process half way, walked to Ethan and threw a fake smile.

"Hello, sir. I heard that you want to buy two perfume, right?"

Ethan nodded. "Is there a problem?"

The manager kept faking, "No, no, no, of course, not a problem. We're just honored to be chosen and trusted. For this, we sincerely thank you, but... after all, it's more than 100,000. It's not a small sum... Why don't you recharge some deposit and we reward you with a membership? It would be more convenient for your next purchase, right?"

The manager was very smart. This way he could test Ethan's buying capability without showing his suspicion.

If the kid could afford the membership, he had no problem paying the bill.

But Ethan had a confident smile. "Membership? But I'm a V-VIP already."

## Chapter 60

The manager was shocked by Ethan's words.

He sized Ethan up and down again, but he still frowned and shook his head in disbelief.

He was the manager of this store for some years, so he could recognize almost every one of the members. After all the number is countable.

But he couldn't remember such a person as Ethan among his members.

What's more, those who could afford membership in this store were all from rich and powerful families. What's more, one could tell those members by their gestures and talks.

But there was nobody like Ethan here, whose nice hide couldn't cover the hillbillies inside.

The manager smile to Ethan, "Sir, you claimed yourself to be a member of our store? Are you 100% positive about that? I think you'd better think about it carefully."

After these words, the manager turned his head slightly to the saleslady. The two of them looked at each other and smiled.

Now the sales lady looked at Ethan with more and more contempt.

In her opinion, Ethan was just a poor man here to show off.

Maybe he could make it in other places.

But not here. It was impossible for Ethan to imagine how difficult it was to apply for a membership here, at Chanel.

Several people stared at Ethan, waiting to see how he would respond.

However, Ethan seemed to be very calm. They asked for his membership, he just showed them the card.

Ethan reached into his pocket and took out a few change and cards.

Those people almost laugh out loud when they saw Ethan's shabby look.

They had been working here for so long, and all the big shots they had seen were well-organized with money and cards.

It was the first time they saw a person like Ethan: stuffing the change, debit cards, and other things roughly in the pocket.

It strengthened their opinion on Ethan's low-class identity.

How could such a person afford this perfume, let alone have a membership card?

Ethan didn't take it seriously. After rummaging through the things he took out for a while, he suddenly smiled and then handed a golden card to the manager.

"That's it. With it, you can give me a discount, did I hear right?" Ethan asked with a smile.

Initially, the manager cared less about the card, but when he took it and held it for less than a second, his whole look changed dramatically.

"Manager, what's wrong?" Seeing the manager's reaction, the sales lady felt puzzled. She also looked at the card and it was obvious that she was not familiar with it. "This is not our membership card, is it?"

It took the manager quite a while to realize what was going on. But from then on, his attitude towards Ethan was completely different.

Unlike the doubting and mocking in the beginning, he was totally respectful now, as if he was treating his ancestors, with a smile on his face.

In the whole store, only he knew what this seemingly ordinary golden card meant.

The manager quickly handed the card back to Ethan respectfully and said with a smile, "Sir, I'm really sorry just now. I don't know who you are. It was all a misunderstanding just now. If you don't mind, please come in and take a seat..."

The manager's sudden change of attitude, made the sales lady frowning deeply and whispering, "Sir, what the hell is going on? That card..."

The manager heard the words and looked back impatiently at her with a lower voice, "What do you know? Do you know who he is? Treat him well!"

The woman was confused, but she was not stupid. Since the manager had such an attitude, she naturally understood that Ethan, who seemed to be an ordinary person, must have a strong background. However, she was still full of doubts about Ethan's card.

While the manager was preparing the receipt, the sales lady hurried to follow him and asked in a low voice, "What's going on? Who is this person? And his card is not our membership card at all."

The manager glanced at his female co-worker and couldn't help sighing heavily. He asked, "You didn't do anything to him just now, did you? For example, is there any particularly disrespectful attitude?"

When the sales lady heard this, she hurriedly blushed and denied. "No... no, I was nice to him. What... what is going on, sir?"

The manager wiped his forehead in relief, "That's good. If you dare to cross him, I will make you pay. As you can see, this person looks ordinary, but his background is extremely strong."

He continued, "The card. You don't know it? Ha, there's a reason for that. It's a global VIP card issued by the HQ. Let me tell you this. There are less than 100 people in the world who own this card. In this country, a handful."

"Wow?" The sales lady's face suddenly turned pale and turn to stare at Ethan in disbelief.

The manager sneered again and continued, "Let me tell you, the card owners? the First Lady of Singapore, the Princess of Belgium and Netherlands, you name it... In short, anyone from the list could crush people like you and me with one pinky!"

The sales lady was so frightened and shocked to hear that. She looked at Ethan and hesitated, "Then... could it be that he stole it? This..."

"Bullsh\*t. This card is as precious as a treasure. What do you think it is? Membership at Wendy's? Stealing it?"

While the two chatting happily, Ethan was lost in his thoughts as he looked at the two bottles of perfume on the table.

But now Ethan knew for sure that, neither the manager nor the sales would doubt if he could afford it.

Although he still didn't get how Maggie's card worked or where it came from.

Anyway, when Ethan saw the manager's expression on the card, he felt a little funny in his heart.

The perfume bottle was small, probably only the size of a mobile phone charger.

Ethan simply didn't intend to wait for the packaging, so he stuffed the perfume in his pocket.

But almost at this moment, a pair of young man and woman came in from outside the store.

The guy was talking and laughing, as if comforting his gal. But the girl was still very angry at this time.

"D\*mn it, what the hell is that dog? How dare it talk to me like that! I'll definitely not let him go!"

The boy patted the girl's back with a smile and comforted her, "Easy baby, not need to be trifled with that kind of poor people. Think about it, we are so out of his league. See, Chanel's store, no more beggars, right? Ha, I don't think he is able to follow us here for the rest of their lives..."

As soon as the boy finished his words and raised his head, the smile on his face suddenly froze. He was also stunned and muttered, "What the f\*\*k, why, why is he here?"

That's right, these two were Tina and Chad!

At the first sight of Ethan, Chad was a little surprised. He really couldn't believe that he would meet Ethan at Chanel's counter one day.

Noticing the odds, Tina also quickly looked up. At this time, she happened to see Ethan putting the perfume into his pocket!

"Why is this fool here? D\*mn it, is he a ghost? How can I meet him there? Hum, he still said that he didn't follow me. Let me see how he explains!"

Tina was a little surprised to see Ethan. In addition to disgust, she was also curious about why Ethan was here.

Ethan followed her here. Although she tried to comfort herself that way, it was not as convincing: Ethan was here first.

Tina pondered for a while and suddenly remembered the action of Ethan just now. She couldn't help but have a flash of inspiration and snort coldly.

"Well, now I understand what he is here for. He is here to steal!" Tina walked quickly toward Ethan while talking to herself.

## Chapter 61

"Ha, I know you are poor, I don't know you steal."

Tina walked over and grabbed Ethan's clothes. She sneered, looking quite proud of herself.

Ethan, surprised, turned his head and saw Tina's fierce look.

"You... Why are you here?" Ethan said, "What did you say just now? I didn't hear it clearly."

It was true that Ethan didn't hear it clearly. Just now, he was still thinking about how he could send the gift to Linda.

"Freaking pretending, aren't you?" Tina grinned proudly, "I caught you stealing, now you want to deny it? Ethan, you're so disgusting. I didn't expect you to steal things after coming all the way to Ocean City. Ha, now I wonder how many cases you did in Buckeye!"

Ethan was completely confused by Tina's words. He looked at Tina with a confused face and hurriedly explained, "What... How... Why..."

Seeing that Ethan had no intention to confess, Tina narrowed her eyes and reached one hand to his pocket.

She moved very fast, and Ethan subconsciously stopped her. As a result, Tina took out one bottle of perfume and the other bottle fell directly to the ground.

With a snap, the perfume bottle was directly smashed, and the perfume splashed all over the floor.

Tina didn't care so much about it. She didn't take the perfume seriously at all. She thought it was only a cheap one worth dozens, at most hundreds, so she continued to tease Ethan.

She raised the remaining bottle of perfume as if she was holding a trophy. She shouted carelessly, "Come and see, everyone. I caught a thief. Look, a grown man who was not ashamed of his action. Stealing perfume. Two bottles of it!"

Tina's words suddenly silenced the store. Other customers gathered around and stared at Ethan. Apparently, they didn't know what had happened.

"What happened? What? She caught a thief?"

People frowned at Ethan, and some even began to discuss in a low voice...

"Oh, this little boy really is shameless. How could he steal things? What a humiliation..."

"Really? Why does a man steal perfume for?"

"Ha, there's no need to ask. He must be poor and couldn't afford it, so he came to steal. Look at him, he doesn't look like he could afford the clothes on him either. I don't know if he stole the clothes as well..."

The crowd's discussion made Tina even happier. In her opinion, Ethan's theft of perfume was almost certain.

She quickly waved to the staff of the store and said with a smile, "Why are you still standing there? Don't you see that someone is stealing from you? Hurry up to catch him and send him directly to the police station!"

Tina was so vicious that she couldn't wait to see Ethan hitting the rock bottom.



Several staff did rush over. Looking at the perfume in Tina's hand and the broken bottle on the ground, they were shocked.

The perfume, which was worth tens of thousands, was stolen and broken at this time. That was not good.

The few staff stared at the manager who was not far, with a begging look.

However, at this time, the young manager was shocked by Tina's action.

He was just making up with Ethan, the rare kind of big client. Before he could think of a way to suck up with the boy, some vixen just came up and framed him for shoplifting?

The manager hurried over.

"What the hell is going on?" The manager asked.

"Humph, what else is going on? Are you in charge here? This is how you manage your business? Someone is trying to steal from you!" Tina sneered. "I'm telling you, it's all thanks to me today. Otherwise, this guy would steal these two bottles of perfume now!"

The manager looked at Tina and then looked at the broken perfume on the ground. Of course, he knew what was going on.

But just as he was about to say something, he heard Tina continue to speak.

"Humph, I'm telling you, I know this person too well, we are from the same university. He was not a decent man before, and he is still poor now. I know that this kind of scum will sooner or later do something disgusting because he can't afford to live!"

The more Tina said, the more excited she became. Finally, she put on a look of justice, as if she really contributed to this store.

While speaking, Tina grabbed Ethan by the collar as if she was dragging a stray dog. She wanted to drag Ethan to a more crowded area so that more people could see Ethan's awkwardness.

But just when Tina felt the proudest of herself, someone suddenly pushed her.

Tina was stunned, and then she saw that the manager was looking at her with anger.

"Let go of him. Stop or get ready to be stopped!" The manager scolded Tina.

Tina was confused and said in a daze, "Hey, what are you doing? You're the manager of this store, aren't you? Can't you see? I caught a thief for you. He's a thief and almost succeeded. Didn't you see me holding the perfume he stole?"

Hearing this, the manager wanted to laugh, but he held it back. With a proud expression, he said, "What are you talking about? You catch the thief for me? I advise you not to talk nonsense, or you will be responsible for it!"

While speaking, the manager directly stood between Ethan and Tina with an angry look.

Tina was stunned by his expression. She quickly argued, "Hey, I'm trying to catch a thief for you. What the attitude now? Are you all idiots? Why don't you care about the thief, and why are you yelling at me?"

Hearing Tina's swearing, even if the manager had a good mentality, he was a little uncomfortable. He snorted and said, "Humph, I warn you not to make any more unreasonable remarks. This gentleman is our V-VIP. If you slander him again, be careful not to be rude to you!"

Hearing this, Tina was surprised, and then her anger was about to burst out. She pointed at Ethan and said, "Excuse me? Him? A VIP, no, V-VIP? Don't you have brains? This guy is so poor

that he can't afford to eat. Do you think Are you kidding me?"

Tina glared at the manager again and proudly said, "Also, I warn you that I am a member of your club. You'd better treat me better, otherwise, don't blame me for being rude!"

After saying that, Tina took out her membership card and slapped it in front of the manager with a smug look.

In her opinion, her identity was already very clear when she had a membership card.

She thought, "As long as I reveal my identity, the manager dares not to cross me!"

However, Tina was wrong. The membership card she was very proud of worth horse sh\*t to the manager.

He just smiled, looked at Tina's membership card, and continued to slander her, "You think this card gives you power over a global V-VIP? Well, think again."

Normally, if Tina showed the membership card, the manager would definitely think highly of her.

But today was different. Although Tina had a membership card in her hand, the card was nothing compared with the gold card in Ethan's hand.

In terms of the status of importance, Ethan's gold card worth almost 100 times more than Tina's!

The manager was not a fool. It was more than clear to him, which customer was more important.

At this moment, Ethan, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly talked.

He smiled, pointed to the bottle of perfume in Tina's hand, and asked the manager, "Excuse me, am I a thief?"

The manager quickly smiled and shook his head repeatedly. "Sir, you are really humorous. How can you be a thief? This woman may be a little out of her mind. Don't take it hard. I will pack it up for you right now!"

After saying that, the manager packed two bottles of perfume and handed them to Ethan respectfully.

In the end, Ethan looked at Tina with a sneer on his face. After paying the bill, he directly walked out of the Chanel store.

But looking at the back of Ethan, Tina was so angry that her teeth were almost crushed.

Now she naturally knew that Ethan's perfume was definitely not stolen!

However, in her opinion, even if Ethan's two bottles of perfume were not stolen, they were far from high-end stuff either.

The manager treated Ethan well when he bought only some cheap perfume! Tina felt that he was out of his mind!

Tina glared at Ethan's back. At this time, her disgust for Ethan had peaked!

She looked contemptuously at the manager again, and cursed him thousands of times in her heart!

"Hmph, honey, there's something wrong with people's IQ in this shabby place. Let's go. We're not shopping here!"

After saying that, Tina took Chad's arm, was ready to leave.

At this time, Chad's heart was naturally a little unhappy. Originally, he wanted to see Ethan got busted.

As a result, they didn't take it seriously and the manager treated Tina unpleasantly. Chad naturally had no intention of shopping anymore.

However, when they were about to leave, they suddenly heard the manager behind them shouting, "Wait a minute!"

"What are you doing? What's the matter?" Tina asked disdainfully.

The manager smiled and said, "Of course I have something to do. Do you want to leave like this? Don't you forget something?"

Hearing this, Tina and Chad looked at each other in surprise and asked, "What? What's that? We didn't buy anything here. We can not leave without shopping? Are you forcing us to buy stuff?"

The manager quickly smiled, pointed to the broken perfume bottle on the ground, and said, "Of course you did not buy anything, but you break it, you pay for it."

Hearing these words, Tina and Chad suddenly understood. But at this time, they had become more and more disgusted with Chanel and even the manager!

"Why should we compensate you?" Chad immediately disagreed. She snorted and said, "It's not us who broke it. It's all because that stupid Ethan didn't catch it firmly that it fell to the ground and broke. If you want compensation, you can go to find him!"

"We have a security camera here, that gentleman was just shopping back then. If you did not interrupt him without a reason, the bottle would be intact, so it's your fault!" The manager smiled and said, "So, you have to pay."

The manager finally said, "Of course, you can also refuse the compensation, but in that case, I will find the police! But at that time, your crime would be defamation our V-VIP and disturb our business. I really don't know what will happen!"

As soon as Tina heard the police she panicked. Also, the manager sounded so confident and reasonable,

She stared at the manager fiercely, and then looked at Chad eagerly. "Honey... just pay him. We should not quarrel with such a low life. It's so annoying!"

With a scornful look, Tina continued, "Hmph, it's just a bottle of cheap perfume. They really take it as their precious. Let's save the trouble, just pay him."

Chad was also a little angry. He snorted, "Well, don't be verbose. Just tell me how much the perfume cost that poor guy. I'll pay you double. Just cut the crap. I'm really annoyed with people like you, short-sighted scum. You dare to treat that scum over us. You seem to have some IQ problems!"

Listening to Chad's humiliating words, the manager didn't seem to be angry. Instead, he just smiled, "You don't need to pay double, just cover the market price. That bottle of perfume worth 58,000 dollars."

## Chapter 62

"How much? Fifty-eight thousand? Are you sh\*tting me?"

Tina's brain went a completely blank, on the manager's words, and her face was full of horror.

Moreover, even Chad, who had a large family that owned a large business, was extremely surprised when he heard the price.

The two of them looked at each other and could not believe what they had just heard.

Tina was even more unwilling to believe those words "Humph, I think you just want to blackmail us, don't you? Wait a minute... are you setting me up? Plotting with that guy Ethan to set me up?"

Thinking of this, Tina really felt that there was such a possibility.

After all, if that wasn't the case, why would Ethan come here?

Chad curled his lips and echoed, "Yes, I think you are playing with us. I warn you, don't mess with me. I have people in Ocean City. Believe it or not, I'll ask the authority to investigate you."

"Let me tell you the truth. I know that guy. He is penniless. Do you think he can afford a fifty-eight thousand perfume? Are you kidding me?"

Chad finished his words, he and Tina looked at each other and smiled. They didn't take what the manager said seriously at all.

In their eyes, this manager seemed to be deliberately looking for trouble today. He wanted to make things difficult for them and blackmail them. If the manager insisted on the compensation, Chad would give him hell.

After all, fifty-eight thousand was not a small number. Nobody could force Chad to pay.

But at this time, the manager looked pretty serious. He could tell that these two people didn't want to pay at all!

Since that was the case, there was no need for him to be polite.

The manager brought over the product list and slapped it in front of Tina. He said seriously, "Believe me or not, you can see for yourself. And you can also check on Chanel's official website for the price. If there is a difference in the price, then I will compensate myself."

After a pause, the manager continued. "See for yourself. The price is there. You have to pay for what you broke. Don't leave me hanging here, or things can get real ugly."

His words were full of threats.

Tina looked at Chad hesitantly. The two of them quickly took out a cell phone and clicked on the perfume catalog.

Without a doubt, the two of them went dead-inside when they found out the price.

"It's... It's really fifty-eight thousand?" Tina was stunned.

"It's... impossible. How can a poor man afford this kind of thing? Tens of thousands, I'm f\*cking..."

Looking at their shocked expressions, the manager thought it was ridiculous.

He had a bad impression of these two people from the very beginning.

As soon as they entered the door, they started scolded Ethan and mocked how poor he was, like

they were a rich couple!

But how about now?

In a blink of the eye, the so-called "poor kid" bought two bottles of 58k perfume all together, with Chanel's global V-VIP card!

However, the two even hesitated to pay for what they broke.

The manager had no intention to care what Tina and Chad thought. He put on a grim look and sneered at Tina, "Ha, have you seen how ridiculous and funny you are? The gentleman over there just didn't want to argue with you at all. Yet you two kept barking, do you enjoy that?"

The manager pointed at the broken perfume bottle on the ground and said coldly, "I don't want to talk nonsense with you. Pay for it quickly."

This time, Tina and Chad were completely out of speech. After all, the price was clearly showing on the official website. The manager wasn't lying at all.

Tina glanced at her boy friend and asked in a low voice, "Then... honey, what should we do?"

At this time, Chad was on the edge of death!

He just came to the mall with his girlfriend, and wanted to have some fun here. But now out of his expectation, before he could buy anything, he already owed fifty-eight thousand!

Chad glared at Tina fiercely, resentment on this woman came out from nowhere.

What else could he do? Since he had claimed to pay at the beginning, there were not many choices now, rather than paying for it!

Otherwise, if they really called in the police, it could become a real pain in the a\*\*.

What's more, if his parents heard this news accidentally at Buckeye, Chad would find himself into even deeper sh\*t!

Chad couldn't help sighing. He turned and smiled at the manager. "Hey, bro... look... Just now, my girlfriend didn't mean to do that. She broke it by accident. Do you have a discount on that? Can you give me a half-price?"

Hearing this, Tina nodded hurriedly and said helplessly, "Yeah, good sir, it's not fair for such a small bottle of perfume to cost me fifty-eight thousand. It's really too expensive. Not the full price, please. We really..."

Tina was so anxious that she was about to cry.

Originally, she was full of excitement when she came here today. She had earned more than twenty thousand for an errand shopping. With that money, she could buy a lot of cosmetics.

But out of her expectation, her happy hour did not last. Now she owed fifty-eight thousand, which meant she lost the 20k and had to pay the rest.

However, the manager ignore their expression and turned them down seriously, "That's not right. Didn't you just say that the perfume doesn't matter? You even promised to pay twice the price, you don't remember? Now, I'm only asking for what it should cost, and you say you can't afford it?"

The manager made a point. Chad's face blushed with embarrassment, and he lowered his head, trying to hide himself.

"That... that was just me talking like a fool. Please forget my mad talk. I'm regretting now, okay?" Chad said, "Please, let us go this time. Cut off some of it, you know, each manager can provide a

discount right? We won't dare to do it next time!"

While speaking, Chad quickly handed over a pack of cigarettes and was about to light it up for the manager.

The manager smiled, took the cigarette and looked at it. Then he threw it directly into the trash can on the side, "This kind of low-end stuff? How dare you offer it to others? Don't bother, keep it for yourself!"

In fact, the cigarette Chad handed over was not cheap. It was high-quality tobacco worth tens or even hundreds per pack. The manager said and did so, was to get back some dignity that he had just lost.

He grinned and continued, "But... in fact, I can give you a discount. Well, how about I cut off 8 grand from the price. You just pay 50k even at the counter. Then we'll settle it. Now if you excuse me, I have to be with other customers."

After saying that, the manager walked away with a sneer.

On the other hand, Chad was so angry that he almost spat out his blood!

"50 grand? Are you f\*cking with me, old fart?"

Chad glared at the manager fiercely, barely holding back his anger, and swallowed back the cursing words.

After all, this was Ocean City, and he was not from around. If this was Buckeye, Chad would definitely not taking it easily.

However, in this place, he could only take this humiliation.

He gritted his teeth and said coldly, "Okay, you're f\*cking good. I will remember this."

Five minutes later, the depressed Chad stormed out of the Chanel store. Tina followed him in a hurry and shouted, "Dear, wait... wait for me?"

Chad stopped abruptly and pointed at Tina, shouting, "What the heck, Tina? You are really something. You've wasted half of my funds! Don't you know that I only have one hundred G in my hand? This was my only pocket money. My parents won't give me another dime!"

Tina was so intimidated that her eyes suddenly turned red. She murmured while crying, "How... how did I know that perfume is so expensive? If I knew, I wouldn't dare to touch it even if you force me. Wah..."

"Wah..., all you know is to shout at me. If you have the guts, why don't you fight with that silly Ethan?"

Hearing Tina's words, Chad also sighed. He shook his head silently and said in a low voice, "You're right. I really don't know how that poor f\*ck suddenly got rich. I mean, where did that money come from? He actually bought two bottles of top-end perfume at one go. Is he winning the lottery?"

"Humph, how could it be possible!" Tina wiped her tears and said, "How could that f\*cker be so lucky? It's definitely not his money!"

Chad also nodded in confusion and muttered, "Then what is really going on?"

As soon as Chad finished his words, he saw Tina's eyes suddenly widened and said excitedly, "Honey, I remember!"

## Chapter 63

"What did you remember?" Chad furrowed his brows, asked in confusion.

Tina seemed to be in a much better mood all of a sudden. She smiled, "Honey, I know where that idiot's money comes from!"

"Where?"

"Hey, do you remember in the group chat, someone asked that fool for an errand run?" Tina said, "I guess, the perfume was for that person. Otherwise, how could the fool have the money to buy such an expensive perfume himself? Also, what does he need the perfume for?"

Chad was suddenly enlightened by Tina's words. He couldn't help sneering and curled his lips. "Haha, so that's what it is. I thought this fool really got rich. I didn't expect that he was using other people's money to show off. Haha, it's fucking interesting. This fool is really something. He even pretends like buying it for himself!"

"Yes, this idiot is disgusting!" Tina said with anger, "Today, it's all because of him that we lost the money. Honey, we have to make him pay!"

Chad kept nodding to the girl's words. He hated Ethan even more.

According to Chad's character, even if Tina didn't say it, he would never let Ethan go. After all, Ethan made him suffer a great loss this time.

Although the high-end perfume cost a fortune, it turned out that Ethan didn't spend his own money on it.

Both Tina and Chad felt a lot better when they came to this conclusion.

After all, Ethan was No.1 on their despised list. If this kind of person suddenly got equally rich or even better than them, that was even more painful than if they had spent 50 thousand for nothing!

Chad was in a much better mood at this time. He quickly hugged Tina again and grinned. "Well, let's forget about today's matter. Ethan is a fool. We have plenty of time to play with him later. Let's go. Now I will take you to the Grand Brook for a big meal!"

Tina snorted with a fake blush, punched gently on Chad's chest, and said discontentedly, "Hum, didn't you complain about me just now? Hum, I won't go..."

Chad giggled and teased, "Really? You are not going? Then I'll go by myself. Do you know how high-end that restaurant is? Haha, it seems that you really don't have that luck!"

After the talk, Chad turned around and was about to leave, and Tina suddenly turned anxious. She quickly followed up and said arrogantly, "Hum, how dare you to go alone? You have to apologize to me, then I will think about it. Besides, the name of the restaurant sounds lame. I guess it's not as high-end. Why are we going there? I heard that there are a lot of delicious food along the Bay area."

After Tina's words, Chad curled his lip and smiled. "What do you know? The Grand Brook is a famous high-end restaurant all around Ocean City. Even all around the country, it is still a well-known place. The ambiance there is good, and all kinds of facilities are top-class. All the ingredients are of the best quality. The cost of a meal is at least tens of thousands. If you are calling this lame, tell me what is not lame?"

Hearing Chad's words, Tina's eyes suddenly widened.

Although she didn't know what was good about this restaurant, she trusted Chat. This guy was from a rich family that he had been enjoying gourmet since he was a child.

When he claimed this was a good place, then it was a good a place.

Tina quickly showed an ingratiating look and said in a spoiled tone, "Well, well, I know I was wrong. Dear, let's go. When we have dinner, I must take a few more photos and send them to the class chat to make those b\*tches envy. Hum, see how dare they show off to me when they go to Nine Dragon."

While speaking, the two of them went straight out of the shopping mall, took a taxi, and went straight to the Grand Brook.

Sitting in an unpopular corner of the Bay area, the Grand Brook looked like any other common two-story buildings, which was very common from outside.

However, the rent here alone could cost one million a year.

This was an old building from a hundred years ago, and there were all kinds of furnishings and facilities inside, some of which even worth more than antiques.

Due to that reason, dining at Grand Brook became a privilege of the upper class. The seats were never available, and they took cash only.

But even so, rich people were rushing to this place, just to enjoy the nobility and luxury.

Tina and Chad got out of the car. Looking at the two-story building in front of them, Tina couldn't help feeling excited.

Because she had heard a lot of stories about this restaurant from Chad along the way.

The most attractive story was the odds to meet celebrities here.

Tina even fantasized how wonderful it would be, if she could meet one or two of them later.

However, the moment the two of them arrived at the door, Tina's expectation suddenly met the reality.

As polite as she can be, the waitress standing at the door stopped them with a smile on her face, "My apologies. All tables are reserved. I'll be with you in a moment."

Tina was depressed and impatient, she sighed and questioned, "What's wrong with your restaurant? We've come all the way here, now you are telling me we don't even deserve to be served? Humph, why didn't you increase the capacity? Where did you spend the money you charged from the customers?"

Tina's brainless speech almost made the waitress laugh out loud.

"This place is expensive just because of its rarity. If we increase the capacity, which means anyone, including low-lives like you could enjoy our service. Then where is the luxury about the Grand Brook?"

The waitress did not respond to Tina's inquisition. She just smiled and said, "I'm really sorry. Please wait for a while."

Tina pouted and looked at Chad.

Chad also sighed and reached out to look inside. Suddenly, his eyes lit up. He pointed to a table close by the window, "What are you talking about? Isn't that an empty seat over there? You'd better be honest? Believe it or not, I'll file a complaint about you!"



Hearing Chad's words, Tina stretched her neck and looked at the table in a hurry. Suddenly, she saw the table and snapped right away.

"That's right, what's wrong with you? You deliberately made things difficult for us, don't you? No table for us? That's our table right there, do you think we are blind?" Tina continue stretched her neck and shouted, "Hurry up, we have to sit there! I think the seat looks good!"

While they were talking, Tina pulled Chad and was about to rush inside.

But when the waitress saw this, she quickly stopped them and said nervously, "No, no, no, I'm really sorry. That seat has been reserved by a distinguished guest. You two can't sit there!"

At this time, Tina was even madder. She already had a bad time at Chanel's store earlier. Now that at this restaurant, she was not allowed to enter, when there was obviously an empty table. Of cause, she would not accept it.

"What the hell is a distinguished guest? We're here. We're your distinguished guests. Let us in quickly. When your guest comes, we will ask him to go somewhere else!" Tina said arrogantly.

However, she was so unreasonable that she completely irritated the waitress.

Instead of stopping Tina and Chad, she said indifferently, "Well, you can take that top-end table. The wooden table and the chairs are ancient antiques made of mahogany. The screens on the side were more than a hundred years old. Even if you don't eat anything, you have to pay 30 grand in advance! If you can pay the deposit, then you will be served!"

The waitress's eyes measured Tina and Chad while smiling. She was very sure that Tina was not a real rich girl at all with her quality. She couldn't afford to spend 30 thousand on a dinner table.

After that, the waitress sneered again, "If you are not paying the deposit and still want to break in, then I'm sorry, I'm going to call the police!"

Tina and Chad were already hesitant when they heard the number of the deposit. Now that the waitress mentioned the police, the two were naturally scared.

Both Tina and Chad were in a bad mood now that they had to go through such kind of humiliation.

Chad glanced at Tina, "Hmph, let's go. In my opinion, I don't want to eat at this sh\*t hole anymore!"

Tina was a little hesitant, but when she turned her head, she saw a familiar figure coming over.

## Chapter 64

The one who just stepped out of the taxi was nobody but Ethan. He stood still, raised his head, and looked at the plaque.

Originally, Tina was a little unhappy when she heard that Chad was going to leave.

After all, on the way here, Chad was full of high praise for this place, which made Tina wanted to check it out. And now Chad suggested them to leave. Tina was naturally very unhappy.

Now seeing Ethan again, Tina became angrier. The anger grew stronger when the idea of that broken bottle of perfume came up.

Ethan came to the door right at this moment. When he looked up and saw Tina and Chad, he was also surprised.

Even surprisingly, Tina walked over angrily and slapped Ethan. "What the hell do you want to do? Stupid fool, I said stop following me! You denied before, and now you are still stalking on me?"

Ethan was stunned. He looked at Tina with astonishment and anger, "When did I follow you? Tina, don't talk nonsense. Why should I follow you? Who do you think you are?"

Tina felt rather irritated by Ethan's word. She scolded him angrily, raised her hand, and was about to hit him again, "You dare fucking quibble? Now I've caught you on the spot! Humph, who knows what you are up to? You're such a pervert. Nothing will surprise me if you do anything weird!"

Ethan was enraged by Tina's words as well. He grabbed Tina's wrist before he got hit. In a tough tone he replied, "Tina, I suggest you act normal and quit being like a mad person. I warn you, I don't have time to stalk you. It's a pure coincidence that I meet you here. I'm here for dinner!"

Ethan shook off Tina's hand, which made her scream in pain, but it seemed that she was a little surprised!

Because this was the first time for Ethan to confront her.

When they were still together before, Ethan was always obedient, no matter how mean she was to him. But now, he dared to lay his hand on her?

But Ethan's words made Chad, who stood aside, burst into an awkward laugh suddenly.

"What? Did I hear it wrong?" Chad said, "You, come here for dinner? Who are you kidding? Look at yourself, do you think you are qualified to show off here? Open your eyes and have a good look. This is Grand Brook! Not some random dining place."

From Chad's point of view, Ethan's presence here could be anything but to eat.

After all, Ethan was well-known for his poverty. As for this Grand Brook Restaurant, it would cost over ten thousand for just one meal. How could Ethan afford or even know this place?

Tina came back to her senses and said with a chuckle, "Ha, that's right. Ethan, stop pretending. We all know that you bought that expensive perfume with others' money. Do you think we don't know you are showing off? We see right through you. There is no point pretending in front of us. Let's go straight to the point. What are you doing here?"

Ethan looked at the two idiots and could not help but sigh. He said helplessly, "Believe it or not, I've told you that I'm here for dinner. Please get out of my way."

Chad smiled disdainfully and really made way for Ethan. She said, "Well, well, you're here for

dinner. Go ahead. Do you see there? There's an excellent table there. You can sit there, ho ho..."

Of course, Chad knew. The waitress just said that the table was reserved for a distinguished guest. Chad couldn't get that table by begging, so he thought Ethan would face a huge humiliation.

Besides, even if Ethan didn't have enough money, he would still fake for it. After all, he had been doing this in Buckeye several times.

Chad thought to himself with joy, "Showtime. Now it's your turn to be humiliated."

Let alone the reserved table, even if it was just an ordinary one, Ethan couldn't afford it.

However, it seemed that Ethan didn't care about what Chad said at all. He looked at Chad and Tina indifferently, without any expression on his face, and went straight in the direction of the waitress.

However, what he did really made Chad burst into laughter again.

"Hello, I get a reservation here," Ethan said calmly to the waitress.

The waitress didn't judge Ethan by his look. She was still respectful to Ethan and asked politely, "Of course sir, under which name?"

"My surname is Humphrey."

The waitress quickly searched the booking record, then frowned, "I'm sorry, Mr. Humphrey, but I don't see a reservation under that name."

Ethan was a bit surprised and nervous on the waitress's words.

Chad burst into laughter and pointed at Ethan, saying, "Ha ha ha... what a joke. Ethan, don't you feel ashamed? You're capable of nothing but showing off. What is the point of that?"

Tina chuckled, covered her mouth with her hand, and said proudly, "Ho ho, it's ridiculous. What a shame! You booked a table? Why don't you tell me that you're the one who booked the table by the window?"

Blushed on the insult from the two idiots, Ethan took out his cell phone to call Maggie.

Now he seemed to remember, Ethan asked the waitress, "Well, I might have given you the wrong info. Is there a record of a Maggie Hill who booked the table?"

Ethan quickly gave Maggie's phone number to confirm it.

The waitress checked again. In the mean time, Chad and Tina did not take Ethan's words seriously at all. They felt that Ethan was just trying to stall effortlessly.

Because it was obvious that Ethan was humiliated big time!

However, just as the two of them were laughing happily, the waitress suddenly showed a bright smile and said, "Ah, I found it. Maggie, Miss Hill, it's true. Please come with me!"

Ethan breathed a sigh of relief. Then he followed in with a smile.

At this time, Chad and Tina, upon hearing the news, were stunned and dazzled, as if struck by lightning. Their facial expressions looked funny.

"This... What the hell is going on?" Chad muttered in astonishment. What happened next was even surprising, that he temporarily lost his ability to talk.

Simply because the waitress led Ethan to the table by the window, with a notecard on it that read: Distinguished guest, and removed the card after Ethan sat down.

"What the hell is going on?" said Tina, who was also dumbfounded aside. She stared blankly at Ethan, her face was dull, but full of jealousy. She whispered, "It's gotta be a mistake."

At this time, Ethan, sitting by the window, happened to turn at them with a smile full of contempt!

"D\*mn it! Who... Who can tell me what's going on?" Chad was furious. Seeing the waitress coming back, he hurried up to her and shouted at her, "Are you sh\*tting me? How can you lead the guy to that spot? Didn't you say that's for an honorable guest?"

"That's right!" Tina was so jealous that she said, "I think you did it on purpose just now. That man is a poor f\*ck, why did you seat him there and let us wait? Humph, I'm going to speak to your manager!"

The waitress thought Chad and Tina were ridiculous, but her look was plain and calm.

"Poor man? You two are more like beggars at this time!"

"You can do nothing but yell at me!"

However, the waitress did not say these words verbally. She just expressed her dissatisfaction with a cold gaze and a fake smile, "I see no poor man. I just waited a distinguished guest who paid 100 grand for a reservation."

Chad and Tina were shocked again, by the number!

"100G? How is that possible? It doesn't sound like something Ethan's doing at all!"

However, what they didn't know was that Maggie had already arranged everything before Ethan came here.

Chad and Tina believed that Ethan was buying perfume for someone else.

However, what happened now confused them!

And at this time, in Tina's heart, the tide of jealousy was almost surging into a huge wave.

She gritted her teeth and stared at Ethan, who was sitting upright inside. She was both puzzled and unconvinced!

Why would such a poor guy sit here? What had he gone through? Could it be...

## Chapter 65

"So, he really won a lottery?" Tina muttered and looked at Chad.

Chad also couldn't figure out what was going on, and was not convinced at all.

But it didn't matter if he was convinced or not. Now Ethan was indeed sitting there. He could do nothing about it.

"D\*mn it!" Chad sighed and tried to talk Tina away, "As long as this fool is here, I can't eat anymore. Let's go somewhere else."

Tina had no intention to follow his suggestion at all.

If Chad canceled the dinner before they arrived, it wouldn't be a big deal. Now that she was here and had been dawdling for such a long time, maybe someone would finish their meal soon and leave.

"Maybe they'll have free tables then? Maybe they'll be waited then?"

Tina looked at Ethan again. Now they've already been serving dishes to Ethan. A waiter brought an exquisite plate in front of Ethan. The beefsteak looked fresh and tender.

As for Ethan, he looked at her again, with a challenging smile.

He was mocking her! At this moment, Tina was going to explode.

She suddenly shook off Chad's arm, her face blushed, "No, I'll eat here today. Did you see that? The idiot just now actually showed off to me. Who does he think he is? D\*mn it! No, I won't eat anywhere but here, today!"

Tina was so angry that her mind was about to explode because of jealousy. She glanced at Chad and continued, "Not only am I going to eat here, but I'm also going to eat better than this idiot. I don't want to be defeated by him! Honey..."

While speaking, Tina pitifully looked at Chad, but her eyes were full of anger.

Upon hearing this, Chad furrowed.

"It doesn't matter if we eat here, but to compare with Ethan?"

This was just a joke. Ethan had already paid 100 G deposit alone. And that was all Chad had for the entire trip. But at the cosmetics store, they were already paid 58 grand on that god damned perfume.

Chad had no chance to beat Ethan financially.

Chad sighed at Tina, who was dizzy in anger. "Oh forget about it! Let's just get out of here!"

Chad knew very well that if they choose to eat here, Tina would definitely compete with Ethan. But in the end, he was the one to pay the bill.

He tried to take Tina away, but Tina went berserk. She pushed him away and shouted, "Are you a man or not? Let me tell you this, I'm going to eat here today, no matter what. You want to go, you go!"

Provoked by Tina's words, Chad raised his palm and slapped on Tina's face right away.

"D\*mn you, you're f\*cking out of your mind, aren't you?" Chad pointed at Tina and scolded, "Do what you f\*cking want, I'm out of here! I have no time for your bullsh\*t!"

After saying that, Chad left in a huff.

Tina was so angry that she stomped her feet, pointed and shouted at Chad's back, trying to get him back. But it didn't slow him down.

Tina got even mad. When she looked around, she found herself the center of people's attention, the topic of their gibberish, and the source of their mockery.

Indeed, she was the one that shouted out "poverty" at Ethan back then.

But what about now? Ethan was sitting by the fancy table, and she was refused and her boyfriend ran away.

What f\*cking loser!

And all of this was because of Ethan!

At this moment, Tina almost wanted to kill Ethan!

She glared at Ethan, her eyes shooting out flames.

However, Ethan didn't seem to take it seriously. He enjoyed the show calmly and occasionally took a bite of his food.

Tina was so angry that she didn't care about it anymore. She walked directly towards Ethan unexpectedly.

"You are mocking me, aren't you?" Tina walked up to Ethan and pointed at him, asking, "Does it make you happy that I'm the joke here, with so many people?"

In fact, Ethan did feel a lot better when he saw Tina now.

After all, it truly was Tina that cheated on him. At that time, she had never cared about his feelings.

Ethan smiled slightly and said, "Laughing at you, where do you get that from? Oh, jokes aside, I thought you are here for dinner? Where's your table? And... where's Chad?"

Ethan was deliberately embarrassing her by asking the questions he already knew the answers to!

Tina was exasperated. She glared at Ethan and pushed down the steak plate in front of Ethan, along with two plates.

Ping! Pong! Bang!

For a moment, the whole restaurant became quiet!

"Eat? Eat this!" Tina spat at Ethan fiercely, then snorted and was about to leave!

If she couldn't eat well, neither could Ethan!

Tina felt much more comfortable at this time. The moment the dishes fell to the ground, she looked much better.

However, Tina was not satisfied for a long time. She just turned around and took two steps, but was suddenly stopped by someone.

The person who stopped her was a handsome young man in his twenties.

The young man was dressed in a decent black suit. At this time, he looked at Tina seriously and said, "Please wait a minute!"

Tina couldn't help frowning and snorted, "What's the matter? If you don't want me to eat here, I'll just leave."

The guy was the lead waiter. When he heard Tina's words, he just sneered and said, "Of course. You free to go, but only after paying for the two plates you just broke. Please."

Hearing this, Tina was stunned and said angrily, "Oh come on! No again! The table belongs to that c\*nt face! I didn't sit here!"

The lead waiter smiled slightly, shook his head helplessly, and continued, "Please be unreasonable, okay? It is true that the nice sir is dining here, but you are the one who broke the plates. So, please leave after paying for it, or we will call the police!"

As soon as Tina heard the police, she was almost furious. Pointing at the lead waiter, she shouted angrily, "Bah, all you know is to fucking call the police! What's wrong with your people? Do you think the police work for you? Do you think I am afraid of you?"

Although she said so, Tina still felt very guilty.

If Chad was here, she would dare to make trouble. But now that Chad had run away, it was not good for her to make things too unmanageable.

"If I'm caught, I'll be d\*mned."

What's more, Tina had a natural fear of the police station.

She gasped heavily, glanced at the lead waiter, and said disdainfully, "What kind of attitude! Best restaurant in Ocean City? You call that best? Look at you, forcing a customer to pay for two plates. I wish you can close the door as soon as possible!"

Tina casually took out a one hundred note from her wallet and threw it on the guy's face. She cursed, "You poor guy, keep the changes. Humph..."

After saying that, Tina turned to leave smugly.

She thought to herself, "This restaurant really sucks. I even have to pay for breaking a plate. I will never come to such a shabby place again."

However, when Tina was about to step forward, she was stopped by the lead waiter.

As professional as he was, the guy was still at a very young age. He was really angry about Tina's behavior just now.

He sneered and picked up the \$100 from the ground, then carefully handed it over to Tina, with two fingers. A scornful smile.

"Ha, are you kidding me? Like this? You actually think you can walk out like this?"

Tina was stunned again. She curled her lips and said discontentedly, "Then what else do you want? That cheap plates of yours, I'll get them for \$3 from the market. \$5 top. For a hundred you can buy a whole pack of them. If that doesn't settle it, what else do you want?"

The waiter snorted and let go of the cash. He blew out a breath and the bill fell lightly on Tina's face.

The lead waiter then said, "5 bucks? For a plate like that? In your dream! It's a Blue and white porcelain! From Jingdezhen! Over fifty years old!"

## Chapter 66

Tina didn't know much about antiques, but she could tell from the waiter's tone of voice that she was in trouble!

"Wh-what blue and white?" Tina asked with a shocked face, "Is... this thing very expensive?"

Tina's words caused a large wave of laughter.

All the bystanders were laughing and whispering.

"She is just stupid! Expensive? They are antiques! Even though they are only from the Republic of China era, each one of them will be worth more than twenty thousand dollars, let alone a pair of them."

"You're right. Items would increase times of the value if they are in pairs or sets."

"She is as fearless as she's stupid. I guess she just comes here to be humiliated!"

"It's so funny. She looks like a clown from head to toe. I'm guessing she's a nouveau riche at most, no culture at all."

The whispers from the bystanders made Tina nervous. She lost her arrogance toward the waiter, and her face was full of anxiety.

"This... this is just two plates..." Tina said, "How much are they, hundreds? I'll give it to you."

Tina could tell from people's tone of voices, it was much more than a couple of hundreds, but she hoped that it wouldn't be the case.

"Hundreds?" The waiter sneered, "Didn't you hear what I said? The plates are Jindezhen porcelain from the Republic of China era. Our boss bought them from a collector for fifty thousand dollars. You want to pay us a couple of hundreds?"

Tina was stunned by the number.

She looked at the waiter in horror, "Are you... are you kidding? You want fifty thousand dollars for two plates?"

Tina felt this day was the worst day of her life.

She first broke a bottle of perfume that cost fifty-eight thousand dollars and then a pair of plates that cost fifty thousand dollars.

To sum it up, she broke a hundred thousand dollars in one day.

"Can I pay a little less?" Tina looked at the waiter with a fake pathetic face, "I... I don't have that much money."

The waiter said in a sarcastic tone, "Didn't you just say that we are cheap? Why can't you pay for the broken plates since you are so rich?"

Tina wouldn't dare to make a sound to the waiter's consistent insults.

She knew that she did the wrong thing in the first place. More words from her would give people more reason to make things difficult for her.

The thing she worried more about was that she didn't have the money.

She only had twenty thousand dollars, which was only enough for half of the price.

And she didn't know what they would do to her if she couldn't pay for the loss of the plates.



Thinking of this, Tina quickly called Chad.

At this point, she could only rely on Chad. In Ocean City, Chad was the only one she knew.

"Sorry, the number you are calling is not available at the moment. Please leave a message..."

The call was directed to the voice mail. Tina's face froze.

"Why the f\*\*k did you turn off your phone right now?" Tina dialed the number again.

The call still didn't go through.

"Hey, do you want to pay for them or not? I'll call the police if you don't."

The waiter rushed Tina. He was reaching out for his cell phone.

Tina was scared to death. If she still couldn't get hold of Chad, she would be taken to the police station.

"I... I'm calling my boyfriend. He has the money..." Tina was so anxious that she was about to cry. She made a couple of calls even to her friends. But none of them could help her out of the situation.

Tina was desperate. Her tears flowed down from her cheeks.

Seeing Tina's crying, the waiter sighed.

He wasn't trying to make things difficult for Tina. But if she couldn't pay for the broken plates, the waiter would be in trouble himself.

The waiter had an idea. He pulled Tina aside and whispered, "You don't have money, do you?"

Tina nodded, thinking that maybe the waiter had some bad ideas. She begged, "No, please, I beg you. Give me some time. I don't want to get money like that..."

The waiter said impatiently, "What are you thinking about? What I mean is that if you don't have the money, go ask the guy sitting over there. You know him, right? Maybe he can help you out. He is low-key, but I bet he is a real rich guy!"

The waiter's suggestion seemed to give Tina a solution. She looked at Ethan with hope.

But soon, she hesitated.

Tina had been horrible to Ethan. So she didn't think Ethan would help her out this time.

"No, I can't..." Tina said with hesitation.

The waiter cut her words, "So you don't want to pay? Then I'm sorry. I'll have to call the cops!"

He went on to dial the number.

"Wait..." Tina looked at Ethan, "I... I'll go."

Tina hesitantly walked towards Ethan.

Ethan was eating. He ordered another plate after Tina threw his food on the floor.

Seeing Tina coming over, Ethan was surprised but didn't say anything.

"Well... Ethan, I'm really sorry. I was just joking with you..." Tina squeezed out an embarrassed smile and apologized. "I hope that you are not angry."

Ethan gave her a wry smile.

He said to Tina, "If I'm calling you moron and bum all the time and cheating on you in front of everybody, see if you will be angry."

Tina blushed at Ethan's words. She knew that Ethan wouldn't forget the grudges so easily.

But at this moment, Tina had to put it up even if Ethan cursed all of her families.

Tina smiled agreeably and said, "Ethan, don't say such a thing. It's all in the past. In fact... in fact, I'm still thinking about you. Do you know that I left you for your own good? You weren't working hard enough, and I thought I was motivating you. Look, if it weren't for what happened, would you have been like this? Grand Brook Restaurant is one of the best restaurants in Ocean City..."

Tina's words made Ethan sick.

How shameless it was for her to say something like that.

Ethan smiled and looked at Tina, "Tina, You are the first one that I know could express such a shameless idea into a grandiose phrase."

Ethan's words made Tina furious. If it weren't for the fact that she wanted to get money from him, she would have given him hell.

Tina's words didn't work, so she was desperate. Tears flowed down her cheeks again. She choked and said, "Yes, it's all my fault. I'm sorry. I'm snobbish, are you satisfied?"

It sounded like Tina finally realized her problem.

Tina's action stunned Ethan.

Tina continued, "But I'm really in trouble today. The plates I just smashed cost me fifty thousand dollars. I don't have that kind of money. Chad doesn't pick up his phone. I really have no choice but you!"

## Chapter 67

"Just for old time's sake, please help me. Otherwise, the waiter will call the cops!"

Tina then cried out loud. Ethan had made up his mind no to sympathize with her anymore, but he was hesitant about that decision at this moment.

Seeing that Ethan looked a little hesitant, Tina continued, "Ethan, I promise you I'll change. Please help me out! I'll do whatever you ask of me."

She cried even louder.

Looking at Tina, Ethan pitied her.

Ethan wasn't sure if Tina really regretted the thing she had done.

But he was sure that Tina would be in great trouble if he wouldn't help her.

After a moment of thinking, Ethan sighed and said, "Well, I'll help you this time, but remember, I hope you can be a better person from now on."

Ethan's words made Tina cried harder. But it was out the joy after surviving a disaster.

"Ethan, thank you. Thank you so much. From now on, I will listen to you..."

After saying that, Tina moved closer to Ethan and rubbed her body against his.

Ethan couldn't believe Tina's behavior.

Tina had never been so forward to Ethan, even when they were still dating.

Tina wouldn't allow Ethan to lay hands on her.

Ethan found Tina's behavior ridiculous.

While Tina was overjoyed, Ethan spoke with a serious tone.

"Wait a minute!" Ethan pushed Tina away. "I need to clear one thing."

Tina was stunned. She quickly smiled and nudged Ethan with her hands, "What thing? Can you wait until we leave here..."

Tina thought that Ethan still wanted her. So she acted seductively. In her mind, as long as Ethan got her out, it wouldn't hurt to be with him for one night.

But she was naive.

Ethan said seriously, "I can pay the broken plates for you today, but I didn't give you the money. You still need to pay for your mistakes. I'm helping out for the sake of us being both from Buckeye. So I'm lending the fifty thousand dollars, but you'll have to pay me back eventually!"

Hearing this, Tina was stunned!

"Lend me?" Tina's face dropped.

"You want me to pay you back?" Tina asked.

"Of course! You don't pay back the money you borrowed?" Ethan smiled and said, "You pay me back, with interests!"

Hearing his words, Tina gnashed her teeth and cursed Ethan a hundred times in her head. Her face of hatred was going to show up again.

Seeing Tina's expression, Ethan smiled and asked, "What's wrong? You don't want to pay me

back? Then, forget it. You can handle it yourself. Don't bother me eating!"

Ethan pushed Tina away.

At this point, Tina wouldn't mind borrowing money at usurious rates, let alone from Ethan.

Tina squeezed out a smile and said, "No, no problem. Deal!"

Ethan nodded and asked someone to bring him paper and pen. He asked Tina to write down an IOU and signed it.

He put away the IOU and told the waiter to put the money for the two broken plates on his check.

Tina finally felt relieved.

She secretly looked at Ethan with even more contempt in her eyes. She thought, "What a moron! Even being rich can't help you. Do you really think a piece of paper can make me pay? I'll never pay you back!"

However, Ethan seemed to be very relaxed. He didn't even need to look at Tina to know what's going on in her mind.

Ethan wasn't afraid that Tina would eat her own words. Being Eric Norman's son, Ethan didn't believe that he would be tricked by Tina.

By helping Tina, Ethan would like to put an end to the relationship between them.

From then on, he had nothing to do with Tina any more.

"Ethan, where did you get so much money?" All of a sudden, Tina asked, pulling Ethan back from his thought.

Ethan frowned. "Why are you asking?"

Tina chuckled, saying that she was just curious. Ethan replied, "My dad is rich. Does that answer your question?"

Ethan was telling the truth, but Tina didn't think so.

She secretly glared at Ethan and cursed in her head, "Moron, do you look like someone who has a f\*\*king rich dad?"

But Tina still put a smile on her face, "Enough with the jokes! Ethan, you can eat here, so I bet you got a lot of money all of a sudden, right? Did you win the lottery? How much?"

It was obvious that Tina didn't believe Ethan. Ethan smiled and said, "Sure, nothing can escape from your eyes. I did win the lottery, not much, only a little over a hundred thousand dollars."

"Really?" Tina was shocked by the fact that Ethan just admitted. She was jealous.

Tina hated Ethan to death. Hearing that he won the lottery price, Tina felt horrible.

She despised Ethan more.

"How could he be so extravagant after winning only a hundred thousand dollars? The waitress just said that Ethan had just deposited a hundred thousand dollars. With the meal and the money for the broken plates, it isn't likely Ethan still has money left."

Tina couldn't stand that Ethan had money, so she came up with a plan. Tina smiled and said to Ethan, "Ethan, you are still good to me. Not like Chad, he said that he would take me to dinner here, but he abandoned me. See, my biggest wish for coming to Ocean City this time is to eat at Grand Brook Restaurant. It seems like my dream won't come true..."

Tina was giving Ethan a hint, and she knew very well that, in the past, Ethan would definitely treat her to a meal once she said that.

But this time, Ethan didn't take the bait.

Tina was impatient, "Ethan, why don't... Why don't you treat me to a meal? You're so rich, and you are eating here. Adding another person wouldn't be too much, right?"

Where was Tina's dignity?

She really didn't want it anymore!

Ethan raised his head and looked at Tina. He couldn't help laughing.

"Do you really want to eat?" Asked Ethan.

"Mhm..." Tina nodded.

Ethan smiled and said, "Oh, that's great. Wait until I'm finished. You can eat whatever I left over."

"You..."

Tina's face turned red upon Ethan's humiliation. His smile made her losing her temper.

"Sit. I need to go to the bathroom first." Ethan got up and left.

Looking at the back of Ethan, Tina smacked her lips hard and scolded Ethan in a whispering voice.

At this moment, Tina suddenly found there's a bag in the seat next to Ethan's.

The bag was open. Tina was surprised to find Ethan's two bottles of Chanel perfume was in the bag. They cost fifty-eight thousand dollars each.

Seeing this, an idea popped up in Tina's head, and there was a meaningful smile on her face.

## Chapter 68

Tina sneaked over and took out the perfume box.

Seeing the fifty-eight thousand-dollar perfume, Tina's heart was filled with jealousy again.

She thought, "Would it be great if it was mine?"

Tina looked around. Everyone was minding their own business, and no one paid any attention to her.

She was nervous. Tina took out the bottle of perfume she bought from the street market near Buckeye University campus for thirty-eight dollars.

The two perfume bottles were similar in size. But Tina's bottle was half used and looked much cheaper than Ethan's.

Tina turned her head in the direction of the bathroom. Ethan had not come out yet.

She gritted her teeth. Tina took the Chanel perfume out of its box and put her perfume in. She then carefully put the box back in Ethan's backpack.

Tina was unsettled by what she just did, but Ethan hadn't been back yet.

She got up.

Before she left, Tina took out her phone and took many snapshots of Ethan's leftover.

Then she updated her moments, "The food in Grand Brook Restaurant is great! Maybe it's kind of expensive, but I don't care as long as it tastes good..."

Then Tina left in a hurry.

After a while, Ethan came back from the bathroom. He found out no one sitting around the table, but he wasn't suspicious.

He muttered to himself with curiosity, "Didn't she say that she wanted to eat here? Why did she leave?"

Ethan took a look at his backpack, feeling confused.

At this moment, his cell phone suddenly rang. It was from Charles.

Ethan was surprised. Charles hadn't contacted him for days.

He picked up the phone and was going to tease Charles, but Charles sounded anxious, "Ethan, where are you? Joanna is in trouble!"

Hearing this, Ethan was stunned and asked nervously, "What's wrong? Is she okay? She was fine the last time I saw her."

"She's in the hospital!" Charles sounded worried, "I called you before, but your cell phone was turned off, so I left you a message. It was her dad. He is in big trouble. Joanna got sick because she is too worried."

Ethan asked in a hurry, "What's going on? Tell me!"

Ethan had always seen Joanna as one of his best friends. He would definitely try his best to help Joanna out of trouble.

Charles sighed heavily and then told the truth.

Joanna's father was a well-known doctor of traditional Chinese medicine in Buckeye. A couple of days earlier, a rich kid asked Joanna's dad to treat his genital problem.

But the medicine Joanna's dad prescribed to him was a little too strong. As a result, he peed himself at his friend's party.

The rich kid thought it was a humiliation, so he got very angry.

The thing those rich kids cared about the most was dignity. The public humiliation made him mad. He blamed everything on Joanna's dad and threatened that he would bring her dad's clinic down, and he would destroy the Mitchels.

The rich kid got some connections that gave the Mitchels a hard time. Joanna's father was taken away for a police investigation.

Joanna fell ill after her dad was taken away and went to the hospital.

Charles sighed, "Ethan, do you remember that Joanna didn't look so well in the past few days? She was worried about her dad, but she didn't mention it to us."

Charles's words got Ethan thinking. He remembered that Joanna did look occupied. Ethan tried to ask her what's wrong, but Joanna didn't answer him.

It seemed that her family had been in trouble, but Joanna managed to pretend to be normal.

"Okay, I see." Ethan nodded and said, "I'll be back as soon as possible. Is she... better now?"

"She picked up a phone call on campus and then fainted. We just sent her to the hospital!" Charles said.

"Well, take good care of her." Ethan asked, "Do you know the name of the person who Joanna's family got into trouble with?"

Charles was surprised, "Why do you ask?"

Charles answered after a while, "He may be the son of the CEO of Nine Star Group. I heard that it's a big company."

Ethan replied, "Okay, I know it. Don't worry. I'll help her solve the problem. If she wakes up, tell her not to worry."

Charles answered suspiciously. He didn't think Ethan could offer help.

The reason he called Ethan was to ask him to visit Joanna.

They were all good friends. Joanna would feel bad if Ethan didn't come to visit her in the hospital.

Ethan hung up the phone call. He gathered his thoughts and then packed up his belongings. After paying for his food, Ethan left the restaurant with his backpack.

Ethan called Maggie on his way.

"Ethan, what's the matter?" Maggie picked up the phone and asked in a calm tone, "Do you enjoy the food?"

Ethan agreed and went straight to the point, "I have something that I would like to ask you for a favor."

"Shoot!" Maggie asked without hesitation.

"Do you know the Nine Star Group?" Asked Ethan.

Maggie said, "It is a well-known company in Buckeye. We actually have a couple of cooperation

projects with them. Are there problems with the company?"

Ethan replied, "I have a friend who got in trouble with the son of the CEO of the Nine Star Group. Her dad has a clinic, and something went wrong when the son came to see her dad for some problems. Now the son wants to hurt my friend's family, so..."

Hearing this, Maggie said, "Okay, I know, Mr. Ethan. Don't worry. I will inform the CEO of the Nine Star Company, Joan Dodd. If he dares to touch your friend's family, I will make sure the Nine Star Group will disappear in Buckeye the next day!"

Maggie's reply was solid. She never failed her own promise.

Ethan trusted Maggie. He smiled and said, "Thank you, Maggie. By the way, can you book a flight back to Buckeye for me? I want to go back tomorrow."

Maggie agreed without hesitation. Ethan thanked her and hung up the phone.

Maggie didn't call Joan Dodd right away. Thinking about the phone with Ethan, she chuckled, "Maggie, not Ms. Hill? Hehe..."

"What's wrong, Miss Hill?"

Mr. Paker was with Maggie, and he was confused by her chuckle. Maggie quickly put her strict face back on and looked at Mr. Paker.

"Ahem... no... nothing." Maggie said, "By the way, book a ticket back to Buckeye early tomorrow morning for Mr. Ethan."

Mr. Paker nodded and went to deal with the ticket.

Maggie thought for a while and took out her cell phone. She scrolled through the contacts and dialed a number.

A man picked up the phone call after a while. He sounded obsequious.

"Miss Hill, I'm really sorry. I was in a meeting. What can I do for you?"

The man was the CEO of Nine Star Group, Joan Dodd.

Maggie said indifferently, "Mr. Dodd, what a great parent you are! Do you know what your son is up to lately?"

Maggie's words made Joan's heart almost jump out.

He quickly asked, "What...what trouble did that b\*stard got into? Don't worry. I will teach him a good lesson!"

Maggie sneered and said, "It's for the best. To tell you the truth, there's a Norman in Buckeye currently. He is the eldest son of Eric Norman. Now your son is troubling with one of his friends, so he asked me to inform you about your son's behavior!"



## Chapter 69

Upon hearing this, Joan was dumbfounded!

Maggie was just a "servant" of the Norman Family, and Joan had to be careful around her, let alone the son of Eric Norman.

Joan was planning on getting the connection with the Norman Family, and he knew well how powerful this family was.

Only the tip of the Norman Family's power was enormous to the people like Joan.

But Joan's son provoked the son of Eric Norman, which would put Joan and his family into huge misery.

Joan was very clear that if he couldn't handle the incident well, not only he couldn't be in a good relationship with the Norman Family, but also his own family would be in great danger.

"No problem, you can rest assured. I will give you a satisfactory answer today!" Joan gave Maggie an answer.

Joan didn't have the mood to continue his meeting anymore. He rushed back to his office and called his son to scream at him.

The next day, Ethan got on the plane early in the morning.

In less than an hour, he arrived at Buckeye. Ethan got in the car arranged by Maggie and went to the hospital.

Charles was waiting in front of the hospital for Ethan.

Ethan and Charles were about to walk into the hospital. Charles heard someone shouted his name.

It was Elle. She was walking to Charles holding another guy.

"Why are you here?" Charles asked.

Elle rolled her eyes at him and then took a look at Ethan. She said grumpily, "What's wrong? Joanna is my friend. Of course, I need to visit her in the hospital!"

Charles didn't say anything. He was looking at the guy Elle brought over.

Seeing this, Elle couldn't help but smile and said, "Charles, this is my new boyfriend, Carl Lee. Carl, this is Charles Walker, your future in-law!"

"Charles is my younger cousin. You take good care of him!" Elle looked at the guy like a spoiled child and said with a smile.

Carl smiled smugly and said tenderly, "Of course. Your cousin is my cousin. I will take good care of him. Let's find a time and hang out!"

Carl spoke so directly and generously. Elle was quite proud. She then glanced at Ethan and sneered, "What is he doing here?"

Carl also noticed Ethan. He caught the attitude in Elle's words and asked, "Elle, who is he?"

Elle smiled and said arrogantly, "He is just a clown. You don't need to know him. I'm in a good mood and don't want to talk to him. Let's go in."

Elle went into the hospital with Carl.

Charles glared at Elle unhappily. He patted Ethan on the shoulder and said, "Forget it, you know who she is. Let's go in, ignore her."

Ethan wasn't going to pay attention to Elle either. He nodded and followed Charles in.

In the room of the hospital, Joanna and a couple of her families and friends were inside.

They were trying to comfort Joanna.

Joanna nodded with tears in her eyes.

But at this moment, she heard a voice, "Joanna, I'm here!"

When Elle saw Joanna's withered status, her tears welled up in her eyes. Elle walked over with open arms.

Joanna was surprised to see Elle. But seeing her crying, Joanna couldn't help but cry.

The two cried for a long time. Finally, one of Joanna's aunts managed to settle them down.

"It's all my fault, Joanna. I didn't know what had happened to your family. I shouldn't have..."

Elle said sadly.

Joanna interrupted her, "It's okay. Don't be too harsh to yourself, Elle. There was also my fault. I'm really happy that you can come to see me."

Joanna's families were happy to know they were back on good terms, and they also thought highly of Elle for being generous and forgiving.

"Such a good kid, come to see her good friend when Joanna needs love and care the most..."

"Elle is a nice person. I know she has been Joanna's friend for several years. Great person..."

Elle felt elated by all the praises. She dragged Carl over and said with a smile, "Joanna, let me introduce. This is Carl Lee, my boyfriend. His family has a trading company!"

Carl was tall and handsome. With the way Elle had introduced him, Joanna's families were all impressed.

Carl smiled and handed over the fruit basket he brought, "Nice to meet you, Joanna. I've been hearing Elle talks about you. Today, I finally meet you in person. There's a small gift. Hoping you will recover soon!"

Joanna smiled and asked one of her family to take the fruits.

Joanna's family asked out of curiosity, "What kind of fruits are they? They look strange, but the smell is great!"

The question made Elle excited. She said in a hurry, "Auntie, you don't know it. It's a South American fruit. It's very rare and delicious, and it contains a lot of nutrients. It can help Joanna recover!"

"Oh, it must be very expensive." She looked at the fruits with surprise.

Hearing this, Elle and Carl looked at each other and smiled complacently.

Carl said, "Not too expensive. It is only a little over four hundred bucks a pound. There are only four, five pounds. I asked my friend overseas to help buy them. They are still fresh!"

Carl's tried to undermine the value of the fruits to indicate how rich and powerful he was.

To say four-hundred-per-pound fruit wasn't expensive was obviously lying.

However, Elle had said that Carl's family was running a company. Joanna's families were

surprised by Carl Lee and his family.

None of them knew someone like Carl, so they all thought Carl was elite.

"Look at Elle's boyfriend. He is really amazing. He is so generous at such a young age. I don't even know what the taste of a four-hundred-per-pound fruit is!"

"Young and promising. Elle made a great choice!"

"I'll be so happy if Joanna could get herself a boyfriend like Carl. He is handsome, polite, and has a rich dad. Perfect!"

With all the praise, Elle felt like she was in heaven. She turned her head and happened to see that Ethan and Charles were walking in from the outside.

Elle laughed mockingly and said, "It all depends on Joanna. Uncles and aunties, please help Joanna with this. If Joanna ended up with some coward loser, that's a lifetime suffering!"

Elle's words stunned Joanna's families. But they realized something when they saw Ethan walking in. They all looked at Ethan and whispered.

"No way. Does Elle hint that this is Joanna's boyfriend?"

"Look at him. The clothes look acceptable, but still, he looks like a hillbilly."

"Visiting patient empty-handed, no manner! I need to have a conversation with Joanna and Zebulon about this."

Joanna's families all knew Ethan was the one. They had seen Charles when he sent Joanna to the hospital the other day.

They thought Carl was way better than Ethan.

## Chapter 70

When Joanna saw Ethan, she was so happy that she wanted to get off the bed, ignoring her families' dissatisfaction with Ethan.

Joanna only managed to sit up when Elle entered the room. So in Joanna's eyes, Ethan was much more important.

Ethan rushed over and held Joanna. He smiled and said, "Joanna, are you okay? I'm sorry. I wasn't in Buckeye when all this happened. I didn't know that your family was in so much trouble."

Joanna smiled and said, "Don't worry. You should take care of your business first. You really don't need to get back in a hurry if you're busy."

"I have to be back for you! I got on the earliest plane after I heard from Charles what happened to you. How are you now?" Ethan suddenly felt a little embarrassed, "I'm really sorry. I came straight here after my plane landed. I didn't even bring anything..."

Ethan was only thinking about getting to the hospital as fast as he could but totally forgot about the sympathy gift.

If he had remembered it, he would have Maggie to get the gift for him.

Joanna didn't mind. She smiled and said, "I'm only happy that you're here. Seeing you makes me feel much better!"

Hearing Joanna's words, Ethan felt warm but more embarrassed.

Even though they didn't know each other for long, Joanna was good to him, which touched Ethan's heart.

But Joanna's words made Elle jealous!

Elle had forgiven Joanna and come to visit her in the hospital with an expensive gift, but Joanna said she felt much better seeing Ethan.

Elle thought she was neglected as a friend.

Her face dropped when Joanna said those words.

In Elle's mind, Ethan was the cause of all the arguments that happened between Joanna and herself.

She was planning to take the opportunity to make up with Joanna. But Ethan came to mess up her plan again.

"You are lying!" Elle glanced at Ethan contemptuously and said with disdain, "You flew back from out of town? Why didn't you say that you flew back from out of space? I know who you are."

Elle's words brought an air of awkwardness in the room.

Joanna looked at Ethan and didn't know what to say.

Ethan felt awkward too. He didn't know why Elle said that to him since he hadn't done everything yet.

After a long pause, Joanna squeezed out a smile and said, "Elle was joking. Everyone is fine. Ethan, please take a seat."

Joanna pointed to a chair.

Ethan nodded, even though he didn't plan on taking a seat. But Elle said, "Why should he sit? There are so many elders still standing."

She snorted coldly and didn't even look at Ethan.

The room wasn't big and there weren't enough chairs for everyone. So a couple of Joanna's elder families were standing.

However, when Elle tried to criticize Ethan for taking the seat, she herself was sitting the whole time.

Ethan ignored Elle since he was here for Joanna.

But Elle wanted to give Ethan a hard time. She sneered and said, "Some people are really rude. They came all the way from out of town to visit a patient but came in empty-handed. I don't know how they live with themselves!"

Elle looked at Carl and smiled, "I can't expect you to bring over some four-hundred-per-pound fruits as my Carl does. But spending a couple of dollars on a fruit basket isn't too much to ask. Call yourself Joanna's friend. It's ridiculous!"

Ethan blushed at Elle's words. Although he knew that Elle deliberately made things difficult for him, it was indeed his fault.

Ethan sighed and then smiled at Joanna, "Then... I'll go and get something for you downstairs."

But Joanna stopped him.

"Don't worry." Joanna looked at Elle angrily, "Don't you care what others have to say. I don't mind that you came empty-handed."

Joanna's words warmed Ethan again.

But Ethan still felt bad about it. He said, "Alright, I won't go. I'll call someone to bring something over."

Ethan then reached out for his cell phone. He intended to ask Maggie to bring some sympathy gift over to the hospital.

Ethan felt sorry for Joanna, but he also wanted to use the gift to silence Elle.

She had been bragging about her fruits for a very long time. Ethan had had enough of it.

Ethan knew Maggie could bring over a much more expensive gift, and that would shut Elle up.

But Joanna grabbed Ethan's hand to stop him. She smiled, "Forget it, Ethan. You don't listen to me anymore?"

Joanna was for Ethan's good. She thought that Ethan couldn't afford gifts more expensive than Elle's exotic fruits, and Elle would double down on Ethan's insult because of an ordinary gift.

And that is something Joanna wouldn't want to see.

Ethan gave up on the idea because of Joanna's insistence.

Considering Joanna's health, Ethan didn't want to make Joanna angry. So he didn't think it was necessary to confront Elle.

In the end, Joanna would be the one who really suffered.

Ethan sighed and said with a smile, "Well, Whatever you say."

Hearing this, Joanna couldn't help but smile. She thought that Elle should be back down since Ethan had compromised.

However, Joanna had made a wrong judgment on her friend.

Seeing Ethan put away his cell phone, Elle smiled disdainfully and said, "So disgusting. What a clown. Why stop? I'm curious about who will pick up your phone and what they can bring over. Hurry up. I'm waiting!"

Elle looked at Ethan with an evil smile, thinking that it was the perfect opportunity to embarrass Ethan in public.

Ethan looked at Elle and then Joanna. He sighed and put his cell phone back in his pocket.

Ethan thought for a moment and said, "Elle, for the sake of Joanna, I don't want to have an altercation with you today. I hope that you can stop it, and everyone could have a better time."

Ethan had restrained himself as much as he could.

However, Elle wasn't smart enough to realize that Ethan was warning her. She thought that Ethan was making excuses for his cowardice.

So she said disdainfully, "For the sake of Joanna? What a phony! Don't use Joanna as an excuse. Just admit it, you are a coward and loser!"

Hearing Elle's words, Carl followed his girlfriend, "That's right. You have said that you wanted to call people, then do it! We're waiting to see how powerful you are. I've heard from Elle a lot of interesting things about you!"

Carl was mentioning some embarrassing moment Ethan had.

Carl didn't know Ethan. But learning from Elle's words, he had believed that Ethan was simply a loser!

Carl looked down on people like Ethan.

Ethan sneered at Elle and Carl. He took out his cell phone.

He smiled at Joanna and then dialed Maggie's number...

## Chapter 71

Ethan had been putting up with Elle for the sake of Joanna.

However, Elle kept bothering Ethan. So Ethan had finally made up his mind.

Being looked down on by Elle, Ethan wanted to show her who was the joke in front of everyone.

Ethan thought that Maggie would come in person after he called. Then he might as well take this opportunity to explain all the misunderstandings in the past.

However, just as Ethan dialed the number, Joanna grabbed his phone off his hand.

Joanna was upset. She put the phone in her pocket.

Ethan was stunned...

"Joanna, you..." Ethan looked at Joanna in confusion.

Joanna sighed. She looked at Ethan and Elle frustrated, and then she said, "What's wrong with you two? Do you see me as your friend? Why do you have to fight with each other? Do you think it's funny?"

Joanna continued, "I'll say this one last time. If you really think of me as a friend, please respect me, especially you, Elle. I don't understand what Ethan has done to you? Why do you look down on him? When you pick up other people's short points, please also think about which of yourself!"

Joanna's words embarrassed Elle. She snorted and turned her head away.

Then Joanna turned to Ethan but sighed helplessly.

Joanna thought that Ethan had been childish that day.

Why did Ethan fall into Elle and Carl's trap and want to make the phone call?

Joanna didn't think Ethan could call anyone. In her mind, Ethan only knew a handful of people, and almost all of them were here in the room.

Joanna thought that to defending his ego, Ethan was trying his luck to call a random classmate.

But what's that going do any good? That person wouldn't even want to talk to Ethan, let alone send gifts.

Joanna disliked Ethan for being such childish.

She helped Ethan to deal with the same mistakes over and over again. But why Ethan couldn't learn to stop defending his ego?

After Joanna took away his cell phone, Ethan was extremely embarrassed!

Joanna's action was out of blues, and she already got Ethan's phone before he could react.

Ethan was going to ask Joanna to give back his cell phone.

However, Ethan gave up the idea after hearing Joanna's words.

Joanna had been kind to Ethan. At this moment, Joanna was still lying in the hospital bed. Ethan wanted to swallow his pride this time for Joanna.

It was only that Ethan couldn't stand the behaviors of Elle and her boyfriend.

All of a sudden, Ethan came up with an idea. He remembered that he had bought two bottles of perfume, and one of them was for Joanna.

Thinking of this, Ethan couldn't help but think with a smile on his face, "Of course I had brought the gift! And it's a hundred times more precious than the fruits Elle brought!"

Ethan searched through his backpack and smiled at Joanna, "Joanna, I'm sorry. I almost forgot that I have your gift!"

Hearing Ethan's words, Elle and Joanna were both surprised.

"You have a gift?"

"Yes." Ethan said with a smile, "I was in Ocean City. It happened that some of my classmates asked me to buy some makeups for them. So I bought you a Chanel perfume on the way!"

Hearing the name Chanel, everyone in the room widened their eyes.

Chanel is a French high-end fashion house. Their perfume is especially well-known globally. Any of their luxury items are very expensive.

Hearing that Ethan had brought a Chanel for Joanna, her families were all looked excited.

Even Elle was stunned when she heard the name Chanel from Ethan.

But in an instant, Elle's facial expression changed. She sneered and said, "You're really good at bullsh\*t. You brought Joanna a Chanel perfume? Why do you say you buy a bottle of fairy dust?"

Joanna's relatives didn't know Ethan, so they were confused when they heard Elle's words.

Elle smiled and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, don't be fooled by this person. You don't know how poor this guy is. My cousin is feeding him right now. He can afford a Chanel perfume? No one will believe his lie."

Elle glared at Ethan. She didn't believe Ethan's words, and she was expecting Ethan to make a fool out of himself when his words turned out to be a lie.

Carl added, "Yes, you people probably didn't know. My mom uses Chanel. She told me their makeups are so-so, you can buy a set in hundreds of dollars. But their perfume is famous. Anyone of their perfumes will cost more than ten thousand dollars. Do you all think a person like Ethan can afford that?"

Hearing their words, Joanna's relatives frowned.

There were all whispering.

"Hear what the rich kid just said. Maybe the other guy is lying."

"The cheapest one costs more than ten thousand dollars. Did he buy our Joanna a fake one? In that case, I don't trust this guy."

"Probably bullsh\*tting. It might be that he bought a fake Chanel to fool Joanna. But he didn't expect that Elle's boyfriend knows the perfume and exposed him."

Seeing Joanna's relatives all believed their words, Elle smiled smugly. She wanted to watch Ethan being humiliated.

But at this time, Ethan didn't pay too much attention to all the doubts.

He smiled and thought to himself, "Talk as you want. I'll shut you up with the real thing."

"Elle, do you think you are so awesome because you brought some fancy fruits?"

"Well, I'll make you feel shameful about yourself!"

Compared with a bottle of Chanel perfume, her exotic fruits were nothing.

Ethan searched for a while and took out an exquisite box from his backpack.



The box was only the size of a palm. It had the iconic Chanel design with its logo at the center.

The moment Ethan took out the perfume box, Elle was stunned. She didn't think Ethan could take out anything.

Judging from the exquisiteness of the box, it looked like an authentic Chanel design. Could it be that there was a real Chanel perfume in the box.

Joanna's relatives were all surprised by the look of a Chanel perfume package box.

Looking at everyone's reaction, Ethan said to Elle, "Do you believe me now?"

Hearing this, Elle said disdainfully, "Who knows whether it's the real perfume or a fake? A beautiful box tells nothing!"

"Still don't believe me? You can check the series number," said Ethan. After seeing Ethan took up the perfume box, Charles smiled. He patted Ethan and said, "Ethan, you're the man! You must've spent a lot on this thing!"

Ethan smiled. He handed the box to Joanna and said, "Fifty-eight thousand!"

## Chapter 72

"Fifty-eight thousand?"

Someone cried out these words out of surprise.

Everyone in the room was stunned.

"One bottle of perfume costs almost sixty thousand dollars? For real?"

"What? Is it made out of gold? So expensive!"

"Knock it off. It's impossible. He's lying."

Joanna's relatives chatted.

Joanna also looked at Ethan in surprise, with a pounding heart.

"Really?" Joanna asked.

Ethan smiled and said, "Yes, and it is for you. Open it and have a look."

Ethan handed the perfume to Joanna. He wanted to see Joanna's exciting face when she saw the perfume.

Joanna was excited, but she was also curious about how Ethan could afford it.

But Ethan looked so confident. So maybe he was telling the truth.

And if that was the case, Joanna couldn't imagine how excited she would be.

Her face blushed, and she hesitated a little.

"Joanna, what are you waiting for? Open it and let us see what the perfume looks like."

One of Joanna's relatives hurried Joanna, and the others also echoed.

Some of them were curious to see what's in the box, and the others didn't really care. They simply didn't trust Ethan and wanted to see what Ethan was going to do after his lie exposed.

Elle was one of them. She sneered, "Open it. I'm curious about what he put in that box to fool you!"

Elle didn't believe Ethan could afford a Chanel perfume, but she was curious. She fixed her eyes on the box in Joanna's hand.

Joanna didn't pay attention to Elle. She smiled at Ethan and opened the box slowly.

The smile on Joanna's face bloomed like a flower.

Ethan was full of expectation, thinking about the reaction of everyone in the room.

But Joanna's smile disappeared when she opened the box.

There wasn't a Chanel perfume inside the box. Instead, it was a small bottle of unbranded perfume.

The most shocking thing was that the perfume was half-used. The label was all in Korean. It looked exactly like the ones from the street market near campus.

Joanna was dumbfounded, as well as the rest of the people.

Out of curiosity, Elle went up to see what's going on.

She burst into laughter at what she saw.

"Haha. I'm going to laugh to death..."

Seeing Elle like this, Carl also went up. He burst out laughing and then looked at Ethan, "Since when did Chanel become a Korean brand? And it has been used? Did you pick it up somewhere on the street? How could you give people a pick-up-trash?"

"Do you think everyone is stupid?" Elle said aggressively, "Or we are all blind? If you can't afford it, don't give gifts. Don't use junk to humiliate yourself!"

Elle grabbed the bottle and threw it to Ethan.

Ethan was stunned by what he was hearing. He picked up the perfume bottle and was dumbfounded by the look of it.

"What... what is this?" Ethan was confused. He quickly looked at Joanna and explained in a panic, "I... I don't know what's going on. The perfume I bought was Chanel..."

Joanna frowned deeply.

Joanna had bought a similar bottle of perfume from the campus street market. It was very cheap.

But Joanna didn't believe that Ethan could give her this as a gift.

"You don't know what you've bought?" Elle finally caught the ground to humiliate Ethan on. She said sarcastically, "You are a liar! We all see the so-called Chanel you got Joanna is a piece of garbage. What else are you going to say for yourself?"

"I... I don't know!" Ethan's face was pale, "When I bought it from the department store, they packaged it in front of me."

"Bah! You liar, how dare you to say that?" Elle spat at Ethan and said in a vicious tone, "You're a piece of sh\*t! What can't you do? You are still lying when the truth is there in plain sight! Get out of here! With you standing beside Joanna, she will only be laughed at!"

All of Joanna's relatives agreed with Elle.

Ethan didn't know what happened to the perfume he bought. So it looked like Elle was telling the truth that Ethan was a liar.

"Why does he do that? Don't give other people gifts if you can't afford one. Using a piece of garbage to trick us? Does he think we are all idiots?"

"Get him out of here and away from our Joanna. Elle was right. If Joanna gets too close to him, she will only be laughed at!"

"Unbelievable. He is so young and so vain. Fifty-eight thousand dollars? What a lie. I guess he will be ignorant and incompetent for the rest of his life."

Listening to the complaints of Joanna's relatives, Ethan was speechless.

He wanted to explain, but he didn't understand how the high-end perfume turned into a piece of half-used garbage.

But people here, including Elle and Carl, didn't give Ethan a chance to explain. They surrounded and insulted Ethan.

As if Ethan had committed an unforgivable crime.

Looking at everyone, Ethan felt aggrieved.

Ethan didn't really care about other people's judgment. That's their business. But Ethan cared about how Joanna looked at him.

And with one look on Joanna's face, Ethan knew Joanna didn't believe him at all.

Ethan was worried. He said in a hurry, "Joanna, I wasn't lying. I did buy the Chanel perfume... Oh, I have another one here. Take a look at this one if you don't believe me!"

Ethan went to search for the other perfume in his backpack.

It was for Linda. But at this point, Ethan could only think about how to get him through the situation at hand.

"Another one?" Elle laughed in a strange tone. She said, "So there's another bottle of half-used cheap perfume you picked up on the street? What's wrong with you? Is it not humiliating enough for you?"

Carl nudged Elle and chuckled, "Elle, he was just trying to nice. Although this one is probably another piece of garbage."

Carl was making fun of Ethan.

Ethan could tell from his tone of voice, and he was angry.

Ethan glared at the two and thought to himself, "Wait for me to clear my name!"

Ethan then took out another box from his backpack. It was exactly the same as the previous one.

Ethan was careful this time. He peeped into the box and felt relieved after seeing that a bottle of real Chanel perfume was in the box.

## Chapter 73

"Look, Joanna, someone switched the real perfume. But take a look at this one. This one is the real Chanel perfume!"

Ethan handed the perfume box to Joanna with excitement. He thought that the misunderstanding would be cleared.

It would quiet down the people in the room.

There was not only the real perfume in the box but also the receipt and certificates for the two bottles of perfume. The two pieces of paperwork could be verified. So as long as people could take a look at everything, all the misunderstandings would be cleared!

"Joanna, let's take a look. What ridiculous garbage does he give you this time?" Elle said with a fake smile.

Joanna's relatives also laughed at Ethan.

None of them believed that Ethan could offer anything valuable.

Probably another bottle of cheap perfume from the street market that slightly more expensive than the last one.

Everyone in the room was looking down on Ethan.

Looking at the faces of everyone and Ethan's face full of expectation, Joanna felt very uncomfortable.

She wanted to help Ethan but didn't know how to.

Joanna knew that if she let the incident continue to develop, these people would double down their harshness on Ethan.

Joanna felt guilty about Ethan. It was for Joanna that Ethan had gotten himself into this situation.

Tears gushed out of Joanna's eyes. She snatched the perfume box from Ethan's hand and held it in her arms without opening it.

Ethan was stunned by Joanna's action!

"Why are you holding it? Open it and have a look!"

Ethan frowned and said in a hurry, "Joanna, take a look! Tell them what's in the box!"

Hearing Ethan's words, Joanna sobbed, "Stop it, Ethan. What's wrong with you? Are you feeling good being laughed at?"

Joanna's feelings for Ethan were complicated!

She didn't understand why Ethan would behave like this.

"Joanna, he told you to show us what's in the box. Why are you holding it? Hurry up! I've never seen such a thing as a bottle of fifty-eight-thousand-dollar perfume!" Elle sneered and said to Joanna, "You like to trust a piece of sh\*t like Ethan. Now take a look at what he really is?"

Elle's words stirred another round of discussion among Joanna's relatives.

"Joanna, Elle is right. Show us what's in the box? What if it's really a bottle of fifty-eight-thousand-dollar perfume? Haha..."

"To hell with fifty-eight thousand dollars! What a joke! Why are you still here? Get the f\*\*k out!"

Hearing all the insults from her relatives, Joanna was devastated.

Because of Elle, Joanna's families treated Ethan terribly.

Everyone started attacking Ethan. Elle was very pleased with her achievement.

"What a friend I have!" Thinking of this, Joanna smiled bitterly.

"Are you satisfied now? Everyone is on your side. You should be very happy, right?" Joanna said to Elle coldly, "You like to see Ethan and me embarrassed in public, right? You need to stay away from my face. You are not my friend anymore."

Joanna turned her head away and sat on the bed. She said, "You are too much for me!"

Elle was confused by Joanna's words!

"What the f\*\*k are you talking about, Joanna?" Elle said angrily, "I'm doing this for your own good. Do you have any conscience?"

"Joanna, what are you talking about? Can you tell right from wrong anymore?" One of her relatives commented.

"Unreasonable. If your dad heard you, he would be so pissed. Apologize to Elle!"

"Yes, apologize!"

Joanna's relatives directed their accusations at Joanna.

Joanna refused to listen to them. She glanced coldly at her relatives and lay back down, covering herself under the blanket.

"Joanna, you are something. You treat me like this for that moron!" Elle was furious. She shouted, "You are making me sick. What's so f\*\*king good about that son of a bi\*\*ch that you want to break off with me? You want it? Done!"

After saying that, Elle walked away, dragging Carl with her.

"Alas..."

Everyone let out a sigh of frustration at what just happened. Some of them left out of anger.

"You're so childish, Joanna!"

"Elle is much more mature than you are. You really should think about what she said. Ok, I'm off..."

Finishing casting accusations at Joanna, everyone had left the hospital.

Joanna, hiding under the blanket, was crying.

Ethan and Charles were the last two people left in the room with Joanna. Charles pointed at Joanna and winked at Ethan, and then he left too.

Ethan understood that Charles was asking him to comfort Joanna.

It was true that Ethan was the cause of that day's drama.

Ethan sighed and said in a guilty tone, "Joanna, today... I'm sorry..."

Outside of the hospital, Elle just walked out angrily with tears in her eyes.

"F\*\*k you, you f\*\*king piece of sh\*t! It ain't f\*\*king over yet!" Elle screamed.

"Calm down!" Carl comforted Elle, "Don't you see that Joanna is interested in that Ethan guy?"

Carl's words made Elle gnash her teeth with hatred!

Elle couldn't take it that her best friend is interested in people like Ethan.

"You should break off with people like Joanna. That's a smart move!" Carl said carelessly.

However, his words triggered Elle. She suddenly stopped and looked at Carl with displeasure. She said, "Joanna is my best friend. It's impossible for her to break off with me. I was talking in anger. I'll never allow her to break off with me!"

Elle couldn't help but say the following out of frustration, "She is the only friend I've got."

Suddenly, Elle's eyes lit up. She looked at Carl and said with a smile, "Honey, can you ask your families to get Joanna's dad out?"

"Ah?" Carl was shocked by Elle's words, "Are you kidding me? She just said she wanted to break off with you, but you want to help her dad? Are you crazy?"

Elle smiled. She quickly took Carl's arm and said, "Of course not. Think about it. The only reason that Joanna treats me like this is because of Ethan. If I can help to get her dad out, she will know who is more useful, me, or that moron Ethan. Moreover, if her dad owns us, I can ask Joanna's dad to make Joanna stay away from Ethan!"

Hearing Elle's words, Carl was speechless. He didn't understand why she just said the friendship was over, but at the same time, Elle wanted to get Joanna back.

"Honey, please?" Joanna begged like a spoiled child.

Carl was hesitant. He knew that Joanna's dad had offended the people from the Nine Star Group. Carl's family connection might not be powerful enough.

Before Carl had the chance to say no, he felt there was a shadow coming toward them. And then the shadow ran into Elle.

## Chapter 74

"Ouch..."

Elle screamed. She was knocked over, and her bag fell on the ground.

"Sorry, sorry, are you okay?"

The person who ran into Elle was a young woman in her mid-twenties. She had a curvy body and a beautiful face. The woman wore heavy makeup, a tight dress shirt, and a pair of suit pants, looking like a white-collar worker.

"Are you f\*\*king blind?" Elle screamed at her furiously, "Are you trying to kill me?"

Elle was trying to vet her anger from earlier.

The woman was going to apologize to Elle, but hearing Elle's cursing, her face suddenly dropped.

"Watch your manners! I bumped into you by accident, and I tried to apologize to you. Why are you still cursing me?"

The woman turned to leave, murmuring angrily.

"Stop there!" Elle quickly looked at Carl and said, "Didn't you hear how she was talking to me? Why don't you slap her?"

But Carl was staring at something else at this moment.

Elle was about to go after the woman herself. But when she looked up, the woman had already gone.

"What are you looking at?" Elle hurried to pick up her belongings that had dropped out of her bag. She looked over to where Carl was staring and saw a watch.

It was the watch that Elle stole from Joanna. The watch belonged to Ethan, and Ethan had let Joanna keep the watch temporarily.

Elle quickly picked up the watch with a vigilant look.

"What are you looking at? It's just a crappy watch!" Elle said self-consciously.

She didn't want people to see the stolen watch, even Carl.

Elle was afraid that Joanna and Ethan found out about the fact she had stolen the watch, and Elle would lose Joanna as a friend for good.

At this moment, Carl was staring at Elle with excitement, "Elle, where did you get this watch?"

Elle's face suddenly turned red, "You... Why are you asking?"

Carl grinned and told Elle that there's no specific reason. Then he asked, "Can I borrow it?"

As he was speaking, Carl reached out his hand and snatched the watch from Elle's hand.

"F\*\*k me..." Carl muttered to himself in awe as he was examining the watch.

Seeing this, Elle couldn't help but ask, "Honey, what's about this watch?"

Carl smiled and said, "Nothing. Oh, by the way, where did you get this watch?"

Carl didn't ask if Elle had bought it. He knew that there was no way Elle could afford a watch like this.



Carl knew that the watch was a customized watch from a top-notch watch company in Switzerland.

And the most important thing was that Carl vaguely remembered that this watch belonged to a very important person.

Carl tried hard but failed to recall the owner. But his curiosity and fondness of the watch were growing.

"Where did you get it?" Carl asked again.

Elle heard something from Carl's tone of voice. She answered in hesitation, "I... I picked it up somewhere on the street? What's wrong?"

Hearing this, Carl was surprised. He could tell that Elle didn't know the value of the watch at all!

What a silly girl. She didn't even know that she had found a treasure.

So Carl had an idea.

In fact, it was their parents' wishes that Elle and Carl to be together. But Carl wasn't into Elle.

He originally planned to dump Elle after he had slept with her.

Elle was pretty, but Carl wanted more.

At this moment, Carl wanted to get the watch from Elle beside sleeping with her before doing the dumping.

Carl loved watches. His watch was a Rolex Sea-Dweller. So he knew the value of the one in Elle's hand the moment he saw it. The watch might even cost millions.

Carl thought if he could have this watch, he could splash the cash on for quite a while!

He grinned at the thought, "No, nothing wrong. It's just that the watch looks pretty. I'm kind of like it."

Carl acted like he was deep in love with the watch.

Elle was a little surprised at Carl's overly fondness over the watch. She asked, "You really like it?"

Carl nodded, "Obviously, it is not an expensive watch, but it is a beautiful one. You should know that I love to collect watches!"

Hearing this, Elle was hesitant.

She was thinking of giving the watch to Carl.

But she was also worried that someone might see the watch and found out about the fact she had stolen it?

Seeing Elle was hesitant, Carl smiled and said, "Elle, how about giving me this watch, and I'll buy you another one?"

Hearing this, Elle was tempted. She had promised her sister Sierra that she would give her a watch, but she was short of money at the moment.

It would be a good deal if she could trade Carl with this old watch for a new one.

Elle thought for a moment and then spoke to Carl with a tender voice, "Dear, I don't mind giving it to you. But can you do me a small favor?"

Elle realized that Carl was hesitant to help Joanna's dad, so she wanted to trade the watch with Carl's help. Although she didn't know the value of the watch, she could tell that Carl really liked it.

"Go ahead," Carl said.

Elle laughed and said, "Can you help Joanna's dad?"

Carl didn't know how to respond. He knew that he couldn't do it. It was the Nine Star Group Elle tried to go against, and even Carl's dad couldn't do it.

But tempting by the watch, Carl answered, "Well, I can try to help. As for if I can make it, it depends on luck!"

Hearing this, Elle was escalated. She had been hearing Carl bragged about how well-connected he was.

And Elle believed everything Carl had said. She thought that as long as Carl was willing to help, Joanna's dad would be okay right away.

Elle quickly put the watch on Carl's wrist with excitement. She kissed Carl and said, "Thank you so much, honey."

Carl left the hospital with Elle in his arms.

They drove to the police station that Joanna's dad was held at, and Carl had no idea how he could pull this off.

They pulled over at the police station. When they were about to get in, Elle suddenly stopped, looking surprised.

Carl looked at where Elle was staring and saw two middle-aged men were coming out of the police station.

Elle muttered to herself, "Isn't that Joanna's dad?"

"Dr. Mitchel, I'm really sorry. It's all my boy's fault. Don't worry. I'll make sure he won't do that again!"

In front of the police station building, Joan accompanied Joanna's father, Zebulon Mitchel, walking out of the station.

Ever since he received Maggie's call, Joan was working fast to get Zebulon out of the police station.

At this moment, Zebulon's clinic was out of trouble, and Joan came to pick up Zebulon personally.

Joan was afraid that Zebulon would be dissatisfied.

Although Zebulon was an ordinary person, his daughter was a friend of the son of Mr. Norman.

Joan didn't want to provoke him again and ended up making the Norman Family angry at himself.

Zebulon was confused at this moment.

Seeing the CEO of the Nine Star Group came to pick him up personally and talked to him humbly, Zebulon was stunned.

He didn't know what had happened.

"Mr. Dodd, please don't say that. It was my fault." Zebulon said in a panic, "It was all my fault. I will definitely try my best to cure your son..."

While they were talking, Elle and Carl walked toward them.

Elle exclaimed from afar, "Uncle Mitchel! Are you all right?"

Seeing Elle, Zebulon was even more confused. Why Elle was here, and who was the young man she was with?

"I'm fine. Look, Mr. Dodd of the Nine Star Group came to pick me up personally. But, Elle, why are you here?" Zebulon smiled and asked curiously.

## Chapter 75

Seeing that Zebulon had come out and was accompanied by Joan Dodd, Elle was disappointed.

Joan beat her in getting Zebulon out.

And her plan for getting Joanna's dad out, and letting Joanna feel deeply grateful to her, was failed.

Elle faked a smile and said, "I...I came to pick you up."

Zebulon was confused by her response, "So she also knew that I would be released today?"

Zebulon took a look at Joan, and he was staring at the young man Elle was with.

Joan was staring at the watch on Carl's wrist, looking surprised.

"Mr. Dodd? What's the matter?" Zebulon asked gently.

Joan didn't answer Zebulon but walked toward Carl with an obsequious smile on his face.

"Mr. Norman, I didn't know you are coming. Miss Hill has told me everything, and I told her I would handle this myself. You really don't have to trouble yourself down here!"

As Joan speaking, he reached out his hand to shake hand with Carl.

His behavior shocked everyone.

Zebulon looked at the scene in front of him with confusion.

But he remembered that Joan had told him that one of Joanna's friends was the one who asked Joan's help. It sounded like the person was someone influential.

Zebulon looked at Carl and then looked at Elle. He then realized something.

The person was Joanna's friend.

And Elle showed up with Carl, saying that she was here to pick Zebulon up.

Zebulon made the connection that Elle and Carl were the ones who helped him.

He thought if it weren't for them, he would lose everything and drag his family down with him.

Zebulon was so grateful that tears almost flowed out. He walked up to Carl and bowed to him respectfully.

"Young man, thank you so much..."

Carl was shocked and confused.

He looked at Joan terrified. This is someone Carl knew from TV, the CEO of the Nine Star Group, and a famous figure in Buckeye.

But why he bowed to Carl?

Joanna's dad also bowed. But why?

Carl looked at Elle, only to find that she was also confused.

"You... you guys may have mistaken me for someone else," Carl said timidly.

"How could it be?" Joan smiled and said, "Today was my lucky day! Mr. Norman, I was wondering do you have time? I wanted to treat you to lunch..."

"No, lunch should be on me!" Zebulon said in a hurry, "Let's have a casual lunch today. I'll find

another time to treat you with a great one!"

Hearing Zebulon and Joan's words, Elle was getting more and more confused.

She asked, "Uncle Mitchel, what... what's wrong with you? By the way, I forgot to do the introduction. This is my boyfriend, Carl Lee. Why are you inviting him to lunch?"

"I see you don't know what happened. Your boyfriend was the one who helped your Uncle Mitchel!"

Joan interrupted.

"Yes. Thanks to your boyfriend!" Zebulon said with a smile, "Elle, you are really lucky to have such a great boyfriend. Joanna would also be lucky enough to have you."

Elle didn't know how to respond to them.

She looked at Carl, wondering, "Could it be that Carl has called someone to get Joanna's dad out behind my back?"

It was the only explanation Elle could think of. "So Carl just acted like he was hesitant in order to surprise me?" Elle thought to herself.

Thinking of this, Elle was extremely happy!

She thought Carl wasn't lying about how powerful he was since even Joan Dodd had to please Carl.

Elle also believed that Carl was good to her. He not only did her the favor but also gave her a surprise.

Elle's good impression of Carl suddenly increased.

At this moment, Carl was the only one who had no idea what was going on.

He couldn't figure out why Joan Dodd was so humble to him.

"Mr. Norman?" Joan called Carl and smiled ingratiatingly, "What's your thought? Let's have a casual lunch?"

Mr. Norman?

Hearing what Joan was calling him, Carl knew that Joan had mistaken him for another person.

Carl took a look at the watch. He suddenly remembered that he saw this watch on the wrist of someone from the Norman Family, the first family of China.

"So Elle's watch belonged to a Mr. Norman?" Carl wondered.

"And Joan recognized the watch, so he thought I was this Mr. Norman?"

Carl finally figured things out, and he was anxious.

He had been mistaken as someone from the Norman Family. So Joan was bowing to the family but not for Carl.

And once Carl's true identity was exposed, the Norman Family would bring hell to Carl.

Thinking of this, Carl was in a panic.

However, Carl was quite enjoying how Joan was treating him. He thought it was truly great being from a powerful family.

But he also thought it was unfair that only people from the Norman Family could enjoy such treatment.

But he, as Carl Lee, couldn't.

Why?

Carl was from a wealthy family, but he wanted to live the life of the rich and powerful who would be looked upon all the time.

He thought he just met with his opportunity.

It was risky. Carl would be in great danger once people found out that he wasn't Mr. Norman.

But he couldn't care that much anymore.

Carl had made up his mind. He said to Joan with a smile, "Lunch, right? Where are you suggesting?"

Hearing the answer, Joan smiled ingratiatingly, "Where do you have in mind? You are my guest in honor. Of course, we are going to the best place in town!"

Joan had an idea. He said with a smile, "How about The Empire Hotel? They have the best restaurant in Buckeye!"

The Empire Hotel was indeed the best place in Buckeye.

Carl was overjoyed. He had been there before. But he had never ordered too much food because he just wanted to stage a little show-off in front of his friends.

But still, it had cost him a fortune.

If Joan would like to buy him the lunch, Carl finally could eat as much as he wanted.

"Okay, the Empire Hotel!" Carl smiled and agreed without hesitation.

Hearing Carl's answer, Joan quickly ran off. He drove his Audi sedan over and opened the door for Carl, "Mr. Norman, please step in. I'll be your driver today."

The four people all got in the car.

And they drove to the restaurant.

Even at this time, Elle still hadn't calmed down from her excitement.

She had been to the Empire Hotel once to attend another person's party. She was surprised by the luxury of the place. Elle had wanted to go back there once more.

She looked at Carl gratefully and said, "I didn't think that I could go there again. Thank you so much, my dear!"

Elle planted a kiss on Carl's cheek, and her heart was filled with happiness.

"That's not too hard. As long as you like, I can take you there every day!" Carl said with a triumphant smile.

Hearing Carl's words, Elle was so excited that she jumped into Carl's arms.

Carl was also extremely excited.

He enjoyed bragging nonsense in front of Elle.

And Joan's behavior toward Carl was perfect proof to Elle that Carl wasn't lying.

So he was escalated.

However, there was still something Elle couldn't figure out.

After a while, Elle raised her head and looked at Carl. She whispered to Carl, "Honey, why did he call you Mr. Norman?"

## Chapter 76

"Well..."

Carl didn't know how to answer Elle. He scratched his head and stuttered.

Elle frowned at Carl's silence. After a while, she suddenly giggled and said, "Is that your code name, honey? Is that the name for a very powerful person?"

Carl's face turned red upon hearing Elle's explanation.

But since Elle had thought so, Carl decided to go along with her.

Carl scratched his head with a smile and said, "Yes, honey, you are so smart."

Arriving at the Empire Hotel, Joan went to open the door for Carl.

He was trying to please Carl, and Elle was getting some respectful treatment also.

Elle was enjoying this. She even convinced herself that she was also someone important.

"I've already reserved a private room. It's on the 27th floor. The room is one of the most luxurious private rooms in the Empire Hotel Restaurant," Joan said with a grin.

Carl nodded with satisfaction and said, "Well done, Joan!"

Joan quickly nodded and bowed, "Mr. Norman, you flatter me. I know Pablo Owen, the owner of the hotel, personally. So everything is just a phone call away."

On their way up, Joan said, "Pablo thinks that I must have invited a very important guest. So he told me he wanted to come over to say hello!"

Upon hearing this, Carl's eyes widened!

Pablo Owen was a well-known figure in Buckeye. Carl had been fortunate enough to see him twice from a distance, but Pablo had never noticed the existence of Carl Lee.

Pablo came to say hello to Carl? Carl was escalated to an extreme.

He had forgotten that he was playing with fire. One slip of the mind, Carl could lose his life.

But at this time, Carl had totally lost himself in the role of Mr. Norman.

Carl smiled and nodded. "Sure, he can come over!"

Joan thanked Carl.

In fact, Joan didn't tell Pablo that his guest was the son of Mr. Norman when he called Pablo for the room.

Although in public, Pablo and Joan were friends, Pablo was superior to Joan in status. Rumor had it that Pablo secretly had powerful people's support.

Joan was excited that he had the opportunity to know someone from the Norman Family. He believed that if he could get the support from the Norman Family, he could finally crush Pablo in status.

Joan planned to get Pablo to come over and told him who Carl was. Joan wished to see Pablo kiss his boots because he had a personal connection with the young Mr. Norman.

The four people reached their floor and walked into their room.

The room was magnificent. It had a luxurious and spacious reception room. The couch was

made of authentic leather, and the chandelier was made of real crystal. The room was sparkling under the light.

Walking over the reception room was the dining room, which was equally spacious and bright. There were four waitresses standing by.

Joan asked Carl to order a few dishes, and then he ordered another dozen more.

Then Joan passed the menu to Zebulon. He said with a smile, "Zebulon, if without the altercation, we wouldn't have known each other. What would you like to eat?"

Zebulon was flattered. He quickly shook his head and said, "I'm fine. You guys go ahead. Excuse me, but I need to make a phone call."

On Zebulon's way out, he heard Joan asking the waitress, "Go and fetch your boss. Tell him Joan Dodd is going to introduce someone important to him!"

Back to Joanna's room in the hospital.

After a while, Joanna finally stopped crying, but she was still depressed.

She didn't know what was going to happen to her dad, and she had just offended so many relatives. Joanna felt desperate.

Ethan handed her an orange slice. He smiled and said, "I'm sorry. It's all my fault."

Looking at the perfume box that Joanna had put on the nightstand, Ethan wanted her to take a look inside the box.

But he gave up the thought, for he didn't want Joanna to feel worse than she already had.

Joanna looked at Ethan and shook her head, "It's okay. I'm just in a bad mood."

"Are you still worried about your dad?"

Joanna nodded and said, "I don't even know how my dad is! I feel so incompetent. I can't do anything to help..."

Ethan smiled at Joanna's words. He thought that Maggie probably had dealt with the trouble of Joanna's dad.

"It's okay, Joanna. Don't worry. Maybe your dad is trouble-free now." Ethan smiled and said.

Ethan thought for a moment and said meaningfully, "Don't worry. The incident will be over soon. No one can hurt your family anymore."

Ethan was trying to give Joanna a guarantee that everything would be okay.

Joanna was his friend. Ethan wouldn't allow anyone to bully his friends.

But Joanna just shook her head at Ethan's words, looking miserable.

She didn't want to discourage Ethan, so she didn't say anything, but she wanted to make Ethan understand.

The person Joanna's dad offended was the CEO of the Nine Star Group, which was a powerful person in Buckeye. Joanna didn't think that Ethan understood the seriousness of the entire incident and what it would lead up to.

Joanna thought that Ethan was simply trying to be nice.

"Alas..." Joanna sighed heavily. She felt even worse, so she put down the orange slice.

Joanna's eyes fell on the second perfume box from Ethan.



Joanna had an impulse to open it up and have a look.

But on second thought, she gave up the idea. She believed that Ethan only pulled out the second box to make himself look good.

If she opened it in front of Ethan but didn't find the real Chanel perfume, it would be another blow to Ethan's ego.

The two people stayed in silence for a while. Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.

Joanna looked up, and her worried face suddenly relaxed a little.

"Cousin!"

The door was pushed away, and a young woman came in with a smile. She was walking and waving at Joanna.

This young woman was the one who knocked Elle over downstairs.

"Joanna, are you feeling better?" Claire smiled at Joanna and hurried over, "You look much thinner. You must be feeling terrible!"

Claire Mitchel was the daughter of Zebulon's brother. She had been living outside the province and had only returned to Buckeye the year before.

Joanna quickly hugged Claire. She had a lot of things she wanted to say to Claire.

Claire turned her head and saw Ethan. She asked, "Joanna, this is... your boyfriend?"

Joanna quickly shook her head and said, "No, Claire, this is my friend, Ethan Humphrey."

Claire looked Ethan up and down and smiled, "Friend is fine, but if he is your boyfriend, you should be more careful..."

Claire didn't say everything out loud, but she had made her thought clear.

Claire didn't approve of Ethan as Joanna's boyfriend.

Claire's first impression of Ethan wasn't good.

Ethan's skin was dark. Although his clothes were bearable, they didn't fit Ethan.

It looked like Ethan had just bought them randomly in a hurry just so he could be presentable. Claire thought Ethan was definitely from a poor family and wasn't good enough for her cousin.

Ethan was offended by Claire's words. But since Claire was Joanna's cousin, Ethan didn't talk back.

Claire chuckled and turned to look at the gifts that decide Joanna. All of a sudden, her eyes were attracted by the Chanel box.

"Joanna, who is it from? Chanel, how generous!"

Joanna quickly got up and walked over.

Before Claire could take the box, Joanna grabbed it.

Claire was stunned and asked, "What's wrong? You don't want me to see it?"

Joanna knew Claire. If she found out there was a cheap perfume in the Chanel box, she would cast ridicule at Ethan.

"No... it's not that... Actually, it..." Joanna stuttered.

Claire couldn't help but smile and said, "So what is it? Is it a gift from your boyfriend? Oh, it must be. Otherwise, who would give you such an expensive gift? I heard that Chanel's perfume costs

tens of thousands!"

"No, it's not!" Joanna didn't know how to explain.

Seeing this, Claire teased Joanna, "Look, what's the matter with you? You're blushing."

Joanna was speechless. Before she could find the words, Ethan suddenly spoke, "I gave it to her."

Hearing Ethan's words, Claire's hand froze in the air.

She stared at Ethan for a long time. She then said in surprise, "You gave Joanna this? Really? Do you know how expensive Chanel's perfume is?"

Ethan smiled and asked, "Is it expensive? I don't think so."

Ethan was telling the truth. He really didn't think the perfume was expensive.

## Chapter 77

Ethan had two billion in his bank account and had been only spending the bank interest for a very long time. That was to say that he could live a decent life without even taking any of the two billion.

But Claire thought Ethan's words sounded like a joke.

Claire laughed very loud. She said in a sarcastic tone, "That's funny. You sound like you are rich. I'm just curious. Is this perfume genuine?"

She continued, "Don't you dare use a fake one to fool my cousin! I know your kind."

Claire didn't even try to hide her aversion to Ethan. In her opinion, Ethan was poor but pretending to be rich, which meant he had another agenda he was hiding.

Maybe he wanted to trick Joanna to like him.

Claire had her experience with scumbags over the years.

Ethan looked at Claire and couldn't help but sigh. Apparently, Claire, like many others, judged people by their appearance.

Ethan smiled and pointed to the perfume box in Joanna's hand, "Why don't you go and check it yourself? It's right there."

Ethan had checked that the bottle of Chanel perfume was in the box safe and sound.

Claire replied, "Joanna, give it to me. I have more experience than you. Let me check it for you, so you don't get tricked!"

Claire walked over to Joanna for the box, but Joanna moved it aside.

Claire frowned. Seeing Joanna's reluctance, she seemed to understand something.

She glanced at Ethan and sneered, "I don't even need to check to know you gave her a knock-off. Poor cousin, she knew it too, but she is trying to hide the perfume from me to protect you. How ridiculous it is! You tricked her with a fake perfume, and she is still protecting your ego."

Claire's words irritated Ethan.

Claire was blaming Ethan without even checking if the crime existed.

Ethan's face turned gloomy all of a sudden. He said indifferently, "Please check it first before you make any accusation."

Ethan snorted and continued, "The perfume is fifty-eight thousand dollars a bottle. There are a receipt and series number in the box. You can check for yourself. You people keep blaming me for giving you fake stuff, but you don't even bother to know if it is genuine. Who do you think is the ridiculous one?"

Ethan finally poured out all his anger.

He felt that Claire was as unreasonable as Elle.

And Ethan didn't want to waste time on people like them anymore.

If they were rude to him, Ethan didn't find it necessary to be polite to them.

Ethan looked at Joanna and said in a serious tone, "Joanna, I know you don't believe me. But since this is where we are right now, why don't you just open the box? All of you will know if I'm

lying or not!"

Hearing Ethan's words, Joanna's face turned red.

Even though they were friends, Joanna had never believed Ethan about the perfume.

Joanna thought it was she who put Ethan in this situation.

But she was trying to protect Ethan from people's critics.

"Listen to him, Joanna. Why are you still refusing to show it to me? I wanna see if I made a wrong accusation or he is a liar!"

Joanna hesitated again at Claire's words.

Joanna still found it unbelievable that Ethan could afford a bottle of fifty-eight thousand perfume.

Claire snatched the box from Joanna while she was hesitating.

"Let's have a look!" Claire sneered. She looked at the perfume box and then looked at Ethan, saying, "I'm going to see if the perfume is fake or not. I warn you. Don't think I don't know what you're thinking. If it isn't a genuine Chanel perfume, you'd better stay as far away from Joanna as possible. Joanna is naive, but not me!"

Ethan smiled. He was looking forward to Claire's reaction once she saw the perfume in the box!

Claire opened the box. Both Joanna and Claire looked into the box nervously.

They were stunned by what they were seeing.

Inside the box, there was a signature Chanel cuboid glass bottle. A full bottle of honey-colored liquid was shining under the light.

Looking at the bottle of perfume, Ethan smiled and said, "You can check the receipt and series number to see if this bottle of perfume really cost the price I told you!"

Both Joanna and Claire were still shocked.

Looking at the bottle of perfume, Joanna was surprised with joy.

She didn't expect to see a bottle of perfume in the box. Judging from the label on the bottle, Joanna thought it could very much be genuine.

But how could Ethan afford it? According to him, the perfume was worth fifty-eight thousand!

Claire was still unable to say a word.

Although she couldn't afford such expensive perfume, Claire had been to the department store to check those up. So she could tell this one was the real deal.

Claire just couldn't believe that Ethan had given Joanna a bottle of genuine Chanel perfume.

"This...this is a replica, isn't it? It's good!" Claire asked.

Ethan didn't bother to explain. He took out the phone and entered the series number.

On the screen of his cell phone, the webpage of the perfume Ethan had purchased showed up.

Under the name of the perfume, which was in French, was the price-fifty-eight thousand Chinese dollars and the purchase location-Ocean City store, along with the salesperson's name and the customer's name-

Ethan!

The detailed information that came with luxury merchandise was all there.

Ethan put his cell phone in front of Claire's face and said with a smile, "Here you are. What else do you want to say?"

Claire was speechless.

She knew there's no way it was a counterfeit.

Especially with Ethan's name on the website as a customer.

"Ethan, you really bought this!" Joanna said in astonishment.

Ethan smiled and said, "Of course, this is the gift I bought for you!"

"But what about the other one?"

Joanna suddenly remembered the bottle of half-used cheap perfume.

Ethan smiled bitterly and said, "In fact, it should be one exactly like this one. I don't know what happened either. My guessing is someone switched it."

It meant Ethan had spent a hundred and ten thousand dollars on two bottles of perfume.

Joanna was even more shocked, "Then... where did you get the money? This is more than a hundred thousand!"

Ethan smiled and took a look at Claire. He thought for a while and said, "The money... Joanna, don't worry. All is my own. The fact is that I'm wealthy. So if you need anything in the future, just name it. Being a friend, I will help you as much as I can!"

Joanna felt a sudden warmth in her heart when she heard Ethan's words.

But she was still curious about the source of the money. She was worried that Ethan might get himself into some trouble.

However, Joanna didn't keep asking Ethan. She didn't want Ethan to think that she still didn't believe him.

Joanna trusted Ethan very much, but she still couldn't shake off the feeling of doubt.

Claire was still in shock.

Her face turned red because of the embarrassment.

She just threw harsh accusations at Ethan, and Ethan proved himself. Claire felt ashamed.

"This... This is a misunderstanding..." Claire said in a much softer tone of voice. Her previous arrogance had disappeared. She thought her behavior was indeed ridiculous.

She had made a fool out of herself in front of Ethan.

And she also realized something else!

If Ethan could afford such expensive perfume, he shouldn't be an ordinary person, and to provoke someone rich and powerful equaled to dig up her own grave.

Claire knew that she couldn't afford to mess with a person like Ethan. What she should do was to try her best to please him.

Thinking of this, her face suddenly changed. Claire slapped herself and said, "I'm so sorry, Ethan. How blind I was! I didn't recognize what a great guy you were. You are Joanna's friend, so we are all families. See, I was just kidding you before!"

Hearing this, Ethan sneered and said, "Kidding? Are you sure?"

## Chapter 78

Feeling the atmosphere was getting intense again, Joanna quickly stood between Claire and Ethan. She smiled at Ethan and said, "Ethan, please forgive Claire. She is like that. Thank you so much for your gift."

Ethan didn't talk back. He glanced at Claire angrily.

"Do you like the gift?" After a while, Ethan smiled at Joanna and asked.

Joanna nodded with a smile and said, "Yes, I like it very much. Thank you, but... but it is too expensive, I..."

Ethan smiled and said, "Don't mention it."

Ethan thought for a second and continued, "And... Actually, I've asked someone to help your dad. He'll be out soon. I didn't tell you this because I was afraid that you would think that I was bragging again."

Ethan's words made Joanna felt embarrassed, but she was also surprised, "Really? My dad will be okay?"

Ethan smiled, "Don't worry. We're friends. I wouldn't lie to you."

Ethan just finished talking, and Joanna's phone suddenly rang. After seeing the number, Joanna was excited.

"Hello, Dad, is that you?"

"It's me, Joanna!" Zebulon sounded excited, "I'm out now and having lunch with some people. I'm telling you. It's all thanks to your friend that I'm out of trouble now!"

Zebulon's words cleared Joanna's doubt to Ethan. She was shocked!

Zebulon didn't mention which friend he was mentioning.

And Ethan had just told Joanna about her dad. As a result, Joanna assumed that Ethan was the friend her dad was talking about.

Joanna was too overjoyed to talk. She looked at Ethan gratefully.

"Well, Joanna, I'll make a reservation at a fancy restaurant tomorrow. Let's have a celebration party! We'll invite friends and families. You can bring your friends too. I have to go now. Talk to you soon!"

Zebulon quickly hung up the phone. Joanna couldn't calm down for a long time.

She looked at Ethan with a bright smile on her face.

"Ethan, my dad is okay now. He just called me on the phone!" Joanna said with excitement, "Thank you so much. I don't even know what to say anymore!"

Joanna's illness suddenly ran away after hearing her dad's voice. She felt nothing but grateful to Ethan at this moment.

"How did you do it?" Joanna asked.

Ethan just smiled and said, "Nothing too serious. I just called a friend. Don't worry. As long as I'm here, no one can touch you and your family!"

Joanna nodded and said, "My dad said he was going to have a celebration party at a fancy

restaurant. Come! We need to thank you for what you've done, and I need to introduce you to my dad!"

Ethan was happy to know that all the misunderstandings between Joanna and himself were cleared.

He nodded and was about to say yes when his cell phone suddenly rang.

It was a delivery notification. The hearing devices he bought for Aurora's charity organization had arrived.

After Ethan hanging up the phone, he called Aurora and then said goodbye to Joanna.

Before leaving, Ethan looked at Claire and couldn't help but sigh. He thought, "Claire is Joanna's cousin. Just let it go!"

At the campus gate of Buckeye University.

Tina just got out of the taxi with her suitcase. She was murmuring curse words angrily.

She was cursing Chad for leaving her behind in Ocean City.

She was cursing Ethan for envying him eating at Grand Brook Restaurant and spending a hundred thousand on perfume.

Tina took a look at the security office before entering the campus and remembered that the makeup she bought from Ocean City should arrive.

So she walked into the office.

There was only a man in his sixties in the office. Tina asked him about her delivery as soon as she entered the door.

He told Tina to look for it from the pile of boxes at the door.

Tina started to look.

But she didn't find it.

Before she left, Tina saw something.

It was a packing box the size of two shoeboxes, and it was sent to Ethan Humphrey.

"Damn it, what did this moron buy? Such a big box!"

Tina was curious. She turned over and saw the man was watching TV, so she smiled evilly.

"I'll steal your package and enjoy watching you worrying sick, you son of a bi\*ch!" Tina thought about her plot and smiled smugly.

She picked up the box and said, "Sir, I found my stuff. Bye!"

The man nodded without looking at Tina. His eyes were fixed on the TV.

Tina chuckled and ran away with Ethan's box.

The dorm was empty when Tina got back. She quickly opened the box and found dozens of carefully-wrapped hearing devices.

It came to Tina's mind that these must be what Aurora had asked Ethan to buy!

Tina thought she just stole something good but turned out to be something she didn't need. She was a little disappointed.

Suddenly, an idea came to her mind! She couldn't help but smile evilly.

"You son of a bi\*ch, let's wait and see!"

A few minutes later, Tina dragged the box back to the security office.

The man was still watching TV. When he noticed Tina, he asked casually, "What's wrong? Did you take the wrong box?"

Tina was surprised. She hadn't thought about an explanation for bringing back the box, but the man had found her a perfect excuse.

She quickly smiled and said, "Yes. The person has the same name as mine. I don't think my delivery is here yet. Thank you, sir. Bye."

Tina hurriedly put the box back and ran away.

However, she ran into someone on her way out.

"Are you blind?..."

Before Tina could finish her cursing, she was stunned by what she saw, "Ethan?"

Tina's face suddenly turned red. She was afraid Ethan would find out what she just did. Tina said in a trembling voice, "You... Why are you here?"

The first thing that happened after Ethan got back to the campus was bumping into Tina. He thought that things couldn't be worse. Ethan said, "Of course for my delivery. Why are you here?"

"I..." Tina's face turned even redder. She stammered, "I'm here to get my delivery... You... Mine hasn't arrived yet. I'll go..."

Tina hurried to leave.

Ethan was confused by her behavior.

"What's her problem?"

Ethan murmured. He then went into the office to look for his delivery.

After getting his delivery, Ethan was surprised to find that, by the look of the packing tape, it seemed the box had been opened.

Ethan was about to ask the man in the office, but someone called him from outside.

"Ethan!"

Ethan turned around and saw Aurora.

Ethan sighed and went out, holding the box.

There were three girls outside. Aurora was the prettiest. She had delicate facial features and wore short hair. She was wearing a light yellow dress that day.

One of the girls wore a ponytail, and she was wearing a white shirt and jeans. The other one wore a T-shirt and shorts.

Seeing Ethan coming out with the delivery box in his arms, Aurora smiled and said, "Ethan, thank you so much. We three representing the charity organization express our gratitude to you!"

Aurora smiled sweetly at Ethan, and the other two girls behind her also smiled but perfunctory.

"You are welcome! We are all trying to help people! Do you want to take a look at the hearing devices?"

"Yes, of course. The thirty thousand dollars are all from the donation. We need to make sure things are looking good!" The ponytail girl said.

She kept sizing up Ethan while she was talking.



She had met Ethan several times, and she knew Ethan was a well-known poor person in his class.

But how come he was wearing expensive clothes?

The ponytail girl felt suspicious about the change, so she was a little alerted.

While watching Ethan open the box, she pulled the other girl over, trying to say something.

Ethan quickly opened the box. He felt happy when picturing how these three would thank him.

However, when the box finally opened, everyone was stunned.

"What... what's this?" The ponytail girl screamed.

## Chapter 79

"What the hell is going on, Ethan?"

Aurora was stunned and looked at Ethan in disbelief after she saw what's inside the delivery box.

The moment the box was opened, Ethan's face froze. Inside, there were only bricks and trash papers.

Ethan was confused. He poured out everything from the box but didn't find any hearing device.

He was completely dumbfounded. Ethan never could've imagined it could go this wrong.

"Aurora, look at the person you asked. What did he do?" One of the girls was furious. She was scolding Aurora.

The ponytail girl glared at Ethan and said angrily, "I was feeling suspicious when I saw you wearing expensive clothes. I'm so right!"

"What's so right?" The girl asked in confusion.

The ponytail girl sneered and said in a firm tone, "Is it obvious? The hearing devices aren't here, so is the donation money, but he's wearing expensive clothes. You tell me where's the money! He spent it all! Ethan, you are so disgusting to do something like that!"

The other girl seemed to agree with the ponytail girl. She screamed at Ethan angrily, "What the f\*\*k are you? Do you know those are the money donated for children with special needs? How can you spend it? Do you have consciences?"

"He's just a scumbag!"

Listening to their accusation, Ethan shook his head and tried to explain but was in a panic.

Maggie handled the hearing devices purchasing. Ethan couldn't figure out just how all the hearing devices turned into bricks and papers.

One thing Ethan felt worst about was that he had failed Aurora.

She had put her trust in Ethan.

But with what had happened, Aurora was getting all the blames. Ethan felt sorry for her.

"Aurora, believe me. I really don't know what's going on. I'm... I'm sure that someone has stolen the devices. I... I'll make a phone call to find out right away!"

Aurora looked at Ethan with anger and said in a worried tone of voice, "What's going on, Ethan? We have spent months collecting the money. How could it... ah!"

She then turned around and said to the other two girls, "Luna, stop accusing Ethan. I know him. He certainly won't do such a thing. I think there must be something wrong. Let's solve it first."

Aurora didn't want to let Ethan take the criminal accusation before knowing what happened.

However, the ponytail girl disagreed. She glanced at Aurora with disdain and sneered, "Aurora, is it not clear enough? You promised all of us that you would take care of the purchasing. And what's your explanation now?"

"Are you also in for this?" The ponytail girl narrowed her eyes and looked at the Aurora.

Hearing her words, Aurora was shocked, "Luna, what are you trying to say? I don't care if you blame me for not working hard. But what you are suggesting is that Ethan and I stole the money

together!"

Aurora gasped with anger. She felt being wronged and cried with grievances.

"Who cares your crying? Give back the money!" The ponytail girl left after a spit, "I'm going to fetch everyone from the charity organization. I'll see what you can say to them!"

The other girl followed her and said with a vicious look, "What you guys are doing is disgusting. Just wait and see. If you don't give back the money today, we will call the police!"

Looking at the backs of the two girls and then the mess on the ground, Ethan was desperate and helpless.

"What happened? That's more than thirty thousand dollars. What should we do now?"

Aurora cried harder.

Her family wasn't wealthy, and she was under the financial support of this charity organization. Aurora hoped to use this opportunity to do something good for the organization as a thank-you.

But then things went sour, and the organization accused Ethan and her of stealing.

Looking at Aurora, Ethan didn't know what to do to comfort her. He said, "Don't worry, Aurora. I will find out who took the hearing devices I purchased. I won't let you be wronged!"

Since Maggie was the one who was in charge of the hearing devices, Ethan thought he should call Maggie first.

Ethan quickly took out the phone and called Maggie.

He held back his anger and told Maggie everything.

"How could it happen?" Maggie was confused, "Young Master Ethan, I'm really sorry. I will get to the bottom of it."

Since Maggie had said so, Ethan didn't push her.

Ethan also trusted Maggie. He was sure Maggie would find out what had happened to the hearing devices.

Ethan guessed that someone did this targeting him, and he wouldn't let this person off the hook easily once he found out who that person was.

Ethan hurried to comfort Aurora, who was still crying.

At this moment, Ethan saw the two girls earlier were walking toward him.

And there were more than a dozen people following them.

Among them were men, women, faculties, and students.

The ponytail girl pointed at Ethan and said something to them with hostility on her face.

"That's him, Mr. Sander. He is such a horrible person. Don't let them get away!" The ponytail girl pointed at Ethan and said.

"That's right! Mr. Sander, I called the police. We must deal with the matter with seriousness. It's best to report it to the whole school and get him out of our Buckeye University!"

"Don't let him tarnish the university's reputation! He must go..."

This Mr. Sander was a young man in his twenties.

He wore a pair of prescription glasses and a buzz cut hairstyle. The white shirt he was wearing didn't have a wrinkle.

His name was Zachary Sander. Zachary was in charge of the charity organization and was the president of the student union.

With his pretty face, Zachary was quite popular on campus.

He sized up Ethan from far away and then smiled scornfully.

"I remember him. Was he under the financial support of our charity organization? So he not only isn't thankful to us but also stole from us?"

"Ethan, right?" Zachary walked to Ethan and took a look at Ethan's outfit. He sneered and said, "You look really guilty. Just see your getup!"

"Watch your tongue! I bought everything with my own money." Ethan said without a flinch, "There is something wrong happened. I'll give you an explanation once I figure out the problem."

Ethan looked at Aurora and added, "Aurora has nothing to do with any of it. I hope you leave her alone. Otherwise, I won't let you off the hook easily!"

"She has nothing to do with it? Ridiculous!" Hearing Ethan's words, the ponytail girl immediately shouted, "It hadn't had anything to do with her before she wanted to be in charge of the purchasing, and then the money has gone. To hell that she has nothing to do with it."

Another girl added, "That's right. Both of you are involved in stealing money from us. I suggest you come clean with what you've done. It won't look good once the police are here!"

Hearing the words, Aurora cried harder. She wiped the tears and explained, "It's not me. It's really not me, Mr. Sander..."

Looking at how miserable Aurora was, Zachary sighed and said, "This is a serious matter, and the university leadership has been informed. I must investigate it thoroughly!"

Zachary gave Ethan a contemptuous look and said coldly, "Don't worry, I won't wrong a good person, and I also won't let go of a bad one! Now follow me to our office."

Zachary pointed to the building not far away and smiled.

Ethan guessed that Zachary was trying to stop him from running away. But Ethan wasn't scared of going to their office. He thought he would go free once the truth came out.

Thinking of this, Ethan held Aurora and followed Zachary to the office building.

## Chapter 80

The headquarter of the Buckeye University student union was a four-story building. The lobby was the auditorium, and floor two to four was the offices of different union branches and clubs.

Ethan followed the group of people to the second floor. When he passed the lobby, Ethan found that people were preparing some event in the auditorium.

Zachary took a look inside and sighed heavily.

On the second floor, Ethan was pushed into the office of the charity organization, and the door was shut. There were only a handful of people allowed in the room. Among them were a couple of core members of the organization and the two girls who had been with Aurora earlier.

Zachary's facial expression suddenly changed from gentle to fierce.

"What should we do? Either you give us back the money, or we'll wait for the police." Zachary asked.

"What do you mean?" Ethan argued, "I've told you. Something wrong has happened, and I'm solving it. How can you accuse me of stealing?"

"Is that even a f\*\*king question?" The ponytail girl shouted at Ethan, "Everyone knows how poor you are. Where did you get the money for your new clothes? You stole from us and bought the things you are wearing!"

"You are guilty. Do you know how big of a mess you put all of us into?" She continued, "You saw the auditorium downstairs. We are having the hearing devices donation ceremony there this afternoon. All the school leadership knew about it. What do you want us to do now?"

Ethan realized why Zachary looked gloomy when passing the auditorium. He was worried that because they didn't have the hearing devices, the ceremony would have to be canceled.

The ponytail girl's words raised the crowd.

They cursed Ethan.

"Do you know what kind of trouble you've got all of us into?" Zachary sneered and said, "What do you want us to do to you? I'm telling you. Our organization won't take the blame for you!"

Zachary glanced at his watch and said, "It's eleven o'clock. The ceremony will start at one o'clock sharp. All the school leadership and representatives from the school for special needs will be there. The way I see it, you'll have to go tell them what happened yourself."

Ethan wasn't worried about doing what Zachary suggested because his conscience was clear.

He wasn't scared of anyone.

In Ethan's mind, the worse scenario was that he gave them thirty thousand dollars, and it was a small amount for him.

Ethan thought Zachary was ridiculous to make such a big fuss out of it.

Zachary finished speaking and took a minute to think. He smiled evilly as if he just got a smart plan. Zachary asked a couple of people to go out with him.

Before leaving, he took a look at Ethan and told another person in the room, "Don't let him get away!"

The two men nodded and slammed the door from the outside.

Ethan was left alone in the room with Aurora, who was still crying.

Ethan sighed and tried to comfort her.

Zachary led other people downstairs.

"Zachary, what should we do? So much money! Our leaders and people from the school for special needs are about to come."

The ponytail girl looked anxious. She was afraid that they would still get some version of the punishment even after they had incriminated Ethan.

But Zachary didn't say anything. He walked out of the building and lit a cigarette. He grinned and said to the ponytail girl, "Tell me, what do you think will happen to us if the school finds out about this?"

The ponytail girl was stunned. She answered after a while of thinking, "Taking disciplinary action on us? Maybe they will audit the finance of our organization."

The ponytail girl suddenly became more nervous, "If they audit our finance, what about the twenty thousand dollars that we took for our tour in Dali. We haven't put back the money yet."

The ponytail girl's reminder got everyone nervous.

"She's right. If the school got us, we'll all be kicked out of here. It was donation money that we used for ourselves."

"If they know our book has problems. I think sooner or later, they will also find out the petty cash we were taking out of the donation money."

"Zachary, what am I gonna do? All those money you took out of the donation and shared with us. I've spent it all on makeup."

Looking at all the frightened people, Zachary sneered and said, "Grow a gut! What's there to be afraid of?"

Everyone lowered their heads in shame, but they were still anxious.

Zachary put out the cigarette and said slowly, "I have thought of it. The money we have been spending over the past two years is roughly forty thousand dollars. If the school finds out about it, expulsion will be the slightest punishment for us. We probably will all be thrown in the f\*\*king jail!"

Zachary's words put everyone in shock.

"What should I do? I don't want to go to jail." The ponytail girl was about to cry.

Zachary replied with a smile. "What should you do? Either you take the initiative to confess to the school leaders, or...you find yourself a scapegoat!"

Zachary was trying to threaten them and then brought up his scheme.

Zachary knew that once he got everyone frightened, they would definitely agree with his scapegoat plan, and Ethan would be their number one choice.

"Yes, we can say Ethan stole all the money!" The ponytail girl screamed.

She looked around and saw no one was around and continued with a lower voice, "Ethan is our best choice. We can accuse him of stealing this thirty thousand. And for any deviation on the book, we will put all the missing money on him too."

Another girl chimed in, "That's right. We'll say Aurora is Ethan's inside-man. They work together to steal money from us. As long as we all say the same thing, no one will believe them."

Upon hearing this, Zachary smiled and said, "That's a good idea, but... is it a little too mean?"

Zachary wasn't saying this out of his good conscience. He was trying to clear him out of the scheme. If the plan fell through, he wouldn't need to take responsibility.

Zachary could say that other people plotted the scheme, and he had nothing to do with it.

"Zachary, you don't need to worry about Ethan. He is not a decent person. He looks like a scapegoat anyway."

"If it isn't him, it's us! There isn't room for mercy. We have to be affirmative that he steals money from us."

"Yes, that's it!"

Everyone was excited. All the previous gloom had disappeared.

None of them cared about Ethan. They could only think about themselves.

As long as they could put all the missing money on Ethan, they would be cleared out of their misdeeds.

## Chapter 81

The wholesale market for medical equipment, Buckeye.

Tina, dragging a suitcase, walked into a store specialized in hearing devices.

The owner was a mid-aged, bald man, looking unscrupulous.

Seeing Tina entered, he hurried up to her and said, "Young lady, what's in this box?"

Tina looked around and pulled the owner aside. She took out one set of devices from the suitcase and asked, "How much is this kind of hearing device?"

The owner frowned and looked at Tina's suitcase. He chuckled and said, "They are not expensive. Three to five hundred."

Tina wasn't happy about the price. She did some research before coming in. The retail price of this particular set of hearing devices were two thousand.

Tina was puzzled about the total amount. Aurora had asked Ethan to buy thirty sets of a cheaper product, which cost around a thousand per set.

However, the ones Ethan bought cost two thousand per set and was one of the best products. Ethan bought a hundred sets.

That was to say that all the hearing devices cost two hundred thousand dollars. So Ethan used his own money?

But Tina didn't think so much at the moment.

She was furious at the price this store owner had given her.

Realizing Tina was angry, the owner quickly stopped Tina from leaving and said with a smile, "What's wrong, young lady? Don't go. What do you want?"

Tina held the set of hearing devices in her hand and asked the owner, "Say that again. How much are you selling it?"

The owner scratched his head awkwardly and said, "Er... young lady, to tell you the truth, it is the best hearing device in the country. We don't sell these, and no store in Buckeye sells them. Are you selling or buying?"

Tina looked around and said in a low voice, "Selling. I have a bunch, and I'll sell them to you if the price is okay!"

Tina's sneaky behavior caused the owner's suspicion.

However, he just smiled and said, "To tell you the truth, the official price is two thousand and one hundred dollars. But I'm guessing you didn't get them from official sources. Let's do this. How many do you have? I'll pay you eight hundred per set. How about that?"

"Eight hundred?" Tina sounded reluctant. She could tell that the owner noticed her suspicious behavior, so he gave her a low price.

But eighty hundred for a hundred sets was still a huge amount of money for Tina.

She calmed herself down and said, "Twelve hundred! If you don't agree, I'll go to somebody else!"

The owner scratched his bald head. "One thousand!"



"Deal, give me the money!"

Tina breathed a sigh of relief and handed the owner her suitcase.

Half an hour later, Tina held one hundred thousand in cash and left the store happily.

And the owner was also in a good mood.

He could sell them for two thousand dollars per set.

The owner quickly posted information online to sell them.

In half an hour, a customer walked into this store.

She looked around and fixed her eyes on the store owner, who was playing the cell phone.

Maggie put her cell phone in front of the owner's face, which had the post of selling hearing devices on the screen.

"You posted it? Did you sell them yet?"

The owner was overjoyed. He didn't expect the customer could come in so fast.

"No, you are fast! How many do you want?" The owner asked with a smile, "They are all genuine. You can only find this type of hearing device in Capital, Ocean City, and at my store. Twenty-one hundred!"

Maggie smiled and said, "How many do you have? I want them all!"

Hearing Maggie's words, the owner was excited, but he put on an arrogant face and said, "Young lady, I have three hundred sets. Are you sure you want all of them?"

Maggie looked up and chuckled, "Don't brag. You only have a hundred sets. Take them out now and tell me how did you get them!"

Maggie's face suddenly turned cold and continued, "If you tell me the truth, maybe I'll cut you off the hook. If not..."

As soon as Maggie said this, two strong young men in black suits came into the shop and shut the door behind them.

They then took out their guns.

The owner was scared of what he was seeing, but he pretended to be calm.

"Are you threatening me? I'm telling you. I've been around here for more than ten years. I know people, and if you dare to touch me, I promise you that you won't be able to leave this market in one piece."

The owner took out a wooden bat under the table while speaking.

However, Maggie scorned his bluff, "Oh, yeah?"

Five minutes later...

"Do you think we can walk out of the market in one piece now?" Maggie stood in front of the owner and sneered.

The owner was lying on the floor, tape-wrapped. One of the young men stepped on him.

And there was a gun pointed at his head.

"Yes, you can, you will! Please spare my life, ma'am. I'll tell you everything. You can take everything away..."

The owner then told Maggie how he bought the hearing devices from Tina.

He also showed Maggie the security footage to prove that he was telling the truth.

Maggie asked for a copy of the security footage and then recorded the owner's confession before letting him go.

She didn't make things difficult for him. Maggie didn't think the owner worth the trouble.

She hurried to Buckeye University with the one hundred sets of hearing devices.

On Buckeye University campus, Tina just arrived at the campus gate with a hundred thousand dollars. She heard someone was saying that the hearing devices donation ceremony was about to begin.

An event like this generally couldn't attract the audience.

But Tina was curious about it.

Because she just sold all the hearing devices that Ethan bought for this donation ceremony.

The ceremony should be canceled by then. And the rumor about the missing hearing devices should already be circulating on campus.

But why the ceremony was still on schedule, and no one seemed to know anything.

Tina scratched her head and walked to the auditorium with confusion.

When she arrived, there was quite a crowd at the auditorium.

There were about one or two hundred people at the audience seat, talking among themselves.

At one o'clock, the ceremony started. The school leaders and representatives of the school for children of special needs were sitting on the stage.

A young woman walked on stage. She first indicated the audience to quiet down and handed the microphone to a school leader.

## Chapter 82

The school leader wasn't tall. He was half-bald and had a potbelly.

After his speech, the leader looked at Zachary, who was sitting in the first row, and said, "Let's welcome the vice president of the student union and the chief of the charity organization, Zachary Sander on stage. He'll represent the Buckeye University to donate the hearing devices to the school for children of special needs."

He then led the applause to welcome Zachary on stage.

The auditorium was filled with thunderous applause.

Many people praised Zachary.

"Ever since Zachary took over the charity organization, it had quite achievements!"

"He's a capable young man. I heard it only took a week for him to raise thirty thousand dollars."

"He is a treasure of Buckeye University..."

The audience couldn't stop praising Zachary.

But Tina became more and more confused.

Watching Zachary stepping on stage, she was curious how things would go down.

Soon, the audience quieted down as Zachary was standing on stage in silence.

The leader questioned, "Zachary, what are you doing? Let's make a speech and start the ceremony!"

Zachary sighed and said, "Director Cox, I'm afraid there won't have a ceremony today."

"Why?" Director Cox looked shocked, "Are you pranking me? Quickly, bring up the hearing devices."

Director Cox winked at Zachary. He didn't know the hearing devices were missing.

The representatives of the school for children of special needs all looked at each other, confused about the scene on stage.

"Director Cox, I'm not joking. The ceremony can't go on anymore!" Zachary continued, "The money for hearing devices was stolen!"

"What?" Hearing this, Director Cox was in astonishment, "Zachary, what did you do? That's more than thirty thousand dollars. How could you lose it?"

Zachary's words were like a bomb exploded in the crowd.

"What? Stolen? How can they be so careless?"

"Who stole it? What a scumbag stealing from charity!"

"The money was meant to buy hearing devices for those poor kids. How shameless the thief is! The normal punishment won't be sufficient to such a piece of sh\*t!"

"Yes, the thief should be hanged!"

The audience was in chaos.

People who attended the event were those interested in charity and those who were kind and generous.

And they were furious to hear that someone stole the donation money.

But Tina breathed a sigh of relief at Zachary's words.

She was secretly happy at how the event turned to be.

Zachary said it was the money that was stolen, instead of the hearing devices, which meant either Zachary was telling a lie, or Ethan had lied to Zachary.

But whoever lied, Tina wasn't in the mix.

It was great news for Tina.

"Tell me, what's going on?"

Director Cox was furious at Zachary's words.

The university leadership had put a great deal of attention on the donation ceremony. It was supposed to be an example event for the university to promote itself.

Therefore, the ceremony was famous among universities in Buckeye before it even happened.

Everyone was looking forward to the success of the event so they could put the charity donation ceremony into their book of achievement.

But the ceremony didn't go as planned.

And it turned out to be a huge embarrassment.

Director Cox, who was facing the representatives of the school for children of special needs, was embarrassed the most.

The money was stolen. How could he explain this to the representatives standing in front of him?

Seeing how angry Director Cox was, Zachary was secretly happy. He knew once he told Director Cox that it was Ethan who stole the money, Director Cox would be too angry to think, and Ethan would be given disciplinary action from Director Cox straight away.

That was exactly the result Zachary had hoped.

Zachary quickly put on a pitiful face and said, "We didn't think someone would steal donation money. So we put the cash in the office drawer after we took it out from the bank. We were planning on sending someone to purchase the hearing devices in a few days, but the money was stolen the same night."

Director Cox was heartbroken upon hearing Zachary's words. He said to him with disappointment, "I put so much trust in you, and you made such a silly mistake. We don't even have security cameras in the building. How can we find the thief? Do you have any leads? At what time the money was stolen? Why didn't you tell me this in advance? At least we could call the police!"

Director Cox kept scolding Zachary.

Zachary was trying to make himself look as miserable as he could, "It's all my fault. It has been days, but we were panic. We thought you would be furious once you found out, so we wanted to find the thief ourselves!"

Director Cox took a couple of deep breaths and swore recklessly, "You are f\*\*king stupid! What can you find?"

Zachary rather smiled at Director Cox's rhetorical question, "Director Cox, don't underestimate us. Guess what? After our unrelenting efforts, we found him, and he is a student at our

university!"

"You caught him?" Director Cox was relieved, "Where is he?"

People who heard Zachary were shocked.

"Awesome! they really caught the thief! Where is he?"

"Come on, bring him on stage. Show us who is that motherf\*\*ker. What a shame for Buckeye University!"

"I won't let this guy get away easily! I have donated money, and he dares to steal? What a scumbag!"

Everyone in the auditorium became excited after hearing Zachary's words. They almost wanted to turn the stage into an execution theater.

Zachary was overjoyed at what he had achieved. He thought that in this emotional status, Ethan couldn't be able to explain even if he tried.

Zachary had been worried that no one would buy his lie. But apparently, he wouldn't need to explain anymore.

"Quickly, tell me, who is the thief?" Director Cox urged impatiently.

Zachary smiled and signaled people to bring up the thief. He then said, "Director Cox, the thief is Ethan Humphrey of the department of Civil Engineering!"

## Chapter 83

"Ethan Humphrey?" The name rang a bell to Director Cox.

Director Cox was in charge of financial aid. Ethan had been well-known for lacking financial support, and Director Cox had worked on Ethan's case before.

Director Cox frowned and asked in confusion, "Are you sure it's Ethan?"

Zachary nodded and said, "Ethan is not just a suspect. We caught him red-handed. Ask others if you don't believe me."

Zachary pointed to the other members of the charity organization and said, "We caught him together!"

The ponytail girl stood up first and said, "After we found out the money was gone, we started to look for the thief and planted people in the office. We caught him red-handed when Ethan tried to steal again!"

"Yes, He stole more than the thirty thousand dollars hearing devices money!" Another girl said, "If you don't believe us, wait to see what Ethan is wearing. He spent the stolen money on expensive clothes!"

Everyone in the auditorium was shocked by their accusations, especially those who knew Ethan personally.

Although Ethan had been poor, no one questioned his character. It was very unlikely that Ethan could commit such a crime.

But those who didn't know Ethan were very angry. Heated arguments started among the audience.

"No way! Ethan couldn't do this kind of thing. I remember the charity organization has supported him financially."

"Why can't he? He is too poor, so he goes to steal. Sounds reasonable to me!"

"It is disgusting..."

"A piece of sh\*t. We should talk to the school leadership to kick him out of Buckeye University."

The auditorium was in chaos. Director Cox tried very hard to calm people down. He then asked, "Where is Ethan now?"

"We have him. He is locked in the office with his accomplice. I've called someone to bring him down!"

Just after Zachary finished speaking, the house door was pushed open.

Ethan and Aurora, who was still crying, walked in, accompanied by a couple of members of the charity organization.

Ethan didn't know what had happened. He was walking with pride.

"He's Ethan Humphrey!"

Someone shouted, and then everyone was staring at Ethan.

Out of nowhere, someone threw orange peels at Ethan and shouted, "Scumbag, you are so proud of what you've done, right?"

The auditorium was back in chaos again.

Almost everyone started throwing garbage at Ethan, cursing him.

Ethan was so shocked by people's reactions. He reached out his hands to protect his head.

He turned around and saw Aurora was also hit by garbage.

Ethan then reached out his hand to protect Aurora instead. He screamed at the crowd, "Hey, stop! What are you doing? Stop..."

No one listened to Ethan. Someone even jumped off from their seats and punched Ethan.

Ethan heard countless cursing words, "Scumbag, you don't know what you've done? How dare you even ask?"

"Stop? I just want to beat you up! Stealing charity money? You piece of sh\*t!"

"Beat him up. The woman he is protecting is probably his accomplice! Beat them up together! Those scumbags put shame on Buckeye University! Beat them up!"

The crowd wanted to eat Ethan alive.

Zachary was happy to see the crowd all worked up. He thought everyone was so convinced Ethan was the thief, and Ethan would never be able to prove himself innocent.

Zachary followed the crowd and shouted, "Yes, we need to give people like him a good lesson. Otherwise, he will steal again."

A thief?

While Ethan was being beaten up, he was trying to figure out what made the crowd so angry at him.

After seeing Zachary's complacent face, Ethan guessed it had to have something to do with Zachary!

Seeing the crowd was going out of control, Director Cox rushed off stage and pushed the violent people away. He then dragged Ethan away from the crowd.

"Director Cox, what... what are they doing?" Ethan said angrily, "Why are they hitting us?"

Before Director Cox could answer Ethan, Zachary interrupted, "Why? Don't you know what you have done? I'm telling you, Ethan. You are a public enemy now!"

There were people in the audience who shouted to show their agreement with Zachary.

"Yes!"

"He deserves to be beaten..."

"He should be thrown into jail!"

Ethan, looking at the angry people, felt very devastated.

He looked at Zachary angrily and said, "Zachary, I have told you that there was some mistake in the shipment, and I'm investigating what went wrong. I didn't steal the money. Could you give me some time?"

"Come on!" Zachary shouted, "Mistake in the shipment? We caught you stealing money red-handed. What are you going to say about that? If you didn't steal from us, where did you get the money to buy all those expensive clothes you are wearing?"

"Steal money?" Ethan was stunned and angry, "When did I steal money? Do you have any evidence?"

Ethan pointed at his clothes, "And I've told you before that I paid for my clothes. I didn't use the donation money. Why can't you believe me?"

"Bah!" The ponytail girl screamed at Ethan, "To believe you what? Everyone knew how poor you are. The stuff you are wearing worth at least tens of thousands. Where did you get the money if not by stealing?"

"Can you explain that? We've caught you. Don't try to argue with us. What a shame!" Another girl joined the accusation.

The crowd had gone to a boiling point after her words.

Ethan glared at everyone furiously.

Ethan looked at Zachary with disdain.

He knew that it must be Zachary who directed the scheme to frame him for stealing money.

And the rest of the people would blame Ethan for anything simply because he had been poor.

They all looked down on Ethan.

Ethan sneered and turned to look at Director Cox. He didn't even try to stop people from cursing Ethan.

"Director Cox, Even you think that I stole the money?" Ethan questioned him.

Director Cox frowned and said, "Ethan, everyone is saying that you did it. If you want to prove otherwise, you have to have evidence?"

"Evidence?" Ethan couldn't help but laugh. He looked at Director Cox and said, "Does money count?"

"Money?" Director Cox was confused, "What do you mean?"

Ethan looked at Zachary and said, "How much money Zachary accuses me of stealing?"

Zachary was stunned by Ethan's question. He said hastily, "Fifty thousand. What's wrong?"

Ethan smiled, "According to you, I've stolen fifty thousand dollars from the organization?"

Zachary couldn't figure out where Ethan was heading. He replied, "Yes, what's wrong?"

Ethan smiled and looked much more relaxed.

He continued, "Nothing. I can prove I didn't steal!"

"How?" Director Cox frowned and asked.

Ethan smiled and said, "It's very simple. Didn't you say that I stole fifty thousand dollars and spent it on my clothes? So if I can provide more than fifty thousand dollars, I didn't steal the money."

"Otherwise, why, after I squandered the money on clothes, do I still have much more money left?" Ethan said.

Hearing Ethan's words, everyone was surprised.

Zachary sneered and said disdainfully, "It won't prove your innocence. Think about it. People like you even dare to steal charity money. How can I be sure that you didn't steal from other people also?"

"What a shame! Thinking of an idea like that!"

"What if you just stole another fifty thousand dollars? Don't you dream about cheating us that



easily!" The ponytail girl quickly echoed.

Ethan raised his eyebrows and sneered at her. He said, "Do you think that one million dollars can prove it?"

## Chapter 84

Ethan's words stunned the ponytail girl.

It might be convincing to say that Ethan had stolen tens of thousand dollars. But it was very unlikely that Ethan was able to steal one million.

However, many people immediately laughed at Ethan's words.

No one believed that Ethan could have that much money.

"Keep bragging! Why don't you say that you have a hundred million? Wake up. Take a look at what you are!" Zachary sneered.

"Don't just say, show us the one million dollars!"

Everyone was throwing sarcasm at Ethan.

They thought Ethan just made a fool of himself.

Ethan just smiled.

A million wasn't a huge number. Ethan had two billion in his bank account.

He looked at Director Cox and asked, "Director Cox, do you have any charity project that needs donation lately?"

Director Cox was puzzled, "There's a donation for students from low-income families. But why?"

Ethan smiled and looked at the people who looked down on him. He said, "Nothing. I want to donate one million!"

Hearing Ethan's words, the whole auditorium was in an uproar.

People looked at Ethan in disbelief.

They didn't believe him.

"Does he have that much money? He was under financial aid. But now he wants to donate one million?"

"He was just daydreaming!"

"Ethan, are you sure?" Director Cox frowned and said seriously, "I'm telling you. If you dare to mess around with me, I'll definitely give you disciplinary action. But if you really can donate one million, I promise you I'll get to the bottom of this incident. I won't wrong you if you are innocent."

Ethan nodded carelessly, "Whatever. Do you take credit cards?"

Ethan was serious, and people were stunned!

However, most people still didn't believe Ethan's words. They thought Ethan was putting up a show.

Maybe Ethan wanted revenge after being called a thief.

And he was finding every method to protect his dignity.

But how could anyone argue with facts.

No matter what explanation Ethan could find.

A student from a low-income family could have one million dollars? No one would believe it.

Some people were giggling and waiting to see how Ethan would make a fool of himself!

"Zachary? Do you think he really has one million?" The ponytail girl was worried. She pulled Zachary's sleeve and asked.

Zachary looked at her and the others, and he smiled calmly.

"I'm asking you, do you have a million?" Zachary asked the ponytail girl.

"No." She shook her head.

"Are your family richer than his?"

"Of course, ten thousand times better."

The ponytail girl lived in Buckeye City urban area, and both her parents were working in the government. Her family had a house and cars. In her opinion, she and Ethan didn't belong to the same world!

Zachary chuckled and said, "Then what are you worried about? Even your family doesn't have one million. Do you think that bum has it?"

Zachary patted the ponytail girl on the shoulder and comforted her, "Don't worry, he is just doing useless struggles. Let's see how he gonna end his show when they pull out the credit card reader."

Zachary's words made many people relieved.

The ponytail girl smiled and said, "Yes, you are right. Let's see how he will end his show!"

"The more he says, the more he looks guilty, and the safer we are!" The other girl laughed and said, "I redid the book this morning, and no one can spot problems. We'll have to be affirmative that Ethan had stolen money from us. I don't think anyone can prove his innocence."

While they were discussing, Director Cox had asked someone to bring the card reader.

Director Cox looked at Ethan and said with a smile, "Ethan, are you sure you want to donate one million dollars? Do you really have one million dollars?"

Hearing this, Ethan just smiled. He took out the credit card from his pocket and inserted it into the card reader.

"I'm sure!"

Ethan pressed the password.

After a beep sound, Director Cox's face changed.

Ethan smiled and said, "Director Cox, do you believe me now?"

Ethan was feeling proud.

However, what he received was not a praise from Director Cox, but an angry shout!

"Ethan! Have you had enough?"

Hearing this, Ethan was stunned and went to check the card reader. He was stunned by what he saw.

It said that the transaction was failed!

"What's going on?" Ethan wanted to figure out what went wrong. He explained, "Director Cox, please listen to me. It's just a glitch. I'll solve it now!"

Director Cox had lost his patience. He looked at Ethan angrily and yelled, "I don't want to hear

one more word from you, Ethan. You'd better save them for the police. I've given you chances. I saw that you wanted to donate money, so I thought maybe we wronged you, but...you let me down!"

Director Cox got up and was about to leave. Before he left, Director Cox said to Zachary, "Inform the campus security immediately. I want Ethan detained. When the police arrive, let them handle him!"

"You tainted the name of Buckeye University, and you wasted our time!" Director Cox was furious. He stormed off the stage.

Seeing this, Ethan tried to keep explaining, "Director Cox, please listen to me..."

Before Ethan could finish his words, Director Cox had already walked out, along with the representatives of the school for children of special needs.

Ethan's head was spinning. He didn't understand why the transaction had failed.

Ethan checked the credit card reader and found a line of small words on the screen, "You've exceeded today's limit, five hundred thousand dollars..."

Ethan suddenly remembered that he hadn't upgrade the limit of his card yet. He didn't think he would have the chance to spend that much money at once.

Even after his dad had given him two billion dollars, Ethan didn't find it necessary to upgrade the spending limit. And that day, he suffered from it.

Ethan lamented at his mistakes. But none of it mattered anymore. Everyone was laughing at him.

Ethan raised his head and saw Zachary looking at him, holding back his laughter.

"Just like what I've said. He was bragging. He never had one million!" Zachary said contemptuously, "What's wrong? Where is the one million donation money? Oh, no. Director Cox was so pissed-off by you!"

Zachary gloated, and all the other people ridiculed Ethan.

"So funny. I really thought he could offer one million dollars. What a turnout!"

"What the hell are you thinking? Is there something wrong with your head? It's the first time I've seen someone try to set himself up!"

When Ethan heard these words, he gritted his teeth and tried his best to restrain his anger.

He looked at his cell phone and thought, "Where is Maggie?"

At this moment, someone in the auditorium suddenly let out a sigh, and everyone looked at the door.

Three men wearing gray-green security uniforms were walking in.

Among the three, the slimmer one walked up to Ethan and sized him up. Then he turned to Zachary and asked, "Is that him?"

Zachary nodded and said, "That's him. He is the one who steals money!"

The three security guards looked at each other and walked quickly to Ethan. One of them grabbed Ethan's arm and took him away.

A few minutes later, in a meeting room of Buckeye University, Ethan was brought in by the security guards.

Ethan saw a bunch of people staring at him in the meeting room, and they were all well-dressed and well-mannered.

Among them was Vice President Saxon Walton, and he was in charge of disciplinary.

Next to Vice President Walton were school leaders and faculties. They were all staring at Ethan coldly.

After a long silence, Director Cox spoke out, "Ethan, do you know how bad the impact of your behavior on our university? We are all very disappointed in you."

"Now that things have come to this point, do you have anything else to say?"

Ethan looked at the people in front of him and sighed, "I'm standing by my words. I'm framed!"

## Chapter 85

"Are you denying?" Director Cox was angry. He shouted at Ethan, "Didn't you say that you wanted to donate one million to prove your innocence? But where's the donation? I wanted to trust you, but you made me the laughingstock of everyone! What do you have to say for yourself?"

What just happened was indeed an embarrassment for Director Cox.

As a director, he just became a laughing stock of the whole school for giving Ethan one last chance. If the information spread out, his reputation would be ruined.

Director Cox gave Ethan such a big favor, but Ethan failed him and made him a laughingstock. Director Cox hated Ethan for that.

Ethan wanted to explain, but he was interrupted when he was about to speak.

It was Vice President Saxon Walton who interrupted Ethan.

"Well, that's enough!" Vice President Walton said, "To tell you the truth, we have already reported it to the police. University leadership has discussed things about you, and we decided to expel you. As for the money, you need to pay it back. It was a charity donation. We hope there is still a little conscience left in you."

Expelled?

Ethan almost blew his top when he heard the decision.

He had never thought that he would be expelled for such a ridiculous reason!

Ethan smiled bitterly. He looked at Vice President Walton and murmured, "Vice President Walton, on what ground do you expel me?"

With a serious look on his face, Walton said, "Do you want me to list your crime for you? You stole the charity money. What do you want to say for yourself?"

In fact, it was just one of the reasons. The decision was made to protect Buckeye University.

All the higher education institutions knew about Buckeye University's hearing device donation.

It was supposed to be an event to bring acclamation to Buckeye University, but Ethan ruined it.

It was a big deal to cause a huge embarrassment to Buckeye University among other peer institutions in Buckeye.

Ethan's reputation and future was nothing compared to which of Buckeye University.

The leadership of Buckeye University didn't really care if Ethan was the culprit or not. They only wanted to make the incident go away as soon as possible.

So Ethan was only a scapegoat!

Ethan caused trouble, so he was taking the blame.

They wanted to kick Ethan out from Buckeye University, along with the whole incident.

Ethan would be reported as being responsible for everything, and Buckeye University had nothing to do with the incident.

At this time, a dozen pairs of eyes were staring at Ethan indifferently. The decision was the consensus of the leadership. Obviously, everyone agreed to do so.

Looking at them, Ethan realized there's nothing he could do to make a difference.

Ethan was disheartened, but he still asked, "Vice President Walton, do you really have to do this?"

Hearing this, Vice President Walton snorted and said, "Why, do you still think that you've been wronged? You should think about the consequence when you did it. We don't want to hear any explanation anymore!"

Ethan gave a bitter smile. It was ridiculous that those people assumed he was about to explain.

Things had come to this, and there is no need for explanation. Since they were so apathetic, Ethan didn't need to show them mercy.

They ignored everything Ethan had said, so there's no more chance left for them.

Ethan pulled a chair and sat down.

"Ethan, who... who allowed you to sit down?" Director Cox shouted with a look of surprise, "School leadership is giving you critical options to your behavior, and you should accept it humbly. What's your attitude?"

Director Cox's comment got many supporting voices immediately.

Everyone started to criticize Ethan, "Get up right now. Who allowed you to sit down? Don't you see other professors are still standing there?"

"He is absolutely unruly. No wonder he could do such a thing. He doesn't have a sense of morality!"

"He is disrespectful to school officials and a disgrace to Buckeye University. To expel him is the right decision!"

They all pointed at Ethan and passed on judgments.

However, Ethan read them like an open book. He didn't want to waste his politeness to them because none of them treated Ethan with fairness.

Looking at the university leadership and professors, Ethan laughed and questioned them, "You are criticizing me for being misconducting and disrespectful, and I'm a disgrace of Buckeye University. But how about you?"

They were stunned by Ethan's words. For so many years, they were always the only ones who criticized others but never were the ones been criticized.

Ethan was the first!

Ethan ignored their surprises and turned over to Director Cox. He asked, "Director Cox, I would like to find out, what is it that I should accept so humbly? The slander coming from all the professors or all your spirits of obstruction of justice?"

Ethan's words had completely ripped off their hypocritical masks.

Although their behaviors were despicable, they had been carefully covered. Ethan exposed their shameful behaviors out in the open. They were furious.

"You... you're a thug!" A male professor shouted at Ethan, "What do you mean by slander and obstruction of justice? Explain!"

"What are you saying? Are you blaming Vice President Walton for treating you unfairly and framing you?"

"How dare you? You should be expelled right away?"

"Yes! Immediately!" Someone shouted in the back. Everyone looked over and saw that it was

Vice President Walton!

Since Walton had spoken, the decision of expelling Ethan was definitely finalized. Everyone could tell how angry Vice President was!

University leadership and professors, who Ethan just provoked, were all relieved by Vice President Walton's support of the decision.

He held the final word of the decision. No one could change anything once it was confirmed by Walton.

In other words, Ethan would definitely be expelled.

Just at the moment when everyone was pleased, the door of the conference room was pushed open. A voice was heard from outside.

"You don't have the power to expel him!"

Everyone was stunned by the sudden interruption. Someone walked into the room.

"Who are you?" Seeing Maggie walked in, Director Cox frowned and asked, "Who are you? Who let you in? This is the university conference room, no outside personal allowed. Get out immediately, or I will call the campus security!"

Maggie ignored Director Cox, walking toward Ethan. She scanned Ethan carefully and asked in a lower volume, "Are you all right? I'm sorry that I'm late. The matter has been settled."

Hearing Maggie's words, Ethan breathed a sigh of relief.

Maggie continued to ask, "What do these people want? Why did I hear that they wanted to expel you?"

Ethan smiled, looking at the confused people in the room, and said, "Not a big deal. They were going to make me a scapegoat. You came just in time. They said they wanted to expel me. Please ask them for me, are they serious?"

Ethan had a teasing expression on his face.

Maggie understood Ethan's intention. She nodded and walked to Vice President Walton and the others. Maggie asked, "What's wrong? I heard that you want to expel him? Are you serious?"

Vice President was surprised. He said with a look of disdain, "Yes. And who are you? Judging from your tone of voice, are you threatening me? Are you expecting me to be afraid?"

Maggie smiled and took out her cellphone. After dialing a number, she murmured, "Threatening you? Are you worth it?"



## Chapter 86

"You..." Vice President Walton was provoked. He asked Maggie, "What do you mean?"

Maggie smiled indifferently and said, "Nothing. I'm just telling you that you are messing with someone you shouldn't have and did something you shouldn't have done!"

"You could choose anyone, but you chose to target Ethan." Maggie narrowed her eyes and said with a hint of threat in her tone of voice, "The lesson here is not playing with fire!"

Maggie's words made Vice President Walton and others stunned and confused.

They were just dealing with Ethan's misdeeds, and suddenly a person came in from nowhere. She was even talking to them in a threatening tone of voice.

"Who the hell are you? What do you mean?" Walton didn't take the threat seriously, "How I deal with Ethan is my business. I don't need to explain to you people when I deal with school affairs."

Maggie was irritated. She slammed the table and scolded, "Deal with him? Who gives you the power? I won't be done with you unless you give me a reasonable explanation!"

Maggie stared at him sternly. She could've squashed him with a phone call, but the matter was related to Ethan's reputation, so Maggie managed to hold back her anger. She wanted to get to the bottom of the incident.

Vice President Walton guessed that Maggie was probably a relative or friend of Ethan. She came here to help him.

However, as being who Ethan was, was he capable of knowing anyone important?

Vice President Walton laughed in his heart, thinking that Maggie was at most putting on an act!

He smiled coldly and said, "Okay, I'll tell you, the reason is that Ethan has stolen charity money. That money was for providing hearing devices for disabled children."

Vice President Walton narrowed his eyes and said coldly, "If he can steal charity money, I'm wondering what else Ethan couldn't do?"

"Steal money?" Maggie was surprised. "How much?"

"Fifty thousand!" Director Cox interrupted, "And he squandered it all. Just take a look at what he is wearing! Definitely bought by that money."

Hearing Director Cox's words, the professors and school officials all pointed at Ethan and whispered with each other with disdain in their eyes!

However, the words made Maggie burst into laughter.

"You said he stole money?" Maggie said, "And the amount was fifty thousand?"

Maggie thought that it was the biggest joke in the world. Ethan was the son of Eric Norman, which mean he could have far more money than that he could squander for the rest of his life.

Those people tried to frame Ethan as a thief who stole from the charity. It was a lunatic accusation.

Or else, they had targeted Ethan on purpose.

Whatever the reason, they had pushed Maggie's button.

Eric gave her an order to look after Ethan in Buckeye. She didn't expect Ethan could be under

such humiliation from those morons.

Maggie's face suddenly dropped. She looked at everyone in the room indifferently and said coldly, "Is that all? As for your accusation, do you have evidence? Show me!"

Maggie's tone of voice was calm but with a bleak undertone.

She wanted to see all the tricks they could pull!

"Evidence? Of course, we have evidence!" Vice President Walton quickly gestured Director Cox, "Go and fetch those people from the Caring Association. Didn't they catch Ethan red-handedly? Get them over here to tell her what they've seen. Prove to her that we didn't frame Ethan! "

Director Cox ran out in a hurry.

Vice President Walton looked at Maggie with complacency. He smiled and said, "Just wait here for your evidence. We have several witnesses. I'll see what you are going to say afterward!"

Maggie nodded and looked at Ethan. She was curious about what kind of witnesses they were talking about!

Director Cox came back very soon, followed by four or five men and women. Zachary Sander and the ponytail girl were among them.

"Vice President Walton, they are here," Director Cox said inferiorly.

"Zachary, there are people who don't believe that Ethan stole the charity fund of your organization. Now tell us again how you catch Ethan red-handedly."

Zachary was one of the leaders of the student union of Buckeye University. Vice President Walton had many encounters with him. He had a good impression of Zachary. Therefore, he would believe Zachary's words!

Zachary looked like a brilliant student. How can he be lying?

Zachary nodded and told his attestation. According to him, Ethan had stolen before and got away. So they took turns to watch and finally caught him.

"How about now? Are you satisfied? Maybe one person or two would lie, but this was something that can be testified by a whole organization. How can you defend him now?" Vice President Walton said complacently.

Zachary's story sounded perfect to Vice President Walton, but Maggie didn't think so. She just found the story was ridiculous.

"Well, can I ask him some questions?" Maggie looked at Vice President Walton and asked with a smile.

Vice President Walton nodded confidently and said, "No problem. Ask him as you wish. I'll see how you can overturn the truth. Zachary, answer whatever she asks."

Upon hearing this, Zachary nodded respectfully, but he felt a little flustered.

"What... what do you want to ask?"

Maggie smiled contemptuously and said, "I just want to ask you, when did you catch Ethan?"

After hearing Maggie's words, Zachary was stunned. He rolled his eyes sideways and scratched his head.

In fact, he didn't even have too many chances to meet Ethan before this morning. How can he answer the question?

He checked others, only to find that they were also looking at each other speechless.

Zachary became nervous. He had to take a risk and answered, "We caught him last night. You know. It was late and quiet, and it was easier to steal."

"What time was it?" Maggie asked flatly.

"Er... nine...no, it's about ten o'clock. I... I can't remember!" Zachary was a little flustered.

Vice President Walton was a little confused by his state of panic.

Maggie smiled and asked, "Are you sure?"

"Yes... I'm sure!"

After Zachary finished his words, Maggie clapped her hands out of a sudden. She then threw two flight tickets on to Zachary's face.

"Bullsh\*t, this is Ethan's ticket for his flight from Ocean City this morning. How can you catch him stealing last night?" Maggie said angrily.

Maggie's words caused quite a commotion among school leadership. Director Cox rushed over and picked up the ticket to examine it, shaking his head.

The ticket looked real. And they could always go check with the Civil Aviation Administration of China to find out the authenticity of the ticket.

"What... what's going on here, Zachary?" Director Cox held the ticket and asked with a confused look, "What's wrong..."

Everyone else was also looking at Zachary in shock, waiting to hear his answer.

Everyone started to doubt Zachary's statement.

"I... I got it wrong. You have to believe me..." Zachary's cold sweat flowed down from his back. He continued to explain, "It's... It's this morning. He must've gone to steal from us the moment he got back to campus!"

Hearing this, Maggie's face turned gloomier. She called somebody to come in, and two young men in black suits came in with suitcases in the hands of both of them.

"Okay, show me the evidence!" Maggie sneered and questioned, "Do you have it?"

Zachary quickly pointed to the people behind him, but he found that none of them could provide any evidence.

Maggie smile and said, "Good, you don't have any evidence. But I have something!"

## Chapter 87

After saying that, Maggie asked one of the young men to set up a laptop on the table in front of everyone.

"What... what are we doing?" Vice President Walton asked in confusion.

Maggie gave her man a gesture, and he played a surveillance video footage.

Maggie smiled with disdain and ridicule.

"The surveillance video was taken from one of the campus gates. I believe you are all capable of understanding the content in this video," Maggie said, "It shows that at 10:28 in the morning, Ethan appeared in the video. He met with a female at the gate, carrying a mailing box!"

Seeing the video, everyone nodded and continued to watch with curiosity.

Maggie continued, "Well, about a minute later, two other females appeared. All three females witnessed Ethan opened the box. Then they found out there were bricks inside. Two of the females had a private conversation while side-eyeing Ethan and left."

Maggie forwarded the video for a couple of minutes and continued, "A few minutes later, Zachary Sander showed up in the video with a group of people. They took Ethan away to one of the student union offices. Ethan didn't leave the office until the incident at the auditorium happened."

Maggie looked at Zachary, sneering, and questioned, "So let me ask you this, Zachary. Ethan was in the office with two guys guarding the door this whole time. When did he steal the money? Or the steal was authorized by you?"

Zachary's face turned pale. Realizing that things weren't going well, school leadership's faces looked bad too.

Maggie smiled and turned to question the school leadership, "What's intrigued me more is that checking the campus' surveillance video footage has never crossed any of your minds. It turns out that the leadership of this university makes decisions based on rumors and lies. That's rather ridiculous, isn't it?"

Maggie's sarcasm made everyone in the room extremely uncomfortable. But they could do nothing about it because Maggie was telling the truth.

It was true that to find out who was the thief was not very hard, but none of them did it. They made the decision of declaring Ethan a thief and expelling him all based on Zachary's own words.

Vice President Walton glared at Zachary. He thought Zachary had made a fool of him.

Walton knew that if the news got out, it would cause more damage than that one of the Buckeye University students is a thief.

And his academic career would be over because of it.

"Zachary, Do you have an explanation?" Walton suddenly slammed the table and stood up. He shouted angrily at Zachary, "You must give me a reasonable explanation. Or you'll be waiting for the disciplinary action toward you!"

Zachary was startled by Walton's action. He looked at Walton with anger, shivering. He realized that he was too naive.

He thought his made-up story could incriminate Ethan. But he didn't expect there would be a Maggie to clear up the truth.

Maggie came in prepared. She even got a hold of the security video footage before coming in.

"Vice President, I..." Zachary was speechless, panicking.

But at this moment, Maggie smiled again and continued, "I suspected that you would still have your doubts. Don't worry. I have more evidence!"

Maggie signaled at her man again. He then put a snapshot on the screen. It showed a series of WeChat messages.

The messages were part of the chatting history between Ethan and Aurora.

"See that? This Aurora was the one who asked Ethan to buy hearing aid devices from Ocean City. The thirty thousand dollars transfer that appeared in the chatting history was the charity money we were talking about!"

Maggie waved to the other man in a black suit. He put down a suitcase. In it, there were one hundred pieces of hearing devices.

"They were supposed to be in the mailing box Ethan received earlier!" Maggie said, "They were switched out. As for how I'll get to that later. I just want you to open your eyes and have a look. If you just asked Ethan to buy thirty pieces of cheap hearing devices, then what are these?"

Maggie then took out a receipt from her bag and put it under Vice President Walton's nose.

"These are the best hearing devices in the country. The retail price is more than two thousand per piece. Your thirty thousand is enough for only a dozen of them. Ethan spent his own money on the rest!"

Maggie's words stunned everyone in the room.

They looked at each other and discussed it in low volume.

"There are one hundred pieces, and each one costs two thousand. That's twenty hundred thousand in total. So the one hundred and seventy thousand dollars was Ethan's own money?"

Maggie looked at them with ridicule. She said, "That's the deed of the thief you were talking about. What about you? Please tell me, is there your donation among those thirty thousand?"

Maggie's words embarrassed many people.

Those school officials would organize the donation. But none of them would donate their own money.

"All of you hypocrites are trying to incriminate a person who actually does the good deed a thief. That's really something!" Maggie satirized.

Maggie didn't say curse words, but every sentence was even more vicious.

She would give them the punishment they deserved. But she'd like to clear Ethan's name and return all the humiliation they put Ethan through.

How come without contributing anything, they got to judge right from wrong as they pleased, but the people who really donated would be called a thief, taken away for investigation, and even expelled?

None of the leadership and professors would make a sound under Maggie's insult.

The evidence had cleared Ethan's name.

After knowing they had wronged Ethan, they wouldn't dare to say a word anymore.

"Okay, then, do any of you still think Ethan is a thief?" Maggie asked.

There was silence in the room. Hesitating for a while, Vice President Walton, standing up, squeezed out an uncomfortable laugh and said, "Haha, this... this lady, it's all a misunderstanding. Since all the misunderstanding has been cleared up, and we totally believe Ethan didn't do such a thing..."

Vice President Walton paused for a moment and continued, "How about Ethan can go with you for now? We'll take back his expulsion. And we'll take care of things with the police too. What do you think?"

It was only a perfunctory solution. Maggie could see it.

Vice President Walton only talked about taking back Ethan's expulsion but didn't mention the apology Ethan deserved.

Maggie's face suddenly changed. She looked at Vice President Walton gloomily and questioned, "That's it?"

Vice President Walton was stunned. "Ah... Is there anything else?"

"Of course!" Maggie said decisively, "You need to apologize to him, and you have to kneel down!"

## Chapter 88

Hearing Maggie's words, Vice President Walton's face dropped. He was talking to Maggie in a flattering tone, but he didn't expect that Maggie wanted such an extreme solution!

Kneel? A Vice President was to apologize to a student kneeling down?

Vice President Walton could never do it. He was completely mad.

The others had the same sentiments. Maggie was asking all of them to apologize to Ethan kneeling.

"Kneel? Why? Who are you to ask us to kneel?" A male professor couldn't hold his temper, questioning Maggie.

Following his lead, the rest of the people started to argue with Maggie.

"That's right. Who do you think you are? How dare you let professors kneel for you? In Buckeye, no one can talk to us like that!"

"Rude! We were trying to be nice, figuring out a solution with you. How dare you humiliate us. I don't think you want to solve the problem at all."

Everyone started to criticize Maggie and Ethan. Their tone of voice was full of indignation and disdain.

Everyone also put their hopes on Walton's attitude.

Walton was unhappy. He was Vice President of a university, and kneeling to a student wasn't a notion that could cross his mind.

He snorted and said with a gloomy face, "That's gone too far! Who do you think you are? Kneeling to him? Do you have the gut to accept it?"

Walton glared at Maggie and Ethan with a face full of disdain.

Maggie didn't show angry but smiled indifferently. Looking at Walton and all other faculties, she said, "So you won't do it? That is your last chance!"

Hearing this, Walton burst into laughter. He said with disdain, "Spare us with your chances. I'm curious about what you are about to do!"

Maggie talked to him in such a way in front of his own employee, which made Walton furious.

He looked at Maggie up and down and sneered. He guessed Maggie was from a rich family at most. If even a rich kid dared to talk to him like that, it would put all his hard works in Buckeye for years in vain.

Walton continued, "I'm telling you. I won't apologize to you because you aren't qualified. If you believe you're so powerful, then try me!"

"And I also tell you this. Don't push people too far. I rarely give people slacks. But today, I cut you guys off the hook, and you should be thanking me. If you want to keep pushing your luck and getting on my nerves, there won't be anything good left for you!"

Walton didn't take Maggie's warning seriously. His tone of voice was full of contemptuousness.

However, to Maggie, his words sounded as powerless as baby talks.

Maggie sneered and said in a contemptuous tone, "Nothing good will be left for us? Well then,

let's do it quickly before you lose your chance!"

Finishing her words, Maggie glanced at Ethan, who had been silent, and asked in a low volume, "It's all done here. Someone will take care of things here!"

Ethan nodded. He looked at Vice President Walton and other faculties like watching clowns. With a poker face, he got up and left.

Usually, Ethan would tell Maggie that just a warning would be enough. But Ethan didn't say a word this time.

Because he was really angry!

Just as Maggie had said, as a decent person, Ethan was framed and humiliated. It wasn't something Ethan could let go easily.

He intended to let those people take the consequences they deserved.

Ethan and Maggie left. Everyone in the conference room looked at each other confused.

A male professor smiled flatteringly at Walton and said, "Please calm down, Vice President Walton. You don't need to take them seriously. They are all talks but no action."

The rest of the people immediately echoed with his words.

"That's right. Just ignore them. Asking you to kneel for them? Who do they think they are? What can they do to us if we refuse?"

"Just look at that pretentious woman! She thinks a fierce look can fool us? In my opinion, she is probably just a nouveau riche who is ignorant and arrogant. How dare they pretend to be anything in the presence of Vice President Walton? Just look at Vice President Walton's son, any of his business is worth millions of dollars. They are nothing..."

"Ah? It's awesome!" Someone exclaimed.

The man who just talked smiled and said proudly, "That's right. As far as I know, Vice President Walton's son is working on a big deal worth hundreds of millions. If the deal goes well, the profit would be tens of millions!"

His words caused a round of exclamation and admiration.

"My God, tens of millions? So awesome?"

"Yeah, it's really amazing. The apple doesn't fall far away from the tree!"

Listening to other people's admiration, Vice President Walton looked full of pride.

He was so proud of himself that he really thought Maggie was nothing.

He looked at the door of the conference room and sneered. "Some people just don't seem to be able to see themselves clearly. Especially that woman, who does she think she is? Why was she talking in behave of Ethan? Who knows what's their relationship?"

Vice President Walton narrowed his eyes and guessed, "In my opinion, there must be something wrong going on between them. Even if Ethan doesn't steal, there has to be something wrong with his lifestyle. We'll get to the bottom of it!"

Vice President Walton turned to look at Director Cox and said, "Cox, you should know Ethan, right? I hear that Ethan's family is very poor. Where did he get so much money? Didn't the woman say that Ethan paid one hundred and seventy thousand dollars for these hearing devices? Don't you think it is suspicious where the money comes from?"

Director Cox looked at Vice President Walton in surprise.



He couldn't believe it. Could it be that Vice President Walton wanted to continue the investigation? But Ethan had done a good thing.

After Ethan's charitable behavior, he was under investigation for the source of his money. Director Cox thought it was way too unreasonable.

"What's wrong?" Vice President Walton looked at Director Cox and questioned, "Do you have questions? A poor person just paid so much money. Don't you see there's something wrong?"

Director Cox's face changed. He responded in a hurry, "No, I don't have questions. I... I'll get someone to work on that right away."

Vice President Walton nodded with satisfaction and muttered to himself, "You picked the wrong enemy!"

He got up and was about to leave. Vice President Walton had thought that everything was dealt with for today.

Before he left, he took one last glance at Zachary and the other students and scolded them, "That's how you repaid my trust in you! I'm taking care of the book this time, I don't want to see it happens again, or else you'll all be punished!"

Upon hearing this, Zachary cried out of gratification of Vice President Walton's forgiveness. He bowed to Vice President Walton and said, "Thank you, Vice President Walton! Don't worry. There won't be a next time."

Before Zachary finished his words, Vice President Walton had turned away. He didn't have the patience to hear Zachary.

Right at this time, his cell phone rang. Vice President Walton looked down at the phone. It was from the President of Buckeye University, Gordon Campbell.

He quickly picked up the phone only to hear words of scolding coming from the other end of the phone.

## Chapter 89

"Saxon, what the f\*\*k did you do? I'm in big trouble because of you! Get to my office right now!"

The President of Buckeye University even swore on the phone. Walton realized how serious the matter was.

He was confused about what made President Campbell so angry?

"President...President Campbell, what happened? What did I do?" Walton frowned and said.

He didn't think President Campbell's furious state had anything to do with Maggie and Ethan.

He thought he might have made some serious mistakes in his work.

However, he couldn't think of any.

"What did you do? I'm asking you now!" President Campbell got angrier, "Who did you offend? People from the education department of the province just called to reproach me. They asked me to suspend you. It took me a long time just to calm them down! Where are you? I want to see you right now!"

President Campbell hung up afterward.

President Campbell's words put Walton in panic. His face turned pale.

The order was from the province, and it even omitted the education bureau of the city.

No matter how hard Walton was trying, he just couldn't figure out who it was that he had offended.

But soon, an idea flashed through his mind. He stared at the door which Maggie and Ethan had walked out of.

He broke out in a cold sweat by the thought.

"No, no, no, it's impossible. Those two..."

Walton was talking to himself with a nervous look on his face.

"Vice President Walton? Are you okay?" A faculty member asked with confusion, patting him on the back.

Walton's face looked terrible. He looked at the faculty and murmured, "It's over... It's over now..."

He was getting up and running out of the room.

But Walton was stopped by another faculty member. He asked, "Mr. Walton, was the call from President Campbell? What did he want? Is there something wrong? Your face doesn't look so good."

Walton looked at him and said in a low voice, "I... I was suspended."

"Huh?"

Everyone was stunned by the words. They looked at each other and couldn't believe what they had just heard!

"Why?" Another female professor exclaimed, "Mr. Walton, you're going to campaign for the president position next year. Been suspended at this time is terrible news!"

"But why they are going to suspend you. You've been working so hard!"

"I overheard from the phonecall that you offended someone? Really? I don't see who you offended. Who on earth did this to you?"

Walton raised his head in frustration, looking at everyone and then looking over to the doorway. He didn't say anything.

But soon, people understood what he meant. All of a sudden, they all had a look of disbelief on their faces.

"It's... it's impossible. Ethan is from the countryside. As for that woman, even though she looks like she's rich, but her connections can't be reached as far as the province government."

But it is what it is. Walton didn't say a word, which meant he had believed that Maggie and Ethan were behind this!

Soon, Walton's face turned back from pale. He narrowed his eyes and snorted coldly, "Well played! But do you really think you can just do that to me? Childish!"

He slammed the table and said to himself, "You started it. Let's wait and see who'll win in the end!"

Walton had been seriously provoked.

Everyone in the room knew that Walton had many powerful connections in Buckeye and even in the province capital. It looked like he would risk everything just to get to Maggie and Ethan.

Someone quickly came up to tout, "Mr. Walton, you don't have to be afraid of them. With your connections, that woman won't be a match for you!"

"That's right. Don't take that woman seriously, Mr. Walton! The trading company of your son can profit hundreds of million annually. How can that woman be compared with him?"

"How dare they stab you in the back! Don't show them mercy, Vice President Walton. Give them what they deserve."

Upon hearing their words, Walton smiled and said in a sinister tone of voice, "Do you think I will let them off the hook? Just wait and see. I'll teach them about what is desperation!"

Walton smacked the table and then took out the phone to go through his contacts.

This meant that Walton was going to take action. Several people became excited and looked forward to seeing what action Walton would take.

However, the moment Walton took out his cellphone, it rang. The call was from Walton's son.

"What a coincidence, Mr. Walton. You can ask your son to help you deal with them. He is a powerful person!"

Walton nodded with a smile and picked up the phone. "Louis, you called just in time. I have a favor to ask. I just got into trouble with somebody. Can you pull some strings to deal with them..."

Before Walton could finish his words, his son interrupted him with an urgent tone of voice.

"Dad, why are you asking me for a favor? I'm calling to ask you for help!" Walton's son sounded anxious.

"Ah?" Walton was stunned. "Louis, what's going on? You... What's happen?"

Louis said in tears, "The Customs just detained my shipment. I've spent everything I have on it. I called everyone I could think of, but no one can make them release my shipment. I bet it was a setup. So I was thinking of asking you for help..."

"What?" Walton was stunned by what he just heard, and his heart almost skipped a beat.

The shipment Louis was talking about was high-end formula milk powder imported from Australia. In order to purchase those, the Walton family had put several real estate locations and cars on the mortgage. They also borrowed more than ten million dollars from their families and friends.

They had planned on earning a great deal of profit from it during the period of time which there was a shortage of imported high-end formula milk powder.

But no one had expected the hundreds of millions worth of formula milk powder would be detained by customs.

This particular formula milk powder would pass the expiration date in several months. But it would take at least months to finish all the paperwork for China customs to release the detained shipment.

The shipment would all go to waste if the formula milk powder passed the expiration date.

Hundreds of millions of dollars would all be gone, which included everything the Waltons had and the money they borrowed.

Walton's mind went blank. He just felt the world was spinning. Hit by a wave of dizziness, Walton fell on the chair.

"Mr. Walton, are you okay?"

"Hey, what's the matter?"

"Is everything okay, Vice President Walton?"

Seeing Walton's state, people quickly gathered around and checked if he was okay.

Walton sat there in silence with a pale face.

Walton had been careful, so he didn't really have enemies. However, on the same day, he was suspended, and his son's shipment was detained. It wasn't hard to guess that they were all because of Maggie and Ethan.

Walton smiled bitterly, thinking that how he thought he was powerful and how he could put Maggie and Ethan in trouble!

Within half an hour, Walton's whole family was ruined. How could he beat her?

Thinking of how naive he was, Walton almost choked with tears.

At this time, his phone rang again. It was from President Campbell again.

## Chapter 90

When Walton saw the number, there was a glimmer of hope rising in his heart.

He thought that President Campbell had helped to stop his suspension. He definitely called for the good news!

As President Campbell's Vice President, Walton had been working hard for many years. He also got the endorsement from President Campbell for his presidential campaign. In Walton's mind, President Campbell would help him out this time.

So it would definitely be it.

In the present situation, Walton had to take one step at a time.

Moreover, if he could keep the position, Walton could use the advantages of being the Vice President to pull strings and get back his son's detained shipment.

And it would be too early for Maggie and Ethan to announce their victory.

Thinking of this, Walton thought the situation was hopeful again. He quickly picked up the phone and said with excitement, "Hello, President Campbell, I know that you won't abandon me. Is it that they've taken back my suspension? Thank you so so much! I won't forget your kindness. I'll treat you to a fancy dinner... "

"Shut the f\*\*k up!"

Before Walton could finish his words, President Campbell shouted, and his tone of voice sounded angrier than before!

Walton was confused, "President...President Campbell, what's the matter? The suspension hasn't been canceled?"

"Canceled? What the f\*\*k are you talking about? Saxon, just tell me what the f\*\*k did you do? I'm retiring next year. But because of you, the provincial government took disciplinary action against me!"

Judging from the tone of President Campbell's voice, he was furious.

He had been an excellent educator throughout his career, and he had numerous awards and honoree titles. On the verge of his retirement, President Campbell got disciplinary action. No wonder he was furious.

Walton was stunned by President Campbell's words.

"What... why? How could it be?" Walton stuttered, "President Campbell, please listen to me. It was all a misunderstanding. I..."

"I don't wanna hear about it!" President Campbell angrily interrupted Walton, "I just want to inform you. According to the provincial government, you are officially fired. And the news will be circulated among the educational institutions of the province as a negative example."

"Fired?" Walton couldn't believe his ears, "President Campbell, are...are you sure? Are you kidding me!"

"Kidding you? Walton, what's the hell wrong with you?" President Campbell swore, "Let me tell you this, they suspect that during your position as Vice President, you were conducting unethical relationships, embezzlement, and bribery. And you are currently under investigation!"

"I'm telling you, it's nobody's fault. You had it coming!"

After the words, President Campbell hung up the phone.

"They...they are sending me straight to hell." Walton looked full of worries and anger, sitting still.

He couldn't wrap his head around. Within thirty minutes, he was stripped down from a respected Vice President of Buckeye University, who was in possession of hundreds of millions of assets, to an expelled ex-VP, who were under tens of millions of debts.

He was desperate to know what those people were that he had offended.

He had never expected that a nobody like Ethan and a young woman like Maggie could put him in such a situation.

He didn't want to throw in the towel that easy. In a state of panic, Walton suddenly realized something. He rushed out of the room.

Walton's deranged behavior surprised the people in the conference room. He looked nothing like that confident Vice President of Buckeye University, rather a scattered vagabond.

They didn't know what Walton just learned about himself.

Everyone was confused.

Zachary and the rest of the students were also shocked by what they were seeing. At this time, the ponytail girl whispered to Zachary, "President, are... are we all right?"

Zachary thought Walton just said they were off the hook. Even though he was suspended at the moment, but the order earlier should still be valid.

Thinking of this, Zachary smile and said to her, "Don't worry, we are okay!"

But he was too optimistic. Not long after, A man talked in the conference room. He was in his thirties and wearing suits.

"Secretary Yunis? Why are you here?" Director Cox asked in surprise.

The man was President Campbell's secretary.

He looked at the people in the conference room and fixed his eyes on Zachary.

"I'm here to announce a disciplinary action issued by President Campbell," Yunis said.

"Disciplinary action? Against who? Vice President Walton? But he just took off!" Director Cox said.

Yunis smiled and said, "Walton? No, he doesn't need it anymore. He is fired!"

The words caused a wave of commotion among the people.

"Fired? He wasn't suspended?" Director Cox asked in surprise.

"Really? Don't joke about it!"

Yunis looked at them and smiled disdainfully. "What's wrong? Is it unexpected? Yes, He has offended some people. But the provincial government had been in possession of evidence about his misconduct for a while. They are organizing a special team to investigate him!"

He then looked at the people who were close to Walton and said with a meaningful tone of voice, "When the time comes, there will be more people revealed!"

Hearing Yunis's words, some faculty members' faces turned pale. They looked at each other nervously and broke out in cold sweat.

Most of them were involved with Walton's misconduct. Walton's investigation would definitely expose them.

No wonder they were nervous.

Some of them were so nervous that they were trembling and muttering to themselves, "What, what should I do..."

Looking at their pathetic appearance, Yunis just smiled and didn't say anything.

They were colleagues, and he sure knew something about them.

At this moment, Zachary and the others were whispering to each other. They then quickly turned away and tried to leave.

Ethan wasn't an option for scapegoat anymore. But the problem of their book hadn't been solved yet. They were going to discuss it somewhere private.

Yunis stopped them just on their way to the door.

Zachary was stunned. He turned to look at Yao. He forced a smile and said, "Is... Is there something wrong? It has nothing to do with us..."

"Is it?" Yunis chuckled. "Are you sure? Have you forgotten what I'm here for? I'm here to announce a decision of disciplinary action, and it isn't meant for them."

Hearing Yunis's words, Zachary's face suddenly changed, and an ominous premonition instantly shrouded him.

"It's again us?" Zachary asked reluctantly, "We didn't do anything. Don't make fun of us."

Yunis sneered and said, "Making fun of you? I don't have the mood!"

He took out a piece of paper from his pocket and read seriously, "Zachary Sander, Regina Joel...the seven students' names I have called. After careful examination of your behaviors by University leadership, and under the approval of the City Education Bureau, I hereby affirm your final expulsion from Buckeye University, effective today."

Expulsion?

Upon hearing this, Zachary dropped his phone on the floor.

Some female students burst into tears in an instant.

"Why?"

"It can't be true. Why? What do you want me to say to my parents? They will kill me..."

"It must be a mistake? What did we do wrong? Why did you expel us?"

Yunis looked at the student who asked the question and smiled, "What did you do wrong? Don't you know?"