

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 19 Absolutely Deplorable

This was...interesting. Javier had no idea where this guy had come from, or who he was to have the right to sit in his chair and have the gall to tell him that he did not have to wait on him hand and foot. Javier's thoughts wandered off, realizing that he actually had never waited on anyone's hand and foot before.

Faced with the young man, he even felt like his lines had been snatched. Lines from ten years ago, at that.

The young man fiddled with his phone as he made himself comfortable in Javier's chair and introduced himself. "I'm Kendrick Odell, Jade's younger cousin.

"You don't have to care who I am in particular. Just report everything about Jade Odell to me as soon as possible in the future and you'll be rewarded."

Kendrick pulled out a bank card from his pocket and tossed it on the table carelessly.

"The pin is the last six digits of the card number. I think there are some 3 to 4.5 thousand dollars of fun money in the card. Take it and enjoy yourself! If you do a good job, I'll put in several times or even a few dozen times more of that amount into the card. No need to doubt me. Anything I, Kendrick, say, is more promising than a bill from the bank."

Javier glanced at Kendrick who had not taken his eyes off the game on his phone as he spoke and picked up the bank card on the table. This Kendrick Odell talked big despite his young age and seemed rather intimidating. Obviously, being born an Odell gave him that confidence.

Without saying anything, Javier did not even take a look at the bank card in his hand before he tossed it in the trash.

Noticing what Javier had done, the corner of Kendrick's lips twitched as he put his phone away.

"Bro, my advice is to drop the act. It doesn't do you any good. You'll have to go through your own trash after this and dirty your hands. And for what?"

Kendrick grabbed the Louis Vuitton clutch on the table and pulled out a business card from the open zipper, but quickly pulled it back when he remembered that his identity was stated on the card. He went for pen and paper instead and wrote down his number.

It was just that the paper he wrote his phone number on was "unintentionally" tossed into the trash after that.

"Oops, sorry. It fell into the trashcan. Please pick it up yourself!"

With that, Kendrick got up and patted Javier's shoulder as he walked past him.

"I've seen many posers and even more who pushed their faces to me asking for a slap afterward. I hope you don't turn into those people since those asking for a slap from me are still taking numbers and lining up. You aren't even qualified for it. Hmm, how do I put it? I like the city and you're like the person

wishing to buy a car and drive on my roads. But you're not even qualified to buy a car, so how could you drive it on the road in the city, y'know?"

With a scoff, Kendrick left, bag in hand. When he came to the hallway, he realized his shoelaces had come undone and crouched down to retie them. Just as he was done, he stood up and saw an employee leaving Javier's office with the trashcan in tow.

As the employee walked past him, he spotted the bank card and the paper he had left his phone number on still in there.

"Where's the tact, bro, where's the tact? You said nothing to me and just decided to trash my bank card and phone number? Sure, I'll let this go today since I'm busy. I'd like to see how you'll get on your knees and ask me to slap your face next time!"

Kendrick made no move to retrieve his bank card, his ego could not take the blow. When he left the building, however, he drove toward the bank to replace it...

Javier wiped down the furniture in his office, afraid that he would be infected with that young man's stupidity. He completely disregarded Kendrick, as the young man was nothing but a little pest.

He stayed in the office until it was time to leave. Jade had yet to get back when Ciara called instead. She had booked a hotel and asked Javier to go over after he was finished with work.

Javier drove Jade's Passat out of the parking lot and departed for the hotel Ciara had booked. But lo and behold, enemies were bound to meet. Not that Javier thought Zack was qualified to be his enemy but they kept running into each other.

He ran into him during a business deal in the afternoon, he had bumped into him at the car dealership when he was purchasing a car, and now he was meeting him over dinner? Oh, yes indeed!

Just as he parked his car, Javier heard snorts coming from behind him.

"Hahaha, see, I was just wondering where you get the money for the G63 from, and ah-ha! Jade's changing her car and giving her old Passat to you, the vice GM, huh? Yet you had the audacity to put on such an act earlier. You really are something!"

Turning to see Zack's face once again, Javier honestly felt that this city was too d*mn small. He ignored the guy and made his way to the hotel.

At the same time, the roaring engine of a car was heard approaching. What felt offensive was that there was a driveway but the car did not seem to care. It revved, drove up the 15-centimeter curb with a growl, and parked itself next to Javier.

The entire process was fast and fierce, like the words Javier had once used to describe Ciara, the looks of a goddess but the core of a man.

Zack was still mocking him.

"Right, you're only picking up after someone's trash and you had boasted so much in the afternoon.

“Remember how you were preening? Oh gosh. Being ashamed of driving the same brand as me huh? Talking about the 9AT gearbox huh? Trying to challenge me as if you know anything about cars. What do you know then? You don’t even have your own car and you’re trying to slap that into my face!

“You gave the card you loaded back to Jade as well too. What’s up with that? Acting rich with the company’s money? I was nice enough to not expose you, you know? I didn’t say anything ‘cuz I was trying to save Jade’s pride. Did you really think I don’t have the money? I’m loaded, that’s only a drop—”

Before he finished his sentence, a pretty girl stepped out of the tank of an SUV that Zack did not even recognize the logo of. His eyes went straight toward the girl. Her figure and face... It was as if the Almighty creator had made her into the image of a perfect goddess!

Zack felt himself being enamored. He was completely bewitched by the flawless goddess. The next instant, however, he watched his perfect goddess run into Javier’s arms, leaving a fragrant trail of perfume behind her.

The man was stunned. It felt like a large anvil had just fallen on his head.

“Oh sh*t, someone’s willing to sugar you and your pathetic looks? A beautiful woman like this too?!”

What was wrong with the world? This was outrageous! Zack thought that he no longer understood how the world worked. While he was caught in confusion, Ciara heard his taunt.

There was a sly little glint in her gaze as she puckered her lips and pecked Javier on the cheek.

“Baby, I missed you so much! I wish I could get all over you right now!”

Javier was speechless. Was this his younger sister? Was this how a younger sister was supposed to behave?

Zack was nearly in tears—coveting tears. The girl was beautiful, hot, and rich! Why had he never encountered something this wonderful?

“Alright, let’s get inside.”

Javier pushed Ciara out of his embrace and headed for the hotel. The girl was quick to whine from behind him, “Baby! Wait for me!”

Zack was incredulous. What an unappreciative jerk! The divine beauty threw herself into his arms and he pushed her away? How absolutely deplorable!

He fantasized about the girl being in his arms and went after her. When Zack caught up to Ciara, he looked obsequious. “Hey baby doll, I’m Zack D—”

“F*ck off!”

Ciara’s sweet charm was not for trash like him!

Chapter 20 He’s Asking to Be Taught a Lesson

With his advance being shot down mercilessly, Zack was too embarrassed to keep trying. However, it seemed that they were quite fated as Javier and Ciara went into the room opposite of Zack's. When Javier turned around, he caught a glimpse of Kendrick who was toying with his phone inside.

With a quick ponder, Javier, who had also come from a huge family, understood the situation instantly. The Odells had tried to get some sort of benefit out of arranging a marriage for Jade, but the latter had refused. So Kendrick wanted to find out about Jade's business direction through Javier, but he had turned the man down.

Hence, Kendrick contacted Zack who was decently acquainted with Jade, wishing to find out the same thing through him and secretly sabotage Jade, so she would go along the family's wishes and get married when she failed to meet the quarter year target.

Despicable motive and a shabby move, Javier thought. Their family was not even that influential, what was the point of playing all these tricks? It all felt like child's play...

Javier shook his head and took a seat at the dining table with Ciara.

His younger sister had wanted to throw a big party and invite all their old friends to celebrate his birthday, but he had declined. It meant that there were only two of them tonight, chatting as they helped themselves to the table full of dishes. They exchanged funny stories about what had happened and sh*tty family affairs. Wherever the conversation brought them to, they dabbled into it.

As for the room opposite of theirs, before Kendrick, Zack was tense and groveled like a dog. Like Javier had guessed, Kendrick came with the intention of sabotaging Jade.

"Jade is my elder cousin and of course, she's an Odell, so you can forget about trying to win her over. If you insist on realizing that fantasy, I won't hesitate to grind you and your old man at home into bits. Understand?"

Kendrick was frank and crude but Zack did not dare think otherwise because the Odells and his family were miles apart. Not wanting his family's car seat factory to be doomed, he could only nod quickly.

"Don't worry, Mr. Kendrick Odell. I'll make sure to cut all connections with Jade. I won't even call her, I—"

"Shut up!" Kendrick glared at Zack. "Who asked you not to contact her?"

Zack was a little flummoxed, not understanding what Kendrick was getting at.

The young man continued, "I can help your family's pathetic little car seat manufacturing plant with Odell's resources but I need you to keep an eye on Jade for me. You are to report her every business move to me. And if the situation calls for it, to shoot her in the foot and throw her into whatever trap you can make up.

"Basically, the worse you cause her company to fail, the happier I am, and in turn, the more reward you'll receive. Understand?"

Zack was confused. No, he did not understand. Was Jade not Kendrick's elder cousin? Were they not a family? Why...

“You’re unqualified to ask for an explanation. Just tell me if you can do it or not!”

Zack quickly nodded in agreement. Tempted by the offer of the Odells’ help to back up his family’s car seat factory, of course, he could do it. To prove his sincerity, he told Kendrick about the investment Javier managed to score.

“The company was initially going downhill but lord knows where that guy got the investment from and saved the company from its doom. He’s also touchy with anything that pertains to Jade while Jade takes his side very often. Who knows if anything is going on between the two of them...”

Since it was destined that he would never get Jade to himself, Zack went all out to sabotage the woman.

A frown instantly appeared on Kendrick’s face. “D*mn it, it’s Javier Kersey again. Looks like he’s asking to be taught a lesson!”

Hearing that, Zack perked up and an evil gleam shone from within his eyes.

“Kendrick, Javier’s in the room opposite of us. I saw him when I came in earlier.

“He brought a girl with him too. That’s one cutie with a hot body.”

While the men hatched an evil plan, the room opposite of theirs talked about returning home.

“Javy, you haven’t gone home for such a long time. Go back for a visit with me. That old fox has let go of his anger for a long time now.”

Ciara was returning to the Kersey’s and wanted Javier to go with her. The latter waved away her suggestion.

“We’ll see. I don’t want to go back yet.”

Ciara wanted to persuade him further but she decided to bite her tongue. The coming of age ceremony would be held soon anyway—about three months from now—and no matter how he tried to avoid it, Javier would have to go back to the house then. She ceased the topic and brought up Zack.

“Right, Javier, who was that dude at the hotel entrance? He had a good time ribbing you. Should we get someone to take him out? The world wouldn’t care about a piece of sh*t.”

Ciara’s domineering attitude of wanting to kill someone once she was offended exasperated Javier.

“Cici, tell me. When will you ever act like a woman?”

His question made the girl straighten up, chest puffed and chin tucked.

“Who’s said that I’m not womanly?”

Javier felt defeated. That was not what he was talking about. Just when he wanted to explain himself, the door to their room was pushed open.

Zack appeared and put an arm out in a gesture of inviting the man behind him to enter the room. This was followed by Kendrick’s figure. He looked pretty cool when he stepped in but he was dumbstruck the moment he saw Ciara.

He remembered the time he first caught a glimpse of Jade when she came home after spending four years in university. He had been utterly enthralled. It was a pity that Jade was his cousin and the woman that the Dunhams liked, so he dared not make a move on her.

Ciara was different. She was not related to him by blood and no one was there to intimidate him from wooing her, so his mind went south. He gave Zack, who was next to him a light kick, prompting the man to start introducing him.

“Cutie, this is Kendrick—”

“F*ck off!”

Zack was speechless. That was exactly how he was cursed at when he had tried to introduce himself earlier. He was worried that Kendrick would be furious because of it but the latter was not.

Kendrick had always had a good temper around pretty women. He took a seat next to Ciara with a grin on his face.

“Babe, let’s have a drink and get to know each other! I’m Kendrick Odell, the Odello Corp.’s—”

Not sparing Kendrick the opportunity to introduce himself, Ciara asked, “Odello Corp.? Are you very rich?”

Kendrick smirked. “I wouldn’t say I’m very rich, but I believe that the total of what everyone in this room has wouldn’t be more than what I have.”

‘The more ignorant, the more confident,’ Ciara thought.

She asked, “You want a drink with me?”

Kendrick nodded. “Of course. The company of a beautiful woman must go along with fine wine.”

Ciara pursed her lips. “But I don’t like drinking in hotel restaurants. Why don’t we go to a bar?”

It was exactly what Kendrick wanted to hear. The bar was great, a good spot for thrills with its high and pumping energy. He agreed immediately and got up to gesture after Ciara.

Looking at the event unfolding before him, Javier thought that some people really wanted to send themselves to their own graves!

Chapter 21 She’s Not That Innocent

No matter how Kendrick flirted with Ciara, Javier kept a blind eye like it was none of his business. Zack, who was observing Javier’s reaction, despised the man, thinking that he was a coward for not daring to fight back when someone was making a move on his woman right in front of him.

The reality was that...Javier truly did not care. He was well aware that Ciara was incredibly gifted in pranking others. She had basically been born with that ability. There was no need for him to worry. As long as Kendrick did not force himself on her, he was dead meat. If he did force himself on her, Javier would make sure he was deader than dead meat.

Under Ciara's request, the four of them made their way out of the hotel to the biggest club in town. Zack led the way, while Javier drove Ciara in the Volkswagen Passat, and Kendrick followed behind with his Audi Q7. The sibling pair chatted in the car, none of them cared enough about Kendrick or Zack.

When they entered the establishment, the DJ was shouting at the top of his lungs as EDM blasted through the speakers. The dance beats made one's heart thump along with it. Countless men and women were raving and dancing on the dancefloor—their enthusiasm charged by their youth—as they filled the place up with their energy.

The foursome got a VIP room on the second floor. Kendrick passed the alcohol menu to Ciara. He boasted, "Order whatever you want, babe. I'm buying tonight!"

Ciara did not take the menu from him but waved. "No need. I'm not in the habit of making a man spend on me."

Kendrick laughed. "What a coincidence. I don't have the habit of making a woman pay for me either."

"What should we do then?" Ciara asked.

Kendrick did not know what to do either. Both of them wanted to pay but he could not show off how rich he was if he let the girl foot the bill. If he insisted on paying, it might spoil the current mood, so he looked toward Zack.

Zack spoke up with a chuckle. "This place has a bottle keep system. Both of you don't lack the money, let's opt for that. Whoever has more bottles by the end of the night will pay for the night then."

Kendrick thought that it was a good idea. He and his friends were always drinking, so it was fine for him to buy a few bottles in advance. After he nodded in assent, he looked at Ciara.

"Babe, any opinions?"

"None, but I do have a suggestion." Standing by the railing outside of the room, Ciara pointed at the raving youngsters on the dancefloor.

"It's quite boring to just do the bottle keep. Let's add something to it."

"Whoever has the most bottles on keep tonight will foot the bill, while the lesser one will go down there and dance naked."

Kendrick's eyes sparkled at Ciara's suggestion as he kept his gaze on the girl. He gulped. His interest was instantly piqued.

"All right, we already have something at stake, so let's go for something more exciting."

Ciara scrunched up her pretty face. "That's bullying me now, don't you think?"

"Don't worry, I don't have that much money. I was just boasting to bring up the mood!"

Anyone who was not stupid could see through Kendrick's ulterior motive easily. Since he was so eager to get himself played, Ciara could only "reluctantly" agree.

“Fine!”

With a nod of Ciara’s head, Kendrick’s eyes glowed eagerly and made Zack ask for the server. A little while later, the manager of the club came up personally, a welcoming look plastered on his face. After some pleasantries and introducing himself, he asked Kendrick and Ciara, “Which of you will go first?”

Kendrick went first when Ciara put a hand out to gesture at him. “I’ll keep a bottle of 1982 Chateau Lafite Rothschild Pauillac Imperial.”

His bumpkin nature was thoroughly exposed by what he had said.

The Lafite gained its fame from films. It was not exactly expensive, costing around 12.5 thousand dollars a bottle in recent years. The main reason it was expensive was that it was barely available now. There was no genuine stock kept around, so it was hard to get one’s hands on it.

–

It would be impossible for one to buy an authentic Lafite in a bar like this. The most one would get would be an authentic glass bottle. Yet Kendrick preened, delighted that the thought that he had bought the most expensive wine in the establishment.

“A bottle of Lafite is priced at 13.8 thousand dollars,” the manager stated as he swiped the man’s card and looked at Ciara after passing Kendrick the receipt. “And what would you like, miss?”

–

Ciara opened her limited-edition Gucci purse and lit up a cigarette that she pulled out from it before tossing the man her bank card.

“Any bottle, as long as it hits 80 thousand dollars. You can just swipe the card, there’s no pin.”

The manager was stunned. He had thought that it would be nice if he could sell a Romanée Conti in the same class as the Lafite. But surprise, surprise, the woman was not keeping bottles, but keeping cash. Had she mixed up the club with the bank?

Scanned with CamScanner

Chapter 21 She’s Not that innocent

Gleefully, the manager swiftly picked up the card to charge the 80 thousand dollars, as if afraid that Ciara would regret her words.

As the card was charged, Kendrick sucked in a cold breath. The babe was no innocent girl at all – she was ruthless, swiping 80 thousand dollars in one go like she was dumping the money.

Since his lackey, Zack, was the one to give the idea knowing that Javier and Ciara were watching, Kendrick never thought that he would embarrass himself like that. After the receipt for the 80 thousand dollars was printed, he spoke up breezily, “Okay. I’ll keep 125 thousand dollars worth of wine then!”

It was just 125 thousand dollars. Kendrick did not care. As an Odell, he would never step out of the door without several hundred thousand on him.

Zack, on the side, was flabbergasted. F*ck, these were the real filthy rich. The man did not even bat an eye when he threw the 125 thousand dollars out. Recalling how he had beat Terry up this afternoon over the same amount of money, he felt

that he was too poor in comparison. Zack patted himself on the back for the brilliant decision he had made. As long as he remained in Kendrick's good graces, his future would certainly be bright and wealthy!

The club manager was overjoyed as well, repeating the word "sure" over and over as he could barely keep his mouth closed.

Just as the card payment terminal machine began beeping and printing the receipt, Ciara spoke up.

"Only 45 thousand dollars more? That's kind of petty. Is that all you have as an Odell? For real ... I thought I had finally met someone who could speak to me on my level. What a disappointment."

She turned to the manager and waved a casual hand at him. "Go on, charge another 300 thousand dollars on the bottle keep system."

The manager nearly wet his pants from how thrilled he was. His trembling hands swiped the woman's card. It was exhilarating! He was running into gods of fortune tonight. These people were filthy rich!

Kendrick felt a tingle travel up his spine. He finally realized that the girl really did not lack money. As an Odell, however, there was no way he was allowing someone else to hit him back with their wealth in his own territory. No way, he forbade something like this from ever happening!

The man then grinned. "All right. Go big or go home, right, babe? Let's go big then!"

He turned to the manager. "Find out how much I have in the card."

After charging Ciara's card, the club manager did as he was told.

"You have about 900 thousand dollars in your card, sir. To be precise,"

"No need to tell me the exact number. Charge all of it. I don't care for this petty sum!"

The domineering tone and arrogance made Zack understand what a truly wealthy man was like. As for said true wealthy man, Kendrick, he was currently side-eyeing Ciara who was sitting on the couch.

Chapter 22 Embarrassing!

Throwing more than 900 thousand dollars into a little game did not just shock Zack and the club manager, Kendrick thought he was very impressive as well. Spending that sum with a wave of a hand was practically the most impressive thing he had ever done in his life.

That was why he had a cocky look as he looked toward Ciara, sparing Javier a slight glance, as if to tell him, "Look! I'm rich!" Using the bottle keep program to see who was richer attracted the attention of patrons who passed by the area. "What

the f*ck? It's like he's not spending money. I don't even get 900 thousand dollars when I play Monopoly!"

“Hah, who do you think you’re comparing yourself to? That’s Kendrick Odell from the Odello Corp.!”

“Ah, yes, my eyes have been blessed. The living God of Fortune, Kendrick Odell, huh? I finally got to witness it today. He’s crazy rich!”

The exclamations and praises from the onlookers inflated Kendrick’s ego, but the majority of his attention was still on the beauty who was seated on the couch. He hoped to see a look of shock from the girl’s pretty little face. Unfortunately for him, rather than shock, her face was filled with disdain.

“Kendrick, Kendrick, are you looking down on me, or have you not seen the world? Do you think 900 thousand dollars is big money? And you call yourself an Odell... I feel embarrassed for the Odells. Look how pumped a mere 900 thousand dollars made you!”

Ciara mocked, actually bewildering Kendrick with her jeers. Before he could snap out of his daze, the young woman pointed at the payment terminal machine and instructed, “Lessen the amount. Charge 1.5 million dollars on it first, in case I scare your lucky star away and make you guys lose the chance to apple-polish him.”

The crowd who stood around opened their eyes in astonishment.

That was 1.5 million dollars! It was real money, not pretend money!

Zack gulped. Whether the drool was from the shock or his greed for the fortune, that remained unknown.

The club manager was so flabbergasted that he forgot about being over the moon and informed shakily, “Miss, the maximum amount the terminal can charge at a time is 150 thousand dollars. We can’t — we’re unable to charge this much.”

The shock of 1.5 million dollars had made the man forget that he had separately charged the 300 thousand dollars and 900 thousand dollars earlier.

“1.5 million divided by 150 thousand equals ten. Do I have to spell out simple math for you now?”

When Ciara snapped at him, the manager instantly recovered and dipped his head to charge her card.

The payment terminal machine looked like it was suffering from a bout of stomach flu as it kept beeping and spitting out receipts. The thermal paper roll even had to be replaced in the middle of the process to finish printing all the transactions.

Looking at the ten receipts that came up to a total of 1.5 million dollars on the table in front of Ciara, Kendrick was dumbfounded. He honestly thought that dumping 900 thousand dollars was an impressive feat. It wasn’t like it was unprecedented, but he thought it would at least distinguish him from the rest of the town. He had not expected the girl to just wave and dump 1.5 million dollars before he had even preened enough over the 900 thousand

She had not just dumped the money, she mocked him mercilessly. Kendrick finally found his thinking cap then. The girl had lured him here with her beauty, only to slap him in the face with her wealth. Finally

understanding what was happening, he was enraged about being played. But despite that, he could only glare and scowl at the woman. They were contesting to see who was richer and his only way to vent was to put up more money but he had none

anymore.

600

thousand dollars out of the 900 thousand dollars he had so generously thrown in just now was actually a part of the company funds that he had yet to return to the company account. His

initial plan had been decent. He had thought to use the 900 thousand dollars to build his reputation for the night, then use Odell's local influence to force the manager for a refund.

That way, the amount of money would just make a round outside before ultimately going back into his card, earning him fame without him having to lose anything. Now, however... He could still proceed with the refund but he would be utterly embarrassed.

Opposite him, Ciara leaned against the couch with a cigarette perched between her fair fingers. She was watching Kendrick with a teasing gaze.

"Kendrick, are we stopping already?"

Said man's new lackey, Zack, was furious on behalf of the man. "Bullsh*t! Kendrick is rich! The extent of his wealth is nothing you poor people can ever imagine. 900 thousand dollars is like a drop in the ocean for him!"

What Zack said pleased Kendrick, but the next words that came out of Zack's mouth made him want to pounce on him and beat him up. Zack said, "Kendrick, we'll put in 3 million dollars. Hah! Get it in their face! Show them what it really means to be rich!"

Kendrick quivered with rage, thinking that Zack must have thought that he was not embarrassed enough. He would have thrown in 3 million dollars if he had it. Would he sit around and listen to Zack bluster? What a fool. Chari Ambarassing Clamping his mouth shut about money, Kendrick pointed a wrathful finger at Ciara. "Trying to trick me, aren't you? Just you wait!"

Like a child who lost a fight and fled with the threat of "just you wait", Kendrick did exactly that. He turned to leave, not allowing Ciara a chance to talk back.

Just as he got to the door, however, he was kicked back into the room with a loud thud and fell on the floor like a lump of dead meat.

"You Zack sounded like he was trying to defend his master, but before he could speak, his head was smashed against the wall and his nose started to bleed.

Two men towered at around 1.9 meters and weighed over 100 kilograms standing by either side of the door. They were akin to two solid towers. With a straight face, they chased the **onlookers away** and stood guard by the door.

Ciara stood up with a beam. “Kendrick, if it’s laid, it’s played. You agreed to go down to the dancefloor and dance in your underwear just now. Hurry up, go on!”

She picked up her purse and headed for the door after that, telling the two bodyguards when she passed them, “If he refuses to dance, chop his legs off. No use keeping them.”

Kendrick, who wanted to get up and argue, was intimidated by her words. His legs shook when he saw one of the bodyguards pull out a dagger from behind his back.

As a bystander, Javier kept his initial opinion—some people just liked shooting themselves in the foot. He got up to leave as well, uninterested in watching Kendrick dance in his underwear, but Ciara turned to point at him then.

“Right, stop following me already. I’m done with you. P*ss off!”

Javier was speechless but he understood that Ciara was drawing the line with him, lest she caused him trouble after this. He did not mind it. Although he was not scared of someone like Kendrick, it was better to stay out of trouble when he could.

Under the threat of the two bodyguards’ sharp blades, Kendrick reluctantly went to the center of the dancefloor. As he took off his clothing piece by piece, hesitating when it came to removing his pants. The final push was when he saw one of the bodyguards coming toward him on the dancefloor.

Once his pants came off, those who were dancing on the dancefloor were astonished, thinking that he was truly wh*ring himself out here. It was not like Kendrick could help it. He had not expected to lose in a competition of wealth tonight! Hearing the jeers and taunts around him, he felt like he could die. The humiliation quickly accumulated into rage within him. He was determined to get his revenge! “F*ckers, I’ll make sure you pay for humiliating me!”

Chapter 23 How Dare He Humiliates Me With Money

Dressed only in his underwear, Kendrick swayed and writhed on the dancefloor, looking absolutely sultry. But really, he felt like crying. He wanted his mommy.

As for Ciara, she made a call after exiting the place and stated the club’s name.

“Yes, acquire the club and shut it down. Kick the money back to me and donate the guy’s sum t. o poverty-stricken areas to build schools and stuff. Keep an eye on it, don’t let anyone else acquire it.”

Hanging up, Ciara got into a black luxury sedan and left without looking back. She called Javier on the way to tell him that she was going home and asked if he wanted to keep the two bodyguards.

“Nah, I don’t need them. I’m not so weak that I need bodyguards yet. You behave and cause less trouble.”

“Heh, I don’t have to cause trouble. I’m trouble herself.”

The siblings chatted a bit more before Javier hung up and exited the club. As for Kendrick who was still on his “sexy” dance routine, he did not care and did not want to look.

Not too long after Javier drove off, however, he realized that the car kept swerving to the right. He checked the tire pressure indicator and saw that the pressure had dropped significantly, so he stopped by the side of the road to check it out.

Ppedi Militello Win

There was a nail that had gone straight into the tire and punctured it. It was not a big deal as scenarios like this were common when one drove. One just had to open the trunk and get out the spare tire.

It was during when Javier was changing the tire that Kendrick redressed himself, left the “ sexy” life, and exited the club. And he was not alone. Zack and some seven or eight thugs trailing behind him.

Spotting Javier who was changing the tire from afar, Zack pointed an angry finger toward Javier. “That’s him, get him!”

The thugs rushed up to Javier as ordered while Zack told Kendrick, “Don’t worry, we’ll teach Javier a good lesson tonight to vent your fury, Kendrick!”

Kendrick responded with a slap on Zack’s face. “F*ck you! Shut up! You have less than a couple of hundred bucks and you have the audacity to drive a Mercedes? I have to pay for these guys to get to work, you useless piece of sh*t!”

1

Zack felt wronged. He had thrown 125 thousand dollars around during noon and he had spent all his money on that car he had bought this afternoon.

It was not like Kendrick was any better. He had used all the money in the card to pay for the bottle keep and the money he used to hire these thugs was the few thousand dollars that Javier had refused this afternoon. Thankfully, he had gone to the bank to get a replacement card or he would be penniless.

Regardless, Kendrick thought that he could finally channel his rage and frustration this time. Although he had yet to find the girl who had tricked him, he did not mind beating Javier up to vent his anger first.

“Tossing my card in the afternoon? Dumb*ss!”

Cursing, Kendrick lit a cigarette and waited to watch Javier get on his knees to beg for mercy after getting beaten up. Halfway through his smoke, however, the thugs who had rushed up to Javier did not seem to be attacking.

Curious, he was about to send Zack to urge them when he saw the thugs coming back to him. They were not just coming back to them, they were swinging sticks and looking menacing as they yelled about beating the two of them up.

Zack panicked. "No, wait, what's going on?"

Kendrick kicked him in the leg. "You found the thugs and you have the cheek to ask me? Run!"

Both men fled but the thugs caught up to them not too far down the road. Surrounded by the thugs, they got a good walloping from them.

As an Odell, Kendrick had never suffered like this, more often than not being pandered to wherever he went. Feeling aggrieved, he hugged his head as he curled up on the ground sobbing.

"Why are you guys hitting me? I paid you to hit him!"

The thugs were...well, thugs, but they were reasonable. "Right, you paid but you only gave us like three thousand dollars. We went to the guy and he banked us eight thousand dollars right there and then. So it only makes sense that we're beating you up, yeah?"

Kendrick fumed. No, it did not make sense. They were not even following through with their words!

At the same time, Zack erupted in rage as well. "F*ckers, you materialistic b*stards! You're listening to whoever's paying you more, huh? I'll pay you 15 thousand dollars. Go over there and beat him up! It's just money! I have a lot of it, this is only a drop in the ocean for me!"

As he bragged, Kendrick asked curiously, "Didn't you say earlier that you have no money?"

Startled, Zack pulled a long face and answered, "I got so angry that I forgot I had used them all up to buy my car..."

The thugs who thought that they were being played were furious, thus they once again brought down their bars and sticks to beat up the two men,

With a glance at the two fools who were being squashed some distance away, Javier who had

changed out

his flat tire wiped his hands and drove off. He wondered if the two guys were taking revenge on him, or just out to spread stupidity upon knowing they were hopeless cases. +

After Javier and the thugs went away, the two men, Zack and Kendrick, who were bruised and swollen from head to toe, finally got up from the ground. Shoving away Zack who tried to help him, Kendrick clenched his fists and gritted his teeth.

"F*ck, how dare he humiliate me with money? Eight thousand dollars and he got someone to beat me up? F*ck him! Come on, we're going back to the club to ask for the money back. With that money, I'll make sure to put him into his grave. Don't call me an Odell if I don't make him get on his knees and beg for mercy!"

Kendrick limped back to the bar together with Zack, whose face was swollen, in tow.

The music had been shut off, and all the LED lights were lit up. The place shined as bright as day and the club manager was chasing the patrons out. It was far from closing time, so this was bizarre, but Kendrick did not dwell on it. He waved the manager over from afar. "Hey you,

come here!”

The manager came up with a grin. “Mister, what brings you back?”

“Cut the cr*p!” Kendrick looked menacing. “Refund me all the money I had put in just now. Quick!”

His crudeness wiped the smile off the manager’s face. “Sorry, we can’t do that.”

Zack slammed a fist on the bar top. “Bullsh*t! Do you know who this is? This is the only grandson to the director of Odello Corp., the future boss of Odello Corp., Kendrick Odell! And that’s Mr. Odell to you!

“You should know how— influential Odello Corp. is within the local market. If you offend Mr. Odell, you can forget about running this club from now on! Hurry the f*ck up and refund us the money. Make sure you don’t leave out a single cent!”

If it had been ten minutes ago, the club manager would actually have to do as he was told with a fake smile no matter how disgruntled he was, but now...

“Oh, Odello Corporation. I see, very impressive. But the grandson of the corporation’s director is still just that—

a grandson! Stop acting like the boss and try to kick me around! You’re already all bruised up from being beaten up, so stop assuming that you’re high and mighty!

“I’ll have you know that even if you’re the lord—I. Don’t. Care!

“The pretty girl from earlier had sent someone to acquire this club and my hands are now free of it. Burn the whole place if you like, I’ve got nothing to do with the club anymore. That’ll be a free fire show for me too!” Kendrick was dumbstruck.

Chapter 24 You’re Too Optimistic

Kendrick had not given much thought about the money he had spent on the bottle keep as he was confident he could have it refunded. Never in his wildest dreams had he expected that the girl was so ruthless that she axed that idea head-on and would take over the establishment!

“Then, what about the money I’ve put in?”

“How does that concern me?”

Before shoving Zack and Kendrick out the door, the manager added, “I’ll be the nice guy here.

They told me over the phone that the club is to be shut down instantly and it’s enough to make a small sum like that from you.”

Kendrick felt like he could die on the spot... Standing outside the club exit, he kicked the tree beside him in anger, feeling an acute sense of resentment over what Ciara had done to him.

Zack suggested then, “Kendrick, let’s go to Javier and teach him a lesson!”

“For what? If it weren’t your stupid idea, would I have gotten involved with that girl and got tricked?”

Once Kendrick thought of it, he was infuriated. Instead of kicking the tree, he kicked Zack. The man fell to the ground. After adding in several more kicks to vent his fury, only then was Kendrick’s anger quelled.

“We’re not going to Javier. He’s just the girl’s toy. She doesn’t even want to be bothered with **him now**.”

“What’s important right now is to find the girl and get my money back. That’s almost millions!”

There were 600 thousand dollars in there that was company money. If his old man found out that he had squandered it all away, he would be doomed. Not having it in him to care about Javier, Kendrick got into his car and drove away.

Watching the Audi Q7 zoom off, Zack spat out some blood. “F*cker, getting tricked for being a dumb*ss and blaming it on me. It’d be a miracle if Odello Corp. survives under your management!

Zack furiously muttered under his breath as he pulled out his phone to call Terry, asking him to come as soon as possible. It took only ten minutes before Terry came rushing to his side with a pale face.

When he saw how badly Zack had been beaten up, he went up to show his concern. “Oh, Mr. Dilley, what’s”

He had yet to finish his sentence when Zack threw an angry slap at him.

“If it weren’t for you, would I have gotten into this mess and got beaten up tonight? You b*stard!”

Terry was teary and bruised from the slap and he felt utterly wronged. What did he do? Why was he being beaten up for no reason...

After Javier left the club, he drove to a hotel nearby the company. With the divorce processed, he had lost his place of residence and could only find shelter in a hotel. On his way to his hotel room, however, he mulled over needing to free up some time to buy himself a place.

The hotel was convenient but it was a public space where anyone could stay. It did not feel right no matter how clean it was kept. While he pondered, his phone rang. It was Jade who called.

“Javier, where are you? I need to talk to you.”

What else did she have to talk to him about? She must want to return his car but Javier did not mind it.

“If it’s nothing urgent, we’ll talk in the office tomorrow. There’s no hurry.”

A few moments of silence passed before Jade spoke up again, “Sure. It’s getting late. I’ll turn in for the night then.”

Hanging up, Javier went into his room and entered the bathroom after taking off his clothes. Once he was inside, he was suddenly struck with a realization and wondered if Jade had called him just now to carry out their additional clause...

Javier met Jade in her office around 9 am the next morning.

The woman did not bring up the additional clause but instead started talking about her trip to Grazin' Tractors for the bidding invitation yesterday. To get the bidding invitation had been a

smooth process, but

it was another story when it was time to talk to the supplier, so she had bought the higher-ups from Grazin' Tractors out for dinner last night.

Javier said nothing as he

assumed that Jade was elaborating on why she did not return the car **yesterday**.

"You can drive the car. I was

just angry that I couldn't get a ride and simply bought something to get around in."

It was the truth but the way it was phrased made Jade speechless. What she wanted to talk about was not this, however, but something else.

"What I want to say is that your car is currently in the hands of Mr. Keeton from Grazin' Tractors..."

Javier was puzzled. He did not understand what she was trying to get at. The woman did not seal the deal and his car was being driven by someone else?

Jade was quick to explain. "Don't worry, he's just borrowing it. Said that

his nephew's getting married today and your car looks classy enough, so he wanted to borrow it for the wedding

car. He'll return it by noon today. Don't worry about this, it's fine. I can guarantee it."

Javier understood it now and chuckled. "Can you really guarantee it, Ms. Odell? I don't think so.

fara

"This Mr. Keeton's nephew is getting married this morning

and he's only looking for a wedding car last night. Isn't that a bit too late?

"If you ask what I think, his nephew isn't getting married. What he wants is for you to be at his door and ask for the car back. As for how you're going to get it back, whether it's through monetary means or... Well, I believe you don't need me to elaborate now, do you?"

Jade

waved in dismissal. "Impossible. Nothing like that. He just wanted to add to his nephew's happy occasion when he saw the luxury car. It's normal that he suddenly thought of switching the wedding car. You're thinking the worst of people. You're such a pessimist."

Fine. Javier did not dwell on the topic, hoping that he was a pessimist and not Jade who was being too optimistic.

Both of them talked about some other things before Javier took his leave. Jade spent the rest of the morning feeling restless after that. Her mind was occupied with that Mercedes G63, worried that Javier had spoken the truth.

When the clock struck 11:30 in the late morning and the wedding car should have already done its part, the man had yet to call Jade. The latter took the initiative to make the call then and lucky for her, the man picked up shortly.

“Hello, Ms. Odell, hi. The car, right? Yes, we’re done with it. Thank you so much...

“So my other nephew’s getting married in three days and after seeing the beautiful car, he’d like to use it too. You can leave it with me first...

“What? You’re coming over to pick it up? Ms. Odell, do you think I’m coveting your car? Call the police if you’re that worried!”

Jade was stunned when the man hung up on her. During the phone call, she overheard on the other end of the line someone knocking on the door, asking to come in. This meant that he was in the office and there was no nephew of his getting married. In other words, Javier was spot on with his assumption. It was not that he was thinking the worst of people. Jade had **been too naive**.

During noon, Jade invited Javier to join her at the company cafeteria for lunch and hesitated to speak up. Javier could guess at once he saw her troubled look and told her, “You won’t be able to get the car back using just the phone.”

With her thoughts exposed, Jade looked embarrassed.

“Don’t worry, though. I’ll make sure to get the car back. I’ll return it to you even if I need to ask favors from others!”

Javier was well aware of Jade’s little-to-none network of connection. She would turn to Odello Corp. ultimately and with her current relationship with her family...

“Never mind. Don’t fret over it. I’ll ask for it back myself.”

Jade was going to say something about it when Javier continued to ask, “Right, did you bring up their company’s bidding in the call?”

Jade shook her head. “I was only thinking about your car and didn’t think of it.”

Javier chortled. “Okay, I’ll take care of it. I’ll go to them this afternoon and get the car back as well.”

Chapter 25 The Attitude for a Negotiation

Chapter 25 The Attitude for a Negotiation

Jade was skeptical about Javier's claim to seal the deal with Grazin' Tractors. Even though he had got Fusion Electric Cars to sign the deal yesterday, Fusion was unlike Grazin' Tractors. The latter sold its tractors nationwide while Fusion Electric Cars was only known locally. They could barely be compared.

She then advised, "I'll go talk to them about the sales. As for the car, I'll also—"

"No need. I'll go in the afternoon. It's decided."

Javier never liked stalling and dawdling. It was how he always had been and that came across as aggressive sometimes.

Jade was not quite used to such assertiveness but she did argue any further, thinking that what Matthew told her yesterday was more suitable to be said to Javier-business was not about a stroke of luck!

She thought to let him run into the wall and experience how easy one could fail despite his brimming confidence.

Later on, Javier warned Jade, "Keep your distance from Zack Dilley from now on and keep your guard up, especially in terms of business,"

Before he finished, Jade nodded. "Sure, got it."

Her cold shoulder stopped Javier from saying more. He had done his part to remind her, any more would fall on deaf ears.

After lunch, he went back to his office and pulled out his phone to post a mission on the black market app. The mission he put up was simple: investigate the vice general manager of Grazin' Tractors, Larry Keeton. Just from the fact that he dared to threaten Jade with a car,

Javier believed that Larry must have skeletons in his closet.

He tossed his phone aside after posting the mission and laid down on the couch for an afternoon nap in the air-conditioned room. When he opened his eyes again, it was already three in the afternoon. Getting up and stretching, Javier lit up a cigarette to wake himself up and scrolled through his phone as he puffed.

Not too bad... It was as he expected. Larry did have skeletons in his closet. He connected his phone to the computer and printed the information he had received. Javier had just put them away in an envelope when Jade strode into his office.

"How did your meeting with Mr. Keeton go?"

Javier tucked the envelope under his arm. "I just got up. I haven't gone yet!"

Speechless, Jade thought that Javier had already done something when she had spent more than an hour waiting in her office. In the end, the man had not even gone but had taken a nap

1/4

Scanned with CamScanner

Chapter 25 The Attitude for a Negotiation

during work hours. It must be nice being a vice general manager like him...

She was about to comment when Javier headed for the door. As he passed Jade, he fingered a strand of hair that fell to her shoulder. "Don't worry, it'll be fine."

Jade had no idea where Javier got his confidence from.

After he left the building, Javier took a cab straight to Grazin' Tractors. He made his identity known and was permitted to enter the factory to look for Larry after the security guard called t o ask.

Larry was currently pacing back and forth in his office. The furrow between his brows was so deep that it could squish a fly. When he heard someone knocking, Larry sat back to his chair and soothed his furrowed brows, feigning indifference. "Come in." Javier entered the office with the envelope under his arm.

"Who are you?" (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Larry asked curiously but Javier was in no hurry to answer. Instead, he closed the door to the office and dragged a chair to sit in front of the desk, directly across from Larry.

"Mr. Keeton, right? I'm Javier Kersey from Beacon Tires, here to pick up my G63 and also to talk to you about the tender."

Larry raked his eyes over Javier sitting opposite him with a peeved gaze. He did not know how this guy could sit here and ask for the Mercedes G63 back and declare that he wanted to "also" talk about the tender. He pointed a finger at the door. "Get out!" Javier pursed his lips. "Mr. Keeton, this is not the attitude for a negotiation. You"

Before he finished his sentence, Larry questioned him, "Why should I negotiate with you? Who are you to ask that of me? Are you even qualified? Forget about you. Even if Jade Odell from your company has come personally, she'll have to wait and see if I want to talk to her.

"Don't make me tell you again. Get out!" (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Javier stuck two fingers from his right hand up at Larry-his index and middle finger.

"Don't misunderstand. I'm not making a peace sign at you. I just want to let you know that you've chased me out twice. A third time, I'll leave immediately, and send this envelope to your director. I believe that he'll be very interested to see this."

Larry's order for Javier to get out rolled to the tip of his tongue but he ultimately swallowed it despite his parted lips. He was no longer young and reckless. Short tempers had left him with age as well.

Taking a deep breath to suppress his irritation, he ordered, "Open it and show me what you have."

Javier casually tossed the envelope onto the desk and replied, "Look at it yourself."

Larry threw him a glare but picked up the envelope to uncoil the string and pulled out the document inside. With just one glance, his hands started to shake from the shock. He could barely still his hands.

There were detailed financial statements and various screenshots from surveillance recordings on the document. The screenshots showed him sitting at a gambling table with chips piled high in front of him. He even looked proud and victorious. Despite that, Larry knew that that was his last winning round. He kept losing afterward. As for the financial statements, they recorded the sum he had lost and included the amount he had embezzled from the company funds... no Larry paled after looking at what was presented to him. His voice quivered as well. "W-where did you get all these?" (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Javier pulled out a cigarette and lit it, the smoke leaving his mouth together with the words, "If I were you, I'd get someone to drive the Mercedes over immediately rather than ask stupid questions like this."

"Yes, yes! I understand!"

Larry nodded like a pecking chicken and quickly fished out his phone to make the call. Gone was his earlier authoritative aura.

"Hurry, drive the car back and make sure you clean it inside out."

Larry forced a smile. "Mr. Kersey, I've already asked the chauffeur to bring your car back."

Javier hummed and asked, "Where were you driving my car to? I hope it wasn't to the casino to settle your debt?"

Larry stuttered, unable to give a proper answer. When he finally caved under Javier's stare, he answered with a long face, "I didn't want to do it. I know that it's against the law. But the casino's been pressing me. If I don't pay them back, they'll come and expose me. So I—"

Javier nodded and said nothing. It was normal. Casinos had a multitude of methods to claim back their debts. He did not want to poke his nose into business that was not his, however, and asked, "Mr. Keeton, about the tender from Beacon Tires?" (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Larry replied instantly. "I'll do my best. I'll get Beacon Tires as many orders as I can!"

Cool. Javier was relieved with that promise and turned to leave, leaving the envelope and its document to Larry

When the Mercedes G63 came to the building, Javier got inside and sped away.

It was just that about ten minutes or so after he left, a black Audi Q7 drove into the factory. The vehicle registration plate showed that it was the same car that Kendrick had driven last night.

Chapter 26 Played for a Sucker

Jade's eyes were closed as she stood before the window in her office, mulling over how she was going to get Javier's car back through Odello Corp. No matter how she thought about it, it seemed that she could only play the pity card and ask for the old folks in the company to consider her late father and help her ask for the car back. It was just that she was uncertain if she had that kind of sway over them.

It was troubling. Jade even felt frustrated about her appearance. If she had been boin uglier, she would not have run into so many issues. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

The door to her office was thrown open as she was busy fretting over this and in came Javier. He casually tossed the key of the G63 onto the desk.

“I got the car back. It’s in the parking lot and I already got someone to clean it. You can drive it from now on!”

Looking at the car key on the table, then at Javier’s nonchalant expression, Jade was befuddled. The thing that had given her a headache and had even made her feel powerless only took Javier half an hour to resolve? It was unbelievable! (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

“No, wait, Javier, are you some sort of god? Why is everything so easy for you?”

Javier chortled. “Of course not. It’s just that these issues aren’t really issues, that’s all.”

Jade was floored. She accepted defeat. She had no idea what tactics Javier had used but she was honestly impressed. Just as she was going to say more, however, her phone rang and she answered it first.

A phone call later, her initial admiration got replaced by fury. Jade hung up and glared at Javier.

“Grazin’ Tractors is declaring our tires to be non-compliant and Larry Keeton himself called to disqualify our bid. Are you happy now?” (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Javier was taken aback. “Did you hear that right? Larry Keeton personally promised to allocate a supply quota for us.”

“I heard it wrong? I think you can’t recognize sarcasm!” Jade was angry. “Maybe Larry’s nephew is really getting married in three days and thought that he could drive your car around for a bit for the next two days to show off and that’s why he kept the car. But your little Mercedes is too precious and you hurried to go get it back.

“Look at what you’ve done. You offended Larry and he declared our product to be below accepted standards! He was being sarcastic when he promised you part of the supply quota, probably a remark out of spite, and you foolishly thought that it was true! I knew I shouldn’t have let someone inexperienced like you go to the negotiation. Ugh, this is infuriating!” (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

It was understandable that Jade had misunderstood. After all, it was too much of a coincidence. Anyone would have connected the dots the same way. Jade’s anger was also understandable. After all, she was bound by the quarterly deal and she could not afford to pay the price of defeat.

What Javier could not understand was...was Larry Keeton trying to shoot himself in the foot? Was he not scared of Javier exposing his embezzlement of company funds to gamble that he dared go back on his words?

While Javier pondered, Jade grabbed her phone again to make a call.

“Mr. Dilley? You can leave what I asked you to help probe about supplying tires to Grazin’ first. Hurry and pull some strings for me. I just received Larry Keeton’s call saying that our tires have been rejected. I haven’t even sent them for inspection...”

Jade was still on the phone but Javier had already understood the whole situation. He finally found the source of the problem. Jade must have called Zack and the latter had leaked the news to Kendrick, so the man had begun to foil Jade's business opportunity. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

After Jade ended the call, Javier asked with a frown, "Didn't I ask you to keep your distance from Zack Dilley? Especially not to tell him about your business activities and decisions. Why are you contacting him again?"

Jade was miffed. "Javier, how can you say that? I don't care that you have a personal grudge with Zack but you can't bring it to work! Zack's supplying car seats to Grazin' and he must

there. What's so wrong with me asking him for news? Our tires have been rejected because you've offended Larry Keeton yet you're accusing Zack? That's a dirty trick to play! I'm so disappointed in you!"

Oh wow, Javier was honestly speechless. "Jade, gosh, Jade Odell, you'd be played for a sucker if you really go into business!"

He grabbed the G63 car key and left the office with that, leaving Jade to stomp her foot in rage as she watched his retreating back. "Ugh! This is stupid! Is he out of his mind?!"

Right, Javier would like to return the same words to her. Was Jade out of her mind? He was dragging her away from the trap but she was scrambling to throw herself into it. People like her were infuriatingly naive and kind yet Javier could not just watch her as she threw herself into the trap. Sigh.. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Even if it was not to help Jade, he had to prove himself anyway, so he drove to Grazin' again.

When he drove into the office building in the factory, he found Larry hugging his head as he sat on the step. Javier could not even bring himself to get out of the car as he called out, "Get in!"

When Larry saw that it was Javier, he grimaced but ultimately got into the passenger seat. He began pouring out his grievance in the car before the man had even asked anything.

"Mr. Kersey, it's not my fault. I'm being forced. I can't do anything! "Not long after you had left, Kendrick Odell from Odello Corp. came and had the same evidence of me embezzling the company funds. He threatened me to call Jade immediately to tell you guys that Beacon Tires did not meet the compliance.

"Mr. Kersey, what could I do? Tell me what could I do? I haven't even gotten myself out of the s h*thole and you guys got me stuck in the center of your fight, blackmailing me with the same sore spot. I'm in a dilemma too!"

Javier was struck with a realization. So this was why Larry had dared go back on his words. Kendrick had used the same evidence against him. That scum acted fast, though. He had just made a visit and Kendrick had rushed over with the same proof right after he had left. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

The fact that Kendrick had obtained the records just as fast was rather unbelievable.

While Javier thought about it, Larry shifted so that his back was against the car door to get on his knees despite the cramped space. He bowed his head continuously against the gear stick as he sobbed, "Mr.

Kersey, you must be someone capable since you could get my records and find things out about me so easily.

"You're so almighty. Please, I beg you to help get me out of this. I have old folks and young kids to take care of at home. I wouldn't have dared embezzle the fund if my wife hadn't been diagnosed with leukemia. I thought to use some of the company funds and win some money. That way, I'd have money for my wife's treatment and I could put the money back into the company fund. I didn't expect to lose everything.

"I'm not greedy for money. I've worked in Grazin' for years and have taken small bribes and gifts here and there, but I've never taken serious matters lightly, nor have I dared use the company fund for my own benefit. This is the first time ever!

"Mr. Kersey, please help me. If I get caught, my wife will die and my family will be destroyed!"

The man was in his fifties, wailing on his knees in the car with a reddened forehead from knocking it continuously at the gearstick. He did look quite deplorable. If the circumstances had not called for it, no man would have acted this pitifully. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Larry was going to bow even more but Javier helped him up swiftly. "Alright, stop it. Sit properly!

"I really don't know if I owed you for some sort of favor in our past lives, or that you were a saint back then. You've played me and now I have to help you. This is really..."

Chapter 27 The Almighty One

Larry checked himself after getting out of the car, trying to look as calm as he could before reentering the office building, lest his coworkers noticed something was wrong.

After letting the man leave, Javier sat alone in his car and made a call. About ten minutes later, his phone rang again. The display showed that it was Ciara who was calling.

"Javier, I've found the casino you asked me to check out. It's a cheap, dodgy place. I did as per your instructions too and it's reported back to me that the person in charge of that little casino listens well.

'He's already deleted all information regarding Larry Keeton and has prepared the initial capital to return to Larry and has even added 150 thousand dollars as a token."

Javier thought that it was a great move as he could give it to Larry so he could treat his wife's cancer.

"Right, Javy, so other than these, I think you'd be interested in something else about that casino."

Ciara went on to tell him that Matthew Odell, Kendrick's father, had shares in the casino.

Javier finally understood how Kendrick got the evidence so easily. After he ended the call with Ciara, he asked Larry to come down again.

Both of them went to the hospital to visit Larry's wife. After confirming that the man was not lying to him, Javier took him to the shabby casino and retrieved the money. Like what the person in charge had promised, other than giving all the money back, he had added in another 150 thousand dollars. Before

they left, the person in charge also told Javier that they had guzzled down Matthew's shares anyway since this was all illegal stuff. It was good news. Javier was happy to hear that. As for his involvement in the matter, the person in charge promised to keep it a secret and would not say a word.

As they left the casino and went to the car, Larry ran over to Javier just as he was about to open the car door. Javier instinctively tensed up to counterattack but Larry instead fell to his knees. The road was yellow with dirt and had a layer of fine sand, but Larry kneeled there and bowed to him repeatedly. Each bow rang out with a loud thud and the fine sand scraped the skin on his forehead. A gash opened up and blood started dotting the wound.

Javier promptly crouched down to stop the man but the latter refused to budge.

"Mr. Kersey, you have to accept this bow from me no matter what. I'm thanking you on behalf of my two kids at home. If it were not for you, they'd have lost their mother and me when I went to jail. Thank you so much..."

Hot tears rolled down his face. Larry was genuinely thankful to Javier. As he said, Javier had not only saved him, he had saved his whole family.

After an extended amount of persuasion and soothing, Javier finally helped Larry up and told him that it was not a big deal. Once they got into the car, Larry repaid Javier's favor and promised to get Beacon Tires as many orders as he could. And Larry made sure to make good on his promise this time.

Once he returned to the factory, he made the arrangements and received the director's approval. He then called Jade personally.

"Ms. Odell, Mr. Kersey's come to me just now and I've felt your company's utmost sincerity. As for the rejection earlier, it was honestly not my intention. Something out of my control had happened. I apologize for the trouble I've caused you. I've already sealed the deal with Mr. Kersey and have obtained my director's approval. Grazin' will be giving Beacon Tires 30% of our annual order. As for more... Well, I hope you're aware that we have to consider various sides, so this is the most we could provide. I hope you'll be able to understand."

Ending the conversation with Larry, Jade felt like she had been shot silly by the sudden bliss. She honestly thought that the business deal was ruined and hoped that Zack could pull some strings to find her some hope. But not only did the deal go through, but she had also received 30% of their orders!

It must be mentioned that the maximum Beacon Tires had supplied to Grazin' Tractors in the past was 5% of their orders and that was after throwing a load of money in. Now that Javier went to deal with it, not only had they not spent a cent, they had also got 30% of the tractor company's orders. It was like Jade was dreaming!

Jade felt that Javier was truly some kind of god, an almighty one at that. Thrilled, she punched the buttons on the calculator and realized that this order would fill up another one third of the loss with another two and a half months left.

"Yes! Another one-third of loss to go and I'll be making a profit! Yes! This is awesome!"

Jade excitedly hopped up and down in her office. She had even taken off her high heels and was jumping on the couch in her nude tights like a child jumping on the bed. She was over the moon.

After about two minutes of celebrating, she came down from the couch, her hair a total mess.

'Look how happy you are. If it weren't for Javier, you wouldn't even have enough tears to cry now!' Jade chided herself.

Jade's mind wandered to Javier. She had blindly accused him earlier and was now feeling guilty over it. Thinking about how he would be coming back to the office later and not knowing how to face him, she was truly embarrassed. It was so awkward...

At the same time, Matthew, who was smoking from his couch at home, listened to Kendrick's recount with a smile.

"Basically, Larry Keeton was terrified. Once he heard that I wanted him to stop giving Beacon

Tires business, he called Jade right away. Dad, you didn't hear how the woman cried on the phone and kept asking why."

With the exaggerated version of the story, Matthew grinned and showered compliments about Kendrick being efficient in what he did. He scoffed and mumbled, "The little girl wants to fight me? A small trick from me and she doesn't even know how she died!"

"Haha, of course! Women are just playthings. They're good for nothing other than to serve the needs of men!"

As the father and son gloated, the older gentleman received a call. After he hung up, his face looked dark as he waved at Kendrick to come closer. Puzzled, Kendrick approached his father, but before he could ask about it, he got slapped in the face.

"Piece of sh*t, didn't you say that Keeton has rejected Beacon Tires? Explain to me why Keeton from Grazin' just faxed a 30% supply-demand from their annual order to Beacon Tires?"

"Huh? That's impossible..."

As Kendrick backed his car out of the driveway of his home, half of his face was swollen. The right side of his face was still numb from the slap his father had given him while the man had been filled with fury.

'Larry Keeton, if you don't give me an explanation and cancel the order to Jade Odell, I'm sending you right to jail! Larry thought to himself furiously.

Driving to the entrance of Grazin' Tractors, Kendrick was stopped by the security guard. He

got out of his car and shouted at the guard, "Tell Larry Keeton to come out and see me! I'm Kendrick Odell!"

Looking at his insolent, aggressive, and domineering attitude, the security guard dared not slack and hurriedly called Larry using the internal com system. Half a minute later, four guards marched up to Kendrick fiercely. Before the man could react, they picked him up and carried him out like a log.

"Hey, hey. Put me down! I'm Odello Corp.'s—"

Kendrick had not even finished his sentence when the four security guards counted "1, 2, 3" and threw him onto the curb. The impact made him lose his bearings and it took him a long time before he got up.

People who passed by looked at him like they were looking at a fool, flustering and enraging Kendrick “Larry Keeton, I’m not an Odell if I didn’t send you behind bars today itself!”

Chapter 28 Acting Dumb Again

Furious, Kendrick went through his family connections and contacted Grazin’ Tractors’ director, Nathaniel Graze. When they met, he exposed Larry’s embezzlement and how he had lost all that money.

Nathaniel was wrathful when he heard about it. Someone from Odello Corp. had personally paid a visit to inform him, so the accusation must be true. The director asked the finance team to check their accounts immediately.

While the audit was being done, Nathaniel summoned Larry into his office to Kendrick’s accusations.

“Larry Keeton, you’re doomed. Go pack your bags and wait to be sent to jail!”

Larry furrowed his brows at Kendrick’s gloating.

“Mr. Odell, I don’t understand what you’re saying and I don’t know when I’ve offended you.”

Kendrick scoffed. “Acting dumb, is it? Sure, go on and act. The truth speaks louder anyway. Save your tears for later!” (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Larry did not retort and stood there quietly, composed like his name would be cleared, as if he was innocent, to begin with.

About half an hour later, the finance person had completed the preliminary audit and informed Nathaniel of the results.

“Mr. Graze, the preliminary audit shows that no large amounts had been moved recently, 10 thousand dollars is the most detailed we can check immediately. As for smaller summed entries, we need three days as we have to compare each of them manually.”

Hearing the result, Nathaniel looked at Kendrick with hostility in his eyes. “Mr. Odell, please give me an explanation.”

Kendrick had been gloating, waiting to see how Larry would react when his dirt was dug up. He did not expect to come to such a result after having waited around.

“That’s impossible. He embezzled 780 thousand dollars! There’s no way around it. How could you possibly not find it?” (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Out of the blue, Kendrick found a possibility. He pointed an angry finger and questioned the female finance director, “Tell me! Do you have an affair with Larry Keeton and are you helping him in secret?”

Nathaniel’s blood boiled then. “Bullsh*t! She’s my wife!”

That was awkward. Kendrick was in deep trouble now. If the audit was correct, how could they not find records of the missing funds?

While he was still confused, Larry spoke up to criticize him, “Mr. Odell, please have some respect for yourself. Even if you’re not considering the reputation of your character, think about Odello Corp.’s

reputation. Show us the evidence if you want to accuse someone. Please don't accuse an innocent person carelessly!"

Kendrick huffed in anger, "I'm accusing an innocent man? You embezzled the company funds and gambled it all away and you're saying you're an innocent man?"

"Okay. You think I don't have the evidence anymore after giving you a copy, is that it? I'll show you the proof you want." (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Kendrick pulled his phone out to call the casino and asked for the evidence to be sent to him again but was told that their partnership had ended and the casino had wanted nothing to do with the Odells from then on. This proclamation stunned the man. He was unable to figure out what was going on. When Larry asked for the evidence again, he stammered and admitted he could not produce anything.

Nathaniel berated him with a scowl, "Odello Corp. has crossed the line by slandering my company's higher-up! What is it? Do you guys want to throw me out of my position as the director too? So that Odello Corp. can come and take over Grazin' Tractors?" Kendrick explained frantically, "No, no, of course not. I don't mean it like that. I—" Nathaniel made a dismissive wave. "Get him out of here!"

The security guards came through the door and hauled Kendrick away like they were chasing away a fly.

As he was chased out of the tractor company, Kendrick's eyes rimmed red with tears of bewilderment. 'What the f*ck happened?!' (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

No one would tell him what the f*ck happened, though. Not Larry, and certainly not Javier.

Javier had arrived back at the company by now and was about to return to his office when someone called out to him. SO "Ja-Javier..."

Turning around, Javier saw Jade standing inside her office, peeking out through the half opened door, looking very awkward indeed. Javier could make a good guess as to what was up just by looking at the embarrassment she wore on her pretty face.

"Larry Keeton called you, so now you're embarrassed and don't know how to face me or speak to me?"

Spot on. This only embarrassed Jade further.

Afraid that others would catch her in this awkward situation in the hallway, Jade asked Javier into her office.

"I'm sorry I misunderstood you..." Jade hung her head, looking ashamed.

Javier had helped her obtain 30% of Grazin' Tractors' annual production order yet she had misunderstood him so much earlier. The more she thought about it, the more mortified she felt.

Despite that, Javier did not say much as he understood.

"I don't mind you misunderstanding me, but don't misunderstand others and yourself.

“The business world is like a battlefield. It’s not just a saying. Business people will always prioritize profits, so there are no true friends in the field of business. Zack Dilley, for example, will easily stab you in the back when tempted with a promise of profits.”

With how Javier had successfully obtained the order, Jade found enough reason to believe what he said.

“I just don’t get it. Zack must get at least some benefit for going against me, right? Like what you said, the temptation of profits. But I don’t have a conflict of interest with him. He produces car seats and I’m producing tires. What does he get for stabbing me in the back?”

Javier gave the simplest answer to her doubt. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

“Kendrick Odell came to see me in the office yesterday afternoon, wanting to buy me to monitor your every step. And then later when I was having dinner outside, I saw him and Zack together.”

Jade was immediately struck with the realization. That was why Javier warned her to keep her distance from Zack. She had even accused him of bringing personal grudges into work...

The more she thought about it, the more ashamed she felt. As her thoughts shifted to Kendrick, however, she was incredibly pissed. Matthew and Kendrick were too much. If it were not for Javier’s help this time, she would not even know how she had died!

As she fumed inwardly, there was a knock on the door. Someone entered the next second to inform her hastily, “Ms. Odell, we have a problem...”

A problem they had. And a big one, too.

From the employee who came in, they found out that three of their clients had called to express quality issues with Beacon Tires and had requested a refund. It did not require much thinking to know that this was a move targeting Jade. It was highly unlikely that three clients were rejecting them simultaneously.

After guessing at what was happening, Javier got up from the couch. “I’ll take care of it.”

Jade shook her head. “I’ll do it. If I depend on you to solve everything, I’d be useless.”

Since the woman had spoken, Javier refrained from saying more. As Jade went off, he thought that there was nothing much for him to do and decided to skip out on work to go

house viewing. (Daily Latest update www.sweetawaz.com)

Two hours of driving around later, his efforts proved futile. Secondhand houses were too far from the company and did not have strategic locations, and while new units were strategic in location, Javier could not move in right off the bat.

He drove back to the office, intending to go online and check out more places. It was at the same time that Jade came back with an indignant scowl on her pretty face.

“Zack Dilley is unbelievable. The tires are fine quality-wise. He’s pulling his connection to slander me!”

It was more or less what Javier had guessed, so his attitude was indifferent when he heard about it.

“Since he’s being such a fool and is repeatedly trying to dig his own grave, we’ll do him the courtesy and kick him into said grave. Simple.”