

The Understated Dragon Lord

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Chapter 351 Jealousy

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Aiden eyed the guy suspiciously and shot back, "What are you getting at?"

"So you're saying, Aiden, that I can say whatever I want as long as it proves these ingredients are worth 150 million dollars?" he asked, a hint of challenge in his voice.

Aiden laid down her terms, "If you can prove that these ingredients are worth that much, then say whatever you want. But if you can't, hand over 100 million from your account to me!" She was determined to make a heavy profit from this guy!

Aiden knew that her proposition was a long shot—Daniel would likely never agree. But negotiations always had room for flexibility, she mused with a smirk.

"Deal!" Daniel agreed immediately, taking Aiden by surprise.

Brittany, who was listening in, panicked, "Do you even know what you're saying?"

She glared at Daniel fiercely and ordered, "You can't make that bet with her!"

Daniel, undaunted, replied coolly, "Why not?"

"Because the 100 million in your account is company money, not yours! So, you can't gamble with it!"

"Company money in my personal account? If it's in my account, it's mine, not the company's."

"Even if it is yours, you're not allowed to gamble with it! No bets today. If you dare to bet against this woman, I swear I'll break your legs!"

Seeing that her windfall was slipping away as Brittany seemed to intimidate Daniel, Aiden jumped into the fray. With a sly smile, she taunted Daniel, "Are you even a man? I mean, I'd get it if your

wife was calling the shots, but a co-worker? Is she your wife or what?!"

"Bitch, don't stir up trouble between me and that country bumpkin!" Brittany snapped, and then quickly corrected herself, "Our relationship is purely professional!"

"Sweetheart, you're so worked up. Could it be you've fallen for my Daniel? Or else, why do I detect a scent of jealousy?" Aiden teased.

She was only interested in Daniel's money, not his affection, so Brittany's words didn't faze her.

What Aiden failed to understand was that when she first met Daniel, Brittany felt nothing but disgust for him. And now she was already considering his feelings.

Unbeknownst to Aiden, the moment she jokingly called out to Daniel, she had already planted the seeds of affection for him deep within her heart.

As for Daniel, he carried within him seven dragons, each with its own personality and preferences, influencing him in different ways.

The dragons would each favor different women at different times, hence Daniel's seemingly fickle heart was not his own doing but that of the seven dragons within him.

Brittany, desperate not to lose face, vehemently denied Aiden's allegations, "What are you implying? That I'm jealous of this hillbilly? You can have him for all I care. Him, jealous over me? As if! He and I have nothing to do with each other!"

Brittany's emotions gave Aiden the upper hand.

She looked at her with a smile and pressed on, "If you're not interested, not jealous, and have nothing to do with him, why the concern?"

Chapter 352 The Scheming Villain

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"I'm his boss, I just don't want to see him do something dumb! Besides, how could a country boy with a monthly salary of \$180 possibly have 100 million dollars?" Brittany explained awkwardly.

In the end, she threatened Daniel, "If you dare go through with this bet, I'll call Jessica and rat you out!"

Unable to control her subordinate, Brittany played her last card by dragging Jessica into the fray. She hoped Jessica could keep the country boy in check.

"Rat me out to Jessica? I'm not afraid of her; do what you want!" Daniel was carefree, unfazed by the threat of being tattled on.

"You said it, don't regret it later!"

"I won't regret it."

"Fine! Calling Jessica now!" Brittany dialed Jessica's number and switched to speakerphone.

Jessica's sweet voice soon filled the room, "Brittany, what's up?"

"Guess what this country bumpkin is up to, Jessica?"

"What's he doing?"

"He's actually gambling during work hours!"

"So what? He's gambling."

"Do you know how much he's betting?"

"How much?"

"100 million!"

"100 million? Well, he always wins when he bets!"

"But this time he's definitely going to lose, one hundred percent!"

"So he loses, big deal!"

"Jessica, it's 100 million dollars! If you don't do something, if you don't freeze his account right now, he's going to lose it all to someone else!"

"It's fine as long as he's happy. If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up."

Click. Jessica hung up the phone.

Daniel gambling? She didn't care one bit. Her only concern was that the idiot didn't cheat on her.

Meanwhile, Brittany was flabbergasted.

She had assumed that Jessica would step in and stop Daniel upon hearing the news. If nothing else, at least scold him!

But Jessica's casual "as long as he's happy" took her by surprise.

Was Jessica too biased, too fond of this country boy?

Brittany felt jealous!

As TMO's lead secretary, she had to feel this way.

She could clearly sense that her standing in Jessica's eyes had plummeted compared to Daniel's.

Daniel looked at Brittany, grinning, "Got anyone else to call, Brittany?"

"You...hmpf!"

Fuming, all Brittany could do was huff, "Don't you gloat!"

"Gloat? I'm just being me, aren't I?"

"You're nothing but a lowlife, a despicable one at that!" She spat the words out in anger.

After her outburst, a sudden realization struck Brittany, restoring her air of superiority. She spoke down to Daniel, full of authority.

"Don't get cocky, country boy! Jessica isn't intervening because she thinks you can win. If you lose that 100 million, just watch how she'll deal with you. She'll fire you and then make you repay every cent of the losses!"

"I won't lose! Didn't Jessica say so? I've never lost at gambling! As long as it's at the table, I'm unbeatable!" Daniel said with a cheerful laugh.

Brittany let out a cold snicker, mocking him, "You've never lost; that's just good fortune! Do you really think your luck will last forever?"

Chapter 353 Washing The Herbs

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"Let me tell you, I'll always be lucky," Daniel asserted.

Brittany cursed under her breath and then blurted out, "Go ahead and bet with this woman! When you've lost that 100 million in your account, I want to see how you'll explain it to Jessica!"

"What else can I say? If I can't pay it back with money, I guess I'll have to make it up to her with my body! Jessica wouldn't mind that one bit," Daniel responded with a mischievous grin.

"What the heck? Your body? What are you thinking about? Why don't you look in the mirror and see what you really are? Make it up with your body?"

She paused before adding disgustedly, "What exactly are you thinking?"

"Thinking about what pose I should use?" Daniel teased.

"Get lost! You're such a perv!" Brittany's face went crimson; she scoffed at him and decided not to engage further. Arguing with this country boy had gotten her nowhere, except feeling like she was at a loss.

Brittany was irked at how he always seemed to get an advantage over her; it nearly drove her mad.

Aiden, who had been watching the drama unfold, stepped in to make sure her jackpot wouldn't slip away.

"Daniel, you said these ten herbs are worth 150 million, right? Show us how then! I want to see you prove it," Aiden demanded.

"The quality of these herbs is exceptional. They look worthless right now because they're covered in dust. Their real value isn't visible. Just wait until I reveal their true nature, Aiden, and you'll believe they're worth the 150 million," Daniel explained with confidence.

"Dust? Their true nature isn't visible? How are you going to reveal it?"

"Aiden, do you have a basin I could use? Preferably a golden one—I need to wash the herbs in a golden basin to bring out their real value!"

"I have a basin, but it's not gold; it's stainless steel."

"Stainless steel isn't ideal, but it'll have to do," Daniel conceded.

Aiden fetched the stainless steel basin for him and said, "If you need water, there's a faucet over there—help yourself."

"These herbs are too valuable to be washed with plain tap water!"

Daniel then turned to Brittany with a cheeky smile, "Brittany, could you help me out and run an errand?"

"Get lost!"

"Why are you so harsh, Brittany? We have a solid collegial bond! Just fetch me ten bottles of vodka, and I'll give you ten thousand dollars for each bottle."

Ten bottles of vodka for ten thousand dollars each? Even if they cost three thousand a bottle, she'd make a profit of seventy thousand.

The job sounded profitable!

While Brittany did the math in her head, she wasn't about to make it easy.

"Ten thousand a bottle is too cheap. At least twenty thousand!"

"Fine! Twenty thousand it is!"

"Jerk! You just know how to boss me around! Think you're so special with your money, country boy!"

Brittany cursed out Daniel, then stomped out to buy the vodka. As much as she resented Daniel, she had no issue with money. To turn down an opportunity to make cash would be foolish, and Brittany certainly didn't want to be the fool!

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Chapter 354 Brittany Gets Jealous

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Seeing Brittany walk away, Aiden looked at Daniel with a teasing smile. "Daniel, you're quite the high-roller, huh? Paying a pretty penny just for your co-worker to run an errand for ten bottles of vodka. This isn't your first time doing something like this, is it?"

"Money's a wonderful thing—it can make a pretty girl run an errand or even spread her legs," Daniel joked with a roguish twinkle in his eye.

"You're terrible! There's not a single good man out there!" Aiden gave Daniel a playful punch and then asked curiously, "So, Daniel, how many girls have you paid to spread their legs?"

"Not even one," Daniel answered earnestly.

"Not a single one? You're pulling my leg, right? You, looking all mischievous—none?"

"If you don't believe me, Aiden, you could give it a try."

"Try what?"

"Try spreading your legs."

"Get lost! You disgusting idiot! You actually want to mess around with me? With that tiny thing of yours, you better keep it in your pants around me!"

"How do you know it's tiny if you've never seen it, Aiden?"

"So, you want to show me?"

"If you're curious, you can have a taste," he said with a teasing grin.

"Aren't you afraid I'll snip it off?"

"You wouldn't dare! Once you see it, you'll be too fond of it to let it go. You'd probably end up cuddling and kissing it instead of cutting it."

"The moment your pretty co-worker steps out, you start saying more and more outrageous things!"

"That's because you like it, Aiden!"

"I do not! Keep spewing nonsense, and I'll tear your mouth apart!" Aiden made a tearing gesture and glared menacingly.

If any other man had joked with her like this, she would have called the cops on him. But when Daniel teased her like this, not only was she not offended, but she actually found it amusing.

Aiden might be greedy and love money, but no amount of cash—certainly not a measly hundred million—could buy her dignity.

Even if Daniel had a hundred million in his account, if he made her uncomfortable in any way, she'd kick him out without a second thought.

Just then, Brittany came back, lugging two cases of vodka and panting heavily.

As she reached the door, she overheard Daniel and Aiden's flirty banter, and their conversation was definitely not lacking in spice.

Her face turned into a scowl as she stormed in and yelled, "Country boy, come and carry this vodka!"

Daniel didn't move but instead said to Aiden with a grin, "Aiden, could you help move these, please?"

His words caused Aiden to freeze.

"Idiot, do you have any idea what you're saying? You're a big man, and you're asking me, a woman, to do the heavy lifting?"

"Who said women can't do physical work? A bit of exercise is good for you. It'll even make childbirth easier later on. I know a country woman who works harder than two men put together. She had eight kids, all natural births, as easy as a hen laying eggs."

"You're the one who should be having eight kids! Do you think I'm a pig, to have that many? And could you even afford to raise them all?"

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Chapter 355 The Truth Comes Out

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Caught up in the moment, Aiden let something slip from her subconscious. With a light kick of her high heel, she unintentionally revealed more than she intended to Daniel.

Daniel looked at her, feigning shock, "Why would I be responsible for raising your kids? I'm not about to be a stepfather to eight kids, no way!"

"You... I ought to kick you to death!" Aiden was so annoyed that she landed another kick on Daniel.

Brittany, having had enough of the scene, placed her hands on her hips and scolded indignantly, "In broad daylight, manhandling a man like that, have you no shame?"

"Brittany, are you jealous? Or is it jealousy? Daniel's not your man; he is my friend. Me hitting him has nothing to do with you!" Aiden retorted, never one to let herself be outdone verbally.

Brittany didn't want to keep arguing with Aiden over a country boy. It wasn't worth it. So, she turned to Daniel and spat, "Shameless!"

Daniel chose not to engage with either of them, knowing that taking sides wouldn't end well. So, he went on to open the vodka bottles and poured all twelve into the stainless steel basin.

Next, he started scrubbing the herbs as if washing clothes, leaving Aiden looking on in bemusement.

"Daniel, are you doing laundry? I know these are discarded herbs, but they are still herbs! Washing them like that will ruin them! And to think you wasted twelve bottles of vodka on worthless herbs— it's such a pity!"

"If you don't know what you're talking about, it's best to just keep quiet and watch," Daniel retorted shortly.

Aiden immediately bristled at his tone. "Are you snapping at me?"

With that, she kicked Daniel's behind so hard that he almost fell face-first into the basin.

Regaining his balance, Daniel turned and asked incredulously, "Did you just kick me?"

"Yes, I did! What are you going to do about it?"

"If you dare kick me again, believe me, I'll hit back! Wherever you kick, I'll strike. You kick me once, I'll hit you ten times!"

"You wouldn't dare!"

"Try me—if you kick, I'll do it!"

Aiden was so irritated that she very much wanted to kick Daniel again; she found the previous kick quite amusing. But she hesitated, worried that Daniel might actually follow through on his threat.

Should she run? Or let him hit her?

As she pondered her options, Aiden's face couldn't help but flush with embarrassment.

Brittany, on the other hand, was deeply jealous, though she tried her best not to show it.

"Country boy, watch yourself! It's work hours, and here you are flirting with a pretty girl. Don't make me tell Jessica," she menaced.

"Do you have to tattle everything to Jessica? How old are you? Can't you handle your own issues?"

"Fine! I'll handle it myself!"

Brittany then kicked Daniel hard on the backside, with so much force that he toppled over.

Rubbing his sore backside, Daniel asked in disbelief, "Do you actually think I wouldn't dare to hit you back?"

Chapter 356 Something's Not Quite Right

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"You wouldn't dare," Brittany challenged, crossing her arms with a defiant look.

"Forget it. A real man doesn't fight with a woman. I'm not going to stoop to your level!" Daniel truly didn't dare to retaliate against Brittany. If he did anything, it would just lead to trouble. She was the kind of woman you couldn't shake off easily—plus, she was Jessica's secretary.

Aiden was an easier problem to solve considering she didn't even know Jessica. Daniel knew better than to flirt with women close to him. His heart could wander, but he had to keep it secret from his wife. If he got caught, he'd be done for. He could kiss the sealed dragon grass goodbye, along with his own life.

Soon, Daniel had used the vodka in the stainless steel basin to wash a piece of He Shou Wu clean. Before the wash, the herb had been spotty with mold, seemingly rotten through. But after a thorough scrubbing by Daniel, it appeared miraculously rejuvenated.

Shaking the cleaned He Shou Wu in his hand, Daniel asked Aiden, "How about it, Aiden? Good as new, right?"

"What a waste of vodka!" Aiden remarked, then went on, "Even if you've cleaned this piece of He Shou Wu, it's not a valuable herb to begin with. If you take this piece to the market, you'd get at most a few hundred dollars. The vodka cost more than that!"

"You're not looking closely. This isn't just any He Shou Wu. This is a top-notch one—dark and hard, rare in a hundred years. A normal piece of He Shou Wu this size would indeed only be worth a few hundred dollars. But this one? It's worth millions because it's top-grade."

Aiden let out a derisive laugh, "A rare piece? I think your He Shou Wu looks ordinary to me. What's so different about it?"

"If your eyes can't tell, Aiden, then feel it with your hands. Touch it properly and feel how dark and hard it is. Tell me if it's not a rare find."

With that, Daniel earnestly handed over the He Shou Wu to Aiden.

Though Daniel's suggestion sounded odd to Aiden, her curiosity got the best of her, and she reached out to take it. She touched it and, indeed, it was much harder than typical He Shou Wu. It was also several shades darker, shimmering with a blackness that rivaled coal.

Another unusual thing was its temperature. Normal He Shou Wu should feel room-temperature, but this piece was chillingly cold, as if it contained ice cubes.

After touching it, Aiden looked at Daniel with a puzzled expression. "This piece of He Shou Wu feels a bit off to me. What's the deal?"

"What's off about it? It's perfectly fine!"

"Why is it cold? As if it just came out of the fridge. Did you pull some kind of trick?"

"This He Shou Wu grew in extremely cold conditions. That's why it's ice-cold. Even if you set it in the sun, it would maintain its chilly feel," Daniel explained with a chuckling tone, hoping to persuade Aiden with his explanation.

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Chapter 357 Anger

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He Shou Wu from extremely cold regions?

He Shou Wu that comes from extremely cold regions is extremely rare. If this piece of He Shou Wu really hail from such a place, it truly was a gem among herbs and could indeed be worth millions.

Aiden knew a thing or two about herbs. She had only heard of this extremely rare He Shou Wu and never actually seen one, but she knew of prices soaring up to tens of millions for it.

Daniel could tell that Aiden was stunned. She had obviously realized the value of the herb. Grinning, he teased her, "Aiden, what's with the silence? Thinking about how to back out, are you?"

"Why would I want to back out?"

"You've recognized this as a top-quality He Shou Wu from extremely cold regions, with a value of at least five million. But you don't want to admit it because you're afraid of losing to me!"

"You're right! This He Shou Wu does come from extremely cold regions and it is a rare piece. It is indeed worth five million. But don't forget, genius, our bet was 150 million. Even if I granted you the five million, you're still far from winning," Aiden conceded generously.

Her eyes were on the prize: Daniel's 100 million. This single piece of He Shou Wu wasn't going to affect the overall outcome, so she saw no point in arguing over it.

Continuing the conversation, Aiden asked curiously, "We've made our bet, but if you were to win— something I hardly think possible—what do you want?"

"Don't worry, Aiden, I don't want you. I'm not interested in you. What I'm interested in is your herb store. If I win, I get to pick any item from here for free."

Daniel's response felt like an insult to Aiden. How dare this idiot imply that he wasn't interested in her? She was a beautiful woman—a top-tier beauty! Every man drooled over her and couldn't pull themselves away.

Where did this idiot get the confidence to say he wasn't interested in her? If he wasn't interested, then why was he flirting with her just a while ago?

The more Aiden thought about it, the angrier she became.

Not only was Aiden confused, even Daniel didn't understand what was going on. He wasn't aware that the seven dragons within him were influencing his behavior, altering his personality at any given moment. Currently, he wasn't in control of the seven dragons—they were in control of him.

There was a dragon that was enamored with women—the womanizer. Then there was one obsessed with herbs—the herb fanatic. And another that only cared about martial cultivation—the martial fanatic.

"You're not interested in me? Well, I'm not interested in you either!" Aiden glared at Daniel, still seething with irritation. "Country bumpkin!"

She had picked up the term from Brittany.

Hearing Aiden call Daniel a 'country bumpkin,' Brittany's mood immediately brightened, for she didn't take well to Aiden addressing Daniel by his name.

"Aiden, only now you realize he's a country bumpkin? Trust me, this kind of country bumpkin isn't worth your affection."

"Affection? For him? As if! He's nothing but a country bumpkin! He's a despicable worm that not even a cesspool would want!"

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Chapter 358 The Honest Man

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Aiden was still fuming—this country boy had the nerve to dismiss her!

"Aiden, is our bet still on?" Daniel asked with a chuckle.

"Yes, of course, it's on! Even though you're a jerk, your money's real. I'm betting with you because of the cash in your account," Aiden replied.

Pointing to a row of shelves on the left, she said, "But you can only pick from this row."

Aiden wasn't one to suffer a loss easily. She had directed him to a shelf filled with common herbs— nothing of significant value. That way, even if she lost the bet, her loss wouldn't be substantial. But deep down, she was confident she wouldn't lose. Even if this country boy had found a high-quality He Shou Wu, it was only worth five million—far from 150 million.

Daniel glanced at the indicated row of shelves and couldn't help laughing. The very herb he wanted was on that shelf.

Seeing Daniel's laughter, Aiden's suspicion was piqued. "What're you laughing at?"

"I'm laughing at Aiden!"

"At me?" Aiden's face darkened as she snapped, "I knew you were laughing at me! What about?"

"I'm laughing because the more stingy Aiden is, the bigger loss she'll suffer. When you lose, don't cry because I won't offer you a tissue. I just love seeing beautiful women cry. The sadder you are, the more beautiful it looks!"

"I'm not going to lose! When you lose, don't even think about renegeing on that 100 million. If you dare to try and weasel out of it, I won't let you leave Herbal Loon!"

"Rest assured, Aiden, I'm a man who honors his bets. Since we've made the bet, I won't back out. It's just one hundred million, right? It's merely change; I don't care about it."

With that, Daniel pointed at the same row of shelves Aiden had pointed to earlier, confirming, "You said this row, right? If I win, I can pick any herb from this row."

"Yes, that row!" Aiden confirmed.

"Within your Herbal Loon, there's an herb that's invaluable. One of them is in this stainless steel basin, and the other on the shelf you just pointed out. So, Aiden, if you regret letting me take all your valuable herbs in one fell swoop, you can back out now and point me to a different shelf."

Daniel spoke nothing but the absolute truth but Aiden didn't see it that way. She thought the country bumpkin was bluffing her. So she said with a smile, "Are you trying to trick me, country boy? You think I'm a gullible three-year-old girl?"

"Ah, Aiden, I'm telling the truth and you don't believe me? It's hard to be a man, even harder to be an honest and upright one."

"Heh," Aiden couldn't help but let out a cold laugh, then rolled her eyes at Daniel.

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Chapter 359 The Main Act

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"Honest? You? If you're considered honest, then there are no dishonest men in the world. You're just a dishonest man!" Aiden scoffed.

"Aiden, truly, your eyesight isn't all that great! I suggest you get your eyes checked. Since I happen to be a doctor, how about I treat you with my Needle Of Seven Dragons? I guarantee that after treatment, your eyesight will be ten times—no, a hundred times better."

"You want to give me acupuncture?"

"Yes! Aiden, you're so beautiful, I'd love to treat you, cure that poor eyesight of yours. Once your vision is fixed, you'll see that I am the most honest and most reliable man in the whole wide world."

"Jerk, cut the crap! Don't think you can beguile me. That's the shelf, and if you win, you can pick any herb from there."

Aiden was quite calm about it. She had personally arranged every herb on every shelf in Herbal Loon. She knew precisely which shelves held valuable herbs and which held the

cheapest. The shelf she had indicated to Daniel carried the least expensive ones—none were worth much. Even the priciest item would only fetch a few hundred dollars.

Though Aiden was certain she wouldn't lose, she wasn't about to let Daniel reap a benefit in the off chance she did lose.

Daniel continued to scrub the herbs in the stainless steel basin. This time, he didn't clean them one by one; instead, he washed eight out all together. The newly cleaned herbs were all premium quality. Although their value wasn't exceptionally high, even the least valuable among them would be worth fifty thousand.

Pointing at the nine herbs he had cleaned, Daniel asked Aiden with a smile, "Aiden, how much do you think this pile of herbs is worth?"

How was this Daniel so good at picking herbs? Out of ten, the nine he washed were all top-notch. Together, they were worth at least twenty or thirty million. The kicker—he'd only spent a thousand on them!

Aiden felt somewhat relieved that she'd bet him a hundred million; otherwise, she would have suffered a significant loss this time.

The thought of her wager with Daniel immediately turned Aiden's frown upside down.

"Daniel, not bad at all! The nine herbs you cleaned are genuinely premium. I'm willing to buy them back from you for twenty million. So, since our bet was for a hundred million, you just need to give me eighty million."

"Aiden, let's say these are worth twenty million. But I've only cleaned nine herbs so far. This last one is the most valuable. After all, the main act is at the end! This last herb is a Spirit medicine, a Blood Ganoderma full of spiritual energy—and it's alive! Its value is at least ten billion!"

"Daniel, quite the storyteller, aren't you? This thing, a Blood Ganoderma? Full of spiritual energy and alive? If what you're saying is true, and it's a live Blood Ganoderma full of spiritual energy, even at ten billion, people would be lining up to buy it. However, such Blood Ganoderma doesn't exist in the human world—only in the legendary Spirit Realm."

Chapter 360 Talking Nonsense

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Aiden's words didn't surprise Daniel in the slightest. Given her youth, beauty, and the fact she ran such an establishment like Herbal Loon, it was clear she had significant backing.

Pretending ignorance, Daniel asked with a smile, "Aiden, this Spirit Realm you mentioned, what is that?"

Aiden looked at him skeptically and countered, "You don't know the Spirit Realm?"

"Nope! Oh, wait! I've heard of the Spirit Realm, but only in online novels and TV shows. Does the Spirit Realm really exist in the real world?"

"I read about it in novels too," Aiden replied evasively, not wanting to tell the truth.

After responding, Aiden suddenly thought of something and asked, "If you don't know the Spirit Realm, how do you know about Blood Ganoderma? And how do you know a Blood Ganoderma full of spiritual energy could be worth ten billion?"

"I was talking nonsense."

"Talking nonsense? I think you're talking nonsense right now!"

Aiden was almost certain Daniel was being dishonest. He had to be hiding some secret, and she silently vowed to uncover whatever Daniel was hiding.

"Just now, you yourself admitted that a Blood Ganoderma full of spiritual energy would be worth more than ten billion. So, if that's the case, you've lost," Daniel warned, fearing Aiden might try to weasel out of the bet. After all, women, especially beautiful ones, were notorious for going back on their word.

"Right! That's what I said! As long as you can prove this ugly, club-like thing is a Blood Ganoderma, and that it's full of spiritual energy, then I'll concede that I've lost."

Aiden didn't believe for a second that this thing could be a Blood Ganoderma. Even ignoring its dark appearance, it should at least resemble the shape of Ganoderma. But this object looked like nothing more than a stick; it didn't have any characteristics of Ganoderma.

"Aiden, no going back on your word!"

"Why would I? Just make sure you don't!"

Daniel didn't want to waste more words on her. Instead, he gently washed the herb with careful, respectful movements, as if handling a rare treasure.

Aiden watched Daniel's hands, utterly transfixed.

Brittany, who had been silent for a while, couldn't stand it any longer and scolded, "Why are you being so disgusting?"

"How am I disgusting?"

Daniel looked up at Brittany with a mischievous smile, "Are you jealous of this Blood Ganoderma? Since we've both got a room booked at the hotel, how about I wash you up, too, when we get back?"

"You... perv! Big jerk! Dream on! That's never going to happen in a million years!"

Brittany quickly rejected the idea. She didn't want this country boy anywhere near her, especially after seeing how he handled the worthless object; she found it utterly repulsive.

"I don't want to give you a bath! I'm afraid you're the one who wants me to bathe you! Just don't come asking me later!" Daniel continued to tease.

At that moment, his behavior was influenced by the seven dragons within him, resulting in him alternating between being a gentleman and acting like a rascal.

Chapter 361 Refusal to Acknowledge

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"Get lost!" Brittany spat out the insult, then huffed, "I would never even think of such a thing! Not in this lifetime! I'm not that cheap!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she began to imagine the scenario in her mind because Daniel's technique suggested it might actually be quite comfortable. Knowing his talent for massage, it probably wasn't just an ordinary technique.

But then she berated herself internally. What was she even thinking? She wouldn't want his massage. She certainly didn't want this country boy getting the better of her!

Meanwhile, with a series of snaps, the dark object Daniel was handling suddenly burst open, splitting the black outer layer to reveal something resembling a bloody chicken leg.

Upon seeing this, Aiden couldn't help but laugh. "This is your Blood Ganoderma? Is that what Ganoderma looks like? It's clearly a chicken leg mushroom!"

"Chicken leg mushroom? Since when are they blood red?" Daniel questioned.

"That's a chicken leg mushroom! It's just been dyed, that's all!" Aiden could not identify what the object really was, so she insisted it was a dyed chicken leg mushroom.

"Dyed chicken leg mushroom? I think your eyes really do have a problem! Looks like I need to find an opportunity to give you a few needles and treat your vision."

Daniel pointed to the Blood Ganoderma and commanded cheerfully, "Go on, walk up to Aiden and transform so she can have a clear look. Show her whether you're just a chicken leg mushroom!"

No sooner had Daniel spoken than the Blood Ganoderma sprouted tiny legs, no more than a centimeter long, and began wobbling its way toward Aiden.

The sight was so astonishing it shocked Brittany to her core. She watched the trembling Blood Ganoderma walking step by step as though witnessing a ghost, her mouth gaping open wide enough to fit something inside.

Aiden was shocked too, but not because the Blood Ganoderma had grown legs and could walk. She was astonished that the object, which looked like a chicken leg mushroom, truly was a Spirit medicine, as only Spirit medicine would possess such abilities.

Seeing Aiden stunned, Daniel asked with a grin, "Well, what do you say now? Can you admit it's a Blood Ganoderma?"

"I can only admit it's a Spirit medicine and it's indeed quite valuable. So, I won't deny it—you've won our bet. But as for it being a Blood Ganoderma, I don't think so. It still looks very much like a chicken leg mushroom. It's nothing like Ganoderma!"

"Transform!"

At Daniel's command, the Blood Ganoderma transformed. It changed from looking like a chicken leg mushroom into the shape Ganoderma should have.

Now Aiden was convinced it was truly a Blood Ganoderma. "Fine, you've won fair and square!"

She pointed to the row of shelves, "Go ahead, pick. I don't believe you can find another Spirit medicine on this shelf!"

"Since Aiden is letting me choose, I won't hold back."

Daniel walked over to the shelf and began to select carefully.

Chapter 362 The Secret

Chapter 362 The Secret

Aiden fell deep into thought. Her grandmother had arranged a marriage for her, and although Aiden didn't know the man's name, her grandmother had told her on her deathbed that the man would appear in Herbal Loon and would make Aiden suffer heavy losses. Her grandmother's last wish was for Aiden to marry the man who kept making her lose because only by marrying him could she recover her losses.

Daniel, for his part, was unaware that Aiden was one of his betrothed. While he had nine marriage contracts, some had been damaged by mice and were now incomplete.

He didn't know the name of each of his fiances. As for Aiden's contract, he wasn't even aware of her family name. The only clue he had was a single word from the damaged marriage contract —“Herbal,” aligning with “Herbal” from Herbal Loon. The rest had been chewed away by mice.

Daniel reached for a black item, like a piece of wood, from the bottom row of the shelf. Holding it up in front of Aiden, he cheekily said, "I'll take this one, Aiden."

"This one?"

Aiden almost laughed out loud; the item was no herb but an old tree root that at best Daniel could use as firewood.

"You don't like my choice, Aiden?"

"Why wouldn't I? A bet is a bet! If you want it, take it! It's just an old root; it's worthless."

"Aiden, you really do have a problem with your eyes!"

"Dare to call me blind? I'll kill you!"

Aiden snatched the old root from Daniel and swung it heavily toward his thigh. However, she accidentally aimed slightly higher, and it struck Daniel's backside with a loud smack.

Brittany was stunned!

Daniel was taken aback.

Aiden was equally shocked.

Brittany, the first to recover from the surprise, was seething. "What are you two doing? It's the middle of the day; don't you have any shame?"

Daniel took the opportunity to speak up with a grin, "Don't worry, Brittany. Aiden is just flirting with me. I'm happy to be hit by her, and she's happy to hit me. What does it have to do with you, a third party?"

This response shocked Brittany. She looked at Daniel incredulously and demanded, "Country boy, what are you implying? Do you think I'm in the way? Stopping you from flirting with other women?"

"Brittany, watch your words. This is Aiden. Besides, I'm not married, and neither is she. Even if we were flirting, what's the issue?"

"You...you have no shame!"

After catching her breath, Aiden quickly changed the subject. She pointed to the old root and asked Daniel out of curiosity, "What is this thing? Is there some kind of secret hidden inside?"

"This is a wonderful item, something that Aiden will be unable to put down. Just use it once, and you'll realize how marvelous it is; you'll never want to be without it from then on."

Aiden's face flushed red with embarrassment upon hearing his words. She glared at Daniel and said tersely, "Jerk! Can't you ever be serious?"

"Serious? I am serious! Aiden, can't you see how solemn I am?"

Read Chapter 363 Outrage

Chapter 363 Outrage

Chapter 363 Outrage

Daniel's reply caused Aiden to roll her eyes disdainfully.

"Stop talking nonsense, you're never serious!"

"You really do have vision problems, Aiden. You seriously need treatment. Look at me, every pore on my body exudes the essence of a serious man."

"Get lost!" Aiden rolled her eyes again, "If you're what passes for a serious man, then there are no perverts in this world."

"Aiden, how can you know I have a problem without having tried me? How about we book a hotel room tonight, and you can see for yourself if I'm okay?"

"Get lost!" Aiden swung the old tree root lightly at Daniel once again. Learning from her previous mistake, she aimed for his back, not his thigh.

But then, with a loud "smack," the root seemed to steer itself and, inexplicably, landed on Daniel's buttocks again.

Brittany witnessed it and immediately flew into a rage.

"Have you two no shame?"

If the first strike was an accident, this second one couldn't possibly have been unintentional! Since Aiden had aimed properly after the prior mishap, it should have been impossible for the root to hit the wrong target. Yet, the old root had ended up on Daniel's backside again? Something was definitely off, and it wasn't with Aiden—it was that old tree root!

Realizing this, Aiden fixed her gaze on Daniel with her beautiful eyes wide and asked, "Are you the one with the problem?"

"How do I have a problem?"

"Why else would my two strikes both land on your backside? My first intention was to hit your thigh, the second was your back. I can't land a proper hit if this old tree root keeps veering off to your butt. What's going on with that?"

"Give me the root, and I'll tell you," Daniel replied.

Aiden, unsure of what he was intending to do, handed Daniel the old root and watched him curiously.

"Don't you dare hit me!" she warned.

"Extend your hand," said Daniel.

"Why?" Aiden asked, bemused, but obediently extended her hand.

Daniel took the root and gently swung it toward the palm of Aiden's hand. As it was about to strike, Daniel released the root, and it seemed to grow wings, flying out of his grasp and looping around to her back.

"Smack!"

The root tapped her bottom lightly.

"Ah!" Aiden cried out, a sound that Daniel found rather pleasant, stirring delightful fantasies in his mind.

"You rascal... you pervert!" Aiden scolded, her face flushing with embarrassment.

"How am I a pervert? I'm no pervert; it's the old tree root that's the pervert! Didn't you see that when I struck, I let go? The root flew off by itself and hit your behind."

"You're talking nonsense!" Aiden didn't believe him, convinced that Daniel was up to mischief.

At that moment, Brittany stepped forward. "Country bumpkin, I'm going to tell Jessica about your behavior! Flirting with a pretty girl during work hours? You have no shame!"

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Chapter 364 Playing Dirty

Chapter 364 Playing Dirty

"Jealous, Brittany? Want to try it too?" Daniel teased.

"Get lost!" Before Brittany could even finish cursing, Daniel grabbed the old root and waved it towards her. Just like before, he let go at the last moment.

"Smack!" The root tapped Brittany's behind lightly.

"Ah!" Her cry was just as pleasant as Aiden's had been, adding to Daniel's amused state.

Daniel, holding the root, grinned cheekily at Brittany, "You scream quite beautifully!"

"Freak! Jerk! I'll kick you to death!" Brittany, enraged, kicked at Daniel with her high heels several times. Given the tickling level of her attacks, Daniel naturally felt nothing.

Aiden snatched the root from Daniel's grip and looked at him with curiosity, "What's the deal with this old root?"

"It's no ordinary root; it's a Millennium Spirit Root."

"Millennium Spirit Root?" Taking over the conversation, Brittany eyed Daniel curiously, "What's that?"

"A Millennium Spirit Root comes from a Spirit Tree that grows in places rich in spiritual energy, mostly found in the Spirit Realm, which doesn't exist in the human world. A Spirit Tree typically lives for a thousand years, with those surviving five thousand years being an extreme rarity.

"Unlike other trees, after living for five thousand years, a Spirit Tree starts to grow in reverse. It transitions from expanding in girth to shrinking with each layer until it becomes just a root. After ten thousand years, it turns into this Millennium Spirit Root."

Daniel's explanation was straightforward, but after hearing it, Brittany scoffed dismissively. "Yeah, right!"

With a scornful laugh, she mocked, "You think I'm kindergarten-level gullible, don't you? Trying to fool me with that kind of tall tale?"

Meanwhile, Aiden put away the Millennium Spirit Root and the Blood Ganoderma.

Noticing something amiss, Daniel queried, "What are you doing?"

"What am I doing? These two items are quite valuable. What if you waste them? So, I need to store them with me for safekeeping."

Aiden was about to play dirty; after all, playing dirty is second nature to some.

"Why should I leave those two items in your care?"

"Because you harassed me! You took advantage of me just now! Hence, I have to keep these treasures safe!"

"You're shameless!"

"I'm shameless? So what?"

"It's fine, actually. It's all good if you want to do that!"

Aiden gave Daniel a light kick, then said, "Considering your repeated disrespect towards me, I will keep these treasures indefinitely. Until one day when I forgive you, only then will I return them to you!"

"Fine! If Aiden wishes to safeguard these two treasures, then they're yours to guard. After all, I'm in no hurry to use them; we've got time."

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Chapter 365 Personal Protection

Chapter 365 Personal Protection

"Is there still time?" Aiden pondered Daniel's words, sensing something wasn't right about him but couldn't put her finger on what it was.

"Hmph! Keep talking nonsense and taking advantage of me, and see if I don't confiscate these treasures," Aiden threatened with an imposing demeanor. However, not only did Daniel not seem scared, he was positively enthusiastic as he teased her.

"Only my wife is qualified to confiscate my things. Are you suggesting, Aiden, that you want to be my wife?"

"In your dreams! You little devil, if I became your wife, I'd die of anger hundreds of times a day!"

"That's fine too, I have the Needle Of Seven Dragons. You die once, I'll revive you once with a needle—a guarantee to bring you back every time."

"Get lost!" Aiden waved the root in disapproval.

"You're taking both of my treasures, Aiden. Shouldn't you give me some kind of compensation? Otherwise, I'm just gonna stick around here today and not leave. I'll go wherever you go—personal protection. Even if you're using the restroom or taking a shower, I'll follow you!"

"If you follow me, I'll break your legs!"

"Even with broken legs, I'll follow you with crutches or in a wheelchair."

"Then I'll just have to kill you!"

"Even dead, if I become a ghost, I'll still follow you. As a ghost, I'll climb into your bed, even on top of you. I'll play with you every day and guarantee you'll enjoy the ghostly version of me."

"Can't you be even a little serious?"

"In front of a celestial beauty like Aiden, even if I try to be serious, my thoughts won't stay pure! If Aiden doesn't mind, even my body may start to misbehave."

Aiden stamped her feet in frustration but secretly enjoyed the banter. To keep Daniel from realizing she liked his flirtations, she put on a stern face and asked, "What do you want as compensation?"

"I'd like some herbs."

"What herbs?"

Daniel began to write something on a piece of paper he picked up from the counter. His handwriting was exquisite. The mystery luring Aiden into a state of fixation. Brittany, too, found herself drawn to the beautiful calligraphy.

Brittany, who had learned calligraphy in school and was familiar with various fonts, noticed that Daniel's writing didn't belong to any known style, yet it was more beautiful than that of famous calligraphers.

Confused and somewhat incredulous, Brittany stroked her chin. She had seen Daniel's job application and knew that he claimed to have only completed the second grade in a rural primary school before being expelled for putting a caterpillar down the shirt of a girl in front of him.

A person who only finished the second grade of elementary school was supposed to write like this?

After leaving Herbal Loon, she resolved to thoroughly interrogate him. There must be something fishy about this so-called country bumpkin, and his job application didn't seem truthful.

Seeing Aiden engrossed in the list, still undecided whether to give the worthless herbs to Daniel, he poked her gently on her slim waist with his fingertip.

Chapter 366 What Are You Doing

Chapter 366 What Are You Doing

"Aah!" Aiden let out an involuntary yell when she was caught off guard with the poke.

She then lightly smacked Daniel, chiding him with a smile, "Naughty!"

"Do you want these herbs or not?" Daniel jestingly pressed.

"Get lost! You wish!" Aiden retorted.

"Am I not just asking for a few worthless herbs? You have taken my Blood Ganoderma and the Millennium Spirit Root from me, yet you can't even part with a couple of ordinary, valueless herbs? Are you really going to be like that?"

"You want the herbs?"

"What else? Do you think it's you that I want?"

"I... you..."

Realizing what she had said, Aiden quickly snapped, "You jerk!"

"Why am I a jerk now? It's you who are letting your imagination run wild, desperately seeking me but unable to get me. You accuse me? It seems to me, you've been single too long and are yearning for a man. The moment you see me, you can't help but fantasize about us together. You've even stopped listening to what I've been saying."

"Even if I wanted a man, it wouldn't be you! No! Why would I want a man? I could just make a phone call and have a bunch coming over!"

With that, Aiden glanced at Daniel, then took the list of herbs from his paper and gave him the herbs he had written down.

"Take these and get lost! Just looking at you annoys me!"

"Goodbye, Aiden! If one day you feel lonely, you can look for me. I can't promise I'll be available at the drop of a hat, but I could still certainly keep you company if I'm free."

"I wouldn't want to see you even if I were looking for a dog! Idiot!"

Though she verbally berated him, Aiden's cold exterior masked a warm interior. If she truly wanted to find a man to talk to, Daniel would be her first choice.

Exiting Herbal Loon, Brittany glared at Daniel with a look of anger. "Country boy, what are you playing at?"

Daniel, bewildered by her frustration, retorted, "What do you mean 'what am I playing at'?"

"I'm asking you, the Blood Ganoderma and the Millennium Spirit Root—are they extremely valuable? How much are they worth together?"

"Those two herbs are Spirit medicine and are incredibly valuable. To put a price on them, they're worth at least one hundred billion."

"One hundred billion's worth of treasures, and you don't take them but leave them with that woman. Is it because you're planning on getting involved with her?"

Instead of answering directly, Daniel countered, "Do you know why I went to Herbal Loon?"

"Why? Isn't it because you saw that the owner is pretty! Not only is she beautiful, but she's also seductive! She's not decent in my book!"

"Aren't you beautiful? Aren't you provocative? Look at what you're wearing! Why do you dress so sexily even during your period? Trying to seduce someone?"

"Not you! Country boy!"

Brittany rolled her eyes at Daniel and then planted her hands on her hips threateningly, "I'll surely tell Jessica when I get back."

"Really? And what exactly will you tell her?"

"You skip work to flirt, seduce a beautiful female boss, and then hand over treasures worth billions! Any one of your actions is enough to ensure an ugly ending for you."

Just then, a two-toned Rolls-Royce Phantom pulled up. The door opened, and a stunningly beautiful woman appeared before them—none other than his mother-in-law, Avery.

Avery gazed coldly at Daniel and commanded, "Get in the car!"

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Chapter 367 Evidence

Chapter 367 Evidence

Although Daniel didn't know why his mother-in-law summoned him, he couldn't disobey her commands, so he got into the car.

Brittany, watching the exchange, was livid. How could this damned country boy just hop into a rich old woman's car like that? Was he being kept by her? The thought spurred her into action, and she quickly snapped a couple of photos with her phone, planning to report to Jessica.

She would tell Jessica about Daniel's indiscretions, how he's being kept by an older woman. Describing the woman as someone well into her fifties yet dressed

provocatively, clearly not a decent woman, one who's undoubtedly kept many younger men, Brittany seethed with indignation.

Quickly hailing a taxi, Brittany rushed back to the company and burst into the CEO's office. Jessica was busy with paperwork, and upon seeing Brittany's flustered state, she inquired, "What happened?"

"Jessica, it's terrible! Something big has happened!"

"What's going on?" Jessica glanced behind Brittany, not seeing Daniel, and she had an inkling of the issue. "Did you get into another argument with Daniel? Do you want me to punish him?"

"Argue? I didn't argue with that country bumpkin! And besides, would I stoop so low as to argue with someone like him? This time it's something serious."

"What is it? Speak up!"

"Daniel's being kept! An old lecher is keeping him! His morals are in question, you must fire him! How can someone who's being kept by a woman continue working for TMO? His presence is tarnishing our reputation."

Jessica was taken aback by Brittany's claims.

"What? Daniel's being kept? That's impossible!"

Jessica's face turned stern as she said, "Brittany, you've been slandering Daniel over and over, each time worse than the last! If you continue to speak ill of him behind his back, I'll actually get angry!"

"I'm not slandering him; I have evidence."

Brittany quickly presented the photos she had taken to Jessica, grateful she had the foresight to capture the evidence.

As Jessica studied the photo of Avery, her brow furrowed. What did her mother want with Daniel? Certainly, it wasn't anything good.

Jessica knew very well that her mother wasn't exactly a saintly figure. If Avery took Daniel away, there's no doubt he'd be at a disadvantage.

Seeing Jessica's look of concern, Brittany mistook it for anger toward the situation Daniel might have been caught in. She exaggerated the matter.

"Jessica, look at this lecherous old lady. She's clearly up to no good. She must be fifty, right? And yet she dresses like this, parading around in a mini bodycon skirt? Look at her legs in those black stockings.

What kind of woman this age keeps so many young men? And now she's even taking in a country bumpkin like him? She's not picky at all!

And as for that country bumpkin, as an employee of TMO, he lets an old lecherous woman keep him, he's brought shame on all of TMO."

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Chapter 368 This Cannot Be Possible

Chapter 368 This Cannot Be Possible

Jessica's face darkened, and she asked with a cold voice, "Who are you calling an old lecherous woman?"

Brittany pointed at Avery in the photo and replied, "Her! Don't you think this old woman is an old lecherous one? I could tell just by looking at her!"

"Are you implying that when I reach her age, I'll also be an old lecherous woman?"

Jessica's question caught Brittany off guard. The quick-thinking Brittany immediately noticed something: the "old lecherous woman" in the photo bore a strong resemblance to Jessica.

Brittany hurriedly rephrased her statement, asking, "The beautiful lady in the photo, do you know her, Jessica?"

"That's my mother. Do I know her? Yes," Jessica responded dryly.

"I'm so sorry, Jessica! I didn't know that was your auntie! It's all my fault! She definitely isn't an old lecherous woman, and I'm sure she hasn't kept anyone."

"What did my mom say when she took Daniel away?"

"Umm..." Brittany hesitated, then shook her head. "Nothing! As soon as Auntie told the country bumpkin to get in the car, he just did. He didn't dare to say 'no'."

"Alright, get out!" Jessica dismissed Brittany and promptly dialed Avery's number.

"Jessica, what is it?" Avery's voice came from the other end once the call connected.

"Did you take Daniel away?"

"Yes."

"What for?"

"Of course, to teach him a lesson in how to behave!"

"You'd better not mess around, or you might end up regretting it. Who knows, he might teach you a lesson instead."

After giving her mother a warning, Jessica hung up the phone. She knew well what Daniel was capable of. If her mother tried to mess with that idiot, she was sure to lose out.

Still, Jessica was somewhat concerned, so she sent Daniel a text message. "She's still my mother, after all. Teach her a small lesson if you must, but don't go overboard."

"Honey, aren't you afraid your mother-in-law will bully me?"

"Quit it! Who's going to bully you?"

"You bully me! You bully me every day."

"Get lost!"

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Inside the Rolls-Royce.

Hanging up the phone left Avery with a displeased expression. When she noticed Daniel texting, her face grew even stormier. "Who are you texting?"

"My honey, of course!"

"Your honey?"

"Yes, your daughter is my honey!"

"Don't you dare call her that, Jessica is not your honey!"

"Why not? We even have a marriage certificate!"

Daniel quickly found the photo of their marriage certificate in his phone and showed it to Avery.

Upon seeing it, Avery was stunned. "Impossible! This can't be possible! The photo of this marriage certificate must be Photoshopped!"

"Mom, why would I Photoshop a picture to deceive you?"

"Don't call me mom! I am not your mom!"

"You're not my mom? Then Jessica isn't your biological daughter?"

"I... you..."

Avery was left speechless with anger before finally managing to respond, "Of course, Jessica is my biological daughter, but you are not allowed to call me mom!"

"Oh! I get it now."

"Get what?"

"You think you've taken too much advantage by allowing me to call you 'mom' without giving you some money for it, and now you feel guilty. But it's okay, mom, I don't mind."

Chapter 369 Taking You to See Someone

Chapter 369 Taking You to See Someone

"What are you talking about?"

"A million or ten million, I won't say it's too little; ten billion or a hundred billion, I won't say it's too much. I'm not picky; whatever you choose to give me, I'll accept and happily call you 'mom'!"

"You don't scoff at millions or billions? Look at yourself, what are you even worth? You, a country bumpkin, better stay away from my daughter Jessica. Otherwise, you'll regret it!"

"Why would I regret it?"

"You'll find out when we get to our destination."

"Mom, you're not planning on plotting against your son-in-law, are you?"

"Plotting against you? You're getting ahead of yourself."

"As long as you're not out to harm me, then I'm not worried. But mom, where are you taking me?"

"Don't call me mom!"

"But theoretically, you are my mom!"

Avery was so infuriated she wanted to kick him out of the car. This country bumpkin was truly shameless! No matter how many times she warned him not to call her "mom," he acted as if he didn't hear her.

After regaining her composure, Avery said with a frosty tone, "I'm going to introduce you to someone. After meeting him, you'll realize how insignificant you are."

"Who is that going to make me feel so embarrassed?"

"Jessica's future husband, the most important young member of The Evans in New York—Smart!"

"That retard? So you're taking me to meet that retard? Well, I guess it's about time. What happened at grandpa's eightieth birthday bash wasn't ideal. It's good to clear the air in advance. I'll get that retard to back off and save us all some trouble."

"If you want to call him that retard here, fine. But if you call him that after you meet Smart and he does something to you, then you've brought it upon yourself."

"So you're looking forward to him doing something to me?"

"Smart requested to meet you, so I'm taking you to him. Whatever he wants to talk about or do to you is his business, not mine!"

Avery was trying to distance herself from the situation. She didn't want to further offend Jessica— after all, she was her biological daughter. So, Avery wouldn't do anything to Daniel herself.

Whatever Smart did to Daniel, that was Smart's decision, and she wouldn't involve herself! Even if Daniel ended up getting hurt and Jessica held a grudge against Smart, refusing to marry him, it didn't matter. There were dozens of young members from The Eight Families of New York who were eager to pursue Jessica.

Avery simply wanted to use Smart to get rid of Daniel and then align her daughter with a family of equal stature to The Matthews.

The Rolls-Royce pulled up, and the door swung open. A magnificent, lavishly decorated standalone building materialized before Daniel's eyes.

Emperor Entertainment!

These few words were dazzling enough to blind Daniel. The sight of several scantily clad, long-legged greeters at the entrance was incredibly enticing. Their faces and figures were exceptionally superior.

Since its opening, Emperor Entertainment had already become New York's number one club, an endeavor spearheaded by The Evans of New York—a family who ranked second only to the proverbial The Eight Families.

And when The Evans ventured into New York to open a nightclub, everyone, whether from the political or business arena, gave their full support.

Chapter 370 A Beauty's Plot

Chapter 370 A Beauty's Plot

"Mom, I am your son-in-law! Late at night, you're bringing me here where there are so many beautiful women; is that really okay? If Jessica asks, you've got to cover for me!" Daniel didn't miss the chance to tease.

"Cover for you? What is running through that mind of yours?"

"Mom, you're taking me to a nightclub; isn't it to have fun? Could it be that you and that retard set up a trap? You want me to get involved with these beautiful ladies and then take pictures or videos to show Jessica?"

"A trap? Ha!" Avery sneered dismissively. "You think you deserve one?"

"Mom, if it's not to set up a trap against me, then what are you planning?"

"Don't call me mom, I am not your mom! Besides, it's not about what I want to do to you. A country bumpkin like you isn't worth the trouble! I'm just taking you in to meet Smart. What he wants to do with you, that's his business, not mine!"

"Mom, do you actually understand what you're doing? You're delivering me straight into the wolf's den and then you say it has nothing to do with you?"

"Do you really think any random person can call me 'mom'? If you dare to call me mom, then you should bear the consequences of such an act! You want to be Jessica's husband, and Smart is pursuing Jessica. So, tonight, you will have to compete with him and find out who's more impressive."

"Compete with him on who's more impressive? On what terms?" Daniel inquired.

"Of course, on who's harder!"

"Harder?" Daniel chuckled, "There's no man in this world harder than I am!"

Avery felt something was off with Daniel's response, and upon pondering it, she realized she had misspoken.

"You damn country bumpkin, what are you talking about?"

"What you're talking about is what I'm talking about! I was just following your lead! You said to see who's harder between me and that retard, and obviously, I am! Otherwise, later on, why don't you come and check?"

"Enough talk! Don't think I don't know what's going on in that head of yours!"

While berating Daniel, Avery led him to the entrance of a VIP room.

This room was located on the third sublevel of Emperor Entertainment, which didn't have any mobile phone signal. The entire floor was extravagantly decorated, housing the most luxurious private rooms of Emperor Entertainment.

Important figures were entertained on this level, and average customers couldn't even access it. Even the elevator to this floor was exclusive, with jewel-encrusted buttons.

Looking up, Daniel read the three characters carved into the room's nameplate—"Beauty Valley." He couldn't help but laugh and looked at Avery with a grin.

"Mom, you said you weren't going to find me pretty women, but look, isn't the name of this room clear enough? Beauty Valley!"

"Just because it's called Beauty Valley means there are beautiful women inside?" Avery retorted.

"Well, with a name like Beauty Valley, there must be beauties inside! Plus, as soon as you walk in, even if there weren't any beautiful women originally, the room has one now—with you in it!"

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Chapter 371 "What Are You Doing?"

Chapter 371 "What Are You Doing?"

Avery burst out laughing, her voice dripping with sarcasm. "Well, I'll be! I didn't realize you were such a smooth-talker, country boy. Did you sweet-talk Jessica into falling for you with that silver tongue of yours? Those lines might work on a naïve girl like Jess, but don't think for a second they'll work on me."

"Me? Try to fool you? Never! You're way too wise and experienced, I know I could never pull one over on you," he said with a cheeky grin.

"Cut the sarcasm, you country bumpkin!"

"Yes, ma'am! My darling mother!"

"Don't push me! You believe I'll tear you a new one?" Avery huffed, clearly running out of patience.

This country boy was a piece of work. Shameless to his core; nothing she said seemed to faze him. Seeing that her words were getting her nowhere, she decided to hurry him into the private room where Smart could deal with him thoroughly. She wanted this rural rube to understand that New York's elite were not to be messed with by the likes of him. The nerve he had to court her daughter! He truly had no clue what he was getting himself into.

At that moment, the door creaked open.

The room was called Beauty Valley, but as the door swung ajar, Daniel was stunned. There wasn't a single beauty in sight. Instead, what caught his eye were burly men with grim expressions – all muscle and menace. Anyone would shudder at their intimidating presence.

But Daniel? He was the picture of composure. There was not a hint of fear on his face as he casually surveyed the roomful of tough guys. He turned to Avery with a smirk and said playfully,

"Mom, I thought you brought me here for some fun. Looks like you came to have your own kind of 'entertainment,' huh?"

"I'll 'entertain' you alright!" Avery said, seething as she kicked him squarely on his backside, sending him tumbling to the floor.

Picking himself up, Daniel rubbed his sore spot and looked up with a pitiful expression, "Mom, you hit me?"

"You've been calling me 'mom', so isn't it within my rights? I don't have a son, and if you keep it up, I'll treat you like one and give you a whooping!"

Avery might have looked fierce, but deep down, she somewhat enjoyed being called 'mom'. After all, she only had her daughter Jessica, who in her twenty-odd years hadn't called her 'mom' as many times as this country boy had done in just a few minutes. Yet, the nerve of him! She'd only met him a couple of times, and he was already calling her 'mom'. It was shameless.

She was thankful she'd had a daughter instead of a son. If she'd birthed a son as brazen as him, how embarrassing that would have been! She imagined she'd be so furious; she'd want to push him right back where he came from.

The burly men then split into two columns and stepped aside in unison, lining up neatly on each side.

Chapter 372 Turnaround

Chapter 372 Turnaround

The man of the hour had arrived!

Dressed to the nines in a tailored Armani suit and sporting a pair of million-dollar Louis Vuitton limited edition sunglasses, Smart lounged on an exquisite crocodile leather sofa. He was casually puffing on a cigar worth a cool ten-grand, blowing smoke rings with the nonchalance of a goldfish making bubbles.

"Well, well, if it isn't the young master of the Evans clan, they call you That retard, right? But looking at you, you don't seem all that 'retarded' to me?" Daniel greeted him with a good-natured chuckle.

Smart was taken aback by Daniel's address and asked, his face stern, "What did you call me?"

"That retard! I heard from mom that's what they call you, so I just went with it. But it's interesting, these New York aristocrats of yours – 'That retard' as a name? Pretty casual, just like us country folks, huh?"

Avery quickly interjected with a scolding tone, "That retard? His name is Smart, not retarded!"

"What's the difference? And how is he 'smart'? Sitting in this dim room with sunglasses on at night is the opposite of smart. If you ask me, he's the one who fits 'retarded'! That matches his vibe exactly!"

Smart's face darkened as he questioned, "You're the country boy, Daniel?"

"Yeah, that's me! Mom said you wanted to meet, so she brought me over."

"Mom? Who's your mom?" Smart asked, confused.

Daniel pointed playfully at Avery and responded with a grin: "This gorgeous lady right here is my mom!"

Upon hearing this, Avery's expression soured as she barked, "Country boy, watch it! I'm not your mom! And show some respect!"

"If you're not my mom, then why did you kick me just now?"

"You... I..."

Avery, out of fury, slapped Daniel across the backside.

"Ow!" Daniel yelled, as if his heart was being torn out.

"Mom, why'd you hit me again?"

"You're already calling me mom, what's one more smack? You shameless rascal!"

Avery was both annoyed and amused. She secretly relished the title of 'mom'. After all, at her age, there was no sweeter name to her ears.

She convinced herself that Daniel's calls were just random, choosing to imagine it was Jessica calling her instead.

Smart, on the other hand, was utterly confounded. He watched Avery, bewildered, and asked, "Avery, what's going on here? Why is this country boy calling you mom?"

Before Avery could respond, Daniel quickly jumped in, "Because she's Jessica's mom, and that makes her my mother-in-law! Jessica and I, we have a marriage certificate. We're legally husband and wife. You've got some nerve, That retard, hitting on my wife. So today, I've come here to tell you: Stay away from her!"

Daniel's words knocked the wind out of Smart.

After he collected himself, a cold smile spread across his lips. "Heh," he chuckled before looking down at Daniel with disdain. "You?" he scoffed in disbelief.

Chapter 373 Jerk

Chapter 373 Jerk

"Yes, that's me!" Daniel replied confidently.

Smart couldn't help but let out a raucous laugh. "A country bumpkin like you, daring to warn me? Do you even know who I am?"

"Aren't you That retard? The idiot who wears sunglasses at night. If I didn't know better, I'd think you were blind!"

Smart's temper flared at Daniel's words. "You dare call me blind?"

"If you weren't blind, would you be hitting on my wife? Shouldn't you have checked who her husband was before chasing another man's wife?"

"Who's your wife?"

"Jessica, of course! Didn't I just tell you that we got married? Are you deaf or just have a case of amnesia? You forgot what I just said?"

"Jessica is your wife? Ha!" Smart let out a derisive sneer, mocking Daniel, "You're delusional!"

"No matter what you say, Jessica and I are married. You can't change that fact!"

"You're an overconfident fool. Looks like I need to teach you a lesson. I'm going to pound you into pulp and see if you'll still be so arrogant."

"That retard, we really shouldn't get physical. If you attack me, you're the one who's going to lose out, big time!"

"Scared, country boy? Do you even hear yourself?"

Smart looked towards the door and commanded, "Lock the door! Not even a fly gets in! And this stinking fool isn't escaping either!"

Daniel ignored Smart and turned to look at Avery. "Mom, he wants to beat me up, what should I do?"

"What should you do? It's your own fault! You should've just talked to him, apologized, and you might have avoided this."

"Apologize? A real man stands his ground. How can I apologize?"

Daniel's words drew a loud laugh from Smart. "Haha... Just a country bumpkin, and you dare call yourself a real man? Do you even qualify as a man? I'll see just how 'tough' you really are."

Smart then ordered, "Black Tiger, show him what we're made of."

Black Tiger clenched his fists and approached Daniel.

Daniel quipped with a grin, "You're called Black Tiger? You look more like a jerk to me!"

"You dare call me a jerk, country boy? You're asking for it!"

Black Tiger threw a powerful punch straight at Daniel's head, aiming to blast his brains out.

Boom! The punch was lightning-fast, with the force of a thousand pounds.

A single hit to Daniel's head would have surely burst it open, but as Black Tiger's fist came flying in, Daniel casually grabbed a red wine bottle from the table.

Boom! Black Tiger's fist struck the bottom of the wine bottle.

Crash! The bottle shattered, sending glass shards plunging into Black Tiger's hand.

Crimson blood mingled with the red wine, gushing down.

"Ah! Aaah!" Black Tiger screamed in agony as he clutched his bleeding hand.

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Chapter 374 I'll Kill You

Chapter 374 I'll Kill You

"Oh boy! Black Tiger, your aim's off! Weren't you trying to hit me? How come you smashed the wine bottle instead? That wine didn't look cheap—guess you're buying it now!" Daniel teased with a laugh.

Screaming in anguish, Black Tiger glared at Daniel with wild, furious eyes. "Country boy, I'm gonna kill you! I swear, I'm gonna kill you!"

With his uninjured left hand, Black Tiger swiftly drew a dagger, barely ten centimeters long but razor-sharp, designed to slash through metal, and with a vicious hook at the tip. Blinded by rage, he made no pretense of politeness as he thrust the dagger toward Daniel's chest, intending to drive it straight through his heart.

Faced with the fierce attack, Daniel merely smiled faintly. He extended just two fingers. That's right —only two, not even a third was necessary.

As Black Tiger's blade shimmered menacingly, just about to pierce Daniel's chest, those two fingers clamped down on the dagger like iron tongs.

Crack!

The blade was caught firmly in his grip. Black Tiger pushed harder, desperate to drive the dagger into Daniel's chest, but the blade would budge no further.

Unable to thrust forward, Black Tiger then tried to pull back. He wanted to withdraw the dagger for a second strike, but even with all his might, the blade wouldn't move an inch.

"Trying to stab me in the heart with that little toothpick?" Daniel asked cheerily. "You think you can kill me with a single stab?"

"I'll stab you dead!" Black Tiger grunted through clenched teeth.

"Well, you got the spot right; a stab there could indeed be lethal. But your knife, it's just too soft, not nearly hard enough."

With a slight twitch of his fingers, Daniel snapped the dagger in two.

Thud.

Following the sound, Daniel kicked Black Tiger squarely in the stomach.

Boom!

Black Tiger flew backward like a cannonball, his trajectory aimed right at Smart, who was just behind him.

Thud!

The brawny Black Tiger collided with Smart, sending him tumbling down with a wretched yell.

After shoving the bulk of Black Tiger off of him, Smart yelled at the other heavysset men, "What the hell are you waiting for? Get him! Kill that country bumpkin!"

At the command, the bruisers surged forward to surround Daniel.

Scanning the incoming attackers with an amused gaze, Daniel laughed, "That retard, bringing all these muscleheads to greet me is such a mismatch! As a big guy myself, you should have welcomed me with a bevy of beauties!"

"You country hick! You still want beauties? I'll let these bruisers take real good care of you! You said that dagger wasn't hard enough? I'll show you what hard really is!"

But before Smart could finish his sentence, several of the hulking men had already charged at Daniel.

Chapter 375 Payback

Chapter 375 Payback

Daniel, fighting with swift punches left and right, floored the group of bruisers in no time flat. Avery's face was a picture of shock as she beheld the spectacle; the country boy really knew how to handle himself!

With his skills, if he wasn't married to her precious daughter, she would have definitely hired him as her bodyguard.

Smart was frozen in disbelief. He couldn't fathom how, in less than a minute, Daniel had taken down all eighteen muscle-bound men he'd arranged for the showdown. Each of these brutes was known for being a one-man army.

Taking deliberate steps, Daniel advanced toward Smart. Seeing Daniel approach, panic flashed across Smart's face.

"What...what are you going to do?" he stammered.

"What am I going to do? What do you think I should do? You called in eighteen brutes to 'welcome' me; it would be impolite not to return the favor. If I didn't reciprocate your kind hospitality, wouldn't that disappoint you?"

Daniel was now standing right in front of Smart, an innocuous smile plastered on his face. Smart, the scion of the Evans family, had seen it all and wasn't easily scared. But right now, he was afraid. The country boy before him, though smiling, seemed like a devil.

No, not just a devil—he was more terrifying than a devil.

"Don't come any closer! Get away from me!" Smart's voice trembled with fear.

Daniel certainly wasn't going to back off, instead, he asked with a cheerful tone, "Smart, how do you think I should repay you?"

"You... I'll let you go today, so get lost! Don't push your luck, or I'll punish you!"

"Oh wow, Smart, you've got quite a sharp tongue! You want to punish me? How exactly? I don't like holding grudges; I prefer instant revenge. You welcomed me with eighteen brutes, so let's discuss how to settle this, shall we?"

"What are you going to do? I warn you, don't mess around!"

Smart was visibly shaken; he could tell from Daniel's eyes that this country boy was no saint.

Instead of responding directly, Daniel turned to Avery. "Mom, what do you think I should do about this?"

"I am not your mom! Stop calling me that! Whatever you and Smart have going on is none of my business, so don't ask me! I'm not interested!"

Avery made it clear she wanted no part in their conflict. She was a sharp woman who knew exactly what Daniel was implying.

This country boy wasn't as dumb as he looked. By asking her for advice, he was trying to make her complicit in any action he decided to take. She knew Daniel wouldn't dare harm Smart—the young master of the prestigious Evans family of New York.

But she wasn't going to fall for this trap.

Arms crossed and sporting a sly smile, Avery watched Daniel, curious about his next move. She was actually quite eager to see whether the country boy had the nerve to do something to Smart.

Chapter 376 Outrageous Behavior

Chapter 376 Outrageous Behavior

Daniel didn't give up easily and prodded once more, "Mom, are you sure you won't give me any advice?"

"I'm not your mom! And I won't give you advice!" Avery refused again.

Daniel turned away from Avery and looked back at Smart. "That retard, you called eighteen brutes to bully me. Tell me, how should I bully you now?"

"Do you know who I am?"

"I know, you're That retard, right?"

"I am the young master of the Evans family! The second-ranked family among New York's The Eight Families!"

"Just because you're the young master of the Evans family, you think you can bully me? Not even the President can bully me, you know?"

With a sly smile, Daniel said, "How about this? You used eighteen brutes against me, so I won't be too harsh on you. I'll just give you eighteen slaps, and then we'll be even."

With that said...

Smack!

Daniel landed a heavy slap across Smart's face. The impact left five finger imprints on Smart's cheek and knocked one of his teeth clean out, blood trickling from the corner of his mouth.

Smart was in shock. "You f**king dared to slap me?"

Smack!

In response to such a question, Daniel never favored words. Actions were more efficient, direct, and far clearer.

With this slap, Smart's right cheek swelled up. Another tooth flew out.

"You dare slap me again?"

Smack!

"F***ing... you..."

Smack!

...

Daniel alternated slaps left and right. With each hit, another tooth was knocked out. After eighteen slaps, Smart's face looked like a pig's head.

"You... You're dead!" Smart threatened with a toothless bloody mouth.

"These eighteen slaps are a small warning. If you ever dare to go after my wife again, I'll slap you again! You dared to make a move on my honey, clearly not knowing who I am!"

After reprimanding Smart, Daniel grabbed Avery's shoulder. "Mom, I've taught That retard a lesson; let's go."

Avery was stunned. This country boy had some nerve, touching her shoulder like that. Did he truly see himself as her son?

"Get your hand off me! Know your place!" Avery scolded with a dark expression.

"Yes, ma'am! You're big, I'm small! A touch on your shoulder makes me a traitor to the core!"

"You realize you're being outrageous? Utterly disrespectful!"

Although she scolded him verbally, Avery felt a twinge of enjoyment deep down. She had no sons, after all.

Suddenly, with Daniel around, it was as if she had picked up a mischievous son for free.

Exiting Emperor Entertainment, Avery got into her Rolls-Royce. Daniel was about to follow, but then —bang—the door was shut before him.

"Mom, are you abandoning me now?"

"I am not your mother, now scram!"

"Such a heartless mom, after I called you 'mom' so many times. You brought me here only to have That retard bully me, and now you're leaving me behind?"

"Whatever happened between you and Smart is your own private vendetta; it has nothing to do with me!"

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Chapter 377 Headed to the Airport

Chapter 377 Headed to the Airport

Seeing Avery act as if the drama she helped cause was none of her business, Daniel showed a full face of displeasure. "It's got nothing to do with you? Were you not the one who fanned the flames?"

"I did fan the flames. So what? I'm telling you, today you slapped Smart eighteen times and knocked out eighteen of his teeth. He will definitely settle the score with you. You better watch your back!"

With those final words, Avery sped off in her Rolls-Royce, leaving Daniel in a cloud of exhaust. Without his mother-in-law to take him home, he surely couldn't take a taxi, could he? It was Jessica's responsibility to deal with her mother's fault.

So, Daniel pulled out his phone and dialed Jessica's number. It rang for quite a while before Jessica finally picked up.

"Why did it take you so long to answer? Don't you love me anymore?"

"Jerk! I've never loved you!"

"Is that true? You really don't love me?"

"Cut the crap, what do you want?"

"I need a favor!"

"Scram! Keep this up and I'm hanging up!"

"Your mom deserted me at the side of the road. Can you come pick me up?"

"I'm busy. Get yourself a taxi, I'm off to pick someone up at the airport."

"If you don't pick me up, some pretty woman might whisk me away!"

"You dare?" Jessica threatened, then said disdainfully, "What a hassle. Send me your location!"

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Ten minutes later, the stylish Panamera arrived.

Jessica rolled down the window and saw the Emperor Entertainment sign, a seed of doubt planted in her mind.

With a wary look, she asked Daniel, "Why are you here?"

"That's something you should ask your mother about! Being taken to an entertainment club in the middle of the night...I thought she might have wanted me to have some fun with women or something. But that That retard set me up with eighteen bruise! Lucky for me, your husband here has some moves, otherwise, you'd be holding a vigil for me tonight!"

"Jerk! Talk trash one more time, and I'll shut your mouth."

Daniel glanced over, almost drooling, "With what are you planning to shut me up?"

"Stop talking nonsense!"

Jessica rolled her eyes at him, genuinely concerned, "You didn't get the short end of the stick, did you?"

"I only ever take a loss with you; how could I possibly lose out to anyone else?"

"What about Smart? You didn't offend him to death, did you?"

"Offend? He offended me, okay? But yeah, I gifted him eighteen slaps and knocked out eighteen of his teeth, just a small lesson!"

Jessica's eyes widened at this. "What did you say? You laid hands on Smart?"

"When he sent eighteen tough guys after me, wasn't I justified in hitting back? It's only right to return the favor. I simply gave him a small token of my gratitude!"

Catching on, Daniel suddenly asked out of curiosity, "Who are you picking up at the airport in the middle of the night? You're not sneaking off to meet another man, are you?"

"You shameless jerk! I'm picking up Beauty Matthews!"

"Beauty? Who's that?"

"My cousin! My uncle's daughter!"

"And is your cousin pretty?"

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Chapter 378 My Assistant

Chapter 378 My Assistant

Jessica shot Daniel a murderous glare, quickly coaxing him into reversing his sentiment. "I mean, your cousin can't be prettier than you. Why bother picking her up so late at night? She could just take a cab."

Screech...

Jessica slammed on the brakes. Daniel, who hadn't buckled his seatbelt, was nearly thrown forward, nearly hitting his head against the windshield. The Panamera came to a halt in the middle of the road. Thankfully, it was late, and the streets were nearly empty; otherwise, they might have been rear-ended. Definitely, female drivers are not to be trifled with, especially the beautiful ones.

"Get out! Take a taxi!" Jessica barked before Daniel could say anything.

"Honey, I was wrong! Honey, I won't dare again! Honey, don't be heartless like your mom, don't abandon me!" Daniel pleaded while gently shaking Jessica's thigh.

Jessica was wearing an ultra-short dress, and as Daniel shook her leg, his hand involuntarily slid a little further up.

Smack!

A crisp slap landed on the back of Daniel's hand.

"Get out!" she exclaimed.

"Ow!" Daniel yelped.

"What are you 'owing' about?"

"It hurts."

"If it hurts, then take your hand away. Keep touching me inappropriately, and I might just chop it off."

Jessica's ferocious warning came through as she restarted the Panamera, though Daniel wasn't quick to retract his hand.

After driving for a while, Jessica warned in annoyance, "Don't push it."

"I'm not," Daniel replied.

"Not pushing it? Where is your hand going?"

"Where is it going?"

"Get lost!"

Left with no choice, Jessica had to use one hand to pry Daniel's wandering hand away.

"No more messing around! If a camera catches us, you can explain yourself in court."

"Let them catch us, I don't care!"

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New York International Airport.

A gorgeous woman in a skin-tight dress, with voluptuous curves, big wavy burgundy hair, and sunglasses at night, had been waiting on the roadside for a quarter of an hour. This was Jessica's cousin, Beauty.

Seeing Jessica arrive, Beauty immediately ran to the car in her high heels, clicking excitedly, "Honey, why are you so late? I've been waiting for ages!"

"I went to pick up this guy." Jessica pointed to Daniel, who was sitting in the passenger seat, and commanded fiercely, "Move to the back!"

Beauty glanced at Daniel and sensed a story there.

Grinning at Jessica, she probed, "Who's this kid?"

"Who else? He's my assistant!"

"Assistant?" Beauty's face was stamped with disbelief, "An assistant so important that you pick him up before coming to get me?"

"Ahhh! It's just an assistant!" Jessica was too tired to explain.

Beauty didn't sit in the front; she joined Daniel in the back instead. After examining Daniel carefully, she nodded thoughtfully and asked, "So, you're the country boy, huh?"

"Lady, it's a bit impolite to label me a 'country boy' upon our first meeting, don't you think?"

"Country boy, do you know why I've come to New York? It was your mother-in-law who sent for me!"

"Mother-in-law? Are you talking about my mom-in-law?"

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Chapter 379 Unrealistic

Chapter 379 Unrealistic

"What do you mean, your mother-in-law! Stop playing dumb! You and Jessica, you're not suitable! I've come here as a cousin to make Jessica see through you, the country bumpkin, and then to kick you to the curb!"

"Cuz, having Jessica kick me out is a bit unrealistic," Daniel responded.

"Why is it unrealistic?"

"You're hoping for a chance with her once I'm out of the picture, aren't you?!"

Daniel's remark turned Jessica's face green with fury. She reached over from the driver's seat and aimed a smack at Daniel's chest. But he dodged back, and her hand slid down. Both Beauty's shock and Jessica's embarrassment were palpable – she wished she could just disappear.

"Indecent!"

Out of embarrassment, she scolded Daniel.

"Who knows who's being indecent."

"You dare talk back?"

"I could even put my foot in your mouth!"

"You..."

Enraged, Jessica clenched her fists and shouted, "Get out of the car!"

"I won't!"

"If you don't get out, then shut your mouth! If you dare spout nonsense again, I'll sew it shut!"

Jessica was exasperated to the point of losing face because of this idiot.

Beauty, meanwhile, was busy messaging on her phone, trying not to let the "country boy" see. However, Daniel's sharp eyes caught a glimpse of the content on Beauty's screen.

She was up to no good right off the plane!

Although he spotted Beauty's scheming message, Daniel kept it to himself.

After sending the message, Beauty sat up straight, adopting the air of an upright person as if she'd done nothing wrong.

"Country boy, let's cut to the chase. What are your terms for leaving Jessica alone?"

"Jessica and I are truly in love. Not even the end of the world could separate us, let alone lightning."

Beauty scoffed coldly at Daniel's answer.

"Heh."

Then, she spoke disdainfully, "You might be able to fool Jessica, the country bumpkin, but you can't fool me. Don't think I don't know you're with her just for her money! Jessica might be naive and easy to deceive but don't think you can pull one over on me."

"He's not after my money. He hasn't taken a penny from me – in fact, he's even helped me make quite a lot of money," Jessica retorted, jumping to Daniel's defense.

"I'm questioning this country bumpkin on behalf of my aunt, stay out of it."

"Beauty, let me remind you, this guy isn't some simple country boy and he's not easy to bully. Even my mom didn't get the better of him, so it's best not to provoke him. Otherwise, if he ends up making you cry, it's got nothing to do with me," Jessica sincerely warned.

Her advice came from a place of genuine concern, and she didn't mince her words. Why should she be polite to Beauty when she came here to interfere in her marriage? Even her own mother had no right to interfere in her marital freedom. Who was Beauty to tell her about her husband anyway?

Jessica knew best what her man was like; she didn't need anyone else's opinions. She wanted control over her own marriage.

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Chapter 380 Difference

Chapter 380 Difference

Beauty was unimpressed by Jessica's warning.

"Heh," she scoffed with a mocking smile. "A country boy, what can he do? Just a swindler! I have a Master's in Psychology; the idea of him making me cry is laughable—he should be worried about me making him cry."

After dismissing Jessica's remarks, Beauty turned back to Daniel. "Country boy, you still haven't answered me. What will it take for you to willingly leave my cousin Jessica?"

Beauty was trying to trap Daniel, hoping to show Jessica his true colors, regardless of his reply. Even if his conditions were easy to meet, Beauty was sure she wouldn't accept them.

"Beauty asks for my terms, so I'll speak plainly. Jessica is the most beautiful woman in the world, and if you want to take my wife, you should at least compensate me with someone equally beautiful."

Daniel eyed Beauty with evident interest as he spoke, which immediately set off alarms for her.

"Country boy, are you hitting on me?" she snapped.

"Beauty, you're decent-looking and have an okay figure. But compared to my honey Jessica, you're not even close. Since I'm used to the finest, I'm not interested in your turnip delights."

"You..."

Angered beyond measure, Beauty felt like tossing this country bumpkin right out of the car—but she held back her fury. She had already made arrangements, and bickering with Daniel was mainly to taunt him and help Jessica see through him. The real plan to deal with Daniel would come later.

Daniel stopped engaging with Beauty and reached out to stroke Jessica's glossy locks.

"What are you doing? Stop it!"

"Honey, do you have any sanitary pads in the car?"

Sanitary pads? The question sharpened Jessica's gaze.

"What do you need them for?"

"Beauty is about to start her period, so if you have any, better park somewhere dark and let her change. If we don't have any, we should find a convenience store, let her buy a pack, and change quickly. Otherwise, our car will suffer a bloodbath. Washing the car is no big deal, but it's a hassle."

Daniel's words infuriated Beauty, turning her face beet-red.

She pointed at Daniel's nose, hysterically shouting, "Country boy, show some respect! What period? My period just ended less than a week ago; how could it start again?"

"Beauty, you're of a certain age and haven't savored the taste of a man, have you?"

"Who's of a certain age? You're the one who's old! Why would I need to taste a man? Is there any man worthy of me?"

"Beauty, at your age, the lack of men's flavor has likely caused some hormonal imbalances. That explains your fiery temper, and why your menstrual cycle might be a bit irregular."

"Nonsense! Shameless!"

As soon as Beauty finished scolding, a sudden pain struck her belly.

"Ah! Aaah!"

Crying out like a sow in distress, she quickly clutched her abdomen.

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Chapter 381 Diagnosis

Chapter 381 Diagnosis

Jessica quickly pulled over the car, turned around, and asked with concern, "What's wrong?"

Daniel butted in with a schadenfreude-infused smile, mockingly replying, "What could it be? Didn't I just say it? Her period's coming."

"You..."

Furious, Jessica wanted to scratch Daniel's eyes out but settled for scolding him instead.

"You utter jinx!"

After the scolding, she pointed to the nearby convenience store and commanded, "Aren't you going yet?"

"Going for what?"

"What do you mean, for what? To buy Beauty sanitary pads, of course!"

"Why should I buy her sanitary pads? She's not my honey!" Daniel protested with disdain.

"If you keep spouting nonsense... Go now!"

"If you keep being so fierce, beware I might divorce you!"

"You dare?"

Daniel, tired of the back-and-forth, reluctantly jogged into the convenience store.

When he returned, he handed Jessica what he had bought instead of giving it directly to Beauty. It could have been seen as a polite gesture, although for someone as shameless as Daniel, there really wasn't a need for manors. Still, a little politeness now and then wouldn't hurt.

Jessica examined the item and immediately became angry.

"Can't you do anything right? Didn't I tell you to buy sanitary pads? What's this? Can't you read? It says right here in big, obvious letters—adult diapers!"

"Because she's got a heavy flow! Only this will do the trick!"

Beauty glanced at the item with disgust. "I'm not wearing that, it's so unattractive!"

Daniel looked back at her with contempt, adding a note of incredulity.

"Unattractive? You think you're going to parade around in them for everyone to see? Who would want to look at that?"

"You... you're disgusting!"

Beauty spat out the insult and then realized something was wrong, quickly snatching the adult diapers from Daniel's hands.

"There's a public restroom over there; you can make it if you hurry," Daniel suggested.

"Freak!"

After hurling another insult at Daniel, Beauty sprinted toward the restroom.

The car fell silent again.

Jessica glared seriously at Daniel and asked, "How did you know Beauty was getting her period?"

"I could smell it."

This response made Jessica's expression darken.

"You smelled it?"

"Yeah! Remember, I've mastered the art of medical diagnosis. I smelled the scent of blood on Beauty, which told me her period was imminent. Gauging the strength of the scent, I could tell."

"And you sniff around? I'll beat you to death, you indecent idiot!"

Fuming, Jessica pinched Daniel hard.

"Ah! Aaah!"

Daniel's cries filled the car.

"Honey, didn't you say you'd hit me? Why pinch?"

"I can hit or pinch whenever I want, that's what you get for being indecent!"

"I wasn't being indecent! I am a divine healer, so my nose is super sensitive, even more so than a dog's!"

"Keep that dog nose of yours in check. If you dare go sniffing around other women, I'll rip your nose off!"

With that, Jessica angrily gave Daniel's nose a tweak, turning it red.

Daniel didn't bother arguing with her and instead pointed at the rearview mirror, asking.

"Honey, do you see that?"

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Chapter 382 Scheme

Chapter 382 Scheme

Confused, Jessica asked back, "What?"

"That van has been tailing us the whole way."

Reflecting for a moment, Jessica confirmed, "Right! I noticed that van at a traffic light earlier and thought it was suspicious. We've pulled over here, and they've also stopped. That's not right."

"After passing the next intersection, take a left. There's a dead-end road there, deserted."

"A dead-end? What are you planning?"

"What can I do? I'm just curious to see what the people in that van intend."

At that moment, Beauty returned. Daniel's glaring made her uncomfortable.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" she challenged.

"I want to see if you're feeling guilty."

"Why would I feel guilty?"

"If you've done something bad and you're not feeling guilty, Beauty, you've got some thick skin."

"What bad thing have I done? Stop slandering me!"

"Beauty, other than physically, your heart is filthy!"

"Your heart is the filthy one!"

Daniel pointed at the rearview mirror, asking, "Does that van behind us seem familiar to you, Beauty?"

"What van? I didn't see one."

Of course, Beauty wouldn't admit that the van was part of her plan.

"Beauty, just a reminder – if you misbehave during your period, cramps can get really severe! You might end up writhing in agony, rolling on the bed, on the floor, howling with pain, constantly tossing and turning!"

"You're the one who'll be rolling and howling!"

Beauty retorted angrily, then smugly added, "I don't get menstrual cramps! I've never had them before, and I won't now."

Beauty wasn't lying; she rarely suffered from period pain. Even when she did, it was a manageable discomfort. Thus, Daniel's attempt to intimidate her with menstrual cramps was futile. She'd never admit that the van was her doing.

"Since Beauty won't confess, let's just prove with facts that her belly is full of schemes!"

"Your belly is the one full of schemes!"

...

Tired of their bickering, Jessica intervened, "Enough! Both of you, shut up! Fighting the first time you meet, how annoying!"

Beauty fell silent.

Daniel, still smirking mischievously, turned to Jessica, "Honey, let's stick to the plan."

"Okay," Jessica agreed.

She stepped on the gas and started the Panamera.

Beauty's heart skipped a beat, a sense of urgency rising. "What plan have you guys come up with?"

"The plan we have targets that suspicious van behind us. Since it has nothing to do with Beauty, you naturally don't have to worry about a thing."

"Heh,"

A somewhat guilty Beauty forced a cold laugh to ease her conscience. She then realized there was no need to worry. What kind of plan could a country bumpkin have? What could he do? The person she had arranged was definitely reliable. Taking care of a country boy should be a piece of cake.

Chapter 383 Taking Advantage

Chapter 383 Taking Advantage

The Panamera turned into the dead-end, and sure enough, the suspicious van followed right behind into the pitch darkness. However, the moon shone through, casting a dim glow over the scene.

At the end of the dead-end, Jessica slammed on the brakes.

Screech...

Beauty, who was sitting in the back without a seatbelt, lost balance and tumbled right into Daniel's lap, burying her head unintentionally.

When Jessica turned to look, she was fuming.

"What are you two doing?"

Daniel flashed a mischievous smile, replying, "We're not doing anything! Even though you, honey, created such a great opportunity for me and Beauty, neither of us did anything. At least I didn't intend to do anything. As for what Beauty wants to do, I have no idea."

Beauty hurriedly lifted her head, glaring angrily at Daniel.

"Country boy, stop playing the innocent after taking advantage!"

"What did I take advantage of? I'm not aware of any advantage I've had. In fact, I feel like I've been at a loss!"

Daniel was just making trouble.

Screech...

The sound of brakes came from behind them. The van stopped abruptly, parked sideways, effectively blocking the narrow alley that was only wide enough for a single vehicle to pass.

The van door swung open, and a group of men in black suits stepped out. Leading them was a burly man with an unusually large head, known as King Head, a ruthless figure from New York's underworld.

This King was hired by Beauty.

Money makes the man.

In King's grip was a steel pipe, while a cigarette dangled from his lips. His cronies, too, each carried a steel pipe. Beauty had made it clear to King that they were not to kill Daniel, only beat him. A steel pipe would cause considerable pain and leave deep bruises but wouldn't take a life. So, King had chosen steel pipes for tonight's purpose.

Seeing King approach with his crew, Daniel stepped out of the car, hands in his pockets, casually asking, "Are you here for the cash, or are you after me?"

King didn't answer but pointed the steel pipe at Daniel.

"Are you Daniel?"

"Yes, I am Daniel!"

"Somebody paid good money to break your legs. Get over here yourself, kneel down, and let me do the job."

"Who paid you to come here?"

"That's none of your business! Just come here and accept it! Otherwise, it won't be just two broken legs."

"Can I at least know how much that scumbag paid you to break my legs?"

"Ten grand."

"What? Ten grand just for my legs? Aren't they undervalued?"

"You f**king dare to talk back?"

King gestured angrily to his subordinates.

"Go get him! Pin that country bumpkin down and give him a good thrashing. Let this fool learn the hard way not to mess with King."

As the command was given, the men in black suits rushed at Daniel, their steel pipes ready to strike.

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Chapter 384 Who Sent You

Chapter 384 Who Sent You

Whoosh! Whoosh! With the whistling sound of the air, steel pipes were swung towards Daniel's head. Although Daniel's head was tougher than steel and could have sent the pipes bending, he wasn't about to let them make contact.

With quick fists and kicks, Daniel dispatched the encroaching thugs in less than a minute, sending them flying every which way. Jessica was unsurprised by Daniel's combat ability, but Beauty stood there dumbfounded. This unassuming country boy was shockingly adept at fighting.

Daniel approached King, scrutinized his colossal head, and asked with a grin, "Who sent you?"

Feeling intimidated after witnessing Daniel's prowess, King backed away, asking, "What... what do you want to do?"

"I'm asking who sent you here. If you answer honestly, I'll let you off this time."

"No one... no one sent me."

King dared not reveal Beauty's name; after all, he was aware of her standing as a lady of New York's Matthews family. The repercussions of betraying such a figure could be dire.

"No one sent you? Then who gave you the ten grand?" Daniel pressed on.

"No one. I was just bluffing!"

"Bluffing?"

Daniel flashed a devilish grin, then landed a heavy slap across King's face.

Smack!

King's cheek swelled instantly. Several teeth were sent scattering to the ground, as he let out a shriek of pain.

"Ah!"

"Why are you hitting me?"

"Who gave you the ten grand?"

"No one did."

Smack!

Another slap came hard and fast. The other side of King's face swelled too, more teeth sent flying from his mouth.

"Ah! You... you still hitting me?"

Smack! Smack!

Daniel delivered two more slaps, one to the left, another to the right. King's head, already swollen from the previous blows, now resembled a pig's. A third of his teeth were gone, courtesy of Daniel's handiwork.

Holding up his palm, Daniel continued to press, "Who sent you?"

"I'm sorry, boss! I won't do it again! Please spare me! I can't tell you who sent me, or I'll die!"

Smack!

Uninterested in prolonging the discussion, Daniel slapped King again.

Smack! Smack!

Smack! Smack! Smack!

...

After a dozen or so relentless slaps, King caved in.

"It was Beauty Matthews, she hired me to chop off your legs."

"Which Beauty?" Daniel pointed at Beauty and asked, "Her?"

Before King could respond, Beauty herself stepped forward.

"Yes, it was me! What about it? You're just a country bumpkin; surely you wouldn't dare slap me, would you?"

"I never hit a woman in the face." Daniel turned to look at Beauty with a charming smile, and added, "And if I did, it would be on the butt."

Jessica immediately grew angry upon hearing such a distasteful comment. She marched over in her heels.

Smack!

She landed a heavy slap on Daniel's backside.

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Chapter 385 Need a Doctor?

Chapter 385 Need a Doctor?

"Idiot, if you talk nonsense again, I'll beat you up!" Jessica declared as she exerted her authority, partly to discipline Daniel, but also to affirm her sovereignty. She knew even though Beauty ridiculed him now, she couldn't rule out the chance of a spark in the future. Women didn't like Daniel at first sight, but after spending time with him, they couldn't help but fall for him. It was as if he had some mystical power. Especially with beautiful women – this idiot somehow always managed to charm them.

...

Back at the Matthews mansion, Jessica settled Beauty into the building where Daniel was staying. Recently for convenience, Jessica had moved into the same building, though she did not share a room with Daniel.

In the middle of the night, a half-asleep Jessica was startled awake by moans coming from the next room – Beauty was crying out. Jessica quickly slipped into her slippers and dashed next door, flinging the door open. Beauty was curled up in a ball on the bed, clutching her stomach and rolling with pain, her wails echoing in the room. Relieved, Jessica reassured herself it was just menstrual cramps and not what she had dreaded.

For a moment when she first heard the sounds, Jessica suspected Daniel was in Beauty's room. Had that been the case, she would have killed that idiot on the spot!

Seeing Beauty in pain, Jessica hastened to her side, full of concern.

"Are you okay? Should I call a doctor?"

"A doctor? Can a doctor cure menstrual cramps? Do you have any ibuprofen?"

"Ibuprofen might help with the pain, but it's not a cure and could damage your health in the long run. Otherwise, let me call Daniel. He's really good at medicine—even Joshua, the top doctor in the USA, has praised his skills."

"Joshua? As in, Joshua of The Grants?"

"Yes, that's him."

"Do you think you've been hanging out with that country boy too long and picked up his habit of bragging?"

"I'm not bragging. Daniel really is that good. I'll go get him."

...

Jessica reached Daniel's room downstairs. The door opened easily at her touch. Approaching the bed, she saw Daniel asleep, clutching her favorite teddy bear, snoring like a dead pig. She slapped him awake without hesitation.

Smack!

Roused and clutching his stinging buttock, he asked, "What are you doing?"

"What am I doing? What are you doing not locking your door while you sleep? Who is this for?"

"For whom? For you, honey! Apart from you, what other woman deserves to enter my room?"

"Get up quickly! Beauty is in pain from cramps; she's rolling around on the bed. She's practically dying from pain. Go check on her now."

"What's her cramps got to do with me? She's not my wife! Besides, with her attitude towards me and her hiring someone to break my legs, I'm not interested in treating her."

With that, Daniel turned away, clutching his teddy bear, intending to go back to sleep and ignore Jessica.

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Chapter 386 Yes, Wife

Chapter 386 Yes, Wife

Smack! Jessica delivered another slap.

"What are you doing?"

"Are you getting up or not?" she demanded, followed by another slap. It amused her; Daniel's backside bounced amusingly to the touch.

"If you slap me again, I'm going to slap you back!"

"You dare?" she asked fiercely, before issuing another order, "Get up now or I'll make your backside swell! You're such a disobedient man, not good at all!"

Reluctantly following Jessica, Daniel entered Beauty's bedroom. Beauty was already in a fetal position on the bed, large beads of sweat rolling down from her forehead. At the sight, Daniel couldn't help but take a bit of pleasure in her discomfort.

"Oh, Beauty, what's wrong? Did your period start? Are you in a lot of pain, like someone is tearing the flesh in your stomach?"

His description matched Beauty's experience precisely. Already in agony, Beauty felt the pain intensify after hearing his vivid simile.

"You bastard, Daniel!" she cursed ragefully, but Daniel kept his jovial, teasing demeanor.

"Beauty, it's not like I caused your period pain, why curse at me? However, I could help you. Just let me treat you, and I promise you won't have period pain for at least a year."

"You filthy pervert! Don't think about taking advantage of me!" Beauty snapped, clearly misunderstanding. The treatment she imagined was entirely different from what Daniel referred to.

"Honey, you see, it's not that I don't want to help Beauty, but she's being so disrespectful. I offer to help her for free, yet instead of gratitude, she calls me a filthy pervert!"

"Stop talking dirty!" Jessica scolded Daniel and ordered crisply, "Just treat her."

"Yes, wife!" Daniel complied and fetched his Seven Dragons Needle.

Seeing the rusty needle, Beauty panicked, "What the hell are you going to do with that?"

"What else? I'm going to stab you with it! I'll make you howl, and then we'll see if you'll ever dare to have someone try to break my legs again."

Daniel waggled the needle in front of Beauty, slightly intimidating her.

"You... get away from me! I don't want your treatment! Get out!"

"My honey's orders must be respected! After all, I am a good man and cannot refuse my honey's commands."

Grabbing Beauty's hand, he held it firmly.

"Let go of me!"

Unable to free her hand from Daniel's grip, Beauty struggled in vain. Seeing Daniel's inappropriate behavior, Jessica twisted his arm fiercely.

"Ah!" Daniel cried out.

"Why are you twisting my arm, honey?"

"You dare flirt with her in front of me? Treat Beauty now. Keep spouting nonsense, and I'll poke your butt full of holes with your own needle!"

With a stern face, Jessica handed out the orders. Daniel quickly seized Beauty's hand and jabbed the needle to the fingertip of her ring finger.

Chapter 387 You're a Quack

Chapter 387 You're a Quack

Beauty cried out in a particularly alluring way as Daniel's needle prick sent an electrifying comfort through her body that made her entire being tingle with relief.

Her moan elicited immediate jealousy from Jessica, who turned to glare at Daniel, her voice cold with suspicion, "Idiot, what are you doing?"

"I'm treating Beauty with acupuncture! My needle just made her feel so comfortable. Didn't you hear, honey? She sounded so joyful, so delightful just now."

"Delightful?" Jessica was glaring, her ire rising, twisting Daniel's arm sharply in frustration.

"Ah! Aaah!"

Daniel screamed out, louder than Beauty had before.

"Now, that's what sounds delightful!" Jessica remarked with satisfaction.

Daniel... was left speechless.

Meanwhile, Beauty found that the excruciating pain in her abdomen vanished after Daniel's needlework. She could feel a warm current swirling inside her belly – incredibly soothing and enjoyable.

Noticing Daniel putting away his needle, a somewhat yearning Beauty quickly asked, "Is that it? Treatment's done?"

"Yeah! I could've pricked you a few more times, but since my honey's upset and she twisted my arm, let's just go with one needle for now. But don't underestimate just one pricking; this one session should ensure you won't have cramps this month. As for next month, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Beauty was very nearly gnashing her teeth in frustration, having felt unexpectedly comfortable with the brief treatment. She was loath to beg Daniel to continue, considering herself a goddess above such things. Instead, she gave Daniel a cold stare and scoffed, "Are you really a doctor?"

"Of course."

"Then you should be able to tell me why I've had two periods in a row."

"Why? You should ask yourself that!"

"Ask myself? You're supposed to be a doctor, and you're telling me to ask myself. Are you just a quack who doesn't know anything and pretends?"

"If I'm a quack, then there are no competent doctors in the world."

"If you're not a quack, tell me the reason behind it!"

"Do you really want me to say?"

"Say it!"

"The reason you're experiencing two periods in a row is that something's gone wrong with your body. And the reason for that is simple: you lack a man. A woman, especially a beautiful one like you, Beauty, needs constant nourishment from a man. Without it, your health will suffer."

"Nonsense!" Beauty refused to believe it.

Jessica, meanwhile, was fuming, her face turning a ghastly shade of bluish-green with anger. She grabbed a duster.

Smack!

She hit Daniel hard across his backside.

"Ow!" He yelped like a dog in pain.

"Honey, why are you hitting me again?"

"Hit you? Hitting you is the least of what you deserve! I'd kill you, you idiot, and wouldn't feel a bit of remorse! How dare you say such things in front of me!"

Chapter 388 Uninvited Guest

Chapter 388 Uninvited Guest

"You dare talk back? I'll beat you to death, you little jerk!" Jessica, half amused and half infuriated by Daniel's stark words, raised her hand and started hitting him once more. Beauty, lying in bed, couldn't bear to watch the two flirt in such a manner.

"Are you two quite finished with your flirting? Don't you see a sick person right here? I'm barely recovering, and you're adding to my trauma with your antics; do you even care?"

"You could try flirting with a man in front of me, too!" Jessica retorted with a grin.

"Find a man? Why bother when I could just steal your country boy? It'd save me the trouble. After all, your mom clearly doesn't fancy him and sent me to break you two up. Maybe I'll just be his mistress?"

Beauty made the suggestive remark intentionally, hoping to stir up trouble between Jessica and Daniel. No woman would tolerate her man entangled with her cousin, after all.

Jessica's face darkened at Beauty's overstepping joke, warning, "Beauty, don't take your jokes too far."

"Oh, you're taking me seriously now? As if I'd fancy a country boy. That said, I won't give up since I've accepted my aunt's request. I must ensure you two split before grandpa's 80th birthday celebration."

"My marriage isn't your concern, Beauty."

"I don't wish to interfere, but your mother assigned me this task. If you're unhappy, take it up with her. Get her to call off the request, and I'll step back."

"Enough," Jessica turned to leave.

Spotting Daniel still lingering in the room, Jessica snapped, "Idiot, what are you still doing here?"

"I'm not doing anything!"

"Then get out now!"

"Why be so harsh?"

"You dare call me harsh?"

Jessica stormed back, grabbed Daniel by the ear, and dragged him out of the room.

"Honey, spare me! I was wrong! You're going to rip off my ear!"

"It would serve you right! Your ears don't listen anyways, they might as well come off!"

...

The next day, in the CEO's office of TMO, Jessica was reviewing a financial report while Daniel amused himself by writing on her smooth, jade-like thigh with a pen. The sensation tickled Jessica, prompting her to glare at him and ask, "Aren't you annoying?"

"Not at all, it's fun!"

"Fun my ass! Get out! You're causing nothing but trouble!"

Jessica snatched the pen from Daniel and asked, "What did you write?"

"I wrote my honey's the prettiest!"

Curious, Jessica glanced down at the wet ink on her thigh and could vaguely make out the words. The first letter was 'S', the second 'I', the third 'u', and the fourth 't'.

"I'll kill you!" Jessica was both angry and amused.

This idiot was getting bolder by the minute. Yet, he did have a way with fun.

At that moment, an unwelcome guest walked in. Andrew? The sight of his face caused Jessica's previously cheerful expression to turn icy.

"What are you doing here?" she demanded.

Chapter 389 TMO Is Bankrupt

Chapter 389 TMO Is Bankrupt

Andrew, holding a large bouquet of fiery red roses, looked at Jessica with a deep and passionate gaze. His declaration came earnestly, "Jessica, I love you! I'm here today to sincerely confess my feelings to you!"

"Are you out of your mind? I have no interest in you! Get out now! And let me tell you, I'm already married—Daniel is my husband. So, please, stop harassing me!"

Jessica's revelation shocked Andrew. The country boy, Daniel, her husband? Impossible—that just couldn't be! After mentally processing the situation, Andrew let out a scornful chuckle.

"Jessica, do you think this act is funny? That country boy is nothing but your assistant; how can he possibly be your husband? You're Jessica, New York's top beauty, the celebrated CEO—how could you stoop to marry a country bumpkin?"

Too weary to explain, Jessica wrapped her arms around Daniel and kissed him squarely on the lips. It was Daniel's first kiss, which he found himself abruptly robbed of by Jessica.

"Now do you believe me?" she challenged Andrew after the kiss.

Andrew was stunned! Jessica had just kissed Daniel—to dismiss him of all people? She even kissed Daniel on the lips?

"You..."

Furious and seething, Andrew couldn't lash out at Jessica, so he turned his aggression towards Daniel.

"Country bumpkin, remember this. I will have someone cut off those lips of yours!"

"Andrew," Daniel challenged, "you want to cut off my lips because my honey kissed me? Since she's been sleeping with me for so long, do you wish to cut off something else, too?"

"What did you say? Jessica has been sleeping with you? That's impossible! Absolutely impossible! You delusional country bumpkin, stop daydreaming!"

"It's not a daydream! I've really slept with my honey. If you don't believe it, why don't you ask her?"

With a cheeky grin, Daniel wrapped his arms around Jessica's slender waist, egging her on: "Honey, isn't it true?"

"Yes! And I'm going to strangle you when we get home tonight, you dead man!"

Jessica played along with a cooperative retort, keen to irritate Andrew enough to make him leave and stop bothering her.

Unable to bear the conversation any longer, Andrew threatened with a scowl.

"Jessica, besides confessing to you today, I'm also giving you one last chance. You still have the opportunity to change your mind. Agree to marry me and hand over the country bumpkin for me to deal with. Otherwise, TMO is finished!"

Daniel couldn't help but laugh.

"TMO is finished? In your mouth, Andrew, TMO has been doomed several times, hasn't it? Yet here we are; TMO is still doing just fine with no sign of collapse. So, what's going to happen this time? Enlighten us, Andrew!"

"Country bumpkin, do you think teaming up with The Grants means you can rest easy? The Grants may be one of New York's 'The Eight Families,' but they are at the very bottom, the least

consequential of them all—they barely made it into The Eight Families. The truth is, The Armstrongs despise working with The Grants, and that's the only reason we gave TMO the opportunity!"

Chapter 390 Offering Help

Chapter 390 Offering Help

Andrew's statements carried a bold arrogance, eliciting only a snide chuckle from Daniel. In an effort to prod Andrew into revealing his plans, Daniel said with a grin, "So it sounds like The Armstrongs have secured more powerful assistance than The Grants now?"

"Of course!" Andrew readily continued, pride swelling in his voice. "The Matthews family, ranking third among New York's 'The Eight Families,' has decided to cooperate with us, The Armstrongs. Next week, at the grand 80th birthday celebration of a distinguished family elder, we, The Armstrongs, will represent New York's business community to pay our respects!"

"Attending a birthday at The Matthews, so impressive, isn't it?" Daniel commented cheekily.

"It's more than impressive; it's the ultimate honor for us and for all of New York!"

"So attending a birthday is the ultimate honor now? What if I married The Matthews' youngest granddaughter? Wouldn't that be even more glorious?"

Daniel's comment prompted uproarious laughter from Andrew. "Hahaha..."

After his laughter subsided, Andrew spoke with mock gravity, "What did you say? You, a country bumpkin, marry The Matthews' granddaughter? With your hillbilly background? I bet you don't even have the privilege of catching a glimpse of her from afar."

"Seeing her is no big deal; I could just end up sleeping with The Matthews' youngest granddaughter. But you wouldn't know, would you? She smells divine. Every inch of her is fragrant, so tempting it makes you want to nibble on her gently."

"You're insufferable! For uttering such vile words, if The Matthews family heard it, they would tear you to pieces and ensure you'd be tormented for eternity! You wouldn't dare to lay eyes on The Matthews' youngest granddaughter!"

Unable to endure the conversation any longer, Jessica didn't want to reveal her connection to The Matthews. She didn't want to be associated with the family. She never considered herself part of The Matthews and was a strong woman who didn't want others thinking her success with TMO was due to their backing. The achievements of TMO were thanks to her capabilities, not The Matthews. In fact, The Matthews had never assisted TMO but had instead caused trouble.

"Andrew, your partnership with The Matthews has nothing to do with me. There's no need to boast about it here, and I'm not impressed! I wouldn't like you more just because The Armstrongs have teamed up with The Matthews. I have no feelings for you, and no matter how powerful or influential The Armstrongs may become, I still won't feel anything for you. So please, leave!"

"Jessica, I've done my best to respect you, but you've shown me none in return. You can kiss this country bumpkin yet reject me? Fine! I'll make sure you pay for it!"

Andrew left these threatening words behind, aiming to intimidate Jessica. Hearing this, Daniel knew he couldn't let anyone threaten his honey—that was utterly unacceptable. He looked at Andrew with amusement.

"Andrew, you're saying you'll make my honey pay? What exactly are you suggesting?"

Chapter 391 You're the One Who's Sick

Chapter 391 You're the One Who's Sick

Clutching his fists tightly, Andrew spoke with palpable anger, "The Matthews family is the third-ranked entity among New York's 'The Eight Families'! A partnership between The Armstrongs and The Matthews will unquestionably strengthen us! Soon, I'll use ArmCorp to engulf all of TMO's business. I'll drive TMO step by step into a corner until it ultimately goes bankrupt!"

As Andrew boasted his plans, Daniel studied his face closely, noticing Daniel's intense gaze, Andrew shifted uneasily and demanded with a darkened expression, "Country bumpkin, why are you looking at me like that? I know I'm handsome, but I assure you, I'm straight!"

"Of course, I know you're straight, and I'm not gay either. Besides, Andrew, you're not as handsome as you think – at least not as handsome as me. I'm looking at you because you're sick."

"You're the one who's sick! Your entire family's sick!"

"You may doubt my character, Andrew, but you should believe in my medical skills. If I say you're sick, then you're definitely sick."

Andrew felt a chill run down his spine. He knew Daniel was skilled in medicine. Unsure whether Daniel was deceiving him or speaking the truth, he inquired, "What sickness do I have?"

"Andrew, you must have had quite a fun time last night, right?"

Upon hearing this, Andrew visibly tensed up. He couldn't admit in front of Jessica that he indeed had a wildly enjoyable evening the night before.

"What fun time last night? I was studying foreign languages, okay? I was diligently learning, not having any fun!"

"Studying foreign languages?"

Daniel nodded knowingly. "Oh, that's right! You were indeed studying foreign languages – with two beautiful foreign ladies. Those girls, one on top of the other, must have had quite the party with you, didn't they?"

"Country bumpkin, stop spewing crap! What foreign ladies? There's no such thing! Stop slandering me! I bet last night you were the one studying with foreign ladies, weren't you?"

"Andrew, it was you who talked about studying languages, not me! I never mentioned learning languages. As for last night, I indeed spent time with two pretty ladies, but they were genuine USA ladies, not foreign imports."

As Daniel's words grew increasingly risqué, Jessica grabbed a folder from the office desk and gave him a light tap on the head.

Smack!

"Ah!" Daniel yelped playfully before asking in bewilderment, "Honey, why are you hitting me?"

"If you don't stop spouting nonsense, I'll kill you!"

"Honey, of course you could kill me, but I believe you definitely wouldn't have the heart to do it."

"Who said I wouldn't want to? Killing you would be best!" Jessica expressed her disdain with another tap.

Deciding not to tease her anymore as it always led to getting hit, Daniel turned his attention to Andrew and innocently asked, "Andrew, are you feeling itchy?"

The question puzzled Andrew, and Jessica, unsure what Daniel was indicating, gave him a fierce glare and scolded, "Idiot, you troublemaker, do you even hit on men?"

"Honey, don't get me wrong. This isn't flirting; I'm diagnosing Andrew."

"Diagnosing Andrew?" Jessica's curiosity was aroused, and she asked seriously, "What sickness does he have?"

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Chapter 392 Lend Me For a Day

Chapter 392 Lend Me For a Day

"What else could it be? Obviously, it's an STD you picked up last night from playing around with those beautiful foreign girls!" As soon as Daniel suggested that Andrew had contracted an STD, Andrew of course exploded in rage, vehemently denying it.

"You're the one with the STD, your whole family has STDs!"

"Don't get so worked up, Andrew. Whether or not you have an STD, you should be able to feel it yourself. For example, why don't you touch your neck and see if it's itching or not?"

"Itch? How could it possibly itch?"

Andrew didn't believe him, but curiosity got the better of him, and he reached up to scratch his neck. The moment his fingers touched his skin, it felt like ants were crawling on his neck, and he couldn't help but scratch the sudden itch.

Seeing Andrew instinctively scratching his neck, Daniel asked, "So, itchy, isn't it?"

The more Daniel talked about itching, the itchier Andrew felt, driven to scratch more vigorously.

"Andrew, just a friendly reminder: the more you scratch, the itchier it will get, and then your whole body will start itching. And after that, you'll develop red bumps everywhere you scratched. If you're not careful, within three days, you'll have sores on your head and pus on your feet."

"You're talking nonsense! That won't happen to me!"

Still, Andrew had grown quite uncomfortable and was afraid to stay any longer. He needed to get to a hospital for treatment as soon as possible, so he hurriedly left.

With Andrew gone, Jessica turned to Daniel with a wary look and asked, "What did you do?"

"What did I do?"

"Andrew, what about him?"

"You think I'd mess with Andrew? Am I that perverted? I'd rather mess with you!"

A soft, plush pillow hit Daniel squarely in the face.

"Shameless!" Jessica scolded, clearly annoyed.

"Where was I not proper? I'm very proper. I'm telling you, I really want to..."

"Want a big head ghost, don't think about that!"

...

Just then, Beauty arrived.

"Beauty, what brings you here?" Daniel asked with a warm smile.

"I'm here for Jessica, not you, country bumpkin!"

After giving Daniel a fierce retort, Beauty said to Jessica, "Can I borrow this country bumpkin for a day?"

Beauty's request took Jessica by surprise, not to mention, Daniel, too, was visibly confused and suspicious. Clearly this woman was up to no good. If she wanted to borrow him, what on earth for?

"Lend him to you for what?"

"I need to run some errands and need a driver. Preferably a male driver because the place I'm visiting is somewhat dangerous."

"Somewhat dangerous? Where is that place?"

"A business that my family invested in here in New York; you must have heard about it."

Beauty didn't elaborate but hinted at its notoriety. Jessica immediately frowned upon realization.

"If it's the place you're talking about, that's far too dangerous to bring Daniel along."

Worried about putting Daniel in harm's way and unwilling to expose him to such risk, Jessica rejected Beauty's proposal.

Chapter 393 I'm Willing

Chapter 393 I'm Willing

"Isn't it suitable, though? Isn't he your husband now? He's now The Matthews' son-in-law, practically part of The Matthews family. With The Matthews' business in trouble, it's only reasonable for him to lend a hand both sentimentally and logically."

"Beauty is right, I'm willing to help," Daniel responded immediately, not waiting for Jessica's reply.

Frustrated with Daniel's eagerness, Jessica shot him a fierce glare. She knew Beauty was up to no good, but with Beauty putting it so bluntly and Daniel agreeing, it was hard for her to object further. Deep down, she acknowledged the significance of the business to The Matthews and was aware of Daniel's capabilities. If he was confident enough to help, it was possible he really could resolve the issue.

"Fine! I'll lend him to you! But I expect him back in one piece!"

With that concession, Beauty left the office with Daniel, leading him down to the underground garage and stopping in front of a Mercedes G-Wagon, tossing him the keys.

Confused, Daniel asked, "What does this mean?"

"What do you mean what does it mean? It means you're going to drive! From now on, you are my driver!"

"Drive?" Daniel pointed at the G-Wagon, "This car?"

"What else? What did you expect to drive?"

Daniel looked back at Beauty, silently asking for clarification. His gaze was innocent, but Beauty misinterpreted and snapped, "You filthy pervert!"

"Who's a filthy pervert?"

"You!"

"How am I a filthy pervert?"

"You just are! Don't ogle what you shouldn't! If you dare to look at me again, I swear I'll gouge out your eyeballs!"

"Me? Look at what? You? Tsk tsk!"

Daniel made a face as if he was about to throw up, displaying utter disgust, then remarked with disdain, "As you are now, why would I bother looking? Besides, what's the point of looking? Can you even put it to use today?"

Beauty was so furious that her face turned shades darker from rage. She pointed at Daniel's nose, fuming, "What do you mean by that, country bumpkin?"

"Nothing really! I was just reminding you that your period isn't over yet. Although I gave you a needle last night, I left a little tail. If you dare disrespect me, be careful, or you'll experience painful cramps—the kind that'll have you rolling on the ground in agony."

"You..."

Beauty's fists clenched so hard as if she wanted to punch Daniel's face out of alignment. But she held back, pressing for clarity instead.

"What little 'tail' did you leave?" Beauty's angry eyes bore into Daniel, awaiting an answer.

"I'm not telling you!"

With a snap, Daniel slapped the car keys back into Beauty's hand.

"Drive yourself; I won't be your driver. After all, someone as handsome as me is meant to be a boss, not a chauffeur."

Said, Daniel got into the passenger seat and sat down.

"You... you jerk!"

Anger puffed up Beauty's cheeks, swelling them larger than balloons. She had meant for Daniel to be her driver, but the tables had turned, and now she was his.

Nevertheless, she contained her fury. The real excitement would come later in the day. The location she intended to take Daniel was fraught with extreme danger. Anyone who strayed into that place unwittingly was doomed; there was no escape.

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Chapter 394 Spirit Hill

Chapter 394 Spirit Hill

Of course, Beauty had no intention of ending Daniel's life, but she planned at least to give him a good scare—one that would leave him so terrified he'd willingly break up with Jessica.

The Mercedes G-Wagon left the city behind, winding on mountain roads for an hour before ascending a hill. This hill, absent from all major maps, was called Spirit Hill—a place cloaked in secrecy, known as a gateway to the Spirit Realm, the barrier between the mundane and the mystical.

As they entered the territory of Spirit Hill, Daniel immediately sensed that something was different, but he pretended to be clueless, turning to Beauty with feigned innocence, "Beauty, where are we?"

"Spirit Hill," she responded.

"Spirit Hill? That name sounds a bit odd. Does this Spirit Hill have some secret?"

Beauty didn't offer a straight answer but looked at Daniel derisively, "You, a country bumpkin, couldn't possibly understand."

"If you know something I don't, why not share? What's the story of Spirit Hill? Ever since we entered Spirit Hill, it feels off." Daniel's hand reached out toward Beauty's thigh as he spoke.

Beauty screamed and slapped his hand away.

Smack!

The blow was mean but missed its mark as Daniel deftly pulled back his hand before the slap landed, leaving Beauty to inadvertently strike her own thigh.

Beauty cried out, her pale skin reddening with a distinct handprint, "You're terribly cruel to yourself!"

Daniel's taunting only infuriated Beauty further, "I'll kill you, country bumpkin!"

Fuming, Beauty pulled the car over, pummeled Daniel senselessly, and, panting from the effort, found that Daniel remained unaffected, smiling throughout her attack.

"Beauty, your massage technique isn't bad! How about I give you some money for the effort?"

"Are you asking for an extension? What do you take me for? I won't stop until I beat you to death!"

This time, Beauty was wiser and avoided using punches. Instead, she reached for Daniel's waist and twisted, drawing genuine shouts of pain from him.

"Beauty, I was wrong! I won't do it again!"

Finally relenting, Beauty commanded, "You drive!"

"Okay!" Daniel agreed instantly, reaching out once again toward Beauty's thigh.

"Not driving that, you pervert! I'll wring your neck!"

Beauty resumed her assault, realizing she didn't feel disgust or revulsion toward Daniel like she would have with any other man. His antics somehow didn't repel her.

Read Chapter 395 The Matthews' Secret

Chapter 395 The Matthews' Secret

Chapter 395 The Matthews' Secret

Beauty wasn't just hot-tempered; she also had a faint fondness for Daniel and even enjoyed his teasing, almost like she was delighted when he flirted with her. It was an absurd thought. How could she allow a country boy to tease her like that? She was a lady of The Matthews family in New York, pursued by countless men from wealthy families. Despite her status, she forcefully pushed Daniel into the driver's seat.

"Drive properly! If you mess with me again, I'll tell Jessica how inappropriate you were; that you harassed and insulted me!"

Daniel could see right through her. "You wouldn't really tell Jessica."

"Why wouldn't I?"

"Because you're enjoying it!"

"You... Enjoy your ass! Stop talking nonsense! If it weren't for Jessica being my cousin, I'd have called the police on you for what you did just now!"

"B-Beauty, what are you planning by bringing me to Spirit Hill? Are you trying to fix me up? Trying to kill me?"

"Since you're bringing it up, I won't speak in riddles. I'm not here to harm you; I want to test you. To see if you're worthy of being with our Jessica."

"A test? What test?"

"Spirit Hill is an enterprise of The Matthews family in New York. It's named so because it leads to the Spirit Realm — it's the barrier between the mundane world and the Spirit Realm. On Spirit Hill, The Matthews family built a Spirit Animal Valley. In that valley, they keep a number of Spirit Animals from the Spirit Realm."

"Spirit Animal Valley? There are Spirit Animals there?"

"You, country bumpkin, do you even know what Spirit Animals are?"

Daniel certainly knew. At the age of eight, Old Man had already taken him to visit the Spirit Realm. Dragon Field, in fact, had direct access to both the Spirit Realm and the Divine Realm. He'd been to both realms.

Despite his knowledge, Daniel had to feign ignorance. "Beauty, what are Spirit Animals?"

"Spirit Animals are beasts from the Spirit Realm! Their power greatly surpasses that of ordinary earthly creatures."

"They're far stronger than earthly beasts? If you're taking me to Spirit Animal Valley, what is it exactly you want to do? You're not planning to feed me to those Spirit Animals, right?"

"Well, if you want to marry our Jessica, you've got to be a capable man. There's a little problem in Spirit Animal Valley that needs a real man to solve it. I thought I'd take you along for a trial. Let's see if you have what it takes to resolve the issue."

Without divulging much, Beauty spoke in riddles.

Daniel, unsatisfied, pressed on, "What kind of problem?"

"It's a long story. Once we get to Spirit Animal Valley, you'll understand."

Beauty wasn't about to tell Daniel that the Tiger King they were keeping in Spirit Animal Valley had escaped and was no longer under control. That Tiger King was a heavily-invested project by The Matthews family, a trump card, and an ace up their sleeve.

Chapter 396 Defying Orders

Chapter 396 Defying Orders

If the Tiger King couldn't be controlled, The Matthews' decades of effort would be wasted. Every family among New York's 'The Eight Families' harbored Spirit Animals, and these creatures would battle for supremacy on behalf of their owners. The strength of a family's Spirit Animal could elevate their status, since these battles were not only a display of might but also a critical element in the competition for power, wealth, and influence.

Soldier Fake, a top-tier commando straight from the battlefield, led the armed force awaiting them as they entered Spirit Animal Valley, the domain he was entirely responsible for. On seeing Beauty, Soldier approached enthusiastically.

"Lady, you've arrived!"

Beauty grew angry at the sight of Soldier. After all, it was her who had recommended him for this post within her grandfather's enterprise to demonstrate her capabilities. She had handpicked Soldier for his impressive resume and had paid a substantial price to bring him onboard. Yet now, this same Soldier had failed to keep the Tiger King within bounds.

"Lady, it wasn't my fault! That Tiger King is too cunning. Its combat strength is tremendous, and it's incredibly intelligent. On the battlefield, I used to outsmart the enemy with ease, yet here, I've been outmatched by a tiger."

"If you can be outplayed by a mere tiger, your intelligence must be quite limited," Beauty retorted. "In light of your grave oversight at work, consider your annual bonus forfeited, and the same goes for your team's bonuses."

Soldier's face fell at Beauty's decree.

"Lady, that's not fair! You know how hard my brothers and I have worked to guard Spirit Animal Valley. We've been here for ten grueling years. If we've earned no commendation, we've at least put

in the effort. If you take away our bonuses, how are we supposed to survive?"

"You dare defy my orders?"

"Of course not! Never!"

Soldier immediately backed down. Beauty was a force he knew better than to reckon with. The job at Spirit Animal Valley was relatively comfortable and paid generously. Losing this position would leave him and his team out of luck for anything better. Besides, Beauty seldom interfered unless necessary, leaving them free rein—unless an unexpected incident like the Tiger King's escape occurred.

Having conceded, Beauty's tirade subsided, and only then did Soldier notice Daniel.

Chapter 397 Intimidation

Chapter 397 Intimidation

Soldier instantly felt a sense of dread at the sight of Daniel, an unfamiliar face. What was Beauty's intention in bringing this unsophisticated country bumpkin here? Could he possibly be here to take Soldier's place? The thought sparked resentment in Soldier's heart.

He glared at Daniel with hostility and asked, "Who are you?"

"I'm the guy Beauty hired to clean up your mess. Where's that Tiger King? Take me to it, and I'll help you deal with the situation. It's just a little cat, isn't it? All you big equipped men can't handle it? I wonder if that big cat scared you out of your wits or what."

Daniel's comment was merely a light-hearted joke, with no intention to offend. However, Soldier felt insulted and demeaned with an acute sense of indignation.

"You, country bumpkin, are as thin as a monkey and clearly weak. You wouldn't last even a bite from that Tiger King. If you get anywhere near it and it so much as growls at you, I bet you'd wet your pants!"

"I'm weak? Does that mean you're strong?"

"Country bumpkin, since you've come all this way, let's shake hands," Soldier offered, extending his hand, planning to give Daniel a rough lesson.

"Sure, big guy!"

Daniel replied and reached out to grasp the proffered hand. The moment they touched, Soldier began to exert significant pressure. His grip was so strong that it could crush stones and deform metal – that was the extent of Soldier's strength. That was the power of a top commando.

Beauty knew about Soldier's capabilities. After all, she had hired him at a high price after rigorous assessments. During those assessments, Soldier had managed to break a steel bar ten centimeters

in diameter with his bare hands. He was indeed formidable.

"Be careful, Soldier. This country bumpkin is my cousin's assistant, and I've borrowed him to be my driver. I'll need to take him back with me later, so just give him a small lesson."

"Don't worry, ma'am, I know my limits," Soldier assured her.

Despite his words, Soldier's grip didn't lighten but grew stronger. He was determined to break Daniel's hand and teach him a lesson, curious to see if the country bumpkin would still dare to act tough after his hand was crushed into a pulp.

Daniel, unperturbed by Soldier's force, turned to Beauty with a smile, "Thanks, Beauty!"

"Don't thank me. I only said that because of Jessica. Otherwise, your sneaky hand deserves to be broken. I want to see if you'll dare to be a scoundrel after that!"

Remembering how brazenly Daniel had touched her thigh, Beauty seethed with anger. Never had any man dared to act so presumptuously with her. This country bumpkin dared to do anything! He had taken advantage of her.

Even if Soldier did break Daniel's hand, it would only be what he deserved.

Chapter 398 Excuse

Chapter 398 Excuse

Beauty's changing expression did not escape Soldier's notice. To him, Beauty was an idol—untouchable and perfect. The idea that this country bumpkin might have taken liberties with her was intolerable. Soldier was unable to accept that he had never had the chance to gain favor with her, yet Daniel, seemingly, had. The idea burned inside him—he had to make Daniel pay and suffer for it.

Soldier intensified his grip on Daniel's hand determined to teach this fool a painful lesson. As he applied even more force, hoping to crush Daniel's hand, he belatedly realized that it seemed unaffected by his power—it felt as hard as iron under his fingers. Beads of sweat formed on Soldier's forehead and began to drip—yet Daniel remained at ease, watching him with an amused smile.

"Big guy, I thought you at least had some brute strength, even if your brain might be lacking. But now it seems you don't even have the strength. No wonder you couldn't keep watch over a big cat! With your capabilities, how can you justify your high salary? Even giving you two thousand a month seems too generous. After all, a splendid man like me only earns eighteen hundred a month working as Jessica's assistant!"

Though Daniel's hand was unharmed, he could sense Soldier's malice. He wasn't going to crush Soldier's hand in retaliation, but teasing him seemed more than appropriate under the circumstances.

Beauty was equally stunned. She knew Soldier's strength well, and now that his sweat was pouring, it was clear he was exerting his full effort. Yet this country bumpkin looked as casual and relaxed as one could be. She remained silent, watching with crossed arms. She was curious to see who would win this test of power—Soldier or the unassuming country boy.

Eager to impress the lady of his affection, Soldier applied even more force, hoping to display his might. But despite his all-out effort, Daniel continued to chuckle, showing no sign of distress or discomfort.

As Soldier's grip weakened, Daniel asked playfully, "Big guy, is that really all you've got?"

"Country bumpkin, I was only joking with you, going easy on you," Soldier retorted, finding an excuse for his failure to overpower Daniel. "If you think you're so strong, why don't you squeeze my hand? At most, your hand is just a bit stiffer, and you probably can't feel the pain. But really, you don't have any strength either!"

Now that Soldier had justified his performance to himself with such an excuse, Daniel smirked, "Big guy, are you sure you want me to do this? Be careful, or I might make you howl in pain and beg for mercy!"

Although his words were said in jest, Daniel was partially serious. The possibility of demonstrating his strength without truly harming Soldier might be educational for him.

Chapter 399 Begging for Mercy

Chapter 399 Begging for Mercy

Soldier's fate and whether he could save his hand would hang on his attitude. If he begged for mercy, Daniel might let him off this time. And if not, Daniel didn't mind giving him a taste of his strength.

"Beg for mercy? You'll be the one begging!" Soldier, unable to exert enough pressure with his hand, thought he could launch a surprise attack with his feet. As an elite commando, Soldier's combat abilities were extraordinary, capable of overpowering foes single-handedly.

After bellowing, he stopped holding back against Daniel and attempted a kick aimed straight between Daniel's legs, targeting a place no man could endure a hit. The move was low, but no one could deny its effectiveness—if successful.

Soldier had been confident in his attack, but just as his foot neared its target, Daniel deftly dodged to the side. Soldier stumbled due to the momentum and fell flat on the ground with a thud.

"Oops, big guy, down already? Trying to sneak attack me and you fell instead?" Daniel teased lightly, which earned him a disapproving glance from Beauty and a scolding for being shameless.

"I was just telling the truth. How is that shameless?"

"You are shameless! And bragging!"

"Bragging? Which word was a brag? If you don't believe me, Beauty, why don't we find the time and place to let you see for yourself?"

"Get lost! Disgusting! Keep spouting nonsense and see if I don't get the Tiger King to eat you up!"

"That big kitty doesn't have the right to eat me! But, Beauty, if you wish, you're welcome to take a bite."

"Soldier, attack! Smash that country bumpkin's mouth, and let's see if he keeps talking nonsense!"

At Beauty's command, Soldier quickly got back on his feet. He had been wanting to punch Daniel for a while now. His failure to hit Daniel and the embarrassing fall made him lose face and fueled his desire for revenge.

Soldier lunged forward with a right hook aimed at Daniel's face, but Daniel effortlessly captured Soldier's wrist, halting the punch in its tracks. When Soldier tried with his left fist, Daniel grabbed that wrist too.

Now with both hands immobilized, Soldier kicked out, but Daniel didn't handle him with kid gloves this time and kicked back. The two legs collided with force, and Soldier felt like he had hit a solid wall of iron. Pain shot through his leg, and it started to swell.

"Ahhh!"

Freed by Daniel, Soldier could now clutch his injured leg and howl in agony..

Chapter 400 Beauty's Plan

Chapter 400 Beauty's Plan

Seeing that he and his men were no match for this country boy on their own, Soldier gestured angrily to his team, "Brothers, get him! Take down this country bumpkin!"

As the group lunged at Daniel, Beauty quickly intervened, "Even though this country boy is detestable, he's still my cousin's assistant. When you strike, make sure you don't go too far and kill him."

Beauty's line in the sand was not to kill Daniel. While as a lady of The Matthews, taking a country boy's life wouldn't be a big deal, she couldn't justify it to Jessica if Daniel were to die.

Moreover, Beauty wasn't looking for Daniel's demise. She just wanted to teach him a lesson, to make him understand that he couldn't meddle with The Matthews family in New York. She intended to beat him half to death, best if he was left disabled, and then have him leave New York forever, disappearing from Jessica's life completely.

Of course, being a person of high standing, Beauty planned to provide Daniel with financial compensation, allowing him to live a carefree life—in a wheelchair, but still carefree and well provided for.

The dozens of men, all elite commandos skilled in combat, could each take on ten at a time. As they converged on Daniel, their aggression was no challenge for him. Without moving a step, he sent each attacker flying with left and right strikes. In less than three minutes, all of the commando warriors who had surrounded him were sprawled on the ground.

Beauty was utterly shocked. Looking at Daniel with disbelief, she asked, "How can you fight like that?"

"I can do more than just fight," Daniel replied cheekily, "I can also handle you."

"Shameless! Get lost!" she cursed.

Beauty pondered internally. No wonder Jessica fancied this country boy; regardless of whether their marriage was real or fake, she did have feelings for him. Daniel seemed just like a simple country bumpkin, but now, it was obvious there was more to him.

Soldier and his men, veterans from the battlefield, could handle gunfire and explosions; none of them were pushovers. If even a master martial artist might struggle against such numbers, Daniel's effortless victory was astonishing.

Despite his young age, his remarkable combat skills indeed made him a talent. Beauty couldn't help wondering: could she be developing feelings for this guy? After all, he was just a country kid who didn't deserve her affection. Yet, given his extraordinary strength, maybe she could give him a chance, like driving for her or even being her bodyguard.

Still, this one test wasn't enough. To be considered for such a position, the country boy would have to pass far harsher trials. Only then could she present such an opportunity to him.

Seeing Soldier lying defeated on the ground, Beauty's face filled with disdain as she scolded the incapable squad: "What a waste! A bunch of wastes!"