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After sending off the three Campbells, the few of them collapsed onto the sofa in defeat—that family was a difficult one to handle.

Meanwhile, Helen continued to ramble on and said, "You need to settle the money quickly, Sasha. You can't let anything happen to your cousin. After all, your aunt..."

Sasha snapped back in frustration, "Stop it! I've already agreed to help him pay up. Is that not enough for you?"

With that, she dragged Matthew along and went upstairs.

Similarly, James slammed his hand against the table and bellowed, "Go on, go on! Keep it up and this family will be left with nothing one day because of you!"

Immediately after that, James headed inside as well and slammed the door shut.

Helen stood in the living room as tears streamed down her face. She said furiously, "How can you all be so ungrateful? If it weren't for your aunt back then..."

Despite her efforts, no one was listening; the incident tonight had physically and mentally exhausted the entire family.

The next day, Mr. Manning personally went over to settle the matter. He was one of the most influential lawyers at Carson Law Firm, and he was extremely well-connected as well.

After a long and busy day, he finally resolved the issue.

However, the required compensation was pretty hefty—it was a whopping 1.6 million.

That night, the Campbells gathered at the Cunningham Residence while Mr. Manning explained the situation to all of them.

Chloe was stupefied as soon as she heard the amount. "1.6 million? Why can't he just steal the money from someone else? It's not like anyone ended up dead—why does he need such a huge compensation? Mr. Manning, y-you're not trying to trick us, are you?"

Mr. Manning's brows furrowed as he replied solemnly, "Mrs. Campbell, feel free to find someone else if you think that I'm not qualified to settle the problem. I'm only doing this for you on behalf of Mr. Larson, for I would never meddle in unlawful acts like this otherwise!"

Chloe snapped back, "What's so unlawful about this? It's just a small matter, and you don't have to exaggerate the severity of it to make yourself look good. You previously told us that it'd only be a million, but now you're insisting that it's 1.6 million. Obviously, this is your fault! You're planning to swallow the remaining 600,000 for yourself, aren't you?"

Mr. Manning was utterly vexed at this point. He stood up and said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Larson—I'm afraid I can't take this case. I apologize if I've caused you any inconvenience!"

Matthew replied helplessly, "I understand, Mr. Manning. I should be the one to apologize, for I've put you in a difficult position."

With that, Mr. Manning bade him farewell with a polite gesture before he turned around and left without another word.

Chloe rushed up to him as she yelled, "Hey, stop right there! You'd better tell me why you're charging an extra 600,000! Don't think I don't know how you people do things—you're just trying to swindle innocent people. You don't even have a sense of basic etiquette; what a piece of garbage!"

Just then, Mr. Manning turned behind and cast a piercing glare in her direction, but he eventually swallowed his anger.

Whatever it was, he couldn't lose his temper for Matthew's sake.

After leaving the villa in his car, Mr. Manning sent a text message to his lawyer group chat with a brief explanation of the situation.

In just a second, the group chat exploded with responses; nobody had ever seen such a bizarre client. At the same time, the group members swore that they wouldn't be willing to take the case either.

Inside the villa, Chloe was still complaining in dissatisfaction. "What kind of lawyer is he, Matthew? Didn't you say that you two were close? From what I see, he's just here to scam us. Some people only scam their close friends; such things do happen, you know?"

Matthew's brows knitted. "Mr. Manning is a professional, Aunt Chloe. He wouldn't do such a thing. Besides, we've already agreed that our side will cover the compensation fee. What are you even mad about?"

Chloe glared at him wide-eyed. "Nonsense! Even if it's your money, I can't sit by and let someone else scam you. Do you think money grows on trees at your command? I'm just worried about my sister; did you collude with the lawyer to rip us off for another 600,000? Wait, that's not right—something like this wouldn't even need a few hundred thousand to settle. Are you really planning to suck us dry?"

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Matthew was completely dumbfounded by her words, and he could only wave his hand in resignation. "Think however you want, Aunt Chloe. This is none of my business anymore, so don't ask me about it either!"

With those words, he got up and promptly went upstairs.

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Chloe continued yelling at him as he walked further away, "Who are you bluffing? Do you think I can't hire a lawyer myself? Let me tell you this—I know a law firm that my husband's company actively works with! I'll let them handle it first thing tomorrow! Mark my words; I'll be coming for you if their fees turn out to be lower than that friend of yours!"

Matthew didn't want to prolong their interaction, so he closed the door without responding to her.

Needless to say, this woman was unbelievably problematic.

Meanwhile, Chloe sat down on the sofa in a huff. "How do you guys put up with that garbage, Helen? Who does he think he is? I knew something was wrong as soon as I heard the amount last night. Little did I know that he'd raise the price again today—he's obviously trying to scam us. Even though your family is covering the fees for us, I simply can't sit by and let it happen. That good-for-nothing only wanted to take the opportunity to feed his own pocket!"

In response, Helen waved a hand at her sister. "Calm down, Chloe. I'll go with you tomorrow to find another lawyer if there's no other way! How can a trivial matter like this take so much money to handle? I just won't believe it."

Chloe nodded repeatedly in agreement.

Before long, Sasha came home from work.

"How'd it go with Mr. Manning, Mom and Aunt Chloe?"

She had no idea what just went down.

Just then, Minerva quickly butted in as she sat by the side. She said, "Oh, Sasha—your husband is one hell of a man! It turned out that he was actually colluding with an outsider and trying to scam money off his own family. Tsk, I really don't get it—what exactly made you marry him?"

Sasha frowned in return. "What on earth happened here?"

Minerva recounted the incident from earlier while adding unnecessary fuel to the fire.

Sasha was momentarily stunned after hearing it. "H-How did you even come up with that, Aunt Chloe? Mr. Manning is a renowned attorney at Carson Law Firm; his esteemed name is known all around Eastcliff. It's hard to even see him around, much less have a conversation with him—he charges by the minute. Moreover, he took an entire day to help you with this and we finally came to an agreement with him. How can you drive him away just like that?"

Chloe stiffened up instantly. "What? That can't be right... How can someone like him be a well-respected attorney? He came running just after a phone call from Matthew; how could he possibly be some big shot lawyer? Don't be fooled by Matthew too, Sasha!"

Sasha was so irritated that she could only brush her aunt off dismissively. "Sure sure, whatever. Go ahead and settle it on your own if you think you can handle it, and I won't be involved anymore. However, let me make it clear—since Mr. Manning's price was 1.6 million, that's the most I'll be contributing. I won't pay a cent more than that!"

Helen frowned and said, "What do you mean, Sasha? Your aunt only did it for your own good—she was afraid that we'd be scammed. After all, he did tell us last night that it'd take one million to solve the case, but he increased it to 1.6 million all of a sudden..."

Sasha raised a hand in front of her. "Stop talking. Did you say she did it for my own good? Is this the way to do it, though? If she really means well for me, she should discipline that son of hers and stop him from stirring up trouble left and right. Besides, Mr. Manning did say that it'd take a million at least! Do you even know what that means?"

Chloe's brows knitted uncomfortably. "I know you aren't happy with covering for what happened this time, Sasha. However, do you think we wanted this to happen? Tate used to drive all the time when he was abroad, but this has never happened before. He's just unfamiliar with how things work back home because he just returned, and he wouldn't have gotten into trouble if it weren't for that. Why do you make it sound like we plotted the accident on purpose?"

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Sasha argued in agitation, "Since you already know that, you shouldn't have allowed him to drive around—after all, he just returned and isn't familiar with things! This incident only happened because you failed to discipline your son! Am I wrong?"

Chloe was suddenly at a loss for words.

Minerva pouted by the side as she said, "Whatever it is, it's already happened. What are you trying to say by bringing this up now? You're right—Tate was involved in a small accident, but how is it right for that worthless husband of yours to be taking the opportunity to scam money off of us? Hmph, he's taking advantage of a disaster—that's what it is! People like him are the worst!"

Sasha was overwhelmed with frustration, and she snapped through gritted teeth, "That's enough! Go ahead and settle this yourself if you don't believe Mr. Manning. Like I said, I'll only contribute a total of 1.6 million! Anything more than that is on yourselves!"

With that, Sasha stomped upstairs in a huff as well.

Chloe's face was scrunched up in displeasure as she left. "Seriously, what's with her?"

Helen waved a hand at Chloe repeatedly to calm her down. "Come on, don't take it too personally. I can't even deal with her these days. It's all Matthew's fault—she's been deceived by him! All right, Helen. We should settle this for Tate as soon as possible."

Chloe immediately replied, "It's no problem. I'll give my husband a call right away and have his company's lawyer take care of this. Hmph, let's see what they have to say if it costs less than 1.6 million!"

Minerva wasn't holding back as well. She said, "Oh, that's right—Sasha said earlier that she'd only contribute 1.6 million. Since that's the case, she'll have to give us 1.6 million no matter how much it costs!"

This woman had already taken everything into account and planned to keep the extra money to herself.

Thus, Chloe made a call to Jonah and he started making arrangements immediately.

When she heard that, Chloe leaned back against the sofa triumphantly. "You see, Helen? My husband is most dependable when it comes to settling problems. The local law firm that their company works with is none other than the leading one in Eastcliff. Once their attorney takes the case, there'll be nothing to worry about! Just sit back and wait for the good news!"

Meanwhile, Helen nodded in agreement with a look of anticipation on her face.

About an hour later, Chloe's phone rang with Jonah's incoming call. She broke into a huge grin and said, "I think it's settled, Helen."

She picked up the call. As soon as the line went through, Jonah's enraged voice rang through her speaker. "W-What have you done, Chloe? Why are none of the lawyers in Eastcliff willing to take our case?"

Chloe tensed up as she replied, "W-What do you mean?"

Jonah said in a panic, "I've just talked to some of the lawyers from the firm, but they're all unwilling to take this case. After that, I contacted many other law firms as well. Eventually, I heard from a friend that the lawyers in Eastcliff have all come to an agreement to boycott our family's case!"

Chloe was still stunned with shock. "H-How can that be possible?"

Jonah frowned deeply on the other end. "I even heard that you've offended a well-known and influential attorney in Eastcliff; that's why he's messing with us behind the scenes. Is that true?"

Just then, Chloe's expression darkened. "It can't be... A-All I did was kick Mr. Manning out—you know, the lawyer from yesterday night!"

Then, Chloe recounted the happenings of earlier.

Jonah was livid after hearing her story. "My goodness... Why are you so foolish? We're not even the ones who are paying, so why are you so fussy about it? Even if the price is one billion, it's on the Cunninghams—why did you have to offend him?"

Chloe said, "That's nonsense—however you put it, this money is still from my sister's family. Mr. Manning was obviously colluding with Matthew in the dark to scam her. How can I sit by idly and watch my sister suffer losses?"

Jonah was beyond speechless. He sighed and said, "Forget it, I'll just keep trying. Goodness, you're such a busybody!"

After hanging up the call, Chloe became restless.

After all, it'd truly be troublesome if none of the lawyers in Eastcliff were willing to take their case.

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After another 20 minutes or so, Jonah phoned Chloe again. "Chloe, you... you... you idiot!" he swore as soon as Chloe answered the phone.

Chloe panicked. "What are you talking about? H-How could you say that I'm an idiot?"

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At once, Jonah flew into a rage. "Do you know who the person surnamed Manning is? Let me tell you this—he is the most famous attorney in Eastcliff, and he has practiced law for so many years without ever losing a lawsuit. Even business tycoons and large conglomerates seek his advice when they run into something, so he's considered a leader in Eastcliff's law practice. H-How could you offend him? No wonder all the attorneys in Eastcliff are unwilling to take up this case!"

Chloe was stupefied. "T-That can't be true, right? How could this happen? I-Isn't that guy just an attorney whom Matthew found at random? How could he have such great capabilities? Have you mistaken him for a different person who has the same surname?"

Jonah replied furiously, "That's sheer nonsense! Lucia told me all these. She also has a group photo with Mr. Manning, and I saw that photo with my own eyes!"

Chloe instantly sank into the sofa. She really didn't expect that the lawyer Matthew had summoned casually by phone was actually the most famous attorney in Eastcliff! More importantly, Mr. Manning arrived in the middle of the night after receiving Matthew's call! Back then, she simply assumed that Mr. Manning was an insignificant figure, so she didn't take him seriously at all. She couldn't understand what on earth enabled Matthew to let this attorney come over at night instead of resting!

After a long time, she asked in a quavering voice, "T-Then... what should we do now?"

Jonah replied angrily, "How should I know? Lucia is still asking me what's going on, and I can't even bring myself to tell her about it! If she learns that we have offended this famous attorney, she... she will definitely drive me out of the company!"

Chloe trembled with fright upon hearing his words. "I-I really had no idea about this, hubby. I thought he was colluding with Matthew to try to swindle money from me. I-I really have no idea about such things at all... You have to save Tate. He's still a kid..." She began to choke up as she spoke.

On the other hand, Jonah was as mad as a wet hen. "All right, that's enough. Do you think that I don't want to save Tate? However, what can I do now that things have come to this point because of you? Forget it—I'll have a friend of mine hire an attorney from another city!"

Chloe's eyes lit up. "Can you do that? T-That will be great! In that case, please hurry, hubby. Tate is still in custody."

Jonah retorted in exasperation, "Of course! Do you think I'm not worried about him? Do you know how much it costs to hire an attorney from another city, though? You idiot! You're not the one spending 1.6 million, yet you keep doing such pointless things. Now, nobody knows how much money our family is going to spend!"

Chloe didn't dare to answer him; she also felt guilty since she had screwed up the matter this time. Once she hung up the phone, she looked at Helen again. "You must help me this time, Helen. All the attorneys in Eastcliff have ganged up with Mr. Manning, so they're not going to help us. We can only hire an attorney from somewhere else, but with my family's current situation, the legal fees..."

Helen immediately responded, "Don't worry, Chloe. I'll help you with the money."

Minerva immediately joined in and said, "As expected, you're the one who treats us best, Aunt Helen. Mom kept saying that you're the kindest person in this world back when we were overseas!"

Helen replied with a smug smile and said, "Isn't it because your mom and I are sisters? Besides, things turned out like this because she wanted to save money for my family, so I must definitely help her."

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The next day, Jonah contacted a nonlocal attorney and had the latter hurry to Eastcliff to take care of this case. Upon hearing this news, Chloe was filled with smugness; she even made a special trip to the Cunningham Residence to brag about this. "Hmph, Mr. Manning is crafty enough to screw us behind our backs after failing to swindle us out of our money. How dare he bar the attorneys in Eastcliff from taking up our case? Haha! Who does he think he is? Can he ride roughshod over everyone in the world? Can't you see that my hubby has managed to find another attorney from somewhere else in the end?"

On the other hand, Minerva stared fixedly at Sasha. "We made an agreement last night, Sasha. No matter how much money we have to pay, you'll have to contribute 1.6 million. Don't go back on this when you realize later on that the money to be spent isn't much. Otherwise, things will get very unpleasant! Hmph!"

Sasha replied impatiently, "Don't worry, for I won't go back on what I've promised. Even if you solve this matter without spending a penny, I will give you 1.6 million!"

Minerva was delighted at once. To her, this matter was only a trifling one, so it would cost no more than a few hundred thousand. If this was really solved, she might end up with 1.3 million to 1.4 million remaining in hand. By then, she would be able to buy a Porsche sports car! Minerva was totally immersed in her daydream.

Meanwhile, Demi curled her lips into a sneer. "Minerva, keep in mind that my family will only pay 1.6 million no matter how much the settlement is in the end. Even if you guys end up having to pay 1.61 million, our family won't pay an extra penny. Do you understand me?"

Minerva sneered. "Don't worry! We paid great attention to the spirit of contract more than anything else back when we were overseas. You'll pay no more than the amount you've agreed on. There'll be no problems as long as you don't go back on what you've promised!"

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Demi immediately nodded. "Don't worry, for we definitely won't go back on our word. However, since you've mentioned the contract, why don't we simply make a written agreement lest any of us go back on our promise by then?"

Minerva bobbed her head at once. "Sure, that's great! Regardless of how much we have to pay in total, we'll make an agreement so that your family pays 1.6 million by then!"

Helen looked helpless upon hearing their words. "Is this even necessary? You two are cousins!"

"Yes, it is!" replied Demi and Minerva in unison. Both of them were relatively mean, so they were unwilling to let the other party take advantage of themselves. In the end, they made an agreement and signed their names on it.

Minerva held the written agreement with a sneer. She then said, "If you guys refuse to pay the money by then, I'll sue you all. Hmph!"

On the other hand, Demi laughed. "Haha! Don't regret this, Minerva!"

Sasha was too lazy to care about them, so she took Matthew with her and went to work. Instead of going to the hospital, Matthew went directly to Lakeside Garden. He first visited his younger sister Natalie, and her condition was gradually becoming stable. Then, he went to the villa the patient stayed in to check up on her.

This patient had been hiding in the villa over the past few days. When she heard someone coming in, she immediately trembled with fright. After seeing that it was Matthew, she finally gave a soft sigh of relief. However, she still huddled up in a corner as she didn't dare to move close to him.

Matthew smiled. "Don't be afraid—no one will hurt you here. How are you? Are you used to the meals?"

The patient bowed her head without speaking. After a long time, she nodded in response to his question.

Matthew then looked around and asked, "Do you need anything else? The TV is there, so you can turn it on to watch some shows. Also, do you need to change out of the clothes you're wearing? Would you like me to buy a few sets of new clothes for you?"

The patient still remained silent, but she shook her head this time. One could tell that she was quite grateful to Matthew. However, after years of living by begging, she feared everything and didn't dare to let him spend any money on her.