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Finally, the three set off to meet the person in charge of the Jetroina Sky Precision project.

Solomon and Sasha took the lead for this meeting while Lance trailed behind them.

"Nancy, I found out that guy is staying in Hilton hotel, so I think it would be best for us to try to meet him there. If we were to meet him at Wall Street, Andy and his men may see us."

"Sure!" Sasha agreed readily.

Thirty minutes later, they arrived at Hilton hotel.

Her mind was engrossed in her proposals for the other party. When the car stopped, she absent-mindedly got out and headed into the hotel.

Lance was about to follow when Solomon said, "Lance, why don't you wait for us in the lobby? Your cousin and I are going to meet a client, so it may not be convenient for you to come with us."

"What is so inconvenient about that? I came to assist her in that too." The college boy retorted coldly as he alighted from the car, totally ignoring Solomon's request.

The latter was furious at being given the cold shoulder. He felt Lance was getting in the way and secretly vowed to get rid of him.

He quickly got out of the car to catch up with the Wands, but Lance was already clinging on closely to Sasha.

"Sha, what are we going to discuss later?"

"I was thinking of making a deal with bonds."

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"Bonds? Do you have any?" Lance's gorgeous eyes widened in surprise.

"Yes, from the Leonard family. When I worked with them previously, I asked for bonds instead of commission. Now that their business is doing well, I assume the bonds are worth quite a bit now. Also, if I am not wrong, they would be useful for Sky Precision if the company wishes to establish itself here," Sasha casually explained.

Lance was silenced and in awe of her foresight. Few could read the volatile financial markets well like her.

The trio went into the elevator and proceeded to the top floor, where they finally met the Jetronian in charge of Sky Precision.

"How are you, Mr. Hashimoto? I am Solomon, a friend of Mr. Matsushima."

"Come on in." The response from Hashimoto was lukewarm, so he probably was not well acquainted with Matsushima.

Solomon was a little embarrassed, but thankfully, Sasha did not read much into it. When Hashimoto allowed their entry, she immediately entered with Lance.

"Greetings, Mr. Hashimoto! I wonder if you still remember me? I was with Mr. Andy Rind when we met at Wall Street not too long ago."

"Oh, it's you!" He remembered her.

However, he added puzzledly, "What is the purpose of your visit today? Mr. Rind did not inform me about this meeting."

Not surprisingly, he only recognized Andy as his business partner.

Solomon was about to speak up for Sasha when she strode over to Hashimoto confidently. "I am not representing Mr. Rind today. I came to meet you on my own."

"On your own?"

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"Yes. I wonder if you have heard about the Leonard family that nearly went into bankruptcy some years back." She started her sales pitch.

As she had expected, her speech incited an enthusiastic response from the Jetroinian.

"Of course! The fact that they made a comeback was headline news back then."

"Yes, and what I would like to share with you is that I was the one who helped them make that comeback, Mr. Hashimoto." Sasha smilingly introduced herself and presented some evidence to prove her case.

Hashimoto's eyes widened in astonishment when he saw the documented proof.

He could not believe the young lady in front of him could help the Leonard family out of that major crisis.

For the longest time, he stood there speechless, looking at the proof, then at Sasha.

It was understandable he had difficulty associating a young lady like her with such a feat.

Sasha gave him a big smile and added, "You don't believe me, do you, Mr. Hashimoto? Then let me tell you something else. The recent crash of stock price for Hayes Corporation was also my work."

That revelation stunned both Hashimoto and Solomon, and Lance's eyes twitched at that shocking news.

What an impressive woman!a

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The Jetroinian finally believed Sasha, and they sat down for a serious discussion.

As expected, he was very keen on the Leonard bonds and readily agreed to buy them over at more than double the market rate that was almost ten million.

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It was pure net profit for Sasha because she did not pay a single cent for those bonds.

They immediately prepared a contract for the deal to her elation.

Bang!

At that crucial moment, a heavily tattooed middle-aged man wearing a thick gold chain kicked the door to the suite open.

It was Andy.

Everyone in the room was flustered, especially Solomon, since he was the one who proposed going behind Andy's back.

"Well done, Nancy! Why did you not share the good news that you closed a major deal with Mr. Hashimoto?"

"Mr. Rind. I..."

"Mr. Rind, it is my fault. I knew she was in need of the money, so I came up with this idea. Hope you can forgive her on my account." Solomon stood in front of Sasha to take the blame.

Andy was polite when he asked Solomon for help to recruit Sasha, but that changed when he showed his true, arrogant self to Solomon.

"On your account? Mr. George, I have yet to blame you for introducing such an undesirable character to me. Now you have the cheek to ask me to forgive her on your account? How much is your account worth? Oh, sure, I will do that if you hand over the contract she just signed to me," he sneered.

"You..." Solomon was speechless with anger.

However, he could not retaliate at all as Andy's bouncers had entered and filled the room.

"What shall we do, Solomon?" Sasha sounded terrified.

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She was not about to hand over the contract to Andy because that was her last asset. If he took that from her, she would have nothing to her name. Moreover, those bonds belonged to her, so he had no right to snatch them from her.

She tried to hide the contract from their sight, but when the men saw her action, they rushed over and demanded, "Hand that over!"

"No! That is mine! Why should I hand it to you?" All colors had drained from Sasha's face. Still, she stubbornly held on to the contract.

At the same time, she looked at Solomon with pleading eyes, hoping he could come to her rescue.

Unfortunately, her friend was in no position to help her, as the man had a knife to his neck.

Sasha was in total despair. A young lad in a blue hoodie stepped up from behind her when the men were about to snatch her contract away.

Lance said nonchalantly, "Sha, since he wants it so badly, why don't you just give it to him?"

"Wh... what?" Sasha's eyes twitched as she watched him take the contract from her hand.

"No, Lennie! I can't let him have that! That is our last hope. If I lose it, I will not have any chance to rebuild our family again!"

"It's alright, Sha. Even if he gets it, he can't get out of the hotel." Lance extended his hand to offer Andy the contract.

His words shocked everyone into silence.

Can't get out of the hotel? What is that supposed to mean?

Does he not realize what is happening now? Is he a moron?

Andy and his men roared in laughter, tickled by Lance's words. They were curious why a young chap like him would utter such boastful words.

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On the other hand, Sasha and Solomon were ashen-faced, worried Lance was taking his joke too far with these hostile men.

However, they soon realized those men were not laughing anymore and were staring at Andy in horror.

"What is that? The red dot on your face!"

"Is that... is that... a sniper rifle?"

"Sniper... rifle?"

Chaos erupted as the men dived into hiding positions.

Andy desperately wanted to dive for safety too, but he dared not move a single muscle with the red dot still on his forehead.

"D.. don't! L-Let's talk it over, young man!" he stammered as he slowly raised his trembling hands up to a surrender pose.

This twist of event bewildered Sasha and Solomon. They could not believe what they heard!

Sniper rifle?

What sniper rifle? What is happening?

Solomon turned to look at Andy, and sure enough, there was a red laser light right between the latter's brows!

OMG!

This is unbelievably terrifying!

In the end, Andy had no choice but to leave them alone.

However, once he left the room and was safe from the sniper's aim, the menacing look returned to his eyes.

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"I'll remember what you did today!" he growled.

Sasha was tidying her documents in the room, so Lance was the only one standing at the doorway watching Andy.

When he heard the threat, he casually retorted, "You are right. I will remember what you did today as well!"

"What did you say?"

"I said, I will remember you as well. Count yourself lucky that bullet isn't in your brain. If this happened in the past, doing what you did after taking a billion from me, you would be riddled with holes like a shooting target board already." Lance leaned in and whispered eerily into Andy's ear. Following that, he removed his thick glasses to reveal a pair of sinister-looking eyes.

Andy's eyes widened in shock!

A billion?

He said it was his billion?

He turned to take a close look at that handsome face next to him. The next moment, all colors drained from his face.

No! This is not possible. This can't be true!

Fear overwhelmed him and he fell stiffly onto the floor.

"Mr. Rind, Mr. Rind..." His men got flustered and panicked.

Sasha and Solomon were finalizing the contract with Mr. Hashimoto in the room when they heard the commotion, so they rushed out immediately.

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"What happened? Why are you out here, Lennie?" she asked with concern.

"Oh, I saw him fell to the ground, so I came out to check on him." Lance put on his glasses and calmly replied.

What a reckless kid!

His nonchalant attitude nearly gave Sasha a heart attack. She quickly pulled him back into the room and warned, "You stay away from these people, okay?"

"Okay. I will."

Solomon could only helplessly watch on. Despite his misgivings about what happened, there was nothing he could do. It was an unexpected twist of the event.

He had thought that by helping Sasha close this deal, he would be her knight in shining armor. Never in his dreams did he expect the hero would turn out to be Lance!

He hired a sniper?

Isn't he just a college kid? How did he know about this and pull it off?

When he re-entered the room, Lance was helping Sasha pack up, and the two were standing close together.

"Lennie, how did you come up with the idea of getting a sniper? And where did you get the contact for such service?" He had to ask.

Sasha turned her gaze on her cousin as well.

Lance got nervous and started stammering again. "I... I got it from the black market. Your... your friend gave me the contact, Solomon."

Solomon was speechless, caught off-guard as he did not expect his friend to be involved as well.

"Solomon's friend? The one who has kindly accommodated us?"

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"Yes. I was worried the place would not be safe for the two of us, so I asked him for advice. His contact was expensive, Sha. It costs me five thousand." He nervously evaded Sasha's eyes for fear of being reprimanded.

"Don't be silly! You saved our family with just five thousand. If not for you, we would have lost everything! It is okay. I won't blame you. In fact, I will even reward you for what you did!" Sasha softened her tone to console him.

"Really?"

"Of course! Tell me what you want. It can be in cash too! You are a big boy now, so you can get anything you want."

"You are the best, Sha!"

The two of them chatted away happily, leaving a frowning Solomon in the cold.

The man could not accept Lance's explanation wholeheartedly like Sasha. There was a lot to be suspicious about, and he wrecked his brain trying to find fault with the explanation.

Solomon could not believe a college kid who just arrived in the city knew how to make such calculated moves.

After Sasha closed her first successful deal in the financial industry, she immediately transferred all the money into Jackson's account.

When Lance saw that, he was concerned. "You gave everything to Uncle Jackson? Ain't you worried he would keep everything for himself?"

"No, I am not worried. I would not blame him, even if he really does that. I owe him too much."

Her voice was filled with deep sadness, and Lance got heavy-hearted, too.

When will she let go of this emotional burden?

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He clenched his fist in agony for a long time before continuing, "But I heard his daughter's death was not your fault. She brought it upon herself! Why do you want to take responsibility for that?"

"How can I not take responsibility? She brought that upon herself, but she was the only child Uncle Jackson and Aunt Sharon had. How could I forgive myself, now that she is gone?"

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Sasha could finally pour her heart out to someone. Lance was the only family she had and the only one she could confide in.

He kept quiet, but his eyes had dulled considerably.

He did not understand why she had to do it, and he did not want to understand. If he accepted that reasoning, the rift between them would become greater. Then all hope would be lost.

Lance finally went back into his room and stayed inside the entire night.

Sasha was not worried. She reasoned he needed the rest after the exhausting two days.

Solomon was happy Lance was absent. When he heard the latter was still asleep, he invited Sasha out for breakfast.

"Lance may still be sleeping. Let's have our breakfast first. We can bring some food for him on our way back," he proposed.

After some hesitation, Sasha agreed. Solomon finally got to go on a date with her. Alone.

Of course, it was just wishful thinking on his part.

"What are your plans now that you have clinched your first deal? Although Andy was deterred by the sniper Lance hired yesterday, I worry he might still come after you."

"I think so too." Sasha frowned as she looked up from her plate of food.

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She had the same concern, but unfortunately, she had yet to come up with a solution. After all, Wall Street was Andy's territory. It wouldn't be easy to avoid him since he had absolute advantage.

Solomon was pleased to hear that she shared his concern. "Why don't we head back to Clear? You have made a name for yourself with this Sky Precision deal, so I am sure prospective clients will come knocking at your door soon."

He prayed hard that she would agree to leave with him because he felt the place had become too dangerous for them to stay on. Moreover, he wished she was closer to him, so he could meet her every day.

To his disappointment, she disagreed.

"No, here is a better place for work. I'll think of a way to deal with Andy," she replied cautiously, then went back to eating her breakfast.

Solomon was in no position to insist, so he left it as it was.

Midway through their breakfast, Sasha's phone rang, and she picked the call. "Good morning. Who is that speaking?"

"Good morning, Ms. Nancy. Are you alright? Why aren't you at work yet? You are already an hour late."

"What?" Sasha could not believe her ears. She thought it was a misdirected call.

"Ms. Nancy, please hurry back to the office. Mr. Andy has an important assignment for you."

Pfftt!

Sasha was so shocked that she spat her coffee.

Sebastian was back in Avenport. The first thing he did was to rush to the hospital.

"What happened? Why is Matteo sick again?"

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"I have no idea. During your absence, they stayed at the Hayes residence. Maybe Mr. Hayes Sr. was too obliging, and they overindulged themselves," Luke explained as he drove them to the hospital.

Frederick brought the children to stay with him because he was worried that they wouldn't be properly cared for in Frontier Bay in his son's absence.

Sebastian could only frown in silence.

Twenty minutes later, they arrived at the People's Hospital.

Before he could reach the ward, Sebastian saw a woman carrying Matteo and making her way out of the hospital.

"Roxanne? What are you doing here? Why are you carrying Matteo?"

When Roxanne saw it was Sebastian, her face lit up as she hurried over with the child. "You are back, Sebastian! This hospital sucks. I brought your son here for treatment, but they can't even handle a simple case of fungi poisoning," she complained.

Luke, who was next to Sebastian, pleaded, "Ms. Rocke, you must be kidding. I am sure such a big hospital can manage his illness. I hope you are not trying to sneak him out. He is sick, so please leave him alone."

It was strange that Luke was pleading with Roxanne, but Sebastian wasn't in the mood to probe into it. Frowning, he strode over and took the child from her arms.

"Matteo?"

"Daddy, you are back..."

The limp little body was burning hot. It shocked and pained Sebastian to hear the lifelessness in his baby's voice.

His face fell as he hurriedly brought the child back into the hospital.

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The doctor started complaining the moment he saw them. "Mr. Hayes, Matteo is suffering from gastroenteritis, but this lady wants to take him away from our hospital. She insists that we're not qualified."

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Roxanne was hopping mad when she heard his accusation. "You couldn't stop his diarrhea since his admission yesterday. What does that prove? You are lousy because you failed to find the cause of his illness!" she countered.

"You... It takes time for the medication to take effect! There is no miracle drug that can instantly cure someone." Her unreasonable expectations frustrated the doctor.

"Well, of course there are. He is a five-year-old kid. Don't you know it can be fatal for him if you can't stop his diarrhea?"

Her words hit Sebastian like a thunderbolt, who became extremely worried and flustered at the limp little figure in his arms.

"Enough! Get the car," he ordered.

"Huh?" Luke was shocked, but Roxanne, on the other hand, was elated.

"Yes, let's go. You can't go wrong taking my advice!" she declared.

She had every reason to be confident as a doctor. In some aspects, she was also a genius.

Sebastian rushed Matteo to Roxanne's research laboratory. True enough, his condition stabilized after she gave him a dose of medication.

"See! I told you it was a fungi poisoning."

"Fungi poisoning? What fungi?" He took his eyes off his son and turned to ask.

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"Fungi are mushrooms. But the strange thing is the mushrooms in the market are all edible and safe for consumption. How did your son get sick? What did he eat at his grandpa's place?"

Sebastian could not give Roxanne an answer because he was away from his kids during this period.

Noting his silence, she added, "This could lead to fatal consequences. What if there is a delay and something bad happens to him?"

Sebastian's face paled. He vowed he would let nothing untoward happen to his kids, but the fact was, it nearly happened.

He could not imagine what would have happened if he had come back a little later, or Roxanne wasn't around.

He stood by Matteo's bedside, devastated, and clutched his son's tiny hand. His heart filled with guilt and self-blame.

"I know you are extremely busy, but since you brought him into this world, you have to be responsible for him. What is more important—money or his life?" Roxanne could not help but nag.

After that, she took Matteo's blood sample to the laboratory for testing, as she felt something was amiss.

Sebastian sat there in silence, deep in thoughts.

Without a doubt, he would give up everything for his three kids if it were up to him. Sadly, someone else thought otherwise and decided to abandon them.

Sebastian kept a vigil by Matteo's bedside, not taking a step away from his precious son.

In the middle of the night, the boy finally woke up. When he opened his eyes and saw his father next to him, he moved his little hand weakly. "Daddy..."

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"Hmm?" Sebastian was about to doze off, but he sprang up upon hearing Matteo's voice and was instantly wide awake.

"Matt, you are awake? That is great! Are you feeling okay?" he asked while caressing his son's face.

Matteo had never seen his father in such an anxious state. With a comforting figure next to him, he let go of his pent-up emotions.

"Daddy, where did you go? Are you and Mommy leaving us? Are you going to divorce?" he wailed.

This was a boy who had never cried, even when life was difficult for the family when his mommy brought them up single-handedly.

His brother and sister had broken down during the trying period when their parents were at odds, but he maintained a positive mindset.

At that moment, he cried his heart out.

Sebastian was shattered. He scooped his son up from the bed and cradled him in his arms.

"Of course not. How could we leave you? The three of you are our precious babies, and I would give up everything for you."

"But Mommy is not back. She has left us, right?" The sad look in Matteo's teary eyes pierced Sebastian's heart like a dagger, leaving it bleeding.

He took a deep breath but could not find words to console his son.

He had no idea. Maybe she really left for good...

After all, she had clearly told him she did not want them anymore.

Sebastian was big and strong and had the power to lord over everyone at work. However, at that moment, his heart crumpled into pieces as a sense of helplessness overwhelmed him.

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