

The sounds of hurried footsteps came from outside the office.

A figure entered.

When the crowd were able to make out the face of the figure, they were gawking.

*It's him!*

*It's the richest man in Oakheart City, Evan Schneider!*

*My goodness, why would Evan Schneider come to a humble little place like this?*

*Furthermore... he was invited here by Zeke.*

Zeke was just a salesperson in a small factory. How did he know someone like Evan Schneider?

*Just how mysterious is Zeke' background?*

Darren reacted quickly. He went forward to greet the visitor. "We're honoured by your visit. You bring glory to our humble premises. Mr. Schneider, please take a seat."

Evan waved his hand impatiently. "It's not necessary. I'm only here to talk with you about the agreement."

"Agreement?" Darren Collins and the others were puzzled. They did not have any business dealings

with Evan Schneider.

To be precise, they did not qualify to have any business dealings with him.

Evan Schneider took out more than ten agreements from his attaché case and threw them on the table.

Darren and the rest looked and felt as if they were suffocating.

These were the raw material supply contracts they had signed with more than a dozen steel mills in Oakheart City!

*How did these agreements end up in Evan Schneider's hands?*

Darren suddenly realized something. In a trembling voice, he asked, "So, the mysterious buyer who bought all the steel mills in Oakheart City was you?"

Evan shook his head. "No, it was Mr. Williams. I'm only working for him."

The crowd was shocked.

*Evan Schneider? Working for Zeke!*

*Ridiculous! This's absolutely ridiculous! This can't be true!*

Evan Schneider continued, "The contract stipulates that you will provide these steel mills with no less than 10 million tons of raw materials before tomorrow."

"If the content of the contract can't be fulfilled, please pay ten times the liquidated damages. It's approximately one billion."

That piece of information was like an explosion that sent everyone's mind abuzz.

Even if everyone in the crowd were sold off as slaves, they would not arrive at such an amount!

These agreements had been a trap.

Zeke had set these traps up!

It had turned out that right from the very beginning of this competition, they had already lost.

Evan Schneider stole a glance at Zeke.

Zeke responded by nodding his head.

After rebuking Darren, Evan Schneider left promptly, as if he had just been relieved of great responsibility.

Evan knew that after this, the office would turn into a deadly struggle between life and death.

He didn't have the heart to witness it.

Darren spoke through gritted teeth, "Williams, I really underestimated you."

"Nevertheless, do you think you've got me cornered? Haha! How ridiculous!"

Zeke shrugged his shoulders. "How are you going to get out of this? Do enlighten me."

Darren smiled cruelly. "Murder, get rid of the evidence and destroy the agreements."

When Evan Schneider left, he did not take the contracts with him.

Zeke replied, "Let's wait and see."

Darren rushed outdoors and called, "Come in!"

However, nothing happened.

Darren Collins called again, "Security, get in here!"

However, the order remained unanswered.

Darren Collins' hands started trembling, "You... what have you done?"

"Only what should be done. You're looking for the Fearsome Foursome? I'll let you say goodbye to them."

Zeke then called out through the door, "Come in!"

*Stomp! Stomp! Stomp!*

The sound of uniform footsteps came from all directions.

They even shook the ground and it trembled slightly.

Darren and the others turned pale as they hurriedly looked outside.

One look was enough to scare them to the point of a mental breakdown.

*The army!*

*A heavily armed troop, at that!*

Judging by the numbers, a whole battalion.

*Damn, how did a whole battalion of heavily armed soldiers suddenly appear here?*

Were they brought here by Zeke?

*Zeke... where on earth did this man come from?*

The troupe soon surrounded the office.

Lone Wolf entered in huge strides.

Two bars of three stars on his shoulders seemed to sound the death knell. Darren and the others were scared stiff.

Behind Lone Wolf were two warriors carrying a steel bar.

On the steel bar were skewered four corpses!

*The Fearsome Foursome!*

“Oh my goodness! The devil is here!”

“Oh! Help me! Help me!”

“Sir, we've made a mistake, please, forgive us!”

Darren Collins and the others were shocked out of their wits by the way the Fearsome Foursome had died. Some of the suppliers covered their heads, while others knelt on the floor, begging for mercy.

They were in a state of complete mental collapse.

Upon facing such a devilish human with superhuman powers, not many would remain sane.

Lone Wolf took out his pistol and casually shot a person trying to escape.

The sound of the pistol shot brought the crowd to their senses. They knelt down and begged for mercy, not daring to move. The sound of their wailing was deafening.

This was a real-life battle of life and death.

Lone Wolf holstered his pistol, swiftly saluted Zeke and said, "Great Marshal, please give your further instructions."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*The Great Marshal!*

*Zeke is... The Great Marshal!*

*The legendary God of War!*

About four of five of the group fainted in fear.

Zeke said coldly, "You know what you should do."

"I know, I know." Darren Collins kneeled and prostrated himself so hard that his head was bleeding. "Tomorrow, we shall mortgage the factory to Lacey."

Zeke sneered, "You think I'm interested in your little factory?"

Darren Collins was shivering in panic. "No, sir! No, sir!"

Zeke got up and made a mark on the map hanging on the wall.

The location he had marked was the bridge on the Winrood River, the place he almost had an accident.

"All those who were involved in sending the Fearsome Foursome to murder me and my wife, hand over your mortgage papers to Lacey tomorrow. Then, come to this place to carry out your own sentences. If you force me to mete it out, more than one life will be involved."



*Huh!*

Darren's heart suddenly stopped beating. He died on the spot.

Zeke checked the time. It was already past three o'clock in the morning.

“Arrange a place to sleep for me.” Zeke ordered Lone Wolf, “It's already so late. I do not wish to disturb Lacey.”

...

Meanwhile, Lacey brought with her more than thirty workers from her factory to support her husband at The Winrood River bridge.

There was total silence at the bridge but for the deafening sound of rushing water. No one was around.

Two trucks were parked silently on the bridge.

Near the trucks was a patch, blood-red in colour and fearsome to behold.

This patch of red aggravated Lacey's mind so much that she blacked out and collapsed on the ground in a faint.

*Poor Zeke didn't last long enough for her to return with help!*

...

The next day, she was awakened by people calling her name.

“Lacey, come on, wake up, don't frighten us!”

Slowly, Lacey opened her eyes.

At that point, her mind was totally blank.

She turned her head and looked at her side.

Beside her, her parents and her uncles, Jeremy and Scott were there. Even her grandpa and Jackson Hamilton, as well.

However, a piece of white cloth was attached to each person's arm... a sign of mourning.

Lacey's memories began to return. As if her heart were breaking, she screamed, “You... why are you wearing that piece of white cloth?”

“Dad, mom, please go and save Zeke. Quickly, go and save Zeke. He must still be alive.”

Hannah Lawson quickly held her down, “Lacey, be calm. Stay calm.”

“Zeke might be already... Oh! My poor daughter!”

With that, Hannah Lawson burst into tears.

“No!”

Lacey wept aloud, “He can't die. He must still be alive. I'm going to look for him now.”

“Enough of this.” Grandpa Adam Hinton scolded angrily, “Lacey, Zeke's dead. You should snap out of this.”

“Our family was able to say our last goodbyes to him. He cannot expect more as we have done everything we could. From now on, we have nothing to do with him.”

“Pull yourself together and say your final goodbyes to Zeke. After that, get engaged to Jackson Hamilton.”

Lacey struggled to sit up. “No, I'll never marry anyone other than Zeke! If he dies, I'll die with him.”

“Damn it!” Adam Hinton hit the floor with his cane, “You... you're going to be the death of me! What do you see in Zeke? How can he compare with Jackson Hamilton?”

“I have already accepted the Hamilton family's betrothal gift, and the Hamilton family has promised to let the Hinton family be an affiliated family of theirs. This is an opportunity for our family to rise above the mundane. If you waste this opportunity, I'll beat you to death!”

However, Lacey remained adamant. "Zeke died for me. For the rest of my life, I am his. I'll never remarry!"

"You... beast!" Adam Hinton lifted his cane to whack Lacey.

Upon seeing this, Daniel Hinton hurriedly stopped him. "Dad, that's enough. Don't push Lacey anymore."

Adam Hinton vented his anger to Daniel instead, smashing his crutches on Daniel's back.

"I... Why did I give birth to you! You're such a useless being... I should have strangled you alive."

"You can't even control your daughter. How dare you argue with me... I'll beat you to death..."

Hannah Lawson's heart ached for her husband. She quickly went to grab the cane.

"Dad, you've gone too far. Look at Lacey's condition now. How can you carry on forcing her? You'll only be forcing her to end her own life."

Adam Hinton turned white.

"Get away from me. I'm Daniel's father. Even if I kill him, it's not a crime. You useless thing! You can't even control your wife and daughter. Why should I keep you as my son? You disgrace the Hinton family name."

Upon seeing this, Jeremy and Scott Hinton joined in to chide Lacey's family.

“Lacey, look at what you have done. Because of your wayward and stubborn behaviour, there's no peace in our family. Are you proud of yourself?”

“Daniel, you're really worthless. Dad worked hard to raise you without ever expecting you to be filial, but you can't even stop your wife from arguing with the old man. You're trash! It's truly a tragedy for the Hinton family that scum like you had been born into it.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey felt totally disappointed when she watched the scene in front of her.

*All this while, grandpa had favoured the families of Uncle Jeremy and Uncle Scott. He has always looked down on dad.*

To change her family's situation, Lacey had worked hard and gone through hardships to find this steel mill with some measure of achievement.

Every year, she was the one who brought in the most money for the Hinton family.

She had never thought that all her sacrifices could not compare to the two uncles' sweet talk.

And now, to merely climb the social ladder, the Hinton family would sacrifice her personal happiness.

A family like the Hinton family was not worth her trying to protect it.

Lacey laughed manically and scolded them, "Stop it, all of you!"

"You evil beast, how dare you talk to your elders like this..." Uncle Jeremy reprimanded angrily.

Suddenly, Lacey picked up a pair of scissors and aimed it at her throat. "Get out, give me some peace and quiet, or else, I'll kill myself in front of you all."

Instantly, there was silence.

Hannah Lawson felt her body give way. She collapsed on the floor, crying. "Lacey, are you trying to take away my life? Please put down the scissors. Just put it down. If anything happens to you, I cannot go on living."

Lacey sighed, "Mom, all of you go out. Grant me some peace and quiet. Leave me alone."

Daniel Hinton went wild. He wiped the cold sweat from his brow before bellowing, "Get out, all of you! If anything happens to my daughter, I'll kill you all."

Jackson Hamilton, who had been silent all this while, spoke, "Lacey, I know that at this point, you don't realize the truth. Let me tell you about the real situation. Last night, I sent men to search for the Fearsome Foursome, but they were nowhere to be found. This means they've murdered someone and have run away to escape the law. All these points to the fact that Zeke is dead. Besides that, Darren Collins will not let any of your family members escape. If I don't help, The whole Hinton Family will be buried together with you. You'd better think about your choices carefully."

Adam Hinton cursed, "Now, you've heard the truth. If Darren Collins vents his anger on us, the entire Hinton family will be annihilated! The only one who can help us now is Jackson!"

Lacey sneered, “Rest assured, even if I die, I will not involve your Hinton family.”

Jackson Hamilton smiled, “You will come and beg me for help sooner or later.”

With that, Jackson Hamilton turned to leave.

However, when he opened the door, he saw someone standing there.

Zeke!

It was Zeke!

Not only was he alive, in fact... he was safe and sound!

Had The Fearsome Foursome failed in their assassination attempt? How could the four of them combined fail?

Jackson Hamilton's heart jumped. He felt the premonition that something bad was about to happen.

Zeke walked into the room and looked at the pair of scissors pointed at Lacey's neck. His heart felt as if it had been pierced by a knife.

Under the gaze of countless pairs of shocked eyes, he slowly walked to Lacey's side.

“Lacey, I'm sorry I'm back late.”



Lacey was shocked first. Then, she punched him hard with both fists, crying hysterically.

She wanted to vent all the grievances in her heart.

“Naughty, naughty, naughty! What did you do last night? Didn't you know I was worried sick! If you had come back any later, I would have taken my own life because of you, you bad boy!”

With his heart full of remorse, Zeke held Lacey in his arms. “Lacey, it was my fault. Don't worry, I'll never leave you again.”

Adam Hinton banged on the table angrily. “Let go of her, Zeke, let her go! I'll never recognize you as a son-in-law of the Hinton family. If you really care about Lacey's wellbeing, leave her as soon as possible. You may have escaped death this time, but Darren Collins will not let you off easily. You'll only bring calamity upon the Hinton family. Only Jackson Hamilton can help my family now. You go as far away as possible!”

With eyes full of fury, Zeke gazed at Adam Hinton.

*Yes, this is definitely the man who forced Lacey to pick up the pair of scissors!*

All of a sudden, Jackson Hamilton proclaimed gleefully, “Everyone look, Darren Collins's here with many people. Lacey, this is your last chance, I'm advising you, don't suffer more than necessary.”

Adam Hinton took a look at the scene outside, Upon seeing Darren Collins, he turned pale instantly.

He immediately went to try and separate Lacey and Zeke from each other.

However, Zeke stretched out his hand and blocked him. "Whoever dares to touch Lacey will die!"

Adam Hinton turned beet red, "You evil creature, you've brought death to my whole family..."

At this moment, Darren Collins walked in with a group of people.

Adam Hinton quickly spoke up, "Mr. Dawson, all this is the fault of Zeke. It has nothing to do with the Hinton family. If you want revenge, get Zeke. Even if you kill him, we shall not interfere."

However, Darren Collins did not pay heed to him. Instead, he went straight to Lacey.

Lacey felt nervous and tensed instantly. She held the pair of scissors silently.

Daniel took hold of a bench quietly.

If anything happened, he would attack.

However, to everyone's surprise, Darren Collins did not do anything.

Instead, he knelt down with a thud, quickly and simply.



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With trembling hands, he took out the contract, saying, “Ms. Lacey, I've offended you yesterday. I deserve to die.”

“I'm sorry to let you know that I cannot deliver the raw materials on time, nor can I pay for the liquidated damages. I can only mortgage the factory to you. I hope you will be willing to take over it.”

The other suppliers did the same, apologizing and offering their mortgage contracts.

Everyone looked on, dumbfounded.

*Madness! These people have all gone mad.*

*Liquidated damages?* Considering Darren Collins's power in the world of triads, breaching a contract was commonplace. Lacey would not dare oppose him.

On top of that, he had, on his own initiative mortgaged his factory.

*It was unthinkable!*

Zeke prompted, “Lacey, why don't you receive the contracts?”

Lacey recovered from her shock. “Did you do this?”

Zeke smiled, an indication of silent admission.

“How did you do it?” Lacey continued to ask.

Zeke explained, “Using understanding and reasoning.”

Lacey was at a loss for words.

Still, Lacey would not take the contracts. She said, “Concerning this... sir, we can extend the deadline for supplying the raw materials... I will not accept this mortgage contract.”

Darren panicked.

If Lacey accepted the contract, he would die alone. That was enough for him.

If she did not, his whole family would lose their lives.

Darren started begging her, “Ms. Lacey, I beg you to accept it, please. If you do not take it, I won't get up ...”

The crowd grew even more surprised.

It was strange to see someone beg so harshly to give away his factory.

*What could this useless Zeke have done to Darren Collins?*

Jackson was annoyed beyond description.

Darren had betrayed him.

Gritting his teeth in anger, he asked, "Darren Collins, what the devil are you doing? You're a leader of gangsters, how can you kneel down to such an ordinary person!"

It would have been better if he had kept quiet. He had now spoken and attracted Darren's attention.

*If not for you, Jackson Hamilton, I would never have gotten involved with this god, Zeke!*

*I would never have fallen so low!*

Furiously, he rushed forward, slapped Jackson with a loud smack and yelled, "I was forced to. You shut up!"

Jackson covered his face, looking at him in disbelief as he cursed, "F\*\*\*, you dared to hit me, you f\*\*\*ing dared to hit me! You're dead meat!"

Darren shouted in anger, "Death? if I die, you will die with me."

He had thought it over. He was going to die anyhow. So, he might as well teach Jackson a lesson first.

He could vent his anger and please Zeke. It was a win-win situation.

The two wrestled with each other into one

entwined heap. Jackson was screaming nonstop as he struggled against Darren's attacks.

Darren was a leader of triads, so brawling was right down his alley. Jackson was no match for him.

The Hinton family watched in bewilderment.

Darren Collins was an important leader of the underground triads, but he was nothing to the Hamilton family.

In assaulting Jackson Hamilton now... it showed that had a death wish!

Zeke casually threw the pair of scissors in front of Darren as he muttered, "Trash."

*Was it not unbecoming of a triad leader to fight so hard with ordinary folk?*

Seeing the pair of scissors, Darren's eyes lit up. He picked them up and stabbed them on Jackson's thighs.

Blood spurted out to a distance of two metres.

Jackson screamed like a pig being slaughtered.

He screamed so loud that even his driver heard him.

The driver rushed in, turning pale upon seeing the

scene. He swiftly kicked Darren aside, carried Jackson on his back and ran off.

Jackson screamed with all his might, "You scoundrels, Darren and Zeke, just you wait! I want you both dead! The Hinton family, listen up! In ten days' time, bring Lacey to me, or the Hinton family will be done for!"



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Jackson Hamilton's threat shocked the Hinton family.

Darren resumed kneeling and begging in front of Lacey to receive the mortgage contract from him.

Slowly, Lacey took the documents from Darren, who immediately fled the scene after. He looked like someone who had been relieved of a great responsibility.

Zeke smiled, "Lacey, you haven't had your breakfast yet. Let me treat you to breakfast."

Adam Hinton shouted in a rage, "Eat! You still have the mood to eat!"

"You even dared pass a pair of scissors to Darren Collins. You've utterly offended Jackson Hamilton now. If The Hamilton family were to pursue the matter, you alone must accept the blame! Lacey, if you don't want the Hinton family destroyed, in ten days, go to the Hamilton family on your own. Otherwise, we will forcefully take you there!"

Lacey looked towards Zeke.

She knew Zeke would not let her down.

Zeke proclaimed, "Don't worry, Lacey. In ten days, the Hamilton family's assets will belong to the Hinton family. As in Lacey Hinton."

Everyone was dumbfounded.

They had thought that he would say things like 'I'll protect you', 'I'll take care of the Hamilton family problem', and so on.

They never thought he would brag so outrageously as to involve the whole Hamilton clan.

Perhaps he was biting off more than he could chew.

Adam Hinton snorted in disdain. “Hmph, at this moment, it's uncertain if you can even live for more than ten days. Yet, you dare speak such words. Let's leave now.”

Adam Hinton left, taking with him Jeremy and Scott Hinton.

Lacey and her family were relieved.

Once they left the room, Lacey flashed her large eyes at Zeke. “Now, tell me, just how did you take control of Darren!”

Daniel and Hannah were all ears, eager to listen as well.

Zeke began, “Do you remember that some time ago, a mysterious buyer bought all the steel mills in Oakheart City?”

Lacey nodded her head. “Of course I remember. Is he involved in this?”

“Yeah, that buyer signed a contract for the supply of raw materials with Darren and the others, but Darren couldn't supply the amount according to the stipulated time. Darren paid all the liquidity in his hands to the other party as a breach of contract. He has no money to compensate us for the breach of contract, so he can only mortgage the factory.”

Daniel and Hannah understood what had happened.

It had turned out that all these were the handiwork of the mysterious buyer, not Zeke.

However, this mysterious buyer was doing Lacey a big favour.

*Why would he help Lacey?*

*He couldn't have been sent by the Great Marshal, could he?*

*That's highly likely.*

However, Lacey was full of doubt.

Simple logic told her that things could not have been so simple.

She was about to probe Zeke further, but Hannah interrupted her.

“Zeke, Lacey was going to end her own life for you

just now. You must have seen that. You have our blessings to be with Lacey, but we hope you will not disappoint her as she loves you with all of her heart.”

The burden that had always been on Zeke's shoulders was finally lifted.

Finally, his father and mother-in-law have both accepted him.

Quickly, he responded, “Dad, mom, rest assured. In the future, I'll give my all to treat Lacey well. After all, Lacey's my only relative in this world.”

Hannah sighed, “You poor child. Life has been hard for you.”

“Without any family, you grew up alone. If you don't mind, you can treat Daniel and I like your own real parents. We will treat you like our own son.”

Zeke was incredibly moved.

In truth, he had 'family'; both his parents were alive. They were the Williams family in Atheville.

Sadly, those 'family members' had sacrificed him for their own benefits.

He appreciated that the elderly couple could resist the temptations offered by Jackson Hamilton and choose him, Zeke.

Although they weren't related by blood, they were better than his blood related family members.

Lacey laughed childishly and she said half-jokingly, "Dad, mom, are you sure about that?"

"If I'm with Zeke, Jackson Hamilton would retaliate relentlessly against us. Aren't you both afraid of Zeke?"

Hannah sighed, looking worried.

Daniel, who had so far been silent, spoke up, "If the Hamilton family wants to retaliate, so be it. If it comes to that, we can just give up the factory. If worse comes to worst, we'll leave Oakheart City. As long as you're both happy together, that's all we ever desire."



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Hannah became very emotional. She said, “Daniel, all of your life, you have suffered quietly in the face of oppression. Today, you've finally mustered up your courage for your daughter.”

Daniel's honest face was all smiles.

“Father, mother, rest assured,” Zeke said sincerely. “From now on, I'll be the pillar of our family. Even if the worst challenges should come upon us, I'll protect our family. I've said I'll make Lacey the richest person in Oakheart City. Who's the Hamilton family? Why should we even pay heed to them?”

Lacey said angrily, “Which family are you part of? I haven't agreed to it yet. Let me tell you this. Unless you stop this habit of telling tall tales, I'm not going to marry you.”

Daniel and Hannah were caught between tears and laughter.

This son-in-law of theirs could certainly tell tall tales that were unique and refreshing.

Even to the extent of being the wealthiest in Oakheart City!

Zeke laughed helplessly.

The most important tie between two people was none other than faith!

*Lacey, father and mother, you can be assured.*

*The moment you accepted me, I've already made up my mind to get rid of all obstacles and raise you high above the ordinary!*

...

A Land Rover moved slowly onto the Winrood River bridge and stopped there.

The driver turned out to be Darren Collins.

In the back seat were The Fearsome Foursome.

Of course, they were cold and stiff.

Looking at the rushing water beneath the bridge, Darren Collins started to wail loudly.

More than once, he had fantasized about death but now really facing it, he broke down, feeling fearful.

He was overwhelmed with the feeling of remorse.

Nonetheless, it was too late for regret.

The Great Marshal's command was more fearful than the lord of the underworld, Hades' record book of life and death.

For the sake of the older folks and the young children in his own family, he had to sacrifice his

own life.

Quietly, he calmed his own emotions and started the car. He then drove right into the Winrood River.

On the bank of the river, with a cigarette dangling from his lips, Lone Wolf looked at the surface of the river.

After the huge splash had subsided, he pressed the button on the walkie talkie, "Zayne, time to work."

...

For Zeke, today was a day worth celebrating.

This was because Daniel and Hannah had finally accepted him.

Zeke decided to take the old couple to a high-end restaurant for a meal.

On one hand, it was regarded as a celebration. On the other hand, he must gradually show his true identity to the two elders.

He had to slowly show them he was the Great Marshal.

Lacey raised both hands in agreement when Zeke's suggested eating out.

"I agree, I agree. It's to celebrate my taking down



of a few factories.”

Daniel and Hannah were agreeable to the idea too.

The family of four went downstairs.

When they reached the ground floor, Daniel suddenly seemed alarmed. “Go back, let's head back first...”

However, the moment he turned around, a voice called out, “Daniel, stop right there!”

Disappointed, Daniel sighed and stopped in his tracks.

It was the security captain of the community property who was calling to him.

Daniel Hinton greeted him with a smile. “Mr. Zachary, what a coincidence. Are you looking for me?”

Mr. Zachary was rather displeased. “Hinton, you tell me why I would want to see you.”

Daniel Hinton felt guilty as he smiled, feeling rather embarrassed.

Zeke frowned, “Mr. Zachary, what's the matter?”

Mr. Zachary spoke, “What else? I've said many times to not park your cars in front of the fire hydrant. You just don't seem to follow my

instructions.”

Daniel Hinton quickly offered a cigarette to Mr. Zachary. “I'm truly sorry, Mr. Zachary. I was in a hurry today. I didn't notice the fire hydrant. I won't do it again, I promise.”

Mr. Zachary looked disdainfully at the cigarette Daniel Hinton offered. He didn't accept it.

Obviously, he did not think much of this cheap cigarette.

He replied coldly, “If an apology is of any use, everyone in our community would be parking here. We go by the book. A one-thousand fine. Quickly, cough up the money.”

*Oh!*

Hannah felt regretful.

One thousand would be enough to pay for groceries for the whole family for one month.

It was regretful that such a considerable amount had to be paid for such a small mistake.

Hannah begged, “Mr. Zachary, please overlook this small mistake this time. The next time, if Daniel repeats this mistake, I'll break his leg. As for today's fine, let's just forget it.”



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Mr. Zachary did not bother replying Hannah. Instead, he took out the ticket book and started writing.

Zeke suddenly spoke up. "Mr. Zachary, I feel that the fault lies in the fire hydrant, not in us."

*Pfft!*

Mr. Zachary was amused by Zeke. "The fault is with the fire hydrant? What's wrong with it?"

The Hinton family burst out in laughter.

Zeke' words made no sense at all.

If word got out about this scene, all the neighbours would surely have good laugh.

Zeke casually brought out two cigars, giving one each to Daniel and Mr. Zachary.

Mr. Zachary was not prepared to accept a cigar.

However, when he caught a glimpse of the label on the cigar, his eyes lit up. He took it respectfully and studied the label carefully.

Zeke said, "The set-up of this fire hydrant is very inefficient. If there's a fire, it will not be of much use. I suggest moving it eighty meters to the north."

Mr. Zachary did not respond. He was too

engrossed with the cigar and had not heard Zeke's words.

Lacey sighed in disappointment. "Uncle Zachary, please hurry up with the ticket. We're in a hurry to go out for lunch."

Lacey was beginning to worry less about money. One thousand did not bother her much.

Mr. Zachary finally kept the cigar carefully and saluted Zeke military style.

"Yes, this comrade is right. The fire hydrant was in the wrong position. I shall have the hydrant moved in the afternoon."

"Yeah, Old Hinton, once the hydrant is removed, this place will be vacant. You can use it as your personal car park."

*What?*

Lacey and her parents were shocked.

*It really is our fault, but Mr. Zachary has just agreed that the fire hydrant's in the wrong place...*

*Is it really because of just one word from Zeke?*

*Furthermore, Mr. Zachary has gone the extra mile, taking the initiative to offer the vacated space as a personal car park for them.*

*This change in his attitude is just too quick to be true.*

Zeke smiled. "Father, mother, Lacey, let's get into the car."

"Oh, yes!" The Hinton family snapped back to reality, quickly turning around to get into the car and leave.

Mr. Zachary immediately took out his walkie talkie. "Entrance security take note, entrance security take note, immediately let PTA121 through. In future, including this time round, let them come in and go without checking their documents."

After he had put away the walkie talkie, he brought out the cigar again.

He was so emotional that both his hands shook.

It was no ordinary cigar. It was one that had been issued by Zhongnanhai.

It was not available even to personnel at colonel levels.

This young man must hold a position high up in Zhongnanhai or at the very least know people of very high positions.

His status must be highly respected.

"Who would think that a tiny remote community

like ours could be the residence of such a big god? In future, the Hinton family will be served well!"

In the car, Daniel was full of pride. "The parking problem is finally solved. We don't have to park far away anymore."

Hannah heaved a sigh of relief. "The most important thing is that we've saved a thousand in fines."

Lacey, however, was not amused.

*My parents' way of thinking small will never be changed.*

"Dad, mom, the parking lot and the fine are insignificant. The most important thing's Uncle Zachary's attitude toward us. Why did it change so fast and so suddenly?"

When she pointed this out, Daniel and Hannah realized that they had missed the most important point in the encounter that had just taken place.

They both turned their gaze to Zeke.

"Zeke, mind telling us what that was all about? I get the feeling that Mr. Zachary was in awe of you."

Zeke smiled sheepishly. "Father, mother, do not be too surprised. This is just the tip of the iceberg where my power is concerned. In future, you may

need to adjust to being higher above normal people and being revered by many.”

Lacey gently pressed her finger on Zeke's forehead, “Just look at you. You've only handled a security guard. There's no need to make such a big deal out of it.”

Daniel and Hannah both laughed.

*That's true. Mr. Zachary is just a security guard, it's nothing to be alarmed about.*

Very quickly, Zeke drove them to the Grand Millennium Hotel.

It was the most luxurious hotel in Oakheart City; a five-star one.

Hannah was anxious as she asked, “Zeke, you aren't giving us a treat here, are you? I heard that one meal here costs at least one hundred thousand.”

Daniel added, “I also heard that this hotel only serves members. Being wealthy alone isn't enough. Even the rich may not enter unless they're members or invited by members.”

Lacey held Zeke's hand to prevent him from getting down the car. “Let's go to another restaurant. This isn't a place for people like us.”

Zeke said calmly. “This is the first time I'm inviting



my parents to a meal; how can I settle for less? I've already booked a table here. Let's get down."

The Hinton family were stubborn, but they were no match for Zeke's persuasive powers. They got down from the car together.

*When we can't get it, it would be so embarrassing. Oh, well, let it be. There won't be any friends or family members to witness our shame.*

*This Zeke has got swollen-headed after handling a security chief.*

*This is a good opportunity to cut him down to size.*

They were at the door when someone called out to them.

"Daniel, Hannah! Hello there. Fancy meeting you both here too."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Upon hearing the greeting, the Hinton family turned around.

They became embarrassed when they realised it was their acquaintances calling out to them.

It does seem as if that which you fear most would come to pass.

The people calling out to them were people they were familiar with.

They were Daniel's colleagues, Lawrence Herbert and his son, William.

Speaking of which, the two families had some history.

Lawrence was the assistant director of the hospital where Daniel worked.

Lawrence was once interested in setting William up with Lacey.

The problem was that William was not only quite unattractive in appearance. He was also uninterested in learning and improving himself besides being unemployed.

Naturally, Daniel and Lacey did not agree to this arrangement.

Unfortunately, Lawrence took this to heart and would find fault with Daniel at every opportunity to

make work difficult for him at the hospital.

If Lawrence saw the family being driven away by the hotel staff, he would definitely gossip about the incident with the colleagues at the hospital.

Daniel worried he would be given a bad name and embarrassed at work.

Lawrence Herbert put on a smile and asked, "Daniel, what are you guys doing here?"

Daniel said perfunctorily, "Nothing much, just strolling around."

Lawrence Herbert pointed out, "Just strolling around brings you to this grand hotel's entrance? You're not thinking of eating here, are you?"

Having his fib pointed out to be a lie, Daniel felt even more embarrassed. He could not find anything to say.

Zeke quickly helped Daniel out. "Dad and mom were tired of strolling. So, I invited them here for a meal."

*Dad and mom?*

William, who had been so focused on Lacey, now noticed Zeke's presence.

His eyes were full of rivalry.

“Lacey, this is your new intended?”

Lacey nodded.

William Herbert grew even more upset.

*This chap's dressing looks cheap. He's not good-looking and is way below my qualities. What does Lacey even see in him?*

With the intention of insulting Zeke, he said, “As far as I know, you need a membership card to enter this restaurant. Do you have one?”

Zeke shook his head. “No.”

This restaurant belonged to the Schneider family. In effect, he was the owner. He does not need a membership card to enter.

*Pfft!*

Lawrence Herbert and William Herbert could not help but snigger.

*He doesn't have a membership card and still dares to be so frank about it. This guy is out of his mind.*

Lacey and her parents were so embarrassed that they did not even dare to lift their heads up.

Daniel tapped Zeke's shoulder and said, “I'm not hungry yet. Shall we take a stroll over there?”

However, Zeke was insistent. "Dad, mom, we're already here. Let's just make do."

Daniel was a little cross. He shot Zeke an irritated glance.

*This guy really doesn't follow rules. You've already been told that a membership card's necessary. You don't have one. How are you going to pull it off?*

William Herbert gloated gleefully, "Lacey, this new catch of yours is not the prize you think he is. He obviously cannot enter this restaurant but yet still wants to bluff. Why don't you let me take you and your family inside? Then you can see what real class is like."

Lacey looked surprised. "Do you have a membership card?"

Lawrence Herbert's status in society wasn't really sufficient for membership in this hotel.

Lawrence Herbert replied with pride in his voice, "It's not necessary to be a member to enter."

"We're not just going in for a meal today. We'll be given special treatment as important guests."

William was getting impatient. "Lacey, don't dawdle, just come in with me."

Lacey declined his invitation coldly. "No, I'll be staying with my hubby."

William snorted, "Hmph, you're so rude. Don't you want to know why I'm here today? I have a blind date with the hotel owner's daughter. This girl's qualities are many times better than yours, yet I'm willing to give you a chance now. It's your honour. If you don't cherish my offer. Just wait. You'll regret it."

Without further ado, the father and son walked towards the entrance.

A beautiful waitress asked respectfully, "Sirs, do you have a membership card?"

Lawrence said, "I'm Lawrence Herbert. Your employer has an appointment with me. I'm his doctor."

The pretty waitress bowed slightly, "Mr. Herbert, please come with me."

When the two entered, William Herbert provocatively raised his middle finger at Lacey's family.

Daniel felt a little bit embarrassed. "Forget it, let's leave."

Nevertheless, Zeke smiled. "Dad, mom, we've been insulted. How can we leave without first showing our worth?"

With that, he walked straight to the entrance.

The pretty waitress met him at the entrance, “Sir, do you have a membership card?”

Zeke replied, “No, I don't.”

The pretty waitress replied, “Sorry, you cannot enter without one.”

Lacey's family grew more embarrassed.

“That's right. But I'm Zeke.”

*Huh?*

Upon hearing the name, the four pretty waitresses were stunned.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Their boss had already informed them in advance, telling them that the boss' boss was coming today and that his name was Zeke.

The waitresses had imagined the big boss to be some middle-aged man with a huge tummy. They did not expect someone so young and athletic.

The four of them quickly bowed in unison, "Welcome, Mr. Williams. We're honoured by your visit. Mr. Williams, please follow me, your room has already been prepared."

Zeke turned around. "Dad, mom and Lacey, come, let's go in."

The Hinton family were dumbfounded.

They had never expected the pretty waitresses to show Zeke so much respect. They had even bowed to welcome him.

They also noted that when the girls spoke to Lawrence Herbert, they had only smiled politely in a professional manner.

The pretty waitresses hurried to Daniel's side.

"Sir, let me take your coat."

"Ma'am, let me take your handbag."

Daniel Hinton's family were surprised by their hospitality. They awkwardly let the girls help them



carry their stuff.

Then, in a daze, they let the pretty girls lead them inside the Grand Millenium.

The waitresses led them to the doorway of a very luxurious room.

Just when they were about to enter, Lawrence Herbert's voice came from behind them, "You... how did you get in?"

They turned around to look and saw Lawrence and William sitting at a normal table in the hall.

Daniel immediately felt proud and vindicated.

"My son-in-law is an important person. We don't need a membership card or appointment to enter. Oh, why are you sitting down to eat in the common dining hall? Why not come inside our room and let us show you what real class is?"

Hannah was also full of pride. She instructed the pretty waitresses, "Girls, please put our stuff in the room first."

"Sure, ma'am," the pretty girls replied sweetly.

Only then did the father-and-son pair realize that the people carrying the Hinton's stuff were the four pretty girls who had welcomed them previously.

Only one waiter had led them in. He was not really

concerned about them.

The great difference in treatment was obvious.

It was the Herberts' turn to be embarrassed.

Daniel continued, "Hannah, Lacey, you both go in first."

"I'll stay here with Zeke to smoke and speak to Hospital Director Herbert for a while."

Hannah had not shown off enough and so, she was not willing to enter the room yet. In the end, it was Lacey who dragged her into the room.

Daniel and Zeke sat beside the Herberts and gave each one of them a cigarette.

Daniel spoke, "I had wanted to phone you to invite you to Lacey's wedding dinner. However, since we have met today, I might as well inform you in person."

William's heart was full of jealousy as he spoke, "Uncle Hinton, how can you decide with such haste about a wedding? As far as I know, these two haven't known each other for long. It's better to be careful. We can see a person's appearance but we cannot see what lies in the heart."

Daniel smiled. "Oh! That's old history. Young people nowadays have the freedom to find their own mates. We elderly should stay out of that.

Wealth isn't the most important. The most important thing is that they like each other. Furthermore, those without power and money cannot win Lacey's heart. I have faith in her discernment.”

Immediately, the Herberts blushed uncomfortably.

Daniel was obviously telling them that they could not compare with his son-in-law's wealth and power.

Zeke smiled. “Father, let us go back to our room. Let's not make mother and Lacey wait for too long.”

Daniel nodded. “Yeah, we should head back. Old Herbert, come by for a drink later.”

With that, the two got up and left.

Lawrence did not reply. He puffed hard on his cigarette to vent his dissatisfaction.

A pretty waitress hurried to Lawrence Herbert's side, saying, “Sir, smoking isn't allowed in the main dining room. Please put it out.”

Lawrence got so angry he lost the rhythm of his regular breathing.

*Just moments ago, when Daniel Hinton and Zeke were smoking there, it was allowed.*

*The moment they leave, smoking wasn't allowed in the main dining hall?*

*What type of regulation is this?*



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At the doorway, Daniel turned around, "Young miss, do me a favour. Let them finish smoking."

The pretty waitress replied, "Alright, that's fine, sir."

Lawrence Herbert was too furious for words.

*F\*\*\**

As soon as they entered the room, Zeke gave Daniel a thumbs up and a little flattery. "Dad, that was awesome."

Daniel laughed heartily. "Haha! Of course. You all should have seen how Lawrence Herbert's face turned beet red just now! After being oppressed by Lawrence Herbert in the hospital for so long, it's the first time he has suffered in my hands."

Hannah Lawson was not pleased. She scolded Daniel, "You fool, why did you ask me to come in here first? I wanted to tell them that our Zeke has taken the old hospital director as an apprentice. Even the director of the Industry and Commerce Bureau has to show respect to Zeke. His son is nothing compared to our son-in-law. He isn't fit to even lick Zeke's boots."

Zeke felt on top of the world.

Seated nearby, Lacey felt speechless and helpless.

To be truthful, she did not agree with her parent's way of handling the situation.

However, the way things turned out was indeed satisfying.

Hannah continued grumbling for a little while before she started looking at the menu.

After reading a few pages of the menu, Hannah sighed, "The food in this big hotel isn't expensive, some only cost ten bucks a plate."

Lacey frowned, "Really? How can that be possible?"

Hannah lifted the menu up. "You take a look. I won't lie to you."

Lacey glanced at it and suddenly laughed, "Mom, read carefully, the price is in thousands!"

"This dish costs ten thousand, not ten."

*What!*

Hannah could not believe her eyes, "Ten thousand a dish? Is this dish made of gold?"

Daniel puffed hard on his cigarette to hide his shock. "Hmm, old ladies know so little. In here, ten thousand a dish is considered normal."

Hannah glared at Daniel, "You speak as if you're not shocked yourself. Look, your cigarette butt is about to burn your lips."

“Oh? My gosh!” Daniel quickly spat out the butt. There was a blister on his lip.

Hannah sighed, “Just one dish in here is almost Daniel's salary for one month. Zeke, we really cannot afford this. Let's go to another restaurant.”

Zeke smiled. “Dad and mom, just order as you wish. Our expenditure here is free.”

*Free of charge!*

The whole Hinton family gazed at Zeke in shock.

How high his status must be to be worthy of such privilege!

In the main dining hall, Lawrence and his son were seething with fury. They had been thoroughly humiliated.

Lawrence said with gritted teeth, “Damn it. Isn't that Zeke a toy boy for Lacey? How could he have so much influence?”

William chided, “Father, put that aside for now. Later, when you treat Mr. Raynor, we'll be respected by him if he's cured and recovered. When that happens, we can ask Mr. Raynor to cancel Zeke's membership and drive him out. Our humiliation would be avenged.”

Lawrence nodded, “Hmm, you're right. Yes, William, you have to work hard, too. When Mr.

Raynor's daughter Susan Raynor comes later, you must impress her and win her hand. If you're married to Susan Raynor, our family's status can easily be higher than that of Daniel Hinton's family.”

William laughed, “Father, don't worry. I've already checked Susan Raynor's background. I guarantee I'll capture her heart. Look, she's here.”

Not far away, two attractive figures could be seen approaching. Heads were turning their way.

One of them must be Mr. Raynor's daughter, Susan Raynor.

The other was Emily Clemons!

It was a long story. The opportunity for Lawrence Herbert to come and treat Mr. Raynor was Emily Clemons' doing.



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