

The Ace at the Apex

### **Chapter 49 What a Bully**

Matthew was taking care of Kendrick in the hospital and telling his son about how Jade had completed the quarter deal. Kendrick had yet to find out that he would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life, thus was unbothered and unruffled that he had the time to think about making others suffer.

“Since Jade has completed the deal, we don’t have to target her business dealing from now on

Kendrick was speaking when Matthew cut him off. “What do you mean we don’t have *to*? Of course, we have to. It’s necessary that we do so!

“What do Jade and her mother depend on for their livelihood currently? Beacon Tires, no doubt.

“Think about it. If they don’t have Beacon Tires, how will the two of them survive?”

Realization struck Kendrick. “I understand what you mean now. We will be taking away their livelihood when we bring down Beacon Tires. When they’re unable to survive and we Odells don’t provide them with any support, Jade can only send herself to the Dunhams!”

Matthew wore a victorious grin. “Correct. And I’ve already made the arrangement. What we are to do now is wait patiently for Beacon Tires to crumble and for them to go begging the Dunhams.

“When Jade marries into the Dunhams, Odell Corp. will be swiftly listed from the support we will receive from the Dunhams. After being listed for some time, we’ll reap the profits and the two of us can swim in a pool of fortune from then on!”

Kendrick looked forward to the delightful future that Matthew was describing and did not skimp on the compliments he showered on his father.

“Dad, you’re awesome. You foresee and take everything into consideration. Jade can’t rival you at all.”

“Of course. Who does she think she is? She’s just some immature brat. Once I’ve set my mind on taking her down, there’s nothing she could do.”

Matthew was not all bluster. Not too long after getting into work the next morning, Jade received a call from the purchasing chief.

He informed her of various degrees of price hikes in the local raw materials they used and that the increase this time felt odd. Beacon Tires and Midnight Tires were the only ones affected. Their rivals remained unscathed.

When Jade went to investigate, she was enraged to find that it was Matthew using Odello

Corp.’s local influence and abundant funds to manipulate the raw material market and hike the price to oppress her two factories.

“Matthew’s still targeting me even when we’re done with the quarter deal. This is too much. He’s trying to ruin Beacon and Midnight so mum and I won’t have anything to live on and he can force me to marry into the Dunhams!”

Jade saw through Matthew’s motive right away but could not come up with any decent solution. She could source raw materials from elsewhere, but that would definitely bring up her cost. Once the cost rose, she had to increase the product pricing to make a profit. But the other suppliers would be offering lower prices. On what grounds would her tires deserve to be priced higher? Her clients would definitely not be willing to fork over the extra money.

The thought of it brought Jade a headache. However, she felt a need to go talk to the raw material suppliers to negotiate for a regular quotation.

When Javier found out about the issue, Jade had already gone to negotiate with the raw material suppliers. He guessed that her tactic would not work, and so he went to seek out their new CFO, Mary Jane.

Said woman was snacking and binge-watching a series when Javier entered her office. Upon realizing that it was him, she did not look the slightest bit fazed that it was her boss who had come in and continued watching her series.

“I’ve done everything I should. You’re not allowed to nag me for watching a show!”

“Of course not. You’re Mary Jane Gould, the best of the best in finance! The fact that you’re willing to accept the CFO position in Beacon when you could’ve worked somewhere more established is already our absolute honor. Even with a single finger and both eyes closed, these banal tasks will be completed perfectly, right?”

Javier’s continuous apple-polishing put a grin on Mary Jane’s face.

“Brat. Ever since you were young, nothing good ever follows whenever you shower me with unnecessary praises. Spill, what do you want?”

Javier skipped the pleasantries and talked about how Odello Corp. was oppressing Beacon Tires and Midnight Tires. Mary Jane waved right after that.

“I understand what you mean. You want me to hit back at Odello to save the wheels!”

Javier stuck his thumb up, genuinely admiring the woman.

“You know me best, Mary Jane. That’s my intention, direct a good amount of funds into targeting Odello Corp. and force them to spit back the funds they used to stockpile the raw materials. That way, Beacon and Midnight’s crisis will be resolved. I’ll make the call and get us the funds right now.”

Mary Jane chuckled. “You’re still underestimating me, boy. We don’t need that much money to play with a small thing like Odello Corp. Watch how I set the trap and scare them witless with just a few hundred thousand dollars!”

That was how confident Mary Jane was. She was omnipotent within the field of finance. If she wanted to, she could crush Odello Corp. with her bare hands-that was how insignificant the corporation was to her!

“All right! I’ll leave this to you then...”

Exiting Mary Jane’s office, Javier went back to his own four walls to take a few idle puffs. What he had to do after this was simple. He just needed to wait and witness the attack on Odello Corp.!

It was two in the afternoon and it was working hours, but Matthew was taking care of his precious son in the hospital. Once he thought of how Kendrick would have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, flames of fury burned within him and he directed them toward Jade.

He remained stubborn that nothing would have happened if Jade had not put up a fight and had just agreed to marry into the Dunhams. Kendrick would not be handicapped right now. Hence, Matthew’s fury toward Jade only increased.

If Mr. Dunham had not taken a liking to Jade, he might have even broken both of Jade’s legs and rendered her a cripple!

While he fumed silently, his secretary called. Worried that he would wake Kendrick, who was taking a nap, Matthew covered the speaker of his phone and stepped out of the ward to answer it.

“What? We’re under fire by an unknown conglomerate? Why is this happening? What happened?”

The moment he learned of what was happening, Matthew was unsettled. He hastily left instructions with Kendrick’s caretaker and sped off. Once he got back to headquarters, he flew toward the finance department to find out the current situation from the deputy finance director.

The guy explained, “The attack is coming from all directions. All the businesses under our corporation are financially affected, in varying degrees, by the market.

“Right now, all our subsidiaries are going haywire. We have no idea which corporation is targeting us, but I’ve launched an investigation. The first thing we have to do is wire in our funding to counter such financial attacks...”

## **Chapter 50 The Reassurance He Brings**

Matthew knew nothing about finances. Similarly, he did not understand how Odello Corp. was being targeted financially when the company was not even listed. The deputy finance director explained everything to him, but it all sounded like a foreign language to Matthew. He just could not be bothered to digest it.

“You’re the expert here. I’ll leave this to you. I’ll trust whatever you suggest!”

The deputy finance director was quite moved. “I won’t let you down, M1. Odell!”

After the vow, the deputy finance director suggested that Matthew pull back all the corporation’s funds in order to face a possible incoming and bigger finance attack.

Matthew sent out the order at once to direct back all the funds that could possibly be pulled back. His secretary asked softly from the side, “Mr. Odell, those stockpiles of raw materials for tires, they make up quite a substantial amount.”

On one hand, it was the life and death of Odello Corp. On the other hand, it was tearing Beacon Tires apart. Although Matthew was reluctant to lose such an opportunity, he had to assent. "Sell them all in exchange for funding so we can fully concentrate on facing this crisis. Whatever you do, don't sell it to Beacon or Midnight!"

The secretary complied and hurried off to delegate the tasks to the relevant staff.

Half an hour later, Larry from Grazin' Tractor appeared at one of Odello Corp.'s warehouses. After some back and forth bargaining with the person in charge, the raw materials were all sold to Larry at a price that was 20% lower than the market rate. They put the agreement down in writing too, signed and sealed, so it was bound by the law.

After the agreement was signed, Larry made the logistic arrangements to transport the materials while the warehouse person in charge contacted Matthew.

"Mr. Odell, we've sold all the raw materials for the tires according to your instructions. The payment has been made, but we had to give a 20% discount."

Matthew sighed at the news. "It's all right, as long as we manage to sell everything, the discount is negligible. It's more urgent that we tackle what we're facing now. Right, who did you sell it to? Not Beacon or Midnight, right?"

The answer was negative. The person in charge reported that he had followed Matthew's instructions and had sold the materials to Grazin' Tractors instead.

Matthew found the name familiar like he had come across it somewhere, but he did not pay attention to it since his priority was still to fend off the finance attack. He hung up shortly and notified the deputy finance director that all traceable funds were back in place.

It was then the deputy finance director creased his brows in confusion. Matthew asked

curiously, "What's the matter? Do we not have enough funds?"

The man shook his head. "No, that's not the case. It's just that they seem to be behaving quite oddly. They showed signs of going all out in battle earlier, attacking all the businesses under our corporation, but it's all quiet now."

Matthew did not understand what he was getting at, so the deputy finance director explained in simpler terms, "It's like they were trying to scare us."

"Then?" Matthew questioned.

"It's exactly because nothing came after that is why I'm confused. It's like the sky had darkened and thunder had roared just a second ago, but all the dark clouds suddenly vanished and there isn't a single drop of rain..." the deputy finance director answered.

Matthew finally understood. "So basically, I was anxious and panicky all day and prepared for an attack that didn't happen?!"

The deputy finance director winced, "We can't exactly say that either. After all, they were being really aggressive just now. We couldn't afford to not take precautions."

Matthew was furious. He had been scared and worried for nothing. It turned out that nothing had happened. But there was nothing he could say to the deputy finance director. The latter did not do anything wrong. He had been getting them ready just in case.

Matthew was puzzled. And thinking about the 20% of funds he had lost on the raw tire materials frustrated him. Then, his phone rang, showing an unknown local number.

Before Matthew could say anything, the person on the other end of the line spoke up first.

“Mr. Matthew Odell? I’m the purchasing chief of Beacon Tires. Our boss asked me to thank Odello Corp. for getting us raw materials that cost 20% less than the market price and saving us over 300 thousand dollars.

“Our boss also mentioned that to show our sincere gratitude, she has decided to host a pity party for you at Dum-O-Mattie-Diner tonight and has invited you to join us. Do come, Mr. Odell. All of us at Beacon Tires are really looking forward to your presence!”

Matthew was unable to get a word in throughout the phone call. It was until the call was cut that he snapped out of it. He finally remembered who Grazin’ Tractors was—they were Beacon Tires’ biggest client according to the report Jade had presented!

In his office, Matthew roared and thrashed his phone out of rage. He had repeated himself like a broken record to not sell the materials to Jade, but that woman ultimately managed to get her hands on them.

That was a loss of over 300 thousand dollars. While it was nothing to Odello Corp., it was a huge thorn in his side. Matthew had dug a trap for Jade, wanting to bury her inside, only to end up jumping into it himself and even became her stepping stone.

The mere thought made Matthew want to explode. He furiously pounded his fists on the desktop. How dare they say Dum-O-Mattie-Diner-Mattie was short for Matthew, they were basically calling him a dummy!

Paying over 300 thousand dollars on behalf of someone else, being called up and mocked at, and even addressed as a dummy... Matthew’s eyes watered from fury. It was exasperating. This was not the way to do things. They were such bullies...

Jade was in similar woe. Returning to the office a huff, she was irked. How could they have increased the price just like that and done it only to her company? She had not even been able to reach a mutual price agreement with them. They were such bullies...

As she grumbled to herself, the purchasing chief ran over giddily.

“Ms. Odell, Mr. Kersey’s amazing. He got us the raw materials and saved us over 300 thousand dollars. He’s the man!”

Jade looked lost, not comprehending the situation. She had just come back from the negotiation where she had failed. Where was Javier sourcing the raw materials from?

She hurried to Javier’s office to ask about it and an awed gaze fell over her face when she was told the solution “Javier, you’re amazing! I was just wondering how we were going to go about this issue and

you've already resolved it. That, and have given Matthew Odell a loud slap across his face as well. What a bad\*ss!"

Jade was not trying to pander to Javier. She genuinely thought that the man with his tactics was brilliant.

Javier did not take the credit but replied with a smile, "It's got nothing to do with me. Ms. Gould's the one who accomplished the feat."

Jade said nothing more but she was well aware-Mary Jane should not be discredited in this achievement, but it was obviously Javier's idea. Moreover, if it had not been for Javier, Mary Jane would not even join Beacon Tires and thus would have helped them today. Basically, Jade was still immensely grateful to Javier, thankful that he was around her and for the sense of reassurance he brought to her...

### **Chapter 51 Do You Have a Death Wish**

After the financial sniping incident, Matthew suspected that Beacon Tires had something to do with the incident, as it was all too much of a coincidence.

However, Mary Jane had already made plans for someone else to take the fall-under the pretense that a minor company had somehow been the instigator of the entire incident. By doing so, Odello Corp. would have no way of linking this incident to Beacon Tires.

There was no way Matthew was going to let Beacon Tires off the hook despite not being able to link the two together...

Over the next month, he coerced Odello Corp. into using all kinds of extreme methods to pressure Beacon Tires.

However, all of these attacks were easily handled by Javier, rendering all of Matthew's efforts moot, causing the latter to be extremely furious. At the same time, the young Dunham, who was the person pulling the strings from behind the scenes, was feeling frustrated as well...

Judging by the man's tone during their conversation, Matthew could tell that the young Dunham was very disappointed in him...

"Matthew, do you know what's the difference between you and a piece of trash? You don't do you? To be honest, I don't even know what the difference is myself, because you both look absolutely alike to me. It's like you're both reflections of one another! I want you to go look at a mirror and see if a piece of trash is reflected in it."

Matthew's fury began to rise when he was called a piece of trash by someone younger than him, but there was nothing he could do, as the Dunhams were very powerful. At the end of the day, he only had himself to blame for putting his hopes on the Dunhams and going public.

Thus, he could only smile and promise that he would do his best without explaining in detail what he was going to do.

Fortunately, the young Dunham man did not have any more expectations of Matthew and said that he was going to personally handle the situation.

That afternoon, Javier received a phone call from his former roommate back in university, who invited Javier to a reunion dinner with other former students that night, sounding very sincere.

At first, Javier did not want to go because these sorts of reunions usually meant people would be comparing their success to one another, show off their wealth, and suck up to the rich while scolding the less well-off...

This was why Javier did not think it would be worth his time to attend such an event. However, he could not bring himself to reject his former roommate's adamant invitation. On top of that, the two of them had been rather close in the past. And so Javier agreed to attend

and just go there to have some fun.

He was just going to ignore anyone who wanted to flaunt their riches, as to him, such people were merely children jiggling their pockets around to show the others how much candy they had inside.

When Javier passed by Jade's office, he noticed that the lights were still on. He stepped inside and said, "It's so late already. Why haven't you left yet?"

"Oh... I'm just going to read for a little longer. There are some things my mentor taught me that I don't quite understand. I'm rather stupid, so I want to study for a little longer."

In Javier's opinion, Jade was not stupid by any means. Her only problem was that she had not been exposed to society, thus her naivety.

On top of that, after falling into all sorts of traps set up by her adversaries, Jade was no longer the same person she once was. Besides, she had sought out Mary Jane to be her mentor, putting in a lot of effort to learn about the financial world in hopes that she would gain a new skill that would help her in her career.

Javier wholeheartedly supported this decision of hers. In fact, he even admired it.

After reminding Jade to go home soon, he hailed a cab and went to the reunion, which was taking place in a restaurant.

Surprisingly, the atmosphere that night was rather peaceful. Those who were well-off had a group of people around them, while the others did not receive any criticism whatsoever. Perhaps it was because they had not drunk enough alcohol, so there was still some amount of sentiment stopping them from launching attacks.

However, after they split the bill and went on to have some more fun, some of the former students who had drunk a lot more alcohol began showing their true colors.

This was especially true for Dick Fulmer, who had managed to climb up the ladder and become Fusion's deputy section chief. He kept criticizing his former schoolmates who had failed to make a name for themselves. Coincidentally, Javier was one of the people that fell into this category.

Since his arrival, Javier had not told anyone that he was the vice general manager of Beacon Tires because he thought that would make him seem as if he was deliberately trying to show off. Plus, he did not think that this position of his was worth flaunting at all.

In the end, Dick approached Javier and wrapped his arm around Javier's neck.

"Hey, Javier... I remember you... This is the guy who punched me and sent me to the hospital for half a month just because I scolded him about something during our sophomore year!"

Dick sounded as though he was about to settle an old score with Javier, but he then patted the latter's shoulder and laughed out loud.

"Then again, we were both young and hot-blooded at the time, so it's fine. Plus, something as trivial as that shouldn't come in the way of our relationship as former schoolmates, right?"

Dick was doing rather well for himself. In fact, he had even announced back at the restaurant that he was about to have the "deputy" part of his title removed very soon. Upon hearing this, many people had begun to show him a lot more respect. In fact, a few of them had hurriedly poured a drink for Dick to apologize for their former rudeness.

Before Javier could even say anything, Dick had already interjected and said, "What's with all this apologizing? Come on! I just said that our relationship as former schoolmates is much more important! There's no need for you to apologize to me at all!"

Dick had made himself seem especially forgiving, which brought about another round of people flattering him and trying to curry favor with him.

Then, Dick asked, "By the way, Javier, where's Selena? She's our former schoolmate as well, so you shouldn't be keeping her at home just because you two are married, right? Shouldn't you at least have brought her along so that we could have a proper reunion?"

Javier merely smiled and did not explain anything.

However, Dick had obviously come prepared. "Oh! I just remembered... The two of you are divorced, right?"

"Oh my goodness, didn't I tell you in the past that she's way out of your league? She's beautiful and has a rocking body, so how could you possibly be worthy of her. Now look at what's happened to you... Divorced after two years of marriage, and she's washing her hands of you in no time!"

"By the way, I heard that you're working at Beacon Tires as a minor clerk. I also heard that the person she cheated on you with is the financial director of your company, and he has a limp... Is that right?"

Dick was taking things too far, completely disregarding everything he had just said about them being former schoolmates.

It would seem as though Javier was in his firing line that night and he wanted to get his revenge for being sent to the hospital for half a month all those years ago.

Some of the people next to them could tell that the situation was getting out of hand, so they immediately told Javier not to pay Dick any attention because he was already drunk.

However, the people who were trying to flatter Dick began to add salt to the wound, expressing more scorn and laughing hysterically. Meanwhile, they kept saying that Javier was an absolute fool who had

tried to be in a relationship with a woman who was way out of his league and that he was completely unworthy of her. They continuously hurled insult after insult at Javier.

Somehow, these people felt their egos inflate after mocking Javier and believed that they were going to be in Dick's good graces very soon.

However, what was happening was actually the opposite. These people might not even be able to accomplish their original objective, which was to suck up to Dick.

Javier took a deep breath before he turned to look at the man mocking him...

"Do you have a death wish?"

### **Chapter 52 Javier's at the Height of His Life!**

At Javier's question, pin-drop silence fell over the party Dick stood before him, his eyes emanating a look full of scorn.

"What's wrong? Do you not like what I said? Are you going to hit me just like you did all those years ago? Come on then!

"If you dare touch a single hair of mine, I'll send people to hound you and make sure that you end up dead! Go ahead! Try me if you dare!!!"

Despite how arrogant Dick was at that moment, he did not dare do the same to others of their group because most of them came from wealthy families with decent careers and a certain amount of influence behind the scenes. However, he thought that Javier was just a useless piece of trash that he could mock over and over again without any fear of backlash!

Right at that moment, someone suddenly crashed the party!

A clean-looking, handsome man rushed in with a fresh bouquet in his hands.

"Hello, my dear female schoolmates! It's me..Zayn Dunham!"

Zayn was one of Javier's schoolmates and the biggest drama queen ever... He was a real outgoing person. Javier was not close to this man because he did not like to cause a scene, while Zayn did. Thus, the two of them were fated to be like water and oil.

Zayn was slightly stunned when he realized that the crowd had not reacted as warmly as he had expected, which caused him to curiously ask, "What's wrong?"

One of the former students there briefly explained to Zayn what had just happened between Dick and Javier

However, right at that moment, Dick suddenly rushed forward and greeted someone in a very flattering manner. "Mr. Farlow?! What a coincidence!"

The crowd immediately turned to look outside the room's entrance, where they saw Dick enthusiastically shaking hands with a fat man

Javier instantly recognized the man-Wade Farlow, the owner of Fusion Electric Cars,

After greeting him, Dick headed to the opposite room with Wade.

Since the troublemaker was now gone, and Zayn was a man who loved to hype up a crowd the atmosphere inside the room very quickly returned to normal Nobody paid any more attention to the conflict that had been just about to take place a moment ago

Zayn was fooling around and singing his lungs out, making the atmosphere very joyous. But the few women present still behaved very awkwardly in front of him.

Approximately ten minutes later, the room doors were pushed open once again. Then, the lights were turned on, flooding the entire room with bright white light.

Right after that, Dick brought Wade inside and officially introduced him.

“Everyone, this is my boss, Mr. Wade Farlow. He’s the owner of the extremely esteemed Fusion Electric Cars. I specifically invited him here to say a few words to help those of you who are feeling lost in life. Now, please give him a round of applause!”

As beautiful as Dick’s words were, the truth was that he had dragged Wade over there to show how important he was to Fusion.

However, the crowd still clapped their hands, welcoming Wade passionately.

Right at that moment, Dick noticed Javier and saw that the latter was not clapping.

“What do you think you’re doing, Javier? Are you trying to be a bore? Listen up, your vice GM is pretty close with Mr. Farlow, so if you dare look down on him, I wouldn’t mind having a few words with your vice GM and—”

Someone had suddenly shoved Dick right in the side. Furious, Dick whipped his head around to find out who had the nerve to push him when he was met with Wade’s angry gaze.

Feeling stunned, Dick had no idea why his boss would push him out of the blue and even give him the stink eye. Immediately, Wade approached Javier and shook the latter’s hand.

“Mr. Kersey, I didn’t think I’d get to meet you here! Looks like we’re fated to meet each other more often!”

Everyone on the scene was stunned by Wade’s actions, as the thought of Javier becoming vice GM had never once crossed their minds.

This was especially true for Dick. Initially, he had thought that he had done quite well for himself, as he had managed to climb to the position of deputy section chief!

Seeing that everyone was dumbfounded, Wade felt slightly shocked and asked, “Don’t you all know that Mr. Kersey here is the vice GM of Beacon Tires?”

That statement once again made the entire crowd go silent, as they’d genuinely had no idea.

If he was the vice GM, that meant that he was the leader of literally everyone in the company except for his direct superior. In fact, he should be even more superior than a usual vice GM.

Everyone was surprised, as none of them could ever have imagined that Javier, who had remained silent the entire night, was actually doing so well for himself. This was especially

- true for Dick, whose face had turned completely ashen.

'I even said that I was going to have a word with Beacon Tires' vice GM just a moment ago.... and he's been standing right in front of me!!!

'Oh sh\*t, oh sh\*t.. I'm f\*cked!'

Dick had already known that the vice GM of Beacon Tires was rather close to Wade.

As a result, what had started off as a show-off had ended up becoming a huge landmine that Dick had very happily stepped on.

Racking his brain, Dick hurriedly took a step forward with a flattering expression.

"See! I told you all that Javier's the smartest out of all of us. None of you would believe me!

"He managed to become the vice GM through his own efforts! Doesn't this prove that he's a young and highly capable man?

"We should all learn from him and work as hard as we can to..."

Dick, who had just been scolding Javier to hell, was now shamelessly trying to lick his boots in hopes of being able to gain the former's favor.

Then again, he had to do that because he was afraid that Javier might cause him trouble later on!

Unfortunately, Dick was not the only one who wanted to curry favor with Javier...

Another guy who had also been scorning Javier earlier made a complete 180. He stood behind Dick and said, "How shameless can you get, Dick? You clearly didn't say any of those things! You were laughing and mocking Javier for being divorced! You even paid someone 80 dollars to have him contact Selena to give you ammunition to teach Javier a very painful lesson....

"I can't really bear to say this myself, but are you seriously shamelessly trying to curry favor with Javier now that you know he's the vice GM? Do you really not know what shame is? I

feel really ashamed that we graduated the same year!"

Dick was shocked to find that this guy, who had been flattering him just a minute ago, was now stabbing him in the back!

Furious, he raised his hand, ready to land a clean punch on him.

However, before he could even swing his arm, Wade intercepted and said, "Dick Fulmer, you're hereby fired from my company. I want you to collect your personal belongings and get the hell out of my company tomorrow!"

Dick was dumbfounded...

Wade then stormed out of the room with Dick following closely behind, begging the former to let him have his job back.

Meanwhile, the remaining people carried on having fun. However, instead of trying to flatter Dick, they now gathered around Javier, flattering him in all sorts of ways.

Javier could not be bothered to stay at the reunion any longer, so he tried to leave the room after entertaining a few of them. Unfortunately...they were not about to let him go so easily and they eventually offered to drive him back.

When they arrived at the main entrance, a Mercedes-Benz G63 pulled up at the same time. Jade stepped out and very gracefully walked toward Javier.

“Are you done with your reunion, honey? I thought I could come and join you all...but it’s all right, let’s head home now!”

Jade wrapped her arms around Javier’s and leaned on his shoulder as if they were passionately in love. They then got in their car and sped off.

“Oh my God! Javier’s seriously awesome! He’s got an awesome car and a beautiful woman... He’s literally got everything!”

“I think everything that Dick said a while back was completely false! Selena isn’t the one who abandoned him. It was the other way around! Javier got a promotion, became rich, and found a new wife! He’s now at the peak of his life!”

While everyone was feeling envious of Javier, Zayn had an eerily menacing look on his face...

“You’ve fallen for someone else. I knew it!”

### **Chapter 53 Making the Right Decision**

On the way back, Javier questioned Jade about her prior actions and the reason she’d called him “honey.”

Jade then explained, “You’re the one who sent me a text saying that you were having a reunion with your former schoolmates here and would be back home late tonight. That’s why I came over.

“I thought that reunions usually involve people criticizing one another. Also, I know that you’re a man who prefers to keep a low profile, so I was sure that you would be one of those being criticized. Considering how much you’ve helped me in the past, I thought I’d come over and make you look good!”

After saying that, Jade turned to look at Javier with a smile. “Hurry up and thank me!”

Feeling flabbergasted, Javier chuckled and said, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome!”

‘She’s really pretty when she smiles... I can feel my heartstrings being pulled whenever I see her like this...’

Javier thought that this matter would end now that the reunion was over and nobody would bug him anymore.

Alas, that was not the end, but the beginning of a whole lot more trouble...

The next morning, Javier was going through some documents in his office when someone knocked on his door.

“Mr. Kersey, there’s someone here who’d like to meet you. He says that he’s a former schoolmate of yours and he’s carrying luggage with him.”

Javier found this slightly strange... ‘Luggage? Is he planning on jumping ship?’

Since this person was Javier’s former schoolmate, Javier did not think he had a reason not to meet them.

Soon, the sound of a man dragging his luggage while entering Javier’s office was heard.

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When Javier looked up, he was completely surprised to find out who it was... He had initially thought this would be someone who had just returned from overseas, but to his surprise, it was actually Zayn!

Before Javier could even speak, Zayn had already interjected.

“You can’t possibly think that I’m here to ask you for a job, right?”

Looking at the Armani outfit that Zayn was wearing, the Vacheron Constantin on his wrist, and the custom leather shoes he had on, there was no way Javier would have thought that.

Zayn took a step forward and lifted the luggage he was carrying before dropping it onto

Javier’s desk with a loud thud.

Judging by how loud the noise was, it was pretty obvious that the contents of his luggage were pretty heavy. ‘I wonder what’s inside...’

Immediately, Zayn pulled out a chair and sat down.

“I believe you should be a pretty smart guy since you were able to become the vice general manager, so you probably won’t misunderstand.”

Zayn took out a pack of cigarettes and lit one up. He then took a puff before opening the luggage, instantly revealing a suitcase full of cash, a true spectacle to behold.

However, Javier did not seem to be affected by the spectacle before him and suddenly remembered the surname Dunham.

He leaned against his chair and said, “I didn’t realize that you were the young man from the Dunhams we’ve been looking for.”

Zayn nodded. "Looks like I didn't misjudge you after all. You really are quite smart. That's right, I'm Zayn, the young master of the Dunhams. So, would you be willing to take the 150,000 dollars before you and get the f\*ck out of Beacon Tires?"

"Of course, this is on the condition that you'll not go near Jade ever again."

After saying that, Zayn scanned Javier with a smile, silently waiting for his answer.

Unfortunately, Zayn was not about to receive the reply he wanted. All he got from Javier was a silent gaze.

Thus, Zayn pondered it for a moment and added another condition. "You could come to my family's business and work for us. We'll pay you double."

Zayn was being very generous by offering Javier double of his current salary, regardless of the amount. However, that was not what Javier wanted.

Then, Zayn asked once more, "What do you want in return then?"

Javier replied, "I doubt you'll be able to do it."

Zayn let out a sneer. "How do you know I won't be able to make your wildest dreams come true if you don't tell me?"

Zayn had thought that Javier wanted even more than he was being offered, but that was not the case, obviously...

"I want you to get the f\*ck out of here."

Javier's statement instantly wiped the smirk off of Zayn's face

Zayn silently looked at Javier for a while longer before he said, "Actually, I've always kept a low profile. Unlike you, a man who prefers to deliberately have everything arranged to make it seem like he keeps a low profile when he actually isn't!

\*As I said, I genuinely prefer to keep a low profile. Why? Because I feel no need to flaunt my riches! My presence itself will make me seem high-profile! I'm an existence that you'll never be able to reach, so I'm the one who will take Jade all the way to the top!

"But you can't do that! You'll only drag her down and become a burden for her. You'll be like a stubborn little mutt who refuses to leave her. I believe you understand what I'm trying to say, right?"

Javier calmly looked at Zayn. "Are you done?"

"I'm done talking, but I'm not done taking action."

Zayn stood up, walked toward the french windows, and looked downstairs.

At that moment, there was a white Ferrari 488 worth more than 600,000 dollars with a bunch of roses forming the shape of a heart around it. Next to the roses were white petals that formed the words: I love you, Jade Odell. I want to be with you for the rest of my life.

Aside from that, there was also a hot-air balloon floating in the sky.

A pair of children, a boy and a girl, who looked to be around five years old were dressed in pure white and were continuously scattering petals through the air. There was even an LCD screen beside the hot-air balloon with the words "Marry me, Jade Odell. I swear I'll make you happy forever and ever!" flashing on it.

All of this combined made Zayn seem like a complete showoff, which created a stark contrast to what he had just said to Javier a moment ago.

Zayn knocked on the window and waved at Javier. "I think you should come over and take a look. I'm sure this will shock you. In fact, you'll realize how small you are after seeing it. But I think this is a good thing, as you'll then learn your true place in life."

Javier could not be bothered to see it, so Zayn took out his cell phone and took a video of the entire scene before showing it to Javier. "What do you think? Romantic, isn't it?"

Javier shot a glance at Zayn. "That's a big spectacle you've made there."

"You're just like the fox who said that the grapes it couldn't reach were sour, but that's understandable."

After making that remark, Zayn closed his luggage and turned it around to face Javier. "Now, take the money and leave!"

"Don't you think there's too little money in here?"

Zayn smirked. "That's quite an appetite you've got there. Fine! I'll throw in another 150,000 dollars. You'll get it when you get out of here."

However, Javier merely leaned against his chair and crossed his legs. "Is that all the great Dunham family has?"

"No, this is as much as you're worth!" Zayn patted Javier's shoulder and headed for the door. "My dear former schoolmate, you should make the right choice. You aren't doing this for me but for yourself-saving yourself from a lifetime of shame."

Zayn was very arrogant and self-confident.

However, right after he arrived downstairs and stood before his Ferrari, his luggage suddenly fell from the sky just as he was about to get in.

Thud! The luggage landed squarely on top of the car, broke open, and the cash within it flew everywhere.

Zayn raised his head and looked toward the office upstairs with a smile on his face. However, it was a menacing, dangerous smile.

"Well done... I'm going to make sure that you get squashed flat like the insect you are. Otherwise, you'll never know your place!"

**Chapter 54 I'd Rather Die Than Marry Him!**

Javier was surprised by Zayn's sudden appearance but did not think too much about it.

In his eyes, Zack, Kendrick, even Zayn, made no difference to him. All three of them were like insects and vermin in the face of a giant elephant-they would all be squashed in the end.

After hurling the luggage out of his window, Javier carried on working without any emotions going through his mind.

However, half an hour later, someone arrived at the office once more. This time, the person in question was not there for Javier, but for Jade.

The newcomer glided across the shiny floor tiles, her high-heeled shoes making loud tapping noises as she rushed into Jade's office. Not even Jade's secretary could stop the woman.

When Jade's office doors swung open, the secretary hurriedly tried to explain the situation to Jade. However, the woman stormed forward and landed a tight slap on Jade's face, leaving the secretary stunned.

Jade rubbed her burning cheek and told her secretary, "Leave us and close the door."

After the secretary had done as per Jade's instructions, the woman spoke up. "Looks like you've got a guilty conscience after all... You don't want others knowing what you've done, do you?!"

Jade took a deep breath and tried her best to suppress the raging anger within her as she replied, "Neve, I didn't have my secretary close the door because I'm feeling guilty. I just don't want Odells to become the laughing stock of society."

The woman who had just arrived was Neve Odell-Jade's cousin and Kendrick's biological sister.

Neve was rather beautiful, with pretty nice curves as well. But her arrogance and looks were directly proportional to one another.

One year, Neve had been involved in a drunk driving accident that had caused two deaths and four injuries. After the hit-and-run, she'd had someone take the fall for her while she fled overseas.

'She's most likely returned to the country all of a sudden because of Kendrick's condition.'

Sure enough, Neve said, "How dare you mention the Odells!

"If you really thought of yourself as an Odell, don't you think you shouldn't have stood aside and done nothing while Odello Corp. was doing its very best to go public? Would you really have allowed Kendrick to become a cripple?

"And now you're bringing up our family's name... You should just change your surname and o live with the b\*tches back in your mother's hometown!"

Jade could tolerate Neve's attacks against her, but she was not going to let Neve humiliate her mother.

"Listen up, Neve! Kendrick deserves everything that's happened to him! It's got nothing to do with me, as he-

However, Neve could not accept Jade's argument at all. "Enough! I only look at the facts, and it's a fact that you're the reason my little brother's become a cripple. So just you wait, Jade... I came back here specifically to get revenge on behalf of Kendrick!"

After shooting her Jade another hateful glare, Neve turned around and left. 1

By the time Javier rushed to Jade's office after hearing that Neve had arrived, she was already long gone, but the palm mark on Jade's face was still bright red and had left her cheek slightly swollen.

Jade hurriedly covered her cheek when she saw Javier, pretending nothing had happened.

However, Javier dipped a towel into some water and handed it to Jade. "I already heard what happened. Put this on your face."

Jade accepted the wet towel and sighed as she placed it over her cheek. "These people just can't be reasoned with."

Javier could only give her a wry smile and say a few words of consolation. After all, he did not know what else to say.

Right at that moment, Jade's secretary arrived once more with an iPad in hand.

She stood before Jade and placed the iPad on her desk, showing Jade a screenshot.

"This is from our local information hub and other social media sites. They're all spreading news about Zayn's confession to you..."

Of course, Jade knew about Zayn's very high-profile confession, which had happened just minutes ago. However, she had not paid him any attention, as she wanted to let that ruckus die out on its own.

However, the reality of the situation was very different from what she wanted because news of the incident was spreading like wildfire, with the public discussing this grand confession. In fact, some women even commented that they were envious of Jade and would definitely agree to go out with a man if they were pursued using such tactics.

After looking at the screenshot, Jade was so furious that she almost forgot to breathe. "Those women can marry him for all I care, but I'm not going to be his wife! Zayn Dunham's a piece of trash who forced the woman he knocked up to jump off a building. I'm sure many people know about this incident. I'd rather die than marry him!"

Javier genuinely did not know what that was all about, so Jade gave him a quick rundown.

Half a year ago, Zayn had been in a relationship with a girl. He then took a fancy to the girl's little sister and forced himself on her. Later on, the little sister realized that she was pregnant and wanted to come clean to the girl, but Zayn turned around and accused the little sister of seducing him after he failed to stop her.

In order to prove her innocence, the little sister had threatened to commit suicide if Zayn refused to tell the truth, but he still refused to say anything. To make matters worse, Zayn even deliberately agitated the little sister with his words and forced her to jump off a building, thus ending up with the blood of two lost lives on his hands.

When this incident happened, many of the people in Zayn's circle were shocked. But Zayn had used his family's connections to suppress the matter, which was why the public did not know the full details of what had happened and merely thought that the little sister had foolishly killed herself over something trivial.

"You want me to marry a b\*stard like him? No way! Over my dead body!"

Jade's stance was very firm, but the internet did not seem to agree with her, as people kept on sharing that piece of news non-stop.

This applied especially to Jade's circle of friends. Jade's friends from all over the country had seen this and spread the news even further to let even more people know.

Jade felt extremely frustrated as a whole bunch of friends called to congratulate her within a mere 30 minutes. Those congratulatory messages only incited her anger and frustration even more.

Seeing the state Jade was in, Javier took out his cell phone and made a phone call.

That afternoon, while Zayn was having lunch in a restaurant, he was scrolling through his phone with a smile on his face.

He was on cloud nine because his theatrics that morning had become a heated topic within a few hours and a number of people were supporting his stance.

[D\*mn it. If I had that much money, I would've definitely made an even bigger show out of it. But...I don't have that kind of money!!!!

(He's from a wealthy family with a net worth of millions of dollars. Plus, he's so handsome... I can't imagine how wonderful it would be to be the one he's pursuing... I'm so jealous!

[That's so romantic... If my boyfriend did something as romantic as that, I would love him until the day I die!]

All the comments were filled with jealousy and envy, and they were all music to Zayn's ears.

Everyone was supporting him and wanted Jade to marry him. Thus, he believed that those comments would become the motivation for Jane to throw herself into his arms. 'They're all just women at the end of the day... Who wouldn't like to take the spotlight and attract

everyone's attention?'

Zayn thought he had a very accurate grasp of a woman's thoughts at that moment. But after lunch, his expression instantly changed when he took a look at the comments again.

(Zayn Dunham, 25 years old, male. The son of Dunham Group's chairman and a cruel man who caused the woman carrying his child to jump off a building...)

The entire incident that could severely tarnish Zayn's reputation was now on the internet for everyone to see!

## **Chapter 55 Her Second Uncle's Love and Care**

Zayn's face turned ashen when he saw the 180 in the netizens' discussions.

As his hands shook, he made a call... "I want the internet to be wiped clean! Now! I don't care how much it costs! I want all the information about me deleted... I've already f\*cking said, everything needs to go! Including my confession this morning! All of it!!!"

After hanging up, Zayn upended the table in front of him, sending all the plates crashing to the floor.

"Who was it... Who was it?! Who leaked that information about me on the internet?! That f\*cking b\*stard!!!"

Zayn's rage went on for more than ten minutes before he finally calmed down. He sat down and fumed some more, muttering to himself under his breath for another five more. He then pulled out his cell phone and gave Matthew a call, still muttering to himself.

"I can't let this happen... I must make Jade see that my feelings toward her are genuine! I must make her feel that and not let this negative information affect her..."

When the others returned to work that afternoon, Jade immediately noticed the change in the netizens' opinion—they had turned around and were attacking Zayn. Jade felt elated when she read all this. In fact, she was so engrossed in the scolding that she ended up neglecting her work and just sat there scrolling through the scathing comments.

However, after a short while, all of the comments were deleted.

She then posted a message onto the site questioning why all the information on Zayn had been deleted. But then she realized the word "Zayn" had somehow become a keyword. All posts and information with this keyword were automatically deleted whenever it popped up. Jade was certain that Zayn had spent a lot of money to have all of this information deleted, afraid that his dark history would end up blowing up even further.

"Hah! You're actually afraid of being humiliated, you piece of sh\*t!"

After she was done mocking Zayn, Jade recalled the phone call Javier had made in her office that morning.

In reality, Jade was not as stupid as she described herself to be. On the contrary, she was smart enough to instantly guess that Javier was the one behind the whole thing. Javier had not said a word about what he had done, choosing to help her silently. Jade felt a warmth spread through her heart and thought that he was a very decent person...

While she was basking in that warmth, her cell phone suddenly rang.

When Jade picked up, she realized that it was a phone call from Matthew.

Although she hung up without a second thought, Matthew was somehow still adamant about getting her to answer his call and dialed her number three times consecutively.

On his fourth try, Jade finally gave in and answered the phone. To her surprise, Matthew's voice sounded very gentle the moment the call was connected...

“Jade, could you come over to Odello Corp., please? There’s something I’d like to announce to you face to face.”

However, Jade only felt a chill running down her spine when she heard his kind, loving tone.

‘Did he wake up on the wrong side of the bed this morning? What happened to him calling me “a little b\*tch” like he usually does?’

Matthew swiftly hung up the phone call without leaving Jade a chance to question what was going on.

After being startled for a while, Jade still could not figure out what Matthew was up to this time.

However, she thought that there was nothing for her to worry about, as there would be a lot of people at Odello Corp. now. Thus, she immediately drove over.

Mr. John, who was both the chairman and general manager of Odello Corp, was now bedridden in the hospital, so Matthew had full control over the company.

Thus, he was now working in the chairman’s office, where nobody dared utter a single comment about him.

After Jade entered the office, she immediately saw Neve sitting on the sofa on the side, puffing on a cigar with her legs crossed.

At the same time, Neve noticed Jade, her eyes cold and menacing like the eyes of a viper staring at its prey.

Meanwhile, Matthew, who was seated before his desk, immediately got up and approached Jade in a friendly manner.

“Jade, Beacon Tires is growing at a very decent rate under your guidance. This fully proves how capable and talented you are when it comes to business management. You really are a descendant of the Odells, and I’m very proud of you!”

- After complimenting Jade, Matthew turned around to look at Neve. “Just look at your cousin. Why are you wasting your days doing nothing when she’s putting in so much effort to build her company? Don’t you feel ashamed? You should be learning from her and helping our family become even stronger!”

Jade was completely befuddled by whatever was going on and had no idea what was happening.

Neve, on the other hand, seemed agitated. She stomped her foot on the floor and got up. “Dad!

Kendrick’s still lying in the hospital, so why are you complimenting her all of a sudden? You should be avenging Kendrick? What in the world are you doing? Have you lost your mind?!”

Matthew furiously slammed the table. “Shut up, you insolent girl! I’m your father! How dare you speak to me like that?”

“But you...”

Before Neve could continue, Matthew instantly retorted, "Out! Get out of my office! I can't stand the sight of you right now, so just leave!"

Fuming with anger, Neve deliberately bumped into Jade on her way out. However, Jade was not about to find fault with her, mainly because she was focused on finding out what Matthew was up to now.

Meanwhile, when Matthew turned toward Jade, he went back to smiling widely.

'I won't explain myself anymore, as you'll definitely think I'm out to trap you again.

"You see, to be honest, I actually intend to arrange for you to take on a new job, which is why I called you over today.

"Don't worry, Beacon Tires will still be managed by you, and Odello Corp. will never interfere in that. Right now, I'd like to hand over Drakon Real Estate to you. You'll be managing it completely all by yourself.

"Jade, this is the company's way of acknowledging you, so you mustn't disappoint us. Or me... good luck!"

With a kind smile on his face and a few quick nods in Jade's direction, Matthew exited his office, leaving the latter all alone and dumbfounded.

Jade knew very well what kind of company Drakon was. It was purely focused on sales and lacked any development. Because of this, the company would essentially have zero debt to bear and all of the profit earned would be net profit. One might even say that it was a company with zero investment and one that many would love to get their hands on.

'Why would a company like this suddenly be passed over to me?'

On her way back to Beacon Tires after leaving Odell Corp., she came up with all sorts of theories. However, she still could not figure out what Matthew was planning.

Coincidentally, an unknown number suddenly called her at that moment.

Jade picked up the phone call, and an extremely gentle voice came from the other end of the line.

"Jade, it's Zayn... Congratulations on becoming the owner of Drakon Real Estate!"

Jade immediately wanted to hang up the phone when she heard Zayn's voice, but the second half of his statement managed to get her attention. "Are you the one behind all this?!"

Zayn replied, "I just so happened to come across the fact that you've been alienated by Odello Corp. Because of how much I love you, I felt extremely unhappy when I heard about this. I wouldn't ever allow my woman to be bullied..."

Jade immediately hung up before Zayn could even finish, as she now understood that Zayn was the culprit behind everything.

'He's trying to make me like him...

'But I don't need this, nor do I want it!

'Drakon Real Estate, my \*ss! Anyone who wants it can take it off my hands anytime. I feel disgusted just knowing that he's involved in my life!

However, Zayn then sent Jade a text message which contents left her with no choice but to change her mind

### **Chapter 56 A New Boss Is Coming to Town**

Zayn made two more calls after that, but Jade spurned all of them. She was just about to shut her phone off to keep him away when she saw a new message from the man. His words seemed to be dripping with concern.

'Reject me all you want, but do you really want to see your grandpa's life and soul ruined at the hands of incompetence personified?'

It was a hit below the belt that plunged itself deep into Jade's chest, right where it hurt the most.

She had grown up with Grandpa since she was just a child, so the depth of their emotional bond could not be underestimated. It hurt her to see Odello Corp., the very thing her grandfather had devoted his soul to, be torn down to ruins at the hands of her useless uncle.

That was why she had to do it. She had to become the leader of Drakon Real Estate.

'-which doesn't change a thing! Just because I've assumed leadership, it doesn't mean I'm beholden to him. If he thinks he can make me marry him, well, he's got a better chance of dreaming about it in his sleep!' Jade declared loudly as soon as she returned to the company and found Javier.

Her words got a smile out of him. "You did the right thing. You should take over."

Jade nodded. "Well, that's it then, isn't it? This place belongs to you now. I'm gonna have to focus on Drakon Real Estate."

"Wait, all by yourself? You're gonna get picked on, milked dry, chewed, and then spat out. I would be surprised if none of that happened to you!" he rebuffed. "Zayn's ugly intentions are clear as day, okay? He's pretending to be helping you while setting up traps and scheming in the dark, and then he goes back to being that goodie-good who's nothing but helpful to you. He doesn't even need to put that much effort into acting too, 'cause he's got Matthew to be the heel all the time! What does that leave him? A full-time job being the face of it all. Honestly, how could you possibly beat Double Trouble, huh?"

Jade stared at him in glum helplessness. "Okay. So I'm not exactly the most perceiving person, and I'm certainly not as shrewd or good as you are. But even I can tell who isn't a good, person, you know. But I don't have a choice, do I? We can't just abandon Beacon Tires for a new job. We could get someone else to fill in for us, but I just don't trust anyone else."

Javier fell on the couch and thought for a moment before shaking his head. "That's it... I don't feel safe leaving you alone to do this, so I'm coming with you. As for Beacon Tires, I'll find someone capable to take over, okay?"

In the meantime, in a car heading straight to the hospital, a very irate Neve Odell had on her worst scowl, and her eyes were pointedly averted from Matthew, who was sitting next to her.

The older man was not deterred. "Come on, my darling princess! Don't be mad, okay? You can't possibly think I wanted to hand Drakon over to that girl, right? It was all Zayn's idea! He's trying to ingratiate himself with her by doing this, princess! What else could I do? Say no? You know that's not an option! We need the Dunhams to support our plans!

"Think about it this way, okay? This is for the sake of Odello Corp., my dear. This is for the sake of a future where we control the Odells, so we all have to make a small sacrifice for it, okay?"

Matthew's pleading explanation did clear things up for Neve, but it did not really ease the ire in her, "But still...this is so unfair! Why is Jade the only one eligible for this marriage?! God, it pisses me off! Why can't I be eligible too? How am I any inferior to her in terms of beauty, brawn, boobs, or butt? How am I any worse, huh? This is ridiculous!"

Matthew felt a little helpless and did his best to comfort her, "Look, I get what you're saying and I agree with you, princess. In an ideal world, you'd be the one the Dunhams want as their bride! But, well...there lies the problem, sweetie. Zayn wants Jade and only Jade. He doesn't like you that way, you know? What can I do?"

Her father's bumbling attempt to comfort her only accentuated what she loathed the most. A few moments of sullen silence later, a twinkle suddenly crossed her eyes. "Daddy, didn't you tell me before we got in the car that Zayn's only pretending to help Jade? He's actually on our side and he's trying to bring her down, right?" she asked. "I have a plan. What if I come out and bring that b\*tch down myself?"

"It'd be the perfect double whammy! I'll do what Zayn has wanted to do this whole time and show off my skills and capabilities! There's no way he won't notice me then! Maybe if he finally notices how beautiful and sexy I am, on top of being way more capable than that uppity Jade..."

She trailed off, but there was enough context for her father to understand her plan.

His eyes twinkled with a glint that matched his daughter's. "Oh my god. My baby girl is a genius. If you get Zayn to notice you and impress him so much that the two of you become an item, we'll become so powerful and influential that your daddy will be the family patriarch!"

Neve nodded hard. "That's right, Daddy! After everything's said and done, we'll fix that eyesore till she's good and...to avenge Kendrick!"

The two of them began to plot right there and then, their faces bright and beaming as their minds drifted to the oh-so-possible rosy future awaiting them both...

Three days later, at Beacon Tires, there was a new boss in town by the name of Chad Floyd McCool.

Chad was no ordinary guy. Although he was just in his forties, he had managed to obtain a certain degree of privilege and respect with the Kerseys. According to the family's williest and most astute observer, Chad was the kind of prodigy who would soar to absolute glory and

make great achievements in less than ten years. He would be the primo uno leading the Kersey family's business empire.

Formula 1 racer for the job, which was why Javier had poached him to lead the company.

At first, Chad balked at the new job of leading a small, unspectacular company. After all, no race car driver would be delighted to drive an old family sedan for an extended period of time. Though a meeting with Javier quickly changed his mind. He had always wanted to improve his standing with the Kerseys until he became a figure as exalted as the one and only Mary

Jane Gould. Prior to this, Chad had been stumped, not for lack of trying, but because he'd never had the right opportunity. Now, he'd gotten it. Javier had basically made him one of his people.

When Javier finally ascended the throne and became the leader of the Kerseys, what would that make Chad? It would make him the retainer of the High King, that's what! The distinguished right hand of the family's greatest heir! He'd be one huge step closer to greatness!

How the hell was he supposed to contain himself at the thought of such a glorious prospect?!

"So, Mr. McCool, Beacon Tires is now yours to manage. Oh, right..there's also Aunt Mary Jane. I mean, Ms. Gould is here as well, so you two can probably recruit a few more people to form a team or something," Javier said off-handedly as Chad's eyes widened.

"M-Ms. Gould?! You mean she's stationed here as well?!"

Seeing Javier nod sent Chad straight into rapture. "I don't think I'll need any more hands when I'm in a tag team as perfect as this, Master Javier! Hell, I swear to you right now-I'll make Beacon Tires one of the nation's top 100 companies. If I don't, I'll let you chop my head off and use my skull as your winecup!" His proclamation was brimming with absolute confidence that could only be borne from absolute hyper-competence. While the Odells had to rack their brains just to gain a pitiful little edge over their competitors, Chad was already confident enough to swear he could ennoble a nondescript company within three years-by joining the ranks of the nation's top 100, no less!

Javier sent Chad away to see Mary Jane and turned back to a young man who was still in his office. Tanned, ripped, and with eyes so dark they doubled back to being bright, the guy was about Javier's age and had a highly-opinionated air about him.

Javier already knew who he was: Herschel Lord, one of Mackenzie Spencer's underlings. He could punch faces and complete tasks with great efficiency. The last time Mackenzie had seen Javier, he had been pretty hung up over the absence of hyper-efficient muscle by Javier's side, so he had arranged for Herschel to join Chad when the man was invited to join the company. After ensuring Chad's safe arrival, he'd remained by Javier's side, ready to follow any orders.

Javier found it a little awkward to send the man back to his master after that big trip, so he decided to just go along with it and let Herschel serve him. After ordering his latest underling not to reveal his real identity, he tossed his car keys to Herschel, implying that he could wait for him in his car.

Jade herself expressed no doubt or any strong opinions regarding Chad's hiring. She had faith in Javier, and that same trust was extended to the talent the latter recruited. Chad would do a good job managing Beacon Tires, she believed. After relaying a few instructions of her own to him, she left with Javier.

What piqued Jade's curiosity more was Herschel's arrival, but Javier told her he was just his driver. The young woman believed him straight away, justifying this to herself by thinking that anyone who could hold the rank of an executive would have hired a driver for themselves.

Their car sped down the road. Soon, they arrived at Drakon Real Estate's office building. Matthew, who was already standing by and waiting, welcomed his beloved niece with nothing but warmth. Of course, there was a small hitch in his cordiality the moment his eyes met Javier's. His smile could not help sinking and turning into a frown.

Javier was not the only one who had p\*ssed him off during this entire debacle-Sam Dunham and his stupid, bald head had irritated him too. He had promised he'd cut his ear, had he not?

Still, now was not the time for him to rail over that. Matthew quickly collected himself and led Jade into the company building. Javier followed her closely, staying by her side, which miffed Matthew enough to snap, "Who the hell do you think you are? This is Odello Corp.'s business. You're not welcome here, slick. Get out of here!"

Unfortunately, Matthew's quip provoked Herschel's fury. Enraged, the burly man stepped out of the car with a knife in his hand and quietly, like an assassin, slinked toward Matthew.

### **Chapter 57 On What Grounds Do We Have To Steal Other People's Jobs?!**

Matthew had no idea what kind of thoughts were swimming inside Herschel's head, and neither did Jade. The only one who did, of course, was Javier, and he was naturally not going to let him commit murder. Matthew was just too pathetic and was such a small fry that killing him would attract way too much fame and attention than the maggot really deserved.

He shot Herschel a glance, and the man immediately bent to pick up a wooden stick before returning to his car, acting as though he was just trying to find the perfect tool to scratch out the little pebbles lodged in the car tires. This effectively removed all the attention from him, and Matthew returned to the previous topic straight away.

"Sorry but not sorry, bud. Odello Corp. doesn't make a habit of letting outsiders in for no reason. Get off the property."

"But he's not an outsider. He's the driver I just hired," Jade rebutted. "The driver Drakon Real Estate had arranged for me doesn't give me a sense of security so I hired my own. Don't I have the right to do that as the executive with absolute authority, hmm? If hiring my own driver turns out to be a privilege that my authority doesn't cover, then I might have to reconsider taking this position."

She was effectively saying, 'Either Javier and I both stay, or neither of us will.'

This put Matthew in a tough spot. He did not want to cross Zayn over a dispute that was, frankly, very banal. Facing a threat like that, what else could he do other than agree?

Matthew leveled a scornful smirk at Javier. "Fine. You wanna join Odello Corp.? Then play by our rules! The most basic rule of all: You are to show absolute respect to your superiors and never go against their wishes, or you'll be fired. Capisce?"

He whipped his head toward Jade. "And don't you paint me as the nasty, bullying villain in front of him, girl. You know the rules yourself!"

Jade fell silent. He was right; there was such an official rule within the organization.

Her silent concession fueled Matthew's glee. Strutting toward Javier until he stood directly in front of him, he grabbed the latter by the collar and began to bark. "And I want you to remember that the dress code dictates wearing a white collared shirt and black pants! I wanna see your black shoes shine! If you're gonna be a driver for this company, you better start looking like one. I also expect you to greet your superiors without fail at all times!

"Don't, not even for one second, dream of stirring up trouble. I've run background checks on you before, buddy. You've only ever been an unimpressive employee, a delivery boy, and a toyboy who leech off women to live to see the next day. That's what you're good at, isn't it? Being a passive soy boy who listens to his mistress?" he snarled. "So do what you're good at and stay in your lane. Get all uppity on me and I'll take you out like the little b\*tch you are!"

complex on steroids. Had Javier's primary mission not been to protect Jade, he would have broken every bone in that piece of sh\*t's fingers!

Seeing Javier on the receiving end of his verbal abuse, all silent and compliant, Matthew could not help but let out a self-satisfied laugh.

He stuck around a little longer to help Jade fill out some legal documents and other related papers. Once that was done, he got in his car and left with smug satisfaction.

Jade turned to look at Javier with eyes that contained a hint of distress. "God, I am so sorry, Javier. You wouldn't have had to suffer through all of that if it weren't for me."

Javier gazed at the apologetic demeanor on her person and gave her a soft smile. "It's all right, you don't need to fret over me. It's no skin off my back."

To him, that was just the barking of a feral dog honestly. Javier had plans to muzzle that hound to his heart's content anyway. He had enough patience to spare until then.

Jade spent the entire morning learning the ropes of governing her new company. Before she could get used to her job, though, the Odello Corp. headquarters sent a messenger to give the young woman her first mission. Jade signaled at her secretary to let the messenger in.

That was when one Neve Odell strutted into her office with a folder tucked under her arms." Taking the positive growth of real estate development into account, the board of directors concluded during their latest meeting that Drakon Real Estate should step up its game and snatch up more sales from the market than the figures have so far suggested," she announced, recounting the board's instructions like a herald. "That is why Drakon Real Estate must gain the right to work as Sky Loft's agents as soon as possible!"

She slapped the folder on Jade's desk and grinned, her eyes narrowing. "Wow, that sounds like a huuuuuge mission, boss! And it's your very first undertaking since taking over this office too, so...don't drop the ball, okay? It'd be so embarrassing if you accidentally expose how incompetent you actually are after spending so much effort trying to fake it, you know?"

While Jade was usually too good to drop the ball, not every business deal hinged on her skills alone. Sky Loft was formidable enough to be named one of the nation's top 100 businesses! It was a heavyweight

group that could handle project planning, design, development, construction, and sales with its own subsidiaries alone. It was basically an in-house operation from start to finish!

How the hell was some foreign entity supposed to come in?!

Jade immediately voiced her protest. "But Sky Loft has its own marketing and sales company! On what grounds do we have to steal someone else's job?!"

Neve snickered. "Why are you asking me? You're the oh-so-honorable GM. Go ask yourself!" she jeered. "Seriously, you're embarrassing yourself. I mean, you're melting like a snowflake a

s early as your first mission? Way to go about removing all doubts about your incompetence, hon. Do you even know what shame is?

"But Sky Loft has its own marketing and sales company! So? That's your trump card defense? Based on your logic, the executives of a tractor manufacturer can only drive their own farm tractors when they go out! Oh, better yet, every Apple employee can only use an iPhone, absolutely no other phones! You get how stupid you sound now, huh? Christ, you

excuses!"

Finally, Neve moved in for the kill. "Maybe you should just step down and get out of here. If you can't take the heat and have no substance to match it, then get out of the way and let me do this job for you instead. Then watch and learn as I lead Drakon into becoming Sky Loft's agent!"

The young woman had been gish-galloping so much that Jade could not even put in a word edgewise despite taking the argument's high ground. Denied the chance to talk, she could only glare at Neve, seething. 1

Neve smirked. "What's the matter? Gonna cry? Need a safe space to lick your wounds and cry about being a victim? Too bad. I don't give a flying sh\*t about hurting some snowflake's feelings. I could do much worse than that, so maybe don't provoke me, yeah?"

Annoyed, Neve turned on her heels and walked out, but not before slamming her hand on the folder one last time for emphasis. It was an act of provocation, and she was using it to spite Jade.

Jade was so close to flipping her office desk in rage. She'd expected hurdles, but she had not expected Matthew and Neve to use outright despicable means!

Lunchtime turned into Jade's ranting session. She recounted the whole ordeal before concluding with a smoldering bristle, "This is mission impossible, plain and simple. Like, completely impossible! Sky Loft has its own sales and marketing company for god's sake! Why the hell would they let us take away their profit for no reason at all?!"

Javier nodded in complete assent. Under normal circumstances, this would be an impossible task. Even bribing one of the executives of Sky Loft would not work as the fact that they had their own sales company and agents made the possibility moot.

But then again, if Javier remembered correctly, Sky Loft might actually be owned by his family...

He waited until Jade's bathroom break before calling Chad. "Mr. McCool, does Sky Loft belong to my family? We own so many companies, and some of them are just so meh or whatever...I just can't recall."

It might sound as though Javier was bragging, but Chad knew that was not the young man's intention. The Kerseys' network of businesses was so elephantine that even he could barely

remember every single nondescript, so-so company they owned. Fortunately for them, Chad at least remembered Sky Loft enough to answer, "You're correct, Master Javier. It belongs to the Kerseys. Their chairman and CEO were actually hired by us."

Not that Javier gave a damn about that. The only thing he wanted to know was if Sky Loft belonged to him. "Great. Tell them to hand Ms. Jade Odell the right to be Sky Loft's property and estate agent."

"Understood, Master Javier. I'll arrange it right away!"

As an intelligent sycophant, Chad knew it was always better to just do whatever his superiors ordered him to do without asking questions or knowing why.

Javier hung up and went back to eating his meal. When Jade returned, he said, "Let's pay a visit to Sky Loft later in the afternoon, yeah? Doesn't matter if it works out or not. Never say never. Even if it doesn't work, well...we can still learn something from the experience. That's just how life is and we don't always get what we want. You have to learn to be strong in the face of adversity." 1

Javier's suggestion-in combination with a hint of encouragement and morale-boosting convinced Jade to agree to the proposal after a quick thought. So what if they failed? They could always try to come up with some other way to achieve this after that. Not that she thought anything other than failure was remotely possible..

## **Chapter 58 Done Laughing? Good. Shut the F\*ck Up.**

Javier drove Jade to Sky Loft's local branch office in the afternoon. Standing before its main entrance, Jade took a deep breath, braced herself for inevitable failure, and stepped inside like a soldier given an insurmountable mission.

She hardly had the chance to introduce herself as Drakon Real Estate's boss, yet Sky Loft instantly treated her arrival with utmost warmth and hospitality. "Welcome, Ms. Odell! Good to have you here! Our GM just arrived and is attending to some of our projects at the moment, so please make yourself comfortable. The executive meeting will be over shortly. Until then, have some coffee or tea!"

Jade thanked the friendly employee and dropped down on the couch to wait. Ten minutes later, she saw Sky Loft's general manager hurrying toward her and greeting her. "Ms. Odell, right? Pleased to make your acquaintance! I'm the general manager of Sky Loft, Will Schumer. Welcome!"

Jade was caught off-guard by how effusive he was. More than that, she found it curious that the GM himself had come to meet her. Should her case not have been undertaken by the branch representative instead?

Either way, Jade let none of her bewilderment show in her features. Instead, she moved forward and shook Will's hand. "The pleasure is all mine, Mr. Schumer."

After a brief self-introduction, Jade cut to the chase. “Mr. Schumer, I’m here today to ask if...if we could strike a deal and have Drakon Real Estate become the sales agent of all your property in town.”

After a very candid opening statement, Jade waited for the mockery and scorn she thought would follow.

Instead, Will flashed her a cordial smile. “You must know that Sky Loft has its own sales and marketing company for that very reason, right, Ms. Odell? A company that has been doing very well too. What kind of rationale prompted this proposal?”

“Locals like us know our market the best,” Jade answered matter-of-factly, her lips slightly parting as a list of the advantages her company offered took shape in her mind.

Before she could start naming them, though, Will was already nodding solemnly as though he had heard enough. “You’re dead right, Ms. Odell! I wholeheartedly agree,” he proclaimed enthusiastically. “That settles it, then! Drakon Real Estate is now the official sales agent of Sky Loft for this area.”

Jade was stunned. No, she was utterly flummoxed. ‘That’s it? That’s...frickin’ it?!

‘Whoa, whoa, whoa. Is this some kind of twisted joke, Mr. Schumer? Shouldn’t you be jeering at me and mocking me for suggesting something so stupid before telling me to get the hell out of here?’

And yet, there was no mendacity in Will’s words. He proved it the moment he ordered his secretary to begin drafting a letter of agreement. “We should sign a letter of agreement. Drakon Real Estate will be hereby authorized to be our sales agent,” he explained. “As for the dividends and all related matters, we’ll discuss them at length when we draft a detailed contract. Sounds good, Ms. Odell?”

Jade still could not believe her luck. “No, no-I mean, wait!” she stammered, leveling a question back at the questioner. “You...you’re serious about this? Drakon Real Estate will be your official sales agent from now on?”

Will nodded with a hint of finality. “I am serious, Ms. Odell. I don’t make a habit of telling such crass jokes.”

His secretary strode toward them with the drafted letter of agreement right on cue, and Will scribbled his name on the dotted line.

Jade came out of the building in a bemused daze. After she climbed back into the car, still feeling confused, Javier asked her, “So...it didn’t go well?”

Jade shook her head. “No, it was weirder than that. It went too well. So well that I suspect...a conspiracy!”

Eyes wide, she began recounting the unbelievable tale of how she had managed to secure a deal with almost zero difficulties. “Seriously, this is all too crazy, right? What part of this entire thing feels logical to you? All I said was ‘Oh, we locals know the market better’ and suddenly, he just...agreed with me as though I’d just stated the most reasonable fact in the world!” she exclaimed. “And then he had his secretary draft a letter of agreement straight away. I just can’t stop wondering... How could any of this be legit?!”

Despite the disbelief filling her eyes, Javier decided against explaining too much. "Who cares about the nitty-gritty anyway? With that letter of agreement in your hands, we've basically won," he replied with a chuckle. "You know, maybe the real reason he was eager to sign was that you're too gorgeous for him to say no!"

Jade shot him an embarrassed glare and pointedly ignored his nonsensical answer. Javier started the car and drove her straight to Odello Corp.'s headquarters.

The letter of agreement was nestled in Jade's hands-both her trump card and triumph.

In the meantime, on the far side of a couch in the chairman's office, Neve made herself comfortable as she beamed at Matthew smugly. "Honestly, Daddy, the crap you tried to sling at Jade was soooo weak\*ss. This is so childish that of course, she'd handle it as though it's nothing. It was literally nothing! Meanwhile, look at what I did, Daddy! I pulled out the big guns right from the start! 'Drakon Real Estate must gain the right to work as Sky Loft's agents ... How the hell is she going to pull that off?! It's literally impossible. She's like a fly caught in a spider's web!"

Matthew was just as jubilant as she was. "Atta girl! No one could ever beat my daughter's wiles!"

Neve relished in her smug glee while her father added, "That was Zayn's original intention, wasn't it? He just wanted to act like a goodie-goodie and make us look like the bad guys, right? Now that we've done exactly what he wanted, the rest of our plan depends on you, princess!"

Neve giggled. "Don't worry about it, Daddy. Just bring this up against her while naming me her successor. I'll do what she could not do and make Drakon Real Estate the agent of a few other companies too. It'll be the perfect chance for me to shine! Even if Zayn refuses to let me take on the role...well, I can always talk to him. With my beauty, sex appeal, and capabilities, which far surpasses Jade's, I'll obtain my heart's desire in no time!

"Then, when Zayn's heart is mine..." she concluded. "We can finally gang up together and end

Jade-For. Good."

Matthew nodded, a hint of seething hatred animating his movements. "Perfect. And I don't just want her gone. I want all of the people she brought from her backwater sh\*thole gone! I want all of them stripped off the Odell name. I want to see that b\*tch and her mother kicked to the curb like vagrants! That's what they deserve for making my son a cripple. I. Want Vengeance! I want them to suffer!"

Matthew and Neve's banter went on and on, their hubbub growing along with their mood as time passed.

It was at that moment that the secretary knocked and opened the door with a message: Jade was there.

Matthew waved her away impatiently. "I'm not seeing someone who's so obviously here to cry about her job. Get her outta here."

The secretary was about to do that when Neve stepped in. "Now, now...we can't turn her away, Daddy! We need to hear her out, and then tell her it doesn't mean jacks getting any sympathy from us! We'll make her think she might get help from us...and then crush her hopes and spirit hard!"

Matthew was rather stoked by the idea. "Oh, good call! All right, let Jade in."

The woman in question strutted into the office a few moments later with the letter of agreement in her hand. Before she could speak, though, Neve immediately cut her off. "Dang, girl. I delivered my message just earlier today, and a few hours later, you're here to admit defeat already? That's a terrible work ethic, sweetie. You can't surrender before you even throw your first punch, don't you know that? Sigh. It's soooo unbecoming of someone who fancies herself an executive to quit like a wimp, you know.

"Hmmm... It makes me wonder... Where's all that big talk about your skills and talents and whatever the hell you boasted so much about when you fulfilled the quarterly deal? Oh! Could

it be? Was that a one-time thing? Are you seriously telling me your skills are about as good as a condom? One use and they belong in the trash?"

Not one to fall behind, Matthew continued where Neve's blistering skewering had left off. "I'm sorry, Jade, but you really are disappointing. I believed in you. I trusted you enough to hand you such an important mission, and now you're passing the buck? How could you?"

Neve sniggered. She could not resist punching her while she was down. "Oh, she's just a softie who's never been through a real challenge, Daddy. She was crushed by the weight of the task you gave her! Maybe you should fire her and get some random schmuck to replace her instead of letting this pressure crush our poor little Jade. All we want is a figurehead anyway, so who cares who takes the spot? Hell, we'll be doing her a favor by firing her. We might even be knighted for protecting a weak, feeble damsel in distress! Ngawwww!"

Matthew guffawed, his laughter unbridled as it burst out of his lungs along with all of the contempt he had reserved for her.

Neve was cackling too, but there was an edge of danger to her laugh. It made her sound like a viper ready to kill its prey.

Jade scowled, her eyes frigid. She then unfurled the letter of agreement right before their eyes. "Are you two done laughing? If you are, good. Shut up, open your eyes, and look."