Chapter 6 "Mr. Lakeworth, here's the money you wanted!" Larry skidded to a stop before Sean. "You must be Mr. Walker, the general manager." Sean's expression softened as he looked at Larry. "You can just call me Walker, Mr. Lakeworth!" Larry wiped the sweat from his brow, looking flustered. "You should've informed me before coming, Mr. Lakeworth. I'm so sorry that you had to wait outside the company like this!" Diego was his boss, and Sean was Diego's boss. One word from Sean was enough to decide his fate. "You don't need to be so nervous, Mr. Walker. Besides, you weren't late or anything. I'm the one who arrived early." Sean smiled. Larry's eyes widened at Sean's attitude. He thought Sean would be a cold, heartless person. It turned out Sean was not only friendly but also humble. "Thank you, Mr. Lakeworth," Larry said gratefully. "This is the money you wanted." "You can take it back. I don't need it for the time being." Sean sh his head. "I'm sorry for making you waste time on this." "There's nothing to be sorry about!" Larry said fearfully. "May I a what happened earlier, sir?" "Nothing much, really. It was just a little nuisance. Oh, right. Do you know a man named Wayne Jones?" "Wayne Jones?" Larry blinked. "He's the scion of the Jones family, which is one of Skye City's four most prestigious families. His father, Uriah Jones, has some business dealings with our company. +25 BONUS "He was here on his father's behalf earlier to discuss a cooperation on a project. He even took the initiative to say that he could give us an additional profit margin of 30%. Do you know him, Mr. Lakeworth?" "No, I was just asking." Sean shook his head. Larry didn't take this literally, though. The fact that he could gain Diego's acknowledgment and end up as Ellipse Corporation's general manager was enough to prove that he wasn't a regular Joe. He could immediately tell something was wrong from the way Sean had mentioned Wayne. He said, seemingly casually, "I actually think the Jones family isn't really serious about working with us on this project, Mr. Lakeworth. It's better to leave this opportunity to other more worthy companies. Sean nodded. "Okay." Larry secretly sagged in relief. It looked like he hadn't made the wrong call. He said respectfully, "Allow me to show you around the company, Mr. Lakeworth." "Maybe next time, Mr. Walker. I have something urgent to attend to at the moment," Sean said. The hair clip was all he could think about now. Based on what Tina had said earlier, the hair clip should belong to one

of her friends. "I understand. You can contact me whenever you have the time. Th is my business card." Larry held out his business card with both hands. Sean accepted and said with a smile, "Thanks. I'm gonna have to trouble you to continue managing the company for me in the future." "It's my honor to be able to contribute to the company's success, sir!" Larry declared his loyalty to the company. "Where are you headed, Mr. 2/5 +25 BONUS Lakeworth? I'll arrange for the driver to send you there." "No, it's fine. I'll make my way there myself." "Alright." Sean nodded and turned to leave. Suddenly, a young woman in a long, cream-colored dress walked into the building. Her long tresses cascaded over her shoulders, and her features were delicate. She looked to be around 23. Her footsteps were hurried, and she almost ran right into Sean. She looked up and said, "I'm sorry!" Sean's eyes flashed as he looked at her. There was something oddly familiar about her despite them not having met each other before. The young woman didn't pay attention to him. She wasn't in the mood to consider other matters. After apologizing to Sean, she turned to head to the elevators. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw Larry standing beside Sean. Her eyes gleamed with surprise. "What a coincidence, Mr. Walker!" She'd come here to meet him. "Good day, Ms. Worthington." Larry smiled perfunctorily. "This is our proposal for the project at the city center, Mr. Walker. I'd appreciate it if you could review it." Cecilia Worthington held out proposal to Larry. She felt nervous. This was her last hope of sav the Worthington family. The Worthington family was an old family in Skye City. It couldn't. compare to the city's prestigious families, but it was still considered influential. However, in recent months, it had fallen into a crisis because of the debt Cecilia's grandfather owed due to gambling. The fact that her father's business had failed didn't make things any better. If not for the good reputation they'd built over the years, they would've already gone bankrupt. Now, if the Worthington family wanted to turn the tides, they could only do it by forming a cooperation with Ellipse Corporation. They had to rely on Ellipse Corporation's influence in Skye City. For this, Cecilia had come up with and amended her proposal countless times. She had faith in it.

But Larry only skimmed through the proposal after taking it from her. Then, he shut the folder. Cecilia's heart sank. She asked nervously, "Is there something

wrong with the proposal, Mr. Walker?" "I'm not gonna be honest with you, Ms. Worthington. We've always believed in working with good-quality clients. Based on my understanding, the Worthington family is currently facing problems with its cash flow..." Larry didn't want to waste time, so he didn't beat around the bush. He knew all about the Worthington family's current situation. There was no way Ellipse Corporation could work with them. His words were like a bucket of cold water over Cecilia's head. She didn't give up, though. This was the Worthington family's final hop She clenched her fists and said agitatedly, "If it's the Worthington family's capital you're worried about, I can guarantee we won't let down. "Also, if everything is okay with my proposal, I can make the call on the Worthington family's behalf and give you a 50% profit margin. No, 60%!" The Worthington family? Cecilia Worthington? Sean's eyes flickered. Only then did he realize Cecilia was the Worthington family's daughter and Tina's best friend. He'd never met her before, but Tina had mentioned her several times. Adding to that, he'd found her familiar when running into her earlier... Could Cecilia be the little girl from 15 years ago? "I'm sorry, Ms. Worthington. I appreciate your sincerity, but I really 'can't help." Larry's answer pulled Sean out of his reverie. "Mr. Walker, please trust me just this once," Cecilia begged. She couldn't let this opportunity slip. "I'm genuinely sorry, Ms. Worthington." Larry shook his head. "Mr. Walker, I..." Cecilia wanted to continue pleading, but when she saw the impatience in Larry's gaze, she knew he would only grow irritated if she didn't relent. "I understand, Mr. Walker. I'm sorry for disturbing you." She had no choice but to give up. There was no hiding the disappointment in her gaze. Her footsteps were heavy as she turned to leave. But as soon as she turned around, Sean, who was standing beside Larry, said, "Mr. Walker, I think Ms. Worthington's pretty admirable, and she's very earnest. Why don't you reconsider your decision?" Cecilia was taken aback by this. She turned to look at Sean. She was grateful that he was speaking up for her, but she knew no one in Sk City could make Larry change his mind.

Chapter 7 Cecilia's gaze was dull. She knew there was no changing the situation. Unbeknownst to her, Larry had stiffened because of Sean's words. She wasn't aware of this. She thanked Sean and turned to leave. "Wait, Ms. Worthington!" Larry cried. Cecilia stopped and asked politely, "Is there anything else you need,

Mr. Walker? She didn't think Larry would change his mind. She thought this was about something else. But what Larry said next surprised her. "I just thought it over again, Ms. Worthington, and I think your proposal is pretty good. I think it'd be good for us to work together!" "Really?" Cecilia looked at Larry anxiously. "Of course." Larry was actually even more nervous than her. After all, Sean was the one who'd spoken up on Cecilia's behalf. Cecilia's eyes widened. Before this, she never would've imagined that Larry would change his mind. Was it because of Sean? She turned to look at him. At this moment, Larry continued, "I'll call you about the contract tomorrow once I've had a meeting with my employees." His attitude was completely different from before. "Thank you, Mr. Walker!" Cecilia was excited. "You're welcome, Ms. Worthington." "I'll leave you to it, Mr. Walker. Cecilia knew Larry's attitude toward her had changed because of Sean. She was smart enough to know that she shouldn't linger and disturb them. "I look forward to working with you, Ms. Worthington. Goodbye." "Goodbye." Cecilia turned and left. Before that, she sneaked a glance at Sean. Once Cecilia was gone, Larry confirmed with Sean that he'd done the right thing. "Mr. Lakeworth, do you know Ms. Worthington?" "Yeah." Sean nodded. "How about the profit ratio?" Larry asked. Sean's answer was simple. "Do your best to help the Worthington family." "I understand, sir!" Larry was secretly stunned. Sean and Cecilia had to have a special relationship if Sean could say something like that. He'd almost made a huge mistake earlier! "I'll leave everything else to you, Mr. Walker. I have to go now," Sean said. He wanted to go after Cecilia as soon as possible. "Goodbye, Mr. Lakeworth," Larry said respectfully. Sean left. He thought Cecilia would've already been gone by now, but he saw her standing by the door as soon as he stepped out of the building. She looked happy to see him. "Hi!" "Were you waiting for me?" Sean's eyes lit up. "Yep." Cecilia nodded. "Thank you so much for your help earlier!" "You're being much too polite, Ms. Worthington. Mr. Walker only agreed to work with you because you had a good proposal." Sean smiled. Cecilia looked at him. He had a gentle smile and was easygoing. +25 BONUS More importantly, he wasn't being arrogant with her despite doing her such a huge favor. She asked, "Um, so... Would you happen to be free later?" "Sure. What's up?" "Well, uh ... I wanted to treat you to afternoon tea to thank you for your help. Of course, I'm not saying that it's enough to repay you. I just wanted to thank you. If you think it's too much trouble, you don't have to go-" "It's no trouble at all.

I would love to have afternoon tea with you." Sean smiled gently. "Really?" Cecilia looked at him excitedly. She had a chance to thank him properly! "That's great! Do you prefer coffee or tea?" "I'm fine with anything. You can pick whatever you like," Sean said amicably. He wanted to take the opportunity to confirm Cecilia's identity. "Let's go to Half-Isle Cafe, then. The coffee there is purer than most. other cafes, and it's nearby. It won't take up too much of your time." Cecilia sounded excited. "Sure." Sean chuckled. Ten minutes later, they arrived at Half-Isle Cafe. After taking their seats, Cecilia ordered two of their signature cappuccinos. As she stirred her coffee, she said happily, "The cappuccinos are really famous. Go ahead and try it." "Okay." Sean took a sip of his coffee as Cecilia watched. Then, he said, "It really is pretty delicious." "Right?" Cecilia beamed. "Oh, right. I haven't introduced myself yet. My name's Cecilia Worthington. Thanks a lot for helping me out earlier. It's a pleasure to meet you!" "The pleasure is mine, Ms. Worthington." Sean smiled. "Seriously, thanks a lot for earlier. If not for you speaking up for me, Mr. Walker wouldn't have agreed to work with me. Speaking of which, how do you and Mr. Walker know each other? Before you, I've never heard of him taking anyone else's suggestions into consideration." Cecilia looked at Sean curiously. She knew her place-the fact that Larry had agreed to work with her was intricately linked to Sean. "Well..." Sean said half-jokingly, "Would you believe me if I were to tell you I'm his boss?" "You're his boss?" Cecilia's eyes widened in surprise. She murmured," But I heard Diego Black's the one behind him." Sean laughed. "What if I were to tell you that Diego's also a subordinate of mine?" Cecilia could tell he was joking. She smiled. "You're really funny." "I think so, too." Sean continued laughing. "Oh, right. I still don't know your name."> "Me?" Sean smiled. "You can call me Lake-" At this moment, Cecilia's phone, which she'd placed on the table, started vibrating. She checked it and saw it was a call from Tina.

Chapter 8 "Sorry, I need to take this call." Cecilia held up her phone, looking apologetic. "It's alright." Sean smiled. Cecilia answered the call. On the other end of the line, Tina's voice rang out. "What took you so long to answer, Cecilia?" "Huh? Did you call me before this?" Cecilia looked surprised. "Yeah. I already left

a few missed calls earlier." Cecilia checked her phone. Indeed, there were a few calls that she hadn't answered. She stuck out her tongue and said guiltily, "Sorry, Tina. I was too busy to notice." "I just knew you had to be busy with work." "How did you know that?" "C'mon, I know you better than that. Have you taken care of everything?" "Yep. Did you call to tell me about something, Tina?" "It's nothing, really. I just wanted to let you know that I got divorced." "Divorced? What? Why'd you suddenly get divorced?" Cecilia asked in surprise. "Don't even ask. I can't believe I was blind enough to marry someone. like him. I treated him so well, yet he cheated on me mentally!" Tina said. "Cheated on you mentally?" "This is what happened..." Tina gave Cecilia the rundown on Sean +25 BONUS forging love letters to himself, albeit an exaggerated version. She even told Cecilia that Sean leeched off her throughout their marriage, even going so far as to demand that she give him a million-dollar allowance each month. She'd only decided to divorce him because she couldn't take it anymore. "Oh, my God! He's such a jerk!" Cecilia didn't know the truth. She was furious after hearing Tina's version of events. "Forget about him. It's all in the past now. I was just calling you to vent a little. I suppose the heavens still favor me, though. They allowed me to meet Wayne," Tina said. "I'm really happy for you." "Oh, right. Do you still remember the pink butterfly hair clips we bought together when we were kids?" "Of course! Why are you suddenly asking about it?" "I came across mine when I was doing some cleaning today, and it brought back so many memories. It's a symbol of our friendship, after all!" Tina said. "Uh-huh. I've always kept my hair clip safe and sound." Despite Cecilia's words, she couldn't help feeling diffident. Her hair clip had actually gone missing when she was a kid. She'd just never said anything about it because she didn't want Tina to get mad. Tina's suspicions were cleared when she heard that. It looked like Sean hadn't cheated on her with Cecilia. She trusted Cecilia. Besides, there was no way Cecilia would be interested in a loser like Sean. "That's all I was calling about, really. I'll leave you to it, okay?" Tina said. "Okay. Don't be too upset, alright? I'll always be by your side," Cecilia said encouragingly.. "Okay." Tina hung up. Sean's heart jolted. He'd heard Cecilia mention something about a hair clip. This meant she really was the little girl from 15 years ago! He couldn't hide his agitation. "Are you okay?" Cecilia asked when she saw how agitated he suddenly was. "I'm fine. I just... suddenly thought of something. Was that your friend on the line?" "Yeah, my best friend. She's just gotten divorced." Cecilia didn't hide it from Sean. "Divorced?" He pretended not

to know anything. "Yeah. God, the guy is such a jerk!" Cecilia started getting mad again. "Uh..." Sean smiled awkwardly.

"Maybe you could tell me more about it." "It's like this..." Cecilia told him everything Tina had told her earlier. The more she said, the angrier she got. "I can't believe there are such jerks on this earth! It's bad enough that he's so shameless. How could he cheat on her mentally?" "Ha ha... Yeah..." Sean said awkwardly. Could he tell her that he was the jerk she was talking about? Tina had obviously slandered him, though. The situation with the love letters was real, albeit twisted, because of a misunderstanding. But the part about him demanding Tina give him. a million dollars as his monthly allowance was absolutely fake. Tinal had deliberately made him look bad to cover up the fact that she was the one who'd had an affair! Cecilia didn't know the truth, so she could only look at Sean angrily. You think so, too, right? if I were the one to meet a man like him, and if he'd done those things to me, I'd wait until he was asleep, and then "And then?" Sean raised an eyebrow. He had an ominous feeling. Cesilia held up a hand and mimed sdipping something. Hahana That's a little extreme, isn't it?" Sean's scalp tingled. He suddenly felt a little chilly around his groin. Cecilia seemed to realize how bold her actions were. She stuck her tongue out a little and said, "Well I wouldn't have done it, really. I was just too angry. It'd be great if all the men in this world were like Sean chuckled awkwardly. "Yeah, I guess." 'No, I mean it!" Cecilia thought he was being humble. She stuck her head up proudly. "Oh, right. I still don't know your name. Tina's phone call interrupted us." "Uh, well ... You can just call me Mr. Lakeworth for now." Sean figured it was better not to reveal his identity for the time being. He didn't want Cecilia to snip him anywhere. "You really are a humorous guy." Cecilia smiled. She couldn't help feeling that Sean was different from all the other men she'd met. "I'll address you as Mr. Lakeworth, then. They continued chatting until Cecilia's father called. Only then did they part. She reluctantly bid Sean farewell at the cafe's entrance. This is my number, Mr. Lakeworth. I really enjoyed talking to you today, and I hope we'll have the chance to meet again in the future." "Me, too. I'll see you later." Sean smiled. "Eve, then." Cecilia gave him one more look before getting into her BMW 3201. She slowly drove off. Sean watched her leave. He could tell from their earlier conversation that she was an optimistic, righteous young woman. He just didn't know how she would react when she found out he was the creep Tinal had told her about. He

hoped she wouldn't really snip his groin. Sean shook his head with a smile. He believed there would be a day when all the misunderstandings were unraveled. But before that, he had other more important things to do. He had to return to the villa to retrieve the hair clip. Since Tina wasn't its owner, she didn't deserve to have it with her.

Chapter 9 After leaving the cafe, Sean headed to Waterside Villas in his Maybach. His gaze remained devoid of emotion as he looked at the familiar villa. He walked to the door and rang the doorbell. "Why are you home so early today, Tina? And did Mr. Jones agree to come over for a meal?" A voice rang out from inside the villa. It belonged to Tina's mother, Patricia White. She opened the door gleefully. But when she saw Sean standing outside, her expression darkened. What are you doing here?" "Mom." Sean didn't expect Patricia to be around. He still addressed her as "Mom" out of politeness. "Bah! I'm not your mother! I'm warning you-you'd better not think of pestering my Tina!" Patricia spat. She thought Sean was trying to suck up to her. Now that Tina had finally divorced him and latched onto Wayne, there was no way Patricia would allow Sean to disturb her. She relied on Wayne and the Jones family to provide her with a cushy life! It was why she was at the villa. She wanted to ask Tina about Wayne. Sean took in Patricia's hard, harsh face. He wasn't too bothered by her, seemingly having already expected her to react like this. He said calmly, "I'm not here for Tina. I forgot to take something, so I came back for it. I'll leave immediately after." "You forgot something? You've been leeching off my daughter for the past five years. Nothing in this house belongs to you, including the clothes you have on right now!" Patricia stood in the way. She gave him a contemptuous look. "I do have a question for you, though. How are you going to compensate Tina after wasting five years of her life?" "Me, compensate her?" Sean felt like he'd seen it all now. For the past five years, he hadn't spent a single penny of Tina's money. All the money he'd spent was his own.

In fact, he'd provided a million dollars. for Tina to start her business! Now, Tina had cheated on him and demanded a divorce. Not only had he not asked her to compensate him, but he hadn't even demanded she repay the start-up capital he'd provided. Why was she and her family making it seem like he owed them? "What, isn't that something you're supposed to do?" Patricia looked at him tartly. "I

should've known. Like mother, like daughter." Sean couldn't help sneering. Patricia and Tina were just like each other! "What's that supposed to mean?" Patricia was infuriated by Sean's contempt. "It's a sign of my respect for you that I'm demanding you compensate Tina for the time she wasted on you. Don't cross the line, bastard!" "Why, thanks for your respect." Sean gritted his teeth. "I didn't say a word about your daughter having an affair, yet you come here an demand that I compensate her. Doesn't that weigh on your conscience?" "What do you mean Tina had an affair? It's all because you're such a loser! None of this would've happened if you were as outstanding as Mr. Jones!" Patricia said matter-of-factly. "Yes, it's all my fault for being so worthless. When I provided a million. dollars for Tina to start her company, none of you said anything about me being worthless." Sean's mockery grew. "It's just a million dollars. It's only right for you to do that since you married Tina. Also, I'll have you know that Tina's success is due to her hard work. Don't you even dream of taking a single thing out of this villa. It's only because of Tina that these things are here!" Patricia screeched. She didn't look the slightest bit ashamed. Sean sneered. He didn't want to waste his breath arguing with her anymore. He sidestepped her to walk into the villa. "This is my daughter's home. I didn't give you the permission to come. in!" Patricia blocked him. As she stretched her arms, she revealed an emerald bangle on her wrist. Sean's eyes flashed when he saw it. It was the only thing his mother had left for him before her death. At the time, his mother had hoped he could give the bangle to the woman he loved when he got married. Now that he and Tina were divorced, it was time for him to get the bangle back.

Chapter 10 Sean stared at the bangle. Patricia noticed this and subconsciously retracted her arm. At the same time, she shrieked, "What are you! looking at?" "The emerald bangle my mother left for me." Sean gave her an icy look. "I don't know what you're talking about. Since you gave it to my daughter, that makes it mine!" Patricia said shamelessly. Back in the day, Tina had given the bangle to Patricia because she thought it was cheap and old-fashioned. She didn't want her friends. to laugh at her for wearing it. At first, Patricia hadn't thought much of it. She decided to wear it since she didn't have any other accessories. But after wearing it, she realized there was something special about it. Even as a child, her health had been on the poor side. But she hadn't fallen sick after wearing the

bangle. How could she possibly return the bangle to Sean now that she knew what it could do? Sean's gaze turned frosty when he saw that Patricia wanted to cla the bangle as hers. "So, you're not gonna return it to me?" "Ha! I can't believe you're thinking of taking back something that you've already given to someone. This is my first time meeting someone as shameless as you!" Patricia looked contemptuous. "Yes, as shameless as how you guys are pushing all the blame on me despite being in the wrong," Sean said mockingly. "What do you mean we're in the wrong?" Patricia wouldn't have that. Firstly, +25 BONUS five allowed my daughter to stay married to a loser like you for five years; you should be groveling at my feet and thanking me for that!

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"Secondly, I was kind enough not to throw out the dumb bangle that your dead mother left for you. How dare you shamelessly demand I return it?" "What did you say?" Sean was angry now. No one was allowed to say such things about his mother! Patricia was scared by Sean's sudden rage. She'd never seen him so angry, especially since he was usually easygoing and gentle. "Mom, why's it so noisy downstairs? Is Tina back?" At this moment, a young man with a crew cut came downstairs. It was Tina's younger brother, Justin Sullivan. "Perfect timing, Justin. This loser is trying to break in to steal something. He even wants me to give him back this bangle I've been wearing!" Patricia felt like she had someone to back her up now that Justin was here. "Oh, it's you. You have some nerve coming here after the divorce!" Justin gave Sean a contemptuous look. To him, Sean was nothing but a loser who'd leeched off his sister for five years. Sean ignored Justin. He stared directly at Patricia. "Give me back mother's bangle, Patricia. I don't want a single cent from your fam after the divorce. Similarly, you guys shouldn't be taking my

things "You don't want our money? I can't believe you have the nerve to say that. Do you think Tina would give you anything even if you wanted something? You loser!" Patricia mocked ruthlessly. "As for the bangle, it's mine now that you've given it to Tina!" "I'll say this one last time, Patricia. Give me back my mother's bangle. I don't want to cause a scene," Sean said. His tone was ice-cold. +25 BONUS "Hey, don't you dare talk to my mother like that!" Justin pointed at Sean without waiting for Patricia to say anything. "Who do you think you are? You're nothing but one of my sister's former lapdogs!" Sean frowned. His gaze was menacing now. Was their whole family this shameless? Justin took Sean's silence to mean that he was scared. He clamored, C'mon, bark for me. Maybe I'll give you a penny or two if I'm happy with it!" Sean still didn't say anything. Instead, he raised his hand and slapped Justin in the face.